OPINION 6

IN HIS OWN WAY

MESSI CONFRONTS CHINA

ISRAELI DRONE STRIKE

WORLD 8

IN LEBANON KILLS 2

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR

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REAL SHOW STEALER WAS BOOMBALL, SAYS ASHWIN 12 SPORTS

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DELHI BRACES UP FOR FARMERS ONSLAUGHT

n a bid to avoid a re-run of the 2020 Farmers' protest in the Delhi-NCR, the Haryana and the Delhi Police have left no stone unturned to prevent any untoward situation for the farmers' 'Chalo Delhi' protest scheduled to be held on Tuesday. Large cement barricades, nails punched on access roads, suspension of internet and bulk SMS services, and heavy police deployment to block the farmers have been put in place at the borders.

Centre has invited representatives of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha to hold another meeting to discuss their demands on February 12. Three Union Ministers — Piyush Goyal, Arjun Munda and Nityanand Rai, will hold talks with farmers' in Chandigarh. The meeting will be held at the Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration in Sector 26.

Punjab Chief Meanwhile Minister Bhagwant Mann has accused Haryana Government of creating a border "between Punjab and India", referring to the concrete blocks, nails and barbed wire placed on some roads to scuttle the farmers' proposed 'Delhi Chalo' march.

He said the Manohar Khattar-led Haryana Government has placed as much barbed wire at the State's borders with Punjab as there is at the country's border with Khattar, however,



Security personnel deployed at Ghazipur border in view of farmers' Delhi Chalo March, in New Delhi, on Sunday. A large number of farmers from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab are expected to march towards the national Capital on Tuesday

justified the steps taken by his Government to seal the State's borders and stop Punjab farmers from marching towards the national Capital, saying the arrangements are aimed at maintaining law and order.

The Delhi Police has issued prohibitory orders under section 144, which bars large gatherings, were imposed in the northeast district and is making every attempt to avoid the unfortunate January 26, 2021 incident wherein protesting farmers clashed with the Delhi Police and

one particular wing of the tractor rally, led by Deep Sidhu, moved to Red Fort causing chaos in the national Capital.

Apprehending the disturbance of peace, Haryana has sealed the border with Punjab at Shambhu border on GT Road border (National Highway-44) which falls between Punjab's Patiala and Haryana's Ambala districts, also suspended mobile internet services and bulk SMS in seven districts — Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad and Sirsa — from February 11 to

In a notification, the Haryana Government said dongle services provided on mobile phones, will remain suspended and only voice calls would go through. In district Sonipat, administration has asked fuel pump owners to not fill up bottles or other containers.

A 10-litre cap has been introduced for tractors. The administration has warned that providing fuel to those associated with the farmers' protest will place at the borders in Jind and Fatehabad districts to stop the

Sources said the Delhi Police are blocking the city's borders with Haryana by placing massive containers. Cranes have been deployed to move these barriers if farmers try to cross into Delhi. In fact, Harvana too has brought in cement barriers to ensure that the protesting farmers cannot enter Delhi. In Delhi, cops are holding drills to practise firing teargas shells if farmers refuse to stop. A video shows the Delhi Police lining up and firing teargas shells in an open area in north Delhi. The exercise, meanwhile, has left local residents in discomfort. Many of them complained of burning sensation in their eyes after the drill. The Delhi Police is also keeping a close watch on social media in the run-up to the protest.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha announced the 'Delhi Chalo' march by more than 200 farmers' unions on February 13 to press the Centre into accepting several demands, including enactment of a law to guarantee a minimum support price (MSP) for crops, implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, provision of pensions for farmers and farm laborers, forgiveness of farm debts, withdrawal of police charges, and seeking justice for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri



Deserted Janata Dal (United) office ahead of the floor test of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish

All eyes on Bihar Floor test

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA PATNA /

head of the floor test for the Anewly aligned Nitish Kumar-led NDA Government on Monday, while political parties were busy keeping their members together through sumptuous meals, antakshari, and indoor games, all eyes are also focused on the role of incumbent Speaker Avadh Bihari Chaudhary, an RJD member, and Jitan Ram Manjhi-led HAM, a constituent of the present Nitish regime.

Sources indicate that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar himself is apprehensive of potential crossvoting by some of his party MLAs who have reportedly been unreachable since last week.

The JD(U) chief is seemingly facing internal discontinities in the second of the s

internal dissent within the party for his frequent changes in stance, treating the party as his personal fiefdom, and his recent decision to replace his close confidant and predecessor Lallan Singh as the RCP Singh, is also aiming to sideline Nitish from Bihar politics entirely. RCP, who was part of Narendra Modi's Cabinet as a JD(U) partner and has now joined the BJP.

The Bihar Assembly has a total strength of 243, with the majority mark set at 122. The NDA holds a comfortable majority with 128 seats, comprising 78 from BJP, 45 from JD(U), 4 from Hindustani Awam Morcha, and Independent MLA Sumit Singh. On the other side, led by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, efforts are underway to "woo" 14 legislators, as the party remains the largest in the Bihar Assembly with 79 MLAs, followed by the Congress with 19, Left parties with 18, and the lone AIMM also in the Mahagathbandhan.

Sources indicate that Manjhi had a meeting with an emissary of RJD supremo Lalu Prasad a day earlier, and now he is attempting to exert his influence with four MLAs in his camp, including the former's son, chief of JD(U). who was sworn in as part of the newly formed Nitish Ministry.



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with Deputy Chief Ministers KP Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, UP Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana and State legislators during a visit to the Ram Temple in Ayodhya on Sunday

Yogi takes politicians on a spiritual odyssey

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA AYODHYA

n response to the call of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, MLAs from various political affiliations, barring the Samajwadi Party, ventured on a spiritual odyssey to Ayodhya to pay homage to Lord Ram.

Expressing gratitude for the opportunity. the MLAs opportunity, the MLAs commended Yogi and Mahana for extending the invitation.

"I am overwhelmed to be present at the 'Darbar' of Lord Ram. My dream has come true," Mahana told reporters after his temple visit.

He reflected on the evolution of the site, from its humble origins to the grandeur it stands as today. "I never envisioned the temple would be such a majestic structure reflecting our religious and cultural ethos," he

Accompanied by Ministers and legislators from the ruling

coalition, Opposition members from parties including the BSP, the RLD, and the Congress set aside political disparities to partake in the collective reverence for Lord

Luxurious buses provided by the Transport Corporation facilitated the journey, resonating with the chanting of Ramdhun and adorned with vibrant flowers, creating a serene ambiance. Refreshments were provided for comfort, alongside thoughtful tokens of remembrance like diaries, pens, and calendars for each MLA.

As flower petals showered the luxurious buses upon arrival in Ayodhya, the journey symbolised a historic milestone, embodying the realisation of a centuries-old dream the construction of the grand temple of Lord Ram. The unity displayed by the Government and MLAs across the political spectrum was praised as a testament to Yogi's visionary leadership.

Modi: Congress anti tribal, Uses them only during elections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL

mark in the uncoming Lok Sabha polls, and even the Opposition leaders in Parliament are saying the ruling coalition will get more

than 400 seats. He was addressing a public meeting of tribal community members in Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district. Modi alleged the Congress was anti-tribal and thought of villages, farmers and the poor only during elections. He said he had got overwhelming

love from the people as he visited temples associated with Lord Ram in the South of the country. Aware of their imminent defeat,

the Congress and its allies are Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said he is confident the BJP will cross the 370 seats mark in the uncoming Lok Sabba is in power indulges in loot, while out of power engineers divisions (in society) based on language, region and caste," he said here. The Congress has drowned in its own sins and the more it will make efforts to come up the further it will slide down, the PM asserted. It got decimated in the 2023 (Assembly polls) and will be wiped out in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, he said. "The people showed the mirror to the Congress in the Assembly polls. The mood of the nation is similar in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls," Modi asserted. The PM asked voters to ensure

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Madhva Pradesh Governor Mangu Bhai Patel. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and others at the dedication and foundation stone laying ceremony of various development projects during Janiativa Sammelan in Jhabua. Madhva Pradesh on Sundav

each booth, compared to the last elections, for the Bharatiya Janata

polling of additional 370 votes in Party (BJP) to win 370 seats, out of the 543 Lok Sabha seats. Even the Opposition leaders in

Parliament are now saying "abki baar 400 paar" for the (BJP-led) National Democratic Alliance (NDA), he said. "I am sure the BJP's lotus symbol will cross the The PM said he has not come to Jhabua to campaign for the Lok Sabha elections, but as the "sevak" to thank the people for their overwhelming support in the recent Assembly elections. The BJP recently won the Assembly polls in MP, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh

with a thumping majority. "Our double Government is working with double speed in Madhya Pradesh," he said referring to the ₹7,550 crore development projects which he launched before addressing the meeting.

RAJYA SABHA NOMINATIONS Parties unfold their cards

 $W_{the}^{ith \ the \ elections \ for \ vacant \ seats \ in}_{the \ Rajya \ Sabha \ scheduled \ this}_{month, \ the \ BJP \ and \ the \ TMC}$ announced their candidates on Sunday. The BJP released a list of 14 candidates for the forthcoming Rajya Sabha elections from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

The list includes Sudhanshu Trivedi, and former Congress leader RPN Singh from Uttar Pradesh, with former Harvana BIP

candidate from Harvana.

The Trinamool Congress nominated journalist Sagarika Ghose among its candidates for the biennial polls on February 27.

In Uttar Pradesh, besides Sudhanshu Trivedi, former BJP MLA Sadhna Singh, and RPN Singh, the other candidates are Chaudhary Tejveer Singh, Amarpal Maurya, Sangita Balwant, and Navin Jain. RPN Singh, a former Congress leader from the politically important Kurmi caste, joined the BJP in 2022.

chief Subhash Barala announced as the
The State has the highest number of vacancies with 10 seats. None of the Union Ministers whose terms are ending were named in the list, indicating a strong possibility that many of them will contest the Lok Sabha polls. However, the party is yet to name several candidates. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, representing Karnataka in the Rajya Sabha, and BJP chief spokesperson and media head Anil Baluni, the outgoing MP from Uttarakhand, have not been

Pak parties intensify efforts to form coalition Government

PNS ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

The three main political parties in Pakistan on Sunday intensified their efforts for the formation of a coalition Government after it became clear that the coup-prone country faced a hung Parliament after general elections marred by allegations of rigging.

The general elections were held on Thursday, but the unusual delay in the announcement of results vitiated the atmosphere as several parties cried foul and some resorted to protests.

Former prime minister and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif received the backing of the powerful Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir on Saturday for his call for a unity Government to pull Pakistan out of its

elephant's

residential areas.

Venkitachalam

Humans continue to invade sacred forests, their inhabitants

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

Pioneer's published recently that Kerala was fast becoming the graveyard for wild animals is being substantiated by the States Forest Department, an institution set up to protect jungles and wild animals. The entire population in Wayanad district

suburb, on Saturday.

report has demanded a "death sentence" for a wild tusker that killed a 47-year-old man Mananthawadi, a

forest

Residents insist that the Forest Department should eliminate the elephant, either shooting tranquilising and prove

relocating it to a safer area. However, recent incidents that the Forest Department does not have qualified veterinary specialists for tranquilising the elephant. "A few weeks ago, we saw an elephant known as 'Thanneer

Komban' succumbing to a administered by the Forest Department's veterinary surgeon. No investigation was conducted to determine the cause of the pachyderm's death," said V K Venkitachalam, chairman of the Heritage Animal Task Force, an organisation in Thrissur dedicated to wildlife

welfare. Venkitachalam noted that the

which death of Thanneer Komban, reportedly tranquilised by a Government veterinarian,

could be attributed to outdated shot tranquiliser. "The tranquilising pistol and drug have expired, and there is no official record indicating the provision of new tranquiliser. Additionally, there is a shortage of qualified veterinarians to tranquilise elephants or other wild animals," he added. The past two months saw a

leopard and a wild boar being killed within minutes of receiving tranquiliser shots, whom reside on forest land Venkitachalam considers strange

Minister for Forest and wild Life, who celebrated his 78th birthday on January 29 remained incommunicado for hours and ordered the tusker be tranquilised at the earliest and shifted to Muthanga Elephant Camp. However, the Minister was non-committal regarding the mission's timing. residents Local Mananthawadi, many of

A K Saseendran, Kerala

saying the animals' habitat has diminished due to the Government's concessions to the forest mafia, who distribute forest land at their discretion. 'There is a lack of water and

vegetation for elephants and other wild animals, prompting them to encroach upon human settlements in search allocated to them by regional of sustenance. We cannot political parties, blamed the blame wild animals for their Forest Department for the efforts to survive," he said.

Double engine govt working with double speed in MP: Modi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Central Government has been dedicated to upliftment of tribal people, enhancing pride and dignity in the last ten years. Madhya Pradesh is the best example in the country to show how effectively double engine government is working. He was addressing the tribal convention in Jhabua today. He inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of development projects worth about Rs 7500 crore.

Prime Minister Modi said that the Jhabua Yatra's purpose of expressing gratitude to the people of the state who honoured commitment towards development in the Assembly poll. He expressed confidence that the commitment of the people towards development will stay firm. The Central Government is determined to live up to the

Modi said that projects worth crores of rupees inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh including Jhabua, Khargone, Alirajpur, Dhar, Barwani, funds released under Adarsh Gaon Yojana for the betterment of villages, big rail projects for better connectivity, Katlam and Meghnagar railway stations. Development works like modernization of the Railways and giving Rs 1500-1500 in the accounts of two lakh sisters and daughters of the tribal society show that the double engine government is working double fast in Madhya Pradesh. The credit for this mega campaign of development goes to the public. Modi announced Krantisurya Tantya Bhil University in the name of Tantya Mama.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the tribal people in Gopalpura of tribal dominated area Jhabua. He visited the exhibition focused on development works. Modi reached the stage accepting greetings from the tribal brothers at the huge

Kumbh.

Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Union Ministers Arjun Munda and Faggan Singh Kulaste, former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Ministers, Khajuraho MP V.D. Sharma, National President of Tribal Morcha Sameer Uram and public representatives were

On this occasion, a short film focusing on Krantisurya Tantya Bhil University was also screened. People from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra including Madhya Pradesh participated in the huge Tribal Maĥakumbh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while saluting the tribal community who had come in large numbers with the slogan of Baba Dungar Dev Ki Jai, said that Jhabua is connected to Gujarat too. The hearts of the people of Jhabua remain connected to Gujarat. Referring to the tribal culture practices, he extended extended best wishes on Bhagoria Utsav.

Modi said that Madhya Pradesh is moving fast on the path of development. Earlier it was counted as the sick state. The government of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee created a new ministry for tribal welfare and made special provisions in the budget gaving priority to the development of tribal areas and tribal people. Modi said that the Central

Government made a record increase in the minimum support price on forest produce. The forest produce covered under MSP was increased from 10 to 90. Van Dhan Kendras would be opened in the country so that tribal products could get good markets. Tribal society is the pride of the country and the guarantee of the country's bright future. Development of tribal people is our guarantee. It is the government's resolve to make their dreams come true.

The Prime Minister said that the government has decided to celebrate the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Martyrdom Day is celebrated today remembering the sacrifice of Tantya Mama and Krantisurya Tantya Bhil University is being announced in his name.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav waves at a crowd during a Jantatiya Sammelan in Jhabua,

Two vehicle-lifters arrested, 6 bikes seized

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hajuri police nabbed vehicle lifter and recovered stolen two wheeler from wedding venues after tracking wedding dates organised at these spots; 6 motor cycles worth Rs 3 lakh have been recovered from the accused in the action.

During the night patrol vehicle checking on February 8 in Khajuri road police station two suspicious persons were on motorbike without registraion number and when they were stopped and later when the suspect was taken to police station and engine number of the vehicle was checked on the VDP portal at the police station. HA10AGJHL06822 and chassis number on checking MBL-HAR080JHL02756 and vehicle number MP04QF9088 was found which was found to be a stolen

The accused were identiefied as

Satish Menwada father became Singh Menwada(19), Rohit Purvia(21) of Sehore, and when interrogated about the crime, they e admitted to committing

During the investigation, team interrogated the arrested accused in connection with the theft of another vehicle, who confessed stealing vehicles from Shagun Garden Bhauri, Marriage Garden Baigradha Kala, Sundarban Marriage Garden Lalghati Bhopal and Gulshan Marriage Garden

Police station Khajuri Road team took action with immediate effect on the basis of the memorandum of the accused. Accused Rohit presented motorcycle number MP04YM6951 from his house which was found to be theft in crime number 29/24 section 379 of Indian Penal Code of Khajuri Road Police Station and was seized by the police. Taken and sold by the accused from differMeanwhile Kohefiza police arrested a man and seized Rs 63 lakh of hawala money and a car in which the cash was carried, further details of the illegal money are under investigation, said police.

Taking immediate action in the matter, the car was tracked and illegally carried Rs 63 lakh cash in car bearing registration number MP04EB8464. The nabbed driver was identified as Narendra Aggarwal of Sagar and inquiries are being made regarding the money

After the preliminary investigation a case under section 41(1 4) of the CrPC was registered and started the investigation.

Police said that 124 bundles of 500 - 500 rupee notes, 100 notes in each bundle, total 12400 notes and 5 bundles of 200 - 200 rupee notes, 100 notes in each bundle, total 500 notes, thus total cash amount is Rs 63 lakh with KIA car vehicle registration number vehicle of MP04EB8464 was seized.

Heavy rains, hailstorm reported in Jabalpur, Umaria districts

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

eavy rainfall and hailstorm was witnessed in Jabalpur and Umaria of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday morning, hail storm was witnessed in Sohar village of Bargi tehsil in Jabalpur and among other regions Seoni and Mandla also witnessed rainfall which caused a lot of damage to crops.

Water and thunder lightning in Narmadapuram, Chhindwara, Anuppur, Mandla, Balaghat on Saturday night was witnessed. According to the Meteorological Department, there are chances of clouds, rain and thunderstorms in Madhya Pradesh for the next 3 days. Winds of speed of 30 to 40 km/hour in the districts of Jabalpur-Narmadapuram division. The period of severe cold will start again from February 14. Night tempera-



ture may drop by 2 to 3 degrees

It rained heavily in the morning in Umaria which damaged crops in many villages. Meteorological Department, told that due to northern

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

statue of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay at Lal

Ghati and paid floral trib-

utes. He that today is a spe-

cial day for all of us as it is

the death anniversary of Pt.

Deendayal Upadhyay, who,

from the founding of Jan Sangh till his last breath, dedicated his entire life to

propagate Indian culture

not only in the country but

The world knows this phi-

of ??this philosophy is to make every possible effort to

bring changes in the lives of

the poorest of the poor, provide them with basic

facilities and make their life

successful. For a leader like

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay,

whose political journey was

in the entire world.

hief Minister Mohan

Yadav garlanded the

wave and cold day conditions persisted in the last 24 hours. A decline was also seen in the night temperature. Currently, cyclonic circulation is active around southern Guiarat. Trough line is also passing. This has also

Pradesh. Datia had the lowest temperature in the state

affected Madhya

on Saturday night. The minimum mercury recorded here was 5.0 degrees Celsius. In Pachmarhi it was 13.4 degree celsius. The highest minimum temperature was recorded in Seoni at 15.4 degrees Celsius.

CM pays tribute to Pt Deendayal Upadhyay

all, the Samarpan Divas

event is going to make us all

proud. Chief Minister Dr.

Yadav also contributed to

the lifelong support fund collection started by the

The state government is

ready to run like a double

engine with the Center for

development and public

Dr. Yadav said that we are

fortunate to have a global leader and popular Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

amidst us in Jhabua, a back-

ward tribal region of the

Upadhyay. Modi believes

that to bring about a change

in the lives of the most

backward people, one has to

be in their midst. Today a

big Kumbh of tribal com-

munity is being organized in

The vision of development

organization.

welfare

losophy as a unitary human state on the death anniver-

The night temperatures on Saturday recorded in big cities were Bhopal 12.4 (temperature in degrees Celsius), Indore 13, Gwalior 6.9, Jabalpur 12.8,

Ujjain 12.7. The regions recorded night temperature less than 10 degree celsius were Datia 5 (temperature in degrees Celsius), Khajuraho 7, Rajgarh 8.2, Naugaon 8.5,

Guna 9 and Rewa 9.4. Today, due to the trough line, south-easterly winds will remain strong. Showers may occur at isolated places in Narmadapuram, Jabalpur and Shahdol divisions. Strong wind is also expected. There may be light rain in Shahdol and Jabalpur divisions in February 12. There is also a forecast of

strong wind. The system will weaken on February 13, but there may be isolated drizzle in Rewa and Sagar divisions.

Minister Modi in all spheres

of life is coming true in Dhar-Jhabua also. It is our

good fortune that Dhar-

Jhabua has got three high-ways each, this area is cov-

ered by Super Express-way

and will be at the center

from where Delhi-Mumbai

will be at an equal distance.

Prime Minister Modi visu-

alizes that all areas should

get equal facilities like roads,

air travel etc., and we are

ready to work with the

Central Government like a

double engine on this vision.

Paying tribute to Pandit

Deendayal Upadhyay Dr.

God that Indian culture

should spread all over the

world. Among others pre-

sent in the programme were

Minister Krishna Gaur,

MLA Rameshwar Sharma,

former Mayor Alok Sharma

and Sumit Pachauri and

other senior public repre-

Dr Malhotra lectures at AIIMS Bhubaneswar

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Varun Malhotra, Additional Professor, Department Physiology at AIIMS, Bhopal, delivered a captivating lecture at the PHYSIOMEET event held at AIIMS Bhubaneshwar. The talk, which took place on February 9, 2024, shed light on the recent trends and future implications of physiological research in lifestyle disorders. AIIMS Bhopal runs a life style clinic - Integrated Health Centre under the aegis and guidance of dynamic Executive Ďirector Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh. Lifestyle disorders have emerged as a significant health

and sleep patterns. Dr Malhotra emphasized the critical role of adopting healthier habits to prevent and manage conditions like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease, which are often linked to unhealthy lifestyles. Drawing attention to the rising prevalence of no communicable diseases (NCDs), he highlighted the urgent need for prevention and awareness efforts to combat what could potentially become a pandemic of chronic dis-

concern globally, stemming from daily habits and choices

such as diet, physical activity,

He underscored the interplay between genetic predisposition "nature") and environmental factors ("nurture") in influencing individual susceptibility to lifestyle disorders, stressing the importance of addressing modifiable risk factors such as physical inactivity, diet, and smok-

Furthermore, Dr. Malhotra propractical aspects of lifestyle modification, offering guidance on nutrition, physical activity, stress management, and social connectivity. He presented a compelling case study illustrating the application of lifestyle medicine principles in addressing weight management and overall health improvement.



Information Commissioner asks GAD to take action against MPHB Comm

It has proved

Housing Board for not giving

the information

sought in RTI to

had sought information about the sale of shops in

Maharajbada from the

Housing Board Gwalior

office in February 2021. The

office replied that the infor-

mation is not available, it will

be available in Bhopal office.

But Jain kept contacting

Bhopal office for informa-

tion but no information was

There have been frequent

cases in which government

offices go against the rules and withhold information

through RTI. If no one wants

to give information then

why not close the

Information Commission.

Rahul Singh, Commissioner,

Madhya Pradesh State

Information Commission.

the elderly

Gwalior

applicant of

costly for

Madhva

Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

nformation Commission has taken stricter action has taken stricter action after Madhya Pradesh Housing Board failed to reply RTI after two years, GAD has been asked to take action against IAS Shukla. It has proved costly for Madhya Pradesh Housing Board for not giving the information sought in RTI to the elderly applicant of Gwalior.

Taking a tough stand, the Information Commission has recommended disciplinary action to the General Administration Department against Commissioner Chandramauli Shukla for disobeying its orders.

Also, the Commission has given instructions to provide the information sought in RTI within 5 days. If information is not available, answer has been sought in the affidavit.

Instructions have been given to the Urban Development and Housing Department to compensate the elderly applicant with Rs 5000.

The complainant Jai Kumar Jain, a resident of Gwalior,

PIMR Finance Club organizes `BidWizz'

Indore: To enhance the decisionmaking and critical thinking abilities of students, FinX, the finance club of the Prestige Institute of Management and Research, organized a bidding competition called 'BidWizz'. The event began with an introductory session where the rules of the bidding competition were explained.

During the competition, a virtual budget was provided to the participants, who competed with each other to secure the best deal or bid for specific assets for better investment opportunities. The winners of the BIDWHIZZ competition who demonstrated

were awarded prizes in different categories. Shreyansh Tiwari and Kaushal Jain were declared the winners, while Himanshu Verma, Sayyam Jain, Manas Singhai, and Mohm. Faizan Khan were declared the

first and second runner-up,

exceptional financial acumen

respectively. Dr. Manisha Singhai, Dr. Priyanka Chawla, CMA Ravi, Dr. Samir Dubey, and CA Sakshi Verma informed that during the concluding ceremony, badges were distributed to all the core members of the Finance Club by PIMR Director Dr. S. Raman Iyer and Dr. Sukhjeet Matharu respectively.

Police seizes unused, abandoned vehicles from public places

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The traffic police has started the process of confiscating dilapidated abandoned vehicles parked in public places of the city from Saturday On the city from Saturday. On Saturday, lifting of vehicles with the help of cranes started from the Kohefiza area of the old city. These vehicles will be confiscated and dumped in the underground parking at TT Nagar Dussehra ground. In the state capital, traffic is hampered due to abandoned vehicles parked at public places. Besides, there they remains a possibility of accidents. To remove these vehicles, the traffic police have marked places across the city and started action from the Kohefiza area from Saturday. Municipal Corporation Act and Motor Vehicle Act action is being taken against these vehicles.
On Saturday, a joint team

of Traffic Police, Municipal Corporation and District Administration took action and lifted 21 four-wheelers parked illegally on Kohefiza main road under

the GAD over bridge and near the old RTO office with the help of a crane. During this period, challan was also issued to some vehicles on the spot under the Motor Vehicle Act. During the action, Municipal Corporation Encroachment Squad Incharge Zone-3 Mahesh Gaur, Ed. DCP Traffic Basant Kaul.

were present. DCP Traffic Padma Vilochan Shukla said that those vehicles whose registration period has expired should be auctioned by Municipal

Corporation. This campaign will continue continuously. The police had been continuously making announce-ments for the last 10 days to remove these vehicles. It is noteworthy that due to these dilapidated abandoned vehicles being parked on the road, there is a possibility of traffic jam

People had also complained many times regarding this matter. But now the administration and police

and accident.

have shown strictness.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav pays tribute to party's founder leader Pt Deendayal Upadhyay on his death anniversary in Bhopal on Sunday.

CM to address programme on International Day of Woman

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav will address the programme to be organised on the International Day of Women's Participation in Science on February 12 at 1 pm at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre, Bhopal. During this time, skilled women in STEM Technology, (Science,

Engineering, Maths) fields will be honoured and offer letters will be distributed to women candidates selected in employment fairs. In the programme, Technical Education, Higher Education and AYUSH Minister Inder Singh Parmar and Minister of State for Skill Development and Employment (Independent Charge) Gautam Tetwal will be present. Under the programme,

Procurement Essential for

course will be launched in Mahila Polytechnic College, Bhopal in collaboration with all the government ITIs, Industrial Safety Training and IIT Indore under the Indo German Initiative for Technical Education (IGnITE). Also, course Blockchain will be launched in Ujjain, course IoT and AI in Jabalpur and course AR/VR in SV Polytechnic Bhopal by IIT Delhi.

Student Advancement (PESA)

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Bhopal only. Readers are advised to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

Police ban large gathering in North-East distt of Delhi

PNS NEW DELHI

head of the proposed farmers' 'Delhi Chalo March' on February 13, Delhi police have banned large gatherings in the north east district in the national capital and tight security is being maintained on all borders of Delhi. To prevent farmers from Haryana and Punjab from reaching the Delhi border, the Delhi Police has started preparations, and large cranes and containers have been placed at the borders. If farmers attempt to enter the Delhi border by crossing Haryana and Punjab in any way, the border will be sealed with cranes and containers. The police conducting exercises to practice firing tear gas shells in case farmers refuse to cease their activities to prevent

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi-bound IndiGo

A aircraft from American aircraft from Amritsar

after landing at Delhi's Indira

Gandhi International Airport

(IGIA) on Sunday. The incident led to the blocking of a

runway for some 15 minutes.

The A320 aircraft went to the dead end of the runway 28/10.

This latest episode comes

amid a series of incidents in

recent days involving the air-

An airline spokesperson said

the aircraft from Amritsar to

Delhi missed the exit taxiway

after landing at the Delhi air-

port due to low visibility.

After missing the designated

taxiway, the A320 aircraft,

operating flight 6E 2221, went

a repeat of the January 26, 2021 incident, in which protesting farmers clashed with cops on the capital's streets.

There are reports that at least 20,000 farmers with 2,000 tractors are set to enter Delhi day after tomorrow. These farmers are from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka. Intelligence agencies fear ant-social elements can enter the agitation and disrupt law and order.

"Information has been received that some farmer organisations have given a call to their supporters to gather/march to Delhi on 13th February for their demands of the law on MSP and others. They are likely to sit at the border of Delhi till their demands are met. In order to avoid any untoward incident and to maintain Law & Order,

a precautionary Order of section 144 Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, is required to be issued to save the lives and property in the area", Delhi Police said.

A large number of farmers from Haryana and Punjab , Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan are expected to march towards the national capital on Tuesday under their Delhi Chalo March organised by around 200 farmer unions.

Cranes have been deployed to move these barriers if farmers try to cross into Delhi. Delhi Police have anticipated that some farmers may use other public transport available, in order to hoodwink, the Delhi Police. According to Delhi Police intelligence estimate, some farmers may also come beforehand and gather outside the homes of VIPs such as the Prime Minister, ministers and BJP leaders. 'We have imposed Section 144

of the CrPC (prohibitory orders). Information has been received that some farmer organisations have given call to their supporters to gather/march to Delhi on February 13 for their demands of law on MSP. No one will be allowed to breach law and order situation," according to an order issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (northeast) Joy Tirkey. The order said the farmers are likely to sit Delhi borders till their demands are met.

"Keeping in view the kind of behaviour and adamant approach farmers showed during protests in the past, there is

a possibility of mobilisation/activities of farmers/supporters from their respective districts to Delhi Trolleys/Arms. Farmers will also come from Haryana, Punjab, UP, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, MP and other possible area," it said.

A precautionary order of section 144 is required to be issued to save life and property in the area, avoid any untoward incident and maintain law and order, the communication said."There are five different points in the order like -- prohibit gathering of general public at all borders between Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and nearby areas in the jurisdictional area of northeast District. Prohibit entering of tractors, trolleys, buses, trucks, commercial vehicles, personal vehicles, or horses etc, carrying protestors in Delhi from Uttar Pradesh.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Tribal beneficiaries during Jantatiya Sammelan in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh on

2 more metro trains with 3 coaches each arrive

People take part in a 'Pankh Marathon' organised at TT Nagar Stadium in Bhopal on Sunday.

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) boxing, chess, cricket, football, gymnastics, martial arts, muay has said coaching in archery, aththai, shooting, skating, squash, letics, badminton, basketball, table tennis, taekwondo, golf, it boxing, chess and the sports disciplines, by "renowned sportsper-

All facilities are well managed by seasoned professionals for the running and operations of these complexes. The coaching facility is structured and well laid out to ensure the students are able to perform to the required standards and excel as time progresses, the DDA The facilities are available to the

general public, including both members and non-members of the sports complexes, the urban body said. These facilities are also available to students on payment of nominal charges. Children from the economically weaker section of the society can avail the coaching facilities for free, the statement said

The process of installing the coaches on the track will start from Sunday. After this they will be made to run on the track. Till now 3 metro trains have arrived in Bhopal and 72 more coaches of 24 trains will A total of 27 metros will come

Bhopal: Two more trains of 3

coaches each reached Bhopal

from Vadodhara of Gujarat on

Saturday which covered 600

km in 3 days all 6 coaches were

brought in 6 big trolleys. Due

to greater length, the speed of

the trolls remained low.

in Bhopal and 25 in Indore. There are 3-3 coaches in every metro train. So far, 2 trains have arrived in Indore, whereas earlier one train had come to Bhopal for trial run. Now 6 more coaches of two metro trains have arrived. After their arrival, there are a total of 3 metro trains.

Metro Corporation officials said that the metro is run for at least 2 thousand kilometers to check the fitness of the track and the train. Therefore, the metro is being run continuously on the track since the trial run in September-October. The second and third trains will also be run for the same length.

On Thursday, coaches had left Gujarat in 6 trolleys. The coach reached Bhopal on Saturday. Metro Corporation officials said that it will be installed in two-three days. Then they will be brought on track. The work of inspection bay at Subhash Nagar depot under Bhopal Metro Priority Corridor is

going on at a fast pace. Before the commercial run, the metro will be run for 2000 km without passengers, so that the fitness of both the train and the upcoming trains will also be

Bhopal on October 3 last year. Of the 8 stations in the 6.22 km Orange Line, the trial run was conducted between five stations - Subhash Nagar, Kendriya School, DB Mall, MP Nagar and Rani Kamalapati station. Since then the train is

get is to run the metro for the common people in May-June 2024. Therefore, focus is being placed on the remaining work of the metro. Especially the work of Alkapuri, AIIMS and DRM office stations has been expedited.

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and

Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulis Housing Finance Limited (CIN: 1.65922DL2005PLC136029) and Indiabulis Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (CIN: 1.67110MH2006PLC305312) acting as a Trustee of Indiabulis ARC- XXXI Trust (both IHFL and IARCL) are jointly and severally referred to as ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 29.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M., to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of the following amounts due to IHFL and IARCL: DUES OF INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED:

S. No.	Loan Account Number	Outstanding Amounts (in Rs.) as on 07.02.2024
1.	HHLBHP00227869	Rs. 18,73,104/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Seventy Three Thousand One Hundred Four only)
UES	OF INDIABULLS ASSET REC	CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED:
$\overline{}$		

Loan Account Number Outstanding Amounts (in Rs.) as on 07.02.2024 D004XXXI (Old Loan Account No. HHLBHP00356139) Rs. 3,72,498/- (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred Ninety Eight only)

The Loan Account No. HHLBHP00356139, along with all right(s), ittle(s), interest(s), underlying security(ies), pledge(s) and / or guarantee(s) including the Immovable Property, has been assigned by IHFL to and in favour of Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Company Limited ("IARCL") vide Assignment Agreement dated 21.08.2023, and the same has been renumbered by IARCL and bears new Loan Account No. D004XXXI. Consequently, IARCL has also become a Secured Creditor for the said assigned Loan Account. IARCL has given its consent to IHFL to issue this Notice of Sale.

Notice of Sale. The amounts mentioned in both the tables given above are pending towards the respective Loan Accounts of IHFL and IARCL, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 07.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement(s) and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 08.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges, due to the Secured Creditor from DEEPAK CHANDRA DAS and JAYA DAS.

The Reserve Price for the Immovable Property will be Rs. 6,75,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 6,75,00/- (Rupees Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

SINGLEX PLOT NO. 244, LOTUS PARK, HAVING AN AREA OF 600 SQ. FT. (55.76 SQ. MTR.) WHICH IS A PART OF KHASRA NO. 82/2/2, 82/2/3, 82/2/1/1/1, 89/82/1/2/1/1, 85, 87/1, 89, SITUATED AT VILLAGE - GAJJU PIPALIYA, TEHSIL-GOHARGANJ, DISTRICT RAISEN - 464551, MADHYA PRADESH.

EAST : SINGLEX NO.243 WEST : SINGLEX NO. 245

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in. AUTHORIZED OFFICER INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Rs 12,00,000/-

Rs 1,20,000/-

Rs 3,00,000/-

Rs 10,000/-

Sports coaching available: DDA sons" are available at DDA's sports complexes. The authority is operating 16 sports complex-"While coaching facilities have been available at our sports complexes, not much awareness is there among the general masses," a senior official said. The DDA also issued a statement on Saturday to raise awareness about such coaching facilities. At DDA sports complexes "stateof-the-art facilities and coaching

The plane landed on runway

28/10 at around 8.30 am but

could not exit to the desig-

nated taxiway. As a result, the

runway was blocked for little

over 15 minutes, the sources

added. They said that a tow-

ing tractor towed the aircraft

to a parking bay, following which normal operations

resumed on the runway.
One of the sources said that

after the plane landed at the

airport, an air traffic controller

asked the pilot to vacate the

runway to taxiway K6.

However, due to low visibili-

ty, the aircraft could not move

to the taxiway, the source

In a statement, the IndiGo

spokesperson said the air-

craft missed the exit taxiway

Delhi-bound IndiGo aircraft misses taxiway after landing at IGIA

the sources in the know said. the parking bay by a tug. IndiGo prioritises operational safety above all else and regrets any inconvenience caused to passengers," the spokesperson said in a state-

> IGIA is the country's largest airport and handles around 1,400 flights daily. It has four operational runways. On January 31, chaos erupt-

ed at the Delhi airport as passengers protested after IndiGo cancelled a flight to Deoghar, Iharkhand.

The angry flyers raised slogans like Indigo Chor Hai, questioning the airline's sudden decision.

Also last month, cricketer Mayank Agarwal filed a police complaint after drinking 'poisonous liquid' in a DelhiIn another episode also in

January, pilots of an IndiGo flight from Delhi to Baku were removed from flying duty as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) launched a probe to find out whether they had taken off without the required air traffic control (ATC) clear-

by renowned sports persons are available" in various sports dis-

ciplines i.E., aerobics, archery,

athletics, badminton, basketball,

Around the same time, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had imposed a fine of Rs 1.2 crore on IndiGo after passengers were seen sitting on the tarmac and eating food while waiting for their delayed flight.

In one of the major incidents, a frustrated passenger was caught on camera hitting the pilot of an IndiGo flight 28/10 at the Indira Gandhi
The aircraft was stopped on International Airport (IGIA), the runway and was towed to had to be hospitalised in ing delays.

Modi interacts with beneficiaries Bhopal: Prime Minister

Narendra Modi engaged with beneficiaries of various schemes during the Tribal Mega Conference in Jhabua. He interacted with recipients of the Aahar Anudan Yojana, including Gora Bai Sahariya, Rami Bai Sahariya and Vasto Bai Sahariya, gathering feed-back on the scheme's effectiveness.

Additionally, he interacted with beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Swamitva Yojana, such as Prakash Vasunia and Smt. Rukhma Bai Damor, to understand the benefits they have experienced. Furthermore, Prime Minister Modi engages with recipients of the Birsa Munda Self-Employment Scheme, including Deepak Damor and Sachin Chauhan, scheme's impact on employment opportunities.

Date: 08.02.2024 Place: RAISEN run on the track.

ZONAL OFFICE, CIVIL LINES, Jabaipur- 482001 Ph: 0761-2624977. Email: zojabalpur@indianbank.co.in

APPENDIX- IV-A" [RULE 8 (6)] SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

🕰 इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

इंडियन बैंक 🗨 👟 Indian Bank

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of the amounts and Interest due to Indian Bank branch thereon mentioned against account herein below, The specific details of the properties intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

28-02-2024 Date and Time of

E-Auction 11.00 AM TO 4.00 PM Amount Reserve Price **Branch Name** Outstanding **Detailed description EMD Amount** Name of the Account S. **Encumbrances** of the Property Name of the Borrower/ Prop./Director/ No. Bid incremental amount For E-Auction On Property Partner / Guarantor / Mortgagor Type of Posession 1.Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop No.12, Second Floor, Noudra Bridge Market, Developed by Nagar Nigam, Near Noudara Bridge Jabalpur, Bhawani Prasad Tiwari Ward, Distt-Jabalpur Area of Prop.-: 264 sq ft. Rs. 90,56,977 /-Branch - Civil Lines, Jabalpur Rs 30,00,000/-(as on 07.01.2020) M/s Aditva Warehousing Property Owner-Smt.Saroj Sahu W/o Sri Shiv Charan Samudre Rs 3,00,000/-(Prop - Shri Shiv Charan Samudre interest and other expenses Boundaries - North : Common Passage, South : Nallah, East : Shop Sharad Chouhan, West : Shop Ashish Jain Not Known Rs 10,000/-Symbolic Posession 2. Equitable mortgage of Commercial Shop No.403, Fourth Floor, R.K. Tower, Constructed on Lease Plot No.3, Diversion Plot No.531, Sheet No.154-A, Wright Town Extension, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Bhawani Prasad Tiwari Ward, Dist.-Jabalpur Area of Property: 264 sq ft. Rs 25,00,000/-Property Owner-Shri Shiv Charan Samudre S/o Sri M.D.Samudre Rs 2,50,000/-Boundaries - North: Unit No.402, South: Unit No.404, East: Wall, West: Common Passage Rs 10,000/-Land with Building situated at Village- Dhiraul, J. No.- 485, PH.No- 51,RNM- Anuppur, khasra No-278, Ward No-12, Anuppur (M.P.) Measuring area of 2175 Sq. ft. Diverted Area (0.057Hectare) **Anuppur Branch** Rs. 42,27,052 /-Rs 12,00,000/-Shri Jagdish Sharan Patel. (as on 06.08.2018) Rs 1,20,000/-Property Owner-Shri Jagdish Saran Patel (Borrower). + interest and other expenses Boundaries - North: Property of Sudeep Patel, South: Property of Chetram Patel, East: Property of Chetram Rs 10,000/-Not Known Patel, West: Road Symbolic Posession Land with Building situated at Village- Dhiraul, J No-485, Ph No-57,RNM Anuppur, Khasra No-372/1, Ward No-Rs. 32,42,325 /-Anuppur Branch

12, Anuppur (MP) Measuring area of 3045 Sq. ft Diverted Area (0.502 Hectare

Anuppur Branch Borrower - Mr. Puran Singh Rathore Guarantor - Mr. Dinbandhu Rathore Urf Ayodhya Rathore

Teh Baihar Balaghat Mp 481001 (Permanent Address)

2. Mrs. Ritubala Parte W/o Mr. Rajkumar Markam

Baihar MP 481117 (Permanent Address)

1. Shri Rajkumar Markam S/o Shri Amar Singh Markam (Borrower & Mortgagor)

Ward no: 13, Police Line, Balaghat-481001 (M.P.) (Current Address) Village Harranala

Ward no: 13, Police Line, Balaghat - 481001 (M.P.) (Current Address) Village Pondi

Mortgaged Assets:-Land and building situated at Khasra no-888 of Village- Senduri Po- Sonmohari, Tehsil & District-Anuppur (M.P) its admeasuring area 0.04 Hectre along with all its future construction thereon Boundaries: - East: Panchayati Road, West: Open land of Bhukan Kol, North: Open land of Jethu Kol, South

1. Property Owner - Mr. Puran Singh Rathore

Property Owner-Shri Gayaram Kori

Prop. Id. - IDIB488202

:Property of Rondal Sahu, West :Property of Dilapati Singh

Prop. Id. - IDIB11964384670A Residential House at Plot Khasra No: 5/8/1/1/1/1/1 (Area: 1300 Sq Ft) Mouza: Hirapur, PH No: 14/34, RNM:

Boundaries - North: Property of Ramadan Singh, South: Property of Chetan Sahu and Gayaram, East

Balaghat-2, Teh & Distt: Balaghat (MP), with all its building and future constructions thereon, standing in the name of Shri Raikumar Markam. Boundaries: East: House of Seller (Mr Sandeep Nikuse) West: Plot of Ms Anita Singh, North: 20 Ft Road, South:

Prop. Id. - IDIB30430267950

Rs 10,000/-Not Known Symbolic Posession Rs. 11,13,392 /-Rs 18,00,000/-(as on 29.05.2023) Rs 1,80,000/-+ interest and other expenses Rs 10,000/-Not Known Symbolic Posession Rs. 26,48,696 /-Rs 30,00,000/-

(as on 31.10.2017)

+ interest and other expenses

(as on 12.06.2023) + interest and other expenses Not Known Symbolic Posession

Bidders are advised to visit the website (www.mstcecommerce.com/auction/home/ibapi) of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapiop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapifin@mstcecommerce.com For property and auction terms and conditions please visit: http://ibapi.in and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number "18001025026" and "011-41106131". Platform for e-auction: http://ibapi.in and www.mstcecommerce.com. This is also a notice to the borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date and other details.

Date: 12/02/2024

Shri Gayaram Kori

Balaghat Branch

(Co-Borrower)

(Borrower)

Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Modi to distribute one lakh appointment letters

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than one lakh appointment letters to newly inducted recruits in Central Government departments on Monday via video conferencing.

On this occasion, the Prime Minister will also lay the foun-dation stone of Phase-I of the Integrated Complex "Karmayogi Bhavan". This complex will promote collaboration and synergy among var-ious pillars of Mission Karmayogi.

Prime Minister Modi will dis-tribute more than 1 lakh appointment letters to newly inducted recruits on February 12 at 10:30 am via video conferencing, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office

The Rozgar Mela will be held at 47 locations across the country and the recruitments are taking place across central government departments, and state and Union Territory governments are supporting this

The new recruits will be joining the government in various



ministries and departments vis-a-vis Department of Revenue, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Higher Education, Department of Atomic Energy, Ministry of Defence, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Tribal Áffairs and Ministry of Railways, the state-

The Rozgar Mela is a step towards fulfilment of the commitment of the prime minister to accord highest priority to employment generation in the

The mela is expected to leverage further employment generation and provide gainful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and direct participation in National Development, the statement

The newly inducted appointees are also getting an opportunity to train themselves through "Karmayogi Prarambh", an online module on iGOT Karmayogi portal where more than 880 e-learning courses have been made available for 'anywhere any device' learning

PM to witness India UPI services launch in Lanka, Mauritius

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services will be rolled out in Sri Lanka and Mauritius at a virtual ceremony on Monday that will be witnessed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the top leadership of the two island nations. India's RuPay card services would also be launched in Mauritius at the event

Mauritian Prime Minster Pravind Jugnauth and Sri Lanka's President Ranil Wickremesinghe will join Modi at the virtual ceremony, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth will witness the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, and also RuPay card services in Mauritius on February 12 at 1 PM via video conferencing," it

Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), UPI is an instant realtime payment system to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones. RuPay

Developed by the National

Mauritius, the launch will ben-

is a global card payment network from India, with wide acceptance at shops, ATMs,

The launch of the Indian services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius is taking place amid New Delhi's increasing bilateral economic ties with the two

"India has emerged as a leader in Fintech innovation and Digital Public Infrastructure. The prime minister has placed a strong emphasis on sharing our development experiences and innovation with partner countries," the MEA said in a statement.

It said given India's robust cultural and people-to-people linkages with Sri Lanka and

efit a wide cross-section of people through a faster and seamless digital transaction experience and enhance digital connectivity between the countries."The launch will enable availability of UPI settlement services for Indian nationals travelling to Sri Lanka and Mauritius as well as for Mauritian nationals travelling to India," it said.

The extension of RuPay card services in Mauritius will enable Mauritian banks to issue cards based on RuPay mechanism in Mauritius and facilitate usage of RuPay card for settlements both in India and Mauritius," it added.

Modi pays tribute to Pandit Deendayal



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday paid tributes to Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, a key party ideologue, on his death anniversary, saying he showed the path to take the country forward by keeping the Indian culture and heritage at its centre.

These have become an inspiration in building a developed India as well, Modi posted on X. Upadhyaya, an RSS functionary, was among the founding members of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the BJP forerunner. His ideas of "antyodaya" (uplift

of the most impoverished) and "integral humanism" have often been cited by Modi as an inspiration for his governance model. Upadhyaya died in

Other BJP leaders also paid

rich tributes to him, with party president J P Nadda asserting that his values will always be a guiding light for Home Minister Amit Shah

said Upadhyaya's life is a giant symbol of serving the nation and devotion towards it.

He believed no country can progress by neglecting the fundamental values of its culture,

Expelled Congress leader hints at rift in Gandhi family

Expelled Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam on Sunday dropped a bomb-shell indicating of a clear rift in the Congress' first family — the Gandhis.

Krishnam who is all set to join BJP said the High Command has a division and that the former party chief Rahul Gandhi has done everything to keep away his sibling Priyanka Gandhi and questioned why the latter has been in the party without any portfolio.

He also mentioned the perpetual disrespect to the another stalwart Sachin Pilot who has been batting day in an out to sustain himself in the party led by a reluctant politician like Rahul Gandhi.

Krishnan also sought to know why it's now to be one month for the second leg of Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra that Priyanka



has not joined the yatra. "Like Lord Shiv, Sachin Pilot is gulping poison, Pramod Krishnam said adding that, Priyanka Gandhi -- for the first time in the party's history -was kept as the general secretary without any portfolio. Ask Priyanka Gandhi whether she is happy about it. Ask her why she is not joining Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. Who is orchestrating all

disclosed that Rs one lakh

crores allocated for the agri-

culture sector had lapsed as the Modi government did not spend it on agriculture.

He disclosed that Rs 40,000 crores was pocketed by the pri-

vate insurance companies under the 'Fasal Beema Yojana'.

Besides, for the first time in

independent India's history,

farmers were paying tax of Rs

Similarly, Kharge added, the

Modi government was not fill-

ing about 30 lakh vacancies in

various government depart-

ments and public sector under-

takings. He alleged that Modi

does not want the Scheduled

Castes, the Scheduled Tribes

and the Backward Classes to

get 50 percent jobs. He said,

Modi wants the poor to remain

poor. He said, the big and

huge industries set up under the Public Sector by Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru were being

handed over to one single

Responding to Modi's question

as to what Congress did,

Kharge said, "we built dams,

for the country.

Taking a jibe at the Prime
Minister, he remarked, some-

times Modi flags off a single

train twice, first from South

and second time from the

friend of the Prime Minister.

25,000 per hectare.

this because our president (Mallikarjun Kharge) is a rubber stamp," Pramod Krishnam

Krishnam was expelled from the Congress for six years for indiscipline and anti-party remarks. In the statement issued by Congress general secretary KC Venugopal, the party said, "In view of complaints about indiscipline and repeatedly making statement

president has approved the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee's proposal to expel Pramod Krishnam for six years with immediate effect."

'When I was 16 or 17 years old, gave my words to Rajiv Gandhi that I would stand with him. Today I am giving my words to PM Modi that I would stand with PM Modi because he is working for the development of the country. Everyone is asking what was my fault — whether me meeting Narendra Modi, Yogi Adityanath or me attending the pran pratishtha ceremony of Ram Temple," Pramod Krishnam said.

On being asked whether he would join the BJP, he said he did not know what he would do. "I have faith in God. I will go wherever God takes me. I am with Modi ji because he is with the country," Pramod

Shehzad Poonawala said Pramod Krishnam earned Rahul Gandhi's wrath because of his 'strident defence of Priyanka Vadra'. "Congress cannot even tolerate

aides of Priyanka now!" Poonawala said adding that when he was in the Congress he alerted Acharya Pramod that 'Priyanka was no better than Rahul' but Acharya chose to remain loyal to Priyanka. Among his anti-party activities, Acharya Pramod criticised the Congress's stand of not attending the pran pratishtha cere-

mony of Ram Temple in Ayodhya on January 22 and despite the top leadership declining the invitation, he attended. On the expulsion, he said he was happy that the party freed him. "I wish to Congress party to expel me for 14 years instead of 6 years. Lord Rama was also expelled for 14 years," he said.

In a first, CAPF constable exam being conducted in 13 regional languages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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m or}$ the first time, the constable recruitment examination in the Central Armed Police Forces such as the Central Reserve Police Force(CRPF), Border Security Force(BSF) and Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) will be conducted in 13 regional languages apart from Hindi and English.

The examination are being conducted from February 10-March 7 and around 48 lakh candidates are appearing in 128 cities across the country, according to an official state-ment.Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had decided to conduct



examination for recruitment in CAPFs in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English from January 1, 2024. This "historic decision" has been taken on the initiative of the home minister to increase the participation of local youths in the Central Armed Police Forces and to promote regional languages, it said. In addition to Hindi and

will now be prepared in the following 13 regional languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, Punjabi, Manipuri and Konkani. Constable examination is one of the flagship recruitment tests conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) attracting lakhs of youths from across the country.

Kharge extends party support to protesting farmers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday extended his party's support to the farmers who have set on march to Delhi seeking fulfillment of the promises Modi government made to them when they withdrew their year long protest outside the Delhi borders.

He congratulated the Punjab farmers for launching the stir for the fulfillment of their demands.

Addressing an impressive workers convention organized by the Punjab Congress, Kharge pointed out, Modi had promised so many things to the farmers including guarantee on Minimum Support Price. "What happened to those promises?" he asked.

The Congress president accused Prime Minister Modi of calling farmers names and describing them as terrorists and 'andolan jeevies' in a most derogatory manner.

Congratulating the people of Punjab, he said, the state was unique as it was only here that both the Jawans and Kisans are found. He said, in some places there are kisans but no jawans and in some places there are jawans but no kisans. But, he remarked, it is only in Punjab we find both Jawans and Kisans thus a great and unique instance of former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan, "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan".

Kharge said, "we built dams, brought white and green revolution and set up institutions like the Punjab Agriculture University". He challenged the BJP and Modi to name a single such thing they had done for the country. But, Kharge regretted, Modi had tried to damage and destroy the both institutions of farming as well as the defence services. He said, while Modi first brought three black laws, then he introduced the Agnipath scheme in the defence services.

Substantiating his charge that Modi was anti-farmer, Kharge





PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

With the objective of maintain its fleet of submarines and warships in top operational condition, Indian Navy's Annual Refit Conference 24 (ARC 24) and Annual Infrastructure Conference 24 (AIC 24) were conducted on February 8–9 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, under the Chairmanship of VAdm Kiran Deshmukh, Chief of Materiel, navy officials said here on Sunday. Refit Plans of Indian Naval Ships and Submarines, augmentation of infrastructure to meet the maintenance requirements of the new ships and submarines being inducted, Materiel Cooperation with Friendly Foreign Countries and digital solutions being implemented in enhancing mainte-nance were discussed.

Foreseeable challenges in Maintenance of Indian Navy's platforms and their solutions, including changes at the strategic level required to make refit and repair processes efficient were also deliberated, they said. The Chief of Materiel complimented all Naval Dockyards and Repair Yards for the efforts in successfully ensuring enhanced operational availability of naval assets. He also highlighted the importance of all Logistics and Maintenance Organisations to be more agile by harnessing new technology

and efficient work processes, as

also the requirement for modernisation of marine assets and vard infrastructure.

During the AIC, progress of various technical and marine infrastructure projects was reviewed by the Chief of Materiel. He emphasised the need to develop 'Future Ready' repair and support infrastructure while modernising and revitalising the existing infrastructure. He expressed happiness with the progress made in the ongoing infrastructure projects and appreciated the completion of various projects in the previous year including the Wet Basin and Refit Jetty at Port Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Western Naval Command, addressing the forum complemented the efforts put in by all concerned in ensuring enhanced operational availability of platforms and emphasised the need to maintain the focus towards supporting heightened operational readiness, upskilling of workforce to develop expertise in new inductions and attention to information security.

The conference was attended by delegates from Naval Headquarters, the three Naval Commands, the Tri-Services Andaman and Nicobar Command, Director General Naval Projects, Naval Dockyards, Repair Yards and Material Organisations of the

Navy conferences on Need for expanding tier two cities: Experts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The increasing incidence of cancer in India, coupled with alarming statistics such as 50 per cent of lung cancer cases occurring in non-smokers and breast cancer affecting every eighth woman, underscores the urgent need to expand oncology services in tier two cities to close the care gap in cancer treatment across the States. On the inaugural day of the two-day IO-CON2024 conference which was held here, top oncologists also highlighted the impact of factors like declining air quality and lifestyle habits on cancer prevalence, emphasizing the importance of enhancing awareness

and early diagnosis. Dr. Madhur Garg, the Clinical Director of Radiation Oncology at Montefiore Medical Center in the United States, emphasized the importance of expanding oncology services in tier two cities in India and advocated for a strong public-private partner-

ship to achieve the goal. Dr. Garg also pointed out that doctors are willing to serve in tier two cities, provided there is adequate infrastructure in place to support cancer treatment services. He also acknowledged the positive impact of the central flagship Ayushman Bharat health cov-

"Of the almost 14 lakh new cancer cases diagnosed in India every year, more than 60% get diagnosed in advanced stages which underscores the need for an enhancing the awareness and diagnosis," said Dr. Shubham Garg, Director of Surgical Oncology, IOCI, Fortis Hospital, Noida while Dr Anita Malik, Senior Consultant and Clinical Lead Radiation Oncology at IOCI stressed the



importance of scaling up radiation therapy equipment to meet the increasing demand, calling for greater cooperation between the public and private

sectors.
Dr PK Sharma, Executive
Director, International
Oncology Cancer Institute stressed on the need for a holistic treatment, personalized medicine in oncology leverages molecular testing and comprehensive genomic profiling to develop individualized treatment strategies that consider the unique genetic, molecular, and environmental factors influencing each patient's cancer. In India, there are more than 640 radiation therapy equipment, but because the country is now experiencing a 5-7% annual growth in cancer cases, the number of machines needs to be scaled up to 1400 as per WHO, said the experts.

The infrastructure costs associated with any oncology institution exceed Rs 100 crore, and the cost of radiation devices is at least Rs 25 crore. This calls for sufficient public-private cooperation to make the treatment accessible to the greatest number of people, which is still limited to a set of people," said Dr Malik.

Looking ahead, Dr Rajat Bajaj, Program Director, IOCI emphasized the importance of timely detection and a peoplefriendly approach in oncology centers and stressed the need for government-private sector cooperation to save more lives.

Ambitious football for schools plan launched across country

PNS NEW DELHI

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, in collaboration with All India Football Federation (AIFF) and Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) has launched the ambitious Football for Schools (F4S) programme of FIFA for school students across the country. According to a Press release by the Ministry of Education, the programme aims to sig-nificantly broaden the acces-sibility of football for students, regardless of gender, within the school setting, while seamlessly integrating football-related activities into the education system in collaboration with various stake-

Under the programme, on 9th February 2024, 6848 footballs were distributed to 1260 Schools of 17 Districts of Odisha. The footballs were distributed from Nodal district NVS with the presence of local dignitaries from various fields. The kick-off of the distribution of balls was launched by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on December2, 2023 from JNV Cuttack, Odisha.

Further, the footballs were distributed in the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal and Deogarh in Odisha; and Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu in a phased manner.

An MoU was earlier signed between the Ministry of Education, AIFF and FIFA on 30 October, 30, 2022. Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya is the Nodal organization for the F4S programme.

Under this programme, more than 11 lakh FIFA footballs are

to be distributed throughout the country in a phased manner. More than 1.50 lakh schools will benefit from this programme. As a part of the programme, to

enhance capacity building, recently the department has conducted a master training programme at 3 venues, viz., Sambalpur, Pune and Bengaluru where around 300 physical education teachers/trainees States/UTs, KVS, NVS and AIFF across India participated with an aim to learn from the best and further use their training and skills as Master Trainers

ity building in the field. F4S aims to contribute to the education, development, and empowerment of around 700 million children across the world. It seeks to make football more accessible to both boys and girls by incorporating football activities into the education system, in partnership with relevant authorities and stakeholders.

at State level for further capac-

Through the F4S programme, the aim has also been to significantly broaden the accessibility of football for students, regardless of gender, within the school setting, while seamlessly integrating football-related activities into the education system in collaboration with various stakeholders.

By fostering partnerships at different levels, the programme wishes to instil a sense of enthusiasm for the sport, laying the foundation for a lasting sports culture that goes beyond individual schools. It will not only introduce the joy of playing football to students but also infuse values of teamwork, discipline, and fitness, contributing to their holistic development.

Modi has worked to secure respect for India cultural heritage, says Shah

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with securing respect for India's cultural heritage on the world stage, citing the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya and the promotion of other key pilgrimage centres as examples.

Speaking at 'Sutturu Jathra' (fair) event near here, he lauded Modi for promoting the preservation of Yoga, Indian and

languages, along with making the country secure and prosperous.

the pioneer

'Narendra Modi has worked to gain respect for the country's cultural heritage on the world stage. Modiji has worked for the revival of several of our cultural centres such as Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Kashi Vishwanath Corridor in Kashi, Mahakal Corridor (Mahakal Lok Corridor in Ujjain), and resurrection of Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham," Shah said. Sutturu Math on the banks of river Kapila, located



in Nanjangud taluk in this district, is one of the prominent spiritual centres in the state that propagates

Veerashaiva/Lingayat faith. Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji of Sutturu Math, Union Minister

Pralhad Joshi, former chief Math and its seers in minister Basavaraj Bommai, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka, and state that I myself and every BJP President B Y Vijayendra, worker of the BJP will always were among those present at the event. Shah lauded Sri Deshikendra Shivarathri Mahaswamij for deciding to open a branch of the Sutturu Math in Ayodhya, and start working there. Offering tributes to 12th century social reformer and philosopher Basaveshwara, he acknowledged contributions on Sutturu

promoting the welfare of society.

"I want to tell Mahaswamiji respect the contributions of Sutturu Math to the society and, in the coming days, will in every way support the efforts to take it forward amidst the people," he added. Mysuru-based sculptor Arun Yogiraj, who chiselled the idol of 'Ram Lalla', consecrated in the newly-constructed temple in Ayodhya, was felicitated at the event.

3 dead, 16 injured as speeding milk tanker ploughs into crowd brought dead and one

Three persons were killed and 16 injured when a speeding milk tanker ploughed into a crowd at Ranipool in Gangtok district, police said on Sunday.

A crowd had gathered at the mela ground Ranipool, about 11 km from here, to play tombola when the speeding milk tanker ploughed into them around 7.30 pm on Saturday, the police said. The driver of the tanker has

been arrested, they said. All the injured persons were rushed to Central Referral Hospital where doctors

declared two persons were

succumbed to injuries at the hospital, they said. Doctors at the hospital said the condition of the five of the

injured was "serious". Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Sing Tamang said he was deeply saddened by the tragic accident that occurred in Ranipool. He announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to

the next of kin of those who

died in the tragic accident. 'We are committed to providing every possible support during this difficult time. My thoughts are with the injured and their families, and I sincerely pray for their swift recovery," the CM said.

Assam Cabinet okays Bill to ban magical healing

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam government gave its nod to a bill to prohibit and eliminate practices of "magical strong punitive action against the "healers".

The decision was taken at a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Himanta development, concept of Biswa Sarma on Saturday. Sharing the decisions taken at the meeting on X, Sarma said the cabinet also selected 10 cities/towns for a dedicated sustainable development programme reforms in the state municipal cadres.

The council of ministers approved the 'Assam Healing (Prevention of 'Assam Evil) Practices Bill, 2024'. The proposed bill seeks to "prohibit and eliminate some congenital diseases of three state municipal such as deafness, cadres will be defined.

dumbness, blindness physical deformity and autism".

"It will prohibit such healing sessions completely and provide strong punitive healing" in the name of action against 'healers' extorting the poor and downtrodden people in the name of treatment," the CM wrote on X.

For sustainable urban ten cities development (Doh Shaher-Ek Rupayan) will be introduced.

The implementation of the concept will be monitored and reviewed by a statelevel steering committee. and proposed to bring in Key components under it include solid waste management, clean and potable water supply, traffic management, planning and manpower rationalisation and capacity building. The cabinet approved an amendment of practices of magical healing the Assam Municipal Act in the name of treatment of 1956, through which roles

Maharashtra Cabinet Ministers to visit Ayodhya soon: Fadnavis

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Sunday said state cabinet ministers will soon visit Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, were the idol consecration of the Ram Temple took place on January

Fadnavis, however, did not share further details. Queried on similar temple disputes in Kashi and

Mathura, Fadnavis told reporters an amicable solution within the legal framework would be found the way Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured the Ram Temple was constructed in Ayodhya (following a Supreme Court verdict).

Asserting that Mathura, Kashi and Ayodhya are all sacred places, Fadnavis said after the Temple in Ayodhya, it is Permission for worship has solution to the dispute in conducive environment is adjacent to the Mathura (Krishna being witnessed. In simple Vishwanath temple.



Janmabhoomi) as well. "I believe just as the Ram Temple got constructed due to the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi will also be resolved with harmony and within the framework of the law," the senior BJP leader said.

happening with harmony and as per law." said Fadnavis. He was in Pimpri Chinchwad in Pune to attend the Geeta Bhakti Amrit Mahotsav in Alandi in Pune along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath. Hindu litigants say the Shahi Idgah in Mathura was built on the site believed to be the birthplace of Lord Krishna. A Krishna temple stands next to the mosque.

court-ordered Archaeological Survey of India report recently suggested that the Gyanvapi mosque Varanasi (Kashi) was built after demolition of a temple there Aurangzeb's rule.

A district court in Varanasi last month ruled that a priest can perform prayers before "A new corridor has been the idols in a cellar of the construction of the Ram built in Kashi Vishwanath. Gyanvapi Masjid, a significant development in the legal natural for people to expect also been granted there and a battle over the mosque



Ink hurled on banner declaring Ajit Pawar wife as future MP

Unidentified persons threw ink on a banner with the photograph of Sunetra Pawar, wife of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar, declaring her as the next Lok Sabha member in Pune district.

A video of the incident, which occurred in Karhati village in Baramati taluka, the home turf of the Pawars, has gone viral on social media.

Police rushed to the spot and the banner was removed, an official said on Sunday.

Notably, the banner declared Pawar as an Sunetra "upcoming MP" and appealed to people to elect her with a huge margin.

Speculation is rife in political circles about the candidature of Ajit Pawar's wife from the Baramati Lok constituency against the backdrop of a split in the NCP. In a setback to Sharad Pawar, the Election Commission recently recognised the Ajit Pawar-led faction as the real NCP and allotted it the clock symbol.

Ajit Pawar's cousin sister Supriya Sule, daughter of Sharad Pawar, is the sitting MP from Baramati. Such posters about Sunetra

Pawar's candidature had come up in Baramati in the past also. Baramati assembly constituency is represented by Ajit Pawar.

Three Bangladeshi women arrested in Tripura

PTI AGARTALA

Three Bangladeshi women and three locals were arrested from Agartala railway station here on Sunday for attempting to board a Kolkata-bound train without valid papers, police said. Upon questioning, the Bangladeshi women failed to produce their passports, said Obaidur Rahman, the officiating in-charge of Agartala GRP police station. Rahman said tĥe Bangladeshi women were arrested under the India Passport Act, while remaining individuals, comprising two men and one woman from Tripura's Sepahijala district, were arrested on charges of human trafficking.

"Preliminary interrogation revealed that the three Bangladeshi nationals from Dhaka had intentions of traveling to Kolkata. An investigation has started to ascertain the motive of the three women," police added.

Friends turned foes slug it out in charged up poll battle in TN

PTI CHENNAI

 $F^{\rm riends}$ turned foes - the BJP and AIADMK - are locked in a rancorous war at times becoming personal targetting BJP state chief K Annamalai, in a charged-up political atmosphere in Tamil adu ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Anticipating announcement of the poll, the ruling DMK has initiated talks with its allies on seatsharing and is gearing up to bring out its poll manifesto. Though a multi-cornered contest appears imminent, as of now, the political parties barring the DMK and allies are still hazy on alliance.

While former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami sees red at the mention of DMK president and Chief Minister M K Stalin, the loose cannons in his AIADMK devote more

time on personally targetting Annamalai and sustain themselves in the limelight. "Much of their ire is due to the BJP's preference for former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam as a reliable ally than to AIADMK general secretary Edappadi Palaniswa senior leader said. BJP has never been comfortable in the company of ambitious Palaniswami, who in a bid to garner the minorities votes has expressed opposition to the Uniform Civil Code.

The AIADMK General Secretary, who severed poll ties with the BJP in September last year, due to Annamalai's aggressive politics, is engaged in forming an alliance under his leadership. Another cause for heartburn for the AIADMK was the shifting of loyalties by 12 of its former legislators and



a MP, recently, to the BJP. A former MLA each from the DMK, Congress and DMDK, too joined the BJP. Ridiculing it, former AIADMK Minister D Javakumar remarked "the Tamil Nadu Governor will invite Annamalai to form the government with those former MLAs."

Further, he likened the BJP state president to a "mud

Bihar Police have decided to send e-challans to

registered post, said a senior

The system of sending e-

working properly. That is mainly because of frequent

change in mobile phone numbers of offenders. This is

the only reason that we have

decided to deliver e-challans

to traffic violators via

Traffic,

General (ADG)

Sudhanshu Kumar.

violators

horse" and said Annamalai was creating an illusion that

people were joining the BJP. "Those who follow him are likely to disappear when the mud horse disintegrates in water," Jayakumar claimed. Both the Dravidian majors too have been welcoming a steady trickle of workers from

other parties, as it is election

time. Though the Congress,

Chiruthaigal Katchi and the Left parties too have a presence in certain pockets in the state, they toe

comfortably placed as its appeared to go overboard in alliance is intact, AIADMK his criticism, called Other political parties such as the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) and the Pattali Makkal Katchi are yet to decide on an alliance and the options before them are only a few either the BJP or AIADMK.

Parties such as actor Kamal Haasan's Makkal Needhi Maiam and actor Seeman-led Naam Tamilar Katchi would be in the fray. "Annamalai's politics of publicity won't work in Tamil Nadu," claimed former claimed former AIADMK state Minister Kadambur Raju

Jayakumar, training his guns on Panneerselvam, claimed the latter would join the BJP after the Lok Sabha election. the DMK's line.

While the ruling DMK is R B Udayakumar, who

and BJP are vying to form an Annamalai a "Leghiyam (a traditional medicine that boosts immunity) seller and said the BJP president was a political novice. "Yes, I am Leghiyam trader. I sell the best Leghiyam to banish corruption, rowdyism and anarchy in Tamil Nadu.

Those who consume my Leghiyam can see results of a good administration, and good leadership" Annamalai, dismissing Udayakumar as an "invalid currency" retorted while leading his six-monthold En Mann, En Makkal (My Land, My People) yatra,

Education transformational mechanism to ensure equality: Vice President



PTI GONDIA

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said education is the most impactful transformational mechanism to bring about equality and cut down inequality.

Addressing a function in Gondia district of Maharashtra, he said young parliamentarians with vision, mission, and talent have a big role to play in building Vikasit Bharat of 2047.

Dhankhar also suggested that "value addition" to farm produce will bring qualitative improvements in the lives of

farmers.
"Today, the world is seeing the change in India and the change is imminent when the leader is aware of the ground reality and has the ability to change them. Today, we have the able leadership at the Centre and in the state who are well capable of bringing the change," Dhankhar said. He said India is fast emerging as a strong nation.

"In 1989 when I became MP for the first time, it was a difficult time for our country. The country had to send its gold reserve by air to Switzerland where it was kept as a mortgage in two banks so that our country's financial credibility could be sustained," the vice president

But the time has changed now and we have overtaken Canada, France, and England to become the 5th largest

"India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world. In the next two to three years,

we will move ahead of Germany and Japan," he added.

The function was organized to mark the 118th birth anniversary of Manohar Patel, father of ex-Union minister Praful Pate, who belongs to NCP.

impactful transformational mechanism to bring about equality and cut down inequality. Young parliamentarians with vision, Young mission and talent have a big

"Education is the most

role to play in building Viksit Bharat of 2047," the vice president added. . Dhankhar said Gondia is a

major centre of rice trade and that he would like to suggest to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to work on value addition to rice for its marketing. "I want to tell CM Shinde to

do value addition to rice as its main marketing point. For the growth of farmers, value addition to their produce is important. Such changes would bring qualitative improvements in the life of cultivators," he said.

He said Swachh Bharat, gas connections, and tap water connections household have become a reality.

Dhankhar also hailed women's reservation and their empowerment. CM Shinde said Maharashtra

is ahead of other states in all the fields and the "double engine" government is making progress.

"Maharashtra will also achieve the goal of becoming a USD 1 trillion economy and contribute to the nation's progress," Shinde said.

Four booked for cheating Navi Mumbai man of ₹17 lakh in share trading fraud

PTI ■ THANE

The cyber police have registered a case against four persons for allegedly cheating a 45-year-old man from Navi Mumbai township in Maharashtra of more than Rs 17 lakh after luring him to invest in share trading, an official said on Sunday.
The victim, resident of Nerul

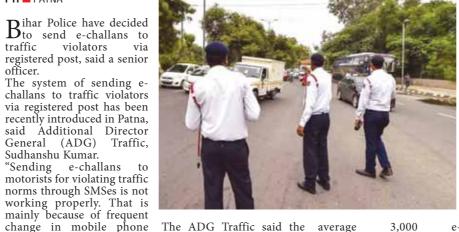
area, was promised high returns in the trading.
The accused allegedly made

the victim invest Rs 17.30 lakh in a fraudulent share trading scheme from December 5, 2023 to January

The police on Saturday registered a case against four persons under Indian Penal Code Sections 419 (cheating personation), 420 (cheating) and 34 (common intention), the official said,

28, 2024, the official from cyber police station said. When the victim did not get the returns as promised and the invested amount, he filed a police complaint.

registered post", the ADG Traffic told PTI. "We introduced this system in Patna a few days ago. Now we want to introduce it in all districts. A letter in this regard has already been sent to all district traffic police", adding a probe was on into he said.



Bihar Police to send echallans to

traffic violators via registered post

cost of sending e-challans via registered post could be from recovered offenders.

"At present, the traffic police is bearing the cost...but we have sought permission from the competent authority for the recovery of the cost of challans sending registered post from the offenders", said Kumar.

challans/notices are issued daily for traffic violations in Bihar, mostly for over-speeding, signal jumping, not wearing helmets, tripleriding on two-wheelers, talking on the phone while driving, etc.

Analysis of figures (with the traffic police) reveals that not even half of the total traffic e-challans issued in According to figures, on an the state per day are paid by

February 8, 2024, reveal that a total of 2,989 e-challans (of Rs 46.5 lakh) were issued in all 38 districts in the state for different traffic violations. Out of total Rs 46.5 lakh fine, motorists cleared challans of Rs 6.44 lakh only.
"Around Rs. 39.63 lakh amount (fine) of February 8

motorists. The latest figures

(of Bihar Traffic Police) of

is pending. Therefore, one can imagine the pendency of payments/fines. This is the reason that we have decided to send penalty notices/e-challans to traffic violators via registered post", said the ADG Traffic.

The state capital tops the list of cities where maximum traffic violations take place. According to official figures, Traffic Police issue around 630 to 650 e-challans for different violations in Patna almost every day. Other where maximum cities traffic violations take place include Muzaffarpur, Rohtas, Gaya,

added. Bhagalpur, Begusarai and Saran.

economy in the world, he

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

An exhilarating term

Parliament adjourns for the last time before LS polls are held and the next Govt assumes office

s both Houses of Parliament have been adjourned sine die one last time before the general elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections, it is time to reflect on the Governments admicromospherical elections and legacy of the past five years. This period has been marked by significant elections and legacy of the past five years and moments of both triumph and controicant policy reforms, legislative milestones and moments of both triumph and controversy. The concluding session of Parliament holds special significance as it serves as a crucial juncture for the Government to showcase its accomplishments and for the Opposition to hold the former accountable for its actions. Over the past five years, the Government has introduced a plethora of reforms across sectors, ranging from economy and governance to social welfare and national security. Initiatives such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and ambitious welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana have left a deep impact on the nation's socio-economic milieu. However, alongside these successes,



the Government has faced its fair share of challenges and criticism. Issues such as economic slowdowns, agrarian distress, unemployment and social unrest have tested the administration's resolve and elicited strong reactions from both critics and supporters. Debates on contentious issues like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), farm laws and handling of COVID-19 pandemic have dominated parliamentary discourse.

Besides, the Government's inability to take timely action to quell Manipur violence would also be a blot on its tenure. As the 17th Lok Sabha is bid farewell, the parliamentarians must assess the overall progress made and identify areas that require further attention. This

introspection is essential not only for the ruling party but for the entire political spectrum to understand the pulse of the nation and address people's aspirations effectively. Beyond legislative achievements, the last five years have witnessed significant shifts in the political landscape with coalition dynamics, rise of regional parties and evolving voter preferences shaping the electoral narrative. The general elections present an opportunity for citizens to voice their verdict on the Government's performance and chart the course for the nation. Moreover, the conclusion of the session marks the beginning of a new chapter in India's democratic journey, where the electorate will exercise its right to choose the next set of leaders to steer the country forward. It is time for political parties to engage in constructive dialogue, present their vision and earn the electorate's trust. In this transitional phase, lawmakers must uphold the principles of democracy, foster inclusivity and prioritise mass welfare. The Government's legacy will be defined not only by its legislative accomplishments but also by its commitment to upholding democratic values, promoting social justice and growth for all. As the nation embarks on the next phase of governance, let us reflect on the lessons learnt and communicate effectively to our would-be lawmaker representatives.



Children fly kites in a field in the backdrop of the Taj Mahal, in Agra

Messi confronts China in his own way-

China's psychological warfare extends from visa manipulations to Messi's 'snub,' providing a taste of their own strategy in return

ast year, three Indian Wushu players i.e., Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu, were given stapled visas to travel to China, for the World University Games. All three were proud Indian Arunachalis, and the entire Indian squad pulled out of the competition in protest of the Chinese sleight. It was reminiscent of the 2016 incident when the Manager of the Indian Badminton team, Bamang Tago, was denied a visa to travel to China - he too was a Arunachali! Much earlier in 2011, a 45-team Indian Karate team travelling to China were issued standard visas, except five members who were given stapled visas, again all Arunachalis. Chinese are past masters in psychological warfare and no domain or opportunity is too irrelevant for them to resist partaking a 'ping'. It is culturally part and parcel of their patented three warfare approach where they relentlessly invoke psychological, legal, and public opinion warfare. The recurring bone of contention is the Indian State Arunachal Pradesh which expansionist China falsely claims as socalled 'South Tibet', and therefore shadow boxing on the same.

It's the same pressure tactic that it applies with Taiwan and forces its athletes to compete under an unfamiliar name called 'Chinese Taipei', in Olympics and other events. Taiwanese athletes also compete under an alien flag (1981 agreement with the Olympics International Committee led a newly designed white flag with a flower outline around a sun and the Olympic rings in the middle) with an unheard flag-raising song. The Chinese are constantly looking to score a symbolic and psychological 'hit'. Therefore, with such fixation with political posturing and insistences in everything that it does and imagines, it also leads to hallucinations or perceived indignities whenever it is on the receiving end, deliberate-

by the global football superstar, Lionel Messi, whilst in Hong Kong owing to an ostensible 'swollen and painful injury' got

ly or inadvertently.



PERHAPS THE ONLY TIME THAT MESSI DID COME UNDER **POLITICAL** SUSPICION WAS WITH HIS **PURPORTED MOVE** TO SAUDI ARABIA EARLIER, A MOVE RIFE WITH SUSPICIONS OF **SAUDIS** 'SPORTSWASHING' THEIR MURKY CREDENTIALS BY

try's Uighur minority - the thin-skinned Chinese reacted furiously, and Arsenal club had humiliatingly buckled under pressure, offering meek clarification, "The content published is Özil's personal opinion. As a football club, Arsenal has always adhered to the principle of not involving itself in politics". The Chinese had flexed muscle and extracted their revenge. For the Chinese, football is particularly important given its global popularity and Xi Jinping's penchant in the same reflecting with its declared aspiration to be a 'soccer powerhouse' with the stated intent of winning the Football World Cup in 2050! Perhaps the only time that Messi did come under political suspicion (indirectly again) was with his purported move to Saudi Arabia earlier, a move rife with suspicions of Saudis sportswashing' their murky credentials, by luring sportsmen with money. But Messi didn't move, finally. Despite a long career he has remained steadfastly apolitical and steered clear of political controversies. With a permanent house in Barcelona, Messi took no position on the contentious Catalan-independence issue, given its resonance in Barcelona region. However, the eight-time Ballond'Or winner has somehow never played al level, with whom the Argentinian emotions date back to the 1982 Falkland War and Diego Maradona's infamous 'Hand of God' moment in 1986. In fact, Messi now plays for Inter Miami owned by the English star David Beckham, who had his own 'moment' against rival Argentines when he kicked their captain Diego Simeone in the crucial FIFA World Cup match of 1998. So, it is extremely unlikely that

Messi would be making a political point this late in his career, and especially given the lucrative contracts he has with Chinese conglomerates. If anything, Messi has been in the news for milking his stardom by signing brand endorsements without bothering too much about the brand product or service itself. Incidentally, he had signed up with the now-in-news Byju's as their global ambassador, only to be put on hold when the company started going belly-up.

Nonetheless, the Chinese are feeling insulted and aggrieved, Messi's likely innocence and apology notwithstanding. But it is a providential taste of China's own medicine.

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal)





It is essential for regional science academies to actively promote science through regional media and provide regular updates

cience education in the country is at a cross-Oroads, because of the declining trend among the new generation to pursue a career in Science. Across the country, many brilliant students move towards professional courses that fetch them a good placement soon after their studies. No one will wait 5 or 10 years to get a good placement. Even our policymakers neglect basic science education, forgetting the fact that it's the backbone for building a strong Viksit Bharat. The trend of student exodus to foreign countries is increasing. The public's initial encounter with scientific advancements often occurs through newspapers, television programs, and various other media outlets. The reduction in space or airtime allocated to Science can be viewed as a direct challenge to the field. Many media organisations prioritise commercial considerations when making decisions about content allocation. They may contribute to a lack of public awareness and understanding of scientific concepts, potentially hindering progress in



engagement with Science. This lack of awareness leads to parental pressure on students to move away from science courses. It is where our regional science academies in the country can play a lead role in building a robust scientific force for the future. We have three national science academies in India -the Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Sciences, and the National Academy of Sciences, India. Even though our National Science Academies are doing their service to promote Science, it doesn't reach every nook and corner of the country. Here, regional science academies come into the picture.

Regional science academies can play a crucial role in fostering scientific advancement, education, and collaboration scientific literacy and societal within specific geographic emies can offer insights into

regions. These academies are well-positioned to address and prioritize issues that are specific to a particular region. They can focus on problems related to geography, climate, biodiversity, and other factors that may vary from one region to another. By bringing together scientists and researchers from a specific region, science academies help build a strong and collaborative scientific community. This facilitates the exchange of ideas, expertise, and resources, fostering a culture of innovation and coopera-

It is essential for regional science academies to actively promote Science through regional language media channels, maintain regular interactions with journalists, and offer science updates. accessible format. Apart from science popularisation activities, many regional academies conduct studies on various topics that could affect the enhancement of Science in society, for example, student exodus to foreign countries, public perception of science and scientific research, etc. Regional acadthe unique challenges faced by their communities and contribute to developing informed policies that address regional needs.

Regional science academies can promote diversity and inclusion in Science by supporting underrepresented groups within the region. This contributes to a more inclusive and equitable scientific community. Regional science academies' contributions to nation-building and developing scientific temper are well documented in history. In our journey towards a Viksit Bharat, we should take various regional science academies and the National Science Academies' by affiliating them to the National body. When both academies work with a common goal, it can foster significant advancements in Indian Science. By aligning their efforts and resources, these academies can synergise their strengths, expertise, and networks to tackle scientific challenges more effectively.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, views are personal)

HE EDITOR

WITH MONEY

POWER SECTOR WOES

calculated snub'. All hell broke

loose when just after a couple

of days Messi took to the

ground in Japan. As it is,

China has major beef with

Japan. An indignant Global

Times echoed Chinese frustra-

tions in its editorial, "The

match in Hong Kong became

the only one in Messi's six pre-

season friendly matches on

this trip where he was absent.

The situation ... has magnified

these doubts and suspicions on

the integrity of Inter Miami

and Messi himself." The

Chinese finally got a flavour of

a dish that they so routinely

serve, even if Messi who is an

Argentine (which little or no

sovereign stakes for or against

China) is not known to make

political points, unlike some

2019 when the then Arsenal

football club legend Mesut Ozil openly condemned

China's treatment of the coun-

This incident harks back to

other stars.

Sir — The government in Andra Pradesh seems to be under complacency with the pittance of Navarathnas Scheme provided to the poor section. Though the beneficiaries are thankful for the small benefit they are equally upset over the increase in the burden imposed by an increase in the power bill. The functioning of three companies in the power sector seems to be let loose to function the way they want. Inadequate planning by distribution companies results in purchasing power from private players, who dictate unfavorable Power Purchase Agreements. This compels the distribution companies to burden consumers with charges like FPPCA I, FPPCA II, True Up Charge. Government offices' delayed power bill payments, subsidies, and unauthorized payouts of ?1,400 crores to a private company further strain consumers, leading to unjustified extra charges of ?500 and an unfair share of system-induced losses.

To add to the woes Smart meters are going to be provided to each consumer. Each consumer has to bear the cost of it, which is likely to be around? 13,000/-. It is to be paid in monthly instalments for a few years. The smart meter lacks consumer benefits. focusing on prepaid and dynamic tariffs that favour private entities. Prepaid setups benefit companies, while dynamic pricing confuses consumers, hindering consumption planning. Reforms prioritize profits over people's well-being, urging the government to prioritize citizens over private interests for a better quality of life.

AG Rajmohan | Anantapur

INFLATION RISING

Sir — The Reserve Bank of India is trying to control the inflation rate. According to the RBI report, the inflation rate between April and December in the current financial year has been 5.5 per cent. The inflation rate is estimated to be 5.4 per cent during the entire current financial year. The inflation rate is likely to come down in the next financial year, and it may remain at

Well-deserved Bharat Ratna

against England at internation-



he Bharat Ratna, the Country's highest civilian honour has been given to three distinguished personalities of the country P V Narasimha Rao, Charan Singh and Swaminathan who have made monumental contributions to the nation in different sectors. P V Narasimha Rao the 9th prime minister of India, was a statesman and distinguished scholar of our times. He held the reins of the county during a politically tumultuous time in the wake of the assassination of for-

However, the efforts of the Reserve Bank of India and the claims of the government are in their place, but the bitter reality is that the food plate of the common man of the country is still expensive. This inflation is likely to increase further. In other words, the growth rate of our economy has been more than 7.5 per cent. But for the common man, economic development means that he gets relief from inflation and adequate employment opportunities. If inflation is not under control and youth are not getting employment, then the figures of economic progress have no relevance to the life of the common man.

Jahangir Shaikh | Mumbai

GRAHAM STAINES' DEATH ANNIVERSARY Sir — A few days ago, on January 22, residents of Manoharpur, a remote village in Keonjhar district of Odisha observed the 25th death anniversary of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two sons. Graham Staines had been working with leprosy patients in Odisha since his coming to India in 1965 till his death in 1999. "For 35 years, Saibo, clad in casuals with

mer Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi when the nation was facing an extremely grave economic crisis and was on the brink of bankruptcy, indeed there were several challenges galore for him, the shattered Economy and several internal security problems, but with his visionary leadership he steered the country through successfully. Narasimha Rao's unmatched legacy secures his pivotal place in Indian history. Chaudhary Charan Singh dedicated his life to farmers' rights, earning the title 'champion of farmers.' A principled socialist, he advocated higher taxes for the wealthy

and opposed luxury consumption. MS Swaminathan, a distinguished agricultural scientist, played a crucial role in India's transformation from a food-importing to a self-sufficient, food-exporting nation, earning him the moniker 'father of the green revolution' during challenging times marked by droughts.

Ramesh G Jethwani | Bangalore

his trademark hat, pedaled his rickety bicycle, a familiar sight in Baripada. Known for doing God's work, he cared for leprosy patients in a dedicated home on the outskirts. Tragically, Graham Staines and his two sons, Timothy (6) and Philip (10), were burned alive while sleeping in their jeep in

a Manoharpur forest. When Dara Singh and his followers had set fire to the vehicle, they woke up and tried to come out. But those fanatics used their long stout sticks to shove them back into the fire, till they died close to midnight of January 22, 1999. His wife Gladys Staines told television reporters, "I forgive those who have killed my husband and my two sons." After his husband's death, she continued to serve leprosy patients and managed to turn his husband's home for those patients into a hospital. Every year, January 22 will come and remind us about the warning signs of religious fanaticism on the road to our evolutionary progress.

Sujit De | Kolkata

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FIRST COLUMN

A JOURNEY THROUGH **LOSS AND HEALING**

The Buddhist approach offers a grounded and rational way to cope with grief



RAVI VALLURI

The doctor was an early riser. Upon waking he hit the gym. He remained fit and in proper shape by maintaining this regimen. The medico was a noted pediatrician, his wife an eminent cardiologist. Unfortunately, their only daughter suffered from a compromised heart condition. The trio had attended a party the previous evening. It was time to drop the daughter to school and the father knocked at the door. But the cherubic girl did not respond. Life was snuffed out; tragedy had struck the family and a pall of gloom descended.

A few weeks back an old aunt had kicked the bucket. It was a double whammy for the family, and they were inconsolable. Several centuries ago, in the time of the Buddha, a woman lost her only child to the cruel hands of fate. In an anguished state she implored the Enlightened One to resuscitate the dead child. Buddha, the compassionate, agreed to perform the miracle. He asked the lady to collect mustard seeds from all the houses of the village which had never seen death or grief. The woman knocked at the doors of all the houses in the village but returned empty handed. Handling grief is a challenging task and only skillful minds can undertake this responsibility.

The doctor couple who could not save their precious child were subsumed into a cesspool of anger, guilt, sadness, pangs of loneliness, numbness, and a yearning for their beloved one. To overcome their grief and desolation, the husband, a moderate drinker, became a quotidian one and his spouse began administering herself sedatives.

Several eminent psychologists like Parker, Arewill and Worden have zeroed in on the point that those suffering from grief, need to move on from the feeling of numbness, pining, depression, a feeling of shock and despair



to the process of recovery. It is important for the grieving to accept the reality of the loss, experience the pain of the departed one, adjust to the environment of living without the deceased person.

Medical science has made rapid advancements such that proper diagnosis, therapy, and counselling along with proper medication can trigger the change agent in the wrecked mind. Alternatively, there are techniques like hypnosis and even providing ECT (in the worst-case scenario) to address the problem.

The Theravada Buddhist traditions have dealt with the subject of handling grief in a dynamic manner. The human mind by the process of strong internal resolution can overcome this vicissitude in life by mindfulness. The process is called Satipatthana.

The emotionally wrought can find solace and succour by becoming aware of the reality about the impermanence of events, happenings, and people. The mind should become strong to accept the reality and look ahead. There are breathing techniques like Vipassana and Sudarshan Kriya which have proven ability to transfigure the mind from a depressed state to a positive one. Both the techniques have been validated by medical science as alternative therapies and have the power to alter the thought process, bringing it to the present moment.

Several grieving souls adopt holistic measures like the breathing techniques mentioned, meditation, pranayama, yoga, chanting of mantras, being in communion with nature or seva to overcome their grief and restore normalcy in their lives. It is the recalcitrant human mind which acts as a deterrent and needs to be tamed. "Grief is in two parts. The first is loss. The second is remaking of life," writes Anne Roiphe

(The writer is a CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd and is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

The impact and evolution of IBC 2016



The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code IBC of 2016 streamlines insolvency resolution processes and bolstering investor confidence



he Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) of 2016 stands as a transformative milestone in recent Indian legislative history. Enacted with the aim of streamlining and expediting the resolution process for distressed businesses, the IBC has had far-reaching implications for India's economic landscape and global standing. In this comprehensive exploration, we delve into the genesis of the IBC, its impact on India's Ease of Doing Business Index, the role of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), and the recent amendments that have further refined and strengthened the framework. The IBC of 2016 was a response to the

urgent need for a comprehensive insolvency regime in India. Prior to its enactment, the country grappled with a fragmented and inefficient system that often led to protracted legal battles and value destruction for all stakeholders involved. Recognizing the critical importance of a robust insolvency framework in fostering economic growth and investor confidence, the Indian government embarked on a journey to overhaul the existing system.

The passage of the IBC in 2016 marked a paradigm shift in India's approach to insolvency resolution. By introducing a unified legal framework that streamlined the resolution process and prioritized creditor rights, the IBC sought to expedite the resolution of distressed assets and maximize value for all stakeholders. Key provisions of the IBC include the establishment of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as well as the creation of Insolvency Professionals (IPs) and Insolvency Professional Entities (IPEs) to facilitate the resolution process. One of the most significant outcomes of the IBC has been its impact on India's

Ease of Doing Business Index. Since the

THE SUCCESS OF THE IBC CAN ALSO BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS **INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY** BOARD OF INDIA (IBBI), THE REGULATORY **AUTHORITY** TASKED WITH **OVERSEEING ITS**

IMPLEMENTATION

enactment of the IBC, India's ranking in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index has steadily improved, climbing by another 14 places to 63 in 2019. This improvement can be attributed in large part to the IBC's success in resolving insolvency cases more efficiently and effectively, thereby enhancing the overall business environment in the

In particular, India's ranking in resolving insolvency saw a remarkable jump of 56 places to 52 in 2019, marking the highest-ever leap recorded by any country in the history of the World Bank. This significant improvement reflects the positive impact of the IBC in expediting the resolution process, reducing the time and cost involved in resolving insolvency cases, and maximising the value recovered by creditors. The success of the IBC can also

be attributed to the efforts of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), the regulatory authority tasked with over-seeing the implementation of the IBC. Since its inception, the IBBI has played a crucial role in shaping and refining the insolvency framework, issuing regulations, guidelines, and circulars to ensure smooth and effective implementation of the IBC

In its journey of seven years, the IBBI has introduced six amendments to the IBC, each aimed at further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the insolvency resolution process. These amendments have addressed various challenges and loopholes in robust and resilient to emerging complexities in the insolvency landscape One of the key areas of focus for

the IBBI has been the regulation of Insolvency Professionals (IPs) and Insolvency Professional Entities (IPEs), who play a critical role in the insolvency resolution process. The IBBI has introduced several amendments to the regulations governing IPs and IPEs, aimed at enhancing their role and capabilities in resolving insolvency cases. For example, the IBBI has intro-

duced amendments to allow IPs to resign from their roles under certain circumstances, thereby addressing concerns about the prolonged tenure of IPs without remuneration. Additionally, amendments have been made to allow IPEs to engage their partners or directors in insolvency assignments, expanding their capacity and expertise in the resolution process.

Furthermore, the IBBI has introduced amendments to streamline the appointment process for IPs by introducing a panel of eligible candidates for appointment by the adjudicating authority. This has helped to expedite the appointment process and ensure a more transparent and efficient resolution process.

In addition to amendments related to IPs and IPEs, the IBBI has also introduced amendments to other regulations governing the insolvency process. For example, amendments have been made to clarify the role of monitoring committees in the resolution process and to streamline the billing process for insolvency the framework, making it more professionals. Overall, the amendments introduced by the

IBBI have helped to address various challenges and complexities in the insolvency resolution process, making it more efficient, transparent, and effective. These amendments have further strengthened the IBC and solidified India's position as a leader in insolvency reform.

Looking ahead, the IBBI remains committed to continuously improving and refining the insolvency framework to ensure that it remains responsive to the evolving needs and challenges of the insolvency landscape. By fos-tering an environment that is conducive to efficient and effective insolvency resolution, the IBBI aims to support India's economic growth and development goals and enhance investor confidence in the country's business environment.

In conclusion, the IBC of 2016 stands as a testament to India's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and enhancing the ease of doing business in the country. Through its robust framework and proactive regulatory efforts, the IBC has contributed significantly to improving India's ranking in the Ease of Doing Business Index and enhancing investor confidence in the country's business environment. With the continued support and efforts of regulatory authorities like the IBBI, India is well-positioned to further strengthen its insolvency framework and drive economic growth and development in the years to (The writer is a chartered

accountant and a visiting faculty to ICAI, ICSI; Views are personal)

Celebrating women in science: Recognising their achievements

Despite their significant contributions, women in science still face systemic barriers, including gender bias, unequal representation and limited access to opportunities

esterday, we celebrated the International Day of Women in Science, a day dedicated to recognising and honouring the achievements of women in the field of science. This annual event serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions women have made to scientific progress and innovation throughout history. It is an opportunity to highlight their accomplishments, shed light on the challenges they face, and inspire future generations of women to pursue careers in

Recently, while presenting the interim Budget 2024, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted that female enrollment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses



has reached 43 per cent, which is one of the world's highest figures. She said, "Female enrollment in higher education has gone up by 28 percent in ten years. In STEM courses, girls and women constitute 43 percent of enrollment—one of the highest in the world. All these measures reflect the increasing participation of women in the workforce." She also mentioned the empowerment of women through entre- are assuming leadership posi-

preneurship, ease of living, and dignity, mentioning, Thirty crore Mudra Yojana loans have been given to women entrepreneurs." From historic figures like

Savitribai Jyotiba Phule, who was the first female teacher of India and founded the first girls' school, to Lady Abala Bose, who was the first Indian woman to study medicine at Madras University, to Kamala Sohonie, the first Indian woman to receive a PhD in a scientific discipline, to Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha, India's first woman engineer, to Shakuntala Devi, who was popularly known as the "Human Computer," women continue to leave an indelible mark on the scientific landscape. Today, women scientists tions in groundbreaking projects like Chandrayaan-3 and the Aditya-L1 solar mission, showcasing their continued influence and expertise in pushing the boundaries of scientific exploration. The Government has taken

significant strides to bolster STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education,

recognising its pivotal role in driving innovation, economic prosperity, and societal advancement. Initiatives like the Vigyan Jyoti Scheme, spearheaded by the Ministry of Science and Technology, are breaking gender barriers by empowering young girls in STEM fields through exposure and mentorship programs. Additionally, programmes like INSPIRE foster innovation among students through scholarships and research opportunities, while Atal Tinkering Labs nurture creativity and problem-solving skills among school students. The Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan promotes a culture of innovation in schools, bridging the gap between theory and real-world applications. Moreover, the government provides research fellowships and grants, digital learning resources through the National Digital Library, and skill enhancement programmes via Skill India, all aimed at nurturing a skilled workforce and fostering growth in STEM-related industries. These concerted efforts underscore the government's commitment to nurturing a robust ecosystem for scientific inquiry and tech- astronomy and biology to face numerous challenges.

nological advancement in the country Women in STEM in India have been steadily challenging stereotypes and contributing significantly to various disciplines. Pioneers like Dr. Tessy Thomas, known as the "Missile Woman of India," have shattered glass ceilings in fields traditionally dominated by men. Indian women researchers are excelling in areas like space technology, biotechnology, and mathematics, making remarkadvancements. Additionally, the government's Vigyan Jyoti scheme aims to encourage young girls to pursue STEM education and careers, fostering inclusivity. Women have made groundbreaking strides in diverse scientific domains, ranging from engineering and computer science. Their discoveries, innovations, and leadership have enriched our understanding of the world and advanced technological progress.

Women have played a pivotal role in shaping the scientific landscape, yet their contributions have often been overlooked or undervalued. By celebrating the International Day of Women in Science, we aim to rectify this imbalance and bring attention to the remarkable achievements of women scientists. It is crucial to showcase diverse role models in science to inspire young girls and women to pursue their passions and break down the barriers that still exist in the field. While progress has been made, women in science still

Gender bias, a lack of representation, and unequal opportunities persist in many scientific fields. It is essential to work towards creating a more inclusive and equitable environment for women in science. By providing equal opportunities, mentorship, and support, we can empower women to thrive and contribute their unique perspectives to scientific advancements. Despite their significant contributions, women in science still face systemic barriers. By encouraging and showcasing the achievements of women in science, we hope to ignite a passion for discovery and innovation in young girls.

(The writer is an IPS officer and the director RACE Lab, Samvedna India, views are

the pioneer

Egypt threatens to suspend key peace treaty

Egypt is threatening to suspend its peace treaty with Israel if Israeli troops are sent into the densely populated Gaza bor-der town of Rafah, and says fighting there could force the closure of the territory's main aid supply route, two Egyptian officials and a Western diplomat said on Sunday. The threat to suspend the Camp David Accords, a cornerstone of regional stability for nearly a half-century, came after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said sending troops into Rafah was necessary to win the four-month-old war against the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Over half of Gaza's pop ulation of 2.3 million have fled to Rafah to escape fighting in other areas, and are packed into sprawling tent camps and UNrun shelters near the border. Egypt fears a mass influx of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who may never be allowed to return.

Special counsel

report used our

son's death to

'score political

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

political points.

points: Jill Biden

US First Lady Jill Biden has come out in defence of her husband President Joe Biden's

health and memory and she

slammed the special counsel for

using their son's death to score

response to the voluminous

report of Special Counsel Robert

Hur in which he said that Biden,

81, "willfully" mishandled clas-

sified documents as a private cit-

report early this week recom-

mended against filing any charges

against Biden for misuse of clas-

sified documents when he was a

private citizen but made scathing

observations on his mental health

and memory and claimed that

the president did not even remember the date of the death

than just saying the case was

closed, as they have for others, the

Special Counsel claimed that

Ioe "couldn't remember the year

his son died." Believe me, like anvone who has lost a child, Beau

and his death never leave him,"

supporters on Saturday
"I hope you can imagine how

it felt to read that attack - not

just as Joe's wife, but as Beau's

mother. I don't know what this

Special Counsel was trying to

brain cancer in 2015, appears 16

times in the pages of the report

prepared by Hur, the special

counsel appointed to investigate

Biden's handling of classified

documents after serving as vice

grace, and I can't imagine some-

one would try to use our son's

death to score political points. If

you've experienced a loss like that,

you know that you don't measure

it in years — you measure it in grief," she said. "May 30th is a day

forever etched on our hearts. It

shattered me, it shattered our

"We should give everyone

Beau Biden, who died of

achieve," she said.

president until 2017.

"The reason I'm writing is because of what else was in the report: Inaccurate and personal political attacks about Joe. Rather

of his son.

The special counsel in his

Her defence came in



seen from southern Israel, Sunday. The army is battling Palestinian militants across Gaza in the war ignited by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel

The stand-off between Israel and Egypt, two close US allies, comes as aid groups warn that an offensive in Rafah would wors-

Netanyahu, in an interview

with ABC News "This Week with George Stephanopoulos", suggested civilians in Rafah could flee north, saying there are plenty of areas" that have been

cleared by the army. He said

But the offensive has caused widespread destruction, particularly in northern Gaza, and heavy fighting is still taking place in central Gaza and the southern city of Khan Younis. A ground operation in Rafah could also force the closure of its crossing, cutting off one of the only avenues for delivering badly needed food and medical sup-

All three officials confirmed Egypt's threats, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief reporters on the sensitive negotiations. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other countries have also warned of severe repercussions if Israel goes into Rafah.

"An Israeli offensive on Rafah would lead to an unspeakable humanitarian catastrophe and grave tensions with Egypt," European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell wrote on X. Israel and Egypt had fought five wars before signing the Camp David Accords, a landmark peace treaty brokered by then-US President Jimmy Carter in the late 1970s. The treaty includes several provisions governing the deployment of forces on both sides of the border. Egypt has heavily fortified its

border with Gaza, carving out a 5-kilometre buffer zone and erecting concrete walls above and below ground. It has denied Israeli allegations that Hamas still operates smuggling tunnels beneath the border, saying Egyptian forces have full control on their side. But Egyptian officials fear that if the border is breached, the military would be unable to stop a tide of people fleeing into the Sinai Peninsula.

The United Nations says Rafah, which is normally home to less than 300,000 people, now hosts 1.4 million more who fled fighting elsewhere and is "severely overcrowded". Netanyahu said Hamas still has four battalions there. Israel has ordered much of

Gaza's population to flee south with evacuation orders covering two-thirds of the territory, even as it regularly carries out airstrikes in all areas, including Rafah. Airstrikes on the town in recent days have killed dozens of Palestinians, including women and children. Gaza's Health Ministry said Sunday that the bodies of 112 people killed across the territory have been brought to hospitals in the past 24 hours, as well as 173 wounded people.

The fatalities brought the death toll in the strip to 28,176 since the start of the war. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and fighters but says most of those killed were women and children.

The war began with Hamas' attack into southern Israel on October 7, when Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Over 100 hostages were released in

Al-Shabab claims Somali capital attack

The al-Qaida-linked militant group al-Shabab claimed an attack that killed four Emirati troops and a Bahraini military officer on a training mission at a military base in the Somali capital, authorities said on Sunday. The attack on Saturday targeted the troops at the General Gordon Military Base in Mogadishu. Details about the attack and whether it killed others remained scarce Sunday, though Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud offered his condolences to the UAE for the loss of its troops.

Early Sunday, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency reported the killing of three of its troops and the Bahraini officer in a "terrorist act". A fourth later died en route back to the Emirates, WAM reported.

WAM released footage of three flag-draped caskets coming off of an Emirati Boeing C-17A Globemaster III at Al Bateen Executive Airport in Abu Dhabi with an honour



uard present. WAM identified the dead as a colonel, two warrant officers and a corporal.

Anwar Gargash, a senior Emirati diplomat, offered condolences to those killed and a quick recovery for the wounded."No treacherous act will prevent us from continuing the message of security and safety and combating extremism and terrorism in all its forms,"

Gargash wrote on X, formerly

The military of Bahrain, an island nation in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Saudi Arabia, later acknowledged the death of a major in a statement carried by the state-run Bahrain News Agency. Al-Shabab claimed the attack in a statement online, alleging it killed multiple people involved in the Emirati milUAE, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, as an "enemy" of Islamic Shariah law for backing the Somali government in its efforts to battle al-Shabab.

Al-Shabab, or "the youth" in Ar-Sharabi, of the youth in Arabic, is a Sunni Islamic extremist group in Somalia born out of that country's years of anarchy following its 1991 civil war. The affiliate of al-Qaida once held Mogadishu. Over time, an African Union-led force, with the backing of the US and other countries, pushed the militants out of Mogadishu. In the years since, al-Shabab has remained a threat as it seeks to overthrow the Western-backed Somali government. Al-Shabab has carried out attacks in neighbouring Kenya as well, since Nairobi provides troops and materiel to the African Union force in Somalia. The US under every president since George W. Bush has launched airstrikes against militants in Somalia, with the number of strikes now exceeding 300, according to

New America, a Washingtonbased security think tank. The vast majority of those strikes took place under then-President Donald Trump. The US Embassy in

Somalia on Sunday condemned what it called a "cowardly attack" against the training mission.

'We extend our deepest condolences to the loved ones of those who lost their lives in yesterday's deplorable terrorist attack against UAE military trainers and Somali soldiers valiantly working to advance the nation's stability," the embassy said. Somalia has also been an intense interest for Gulf states, particularly during the Qatar diplomatic crisis that gripped the region for several years and saw four nations including the UAE boycott Doha in a political dispute. Somali troops once seized millions of dollars of Emirati cash from a jet at gunpoint, sparking a diplomatic incident between Mogadishu and the UAE that halted its troop training programme

Israeli drone strike in Lebanon kills 2

An Israeli drone struck a car near Lebanon's southern port city of Sidon on Saturday, killing at least two people and wounding two others, security officials said. The strike came as tensions across the Middle East grow with the Israel-Hamas war, a drone attack last month that killed three US troops in northeastern Jordan near the Syrian border, and attacks by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels on vessels passing through the Red Sea. The drone strike near the coastal town of Jadra took place about 60 kilometres from the Israeli border, making it one of the farthest inside Lebanon since violence erupted along the Lebanon-Israel border on October 8. An Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the target of the strike in Sidon was Hamas official Basel Saleh, who was "injured to an unknown extent".

The official said Saleh was responsible for enlistment of new Hamas recruits in Gaza and the West Bank.

Two Lebanese security officials said the strike damaged a car and killed two people.

Drone strikes in Lebanon

blamed on Israel have so far killed several officials from Hezbollah as well as the Palestinian militant group Hamas. The previous farthest strike was the January 2 attack that killed top Hamas official

Saleh Arouri in Beirut. On Saturday night, Israeli forces shelled the southern Lebanese border village of Houla, killing one person and wounding nine as they left a mosque after prayers, state-run National News Agency reported. The attacks in Lebanon came as Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian met in Beirut with Lebanese leaders including the country's caretaker prime minister, parliament speaker and the head of the militant Hezbollah group.Amirabdollahian said that if the US wants to bring stability to the region again, it should work on forcing Israel to end its military operations in the Gaza Strip. He told reporters after meeting his counterpart Abdallah Bouhabib that after four months of war, Israel and its backers had not achieved "anything tangible".

In an apparent reference to attacks by Iran-backed fighters in Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, Amirabdollahian said that "if American wants calm to prevail in the region, then the mechanism and the solution is to stop the genocide, crimes and the war against Gaza and the West Bank".

He blasted Washington, saying the US is working on two tracks, one of which is sending weapons to Israel "and participating in the genocide in Gaza" and at the same time speaking about reaching a political solution to the war. The US Central Command

announced on Saturday that the US military conducted selfdefence strikes against two mobile unmanned surface vessels, four anti-ship cruise missiles, and one mobile land attack cruise missile that were prepared to launch against ships in the Red Sea from Yemen. The military said the mis-

siles and an unmanned vessel in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen presented an imminent threat to US Navy ships and merchant vessels in the Since November, the rebels

have repeatedly targeted ships in the Red Sea over Israel's offensive in Gaza, imperiling a key route for trade between Asia, the Mideast and Europe.

The Houthis' media office said the US-led coalition launched three airstrikes on Salif district in the Red Sea province of Hodeida on Saturday. In response, the US and the UK launched several airstrikes on Houthi-held areas across Yemen, including the rebel-held capital of Sanaa. The Houthis held a mass

funeral in Sanaa on Saturday for 17 of their fighters who they said were killed in strikes by the US-led coalition, according to the Houthi-run SABA news

Trump mocks Nikki Haley for absence of her husband **PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

Former US president Donald Trump has mocked his Republican rival Nikki Haley over the absence of her husband, who is deployed overseas, draw-Indian-American politician who said the person who disrespects military families has no business being commander-in-chief. Haley's husband Major

Michael Haley, a commissioned officer with the South Carolina National Guard, is currently on a year-long deployment with the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Bridge, which is providing support in the Horn of Africa. He deployed in June. The war of words between

two Republican presidential candidates started with a Trump rally on Saturday in South Carolina where the 77-year-old former president, seemingly unaware of his deployment, when started questioning his whereabouts 'Where's her husband? Oh,

he's away. ... What happened to her husband? Where is he? He's gone," Trump said at his rally in



Conway in South Carolina, his first visit to the state this year. Haley, 52, the only candidate against Trump in the Republican Party's nomination race, fired back at Trump's comments later on Saturday

"Donald, if you have something to say, don't say it behind my back; get on a debate stage and say it to my face," she told a crowd in South Carolina.

"I am proud of Michael's service. Every military family knows it's a sacrifice. I have long talked about the fact that we need to have mental competency tests for [politicians] over the age of 75,"

Trump claims he would pass that - maybe he would, maybe he wouldn't, she said. "But if you mock the service

of a combat veteran, you don't deserve a driver's license, let United States," she said.

"Michael is deployed serving the US country, something you know nothing about. Someone who continually disrespects the sacrifices of military families has no business being com-mander-in-chief," Haley said. Trump's comment on Haley's husband also drew criticism from various quarters.

"Only a sick individual would put down a service member who is deployed. This disrespects every military family in our country. It's exactly the chaos we don't need in America," said General (rtd) Don Bolduc. In a rare move, Michael Haley fired back at the former president, posting a meme on Twitter reading, "The difference between humans and animals? Animals would never allow the dumbest

ones to lead the pack," while

mentioning Trump's account in

Continuing his attack, Trump alleged that Haley is the candidate of globalists and warmongers who want to spend tril-lions and trillions of dollars on endless wars.

want Nikki Haley because they know that she's easy to beat. She's very easy to beat.

Haley supports a 23% national sales tax, and she wants to gut Medicare and Social Security...," he said. Earlier, Haley kicked off her "Beast of the Southeast" bus tour with a stop

In an interaction with the media, she spoke about her opponents' lack of stamina and stressed the importance of mental competency tests for politicians over the age of 75.

Her campaign also distrib-uted examples of the mental competency tests used by medical professionals, demonstrating that it should not be a difficult test for those who are seeking the highest office in the land. "(For months) I have always said that (President) Joe Biden was not going to be president.

American allies worry US growing less dependable

s chances rise of a Joe As chances have a Biden-Donald Trump rematch in the US presidential election race, America's allies are bracing for a bumpy ride. Many worry that a second term for Trump would be an earthquake, but tremors already abound and concerns are rising that the US could grow less dependable regardless of who wins. With a divided electorate

and gridlock in Congress, the next American president could easily become consumed by manifold challenges at home before even beginning to address flashpoints around the world from Ukraine to the Middle East. French President Emmanuel Macron's recent verdict was blunt: America's "first priority is itself." The first Trump administration stress-tested the bonds between the US and its

Trump derided the leaders of some friendly nations, including Germany's Angela Merkel and Britain's Theresa May, while praising authoritarians such as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian leader Vladimir Putin. He has called China's Xi Jinping "brilliant" and Hungary's Viktor Orbán "a great leader." In campaign peeches, Trump remains skeptical of organisations such as NATO, often lamenting the billions the US spends on the military alliance whose support has been critical to Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion.

Biden, in contrast, has made support for Ukraine a key priority and moral imperative. But Biden's assertion after his election in 2020 that "America is back" on the global stage has not been entirely borne out. Congressional Republicans have Ukraine, while America's influence has been unable to contain conflict in the Middle East

Thomas Gift, director of the Centre on US Politics at University College London, said that whoever wins the presidential race, the direction of travel will be the same - toward a multipolar planet in which the United States is no longer "the indisputable world superpower." Most allied leaders refrain from commenting directly on the US election, sticking to the line that it's for Americans to pick their leader. They are conscious that they will have to work with the eventual winner, whoever it is - and behind the scenes, governments will be doing the "backroom work" of quietly establishing links with the contenders' political teams, said Richard Dalton, a former senior British diplomat.

Sunak says 'totally up for fight' to win UK general election

PTI ■ LONDON

family" she said.

 $B^{\text{ritish Prime Minister Rishi}}_{\text{Sunak has said he is "total-}}$ ly up for the fight" of pitching his policies to the electorate to win another term for the governing Conservative Party as he prepares for a general election expected to take place in the second half of the year.

In an interview with The Times this weekend, the 43year-old British Indian leader said he had reasons to be optimistic because the economy was "pointing in the right direction" and that the "future is going to be better".

"At the beginning of this year there is a sense that the country is pointing in the right direction," he told the

newspaper.
"Because economic conditions have improved, because



starting to see mortgage rates come down and we have been able to cut taxes. I do believe those pressures are starting to ease and that hopefully over the course of this year, we can continue to make even more

sage as much for the voters as for the rebels within his own Tory ranks, the Conservative leader reiterated his plan to cut taxes for the hardworking people of the country. "It's because those are my values, those are the values of my party. It's one where hard work should be rewarded. And actually, the best way to express that through the tax system is to cut people's taxes so when they are working hard they get to enjoy more of the rewards of that for themselves and their family," he "Because economic condi-

tions have improved, because the plan is working, you are starting to see mortgage rates come down and we have been able to cut taxes," he added.

"I'm totally up for the fight,"

However, Sunak appeared to echo his Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, who has already sought to temper expectations over the size of any tax cuts in his Spring Budget next month, despite senior Tories publicly indicating they are coming.
"None of us ever talk about this stuff before budgets. Other people are. I think they're over-interpreting. What the Chancellor and I have said is that of course, our long-term plan is to cut people's taxes," he said. The Tories continue to

lag behind the Opposition Labour Party in surveys, with the Sunak-led government contending with a high rate of anti-incumbency among the

King Charles thanks public for support encouragement," he said. "It is equally heartening to hear how

PTI ■ LONDON

Pritain's King Charles III on Sunday expressed his "heartfelt thanks" to the British public for their messages of support ever since his cancer diagnosis was revealed by Buckingham Palace this week. The 75-year-old monarch wrote the message from his royal estate at Sandringham in Norfolk, eastern England, in which he also expressed his "lifelong admiration" for the work done by cancer charities. On Sunday, a smiling King Charles also attended church on the estate - the first time since his diagnosis.

He briefly waved at photographers as he walked up to St. Mary Magdalene's church holding an umbrella, accompanied by Queen Camilla. He was then greeted by Reverend Canon Dr Paul Williams before going inside. In his message, the

King said he was heartened that



disease had helped shine a light on the tireless care provided by cancer organisations around the world.

"I would like to express my most heartfelt thanks for the many messages of support and good wishes I have received in recent days," reads the King's message released Buckingham Palace on Sunday.

treatment he is having or what 'As all those who have been affected by cancer will know, such kind thoughts are the greatest comfort and

sharing my diagnosis has helped promote public understanding and shine a light on the work of all those organisations which support cancer patients and their families across the UK and the wider world. My lifelong admiration for their tireless care and dedication is all the greater as a result of my own experience," he Monday, added. On Buckingham Palace announced the King had been diagnosed with cancer while undergoing a procedure for an enlarged prostate. In line with the initial announcement, the latest statement also does not reference any further details about what kind of cancer the monarch has

stage the cancer is at. Earlier, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak had indicated that the cancer had been

been detected with, the type of

weekly audiences with the King are expected to continue during the treatment. King Charles started his treatment in London before flying out to Sandringham with Queen Camilla, who revealed at an event that her husband was doing "extremely well" since the start of his treatment. The palace has said it will not provide any further details about the diagnosis or the treatment. In an official statement, it

"caught early" as his customary

said that the King's recent hospital procedure for benign prostate enlargement, a separate issue of concern was noted and subsequent diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer. The monarch has commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties. However, he will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual.

Pak parties intensify efforts to form coalition government

The three main political par-ties in Pakistan on Sunday intensified their efforts for the formation of a coalition government after it became clear that the coup-prone country faced a hung Parliament after general elections marred by allegations of rigging.

The general elections were

held on Thursday, but the unusual delay in the announcement of results vitiated the atmosphere as several parties cried foul and some resorted to protests. Former prime minister and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz supremo Nawaz Sharif received the backing of the powerful Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir on Saturday for his call for a unity government to pull Pakistan out of its current difficulties.

Amidst allegations of vote rigging and inordinate delay in announcing the results, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday published the results of 264 out of 265 contested seats in the 266-member National Assembly. The result of one constituency was withheld by the ECP due to complaints of fraud. Election to one seat was

Independent candidates, a vast majority of them backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), won 101 seats in the National Assembly.

They were followed by three-time former Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) with 75 seats, which technically is the single largest party in Parliament.

The Pakistan Peoples Party of Bilawal Zardari Bhutto got seats, and the Karachibased Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) of Urdu-speaking people who migrated from India during the Partition, got 17 seats. Other smaller parties won the rest of the 12 seats.

To form a government, a party must win 133 seats out of 265 contested seats in the National Assembly.

Overall, 169 seats are needed to secure a simple majority out of its total 336 seats, which include the reserved slots for women and minorities which will be decided later based on proportional representation.

The PML-N was leading the push to form the coalition

government on the pattern of one it set up after Khan, 71, was removed as prime minister through a no-confidence vote in April 2022. Party supremo Sharif, 74, tasked his younger brother former premier Shehbaz Sharif to hold talks on

The PML-N leaders on Sunday held a meeting with MQM-P leaders in Lahore.

After an hour-long meeting, they have reached a "principle agreement" to work together in the upcoming government, according to a statement released by Sharif's party. Shehbaz told the party leaders that former president and PPP leader Asif Zardari has demanded the prime minister's slot for PPP

Chairman Bilawal and major ministerial portfolios in exchange for support for the PML-N to form the government, sources said.

Party sources added that so far making a coalition with Zardari was the first option the PML-N was exploring but did-n't want to give away the slot of prime minister.

Sources claimed the meeting decided that in case the negotiations with the PPP failed, the PML-N would make a coalition government with MQM, JUI-F and other smaller parties, including indepen-

They further claimed that in this scenario, the PML-N would make Shehbaz Sharif the prime minister and Maryam Sharif the Chief Minister of 'Shehbaz Sharif is the

favourite for the PM office for being more close to the military establishment besides the PML-N has more seats in Parliament than the PPP," sources said.

Losing candidates backed by PTI challenge Pak poll results

Pakistan courts have been Pflooded with petitions by losing candidates who challenged the provisional results in their constituencies within days after the highly polarised general elections in the coun-

try, it emerged on Sunday.

Though Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N)

emerged as the single largest
party in the February 8 elections, the number of independent candidates, a vast majority of them backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) party, were the single largest block of winners.

The PTI claimed that its supported candidates have won the maximum number of seats but the results were manipulated to deprive it of the majority, and in order to turn the tide, its losing candidates have thronged the

According to a report in the Dawn newspaper, a vast

majority of those filing challenges against results are PTIbacked independents, including high-profile politicians such as former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi and his wife Qaisera, former Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) finance minister Taimoor Jhagra and ex-KP speaker Mahmood Jan, Islamabad-based lawyer Shuaib Shaheen, former Punjab health minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, as well as

In Lahore, the victories of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, his daughter Maryam Nawaz, PML-N Attaullah Tarar and former defence minister Khawaja Asif were assailed in separate petitions before the high court, which allege manipulation of Form 47s, which showed consolidated results of every constituency. The petitioners claim that they were successful against

Rehana Dar, mother of Usman

Dar who was in-charge youth

affairs in the PTI govern-

their opponents as per the Form 45, showing results of individual polling stations, handed to them.

However, in their absence, their victories were allegedly turned into defeats in the Form 47. The have also alleged collusion in the alteration of election results and demand that the results of Form 47 be prepared accord-

ing to the Form 45s. In PP 146 Sialkot, Omar Dar's wife, Ruba Omar, has challenged the election results. According to Form 45, Ruba Omar has won, but she was evidently defeated in Form 47 due to collusion.

Maryam's victory from NA-119 has been challenged by independent candidate Shahzad Farooq, alleging that the presiding officers did not provide Form 45, and the returning officer issued the result in his absence. Faroog claims to have won against Maryam but was defeated due to rigging.

Russia launches 45 drones as Kyiv continues war cabinet reshuffle

Russian forces launched 45 drones over Ukraine on Sunday in a five-and-a-halfhour barrage, officials said, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy continued the reshuffle of his war cabinet as the war enters its third year. In a statement, the Ukrainian air force said it had shot down 40 of the Iranianmade Shahed drones over nine different regions, including on the outskirts of the country's capital, Kyiv. The five-and-a-half-hour

attack targeted agricultural facilities and coastal infrastructure, officials for Ukraine's southern defense forces wrote on Telegram. They said that a strike in the Mykolaiv region had injured one person, sparking a fire and damaging nearby residential buildings. Another person was

injured in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region when a blaze broke out due to falling debris from a destroyed drone,



said the head of the region's military administration, Serhiv Lysak. The strikes come as Zelenskyv continues his shakeup of military commanders in a bid to maintain momentum against attacking Russian forces. Kyiv announced on who was named on Thursday

Sunday that former deputy defence minister Lt Gen Alexander Pavlyuk would become the new commander of Ukraine's ground forces. The post was previously held

by Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi,

as the replacement for Ukraine's outgoing military chief, Gen Valerii Zaluzhnyi.

"We will work together in

the interest of the country and

public," the statement said,

adding that basic points had

been agreed upon by the two

Rizvi earlier told Geo News in

an interview that his party

would be more comfortable

with the PML-N as the "two

parties don't compete in

. Karachi" unlike the PPP or

on Saturday met senior PPP

leaders Asif Ali Zardari and his

Bilawal on Friday night and

PML-N President Shehbaz

other parties.

MQM-P leader Haider

New presidential decrees also named Yurii Sodol, the former head of Ukraine's marine corps, as the new commander of Ukraine's combined forces; Brig Gen Ihor Skibiuk as commander of Ukraine's air assault forces; and Maj Gen Ihor Plahuta as commander of Ukraine's territorial defense forces.

Incoming commander-inchief Syrskyi has signalled that his immediate goals include improving troop rotation at the front lines and harnessing the power of new technology at a time when Kyiv's forces are largely on the defensive. In a statement on Telegram Saturday, Zelenskyy said that he hoped to "reboot" the upper levels of Ukraine's armed forces with experienced combat commanders. "Now, people who are well-known in the army and who themselves know well what the army needs are taking on new responsibilities," he said.

Finns vote for a new president

Voters in Finland are choosing on Sunday between two experienced politicians to be their next president, whose main task will be to steer the Nordic country's foreign and security policy now that it is a member of NATO, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Former prime minister Alexander Stubb, 55, on the centre right, and former foreign minister Pekka Haavisto, 65, from the green left, largely agree on Finland's foreign policy and security priorities.

These include maintaining

a hard line toward Moscow and Russia's current leadership, strengthening security ties with Washington, and the need to help Ukraine both militarily and at a civilian level. Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer (832-mile) border with Russia.

Unlike in most European countries, the president of Finland holds executive power in formulating foreign and security policy together with the government, especially concerning countries outside the European Union such as the United States, Russia and China.

The head of state also commands the military — particularly important in Europe's current security environment and the changed geopolitical situation of Finland, which joined NATO in April 2023 in the aftermath of Russia's attack on Ukraine a year earlier.

A politician with the conservative National Coalition Party who led the government in 2014-2015 and earlier held several other Cabinet posts, Stubb took the top spot in the first round of the election on January 28 with 27.2 per cent of the votes and is the favourite to win the presidency.

Haavisto, the runnerup in the first round, was Finland's top diplomat in 2019-2023 and the main negotiator of its entry into NATO. A former conflict mediator with the United Nations and a devout environmentalist, Haavisto took 25.8 per cent of the votes in the first round. This is his third bid for the presidency. He is running as an independent although he is a former leader of the Green League.

In the last days of campaigning tiny differences in style and approach between the candidates have emerged.

Stubb and Haavisto differ in their stance on the hypothetical question of whether Finland would allow the transportation of the alliance's nuclear weapons through its territory. "Nuclear weapons are a strong element of our deterrence and our security. We signed our NATO agreement without any kind of limits," Stubb told The Associated Press during a campaign event just outside the capital, Helsinki, on Saturday. But "we (Stubb and Haavisto) also agree that no one is offering us nuclear weapons ... we don't want any nuclear weapons."

Haavisto said on Saturday that he does not favour nuclear arms being transported via Finland in a crisis situation. His country of 5.6 million makes up a substantial part of NATO's northeastern flank and is the European Union's external border in the north. "I think there hasn't been

any need to transport nuclear weapons to Finland or over Finland. As I've seen during NATO negotiations, the current nuclear policies of NATO are well-established and there is no need of changing them," he

Iran marks 45th anniv of Islamic Revolution

Tehran (AP): Iran marked Sunday the 45th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution amid tensions gripping the wider Middle East over Israel's continued war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Thousands of Iranians marched through major streets and squares decorated with flags, balloons and banners with revolutionary and religious slogans.

In Tehran, crowds waved Iranian flags, chanted slogans, and carried placards with the traditional "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" written on them. Some burned US and Israeli flags, a common practice in pro-government rallies. Processions started out from several points, converging at Azadi Square. State TV showed crowds in many cities and towns, claiming that "millions participated in the rallies"

across the country.

The military displayed a range of its missiles, including the Qassem Soleimani and Sejiil ballistic missiles, and the Simorgh satellite carrier at the square where people took selfies with them. During the celjumped from a plane while displaying a Palestinian flag. There was a heavy security presence in the major cities across the country. The anniversary came a month after a deadly attack by the extremist Islamic State group in the central city of Kerman that left at least 95 people dead during the commemoration for prominent Iranian general Qassem Soleimani whom the US killed in a 2020 drone strike.

Iran has tried to blame the US and Israel for the attack as the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip continued. The Islamic Republic launched missile attacks on Iraq and Syria. It then struck alleged anti-Iran Sunni militant group Jaish al-Adl targets in nuclear-armed Pakistan, which responded with its own strikes on Iran, further raising tensions in a region inflamed by the Israel-Hamas war. Earlier in January, a drone attack killed three US troops in Jordan which an umbrella group for Iran-backed factions known as the Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed.

California helicopter crash

The CEO of one of Nigeria's ■ largest banks was killed on Friday along with his wife and son when a helicopter they were riding in crashed near Interstate 15 in southern California's Mojave Desert.

Herbert Wigwe, chief exec-utive of Access Bank, was among the six people on board when the helicopter crashed shortly after 10 pm. Bamofin Abimbola Ogunbanjo, former chair of NGX Group, the Nigerian stock exchange, was also killed. Their deaths were confirmed by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a former Nigerian finance minister who is now the director general of the World Trade Organization. "Terribly saddened by the

news of the terrible loss of Herbert Wigwe ... his wife and son as well as Bimbo

crash," Okonjo-Iweala wrote in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter. "May the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace."

The death of Wigwe (57) shocked many in Nigeria and in the banking sector where he was widely seen as an industry leader having been involved in two of the country's biggest banks, including Guaranty Trust Bank where he was previously executive director.

Under Wigwe's leadership, Access Bank's assets and presence grew beyond borders in several African countries. His death is "a terrible blow" for Nigeria and Africa's banking industry, Nigerian presidential spokesman Bayo Onanuga wrote on X. "Wigwe had a big vision to make Access Holdings (the parent company) Africa's biggest, with all the unquenchable thirst for acquisitions,"

Onanuga added. Wigwe's interests also spanned the education sector. His private university, founded in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region where he was from, is scheduled to open in September. Last year he said the university was "an opportunity

for me to give back to society"

"This is surreal and I am lost for words," Festus Keyamo, Nigeria's minister of aviation and aerospace development, wrote in a post on X. "May Almighty God comfort his aged parents and sibling ... his immediate family members, his staff, friends across Nigeria and dependents." The crash happened east of Interstate 15 near Halloran Springs Road and not far from the California-Nevada border. Halloran Springs Road crosses the highway in an area known to travellers for an abandoned gas station with a sign declaring "Lo Gas" and "Eat".

CEO of major Nigerian bank killed Hungary president resigns over pardon to man convicted in child sexual abuse case

AP ■ BUDAPEST

Hungary's conservative president resigned on Saturday amid public outcry over a pardon she granted to a man convicted as an accomplice in a child sexual abuse case, a decision that unleashed an unprecedented political scandal for the long-serving

nationalist government. Katalin Novák (46) announced in a televised message that she would step down from the presidency, an office she has held since 2022. Her decision came after more than a week of public outrage after it was revealed that she issued a presidential pardon in April 2023 to a man convicted of hiding a string of child sexual abuses in a state-run children's home. "I issued a pardon that caused bewilderment and unrest for many people," Novák said on Saturday. "I

made a mistake." Novák's resignation came as a rare episode political turmoil for Hungary's nationalist governing party Fidesz, which has ruled with a constitutional majority since 2010. Under the leadership of populist Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Fidesz has been accused of dismantling democratic institutions and rigging the electoral system and media in its favour.

Novák, a key Orbán ally and a former vice president of Fidesz, served as the minister for families until her appointment to the presidency. She has been outspoken in advocating for traditional family values and the protection of

children. She was the first female president in Hungary's history, and the youngest person to ever hold the office. But her term came to an end after she 2018 to more than three years in prison. He was found guilty of pressuring victims to retract their claims of sexual abuse by the institution's director, who was sentenced to eight years for abusing at least 10 children between 2004 and 2016. "I decided in favour of

clemency in April of last year in the belief that the convict did not abuse the vulnerability of the children entrusted to him. I made a mistake," Novák said on Saturday. "I apologise to those I have hurt and to any victims who may have felt I am not standing up for them."

"As head of state, I am addressing you for the last time today. I resign from the office of president of the republic," she said. Also implicated was Judit Varga, another key Fidesz figure who was minister of justice at the time and endorsed the pardon. Varga was expected to lead the

list of European Parliament candidates from Fidesz when elections are held this summer. But in a Facebook post on Saturday, Varga announced that she would take political responsibility and "retire from public life, resigning my seat as a member of parliament and also as leader of the EP list".

At the presidential headquarters in Budapest on Saturday evening, around 200 people gathered in what was originally planned as a protest to call on Novák to resign. After her announcement, attendees said they were happy, but that it wasn't enough to fundamentally change Orbán's system of gov-

"I'm glad that she resigned but I think things aren't solved this way. She's not the main criminal, you've got to look all the way to the top," said Anna

Pope and Milei embrace after pontiff canonises Argentina's first female saint

AP VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis and Argentine President Javier Milei embraced on Sunday in St. Peter's Basilica, as Argentine faith and politics came together during a Mass to canonise the country's first female saint.

The ceremony to declare Mama Antula a saint marked the first meeting between the Argentine pope and Milei, who once called Francis an "imbecile" for defending social justice. The president, who was seated to Francis' right on the side of the main altar throughout the ceremony, bent over and gave the pope a big bearhug when Francis was wheeled over to him at the end of the service. Mama Antula was an 18th century laywoman

who ministered to the poor and helped keep Jesuit spirituality alive in Argentina after the religious order — to which the pope belongs — was suppressed. Argentines flocked to the canonisation, which turned into something of an Argentine fiesta in Rome. Milei waved to supporters in the pews as he entered the basilica and posed for selfie photos before the liturgy, while Argentine women, in particular, celebrated a saint who defied the norms for women of her time to spread the faith. In his homily, Francis praised Mama Antula as a model of charity and urged the faithful to really touch the wounds of the poor, as Jesus overcame fear

and prejudice to touch the

wounds of lepers. "How many

suffering men and women do we meet on the sidewalks of our cities," he said. "And how many fears, prejudices and inconsistencies, even among those who are believers and call themselves Christians, contribute to wounding them all the more!

Milei is to meet privately with Francis on Monday, before also having private talks with Italy's far-right Premier Giorgia Meloni and the president. During his campaign, Milei described Francis as an "imbecile" and "the representative of malignance on Earth".

Francis spoke at length with Milei after he was elected

in December and has indicat-

ed he has forgiven him for the

campaign rhetoric. Francis has

said he is considering visiting



Argentina later this year in what would be his first trip home since his 2013 election. After arriving in Rome on Friday from Israel, where Milei announced the relocation of

the Argentine embassy to Jerusalem, the president visited the Colosseum and the church housing one of Michelangelo's best-known sculptures: a seated Moses. In

ing a photo of himself looking at the sculpture, Milei wrote his frequent motto "Long live freedom damn it...!!! The president, who

an Instagram post accompany-

describes himself as an anarcho-capitalist, has promised to drastically reduce state spending to shore up a government budget deficit that he says ment budget dencit una ne says is fuelling inflation, which finished 2023 at 211 per cent.

On Sunday, he appeared firmly engaged in the Mass,

making the sign of the cross several times, receiving Communion and burying his head in his hands as he knelt in rayer afterward.

Mama Antula, born María Antonia de Paz y Figueroa, is a figure beloved to Argentines, a woman who left behind a life

of privilege to spread Ignatian spirituality across Argentina after the Jesuits were ordered expelled from Spain's colonies. She is held up in particular by Argentine women as a model of strength and independence, at a time when women's options in life included marriage or entering the convent.

"The first female saint it's an enormous step forward," said Argentine pilgrim Annabella Lopez as she waited for the Mass to begin. "It's a pity it couldn't have happened before, but fine, now women are starting to have more visibility and this is a great step also for the church."

Silvia Correale, who spearheaded Mama Antula's sainthood process, said she remembered she first met the future

Pope Francis when he was archbishop of Buenos Aires and Mama Antula's candidacy had just cleared an important hurdle in the Vatican. "I know that he esteems her

a lot, like all the Jesuits of Argentina and Uruguay, because they consider her their spiritual mother," Correale told The Associated Press in the runup to the ceremony. "They know that she kept the treasure of the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius alive in the years they weren't there." But the current archbishop of Buenos Aires, Archbishop Jorge Ignacio García Cuerva, said it would be wrong to think that Mama Antula is only being made a saint now because a Jesuit Argentine pope happens to be running the Catholic Church.

Market cap of four most valued firms jumps ₹2.18 lakh crore

LIC, SBI lead gainers

PTI NEW DELHI

PTI NEW DELHI

sources said.

Pour of the top-10 most valued firms together added Rs 2.18 lakh crore in market valuation last week, Life Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India emerging as the biggest

From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Tata Reliance Industries, Consultancy Services (TCS), Life Insurance Corporation of

government

 $T_{\ examining \ foreign \ direct}^{he \ government \ is}$ examining foreign direct investment from China in

Paytm Payments Services Ltd

(PPSL), the payment aggregator subsidiary of One97 Communications Ltd,

In November 2020, PPSL had

applied for licence with the

Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

to operate as a payment

guidelines on Regulation of

Payment Aggregators and

However, in November 2022,

application and asked the

company to resubmit it, so as

to comply with Press Note 3

One97 Communications Ltd

(OCL) has investment from

Chinese firm Ant Group Co.

Subsequently, the company

filed the required application on December 14, 2022 with

Government of India for past

downward investment from

OCL into the company in order to comply with Press Note 3 prescribed under FDI

committee is examining

investments from China in

PPSL and decision would be

taken on the FDI issue after

inter-ministerial

due consideration and supervisory action.

rejected

aggregator under

Payment Gateways.

under FDI rules.

guidelines.

Government examining

FDI flow from China in

gainers. They collectively added Rs 2,18,598.29 crore in market capitalisation.

On the other hand, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, Bharti Airtel, Hindustan Unilever and ITC faced erosion from their valuation to the tune of Rs 1,06,631.39

Last week, the BSE benchmark declined by 490.14 points or 0.67 per cent.

Market valuation of LIC jumped Rs 86,146.47 crore to Rs 6,83,637.38 crore. The share price of LIC on Monday jumped nearly 6 per cent to hit the Rs 1,000 mark for the first

comprehensive examination,

Under Press Note 3, the

government had made its

prior approval mandatory

for foreign investments in

any sector from countries that share land border with India to curb opportunistic

takeovers of domestic firms following the COVID-19

pandemic. Countries which

share land borders with

India are China, Bangladesh,

Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal

Myanmar and Afghanistan.

A query sent to OCL for

unanswered till the filing of

the story. The Reserve Bank

last month barred Paytm

Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL),

an associate company of

OCL, from accepting

deposits or top-ups in any

customer account, prepaid

instruments, wallets, and

FASTags, among others after

The Reserve Bank's action

against PPBL follows a

comprehensive system audit

report and subsequent compliance validation report

RBI had said that these

reports revealed persistent

supervisory concerns in

PPBL, warranting further

February 29, 2024.

of external auditors.

non-compliances

continued

sources said.

comments



time. SBI added Rs 65,908.26 crore, taking its valuation to Rs 6,46,365.02 crore.

Market valuation of TCS climbed Rs 61,435.47 crore to Rs 15,12,743.31 crore and that of Reliance advanced Rs 5.108.09 crore to reach Rs

19,77,136.54 crore. Shares of TCS jumped 4 per cent on Tuesday, taking its market valuation to above Rs 15 lakh crore. However, market capitalisation (mcap) of HDFC Bank declined by Rs 32,963.94 crore to Rs 10,65,808.71 crore. The valuation of ITC eroded by Rs 30,698.62 crore to

Mcap of Bharti Airtel fell by Rs 16,132.15 crore to 6,31,044.50 crore and that of Infosys went lower by Rs 10,044.09 crore to Rs 6,92,980.35 crore. The valuation of ICICI Bank

dipped Rs 9,779.06 crore to Rs 7,09,254.77 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever diminished by Rs 7,013.53 crore to Rs 5,69,587.91 crore. In the ranking of top-10 most valued firms, Reliance Industries continued to rule the chart followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Infosys, LIC, State Bank of India, Airtel, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.



FPIs infuse over ₹15,000 crore in debt market in February

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{(\text{FPIs})}^{\text{oreign Portfolio Investors}}_{\text{continued their}}$ bullish stance on the country's debt markets with a net infusion of over Rs 15,000 crore so far this month, on the back of inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index along with relatively stable economy.

This followed a investment of Rs 19,836 crore in January, making it the highest monthly inflow in more than six years. This was the highest inflow since June 2017, when they infused Rs 25,685 crore.

On the other hand, foreign investors pulled out more than Rs 3,000 crore from equities during the period under review. Before this, they withdrew a massive Rs 25,743 crore in January, data with the depositories

"The main trigger for this divergent trend in equity and debt is the high valuation in the Indian equity market and the rising bond yields in the US," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Himanshu Associate Director Manager Morningstar Investment Research India, attributed the outflow from equities to the uncertainty surrounding the interest environment, both

According to the data, FPIs

made a net investment of Rs

markets in this month (till February 9). With this, the total

investment by FPIs reached over Rs 34,930 crore in 2024. They have been injecting money in the debt markets for the past few months. FPIs infused Rs 18,302 crore in the debt market in

December, Rs 14,860 crore in November, and Rs 6,381 crore in October. "The Indian debt markets

witnessed a reversal in FPI flow trend last year after the announcement of inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Index. This was one of the major drivers for the robust flows from FPIs, along with relatively stable economy," Srivastava

JP Morgan Chase & Co. In September last year announced that it will add Indian government bonds to its benchmark emerging market index from June

This landmark inclusion is anticipated to benefit India by attracting around USD 20-40 billion in the subsequent 18 to 24 months. This inflow is expected to make Indian bonds more accessible to foreign investors and potentially strengthen the rupee, thereby bolstering the

economy, he added.

Overall, the total FPI flows in 2023 stood at Rs 1.71 lakh crore in equities and Rs 68,663 crore in the debt markets. Together, they

Direct tax collection grows 20 per cent, reaches ₹15.60 lakh crore 18.38 lakh crore, which is

Paytm Payments Services

Net direct tax collection so far in current fiscal grew 20 per cent year-onyear to Rs 15.60 lakh crore, which is 80 per cent of revised budget estimates for full fiscal year. "The provisional figures of

direct tax collections continue to register steady growth. Direct tax collections up to 10th February, 2024 show that gross collections are at Rs

PTI NEW DELHI

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd

(APSEZ) on Sunday said it

has secured top position for

its climate actions and environmental performance

in assessments done by four

The assessments were done

by CDP, S&P, Sustainalytics

While the company secured

'leadership band' in CDP

Climate Assessment 2023, it

environmental dimension

among 324 companies in the

transport and transport

on the

global rating agencies.

and Moody's.

ranked first



17.30 per cent higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year," Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a statement.

Direct tax collection, net of refunds, till February 10 of FY24 stands at Rs 15.60 lakh crore, which is 20.25 per cent higher than the net collections in the corresponding period last This collection is 80.23 per

and the first rank in the

overall ESG Assessment and

Strategy review in their last

APSEZ is a part of the globally diversified Adani

estimates of direct taxes for Refunds amounting to Rs

2.77 lakh crore have been issued during April 1, 2023 to February 10, 2024. Gross revenue collections

for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) and Personal Income Tax (PIT) also showed a steady growth. Growth rate for CIT was

9.16 per cent while for PIT, it was 25.67 per cent (PIT

Adani Ports secures top position for climate actions **Jeff Bezos sells** nearly 12 million **Amazon shares**

AP SEATTLE

Teff Bezos filed a statement with federal regulators indicating his sale of nearly 12 million shares of Amazon stock worth more than USD 2 billion. The Amazon executive chairman notified the US Securities and Exchange Commission of the sale of 11,997,698 shares of common stock on February 7 and February 8. The collective value of the shares of Amazon, which is based in Seattle where he founded the company in a garage about three decades ago, is more than USD 2.04 billion.

Srivastava, Research. Investment

domestically as well as globally.

infused Rs 2.4 lakh crore into the capital market.

Akums Drugs eyes ₹680 crore via fresh issue

PTI NEW DELHI

Akums Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd has filed draft papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).
The initial share-sale is a

combination of fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 680 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 1.86 crore shares by promoters and an existing investor, according to the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) filed on Saturday. Those selling shares in the OFS are Sanjeev Jain, Sandeep Jain and Ruby QC Investment Holdings Pte Ltd.

The company is looking to raise Rs 136 crore through a pre-IPO placement. If such placement is undertaken, then fresh issue size will be reduced. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be used to repay debt, fund working capital requirements of the company, pursue inorganic growth initiatives through acquisition and for general corporate purposes.

Founded in 2004, Akums is a contract pharmaceutical development manufacturing organization (CDMO) offering a comprehensive range of pharmaceutical products and services in India and overseas. As of September 30, 2023, key clients of the company include Alembic Pharmaceuticals, Alkem Laboratories, Cipla, Dabur India, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Pharmaceutical Industries, among others.

Close to ₹750 crore stuck in projects in Qatar, says Voltas

material

PTI NEW DELHI

Tata Group firm Voltas is facing a major headwind in Qatar as around Rs 750 crore has been stuck due to delays in the realisation of overdue receivables and execution timelines, said its MD and CEO Pradeep

In some projects, bank guarantees were "unethically" encashed some contractors, which was an "uncalled" action to make quick money, derailing the international project business of Tata Group firm in the December quarter, he added. "Unprecedented things are happening in that area, especially in Qatar, wherein, unfortunately, our dues are are not coming.

not being paid to us timely, and inordinate delays are happening. We have completed the project and handed it over, and despite that, payments are not made," Bakshi told PTI.

Voltas has already approached the Indian government for help on the issue and also approached the Embassy in Qatar. MEP (mechanical, electrical,

and plumbing) contractor Voltas has completed the projects in Qatar and handed them over as per the contract. However, its bills are not getting certified and paid.

There has to be some basic ethics when you do business Unfortunately, our payments

Group and is the largest port Sustainalytics. It also received the developer and operator in 'advanced' rating in Moody's **Duty concession on gold major**

Global CSA 2023, a

The company also secured

the top rank in the marine

ports sector on a low carbon

rating

statement said.

transition

infrastructure sector by S&P Energy Transition Rating

update.

concern in FTA with Peru: GTRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Duty concessions on gold, which accounts for 80 per cent of India's imports from Peru, is the most challenging issue for New Delhi under the proposed free trade agreement with the South American nation, a report said on Sunday. Economic think tank Global

Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said that gold, a high-value product with low volume, attracts a 10 per cent basic customs duty in India, and even minor tariff concessions could lead to a significant increase

India and the South American nation Peru are negotiating a free trade investments between the two

In such pacts, two trading partners either significantly reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them, besides easing norms to promote trade in services.

The next round of talks is expected to start this week in Lima, Peru.

"Tariff concessions on gold, accounting for USD 1.8 billion or 80 per cent of India's imports from Peru in FY23, is the most challenging issue for India," GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

He argued that after tariff concessions under the India-UAE free trade agreement, gold imports from the UAE, India's second-largest gold



compared to 2022. "Peru, the fifth-largest

supplier to India, could see a similar surge in gold imports if concessions are made," the report said. In 2023, India's global imports

of unwrought gold are estimated at USD 43 billion, with Switzerland accounting supplier, doubled in 2023 for 40 per cent of these

imports, it said, adding that given Peru's gold mines, its gold would easily meet any Rules of Origin criteria.

"FTAs offer concessions on effective duties rather than on the bound duty. Excluding gold from an FTA would violate the World Trade Organization's Article XXIV, which requires duty cuts on

ONGC Q3 profit falls 14

He also said that India's

bound duty on gold is set at 40 per cent, but the current applied tariff is 10 per cent. "FTAs allow concessions in

effective duties and not on bound duty. If the FTA does not include gold, it may not meet the WTO Article XXIV condition for FTAs to have duty cuts on substantial trade," Srivastava said.

Peru has a bilateral trade pact with major economies like the US, EU, China, Australia, and Singapore. It also has multicountry agreements with the Pacific Alliance (Chile, Colombia, and Mexico) and the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador). These FTAs allow tariff-free imports of most products imported into Peru.

Majority of employees feel difficulty in adapting work from office module: Report

 $\begin{matrix} A^{mid} & \text{companies} \\ \text{encouraging} & \text{their} \\ \text{employees to return to the} \end{matrix}$ office, a majority of workers interviewed feel that it will be difficult for them to adapt to this transition, according to a report. There is an apprehension among employees regarding the adaptation to the work-fromoffice module, and 69 per cent of respondents have expressed concerns about the their ability to navigate and with transition, a report by staffing The report is based on an



provider Genius Consultants said. However, 25 per cent of employees showcased resilience and confidence in challenges adapt to the renewed office this environment, it added. solutions and HR services online survey among 1,213

employees from October 26 to November 30 across sectors like banking and finance, education, FMCG, hospitality, HR solutions, IT, The report also anticipated a potential rise in attrition as a consequence of the work-from-office call.

A significant 82 per cent of employees have expressed concerns, citing the increasing availability of work-from-home job opportunities in the market opportunities in the market, the report said.

This presents the evolving nature of the job market and the need for organisations to

consider and address the preferences and demands of their workforce, it added. On the flip side, 12 per cent of respondents do not perceive

attrition as a major concern, signalling a degree of optimism about the benefits of the in-office experience. About 67 per cent believe that

work-from-office facilitates the integration of new employees with the larger workforce, serving as a for instilling catalyst organisational values. This perspective highlights the importance employees

Ctate-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Sunday reported 14 per cent drop in net profit for the third quarter ended December 31 as oil and gas

prices fell. Standalone net profit of Rs 9,536 crore in October-December 2023 (third quarter of 2023-24 fiscal year) was 13.7 per cent lower than Rs 11,045 crore earning in the same period of previous financial year, the company said in a statement.

The earning was lower as

per cent to ₹9,536 crore firm produced and sold in the quarter fell 6.4 per cent to USD 81.59 per barrel. Gas price too was 24.2 per cent

lower at USD 6.5 per mmBtu.

Also contributing to lower profit was a decline in production of crude oil, which is converted into fuel like petrol and diesel at refineries, and natural gas which is used to generate electricity, produce fertilizer, turned into CNG and piped to kitchens for cooking. Crude oil production dropped 3.3 per cent to 5.22

million tonne while gas

at 5.12 billion cubic meters. Gross revenue was down 10 per cent at Rs 34,789 crore in Q3. The board of the company approved a second interim dividend of 80 per cent or Rs 4 a share. "The total payout on this account will be Rs 5,032 crore," the statement This is in addition to the first

interim dividend of Rs 5.75 per share declared last year. ONGC's standalone net profit in the first nine months of the current fiscal fell 24 per cent to Rs 29,767 crore as oil price realised dropped to \$75.55 a

Nagal, Ramkumar draw French rivals in opening round of Bengaluru Open

PTI BENGALURU

ndian ace Sumit Nagal is pitted against Geoffrey Blancaneaux, while wild card entrant Ramkumar Ramanathan will face Maxime Janvier in the men's singles main draw of the Bengaluru Open beginning here on Monday. World ranked 121 Nagal will

aim to extend his dominance over French Blancaneaux, whom he has beaten three times, including in the Australian Open Qualifiers.

India No 2 Ramkumar has a 1-1 head-to-head record against Janiver of France and if he clears the first round hurdle, he is likely to run into top-seed Italian Luca Nardi, who has been drawn to meet a qualifier in his opening round.

Australian Adam Walton has been seeded third and will open his campaign against

Inter wins 4-2

at Roma to

AP MILAN

record.

Goals

Angeliño.

Inter.

behind

first loss.

Mourinho.

the net.

A sublime se

end De Rossi

perfect record

league leader Inter Milan

saw it win 4-2 at Roma in

the teeming rain and end

Daniele De Rossi's perfect

Mancini and Stephan El

Shaarawy had given Roma

following Francesco Acerbi's opener for Inter. But the Nerazzurri turned things

around immediately after the break with a strike from

Marcus Thuram, who also forced an own-goal from new Roma defender

Alessandro Bastoni sealed

the match late on as Inter

moved seven points above

second-place Juventus. The Bianconeri can cut the gap

to four points with a win at home to relegation-threatened Udinese on Monday but will then have

played a match more than

Roma remained a point

Atalanta after De Rossi's

The former Roma player

had won all three of his

matches as coach after

replacing the fired Jose

The Nerazzurri were without coach Simone Inzaghi on the bench in

Rome after he picked up his fifth yellow card of the season in last weekend's win

over Juventus. The suspended Inzaghi

watched from the stands as

his team took the lead in the

17th minute — with the

help of a former Inter player.

Former Nerazzurri forward

Romelu Lukaku headed

away an Inter corner but

only as far as Acerbi, who

headed it into the back of

However, Roma leveled in

the 28th minute when a free

kick was floated over the top

and Mancini headed it into the bottom right corner

And Roma turned the

match around on the stroke

Shaarawy sprinting into the area and he unleashed a shot

which hit the crossbar and

the left post before also bouncing off the right post

sent

from close range.

counterattack

and going in.

halftime

fourth-place

from

second-half

Gianluca



Praiwal Dev.

In the doubles main draw, Frenchman Dan Added and Korea's Yun Seong Chung have been given the top billing and will clash with the Australian pair Tristan Schoolkate and Adam Walton.

Australia's Christopher Matthew Romios and Poland's Piotr Matuszewski are seeded second and will take on Taipei's Ray Ho and Australia's Calum Puttergill. There are nine Indians in the doubles main draw.

N Sriram Balaji and Andre Begemann of Germany will clash with the German duo of Mark Wallner and Jakob Schnaitter.

The ATP Challenger event is being organised by Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association at KSLTA Stadium. Qualifying rounds began on Sunday, while the final is scheduled on February 18.

goals in this period.
"With him, I know I'm going to get it perfect. You know the ball is going to come," Haaland said of De Bruyne, Brighton.

semifinals on Tuesday, started on the bench for his comeback game, came on at 1-1 and set up Brennan Johnson for a goal in the

still a work in progress but

GUIMARAES DOUBLE

in each half, including a superb curling shot for the winner, as Newcastle beat Nottingham Forest 3-2 to climb two places to seventh. Guimaraes' performances have been consistently excellent for Newcastle while, crucially, he has stayed healthy in a campaign that has seen manager Eddie

Qatar win Asian Cup titles after beating Jordan 3-1

AP LUSAIL (QATAR)

kram Afif dropped to his Aknees. Pretty soon he was being thrown into the air by his joyous teammates after the forward's hat trick of penalties secured back-to-back Asian Cup titles for Qatar. Afif, the outstanding player of

the tournament and leading scorer with eight goals, was nerveless when converting his spot kicks in a 3-1 win against Jordan at Lusail Stadium on Saturday.

Just over a year ago it had been Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe who had lit up this spectacular venue in arguably the greatest World Cup final of

On this occasion it was Afif taking center stage and becoming the first player to score a hat trick in the Asian Cup final.

He had been his country's standout performer from the start of the tournament and did not disappoint when it fell to him to produce the decisive moments against Jordan as back winner since Japan in redemption for Qatar, which

In front of more than 86,000 fans and with the pressure on, Afif never looked likely to miss from the spot and he sparked wild celebrations with each

?(I scored) the penalties because of the confidence my teammates had in me. It is not about technique, it is about the feeling that people are behind me - my team," Afif said. He won and converted his first

penalty in the 22nd minute. And after Yazan Al Naimat leveled the game in the 67th he struck again from the spot in the 73rd and sealed the win in the fifth minute of stoppage

Afif had spoken earlier in the tournament of his wish to return to European soccer after spells in Spain and Belgium at the start of his career. His performances, which also earned him the award for the Asian Cup's most valuable player, will likely have caught the attention of clubs far and

While this was a personal Qatar became the first back-to- triumph for him, it was



had endured a miserable World Cup on home soil in 2022 when exiting the tournament after three straight

defeats in the group stage. Even as host and defending champion, Qatar had been an unexpected finalist, let alone winner. Captain Hassan Al-Havdos noted on the eve of the final how critics had expected little of the team ahead of the tournament. How satisfying for him, then, to be draped in the same type of black Qatari ceremonial robe that Messi had worn to lift the World Cup. After the pain of that

tournament, here was a

moment celebration as the Emir of Oatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani handed Al-Havdos the trophy and shortly after there was an eruption of tickertape and fireworks.

Earlier, Qatar's Spanish coach, Márquez López slumped in his seat, seemingly exhausted, as he waited out 17 minutes of stoppage time.

The exertions of the past month appeared to have taken its toll. He had only been hired in December and Qatar had been beaten 2-1 by Jordan in a friendly in January.

"It was a very difficult game.

The tension was high," he said. 'Maybe it was not the beautiful football everyone wished for, but everyone remembers the winner.'

Like Afif, López was also thrown into the air as part of the celebrations.

Despite a difficult buildup after taking over from predecessor Carlos Queiroz, López impressively guided Qatar to a successful defense of the title it won in 2019.

It became the eighth host nation to win the tournament. Afif was undoubtedly the inspiration on the field.

"I'm so happy for Akram that he won all the (individual) awards. He deserved to win them," López said.

Afif was outstanding from the opening game — when he scored two goals in a 3-0 win against Lebanon — to the final, when he completed his hat trick.

He had already forced two saves from Jordan goalkeeper Yazeed Abulaila when his run into the box panicked Abdallah Nasib into a clumsy challenge and referee Ma Ning blew for a penalty.

क्रमांक/810/क्रय/24

Man City keeps pressure on Liverpool

AP ■ LONDON

Watch out, Premier The competition's most lethal attacking combination is back in tandem.

Erling Haaland and Kevin De Bruyne - both recently back from long injury absences - linked up for the clinching goal in Manchester City's 2-0 win over Everton on Saturday in what will be a worrying sight for the champions' rivals. defending

Liverpool remained in first

place after a 3-1 victory over Burnley but City is ominously placed on the leader's shoulder, two points behind with a game in hand, and with its superstar attackers back in the groove. Make it 12 times that De Bruyne has set up Haaland for a goal since they started playing together at the beginning of last season following the striker's move to England. No other Premier League partnership has delivered that many

English soccer's king of the assists.

"I watch a lot of football and I already saw for many years where he plays the ball, and he hasn't changed anything for the last five years. For me, it was about coming in and finishing those actions." And there was something so familiar with the way De Bruvne collected the ball in center-field and deftly slid in Haaland, who bundled his marker off the ball and opened his body to steer home a finish in the 85th minute. It was Haaland's second of the game, after he broke Everton's stubborn resistance in the 71st by pouncing on a loose ball following a corner. "I like to win this type of

game — suffering and knowing how difficult everything is — because we learn the lessons for what's coming," City manager Pep Guardiola said. City has won six games in a row in the league, and 10

straight in all competitions. Still, Liverpool is holding strong at the top, with Diogo Jota, Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez - the starting front three while Mohamed Salah is out injured - all scoring at

the Man City great in charge of Burnley, couldn't do his old club a favor.

Liverpool bounced back

from only its second league loss this season, at Arsenal last weekend, though there might be concerns over the fitness of Trent Alexander-Arnold after the right back came off at halftime with a recurrence of a recent knee injury, when the score was 1-1. "Same area in the knee.

Nothing really bad but he felt it again," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said. SON'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN Son Heung-min marked his return for Tottenham after

more than a month away at the Asian Cup by creating a dramatic winner against Son, whose South Korea team was eliminated in the

sixth minute of stoppage time that made it 2-1. "It's fair to say that we are

we had a world-class player in Son who makes the most difficult ball look simple to set up Brennan," said Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou, whose team jumped above Aston Villa into fourth place.

Bruno Guimaraes continues

to be the shining light in a difficult season Newcastle. The Brazil midfielder scored

Howe lose player after player to injury.

Shankar wins season opening meet in Belgium

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National record holder in high jump Tejaswin Shankar won the top prize in the International High Jump Gala Elmos 2024 athletics meet in Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium with a leap of 2.23 metros.

Shankar, competing for the first time since October last year, finished ahead of Greece's Antonios Merlos (2.20 metres) in the World Athletics Indoor Tour Tour Challenger event on Saturday. The 25-year-old, who holds both the men's high jump and decathlon national records, however, could not better his personal best of 2.29m.

Shankar is also focusing on decathlon and had won bronze and silver in the discipline in the Asian Championships and Asian Games last year.



Shankar has trained his eyes on a Paris Olympics berth but for that he will have to achieve a qualifying standard of 2.33 metres.

The other Indian in fray, Jesse Sandesh finished joint-10th with a jump of 2.09 metres. Shankar will next be seen in action at the Hvezdy v Nehvizdech athletics meet in Nehvizdy, Czech Republic on February 20.

Jota, Diaz, Nunez score for Liverpool in 3-1 win over Burnley

Diogo Jota, Luis Diaz and Darwin Nunez - Liverpool's starting front three while Mohamed Salah is out injured - all scored for the Premier League leaders in a 3-Premier League leaders in a 3-1 win over Burnley.

The Reds responded to Manchester City's extremely brief return to the league's summit, after its 2-0 victory against Everton hours earlier, with a triumph that tested their mettle even more than their stretched resources.

While the three points reestablished Liverpool's twopoint advantage, the less-thanconvincing nature of victory against the league's next-tolast side was not quite befitting the occasion of the hosts' biggest league crowd of 59,896 after the full opening of the

Anfield Road stand. For a time it appeared Liverpool, which was without goalkeeper Alisson Becker and defender Joe Gomez because of illness as well as the injured Salah, was still suffering a hangover from the defeat at Arsenal last week. It took the familiar right boot

of Trent Alexander-Arnold, setting a new mark of 58 for Premier League assists by a defender, and the equally reliable head of Jota to put them ahead at a corner in the 31st. The sloppy concession of an equalizer, when Dara O'Shea headed in at a corner on the stroke of halftime, posed further problems as did the withdrawal of Alexander-Arnold - only recently returned from a knee injury at the break.

was the England international's replacement, Harvey Elliott, who set up headed goals for Diaz in the 52nd and Nunez in the 78th to ease the pressure.

However, had on-loan Chelsea forward David Fofana been as clinical as he was scoring twice last weekend, then not only would Liverpool be looking up at City but questions would have started to be asked about their ability to match their long-time rivals

कार्यालय अधिष्ठाता बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, सागर

शिवाजी वार्ड, तिली रोड़, सागर (म.प्र.)-470001

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फोन नं. 07582-236270 फैक्स नं. 07582-236457 सागर दिनांक 06.02.2024

बन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय सागर में होने वाले आयोजनों एवं कार्यक्रमों में टेंट/साजसज्जा व्यवस्था हेतु खुली निविदा आमंत्रण-सूचना

निविदा का नाम	प्री बिड बैठक	निविदा प्राप्त करने	निविदा जमा करने	निविदा खोलने की
	दिनांक	की अंतिम तिथि	की अंतिम तिथि	तिथि एवं समय
बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय सागर में होने	14.02.2024	23.02.2024 शाम	23.02.2024 शाम	26.02.2024 दोपहर
वाले आयोजनों एवं कार्यक्रमों में टेंट ⁄साजसज्जा		06:00 बजे तक	06:00 बजे तक	12:00 बजे तक
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इच्छुक फर्म/संस्था/व्यक्ति ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट http://mptenders.gov.in से एवं हमारी वेबसाईट www.bmc-<u>sagar.edu.in</u> से भी निविदा संबंधी विस्तृत जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते है। निविदा में किये गये कोई भी संशोधन की जानकारी केवल महाविद्यालय की वेबसाईट पर उपलब्ध कराई जावेगी।

अधिष्ठाता

बुन्देलखण्ड चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय सागर (म.प्र.)

Online Tender Document for M.P. Police POLICE HEADQUARTER, M.P., BHOPAL Bhopal, Dated 06.02.2024

No. PHQ/15/GPC/917-2/2024

G-24059/23

G-24044/23

"ONLINE TENDER NOTICE"

Online tender are invited by Deputy Inspector General of Police (Provisioning) Police Head Quarter

Bhopal on behalf of DGP MP Bhopal for Furniture Items on website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app Paid Online Through mptenders.gov.in Three seater steel bench 3,000/-**Executive Table** 250 Nos. 75.000/-

89,700/-4,000/-Cost of tender document (Tender Fee) is non refundable and cannot be exempted in any condition & mus

submit online through website https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

Tender document can be download from the website of MP Police (www.mppolice.gov.in) Bids shall be submitted online only at MP Tenders website: https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

Critical Date Sheet: Published Date 06/02/2024 Time 18:00 PM

	Bid Document Download Start Date	07/02/2024 Time 12:00 PM					
	Pre Bid Meeting Date	12/02/2024 Time 16:00 PM					
	Bid Submission Start Date	17/02/2024 Time 11:00 PM					
	Bid Submission End Date	26/02/2024 Time 14:00 PM					
	Bid Opening Date	27/02/2024 Time 16:00 PM					
ding Ridders are advised to visit this website regularly till closing date of submission							

selves updated as any change/modification in the tender will be intimated through this website only by corrigendum/addendum/amendment. Bids will be opened as per date/time as mentioned in the Tender Critical Date Sheet. After online open

ing of Technical-Bid the results of their qualification as well Price-Bid opening will be intimated later

(D.R.Teniwar) D.I.G. (Provisioning) For: Director General of Police M.P.

Paul, Giron advance to Dallas Open final previous final in San Diego. Giron reached the semifinals

Second-seeded Tommy Paul and unseeded Marcos Giron won in straight sets to set up an all-American final in

the Dallas Open.
Paul beat No. 3 seed Ben
Shelton of the U.S., 6-2, 6-4, and Giron rolled over a seeded opponent again, beating No. 4 seed Adrian Mannarino of France, 6-1, 6-3, in the semifinals.

The 30-year-old Giron, who beat top-seeded American Frances Tiafoe in the quarterfinals, is seeking his first ATP Tour title Sunday in his second trip to a final. Paul's only title came in 2021 in

Paul won the final four games of the first set before a break early in the second set held up against the 21-year-old Shelton in the hardcourt event on the SMU campus. Giron took a 4-0 lead in the

first set a day after going up 5-0 in a straight-set win over Tiafoe, who was the highestranked player in tournament at No. 14.

The first break of the second set came when Giron made a lunging save with a forehand, then ran down Mannarino's volley for a backhand crosscourt passing shot and a



in the tournament, had little trouble closing out the match on his serve. With three over victories seeded opponents, Giron has a chance to surpass his career-best ranking of 49th from 2022, when Giron lost his only

in Dallas two years ago, losing a three-setter to Jenson Brooksby while having match points. The final two sets went to tiebreakers. "That stuck with me, and that's hard," Giron said. "I have experience. I know what it's like to lose. I know what it's

like to win. Having a big win yesterday was awesome, and I'm really, really happy to be able to come back today." Paul reached two finals last year, losing in a grass-court event at Eastbourne and a hardcourt tournament in

U-19 WORLD CUP FINAL

India lose by 79 runs to Australia

ndia's batting lineup misfired when it mattered the most as they suffered a heartbreaking 79-run loss to Australia in the final of the U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

Opting to bat, Australia first posted 253 for 7, courtesy Oliver Peake's enterprising 43-ball 46 and Harjas Singh's 55 off 64 balls, and then returned to bowl out the five-time champions for 174 in 43.5 overs.

Australia, thus, became fourtime champions.

Chasing 254, opener Adarsh Singh made a 77-ball 47 but India kept losing wickets at regular intervals to collapse to 122 for 8 in 31.5 overs. Number 8 batter Murugan Abhishek (42 off 46 balls) then played an entertaining knock but it was too little and too late.

The loss brought back memories of Indian senior team's gut-wrenching loss to Australia in the 50-over



World Cup final at home in November last year.

For Australia, seamer Mahli Beardman (3/15) and off-spinner Raf MacMillan (3/43) did most of the damage. Callum Vidler (2/35) and Charlie Anderson (1/42) were the other wickettakers.

Earlier, Harjas top-scored for Australia with 55, while Weibgen and opener Harry Dixon made 48 and 42 respectively. Later, Peake propped up Australia with his breezy knock.

Raj Limbani was the most successful Indian bowler with figures of 3/38, while Naman Tiwari picked up two wickets for 63 runs in nine

BRIEF SCORES:

Australia: 253/7 in 50 overs (Harjas Singh 55, Hugh Weibgen 48, Harry Dixon 42, Oliver Peake not out 46; Raj Limbani 3/38, Naman Tiwari 2/63). India: 174 all out in 43.5

overs (Adarsh Singh 47; Mahli Beardman 3/15, Raf MacMillan 3/43).



Leach ruled out of remaining three Tests against India

PTI ■ LONDON

England left-arm spinner Jack Leach was on Sunday ruled out of the remaining three Tests against India with a left knee injury, announced the England and Wales Cricket

However, no replacement will be called up for Leach, an indication that England will Tom Hartley, Rehan Ahmed and Shoaib Basheer for the rest of the tour.

Joe Root is the visitors' fourth spin option behind the three regular spinners.

Leach had sustained the injury during England's first Test victory in Hyderabad and missed the second Test in

Visakhapatnam as a result.

"He will fly home from Abu Dhabi in the next 24 hours, where the England team has been staying ahead of the third Test in Rajkot, which starts on Thursday (February 15). "Leach will work closely with the England and Somerset medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation," stated the ECB in a media release

The 32-year-old Leach has taken 126 wickets in 36 Tests, besides being a handy lowerorder batter.

Zimbabwe Cricket to restructure after WC qualification woes

7imbabwe Cricket (ZC) has Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) nas decided to effect far-reaching changes in both its domestic and development pathway following failure to qualify for the 2023 Men's ODI World Cup and the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup. As a first step, the ZC board, which met on Saturday,

which met on Saturday, decided to appoint 51-year-old former first-class player Walter Chawaguta as the head coach of the senior women's national team and accepted the resignation of U19 men's national team head coach Prosper Utseva.

senior and U19 men's team coaches on an urgent basis.



comprehensive A ZC statement said that the inquiry that was established affairs structure".

It also decided to appoint the board had "adopted the to probe Zimbabwe's World comprehensive report Cup qualification failures as presented by a committee of well as to review ZC's cricket

three-member committee was headed by lawyer Lloyd Mhishi.

Committee, chaired by Lloyd Mhishi, presented its report to the board after gathering from various stakeholders, both internal and external... The board resolved to adopt the report in its entirety and to immediately implement the c o m m i t t e e recommendations," statement added.

Among the recommendations accepted by ZC board are a complete restructuring of the cricket affairs department and its personnel, overhaul of the domestic and development pathway, advertising for the head coach's job for the national senior men's and U19 teams and restructuring of the coaching set-up at first-



Real show stealer was Boomball, says Ashwin

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Lavishing praise on Jasprit Jasprit Bumrah, senior India offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin said "Boomball" stole the show in the second Test against England and the pacer reaching top of the ICC rankings across three formats is a "Himalayan feat".

Bumrah displayed brilliance with the ball to play a key role in the team's series-levelling 106-run win in the second Test in Visakhapatnam.

He put up a reverse swing master-class in England's first innings that yielded him six wickets (6/45), following it up with a three-wicket haul in their second essay for match figures of 9 for 91.

His performance enabled him to jump to number one in the Test rankings list, becoming the first Indian pacer to achieve the feat. Bumrah has also held the top spot in the ODI and T20 rankings previously.
"The real show stealer was

BoomBall. Jasprit Bumrah bowled extraordinarily," Ashwin said on his YouTube

channel. "He is the leading wicket-taker with 14 wickets and also the No.1 ranked Test bowler. The first India fast bowler to achieve number one across all formats. I am

a big fan of his and this is a

Himalayan feat." Ashwin said that the extraordinary vibe and energy on the fourth day of the second Test helped India secure a favourable result. "We came into the fourth day with it all being even-stevens. But our extraordinary vibe, energy and team performance helped us level the series 1-

The five-match series will played across derabad, across Visakhapatnam, Rajkot, Ranchi and Dharamsala and Ashwin noted that most Indian players have not played Test cricket at these venues.

"There's never been a marquee Test series like this in five such venues before. In 2017, we played Australia in Dharamasala and Ranchi and then Pune and Bengaluru. Usually, if there is a 4-5 match Test series at least one or two happen in metro cities. "Unlike that, this time it's

happening in venues that weren't part of World Cup matches. "For most of the Indian

players, these venues are new. There are a lot of players playing in our team who haven't played a firstclass or Test match in Vizag stadium. "I'm not sure that is possible in any other country. But possible in India as there are so many

Debutant Sharma completes | Sunrisers claim back to back SA20 titles 10 wickets match haul

PTI THUTHIPET (PUDUCHERRY)

 $L_{\text{Sharma}}^{\text{eft-arm spinner Vanshaj}} \\ \text{completed a}$ maiden ten-wicket match haul on his debut as Jammu and Kashmir dismissed Puducherry for 67 in their chase of 87 to register a 19run win in the Ranji Trophy group D match here on Sunday.

Resuming at 35 for 7, Puducherry folded in 35.3 overs with the 20-year-old Sharma claiming all the remaining three wickets, returning with figures of 5 for 16 to go with his first innings figures of 5 for 74.



On Saturday, another left-arm spinner Abid Mushtag notched up a 10-wicket match haul, his second in First-Class cricket. He had taken five for 28 in the second innings, returning with figures of 25-3-64-5 in the first innings.

Mushtaq was adjudged the Player-of-the-match for his exploits at the Cricket Association of Pondicherry (CAP) Siechem ground here. With the win, Jammu and Kashmir continued their unbeaten run and grabbed the third place with 18 points, behind Baroda and Madhya Pradesh.For Pondicherry (15), their hopes of reaching the knockout stage is almost

Brief Score: J&K 106 and 152 (Sagar Udeshi 3/48) beat Puducherry 172 and 67 allout in 35.3 overs (Damodaran Rohit 17; Vanshaj Sharma 5/16, Abid Mushtaq 5/28) by 19 runs.

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

Sunrisers Eastern Cape won back-to-back SA20 titles after an empathic 89-run victory over Durban's Super Giants at Newlands here. After topping the group stage, the Sunrisers delivered a clinical performance in the final on Saturday. Half-centuries from Tom Abell (55) and Tristan Stubbs (56 not

out) along with contributions from Jordan Hermann and captain Aiden Markram, who contributed respectively, saw the Sunrisers post a formidable 204/3.

The defending champions then bowled out the Super Giants for a paltry 115 in 17

Partnerships were crucial in removing both set batters in



the Sunrisers' innings with Hermann and Abell setting up the winning total with a 90-run stand for the second wicket after the early loss of Dawid

Durban's Super Giants captain, Keshav Maharaj, hit back with double-wicket over by

Hermann and Abell. But the Sunrisers showed they had plenty more in reserve with Markram and Stubbs

rebuilding the innings before exploding towards backend with 98 runs off 55 balls.

The Sunrisers' bowling has been their strongest discipline

all season and their seamers certainly rose to the occasion on the night.

Dan Worrall (2/15) set the tone upfront again with the dismissal of Quinton de Kock early on before Marco Jansen delivered two hammer blows in the fourth over with the removal of Jon Jon Smuts and Bhanuka Rajapaksa to leave the Super Giants reeling at 7/3. Wiaan Mulder attempted a recovery job with quickfire 38, but that's when Ottniel Baartman (2/17) delivered the moment of the match.

He had already dismissed Matthew Breetzke, but it was his in-swinger that wrapped the dangerous Heinrich Klaasen on the pads first ball that closed the game as a

Saxena grabs 9/68 as Bengal stare at second successive defeat

PTI THUMBA (KERALA)

Domestic cricket stalwart Jalaj Saxena destroyed Bengal with career-best figures of 9/68 as the visitors found themselves on the brink of a second successive defeat in the Ranji Trophy Group B here on Sunday. Resuming on 172/8, Bengal

managed to add just eight runs to their overnight total with the veteran all-rounder adding two more wickets to

his name. The 37-year-old now has 439 wickets and has 6600-plus runs from 138 matches in first-class cricket.

Despite a substantial lead, Kerala skipper Sanju Samson chose not to enforce followon and declared their second essay at 265/6 to set a massive 449-run target for the visitors.

In reply, Bengal were 77/2 with Abhimanyu Easwaran batting on 33. Bengal had Shubham Singh managed the innings hero Prithvi Shaw, Mumbai to 351.

lost their last match against Mumbai at Eden Gardens.

Khare slams fighting 143, but Mumbai hold edge

the front with a stellar 143 as Chhattisgarh put up a strong

35, showed utmost patience in his composed knock from 211 balls.

firm and was the last man to get out. He struck 14 fours and four sixes.

In reply, Mumbai were 97/1 at close on day three. With a lead of 98 runs Mumbai seemed to be wellplaced with Bhupen Lalwani

and Amogh Bhatkal at the

In Raipur, skipper Amandeep Khare led from

fight, falling just one run short of Mumbai's first innings total of 351. From 180/4 overnight, Khare, who was unbeaten on

Mumbai kept taking wickets at one end but Khare stood

only breakthrough for five runs short of a half-Chhattisgarh in Mumbai's century. second innings when he dismissed Mumbai's first

The Indian batter's 159 off

185 balls had powered

Assam eyeing maiden

Swarupam Purkayastha was take a huge first innings lead the star performer with the of 198 runs in Guwahati.

off-spinner bundled out Bihar for 207 to

ball, securing four wickets for just 11 runs, as Assam

Assam were quick to enforce the follow-on and reduced Bihar to 168/3 at close of play on the penultimate day. Opener Piyush Singh displayed resilience with an unbeaten 79 from 204, unbeaten /9 Irom 204, steering Bihar in their second essay. The visitors face a challenging task ahead, trailing by 30 runs as Assam will be eyeing their first win of the season. Mukhtar Hussain, Rahul Singh and Mrinmoy Dutta picked up wicket apiece for Assam.

Brief Scores

In Raipur: Mumbai 351 and 97/1; 28 overs (Prithvi Shaw 9/1; 28 overs (Prithvi Shaw 45, Bhupen Lalwani 40 batting). Chhattisgarh 350; 106.1 overs (Amandeep Khare 143, Shashank Chandrakar 56, Sanjeet Desai 41; Tushar Deshpande 5/121, Royston Dias 2/44). Mumbai lead by 98 runs. In Guwahati: Assam: 405.

Bihar 207; 71.5 overs (Paramjeet Singh 53, Bipin Saurabh 39; Swarupam Purkayastha 4/11, Mukhtar Hussain 3/22) and following on 168/3; 61 overs (Piyush Singh 79 not out, Bipin Saurabh 44; Mukhtar Hussain 1/15, Rahul Singh 1/13). Bihar trails by 30 runs. In Thumba: Kerala: 363 and 265/6 declared; 64.2 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 51, Sachin Baby 51, Shreyas Gopal 50 not out; Shahbaz Ahmed 3/80). Bengal: 180; 51.1 overs 3/80). Bengal: 180; 51.1 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 72; Jalaj Saxena 9/68) and 77/2; 20.4 overs (Target: 449) (Abhimanyu Easwaran 33 batting, Sudip Gharami 31). Bengal need 372 runs. In Vizianagaram: Andhra 261 and 271/5; 92 overs (Ricky Bhui 100 batting, Hanuma Vihari 48, Shaik Rasheed 42 batting; Saurabh

Rasheed 42 batting; Saurabh Kumar 3/73). Uttar Pradesh 198. Andhra lead by 338