**OPINION 6** 

**WORLD 8** 

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RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH

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# Congress Faces Himachal Freeze

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

Congress hurried on Wednesday to save its Government in Himachal Pradesh amid developments, a resignation including announcement by highprofile Minister Vikramaditya Singh and the suspension of 15 BJP MLAs by the Speaker. The party engaged in a damage control exercise to prevent the possible loss of a State ruled by the party just weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Congress

Kharge Mallikarjun despatched three observers Bhupesh Baghel, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and D K Shivakumar — to Shimla, indicating that the party could take some "tough steps". The crisis was triggered by Tuesday's cross-voting by six Congress MLAs in the Rajya Sabha election for the lone seat from Himachal Pradesh. The party has now sought the disqualification of these MLAs from the Assembly, and the matter was heard by Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania who reserved his order.

The suspended BJP MLAs. including the Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, initially refused to leave the House, apparently to stall the Assembly from passing Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh



Himachal Pradesh Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla during a meeting with Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Jairam Thakur and BJP MLAs, at Rai Bhavan, in Shimla, on Wednesday Tuesday through a draw of

Sukhu's Budget through voice vote. The BJP demanded lots, after the two candidates voting on the Budget, believing it would reveal that the Congress had lost its majority in the State Assembly. The House later passed the Finance Bill by voice vote with no BJP member present. The Speaker then adjourned the Session sine die. Chief Minister Sukhu dismissed speculation that he was resigning, stating, "Neither the high command, nor anyone else has asked me for resignation," Sukhu said. Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi was defeated by

BJP's Harsh Mahajan on

The result meant that the Congress, which had come into power in the State just 14 months ago, winning 40 seats in the Assembly, had failed to reach the halfway mark.

bagged 34 votes each.

The BJP won 25 seats in the House of 68 in 2022. There are three Independent MLAs, who were believed to be with the ruling Congress until the cross-voting crisis erupted. Early morning, Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur led a delegation to Raj Bhavan to meet Governor Shiv Pratap

Shukla to ensure that the

Finance Bill was passed only through a division.

Late in the evening, the Congress observers began their interaction with party MLAs. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said Kharge had asked the observers and AICC incharge for the State Rajeev Shukla to speak to all MLAs, including those who are disgruntled, and submit a comprehensive report to him

"The Congress will not hesitate to take tough steps as the party is our priority and will not let the people's mandate be betrayed in Himachal Pradesh," Ramesh said at the AICC Press conference in the national Capital.

Earlier in the morning, Himachal Pradesh Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh announced he was quitting the council of ministers and would submit his resignation to the chief minister and the Governor. It was not immediately clear whether he had done so. Singh, whose mother is Himachal Congress president

Pratibha Singh, said, "There have been attempts to humiliate and undermine me from some quarters, and despite reservations, I supported the Government." He is the son of Virbhadra Singh, a former Chief Minister who died in 2021. The family has in the past hinted that Virbhadra Singh's

legacy has not been honored

by the party. Pratibha Singh also expressed disgruntlement with the manner in which Sukhu has run the State. Vikramaditya Singh said the 2022 Congress campaign was run in his father's name. "There was no poster, or hoarding or banner which did not carry his picture," he said. But after the victory, when the matter of putting up his statue came up, Government failed to decide the location. "It is not a political but an emotional thing for a son," he said.

# **BJP** in Election Mode, **Selects 100 Candidatés**

The BJP on Wednesday brainstormed over the party's probable candidates in several States for the Lok Sabha elections, a day before its Central Election Committee is expected to meet to finalise the names for the first list of about 100 party nominees. The list will have names of candidates from seats in States like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

Sources said Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda held separate meetings with party leaders from several States, including Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand among others. Similar meetings with leaders from Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Telangana have been held so far.

While the lists of names in 2019 were released only after the Election Commission had announced the election schedule, it is going to be different this time as the BJP looks to follow the template seen during the latest round of Assembly polls in five States when it named its candidates, especially in the seats the party had lost five years earlier, before the announcement of dates.

The first list, party sources constituents in good humour

said, is expected to be 100 and a few minority candidates candidates which include could also be fielded. Modi is the MP from the names of heavyweights Varanasi, a constituency he Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, Shah, has won twice and is likely to Union Ministers Rajnath contest for third consecutive time. He was elected with a Singh, Smriti Irani, Nirmala Sitharmana, S Jaishanker huge margin of 3.37 lakh and Bollywood super star votes in 2014 and had Akshay Kumar about whom increased it to 4.8 lakh in grapevine in the party Amit Shah had has it that he may be contested the 2019 fielded from the prestigious New election from D e l h i Gandhinagar, a

Parliamentary continue. held by BJP Other candidates veteran Advani until then. from the spheres of sports and education The first list for the sector are also doing the 2019 elections had also rounds and the party is included Modi and Shah, completely tight lipped to who was then the party's reveal names being discussed national president and had as of now. Party sources also made his Lok Sabha poll said to keep the NDA debut from Gandhinagar.

#### **NEWS BREAK**

# **CBI** summons

Bureau of Investigation has summoned Samajwadi Party president and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh tness" to record his statement on Thursday in illegal mining cases registered five years

The cases pertain to the issuance of mining leases in alleged violation of etendering process.

protest against the abduction

of Additional Superintendent

Amit Kumar Moirangthem

and demanded they be

allowed to retaliate when

The commandos of all

districts put down their arms

asking for action against

Metei radical group Arambai

Two hit by train

JAMTARA: At least two

persons were run over and

killed by a train in Jharkhand's Jamtara district on Wednesday evening, police said. Jamtara sub-

division police officer (SDPO) M Rahman told PTI

that the accident took place

near Kaljharia area in

Jamtara district when some passengers got down from the train from the wrong side. "A local train coming on another line hit them," he

said. "Bodies of two persons have been recovered so far.

Search operation is on and

the toll might increase," he

said. Eastern Railway CPRO Kaushik Mitra said, "There is

no incident of fire. As of now,

two deaths have been

confirmed. The deceased are

not passengers. They were

walking on the track. A 3-member JAG committee has

been formed to enquire

about the issue.

in Jharkhand

attacked.

Tenggol.

# Modi slams DMK, Congress for dynastic politics

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday literally tore into allegations made by the DMK-led Tamil Nadu Government that the Central Government was not coronate his son as Chief offering any welfare measures to the people in the State and the son working to anoint his Dravidian land's progress.

The DMK Government is blocking all welfare projects being introduced by the Central Government for Tamil Nadu. What the DMK and its alliance partners

including the Congress were doing is creating rift among the people, said the Prime Minister while addressing a mammoth rally organised by the BJP at Thoothukudi.

"In the past we saw a Chief Minister struggling hard to Minister. Now we are seeing the State," said Modi without naming the late patriarch M Karunanidhi, his son and present Chief Minister M K Stalin and the latter's son Udhayanidhi. "The DMK and the Congress have only one



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated during a public meeting in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday

agenda and that is to perpetrate dynastic politics," said the Prime Minister. DMK

committed a faux pas by putting pictures of Chinese rockets in the billboards erected across the venue to make the people know that the space center coming up at Kulasekharapattinam was a project initiated by the

"They do not know that India has mastered the design and development of high power

be launched from the new space station," lambasted the Prime Minister.

seat that had been

Modi listed various development and infrastructure projects implemented by the Center for the welfare of Tamil Nadu. "Five years ago, only 21 lakh cople had drinking people water connection at their

homes Nadu. However, this count has increased to one crore now.

#### Largest ever offshore drug seized Unwavering support for Manipur commandos hold arms down stir IMPHAL: Manipur Police commandos on Wednesday laid down their arms in



Indian Navy personnel show 3300 kgs contraband (3089 kg charas, 158 kg Methamphetamine, 25 kg Morphine) seized from a vessel in a joint operation with Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Indian security agencies have seized the largest-ever offshore consignment of drugs, weighing 3,300 kilos, and arrested five foreigners

from a dhow in the Arabian Sea off the Gujarat coast. joint operation,

Gujarat Police.

from an Iranian port. The value of the contraband was estimated to be between codenamed 'Sagarmanthan-₹1,300 crore and ₹2,000 crore 1', was carried out by the in the international market. Navy, Narcotics Control Union Home Minister Amit Bureau (NCB), and the Shah hailed the operation as

a "historic success" and a testament to his Government's "unwavering testament commitment to making our nation drug-free."
"Pursuing PM Modi's vision

of a drug-free Bharat, our agencies today achieved the grand success of making the biggest offshore seizure of drugs in the nation.

In a joint operation carried out by the NCB, the Navy, and the Gujarat Police, a gigantic consignment of 3,132 kg of drugs was seized. This historic success is a testament Government's unwavering commitment to making our nation drug-free. "On this occasion,

congratulate the NCB, the Navy, and the Gujarat Police," he said.

# **Rahul Gandhi in Wayanad**

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

vast majority in Wayanad, Avast majority iii wayanaa, Kerala, wants Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to contest from the Lok Sabha constituency in the upcoming

In 2019, Rahul won from the constituency impressive margin of 4.32 lakh votes, polling 64.94 per LOK

cent of the total votes cast in the election. All his challengers were left humbled, losing their security deposits in a one-

sided contest. Wayanad, situated atop the



traditional Congress bastion, leaving no doubt about Rahul's prospects in the upcoming election. Despite his as the commitments

party's top national leader, he has remained active in the

none of the voters with whom The Pioneer interacted could recall the names of the two candidates who had contested against Rahul in the 2019

Even hardcore CPI (M) supporters want Rahul to run from Wayanad in this election. "The constituency gained international attention because of Rahul's decision to contest from here. Although the constituency is yet to receive any major projects, it has faced discrimination under the CPI (M)-led Government in Kerala. Moreover, whenever there was an emergency, Rahul promptly attended to the constituency," said Rajendran, a CPI (M) supporter.

#### brunt of climate change India

**ARCHANA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

The year 2023 brought forth a concerning reality for India, as every State and Union Territory experienced extreme weather events at least once, disrupting life, livelihoods, and the economy

as resources were diverted to tackle flooding or extreme heat, volatile conditions driven by climate change. These occurrences were not sporadic; rather, they

disturbingly recurrent pattern climatic disruptions.

In what should be considered a climate change warning to India, the toll on human life was grave, with 3,287 recorded deaths attributed to these extreme weather events. Additionally, the devastation extended to the animal kingdom, with a staggering 1.24 lakh animal deaths reported. The agricultural sector, vital for the nation's persisted for approximately food security, bore a heavy 318 out of 365 days, revealing brunt, with 2.21 million

hectares of crop area suffering damage, leading to significant economic losses

The boat reportedly sailed

This widespread impact, detailed in the independent think tank Centre for Science and Environment's "State of Environment 2024" report, underscores the severity of the challenges posed by climate change. The report said the climate-vulnerable country experienced extreme weather on 86 percent of days from January to September. State-wise, Himachal Pradesh emerged as the most heavily



affected zone, enduring extreme weather conditions for 149 days, closely followed by Madhya Pradesh with 141 days. Kerala and Uttar Pradesh also

faced prolonged periods of extreme weather, each recording 119 days of such events. The widespread nature of

driven by human-caused

these occurrences is further underscored by the fact that eight States experienced over 100 days of extreme weather. The temperature increase was

weather phenomenon. The types of extreme weather varied, with heavy rains, floods, and landslides occurring on 208 days, while

climate change and boosted

by the natural El Niño

lightning and storms were prevalent for 202 days. Heatwaves persisted for 49 days, cold waves for 29 days, and cloudbursts were recorded on nine days, contributing to localised instances precipitation.

### **Bhopal records highest rainfall in Feb month in 9 years**

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

→ tate capital received the Shighest rainfall in the month of February after 9 years. More than half an inch, i.e., 15 mm of rain was recorded on Tuesday.

Earlier in the year 2014, there was 1.9 inches i.e., 47.9 mm rainfall in the entire month. Whereas there was no rain after 2018.

Accordingly, the highest rainfall was recorded in 9 years, while after 5 years the record of rainfall in February also broken. Meteorologists said that the weather will remain changed in March.

According to IMD, Bhopal, two western disturbances are becoming active on February 29 and March 1 the mercury reached 31.8 the city. An old tree fell on whose effect will be seen in degrees Celsius. Earlier on the shed of a house in

Bhopal also. Therefore, the weather here will remain changed between March 28 and April 2.

From February 29 cloud cover will be witnessed, chances of rainfall are less

With the start of the month of March there may be rain with thunder activity. There is a possibility of rain throughout the city. The weather will remain changed on this day also. Light rain may also occur in

the Berasia region. On Tuesday, more than half

an inch or 15 mm of rain was recorded in Bhopal. However, before this the effect of heat was seen. Due to this, the day temperature increased by 6 degrees and

Monday-Tuesday night the temperature was recorded

at 16.8 degrees. In the year 2014, Bhopal received 1.9 inches i.e. 47.9 mm rainfall in the entire month of February. After this, 1 mm rainfall was recorded in 2016, 2.8 mm in 2017 and 13.3 mm in 2018. After this it did not rain. Accordingly, this time it rained on Tuesday after 5 years. At the same time, the record of highest rainfall in 9 years was also broken. 15 mm rain was recorded till 6 pm on Tuesday.

At 4 pm on Tuesday evening, suddenly a storm blew at a speed of 74 km per hour for three minutes. After this the city remained busy throughout the night. 15 trees fell in

Narayan Nagar in front of Barkatullah University. 2 electric poles fell in Palasi. A tin sheet spread on a house in Karond had flown and got stuck in a 33 KV line. Due to the storm, power supply remained disrupted in 350 colonies and localities of the city from 4 pm to 9 pm. The false ceiling in the office of the Institutional Finance Department of Vindhyachal Bhawan collapsed. Due to this, two officers narrowly escaped. Evening flights of Air India and Indigo from Delhi could not land in Bhopal in the evening due to bad weather. Both the flights were diverted to Indore. However, both these flights could land in Bhopal with a delay of one hour each. There is a trend of cold at night, heat during the day

month of February. If we look at the data of the last 10 years, after February 20 the day temperature reaches beyond 31 degrees. At the same time, the nights also remain cold. This time also the weather has been similar so far. The temperature remained above 30 degrees for several days. Although there has been no rain for the last five years, this time the Meteorological Department has predicted rain.
According to the
Meteorological Department, the temperature record has reached 1.7 degrees Celsius on the night of 11 February 1950, 74 years ago. At the same time, in the last 10 years the mercury has remained 2 to 6 degrees lower than normal.



#### 10 Years' RI to the rape accused after 5 years

**STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

**¬**he District and Sessions Court in Bhopal sentenced Veeru Valmik, accused of rape under the POCSO Act, to 10 years imprisonment on Wednesday. Special Judge Rashmi Mishra has given this decision in a 4 year old case. The accused was charged of kidnapping a minor and assaulting her sexually. The court has also sentenced the accused to a fine of

Rs 5,000. In March 2019, the victim's parents had lodged a complaint at Bilkhiriya police station. The family had told the police that an unknown youth had kidnapped their daughter. Investigation revealed that the girl was kidnapped by Veeru, who lives in the neighbour-

After the disappearance of the girl, Veeru and his family

also went missing. Two days 
The negligence of the policeafter the incident, the police arrested the girl.

Relatives become suspicious over the sudden disappearance of a neighboring family. After verification, the victim told that accused Veeru and she were good friends for 1 year. On the day of his disappearance, both of them had gone to Vidisha by bus. Both of them met at Veeru's brotherin-law's house in Vidisha. On the basis of this, the police arrested the accused Veeru under the POCSO Act. The court has punished the accused on the basis of available arguments and scientific

Meanwhile police failed to track and nabbed prisoner who escaped from Bhopal's Hamidia Hospital till Wednesday who absconded from the hospital on Tuesday

man deployed for security surfaced in the matter as he had gone to drink tea, leaving the prisoner alone. Kohefiza police have registered a case in the matter. The accused is being searched.

According to Kohefiza police, Ghanshyam Ajay Gaur of Silwani district Raisen, was in jail in the case of attempted murder. Recently he was transferred to Bhopal jail for the treatment of hernia. He was brought to Hamidia Hospital for treatment on Tuesday.

His operation was to take place here, on Tuesday evening at around 5 pm the policeman on duty Ghanshyam Panwar went to have tea. When he returned after 10 minutes, the prisoner had absconded. After which the complaint about the matter was lodged in Kohefiza police station.

#### Today's time is considered the time of non-fiction: Santosh Chaubey **STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

**¬**oday's time is considered the time of non-fiction, said Founding Founding Chairman Santosh Chaubey at grand closing of the three-day Vanamali Katha Samman with non-fiction recital, youth composition recital and drama

staging. Special sessions on composition lesson and discussion, 'Kathaan ka Rachna Vidhan' and 'Kahani ka Yuva Swar' were organized.

Play based on Santosh Chaubey's story "Unke Haaye Ka Prem" and "Garib Nawaz" under the direction of senior color director Devendra Raj 'Ankur' in Natyotsav were staged.

Senior litterateur Santosh Chaubey said in his statement that today's time is considered the time of non-fiction, hence non-fiction honor has also



been included in the Vanmali Samman. After this he recited an excerpt from his famous non-story 'Katha Bhopal'. The story includes the history of the formation of Bhopal, the present scenario and the vision of the future which the readers find interesting.

Mamta Kalia said in her address that non-fiction has left fiction behind, there is a lot of curiosity about non-fiction today. Non-fiction is life and

tion, writers write about life. During his speech he mentioned senior writers like Nirmal Verma and famous books like City of Joy.

In the second part of this session, writers Anil Yadav, Kabir Sanjay, Alok Ranjan gave their statements. In his statement, Kabir Sanjay said that non-fiction is becoming popular again

is scattered in its various forms. Human civilization has developed only through stories. Non-fiction literature brings together science, environment and nature at the meeting point which describes the harmony of life.

In this, Anil Yadav, explaining the reason for the popularity of non-fiction, said that in the last thirty years, unprecedent-ed changes have taken place in India, especially in the Hindi belt, such that they have not happened even in the last 1000 years.

Shahadat Khan, resident of western Uttar Pradesh, recited his composition 'Kurbaan'. In this he told the story of a goat which is reared for sacrifice. But the family becomes very attached to him. And when that goat is sacrificed, the people of the house even fall ill. Sumedha Agrashree composed and recited.

Santosh Chaubey praised the young writers and said that the three youths create stories with good descriptiveness by inventing good language with curiosity and wonder. He said hearing everyone's story and the writer should be emotional. It makes his writing bet-

Under the Vanmali Katha Samman Samaroh, two stories written by senior litterateur Santosh Chaubey under the direction of senior theater actor Devendra Raj Ankur in the theater festival under the Vanmali Katha Samman Samaroh, were staged by the artists of 'Sambhav' organization on Wednesday at Sharda of Rabindranath Tagore University. "Unke Khakh Ka Prem" explored half-hearted love relationships, the story "Garib Nawaz" depicted commercialism and the new sociopolitical conflict.



udents during a freshers' party at Government Maharani Laxmi Bai Girls college in Bhopal on Wednesday

the scooter at the spot.

From the accused master key,

screwdriver and pliers used in

On February 24 the com-

plainant reported that his

brother met with an accident

near Capital Mall, on verifi-

cation of which, the Activa

vehicle which caused the acci-

dent was found to be stolen

from Purani Basti of

Baghsewania on February 17.

After the accident, the accused

left the vehicle and fled from

On the basis of technical

resources and accurate infor-

mation from the informer.

information was received

about the said accused doing

delivery work in Zomato.

the spot.

the incident were seized.

PNS JABALPUR

Transmission Company (MP Transco) has energized a 50 MVA Capacity power transformer at 132 KV substation at Dongrital in Singrauli district.

In view of the increasing demand for electricity from coal mine, industrial sector, agriculture and domestic consumers in Dongrital area, MP Transco has increased the capacity of the sub-station pracing transformer of 20 MVA capacity with a power transformer of 50 MVA capacity Installed and energized.. With the installation of this transformer, the capacity of Dongrital substation increase to 70

Bijak Kumar Priye,



Transco Singrauli said that the energization of this transformer installed at an estimated cost of about Rs 5.76 crore has strengthened the transmission capacity of Singrauli district, this will help the industrial unit APMDCL and the region associated

More than 30,000 electricity consumers connected to 138 villages including Langhadol, Khanuankhas will be greatly benefited, now they will have access to quality electricity supply at proper voltage. Energy Minister

Tomar congratulated M.P. Transco personnel for this success. Transformation capacity

of MP Transco increased to 79207MVA. In Madhya Pradesh, MP

Transco (Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission

Company) transmits electricity through its 416 EHV sub-stations. With this capacity increase, the total transformation capacity of Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company has increased to 79207 35262 MVA in 132 KV, 32750 MVA in 220 KV,

KV side is included. A total of 1014 power transformers of MP Transco (Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company) are operational

and 11195 MVA in 400

#### Man absconding in murderous assault case nabbed, sent to jail

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

hahjahanabad police arrested an absconding habitual criminal in a case of attempt to murder; accused along with his aide attacked a man on January 24. The accused Zaid Sheikh alias

Zaid RTO (28) of Nariyalkheda was arrested and produced before the court and was sent under judicial custody. On January 24, the accused

attacked Zuber Salmani resident of Bagh Munshi Hussain Khan and based on the complaint after preliminary investigation section 341, 294, 323, 324, 307, 34 IPC was registered against accused Zaid RTO and another unknown accused and started investigation.

During the investigation, the other accused in the case, Saeed alias Shaheed Khan was arrested on February 2 and section 25 of the Arms Act. The accused is currently serving in the central jail while accused Zaid Shaikh alias Zaid RTO was absconding since the date of the incident.

The accused has been booked for 12 crimes in different police stations of the state capital. On Tuesday acting on a tip off, the accused was arrested from Pandey gets with Life Time Achievement award

Bhopal: Senior journalist and

Nariyalkheda. Police would prominent social worker Keshav investigate who had helped in Pandey has been honored with absconding and crimes comthe Life Time Achievement Award. This honor was presented to him at the "Atal mitted during the time of absconding.

Meanwhile Misrod police have arrested a vehicle lifter and National Award Samman Ceremony" organized under the joint aegis of HRH Shrimant Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia seized vehicle worth Rs 90000, accused used to work as a Foundation and Atal Bharat delivery boy for Zomato using the stolen vehicle and used to Sports and Arts Association in do recce in colonies for steal-Újjain on Monday. The grand ing vehicles. ceremony was organized at the The accused hit another vehi-Pandit Surya Narayan Vyas cle driving the stolen scooter Auditorium of Kalidas Academy carelessly and escaped leaving

Mayor Mukesh Tatwal, the Chief Guest of the ceremony awarded Atal Bhushan, the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Keshav Pandey for his special contribution in the field of journalism as well as education, health, sports and art, and culture. During this event, wellknown personalities of the country who have done excellent work in various fields were honored with Atal Vibhushan, Atal Alankaran and Atal Yuva Samman. South India's famous film director and actor Mukesh, RK Chowksey, Preeti Chowksey, former MLA Mahant Rajendra Bharti and founder of the organization Dilip Chandra Yadav were prominently present in

the program.

#### Rare Disease Day celebrated at Pediatrics dept AIIMS Bhopal

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

Rare Disease Day was celebrated by the Center of Excellence for Rare Diseases and Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS Bhopal. This year's theme is "The Zebra". On this occasion, Professor (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal was present as the chief guest.

Expressing his views, he said that we should organize such awareness programs outside the campus, especially in colleges where future parents study and there is a greater need for such awareness. Professor Singh said that we should also include occupational therapy in the treatment of children suffering from rare diseases. We not only have to improve the lives of children but also make them self-reliant. Earlier, the presence was welcomed by Dr. Shikha Malik, Head of Pediatrics Head Department. He said that such programs were run throughout the month and during this period various types of com-petitions were also organized

which included debates, poster

making, slogans etc. Apart

from this, children suffering

from rare diseases also presented cultural programs. Also, the parents of these children shared their experiences and said that if we trust the doctor, we will definitely be able to provide a good life to the children suffering from rare dis-

Besides, AIIMS Bhopal has witnessed remarkable achievements in various academic forums. Recently, Dr M Sangita, Dr. Divya Bhushan and Dr. Rishabh Chandela, resident from the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, AIIMS Bhopal were awarded with the Fellowship for the training of

young scientists. The fellowship was awarded during the 39th Madhya Pradesh Young Scientist Congress organized by the Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology (MPCST) from 21st-23rd, Feb 2024 held at Madhav Institute of Technology and Science (MITS) in Gwalior. The fellowship comes with various benefits, including a fully funded training program for young scientists, which will help to enhance research skills and knowledge.



President of MP Congress Right to Information cell Puneet Tandon talking to media persons at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on

#### Indore Mining Deptt seizes 9 overloaded dumpers

PNS INDORE

s per the instructions of Madhya Pradesh Government and under the guidance of Indore Collector Ashish Singh continuous action is being taken by Indore District Mineral Department on illegal transportation of minerals. Indore ADM Gaurav Benal is giving guidance to Indore Mineral Department regarding to track and check illegal transportation of Mineral in Indore district. A team led by Deputy Director flying squad mining indore Division Dharmendra Chouhan 9 dumpers were seized

On Tuesday morning. Total 9 dumpers were seized by flying squad and is kept in the

Khudail. Assistant mining officer Jaideep Namdev told The Pioneer that action will be taken under the provisions of Illegal Mining Transport and Storage Rules 2022. All the 9 dumpers confiscated were overloade with Sand. Around 15 lakh rupees will be generated as government revenue in form of fine on this 9 dumpers.

custody of Police Station

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#### **Candidates demand cancellation of recruitment exam**

**STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

andidates have started protest demanding cancellation of Patwari recruitment in Madhya Pradesh. The candidates who have gathered to protest in Bhopal want to investigate the irregularities in the recruitment examination by constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and claimed that they will now gather for demonstration in Delhi.

Under the banner of National Educated Youth Union (NEYU), the candidates gathered at MP Nagar intersection in Bhopal. After protesting here, they marched towards Vallabh Bhawan. The police stopped them by placing barricades at Vyapam intersection. They were adamant on moving forward.

On this the police detained some protesters near the Congress headquarters. The protesters dispersed after warning of legal action.

The candidates who have gathered to protest in Bhopal want to investigate the irregularities in the recruitment examination by constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT)

When taken into custody, the protesters said that students from across the state would gather here. Such a dictatorship will not last. Atrocities on youth will not continue.

The result of the Patwari recruitment examination came on June 30, 2023. On the allegations of rigging, the then Shivraj government had put a stay on the appointment till the investigation. A commission for investigation was formed on July 19, 2023. The investigation continued for 8 months. Retired Justice Rajendra Verma submitted the report to the government.

After getting the clean chit for investigation report of the

the recruitment examination, on February 15, Dr. Mohan Sarkar of the state issued orders for early appointment of the selected candidates. The order issued by the General Administration

'Appointment should be

said,

Department

made only on the basis of the declared results of Group-2, Sub Group-4 and Patwari Recruitment Examination of the Staff Selection Board.' Ranjit Kisanvanshi of NEYU organization said, 'The organization demands from the government that these appointments should be stopped. Rajendra Kumar Verma should make the

get benefits committee public.

Candidates said that those who buy papers for Rs 10-15 lakh through the back door without issuing investigation report are being given appointment. There is 45 to 50% scam in this exam. If there had been a fair investigation, all these people would have been in jail. The government is talking about action against a few students who make fake certificates in the name of document verification, but no action has been taken against those making fake certificates in

Madhya Pradesh. The candidates first demonstrated at MP Nagar intersection. From here they proceeded to Vallabh Bhawan. They demanded investigation report of Patwari scam should be made public. SIT of technical experts should be formed under the leadership of Chief Justice, the culprits involved in the fraud should be punished.

# Officers, employees

Bhopal; The officers and employees working in Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Company (MPUDC), an undertaking of the Urban Development and Housing Department, will now get the benefit of the new contract policy of the state. Managing Director of the company Shri Bharat Yadav has issued orders in this regard. After the order was issued, the company employees expressed gratitude towards the state government. In July-2023, the state govern-ment had issued detailed guidelines regarding the contractual policy of employees working in the state.

Employees will start getting facilities like appointment opportunities on regular posts, salary increase as per Consumer Price Index, compassionate appointment in case of death during service, gratuity payment, benefits of National Pension Scheme and health insurance benefits under the benefits of contract policy.



Assistant Professor Dept of Data Science and Engineering IISER, Bhopal Tanmay Basu addresses on the topic 'Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat' organised during the National Science Day celebration at Regional Science Center in Bhopal on

#### 39-year-old cancer patient ends life by jumping before metro train

New Delhi: A 39-year-old man, who had been diagnosed with cancer, allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a train that was approaching a sta-tion on Delhi Metro's Yellow Line on Wednesday, according to officials. Services were delayed for about 35 minutes on the corridor after the incident that took place at Udyog Bhawan Metro Station, a senior DMRC official said.

According to Delhi Police officials, the man was upset due to his "illness", though "no suicide note was recovered". A PCR call about the incident was received at Rajiv Chowk Police Station. A team reached the spot and on enquiry and after seeing CCTV footage, "it was found that the person had committed suicide" by jumping in front of the train around 11:30 am at the station's platform no. 2, the police officials

His wife told the police that her husband, a resident of Delhi's Mukundpur area, was earlier working as a painter, but "since he was suffering from cancer, so nowadays he was not working, due to his illness". The body has been shifted to the RML hospital. Inquest proceedings under section 174 of the CrPC (unnatural death) is underway, police

A mobile number was found written in a slip recovered from

his pocket, they said. The body has been sent to mortuary for post-mortem. His wife also told the police that

he was under treatment from a leading hospital and he recently underwent a surgery. The train was going to Vishwavidyalaya Metro Station, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) official added.

The Yellow Line connects Millenium City Center-Gurugram and Samaypur Badli in Delhi. The DMRC in a statement said, "A male passenger allegedly jumped in front of an approaching train at Udyog Bhawan Metro station (going toward Vishwavidyalaya) at 11.30 AM today. The passenger was retrieved and was sent to the nearest hospital, and Delhi Metro Rail Police was also apprised".

A passenger earlier in the day said the metro he was travelling in around noon halted for more than 15 minutes at the Guru Dronacharya Metro Station which falls on the Yellow Line. The DMRC official said train services were "briefly regulated during this period and normal train movement was restored at 12:04 pm".

#### NDMC approves acceptance of power bills in installments However, consumers will have to

New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday approved acceptance of electricity bills in installments, procurement of short term solar/renewable energy power and plastic waster management byelaws.

Other proposals to get the nod in the NDMC council meeting chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal included an MOU between NDMC and Indian Bonsai Association for Bonsai Park at Lodhi Garden and annual estimate of the year 2024-25 for the work "Security Services/Arrangements at NDMC

Premises. On payment of electricity bills, officials said the NDMC has been consistently receiving grievances from consumers in the NDMC area, expressing their inability to pay accumulated electricity and water bills in full due to various reasons such as business losses, closures, and medical issues. Currently, the NDMC does not allow payment in installments, citing the absence of specific rules

or instructions on this matter.

adhere to some conditions while paying dues in installments. On solar power, they said the peak demand of NDMC is around 350-400MW during peak summer season. There is a deficit of around 200MW firm power to meet the demand. Out of the deficit power

as mentioned, NDMC prefers to procure deficit power through renewable sources to meet its peak demand as well as to meet the Regional Periphery of Seller.

ज्मांक/1026/अ.क.री./का.से./2024 विज्ञप्ति

The Council approved the proposal for procurement of short term Solar/RE power through M/s SJVN a Mini Ratna under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India, as a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the period of one year of duration 09 am to 05 pm in the quantum of 55 MW at the rate of 5.13 per unit through

अ. क्र.	कालोनाईजर का नाम व पता	स्थान जहां के लिये विकास अनुमति जारी की गई है	धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखंडो का विवरण
1	2	3	4
1	आवेदक मेसर्स मालवा डेव्हलपर्स तर्फे भागीदार श्री विकास चौधरी पिता श्री केशरीमल चौधरी पता:- 15/2, ओल्ड पलासिया, इन्दौर (म.ज.) कालोमी का नाम "GOLDEN PRIDE"	ग्राम-हिगोनिया तहसीर-कनाडिया दिला-इंदौर स्थित गृमि खसरा नंबर 304/2/2/3/2 +304/2/2/4 रकवा 1518 है. द्वसरा नंबर 304/2/2/5/2 खसरा नंबर 306/2/2 रकवा 0.58 है. कुल किता 04 कुल रकवा किता 04 कुल रकवा	बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क्र. एमपी 179132022ए1242492 इंदौर दिनांव 08.03.2022 से मूखण्ड क्रे. 7 से 9 ता 9 से 21 तक, 45.44, 98 से 5. तक, 61.6, 64 से 66 तक, 69, 87 से 89 तक, 99, 105 से 107 तक 111 से 122 तक, 13.0 इस प्रकार कुल 39 मुखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रकर 6869.50 वर्गांतिर सूचि संकर स्त्रे में वे तारपावात संयुक्त संवातन नगर तथा ग्राम निवेश, जिला कार्यालय इन्दौर (म.प्र.) के संशोधिर पत्र- क्रमाक 3037/एस.पी1/68/22/नग्रामि/2023 इन्दौर, दिनांत 140.8.2023 के स्नुसार पूचे में संकार स्त्रे में 39 स्वुष्णकों के स्थान पर संशोधित क्षंत्रकनामा पंजीकरण क्रमांक एमपी 179132023(1267144) इंदौर दिनांवा 81.2.2023 से मुख्यन्ड के, 7 से 10 तक, 19 से 21 वर्ष 5, 46, 49 से 54 तक, 62, 63, 67 से 69 तक, 72 से 76 तक, 90 से 92 तक, 104 से 108 तक, 111 से 115 तक, 124, 125 इस प्रकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के हमें का क्ष्रा कर मुख्यन्ड के स्त्रा मुंग हो से प्रकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के हमें का क्षर मुख्य के हमें का स्त्रा सुकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के हमें क्षर का 14 1155 इस प्रकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के हमें का क्षर सुकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के हमें का क्षर सुकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के का क्षर सुकार सुक्त 40 मुख्यन्ड के हमें का क्षर सुकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड के सुक्त का कुल के सुकार कुल के सुक्त का कुल के सुक्त का कुल के सुक्त का कुल के सुक्त के उन से 11 से 115 तक 124, 125 इस प्रकार कुल 40 मुख्यन्ड कि तक के सुक्त के कि कि तक के सुक्त के सुक्त सुक्त की सुक्त के कि कि तक के सुक्त के सुक्त के सुक्त की कि कि तक की सुक्त के कि तक की सुक्त के कि तक की सुक्त की सुक्त की कि तक की सुक्त की कि तक की सुक्त की कि तक की सुक्त की स

🍩 कार्यालय कलेक्टर, जिला इन्दौर (म.प्र.)

### यको बैक

Name of the

Borrower

Bhopal



Zonal Office: Plot No.22, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal Tel.: 0755-4046009

Reserve Price

EMD

Bid Increment Amt.

₹ 10,000/-

Appendix-IV-A [See provisio to rule 8(6) & 6(2)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 6(2)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/movable properties mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is "basis for recovery of Amount mentioned below plus interest and other expenses due to

#### UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors Last date for submission of online bids is 29.03.2024 upto 4.30 P.M. Date & Time of E-auction: 30.03.2024 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM

**Description of Property &** 

Name of Property Owner

	ULU Da	iik biiupai maiii braiicii, (u 130) biiupai	
Borrower: Mr. Ajay Choudhary s/o Ram Krishna Choudhary Co-Borrower: Mrs. Monika Kapoor w/o Mr. Ajay Choudhary	13.09.2023 23.11.2023 ₹ 16,33,404.90 +Any unrecovered interest/expense & incidental charges	Residential flat (Area-751.70 sq.ft.), Flat No. 101, first floor, Block-C, Nikunj Heights, Part of Kh.No. 336/1, Ward No85, Gram-Barrai, Katara Hills Road, Tehsil-Huzur, Bhopal (M.P) 462001  Property Owner- Mr. Ajay Choudhary and Mrs. Monika Kapoor  Boundaries: North-B-Block South- Flat no104 East- Flat no102 West-Road  Symbolic Possesion	₹ 18,50,000/- ₹ 1,85,000/- ₹ 10,000/-
ï	CO BANK, Piplani	Branch (0663), e-mail-piplan@ucobank.co.in	
Name of the Borrower	Demand notice Dt. Possession Notice Present Outstanding Amount	A PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment Amount
Borrower: M/s Bhopal Transmission Controls Pvt. Ltd	26-04-2005 08-02-2006 ₹744.97 Lakhs +Any unrecovered interest (evenese &	Scrap & remainders of old machinery for manufacturing & repairing of transformers, scraps of Tools, & scrap of transformers & its raw materials.  Physical Possesion	₹ 30,00,000/- ₹ 3,00,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided below website: https://mstcecommerce.com/ auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp & https://ibapi.in

Since UCO Bank has taken Symbolic/Physical possession of the aforementioned properties, it is the responsibility of prospective bidders to inspect the properties and satisfy themselves about the same and the bidder has to make their own due diligence regarding property.

The borrower/guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered along with interest and cost. This is also treated as 30 days statutory notice under SARFAESI

1.E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line". Bank reserves its right for sale of the property either in one lot or separately. The auction will be conducted through service provider MSTC at the web portal https://ibapi.in.

2. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/ rights/dues/encumbrances.

3. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property before submission of the bid. Intending bidders/Purchasers can inspect the property put on e-auction on 18.03.2024 between 12:00 PM and 04:00 PM.

4. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/ additional stamp duty/ transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/ non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.

5. The Authorized Officer/Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/ postpone/ cancel the e-Auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason there for.

6. The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant (s) only and will not be issued in

The sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial

**Authorised Officer** Place: Bhopai **UCO Bank** 

### Students walk the ramp in a bridal competition during silver jubilee annual celebration programme 'Ujaas' at Anand Vihar First Meerut Metro train set arrives at NCRTC Depot PNS NEW DELHI headways and increased (ATO). The Metro train has

he first Meerut Metro train set arrived at the NCRTC Depot in Duhai, Ghaziabad at midnight of February 27, 2024. Consisting of three cars, the train set was transported on large trailers and has been unloaded for further assembly and testing.

Recently, the first look of the Meerut Metro train set was unveiled by Vinay Kumar Singh, MD, NCRTC. Subsequently, Alstom has handed over the first train set to NCRTC at Savli, Gujarat. ery of Meerut Metro train sets, this marks the arrival of the first train sets at the NCRTC Depot in Duhai.

The Make in India, Meerut Metro trainsets, with modern design, is energy efficient, lightweight, and equipped with regenerative braking system, compatible with Automatic Train Protection (ATP), Automatic Train Control (ATC), and **Automatic Train Operations** 

a maximum operational speed of 120 kmph.

Meerut Metro aims to protransportation solution for the residents of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. With the arrival of trial runs of Meerut Metro will be started soon. The Meerut Metro corridor spans a length of 23 km with 13 rapidly, and all stations are

taking shape. This is the first time in the RRTS infrastructure. To enable this operation, NCRTC has implemented European Train Control system (ETCS) Level 2 signalling with Hybrid Level 3 over Long Term Evolution (LTE), marking a pioneering endeavour in global rail transportation. It seamlessly integrates the RRTS and service frequency. Meerut Metro design

encapsulates a modern aesvide a safe, fast, and modern thetic approach, prioritizing optimized passenger comfort, safety, and security. The trains are air-condi-Meerut Metro trainset, the tioned, featuring comfortable seating, luggage racks, grab handles, USB device charging facility, and many a length of 23 km with 13 other new-age facilities required for the convenience of modern-day commuters.

The Meerut Metro will comprise of three (3) Car country that both Namo Train sets. It will have With this unveiling and the Bharat trains and Meerut ergonomically designed 2x2 Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut tudinal seating arrangement. More than 700 passengers can travel in a train. It has state-of-the-art Modern Light Weight, Stainless steel coaches, comfortable standing space, luggage racks, CCTV cameras, mobile charging facility, dynamic route maps, infotainment system, illumination-based auto conmetro services within trol ambient lighting system Meerut, allowing for closer and other amenities.

#### कमांक/1038/अ.क.री./का.से./2024 विज्ञाप्ति इन्दौर, दिनांक 28/02/2024 मध्यप्रदेश पंचायत राज एवं ग्राम स्वराज अधिनियम 1993 (क्रमांक 1 सन् 1994) और उसके अधीन बनाए ग मध्यप्रदेश ग्राम पंचायत (कालोनियों का विकास) नियम 2014 के अधीन एतद् द्वारा **ग्राम बाल्याखेड़ा तहसील-कनाड़िया जिला इंदौर** में आवासीय भूखण्डीय विकास प्रयोजन हेतु कालोनी विकसित करने की अनुझा दी जाती है-कालोनाईजर का स्थान जहां के लिये विकास धरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये भूखंडों का विवरण नाम व पता अनमति जारी की गई है

₽.	नाम व पता	अनुभात जारा का गई ह	
1	2	3	4
1	गुप्ता पता:- 307-द मार्क 19/2, ओल्ड पलासिया इन्दौर	ग्राम बाल्याखेडा तहसील- कनाडिया जिला इंदौर थिथत भूमि खसरा नंबर 112/1 रकबा 0.705 है., खसरा नंबर 112/2/1 रकबा 1.707 है., खसरा नंबर 112/2/2 रकबा 1.499 है., खसरा नंबर 112/3 रकबा 0.757 है., खसरा नंबर 243/325 रकबा 1.343 है., खसरा नंबर 248/1 रकबा 0.133 है., खसरा नंबर 250 रकबा 0.376 है. कुल किता 07 कुल रकबा 520 है.	बंधकनामा पंजीकरण क. एमपी 179142022ए 272246 इंदौर दिनांक 15.03.222 से मूखण्ड क. ई-1 त्नायत ई-12 तक, ई-14, ई-14-ए, ई-20, ई-33, ई-88, ई-92, ई-93, ई-98 लगायत ई-105, ई एस-01 लगायत ई-एस-05 तक, इस प्रकार कुल मुखण्ड जिनका कुल क्षेत्रफल 12283 वर्गमीटर भूर्व बंधक रखे गये थे तत्पश्चात संयुक्त संचालक नग तथा ग्राम निवेश, जिला कार्यालय इन्दौर (म.प्र.) के प्रकार कर्म प्रकार कुल क्षेत्रफल 12283 वर्गमीटर भूर्व बंधक रखे गये थे तत्पश्चात संयुक्त संचालक नग तथा ग्राम निवेश, जिला कार्यालय इन्दौर (म.प्र.) के प्रकार कर्म पर्य पर्य वर्ष वर्ष वर्ष वर्ष वर्ष वर्ष वर्ष वर्ष

उपरोक्त कालम नंबर-4 में उल्लेखित 37 भखंड इस कार्यालय में घरोहर के रूप में बंधक रखे गये है अत: साघारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त भूखंडो का क्रय, विक्रय आगामी आदेश तक नही किया जावेग (सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा स्वीकृत)

#### Protest against sanitation inspector in Berasia

Bhopal: Locals protested a video of a sanitation inspector working in Bhopal Berasia Municipality after his video with a child in an objectionable manner surfaced.

After watching the video, the

local people created a ruckus outside the office, caught him and handed him over to the police. After this, on Wednesday the police also took into custody Akash Prajapati, who made the video. Now both are being interrogated. At the same time, the police have also found the victim's 12 year old boy. However, till Wednesday evening, an FIR has not been registered against the accused. Berasia's SDOP Anand Kaladagi said that a complaint has been received against Brijesh Soni. The authenticity of the video is being investigated. We will take further action after receiving the statements of the child seen in the video and the investigation report of the

video. According to the information, an obscene video of Brijesh Soni, posted as Sanitation Inspector in-charge in Berasia Municipality, went viral on social media on Tuesday. In which he is seen doing obscene acts with a child.

Berasia Municipality in-charge CMO Zahid Ali said that Brijesh Soni has been taken into custody by the police. No FIR has been filed against him.

#### **Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**

Corporate Office: Unit No.802. Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069 Bhopal Branch: Plot No.11, 3rd Floor, Alankar Complex, Ward No.47, M.P. Nagar, Zone-2, M.P. Nagar, Above ICICI Bank, Bhopal - 462991 (M.P.) Ashta Branch: Office No. 2, 1st Floor, Prakash Commercial Complex, Opposite Canara Bank, Kannaod Road, Ward No.16, Shastri Colony, Ashta - 466116 (MP

#### **E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of 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 property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is whai is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	Nature of possession
1.	(Loan Code No. 00600003618 / Bhopal Branch) Ravi Grover (Borrower), Vandana Patel (Co-Borrower)	09-05-2023 & ₹ 4,02,547/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Shop No. 5 Ward No. 40 Krishna Complex Barkhedi Road Bagumrao Dullah Infront of Sulabh Complex, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh- 462001. <b>Boundaries:</b> East- Office No. 04, West- Office No. 06, North- Property of Shri Geeta Prasad, South- Passage	Rs. 4,80,000/-	Rs. 48,000/-	Physical
2.	(Loan Code No. 13000000223 / Ashta Branch) Manoj Kumar (Borrower), Radhika Soni (Co-Borrower)	24-08-2022 & ₹ 7,73,481/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No. 656 2 8 Ward No 15 Malviya Nagar Near Naveen Public School Near Ambedkar Ground, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh - 466116 <b>Boundaries</b> : East- Land of Laik Bhai, West- 12 Ft Road, North- Lalta Bai House, South- Komal Singh House	Rs. 10,20,000/-	Rs. 1,02,000/-	Physical

Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is 29-03-2024 within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on https://bankeauctions.com. Tenders documents received beyond last date wil be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 30-03-2024 on https://bankeauctions.com at 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is Basis'

'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'. The Demand Draft Should be made in favorof 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only

Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://bankeauctions.com. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link https://bankeauctions.com/registration/signup, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website https://bankeauctions.com

For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore (Contact: 9977783890) OR the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: tn@c1india.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No. +917291981124/25/26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com The Bid incremental amount for auction is Rs.1000/-

Place: Madhya Pradesh Date: 29.02.2024

(Authorised Officer) For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002. Date: 28.02.2024

# Videograph LS voting process, BJP urges EC

The BJP on Wednesday urged the Election Commission to videograph the voting process at all polling stations during the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and set up booths in complexes housing high-rise buildings. In a memorandum, the BJP

also urged the poll panel to consider reforming the

make it faster, allowing them adequate time to plan their campaign.

It also requested the Election Commission to ensure there is no ambiguity in the rule pertaining to putting flags and making wall paintings by party workers at their homes during polls. "There should be clarity on this," they demanded.

A BJP delegation comprising

general secretary Arun Singh met the poll panel with the demands

"The BJP keeps making efforts to see how the entire poll process could be made more and more transparent and the voters' involvement in the elections be further increased.

Our delegation made some requests to the EC (in this regard)," Vaishnaw told



He said the BJP delegation urged the poll panel to set up booths at high-rise apartment complexes in urban areas as much as possible so that maximum eligible voters at such residential buildings could exercise their franchise.

'Our second request was that video recordings be done at 100 per cent polling booths (during the elections),"

booths only, he said, adding that 100 percent coverage of the polling booths will ensure proper documentation of everything happening there and it will increase people's faith in the country's vibrant

Over 12 lakh polling stations will be set up across the country for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, according to the Election Commission.

democracy

request with regards to operational issues.

We requested for beginning reforms in the process of granting approval to the media content of political

The approval process should be made faster so that every political party gets enough time to present their views and mould their campaign," he told reporters.

# BJP led NDA likely to get RS majority in April

The ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is likely to get a majority in the Rajya Sabha in April this year once the remaining six vacancies under the nominated category are filled and those newly elected take oath. According to data available with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, the BJP, which currently has 94 members, gained two seats in the Upper House in the just concluded elections, pushing its own strength to 96.

The strength of NDA, which at present has 113 members, will cross the half-way mark of 123 in the 245-member House in April this year once all nominated members take oath. At present, there are only six MPs who have been nominated by the President of India as members in the Rajya



Sabha, with some having joined the BJP later. There are a total of 12 nominated members in the House.

The data shows that with the support of some independents and nominated members, the NDA which did not have a majority in the Upper House so far will finally achieve the magic figure this April, helping it get crucial legislations passed in the Council of States. Elections were held on 56 Rajya Sabha seats in 15 states, in which the BJP won 30 seats, the Congress nine, SP 2, TMC 4, YSRCP 3, RJD 2, BJD 2, and NCP, Shiv Sena, BRS, and ID(U) one seat each.

With the Congress strength going down to 30 seats, the joint Opposition has less than 100 MPs in the Upper House. Having a majority in the Upper House is very crucial for the ruling dispensation as several key legislations have been stuck in the past due to

#### Nationwide free genetic testing announced PIONEER NEWS SERVICE In a groundbreaking move to Itackle rare diseases, India's ICMR-National Institute for Research in Reproductive and

The new Genetic Research Centre (GRC) will assess clinically abnormal cases of rare paediatric diseases as well as Family Welfare (MoHFW). track origins of undiagnosed In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most genetic disorders. It also aims to facilitate timely therapeutic interventions and provide critcommon cause of mortality in ical support for both patients newborns. With a very large population and high birth rate, Rare diseases are typically and consanguineous marriage chronic and progressive medfavored in many communities, the prevalence of genetic disthreatening risks to those orders is high in India. The

Department of Biotechnology

had launched in 2019, the

UMMID initiative with an aim

to to establish NIDAN Kendras

to provide counselling, prena-

tal testing and diagnosis, man-

agement, and multidisciplinary care in Government Hospitals wherein the influx of patients is more, to produce skilled clinicians in human genetics, and to undertake screening of pregnant women and newborn babies for inherited genetic diseases in hospitals at aspirational districts. Under the ICMR project, NIR-RCH centre with approval under the PCPNDT Act based in Maharashtra, plans nation-

wide services. Dr. Geetanjali Sachdeva, Director, highlights the trans-

formative impact on vulnerable sections of society. Dr. Shailesh Pande, Head of GRC, stresses raising awareness and enhancing testing accessibility to alleviate the societal burden of rare diseases, aligning with the national goal of universal healthcare access.

While the GRC is currently offering its services in Maharashtra, people with rare diseases from other parts of the country can avail the services, ICMR-NIRRCH said.

"Strengthening access to genetic testing and counselling for rare diseases will pave the way for their early diagnosis and timely intervention, helping improve the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable sections of society. This is a revolutionary step that can transform several lives, especially young lives in the country," said Dr. Geetanjali Sachdeva, Director, ICMR-NIRRCH, in a statement.

With no approved treatment for 95 per cent of rare diseases, the diagnosis of rare diseases is challenging. While early genetic testing is key, diagnosis is conducted through a distinctive blend of clinical and laboratory methods, including cytogenetic, biochemical, and molecular approaches.

At present, the centre is providing its services to around 570 families yearly, covering genetic conditions during infancy, childhood, and adolescence, as well as for reproductive difficulties faced by couples.

"Our centre is working to address a critical public health concern. By reaching out to special schools, hospitals and the public, we are striving to raise awareness around rare diseases and enhance uptake of essential testing and counselling. In doing so, we aim to mitigate the societal burden of these diseases and realise the national goal of a healthy society, with universal access to healthcare services," said Dr. Shailesh Pande, Medical Geneticist and Head GRC, in

# Law panel may propose simultaneous polls in 2029

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Law Commission is likely to recommend adding a new chapter to the Constitution on 'one nation, one election' and holding the gigantic democratic exercise of simultaneous polls for Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies across the country by mid-2029, sources said on Wednesday. The Commission, under Justice (retd) Ritu Raj Awasthi,

would recommend an amendment to the Constitution to add the "new chapter or part" on simultaneous elections, the sources said.

ommend synchronising the terms of legislative assemblies in "three phases" in the next five years so that the first simultaneous polls could be held in May-June 2029 when elections for the 19th Lok



Sabha are due.

The new chapter in the Constitution would include issues related to "simultaneous election", "sustainability of "common electoral roll" for Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, panchayats and municipalities so that the three-tier simultaneous polls could be held together "in one mend that the first phase go", they explained. The new may deal with state assemblies

chapter being recommended will have power of nonextant" to override other provisions in the Constitution dealing with terms of assem-

The five-year period in which the terms of assemblies will be synchronised will be spread over three phases. The Commission would recomcurtailed by a few months -three or six months. In case a government falls

Child Health (ICMR-NIR-

RCH) on Wednesday

announced free genetic testing

and counselling services

nationwide.

and their families.

ical conditions that pose life-

affected. Out of the 350 million

patients suffering from rare dis-

ease globally, India alone is

home to approximately 72-96

million patients, according to

the data Ministry of Health and

due to no confidence or if there is a hung House, the Commission would recommend constitution of a "unity government" with representatives from various political parties. In case the unity government formula does not work, the law panel would recommend holding fresh elections for the remainder of the term of the House. "Suppose fresh elections are called for and the government still has three years, then polls should be for the remainder of the term -- three ability," a source explained.

Besides the Law Commission, a high-level committee under former president Ram Nath Kovind is also working on a report on how simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, state legislative assemblies, municipalities and panchayats can be held by tweaking the Constitution and the existing legal framework. Along with the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May this year, elections for at least five assemblies are likely to take place, while state polls for Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand are expected later this year. Bihar and Delhi are scheduled

for assembly polls next year, while Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala are scheduled for 2026, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and nine states may have assem-

bly polls scheduled for 2028 -Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana.

## India, Germany to cooperate on high technology for military use

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India and Germany have resolved to closely collaborate on high-technology for military use in line with a broader aim to develop defence cooperation as a key pillar of the bilateral strategic partnership.
Besides this issue, ways to fur-

ther bolster strategic cooperation figured prominently at a meeting of the India-Germany high defence committee that was held in Berlin on Tuesday, defence ministry said here on

Wednesday. both the countries are set to carry out joint military exercises in the Indo-Pacific, in reflection of their growing defence ties.

The Indian delegation at the talks was headed by Defence



Secretary Giridhar Aramane while the German side was led by State Secretary at German defence ministry Benedikt

"Both sides discussed a range issues, with a focus on developing defence cooperation as a key pillar of the strategic partnership between India and Germany," the defence ministry

"They exchanged views on the

regional security situation, dis-cussed likely joint exercises with Germany in the Indo-Pacific, and deliberated on potential defence industrial projects and proposals. It said both sides emphasised

on the need for a closer defence partnership and connecting the defence industries from both sides together.

"Of particular focus was the collaboration in high technology in defence," the ministry said in a statement. The high defence committee meeting follows the visit of German Federal Minister of Defence

Aramane also interacted with prominent think tank German Institute of International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) in

#### Authorities to comply with guidelines on not requisitioning forest staff for election duty: NGT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has observed that it expects the authorities to comply with instructions regarding not requisitioning forest officers or vehicles for election duty during the Lok Sabha polls. The green panel was hearing a plea seeking directions to all states and Union Territories for implementing the instructions issued by the Election Commission of India, exempting territorial staff of the Forest department and forest vehicles from being requisitioned in the elections. Noting the governmentissued documents, a bench of National Green Tribunal Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava said, "We find that the circulars in regards to the relief claimed have already been issued by the competent authorities and, unless something contrary exists, these circulars need to be complied with by the concerned authorities.

The bench, also comprising Expert Member A Senthil Vel, underlined that the tribunal's jurisdiction is limited to civil cases raising a substantial question about environmental issues and those for implementing the National Green Tribunal's scheduled acts.

The National Green Tribunal Act provides jurisdiction to



the body over several acts, including the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, Forest (Conservation) Act, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Environment (Protection) Act, Public Liability Insurance Act, and the Biological Diversity Act.

"Since requisite instructions and guidelines have already been issued and concerned authorities are expected to comply with the same while ensuring the smooth holding of the election...," the tri-bunal said in an order passed on Tuesday.

"Hence, we are of the view that, at this stage, no further direction by the tribunal is required," it added.

The plea, filed by advocate Gaurav Bansal, underlined that a shortage of manpower could destroy the "precious natural resources" of forests. The Election Commission of

dated February 8 and June 7 last year that exempted certain categories of vehicles, including forest vehicles, and some categories of personnel, including senior forest officials and territorial staff of the Forest department, from being requisitioned for election duty, respectively, the tribunal noted. It also noted a circular of the

Central Empowered Committee dated February 2 that requested all chief secretaries not to requisition for election duty vehicles of wildlife sanctuaries, national sanctuaries and national games parks.

Additionally, a communication was issued by the Uttarakhand government the following day, exempting from the Lok Sabha elections duty Forest department vehicles allotted in various circles and personnel posted at the field level because of forest fires, the bench noted.

## Heed WHO warning, Mothers against vaping group urges nations to act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Mothers Against Vaping, a coalition of proactive and concerned mothers, has issued a call to action for South-East Asian nations to heed the World Health Organization's (WHO) warning regarding the rising use of new-age gateway devices like e-cigarettes and vapes, especially among children and youth.

This collective effort aims to combat what they describe as the "escalating vaping crisis" affecting young people.

The WHO's caution against the proliferation of vaping in the region underscores the urgent need to control the spread of e-cigarettes and similar products. Notably, India has taken a proactive stance by enacting the PECA 2019 legislation, which bans all aspects of electronic cigarette products, including production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement, deeming them illegal within the country. Dr. Rajesh Gupta, additional director of Pulmonology and Critical Care at Fortis Healthcare, emphasized that

claiming e-cigarettes can

eliminate nicotine addiction is scientifically inaccurate,

given their nicotine content.

Furthermore, the use of e-cig-

arettes can deliver higher

doses of nicotine and other



additional risks to users, especially young people.

Dr. Bhavna Barmi, a Clinical Psychologist and Founder of Happiness Studio, highlights the mental health impacts associated with vaping, including mood and anxiety disorders, suicidal thoughts, and depressive symptoms. Mothers Against Vaping also

drew attention to a survey conducted by the American Heart Association, presented in February 2023.

The findings of the survey revealed a concerning correlation between vaping nico-tine and THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the psychoactive component in marijuana and self-reported symptoms of depression and anxiety. The long-term conse-

quences of e-cigarettes remain

unknown, but studies have

already demonstrated seri-

ous lung injuries and adverse

health effects associated with

their use. Without effective control measures, the widespread prevalence of these new-age devices poses a genuine risk, potentially leaving our future generation with lasting health impairments.

"From causing chemical poisoning in users to jeopardising maternal and foetal health, vaping presents a myriad of physical health risks," said Dr Varuna Pathak, for-Professor mer

GGynaecology and Obstetrics, Gandhi Medical College. According to a new study, vapers are susceptible to infection by SARS-CoV-2, the virus that spreads COVID-19 and continues to infect people around the world. The researchers from University of California, Riverside said the liquid used in electronic cigarettes, called e-liquid, typically contains nicotine, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, and flavor chemicals

#### India, Nepal foreign secretaries hold talks, review bilateral ties



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $F_{\text{Kwatra and his Nepalese}}^{\text{oreign Secretary Vinay}}$ counterpart Sewa Lamsal on Wednesday reviewed various key aspects of India-Nepal bilateral ties.

Lamsal is in India in her first foreign visit after assuming charge as Nepal's foreign secretary recently.
"The two foreign secretaries

held discussions on the entire range of multifaceted cooperation between India and Nepal and also followed up on the seventh-India-Nepal joint commission meeting," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. The joint commission meeting the ministry of the meeting of mission meeting was cochaired by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Nepalese counterpart N P Saud in Kathmandu last month. "The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges

between the two countries and the priority India attaches to its relations with Nepal under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, and provides an opportunity to further advance our bilateral ties," the MEA said on Lamsal's visit. Foreign Secretary Lamsal is visiting India to participate in the eighth Asia Economic Dialogue being jointly convened by the MEA and Pune International Centre on Thursday in Pune.

Nepal is important for India in the context of its overall strategic interests in the region, and the leaders of the two countries have often noted the age-old "Roti Beti" relationship.

The country shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian states -- Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Landlocked Nepal relies heavily on India for the transportation of goods and services.

# Rajnath lauds Modi, highlights defence exports rise

highlighted "India's jump from

the 11th spot to the fifth" in

terms of the size of the

and

conference "We will be among

the top three in the world soon

and by 2047 we shall be a

He also credited the prime

minister's intervention for the

recent release from Qatar of

former Indian Navy officials

whom a court in the West

Asian country had awarded

He also recalled Russia and

Ukraine "halting their war for

developed economy".

death sentence.

expressed

economy

efence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday claimed that country's military exports rose by more than 20 years in the last five years, which was proof of India's "self-reliance" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

Addressing a gathering of local intelligentsia in north Bihar's Sitamarhi town, Singh said defence exports were worth "about Rs 1,000 crore, when I took over, and it has soared to worth over Rs 20 lakh crore". total defence

manufacture stands at a monumental one lakh crore. Try figuring it out by scribbling the number, in digits, on a piece of paper. This shows India is becoming self-reliant (atma nirbhar) and leaders across the world acknowledge that 21st century shall belong to India", said the Defence minister, who was on a daylong trip of Bihar.

The former BJP president asserted that his party was characterised by "no difference between words and deeds", and disclosed "I had been entrusted



with preparing the manifesto for elections in 2014 and again five years later. On both occasions, Narendra Modi had insisted that we do not make any promise that we could not

said abrogation of Article 370, scrapping of triple talaq and construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya showed "we always walk the talk (Jo kahte hain Kar ke dikhate hain)".

Going down the memory lane, he recalled having gone to jail at the height of the Ayodhya movement in 1990s "when I headed the BJP's youth wing".

a few hours, upon Modi's request, to facilitate return of our students" a year ago. "In contrast, governments

formed by the Congress in the past were known for empty eradicating promises of and corruption scandals that saw even Union ministers landing in jail", said the senior BJP leader.

Singh, who is on a day-long tour of Bihar, had earlier paid obeisance at the nearby Punaura Dham, a shrine situated at the spot where Goddess Sita is believed to have been discovered by King Janaka.

"The way Prime Minister Narendra Modi's credibility has been rising, there will be no area left where the lotus would not bloom", Singh had told reporters on the occasion. He was also asked whether the lotus would bloom "for the first time" in Sitamarhi, a Lok Sabha seat the BJP has never seen.

He replied "With the blessings of Mother Janaki, the lotus would bloom in Sitamarhi, too", but hastened to add, with a ghost of smile on his lips, saying "there is a pond nearby

with lots of lotuses. So there is no problem".

Notably, the party has not fielded its own candidate in Sitamarhi after the 1998 Lok Sabha polls, leaving it for allies like Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) or, in 2014 when he fought separately, for the now defunct RLSP.

The JD(U) had won the seat in 2019, when it fielded Sunil Kumar Pintu, a BJP man who chipped in after the official candidate of the Chief Minister's party returned his

It is being understood that the JD(U) wants to contest the seat again and Nitish Kumar, who is now the party president, has assured state legislative council Chairman Devesh Chandra Thakur that he will be the candidate this time.

This has met with resentment from Pintu while the BJP has been maintaining a studied silence over the issue.

The Union minister declined to take questions on development of Sitamarhi, which is not a patch on Ayodhya in terms of infrastructure, despite being a part of the "Ramayana Circuit".

## Mizoram adopts resolution against India, Myanmar border fencing

¬he Mizoram Assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution opposing the Centre's decision to fence the India-Myanmar border and scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) with the neighbouring country.

The resolution, moved by Home Minister K Sapdanga, urged the Centre to reconsider its decision

It urged the Union government to instead take steps to ensure that Zo ethnic people, "who have been divided in different countries, are unified under one administrative unit".

While moving the resolution, Sapdanga said the Zo ethnic people, who have inhabited Mizoram and the Chin hills of Myanmar for centuries and once lived together under their own administration, have been geographically divided when the British occupied the

He said the British demarcated the India-Myanmar border and divided the Zo ethnic people's land into two countries.

'The Zo ethnic people can't accept the India-Myanmar border, which has been imposed on them by the British. They have been dreaming of reunification under one administrative unit someday," the home minister said. He said fencing the India-Myanmar border or scrapping the FMR, which will mandate the approval of the imposed boundary, is unacceptable for the Zo ethnic people.

Mizoram Although the government is yet to receive official intimation about the Centre's plan, it is evident from media reports and statements of Union ministers that the Centre is planning to fence the India-Myanmar border and suspend the existing FMR with

Myanmar, he said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on February 6 announced that the entire India-Myanmar border would be fenced. Two days later, on February 8, he said that the Centre has decided to scrap the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR) to

maintain the country's internal security and demographic structure of the northeastern Sapdanga alleged that the

decisions recent motivated mainly by the demands of the Manipur government.

The idea of fencing the India-Myanmar border and lifting the FMR, as reported in a section of media, stemmed out of some reasons, including national security, smuggling of contraband items, illegal immigration and movement of insurgents, he said.

Sapdanga said security "can't be an excuse" for fencing the India-Myanmar border and lifting the FMR. "If the Centre is so concerned

about national security, it should also fence all the international borders that the country shares neighbouring countries," he

It should also abolish the mechanism India has with Nepal and Bhutan, under of people

Asked about the speculations

territory without a visa, he

He said that even during the peak period of insurgency in the northeastern states, the FMR with Myanmar was never questioned.

He said that fencing the international border and lifting the FMR will severely affect people living along the border on either side.

Turge the Centre to consider the hardships that will be faced by the Zo ethnic people if the India-Myanmar border is fenced and the FMR is scrapped," Sapdanga said.

After a prolonged discussion,

the assembly unanimously

adopted the resolution. Chief Minister Lalduhoma and Leader of the Opposition, Lalchhandama Ralte of the Mizo National Front (MNF), were present. Four Indian states

Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh — 1,643-km-long share a international border with Myanmar.

Mizoram shares a 510-kmlong border with Myanmar's Chin state and the Mizos share ethnic ties with the Chin people. Mizoram's

civil organisations and student bodies also strongly opposed the Centre's decision to fence the border and lift the FMR

# Had health issues: BJP MLA who skipped RS polls voting

PTI KARWAR (KARNATAKA)

 $B^{\text{JP MLA Arabail Shivaram}}_{\text{Hebbar} \quad \text{on Wednesday}}$ cited health issues as the grounds for abstaining from voting in the Rajya Sabha elections

He said there was no link between his abstention and his disgruntlement with the district unit of the party. The Yellapur MLA did not

turn up for the voting despite a party whip, while Yeshwanthpur MLA S T Somashekhar voted in favour "conscience", during the polls to four seats of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka on Tuesday, in an embarrassment to the BJP. Somashekhar on Wednesday participated in the Assembly session, and was seen in his designated seat on the opposition side, among other BJP MLAs.

Both Somashekhar and Hebbar were earlier in the Congress. They were among 17 Congress-JD(S) legislators, who had quit from their parties, which ultimately led to the collapse of H D Kumaraswamy-led coalition government in July, 2019. They had subsequently won the bypolls on BJP ticket and served as Ministers in the previous saffron party

"My health was not good in the morning (on Tuesday), I had planned to go (for voting), on Doctor's advice after 6 PM I had to come back, for this reason I could not vote. Nothing else. I could have gone for voting and could have done cross voting or could have come without voting for anyone," Hebbar said in response to a question.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, he was not a person who would abstain from voting out of any fear, and has been in politics for four decades.

assistant the whip was issued to me after 1 PM (on Tuesday). When the whip should be issued, how...Law will take its course," he further said.

Hebbar said, there was no "relationship" between him abstaining from voting and his unhappiness with the party, and there are forums to express disgruntlement.

Asked whether he was giving any warning to the party by abstaining, he said, "I have not given any warning, I had some (health) issues, so could not

go. Hebbar said: disgruntlement is only at the district level. I have no disgruntlement at the state or national level. I have said this earlier too, I am saying it again

al capital, are expected to attend

PTI AGARTALA

A three-member delegation of Tipra Motha, led by its chief Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday evening to attend a meeting called by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a senior leader of the Tripura Chief Minister Manik

Saha and his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma, who are currently camping in the nationthe MHA meeting, Tipra Motha leader Animesh Debbarma said. Earlier in the day, leaders of Tripura's main opposition party launched a fast-unto-death at Hatai Katar in West Tripura district demanding a constitutional solution to the issue of Tiprasa people. Animesh Debbarma said Pradyot Kishore Manikya Debbarma, party president BK Hrangkhawl, and ex-MLA Rajeswhar Debbarma are slated to attend the meeting, the agenda of which has not been revealed. "Our movement is continuing at

Hatai Katar seeking a permanent constitutional solution to the problem of Tiprasa people. The party is determined to find a solution to the vexed problem", he said. "There has been no law and order problem at Hatai Katar. Adequate security personnel have been deployed in the area as a preventive measure' said AIG (Law & Order) Jyotishman Das Chowdhury

## Assam Congress working president Goswami resigns, likely to join BJP

Assam Congress working president Rana Goswami resigned from the party on Wednesday and headed to New Delhi where he is likely to join the BJP. Goswami had on Sunday resigned as the party's organisational in-charge of Upper Assam citing "various political reasons".

her to state tendering my resignation as the working President of Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and as an active

member of Indian National Congress," he said in the resignation letter addressed to Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal. Soon after resigning, he went to New Delhi where he is likely to meet BJP president JP Nadda in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, sources in the state's ruling party said.

Debabrata Saikia of the Congress told reporters that Goswami has not given any reason for quitting the party.



"He has not given any reason for quitting the party. If it is given, we can analyse and take suitable action to rectify the situation," Saikia said.

The party had some inkling about Goswami's decision as he was absent from several political programmes, but he should have discussed his grievances with the Congress state president," he added.

tion would affect the Congress. "I will not deny it, but we will continue with our efforts to strengthen the party," he said.

of Goswami switching sides, the chief minister on Tuesday had said he had no information about it, but "he is a powerful leader of the Congress and if he joins the BJP, I will welcome it". Goswami was a close associate of former CM Tarun Gogoi,

and was elected to the assembly in 2006 and 2011 from Jorhat. He was appointed the state party's working president in 2021.

Earlier this month, Congress Kamalakhya MLA Purkayastha resigned as state working president and along er party Basanta Das, expressed support for the BJP-led Das, government's "development



Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt Gen (Retd) KT Parnaik on Wednesday received his (EPIC) from State election officials here.

After receiving the card, the governor said voting is a fundamental right which must be exercised by all responsible citizens.

"It is a way to safeguard people's rights and freedom by ensuring that everyone has a voice in the political process," he said.

Parnaik said voting is the cornerstone of democracy and it is essential for ensuring that governments are accountable. responsive, and reflective of the

"It is a way for citizens to have regulations that govern society. Moreover, it is a way for people to feel connected to their communities and have a sense of ownership over the decisions that affect their lives," he added.

### Shinde Government distributing funds to BJP, Shiv Sena only: MLC

Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator Anil Parab on Wednesday alleged in the Maharashtra legislative council that the state government was distributing funds meant for development works to the lawmakers of the BJP and ruling Shiv Sena only, and said it was an "injustice" to common people.

He made the allegation in the House citing a detailed response availed under the

Right to Information (RTI) Act. "I have detailed information obtained under the RTI Act, which states that development funds are disbursed to the legislators belonging to either BJP or Shiv Even Sena. commissioner (I S Chahal) told me that he cannot release funds without the chief minister's approval. Why do you have to stoop low in the name of development work? People are suffering due to it,"



Parab said. He also asked the government to clarify under what provisions the guardian ministers of Mumbai city and

Trader loses ₹3.61 crore

Mumbai suburban district can dictate the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to release and utilise its funds. The BMC is an independent body," the leader of the Uddhay Thackeray-led Sena said. Road construction tenders are flawed, he alleged, and claimed that releasing funds early to the contractors would now result in more chaotic roads as the work will stretch for a long period. "The BMC has guidelines for construction of

Eknath Shinde government ignored it completely and proceeded to issue the work orders rampantly," he added. "Construction of roads is going on, but it will not be completed in time as the civic body imposed a fine on contractors after we complained to the BMC administration. There is no information available whether the fine was paid. In many cases, the work is not moving ahead," he said.

will of the people. a say in shaping the laws and

# **Stalin inaugurates**

government.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday inaugurated infrastructure projects and also felicitated a couple who prevented a train accident in the state's Tenkasi district.

Stalin inaugurated electricity infrastructure projects established jointly by the Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited and the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited at a cost of Rs 7,305.49

He also threw open office buildings and quarters for revenue divisional officers and tehsildars and office buildings for revenue inspectors and village administrative officers, built at a cost of Rs 12.27 crore. A pedestrian subway constructed by the Chennai



videoconferencing. The chief minister later

felicitated farm workers Shanmugaiah and his wife Vadakithiammal who ran on railway tracks and prevented an express train from colliding into a truck that had rolled over from and fallen on the track at Puliyur village on

Metro Rail Limited under the Central Square Project at a February 25. He presented them with a cost of Rs 9.75 crore was also

cheque for Rs 5 lakh as a token of appreciation for risking their lives in averting a major accident The chief minister also

provided a Startup Innovation Grant of Rs 50,000 and a commendation certificate to twins Raman and Lakshmanan of Backyard dedicated Creators, affordable healthcare solutions.

year-old businessman from Mumbai fell prey to an online investment fraud and ended up losing Rs 3.61 crore, police said on Wednesday. The Cyber Police have so far frozen an amount of Rs 2.20

> official said. The alleged transactions took place between May 20 and October 7 last year after the businessman was contacted by three persons, including two women, online who lured him into investing in a scheme by promis-

crore and 330 bank accounts, an

Agarment unit owner has been arrested after a 73-

"They also created a WhatsApp group, made an online agreement with the businessman, and sent it to his email ID. The agreement mentioning the returns on the investments was shared in the group to gain the trust of the businessman," he

ing hefty returns, the official



The victim invested Rs 3.61 crore. As he didn't get any returns on his investment, he approached the West Region Cyber Police Station in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and lodged a complaint.

The name of the garment unit owner, Ketab Ali Kabil Biswas, came to the fore during the investigation and he was arrested on charges of cheating and forgery under the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act on Monday.

"During the investigation, the cyber police froze Rs 2.20 crore which had been diverted into two bank accounts. Prima facie, as many as 330 bank accounts used by fraudsters have also been frozen," the official added.

### Jagan disburses ₹1,294 crore under YSR Rythu Bharosa PM Kisan scheme

PTI AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Wednesday disbursed Rs 1,294 crore under YSR Rythu Bharosa - PM Kisan scheme for the fifth year, including interest subvention for the fourth year under YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu scheme.

Out of Rs 1,294 crore, Rs 1,078 crore funds have been disbursed to more than 53 lakh farmers at the rate of Rs 2,000, while Rs 216 crore will go in the form of interest subvention for timely repayment of interest on crop loans taken during Rabi-2021 and Kharif-2022 seasons to 11 lakh farmers.

"State welfare depends on farmers' welfare and keeping that in mind, the government has taken several steps for the welfare of farmers in the last 57months," said Reddy, in a virtual address to officials and



office.

According to the CM, the YSRCP government paid Rs 67,500 to each farmer under the Rythu Bharosa scheme in the past 57 months, which is Rs 17,500 more than the Rs 50,000 promised in five years. The state government has been implementing various welfare schemes with commitment for the benefit of farmers and hand holding them at every step, unlike the previous TDP regime that ditched the crore loan waiver promise, he Until now, Reddy said, Rs 34,288 crore has been disbursed under YSR Rythu

Bharosa - PM Kisan and Rs 2,050 crore via YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu schemes, benefiting 85 lakh farmers.

He highlighted that both the schemes are helpful to small and marginal farmers by meeting 80 percent of their cultivation expenses.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

# **Upper hand**

Showing astute political strategy in RS polls, BJP seems all set for Lok Sabha elections

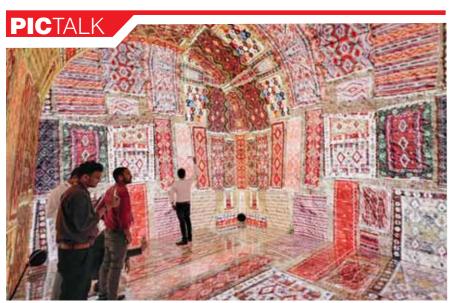
ven before the Lok Sabha elections, whose dates are yet to be confirmed, the BJP is busy securing one political citadel after another. Beyond the mathematical calculation of winning eight Rajya Sabha seats of the 15 available in three States, it has managed to bag two extra seats — the lone seat in Himachal Pradesh and one in Uttar Pradesh, dealing another body blow to the INDIA bloc, an Opposition alliance. Worse, the upset in Himachal would likely embolden the saffron party to demand a trust vote against the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Government. Already, the Congress Government is seeing a fresh scramble for power amid abandonment by its own members, the latest being the announcement of resignation by State PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh. Trouble has been mounting for the Congress since Tuesday, when it lost the sole Rajya Sabha seat to the BJP with six of its members cross-voting in the poll. The RS elections are often seen as a litmus test of political equations with-



in States and among parties. They reflect the ability of political parties to rally support and secure positions of influence in the Upper House of Parliament. However, the cross-voting has added a new dimension to the political landscape, indicating possible shifts in alliances and loyalties. The INDIA bloc, comprising 28 Opposition parties, had hoped to consolidate its position in the Rajya Sabha. However, this setback has raised questions about the cohesion and effectiveness of the Opposition alliance, even in States where the Congress is in power.

These instances of brazen cross-voting have not only raised eyebrows but also sparked speculation about

its potential implications for the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP's success in securing additional seats through cross-voting underscores its growing clout and organisational strength, especially in key battleground States. For the Opposition, the Rajya Sabha poll results serve as a wake-up call, highlighting the need for greater unity and coordination. The failure to prevent cross-voting not only reflects internal fissures but also raises questions about the effectiveness of their electoral strategy. As the Lok Sabha elections draw near, the Opposition parties must regroup and realign their priorities to present a formidable challenge to the BJP. At the same time, the BJP's latest triumph should not be viewed in isolation. It reflects the party's relentless pursuit of expanding its footprint across regions and States. The BJP's ability to capitalise on opportunities, whether through defections, alliances or cross-voting, underscores its status as a formidable political force. Looking ahead, the Rajya Sabha poll results indicate a shifting landscape where traditional alliances may no longer hold sway, and parties must adapt to changing realities to stay relevant. The BJP's latest success is a testament to its adaptability and astute political strategy. In modern times, political expediency is everything; moral values, ideologies and loyalties can be taken up later.



isitors during the Bharat Tex 2024, a global textile expo, in New Delhi'

The US presidential election: Trump redux



Former US President Donald Trump's recent victory over his challenger, Nikki Haley, in South Carolina has injected fresh energy into the American presidential election race

n Saturday, former President Donald Trump's win over his challenger, Nikki Haley, intensified the American presidential election race. With this win, Trump is moving toward a clear path to the Republican nomination. He dominated the primaries so far, in which voters select a party's nominee who will compete in the general election. " On November 5, we'll get up here and say, 'Joe, you're fired! You're fired! Get out!" Trump said after his South Carolina win.

According to polls, the next presidential election on November 5 is expected to be close. It will be a replay between the current President, Joe Biden, and the former President, Donald Trump, just like in 2020. Additionally, there will be third-party candidates in the upcoming election. Both presidential candidates are old. American media reports suggest that some people prefer a third option. They believe there is little difference between them. Fewer Americans are interested in a potential rematch between these two candidates. Biden wants to finish the work he started in his first term. He believes winning a second term is crucial to preserving America's democratic traditions. However, some people worry about his age and the reported memory loss, while others support him. Republicans have criticised him for this.

Historically, since 1944, no US President has lost an election without a recession during the election cycle or just before. Being the incumbent President is in Biden's favour. He has no serious challengers in his party. Though Biden's poll numbers are low, the Democrats do not have an alternative plan.

The two presumptive presidential candidates must complete several steps before the November elections. From January 15 to June 4, 2024, states will hold caucuses and primary elections to choose their preferred candidates. The two candidates with the most support from their party members will officially become the nominees during the conventions. The Republican National Convention confident that he is the only



Suppose President Trump is re-elected for a second term; he may seek retribution against his adversaries. There are concerns about whether Trump intends to decrease the number of federal civil service employees, tighten immigration regulations, and terminate the Affordable Care Act. Trump has also vowed to make trade with China more challenging, hinting that he may not defend all NATO partners. Biden's low approval ratings and reported memory issues made it necessary to impress his supporters that he has the energy and ability to serve another four years as President.

He will be 81 when elections will occur from July 15 to July 18 Democratic candidate capable



VOTE FOR THE PARTY THAT BEST **SERVES THEIR ECONOMIC** INTERESTS. HISTORICALLY, THEY HAVE TENDED TO SUPPORT THE **GOVERNING PARTY DURING GOOD** TIMES, WHILE IN BAD TIMES, THEY PREFER THE

of defeating Trump. He has emphasised his role in protecting democracy overseas. In the campaign, he's been focusing on the threat to democracy within the USA. United States. As for his performance, Biden fulfilled vital campaign promises, like creating jobs and restoring normalcy after COVID. Americans tend to vote for the party that best serves their economic interests. Historically, they have tended to support the governing party during good times, while in bad times, they prefer the opposition. In 1992, Bill Clinton used the campaign slogan "It's the economy, stupid" to emphasise the signifi-cance of the economy in pol-

Trump faces 91 criminal charges under four indictments. They are: For falsifying his business records in New York; For withholding classified federal government documents in Florida; And for attempts to overturn the 2020 election in two separate cases in Washington and the state of Georgia. Despite these serious allega-

tions, a significant number of members of the Republican party continue to show support for him. He has the support of those who believe in

"White supremacy." It remains to be seen how Trump's potential convictions will impact his popularity. The next President will also have to deal with the unexpected and the crises. The international community

closely monitors the situation, anticipating the outcome of the country's next major democratic test. The world wants to know how well the country will fare in its next big democratic test, as President Biden and Democrats project Trump as a threat to democracy. While the November election will be closely contested, independent voters, especially in swing states like Michigan, Wisconsin, and Georgia, will decide the outcome of the

America values youth, but how they will compromise with Trump or Biden is still being determined. The country has seen their performance. They have no choice except to choose one or the other. Trump hopes that a second term could deliver vindication for him, who has pushed baseless claims that the 2020 election was stolen. For continuity.

> (The writer is a popular columnist, views expressed are personal)

### THE EDITOR

# Dropshipping: The human touch in a digital era



With its low-risk, high-reward approach, dropshipping offers a gateway to success, empowering ventures to thrive in the competitive arena

s technology has become more accessi-ble to billions of individuals, the e-commerce sector has emerged as a dominating force in today's complex and global marketplace. According to Mordor Intelligence, India's e-commerce market size is expected to skyrocket to \$299.01 billion by 2029, with a CAGR of 21.50%, and is estimated to be \$112.93 billion in 2024. While it might seem easy to others, the truth is that succeeding in e-commerce requires significant effort. This is where to establish a trustworthy reputation in today's competitive era, dropshipping has emerged as a viable option for entrepreneurs and small businesses. The importance of

Dropshipping: Dropshipping has revolutionised the e-commerce landscape, providing an entry point for entrepreneurs and small businesses with low investment and risk. Unlike traditional retail models that necessitate inventory and logistics management, dropshipping enables businesses to collaborate with reliable



tomer service, ultimately creating a unique brand identity that appeals to their target audience.

Furthermore, this personal touch in the digital age sets them apart from their competitors and helps establish trust and loyalty among customers. As online shopping continues to grow, dropshipping will become a critical tool for staying competitive in the ever-changing e-commerce market. Plus, according to IMARC, the global dropshipping market is expected to reach \$1,787.4 billion by 2032, with a growth rate (CAGR) of 23.46% from

2024-2032. How to craft a unique brand identity with dropshipping: unique brand identity is imperative, dropshipping offers a convenient and costeffective way to achieve this. With dropshipping, companies can customise their brand image and choose unique products to appeal to particular clientele groups. Through dependable supplier partnerships and efficient marketing techniques, entrepreneurs can also establish a distinctive brand identity that appeals to their intended market. This uniqueness helps firms stand out from the competition in the digital era and draws in customers while also encouraging brand loyalty.

Empowering businesses to succeed! While dropshipping uses technology and automation to streamline operations, it is ultimately the human touch that sets businesses apart in the digital age. Thus, by embracing the human touch and prioritising meaningful interactions, small businesses and entrepreneurs can differentiate themselves in a crowded marketplace and build a loyal customer base that transcends transactions. suppliers, allowing them to In an era where having a Furthermore, when business-

es dropship and focus their operations, a plethora of opportunities arise that empower them to succeed in today's ever-evolving era.

In conclusion, as technology continues to democratise commerce, the e-commerce sector thrives, with India's market poised for exponential growth. Amidst this landscape, dropshipping emerges as a vital strategy for entrepreneurs and small businesses to navigate the competitive realm.

By leveraging reliable suppliers and focusing on branding, dropshipping facilitates unique market positioning, crucial for sustained success. As the global dropshipping market burgeons, embracing this model empowers businesses to craft distinctive identities, fostering customer loyalty and longevity. Ultimately, while technology drives efficiency, it's the human touch that propels businesses forward, ensuring relevance and resilience in the dynamic e-commerce sphere.

(The writer is prominent player in the Indian eCommerce industry and domain expert of dropshipping; views are personal)

#### **DIDI'S HOLLOW SLOGAN**

Sir — The horrific events that have unfolded in Sandeshkhali have paid to Mamata Didi's vaunted slogan of Maa, Mati, and Manush. The political slogan coined by Mamata herself has turned out to be a grim joke on the state's people. Murder, Mayhem, and Molestation have usurped Maa, Mati, and Manush, going by the horror stories coming out of Sandeshkhali. The deliberate misreading of the Calcutta HC stay order on the formation of an SIT and CM Mamata Banerjee's stock response to the horrific incidents at Sandeshkhali - outsiders and BJP/ RSS people are involved - leaves nobody in doubt that the main accused, Shahjahan Sheikh, enjoys the protection and patronage of Didi. Now that the HC has rapped the West

Bengal government on the knuckles, it has promised to arrest Sheikh within a week. This sudden volte-face indicates that Sheikh is within earshot. Didi has now no option left but to arrest Sandeshkhali's bête noire and her party's henchman, Shahjahan Sheikh. Here's hoping Didi will show some spine.

Avinash Godboley | Dewas

**SPENT FORCE** Sir — In the never-ending battle between the police and the Maoists, either in Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand, the former has almost decimated the latter. The latest was the killing of three Maoists in the Koyalibeda forest area of the Kanker district in Chhattisgarh on Sunday. Significantly, Home Minister Amit Shah in a series of posts on X on Friday had said that the Centre's holistic approach, contributing to health and educational upliftment in the tribal areas dominated by the naxals, resulted in curbing naxalism to a great extent. Familiarity with the surroundings and rapport with the locals have acted as weapons for the police. Intelligence gathering has been a Maoist--forte; the police have succeed-

#### **Poverty on decline**



iti Aayog has recently made an important claim about poverty in the country citing the Consumer Expenditure Survey. Poverty in the country has been reduced by five per cent. Just read the news that the National Sample Survey Office conducted the survey. For this, about one lakh seven thousand families in urban areas and one lakh fifty-five thousand families in rural areas were selected. Along with this reduction in poverty, per capita monthly expenditure has doubled compared to 2011-2012. It has been men-

tioned in the report that the per capita monthly expenditure in the urban section is 6459 rupees and the expenditure in the rural section is 3773 rupees. People in both urban and rural areas have achieved economic progress.

Due to this, the race for development is going on. Compared to 2011-2012, the gap has reduced now. It has now come to 71 per cent from 84 per cent. Especially in the year 2004, this difference was almost 91 per cent. There have been changes in lifestyle in both these areas. As the purchasing power of both regions increases, they seem to be spending more on milk, fruits, and vegetables. Overall, this survey has brought out a big issue regarding the reduction of poverty. This is the result of the economic progress that has been going on under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi in the last ten years.

Shantaram Wagh Pune

game. Counselling the local tribals against giving in to the Maoist demands figures right on top of the agenda. Over the years, many Naxals have

given up their violent ways, and the credit should go to the concerted effort of the security forces. A combination of a humanitarian touch and taking the fight into the Maoist camps has paid rich dividends. According to Home Ministry data, in the last nine years, there has been a significant decline in left-wing extremism-related violence and deaths. Fatalities among both security forces and civilians have drastically reduced, by 72 and 68 per cent respectively, and these are exceptional numbers that we can see and it shows a psotive figure.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

**CRUELTY ON ANIMALS** Sir — The circus, often seen as a place of amusement and wonder, hides a darker truth behind its colourful curtains. Behind the spectacle, lies a world ed in beating the opponents at their own of suffering, as animals endure brutal

training methods including deprivation and beatings, to perform unnatural tricks. Tigers forced to jump through fiery hoops and elephants forced to balance on small platforms are emblematic of this exploitation.

The mental and physical well-being of the animal worsens as a result of this wrongdoing. Many suffer from injuries while others endure psychological distress from social deprivation and incarceration. Despite increased cognisance, the circus industry continues to prioritise profit over animal welfare. It's time to acknowledge the pain and suffering foisted upon circus animals in the name of entertainment. By boycotting animal-centric circuses and supporting cruelty-free entertainment, we can help end the exploitation of circus animals and create a world where laughter does not come at the expense of sentient

Tanisha Gupta | Ujjain

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## **FIRST COLUMN**

#### **BUILDING BRIDGES** WITH EMPATHY

It is incumbent upon us to ensure that every student receives vital lessons in empathy



SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

fter being constantly taunted for her height, skin colour and academic performance by her fellow students for months, a 12-year-All girl cut her wrists in an attempt to end her mental agony. Fortunately, she was saved. But a 16-year-old student of Class 10, who jumped off the top floor of the apartment building he was living in, did not survive. It was his letter to his mother in which he wrote that the school had killed him, that revealed the shocking details of bullying he was subjected to and the school's failure to stop it. While several steps have been taken to put an end to bullying, penal action can only be a temporary deterrent and not a long-term solution especially in the present milieu of hyped social media, freely available toxic content and, peer

If children are taught to engage empathetically, can it inculcate feelings of respect, dignity and compassion for all? Project Empathy, an endeavour to bring empathy education into school curricula, believes being empathetic can nurture emotionally and mentally strong human beings. When young students understand the importance of living in harmony with one another, the 'walls of division' between them transform into 'walls of friendship'. Contrary to popular belief, empathy can be taught. While 50% of our empathic capacities are genetically inherited, research shows that the rest can be learnt. This is the biggest reason why empathy must be taught at a young age. Over the last five years, Project Empathy led by educationist Vibha Lakhera, introduced this concept and developed activities and stories that acknowledge, recognize and identify emotions and broaden the discussion around emotional health and well-being of every



Empathy education helps to enrich the emotional vocabulary of students and build their emotional and mental resilience. Introduced in about six schools mainly army schools like the Army Rifles Public Schools in North India and Kashmir and Alok Bharati Public School in Delhi, the project has been able to reach out to over 1500 students. Importantly, teachers, who lay the foundation for their values, have been recognized as critical to the success of teaching empathy.

This resource book for teachers draws from the education system and best practices in schools in Denmark and Finland, two countries among the top three happiest countries in the world according to the United National Happiness Report. Put together by Lakhera and veteran development journalist Usha Rai, the interesting manual explains the neuroscience of empathy with the help of psychologists and brain scientists sans any jargon. The mirror neurons, which light up when a person feels an emotion like sadness or joy, respond in the same way when this person sees another person also demonstrating the same kind of feelings or actions. This empathic reaction helps to understand and share expe-

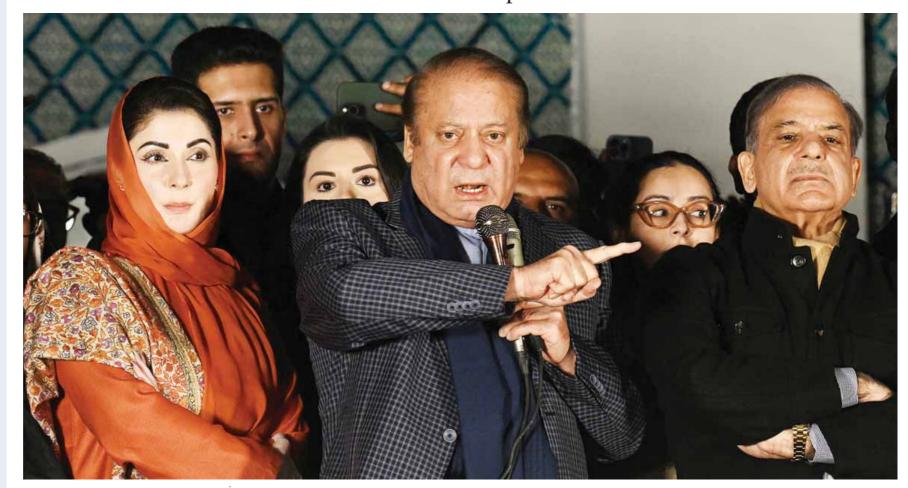
The manual also explains the types of empathy-cognitive, emotional and compassionate while differentiating between sympathy and empathy. Stories centred on children and their emotions have been innovatively used to provide practical guidelines on how to diffuse tensions, reduce stress, and strengthen understanding of each other's differences. At present, empathy is not included in teacher training programmes. Only a handful of schools have taken the initiative to introduce the concept of empathy education, There is a need to encourage all students to consider different perspectives and viewpoints. Only by being empathetic, can they understand and acknowledge differences of opinion and resolve conflict situations.

(Swapna Majumdar is a journalist writing on development and gender. The views are expressed are personal)

# Nawaz Sharif's strategic move or military script?



Nawaz's decision to step aside from the race for premiership in Pakistan and nominate his brother Shehbaz instead has sparked intense debate



lively and geo-political issue is being debated worldwide, especially in Pakistan which pertains to the 'mysterious' decision of three-time prime minister, Nawaz Sharif to Suo moto opt out of the race for premiership and subsequently nominate his younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif for the top slot though he was a favourite of powerful military, obviously current army chief, Asim Munir, who had scripted the entire episode to enthrone him.

Foreign policy experts say that it was on the analogy of former PM, Imran Khan who was saddled in the chair due to the open patronage of Ex-Army chief, Qamar Javed Bajwa but both fell apart owing to fighting for supremacy. It was a paradox and a typical case of a "servant" challenging the authority of the Master which may happen in this dispensation also but Nawaz as a "shadow PM" may not permit it as he has had the bitter experience of being ousted by the army from the post in 2018.

Analysts are convinced that owing to compelling circumstances, Ex PM, Nawaz played his cards well hence the choice fell on his brother which will also ensure the continuity of "Family Rule" in Pakistan. Yet, another addition will be Maryam Nawaz who is poised to become chief minister of the most important province of Puniab.

2nd, the army had meticulously planned to keep Imran Khan out of the political process hence more than 150 cases were registered against him by the previous regime and courts handed him the punishment in three cases which exceed-

3rd, due to Imran's tirade against the army, Nawaz was brought to Pakistan last year from self-exile in London which preceded the Supreme Court's decision in 2018 to sentence him to ten -years



NAWAZ'S CRITICS ALLEGE THAT THE STAGE WAS SET FOR 'MASS SCALE RIGGING' TO HELP HIM BECOME PM, BUT THE GAME

PLAN WENT HAYWIRE AS INDEPENDENTS SUPPORTED BY IMRAN FROM JAIL **WON A MAJORITY** OF THE SEATS AND NAWAZ'S PARTY PML-N **COULD NOT GET EVEN A SIMPLE** MAJORITY, WHICH SHATTERED THE

DREAM OF NAWAZ

imprisonment and a fine of \$10.6 million in a corruption case related to Panama papers of illegal properties abroad. He was dis-qualified and hence fled to London to fight his battle. Nawaz's brother Shahbaz headed the government in Pakistan which ensured the adoption of a bill in parliament on June 25, 2023, which limited the lifetime disqualification of lawmakers to 5 years.

It was meant to pave the way for the return of his elder brother to resume his political activities in Pakistan.4th, Nawaz's critics allege that the stage was set for "mass scale rigging" to help him to become PM but the game plan went haywire as independents supported by Imran from jail won a majority of the seats and Nawaz's party PML-N could not get even simple majority which shattered the dream of Nawaz who was averse to heading a minority government.

5th, Nawaz nominated Shehbaz because he had experience in heading coalition governments and was a flexible politician who could take partners along .6th, Nawaz would have found it difficult in parliament as Imran's loyalists were ready with a lot of ammunition to put him on the mat on corruption whereas Shehbaz is better placed so far. Finally, Nawaz and the army chief are on the same page which may help the new government to appease the sentiments and fulfil the aspirations of the people who are facing the problem of

of the Shehbaz government to implement the harsh preconditions of IMF which had released USD 710 million second tranche of a USD 3 billion loan to the cash-strapped country to stabilize its debt-ridden economy. Shehbaz 's previous government had successfully negotiated with the IMF to procure the "bailout Package" which needs to be clinched. The IMF had saved Pakistan from economic collapse as Pakistan's reserves stood at \$7.8 billion as of Nov. 18, 2023, barely enough to

The people are reeling under inflation which has touched to the level of 30% and prices of essential commodities are beyond the capacity of consumers. The floods had caused losses of billions and thousands of lives were lost hence the new PM will have to take care of rehabilitation tasks which are in disarray.

cover imports for a month.

The floods had caused tremendous losses of USD 3.3. trillion in June-October,2022 besides killing 1839 people which must be uppermost in the priorities of the new government as victims are still craving relief and rehabilitation tasks which seem to be in disarray.

China has treaded cautiously and did not touch the sensitive issue of rigging whereas the United States and EU demanded an investigation into the allegations. China has come to the rescue of Pakistan several times but the cost has been beyond the imagination of this poor country. China's debt policy has entrapped Pakistan which has procured a It will be the most difficult task heavy loan and the Chinese

investment has risen \$65 billion in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)by 2022.

China has already acquired control of Gwadar Port on 16 May 2013 which may be retained instead of a lease guarantee in future.

Originally valued at \$46 billion, the value of China Pakistan Economic Corridor had been worth \$62 billion as of 2020. India and the US are opposed to BRI hence Nawaz will have to tread cautiously to keep China in check to save his country from the debt trap policy.
China will be looking for the

security protection of its projects in Pakistan hence it may develop cordial relations with the Shehbaz overnment. Experts say that the United States wanted to see the back of Imran who had accused it of conspiring with the army to oust him from power. It has got history of having direct ties with army generals hence it may find it easy to deal with the new government. India can expect Nawaz to influence Shehbaz to take the initiative to start dialogue with India which has already created its space in the world arena and economic ties can help the beleaguered people of this poor coun-

The new coalition government is bound to be weak hence delivery expectations on domestic and international fronts must be based on logical conclusions and limitations of new dispensation in Pakistan.

(The writer is a journalist and political analyst, views are

# A roadmap for comprehensive socio-economic inclusion

#### The interim Budget for 2024 emerges as a crucial instrument for steering the nation towards inclusive development

As is the case with multiple developing economies across the world, India is faced with wealth inequality, unemployment, existing and persisting gaps in healthcare infrastructure and delivery, and environmental concerns. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index based on data from 2021/22 finds that 16.4 % of India's population lives in poverty with 4.2% facing

severe poverty. The Regional Human Development Report 2024 by UNDP finds that the top 10% of the population controls 65% of the nation's total wealth, underlining stark wealth inequality. The consequences are multi-dimensional - it negatively impacts upward intergenerational mobility and



lowers the rate of economic

Lack of jobs has been an area of concern for the country for decades now. While the current unemployment rate for January 2024 is 6.8, unemployment amongst educated youth is concerning. The State of Working India 2023 by Azim Premji University reveals that over 42% of India's graduates under 25 were unemployed in

Marked by a distinct urbanrural divide, gaps in healthcare services and infrastructure are a major obstacle for people in small towns and rural areas. A large part of India's population suffers from inaccessibility to quality healthcare – leading to delayed treatments and high out-of-pocket expenditure.

A United Nations report emphasises that approximatey 75% of healthcare infrastructure, medical personnel, and other health resources are predominantly located in urban regions, home to merely 27%

of the overall population. The impact of climate change and disasters on both people and the economy has been devastating. India experienced uninsured losses of \$32.94 billion from natural disasters between 2018 and 2022. The

ramifications of human loss are even more grave and are evident in the 55.9 million displacements from 237 disasters mapped between 2018 – 2022. The interim budget addresses these issues in a big way. It presents a comprehensive

roadmap for national progress, meticulously designed to touch upon critical facets of development such as women empowerment, job creation, environmental conservation, and poverty alleviation. It aims to address the needs and aspirations of diverse social groups— 'Garib' (the poor), 'Mahilayen' (women), 'Yuva' (youth), and 'Annadata' (farmers). This inclusion is notable as it envisages the significance of marginalised social groups in achieving a Viksit Bharat – a developed India by 2047 -

marking a century of India's independence.

The budget prioritises support for the 'Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises' (MSME) sector with necessary finances, technologies, and training to enhance global competitiveness. The rooftop solarization policy is set to offer employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in technical and

supply sectors. Additionally, the establishment of a separate Department for Fisheries and the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSÝ) underscore efforts to double production and exports in the fisheries sector, aiming to create 55 lakh new jobs and drive inclusive economic progress. A significant step is the focus on provisions for the inclusion notable health sector age and the surging demand

of low-income groups and women. Initiatives like the disbursement of 30 crore Mudra Yojana loans to women entrepreneurs and financial support to 78 lakh street vendors under PM-SVANidhi emphasise the government's focus on enhancing workforce participation and providing earning avenues that drive upward mobility.
The SHG model of develop-

ment has also proved to be successful – enabling nearly 10 million women to achieve annual incomes of over INR 1 lakh. Capitalising on this success, the goal has been expanded to elevate the target from 2 crore to 3 crore 'lakhpati didis', showcasing a commitment to women's economic empowerment. The budget made

announcements. The focus on preventive healthcare through the provision of cervical cancer vaccinations for young girls and the integration of various maternal and child health schemes indicate a push towards addressing the specific health needs of vulnerable The expansion of the

Ayushman Bharat scheme to extend healthcare benefits to approximately 1.5 million ASHA workers Anganwadi workers acknowledges the crucial contribution of these frontline health workers to primary healthcare services. Leverage existing hospital structures for the establishment of more medical colleges, addresses both - the healthcare professional short-

for medical education. This builds on the initiative from April 2023, when the government approved the establishment of 157 nursing colleges, allocating INR 1,570 crore, with the central government contributing INR 1,016 crore. The budget also provides a concrete pathway to achieving a net-zero economy by 2070. Key measures include funding for offshore wind energy, coal gasification projects to lessen reliance on fossil fuels, support for the electric vehicle ecosystem, and incentives for biomass collection. The budget also promotes bio-manufacturing for eco-friendly materials and climate resilience in the blue economy.

(The author is a prominent voice on social issues; views are personal)

# **Trump defeats Nikki in Michigan primary**

#### Biden wins Democratic primary

**PTI** ■ WASHINGTON

Voters handed decisive victories to US President Joe Biden and his predecessor Donald Trump in their respective parties' presidential pri-maries in Michigan on Tuesday, increasing the chances of a 2020 rematch between the two leaders in the race for the White House in 2024.

Trump easily defeated his main rival, Indian-American Nikki Haley, winning yet another early contest and addi $tional\ delegates-bringing\ him$ one step closer to being able to formally secure the Republican Party's nomination November.

When the last reports came in, Haley had received 26.5 per cent of the votes as against Trump's massive 68.2 per cent. US media outlets projected



that 77-year-old Trump would sweep the Michigan primary with more than 40 per cent of the votes against 52-year-old Haley. Trump's win further shuts the door on former South Carolina Governor Haley's hopes of building momentum ahead of next week's Super Tuesday contests, when more than one-third of the Republican Party's delegates

Trump has previously won the Iowa caucuses, New Hampshire primary, caucuses in Nevada and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and South Carolina primary. He needs 1,215 delegates to formally secure the nomination.

Trump reached the Michigan Republican Watch Party Tuesday night shortly after the race was called in his

"I just want to thank every-body. This was a great day," he said, pointing to the state's autoworkers, saying Democrats "destroyed the autowork business," but vowed to "bring it all back into Michigan" if elected.
"I can tell you this

Reacting to his victory, Biden said, "I want to thank

November cannot come fast enough," Trump said. "We have the worst president in history their voice heard today. Exercising the right to vote and the most incompetent and the most corrupt president, and we can't let this continue," Trump participating in our democracy is what makes America said, attacking his Democratic

"Four years ago, it was Michigan's diverse coalition that came together to reject Donald Trump's MAGA (Make America Great Again) extremism and sent me and Kamala to the White House," he said in a statement.

"For all of this progress, there is so much left to do. Donald Trump is threatening to drag us even further into the past as he pursues revenge and retribution," Biden said.

Meanwhile, the results in Michigan further solidified the positions of Trump and Biden as frontrunners in their respective parties.

Republicans will formally name their presidential candidate during a national convention in July. Democrats will have their convention in

However, a key feature of the Democratic primary in Michigan, which has a signif-icant Muslim population, as

Democratic voters cast ballots for the "uncommitted" as part of their protest against the president for his handling of the Israel-Palestine war.

Strong opposition to Biden's support for Israel's war in Gaza against Hamas militants led some Democrats to call for voters to select "uncommitted" instead of casting a vote for the incumbent president.

Supporters of the effort for "uncommitted" ballots in Michigan said they were hoping for 10,000 such votes, a level that was easily surpassed. With nearly 99 per cent of the ballots counted, there were already more than one lakh "uncom mitted" votes.

The movement picked up the support of Rep. Rashida Tlaib, who announced her public opposition to supporting Biden ahead of her home state's primary. "I was proud today to walk in and pull a Democratic ballot and vote uncommitted. We must protect our democra cy. We must make sure that our government is about us, about the people," Tlaib said in a

## UK stepping up lawmakers' security as tensions flare over Israel-Hamas war

The British government said on Wednesday that it is stepping up security for lawmakers after politicians reported threats and intimidation connected to the Israel-Hamas war. The Home Office said a 31 million-pound (USD 40 million) fund will give every lawmaker a "dedicated named police contact" and provide money for those facing threats to pay for private security pro-

The government said some of the money will go more broadly to protecting Britain's "democratic processes from intimidation, disruption or subversion" ahead of a general election later this year. The fund includes money for extra police patrols in areas where tensions are high.

Divisions over the conflict in Gaza have convulsed British politics, with some lawmakers saying they fear for their safety after receiving threats over their positions on the war. Reports of both antisemitic and anti-Muslim abuse in Britain have soared since Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel, which triggered Israel's invasion of Gaza.

A debate last week in the House of Commons on whether to call for a cease-fire descended into chaos amid allegations the speaker of the house had bent parliamentary rules in response to pressure from pro-Palestinian activists.

Conservative lawmaker Mike Freer has announced he is stepping down because of abuse and death threats linked to his support for Israel. Freer said an arson attack on his office in December was the "final straw". He said the money announced on Wednesday was only "dealing with the symptom" rather than "going to the root cause" of why people feel emboldened to attack politicians. "Security is welcome," Freer told Times Radio. "But frankly, unless you get to the root cause, then you're just going to have a ring of steel around MPs. And our whole style of democracy changes." British lawmakers have a tradition of meeting

regularly with constituents in

their local communities, but security has been tightened after several attacks in the last decade. In 2016, Labour lawmaker Jo Cox was killed by a far-right extremist, and Conservative David Amess was murdered in 2021 by an attacker inspired by the Islamic State

group.
In 2017 an Islamic State-inspired extremist killed four people with a vehicle on Westminster Bridge before stab bing a police officer to death at the gates of Parliament. Two years later, in 2019, a neo-Nazi pleaded guilty to plotting to kill a Labour lawmaker. Anti-war activists claimed the government was trying to stifle protest and lumping peaceful demon-strators in with violent extrem-

Home Secretary James Cleverly called on pro-Palestinian demonstrators to halt the mass protests that have drawn hundreds of thousands of people to central London almost weekly to call for a cease-fire in a conflict that has killed close to 30,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza health ministry in the Hamas-run territory. Israel says Hamas killed

1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, and abducted roughly 250, in the October 7 attack. The protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, though there have dozens of arrests over signs and chants allegedly supporting Hamas, a banned orga nization in Britain. Jewish organisations and many lawmakers say the mass marches have created an intimidating atmosphere for Jewish Londoners — though members of the Jewish community have been among those on pro-cease-fire marches. "I gen-uinely don't know what these regular protests are seeking to achieve," Cleverly told the Times

"They have made their position clear, we recognise that there are many people in the UK that hold that position. We respect that, but the UK government's position is a disagreement with that for very practical, well thought-out rea-

of London.

## Turkish drones kill three in Syria

strikes in northeastern Syria on Wednesday killed at least three members of a local Christian force and wounded others. including civilians, a Kurdish official and a Syrian opposition war monitor said. Also on Wednesday, in the southern Syrian city of Sweida, security forces opened fire at protesters angry over the country's worsening economy as they tried to break into the offices of President Bashar Assad's ruling Baath Party. A 52-year-old man was shot in the chest and later died of his wounds.

There was no immediate comment from Ankara on Wednesday's airstrikes. Turkey has been attacking Kurdish fighters in Syria for years but attacks on the fighters from the country's Christian minority have been rare.

The force that was targeted, the local Christian Syriac police known as Sutoro, works under the US-backed and Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration

of North and East Syria. Siamand Ali of the USbacked Syrian Democratic Forces told The Associated Press that the Turkish drones initially hit three Suturo vehicles near the northeastern town of Malikiyah. When a fourth vehicle, a pick-up truck, arrived at the scene to retrieve the casualties from the strike, it also came under attack, he said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said three Suturo police members were killed, as well as one civilian. The Observatory said the attack was the latest of 65 such strikes so far this year in northeastern Syria that have killed 18 people, mostly Kurdish fighters. Turkey often launches strikes against targets in Syria and Iraq it believes to be affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party or PKK — a banned Kurdish separatist group that has waged an insurgency against Turkey since the 1980s.

## Israel-Hamas war: No imminent deal despite Biden's Gaza ceasefire signal

rsrael and Hamas on Tuesday **I**played down chances of an imminent breakthrough in talks for a cease-fire in Gaza, after US President Joe Biden said Israel has agreed to pause its offensive during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan if a deal is reached to release some hostages. The president's remarks came on the eve of the Michigan primary, where he faces pressure from the state's large Arab American population over his staunch support for Israel's offensive. Biden said he had been briefed on the status of talks by his national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, but said his comments reflected his optimism for a deal, not that all the remaining hurdles had been overcome

In the wake of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel, Israel's air, sea and ground campaign in Gaza has killed tens of thousands of peo-ple, obliterated large swaths of the urban landscape and displaced 80% of the battered nclave's population.

"So that day, November 5th, and January 20th is when we take over," Trump said, referring to Election Day and Inauguration Day. "We're going to make America great spring

to make America great again,

greater than ever before,"

Trump said, amidst applause

from his supporters.

Trump has won 119 delegates while Haley has just 22.

To receive the Republican Party's presidential nomina-

tion, one should get the backing of 1,215 delegates.

coasted to another victory in

the state, marking his fourth

primary victory in four tries.

He has won 177 delegates from

the four victories. Biden, who

does not have any known

rivals, has to win 1,968 dele-

gates to get the Democratic

Party's nomination.

Meanwhile, Biden, 81,

Israel's seal on the territory, which allows in only a trickle of food and other aid, has sparked alarm that a famine could be imminent, according to the United

With UN truck deliveries of aid hampered by the lack of safe corridors, Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and France conducted an airdrop of food, medical supplies and other aid into Gaza on Tuesday. At a beach in southern Gaza, boxes of supplies dropped from military aircraft drifted down on parachutes as thousands of Palestinians ran along the sand to retrieve them.

But alarm is growing over worsening hunger among Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians.

Two infants died from dehydration and malnutrition at Kamal Adwan Hospital in Gaza City, said the spokesman for Gaza's Health Ministry, Ashraf al-Qidra. He warned that infant mortality threatens

Dehydration and malnutrition will kill thousands of children and pregnant women in the Core Strie" he said

in the Gaza Strip," he said.

The UN Population Fund said the Al Helal Al Emirati maternity hospital in Gaza's southernmost town of Rafah reported that newborns were dying because mothers were unable to get prenatal or postnatal care. Premature births are also rising, forcing staff to put four or five newborns in a single incubator

Most of them do not survive, it said, without giving figures on the numbers of deaths. Now the prospect of an inva-sion of Rafah has prompted global alarm over the fate of around 1.4 million civilians trapped there. Talks to pause the fighting have gained momentum recently and were underway Tuesday. Negotiators from the United States, Egypt to broker a cease-fire that would see Hamas free some of the dozens of hostages it holds in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners, a sixweek halt in fighting and an increase in aid deliveries to

The start of Ramadan which is expected to be around March 10, is seen as an unofficial deadline for a deal. The month is a time of heightened religious observance and dawn-to-dusk fasting for hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world. Israeli-Palestinian tensions have flared in the past during the holy

"Ramadan's coming up, and there has been an agreement by the Israelis that they would not engage in activities during Ramadan as well, in order to give us time to get all the hostages out," Biden said in an appearance on NBC's "Late Night With Seth Meyers" that was recorded Monday.

#### Houthi rebels suspected in new rocket attack off Yemen coast

Arocket exploded late Tuesday night off the side of a ship travelling through the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen, authorities said, the latest suspected attack to be carried out by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The attack comes as the Houthis continue a series of assaults at sea over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip and as the US and its allies launch airstrikes

trying to stop them.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre, which oversees shipping in the Mideast, reported the attack happened about 110 kilometres off the coast of the Houthi-held port city of Hodeida. The rocket exploded several miles off

the bow of the vessel, it said.
"The crew and vessel are reported to be safe and are proceeding to next port of call," the UKMTO said.

The private security firm Ambrey reported that the ves-

sel targeted appeared to be a Marshall Islands-flagged, in the Red Sea and surround-Greek-owned bulk carrier in the area at the time. Another ship, a Panama-flagged, Emirati-owned chemical tanker was nearby as well, Ambrey said.

The Associated Press could not immediately identify the vessels involved. The Houthis typically take

several hours to claim their assaults and have not vet done so for the assault late Tuesday. Meanwhile, the US mili-

tary's Central Command said an American and an allied warship shot down five Houthi bomb-carrying drones in the Red Sea on Tuesday night. The drones originated

"from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen and (it was) determined they presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and to the US Navy and coalition ships in the region," Central Command said in a statement.

Since November, the rebels

ing waters over the Israel-Hamas war. Those vessels have included at least one with cargo for Iran, the Houthis' main benefactor, and an aid ship later bound for Houthi-controlled territory. Despite over a month of

US-led airstrikes, Houthi rebels remain capable of launching significant attacks. Last week, they severely damaged a ship in a crucial strait and downed an American drone worth tens of millions of dollars. The Houthis insist their attacks will continue until Israel stops its combat operations in the Gaza Strip, which have enraged the wider Arab world and seen the Houthis gain international recognition

The Houthis, a Zaydi Shiite group, seized Yemen's capital in 2014 and have battled a Saudi-led coalition since 2015. Their Zaydi people ran a 1,000-year kingdom in Yemen up until 1962.

#### **Wildfires scorch Texas Panhandle and** briefly shut down nukes facility

series of wildfires swept A series of which the Across the Texas Panhandle early Wednesday, prompting evacuations, cutting off power to thousands, and forcing the brief shutdown of a nuclear weapons facility as strong winds, dry grass and unseason ably warm temperatures fed the blazes. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott issued a disaster declaration for 60 counties as the main blaze, the Smokehouse Creek Fire, swelled into the secondlargest wildfire in the state's his-

The main facility that disassembles America's nuclear arsenal paused operations Tuesday night but said it was open for normal work on Wednesdav.

Authorities have not said what might have caused the blaze, which tore through sparsely populated counties set amid vast, high plains punctuated by cattle ranches and oil rigs. In Borger, a community of about



Wildland Team members depart to operate amid the spread of fire.

13,000 in Hutchinson County, Adrianna Hill said she and her family were terrified as fire encircled the entire town until the winds shifted. "It was like a ring of fire around Borger, there was no way out ... all four main roads were closed," Hill, 28, said. The flames came within about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers) of the home she shares with her husband and 20month-old son. "What saved our butts was that northern wind ... it blew it the opposite direction," Hill said. "We were scared, but every night I pray ... and that's all I can do." The weather forecast provided some hope for firefighters — cooler temperatures, less wind and possibly rain on Thursday, But for now, the situation was dire in some areas.

The Smokehouse Creek Fire in Hutchinson County burned

an update early Wednesday from the Texas A and M Forest Service. That is five times the size it was on Monday, when it sparked. As the evacuation orders mounted on Tuesday, county and city officials live-streamed on Facebook and tried to answer questions from panicked residents. Officials implored them to turn on their cellphones' emergency alerts and be ready to evacuate immediately. An unknown number of homes and other structures in the county were damaged or destroyed, local emergency officials said.

The Pantex plant, northeast of Amarillo, evacuated nonessential staff from the site on Tuesday night out of an "abundance of caution", Laef Pendergraft, a spokesperson for National Nuclear Security Administration's Production Office at Pantex, said during a news conference, adding that firefighters remained in case of an

#### **Prince Harry loses legal** challenge over security level in UK

London (PTI): Prince Harry on Wednesday lost a legal challenge against the British government over the level of his security protection when he is in the UK, with a High Court judge in London ruling that the decision to remove police protection was not "unlawful or irrational".

The 39-year-old, younger son of King Charles III, who relocated with his family to the US after stepping back as a frontline royal, had argued that he was treated wrongly in the government's decision to change the level of his UK taxpayer-funded personal security. His lawyers told the court that it was "unlawful and unfair" to take such an approach to his protection while he is in his home country. However, Judge Sir Peter Lane ruled that the decision to remove police protection was not unlawful or irrational". "Even if such procedural unfairness occurred, the court would in any event be prevented from granting the claimant [Prince Harry - the Duke of Sussex] relief," said Lane. "This is because, leaving aside any such unlawfulness, it is highly likely that the outcome for the claimant would not have been substantially different," he said. The bulk of the court proceedings were held in private because of the confidential nature of evidence over security measures. The case goes back to February 2020, following a decision by the Executive

Committee for the Protection of

Royalty and Public Figures (RÁVEC) – delegated by the UK

Home Office on security – to

review the senior royal's securi-

ty profile. The UK government

had told the court the case

should be dismissed because

RAVEC was entitled to conclude

that Prince Harry's protection

should be "bespoke" and considered on a "case-by-case" basis

given his lack of full-time royal

duties in the country.

### South Korean, US troops to begin major exercises next week

**AP** ■ SEOUL

 $S_{\text{troops will begin their}}^{\text{outh Korean and US}}$ expanded annual military drills next week in response to North Korea's evolving nuclear threats, the two countries said on Wednesday, a move that will likely enrage North Korea because it views its rivals joint training as an invasion rehearsal.

In recent months, North Korea has inflamed animosities on the Korean Peninsula with fiery rhetoric and continued missile tests. While it's unlikely for North Korea to launch full-blown attacks against South Korea and the US, observers say the North could still stage limited provocations along the tense border

with South Korea.

On Wednesday, the South Korea and US militaries jointly announced that the allies will conduct the Freedom Shield exercise, a computersimulated command post training, and a variety of separate field training, from March 4-14.

Col. Lee, Sung-Jun, a spokesperson for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that the allies' drills are designed to bolster their joint capabilities to prevent North Korea from using its nuclear weapons. He said the allies are to carry out 48 field exercises this spring, twice the number conducted last year, and that this year's drills would involve air assault, live-firing and bombing training

ately, strongly and to the end in the event of its provocation, and we'll further strengthen our firm readiness through the upcoming drills," Lee said. North Korea didn't immediately respond to the drills' announcement. North Korea has reacted to previous major South Korea-US military drills with its own missile tests. North Korea has sharply intensified its weapons testing activities since 2022 in part of its efforts to expand its nuclear and missile arsenals. This year, the North already conducted six rounds of missile tests — five of them reported-

ly involving cruise missiles —

and other weapons launches. Experts say North Korea

"Our military is ready to

punish North Korea immedi-

believes a bigger weapons arsenal would allow it to pressure the US and South Korea more effectively to make concessions like sanctions relief when diplomacy resumes. They expect North Korea to ramp up its testing activities and other provocations this year as both the US and South Korea head into major elections. South Korea and the US have responded to the North's testing spree with expansions of their bilateral military drills and trilateral exercises involving Japan. US and South Korean officials have repeatedly warned that any nuclear attack by North Korea against them would spell the end of the North's government led by Kim Jong Un.

# Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti

Mittal on Wednesday became the first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King Charles III "for services to UK and India business relations". In a list of honorary British awards unveiled by the UK Cabinet Office, Mittal receives a KBE under the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire – one of the highest honours con-

The 66-year-old entrepreneur said in a statement that he was "deeply humbled" by the gracious recognition from King

historical relations, which are

now entering a new era of increased cooperation and collaboration. I remain committed to working towards strengthening the economic and bilateral trade relationships between our two great nations," Mittal said. "I am thankful to the government of the UK, whose support and keen attention to the needs of business has been critical in making the country an attractive investment destination," he said. The KBE, conferred for a pre-eminent contribution in any field of activity, is awarded in an honorary capacity to foreign nationals. While the Knighthood conferred on UK

#### Bharti Enterprises chief Sunil Bharti Mittal knighted by King Charles III their name.Previous Indian

**PTI** ■ LONDON

ferred by a British monarch.

nationals gives them the title of Sir or Dame, non-UK nation-"The UK and India have

als awarded the honour add KBE (or DBE for women) after

recipients of the Honorary KBE include Ratan Tata (2009), Ravi Shankar (2001) and Jamshed Irani (1997), conferred by the late Queen Elizabeth II. The investiture ceremony will be conducted by the British High Commissioner to India at a later date, when he will formally hand over the royal insignia to Mittal.The honour recognises Bharti Enterprises' work within the India-UK space, including with the UK government in the field of satellites. Sunil Bharti Mittal led the revival of OneWeb (now Eutelsat), leading a consortium with the UK government and other strategic investors to offer satellite broadband services globally, a company statement notes

# to fix economy: Nawaz Sharif

**AP** ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

 $P^{\text{akistan's former prime minister}}_{\text{ister Nawaz Sharif on}}$ Wednesday said the priority of the upcoming government led by his party will be to "fix" the ailing economy as all the problems plaguing the cashstrapped nation were linked to the economic woes.
"The government will try

to fix the economy which would in turn fix everything," Sharif, the supreme leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) told the media after arriving at the Parliament House for the first time since the February 8 elec-

Sharif, who surprisingly nominated his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif to be the prime minister of a coalition government, also said that he every National Assembly, Senate and Prime Minister to complete their constitutional term.

No prime minister in coup-prone Pakistan has completed his/her five-year term. Sharif became prime minister thrice but was removed on all three occasions in mid-term.

Earlier, he was welcomed prime minister candidate Sheĥbaz Sharif and other members of his party upon his arrival at the National Assembly for the PML-N's parliamentary meeting. The meeting, chaired by party supremo Nawaz Sharif, will mull over the PML-N's strategy about matters about the NA's inaugural session slated for tomorrow, Geo News reported. Pakistan has avoided potential default with the help of international donors and friendly countries but its economy is still under clouds. It is believed that another IMF program would be needed after the ongoing package.
The country's economy has

been in a free fall mode for the last many years, bringing untold pressure on the poor masses in the form of unchecked inflation, making it almost impossible for a vast number of people to make both ends meet.

**NAWAZ NOMINATES** 



view that Parliament is not

complete because the Election

Com¬m¬ission of Pakistan

(ECP) is yet to clear the air over

the allocation of reserved seats

to the Sunni Ittehad Council

(SIC), following the PTI-SIC

'merger' for this very purpose. Khan's PTI-backed inde-

pendents have emerged as the

largest number of winners fol-lowed by PML-N and PPP.

However, Khan has alleged

that the February 8 elections

were the most controversial and rigged polls in the coun-

N-Paksitan Peoples Party post-

poll alliance, which also has

four other parties, as "mandate

The PML-N has the full

As per the Constitution, a

a government.

thieves" set to form the govern-

backing of the military estab-

lishment to form the govern-

ment both in the Centre and

party must win 133 out of 265

contested seats in the 266-

member National Assembly to

Independent candidates - a

majority backed by 71-year-old

Khan's PTI party – won 93 National Assembly seats. The

PML-N won 75 seats while the

PPP came third with 54 seats. The Muttahida Qaumi

Movement Pakistan (MQM-P)

alliance deal, it was decided that Nawaz Sharif's daughter

Maryam Nawaz would be the

chief minister of Punjab

Maryam, the political heir of Nawaz, took oath on

Monday and became the first

woman chief minister of any

As part of the PML-N-PPP

ment in the Centre.

Punjab province.

has 17 seats.

He has accused the PML-

try's history.

#### SHEHBAZ FOR PM'S POST

The parliamentary party of the PML-N headed by threetime former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif on Wednesday formally nominated his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif for the post of prime minister to head a coalition government. The parliamentary members' meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) was held in Islamabad with party supremo Nawaz Sharif, 74, in the chair.

Shehbaz, 72, had led a coalition government for 16 months till August 2023 before the caratalar account. the caretaker government took over following the announcement of general elections.

"Nawaz officially nomi-

nated his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif and party loy-alist Sardar Ayaz Sadiq for the posts of prime minister and speaker of the National Assembly. The parliamentary party endorsed Shehbaz's name and also reposed its full confidence in the leadership of Nawaz," PML-N central deputy secretary Attaullah Tarar said in a statement after the meet-The nomination of Shehbaz Sharif as the next prime minister by the elder brother, who himself was eyeing the plum post for a record fourth time, had surprised many within and outside the party.Outgoing National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has called the National Assembly session on Thursday after President Dr Arif Alvi, known for his closeness to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), refused

The President is of the province in the country.

#### 'Pakistan Prez may face legal consequences

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan President Dr Arif Alvi's refusal to summon the newly-elected National Assembly for its first session may lead to "legal consequences", senior leaders of the PML-N and PPP have warned. On Monday, Alvi rejected a move from the caretaker parliamentary affairs ministry to summon the first session of the newly elected National Assembly on February 29.

Alvi, known for his closeness to jailed former prime minister Imran Khan, has maintained that all reserved seats be allocated before the summoning of the session in which newly-elected members of the National Assembly will take oath.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Tuesday rejected the objections raised by Alvi, stating that constitutionally, the first National Assembly session should take place within 21 days after the elections, and the president could summon the session before the expiry of the deadline, the Dawn newspaper reported. Under Article 91 of the Constitution, the mandated date for the first session of the National Assembly is February 29.

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Tuesday warned that several cases wil be made against Alvi for "abrogating the Constitution", the report said

Bilawal said that two cases would be filed against Alvi. The first would be for dissolving the National Assembly when a no-confidence motion was moved against the thenprime minister Imran Khan in 2022, and the second would be for abrogating the Constitution by not convening the National Assembly session. He, however, asserted that his party had no plans to impeach the president, the report said.

# New Pak govt's first priority is 'Navalny's funeral on Friday'

The funeral of Russian oppo-sition leader Alexei Navalny, who died earlier this month in a remote Arctic penal colony, will take place on Friday in Moscow after several locations declined to host the service, his spokesperson said. His funeral will be held at a church in Moscow's southeast Maryino district on Friday afternoon, Kira Yarmysh said on ednesday. The burial is to be at a nearby cemetery. Navalny died in mid-February in one of Russia's harshest penal facilities. Russian authorities said the cause of his death at age 47 is still unknown, and the results of any investigation are likely to be questioned abroad. Many Western leaders have already said they hold Russian President Vladimir Putin responsible for his death. Yarmysh spoke of the difficulties his team encountered in trying to find a site for a "farewell event" for Navalny. Writing on X, formerly known as Twitter, she said most venues said they were fully booked, with some "refusing when we



mention the surname Navalny", and one disclosing that "funeral agencies were forbidden to work with us". Ivan Zhdanov, the director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, said the funeral was initially planned for Thursday -- the day of Putin's annual address to Russia's Federal Assembly -but no venue would agree to hold it then. "The real reason is clear. The Kremlin understands that nobody will need Putin

and his message on the day we say farewell to Alexei," Zhdanov wrote on Telegram. Shortly after the announcement of the funeral plans, Navalny's widow, Yulia Navalnaya, addressed European lawmakers in Strasbourg. Speaking at the European Parliament, she confirmed that her husband would be buried on Friday and expressed fears that the police might interfere. "I'm not sure yet whether it will be peaceful those who have come to say goodbye to my husband," she

At some points appearing tearful amid applause from lawmakers but largely resolute, Navalnaya said her husband's death "showed everyone that Putin is capable of anything, and that you cannot negotiate

with him".

She appealed to the European Parliament to be "innovative" in its approach to the Russian president and those close to him. "You cannot hurt Putin with another resolution or another set of sanctions," she said, urging lawmakers instead to "apply the methods of fighting organised crime, not political competition". She asked the parliament to investigate "financial machinations" and "mafia associates" in their countries and "discreet lawyers and financiers who are helping Putin and his friends to hide money". In introducing Navalnaya, the president of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, paid tribute to

# Wickremesinghe stresses reconciliation issues under 13th Amendemt

PTI COLOMBO

President Wickremesinghe on Wednesday said the fate of the missing persons and the ongo-ing land disputes were posing a major political challenge for the reconciliation of the Tamil minority under the 13th Amendment to Constitution. Agreements have been reached to release more land and provide a pathway forward, the President said.

India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement the 13th Amendment (13A), which was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987 and provides for the devolution of power to the Tamil community. "The primary concern at present revolves around the fate of the missing persons. To address this issue, we've presented and successfully passed

a bill in Parliament to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Wickremesinghe told a reconciliation seminar here as he outlined the steps taken so far.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had run a military campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed its supreme leader V Prabhakaran. Wickremesinghe also expressed his intent to tackle other related issues as he said, the TRC has received the pledges of assistance from South African President Cyril Ramaphosa with similar cooperation being extended by other nations as well.

Wickremesinghe further said the ongoing land disputes in the north were a major political challenge for reconcil-

"We aim to address these issues through inclusive dialogue, involving all concerned parties. Furthermore, I have instructed proceeding in accordance with the 1985 map," he

Additionally, the President said, he will be meeting with Tamil MPs in Parliament next week to discuss these matters

Following consultations with the security forces, agreements have been reached to 'release more land, providing a pathway forward in our efforts." On devolution of power under the 13A, Wickremesinghe said, the granting of police powers to the rovinces could be held back for future discussions.

late Wickremesinghe initiated a dialogue with Tamil parties on the full implementation of the 13A without the police powers to the provinces. However, the powerful Buddhist clergy opposition suggested putting it on hold.

To devolve powers to the provinces outlined in the current reserved list, it was imperative to reach an all-party consensus to gain a two-thirds majority, Wickremesinghe said. He also said discussions are underway regarding the implementation of the Provincial Board of Education. Proposals have been made to establish provincial professional training institutes in each province.

Additionally, plans are underway to appoint provincial-level committees to lead the modernisation of agriculture, establish a tourism board. and undertake related initia-

### Small drone flies into Fukushima N-reactor

flew inside one of the damaged Daiichi nuclear power plant on Wednesday in hopes it can examine some of the molten fuel debris in areas where earlier robots failed to reach. Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings also began releasing the fourth batch of the plant's treated and diluted radioactive wastewater into the sea on Wednesday. The government and TEPĆO, the plant's operator, say the water is safe and the process is being monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency, but the discharges have faced strong opposition by fishing groups and a Chinese ban on Japanese seafood.

A magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami in March 2011 destroyed the plant's power supply and cooling systems, causing three reactors to melt down. The government and

Tokyo (AP): A drone small TEPCO plan to remove the enough to fit in one's hand massive amount of fatally radioactive melted nuclear reactor — a daunting decommissioning process that's been delayed for years and mired by technical hurdles and a lack of data. To help on data, a fleet of four drones were set to fly one at a time into the hardest-hit No. 1 reactor's primary containment vessel.

TEPCO plans to probe a new area Thursday.

TEPCO has sent a number of probes — including a crawling robot and an underwater vehicle — inside each reactor but was hindered by debris, high radiation and the inabilto navigate through the rubble, though they were able to gather some data. In 2015, the first robot to go inside got stuck on a grate.

Wednesday's drone flight comes after months of preparations that began in July at a nearby mock facility.

# 'Chinese research ship departs from Maldives'

4,500-tonne high-tech A<sup>4,500</sup>-tolline ingin-teen Chinese research vessel which made a port call here last week has left the shores of reports said on Wednesday. Officially, the Chinese vessel Xiang Yang Hong 3 was here to "make a port call, for the rotation of its personnel and replenishment." "Xiang Yang Hong 03 has returned to the boundary of the Maldives' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) after docking in Male on February 22. However, despite departing from the Male harbour, tracking sites have shown the vessel's last signal near Hulhumale' two days ago," news portal Adhadhu.com

Hulhumale is less than 10 kms northeast of Male. The vessel had docked on February 23 in Thilafushi, about 7.5 kms to the west of Male.

"The vessel is expected to have turned off tracking systems, which it also did en route to Male' on January 22 when



it was in the Java Sea off the coast of Indonesia," it reported. The news portal also provided some details about the type of vessel Xiang Yang Hong 03. The 100-metre-long vessel was added to the fleet of China's State Oceanic Administration (SOA) in 2016. This is the only 4,500-tonne vessel currently in China. Since 2019, China has also been using the vessel to conduct 'distant water' and 'deep sea' surveys at China's Pilot Ocean Laboratory, it said.

The vessel can also be used for studies on salinity,

Ukraine President co-hosts summit in Albania

microbial genetic studies, underwater mineral exploration, and underwater life and environmental studies, it said. It has data buoys that can measure ocean currents, waves, and important environmental information. These buoys will provide real-time satellite information to the Chinese government, the report said.

On January 5, Sri Lanka, while denying entry to the Xiang Yang Hong 03, said it has declared a moratorium on foreign research ships entering its waters for a year

Ukrainian soldiers have been

amid concerns from India over Chinese research vessels docking in its neighbourhood.

Incidentally, the Chinese vessel was present near the India-Maldives-Sri Lanka tri-Dosti-16 took place in the ocean near Male between February 22 and 25. Earlier on January 23, the new China-friendly Maldives government said it had permitted the research vessel, equipped to carry research and surveys, to dock at Male port, saying the halt was for replenishment and that it would "not be conducting any research while in the Maldivian waters.

An American think-tank has alleged that a vast fleet of China's "scientific research" ships is collecting data from the oceans, including in the Indian Ocean Region, for military purposes, especially for submarine operations, a charge denied by Beijing, which said the Chinese vessels operations are in line with the UN Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).

#### Norway's King warded in hospital at Malaysia's resort island of Langkawi

Wednesday, in the country's until February 2 because of a resnorthern resort island of piratory infection. Langkawi, after falling ill while on vacation.

contacted by The Associated the protocol. Press. Malaysia's health min-

was hospitalised with an infec-southern Norway. tion but did not give further details. The palace said it may send a statement out later Wednesday.

Two days before his birthday last week, Norwegian news agency NTB said that the king would be undertaking a private trip abroad together with his wife Queen Sonja, without specifying the destination or dates.

The monarch, who has been seen using crutches in recent years, has been repeat-

Langkawi (Malaysia (AP): edly ill over the past months. rais Europe's oldest monarch, King ing concern about the head of Harald V of Norway, remained state's health. In January, the hospitalised in Malaysia on palace said he was on sick leave

In December, he was admitted to a hospital with an infection Malaysian national news and was treated with intravenous agency Bernama said the 87- antibiotics. He also was hospiyear-old monarch was under- talised last August with a fever.

going treatment at the Sultanah Still, Harald has repeatedly Maliha Hospital in Langkawi. said he has no plans to abdicate, The report cited unnamed unlike his second cousin Queen sources as saying he was stay- Margrethe II of Denmark, who ing at the hospital's Royal stunned Danes when she announced her step in a New Norwegian TV 2 said the Year's speech. Each time the king king's condition is stable, citing was reported ill, his 50-year-old the hospital. The hospital son, Crown Prince Haakon, has declined to comment when taken over his duties in line with

The palace in Oslo told NTB istry told the media to wait for said there were no plans to alter a possible statement. a planned trip by Haakon and The royal palace in Oslo Crown Princess Mette-Marit on said on Tuesday that the king Wednesday and Thursday to

> PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY HARBOUR WORKS DIVISION No.1 e-TENDER CALL NOTICE

e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
e-TON No. CE/HWDI/ACCTS-22/21/62, dtd: 20.02.2024
Mame of the work: Cleaning of debrises from
Roads, berms, backup space & disposal of
dredged materials from Port area i.e. from Gate
No.4 area to MPB junction to NQ-I via CQ, SQ
and EQ area, connecting Road from T-Junction
to New IOB in IOHP area and 3-B road (4 lane)
leading from IOHP to Wagon Tippler (one year).
Put to tender value: Rs.1.27.11.447.66 plus GST
as applicable. Last date & time of symbission as applicable. Last date & time of submissio of tender through online bidding is 18.03.2024 up to 17:15 Hrs. For details, please log on to the

Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Harbour Woks
Vision No.I, Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/91/2023-2024

सहायक नगर आयक्त

नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश

#### कार्यालय नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश Haridwar Road Rishikesh, Distt-Dehradun, Pin-249201 Website: www.nagarnigamrishikesh.com, Email: npprishikesh@gmail.com Ph:0135-2430015,1800313529

निविदा शुद्धि-पत्र

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत आई०एस०बी०टी० की पार्किंग हेत् इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी कम्पनी/फर्मों से ई–निविदा दिनांक–16.02.2024 से 29.02.2024 सांय 3:00 बजे तक दोहरी निविदा प्रणाली (तकनीकी एंव वित्तीय) के अन्तर्गत नगर निगम ऋषिकेश के कार्यालय पत्रांक सं०– 3802/कर0अनु०/2023–24 दिनांक 15.02.2024 को ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसकी प्री-बिड पुच्छाएं यथोचित शुद्धियों / संशोधनों सहित निस्तारित कर दी गई है, जो निविदा पोर्टल www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती हैं। साथ ही उक्त निविदा की <u>अन्तिम तिथि दिनॉक–29.02.2024 से विस्तारित करते हुये दिनॉक – 02.03.2024</u>

As a non-permanent Securing further support member of the United Nations Union and other internationis key to Ukraine's leader while al institutions. Security Council in the last US Secretary of State his country faces battlefield two years, Albania joined the अपराह 03 बजे तक की जाती है। challenges. Zelenskyy on US in initiating resolutions Antony Blinken visited पत्रांकः ३९३७ / कर०अनु० / २०२३–२४ Sunday announced that 31,000 Albania earlier this month. against Russia's invasion. दिनांक: 28.02.2024

**AP** ■ TIRANA

kraine's president co-host-ed a summit with Albania's government on Wednesday that is meant to encourage further support for Kyiv by southeastern European countries, as signs of fatigue grow two years after Russia's full-scale invasion. Ukrainian President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived before midnight Tuesday on the latest stop in an international tour that saw him in Saudi Arabia earlier Tuesday to push for a peace plan and the return of prisoners of war from Russia. Zelenskyy on Wednesday

called Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama "Ukraine's unwavering friend" in a message on X, formerly Twitter, adding the two would "discuss defence and political cooperation, support for the Peace Formula, and security agreements." "I will propose sup-



Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, right, and Ukrainian President Volodymyi Zelenskyy laugh as they wait other officials for the summit of Southeastern European countries on peace in Tirana, Albania, Wednesday.

porting Ukraine's efforts to achieve just and lasting peace, as well as organising the Global Peace Summit in Switzerland," he said, referring to the summit.

Zelenskyy and Rama also signed a friendship and cooperation agreement strengthen our cooperation with Albania and Ukraine's position in the Balkans. Zelenskyy also awarded Rama with the "Yaroslav the Wise" medal for his contribution to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy is accompanied Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba. Rama wrote on Facebook that he was proud to welcome Zelenskyy for "a solidarity meeting and to further the commitment of our democracies against Russian aggression."

killed in action since Russia's invasion — the first time that Kyiv had confirmed the number of its losses. Ukraine has urged Western leaders to increase the joint production of weapons and ammunition, improve Ukrainian air defences and put new pressure on Russia via expanded sanctions. The head of NATO has said the US-led military alliance has no plans to send troops to Ukraine, and Germany, Poland and other countries this week have said the same.

Eleven countries from southeastern Europe, including some of Ukraine's neighbours, attended the Albania summit, three of them with online messages, along with officials from the European

But not all the countries are in full support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. Kremlin ally Serbia is the only European country that has refused to align with EU sanctions following Russia's invasion. It continues signing cooperation agreements with Moscow. Albania, a NATO member

since 2009 and a candidate for EU membership, has voiced its full support for Kyiv against Russia's invasion. It has provided military assistance in the form of ammunition and training of Ukrainian military. It was among the first countries offering shelter to Ukrainian refugees. It has joined international sanctions against Russian officials and institutions.

# Semiconductor manufacturing in India next big space: MeitY Secy

omestic manufacturing of semiconductors is the next big space and many companies are expected to venture into this segment, a senior MeitY official said on Wednesday adding that a USD 2 billion digital economy is what India seriously needs.

S Krishnan, Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), while speaking virtually at the India Digital Summit (IDS) 2024 said the digital economy is expected to grow at a faster pace in the next few years.

'Semiconductors is the other big space. More companies are likely to come into the space...Our interest semiconductors is open," he said adding that in the next 5-10 years semiconductor manufacturing in the country is expected to come up in a big

About 20 lakh people are employed in the electronics manufacturing sector in the country and the government would like these jobs to go up to about 45 lakh, he added. "We expect the



economy to really grow at an increasing pace in the next few years. A USD 2 billion digital economy is what India seriously needs," Krishnan said. When asked about governance, hygiene and compliance with law for digital economies, Krishnan pointed out that regulators, much like the public, recognized the necessity of regulation.

While balancing consumer protection and diverse requirements, regulations are thoroughly examined to ensure safeguarding of user information, he said. In the tech sphere, consistent

collaboration regulators was crucial, he Similarly, maintaining ongoing dialogue companies on various IT aspects is essential, Krishnan stated adding that the second aspect involves formulating regulations to ensure compliance

On the proposed Digital India legislation, he said efforts were being made to enhance it with additional elements. The ministry is exploring ways to address a significant issue related to the idea and understanding of ideas, where different forms of control are in place, he said.

Some of these controls occasionally generate issues, emphasizing the need for regulation, Krishnan said.

# Markets tumble due to selling in Reliance, banks

Benchmark Sensex tanked more than 1 per cent while Nifty declined below the 22,000 level on Wednesday due to selling in index heavyweight Reliance Industries and bank

stocks amid weak global market trends. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 790.34 points or 1.08 per cent to settle at 72,304.88 with 26 of its constituents ending in the red and four in the green. During the day, it tanked 872.93 points or 1.19 per cent to a low of 72,222.29.

The Nifty slumped 247.20 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 21,951.15. As many as 46 Nifty shares closed with losses while four advanced. Among the Sensex firms, Power Grid fell the most by 4.43 per cent due to profit booking by investors. Reliance Industries dropped around 2 per cent, contributing 185.59 points to the slide. IndusInd Bank, Maruti, Wipro, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Asian Paints, Mahindra & Mahindra and UltraTech Cement were the biggest laggards.

Hindustan Unilever, Infosys and Tata Consultancy Services and Bharti Airtel were the gainers. "Indian markets were jittery mirroring weak global markets. Global investors are awaiting the key US economic data like personal consumption expenditure, in anticipation of good forecast there is a fear that Fed rate cut maybe delayed. Turmoil in China's property sector further impacted the Asian market trend," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services

In the broader market, the BSE smallcap gauge declined by 1.94 per cent and midcap index

went lower by 1.82 per cent.
All the indices ended lower. Utilities fell by 2.82 per cent, oil & gas declined 2.19 per cent, realty tanked 2.12 per cent, telecommunication

790.34

dipped 1.92 per cent, services (1.89 per cent) and commodities (1.85 per cent).

Shares of debt-laden Vodafone Idea plummeted around 14 per cent after the fundraising announcement by the company failed to lift investors' sentiment.

Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, the owner of the Paytm brand, fell 5 per cent to hit a lower circuit limit. A total of 2,963 stocks declined while 881

advanced and 77 remained unchanged. In Asian markets, Seoul settled with gains while Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading mostly lower. The US markets ended mostly higher on

The BSE benchmark climbed 305.09 points or 0.42 per cent to settle at 73,095.22 on Tuesday. The Nifty ended 76.30 points or 0.34 per cent up

at 22,198.35. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.90

per cent to USD 82.90 a barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,509.16 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

and foundation stone laying ceremony of residential complex Hongirana' for the

## Bengaluru tax payers are giving us buoyancy: FM

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday hailed Bengaluru payers contributions in building a strong and 'Viksit Bharat', and said the Department of Revenue is running its entire national faceless income tax assessment scheme Karnataka's capital city

Speaking after laying foundation stone for the upcoming complex "HONGIRANA" for Income Tax officers and staff here, she said the tax payers of Bengaluru have absolutely giving us the

buoyancy, and thanked all individual and corporate taxpayers in this region for making sure for building a strong and 'Viksit Bharat'. 'Your contribution

relentless. There has never been a dip. So thank you very much Bengaluru for keeping that momentum up", she said. Sitharaman also emphasised the investments that the Central government is making in Bengaluru. that She noted

Government has brought about the entire faceless system for income tax assessment and ease of doing business to ensure that tax assessees are not harassed and do not have

of the officer who they have to to go and sit and talk to will make their tax payment difficult.

She said the Department's entire central processing centre - the digital processing unit which governs the entire country — is located in Bengaluru, driving the income tax system for the whole nation. The faceless system was a big step forward in ease of doing business.

"So money doesn't go away from Karnataka. It comes back as well and comes back not just like that...Yes it comes back for roads, it comes back for connectivity, it comes back for metro, it comes back for rail, it comes back for the suburban railway system, It comes back for Mangaluru port, it comes back for the 'Kalyana' Karnataka (region) and so on", Sitharaman said

"But specifically, I want to highlight the fact that Department of Revenue's entire national faceless scheme runs from Bengaluru and you can imagine therefore, the scale of investment which would have happened for that...I am very happy and proud the manpower is also from Bengaluru and they run the whole system for the country," the Rajya Sabha

# Al Express aims 40 per cent increase in flights

### Vodafone Idea shares tumble 14 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{
m Vodafone}^{
m hares}$  of debt-laden Ltd on Wednesday plummeted 14 per cent after the company's announcement lift investors' fundraising sentiment.

The stock plunged 13.99 per cent to settle at Rs 13.65 on the BSE. During the day, it tanked

14.93 per cent to Rs 13.50.
It fell 13.88 per cent to settle at Rs 13.65 on the NSE. During the day, it slumped 14.82 per tent to Rs 13.65 on the NSE. cent to Rs 13.50 — its lower circuit limit. company's market

by Rs 10,806.71 crore to Rs 66,447.95 crore. telecom firm Struggling

Vodafone Idea on Tuesday said its board has approved raising up to Rs 20,000 crore in equity from promoters and other investors by June as it looks to shore up finances for the much-delayed 5G rollout and strengthening 4G services.

The debt-laden firm, where the government also holds just over 33 per cent equity stake, plans to raise Rs 45,000 crore through a mix of equity and debt with hopes of matching services offered by rivals Jic and Bharti Airtel that could arrest subscriber churn.

The fundraising, when it happens, will also arm Vodafone Idea with firepower to improve competitive positioning in the Indian telecom market, where it trails larger rivals Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, by a

Vodafone Idea has been fighting a desperate battle for survival -- it has a debt of Rs 2.1 lakh crore, is reporting quarterly losses, and is haemorrhaging subscribers month after month

ow cost carrier Air India Lexpress plans to operate 40 per cent more flights in the next financial year as well as start services to Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, sources said on Wednesday. The Tata Group-owned airline

— which is in the process of merging AirAsia India, now rebranded AIX Connect — is expanding its fleet and expects to complete the acquisition of 50 white tail Boeing 737 Max aircraft by December this year, the sources close to the development said.

At least 13 of these 50 planes have already been inducted into its fleet.

Currently, it operates 350 flights daily and has a fleet of Generally, a white tail aircraft

means that it was actually meant to be delivered to another carrier manufacturer. In this case, another source in the know said the planes that are being taken by Air India Express were originally for a foreign carrier, which decided not to go ahead with the order amid pandemic woes. Going forward, the sources

said the airline will focus more on consolidating its operations on the domestic routes and will adding



destinations locally. Services will be introduced in few international routes, including Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri

In the next fiscal, the carrier plans to operate 40 per cent more flights as the fleet will also be expanded, the sources said. More number of flights services destinations will be introduced during the upcoming summer and winter schedules.

Summer schedule starts from late March to late October and winter schedule commences from late October to late

around 1,300 pilots, including 400 from Air Asia India. About 400 pilots are under training, they added.

At present, the airline has

Regarding the progress on merging AIX Connect with Air India Express, the sources said the merger is expected to be completed by the second quarter of the next financial year. Once the merger is fully complete then all the planes of AIX Connect will be under the air operator permit of Air India

three A320neo Currently, planes of AIX Connect are under Air India Express' air operator permit.

# India retail sector to reach USD 2 trillion in next decade: Report

India's retail sector is expected reach USD 2 trillion in the next decade with the country's consumption story continuing to remain strong with steady growth, according to a report. Yet, organised retailers would need to sustain performance and continue to grow shares as the sector is going through key shifts impacting the pace and shape of growth, said the report by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Retailers Association of India (RAI)



While income growth remains steady, and consumers are optimistic about personal income outlook, consumers are increasingly looking to spend on "experiences" or save more through newer or nascent vehicles, it said. The Indian retail sector will more than double in size to USD 2 trillion in the next decade

across categories and formats and the successful retailers are the ones who continue to chalitability trade-off, " BCG Managing Director and Senior Partner Abheek Singhi said. The report said, "India retail (is)

expected to grow at 9-10 per cent to reach USD 2 trillion in the next decade." Historically, it added organised retail has outperformed underlying category growth but a slowdown was seen in 2023.

The slowdown in growth was reflected across segments in the recent quarters, it noted.

#### Airtel switches to recycled **PVC SIM cards**

member from Karnataka said.

PNS NEW DELHI

**D**leading telecommunications service providers, in partnership with IDEMIA Secure Transactions, today announced that it has switched from virgin plastic to recycled PVC SIM cards. This is in line with the company's commitment to encouraging the adoption of circular business practices. IDEMIA Secure Transactions. a division of IDEMIA Group, is a leading provider of payment and connectivity solutions for financia institutions, mobile network operators and automotive manufacturers. An industry first in India, Airtel is the only telecommunications service provider to switch to recycled plastic SIM cards.

With this migration, the generation of over 165 tonnes of virgin plastic will be limited which will further reduce the generation of over 690 tonnes of CO2 equivalent in one year. Pankaj Miglani, Director — Supply Chain, Bharti Airtel, said, "We are delighted to announce yet another first as we continue to lead the Indian telecom

### India super rich allocate 32 per cent of their wealth in housing properties **▼**ndia's super rich have allocat-

in residential properties in the country and overseas, Knight Frank said in a report on Wednesday. As per real estate consultant

Knight Frank's The Wealth Report 2024, 32 per cent of India's Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals' (UHNWIs) wealth is allocated towards residential real estate asset class.

Nearly 14 per cent of their residential portfolio is allocated outside India. UHNWIs are individuals with a

net worth of USD 30 million and On an average, an Indian

UHNWI owns 2.57 homes while a sizable 28 per cent have rented out their second homes during 2023, the report said. According to Knight Frank, about 12 per cent of the country's UHNWIs plan to buy a new home in 2024. A similar percentage of wealthy individuals in India purchased a new home last

Globally, 22 per cent of the ultrawealthy are expected to purchase a home in 2024.

Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Baijal said, "The prime residential assets continue to be the

Tata firm Agratas to set up UK

biggest EV battery factory



separately, the report noted that Mumbai ranked 8th on Knight Frank's Prime International Residential Index (PIRI) index in 2023 as compared to the 37th rank in 2022, driven by 10 per cent year-on-year growth in terms of annual luxury residen-

tial price rise. This jump has marked a place for Mumbai in the top 10 leading luxury residential markets. Manila (26 per cent growth) leads the rankings while last year's frontrunner Dubai (16 per

cent) slipped one spot. The Bahamas (15 per cent) comes in the third place with Algarve and Cape Town (both 12.3 per cent) completing the

Among other Indian cities, Delhi ranked 37th and showcased a rise of 4.2 per cent yearon-year in 2023 as compared to the 77th rank in 2022

Bengaluru stands at the 59th rank compared to 63rd in 2022 recording a 2.2 per cent year-onyear increase in 2023. The outlook for 2024 remains

bright as Mumbai with a 5.5 per cent prime price growth forecast, ranks second among the 25 cities globally. As we navigate the complexities of the global market, India's emergence as a prime destination for luxury real estate investment is undeniable," Baijal said. Of the 100 luxury residen tial markets tracked, 80 recorded positive to neutral annual

price growth. Asia-Pacific (3.8 per cent) pipped the Americas (3.6 per cent) to the title of the strongestperforming world region, with Europe, the Middle East, and Africa trailing (2.6 per cent).

### LTIMindtree, IBM, IIT Madras team up for innovation in quantum computing

the quantum innovation ecosys-

tem, the company said.

TIMindtree, a global technol-⊿ogy consulting and digital solutions company, Wednesday said it has joined the IBM Quantum Network to explore innovations in quantum computing.

with the Indian Institute of

Technology (IIT) Madras, which

is also an IBM Quantum

Innovation Centre, to advance

This move is a strategic step toward LTIMindtree helping their customers benefit from the transformative value of quantum LTIMindtree will collaborate

computing technologies," the company said. LTIMindtree will have access to IBM resources, including IBM's global fleet of quantum computing systems over the cloud, soft ware, and associated expertise.

Aan Chauhan, Chief Techno-

logy Officer, LTIMindtree, said the collaboration with IBM and IIT Madras is an important step towards a future where quantum computing could help solve more complex problems faster and more efficiently.

'It positions us to expedite our customers' journey towards realizing the immense value of quantum computing, readying them to leverage these advanced technologies for transformative solutions," Chauhan added.

# Disney, Reliance to merge India media operations

PTI ■ LONDON

Agratas, Tata Group's global battery business, on Wednesday confirmed that it will build Britain's biggest electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility in Somerset, south-west England. The so-called "gigafactory", announced last year, will be built on the Gravity Smart Campus near Bridgwater in Somerset with a community-first approach, involving locals to learn more

about and be a part of the project.
The company said the 40 GWh factory is set to contribute almost half of the projected battery manufacturing capacity required for the UK automotive sector by the early 2030s. "Our multi-billion-pound investment will bring state-of-the-art technology to



Somerset, helping to supercharge Britain's transition to electric mobility whilst creating thousands of jobs in the process," said Tom Flack, CEO of Agratas. "We care deeply about the communities we

operate in, so it's imperative to us that we work with, and listen to, our new neighbours

as we build our factory in Somerset. That's why we'll be holding an event for local residents very soon, so we can share more about our plans and introduce our team to the community," he said. Agratas said it will work closely with local

and regional partners, including Somerset Council, Bridgwater and Taunton College and the wider Gravity Smart Campus, to deliver bespoke education and training programmes in the region, creating local jobs for local people. The factory itself will create up to 4,000 new high-skilled green tech jobs in the area, with thousands more expected to be created in the UK supply chain. Residents living near the site of the future gigafactory campus are set to receive a leaflet through the post this week followed by regular updates on the site's progress. Preliminary works on the site are in progress, with piling to establish the factory's foundations set to start in the coming months. Construction will be completed in phases, with battery production set to begin in 2026.

# Walt Disney Co and Reliance

Industries on Wednesday announced signing of binding pacts to merge their media operations in India to create a Rs 70,000 crore behemoth. Reliance and its affiliates will

hold a 63.16 per cent stake in the combined entity that will house two streaming services and 120 television channels. Disney will hold the remaining 36.84 per cent stake, the companies said in a statement. Reliance has also agreed to invest at closing Rs 11,500 crore

into the joint venture to give it

muscles to fight rivals such as

Japan's Sony and Netflix.

Disney+Hotstar has seen its paid subscriber base decline from around 55 million to about 40 million in the first quarter of this financial year because of Reliance's Jio Cinemas winning exclusive rights for live sports.

The combined entity will have the largest OTT subscriber base and close to 120 channels in the country Media ventures of Reliance are

currently housed in Network 18, which owns TV18 news channels as well as a plethora of entertainment (under the 'Colors' brand) and sports channels. Besides, NW18 has stakes in moneycontrol.Com, bookmyshow and also publishes

magazines. It also owns the news channels CNBC/CNN. Reliance separately owns a movie production arm JioStudios - and majority stakes in two listed cable distribution companies, Den and Hathway. Disney+Hotstar was launched in India in 2020, post the acquisition of the entertainment assets of 21st Century Fox at a valuation of USD 71.3 billion, thereby taking over the operations of Star India and Hotstar. It housed entertainment and cinema channels such as StarPlus and StarGold as well as

sports channels like Star Sports.

While Disney+Hotstar rapidly

increased their subscriber base

initially with the streaming

World Cup), it lost the bid for the digital streaming rights in 2023-27 cycle, which was won by Reliance-backed Viacom18 for USD 720 billion, 12.92 per cent higher than what Star India had paid on an average oer match value. Nita Ambani will head the joint

rights of cricket matches (IPL,

venture while Uday Shankar will be the vice chairperson "Reliance Industries Ltd (and its

affiliate) Viacom 18 Media Pvt Ltd and The Walt Disney Company today announced the signing of binding definitive agreements to form a joint venture that will combine the businesses of Viacom18 and Star India," the statement said.

# RAHUL STILL FEELING SORE WHILE BATTING IN NETS

Senior India batter K L Rahul is unlikely to feature in the fifth and final Test against England in Dharamsala as he continues to feel sore in his right quadriceps.

Rahul became unavailable after the series-opener in Hyderabad in January but as per BCCI, he was 90 per cent fit before the third Test in Rajkot earlier this month.

Rahul has now travelled to London to get an expert opinion on his injury and with the series in the bag, the Indian team management will not take the risk of playing him in the Dharamsala Test beginning March 7. He needs to be fully fit before the IPL

where he will lead Lucknow Super Giants and is expected to bat in the middle order to bolster his chances of making the India squad for the T20 World Cup in the USA and the  $\,$ Caribbean.

"It is more to get an expert opinion (travel to London). He experiences a bit of pain (right quadriceps) while batting. It is to ensure that he recovers fully as he is a player that team needs long-term. There is so much competition coming

his way -- IPL, he could also be in the T20 World Cup mix. Then we have some important Test series against New Zealand, and Australia later in the year.



So, it is better to give him time to recover properly than rushing him," an IPL source told PTI.

It is the same quadriceps injury that had sidelined Rahul for almost four months last year.

Having got injured during the IPL, Rahul returned to action with the Asia Cup in September and made instant impact. In the more recent Test tour of South Africa, Rahul was the only century maker from India in the drawn

His absence from the final Test means Rajat Patidar will remain with the squad but the MP batter can't be sure of his place in the playing eleven, having aggregated only 63 runs in six innings.

There is a possibility that Patidar will make away for Devdutt Padikkal in Dharamsala.

BUMRAH SET TO RETURN: India's premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was rested for the Ranchi Test, is expected to lead the attack at the HPCA Stadium. The series is sealed but every Test match offers crucial World Test Championship points and Bumrah can play a big part in the cooler climes of Dharamsala.

India are second in the standings with five wins, two losses and a draw. New Zealand lead the table with a winning percentage of 75 but they have only played four Tests.

## Jaiswal rises to 12th in ICC Test rankings

**PTI** ■ DUBAI

India's latest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal advanced towards a top-10 spot in the ICC rankings for Test batters by climbing three spots to 12th while his compatriot Dhruv Jurel leapfrogged 31 places to 69th on Wednesday.

Jaiswal, who started the series in 69th position, continues his ascent to the top after scores of 73 and 37 in the fourth match of India's ICC World Test Championship series against England in Ranchi.

Player of the Match Jurel's scores of 90 and 39 has while former England captain Joe Root is back in the top three.

Root, a formerly top-ranked batter, struck an unbeaten 122 in the first innings in Ranchi to move up two places to third position. He also moved up three spots to fourth among all-rounders.

Senior spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's five-wicket haul in the second innings has helped him narrow the gap with topranked Jasprit Bumrah to 21 rating points at 846 after the fast bowler was rested for the Ranchi Test.

Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav moved up 10 places to the 32nd spot and England's

With just seven months left for the Women's T20 World Cup to begin in

Bangladesh, India head coach

Amol Muzumdar is keen to

identify and build a pool of fast

bowlers from the on-going

The Indian pace unit looks a bit

thin after the retirement of leg-

endary Jhulan Goswamy and

moving on from veteran Shikha

Currently, the Indian pace bowl-

ing is marshalled by Renuka

Singh, Pooja Vastrakar, Titas

"Four fast bowlers played the last

series (against Australia). I want

to create a pool of fast bowlers

(from the WPL). It makes a lot

of difference if you strengthen

the bowling attack," Muzumdar

was quoted as saying ESPNCricinfo. "I would want

another pool of 20-25 players to

create a bench strength for the

Sadhu and Amanjot Kaur.

Women's Premier League.

Pandey.

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Shoaib Bashir, who climbed 38 places to 80th, have also attained career bests.

Opener Zak Crawley entered the top 20 for the first time after scores of 42 and 60, while a bunch of spinners have also prospered in the latest weekly

The T20I Rankings see Australia batter Travis Head move into the top 20 for the first time after scores of 24, 45 and 33 in the series against New Zealand.

Tim David's quickfire 31 off just 10 balls in the first match see him move up six places to 22nd and past the 600-point the first time in career.

The top six bowlers are with Josh unchanged, Hazlewood the only new one in the top 10 after finishing with figures of 4-1-12-1 in Auckland.

In the ODI rankings, the biggest mover has been Namibia's Bernard Scholtz, whose hauls of four for 31 against Nepal and two for 15 against the Netherlands in the IČC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 Tri-Series in Kirtipur have lifted him to 11th position and 642 ratings points, the highest position and points tally ever achieved by a Namibia player in ODI

Muzumdar looks to create

Tames Anderson, England's greatest fast bowler with an unparalleled longevity and nearly 1000 international wickets, says he has learned a few elements of pace bowling, including reverse swing, from Indian great Zaheer Khan.

At 41, Anderson continues to lead the England attack and is two short of becoming the first fast bowler in the history of the sport to breach the 700-wicket mark.

legends Muttiah Spin Muralitharan and the late Shane Warne are the only bowlers with 700 plus wickets in Test cricket.

"For me, Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from. How he used the reverse swing, how he covered the ball when he ran into bowl, that's something I tried to sort of develop on the back of playing against him quite a few times here," Anderson told JioCinema.

Zaheer, one of India's finest seamers, played his last Test in 2014 when Anderson was at the top of his game.

Among the current lot of Indian pacers, Anderson is most impressed by Jasprit Bumrah's ability, calling him a "great exponent" of reverse

Asked about Bumrah's matchwinning performance in the second Test against England, Anderson said, "With someone of his quality you expect that standard from him. You know that reverse swing can play a big part in India and he's a great exponent of it. He's got good pace and is very accurate,

very consistent. "That yorker we saw to Ollie Pope, he's got that up his sleeve as well. It's not a fluke that he's got to number one in the world. He's a world-class bowler and from our point of view we weren't surprised that he put up a performance like that.

The seasoned Englishman



Anderson's longevity in the game can be ascertained by the fact that his current England teammates such as Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed were not even born when he made his Test debut way back Having played 186 Tests and

194 ODIs over the last 22 years, Anderson's desire to be competitive remains intact. On comparing his longevity to other sporting legends, Anderson said, "Yeah, I guess you do look at things like that, but to be honest, I just go with the feel of me and my body. I don't feel like I'm 41 years and 200 days old. You know, I still feel young.

"I can keep up with the young guys in training. I can still bowl the speeds that I want to, I can still deliver the skills that I want to. So, for me that's the most important thing. Age is just a number and it's pretty irrelevant from my thought process.

When the discussion turned to



reverse swing, Anderson said the art remains relevant even in an age dominated by T20

"I don't think it's dying. Because of the growth of white-ball cricket in recent times, the focus has moved to change of pace and different deliveries like yorkers, and things like that. "But for me, in Test cricket, we've seen throughout this series already that swing can play a big part. 'The way Bumrah's bowled, I think, has been amazing to watch. That reverse swing spell in the second Test was one of the best you'll see. For me, I think there's still people out there wanting to learn the skills and it's not easy to do." With star batter Virat Kohli skipping the ongoing Test series due to personal reasons. Anderson said he missed bowling to the Indian maestro

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भोपाल को ऑपरिटव सेंट्रल बैंक शाखा कोटरा सुल्तानाबाद भोपाल, के

निम्नलिखित लॉकर धारको को सूचित किया जाता है कि उनके अधिपत्य लॉक

किराया उल्लिखित दिनांक से देय हो चुका है, इस हेतु संबंधितो को शाखा द्वार

उपलब्ध पते पर पंजीयन डाक से भी सूचना भेजी जा चुर्की है, किन्तु निर्धारित

समयाविध समाप्त होने के पश्चात् भी संबंधितो द्वारा वंचित कार्यवाही नहीं की गयी है,

प्रकाशित अवधि से 15 दिवस के अंदर बैंक शाखा मे उपस्थित होकर लाकर किराय

जमा/खाली करने की कार्यवाही सुनिश्चित करे अन्यथा की स्थिति में बैंक पंचनाम

लाकर ब्रेक ओपन करवाकर उपलब्ध सामग्री से किराया वसूली करने हेतु स्वतंत्र होगा

लाकर धारी का नाम और पता

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सधा पारासर MIG 14 कोटरा सल्तानाबाद

अत: अब सुचना के माध्यम से पूर्व सूचित किया जाता है कि आप सूचन

with he had had some fascinating duels. You always want to play

against the best players. And it's been a shame that he's not been a part of the series. We have had some great battles over the years."

#### **Obvious Information**

The general public is informed that earlier I was known as Meena Panwar, now my name has changed to MEENA VERMA, so in future I will be known and recognized by this name. MEENA VERMA, Husband,

Nitin Verma Address: A-172 Vistara

Township Near Eva World School Mayakhedi Indore Madhya Pradesh - 452010

#### कार्यालय कलेक्टर एवं जिला दण्डाधिकारी, जिला धार ( म.प्र. )

क्रमांक/2598/रीडर-2/2024 धार. दिनांक 26.02.2024

-:: विज्ञप्ति ::-

सर्वसाधारण को सचित किया जाता है कि आवेदक मेसर्स इंडियन ऑयल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड तर्फे डीलर श्री योगेन्द्र सिंह मण्डलोई पिता बलराम सिंह मण्डलोई निवासी भवानियाखुर्द तहसील धरमपुरी जिला धार द्वारा ग्राम तारापुर तहसील धरमपुरी जिला धार स्थित स्वयं की भूमि सर्वे क्रमांक 116/1/2 कुल रबका 0.122 हेक्टेयर (व्यवसायिक प्रयोजन) व्यपवर्तित भूमि में से 34X35 =1190 वर्गमीटर भूमि पर . पेटोलियम रूल्स 2002 के अंतर्गत रिटेल आउटलेट स्थापना हेतु अनापत्ति प्रमाण-पत्र चाहा गया है। जिसके संबंध में इस न्यायालय में कार्यवाही प्रचलित है।

अतः आवेदित प्रश्नाधीन भूमि/स्थल पर भण्डारण हेतु पेट्रोलियम रूल्स-2002 के अन्तर्गत अनापत्ति प्रमाण-पत्र जारी किये जाने के संबंध में किसी को किसी प्रकार की कोई आपत्ति हो तो न्यायालय जिला दण्डाधिकारी, जिला धार में उक्त विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन दिनांक से एक माह के भीतर उपस्थित होकर अपनी लिखित आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकते है। नियत समयावधि के पश्चात् प्रस्तुत किसी भी प्रकार की आपत्ति पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जावेगा। यह विज्ञप्ति आज दिनाक 26.02.2024 को मेरे हस्ताक्षर एवं पदमुद्रा से जारी

की गई है।

कार्यपालिक दण्डाधिकारी वास्ते जिला दण्डाधिकारी. जिला धार (म.प्र.)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

कार्यालय, पुलिस उपायुक्त ( मुख्यालय ), नगरीय पुलिस, भोपाल ( म.प्र. ) क्रमांक :- पुलिस उपायुक्त/मुख्यालय/रिकार्ड/62/2024, भोपाल दिनांक 23.02.2024

-:: द्वितीय ई-निविदा सुचना ::-

पुलिस उपायुक्त (मुख्यालय), नगरीय पुलिस, भोपाल द्वारा राजभवन भोपाल के आतंरिक एवं बाहरी भाग में स्थापित सी.सी.टी.व्ही. कैमरों एवं उनके सह-उपकरणों के वार्षिक रख-रखाव हेतू एक वार्षिक रख रखाव अनुबंध करने हेतु ऑनलाईन, निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं :-

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ı		कैमरे एवं सह उपकरण जिसका नियंत्रण कक्ष नवीन कन्ट्रोल रूम भोपाल से संचालित हैं,		
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02. निविदा शुल्क ऑनलाईन जमा करना अनिवार्य हैं।

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क्र	विवरण	दिनाक	समय
01	निविदा प्रकाशन दिनांक	24.02.2024	17:00 बजे
02	निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने	25.02.2024	11:00 बजे
03	निविदा जमा करने की प्रारम्भ	25.02.2024	11:00 बजे
04	प्री बिड	29.02.2024	11:00 बजे
05	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम	08.03.2024	17:00 बजे
06	निविदा खोलने का दिनांक	09.03.2024	17:00 बजे

G-25026/23

G-24986/23

पुलिस उपायुक्त ( मुख्यालय ) नगरीय पुलिस, भोपाल

Date 21.02.2024

#### भोपाल (म.प्र.) शाखा-कोटरा सुल्तानाबाद भोपाल **EEESAF** fast bowlers pool from WPL

भोपाल (म.प्र.)

एवं प्रकार

REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavar

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Office of The Chief Engineer M.P.P.W.D Bridge Construction Zone Bhopal (M.P.)

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Chief Engineer **PWD Bridge Construction Zone** Bhopal

Indian team," he added. The ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup will be held in September-October in Bangladesh. Muzumdar had in India's batters. The confidence

taken over as India coach last year ahead of home series against England and Australia. While India won the Tests against the visitors, they lost the T20I and ODI series.

Muzumdar was also delighted to see frontline Indian batters such as Shafali Verma, S Meghana and Richa Ghosh among runs ahead of the marquee event later this year.

"There is an upscale movement

from those two series against England and Australia is on display (here) because of how they performed there? The former Mumbai batsman

was also chuffed to see the presence of mind Sajana Sajeevan showed while carrying Mumbai Indians to a victory over Delhi Capitals with a last ball six. "Sajana's six gives you an idea of the depth in Indian cricket," said Muzumdar.

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction. Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC doc mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD

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द्वारा (वीसी के माध्यम से)



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६ विद्युत सब-स्टेशन

16 नगरीय निकायों में समूह जल प्रदाय योजनाओं का सुदृढ़ीकरण

29 संसदीय क्षेत्रों में अधोसंरचना विकास कार्य मुरैना एवं मंदसौर जिले में इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क का विकास तथा पीथमपुर इंडस्ट्रियल पार्क का उन्नयन

प्लग एंड प्ले पार्क इंदौर

पुनर्घनत्वीकरण योजना के तहत रीवा में विभिन्न शासकीय सुविधाओं का निर्माण

बुदनी एकीकृत विकास योजना के कार्य इन्दौर-इच्छापुर से ओंकारेश्वर नवीन बस स्टैंड ४ लेन रोड एवं गंजबासौदा बायपास का निर्माण

सीहोर, विलकिस गंज एवं भदभदा ४ लेन रोड

SH-9 पर 98 किमी रोड

# न्**लिकापण** 🙈 🤊

पारसडोह माइक्रो एवं औलिया माइक्रो इरिगेशन प्रोजेक्ट

२ कोयला खदानों की परियोजनाएं, सिंगरौली

जल प्रदाय योजना खरगोन

पोवारखेड़ा-जुझारपुर रेलवे सिंगल लाइन फ्लाईओवर

वीरांगना लक्ष्मीबाई झांसी-जाखलौन एवं धौर्रा-आगासोद तीसरी रेलवे लाइन नवीन सुमावली-जौरा अलापुर रेलवे लाइन आमान परिवर्तन

समस्त जिलों में सायबर तहसील विक्रमादित्य वैदिक घड़ी

## 29 फरवरी, 2024 - सायं ४:०० बजे - लाल परेड ग्राउंड, भोपाल

सिंचाई संबंधित परियोजनाओं से कृषकों को लाभ 📘 विद्युत सब-स्टेशनों के निर्माण से विद्युत सप्लाई में सहायता 📘 अमृत योजना से बेहतर होगी शहरों में जल प्रदाय सुविधा इंडस्ट्रियल पार्कों से रोज़गारों का सूजन एवं क्षेत्रीय विकास 📘 रेलवे परियोजनाओं से यातायात को सुगमता 📘 खसरे, नक्शे तथा नामांतरण के काम होंगे आसान नई सड़कों से शहरों का बेहतर आपसी संपर्क एवं आमजन को आवागमन में सुविधा 📘 विक्रमादित्य वैदिक घड़ी की स्थापना से भारतीय काल गणना का पुनर्स्थापन















