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KOHLI ABSENCE IS A BLOW FOR INDIA: HUSSAIN 12 SPORTS

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UNVEILING PRAGATI TUNNEL DEBACLE

massive controversy has erupted over the six-lane, multi-crore Pragati Maidan Tunnel project, deemed a "potential threat to the lives of passengers" due to issues such as water seepage, poor drainage, and extensive cracks. Negligence in maintenance has exacerbated these problems, leading to significant structural damage necessitating a complete overhaul. On the other hand, the Public Works Department (PWD) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T), which executed the projects, are engaged in a blame game and have issued notices to each other for the flaws. The Delhi Government's agency, PWD, has also asked the construction major L&T, which executed the project, to deposit Rs 500 crore for the flaws. In response, L&T said it has made a counterclaim of Rs 500 crore. According to the PWD, the tunnel is facing myriad issues, and 12 have been recognised. These include leakage, significant cracks in concrete, water inadequate accumulation. drainage, inconsistent kerbstones, missing saucer drains, and unexplained groundwater

Since its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 19, 2022, the 1.3-kilometre-long tunnel of the Pragati Maidan Integrated Transit Corridor Project has experienced repeated closures due to waterlogging. These closures have exposed significant flaws within the



Repairing work at Pragati Maidan Tunnel

project, as highlighted in recent notices, prompting concerns about its resilience and long-term

In 2023, the tunnel faced multiple closures due to waterlogging, underscoring the urgent need for a comprehensive multi-team safety audit before any potential overhaul. Experts warn that continuous water seepage poses a catastrophic danger to structures constructed of concrete and TMT bars, whether they are high-rises, flyovers, or underpasses.

rectifying design flaws and quality-related concerns requires a substantial overhaul of the project, including deficiencies in the transit corridor running along Mathura Road, Bhairon Marg, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, and the underground tunnel connecting Mathura Road to Mahatma Gandhi Marg beneath Pragati Maidan.

The PWD also highlighted that L&T failed to complete the tunnel construction on time. The tender for the project was floated in 2017 The PWD's notice said that and the initial deadline for the

launch of the tunnel was set for 2019. However, the tunnel was launched in June 2022. The PWD claims that the major damage to the tunnel resulted from defects in the design of Underpass number 5 near Bhairon Marg. The notice requires L&T to respond by February 18, explaining why action should not be taken against the company for be taken against the company for financial and reputational losses. The PWD held L&T accountable

under civil and criminal laws for

construction, which supposed to have a design life of 100 years or more.

Ranjan Dimri I Pioneer

Aimed to ease connectivity between central Delhi with eastern parts of the city and satellite towns of Noida and Ghaziabad, the tunnel is 1.3 km long and has five underpasses linking it to the Integrated Transit Corridor Project. In 2023, the tunnel was closed on

multiple occasions due to waterlogging during neglecting its responsibility to monsoon season, said another PWD official.

Centre calls Rahul bluff on PM Modi caste with proof

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday afternoon after he claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not born into an Other Backward Class (OBC) community. Rahul, during his 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra' in Odisha, accused the Prime Minister of "misleading" people by identifying himself as an OBC member. In a brief note titled "Facts

Regarding Rahul Gandhi's Statement on PM's Caste," the Regarding government stated that the Modh Ghanchi caste (and the sub-group to which Modi belongs) "stands included in the Gujarat government's list of socially and educationally backward classes and

.. After a survey in Gujarat, the Mandal Commission prepared a list of OBCs under Index 91(A), which included the Modh Ghanchi caste. The Indian government's list of 105 OBC castes for Gujarat has also included Modh Ghanchi," the government statement said.

Wayanad Lok Sabha MP Rahul remarked that people were being deceived about the Prime Minister's caste, asserting that Narendra Modi, who had confronted the Congress in Parliament a day earlier for allegedly being unfair to marginalised communities, was not born into an OBC family. In fact, Modi, during his Lok Sabha address, criticised the Congress



Nehru, accusing them of being the biggest hindrance to OBC upliftment. Modi, in his typical fashion, questioned whether the Congress could not recognise the biggest OBC (referring to himself) standing in Parliament. He mentioned a letter from Nehru to the then chief ministers. "Nehruji used to argue that if SCs,

STs, or OBCs were given

reservation in jobs, government work standards would decline. He even halted recruitment. What Nehruji stated has become like 'set in stone' for the Congress since then. Your mindset can be understood through such examples," the PM criticised. BJP leader Surath Biswal, an OBC said Rahul Gandhi's statement showed his immaturity. "Modi belongs to the OBC. Congress has to answer why the Gandhi family put the recommendations of Kaka

Kalelkar and Mandal Commission

[for OBC reservation] in cold storage," he said. Continued on Page 2

Metro wall collapse claims life

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Tragedy struck at the Gokulpuri metro station on Thursday when a portion of its wall collapsed around 11 am, resulting in the death of a 53-year-old man. Eyewitnesses described the that it could have been a greater disaster considering that several students gather near it after school for DMRC snacks. suspended two officials and ordered probe into the

"The Government Boys Senior Secondary School is hardly 50 metres from where the collapse took place. The incident occurred around 11 am. If it had happened around 1.30 pm, it could have been even more disastrous, as several students usually gather there to have tea and snacks after school," cab driver Dilshan Khan, who was waiting near the metro station, said.

incident.

Another eyewitness, Krishan Kumar, said, "We learned that one person died and four others were injured. However, the situation could have been more severe if the incident had occurred around 1 pm.' He added that there is a cooking gas cylinder agency adjacent to the metro station.

A senior police officer mentioned, "We have diverted traffic near the metro station."

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PM Modi heaps praise on Manmohan Singh

fter addressing the Congress's first Afamily - Nehru and the Gandhis consecutively in his Parliament speeches, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had commendable words for his predecessor, Manmohan Singh, who headed the Congress-led government for two successive terms between 2004 and 2014. "I wish to remember Dr Manmohan Singh today; his contribution in the House, with his invaluable thoughts, both as a leader and in the Opposition, has been immense. For such a long time, the way he has guided this House and country, Dr Manmohan Singh will always be remembered for it," Modi said during his speech in the Rajya Sabha.

Modi recalled an incident in the old Parliament building during a trust vote against the government, saying, "It was known that the treasury bench would win, but Dr Manmohan Singh came on his wheelchair and cast his vote. This is an example of a member being alert to



his duties," Modi said, bidding farewell to the 68 members scheduled to retire between February and May as per their tenures. The elections to the vacant seats have also been announced for the end of this month.

The retiring Rajya Sabha members were also given a farewell on Thursday at Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's residence. In a sarcastic jibe at the Congress, the

PM thanked Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge for coming out with a "black paper" against his government and referred to it as "kaala teeka" (to ward off the evil eye) amidst the good work being done by his government.

The PM referred to the black robes worn by Opposition MPs in the House as a mark of protest and said, "We also saw a fashion parade in the Rajya Sabha when nbers came in b

He said the Members who are leaving for a more public platform will hugely benefit from the experience in the Rajya Sabha. "This is a diverse university of six years, shaped by experiences. Anyone who goes out from here goes enriched and strengthens the work of nationbuilding," he said.

Marking the significance of the present moment, he said that the members who are leaving today had the opportunity to be in both the old and the new building, and they are leaving bearing witness to the Amrit Kaal and 75 years of the Constitution.

Fragile five to fastest growing economy:



With police personnel deployed to check vehicles after a protest called by farmers in Noida and Greater Noida, massive traffic iams were witnessed on the Delhi-Noida border on Thursday

PTI NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the last Parliament session before the general elections on Thursday brought a White Paper tearing into Congressled UPA rule, saying that it had turned the Indian economy into a nonperforming one through indiscriminate revenue expenditure, off budget borrowings and pile of bad debts at banks.

The 54-page document tabled in Parliament detailed how the Modi Government pull the economy from being counted among the most fragile-five in the world to being the fasted growing and

scheme.

White Paper chronicles Modi Govt feat investment destination. Indian economy was on a

"road to nowhere" in 2014 because of the multiple wrong turns taken during the 10 years of UPA rule, leaving the Modi government to deal with the challenges and restore dynamism and optimism in the economy, said the White Paper tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman. Paper, White highlighting the economic mismanagement by the UPA

government achievements of the 10 years of NDA rule, comes during the last session of the 17th Lok Sabha ahead of the general elections due in April-

paper said, after The assuming power in 2014, Modi-led government took "tough decisions' overcome the "hydra-headed challenges" of runaway fiscal deficit, decision stasis, banking crisis, corruption and scams.

The reforms undertaken by Budget Session of Parliament



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha during the

Modi Government resulted in the transition of India from the league of 'Fragile Five' to the league of 'Top Five' global economies in just about a decade and the economy has been transformed into a far more resilient avatar amidst a challenging global environment, said the 'White Paper on Indian Economy'. It regretted that the UPA government, in its quest to

maintain high economic

growth by any means after the

global financial crisis of 2008,

the most important and infamous legacies of the UPA government. "When our government assumed office, the economy was on a road to nowhere, exhibiting tell-tale signs of deep distress emanating from multiple 'wrong turns' in economic policy," said the White Paper which is likely to be debated in the Lok Sabha on Friday. Sitharaman is expected to reply after a four-hour debate. While presenting the interim budget, she had said that the economy has been put firmly on a high sustainable growth with all-round

development in 10 years.

severely undermined the

macroeconomic foundations.

The banking crisis was one of

Continued on Page 2

Jal Jeevan Mission triumph in contaminated

ARCHNA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Inder the Central flagship Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) scheme, for the first time, all arsenic and fluoride-hit areas across the States are now covered with Community Water Purification Plants (CWPPs). These structures, though temporary arrangement, have been installed in all 582 arsenic and 420 fluoride-affected habitats, aiming to safeguard the residents from the harmful health effects of contaminated water due to these two elements. Arsenic and fluoride are recognised

worldwide as the most serious inorganic contaminants in drinking water. The CWPPs, especially in arsenic and fluoride-affected habitations, can provide potable water to every household at the rate of 8-10 litre per capita per day (lpcd) to meet their drinking and cooking requirements, said an official from the Department of Water Resources overseeing the JJM

Launched in 2019, JJM's mandate is to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality on a regular and



long-term basis to every rural household by 2024 through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), with priority given to contaminated

affected regions. However, while habitations in arsenic and fluoride-affected water supply areas have been covered with these CWPPs, the Government continues to strive to make the regions free from other contaminants such as iron, salinity, nitrate, and heavy metals. These zones are yet to be provided with potable water. Since contaminants such as iron, nitrite,

and salinity found in various places

contaminate water and threaten the well-being of residents, a Parliamentary panel, in a report submitted to the Lok Sabha on Thursday, sought effective measures for reducing the number of habitations affected by such health hazards, including setting up CWPPs within three months.

It said these areas also needed to be covered by temporary measures to provide immediate relief to the remaining population living in 50 per cent of quality-affected habitations. The panel has asked the department to impress upon the States the need to take

measures that could provide an immediate solution, such as mobile water vans/tankers carrying safe and clean drinking water or installation of small water purification dispensers, until all such habitations are provided with piped drinking water from a good quality source, besides taking measures for a permanent solution to the contamination problem under the scheme. According to data available from the Government, most habitations' contaminated with salinity and iron.

Continued on Page 2

Labelling UP as BIMARU was political mindset: Yogi

transformative shift in perspective making Uttar Pradesh the secondlargest economy in the country, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Thursday, said that labelling UP as BIMARU was a "political mindset".

"Our current objective is to propel UP into the position of the leading economy in the nation," Yogi said.

Addressing the curtain raiser ceremony of the second edition of the International Trade Show held at Lok Bhavan, the chief minister said, "Traditional craftsmen, and entrepreneurs in the state who were once disappointed now have smiles on their faces. UP's ODOP (One District One Product) scheme has now become the foundation of a

On this occasion, he inaugurated 13 projects of industrial estates and ODOP Common Facility Centres (CFCs). He also honoured traditional artisans and craftsmen from various

During his address, Chief Minister Yogi expressed gratitude to the Micro, Small Medium Enterprise department, extended congratulations to new entrepreneurs and bestowed honours on skilled craftsmen and artisans in the state. He

highlighted the success of last year's International Trade Show in Greater Noida that set a new record and served as a robust platform to showcase Uttar Pradesh's potential. He said, "For the first time,

more than 500 foreign buyers participated (in the trade show), and it engaged around 70,000 people with a footfall of

edition of the International Trade Show will be held in Greater Noida from September

Through this event, Uttar Pradesh is once again going to demonstrate its capabilities to the global community, he

Chief Minister Yogi mentioned that artisans, craftsmen and young entrepreneurs in Uttar Pradesh had the capability but they lacked encouragement from the government and a suitable platform.

The state had numerous units of MSMEs for centuries, but due to continuous government neglect and 'inspector raj', entrepreneurs were distressed and forced to migrate, he pointed out. In 2018, we initiated the

ODOP scheme, enabling traditional industries to enter the market and provide technological support. As a

result, UP's ODOP has now become a unique scheme in the country. ODOP has become the foundation stone of a self-reliant India, bringing pride to Uttar Pradesh," Yogi

The chief minister noted the

positive transformation among young entrepreneurs who were discouraged. previously "Today, they are filled with excitement and confidence, believing that their products ready competition," he said.

Underlining the significant growth in exports from Rs 86,000 crores to Rs 2 lakh crores, he highlighted the resulting employment opportunities.

"To give a boost to young entrepreneurs, we have started

Udyami Yojana in this budget, under which interest-free loans are being provided," he

Chief Minister Yogi further said that on February 19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate the fourth groundbreaking ceremony (GBC) of UP.

On this occasion, the foundation stones of schemes worth Rs 10 lakh crore will be laid in a single day. This initiative will directly provide jobs to 33 lakh youth of the state, he added.

The chief minister emphasised that the establishment of industries under schemes will lead to infrastructure development, including roads, electricity and drinking water facilities and the initiative will generate new

The chief minister extended an invitation to all young

the second edition of the International Trade Show scheduled for September in Greater Noida. He urged them to witness UP's potential during the trade show. He said that despite so much happening in the state, people used to say that UP was not progressing, however, by showcasing its capabilities in the International Trade Show, no one would consider UP as an underdeveloped state. Today, UP has risen above the category of a BIMARU state," he said.

On this occasion, MSME Minister Rakesh Sachan, Chief Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra, IIDC Manoj Kumar, ACS Amit Mohan Prasad, India Expo Mart president Rakesh Kumar, department officials, public representatives and handicrafts men, artisans and young entrepreneurs from across the state were present.

Targeted killing taking place for past 3 years, says Omar

MOHIT KANDHARI = JAMMU

 $F^{
m ormer}_{
m Kashmir}$ Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Vice President of the National Conference Omar Thursday questioned the tall claims made by the Union government about restoring normality in the Union territory after the Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A.

Interacting with the media persons here at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan on the sidelines of a day-long party convention Omar said that targeted killings have been taking place for the past 2-3 years and blamed the BJP-led government for their failure to maintain law and order in the

"We are grieved that two people were shot in Srinagar. This is condemnable. These kinds of targeted killings have increased in the past 2-3 years. This shows that the situation is not as the government says. They said that all of this would



stop as soon as Article 370 was abrogated. They cannot blame us now. This is their failure," he told the reporters.

Two migrant workers hailing from Amritsar were targeted from a close range by unidentified terrorists in the Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar late Wednesday evening. A sikh carpenter identified as 31-year-old Amritpal Singh was killed on the spot while another person identified as Rohit Masih succumbed to his critical injuries early Thursday

morning in the SKIMS, Soura. This is the first incident of targeted killing of non-local workers in Srinagar this year. In 2023, a total number of 14 civilians were killed in different incidents of terroristrelated violence while 31 were killed in 2022, 41 in 2021, 38 in 2020, and 44 in 2019 across J&K. Between 2019 and 2023, a total number of 247 security personnel sacrificed their lives while neutralizing 818 terrorists during the same

Sandeshkhali villagers gherao police station

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

In a grim reminder of the Nandigram movement in the closing years of the Marxist rule when people in throngs came out on village streets with sticks and other weapons, hundreds of people mainly women on Thursday marched to the Sandeshkhali Police Station — where little more than a month ago hundreds of Trinamool Congress goons had attacked Enforcement Directorate officials when they went to raid the house of local toughie Shahjahan.

Like in Nandigram they carried sticks, wooden planks and even kitchen tools in their hands as they lay seize to the police station.

A helpless police led by the DIG and SP-rank officials watched helplessly while the villagers gheraoed the police station and demanded the arrest of Shibu Hazra and



Sarda the Uttam henchmen of Sahjahan who is presently at large amid suspicion of he having fled to Sunderbans Bangladesh.

Villagers in hordes marched to the police station demanding arrest of the TMC leaders alleging how they had grabbed hundreds of acres of lands converting them into fisheries. "We we went to the police they would turn us back asking us to settle the disputes ourselves ... the goons of Sahjahan beat up our men and forcibly occupied our lands leaving us with no livelihood," women shouted at the local SP when he tried to reason out with

"There is no question of withdrawing this movement will continue with our protests until Shahjahan, Shibu Hajra and Uttam Sarda are arrested," they shouted.

Popular West Bengal actor quitting TMC? Minister of a BJP-ruled State."

 $S_{\text{Tollywood superstar}}^{\text{peculation ran high over}}$ two-time Trinamool Congress from Ghatal constituency Dipak Adhikari alias Deb's quitting his party ahead of the general elections. Ghatal, formerly Pankhkura was once represented by CPI's Gurudas Dasgupta.

Though the TMC MP refused to comment on whether he would join the BJP, Deb the most expensive Bangla cine star with international acclaim on Wednesday made a mysterious post stating: "a few more hours." He would not deliberate much on the content.

Though Deb maintained a studied silence another popular Bengali actor and BJP Rudranil Ghosh confirmed that Deb was "not in the kind of mental frame so as to continue in the TMC and I have been informed that he has recently met a Chief the old and the young is getting wider with TMC general secretary Abhishek keeping important party programmes including the dharna led by his aunt and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee it is getting clearer that the party is losing its stranglehold among the people and in that backdrop no one will like to continue in the TMC ... Deb too is not willing to continue which he made clear by resigning from three important posts in his constituency," Ghosh said. A few days ago Deb had submitted his resignation from three government committees In three letters written to the District Magistrate he resigned

From Page 1

Assam (6,749) tops the list followed by Odisha (1,118) with a number of villages where drinking water sources are affected by iron. The other States affected by

(326), Uttar Pradesh (209), Bihar (66), and Kerala (58). Regarding habitations affected nitrate and salinity,

Rajasthan tops the list. The State is home to around 8,840 villages affected by salinity and 436 villages affected by nitrate contamination. Under the JJM, as of January 30, 2024, the number of

households having tap water connections stands 14,21,22,013 households, accounts approximately 73.76 per cent of the total covered under the mission. This is a significant number given that at the start of the Mission scheme, only 3.23 crore (16.65 per cent) rural households had tap water

Bengal presents ₹3.66 lakh crore

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

In what is being termed a **⊥**political masterstroke by the Bengal Chief Minister the poll-Government on Thursday placed what the BJP called a "Santa Clause Budget" tossing one "lollipop" after the other at the Aam Aadmi in general and women — hitherto considered her electoral mainstay — in particular. Caught off guard as the BJP

resorted to creating a ruckus the Chief Minister stood up at once and reminded of the suspension handed out to the opposition MPs in Parliament by the saffron government before asking them to behave so that the Bengal government was not forced take unpleasant decisions.

Placing a ₹3.66 lakh crore Budget Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya proposed a slew of social welfare schemes including a steep rise in all-the-rage Laxmir



Bhandar. "The general category women who used to get ₹500 will now get ₹1,000 per month and the SC/ST women will get ₹1,200 per month from the month April," she said adding with the same scheme would automatically convert into old age pension post the age of 60. Apart from this she also allowed an additional 4 percent hike in dearness allowance — though falling short by about 32 per cent at the central rate — for the

Government employees a large number of who have been sitting on a year-long dharna at

Kolkata's Esplanade area. The Finance Minister also announced a pay hike of ₹2000-3000 for casual employees working at Groups C and B level. The fishermen who cannot go to the seas during the monsoons were also to get ₹5,000 for two lean months of a year, she said adding "the Civic Police, Green Police and the Village Police will also

on account of central deprivaof the total Budget for women and 17 per cent for children's development." Meanwhile, even as the

Opposition disrupted the Budget speech wondering where the resources would come from in a cash-starved state, a furious Chief rose up and warned "this is enough of dirty politics ... I must remind how 140 Opposition MPs were suspended undemocratically in parliament ... we don't want to take unpleasant decisions \dots we are running the Government and the people have the right to listen to what we have done or what we are doing for them ... our speech cannot be blocked by

you." The BJP was "anti-Bengali and anti-people ... they do not love

get a raise of ₹1,000 apart from a post retirement benefit of ₹5 Bengal and have stopped our funds to the tune of Rs 1.18 lakh crore ... and now there are cre-She said "despite resource crunch ating a ruckus ... this will not be tolerated."

> a "Santa Clause Budget" Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said, "they are nervous because of the alienation they have suffered in the past couple of years because of the corruption that has been unearthed sending their senior leaders to jail ... so they are presenting a populist Budget but not disclosing as to where they will get the money from.

> Pointing out how "Assam and Madhya Pradesh Governments are giving ₹2,500 and ₹3,000 to women," Adhikari said, "by announcing only a marginal increase in women's allowance they have insulted their dignity," reminding, the TMC had not reduced the cooking gas prices as has been done by Rajasthan Government.

Centre calls Rahul bluff...

From Page 1

The Government include the sub-group in the list of OBCs was issued on July 25, 1994 - when Gujarat, Modi's home state, was ruled by the Congress.

per a Government of India notification dated April 4, 2000. When both notifications were released Narendra Modi was not in an executive office at the time," the government has said.

Prime Minister's caste comes as the government and the Opposition squabble over a national caste census - to which the ruling BJP, in the past, has been averse.

in 2013, forex reserves were just enough to finance a little

over 6 months of imports,

down from 17 months in

To deal with depleting forex

reserves, the government came out with Foreign

Currency Non-Resident (FCNR(B)) deposit window

for NRIs to attract USD

deposits at a high premium in

The redemption of this high-

cost dollar debt was due in 2016, which the NDA

government fulfilled without

government failed miserably

activities. Instead the UPA

government created hurdles

that held back economy, the

facilitate economic

August-September 2013.

disruption. The

Non-Resident

end-March 2004.

as the vice chairman of Birsingha Development Authority', 'chairman of Rogi Kalyan Samity — Ghatal SD Hospital' and president of 'Ghatal Rabindra Satabarshiki Maha Vidyalaya'. **Metro wall**

collapse

"The same sub-group was included (in) OBC (list) as

power, and was not holding

Rahul Gandhi's jab at the

claims life

and paramilitary forces were deployed to maintain law and order." Another eyewitness, Azad Ali, recounted, "It was around 11 am when we heard a loud noise of something falling. We immediately rushed to the spot... One scooter rider got trapped under the debris." Sehzad Khan recalled, "I had just reached my shop when it happened. We rushed there to help those who got trapped. One person was seriously injured." The DMRC announced a compensation of ₹25 lakh for the family of the 53-year-old man who died in the incident. The transporter also announced ₹5 lakh compensation for those grievously injured and ₹1 lakh for those with minor injuries.

Mumbai, Ahmedabad bullet train project work picks up

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

a couple of major developments in the ongoing Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project, work has already begun at five locations of the proposed 21 km-long first underground-undersea tunnel, while the National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) has handed over 4.8 hectares of land required for the construction of the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) station to the contractor.

The 21 km-long single-tunnel, including the 7 km-stretch running under-sea, with two lines, is coming up between BKC station and Shilphata in the neighbouring Thane district.

As per the updates provided by the NHSRCL which is executing India's first bullet train project between Mumbai

Mumbai High Speed Railway Station (HSR), Vikroli, Sawli (Ghansoli), Shilphata and Additionally Intermediate Tunnel (ADIT). At the shaft 1 — Mumbai High Speed Railway Station in Bandra located at a depth of 36 metres, 100 percent secant completed, while excavation work is underway. At the shaft 2 at Vikhroli located at a similar depth of 36 metres, 100 percent piling work has been done, while excavation work is on. "This shaft will be used to lower two Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) in two different directions, one towards BKC and another one towards Ghansoli," a statement put out

by the NHSRCL said. Similarly at the Shaft 3 located at Sawli near Ghansoli in Navi

and Ahmedabad, work has Mumbai, excavation work is begun at three shafts currently underway at the shift involving a depth of 39 meters. While at Shilphata, the portal work has begun, the under-Driven construction ADIT portal will facilitate additional access to the underground/undersea tunnel for faster construction progress. In all, three TBMs will be used to make around 16 km of the work has been tunnel, while the remaining 5 km tunnel shall be dug through New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM). In a related development, the land required for constructing the BKC station, which is about 4.8 hectares, has been handed over to the contractor by NHSRCI..

The BKC station will be built using the bottom-up method, which means that excavation work will commence from the ground level and concrete work will start from the

foundation. The excavation required for the station is quite extensive, reaching a depth of meters, approximate volume of around 18 lakh cubic meters. The NHSRCL is facing

challenges in the construction of shafts because the work involves multiple controlled blasting with sufficient noise and air pollution prevention measures so as to cause minimal disturbance to the environment and population in the adjoining areas It may be recalled that Modi

and then Japanese Prime Minister late Shinzo Abe had laid the foundation of the Bullet Train in Ahmedabad in September 2017. The Shiv Sena-led MVA government, which came into

existence on November 28,

2019, had put Modi's pet Bullet

Train on the backburner

immediately after it assumed

Narendra government revived the Bullet Train project in little over three weeks after Eknath Shinde of the rebel Shiv Sena faction and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis were sworn in as the chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June 30, 2022

The 508 km-long Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project(Standard Gauge) at an estimated completion cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore. Out of this Rs 1,10,000 crore, Japan is giving a loan of Rs 88,000 crore. Interest on this loan is minimal i.e. 0.1%, and this loan is to be repaid to Japan in 50 years. Loan repayment period of 50 years with 15

years grace. In the first phase, the bullet train will cover 508 kilometres Mumbai between Ahmedabad.

Fragile...

From Page 1

\"It is now appropriate to look at where we were then till 2014 and where we are now, only for the purpose of drawing lessons from the mismanagement of those years," Sitharaman had said. Listing out 15 scams, including coal block allocation, 2G spectrum auction, CWG and Saradha Chit Fund, during the UPA regime, the Paper said these corruption cases had "shaken confidence of the people" in

the economy. "Ultimately, what the UPA government bequeathed in 2014 was an unenviable legacy of a structurally weaker economy and a pervasive atmosphere of despondency," the Paper said. The critical issue of defence preparedness was hampered by policy paralysis, it said, adding, "weak leadership and a consistent lack of intent and action resulted in defence

underpreparednes".

policy stability, the Modi government recognised the It said the steps taken by the need to make tough decisions

economy.

UPA government to deal with for the greater economic good, the Paper said. the decline in foreign exchange reserves in 2013 Our government, unlike its was a 'costly solution' and 'reeked of a re-run of 1991 balance of payment crisis 'Under the UPA government predecessor, invested in the foundations of the economy along with building a sturdy

superstructure. "Looking back at the last ten years, we can say with humility and satisfaction that we have successfully overcome the challenges left behind by the previous government," it added. In the past ten years, the government has revitalised the stagnant financial sector and overhauled the credit ecosystem within the economy, bringing about significant improvements. reform undertaken by the Modi government significantly elevated the medium-term investment prospects of the economy. "In sum, the progress achieved in the ten years of

paper said, adding that in 2014 the NDA government inherited a "deeply damaged" Armed with political and

government has overcome the malaise and paralysis of the previous ten of the 2024, government. In confidence and purpose have replaced the diffidence and drift of 2014," the White Paper said.







assive traffic jams were witnessed on the Delhi-Noida borders on Thursday due to farmers' protest as police put up pickets and barricades on the border areas. This comes three years after their historic protest on Delhi borders as farmers are gearing up for another round of agitation in the national Capital over a host of issues.

The protest march also slowed down movement of vehicular traffic at various routes, including the key stretches of Noida-Greater Noida Expressway and DND Flyway that thousands of commuters use daily.

The farmers' protest led to the traffic jams in several roads connecting east and north east Delhi on Thursday including Ghazipur, Anand Vihar, Surya

Wazirabad and Kalindi Kunj. Similar snarls were witnessed at Pari Chowk in Greater Noida, with the police saying that they were making efforts to ensure smooth traffic movement.

Motorists spent hours in the crawling traffic as the police personnel with heavy equipment were on alert to restrict movement on the road at the Delhi-Noida borders near Mayur Vihar, as the farmers tried to enter the national capital.

Ahead of the protest demonstration by the farmers in Noida and Greater Noida, the Gautam Buddh Nagar Police had already imposed CrPC section 144 for Wednesday and Thursday. At the border, heavy duty bulldozers, backhoe machines, Vikraant logistic vehicles, riot control vehicles and water cannons were parked strategically to

farmers reached there. Riot control vehicles are on the spot and drones are being used to get an all-round view. The police have barricaded the Noida expressway road using trucks and cranes near Dalit Prerna Sthal and blocked two out of three lanes. They are allowing vehicles from only one lane towards Mayur Vihar.

Thousands of villagers, including women and elderly, joined the march, to press for their demands for hiked compensation and developed plots in lieu of their land acquired by local development authorities in Noida and Greater Noida in the

Farmers in Noida and Greater Noida have been protesting since December 2023 with demands for hiked compensation, and developed plots

the local development authorities in the past. Farmer leader Rakesh Tikait joined the protestors in Greater Noida in the afternoon where his Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) members have been protesting outside the local authority office. In Noida, the protestors are led by the Bharatiya Kisan Parishad (BKP), whose activists have held camps outside the local authority office since December 2023. The farmers led by the BKP assembled at the Mahamaya Flyover in Noida at 12.30 pm on Thursday, with a proposed plan to march towards the Parliament. "From Mahamaya Flyover, the farmers shall march

demands," BKP leader Sukhbir Yaday 'Khalifa' said The farmers from around 100

towards the Parliament in Delhi

to press for our long-pending

after they assembled at the Mahamaya Flyover in Noida around 12 pm on Thursday, with a proposed plan to march towards the Parliament.

"From Mahamaya Flyover, the farmers shall march towards the Parliament in Delhi to press for our long-pending demands," BKP leader Sukhbir Yadav 'Khalifa' said earlier in the day. Later, a scuffle broke out between several villagers and security personnel as they tried to detain local farmer leaders, including the BKP leader, near the Dalit Prerna Sthal. According to the Delhi Traffic

Police, heavy traffic is also expected on the routes connected to Sonia Vihar, Sabhapur, Apsara and Loni borders. Commuters have been asked to avoid or plan their journey accordingly.

the border said that traffic was allowed but, if needed, the road will be blocked completely. "As of now, the Uttar Pradesh Police is dealing with them and hopefully they will not enter Delhi," he said. Long queues of vehicles choked the roads as several two-wheelers and four-wheelers were stuck in the jam at Sarita

Vihar, officials said. "I am headed to Agra and cannot change route now because this is the only way which will take me to the highway. It's not clear how much time it will take as the traffic is very slow," said motorist Raj Sharma.

A heavy traffic jam was reported on the Delhi-Noida highway as well, officials said. Meanwhile, security has been stepped up in the national capespecially on the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border, in view of

added. Around 150 farmers have been stopped near the Mahamaya flyover in Noida by the Uttar Pradesh Police, officials said.

Alternative traffic arrangements have been made and commuters were advised to avoid certain roads. "Heavy security arrangements have been made in different border entry points in the national capital. No one will be allowed to breach law and order," a senior police officer said.

Another police officer said that heavy security forces have already been deployed along with paramilitary forces to maintain law and order. Pickets and barricades were installed on the border areas connecting Delhi-Haryana and Delhi-Uttar Pradesh, he added.

According to the Delhi Traffic

on the routes connected to Soniya Vihar, DND, Chilla, Ghazipur, Sabhapur, Apsara and Loni borders on Thursday. Commuters have been asked to avoid or plan their journey

accordingly.

Ahead of the protests in Noida and Greater Noida, the Gautam Buddh Nagar Police has imposed Section 144 on Wednesday and Thursday.

Police also issued a traffic advi-Police also issued a traffic advisory, cautioning commuters against diversions on some routes in the twin cities in view of the farmers' movement on tractors. Farmer groups in Noida and Greater Noida have been protesting since December 2023, with demands for greater compensation and developed plots against their lands acquired by the local development authorities in the past.

Probe metro station wall collapse: Government to DMRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Thursday directed the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to constitute a committee of experts to look into the wall collapse incident at the Gokulpuri metro station that claimed the life of a man and left four others injured. Meanwhile, after the incident, DMRC's Managing Director, Dr. Vikas Kumar has issued instructions to all the concerned departments in DMRC to conduct rigorous safety checks across the Delhi Metro network.

A 53-year-old man died and injured four persons on Thursday when a portion of the Gokulpuri metro station on the Pink Line in northeast Delhi collapsed, police said. The man was on his scooter when he came under the debris of the collapsed wall of the elevated platform.

"I have already told MD, Delhi (DMRC) to constitute a committee of experts to examine the incident from all angles," Gahlot said. Later in a post on X, Gahlot called the incident "deeply regrettable". "I've instructed @OfficialDMRC to form a Committee of Experts to investigate the matter, with a report due in two weeks, provide ex-gratia compensation within



to the injured & their families for medical treatment," he said in

DMRC to constitute a committee of experts which shall inquire into this incident and submit a report within two weeks. "The DMRC shall disburse ex-gratia compensation as per rules within 24 hours. All necessary assistance shall be extended to the injured people and their families ment," read the order. The DMRC announced Rs 25 lakh as compensation for the family of the man who died in the incident. The DMRC announced Rs 5 lakh for the grievously injured and Rs 1 lakh for those who received minor injuries, it stated. It also suspended two of its officials over the incident. In an operational update, the

24 hours and extend full support Delhi metro said the incident at Gokulpuri station was reported at 11:10 am today. Train movement was stopped from 11:12 Gaĥlot said he has directed the am to 11:23 am on both the up and down lines between Maujpur and Shiv Vihar section of the Pink Line.

Train services were restored from 11:23 am through single line work between Maujpur and Shiv Vihar, a small section comprising 3 stations only. Normal services were restored with both up and down line working in this section after barricading the affected platfrom area from 2:53 pm onwards. Gokulpuri station which was closed during this period was also reopened at 2:53 pm with access allowed from Gate-2 and Gate-1 towards affected area remaining closed, said Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director Corporate Communications.

Tragedy would have been worse had it struck after school break

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Tragedy struck at the Gokulpuri metro station here Thursday when a portion of its wall collapsed around 11 am, leading to the death of a 53year-old man. Describing the harrowing scene, eyewitnesses also highlighted that it could have been a greater disaster given that several students gather near it after school for snacks. "The Government Boys Senior Secondary School is hardly 50 metres from where the collapse took place. The incident happened around 11 am. Had it occurred around 1.30 pm, it could have been even more disastrous as several students usually gather there to have tea ver Dilshan Khan, who was waiting near the metro station,

Earlier in the day, a portion of the wall of the station's elevated platform collapsed and fell on the road below, killing one person and injuring four others. Gokulpuri Metro Station is on the Pink Line of the Delhi Metro. The entire area was cor-

doned off after the incident. Another eyewitness Krishan Kumar said, "We got to know that one person died and four people received injuries. But it could have been more severe if the incident had happened at about 1 pm." He added that there is a cooking gas cylinder agency adjacent to the metro station.

A senior police officer said, We have diverted the traffic near the metro station. We have put barricading and paramilitary forces were deployed to maintain law and order."

Another eyewitness Azad Ali said, "It was around 11 am when we heard a loud noise of something falling. We immedi- inaugurated ately rushed to the spot.. One constructed skywalk along the debris."

Sehzad Khan said, "I had just reached my shop when it happened. We rushed there to help those who got trapped. One person was seriously injured."

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation announced a compensation of ₹25 lakh for the family of the 53-year-old man who died in the incident.



Newly constructed skywalk inaugurated

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to the beautification drive of the national capital with modern facilities and infrastructure, Delhi Lt Governor (LG) VK Saxena on Thursday here the newly with the upgradation work Nehru Place.

The entire project was completed in a time span of 4 years at a cost of Rs 75 crore. Ramesh Bidhuri, MP South Delhi and Subhasish Panda, Vice Chairman Delhi Development Authority(DDA), were also present at the inaugural event. Addressing the gathering, Saxena said the DDA was not only committed to upgradation of the urban areas but also undertaken work for the development of the neglected villages in the National Capital.

He complimented the DDA for upgradation work undertaken at Nehru Place. it will add to the beauty of the city," the LG said.

He urged people to co-operate in its maintenance, adding that no project can be successful without support of the public. He also asked the Nehru Place Market Association members to give special emphasis on the hygiene and maintenance of

Kejriwal stuck in quicksand of corruption: Thakur

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Thursday hit out at Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kerjiwal saying the person who had raised this voice against graft was now stuck in the "quicksand" of corruption".

Thakur's remarks came after Kejriwal was asked by a Delhi court to appear before it on February 17 on a complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate for skipping summons in an excise policy-linked case. "How long will Kejriwal escape

serious allegations of corruption. Now is the time that he appears before court," Thakur said. The senior BJP leader said

Kejriwal should speak the truth in court and not resort to levelling false allegations with the tion to grab media.

"Those who raised their voice against corruption are now stuck in the quicksand of corruption. Not one, but five notices of the ED have been ignored and now the court had to order him to appear for questioning," Thakur said. He said Kejriwal had the habit of levelling false allegations and later express regret in court.

MCD passes **Budget** amid ruckus

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

midst uproar and ruckus Athe Municipal Corporation of Delhi House on Thursday passed a budget of Rs 16,683 crore for 2024-25 financial year without a vote amid accusations of corruption against the mayor. The MCD passed the budget estimates for 2023-24 and 2024

AAP councillors stood guards at Delhi mayor Shelly Oberoi's podium as she announced the budget, with their BJP and Congress counterparts surrounding it. The house could function for no more than five minutes as Oberoi read the budget above shouts of accusations and hurried out. A total income of Rs 15,686.99 crore and expenditure of Rs 16,683.01 was approved by the House for the 2024-25 fiscal. The budget was passed in absence of MCD Commissioner who was supposed to present the budget fol-

lowed by a vote. Mukesh Goyal, leader of the House accused the opposition for disruption of the House proceedings consistently over the past year, preventing the functioning of the House since the AAP came to power.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Delhi BJP Councillors submitted a memorandum before Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena on the issue.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP National Convener AAP National Communication And Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart of Bhagwant Mann participated in the protest organised by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Jantar Mantar in Delhi in its fight to protect federalism in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Kejriwal said that the federal structure of the country is the basis of our Constitution and democracy, the BJP sitting at the centre wants to end it. This fight is for all of us to save the federal structure

democracy of the country. He said that he got to know that the funds to the tune of Rs 8,400 crore of Kerala are stuck and other opposition ruled states are also facing the same

Kejriwal, Mann join Kerala protest in city against Centre

problem. "More than Rs 8000 crore funds of Punjab are also stuck. The Punjab government went to the Supreme Court a few days ago that they are not releasing our money. An amount of Rs 5500 crore for rural development fund is not being released. Now the Supreme Court hearing has been fixed for next week and immediately the Central Government calls that let us sit and talk. Will we go to the Supreme Court for every small matter? The Supreme Court is overburdened with cases. Why don't they do their work? To get our funds, we have to sit at



Jantar Mantar. You will be surprised to know that as against the collection of Rs 2

lakh crore income tax every year from Delhi, we get only Rs 325 crore for Delhi in a year.

Even the British would not have looted us as much as these people are looting us," Kejriwal

Kejriwal hit out at the BJP-led Centre, accusing it of waging a war against state governments led by opposition parties. "The governments led by opposition parties represent 70 crore people in the country. The BJP has waged a war against the opposition-ruled states. They have created a India-Pakistan situation with us. The Centre is using all the tactics to harass the opposition governments, alleged Kejriwal who took part in the protest.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

OFFICE OF THE DY. COMMISSIONER REMUNRATIVE PROJECT CELL (25[™] Floor), Civic Centre, New Delhi-110002

E-TENDER FOR ALLOTMENT OF OFFICE SPACE/SHOPS ON MONTHLY LICENSE FEES BASIS FOR A PERIOD OF 10 (TEN) YEARS AT KRISHNA NAGAR MULTI LEVEL CAR PARKING, NEW DELHI

PRESS NOTICE E-TENDER E-Bids are invited on behalf of Commissioner, MCD from eligible bidders

for allotment of vacant shops/office spaces of MCD at Krishana Nagar Multi Level Car Parking on monthly license fees basis in two bid system (Technical and Financial) for a period of 10 years and extendable further as per RFP/NIT vide Tender NIT No. 2940 dt. 08.02.2024, The Schedule of bids are as follows:-1. Bid Download Start Date:- 09.02.2024 at 09.00 AM onwards, 2. Pre-bid Meeting:- 16.02.2024 at 3:00 PM Conference Hall at 20th Floor, Civic Centre, 3. Bid submission start date:-09.02.2024 from 09.00 AM onwards, 4. last date of Submission of E-Tender:- 29.02.2024 upto 03.00 PM, 5. Opening date of Technical Bids:- 01.03.2024 from 03.00 PM onwards, at R.P. Cell/MCD Dept. 25th Floor, Civic Centre. (For details visit MCDs website: www.mcdonline.nic.in and www.etenders.gov.in. Contact number-011-23227514

R.O. No.82/DPI/MCD/2023-24

Assistant Commissioner R.P. Cell/MCD

DM to be responsible sanitation authority after LG approves plan

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to ensure lelimination of hazardous an effort to ensure manual cleaning of sewers, septic tanks and drains, Delhi Lt Governor (LG) VK Saxena approved a Delhi Government proposal to the D (DM) nominate District Magistrates Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) in their respective jurisdiction. They

response sanitation units (ERSU) for doing away with dangerous manual cleaning of

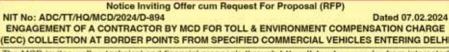
Giving details of the decision here on Thursday, officials also said the proposal was submitted to the LG after a delay of almost three years. The LG office received the proposal in the last week of January despite the fact that Government of India and the Prime Minister himself had establish emergency also reviewed the progress made on the 02.06.2022, and Administrative Department, GNCTD submitting a status report in this regard.

To effectively address the menace of manual scavenging and addressing the needs of one of the most marginalized sections of the society, a Group of Ministers (GoM), set up by the Government of India in its meeting held on 19.02.2020, had decided that DMs in every district should be designated as the RSA with the role and responsibility clearly defined as per the provisions of "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation (PEMSR) Act, 2013.

Further, through an e-mail dated 20.05.2022 the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs informed that that the UT Government was bound by directives of the GOM which stated that each Distinct Magistrate/DC will nominated as the RSA and there will be an ERSU in each district and an additional ERSU in district which caters to only the sanitation needs of any Municipal Corporation within the district.

R.O. No.83/DPI/MCD/2023-24

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI



The MCD invites online technical and financial proposals through https://etenders.gov.in from interested developers/ Toll Plaza Operators to collect Toll Tax from specified commercial vehicles, upgrade/modify operate, and maintain 154 toll plazas/posts/barriers locations bordering Delhi. In addition to toll collection, the contractor shall also separately collect ECC as per actual basis and deposit the same on weekly basis The work shall be granted for a period of 3 years. Reserve Price (for Toll amount only): Rs. 847.00 crores annually, Tender Cost Rs.1.00 lakh & EMD = Rs.17.00 crores. Any Firm /Entity in the form of Proprietor/Partnership /Pvt. Ltd. /Ltd. and JV may submit their proposal.

Minto Road, New Delhi. Submission of Technical and Financial Proposal/Bid through Online mode only available at https://etenders.gov.in Last date of submission of Proposal 29.02.2024 on or before 03.00 P.M. (IST) Date of opening o Technical Bids 01.03.2024 at 03.30 P.M. (IST)

Pre-bid conference - 16.02.2024 at 03:00 PM at Conference Hall at 23rd Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre

For project background, Broad role of contractor, Eligibility Criteria, Selection Process and any other detailed information please refer NIT & RFP documents uploaded on website https://etenders.gov.in

For Commissioner, MCD

India rubbishes Canada poll interference charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India on Thursday rejected Canada's allegations of Indian interference in the country's elections as "baseless" and said "on the reverse side, it was Canada which has been interfering in India's internal

Making these assertions here, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen media reports of Canadian Commission inquiring into foreign interferences... we strongly reject such baseless allegations of Indian interference in Canadian elections. It

is not the Government of India's policy to interfere in the democratic process of other countries, in fact, quite on the reverse, it is Canada which has been interfering in our internal affairs," he said

"We have been raising this issue regularly with them and we continue to call on Canada to take effective measures to address our core concerns," he

An independent commission, set up by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in September last year, probing alleged foreign interference in Canada has asked the Trudeau government to share information about a possible meddling in elections by India.



The commission said in a statement that it had requested the Canadian government to provide documents "relating to alleged interference by India related to the 2019 and 2021

Meanwhile, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service in its report has alleged that China sought to "clandestinely and deceptively influence" its last two federal elections, whilst also naming India as a foreign interference threat. This topsecret briefing report also stated that the Canadian government "must do more" to fight foreign interference.

"The Foreign Interference activities of the People's

Republic of China are significant, pervasive, and directed against all levels of government and civil society across the country," the report stated.
On the "foreign interference of

India", the report predicted that the problem could worsen and "we must do more to protect Canada's robust democratic institutions and processes. India was the only country

ed to India, they were entirely redacted later to just say a single sentence: "India engages in FI activities."

mentioned in the report aside

from China. Although three

pages of the report were devot-

negotiations with India towards an Early Progress Trade Agreement in late August. India suspended visas issuance to Canadians right after Trudeau's statement but that

Diplomatic ties between India

September last year Prime Minister Trudeau told the Canadian Parliament that it was possible the Indian government had a hand in the murder of a Khalistani separatist in Canada in June. Prior to Trudeau's statement, Canada had also "paused"

was restored in November. It also sought "parity" in diplomatic presence, leading to 41 Canadian diplomats leaving

India in October.

Insufficient wage rates under MGNREGA, says **Parliamentary Panel**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Parliamentary panel has A Parnamentary panel.

A expressed concerns that the daily wages paid under the flagship rural employment scheme - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - are inadequate and not aligned with the rising cost of living, which, it pointed out, may be one of the reasons for dearth of workers under the scheme.

"The committee finds the range of wages vary from as little as Rs 221 in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, Rs 224 in Arunachal Pradesh, Rs 228 in Bihar and Jharkhand to Rs 354 in the three gram panchayats of Sikkim (Gnathang, Lachung and Lachen), Rs 328 in Nicobar and Rs 311 in Andaman," said the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj which was tabled in Lok Sabha on Thursday.

"Observing the quantum of wages since 2008, the committee finds the wages inadequate and not in consonance with the rising cost of living. At this labourers and other labourers involved in masonry/ miscellaneous works command a daily wage more than the wage

guaranteed under MGNRE-GA," it said.

"Perhaps, one of the reasons for the dearth of workers... May be the insufficiency of the wage rates under MGNREGA," the panel said.

The panel headed by DMK's Kanimozhi also quoted a report of the Anoop Satpathy Committee - a central government committee on minimum wages - which had recommended that the wages under MGNREGA should be Rs 375

"The need for suitable increase in the wages under MGNRE-GA has been felt and echoed from various quarters and also highlighted by this committee in its earlier reports," the committee said, adding that the department of rural development (DoRD) should take a considered view on the issue of suitable increase in the wage rates. The committee said that the method adopted by the Government for calculating wages is obsolete. Presently, the Government notifies the wage rate under MGNREGA using Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL) by keeping the wage rate thus obtained on April 1, 2009 or Rs 100, whichever is more as the base for indexation for

India to replace military personnel in Maldives with civilian technical people

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi will replace its military personnel by competent Indian technical personnel" in Maldives, ministry of external affairs (MEA) said here on Thursday. This assertion came days after the second high-level meeting between India and the Maldives here.
After conflicting reports on

India's aid allocation for the Maldives in this year's Budget, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also clarified on Thursday that the new figure could be revised and India remains "an important development partner" of the island nation.

"I would like to say that the present personnel will be replaced by competent Indian technical personnel," Jaiswal told a regular media briefing without giving details.

India has around 80 personnel, including medical staff, to operate three aircraft in the archipelago nation's vast maritime territory, and the "evic-tion" of Indian forces had been a core plank of Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu in the lead-up to the presidential elections last year.

After the meeting in New Delhi last week, the Maldives had issued a statement claiming that both sides had agreed that India would replace military personnel in one of the three aviation platforms by March 10 and the others by

India had, however, made no mention of withdrawing troops, stating, "During the meeting, both sides continued their discussions on wideranging issues related to bilateral cooperation towards identifying steps to enhance the ing the implementation of said



ongoing development cooperation projects.

"Both sides also agreed on a set of mutually workable solutions to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medvac services (medical evacuation) to the people partnership, including expedit- of Maldives," the MEA had

To a question on the aid allocation for the Maldives, Jaiswal said some had interpreted the budgetary allocation as going down, while others have said it has gone up.

What happens is that a certain amount of money is allocated and, thereafter, there is a phase for revision... So you would see that the budget for the

Maldives, this time, what has been given is ? 779 crore as against? 600 crore which was against 9000 crore which was projected earlier, so it has actually gone up. The new figures will also be revised once we have more details, more clarity on what sort of forward movement is happening," he said. "We remain an important development partner, com-mitted development partner for the Maldives," Jaiswal

asserted.

It was learnt India is considering several options to replace the military personnel current-ly in the Maldives to operate two ALH helicopters and a Dornier aircraft that were provided by New Delhi. One option is replacing the military personnel with civilian opera-tors familiar with the two platforms, including retired personnel from the three services with experience of flying and maintaining the aircraft



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

February19

Indian Navy's multi-national exercise, Milan 24, is all set to be organised in Visakhapatnam from February 19-27. Previously, the 11th edition of this exercise was held in February-March 22 in Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command with the theme 'Camaraderie-Cohesion-Collaboration.'

Giving details here on Thursday, navy officials said Milan is a biennial multi-national naval exercise which started in 1995 with the participation of four foreign countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand) in consonance with India's 'Look

East policy'. The exercise flourished under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command till its 10th edition. With the growing stature of the exercise and the requirement of a larger staging and hosting base, Visakhapatnam, the City of Destiny was chosen as the pre-

ferred venue for future Milan

The city is ideal to host the event owing to various aspects, namely major commercial hub, large port, steep coastal gradient closer to its shores enabling ships to perate closer to the long coastline offering excellent viewing experience for the public. The scenic view from RK Beach in particular, coupled with excellent infrastructure is conducive to hosting various events planned during Milan for the local populace along the

shore, such as operational demonstrations and the International City Parade. The forthcoming edition will comprise two phases - the 'Harbour phase' and 'Sea phase'. The harbour phase, aimed to promote cultural sharing amongst the participating nations, would comprise of International Maritime Seminar, International City Parade Maritime Tech Exhibition,

17th Indian Navy, French Navy staff talks end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $I^{\rm n}$ an effort to further enhance bilateral ties, the 17th Indian Navy (IN) -French Navy (FN) Staff Talks was held here for two days ending Wednesday. The meeting was co-chaired by Rear Admiral Nirbhay Bapna, ACNS (FCI) and Rear Admiral Jean Marc Durandau, Director International Engagements, FN. Giving details here on



Thursday, officials said the talks witnessed active participation from both sides. Major discussions included operational, training and Subject Matter Expert (SME) exchanges. Both sides also acknowledged the growing cooperation between the two Navies and agreed to enhance collaboration and interoperability in the maritime domain. On the sidelines of the Staff Talks, Durandau called on Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, Wednesday and underscored the high level of synergy and interoperability between the

the social fabric of the country,

Under rajneetik anyay (politi-

cal injustice) the Congress has

accused the Modi government

of remaining silent on China's

encroachments on Indian ter-

ritory, "undermining the Army with the Agneepath scheme"

and targeting opposition with

its investigative agencies and

"ending the independence of

the media", along with the

Election Commission, ED and

the document claims.

Males born to obese moms more likely to develop health issues: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Males born to obese women are more likely to be overweight at birth and develop metabolic complications such as non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases and diabetes in later life. The way that male mones activate pathways in the developing liver is partly to blame, as per finding from a new study led by University of South Australia (UniSA) researchers looking at the impact of maternal obesity on fetal liver androgen signalling.

Male fetuses of obese pregnant women have different signals that are activated by male sex hormones in the liver, which encourages them to prioritise growth at the expense of their health.

UniSA researcher Dr Ashley Meakin said androgens give men their male characteristics and are crucial in their development, but if there are too many, male fetuses grow too large, causing not only problems at birth, but impacting liver function as an adult.

Female fetuses exposed to excess testosterone from an obese pregnancy are wired to switch off the androgen pathway in the liver, restricting their growth and lowering the risks of metabolic disorders in adulthood.

"We know there are sex differences in metabolic disorders in later life in response to mater-

nal obesity," Dr Meakin added. "Men are more prone to nonalcoholic fatty liver diseases and diabetes as an adult if their mother is obese during pregnancy and their birth weight is above 4 kg (9 lb 15 oz).

"They are genetically wired to prioritise androgens because it male characteristics - including size - but too much androgen is

Study lead author Professor Janna Morrison, Head of the Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group at UniSA, says it's a fine balance for women getting the right nutrition in pregnancy to ensure optimal conditions for their unborn child to flourish.

Prof Morrison said unless society changes its approach to nutrition, it will be an uphill battle to reduce obesity and associated health issues, from the womb into adulthood.

"As a society, we urgently need to address obesity. If children were taught early on about the importance of healthy eating, it would carry through into adulthood, including during pregnancy, where the right nutrition is so important," he said.

The liver androgen signalling study, recently published in Life Sciences, is among a series of studies by Prof Morrison and colleagues that investigates the impact of maternal under- and over-nutrition on the placenta, heart, lung, and liver.

Subject Matter Expert Exchange, Milan of Young Officers and various sporting events. During the Sea phase, ships along with aircraft of Friendly

Foreign Countries would participate along with the Indian Navy's aircraft and other units. It will involve large-force manoeuvres, advanced air defence operations, anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface operations.

Congress releases black paper

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Congress on Thursday released a black paper on the Narendra Modi govern-ment's failures, highlighting economic, social and political injustices in the last ten years. The 54 page document, titled "10 Saala Anaya Kal", released by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at a press conference in the national capital, claims that the Modi government in its ten years in power has "devastated the country's economy, aggravated unemployment, destroyed the country's agricultural sector, abetted crimes against women and committed grave injustices against minorities in the coun-

"Today we are bringing out a 'Black Paper' against the gov-ernment. Whenever PM Modi presents his views in Parliament, he hides his failures. At the same time, when we speak about the failures of the government, it is not given importance. Therefore, we want to bring out a Black Paper and tell the public about the failures of the govern-ment," said Kharge at a Press conference.

The "black paper" were released on a day when the Modi government tabled a white paper in parliament to highlight the economic failures of the UPA between 2004 and 2014. In its "black paper", the Congress has said that the

and daily wage workers". It has highlighted the highest Modi years have been "marked

by high rates of unemployment economic catastrophes such as demonetisation and flawed GST, which have only increased the divide between the rich and the poor and devastated the future of millions of farmers

failure to increase MSP for farmers despite a promise to double their income. Terming it "Modani Raj", the party has also accused the Modi government of "neutering" investigative agencies

unemployment rate in 45 years,

prices of essential commodities

being at an all-time high, and

despite a promise to eliminate safe havens for economic offenders and facilitating crony capitalism. Under samajik anyay or social injustice, the party has claimed

that the last decade has seen "blatant discrimination and severe oppression against women, SC,STs,OBCs and minorities". "Its politics of hatred, polarisa-

tion and divide has destroyed

Kharge said that the Modi government never talks about the "biggest issue in the country which is unemployment".

"They talk about Nehru but don't talk about how many people were given jobs through public sector jobs."

496 flights cancelled, 8,038 flights PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Inaugurating the 'Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav' with a focus on the North-East at Rashtrapati Bhavan here, President Droupadi Murmu underscored India's cultural diversity as a source of strength and unity. She expressed hope that the event would attract a large audience eager to immerse themselves in the cultural vibrancy of the region. The fest aims to showcase

India's rich diversity through

seven distinct editions, starting

with the North-East. Artists

Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland,



Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Sikkim have converged to display their talents and traditions through various cultural activities and exhibitions.

Open to the public from February 8 to 11, the festival promises a feast for the senses, with cultural performances art exhibitions, fashion shows, live demonstrations, and food

BJP looking to expand NDA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP may soon finalise a ■ seat-sharing deal with Jayant Singh-led Rashtriya Lok Dal as the ruling party looks to further strengthen the National Democratic Alliance amid indications that it is open to reviving its ties with former allies such as Telugu Desam Party and the Shiromani Akali Dal. Sources the BJP's alliance talks

with the RLD are in an advanced

The BIP is willing to offer two Lok Sabha seats, including Baghpat which is currently represented by its MP Satya Pal Singh, to the RLD and may also give it a Rajya Sabha seat, they added. The surces said the BJP is working to ensure that the



NDA gets as stronger as possible ahead of the polls so that it realises the target of crossing 400 seats as spoken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha recently.

Modi had expressed confidence citing the popular mood that the

BIP alone will definitely get 370 seats in the 543-member House. A lot depends on whether the BJP and its prospective allies agree to an amicable seat-sharing formula but there have been positive developments, the sources added.

delayed due to dense fog in January PNS NEW DELHI To a query on whether a large As many as 496 flights were cancelled and 8,038 flights were delayed due to dense fog

in January, the civil aviation ministry said on Thursday. In a written reply to Lok Sabha Minister of State for Civil Aviation V K Singh said DGCA conducts meeting for preparedness of fog/low visibility operations for smooth flight operations with all stakeholders before commencement of the fog period and also issues

instructions Besides, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued regulations mandating operators to



members should be qualified for take-off, instrument approaches and operations to the lowest CAT-I/II/III minima as applicable, the minister said. CAT-III pertains to operating flights in low visibility condi-

number of domestic and international flights were delayed due to dense fog in the current winter season, Singh replied in the affirmative. The total number of flights

delayed and cancelled during January 2024 is 8,038 and 496, respectively," he said in a writ-According to Singh, the num-

ber of pilots trained for CAT-III operations has increased 16 per cent vis-a-vis the total as of October 2023. As of December 2023, there

were 6,191 CAT-III trained pilots, including 3,744 commanders and 2,447 co-pilots, artisans, performers, and culinary experts from Assam, the minister added

nation 05

MP firecracker blast toll rises to 12

The death toll in blast at a firecracker unit in Harda in Madhya Pradesh reached 12 on Thursday after the body of an unidentified woman was found from a home near the site, while seven persons continue to be missing, officials said.

A massive blast and subsequent blaze on Tuesday levelled a firecracker unit, leaving 11 dead at the time and more than 200 injured. "The toll in the tragedy has

reached 12 after the body of an unidentified woman was

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Anil Gaurah S/o Late sh. Jai

client Mr. Anil Gaurah S/o Late sh. Jai Prakash, R/o H.No. 1.3516, Ashok Marg Loni Road, Ram Nagar, Extension Shahdara, East Delhi-110032, has severed /disinherited /cut off /shear off from his movable and immovable property and all type of his relationship with his son Mr. Rahul Gaurah and his wife Mrs. Kajal Rani, for his misdeeds, misbehaving and not adhering his family responsibilities. My client shall not be held responsible for any kind of his (Rahul Gaurah and Kajal Rani) actions and whoever

Gaurah and Kajal Rani) actions and whoever deals with him do the same at his/her/their cost risk periland consequences

Deepak Verma (Advocate)-D/3284/2011 1/7019, Shivaji Park Shahdara Delhi 110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that I,(1)Veena Mathur W/o
Late Rajendra Prasad Mathur J(2)Reetesk
Mathur S/o Late Rajendra Prasad Mathur J(2)Reetesk
Mathur S/o Late Rajendra Prasad Mathur R (3)
Miss Ritu Mathur D/o Late Rajendra Prasad
Mathur R/O-Flat No.39B. G.F.BLK-CD, Rajouri
Garden, Delhi I am the mutatee/legal owner of
IsatNo.39B. G.F.BLK-CD, Rajouri Garden, Delhi
File No.I-90(555)78/HBM/II Which is Allottee
By The DDA.I have lost the Original Allottment
Cum-Demand Letter of the above Flat FIR/NCE
to this effect has lodged in P.S. Crime Branch
Delhi vide LR No. 1421658/2024, Dated -08-022024. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest,
having any objection or found in possession of
original documents, may write/contact with ab
ove named person at above address/phone No
9109996239 within 15 days from the date of
publication of this notice. Any person claiming
any right, interest, or having any objections with
respect to this property can also personally
inform/contactme.

This is to inform the general public that Smt. Surinder Kaur is the GPA Holder of built on Property No. WZ-436 & New No

B-286 area measuring 37.1/2 sq. yds. situated in Janta Colony Raghubir Nagar New Delhi 110027.She acquired the above property through GPA, ATS, WILL dated 25.02.1999 executed by Sh. Harbajan Singh in favour of Smt. Surinder

Smt. Surinder Kaur (GPA Holder)intends

to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of the Ground Floor without roof rights of aforementioned Property to Sh. Rishab Subsequently, Sh. Rishab is in the

process of mortgaging the said property SMFG India Home Finance Co. Any

objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with separet to the said property or the

respect to the said property or the

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting Law Veritas:North (Advocates & Legal Consultants)at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301;

Landline(s):+910120-3101683 / 4562809

charges due to the Secured Creditor from VIJAY JHA, SHER MOHAMMAD and ZUBER KASHIM.

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

bidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date: 05.02.2024

Reserve Price

Date: 05.02.2024 Place: GHAZIABAD

10% of the Reserve Price.

Date : 05.02.2024 Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforceme Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 13,65,209/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Two Hundred Nine only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLN0D00217000, by way of putstanding principal arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest

05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and othe elated loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 7,25,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Twenty Five Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 72,500/- (Rupees Seventy Two Thousand Five Hundred only) i.e. equivalent to

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. GF-2, GROUND FLOOR, REAR LEFT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. B1/31

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. Fo

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) ar

Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabuli Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"

the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever

there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o

Rs. 19,08,315/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00179203, by way of outstanding

principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan

document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 7,50,000/- (Rupees Seven

Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be

Rs. 75,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. FF-6, FIRST FLOOR REAR MIDDLE, PLOT NO. B-1/74, DLF DILSHAD EXTN, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH – 200111.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provide

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For

APPENDIX IV-A

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation a

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcer

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) at

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabull

Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor" the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of

Rs. 20,83,351/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty One only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00318622, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other

related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other Telated loan document(s) w.e.t. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from DHARMENDRA and RAJNI.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,10,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Ten Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,01,000/- (Rupees One Lakh One Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. G-6, GROUND FLOOR, REAR MIDDLE SIDE, PLOT NO. B-7, DL

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. Fo

DILSHAD EXTN. - II, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201005

oidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

the Secured Creditor from VAISHALI ANAND, KAMAL JEET and SANJAY.

DLF ANKUR VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201010.

nding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest til

interests of our client.

found in a house adjoining the blast site," Harda Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO) HP Singh said. More than 200 persons were

injured, of which 90 were discharged after treatment while 45 have been referred to hospitals in Bhopal, Indore and Naramadpuram, he said. The rest are being treated in the Harda district hospital, Singh added.

District Additional Magistrate Sadanand Gauda said seven persons have been reported missing by the following families the

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client M/s Braikashi
Services Private Limited is in process to purchase
the Plot No. 75, area measuring 125 sq. yards, out
of Khasra No. 465, in Block A Extn.III, Lakshmi

or Khasra No. 405, in Block A Extin-III, Lakshmid Garden, situated in village Dharoti Khurd, Pargana Loni, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad (availing loan from AU Small Finance Bank Ltd.) from Rashia alloa Rahisa Begum wife of Maksood Ahmed who is the attorney of Rahisa Begum wife of Mahmood Hassan, having acquired the same vide sale deed 1/12/80 (doc. No. 2622) All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property or any part thereof by way of

All person's rawing any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family parangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien,

charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the

date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any gate nereot, raining winich the claim of claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public thatSmt. Khuresheed Bano became the owner of 11/12 Share of Property No. RZ-F-81 are measuring 348 sq. yds. vide Relinquishment Deed Dated12.06.2020 regd. as doc. No. 2494 executed by 1. Sh. Safikur Rahman 2. Sh. Habib Ur Rahman 3. Sh. Faizal Rahman 4. Smt. Zaheen Bano 5. Smt. Mahzabeen 6. Smt. Fatima Begum 7. Nazma 8. Smt. Zohra Bano 9. Smt. Zeba Rehman Qureshi 10. Smt. Zenatin favour of Smt. Khuresheed Bano. Mr. Attik Ur Rehmanacquired the ownership of 1/12 Property No. RZ-F-81 area measuring 348 sq. yds. vide succession afterdeath of Sh.

1/1/2 Property No. RZ-F-81 area measuring 348 sq. yds. vide succession afterdeath of Sh. Abdul Rahman whopurchased the said property vide Sale Deed dated 15.03.2016 regd. as doc. No. 1893. Mrs. Khursheed Bano became the owner of Plot 62-A vide GPA, ATS dated 28.02.1984 both the properties are situated in Khasra No. 90/5/1, & 92/1/1/situated in village Palam Delhi estate Delhi Colony Known as Sadh Nagar II Palam Colony New Delhi 110045.

Colony New Delhi 110045.

Smt. Khuresheed Bano & Sh. Attik Ur Rehmanintends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of the Second Floor LHS without roof rights area measuring 90 sq. yds.of aforementioned Property to Sh. Shahzad & Smt. Nagma Begum. Subsequently, Sh. Shahzad & Smt. Nagma Begum are in the process of motivacing the

Begum are in the process of mortgaging the said property SMFG India Home Finance Co.

Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice.

07 days from the date of this public notice Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting Law Veritas:North (Advocates & Legal Consultants)at Office No. 11, 1st Floor Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Utta Pradesh-201301; Landline(s):+910120-3101683/4562809; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Meanwhile, officials said door-to-door search of houses in the area was continuing, with five sacks of firecrackers being found in one of them.

A team is also assessing damage to the houses in the vicinity so that residents can get assistance at the earliest, the officials said.

"Four centres have been set up to extend help to families affected due to this incident, an official informed.

The incident has led to a war of words between the BIP government in the state and opposition Congress,

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Dilwar Singh Negi S/o Late Pansingh Negi and his wife Sateshwari Devi R/o D-114, Street No.3, East Vinod Nagar,

Delhi-91 on 23/3/2016 through publi

notice in a daily newspaper THE INDIAN EXPRESS had disowned their sons Chander

Mohan Negi, Santosh Singh Negi and their daughter-in-laws' Ranjna Negi, Kavita Negi and their daughter Mohini Rawat W/o

Brijmohan Rawat from their movable and

my clients cancel and annul the publi

notice dated 23/03/2016 given in a daily newspaper THE INDIAN EXPRESS. Now, their sons Chander Mohan Negi, Santosh Singh

Negi and their daughter-in-laws' Ranjna Negi Kavita Negi and their daughter Mohini

Rawat W/o Briimohan Rawat have full right

Gyanendra Daval

Noida.

nd assets of my clients.

Re Tender Work:

Job no.

49/DGM(E/M)

Sr.M(E/M)-IV/

37/DGM/Sr.M

E&M)-II/

Rules, 2002

DELHI, DELHI – 110059.

Date: 05.02.2024

Place : NEW DELHI

pidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

35, SONIPAT - 131001, HARYANA.

Date: 05.02.2024

PRADESH - 201005

oidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Authorized office

Authorized office

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limite

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

oidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

2023-24/ET

dated 16.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

2023-24

SL

No

VOIGS

which claimed figures of higher than those quoted by those dead and injured were officials.

<u>uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Champawat</u>

Bid Notification No : 104 / Nivida / 12 E - TENDER NOTICE (Single Bid System)

Name of the works: Bandela Dhek (Retro) w/s scheme & Malla Dhek (Retro) w/s scheme. Date of Publication on e-procurement portal Date.

08.02.2024 at 17.00 hrs. Note: Further details can be seen from the

e-procurement portal - www.uktenders.gov.in & contact 05965-230044.

'जल संचय जीवन संचय' 'हमारा संकल्प, हर घर नल से जल' 'मास्क पहनना है जरूरी' 🤝 'आपस में हो दो गज दूरी'

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Monia Yadav D/o Late Shri Mangal Sain Chadha R/o H No 6/7 Shanti Niketan New Delhi-110021 is the sole owner of DDA Flat No 7516, Cat-Ill, SFS First Floor, Sector-D, Pocket-7, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-11 0 0 7 0 vide D D A file no F126(1297)84/SFS/W/III.

The original documents (1) Allocation Letter (2) Fifth and Final Demand Letter (3) DDA Possession, Letter (4) Electricity and Water

Possession Letter (4) Electricity and Water NOC (5) Site Possession (6) Slip and All Bank Challans has been lost. An FIR of this has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No.1420317/2024 dated 07.02.2024

Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9871084444 within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming

any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, LAB(H) or Director (H)-1, D- Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

Tender

Amount

(in Lacs.

₹ 58.61

Dy. General Manager (E&M) NOIDA

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Authorized office

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)

Name of Work

(rewiring) of different Barat

ghar & Chopal in Village-Mohaiyapur, Chhaproli, Mangoli, New Dallupura, Yakutpur-I, II, Badoli, Jhatta,

Supply and Installation of Decorative Pole for

Beautification & Smart Pole

shashi Chowk to City Center

Metro Station, Noida.

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 15.02.2024 up to

5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulis lousing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")

Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 26,02,407I- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Two Thousand Four Hundred Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLRHN00323461, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from GUNJESH SRIVASTAV, KUMARI ANKITA SRIVASTAVA, PANKAJ BHASIN, VINEET KUMAR and DEEPAK GUPTA.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,00.000/- (Rupees

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,00,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PROPERTY NO. 052 AND 53, UPPER GROUND FLOOR (REAR RHS / SOUTH -WEST PORTION S/G + UGF + 3 STRUCTURE), KHASRA NO. 7/20/1, BLOCK - F, GALI NO. 10, VILLAGE MATIALA, OM VIHAR EXTENSION, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of

Rs. 34,39,656/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLVAS00447934, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05,02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRASAD @ PRASAD P.K. and RENJINI

TRASE.
The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 19,00,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,90,000/
[Rupees One Lakh Ninety Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. 1003 MEASURING 1549 SQUARE FEET ON 10TH FLOOR, TOWER - 8

IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS ANSAL GREEN ESCAPE SITUATED IN SECTOR

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) an

Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")

he physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of th

Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of 83. 24.12.598/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00235708, by way

of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUDHEESH K and VRINDA SUDHEESH. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,50,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,45,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. SF-4, SECOND FLOOR, REAR MIDDLE SIDE, PLOT NO. B-213/1, BLOCK - B, MAIN SHALIMAR GARDEN, SAHIBABAD GHAZIABAD, UTTAR

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provide on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsho

Internal Electrification ₹ 47.92

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the

following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same

shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida

Authority's official website: www.noidaathorityonline.in &

https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

Executive Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE Icilica is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Sami jóc. Mr. Abdul Hamid is the owner of A PART O KESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. 419, AREA MEASURNIG 66. G. YARDS I.E. 55.60 SO. METER, COMPRISINOS II HASBRA NO. 143422, SITUATED IN RESIDENTIA DOLONY KHANNA NAGAR, HADBAST VILLAGE: LON DUT OF CHAKBANDI), PARGAMA & TEHSI: LON DISTRICT: GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH, vid kegistered General Power of Altomey Daded 03.11 202. Con. 0.5529, ATS and regg. Will, SRO-I, GZB and same te e sold to MR. ABHINAY / MR. BUENDER KUMAR an ame mortoagoin the said proceet with SMPG India Cred ame mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Crec lompany Limited (Formerly Fullerton India Cred company Limited), if anybody has any charge/interest/tit the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the dersigned in writing on the below mentioned address hin 07 days of the present. Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advoca SG Associates (Law Firm F 18, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghazzap

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public the Mrs. Bina Devil is the owner of Land measuring 100 Sq. Vindsara No 36 Mohalla Bhagauth Nagar Gram Datavicasupur Pargana Tehsil & District Meerul vide registeria deed dated 17.07.2009. Document No 5936 Cha Document Sale Deed Dated 17.11.2006. Document No 16074 Executed Der Prem Praksak Rastogl Sto Sh. Sh. (fipal Rastogl In favor of Sh. Surendra Stigh Sfo Sh. Shola Ram, sale deed Lost that Mrs. Bina Devi informe of U.P. Police on dated 29.01.2024 LAR N. 2024 0003053044 II Persons are hereby informed that Mr.

2024000065804 All Persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Bimla, Mr. Autl. Kumar & Mr. Kamal Simph are mottgapin the said property with INDIA SHELTER FINANC CORPORATION LTD. General public hereby informed that of anybody has any chargelinterestitle in the said propert or working of dispute kindly inform the undersigned awarding on the below mentioned address within the said propert or with the said propert of the said properties. With 1 and 1 a

PUBLIC NOTICE volice is hereby given to the General Public that of Jr. Rajesh Slo Mr. Khem Chand are the owner of RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. 722 AREA MEASURING 50 SO. YDS KHASRA NO. 304 BLOCK-G, RAM PARK EXTN. COLONY SITUATED IN THE AREA OF YILLAGE HAKIKATPUR UPF KHUDA BANS. PARGABA LONI TEHSIL & DISTI GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH. All Persons are hereby informed that Mrs. Bhuri Devi is purchasing the above-mentioned property from Dr. Rajesh So Mr. Khem Chand Saraswat by way of registered Sale Deed and they are mortgaging the said property with SMFG Designation of the said property with SMFG Comment Fuller to India. Deed and they are mortgaging the said property with SMF india Credit Company Limited (Formerty Fulleton Ind Credit Company Limited). General public hereby inform any company and property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address with 70 days of the present. Mrs. Prasoon Lata, Advocat SG Associates (Law Firm

Place: Gurgaon

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o Rs. 20,69,319/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Nineteen only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOI00330206, by way o outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest til 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and othe related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and othe charges due to the Secured Creditor from GOVINDA and RACHNATHAKRE.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 11,00,000/- (Rupees Elever Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,10,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. UG-2 ON UPPER GROUND FLOOR, FRONT MIDDLE RIGHT SIDE (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) HAVING SUPER COVERED AREA 400 SQUARE FEET EQUIVALENT TO 37.16 SQUARE METERS CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT BHOPURA, PARGANA & DISTRICT LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAF

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

PRADESH.

Date: 05.02.2024

Rules, 2002.

Date: 05.02.2024 Authorized officer

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property
E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and
Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor")

the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 24,69,078/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Seventy Eight only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDMT00491073, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Account and other

05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other

elated loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other

charges due to the Secured Creditor from GARIMA SHARMA and DINESH

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 14,00,000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,40,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Forty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FIRST FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF / TERRACE RIGHTS (NORTH - EASTERN

RIGHT HAND SIDE BACK UNIT), PORTION OF PLOT BEARING NO. C-1/11 AND 12. AREA MEASURING 53.5 SQUARE YARDS. OUT OF TOTAL MEASURING 217

12, AREA MIRASORING 33, SQUARE TARDS, OUT OF TO TAM MEASURING 217 SQUARE YARDS, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 314 SITUATED IN VILLAGE BINDAPUR AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS SANJAY ENCLAVE, BLOCK C-1, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELIH - 110059, ALONGWITH COMMON USE OF LIFT AND ONE SMALL HATCH BACK CAR PARKING RIGHTS, IN STILT PARKING AREA.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor").

the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve

there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 45,62,305/- (Rupees Forty Five Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Three Hundrer Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00275311, by way o

outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other

charges due to the Secured Creditor from RAHUL AGGARWAL and DEEPTI VYAS

Rs. 3,05,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEARING NUMBER C-1 ON FIRST FLOOR, H. I. G, BACK SIDE, (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) HAVING COVERED AREA OF 950 SQUARE

FEET I. E 88.25 SQUARE METERS IN "SHIVAM APARTMENT - II", BUILT ON PLOT NUMBER 90, BLOCK - B SITUATED AT RESIDENTIAL COLONY

SHALIMAR GARDEN EXTENSION - II. IN VILLAGE PASONDA, PARGANA LONI

TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAR PRADESI

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided

AND THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. wy

WEST: ROAD 40 FEET WIDE.

Date: 05.02.2024

Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 30,50,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be

APPENDIX IV-A

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Authorized office

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

NORTH : PLOT NUMBER B-91

SOUTH: PLOT NUMBER B-89

B-1762

7. Date of opening of Bid

T.N.1551/023/024

No.:/SBM/2024/128

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers & correction if

Bhopal Municipal Corporation Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil)

11nd Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campus, Ambedkar Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.)

Tender for online submissions are invited on website www.mptenders.gov.in. in under "Live Tender" and Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Scheduled

Name of Work

after successful commissioning) of Weighing Bridge (Pitiless) Havind Capacity

of 16 Tonne Including the solution of software of weighting mechanism and

Boom Barrier System with RFID tags at various locations of Garbage

OF ODISHA, "e"-FROCELL WORKS DEPARTMENT E-mail: <u>ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com</u> Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-38/2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for

Roadwork as mentioned below: 2. Nature of work Road works No. of work 17Nos

and other information can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in.

Transfer Station of Bhopal City (3rd Call)

any, would be Published on website only.

2023_UAD Supply, Installation, Commissioning, operation & Maintenance (for one year

4. Tender Paper cost Rs.10,000,00

Class of Contractor A Class/Special Class/Super Class 6. Available of bid document From 10.00 A.M. of 12.02.2024 to 4.30 PM of

the website 28.02.2024

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Ranch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction

under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Dhirendra Kumar Singh/ Shailendra Kumar Singh/ Bindu Singh/ Vineeta Singh/ LBLUC00004046501/ LBLUC00003761671/ LBLUC00003761659	H No. 638/003, On Plot No. 3 Khasra No. 323 And 324 Chandan Omkarpuram, Ward Indira Priyadarshni Lucknow Uttar Pradesh / February 07, 2024	September 25,2023 Rs. 25,65,847/-	Lucknow/ Gurgaon

the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: February 09, 2024

Authorized Officer

ICICI Bank Limited.

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and
Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002
read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

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 to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 14,76,330/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00391683, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other us.uz.zuz4 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANTBEER and ARUN VAID.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 7,00,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 70,000/- (Rupees Seventy Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS OF THE RESIDENTIAL PLOT BEARING NUMBER A-1/199 HAVING COVERED AREA OF 36 SQUARE FEET I.E. 30.09 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS "D. L. F DILSHAD EXTENSION - II", VILLAGE BRAHMPUR URF BHOPURA, TEHSIL AND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD, GHAZIABAD - 201005, UTTAR PRADESH THE PLOT IS BOUNDED AS UNDER :-

EAST : PLOT NUMBER A-1/198, WEST : PLOT NUMBER A-1/200, SOUTH : OTHER PLOT For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided

on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullshomeloans.com. For oidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in

Date: 05.02.2024 Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property -Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ead with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"). he physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever Rs. 17,59,294/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLDCP00315411, by way outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest til 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and charges due to the Secured Creditor from SANJEET VERMA and RITA VERMA.

he Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

RESIDENTIAL FLAT BEARING NO. M-218-A, 1ST FLOOR, (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) HAVING COVERED AREA 33.07 SQUARE METERS SITUATED IN SECTOR - 23, SANJAY NAGAR, GHAZIABAD - 201002, UTTAR PRADESH AND WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:-

EAST : FLAT NO. 219 A NORTH: FLAT NO. 223 A WEST: FLATNO. 215 A SOUTH : ROAD 25 FEET WIDE For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsho

oidding, log on to www.auctionfocus.in Authorized officer Date: 05.02.2024

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited Place : GHAZIABAD

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement)

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulla Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), he **physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"as is where is"**, **"as is what is" and "whateve**r there is" basis on 28.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 24,37,085/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Eighty Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLVAS00282900, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 05.02.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan

document(s) w.e.f. 06.02.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUNITA GULERIA and AMIT GULERIA. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 13,00,000/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,30,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Thirty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL MIG FLAT NO. G-1, ON THE GROUND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS), HAVING ITS SUPER COVERED AREA OF 700 SQ. FT., FRONT PORTION L. H. S., BUILT ON PLOT NO. B-1/14, FRONT PORTION L.H.S., SITUATED IN THE RESIDENTIAL COLONY KNOWN AS "DLF ANKUR VIHAR", LONI, GHAZIABAD - 201010, UTTAR PRADESH. COMMON PASSAGE AND FLAT NO. G-2 **EAST**

PLOT NO. V-A/13 OTHER'S LAND 12 MTRS. WIDE ROAD

SOUTH :

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullsh

Date : 05.02.2024 Place : GHAZIABAD Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Bhopal, Date 07.02.2024

Tender Cost Rs. document Cost Rs.

cost rs.

12,500/-

Executive Engineer (SBM)

Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

1.93 Cr.

96,500/-

of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred

Dt.28.02.2024 at 4.35 P.M.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general

Sr. No		Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch			
1.	Dhirendra Kumar Singh/ Shailendra Kumar Singh/ Bindu Singh/ Vineeta Singh/ LBLUC00004046501/ LBLUC00003761671/ LBLUC00003761659	H No. 638/003, On Plot No. 3 Khasra No. 323 And 324 Chandan Omkarpuram, Ward Indira Priyadarshni Lucknow Uttar Pradesh / February 07, 2024	September 25,2023 Rs. 25,65,847/-	Lucknow/ Gurgaon			
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else							

www.dailypioneer.com

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Modi 3.0

The Prime Minister brims with confidence while outlining the vision for his Govt's third term

rime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched a scathing attack in Parliament on the Congress while articulating the vision of his Government's likely third term in power. Modi's speech not only underscored the ideological differences between his party and the Opposition but also laid out the roadmap for India's future under what has been termed "Modi 3.0". Modi's address in the Rajya Sabha was marked by a vehement critique of the Congress' governance and policies. He highlighted instances of what he deemed as failures and inadequacies during the Congress-led regimes, contrasting them with the achievements of his own Government. Modi emphasised the need for a decisive and proactive administration, taking a swipe at the perceived inertia and indecision of previous Governments. Central to Modi's address was his vision, encapsulating the goals of his Government's third term. It encompassed economic development, social welfare, national security and governance reforms. Modi reiterated his commit-



ment to bolstering India's economy, enhancing infrastructure, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship, and ensuring inclusive growth that leaves no citizen behind. Since assuming office for the second consecutive term, the Modi-led Government has undertaken several initiatives aimed at realising this vision. These include landmark reforms such as the introduction of GST and initiatives like Make in India and Digital India, which seek to transform India into a global economic powerhouse.

The Government has prioritised infrastructure development through schemes like the Bharatmala Project and Sagarmala, aimed at enhancing connectivity and

facilitating trade and commerce. Modi's emphasis on social welfare is evident in programmes like Ayushman Bharat, which aims to provide affordable healthcare to millions, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which focuses on achieving a hygienic environment. Despite the Government's concerted efforts, challenges persist. The pandemic presented an unprecedented crisis, testing the resilience of India's healthcare infrastructure and economy. While the Government implemented various measures to mitigate the impact, there remains a need for sustained efforts to revive the economy and address the health crisis effectively. Moreover, issues such as unemployment, agrarian distress and social inequality continue to pose significant challenges. Strengthening institutions, fostering innovation and promoting sustainable development are imperative to ensure a prosperous and equitable future for all citizens. The Prime Minister's address served not only as a platform to call out the Opposition but also line up his next Government's agenda. While Modi 2.0 has seen commendable progress in various sectors, challenges loom large, requiring concerted efforts and innovative solutions. As India marches onwards the path of development, the effectiveness of governance and the inclusivity of policies will be pivotal in shaping the nation's destiny under Modi's leadership.



rtistes perform during the inauguration of 'Vividhata Ka Amrit Mahotsav', in New Delhi

each event, if not a story in

itself? And, when there are stories, then there is an

urge to narrate, and an

urge to be heard. It could be

the silent wail of despera-

could be the desire to be

appreciated, to be accepted.

The Internet is an interest-

ing place to be at. However,

if someone had told me

even at the turn of the cen-

tury the remarkable

changes that this virtual

entity would bring into our

lives, I would have laughed.

My story is not about the

internet though; but the

way it has helped us cope.

I read somewhere on the

virtual world recently that

there are libraries in

Denmark, and in 50-odd

other countries, where you

rent humans for 30 minutes

to recount their stories. A

quick search on the net

revealed that there are at

least three human library

I too started writing on

social media a few years

back. The sporadic writing

India on

groups in

Facebook.

Establishing meaningful educational priorities



The intricate balance between practical demands of commercial relevance and scholarly aspirations within management education reflects the ever-changing nature of academia

lot of management text and advice is common-sensical. It is common sense if Lone agrees that the basic objective of management is a propulsion of commercial interest. That this proposition may itself be in doubt is another matter altogether. There is no substantial reason to see commerce as the domain of all management activities. If the purpose of management efforts is business management, then to some extent, it can become an extenuative logic because, at least, the assumption there is to focus on the optimization of business. However, there is business and

business; manufacturing can be a business but has a veneer of its own. It does not cover the business of ideas, and the business of ideas can be a specialization of its own, especially when it comes to being focused on education, financial exchanges, the exchange of news, and indeed exchange of money in stock exchanges. Thus, it is that business management has many forms of focus and interest. To cover all of it is difficult in a simple MBA program spread over 1200 to 1300 contact hours.

This kind of super specialisation or focus is difficult to achieve. Thus, it is that management education covers a general set of what could be called core areas and then specialisations of a more focused variety. The lay of the land is so far to

create specializations in finance, marketing, and the like; the emphasis on sectors such as Agriculture or Research & Development is yet to gather its range and depth. This is not going to come easy because to create a curriculum, one needs reading material. The reading material is often in the form of books or publications in journals, and this requires research. It also requires a forum for publication, which is in the form of print. Unless there is a definite market for these journals or magazines they cannot survive. Has the touchstone of journals or magazines, like much else, also become commercial? However, what is commercially relevant may not always be mate of justifying this as a



intellectually feasible. Hence, there is a contradiction, if not a hiatus.

Be that as it may, it delays the creation of a critical mass of material, which in its own right is worth publishing, disseminating and preserving. The touchstone again becomes commercial. It is therefore not unusual to find colleges taking a lesser interest in non-commercial areas than in activities that have a commercial overlay. This is not usual, but by the same token, it is not in the best interest of pursuing a scholarly interest.

In fact, it may be arguable that scholastic interest is an endeavour in its own right and is indeed the heart of an educational institution. To sustain this focus requires funds and research orienta-

The problem with finding SUSTAIN THIS FOCUS funds or this sort of effort is, of course, the problem of justifying the return on those runas. A one-to-one correia tion in such matters is difficult to establish, and it is even more difficult to create a cli-

scholastic effort, which is the foundation of any good educational institution. It is difficult to argue that

worldwide, well-established academic institutions invest a substantial amount of resources in creating this research climate, and their global recognition as institutions of distinction is rooted in precisely this kind of environment.

Such contradictions are common in life.

It is natural to envy the distinctiveness of others, but the same kind of ease does not accompany recognizing what it takes to create that kind of distinctiveness. As the world moves on, the

global comparison, especially amongst people who speak a common language, becomes more frequent.

Typically, there is a ranking of universities, but the inter-se ranking, as in India, is always amongst institutions of the English-speaking world. One rarely sees comparisons between the universities of the English-speaking world with the universities of the Portuguese, Spanish or the

Russian-speaking world. Thus, it is that the word global itself acquires a generalization that does not merit it and creates a misconception about what is indeed truly global.

Like all industries, education as an industry - if it may so be called -- has a long way to go before it matures. A realization of this deficiency is difficult to create and even more difficult to disseminate. Gaining recognition of the decision-making power is still a more far-removed mat-

Clearly, education as an endeavour has a long way to go before it can truly be assessed for its long-range value, beyond common sensical generalisations. The occasion of a national education policy would have been a fit occasion to tackle some of these issues, but then perhaps it will have to await a revision before this is attempted.

(I ne writer is a weii-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

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Sir — The Indian Colts exhibited exhilarating qualities of grit and maturity beyond their age to storm into the under-19 cricket World Cup final. The defending champions displayed nerves of steel as they overcame a fighting South Africa, the hosts. They are now the firm favourites to lift the cup; all set to face either Australia or Pakistan in Sunday's final. This will be India's ninth go at the Cup they have lifted a record five times. On Tuesday, the Indian top order looked out of sorts in the chase, as they seemed to wilt under the pressure of playing the big semis, as four of their frontline batsmen were back in the hut with a mere 32 runs on board before Sachin Dhas and Uday Saharan stitched a match-winning partnership of 171 runs for the fifth wick-

Dhas, in particular, went for the runs from the word go never letting the run-rate climb up. Skipper Saharan, who is in top form, played the second fiddle initially to open up later with some scintillating cover drives. The beauty of their batting lies in the confidence with which they tackled the proteas bowling. Though some late wickets caused anxiety among the Indian ranks, Saharan was there almost till the end to ensure India's place in the final on the same ground. Of course, nothing can be taken away from Raj Limbani and Musheer Khan who kept the host batters on a tight leash. The super-talented and unbeaten Indian youngsters should play their natural game in the finals without being bogged down by the big occasion.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

SOLAR ENERGY

Sir — Solar energy presents a crucial opportunity in the face of rising consumption and costly electricity. With its potential to alleviate the burden of high utility bills while promoting environ-

India is a diverse country



nome people believe in the theory that as there is one nation so there should be one language, one religion and one election. This is as dangerous in a diverse, federal, democratic country like India as a tree with one branch. We need to banish such one-on-one formula to safeguard our unity in diversity and to protect our parliamentary democracy, secularism and federalism as enshrined in the Constitution of India. Sometimes a tree has been pruned in a bad way turning it into a one-treeone-branch. Such a tree loses its balance and more often than not falls flat causing grave accidents in the process. A democratic country is

The tree would give us fruits of fundamental rights and welfare if it gets water in the form of debate and dialogue. The tree can keep its balance when all of its major branches - legislature, executive judiciary and other branches - financial, banking, investigative, and educational institutions get the air of transparency and unhindered sunlight of freedom and thus remain healthy. Democracy cannot survive if its institutions are undermined. The most essential of all is the constitution soil. If some toxic elements get mixed with the soil then the democracy-tree will die a slow death. As citizens and custodians of this great democracy, we must remain vigilant and protect the delicate balance that sustains our democratic canopy.

Sujit De | Kolkata

con of hope. The commendable strides towards solar energy, evidenced by our rapidly growing capacity of 73 GW,

mark a significant milestone. Despite the looming increase in electricity demand, solar energy remains a costeffective and readily available alternative to coal and hydroelectric power. By harnessing this abundant natural resource through appropriate means, both urban and rural areas can bask in 24-hour illumination. However, realizing this potential requires government support and widespread adoption by individuals. Through concerted efforts, solar energy can significantly reduce reliance on traditional power sources, making it the most indispensable energy solution of our time.

N Mateeni | Mumbai

EC'S CONTROVERSIAL DECISION Sir — The recent decision of the EC is vehemently condemnable on the grounds of not recognising the founder

Sharad Pawar and its coalition. This has directly weakened the political identi-

ty of the parties. The Ajit Pawar faction stole the thunder from Pawar senior as the Election Commission of India recognised them as the true Nationalists Congress Party (NCP) with a clock symbol and awarded the new longer name and party symbol of Nationalists Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar's faction with the symbolic title "Banyan tree" for the Rajya Sabha Elections for six seats in Maharashtra. Splitting and forming has become the latest trend of politics and most frequently parties are claiming into it. Matching with the ideologies of the latter becomes a challenge these days. But the new development could rock the INDIA bloc boat, where Mr Ajit Pawar holds the command.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

We are the stories of our lives! There are stories all around us. All that is required is a little

ach one of us lives through stories in life.

What is each incident, tion seeking help; or it

empathy on our part to patiently listen to people around us

turned into a passion so strong that now I must write something each day. It was my way of overcoming introverted nature. I could express my feelings and emotions without fear of being judged.

I was returning home by train recently after attending a literature festival at a university in Gujarat, where I also interacted with young adults during a creative writing workshop on storytelling conducted by me. Almost all the students were from small towns in India. Without exception, all of them had been inspired by someone close. More importantly, I could sense an urge in these young creative minds to motivated them so much. My co-passengers on the train were two younger persons. One of the persons, probably not older than 19, was to disembark at Kota the city which has helped many youngsters attain their dreams, but has also seen many unfortunate incidents due to peer pressure that many of our youngsters could not sustain. They too needed someone out there to listen

I also presumed that he was studying in Kota. He was not. He was going to meet his younger brother. He had already joined MIT in America. He elaborated upon the full form of MIT in case I did not know. He write these stories that had then showed me his

Instagram profile, which contained a number of pictures of leading politicians from his native state. The boy wanted to talk about his lifé and wanted to be heard. He had also used the social media to reach out. The other person in the

SANJAY CHANDRA

cabin was probably a decade and a half older. He too opened up about his life story. He now runs a successful business in the education sector. When he realised that I was a published author, he told me that he was also working on a manuscript containing memoirs from his life. He strongly felt that he lost three important persons in his life due to him. He too wanted a sounding board. There are many such stories all around us. In fact, all of us are the stories of our life. All that is required is a little empathy on our part, to patiently listen to people around us. This small act may go a long way in redeeming a life!

The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

INDIAN COLTS IN THE FINALS

mental sustainability, it stands as a beaof the Nationalists Congress Party, Mr the pioneer



FIRST COLUMN

GEO-POLITICS IN THE ELECTION YEAR

As the nation gears up for elections, the spotlight shifts towards domestic issues



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

poll-bound government is likely to highlight the domestic sociopolitical economy rather than focus on global geopolitics. However, in a world where food on the plate for citizens is dictated by ravaging wars and inimical neighbours, geo politics finds itself through to every conversation, even if it is addressed to a political constituency. In the past week, the entire Indian government has laid out the influence of external factors on the domestic economy and therefore their voting choices.

The successful conclusion of the G20 summit in New Delhi, last September, topped with a joint communique, is the geo-political showpiece that will be used in election rallies by the ruling party members. The build-up to the G20 summit was a careful execution of several events, meetings, conferences and exhibitions criss crossing the entire country. One of the first meetings leading to the G20 summit was in Andamans. where the foreign heads of G20 countries were treated to the scenic beaches in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Several diplomats, this author, spoke to later, had never been to Andamans, neither hoped to set up a vacation in future, had it not been for the diplomatic event.

Going beyond setting up a Bharat culture and diversity tourism pitch, the G20 events were an early roadshow for the Modi government, beginning in December 2022, almost a year and a half ahead of the general elections. Elaborate street decorations, cosmetic and essential lift of meeting venue infrastructure, putting a celebratory appeal to an otherwise boring diplomatic affair, and getting many diverse stakeholders on board, made the Indian G20 presidency closer to the citizens. Almost every taxi driver, hotel owner, local shop owner and person out on a stroll in the venue city would be discussing the G20 summit, with a palpable excitement, similar to a cricket match.



However, the Prime Minister knew Indians wanted more, they were used to a grand extravagant wedding-type spectacle, and he ensured all of it with his state visit to France, followed by the US and finally the grand finale of the G20 summit in New Delhi. The common message away from the twists and language of diplomatic documents, meant for a common citizen was India has arrived at the global stage and the world is eagerly waiting for India's global leadership. Prime Minister, Modi summed it up during his speech on the vote of accounts earlier this week in Lok Sabha, where he counted the G20 summit as one of the key highlights of the government under his leadership for a decade. "He said that the world's views and opinions towards India can be summed up by the success of the G20 Summit. Prime Minister Modi underlined that the whole world is watching the speed of the work of the government as well as its big goals and courage.

Meanwhile, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her sixth consecutive budget (the current one being interim) last week and even though she kept the document and her speech to be a bland vote on accounts (as it should be) she did squeeze paragraphs on the importance of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITS) for getting fresh investment in the economy. Her speech highlighted "Geopolitically, global affairs are becoming more complex and challenging with wars and conflicts. Globalization is being redefined with reshoring and friend-shoring, disruption and fragmentation of supply chains, and competition for critical minerals and technologies. India assumed the G20 Presidency during very difficult times for the world. The country showed the way forward and built consensus on solutions for those global problems." Even though India is pushing for a multilateral world order, the global agenda has reached the electorate's doorstep in an election year.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Nitish embraces BJP to survive in Bihar politics



For the INDIA bloc to endure following the upheaval caused by Nitish, Congress must demonstrate flexibility and be willing to make concessions

itish Kumar's "Chameleon-like skills have been decoded by columnists and writers in India in a different style but this writer I would prefer to describe the astute Bihar politician as a 'perfect culmination and package' of "3 in 1 rare quality" comprising of 16thcentury Italian statesman, Niccolò Machiavelli's thinking "ends justify the means", Charles Darwin theory's ingredient "survival of the fittest" and late George Fernandes's unpredictable nature, which has helped him to become chief minister for 9th record time. Machiavellianism characterizes the view that politics is immoral hence the unscrupulous actions involving deceit, treachery and violence are permissible as an effective means of acquiring and maintaining political power.

In the Indian context, a committed socialist, the late George Fernandes was responsible for toppling the Morarji Desai government on July 15, 1979, as he revolted and subsequently resigned along with some ministers thereby ditching Morarji. Interestingly, Fernandes had praised the government in parliament on July 14, 1979, but acted as "Paltu Ram" the next day to ensure the downfall of his government. As a true follower of Fernandes to survival, Nitish has exhibited his talent several times hence even foes including BJP have warmly accepted his comeback though it had declared that doors are shut for "Paltu Ram" after he dumped the saffron party in Bihar to form the government with RJD and

Congress 18 months ago.
Congress Party may share Maximum Blame For the current uncertainty in the INDI Alliance.

Experts believe that as a PAN India party, it was mandatory for the Congress to stitch the alliance and ensure seat-sharing but it has miserably failed so far. JD(U) supremo, Nitish Kumar has left the alliance in lurch and leaders like Mamata Banerjee and Kejriwal have decided to carve out their "suicidal" independent path. The critics squarely blame Rahul Gandhi also who ought to have rescheduled his 'Nayay Yatra' and supplemented the efforts of Malikarjun Kharge to sort out the differences with alliance partners vis-à-vis seat sharing in the states. Due to ill -health Sonia Gandhi, is not fully active and opted to leave it to Kanul to nandle the entire fiasco. Priyanka Vadra's sojourn in America also defies logic especially when she does matter in Congress.

Impact of Nitish's decision to dump

Political observers believe that BJP and JD(U) were sailing in the same boat in Bihar which is evident from the slide in the percentage of votes when compared with the 2019(NDA) Lok Sabha and 2020 assembly polls of Maha Gath Bandhan (MGB) in Bihar. BJP and JD(U) had fought the 2019 polls together and polled 23.58% and 21.81 % whereas it came down to 19.46% (-2.35%) and 15.39 % (-8.19%) in the 2020 assembly elections respectively which could have been the predominant reason of joining the hands to survive and improve the performance

Nitish Kumar's decision to ditch the INDI alliance may have serious implications in Bihar as BJP, JD(U) and LJP make a deadly combination for 2024. NDA got 53.25% in 2019 which included BJP (23.58%),



NITISH WILL BENEFIT EQUALLY AFTER JOINING HANDS WITH BJP AS IT HAS PROTECTED HIS

CM CHAIR AND PROSPECTS OF BECOMING CM FOR THE TENTH TIME HAVE

BRIGHTENED AFTER THE 2025 ASSEMBLY POLLS

JD(U)21.8% and LJP (7.88%). Contrary to it, MGB is left with RJD's 23.11 % in 2020 and Congress party's 9.48 % thereby reducing it to a minor player in Bihar which has given a big jolt to the INDI alliance.

2nd, JD(U) had won `16 Lok Sabha seats and lost one and BJP won all 17 seats contested by it whereas LJP won all six seats which will directly benefit the saffron party as there were very little chances of winning a larger number of states with the help Chirag Paswan party and smaller groups. 3rd, Nitish will benefit equally after joining hands with BJP as it has protected his CM chair and prospects of becoming CM for the tenth time have brightened after the 2025 assembly polls. 4th, Bihar CM had always found

discomfort in the company of the Lalu family which is being investigated by ED for allegations of corruption and Nitish Kumar's chances of facing investigating agencies were not being ruled out, especially in view of chances of Modi returning back to power for 3rd time in 2024.

5th, Nitish can find himself in a safe zone after joining hands with the BJP which has been witnessed in innumerable cases of political adversaries and foes in the states and centre as they were liberated from the scare of ED and other investigating agencies.

6th, Nitish was reportedly upset with the reports of six MPs of his party hobnobbing with BJP and they could have left him in the lurch prior to 2024 because they had won owing to JD(U) and BJP alliance and caste equations in 2019. As things stand today, the chances of their victory had dampened especially after the Ram temple consecration by PM,

Narender Modi and the impact of Hindutva in Bihar.

7th, JD(U) MPs also recognize the fact that people vote in a different manner in parliamentary polls hence 2020 assembly elections' yardstick cannot be applied in 2024 as Modi will be the face of NDA who stands at an invincible and indomitable position when compared with any leader in INDI alliance which is yet to declare its' PM candidate.

Mamata And Kejriwal are the two villains of the entire fiasco.

Political observers give full credit to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata and Delhi CM, Arvind Kejriwal for 'sabotaging' the chances of Nitish Kumar to become convener of the alliance which can be attributed to their personal ambition. One cannot deny the fact that Nitish had worked hard for the past year and met the regional leaders which led to the first successful meeting of I.N.D.I.A in Patna on June 23, 2023, to resolve to oust the BIP in 2024. But when crunch time came, Mamata floated the name of Kharge and Kejriwal supported her proposal which was the result of their joint strategy to keep Nitish at bay they succeeded which amounts to a self-inflicted political wound and it may prove counterproductive in 2024.

Nitish accuses Congress of creating a mess

Nitish Kumar has blamed Congress for the current crisis in INDIA but insiders reveal that former CM, Lalu Prasad and his son Tejeshwai also contributed to the present murky state of affairs in Bihar. Father and son, the duo, was in a hurry to capture power through former JD(U) president, Lalan Singh who was shown the

mooted an idea of making Tejashwi CM and started breaking JD(U) which irked Nitish who ensured the removal of Singh and clinched a deal with BJP. Nitish is primarily focused on survival only. In this backdrop, Nitish Kumar does not care if he will be remembered in Indian history as

a "Chameleon", "Paltu Ram" or

"Aya Ram, Gaya Ram" because he

has implemented Machiavelli's principle to survive in politics and it has also benefited him to stick

to chief minister's chair for 9th after Mahagathbandhan comprising of Congress and Rashtriya Janata dal(RJD) in Bihar.CM has embraced the Bharatiya Janata party which desperately needed him to win a maximum number of seats in 2024. Nitish has a bright chance of acquiring the CM's chair for the 10th time after the 2025 assembly polls provided the BJP is on the receiving end otherwise he should be ready for political burial.BJP believes in the principle of "use and throw" which holds true for those leaders who defected from various parties but lost relevance with the passage of time. But the BJP does take care of those leaders who retain their political relevance and utility like some of Rahul Gandhi's legion who dumped him

Analysts opine that INDI Alliance can be saved even after the jolt given by Nitish but it will be possible if Congress adopts an attitude of flexibility and makes sacrifices to accept the dominance of Mamata, Kejriwal etc. in West Bengal and Punjab as well as Delhi respectively.

and joined the saffron party.

(The writer is a political analyst and senior journalist; views are

Solar scheme offers free electricity and economic empowerment

The 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' represents a significant step towards sustainable energy adoption, promising not only free electricity but also economic empowerment

Nirmala Sitharaman recently announced a groundbreaking initiative in her budget speech, confirming that participants in the government's newly unveiled rooftop solar scheme will receive 300 units of complimentary electricity per month. This initiative aims to assist households in saving up to Rs 18,000 annually, with distribution companies ensuring its imple-

mentation. This announcement comes on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration of the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' shortly after his return from Ayodhya on January 22. Under this scheme, rooftop solar power systems will be



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

installed in one crore homes, though a specific timeline for achieving this ambitious target was not provided.

The scheme arrives at a crucial juncture as the government's goal of installing rooftop solar power plants has not gained significant traction. Despite a target of 40 GW by the end of 2022, only 5.87 GW of rooftop solar projects were installed by May last year, represent- aimed to contribute 40 GW

ing less than 15% of the tar-

In alignment with the government's energy transition plans, a substantial portion of the renewable capacity, totalling 292 GW out of 500 GW by 2030, is expected to

be solar power.
Additionally, the Finance
Minister highlighted that
the scheme will facilitate the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) by incorporating home charging stations. It is also anticipated to generate entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in the supply, installation, and maintenance sectors. 'Pradhan Mantri

Suryodaya Yojana' extends

the longstanding rooftop solar energy program, which



to the government's initial target of installing 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022. However, as of the end of 2023, the country's total solar capacity reached 73.3 GW, with grid-connected rooftop systems comprising

Industry experts, including the Delhi-based Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW), suggest that installing solar power on rooftops of 10 million homes

capacity. Furthermore, this initiative is expected to lead to savings of about Rs 2 lakh crore for distribution companies over the next 25

Under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana, approximately 10 million households will benefit from the ability to sell surplus electricity to distribution companies. Sitharaman estimated that families could save between Rs 15,000 and Rs 18,000 annually through this project, with the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited serving as the

designated nodal agency. The scheme mandates the provision of 300 units of free electricity to low- and middle-income households. could add 20-25 GW of new After recovering the instal-

lation cost of Rs 80,000 (post-subsidy) for a 2 kW plant in four years, the surplus power generated can be sold to the grid. Distribution companies stand to benefit from reduced infrastructure investment and losses.

While the project's implementation faces challenges, including limited panel manufacturing capacity, experts advocate for a focus on practical sectors such as commercial and industrial, where subsidies and clear policies can drive cost reductions. Despite previous shortcomings, the government remains committed to renewable energy targets, including the expansion of evehicle infrastructure and the promotion of green growth initiatives.

In conclusion, the 'Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana' signifies a pivotal stride towards a brighter, cleaner future for India. By harnessing the power of the sun, this initiative not only offers free electricity to millions of households but also paves the way for economic prosperity and environmental sustainability. With continued commitment from both the government and citizens alike, India is poised to emerge as a global leader in renewable energy adoption, driving positive change for generations to come. Let us embrace this opportunity to shape a greener, more prosperous tomorrow for our nation and the world. (The writer is a senior jour-

nalist; views are personal)

Israeli strikes kill 13 in southern Gaza town

sraeli airstrikes killed over a Israeli airstines kinea di dozen people overnight and into Thursday in Rafah in the Gaza Strip, hours after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected Hamas' cease-fire terms and vowed to expand the offensive into the southern Gaza town.

More than half of strip's population has fled to Rafah, on the mostly sealed border with Egypt, which is also the main entry point for humanitarian aid. Egypt has warned that any ground operation there or mass displacement across the border would undermine its four-decade-old peace treaty with Israel.

The overnight strikes killed at least 13 people, including two women and five children, according to the Kuwaiti Hospital, which received the bodies. At the scene of one of the strikes, residents used their cellphone flashlights as they dug through the rubble with pick-axes and their bare hands.

"I wish we could collect their whole bodies instead of just pieces," said Mohammed Abu Habib, a neighbour who witnessed the strike.

Israel's four-month-old air and ground offensive - among the most destructive in recent history - has killed over 27,000 Palestinians, driven most people from their homes and pushed a quarter of the population toward starvation. Netanyahu has said the offensive will continue and expand until "total victory" over Hamas, which started the war by launching a wide-ranging attack into southern Israel on Oct 7 in which militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took around 250 hostage. Israel has also vowed to bring back the over 100 captives still held by Hamas after most of the rest were freed during a cease-fire in November in exchange for the release of Palestinians imprisoned by

But both of those goals appear increasingly elusive, as Hamas re-emerges in parts of northern Gaza, which was the first target of the offensive and suffered widespread destruc-

one hostage, while Hamas says several have been killed in airstrikes or failed rescue mis-

ALARM GROWS AS ISRAEL EYES RAFAH

Netanyahu said preparations were underway to expand the offensive into Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of people who fled from other areas are crowded into squalid tent camps and overflowing UNrun shelters. The Palestinian death toll from four months of war has already reached 27,840, according to the Health Ministry in the Hamas-run territory. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its figures but says most of the dead have been women and children.

International aid organisations have warned that any major operation in Rafah would compound what is already a humanitarian catastrophe in the besieged coastal

"If they aren't killed in the fighting, Palestinian children, women and men will be at risk of dying by starvation or disease." said Bob Kitchen, of the International Rescue Committee. "There will no longer be a single safe' area for Palestinians to go to." Outside the hospital where bodies from the overnight strikes were brought, relatives wept as they said farewell to their loved ones. Warda Abu Warda said she felt helpless. "Where do we go after Rafah? Do we go to

sea?" she asked. GAPS REMAIN IN TALKS OVER CEASE-FIRE

The United States, Qatar and Egypt are trying to broker another cease-fire agreement to ensure the release the remaining hostages. But Hamas has demanded an end to the war, a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including high-profile mili-

Netanyahu rejected those demands as "delusional" on Tuesday and said Israel would never agree to any deal that leaves Hamas in partial or full control of the territory it has

But visiting Secretary of State Antony Blinken said an agreement was still possible and that negotiations would continue, the latest sign of a growing divide between the two close allies on the way forward. A Hamas delegation arrived in Cairo on Thursday for more negotiations.

Netanyahu is under mounting pressure from families of the hostages and the wider public to bring them home, even if it requires a deal with Hamas. At least one senior Israeli official has acknowledged that saving the captives and destroying Hamas might be incompatible.

Hamas is still holding over 130 hostages, but around 30 of them are believed to be dead, with the vast majority killed on Oct 7. The group is widely believed to be holding the captives in tunnels deep underground and using them as human shields for its top lead-

BLINKEN ENDS LATEST MIDEAST MISSION

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken left the Middle East on Thursday with public divisions between the United States and Israel at perhaps their worst level since Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza began in October. Wrapping up a four-nation

Mideast trip - his fifth to the region since the conflict erupted - Blinken was returning to Washington after getting a virtual slap in the face from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said the war would continue until Israel is completely victorious and appeared to reject outright a response from Hamas to a proposed cease-fire plan. Relations between Israel and its main international ally, the United States, have been tense for months, but Netanyahu's public dismissal of a plan the JS says has merit, at least as a starting point for further nego-

tiation, highlighted the divide. see space to continue to pursue Yet Blinken and other US an agreement," Blinken said late Wednesday. "And these things officials said they remained are always negotiations. It's not flipping a light switch. It's not optimistic that progress could be made on their main goals of

improving humanitarian conyes' or no.' There's invariably ditions for Palestinians civilback and forth."

Palestinians look at the destruction after an Israeli strike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, Thursday

ians, securing the release of hostages held by Hamas, preparing for a post-conflict Gaza and preventing the war from spreading. Officials said Blinker's optimism was based Shortly before Blinken spoke, though, Netanyahu took direct aim at the Hamas response, calling it "delusional" and vowing that Israel would fight on to achieve "absolute victory" over the militant Blinken's optimism was based on his first four post-Oct 7 trips group, no matter what. Compounding Blinken's to the Middle East. None of those visits resulted in immediate visible successes, but they brought limited but signifi-

dilemma, Netanyahu also appeared to dismiss concerns from the US and others about expanding Israel's military operations in southern Gaza, particularly in Rafah, the area on the Egyptian border to which over a million Palestinians have fled. "On all of my previous visits here and pretty much every day in between, we have pressed Israel in concrete ways to strengthen civilian protection, to get more assistance to those who need it. And over the past four months, Israel has taken important steps to do just that," he said. "And yet...the daily toll that its military operations continue to take on innocent civilians remains too high.

the dismantlement of UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, which is the main dis-

tance to Gaza, because of its alleged hostility toward Israel and allegations that a dozen of its employees took part in the Oct 7 Hamas attack that ignited the war. The US and other donor nations have suspended new assistance to UNRWA pending completion of a UN investigation into the allegations, but Blinken has nonetheless said the agency's role is critical to getting desperately need-

> Blinken appealed to Netanyahu and other Israelis still reeling from the Hamas attack not to allow vengeance to dictate their continued Israelis were dehumanised

ed humanitarian supplies into

Netanyahu also called for

tributor of international assis-

in the most horrific way on October 7," he said. "And the hostages have been dehumanized every day since. But that cannot be a license to dehumanise others."

Blinken came to Israel just hours after the receipt of the Hamas counter-proposal to the framework cease-fire agreement put forward late last month. That proposal includes a three-phase plan to de-esca-

late the conflict. In Qatar on Tuesday, both Qatar's prime minister and Blinken said the proposal had promise as a starting point for

further negotiation.

And Blinken talked up Saudi Arabia's interest in normalising relations with Israel, provided the Gaza war ends and the Palestinians are given a clear, credible and timebound pathway to an indepen-

"We remain determined as well to pursue a diplomatic path to a just and lasting peace, and security for all in the region, and notably for Israel," Blinken said in Tel Aviv. However, Netanyahu is opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state and has said Israel will maintain openended security control over Williamson suspends her presidential campaign

Washington (AP): Self-help author and spiritual guru Marianne Williamson on Wednesday announced the end of her long-shot Democratic of her long-shot Democratic challenge to President Joe Biden. The 71-year-old one-time spiritual adviser to Oprah Winfrey contemplated suspending her campaign last month after winning just 5,000 votes in New Hampshire's primary, writing that she "had to decide whether now is the decide whether now is the time for a dignified exit or continue on our campaign journey". But Williamson ultimately opted to continue on for two more primaries. She won just 2 per cent of the vote in South Carolina and about 3 per cent

"I hope future candidates will take what works for them, drinking from the well of information we prepared," Williamson wrote in announcing the end of her bid. "My team and I brought to the table some great ideas, and I will take pleasure when I see them live on in campaigns and candidates yet to be creat-

Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips is the last nationally known Democrat still running against Biden, who has scored blowout victories in South Carolina and Nevada and easily won in New Hampshire – despite not being on the ballot after his allies mounted a write-in campaign. Williamson first ran for president in 2020 and made national headlines by calling for a "moral uprising" against then-President Donald Trump while proposing the creation of the Department of Peace. She also argued that the federal government should pay large financial reparations to Black Americans as atonement for centuries of slavery and discrimination. Her second White House bid featured the same nontraditional campaigning style and many of the same policy proposals. She struggled to raise money and was plagued by staff departures from her bid's earliest stages.

Haiti's PM urges calm as protests seek his ouster

Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry urged calm in a public address early Thursday following three days of violent protests that have paralysed the country demanding his resignation. The brief speech did little to appease thousands of people angry and frustrated over unrelenting gang violence, deepening poverty and no general elections in sight.

"I think the time has arrived for all to put our heads together to save Haiti, to do things another way in our country," Henry said without offering specifics.

He urged Haitians not to look at the government or at Haiti's National Police as their adversaries. Those who choose violence, destruction and killing people to take power are "not working in the interests of the Haitian people," he

His comments come as thousands of Haitians gathered daily this week in cities and towns across the country to demand that Henry step down, saying they will keep protesting until he leaves.

Haiti's legislature is currently empty, after the terms of its last 10 senators expired in January 2023. The country failed to hold planned elections in 2019 and 2023, and Henry assumed power with the support of the international community following the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

On Wednesday, police killed five armed environmental protection agents in the capital of Port-au-Prince in a shooting some worry could worsen Haiti's crisis.

Lionel Lazarre, head of a police union known as Synapoha, told The Associated Press that the shooting between police and agents with Haiti's Security Brigade for Protected Areas occurred in the Laboule community. He claimed that the environmen-

police asked them to drop their weapons, prompting officers to shoot.

The environmental division has recently come under scrutiny after its agents in northern Haiti clashed with

Henry said Haitians need peace, security, work and the ability to move freely around the country.

"Haitian people need for their children to go to school without fear, because that's what's going to guarantee them a future," he said.

Henry once again pledged to hold general elections as soon as Haiti's insecurity issues are resolved, saying he would continue to reach out and work with all those who want the country to move forward, "to take decisions together that are going to help us emerge from the crisis."

He also congratulated police for their efforts in fighting gangs and promised he would keep pushing for the UN-backed deployment of a Kenyan police force that is currently blocked by a court order. "I want to reassure everyone the government will do whatever it can for the mission to come as fast as possible," he said.

Henry also extended his sympathies to all those who have died in the violent protests this week. "I give you assurance that the Haitian people will have peace and development with prosperity," Henry said, without providing details. "Together, hand-inhand, we will change our des-

Haitians said they wanted Henry to step down by Feb 7, the date Haitian leaders are typically sworn into office. The date also carries deep historical significance in Haiti: On that date in 1986, former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled for France, and in 1991, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically-elected president, was sworn in.

German military frigate heads toward Red Sea

Berlin (AP): A German Navy frigate set sail on Thursday toward the Red Sea, where Berlin plans to have it take part mission to help defend cargo ships from attacks by Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels that are hampering trade.

The Hessen set off from the North Sea port of Wilhelmshaven with about 240 service people on board. The aim is to have it in place once the EU mission is given the official go-ahead and the German parliament has approved a mandate for the ship to join in, which is expected at the end of February. EU foreign ministers are expected to sign off on the Red Sea mission on February 19. Officials have said that seven countries in the bloc are ready to provide ships or planes. The Houthis have waged a persistent campaign of drone attacks on commercial ships over Israel's offensive in Gaza against Hamas.

Ships from US, Aus and Japan conduct joint drills in SCS

Taipei (AP): Warships from the United States, Australia and Japan have held joint drills in the vital fish stocks and underwa-Beijing, which claims sovereignty over virtually the entire strategic waterway

cant improvements in the

delivery of humanitarian aid

and a weeklong cease-fire in November in which scores of

that Hamas sent back that are

absolute non-starters," Blinken

said of the response the militant

group delivered Tuesday to a

cease-fire and hostage release

proposal that was endorsed

last month by Egypt, Qatar, the

"But, at the same time, we

US and Israel itself.

"Člearly there are things

hostages were released.

The US 7th Fleet that oversees most US Navy operations in the region said the guidedmissile destroyer USS John Finn and combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords carried out operations with navy ships from Japan and Australia on Wednesday and

Thursday. There was no word on whether the exercises were conducted close to islands and shoals claimed by Beijing, which has built military bases on at least seven islands by piling concrete and sand on top of coral atolls. Beijing objects strongly to foreign naval operations in the area, saying historical records prove it belongs to China.

Each year, an estimated \$5 trillion in international com-

The US takes no formal stand on sovereignty in the area but rejects China's claims, partly based on a 2016 ruling by a United Nations-backed court in The Hague. There was no immediate reaction to the exercises from China's Defence Ministry. "This multinational sail fortifies our relationship between the US, Japan and Australian allies," Cmdr Earvin Taylor, John Finn's commanding officer, said in a statement from the 7th Fleet. "We promote transparency, rule of law, freedom of navigation and all principles that underscore security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific." Australian Commodore Ionathan Lev said in the statement that such deployments are "crucial for enhancing mutual understanding and our ability to operate together."

Military: Five Marines aboard chopper confirmed dead

San Diego (AP): Five US Marines aboard a helicopter that went down during stormy weather in the mountains outside of San Diego are con-Thursday. Authorities say the CH-53E Super Stallion vanished late Tuesday night while returning to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in San Diego after training at Creech Air Force Base, northwest of Las

"It is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that I share the loss of five outstanding Marines from 3d Marine Aircraft Wing and the "Flying Tigers," Maj Gen Michael Borgschulte, commander of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, said in a statement. The names of the Marines were not immediately released."To the families of our fallen Marines. we send our deepest condolences and commit to ensuring your support and care during this incredibly difficult Borgshulte said.



Children play in the snow in the Cleveland National Forest, Wednesday in eastern San Diego county, Calif

"Though we understand the inherent risks of military service, any loss of life is always difficult." Efforts to recover the remains of the five have begun and an investigation into the crash is underway, according to the statement.

Capt Stephanie Leguizamon, spokesperson for the wing, said she had little information beyond the statement."I do know that it's cold...I know that's been a contentious issue" for searchers in reaching the crash site. The last known contact with the helicopter was at about 11:30 pm Tuesday, Mike Cornette of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection told CBS 8 news.

Prince William thanks public for support

Britain's Prince of Wales, William, has expressed his gratitude to the British public for their messages of support during the royal family's "medical focus", with father King Charles' cancer diagnosis and wife Kate Middleton's recent abdominal surgery.

As he arrived for the London Air Ambulance Service gala in London on Wednesday evening, the 41-year-old told the crowds gathered that "we really appreciate everyone's kind messages, thank you". He reiterated his gratitude during his speech for the gala as he referred to a series of medical developments related to the senior royals in recent days.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you, also, for the kind messages of support for Catherine and for my father, especially in recent days," said William. "It means a great deal to us

Hollywood star Tom Cruise. William is a former air ambulance pilot with the East

from it all".

all. It's fair to say the past few Anglian Air Ambulance and weeks have had a rather medical focus," he added, joking that he had come to an air ambulance function to "get away At the gala, he was spotted chatting to and laughing with

during the event met crew members, former patients and supporters before delivering the speech. The gala dinner is raising funds for London's Air Ambulance Charity's Up Against Time appeal, which is seeking GBP 15 million to replace the service's helicopter fleet by the autumn. "By

September, we need the two new red birds – decked with the latest kit such as night vision in our skies," he said.

It marked among the first high-profile events for Prince William after he returned to work supporting the King on Wednesday, when he hosted a Windsor Castle investiture ceremony. His younger brother Prince Harry flew into London from his home in California to spend around 45 minutes at Clarence House, the King's home, a day after Buckingham Palace revealed that the 75year-old monarch has been diagnosed with an unspecified form of cancer. William is expected to step in for several engagements as the King withdraws from his public-facing royal duties during the course of his treatment. However, he will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as well as his weekly audiences with Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Volcano erupting again in Iceland

Grindavik (Iceland) (AP): A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted for the third time since December on Thursday, sending jets of lava into the sky and triggering the evacuation of the Blue Lagoon spa, one of the island nation's biggest tourist attrac-

The eruption began at about 0600 GMT (1 am EST) along a three-kilometre (nearly two-mile) fissure northeast of Mount Sundhnukur, the Icelandic Meteorological Office said. The event is taking place about four kilometers (2½ miles) northeast of Grindavik, a coastal town of 3,800 people that was evacuated before a previous eruption on Dec 18.

Icelandic The Meteorological Office said that lava was flowing to the west and there was no immediate threat to Grindavik or to a major power plant in the area. Civil

time of the eruption, Icelandic national broadcaster RUV reported. "They weren't meant to be, and we don't know about any," Víðir Reynisson, the head of Iceland's Civil Defence, told Icelandic national broadcaster RUV. The nearby Blue Lagoon thermal spa was closed when the eruption began and all the guests were safely evacuated, RUV said. The Icelandic Met Office said earlier this week warned of a possible eruption after monitoring a buildup of subsurface magma for the past three weeks. The amount of magma or semimolten rock that had accumulated was similar to the amount released during an eruption in January. Hundreds of small earthquakes had been measured in the area since last Friday, capped by a burst of intense seismic activity.

defence officials said no one was

believed to be in the town at the

Pakistan general elections marred by sporadic violence

ounting of votes began in Pakistan following conclusion of the polling on Thursday in an election marred by crackdown on jailed ex-prime minister Imrán Khan's party, sporadic violence and connectivity issues after the government suspended mobile and internet services to foil suspected terror

The polling started at 8.00 AM and continued without any break till 5.00 PM. A countrywide public holiday was declared to enable more than 12 crore voters to cast their ballots. The time for voting ended but the people present inside the premises of the polling stations were allowed to cast their votes. The polling percentage is not

The results of individual polling stations have started to pour in from across the country after the mandatory one hour restriction elapsed. But it may take a couple of hours before the complete result of any constituency is available.

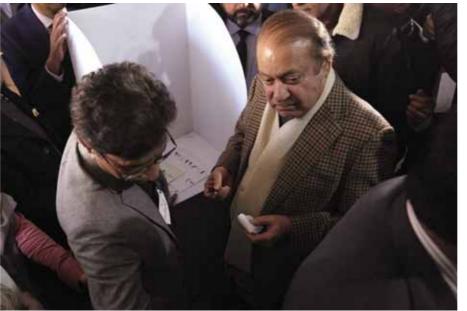
In total 266 National Assembly seats were up for grabs out of 336, but polling was

after a candidate was killed in a gun attack in Bajaur. Another seats are reserved for women and 10 for minorities, and are allotted to the winning parties based on proportional representation. A party must win 133 seats out of 265 being contested to form the next govern-

Nawaz Sharif, the 74-year-old three-time former premier who is eying the premiership for a record fourth term, has expressed confidence that his Pakistan Muslim League-Pakistan Mushini League Nawaz (PML-N) party would win elections. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said it has resolved 76 poll-related complaints, which were received throughout the day.
According to the ECP

spokesperson Haroon Shinwari, most of the complaints were of "normal nature" involving confrontations between political workers in different areas which were resolved on the

Soon after the voting started, mobile services in Pakistan were suspended due to the "deteriorating security situation", a day after twin terror



An officer of polling staff helps Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif to mark on ballot paper to cast his vote at a polling station for the country's parliamentary elections, in Lahore, Pakistan, on Thursday

attacks killed at least 30 people in Balochistan province. Despite the suspension of cellular and internet services, a large number of people across Pakistan exercised their right to vote to elect lawmakers for

national and provincial assemblies - on 855 constituencies.

Amnesty International criticised the decision to suspend mobile phone and internet service on the day of election, calling it "a blunt attack on the rights to freedom of expression peaceful

"Amnesty International calls on the Pakistan authorities to urgently lift the blanket restrictions on access to the

on X. There were reports of the voting process facing delays at certain polling stations across

Four policemen on election duty were killed in a terror attack in Dera Ismail Khan on Thursday. A security officer was killed after gunmen opened fire at soldiers in the Tank area of Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region. Nearly 650,000 security personnel have been deployed across the country to conduct peace-ful elections. With former prime minister Imran Khan in jail, Sharif's PML-N is tipped to emerge as the single largest party in the elections.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates are contesting the polls independently after the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the election commission to deprive his party of its iconic election symbol cricket 'bat'. "Make sure you come out and Vote in huge numbers tomorrow," Khan was quoted as saying in a video posted on his X handle on ednesday.

Khan, 71, and other prominent incarcerated political figthrough a postal ballot from Adiala Jail. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has congratulated the nation on what he called "successful conduct" of "free and fair" elections.

"I appreciate the efforts of the Election Commission of Pakistan, Interim Provincial Governments, Armed Forces, Civil Armed Forces, Police, law enforcement agencies, election staff, media and all those institutions and individuals who contributed to the conduct of the free and fair elections," he said in a post on X.

Kakar said the high voter turnout is a clear indication of public commitment to shaping the future of the country. "The voices, expressed through the votes, will contribute to the fortification of our democracy, and for that, people of Pakistan deserve every bit of appreciation," he added.

The border crossing with Afghanistan and Iran will also remain closed both for cargo and pedestrians on Thursday due to security reasons.

Pakistan's Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja earlier said that

peaceful According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), a total of 5,121 candidates are in the race for the National Assembly (NA) seats. These include 4,807 male, 312 female and two transgenders. For the four provincial assemblies, 12,695 candidates are in the field including 12,123 males, 570 women and two transgenders. Khan's PTI after falling out with the powerful establish-ment complained of pressure and lack of space to carry out its campaign. The party has been subjected to a nationwide state clampdown, with hundreds of workers and candidates arrested and released only after quitting the party or withdraw-

ing from the election. Pakistan's history since 1947 has been riddled with the Army sidelining elected governments. Khan is jailed on corruption charges and is barred from standing. He is serving at least 14 years in prison, having been sentenced in three separate cases in the space of five days last week. He still faces over 140 charges in different

PTI says its polling agents picked by police in Punjab

Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on Thursday claimed that polling in several areas of Pakistan's Punjab province of Pakistan began on Thursday without the presence of its agents, some of whom were picked by the police to make rigging easier in the elections. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) candidates are contesting the polls independently after the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the election commission to deprive his party of its iconic election symbol cricket

The PTI has alleged that the police removed its polling camps. "At several polling stations in the constituencies, including those of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, his brother Shehbaz Sharif and

Lahore (PTI): Former daughter Maryam Nawaz the polling even began without the presence of the polling agents of the PTI in Lahore," party leader from Lahore Wasim Ahmad told this correspondent. Besides, only the PML-N polling agents were present when the presiding officers allowed the polling process in Nawaz Sharif's NA-130 Lahore constituency, He said the police had

started picking up its polling agents before they could reach the polling stations. "Through this, the authorities want to ensure that our candidates' polling agents could not get the result of the booth, making it easier for them to rig the election," he said. The PTI alleges that tac-

tics have been used to prevent their candidates from contesting the election.



People hold their ID cards as they wait for their turn to cast vote outside a polling station during the parliamentary elections in Multan, Pakistan, on Thursday

Reprieve for Muizzu as Maldives' SC suspends impeachment amendment

Ukraine shoots down Russian helicopter

Defence Ministry said in an assessment

Thursday. Street-to-street combat is tak-

ing place in the city as Ukrainian troops

seek to keep open their main supply route

amid intense bombardment, the ministry

forces reported Thursday that its troops

had fended off 40 enemy assaults around

Avdiivka over the previous 24 hours. That

is roughly double the number of daily

Russian assaults at other points along the

front line. Russia's Pravda newspaper

reported Thursday that the Russian army

was attempting to cut a key logistics sup-

ply route for Ukraine in the village of

Lastochkyne, about 6 km (4 miles) west

tronic warfare to take out the Starlink

communications system which Ukrainian

troops use to communicate, Pravda said.

The Russian military has used elec-

of Avdiivka.

The General Staff of Ukraine's armed

said on X, formerly known as Twitter.

In a respite for Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the suspension of a recent amendment to Parliament's standing orders that had made it easier for the opposition lawmakers to impeach the president and the vice president, local media reports said. The constitution declares that an impeachment motion against the president or vice president requires the vote of two-thirds of the members of Parliament. However, the House had recently amended its standing orders to make it easier to submit an impeachment motion by lowering the number of votes required for it. The Attorney General's Office filed the case with the Supreme Court over the amendment on January 28. It also asked for an injunction to suspend the amendment until the court makes a final ruling.

The case was heard by the full bench of the Supreme

Ukrainian forces claimed Thursday to have shot down a Russian attack heli-

copter in eastern Ukraine near the city of

Avdiivka, where soldiers are fighting

from street to street as Russia's army steps

up its four-month campaign to surround

anti-aircraft missile to take down the Ka-

52 Alligator attack helicopter, one of the

Russian air force's deadliest weapons,

according to Oleksandr Tarnavskyi, the

commander of Ukrainian units fighting

line of contact has shifted little during

recent months of wintry weather. But as

the war in Ukraine nears its two-year

anniversary, Avdiivka has become "a pri-

mary focus" of Moscow's forces, the UK

The roughly 1,500-km (930-mile)

on the southeastern front line.

Ukrainian soldiers used a portable

Kyiv's defending troops.

reported. Describing the chain of events in the run-up to the development, the report said that the Election Commission had decided against holding byelections when seven lawmakers resigned from Parliament in November to assume top positions in President Muizzu's administration, saying that the parliamentary elections are to be held soon.

Taking advantage of the situation, the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) - which holds a majority in the Parliament - amended Parliament's standing orders so that vacated seats aren't counted when determining the total number of MPs, the report

It meant only 54 votes were required to impeach President Muizzu, instead of the previous 58, as, post the amendment, the total number of MPs would be counted as 80 instead of 87.In January, the MDP and the Democrats announced an alliance to work together in the found in favour of issuing the

MPs between them; 43 from the MDP, and 13 from the Democrats.

On January 28, the Attorney General's Office had filed the case, the same day when the MDP-Democrats alliance stalled the approval of three members of President Muizzu's cabinet and clashes broke out in the House between pro-government MPs and opposition lawmakers following differences over the approval of four members of the cabinet.

The next day, on January 29, the MDP had announced that it planned to submit a motion to impeach President Muizzu and that it already started gathering signatures for the same.On Tuesday, the Supreme Court accepted the proposition by the State to annul the amendment to the Parliament Regulations, Edition.mv said. Now, on Thursday, "Justice Azmiralda Zahir, Justice Mahaz Ali Zahir, and Justice Husnu Al Suood

maintain the status quo. But Justice Aisha Shujoon Mohamed and Justice Mohamed Ibrahim found there were no grounds to issue the injunction, citing that the case was submitted a month after the passage of the amendment," Sun.mv reported.

Pro-China Muizzu, 45, defeated India-friendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September last year. On January 24, calling India the "most long-standing ally," the MDP and the Democrats expressed concern about the Muizzu government's "anti-India stance."

The Maldives' proximity to India, barely 70 nautical miles from the island of Minicoy in Lakshadweep and 300 nautical miles from the mainland's western coast, and its location at the hub of commercial sea lanes running through the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) gives it significant strategic importance.

Ukraine has built multiple defences in

Avdiivka, complete with concrete fortifi-

cations and a network of tunnels. Despite

massive losses of personnel and equip-

ment, Russian troops have slowly

effort for both sides. It has been compared

to the nine months of fighting for

Bakhmut, the Ukraine war's longest and

bloodiest battle. It ended with Russia cap-

turing the bombed-out, deserted city

last May in what Moscow hailed as a major

triumph. Both Bakhmut and Avdiivka are

located in Ukraine's Donetsk region.

Moscow-backed rebels seized part of the

region in 2014 and Russia illegally

annexed all of it in 2022 with three other

Ukrainian regions. Russia wants to cap-

ture the entire Donetsk region, where it

currently holds just over half of the

The fight has evolved into a gruesome

advanced since October.

Russian politician calling for peace in Ukraine rejected as a presidential candidate

Moscow (AP): Russia's main election authority on Thursday refused to allow a politician opposing Moscow's military action in Ukraine on the ballot for the upcoming presidential election. Boris Nadezhdin, a local legislator in a town near Moscow, was required by law to gather at least 100,000 signatures in support of candidacy. The Central Election Commission declared more than 9,000 signatures submitted by Nadezhdin's campaign invalid, which was enough to disqualify him. Russia's election rules say potential candidates can have no more than 5% of their submitted signatures thrown out. Nadezhdin, 60, has openly called for a halt to the conflict in Ukraine and for starting a dialogue with the West. Speaking at the EC on Thursday, Nadezhdin asked election authorities to postpone the decision and to give him more time to rebut their arguments, but they declined.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)

(An autonomous body under Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Govt. of India) Dated, the O6th Feb. 2024 No. AD/RSC-22/196/2015(Pt.-IV)/321 Advertisement

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of 01 (one) Sr. Manager (Information, Communication & Trade Facilitation) and Manager (Information, Communication & Trade Facilitation) on contractual basis in Paradip Port Authority.

For further details, visit our website https://paradipport.gov.in/Carret.aspx.

dtd. 07.02.2024

Sd/- Sr. Asst. Secretary Paradip Port Authority

Indira Gandhi University Meerpur, Rewari



इंदिरा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय मीरपूर रेवाडी

(A State University Established under Haryana Act No. 29 of 2013) Recognized u/s 12-B & 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956

Employment Notice (Advt. No. 29/2024 to 30/2024)

Indira Gandhi University invites online applications from the eligible candidates for recruitment of various Non-Teaching posts against sanctioned vacant posts. Category-wise number of vacant non teaching posts along with Advt. Nos., detailed instructions, requisite qualifications, pay scales and modalities for selection are given on the University Website www.igu.ac.in. The link for submission of online application shall be available on the University Website w.e.f. 03.02.2024. The candidates who had already applied against the post of Training & Placement Officer vide Advt. No 07/2023 need not apply again. However, they can submit their latest updates through hard copy by 04.03.2024 (05:00 p.m.).

RO 24831-C-27-4 DT. CHD 08/02/2024

REGISTRAR

HC sends back to poll body case of violation of quota for women

Islamabad (PTI): The violation of the said provision in a Islamabad High Court has sent letter addressed to CEC Sikandar back to the election commission the case of the violation of the five per cent general seats quota for women by political parties in the general elections. Justice Aamer Farooq on Wednesday said general elections on Thursday could not be stopped but directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to take action on the complaint as per law after the polls, Dawn News reported.

The Aurat Foundation had filed a petition against the poll body for non-compliance with Section 206 of the Elections Act 2017 which says that a minimum of 5 per cent of general seat tickets be given to women by all political parties in the National Assembly and four provincial assemblies. Pakistan has reserved seats for women to ensure female representation in the legislative process on both national and provincial levels to promote gender equality in governance The Aurat Foundation,

women's rights, highlighted the

Sultan Raja ahead of the national polls. "We are dismayed to find that some political parties have not observed the legal requirement under section 206 of the [election] act and section 6 of the Code of Conduct to award a minimum of 5 per cent tickets to women candidates on general seats," the letter



RECRUITMENT NOTICE Online applications are invited w.e 09/02/2024 to 29/02/2024 from candidates eligible University www.bfuhs.ac.in recruitment of 01 post of Law Officer under Deptt. of Medical Education & Research Govt of Puniab For Eligibility, terms & conditions & other information visit university website i.e www.bfuhs.ac.in

00/12/194/2023/32127

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items upto 22.02.2024

1) Automated Blood Culture System Machine. 2) Elisa Washer Machine 3) Tilt Table Test Machine 4) Body composition Analyser 5) Elisa Reader Machine 6) CRRT (Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy Machine) 7) Tesla MRI Machine 8) High End Digital Mammography Machine 9) DEXA Scan 10) Fractional Co2 Laser.

) Purchase of Computer and UPS 2) Video conferencing system 3) HP cartridge 4) Scrap Material 5) Purchase of Projector and IT material 6) Supply and installa tion of Medical Equipments for Human Milk Bank 7) Supply and installation of Arthroscopy set with complete instrumental 8) Construction of first Floor and econd floor of additional block of emergency 9) Supply and installation of UTM

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items upto 26.02.2024

E-tender is invited for the procurement of following item upto 01.03.2024 1) Purchase of Furniture items 2) ENT Equipments 3) Outsource Manpower for Security Services 4) Outsource Manpower for Technical Staff and Nursing Staff 5; Outsource Manpower for Class-IV. Mali's and Drivers 6) Outsource Manpower for lousekeeping Services 7) Supply and installation of vacuum Circuit Breaker (VCB)

two LT Panel for State Institute of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Badal Terms and conditions can be downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in

00/12/193/2023/32126 Dated CHD :- 2/7/2024

Indira Gandhi

University

Meerpur, Rewari



इंदिरा गांधी विश्वविद्यालय मीरपूर रेवाड़ी

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Employment Notice (Advt. No. 04/2024 to 28/2024)

Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur (Rewari) invites online applications from the eligible candidates for recruitment of Teaching Posts in various Departments against sanctioned vacant posts. Subject-wise and category-wise number of vacant teaching posts along with Advt. Nos., detailed instructions, requisite qualifications, pay scales and modalities for selection are given on the university website www.igu.ac.in. The link for submission of online application shall be available on the university website w.e.f. 03.02.2024. The candidates who had applied against the post of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor mentioned above vide advt. No. 10/2023 to 55/2023 need not apply again. However, they can submit their latest updates through hard copy by 04.03.2024 (5:00 p.m.).

REGISTRAR

RO 24832-C-27-4 DT. CHD 08/02/2024



LIC becomes fifth most valuable firm as stocks soar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

hares of Life Insurance SCorporation of India (LIC) jumped more than 6 per cent on Thursday, with its market valuation climbing to Rs 6.99 lakh crore, making the firm the fifth most valued company

The stock climbed 5.86 per cent to settle at Rs 1,106.25 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 9.51 per cent to hit its record high of Rs

On the NSE, it jumped 6.46 per cent to Rs 1,112 a share. company's

market valuation went up by Rs 38,740.62 crore Rs 6,99,702.87 crore. With this,

the company became the fifth most valued firm by market capitalisation (mcap), beating ICICI Bank.

Taking into account the record high of Rs 1,144.45 per share, company's market valuation reached Rs 7.23 lakh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that opposition spread rumours about LIC, but today its shares are trading at record-high

Reliance Industries is the country's most valued firm with a market valuation of Rs 19.64.044.94 crore, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (Rs 15,13,218.99 crore), HDFC

Bank (Rs 10,66,150.51 crore). Infosys (Rs 7,02,754.66 crore) and LIC (Rs 6,99,702.87 crore). Last month, LIC surpassed State Bank of India (SBI) to become the country's most-valued PSU firm by market valuation.

The country's largest insurer was listed in May 2022. The government had sold over 22.13 crore shares, or a 3.5 per cent stake in LIC, through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The government holds a 96.5 per cent stake in the company. The share price of LIC on Monday jumped nearly 6 per cent to hit the Rs 1,000 mark for the first time.

So far this year, the stock has jumped nearly 33 per cent.

RBI decision on interest rate pragmatic: Experts

The Reserve Bank's decision to keep The Reserve States of the benchmark interest rate stable is pragmatic and will ensure sustainable

economic growth, say experts.
The RBI Monetary Policy Committee on Thursday decided to keep policy rate unchanged for the sixth time in a row in view of global uncertainty and the need to bring down retail inflation to 4 per cent.

Commenting on the monetary policy, Assocham Secretary General Deepak Sood said that while the continued focus on moderating inflation to the target of 4 per cent has to be seen in the overall context of global and domestic challenges, mainly with regard to food RBI's customer-centric approach is laudable.

The chamber has described the decision to keep the benchmark policy rates unchanged as pragmatic for sustainable economic growth.

Lakshmi Iyer, CEO-Investment & Strategy, Kotak Alternate Asset Managers said no major worries expressed on the inflation front are comforting, but for food price fluctuations — the watch for global cues however continues.

"While FY'25 inflation forecast is at 4.5 per cent, as per RBI the last mile walk is very crucial, hence the walk towards headline CPI of 4 per cent is key for RBI," Iyer said.

Chairman of CII Delhi State Council and MD & CEO of Samtel Avionics Puneet Kaura, said given the prevailing economic and inflationary conditions, RBI's action aligns expectations.

This measure, aside from providing support to interest-sensitive industries such as real estate and automobiles, will also notably assist manufacturing and the MSME sector," he said. Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Leader

TOP LOSERS

stance is also kept at the withdrawal of accommodation which is possibly a surprise. This possibly is explained by the fiscal consolidation with Government

Economic Advisory, PwC India said

the MPC decision to keep the policy

rate unchanged was expected, but the

projecting a lower deficit than target in FY24 and an aggressive 5.1 per cent deficit target for FY25," he said.

The lower government borrowings and higher international money allocations to India bonds owing to inclusion of India in the JP Morgan Emerging Markets bond index will keep a downward bias on the yields, Banerjee said. The real GDP growth for the next financial year is projected at 7 per cent with Q1 growth at 7.2 per cent, Q2 at 6.8 per cent, Q3 at 7 per cent and Q4 at 6.9 per cent.

Sanjay Bhutani, Board Member, Medical Technology Association of India (MTaI) said as inflation remains close to the RBI's upper limit, the decision to hold rates steady is unsurprising.

Janakiraman, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao and T Rabi Shankar arrives to deliver the Monetary Policy Statement, at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai "However, many sectors, including the capital-intensive and research-driven medical technology industry, eagerly await a potential rate cut later this year, he said. M K Dhanuka, Managing Director, Dhanuka Agritech opined that while the RBI held steady on interest rates this time, continued access to affordable financing remains

> *We hope RBI would soon start lowering policy rates as it would act as a catalyst for such investments, complementing government efforts to promote farm mechanization and address critical agricultural challenges," Dhanuka added.

crucial for Indian agriculture's long-

term prosperity.

RBI had last raised the repo rate in February 2023 to 6.5 per cent after six consecutive rate hikes aggregating to 250 basis points since May 2022.

Siddhartha Sanval, Chief Economist and Head of Research, Bandhan Bank said amid widespread concerns about liquidity tightness, the communication suggested stepping up in government spending should help infusing liquidity into the banking system.

"We continue to believe that in case of a need for the banking system, especially towards the end of the financial year, the RBI may provide liquidity support in a nuanced fashion," Sanyal said.

Uttam Tibrewal, executive director, AU Small Finance Bank said RBI's policy was on expected lines with a focus on bringing inflation towards a targeted range of 4 per cent.

Monetary policy stance and steady rates over the last year have helped maintain healthy growth momentum while lowering inflationary pressures. "Going forward we believe as inflation nears RBI's 4 per cent goal, space for monetary easing would open up in the coming quarters, to support lower interest rates and credit demand,"

Tibrewal added. Rohit Arora, CEO and Co-founder. Biz2Credit and Biz2X said the proposal for a principal-based authentication framework in digital payments boosts security and promotes digital financial services adoption, particularly benefiting MSMEs.

He also said the decision to maintain the repo rate at 6.5 per cent reflects cautious economic management amidst uncertainties.

'This decision reflects the RBI's cautious yet optimistic stance, aligning with a stable interest rate environment and fostering borrower confidence for informed financial decisions," Kaushik Mehta, Founder & CEO of RUloans Distribution, stated. Borrowers, particularly in home and personal loans, may explore options to optimize their financial commitments, such as transferring loans to banks offering lower rates or opting for part payments to reduce EMIs, Mehta said.

The next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled for April 3 to 5, 2024.

Further, FPIs with expired registration are

currently not permitted to liquidate their

holding, Sebi proposed allowing such FPIs to liquidate their holdings within 180 days

after the expiry of the 30-day timeline. Additionally, Sebi has proposed measures

for dealing with securities blocked in the accounts of FPIs, after the expiry of

prescribed timelines for liquidation and

guidelines for dealing with securities

written-off by the FPIs.

Stock markets tumble cent

 $B_{\text{Sensex and Nifty tanked}}^{\text{enchmark stock indices}}$ around 1 per cent on Thursday dragged by selling in banking and auto shares due to increased uncertainty about the timing of interest rate cuts after the RBI's monetary policy

Erasing all its early gains, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 723.57 points or 1 per cent to settle at 71,428.43. The barometer slipped into red after the announcement of the RBI monetary policy and hit a low of 71,230.62 thereafter, reflecting a loss of 921.38 points or 1.27 per cent. The Nifty shed 212.55 points

or 0.97 per cent to settle at 21 717 95 Rate sensitive banking and

financial services, auto, realty and commodity shares remained under pressure



The RBI Monetary Policy Committee on Thursday decided to keep policy rate evolving unchanged for the sixth time

in a row in view of global uncertainty and the need to bring down retail inflation to 4 per cent. The RBI also inflation progressively aligns maintained its 'withdrawal of to the target while supporting growth, he said. accommodative stance.

Announcing the decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on keep the policy repo rate the cumulative 250 bps and Financial Services.

unchanged on the basis of an assessment of the current and macroeconomic situation. MPC also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that

Though FY25 GDP growth forecast has improved, the RBI remains vigilant on inflation & banking liquidity.

the inflation ruling above the target level add uncertainty about the timing of the interest rate reduction. The ripple effect was seen in the government 10 yr yield, which inched higher. "A large pocket of the market slid into red like FMCG, banks, and auto. FMCG was impacted more by O3 result and downgrade in volume growth, in the near-term, due to weak rural demand," said Vinod Nair Head of Research

Change -212.55

Sebi mulls framework for FPIs to dispose securities post expiry of registration

To facilitate ease of doing business for Foreign Portfolio Investors, markets regulator Sebi has proposed allowing such investors to dispose of securities lying in their demat accounts after the expiry of their registration. Under the current rule, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are required to have a valid registration as long as they hold securities in India. In order to keep their registration valid, they need to pay the registration fee for every block of three years. Non-payment of fees lead to FPI's registration expiring.

Further, current rules do not provide for liquidation of securities by FPI after the expiry of their registration and the securities held by such FPI remain frozen in their demat accounts.

As on June 30, 2023, there were 55 FPIs. whose registration has expired, holding securities valued at about Rs 3,300 crore in their demat accounts, Sebi noted.

Wednesday, the markets regulator has USD 50 for Category I and USD 5 for any financial disincentive.



proposed to permit FPIs to regularise their account or dispose of securities lying in their demat accounts, after the expiry of their registration. Such an opportunity to regularise the registration has been proposed to be time-bound — within 30 days- and subject to the imposition of certain financial disincentives. This includes the imposition of a late fee of 2 per cent of the registration fee per day. The registration fee for FPIs is currently USD 2,500 for Category I and USD 250 for

Category II. Therefore, late fees on a per-

in this context wil

On dealing with existing cases of non-compliant FPIs with blocked securities in their accounts, Sebi has recommended a one-time opportunity to be given to such foreign investors for the disposal of securities.

FPIs, whose registration has expired before issuance of this framework, should be offered an opportunity to sell the securities lying in their demat accounts, within 180 days from the date of issuance of this framework. This opportunity to dispose of the securities sh

MEWA 2024 to take place in Delhi

Aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of promoting indigenous manufacturing through the 'Make in India initiative and bolstering India's food processing infrastructure, a significant development is on the horizon. A two-day dry fruit exhibition called MEWA 2024 will take place in Delhi. Scheduled for the 16th and 17th of February, MEWA 2024 marks a milestone as the inaugural exposition of its kind in India. Organized under the auspices of Nuts & Dryfruit Council of India, the two-day trade meet will witness participation from over 200 exhibitors representing more than 20 countries, including the USA, Australia, UAE, Chile, Iran, Oman, Argentina, and Afghanistan. This event serves as a pivotal

moment for the nuts and dry fruit trade in India, with a focus on bringing together industry stakeholders to explore collaboration opportunities and leverage the collective strength of the sector. MEWA 2024 aims to provide a platform for Indian buyers, sellers, and industry leaders to engage with international counterparts, highlighting India's growing significance in the global trade landscape for nuts and dry fruits.

Initiated by the Nuts & Dryfruit Council of India (NDFCI), MEWA 2024 seeks to consolidate India's fragmented nuts and dry fruit trade under one unified voice. By fostering collaboration and cooperation among industry players, the event endeavors to unlock the full potential of India's rapidly expanding market, benefiting all stakeholders involved.

Centre tightens wheat stock limit for wholesalers

The government on Thursday tightened wheat stock holding norms for wholesalers, big chain retailers and processors to curb hoarding and check price

According to the food traders ministry, and wholesalers are now allowed to maintain wheat stock of up to 500 tonnes instead of 1,000 tonnes, while big chain retailers can hold 5 tonnes in each outlet and total 500 tonnes at all their depots instead of 1,000 tonnes.

Processors will be allowed to maintain 60 per cent instead of 70 per cent of their monthly installed capacity multiplied by the remaining months till April 2024, the ministry said in a statement. The stock limits on wheat were

imposed on June 12, 2023, applicable till March this year in order to manage the overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

The ministry said all wheat stocking entities are required to register on the wheat stock portal (https:// evegoils.Nic.In/wsp/login) and update the stock position on every Friday.

Any entity which is found to have not registered on the portal or violates the stock limits will be subject to suitable punitive action under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

In case the stocks held by the above entities are higher than the prescribed limit, they will have to bring the same to the prescribed stock limits within 30 days of the issue of the notification. The ministry said officials of

both central and state governments will be closely monitoring enforcement of these stock limits to ensure that no artificial scarcity of wheat is created in the country. Meanwhile, the Centre is selling FCI wheat to bulk users via the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to improve domestic availability and check prices.

Out of 101.5 lakh tonne allocated for sale at Rs 2150 per quintal under the OMSS, about 80.04 lakh tonne of wheat has been sold via weekly e-auctions to processors, the ministry said.



Puri praises MEIL Make in India push PNS NEW DELHI/PANAJI

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday commended MEIL's commended Aatmnirbhar Bharat push at the India Energy Week 2024. MEIL subsidiary, Drillmec's SpA's Made in India HH 150 Automated Hydraulic Workover Rig garnered accolades from the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Inspecting the HH 150 Automated Hydraulic Workover Rig alongside MEIL Managing Director PV Krishna Reddy, the Minister commended MEIL and Drillmec SpA for alignment with Government's vision of 'Make in India'.

"Delighted to see the latest generation automatic rig with high safety standards (Drillmec SpA Italy technology) developed with 55% Make in India content by MEIL. 20 of these automated rigs are being given to @ONGC_ to power India's energy journey! (sic)," Puri said on his social media post. On the occasion Reddy said MEIL is supplying 20 fully automated workeyer rigg with 55% company. workover rigs with 55% components of Make in India to the ONGC.

"We at MEIL are committed to further building domestic manufacturing capacity, and supplying world-class equipment, to accelerate India's domestic oil and gas exploration- all aligned to the nation's larger goal of achieving an Aatmanirbhar Bharat and energy security," Reddy said in a statement.

Zomato posts ₹138 crore net profit in Q3

zomato

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Online food delivery firm Zomato Ltd on Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 138 crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2023, on the back of accelerated growth of quick commerce and steady performance of its core business. The company had posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 347 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, Zomato Ltd said in a regulatory filing.

Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 3,288 crore. It was at Rs 1,948 crore in the year-ago period, it added.

Total expenses were higher at Rs 3,383 crore. The same was at Rs 2,485 crore in the corresponding period a year ago, the company said. In a letter to shareholders,

Zomato Managing Director & CEO Deepinder Goyal said in the third quarter, the food delivery Gross Order Value (GOV) growth reached back up to 25 per cent Year-on-Year (YoY). "At this point, we expect GOV to continue growing at 20 per cent-plus YoY, and perhaps accelerate further if we see more than expected market share gains and revival in macro consumer demand," he added.

On the company's quick commerce vertical Blinkit, he said the GOV growth was at 103 per cent YoY and "continues unabated", while losses continue to decline. In the third quarter of FY24, Zomato said its food delivery business had an adjusted

revenue of Rs 2,025 crore. It was at Rs 1,565 crore in the year-ago period. For the quick commerce,

year-ago period, the company said, adding that its B2B supplies under Hyperpure clocked adjusted revenue of Rs 859 crore, up from Rs 421 crore in the same quarter a ago. Goyal said Hyperpure witnessed growth in both the core restaurant supplies business and the relatively newer commerce opportunity. "To address a growing need of

our restaurant partners, we are now setting up a plant for processing value-added food supplies, including sauces, spreads, pre-cut and semi-finished perishable products, among others. Over time, this has the potential to expand margins and drive higher engagement with restaurant partners," he added. Rakesh Ranjan, Food and Delivery CEO at Zomato, said the demand environment was muted in the Q3FY24 and that was true even for the broader restaurant industry.

"One of the things driving the growth of our food delivery business is the fact that our platform is still underserved from a supply standpoint. The monthly active restaurant base on our platform has grown by 20 per cent-plus (YoY) in Q3FY24. This growth is driven adjusted revenue was Rs 644 both by new restaurants crore. It was Rs 301 crore in the opening up and our coverage of existing restaura On the possibility of a hike in platform fee, he said it is too early to predict how the platform fee will shape up and the company is "still testing the waters on what works and makes sense here from a longterm perspective".

"We will continue to tactically use levers like these to optimise both growth and margin expansion. Most importantly, as we do this, we will also continue to ensure the viability and well-being of each of our stakeholders, our customers, restaurant partners and delivery partners," Ranjan said. Blinkit Founder & CEO Albinder Dhindsa said the growth in quick commerce was largely driven by the robust uptick in demand due to the multiple festivals and occasions in the quarter besides having the right assortment which addressed the most pertinent needs of customers. 'While most of the GOV

growth was order volume-led, part of it was also driven by an increase in average order value, which continued to benefit from a higher mix of high ASP (average selling price) categories such as electronics, festive needs, among others," he added.

BUSINESS BRIEF JK PAPER PAT ₹235 CRORE IN Q3 **NEW DELHI:** JK Paper Ltd recorded a turnover of ₹1.781.65 crore and profit

after tax of ₹235.11 crore on consolidated basis for the third quarter. Its board declared an interim dividend of ₹3.50 a equity share of ₹10 each. The record date fixed for the purpose of determining the entitlement is February 16. 2024. "The results have been impacted due to overall drop in sales realisation and substantial increase in wood cost. The selling prices have been under pressure for some time due to rising trend in imports coupled with weaker demand scenario," Harsh Pati Singhania, Vice Chairman &

ONSITEGO ACQUIRES QDIGI SERVICES

Managing Director.

MUMBAI: Onsitego, a device-care provider, has acquired Qdigi Services from Quess Corp Ltd, India's leading business services provider. Qdigi provides installation, repair, and maintenance services to leading OEMs like Samsung, Apple, One Plus, Xiaomi etc, and online retailers like Amazon. The acquisition will help Onsitego further enrich its customer service experience and open up new areas of growth such as approaching OEM partners and retailers with new market offerings. The acquisition of Qdigi will further add to our service capabilities and market offerings, said Kunal Mahipal, founder & CEO, Onsitego.



SNEHA OPENS FIVE SHOTS LEAD OVER HITAASHEE

neha Singh carded a 3-under 69 to extend her lead over arch-rival Hitaashee Bakshi to five shots after round two of the fourth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour .

Sneha, winner of the Hero Order of Merit last season, registered a hat-trick of birdies on the backnine to recover from two bogeys. Sneha with 70-69 is now 5under 139 and leads Hitaashee Bakshi (72-72) who had a par round for the

second straight day. Hitaashee is even par for two days as Sneha is the only player with under par rounds on both days.

The day's amateur star was Zara Anand (74-72), who with three birdies in last four holes rose to Tied third spot alongside Khushi Khanijau (72-74). They are both at 2over 146.

Sneha, who started the day two shots ahead of Hitaashee, birdied the second and the third to get off to a flying start. A bogey on the fourth was repaired with a birdie on the ninth. On the back nine, Sneha seemed to have given away



some ground with back-toback bogeys on the 10th and

Yet she fought back strongly with a birdie on the 12th and then three in a row from the 14th to the 16th. Despite closing with a bogey on the 18th she was three-under for the day and once again it was the only under par round of the day.

round of the day.
Hitaashee had three birdies against three bogeys.
Zara birdied the third but gave away a double bogey on the Par-4 sixth hole as she turned in 1-over. On the back nine she bogeyed the Par-5 14th to go 2-over. However, she rallied with birdies on the 15th, 16th and the 18th and had a bogey in between on the 17th. She carded even par 72. carded even par 72. Khushi had three birdies

Khushi had three birdies against three bogeys. Jasmine Shekar (74-75) and Ridhima Dilawari (73-77) are fifth and sixth, while four players, Disha Kavery (77-76), Yaalisai Verma (76-77), Rhea Jha (76-77) and Seher Atwal (76-77) are all tied for the seventh spot at tied for the seventh spot at

The top 20 and ties made the cut in the Rs.10 lakh event and the cut fell at 159.



Shelton cruise to victories, reach Dallas Open quarterfinals

A mericans Tommy Paul and Ben Shelton cruised to vic-

tories to reach the quarterfinals of the Dallas Open.
The second-seeded Paul wore down Taro Daniel with long rallice and represent the Paul work of the Paul wo lies and games on his Japanese opponent's serve in a 6-3, 6-2 win. Shelton, the No. 3 seed, used a dominant serve in a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Michael Mmoh.

Daniel saved five break points early in the first set before Paul finally got a break when Daniel ended one of the long rallies on his serve with a forehand into the net.

Paul converted the fourth break point in each of Daniel's first two service games in the second set,

getting the second break after one of many long rallies on the Japanese player's serve.

Daniel had two break points in the next game, but Paul saved both and went on to hold serve for a 4-0 lead. Shelton, who lost just three points on his serve, went up 3-0 in the first set with a break of Mmoh. The servers had won the first 18 points of the second set when Shelton won three in a row on Mmoh's serve for a break point before going on to break for a 3-2 lead. Shelton, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the semifinals of the U.S. Open last year, broke Mohr again for a 5-3 lead before the hard-serving left-hander closed out the match at love.

It was Shelton's first match of the week on the campus of SMU,

while Mmoh had advanced with a first-round victory.
"I was pretty surprised with the level I played at today," said Shelton, who is ranked 16th. "It's always tough when you're around a tournament site for almost a week and kind of sit around waiting for your match." Two seeded players lost in straight sets in early matches.

Fifth-seeded American Christopher Eubanks fell to Australia's James Duckworth 7-6 (3), 6-4, while Duckworth's countryman, No. 6 seed Max Purcell, was a 6-4, 6-3 loser against Marcos Giron of the U.S. Top-seeded Frances Tiafoe has his tournament opener Thursday night in the round of 16 against 19-year-old fellow American Alex Michelsen.



Century old stadium site in Brisbane no longer favoured by Olympic officials for 2032 Games

AP BRISBANE

The Australian Olympic Committee apparently doesn't like the idea of one of its centerpiece venues venue for the for the 2032 Games. Commonwealth Games

Olympic Australian Committee president Ian Chesterman said in a statement Thursday that there are more creative solutions than rebuilding the Gabba, an iconic Brisbane venue, for the Games, and those will be put to a review committee.

Named after the suburb of Woolloongabba where the stadium is located, the Gabba in downtown Brisbane was built in 1895 and was last redeveloped in 2005.

Graham Quirk is leading a two-month 2032 Olympic infrastructure assessment review and the Gabba's reconstruction is at the top of the list. Chesterman's comments come

Former Brisbane

after International Olympic Committee vice-president John Coates - a former AOC president - was quoted as saying the review committee should dump the Gabba.

"We've put it to the review committee we should abandon the Gabba and we should look for another site for the athletics," Coates told local He's proposed the opening

India's number one squash player Saurav Ghosal has

called for introduction of the

sport in schools to "create a

span of time. Squash in

schools would be great as the

kids would be involved, the

parents would be involved,

and it would create a huge

ecosystem for squash," Ghosal

The first player from the

country to win a singles

medal at the Commonwealth

Games, the 37-year-old

Ghosal said that the level

said on Wednesday.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ceremony be held at 52,000-Śuncorp Stadium. formerly known as Lang Park, and athletics at the 48,000capacity Queensland Sport rebuilding an aging stadium as and Athletics Centre, the 1982

> Whether the Gabba should be demolished and reconstructed for the 2032 Games has been debated since a plan was released in November. The Queensland state government unveiled a 2.7 billion Australian dollar (\$1.7 billion) Gabba rebuild that would see stadium demolished. reconstructed and out of

action from 2025 to 2030. It would also force Brisbane's Australian Rules football team the Lions and cricket to find a new home.

Opponents have called for its reconstruction to not go ahead because of escalating costs after the plan's initial price tag blew out to almost three times the original estimate. In announcing the review in January, Queensland state Premier Steven Miles said he hoped the independent process could create options that are better value for

Brisbane won the 2032 hosting rights in July 2021. The bid was led by then-premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, who Miles replaced in December when Palaszczuk resigned as the state leader.

From shadows to spotlight: Coach Pierre Sage revives Lyon

Just three months ago, the name Pierre Sage did not ring a bell to soccer fans in

It does now thanks to a fine start to his managerial career in the French top-flight. Sage took over as coach at Lyon at the end of November following the firings in quick succession of two coaches with good successions. Laurent Blanc and Enhips reputations, Laurent Blanc and Fabio Grosso. At the time, the seven-time French champion was bottom of the league, with just one win from 12 matches. A former amateur player, Sage spent most of his coaching career in the shadows. He returned to Lyon last summer as director of the club's academy after a stint as an assistant at second-division club Red Star. Propelled into the limelight after Grosso's departure, Sage has exceeded expectations and guided Lyon out of the relegation

Ahead of Sunday's trip to Montpellier, Lyon produced a seventh win in nine in all competitions

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Arresting the free-fall after a hat-trick of defeats will be

the top-most agenda of Indian

women's hockey team as it gears up to face the United States in

its fourth FIH Pro League 2023-

24 clash here on Friday. Having failed to qualify for the

Paris Olympics, the Savita

Punia-led women's team's per-

formance had gone from bad to

worse in recent times. India lost

1-2 to China, followed by anoth-

er 1-3 defeat at the hands of The

Netherlands. The hosts lost their

third match on the trot against

the formidable Australia, who

Reflecting on the team's early set-backs, skipper Savita said: "Our

initial matches have posed for-

midable challenges, but we're a

resilient team. Each defeat has

fuelled our determination to

blanked them 3-0.



several changes and his coaching decisions paid off against the northern side. Rayan Cherki was handed a starting role and responded to the call with a goal and an

That win followed a convincing 1-0 defeat of Marseille last week.

"It's good to string together two good matches in front of our fans, and make them happy," Sage said. "I try to make decisions by being authentic, by being true

midweek in the French Cup. Sage made Sage has been widely credited by his week against Real Sociedad.

FIH Pro League: Indian women

aim to turn tide against USA

players for the newfound defensive stability and aggressive style of play the team has developed in less than three months. Lyon rewarded the Sage experiment by taking the "interim" tag off

'The coach deserves to stay with us for the very good atmosphere he has created," defender Duje Caleta-Car said.

"He brings us a fresh air," striker Alexandre Lacazette added. "Tactically, he's someone who thinks things through a lot. He doesn't give us a lot of information, but it's enough to play good matches."

Sage is also making the most of Lyon's signings during the winter transfer window after its summer recruitment was hampered by restrictions imposed by French football's financial watchdog. Nigerian striker Gift Orban scored his first goal against Lille while new signing Orel Mangala was excellent in midfield.

In other league matches this weekend, leader Paris Saint-Germain hosts fourthplaced Lille on Saturday ahead of the nampions League round-of-16

We have analysed our strengths

and areas of improvement, and

we are ready to implement a

strategic approach on the field.

Our focus is on playing as a cohesive unit, supporting each

other, and executing our game plan effectively."

When it comes to their head-to-head record, the USA hold a sta-

 $tistically \ advantageous \ position$

with 10 victories in 16 encoun-

ters, while the Indian team has

secured four wins, and two

Speaking on that record, Savita

said, "Head-to-head records are

historical statistics, but what

matters most is the present. We

respect our opponents, but our

focus is on our game and exe-

The aim is clear - secure our first win in the FIH Pro League 2023-

24 and build momentum for the

cuting our strategies.

challenges ahead."

matches ended in draws.



Athletic Bilbao ends Atletico Madrid 28 matches unbeaten streak

Athletic Bilbao ended Atletico Madrid's 28match unbeaten streak at home with a 1-0 win in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semifinals.

Álex Berenguer converted a first-half penalty kick to give Athletic the tight victory at the Metropolitano Stadium on Wednesday.

Atletico hadn't lost at the Metropolitano since a 1-0 defeat against Barcelona in January last year in the Spanish league. Diego Simeone's team had only two draws since then, both against Getafe in the Spanish league.

"It's always tough to win in this stadium, they are always pressing forward and putting you on the defensive," Athletic coach Ernesto Valverde said. "It was a typical Copa match

and we came through in the

Atletico thought it had a chance for a late equalizer when the referee called a penalty kick on Álvaro Morata in stoppage time, but video review determined that the Atletico striker was offside and reversed the call.

The hosts had almost evened the match in the 85th when Ángel Correa's shot was blocked by Athletic defender Berenguer scored the winner

Íñigo Lekue at the goal line. by converting a 25th-minute penalty after a hard sliding tackle by Atletico defender Reinildo Athletic on

"We did a lot of things right to win the match but the ball

"They had their chance with the penalty kick and then defended well."

The second leg will be on Feb. 29 at Athletic's San Mames Stadium. Athletic beat Atletico 2-0 in a league match there in

and we will need to try to find a way to overcome it in order "It will be difficult, we will

need to score two goals and that's not easy. They have a significant advantage

Athletic eliminated Barcelona in the quarterfinals to reach

the last four for the fifth straight season. The Basque Country team was runner-up in the Copa in 2019-20 and 2020-21. It last won the competition in 1984.

Athletic is the second most successful club in the Copa with 23 titles, eight less than Barcelona

Atletico is playing in the last four of the Copa for the first time in seven seasons and is seeking its first title since 2013.

Sociedad drew 0-0 in the first leg of the other semifinal. The return match will be on Feb. 27 at Sociedad's stadium.

Mallorca hadn't made it to the final since winning the Copa in 2003. Sociedad defeated Basque Country rival Athletic

Introduce squash in schools, hire experts to train Indian coaches: Ghosal

huge ecosystem" and recruitment of experts from today is higher compared to when he started, and that abroad to train the country's "Squash should be introduced India is very competitive on in the schools, it's a great the world stage. workout within a rather short

started squash more than 25 years ago, the level now is a lot higher and we are extremely competitive on the world stage. The next step is to conquer and dominate at global level," Ghosal said during the merchandise unveiling ceremony of the upcoming Delhi Marathon. "Some of the things that we need to look at is increasing the player base and also



improve the quality of the

learn, adapt, and come back

stronger. "The upcoming clash

against the USA is an opportu-

nity to showcase our true poten-

tial and register our first win in

On the flip side, the USA had a

challenging start to the tourna-

ment as well, suffering a compre-

hensive 0-7 defeat against the

Subsequent losses of 0-3 to

the tournament.

Netherlands.

On the higher performance side we should bring in highquality coaches (from abroad) so that Indian coaches can learn from them and we can make it sustainable."

Ghosal said the people he played alongside for the last many years formed the golden generation of Indian squash and urged his compatriots to remain involved with the sport after retirement.

included in the Los Angeles Olympics. **HONOURED** CHOSEN FOR PADMA

Australia and 1-3 to China have

added to their woes. The

American squad, too, will be

eager to bounce back in the tour-

The Indian captain knows the

significance of earning the first

Both the teams are hungry for

victory, and we are fully aware

of the significance of securing

points in the tournament.

our first points

SHRI: **CHINAPPA:** Chinappa, one of the flagbearers of women's squash in India along with Dipika Pallikal, said that she is honoured to be chosen for the Padma Shri.

"I feel honoured to be chosen for the Padma Shri by the central government. I think it The veteran also expressed has come at the right time and delight at squash being I am very happy that my

JOSHNA Joshna

has a bright future.

Chinappa felt that public

country have increased. There have been several

Chinappa said that players like Ghosal and Pallikal have laid a very good foundation for squash in India.

efforts have been recognised," she said.

adulation and government recognition for sports in the

wrestlers, badminton players and the athletes... The way they have become world champions, medallists at the Olympics, I think there is a lot of recognition for athletes from other sports (besides cricket)." She said that squash has been "a big source" of medals for India in the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games in the last 15 years and the sport

midfielder Beñat Prados. didn't want to go in," Atletico

midfielder Koke Resurrección

December.

"They got a very good result to advance," Simeone said.

It has 10 Copa trophies. On Tuesday, Mallorca and Real

in the final in the 2019-20 season. The semifinals is the only Copa stage being played in home-and-away matches. The final will be in April in the La Cartuja Stadium in the

southern city of Seville.

KOHLI ABSENCE IS A BLOW FOR INDIA, SAYS HUSSAIN

player of the stature of Virat Kohli missing Athe upcoming Tests against England is a blow not just for the Indian team but also for the series and world cricket in general, feels former skipper Nasser

Hussain though supported the Indian maestro for prioritising his private life. Kohli, who withdrew from the first two Tests against England due to personal reasons, is likely to miss the upcoming matches in Rajkot and Ranchi, and remains a doubtful starter for the Dharamsala game too.

The five-match Test series is currently tied at 1-1.

"Yeah, well, nothing's confirmed at the moment. There's speculation, whether it's the next two Test matches, they're going to announce their side in the next few hours. Whether it's the next three Test matches, so nothing's confirmed, but it will be a blow.

"It'll be a blow for India. It'll be a blow for the series. It'll be a blow for world cricket. It's going to be a special series. It already has been. The first two games have been fascinating," Hussain said on Sky Sports.

Lauding the Indian batter's and achievements contributions to cricket, the former England captain said players such as Kohli deserved to spend some time with family after serving the game with



distinction for over 15 years.

"The game needs to look after the likes of Virat Kohli"

"If it means we don't get the mouth-watering possibility." as well. He has been playing international cricket for more than 15 years now, and if he needs a break to be away with family, (to) get some time away from the game, we absolutely wish Virat Kohli all the best,"

of an Anderson versus Kohli contest that we have seen over the years, then so be it. But Kohli and his family and his private life has to come first.

Hussain also said that while Kohli is hard to replace, he missed the second Test due to pain in his right quadriceps, to return to the playing XI.

Virat Kohli is one of the greatest batters ever to play the game and any series, and any side will miss someone of his stature. It will be a blow for India, but as we

expected KL Rahul, who have seen, they have got a while the fourth game is in very good lot of young batters.

"I think, just speculating, KL Rahul, who missed the second game after being brilliant over the last few months, could come back in for India," Hussain added. The third Test will be held in Rajkot from February 15-19, his second child.

Ranchi from February 23-

Recently Kohli's close friend and former South African captain AB de Villiers had revealed on his YouTube show that the Indian batting ace is missing in action due to the impending arrival of

Rehan attributes England spinners success to Stokes leadership

PTI NEW DELHI

 $E^{\rm xceeding\ expectations,}_{E\ n\ g\ l\ a\ n\ d\ '\ s}_{\rm inexperienced}$ have outperformed their seasoned Indian counterparts in the first two Tests, and young Rehan Ahmed attributed it to team environment Ben Stokes' leadership.

The five-match series is level at 1-1 at the moment but, amazingly enough, spin is one area in which the tourists have emerged winners.

It is quite remarkable that the trio of Ahmed, Tom Hartley and Shoaib Bashir have taken more wickets (33) than the formidable group made up of titans such as Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yaday (23)

"That just shows how great the team environment is, Ahmed, 19, was quoted as saying in BBC.

"Tommy and Bash, you've seen them come in and not be nervous and that's credit to the team.

The environment and the leadership we have, it does make you kind of forget the players you are playing against - we just focus on what we need to do." Even in terms of economy

rate, the England spin attack is ahead of the Indians.

With Stokes and Brendon McCullum at the helm, Ahmed cuts a relaxed

figure. "They (Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum) just don't care about how bad things can go. It's always about what good you can get out of it. So if I bowl four bad balls and get a wicket, that's better than bowling 16 good balls in a row,'

Ahmed said. He became the youngest player to play Test cricket for England when he made his debut at 18 years and 126 days old in Karachi in December 2022, signalling his arrival with a match-turning five-wicket haul in Pakistan's second innings.

According to Ahmed, Stokes' astute manmanagement skills extends beyond cricket. A teenage British Asian

and a practising Muslim Bazball the surrounding, Ahmed doesn't face any issue getting time off for Friday prayers, even at the expense of training.

"I remember a time in Abu Dhabi where there was a team day out on a Friday, said Ahmed.

Secret to our team good performance is team bonding: India U19 Captain

PTI ■ BENONI (SOUTH AFRICA)

The camaraderie in the dressing room has played a significant role in Indian team's dominant run in the U19 World Cup, skipper Uday Sharan said on Thursday and vowed to bring the trophy back

have not lost a single match in performance is team bonding. logged big-margin victories and were not tested till they bumped into hosts South Africa in the semifinals in which they scored a narrow two-wicket win.

India have been a force to reckon with in the Under-19 World Cup, reaching the title clash seven times in last nine editions.

"It is a dream for all of us to win this tournament. Everyone gets only one Under-19 World Cup and we want to repeat the history. We also want to register our names in history. We are focused on giving our best," Saharan told PTI-Bhasha in an interview.

countrymen to continue supporting us like this. We promise to give everything to bring the Cup back.' power-packed **India's**

performance tournament was highlighted by three 200-plus run margin Defending champions India "The secret to our team's good

dressing room is very friendly. Everyone trusts each other and is ready to help each other. That is why the performance graph has been consistently good," said Saharan, who spent his early days in Sri Ganganagar before shifting to the border town of Fazilka in

'We are not focusing on rival team, we are concentrating on our own game. We have made a match-by-match strategy and are taking every match seriously," Saharan, who has scored 389 runs in six matches

so far, said. Asked if the Indian colt would have revenge on their minds if

"I would like to tell the they play against Australia since the senior team had lost to them in the ODI World Cup final last year, Saharan said, "I am not thinking anything like

> "We are focusing on our game and we have to give our best. We are playing according to the match conditions. Every match is important because it is the World Cup and all the

A lot of stalwarts in the senior national team have emerged from the Under-19 World Cup like Mohammad Kaif, Virat Kohli, Shubman Gill and Ravindra Jadeja.

Saharan refused comparisons with these stars, saying he won't take pressure of legacy. 'I never think about it. I don't think about the past. I just think about how I can give my best for the team and how to get the best out of the team."

Chasing a target of 245 runs in the semi-final against South Africa, Saharan pulled the team out of trouble after it had lost four wickets for just 32 runs.

Zee IL T20 gets 46 per cent women viewers: BARC data testament of the league's

With a reach of 161 million views, a staggering 46 per cent of which being women viewers, Zee Entertainment has announced that the DP ILT20 World league continues to be the world's second most watched franchise-based competition.

The tournament garnered an impressive reach of 161 llion for its matches, 56 per cent of the audience being under the age of 30, according to data released by BARC INDIA 2+, TV+OOH, and LIVE+PPL. The company has reported an uptick of 12 per cent among 15+ urban audiences in India compared to the

inaugural edition. The time spent on the league, which started on January 19 has surged by an impressive 33 per cent among viewers aged 15 and above in urban India.

"This substantial increase in viewing duration emphasizes league's ability captivate and retain the attention of its audience, contributing to a more immersive and rewarding viewer experience," said league's media rights holder ZEE in a statement.

The tournament with six teams and 34 matches is being played across three venues in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

The league's six franchise teams include Abu Dhabi

Riders (Kolkata Knight Riders), Desert (Lancer Capital), Vipers Dubai Capitals (GMR), Gulf Giants (Adani Sportsline), MI Emirates (Reliance Industries), and Sharjah Warriors (Capri Global).

Some of the world's leading cricketers are taking part in season 2 and they include Warner, Dasun David Shanaka, Rahmanullah

Gurbaz, Sam Billings, David Willey, Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Alex Hales, Tom Curran, Rovman Powell, Shimron Hetmyer, James Vince, Ambati Rayudu, Anderson, Dwayne Corey Bravo, Trent Boult, Chris Woakes and Martin Guptill. "We are delighted with the response that the second edition of DP World ILT20 has garnered. It is a

expanding appeal and a growing fan base across Īndia. "The event is escalating

global enthusiasm cricket, and we take immense spearheading this phenomenon," said Rahul Johri, President - Business, Entertainment. star-studded

commentary panel of ILT20 Harbhajan Singh, Rohan Gavaskar, Saba Karim Chopra, Nikhil Razdan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar, Alan Wilkins, Simon Doull, Daren Ganga, Danny Morrison and Niall O'Brien, Natalie Germanos, Anjum Chopra, Reema Malhotra. Cricket fans can watch all the action of the T20 league on Zee's 10 linear TV channels: &Pictures, &Pictures HD, Zee Cinema HD, Zee Anmol Cinema, Zee Zest, Zee Ganga, Zee Cinemalu HD,

&Flix, &Flix HD, Zee Zest

HD and leading OTT

platform ZEE5.

Bumrah will be best pacer of T20 World Cup: Philander

PTI JOHANNESBURG

His ability to hold a line, wicket-taking wicket-taking deliveries without leaking runs along with those lethal yorkers make Jasprit Bumrah the most complete bowler international cricket, says former South African seamer Vernon Philander, Indian foresees the outperforming all his contemporaries in this year's T20 World Cup in the

Americas. on Wednesday Bumrah became the first Indian pacer to be crowned number one in ICC Test rankings. This was after his magical performance in the second Test against England that yielded nine wickets on a sporting track at

Visakhapatnam. Philander, who has played 64 Tests for South Africa with 225 wickets against his name, said

Bumrah doesn't seem to have any chinks in his armour.
"Bumrah is the (most)

complete bowler at the moment. He has magnificent skills and he has also learnt the trade of holding a line and length and that is the reason behind his success at the Test level," Philander told 'PTI Bhasha' in an interview on the sidelines of the SA T20 Tournament here. "Initially, he wanted to bowl

wicket-taking deliveries all the time and leaked runs but now he has learnt consistency," he pointed out. The T20 World Cup will be

held in June across the West Indies and the USA and inaugural champions India would be among the title favourites.

Philander said the team will rely heavily on Bumrah as he has become the sort of bowler change-ups and lethal yorkers who can never be written off in and that is the skill set you

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the shortest format.

"He swings the new ball, brings the stumps into the play and challenges the batters upfront. He is phenomenal with those want in the T20 World Cup," he explained.

"I feel he is going to play a massive part tournament and perhaps also be the best seamer," said the

Philander, who is the second fastest ever to reach 50 Test wickets by touching the milestone in just seven games, was also full of praise for Bumrah's pace colleague Mohammed Shami and said beautifully".

..The way he has gone to dominate at the moment is really exciting to see. The plans he had adopted when he came to bowl in South Africa. It is a tough place to bowl and one has to change the mindset from bowling on the flat subcontinental pitches to bowling here," he said. Philander said India seem to

have cracked the code as far as producing good fast bowling talent is concerned and a share of the credit goes to former captain Virat Kohli's

"Every time India comes here, they seem to be performing better than the previous tour. In the subcontinent, Indian spinners have been winning the games but It's just good to see the Indian team winning in Australia.

"That's a very positive sign for

India to produce those sort of bowlers... It is also on the back of great leadership.

"Virat Kohli had been a strong leader who was propelling his bowlers to go and learn and get better," said the pacer, referring to India's historic Test series triumph against Australia in 2018-19 under Kohli.

Philander enjoyed excellent record against India at home and took 25 wickets in five Tests (2013 and 2018) at an average of 18. Recalling his face-offs against them, Philander said he considers Kohli the toughest opponent he has ever faced in his career. "For me Virat has been the toughest batsman because of the way he conducts himself. As a bowler, he never gives you an opportunity to settle. From the pure mindset point of view, Virat is a very strong

character and as a batsman, he

makes life really difficult for the bowlers," said the 38-year-

Asked if players, especially bowlers, will be turn up exhausted during the T20 World Cup as it would be happening just after the IPL, Philander said workload management would be the key. "...I feel that you have to manage players as it is a big tournament...You want to make sure that those players get game time but the management of pacers will be the key," he said

He is happy with the good response to SA T20 in South Africa.

"It is a wonderfully organised tournament and the quality of cricket is right up there. South Africa Cricket needed this kind of initiative where young players are getting the chance to rub shoulders with the best in the world," he said.

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