**OPINION 6** 

STRUGGLE INTENSIFIES

TAMIL NADU: THE POWER

**WORLD 9** 

PAKISTAN EC DISMISSES

NAWAZ REVIEW PLEA

the plant 1864 the plant of the

Late City Vol.34 Issue 46 \*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

SARFARAZ KHAN SCORES 62 ON DEBUT

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

12 SPORTS

www.dailypioneer.com

Established 1864

NEW DELHI, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

## **Electoral Bonds Unconstitutional: SC Farmers start Rail Roko**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark verdict delivered ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, the Supreme Court scrapped the Electoral Bonds scheme of anonymous political funding, terming it "Unconstitutional" ordering disclosure of the names of the purchasers,

value of the bonds and their

recipients. Holding that the 2018 scheme 'violative" of the Constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression and right to information, a five-judge Constitution Bench headed Chief Justice DY Chandrachud did not agree with the contention that it was meant to bring about transparency and curb black money in political funding.

Ordering closure of the scheme forthwith, the top court also directed the State Bank of India, the authorised financial institution under the scheme, to submit by March 6 the details of electoral bonds purchased since April 12, 2019, till date to the Election Commission, which will publish the information on its official website by March 13. "The Electoral Bond scheme

and the impugned provisions to the extent that they infringe upon the right to information of the voter by anonymising contributions through electoral bonds are violative of Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and



Constitution," said the Bench, comprising Justices Saniiv Khanna, BR Gavai, IB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The top court also directed the SBI to share details, including the "date of purchase of each electoral bond, the name of the purchaser of the bond and the denomination of the electoral bond purchased".

"SBI shall submit the details of political parties which have contributions received through Electoral Bonds since the interim order of this court dated April 12, 2019 till date to the ECI. SBI must disclose details of each Electoral Bond encashed by political parties which shall include the date of encashment and denomination of the electoral bond," the Bench said.

On April 12, 2019, the apex court had issued an interim order directing that the information about donations received and donations which will be received must be submitted by political parties to the EC in a sealed cover. The court ordered that uncashed Electoral Bonds, which are within the validity period of 15 days, shall be returned by the political party or the purchaser to the issuing bank which in turn shall refund the amount to the

purchaser's account. The CJI said, "The electoral bond scheme, the proviso to section 29C(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1951 (as amended by section 137 of Finance Act 2017), section 182(3) of the Companies Act (as amended

by section 154 of the Finance Act 2017), and section 13A(b) (as amended by section 11 of Finance Act 2017) are violative of Article 19(1)(a) and Unconstitutional."

It said the deletion of a provision in the Companies Act permitting unlimited corporate contributions to political parties was "arbitrary and violative" of Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution

Holding that information about funding to a political party was essential for a voter to exercise their freedom to vote in an effective manner, the Bench said the scheme does not fulfil the least restrictive means test.

'The Electoral Bond scheme is not the only means for curbing black money in

electoral finance. There are other alternatives which substantially fulfill the purpose and impact the right to information minimally when compared to the impact of electoral bonds on the right to information," the CJI said. huge

contributions made by corporations and companies should not be allowed to conceal the reason for financial contributions made by another section of the population: a student, a daily wage worker, an artist, or a teacher. When the law permits political contributions and such

contributions could be made as an expression of political support which would indicate the political affiliation of a person, it is the duty of the Constitution to protect them, it said.

The Court added, "At this juncture, the close association of money and politics which has been explained above needs to be recounted. Money is not only essential for electoral outcomes and for influencing policies, it is also necessary for true democratic participation."

The Court further observed, "However, to not grant the umbrella of informational to political contributions only because a portion of the contributions is made for other reasons would impermissible. The Constitution does not turn a blind eye merely because of the possibilities of misuse."

# in Punjab as talks falter

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{their}}^{\text{armers in Punjab began}} \ _{\text{their}}^{\text{began real}}$ roko" stir by squatting on rail tracks at some locations, causing inconvenience to passengers on Thursday even as the third round of meeting between the Centre and farmers' organisations in Chandigarh went on till late at night.

There were no reports of

clashes between farmers and Harvana security personnel at the two Punjab and Haryana border points — Shambhu and Khanauri on the third day of the protest. Harvana Chief Minister Manohar criticised Khattar "method" adopted by Punjab farmers to press their demands, suggesting that they were attempting to march to Delhi like an army on the offensive. Amid a standoff between

protesters and security personnel at two border points of Punjab and Union Haryana, three Ministers representatives of the farmers' unions held a discussion in Chandigarh on Thursday night. Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Arjun Munda, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goval, and Minister of State



Members of various organisations block railway tracks at Rajpura as they stage 'rail roko' protest in support of farmers agitating at Punjab-Haryana Shambhu border, in Patiala, on Thursday

Rai represented the Centre in the meeting over farmer unions' demands, including law guaranteeing Minimum Support Price

(MSP) for crops. At the meeting, farmers' leaders were adamant about the legal guarantees of the MSP. Before the Central Ministers arrived, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann reached the venue to be part of the meeting. The previous two rounds of dialogue on February 8 and

12 remained inconclusive. "The Punjab Government could have stopped farmers. If they did not stop, then

for Home Affairs Nityanand there must understanding there and 'Delhi wale' say they are with the farmers' movement," Khattar said, in an apparent reference to the Aam Aadmi

> "It is not right to comment their behaviour suggests that they have some kind of support, he added while responding to a question on AAP's involvement in the farmer's 'Delhi Chalo' Supporting farmers' demand is one thing, but favouring this kind of agitation sends the wrong message," the Chief Minister said.

Continued on Page 2

# Farooq says NC will go solo



**MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU** 

National Conference president and sitting Member of Parliament from Srinagar, Farooq Abdullah, stirred controversy on Thursday by declaring that his party would go "solo" in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the Union Territory, thereby abandoning the Opposition INDIA bloc. Thus far, the TMC, the AAP, and the JD(U) have distanced

themselves from the INDIA bloc before engaging in conclusive seat-sharing talks. Farooq's announcement has severely weakened the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in Jammu and Kashmir, leaving the People's Democratic Party, CPI, CPI(M), and Awami National Conference in a difficult position.

Earlier, in response to a specific question about the status of seat-sharing talks, Dr

unequivocally said that the National Conference would contest the polls based on its own merits without forming alliances with other political parties. "As for seat-sharing, I want to clarify that the National Conference will contest the elections based on its own strength. There is no room for debate on this matter," Dr Abdullah asserted. However, shortly after Farooq's announcement, his son and party vice president, Omar Abdullah, issued a strong clarification, asserting that the National Conference remained a member of the INDIA bloc. He said, "We continue to remain a member of the INDIA bloc." At the same time, Omar

firmly clarified that no formal talks have occurred with the Congress party regarding the seat-sharing formula. However, there have been informal dialogues, and there potential for further discussion.

stressed, commitment to the INDIA alliance remains intact, despite the recent departure of founding members."
He added, "We are not among

those leaving. We will continue our discussions with the Congress party and hope to reach a seat-sharing understanding."

Continued on Page 2

## INDIA Bloc jolted again, PM Modi conveys gratitude to Qatar for veterans release

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday thanked Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani for the release of eight Indians, previously on death row, even as the two leaders held extensive talks that set the stage for taking the hilateral ties to a higher · level especially in the spheres of investment, energy and new

technology.
After the talks at the majestic Amiri Palace in this Qatari capital city, Modi described his meeting with the Emir as "wonderful" and said the bilateral ties are growing "stronger and stronger" and both the nations are looking forward to collaborating in futuristic sectors that will benefit the planet.

Modi arrived here last night from the United Arab Emirates in his second visit to Oatar which came days after Doha released the Indians in a major relief to New Delhi.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a media briefing that the talks focused

on expanding cooperation in key areas, increasing convergence on regional issues, examining partnership in third countries, and viewing the overall ties from a strategic perspective rather than a transactional one. The two leaders also spoke about the need for strategic investments and strategic partnerships in the domain of

energy and to proceed beyond

the buyer-seller relationship in this field. Prime Minister Modi also

thanked the Emir for his support for the welfare of the Indian community in the Gulf nation, he said. "The Prime Minister thanked the Emir for his support for the welfare of the Indian community, and in this regard, expressed his deep appreciation to the Emir for the release of eight Indian nationals of Al-Dahra company. We are extremely gratified to see them back in

India," Kwatra said. Seven out of eight Indians had returned to India on Monday after Qatar freed them. The Navy veterans were on October 26 given death sentences by Qatar's Court of First Instance. The Court of Appeal in the Gulf nation on December 28 commuted the capital punishment and sentenced them to jail terms for varying durations.

personnel apparently faced charges of espionage, but neither the Qatari authorities nor New Delhi made the charges against them public. Kwatra said Modi's "very successful visit" has set the stage for taking ties to a much higher level in a range of areas and exploring engagement in new areas such as space, technology and innovation. "Had a wonderful meeting HH

The former Indian Navy @ Tamim B in Hamad.We reviewed the full range of

India-Qatar relations and Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in Doha on Thursday discussed ways to deepen

cooperation across various sectors. Our nations also look forward to collaborating in futuristic sectors which will benefit our planet," Modi said

"My visit to Qatar has added new vigour to the India-Qatar friendship. India looks forward to scaling up cooperation in key sectors relating to trade. technology and culture. I thank the Government and

people of Qatar for their hospitality," he said. "India and Qatar ties are growing stronger and stronger!," Modi said in another post along with photographs of welcome ceremonial accorded to him in Doha.

Modi was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the Amiri Palace on his arrival this morning. Thereafter, both sides held delegationlevel and restricted talks. The MEA said the Modi-

Hamad discussions covered a wide array of topics including economic cooperation, energy partnership, space collaboration, urban infrastructure, cultural bonds and people-to-people ties. "The Prime Minister thanked the Amir for taking care of the over eight lakh strong Indian community in Qatar and conveyed India's commitment to further expanding and deepening bilateral deepening bilateral cooperation with Qatar. He invited Amir to pay an early visit to India," it said.

Continued on Page 2

## IDMA tailors heat solutions for vulnerable comn

**ARCHNA JYOTI** ■ NEW DELHI

s India prepares for Aintense heat waves ahead, Disaster National Authority Management Authority (NDMA) has, for the first time, begun crafting heat mitigation solutions tailored to the needs of vulnerable groups such as street vendors, dwellers, traffic policemen, and construction workers.

This initiative comes amid concerns that the existing Heat Action Plans have failed to prioritise these marginalised populations, who bear the brunt of the Centre for Policy Research, a think tank.

With February 2023 recorded as the warmest month since 1901 and the situation likely to worsen this year and beyond, Heat Action Plans have become a significant tool to prepare for the onslaught of global warming. The world also experienced extreme heatwaves the previous year, with reports indicating that the number of hot days lasted for 280 days between March and May in India.

Indeed, the impact of heatwaves on traffic cops, help design heat mitigation construction workers, and solutions that address their vendors is significant, as they are often among the most district collectors from heat, as highlighted by the

scorching exposed to temperatures and working conditions.

To ensure these vulnerable groups are not overlooked, Disaster National Management Authority recently held a two-day national workshop on Management Interventions and Mitigation Strategies for Heat Wave.

first For the representatives from these segments were invited, their allowing experiences to be noted to Additionally, concerns.



selected districts also shared experiences implementing HAPs.

By actively involving these frontline workers in the planning process, we are ensuring that their voices are heard and their experiences are taken into account. This collaborative approach not only enhances the effectiveness of heatwave preparedness efforts but also fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among those most directly affected," said an official from the

NDMA.

they encounter, including heat-related illnesses, dehydration, and fatigue. Their input is crucial for developing comprehensive heatwave preparedness plans that address their specific needs and concerns, added the official. For instance, consider the

workers can provide firsthand

accounts of the difficulties

case of traffic cop Harish Chaudhary (name changed). Last year, as the sun beat down relentlessly, he was stationed at one of the city's busiest intersections, where As they perform physical traffic congestion was a daily labour during the hottest occurrence. Throughout the hours of the day, these day, he endured the harsh

intensifying with each passing hour. Insights from individuals like him can inform strategies for ensuring their safety and well-being, such as providing adequate shade, hydration facilities, and scheduling breaks during the hottest parts of the day, in addition to offering training on recognising and managing heat-related illnesses. Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister

conditions, with the heat

of Earth Sciences, highlighted the escalating frequency and intensity of heatwaves in recent years, exacerbated by climate change, in his inaugural address. Continued on Page 2

## Veteran Pahari leader | Mamata raps Centre | Shahjahan **Bukhari joins BJP**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

After the Bhartiya Janta Party-led Union Government fulfilled its promise of granting Scheduled Tribe status to the Pahari Ethnic group, veteran Pahari leader and former Jammu and Kashmir minister Mushtaq Ahmad Shah Bukhari formally joined the party here in Jammu on Thursday.

Bukhari, a two-time former MLA from Surankote in Poonch district, had resigned from the National Conference in February 2022 after an argument with party president Farooq Abdullah over granting Scheduled Tribe status to Pahari-speaking people.

Bukhari was accorded a red carpet welcome by J&K BJP unit president Ravinder Raina, along with other party leaders. Former bureaucrat G M Khuwaja and retired senior superintendent of police Shabir Geelani, also joined the party fold along with Mushtaq

"I have kept my promise of



joining a party that fulfills our long-pending demand for ST status. I am thankful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Raina for doing justice with Paharis who have struggled for 40 long years for the ST status," Bukhari told reporters.

The BJP-led central government recently added four communities — Gadda Brahmin, Koli, Paddari Tribe and Pahari Ethnic group — to the list of Scheduled Tribes in Jammu and Kashmir.

After resigning from the NC, the former minister had said his statement at a function that "we will not hesitate in

supporting any party which will help the community in achieving its demand of ST status did not go down well with the NC leadership and I was asked for an explanation." He claimed that he had a "heated argument" with Abdullah over the issue and submitted his resignation from the basic membership of the party after walking out of the meeting.

Raina said, "Bukhari is not only a political stalwart but a spiritual personality having a lot of influence on people (of his community) in both Jammu and Kashmir. His joining BJP will further strengthen the party at the grassroots level."

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA** KOLKATA

 $B_{\text{Mamata Banerjee on}}^{\text{engal Chief Minister}}$ Thursday launched a scathing attack on the BJP Government for running a regime that was "worse" than the one being run by the Pakistanis or Adolf Hitler or even demon king Ravana of Ramayana. "The way they are running the Government that even Hitler,

Mussolini or those ruling in Pakistan will be put to shame," Banerjee who was delivering a speech in the State Assembly said. Saying that she had postponed her visit to Punjab in support of the farmers who had been stopped by the powers that be at Shambhu and Khanauri borders and who were allegedly being tormented by the Centre, Banerjee said, "the farmers are protesting and the country is burning. But the BJP Government is not at all concerned about them ... they have crossed all the Laxman Rekha like Ravan --in dealing with the farmers -but they will understand

once they reach Delhi." Wondering as to what was happening in the country at present Banerjee said, "they are bringing draconian laws and putting opponents to jail every day," Banerjee said adding "one

their will on the people. a person is put behind the bars

he remains there for eternity without trial or anything ... they are not given bail.

Reminding that no one remains in power for eternity, Banerjee said, "today you are in power ... but you will not remain in power for all the time to come . no one remains in power for all the time ... so the law your are using to send the opponents to jail may be used against you tomorrow ... then what will you do." Raising for the first time the issue of Electronic Voting Machine the Chief Minister expressed doubts about how the Centre was fiddling with the EVM machines. "One does not know what is being done to the EVMs ... they are changing the EVMs and winning elections," she said adding how after winning polls they were imposing

You have set the country on fire ... there is hatred everywhere and you are thriving on that hatred ... you are stoking riots ... setting one caste or

community against the others," Banerjee said alleging how after coming to power in Rajasthan the BJP government had shut down all the non-vegetarian shops. "Soon after coming to power they shut down all the shops

selling eggs, chicken or mutton they are not only using bulldozers on the non-veg shops but they are also bull-dozing the poor man's livelihood ... it should be my choice as to what I should eat ... who are you to dictate me on that ... it is a democratic country that this Government is not ready to honour," Banerjee said.

# raises fund for TMC: Adhikari

 $B_{\text{the BJP sharpened its}}^{\text{engal continued to burn as}}$ Congress Government stag-ing statewide protests against the sexual exploitation of women by alleged Trinamool Congress men in Sandeshkhali block of North 24 Parganas.

State Opposition Leader Subhendu Adhikari and three other BJP MLAs staged a two-hour sit-in demonstra-Sarberia in Sandeshkhali where he was stopped by the police. He was going to the affected regions of Sandeshkhali.

The BJP leader who said that he would move the Calcutta High Court for a judicial order to enter the interior regions of Sandeshkhali, on Thursday attacked Chief Minister for shielding Shahjahan the alleged mastermind of land-grab and

sexual assaults on women in the region.

"Mamata Banerjee has to protect Shahjahan because he is her fund provider and his musclemen wins elections for her ... you cannot arrest him because you need funds from him in the coming Lok Sabha elections" Adhikari said adding he would go to High Court to seek an order to

The BJP workers on Thursday staged protest rallies against Sandeshkhali incident in a number of places including Kakdwip, Jhargram, Purulia, and parts of North Bengal.

enter Saneshkhali.

## Maharashtra Speaker declares Ajit faction as real NCP

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In another setback to the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party, Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar on Thursday declared the Ajit Pawar-led faction as the "real NCP", while dismissing pleas seeking disqualification of the MLAs belonging to both the Close on the heels of the

Commission's Election February 6 2024 order recognising the Ajit Pawar-led faction as the "real NCP", giving it control over the party's name and "clock" symbol, the Speaker ruled that between the two feuding factions, the Ajit Pawar faction enjoyed "overwhelming majority". Narwekar, however, did not

disqualify any of the 54 MLAs of the erstwhile undivided NCP. "All the petitions seeking disqualification of MLAs (filed by both sides against each other) stand rejected," the Speaker ruled. "The Ajit Pawar faction

enjoyed an overwhelming majority when the split happened... That this faction had MLAs is not disputed, and Speaker said.



numbers-wise, this faction outnumbered the Sharad Pawar faction in terms of MLAs. The number of disqualification petitions filed showed the strength of the two factions," the Speaker said.

"It is clear that on 30 June, 2023, two factions of the NCP emerged. However, prior to joining the government, the Ajit Pawar faction outnum-bered the Sharad Pawar faction in terms of numbers of MLAs and MLCs. Two parallel party presidents and party structure existed before 2 July,

Muslims)," Banerjee said alleg-

ing the "BJP is targeting

Shahjahan to serve its narrow

political goals but they will

She said that "RSS has a base in

Sandeshkhali ... where riots

took place 7-8 years ago. It is

one of the vulnerable spots. We

handled the situation with

strong hand otherwise they

had other plans during the

Claiming that she had never

encouraged injustice against women Banerjee said, "we have

always stood for women's cause

tion of women but it is the BJP

which is trying to commit mis-

chief in the area through their

A river island in the mouth of

Sunderbans bordering

Bangladesh, Sandeshkhali an

administrative block in North

24 Parganas adjoining Kolkata

hit the national headlines in

the first week of January when about one thousand people attacked members of the ED

and the CAPF personnel who

were accompanying them.

never tolerate victimiza-

never succeed.'

Saraswati Pujas.'

"The NCP constitution and the leadership structure of the provide any clue to decide as to which is the real faction and hence I went by the yardstick of legislative majority," he said, while declaring that the faction led Ajit Pawar was the "real NCP party" ad it enjoyed an "overwhelming majority" with-

In his reasoning for not disqualifying MLAs belonging to both the NCP factions, the Speaker said the provision of the Tenth Schedule of Constitution, which deals with 2023 when Ajit Pawar became the disqualification of legislashould not be used to silence filed its own petitions against order.

the members or to crush the opposition within the party. The Speaker's ruling is akin to the one he gave on 10 January in the case of the Shiv Sena, when he had ruled that the Shiv Sena-led by Maharashtra chief minister Éknath Shinde was the "real Shiv Sena" and not the one headed by former chief minister and Shiv Sena (UBT) head Uddhav

Thackeray. It may be recalled that on July 2, 2023, senior NCP leader and then leader of the Opposition in Maharashtra Ajit Pawar rebelled against his uncle and his party chief Sharad Pawar, walked out of the party with a sizeable number of supporters and took oath as deputy chief minister in the Eknath Shindeled Shiv Sena-BJP alliance government in the state.

Initially, the Sharad Pawar faction filed its disqualification petitions against nine MLAs of the Ajit Pawar faction - who became ministers in the government of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Later on it filed the petitions

seeking disqualification of the remaining 31 MLAs of the breakaway group.

10 MLAs of the Sharad Pawar

On his part, the Speaker today dismissed all the petitions by both factions, recognised the Ajit Pawar faction as the "real; NCP" and ruled that none of the MLAs of any side stood disqualified.

Meanwhile, the Sharad Pawarled NCP, which was recently given the temporary name of NCP-Sharadchandra Pawar', has challenged the EC's order recognising the Ajit Pawar-led faction as the "real NCP", giving it control over the party's name and "clock" symbol, The Speaker's ruling came in

for a severe flak from the NCP (Sharad Pawar) and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) leaders like Nana Patole, Dr. Jitendra Awhad, Eknath Khadse, Aditya Thackeray and Sanjay Raut, even as the Ajit Pawar-led NCP celebrated the Speaker's ruling at its offices across the

On his part, NCP President Ajit Pawar declined to comment on the Speaker's ruling saying that he had not read the order, while his other party colleagues including Chief

## MVA hails SC for striking down Electoral Bonds scheme

TN RAGHUNATHA

Welcoming the Supreme Court's order striking down the electoral bonds scheme, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) – comprising Shiv Sena, Congress and Sharad Pawar-led NCP-on Thursday tore into the ruling BJP for bringing an "unconstitutional" and "opaque" mode of funding to political parties in the coun-

try.
"An `unconstitutional' scheme has been struck down by the Supreme Court! Next, Maharashtra hopes the unconstitutional regime is struck down! Wholeheartedly welcome the decision today to strike down the opaque scheme of electoral bonds. Now we hope that transparency is ensured and every word of the order is followed, in time," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said. NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule said that the Supreme Court's order declar-



forces the importance of transparency and accountability in our democratic sys-

"This landmark ruling has recognized that the anonymity provided by the scheme infringes upon the fundamental right to information enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. This is crucial for informed voting and holding political parties accountable," Supriya said.
"The electoral bonds scheme

institutionalized influenced policy making and legitimized potential corruption under the curtain of anonymity, and yet or rather therefore, was

Parliament," Supriya said
"Today's verdict is a victory for transparency in political parties and elections, at a time when this reminder was indeed necessary. Together, let's commit to a future of openness, fairness, and accountability," the NCP(Sharad Pawar) working president said.

Congress state President Nana Patole hailed the Supreme verdict on electoral bonds by saying that it was Rahul Gandhi who had first opposed the electoral bonds in 2019 which have now been struck down by the country's top

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi said all the corporate houses that indulged this government, that became a party to this corruption of electoral practises will be worried now. "One of the most corrupt tools in BJP's kitty has been rightfully struck down by the Supreme Court. Only if governments formed through corrupt and unconstitutional

## Didi breaks silence on Sandeshkhali

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee has finally broken her silence on Sandeshkhali and Trinamool Congress strongman Sheikh Sahajahan. Considered the don of

Sandeshkhali the men of Sahjahan were reportedly involved in land-grab and exploitation of women for years. Besides they attacked and injured an Enforcement Directorate team that had gone to his house for conducting raids in connection with ration scam. Shahjahan has been at large since January 5.

Delivering a speech at the State Assembly the Bengal Chief Minister openly stood by the absconding party strongman saying it was the BJP and the RSS that was fomenting trouble in Sandeshkhali block.

"Sandeshkhali has become an RSS den ... it is the RSS and BJP who are sending outsiders to this area to create trouble. They are setting the tribal people against the minorities (read

## **Farmers start**

The Haryana Government has

in the NCP.

extended the ban on mobile internet and bulk SMS services in seven districts by two days until February 17 in view of the ʻDelhi farmers' Chalo' agitation. These districts include Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Hisar, Fatehabad, and Sirsa, as stated in the Government's order.

Amid the ongoing 'Delhi Chalo' protest march called by over 200 farmer unions, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (nonpolitical), along with Central trade unions, has called for a nationwide strike on Friday. The SKM has urged all likeminded farmer organisations to participate in the nationwide Gramin Bharat Bandh. According to media reports, the day-long protest will begin from 6 am to 4 pm. Disruption is expected in transportation, agricultural activities, MNREGA rural works, private offices, village shops, and rural industrial and service sector institutions owing to the

February 16 strike. Ahead of the meeting with a panel of the Centre, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said on Thursday that the Prime Minister should speak to the three Union Ministers

visiting Chandigarh for talks for the resolution of the farmers' issues.

Two key border points between Delhi and Haryana remain closed for traffic, while security personnel in anti-riot gear were deployed at strategic locations in the national Capital as the farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' agitation entered its third day on Thursday.

While the two borders - Tikri and Singhu -- with Harvana remain closed, movement was allowed through the Ghazipur border with Uttar Pradesh under the watch of security personnel.

Several commuters faced difficulties as the Singhu border remained closed for traffic for the third consecutive day on Thursday in view of the farmers' protest. Carrying luggage and accompanying their little children, some people also had to cross the Delĥi-Haryana border on foot while carrying their children in their arms.

The restrictions in areas around the Delhi-Haryana border points, fortified with metal barricades and concrete blocks to stop farmers from entering the city, came into effect on Tuesday, the day the march began.

## **INDIA** bloc jolted...

From Page 1

Omar mentioned that out of the six Lok Sabha seats in the former state of Jammu and Kashmir, three are already held by the INDIA Alliance. Talks are underway with the Congress regarding the three seats currently held by the BJP. Omar stated that if the primary goal is to reclaim seats from the BJP, National the then Conference is willing to engage in seat-sharing with Congress.

emphasised that their doors are open. Omar clarified that Dr Abdullah's remarks during the media interaction reflected the sentiment of the party cadre, who have advocated contesting elections independently in all

constituencies. Omar said, "Regarding the NDA, we are not a party that has our feet in multiple boats. Once we establish friendships, we remain loyal to those allies. I'm not sure journalists are assuming our doors are open for the NDA, because they're

To rectify the damage, we cannot align with the NDA. Our entire campaign during

towards holding the BJP accountable for their actions in Jammu and Kashmir."

Earlier, in a telephone interview with a news channel, Dr. Farooq Farooq Abdullah also hinted at the possibility of rejoining the BJP-led NDA in the future. When asked directly if his party was considering joining the NDA, Dr. Abdullah remained noncommittal. He said, "This is just the beginning. Let's wait and see what happens next. I cannot comment at this time." However, he didn't rule out the possibility of returning to the NDA fold. Before concluding, Dr. Abdullah cryptically cryptically remarked,

"We are a political party. We always keep 'windows and doors open'. We must strengthen the nation, all sections of society, and all

During his conversation, Farooq also welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Jammu and Kashmir next week. "The Prime Minister's visit is a positive development. He is expected to announce some projects."

## **NDMA** tailors...

From Page 1

He commended the timing of the workshop, being conducted in February, well ahead of the summer season, allowing for a thorough review of Heat Wave preparedness for Summer

Dr. M Ravichandran, Union Secretary of the Ministry, emphasized the importance of the workshop in addressing various critical aspects of heatwave management, such as early warning systems, health impacts, infrastructure resilience, and phenomenon of urban heat islands. He stressed the value of experience sharing among states to enhance preparedness for the upcoming heatwave season. Kamal Kishore, Member and Head of NDMA, reiterated the significance continuously improving Heat Action Plans (HAPs) developed districts, and cities based on lessons learned from previous seasons. emphasized the need to not only focus on saving lives but also on safeguarding livelihoods from the adverse

across different sectors.

The workshop structured into six thematic sessions, including early warning systems, health infrastructure impacts, resilience, field experiences, urban heat islands, and Heat

Action Plans.
According to the report
'How Is India Adapting to Heatwaves?: An Assessment of Heat Action Plans With Insights for Transformative Climate Action' by the CPR, the majority of HAPs use thresholds for national heatwaves, which may not be appropriate for the dangers experienced by local

communities. It noted that only two HAPs conduct and report vulnerability analyses. systematic studies to locate where the people most likely to be affected are in a city,

district, or state. Between 2003 and 2022, approximately 10,000 people have died in India due to exposure to heatwaves, according to IMD records. The IMD also reports that there has been a rise of 34 percent in deaths due to heat waves between 2003-2012

## PM Modi.

It said the Emir reciprocated Modi's sentiments and expressed appreciation for India's role as a valued partner in the Gulf region. The MEA said the Emir also appreciated the contributions of the vibrant Indian

Qatar's

community in

From Page 1

development and their enthusiastic participation in various international events held in Qatar.

The talks were followed by a banquet lunch at the Amiri Palace hosted in honour of Modi. In his remarks, Kwatra said the prime minister's visit to Qatar was focused on

emphasis on what the two countries can achieve in future. He said both sides have strong energy security and partnership but endeavour now would be to

look at the cooperation from

consolidating the wideranging partnership in different fields of economic cooperation and build on the gains of his 2016 visit to the country with an overarching

a strategic point of view that would include renewables, green energy, supply chains in clean energy, technology and innovations in energy space, not just pure energy trade. Kwatra said the aim would be to broaden the trade basket and to build new trade markets considering regional trade. Modi also met with Qatar's father Emir

congratulated him on his

visionary leadership that development and nourishing paved the way for Qatar's of bilateral partnership. development in past decades and laid a strong foundation India-Qatar the partnership, Kwatra said.Father Emir affirmed India and Qatar share an unwavering bond epitomised mutual trust and cooperation, Kwatra said. The father Emir also appreciated the Indian

community's role in the

Shortly after he arrived in Doha last night, Modi met Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh

Mohammed Abdulrahman Al Thani. Abdulrahman is Qatar's foreign minister as well. The trade and energy ties between India and Qatar are on an

upswing. Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, accounting for

effects

over 48 per cent of India's global LNG imports. Ĭndia's Petronet has renewed

heatwaves,

a contract to buy 7.5 million tonnes of LNG from Qatar annually from 2029 for 20 years and it is being billed as the largest-ever extension of super-chilled fuel in the world.

of

The original 25-year deal was signed in 1999 and supplies started in 2004. India-Qatar cooperation has been steadily

growing in diverse sectors over the last few years. Prime Minister Modi paid his first visit to Doha in June,

and 2013-2022.

2016. The visit provided an opportunity for both sides to engage at the highest level, and impart fresh momentum to the bilateral ties. It was the highest-level visit from India to Qatar since the visit of then prime minister Manmohan Singh in November 2008.

# Budget not finalised, to be tabled in March: Atishi

MLAs, including Mohan Singh Bisht, Vijendra Gupta,

Omprakash Sharma, Jitendra

Mahajan, Anil Vajpayee, Ajay Mahawar and Abhay Verma,

expressed their anger in the press conference over the fail-

ure of the AAP government in not presenting the budget in

ment itself admitted in the Assembly that there was a

delay in making the budget but no reason was given.
"We want to know the clear

reason and also who is respon-

sible for it. The budget was sent

to the LG for approval on 14th

February and he approved it on

Finance Minister Atishi admit-

ted in the House that the bud-

get has been sent to the Home

Ministry today itself. After all,

how was the date of the budget

session approved without the

budget being made," he said. In the Delhi Legislative

Assembly, the budget session

During this time, chief min-

ister Arvind Kejriwal pro-

posed the election of financial

committees with the permis-

sion of the Speaker of the

Legislative Assembly, SRam

Niwas Goel. It was passed by

a voice vote. However, the date

for presenting Delhi's budget

in the House has not been

started on Thursday.

the same day.

the Delhi Assembly. Bidhuri said that the govern-

Delhi Government is likely to present its annual Budget 2024-25 in the first week of March as it has not been finalised. This is the second time in history, Delhi Budget has been delayed. Announcing a delay in presenting the Delhi Budget, Atishi on Thursday requested an extension of the ongoing Budget session till the first week of March. Terming it a mockery of democracy, the opposition BJP said the Kejriwal government is using budget to avoid investigation in the excise policy scam case and demanded the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to sack this government. The Delhi budget was deliberately delayed by this government in the wake of the summons by the Enforcement Directorate and the Court," Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said.

Earlier, explaining the delay of presentation of budget 2024-25 in the House of the Delhi Assembly, Atishi said there have been some delays in budget finalisation due to some reasons. "We received approval for the budget from Delhi Lt Governor on February 14. Earlier the budget was passed by the cabinet on 11th



February, and on 13th February it was sent to Lieutenant Governor for his assent. There has been no delay from LG's side. Today the budget will be sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) The approval from the MHA and the presidential assent will take at least 10-15 days. It is not possible for us to present the budget before February 25. I request that the budget session be extended till first week of March. I estimate that the budget won't be presented before the 25th of February, it is possible that the budget will be presented after February 25th," she explained in the House.

Meanwhile, BJP MLAs questioned the delay, in response to which Atishi said, "It is a delay on our part. We are not putting allegations against anyone. The House accepted the Finance Minister's proposal

and passed it by a voice vote. With these developments, the timeline for Delĥi's budget presentation remains with possibilities stretching into late February or early March.

Lambasting the AAP government, Bidhuri has alleged that the AAP government has made even an important document like the budget a victim of mockery and politics.

He alleged that Kejriwal has

tried to use a sacred document like the Budget as his weapon to escape the investigation of the liquor scam, but no matter how hard he tries, he cannot escape this investigation. This is a clear administrative

failure of the government. Therefore, BJP MLAs will meet the Lieutenant Governor and demand that the AAP government be dismissed immediately," he said.

Bidhuri and all other BJP

## LG highlights achievements of AAP Government in his address

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

mid pandemonium, Delhi A Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena in his address to the Assembly on Thursday highlighted the AAP Government's achievements, saying the economy of Delhi witnessed real GSDP expansion of 9.18 per cent in 2022-23 as compared to a growth of 7.2 per cent in GDP at national level. Per Capita Income of Delhi has been around 2.6 times higher when compared to national average and the revenue is consistently surplus. Saxena, in his address, said Delhi wonderfully hosted the 18th 'G20 Leaders Summit' last year which was the first time India hosted the sum-

"Out of the budget of Rs.78,800 Crore of 2023-24, an amount of Rs.43,700 Crore has been allocated for implementation of developmental various schemes, programmes and capital projects. The share of the Services Sector in Delhi's economy is about 85% which also shows the inherent strengths of the economy," he said.



During his address on the first day of the budget session was interrupted on multiple occasions by BJP MLAs as he highlighted the ments. The BJP wanted to attack the AAP dispensation as Saxena talked about its work in the field of education and

In his address, the Lt Governor listing out the achievements of the government in the field of water and sanitation, said the installed capacity of drinking water has been augmented by 13 per cent in the last 10 years. He also highlighted installation of more than one lakh CCTV cameras, five lakh citizens availing free treatment under the

'Delhi Arogya Kosh' scheme and the addition of 1,650 electric buses to the fleet. "Electricity rates have not been increased in the last eight years and the tariff remains the lowest among all the neighbouring states," he said. BJP MLAs interrupted him multiple times during his address as they sought to attack the Arvind

Talking about the various social welfare initiatives of the government, he said pensions ranging from Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 per month is being given to around nine lakh beneficiaries. "More than 72 lakh beneficiaries have been provided subsidised rations through fair

Kejriwal government.

APP built facade on deception, says former LoP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MLA and former Leader Of Opposition Vijender Gupta, has vehemently criticized the Lieutenant Governor's address in the Delhi Assembly, calling it deeply entrenched in falsehoods. Gupta accused the AAP government of constructing a facade of governance on a foundation of deception and

Highlighting the disparity between the AAP's tall promises and the reality on the ground, Gupta underscored the failure to fulfill the promise of opening 500 new schools within five years. In reality, only 63 new schools have been opened during their nearly decade-long tenure.

The promise of establishing 20 new colleges has similarly fallen flat, with not a single new institution coming to fruition, starkly contrasting with the AAP's prolonged period in power. This era has also seen the unfortunate closure of 12 colleges due to financial neglect, leaving faculty salaries unpaid for extended periods.

## Faulty water bills settlement: AAP, bureaucracy spar

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

n a fresh tussle with bureau-In a tresh tussic with a cracy, the AAP on Thursday alleged the urban development secretary refused to present the proposal of one-time settlement scheme for redressing faulty water bills before the council of Ministers. This comes as Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal accompanied by Saurabh Bharadwaj and Finance Minister Atishi met Lieutenant Governor Vinai

Kuma Saxena to address their concerns in this regard. The AAP government plans to

Bharadwaj alleged that the proposal was passed in the DJB's board meeting and that written directions were given to the department secretary to present it before the council of

scheme for redressing faulty

water bills, which will help in

unlocking Rs 1,400 crore rev-

enue for the DJB. Addressing

a press conference here,

"The proposal was passed in our board meeting and we prepared to take it to the cabinet. Since Jal Board's administrative department is urban

bring a one-time settlement development, we gave written directions to the department secretary and asked him to present it to the council of ministers. Surprisingly, he refused to present it," he alleged.

"After his refusal, we mentioned that the scheme also got clearance from Finance Minister Atishi, but we were told by the secretary that they do not recognize Finance as a department," he added.

The problem of faulty water bills was raised at two events where Kejriwal was present. He had assured people that the government was working to address the issue and come up with a scheme to settle the bills. Speaking about why the government has been planning to bring the scheme, Bharadwaj said that more than 10.5 lakh consumers have been receiving exaggerated water bills for the

"Most of the consumers believe that the bills they received from DJB were way beyond the amount of water they consumed. This problem increased especially during COVID times. There were instances when people were not there at their residences for months and yet they received hefty bills from the Jal board," Bharadwaj said. "Hence, the DJB brought this one-time settlement scheme as a solution," he

Atishi on her part said that the lieutenant governor agreed to direct the secretary to present the proposal before the council of ministers in a week.

We raised this matter with the lieutenant governor today. The LG said that the proposal must be presented before the council of ministers and we expect it to be presented early next

## BJP MLAs marshalled out for interrupting LG address

Delhi Assembly Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Thursday asked marshals to escort the BJP MLAs out of the House after they repeatedly interrupted Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's address in the Budget session highlighting achieve-ments of the AAP govern-

Seven out of the eight BJP MLAs in the House, barring Leader of Opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, were marshalled

rupting the LG's address on the first day of the session, Assembly officials said.

As soon as Saxena started reading out his speech and cited achievements of the government in the field of education, BJP MLA and former leader of opposition Vijender Gupta interrupted him raising the issue of funding of 12 colleges of the Delhi University.

The Speaker tried to restrain Gupta but he continued to speak, forcing Lieutenant Governor Saxena to pause his

address briefly. Ultimately, the Speaker asked the House marshals to take Gupta out.

Saxena continued with his address, while the BJP MLAs interrupted him one-by-one as he highlighted various achievements of the government in different fields including health, water supply, transport, and waste management. As the opposition legislators defied Speaker's instructions to sit down and refrain from interrupting Saxena's address, the Speaker asked marshals to

## Commuters hardship continues as Singhu border closed for third day

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

arrying luggage, while Carrying luggage, while accompanying their little children, several commuters faced difficulties as the Singhu traffic for the third consecutive day on Thursday in view of the farmers' protest. Some people also had to cross the Delhi-Haryana border on foot while carrying their little children in

Sagar Singh, who was coming from Panipat and going towards Bawana, said, "I am going to see my ailing mother-in-law in Bawana. I am planning to stay back so that I can be available for help if she needs me. The current situation is not conducive to travelling at night or even otherwise."

Rohit Kumar was returning from Ambala to Delhi after attending a wedding. He said the authorities should provide a proper alternative so that the commuters do not face such kind of inconvenience.

"I went to attend my nephew's wedding near Ambala on Tuesday. The border was closed that day also. I am travelling with my wife and daughter. I can manage to cross the border



it is difficult for my wife and daughter. The authorities should give a proper alternative way to reduce the inconvenience for the commuters," Kumar said. Vishwash Kumar, who works at a warehouse near Bawana, said

if this is going to continue for several days like the earlier agitation, they won't be able to go to their office daily. "Due to the road closure, it takes double the time to reach our workplace. We hope that this would end early since we have suffered last time as well," he said.

The restrictions in areas around the Delhi-Haryana border points, which have been fortified with metal barricades and concrete blocks to stop farmers from entering the city, came into effect on Tuesday, the day the march began.

Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are also demanding the implementa-tion of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pensions to farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act 2013, withdrawal from the World Trade Organisation and compensation for families of the farmers who died during the previous agitation, among others.

## 30,000 tear gas shells orders placed Delhi, Haryana key border to stop farmers march to Capital

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has placed I orders for more than 30,000 tear gas shells, an official said, as the force prepares to prevent Punjab farmers from entering the national capital under their 'Dilli Chalo' protest. Hundreds of farmers marching from Punjab have been stopped at the state's border with Haryana near Ambala, about 200 kilometers away from Delhi. Harvana security forces have used tear gas on them to try and disperse them.

A Delhi Police source said they are determined to not let the protesters enter the national capital should they advance. As part of the preparation, the Delhi Police has already stocked up a large number of tear gas shells and ordered 30,000 more from the BSF's Tear Smoke Unit (TSU) located at Tekanpur in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior, an official

lem," said a parent, on the

"With the board exams under-

request of anonymity.



The freshly ordered shells are being brought to Delhi from Gwalior, he said. A tear gas shell is an anti-riot equipment which is used by security forces to disperse crowd. The gas brings tears by creating irritation in the eyes.

A stock of tear gas shell was also ordered before the G20 Summit held in September 2023, the officer said, adding, a fresh order has been given in the wake of farmers' agitation. Another officer said the age of each tear gas shell is three years

after which their impact slowly weakens, but they are used upto seven years for practice purposes by the forces.

Under the Delhi Police norms, once a stock gets acquired, the shells are distributed to the district police and other units of the force.

Another officer said that in view of the farmers' protest, the fresh stock may be distributed to the outer, outer-north and east district police -- under whose jurisdiction the potential protest sites in the national capital fall.

## points closed, Ghazipur border remains open

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

wo key border points L between Delhi and Haryana remain Closed for traffic while security personnel in anti-riot gears were deployed at strategic locations in the national capital as farmers' 'Delhi Chalo' agitation entered the third day on Thursday. While the two borders - Tikri and Singhu -- with Haryana remain closed, movement was allowed through the Ghazipur border with Uttar Pradesh under the watch of security personnel.

According to senior police officer, the Delhi Police is on extra vigil though the protesting farmers have been stopped by the Haryana Police at the Shambhu border between Punjab and Harvana near Ambala. In the central part of Delhi as well, the police have put up barricades on several roads leading to Parliament and other sensitive locations. Farmer leaders have said a meeting will be held with three Union ministers in Chandigarh on Thursday after which the protesters will decide the next

course of action. At Tikri and Singhu borders, the Delhi Police has put in place multiple layers of barricades, barbed wires and concrete blocks to stop farmers from entering the capital.

This is the third day of the agitation by the farmers to press the Centre to accept their demands including a legal guarantee on Minimum Support Price for their crops and loan waiver. Traffic movement at the Ghazipur border remained hit due to the barricades kept on the highway but the passage from both the side remained opened.

## Board exams hassle free, cops help students amid security curbs

**STAFF REPORTER** ■ NEW DELHI

 $D_{ ext{ty}}^{ ext{espite}}$  heightened security measures at the Tikri border in view of the farmers' protest, board exams were held hassle-free and no delay was reported in the conduct of examination. Vehicles were arranged by the police and paramilitary officials to help students reach their respective centres near the Tikri border.

"There are two schools close to the Tikri border metro station. As they were walking towards their examination centres, we arranged vehicles for them so that they can reach on time," a senior police officer said. Parents who were on two-wheelers with their children were also allowed by the police to cross the area, he

On the first day, Class 10 stu-

dents appeared for Painting, Rai, Gurung, Tamang and Sherpa papers while Class 12

Entrepreneurship, Kokborok, Capital Market Operation and Physical Activity Trainer papers on the first day. Both Class 10 and Class 12 exams started at 10:30 am. Over 5.80 lakh students are

appearing for Central Board of Secondary Examination (CBSE) board this year in Delhi. The board has issued a special advisory for them in view of the farmers' march towards the city. "Due to the prevailing situation in Delhi, it is expected that there will be traffic-related issues which may cause a delay in reaching the examination centre... Therefore, all students are advised to leave their homes early so that they can arrive on

time as per the instructions issued by CBSE. It is advisable to use metro services to reach the examination centres, which are running smoothly," the board said.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) has called a 'Bharat Bandh' on Friday in support of the 'Delhi Chalo' agitation - a march by the farmers of Punjab to the national capital to press the Centre to accept their demands, including the enactment of a law guaranteing minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

As board examinations are underway, SKM's decision to extend support to the the 'Delhi Chalo' march has concerned several students and their parents.

"Even though the farmers are not here yet, but what if they march towards Delhi on a



The government must talk to es Delhi," she added. the protesters and must find an amicable solution to the prob-

be at stake if the protest reach-

Several students from Bahadurgarh area, Chotu Ram Colony, Tikri Kalan and other adjoining areas reached school safely, said some of the parents

stall outside one of the schools. "I came from Bahadurgarh and we did not face any difficulties due to metro services. took metro from Bahadurgarh bus stand to Tikri border metro station and reached my centre without any delay," a class 12 stu-dent, Kartikey Sharma, told

who were seen waiting at a tea

However, a section of the students faced difficulty reaching their centres as several connecting roads from Bahadurgarh to Delhi via Tikri were closed.

"I am from Chhotu Ram colony. The main road which we usually use to reach school has been closed by the police. Thus I had to take another route which is two kilometres extra from my home," Riddhi, a class 10 student said.

ing from a distance had to plan their journey and start as early as 6 am to reach their examination centres on time. Meanwhile, the police and paramilitary forces deployed in the area were stationed at petrol pumps and the tents that were set up for them. 'We have installed multi-

The students who were com-

layer security arrangements. We got to know that a meeting is going on in Chandigarh. Those who were on night duties are now taking rest for sometime. They well be deployed immediately if need be," a senior police official at the spot said. "Rest everything is peaceful here so far. The roads are blocked from both entry and exit points of Delhi to Bahadurgarh and vice

versa," he added. The restrictions in areas

border points, which have been fortified with metal barricades and concrete blocks to stop farmers from entering the city, came into effect on Tuesday, the day the march began. Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are also

around the Delhi-Haryana

demanding the implementa-tion of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pensions to farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for victims of the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act 2013, withdrawal from the World Trade Organisation and compensation for families of the farmers who died during the previous agitation, among oth-

## BJP defends Electoral Bond scheme Opposition welcomes SC verdict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The BJP on Thursday defended the electoral bonds scheme, struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, saying it had a laudable objective of bringing transparency in poll funding. BJP leader and former law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, however, added that his party respects the Supreme Court verdict.

Noting that the verdict has been delivered by a constitution bench of the apex court, he said the judgment runs into hundreds of pages and requires a comprehensive study before a structured reply is given by the

He told reporters that the government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made efforts to reform election funding and the introduction of electoral bonds was a part of such measures.

Prasad said voters' list now carries photographs of electorates while electronic voting machines are being used in large numbers, curbing the menace of booth-capturing. "This (bonds) was also a part of similar sincere efforts to



make elections transparent. The honourable Supreme Court has given its judgment and we respect it. What we have to say on the verdict will be decided after going through the verdict," he said.

Taking a swipe at the Congress which had alleged that the bonds could also work as a bribe to the ruling BJP from corporate groups, he said the parties whose "DNA is based on corruption and bribery' should not level such charges against the BJP.

Amid claims that electoral bonds denied opposition parties a level-playing field in elections, he said it is for people to decide who are in the field and who are out of it. People have thrown some parties out of the field and they could not now win even one seat in regions which used to be their strongholds, he said in a clear swipe at the Congress. BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli

accused the opposition parties of politicising the issue as they do not have any alternative to Modi's leadership and the positive work done by his govern-The BJP's reaction came after

the Supreme Court in a landmark judgment annulled the electoral bonds scheme ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, due in

elections. We practise in courts and on 'The largest perspective is that this has been a journey for seva daily basis, cases are won and lost," Kohli told PTI when eral decades and a concern has

Court or its judgment has to be

accepted and respected, he

"But those political parties

who are trying to politicise it

are doing it primarily on the

grounds that they have no answer or alternative to Modi

ji's leadership and the positive work done by his government

where crores of people have

Kohli said India has now

become the fifth largest econ-

omy in the world from the 10th

largest economy and it is on its

way to become the third largest

economy under Prime Minister

'These political parties find

themselves in a position that an

alliance they were trying to

craft is almost dying itself or it's

dying out or collapsing even

before it could stand on its legs,"

So, their reason for politicis-

ing it is very clear," he added.

Kohli said the government

had brought the electoral

bond scheme to address the

issue of use of black money in

the BJP spokesperson said.

benefitted," he charged.

Modi's leadership.

been how to prevent black money or slush money getting into the electoral process," the BJP leader said.

Keeping concerns regarding the identities of the contributors in the mind, a (electoral bond) scheme came. The Supreme Court has held that this scheme in this format could not have been there. Therefore, it passed a set of directions," he said.

The apex court has "basically said today that in electoral bonds the information should come out, Kohli said, adding, "any order of the Supreme Court or its judgment has to be accepted".

The top court said the government's electoral bond scheme violates the constitutional right to freedom of speech and expression as well as the right to information.

The opposition parties welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict and attacked the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the court has struck down a "black money conversion" scheme of the Modi government and hoped it would stop resorting to "such mischievous ideas" in future as

Opposition parties on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court verdict striking down the electoral bonds scheme, and said it will reinforce the power of votes over notes. All the Opposition parties also said it now hopes that the Modi Government will stop resorting to such "mis-chievous ideas" in the future and listen to the Supreme Court so that democracy, transparency and level-playing field

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Congress had called the scheme "opaque and undemocratic" when it was launched. Subsequently, in the 2019 manifesto, the Congress promised to scrap the Modi government's "dubious scheme". We welcome the decision of the Supreme Court today, which has struck down this 'Black Money Conversion' scheme of the Modi Government, calling it Unconstitutional'.

'Welcoming the Supreme Court judgement on electoral bonds, two key Maharashtra constituents of Congress-led INDIA Opposition bloc — Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb



Thackeray) and (Sharad Pawar) slammed the BJP for bringing this mode of funding in Indian politics

We remember how the Modi Govt, PMO and FM bulldozed every institution - RBI, Commission, Election Parliament and Opposition to fill BJP's coffers. No wonder, 95 per cent of the funding under this scheme was received by BJP," Kharge said.

Reacting to the verdict, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, "Another proof of Narendra Modi's corrupt policies is in front of you.

"The BJP had made electoral bonds a medium for taking bribe and commission. Today

Welcoming the judgment, the CPI(M), the only political party among the petitioners in the case, said it was an "unscrupulous scheme designed to help the ruling party" and it was now essential to introduce reforms for political and electoral funding.
"The Polit Bureau of the

CPI(M) hails the historic judgment of the Supreme Court, which has struck down the electoral bonds scheme as unconstitutional. By this verdict, this unscrupu-

lous scheme designed to finance the ruling party by anonymous corporate donors has been completely scrapped," the party said in a statement. While another INDIA bloc constituent JMM termed the verdict scheme as "historic", even as it expressed apprehension that the Centre might issue an ordinance to bypass the order, Aam Admi Party on

tion funding. We welcome this decision. This is an important step in the transparency of election funding. Otherwise through electoral bonds, it was not known which person was giving funds

said it is an important step in

ensuring transparency in elec-

## BJP gets ready for its national council meet starting February 17

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The BJP on Thursday said that around 11,500 delegates from across the country will attend the party's two-day national council meet at the Bharat Mandapam here starting February 17.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the delegates will include office-bears of the party across the country, all central ministers, sitting and former MPs, MLAs, elected mayors and deputy mayors. It will have a "comprehensive

organisational agenda", he said. "The Congress and the Communists make various kinds of comments but the BJP is the only party which does maximum organisational work in a democratic manner, be it holding in time the party's national convention, national executive and other programmes in states and districts," Prasad told reporters. "This is in our DNA," he

Prasad said BJP national president J P Nadda will deliver the inaugural speech at the national council meet on February 17 and the meet will conclude with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address the next day. He noted that the council meetings were held right before the elections in 2014 and 2019 as well, with the BJP winning its maiden majority in the Lok Sabha in 2014 and notching up a bigger win five

Modi, who had spoken in the previous two council meetings as well, has now set a target of winning 370 Lok Sabha seats for the party and over 400 seats out of 543 for the ruling alliance, he said, adding that the party will now work to achieve the targets.

'This time the prime minister has set a target of 370 seats for the BJP and 400 plus seats for the NDA. The 'rashtriya adhiveshan' has been organised to bring the prime minister's call to fruition," Prasad said. During the two-day national council meet, the BJP leader

said, there will be discussions on various topics including the upcoming Lok Sabha polls and

the party's preparations for it. "A comprehensive organisational agenda is there for the meeting," he said, adding "On February 17, there will be a meeting of the party officebearers and at 3 pm there will be flag hoisting.

'There will be detailed discussion on upcoming elections," Prasad said

An exhibition on the "concept of Viksit Bharat (developed India)" will be put up at the meeting venue for the delegates, he added.

Generally, we hold a big national convention ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. In our national convention, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech has been very inspiring. His speeches and comments become a 'nazeer' (example) for the party workers across the country. All of us will wait for his speech this time," Prasad

The two-day meet of the party is going to be "very effective",

## Modi to launch projects in Rajasthan, Haryana today

 $P_{\text{Modi will launch multiple}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ development projects worth more than ₹26,750 crore in Rajasthan and Haryana on

An official statement said Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of development projects costing more than ₹17,000 crore in Rajasthan via video conference and will also address the 'Viksit Bharat Viksit Rajasthan' programme. He will later visit Rewari in Haryana and inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than ₹9,750 crore concerning urban transport, health, rail and tourism sectors, it said.

The Rajasthan projects cater to a number of important sectors including roads, railways, solar energy, power transmission, drinking water and petroleum & natural gas.

The statement said he will inaugurate various national highway projects worth more than ₹5,000 crore in Rajasthan besides three stretches of eightlane Delhi - Mumbai Green



field Alignment (NE-4). These sections will provide faster and improved connectivity in the region. These sections are also equipped with animal underpass and animal overpass with camouflaging to facilitate unhindered movement of wildlife, it said, adding that noise barriers have been provisioned as well to minimise the impact on wildlife.

Besides other highway projects, Modi will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of eight railway projects of Rajasthan worth around ₹2,300

In a step to boost production of renewable energy in the region, the prime minister will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate important solar projects worth around ₹5,300 crore in the state. He will lay the foundation stone of multiple projects worth around ₹2,400 crore including projects under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which is aimed at strengthening the infrastructure to provide clean drinking water in Rajasthan,

"The launch of these develop-

Minister's relentless efforts to transform Rajasthan's infrastructure landscape and create opportunities for growth and development," it said. The event will be organised at

about 200 places across all districts of the state, with the centrepiece programme being held in Jaipur.

In Rewari, he will lay the foundation stone of Gurugram metro rail project which will be developed at a cost of about ₹5,450 crore. The project, with a total length of 28.5 km, will connect Millennium City Centre to Udyog Vihar Phaseand merge in the existing metro network of Rapid Metro Rail Gurugram at Moulsari Avenue station near Cyber City, it said.

The project is an important step towards realising Modi's vision to provide citizens with world class environmentfriendly mass rapid urban transport systems, the statement said.

Seeking to strengthen public health infrastructure across the country, Modi will lay the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences ment projects in Rajasthan (AIIMS), Rewari. It will be built underscores the Prime at a cost of about ₹1,650 at Majra Mustil Bhalkhi village in Rewari and will have facilities including a hospital complex with 720 beds, medical college with 100 seats, nursing college with 60 seats, AYUSH block with 30 beds, residential accommodation for faculty and staff, hostel accommodation for UG and PG students and a night shelter among other facil-The facilities include patient

developed on 203 acres of land

care services in 18 specialities and 17 super specialities including cardiology, gastroenterology, nephrology, urology, neurology, neurosurgery, medical oncology, surgical oncology, endocrinology and burns & plastic surgery. The statement said he will also

inaugurate a newly built 'Anubhav Kendra Jyotisari', which is based in Kurukshetra. This experiential museum has been built at a cost of around ₹240 crore, spans over 17 acres, encompassing more than 100,000 square feet of indoor

It will vividly bring the epic narrative of the Mahabharata and the teachings of the Gita, the statement added.

## Many set to get elected to RS unopposed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $B^{\text{JP President JP Nadda, former Congress president}}_{\text{Sonia Gandhi, Union Minister}}$ Ashwini Vaishnaw and journalist Sagarika Ghosh are among those in the fray for the Rajva Sabha elections with the deadline for filing of nominations ending Thursday. Party turncoats Ashok Chavan, Milind Deora and Praful Patel too are in fray to enter the Upper House as per their new political alignments in Maharashtra.
The biennial elections are

scheduled on February 27 in 56 seats - 10 in Uttar Pradesh six each in Maharashtra and Bihar, five each in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh, four each in Gujarat and Karnataka, three each in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan and Odisha, and one each in Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

However, a majority of the candidates are likely to get elected unopposed. February 20 is the last date of withdrawing candidature. Voting is scheduled to take place from 9 am to 4 pm on February 27 and the counting will be held on the same day from 5 pm onwards.

In Uttar Pradesh, eight BJP candidates have filed nominations - former Union minister R P N Singh, former MP Chaudhary Tejveer Singh, state party general secretary Amarpal Maurya, former state minister Sangeeta Balwant, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi, former MLA Sadhna Singh, former Agra mayor Naveen Jain and local industrialist and former SP leader Sanjay Seth who joined the BJP

The Samajwadi Party (SP) has renominated Jaya Bachchan and also announced the candidature of former MP Ramjilal Suman and retired IAS officer Alok Ranjan. Sonia Gandhi filed her nomination

BJP's Chunnilal Garasiya and Madan Rathore filed their nomination Thursday for the other two seats in the state. From Maharashtra, the BJP has fielded Chavan, who joined the party only Tuesday after quitting the Congress, Medha Kulkarni and Ajit Gopchhade. The Shiv Sena has nominated Milind Deora, who also resigned from the Congress last month. The Congress has put up Chandrakant Handore

for the Rajya Sabha seat from

and the NCP Praful Patel. The NDA's current strength in the Upper House of Parliament stands at 114, including 93 of the BJP. The Congress has 30 seats, the second highest. While 50 members will retire on April 2, six will do so on

Among the members whose

tenure is ending include forprime minister Manmohan Singh, Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupendra Yadav, Mansukh Mandaviya and Muraleedharan, and BJP's Anil Baluni and Sushil Kumar

Many senior BJP leaders and outgoing Rajya Sabha MPs, including seven Union ministers such as Dharmendra Pradhan and Bhupender Yadav, have not been renominated by the party for the biennial Rajya Sabha polls amid strong indications that several of them may contest the upcoming Lok Śabha elections.

The BJP repeated Union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and L Murugan as Rajya Sabha candidates from Odisha and Madhya Pradesh respectively. Among the 28 outgoing MPs, the BJP has renominated only four - Nadda, the two Union ministers and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Γrivedi.

Vaishnaw was elected in 2019

to the Upper House of Parliament with the backing of the BJD and the ruling party in

Odisha on Wednesday again

extended support to him.

Former Union minister Ajay Maken, who had unsuccessfully contested the Rajya Sabha election from Haryana last year, has now been fielded by the Congress from the partyruled Karnataka. In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress candidates are Sagarika Ghose, Sushmita Dev, Mohammad Nadimul Haque and Mamta Bala Thakur while the BJP has fielded Samik Bhattacharya.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi of Congress filed his nomination for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Himachal Pradesh Thursday. Former Union minister Renuka Chowdhury will return to Rajya Sabha from Telangana after a gap. Chowdhury (69) has been a member of the Lok Sabha for two terms as well as the Rajya Sabha for three terms.

M Anil Kumar Yadav has also been fielded from the southern power in December

The Congress also renominated Syed Naseer Hussain, who is a coordinator in the office of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. This will be Hussain's second term as a Rajya Sabha member from Karnataka. The party has also renominated its Bihar unit chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh

from the state. The Rashtriya Janata Dal announced that Manoj Kumar Jha and Sanjay Yadav will be the party's candidates for the Rajya Sabha elections in Bihar. From Madhya Pradesh, apart from Murugan, the BJP has fielded Dalit seer Umesh Nath Maharaj, backward-class woman leader Maya Naroliya and farmer leader Banshilal Gurjar. The Congress nominated its state party unit treasurer Ashok Singh who filed his nomination papers in Patna. JD(U)'s Sanjay Kumar Jha and BJP's Bhim Singh and Dharamsheela Gupta filed their papers in the presence of top NDA leaders from the state including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary. Congress leader from

Karnataka G C Chandrasekhar has been renominated by the party. BJP's Devendra Pratap Singh filed nomination papers for the only Rajya Sabha seat

from Chhattisgarh. In Gujarat, the BJP dropped Union ministers Parshottam Rupala and Mandaviya who had won the 2018 election from the state and are likely to be fielded for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Besides Nadda, who filed his nomination papers Thursday, the party has fielded its leaders Jashvantsinh Parmar and Mayank Nayak and diamond baron Govind Dholakia.

### IIT Delhi signs MoU with **UNDP**

PNS NEW DELHI

the statement said.

IT Delhi and UNDP India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create solutions for advancing sustainable development, with a focus on environment, energy, and climate change.

The partnership will work towards developing and promoting innovative and scalable solutions to support transition to low-carbon and climate resilient pathways through policy and implementation support.

Key areas of cooperation will include climate change adaptation, loss and damage, strengthening national systems of innovation for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and leveraging digital solutions for transition to green energy and other climate tech-

By creating and strengthening global knowledge networks, the alliance will advance the sustainable development agenda in the Global South.

Welcoming the partnership, Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT Delhi, said, 'Climate change adaptation, vulnerability and sustainable development are important areas for India and the world. We are excited to partner with UNDP to work on insights, research and evidence-based policies for these critical areas.' Reaffirming UNDP's commitment to accelerate climate action, Ms. Isabelle Tschan, Resident Representative, a.i., UNDP India, said, 'As we stand at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, addressing climate change has become imperative in our efforts to achieve the SDGs. We are excited at this new partnership with IIT Delhi which will harness the power of innovative research and technology-driven solutions for climate action and energy sus-

tainability.

## WHO releases guidance on clinical management of diphtheria

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $S_{
m traditional}^{
m ignaling}$  a departure from traditional protocols, the World Health Organization (WHO), in a first has released guidance on the clinical management of diphtheria. This landmark guidance introduces novel recommendations on antibiotic usage, advocating for macrolide antibiotics such as azithromycin and erythromycin over penicillin antibiotics.

Unlike previous operational protocols, this new guidance is the product of a rigorous process adhering to WHO's standards for developing guidance, signifying a significant step forward in diphtheria management.

Notably, the guidance addresses the utilization of Diphtheria Antitoxin (DAT), a crucial component in diphtheria treatment, amidst a global scarcity. The evidence-based recommendations on DAT usage fulfill the requests of numerous Member States grappling with the shortage, providing much-needed clarity and direction in diphtheria management strategies worldwide. Diphtheria is a disease caused by a bacterium that affects the upper respiratory tract and less often the skin. It also produces a toxin that damages the heart and the nerves. It is a vaccine preventable disease, but multiple doses and booster doses are needed to produce and sustain immunity. People who are not immunised or under immunised are at risk of the disease. Diphtheria is fatal in 5-10 per cent of cases, with a

higher mortality rate in young



children.

"This clinical practice guideline has been rapidly developed recognising the global increase in diphtheria out-breaks. Outbreaks of diphtheria in Nigeria, Guinea and neighbouring countries in 2023 have highlighted the urgent need for evidencebased clinical practice guidelines for the treatment of diphtheria," the WHO said in a statement here.

"Given the sporadic nature of outbreaks, many clinicians in the affected regions have never managed acute diphtheria and its related complications. Diphtheria remains a neglected disease and vaccination is the top priority. At the same time, for patients with diphtheria, access to antibiotics, DAT and supportive care can be lifesaving," the agency

Recent diphtheria outbreaks stress the importance of sustaining high levels of vaccination coverage in communities across the life course. In 2022, an estimated 84 per cent of children worldwide received the recommended 3 doses of diphtheria-containing vaccine during infancy, leaving 16 per cent with no or incomplete coverage. There is wide coverage variation between and within countries.



## Gadkari launches several NH projects in Odisha Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behal fo our client, Mr. Sajay Gandhi & Mr. Satish Gandh both S/o-Mr. Pabhu Dayal Gandhi R/o H. No. 1512 Sector-28, Sector 29, Faridabad, Haryana (Mortgagor)", that his/her absolute owner of the saic property, Mr. Bodh Raj & Mr. Bheem Sain was the owner of Said property by virtue of Relinquishmen

**PTI** BHUBANESWAR

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 28 national highway (NH) projects worth Rs 6,600 crore in Ódisha. Though his visit to Odisha was cancelled at the last minute, Gadkari launched these projects virtually.

Among the inaugurated projects were a 79km four-lane road between Baharagora and Singhara on NH-49, valued at Rs 1,203 crore, and a 78km sixlane road from Chandikhol to Bhadrak on NH-16, costing Rs 2,035 crore.

Additionally, the minister laid the foundation stones for 26 other road infrastructure projects in the state. During the event, Gadkari highlighted the significant progress in national highway development in Odisha since 2014.

The total length of national PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that

Mrs. Gurdeep Kaur Narang W/o Mr. Ajit Singh

Narang was the owner of Flat No. 521 in the

Shriniketan CGHS Ltd, Plot No.1, Sector-7

Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 (henceforth the

said flat). She died interstate on 11-08-23

Now her son Mr. Karпajit Singh Narang S/o

Mr. Ajit Singh Narang, has applied to the society for the transfer of the said flat to him

and has submitted Registered

Relinquishment Deeds signed by His father Mr. Ajit Singh Narang & brother Mr. Dilbagh

Singh Narang in his favour. Anyone having any objection or any interest in the above

said flat in any manner whatsoever, should

complete documentary proof within 15 days.

contact the Society office along

**Society Office** 

Shriniketan CGHS Ltd

Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Contact: 011-25086666, 9999681601

Plot No-1, Sector -7

increased from 4,639 km to 5,753 km during this period. The ministry has allocated nearly Rs 1.50 lakh-crore for highway development in Odisha, he added. From 2014 to 2024, around

highways in the state has

4,250 km of roads were constructed in Odisha, with an expenditure of approximately Rs 33,000 crore, he said.

Furthermore, projects for another 1,312 km of national highways, with an investment of Rs 22,000 crore, are underway and expected to be completed during 2024-25, the minister said. The ministry is also preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the construction of 746 km of roads with an estimated cost of Rs 60,000 crore, he said.

Gadkari announced plans for various projects, including a 111km greenfield ring road around Bhubaneswar city, costing Rs 6,253 crore.

THE PIONEER (1

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mehjaveen Ahmed Marak, D/O Shmt Late Mallika Marak, R/o Apt B2/1003, Gardenia Glory Apartments, Sector 46, Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201301, have changed my name to Mehjaveen A Marak.

PD(275)C

To be known to all that I Satyavir Singh Gahlot S/o Bhagwan Singh Gahlot R/o Flat No. 200, Third Floor, Pkt-B, Sector-13, Dwarka, purchase of flat No. 200 Pkt-B, Sector-13, in the area of Dwarka has applied for conversion of the aforesaid flat from lease hold to free hold vide application No. Nil, in DDA. The origi-nal document i.e. Allotment letter of the above that has been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch Delhi.

Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original docuobjection of found in possession of original occur-ments, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No 9212213997 within 15 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 (IAB) H or Director (I)-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

wner of said property by virtue of Relinquishmen leed daled 01.02.2018 executed by Kunj Bihari (1/h hare), Darshana Sharma (1/16 share), Dheera harma (1/16 share), Bindiya Sharma (1/16 share) Johit Sharma (1/16 share) in favour of Bodh Raj and

sem Sain Sharma in respect of their respective tres in Shop Nos.1,2,3 measuring 7844,619 sq. ft by registered as Doc No.8281, dated 01.02.2018 O-Faridabad. Mortgagor mortgage the Schedule operty with Cholamandalam Investment

Property with Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Company Ltd., IInd Floor 6th Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. If any person race any objection for mortgaging the said property please race your Objection with documentary proof within 7 days of Publication blow address:

Schedule of Property

Schedule of Property
Property Bearing Shop No.1 measuring 70.91 sq. yds. having Total Covered Area 1278 sq. ft. (Property ID 1BT6VNU3) of Property bearing MC No. 86 measuring 9 Biswa in Ward No. 9 falling in Khasra No.579, situated at Bara Mohalla, Faridabad, Haryana, (hereinafter referred to as "said property").

Haryana, (nereinatter reterret to as "sate property")

Sachin Maheshwari & Associates (SMA
Sachin Maheshwari Advocat
1531/4, GF, Near Pro Fitness GYM, Ist 60 Futta Road
M. B. Extn. Badarpur Border, New Delhi-11004
Ph. 011-69653588, Mob. 991138032

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client Axis Bank Ltd, having one of its Branch at 23, Himalaya House, First Floor, K.G. Marg. New Delhi-110001, intends to grant loan facility to Stangard House, First Floor, K.G. Marg. New Delhi-110001, intends to grant loan facility to Fortier roof of Second Floor and above along with construction rights of Third Floor, with roofferrace rights, including undivided proportionate ownership rights in the land underneath along with the rights to passage, easement and benefits (hereinafter referred as "Said Portion") Built on Property bearing No. 330, in Block + (i.e., H-330), having land area measuring 104 Sq. Mtrs., situated at Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 (hereinafter referred to as "Said Property"). Sh. Sohan Singh Gill slo Sh. Mangal Singh was the recorded owner of the Said Property by virtue of Conveyance Deed dated 04.06.1993 duly registered as Document no. 5507 on 22.07.1993. Thereafter, Sh. Sohan Singh Gill slo Sh. Mangal Singh expired intestate on 14.07.2010, leaving behind only one legal heir i.e. Sh. Gurmail Singh Gill wo claimed to be the sole and assolute owner of the Said Property by virtue of Hindu Succession Law others the Mutation Letter from

owner of the Said Property by virtue of Hindu Succession Law, obtained the Mutation Letter from

Aunicipal Corporation of Delhi and executed a Sale

Municipal Corporation of Delhi and executed a Sale Deed dated 25.11.2022 duly registered as Document no. 30120 on 25.11.2022 in favour of Smt. Sheela Rani W/o Sh. Prem Prakash (95% Undivided Share) & 2) Sh. Vipin Batra S/o Sh. V.P. Batra (5% Undivided Share). Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the said property in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with all supporting documents in respect of their claim(s)/ objection(s). If no such claim is received with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will

rom the date of publication of this notice, then it wil

be presumed that no one has any paramount right itle, or interest in the said property and even it

someone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have given up the same.

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate) Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049 E-mail Address: alolegals@gmail.com

This is to inform the general public that Smt. Poonam Verma is the owner of DDA Bullt-up Janta Flat Bearing No. JG-Il/151. "Said Flat" on Ground Floor without roof rights area measuring 26 Sq. Mtrs., in Block & Pocket-JG-II, situated at Vikas Puri, New Delhi. She acquired the above property through Relinquishment Deed dated 10.03.2021 vide doc. No. 5701 executed by 1.Sh. Horam Singh Bohra, 2. Sh. Ved Prakash Mohan, 3. Smt. Karamwaii, 8. 4. Sh. Vipin Mohan Bohra in favour of Smt. Poonam Verma and Gift Deed dated 09.04.2021 vide doc. No. 8435 executed by Sh. Ved Prakash Mohan in lavour of Smt. Poonam Verma intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of the

Smt. Poonam Verma intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of the aforementioned flat to Mr. Parnav Sharma Subsequently, Mr. Parnav Sharma is in the process of mortgaging the said property IDFC First Bank Limited. Any objections o concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 10 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitter after the completion of this 10-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, plean of so within the stipulated 10-day period by do so within the stipulated 10-day period by do so within the stipulated 10-day period b contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. 4-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s); 1-910120-3101683 / 4562809; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

Date: 15.02.2024

**NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** PALIKA KENDRA: SANSAD MARG **ELECTRIC ESTABLISHMENT-I** PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

### Vacancy Circular

The New Delhi Municipal Council proposes to fill up 04 post of Superintending Engineer (Electric) in the pay scale of Rs. 123100 – 215900 level 13 in revised 7th CPC pay matrix on deputation basis. The eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions for the post may be downloaded from NDMC website i.e. https://www.ndmc.gov.in/vacancy\_new.aspx.

The last date of receipt of applications completed in al respect is 15.03.2024 (Friday).

Joint Director (Personnel)

**Picici** Bank

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

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Builder Cancellation
This is to bring to your notice that SANTOSH SINGH YADAV/ REENA
YADAV (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility
agreement number LBNOD0002369567 located at FLAT NO D-G013
TOWER-D RESIZONE RESIDENCY MAYUR VIHAR SAHASTHADHARA ROAD DEHARADUN-248001. The borrower/s ha ailed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated February 09, 2024, informing that RESIZONE BUILDWELL PVT. LTD. has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: February 16, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR

For ICICI Bank Limited



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, ANANDAPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA (E-mail id: cceabp@gmail.com/loabpbbsr@gmail.com) E-procurement Notice No. CCEABP- 13 of 2023-24

E-Procurement officer	Name of the work	D CO	Tender cost in Lakhs (Appx) Bid security (online)	security	Cost of Bid Document (Online)	Class of contra ctor	Period of completi on	Availability of tender on line for bidding	Date of opening of technical Bid (Cover-1)	
ш							From	To		
Chief Construction Engineer A.B Project, Salapada	Rehabilitation of expansion joint and relaying of road surface over deck slab of Anandapur Barrage.	ABP-ABD-01/13 of 2023-24	131.00	1,31,000/-	10,000/-	B & A Class	3 calendar months	15.02.24 11.30AM	29.02.24 3.00PM	29.02.24 4.00 PM

Further details can be seen from the Govt website <a href="www.tendersorissa.gov.in/www.dowrodisha.gov.in/ddendum/corrigendum/">www.dowrodisha.gov.in/ddendum/corrigendum/</a> cancellation if any required will be published in Govt. website only.

Chief Construction Engineer Anandapur Barrage Project,

NORTHERN RAILWAY **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** 

Name of work and its location: 30-Elect-57-T-2023-24-E3 lectrical work in connection with repair & ma other associated works in the jurisdiction of AEE/G-I

Approx cost of the works : Rs. 84.59 lacs

Address of the office: Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi

Bid Security: Rs. 1.69,200.00

Date & time of submission of tender: 21.03.2024, 12.00 Hrs. Opening of tender: 21.03.2024, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board: www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Del

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Notice
Notice
Notice
NORPHORATION)RULES,2 "FORM No.INC-26"

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another

Before the Central Government (Regional Director, Northern Region, New Delhi) matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and clause

ule (5)of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND the matter of Sthaapaty Private Limited(CIN: U70109UP2021PTC155766) having its

egistered office at Left Side of 2B/21 Sadhana Sector-2, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziaba Jttar Pradesh, India, 201014, Petitioner. Ultar Pradesh, India, 201014, Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposesto make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 30th January 2024, to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Uttar Pradesh" to "State of Odisha".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed changeof the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filingin yestors commitant form or cause to be delivered or send by registered nost of

ilingin vestors compliant form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post o hins/her objections supported by anaffidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address Northern Region, at- B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 2nd Floor, GGO. Complex, New Delhi-110003 within Fourteen (14) days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

Left Side of 2B/21 Sadhana Sector-2, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India 2010.15

Date: 15/02/2024

Sthaapaty Private Limited Mr.Abinash Dash

### **APPOINTMENT** NCPE COLLEGE OF LAW (Run by Mahavira Pupils Education Society)

(Affiliated to Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut) Required Following Faculty of LL.B. (3 years course) for the session 2024-25

Principal - 1 Nos. (Ph.D. with 15 years teaching experience in law college

**Assistant Professor** in Law - 10 Nos.

Required Following Faculty of B.A. LL.B. (5 years course for the session 2024-25 **Assistant Professor** 

**Assistant Professor** in Law - 04 Nos. (LL.M. with 55%)

(English, History, Hindi, Pol.Sci., Economics, Sociolog 12 Nos. (Qualification As per UGC & University Norms)

(i) Educational qualification as per BCl, UGC & University Norms.
(2) Salary as per U.P. Govt. & University Norms.
Please send your resume along with photo and all testimonials latest by 25-02-2024 for the below mentioned address.

College Campus: Plot No. 445, Jawahar Vidhyalya Road,

Dhoom Manikpur, Near Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar - 203207, U.P. Administrative Office : Main Road, I-Block Market, Sector-22, Noida-201301, G.B. Nagar, U.P. Mob.: 9818938400 E-mail: ncpelaw@gmail.com

Last Date: 25-02-2024

ICICI Bank Limited



### New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

### **TENDER FOR SALE OF VEHICLE**

Sealed tender are invited on behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Noida for sale of following Vehicle "as where is basis" on date 05.03.2024 between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm & same will be opened on 3:30 pm in the office of the Sr. Manager (E/M) I. The vehicle may be inspected during the office hours.

S. No.	Registration No.	Type of vehicle	Model	Earnest Money
1	UP 16 AV-9801	Innova	2014	10000.00
2	UP 16 AV-9802	Innova	2014	10000.00
3	UP 16 AV-9803	Innova	2014	10000.00
4	UP 16 AV-9804	Innova	2014	10000.00
5	UP 16 AV-9805	Innova	2014	10000.00
6	UP 16 AV-9806	Innova	2014	10000.00
7	UP 16 AV-9807	Innova	2014	10000.00
8	UP 16 AV-9808	Innova	2014	10000.00
9	UP 16 AV-9809	Innova	2014	10000.00
10	UP 16 AV-9811	Innova	2014	10000.00
11	UP 16 AX-5708	Innova	2014	10000.00
12	UP 16 AV-9784	Innova	2014	10000.00
13	UP 16 AV-9785	Innova	2014	10000.00
14	UP 16 AV-9788	Innova	2014	10000.00
15	UP 16 AV-9789	Innova	2014	10000.00
16	UP 16 AV-9790	Innova	2014	10000.00
17	UP 16 AV-9791	Innova	2014	10000.00
18	UP 16 AV-9792	Innova	2014	10000.00
19	UP 16 AV-9794	Innova	2014	10000.00
20	UP 16 AV-9795	Innova	2014	10000.00
21	UP 16 AV-9798	Innova	2014	10000.00
22	UP 16 AM-3163	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
23	UP 16 AM-3164	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
24	UP 16 AM-3165	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
25	UP 16 AM-3166	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
26	UP 16 AM-3167	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
27	UP 16 AM-3169	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
28	UP 16 AM-3170	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
29	UP 16 AM-3171	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
30	UP 16 AM-3172	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
31	UP 16 AM-3174	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
32	UP 16 AM-3176	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
33	UP 16 AM-3180	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
34	UP 16 AM-3181	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
35	UP 16 AM-3182	Gypsy	2012	10000.00
36	UP 16 AM-3184	Gypsy	2012	10000.00

### Term & Conditions:

- 1. Enclosed the D.D./FDR of value as shown against the vehicle of any scheduled bank in favour of NOIDA
- 2. The earnest money will be forfeited in favour of NOIDA if tenderer makes any changes or refuses after receiving of tender. The earnest money will be also forfeited in favour of NOIDA if success for tenderer fails to take over the vehicle within 10 days after acceptance letter.
- Conditional tenders will not be entertained. 4. The right for acceptance/rejection of any tender is reserved to accepting authority without
- 5. The GST/other taxes which are applicable has to be paid extra.
- 6. The responsibility will be of the tenderer for transfer of Vehicle in his name. 7. The Tenders are valid for three months.
- 8. According to the order date 20.07.2016 of the Honorable National Green Tribunal, the running of diesel powered 10 years old Machines/Vehicles is prohibited in the districts of NCR region.

OFFICE: SECTOR-39, NOIDA **CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

SIDH AUTOMOBILES LIMITED Registered Office: R-13, S/F GREATER KAILASH-I NEW DELHI, DELHI - 110048, INDIA CIN :L34102DL1985PLC020156 Email: sidhindia1985@gmail.com, website: www.sidhgroup.in STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER, 2023

Particulars	Quarter Ended 31-12-23 (Unaudited)	Nine Months Ended 31-12-23 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31-03-23 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	3.95	11.45	16.38
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax,			
Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.59	1.36	1.15
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax,			
(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.59	1.36	1.15
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax,			
(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	0.59	1.36	1.15
Total Comprehensive Income (Comprising			
Profit/(Loss) after tax and Other Comprehensive			
Income after tax)	0.59	1.36	1.15
Equity Share Capital	296.23	296.23	296.23
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown			
in the Audited Balance Sheet of previous year	-	-	0
Earnings Per equity Share( of Rs.10/each)			
(for continuing and discontinuing operations)			
(a) Basic:	0.02	0.05	0.04
(b) Diluted:			
Meteo.		'	

The above result was taken on record by the Board of Directors in the meeting held on 14th day of February, 2024.
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarter and Nine Months Unaudited Financia Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Regulations). Regulations, 2015.
The full format of the Quarter and Nine Months Unaudited Financial Results, are available on the

Stock Exhange website (www.bseindia.com) and Company's website i.e. www.sidhgroup.in

Date: 14.02.2024

(PRASHANT KUMAR)

### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Branch 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 of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred 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.

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

Description of Property/

 Vo.	Loan Account Number	Date of Symbolic Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	of Branch
1.	Rupesh Kumar/ Sweety Kumari/ LBDEL00002438444	Unit No 403 (R0190B30403/ Flat #403), 4th Floor Tower B3, Eco Village 2, Situated at Plot No GH-01, Sector-16 B, Greater Noida- 201307/ Feb 12, 2024	October 26, 2023 Rs. 7,65,032/-	Delhi/ NCR
2.	Rajiv Sircar/ Priya Sircar/ LBNOD00000639572	Plot No D-166/16, Sector 50, New Oklha Industrial Development Area, Noida District Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh/ Feb 13, 2024	September 27, 2023 Rs.3,62,007/-	Delhi/ NCR & Agra
3.	Heena Gohil/ Hemant Pathak/ LBDEL00001461840/ LBDEL00001979490	Flat No 638 Ground Floor Arun Vihar Sector 37, Noida Uttar Pradesh/ Feb 13, 2024	September 27, 2023 Rs.11,77,762/-	Delhi/ NCR
4.	Santpal Singh/ Rajesh Singh/ LBDEL00001987766	Property Bearing No. 123, Entire 2nd Floor With All Roof Rights Out of The Three Storey Built Up, Block D, Pocket No. 1, Sector 16, Rohini Residential Scheme Rohini, Delhi/ Feb 13, 2024	September 14, 2023 Rs.7,49,441/-	Delhi/ NCR
5.	Kulwinder Singh/ Bharti/ LBNOD00002357381	Flat No 45, 1st Floor Pocket 3, Block B 12 LIG, Sector G-8 Narela Delhi/ Feb 13, 2024	September 14, 2023 Rs.9,62,956/-	Delhi/ NCR

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else 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 16, 2024 Place: Delhi/ NCR

Consolidated



### **SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**

Registered Office

Sr Name of the Borrower/

38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat New Delhi-110049

Email:- info@sunilhealthcare.com; website:- www.sunilhealthcare.com

CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662

Standalone

Extract of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended on 31st December 2023

No.			uarter Ende	4	Nino Man	ths Ended	Year Ended	ded Quarter Ended			Nine Mont	Year Ended	
INO.	'												
	Particulars	31st		31st		31st	31st March	31st	30th September	31st	31st December	31st	31st March
		December 2023	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2023	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
		Unaudited				Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited				Unaudited	
1.	Total Income from Operations	2,564.34	2,390.79	2,589.90	7,249.96	9.267.19	11,345.87	2,579.91	2,392.13		7,341.80	9,276.99	
1		,						/	1 '	l ' I	,		
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax,Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(55.92)	(138.56)	50.33	(293.08)	975.49	975.86	(39.11)	(146.13)	11.26	(272.13)	897.23	948.33
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(55.92)	(138.56)	50.33	(293.08)	975.49	975.86	(39.11)	(146.13)	11.26	(272.13)	897.23	948.33
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(36.81)	(102.01)	31.46	(214.43)	703.11	697.69	(20.00)	(109.89)	(7.94)	(194.06)	623.21	668.21
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and OtherComprehensive Income (after tax)]	(36.81)	(102.01)	31.46	(214.43)	703.11	693.58	(32.80)	(107.60)	(24.84)	(224.83)	586.57	604.20
6.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	-		5,147.07	-	-	-	-	-	4,574.21
8.	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs.10/- each)												
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	(0.36)		0.31	(2.09)	6.86	6.80	(0.20)	(1.07)	(0.08)	(1.89)	6.08	6.52
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	(0.36)	(0.99)	0.31	(2.09)	6.86	6.80	(0.20)	(1.07)	(0.08)	(1.89)	6.08	6.52

Notes:-

NOIDA

- 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Nine months ended Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/Nine months ended Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.sunilhealthcare.com)
- As the Company's business fall within a single primary business segment viz. sale of capsule, the disclosure requirement of Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS-108) "Operating Seaments" prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the relevant rules issued thereunder, is not applicable
  - Other income includes Rs. 281.39 Lakhs received on maturity/surrender of Keyman insurance policy. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on February 14, 2024

Rakesh Mohan Independent Director DIN 07352915

Place New Delhi 14/02/2024 www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## **Modi maxes his maxim**

PM takes 'Minimum Govt, Maximum Governance' pitch to Dubai, says trust in Govt at all-time high

eiterating his administration's commitment to the principle of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed upon the significant strides made in streamlining bureaucracy and fostering Indian public's trust in governance. Speaking at Expo 2020 in Dubai, Modi underscored the transformative reforms undertaken by his Government to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in India's governance framework. The concept of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' encapsulates the philosophy of promoting lean and efficient governance structures while maximising the delivery of public services. Since assuming office, Modi has consistently advocated for reducing bureaucratic red tape, simplifying administrative processes and leveraging technology to empower citizens and businesses alike. During his address in Dubai, the Prime Minister highlighted several key initiatives aimed at realising this vision, including the implementation of Goods and



Services Tax (GST), the introduction of the Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT) scheme and the push for digitalisation across various sectors. These reforms, he emphasised, have not only facilitated ease of doing business but also led to greater inclusivity and equitable distribution of resources. One of the most significant achievements cited by Modi was the marked increase in people's trust "in recent years" in the Government. He attributed this trust to his Government's unwavering commitment to serving the interests of all sections of society, coupled with its relentless focus on delivering tangible results. Through proactive outreach and citizen engagement initiatives, the Modi-led NDA Government has fostered a sense of ownership and participation among the pop-

ulace, thereby strengthening the social contract between the State and its citizens. Modi's address in Dubai comes at a crucial juncture when India seeks to position itself as a global leader in trade, investment and innovation. The Expo 2020 Dubai, with its theme of 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future,' provides an ideal platform for India to showcase its economic prowess and technological advancements to the world. In an era marked by geopolitical uncertainties, the assurance of a responsive and accountable Government is paramount for attracting foreign investment and fostering sustainable growth. However, while lauding the progress made under the 'Minimum Govt, Maximum Governance' paradigm, Modi also acknowledged the need for continuous adaptation and refinement. He emphasised the importance of staying agile and responsive to evolving challenges, whether they be economic, social or technological in nature. Indeed, Prime Minister Modi's address in Dubai reaffirmed India's commitment to the principles of efficiency, transparency and accountability in governance. As the world looks towards a future defined by innovation and collaboration, India stands poised to lead the way with confidence and conviction. Good luck, Mr Prime Minister!



Devotees blow conches on the opening of the first stone-built Hindu temple in the Middle East, in Abu Mureikha

# Tamil Nadu: The power struggle intensifies

RN Ravi, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, refuses to read State Government's speech which was critical of Central Government, ignites political tension

or the first time in the history of Tamil Nadu, a Governor refused to read the speech pre-pared by the State Government at the beginning of the 2024-2025 session of the Legislative Assembly and this has opened yet another battlefront in the ongoing war of nerves between the Chief Minister and the Raj Bhavan.

Every year, the parliament as well as the legislative assemblies begin their budget sessions with speeches to be delivered by the President and the respective Governors of the States concerned. The speech to be delivered by the President is prepared by the Government of India in the case of the joint session of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha while it is the State Governments that prepare the speeches of the Governors. By and large, these speeches do not evoke much controversy though the State Government may be administered by the party rival to the one that governs the Centre. This year saw Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan skipping the speech prepared by the CPI(M) led Government and just reading out the last two sentences which left Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his comrades flabbergasted. The reasons behind the Governor's action are explanatory. The speech prepared by the Chief Minister's Office was a charge sheet against the Centre. The LDF Government blamed the Center for all the economic woes faced by the State and indicted the union finance minister for "throttling" the funds meant for the State.

The speech prepared by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin's office went one step further. While "blaming" the Center for not allowing the State to raise finance from non-governmental agencies, the Tamil Nadu Government had incorporated the declaration that the State would not implement the Citizenship Amendment Act enacted by the Centre. There is a Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The ridiculous statement that the granting of citizenship to anybody is the prerogative of the Centre while the State administration has



The speech also blamed the Center for not giving enough financial package to the State to address the problems arising out of rains and hailstorms in the months of November and December. But what we saw during the floods was the soldiers of the Disaster Relief Forces deployed by the Centre working round the clock to save the victims from flood and waterlogging. The sailors and aviators of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard too were pressed into service by the Centre to help the people from floods.

Though it is known to all policymakers and politicians in Tamil Nadu that the State has to bear the brunt of recurring floods, the State Government has failed to take proper action to avoid such disasters. The stormwater drains in all cities like Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem, Madurai etc are in a pathetic state. The State administrations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala have left it to the Center to take whatever solution is needed to address this issue which happens to be the prerogative of the State.

The white paper presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gives a lie to all the charges made by summer of 2024 is going to be severe and the Tamil Nadu Government is getting ready to wage a "war" against Karnataka for more water

in Karnataka's reservoirs is low, what that State should do is anybody's guess. Stalin has done nothing to resolve the perpetual water scarcity in Tamil Nadu though the State has a more than 1,000 km long coastline. It is possible to build

THE CONSTITUTION HAS NOT SAID THAT THE GOVERNOR SHOULD BE SERVILE TO THE CHIEF MINISTER AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS COUNCIL OF **MINISTERS** 

desalination plants along the East Coast with which the entire water requirements of Tamil Nadu could be met. But the Dravidian major has done nothing other than get some resolutions passed in the legislative assembly and sent the same to the Centre. A Governor who profoundly disagrees with the State government should not stay in office," says a pro-CPI (M) newspaper. The issue is should the Governor read out any trash material given to him by the State Government? The

from Kaveri. If the water level

Governor is the representative of the Centre and he has work to do. The only drawback against R N Ravi is that he was appointed by the BJP Government at the Centre. The designs and intentions of the DMK as well as the Lefts are very clear. The Constitution has not said

that the Governor should be servile to the Chief Minister and the members of his council of ministers. Articles 153 to of the Governor and his responsibilities. If the *This is the 17th revised tion published in 2020!* (The writer is a special co Governor feels that the legislation enacted by the State

Legislature is not in synchronization with the Constitution, he will send it back to the Government review/reconsideration. If the

Government is adamant that it would not budge, then the Governor has every right to withhold the Bill and seek legal advice from his lawyers at the Centre. This is what Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said when the ruling CPI(M) wanted to appoint party cadres as vicechancellors and faculties in the State's universities. The Supreme Court verdict declaring null and void the appointment of the vice-chancellors has vindicated the Governor's contention that the selection was in violation of all norms

Interestingly, a book "Indian Constitution" by Dr M V Pylee, constitutional expert and former vice chancellor of Cochin University says that if a difference of opinion erupts between the Governor and the council of ministers, the Governor's decision would prevail. Moreover, the ministry does not have the power to decide what the Governor should or should not do. This book was published by the Kerala Government's own State Institute of Languages! This is the 1/th revised ed

specified by the UGC.

(The writer is a special correspondent for The Pioneer; views are personal)

## Memories of forgotten time linger on!



In a life that is running at an increasingly frenetic pace, each one of us needs a pressure relief valve from time to time

≺here was a time in our lives, during our childhood and adolescence, not so long back, though now it seems a lifetime away, when cities had not grown.

We lived in a then upcoming locality in a state capital. Each Saturday we would walk to another adjoining upcoming locality for a weekly visit to the temple. Crossing a few empty fields, skipping alongside our parents, the temple seemed too far from our home; but it was fun.I have vainly tried to revisit those empty fields during my recent visits to the city, and the distance between the two colonies also does not appear too long. However, the memory - when it chooses to surface - always brings a smile to my

A few years later, we shifted to another city. Each weekend morning, few of us youngsters would venture beyond our homes. It was all agriculture land around the island that we called colony. We would walk through those fields lovingly planted with seasonal vegetables by

of the tomatoes - those were not the hybrid variety -still tingles my palate.

I have faint memories of the first few of years of my life. My grandparents lived deep inside a lane ina small town in North India. Numerous sweets and savoury shops abutted on both sides of the lane. Aroma of the fresh delicacies would be wafting and teasing our taste buds. Each morning we would wake up tosumptuous sweets and savouries that my grandfather would have

brought home. There were a few years till my adolescence when trains were still hauled by steam engines. Most of our travels during summer holidays the farmers. The tangy taste were in second class, that

too unreserved compartments - probably those were the only ones affordable to the middle class at the time. There were no bars in the windows. We could stick our necks far out of the windows with the sole purpose of getting a few pieces of coal entangled in our hair, and then plucking those out with a glee that only children are capable of.

There were days when we would lie face up on grass and stare wide-eyed at the wonders of nature as also those created by humans. The condensation trail of a jet flying overhead was a sight to behold. But who could beat the shapes that passing clouds could assume! The shapes could be

as fantastic as our yet developing brains could conjure. In a life that is running at an increasingly frenetic pace, each one of us needs a pressure relief valve from time to

It is at times like these, that my lost, but fond memories surface, to grant me that moment of bliss in my own solitude. These are my endorphins, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin all rolled into one.

I have met several persons in my life. While most of the happy ones are only too eager to delve into their past to narrate memories, even those going through personal crisis come up with pleasant memories when gently nudged.

Those visions from the past may not solve the current problems; but they do help in working towards finding a solution. All of us need that gentle prodding from time to time. Don't we owe it to ourselves to be that gentle push in someone's life! (The author is an electrical

engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

### **REVIVE READER ENGAGEMENT**

Sir — In newspapers, a column "Reader's correspondence" is published. This column has been going on for the last so many decades and people love to go through this column first while sipping their morning coffee. Readers express their thoughts, reactions and the crux of the problem faced by society in daily routine. Presently, some newspapers are closed as they could not survive tough competition in the print media and some of them closed their reader's correspondence column without a valid reason.

Thus, the reason behind closing the backbone news dailies is not known. So the readers cannot express their thoughts through the print media and do much-needed social needs to the society. It is requested that resume the Letters to the Editor Column in newspapers and give pride of place to the readers without seeing caste, creed and religion and avoid publishing one set of personal letters all the time.

Jayanthi CK Manaiam | Mumbai

### **BCCI PRIORITISES DOMESTIC CRICKET**

Sir — It refers to BCCI's new instructions to its players to play a certain number of Ranji Trophy games to be eligible for the forthcoming IPL. BCCI has hit the nail on its head because this action was much needed, as players seem to have taken the board for granted. We have had so many instances where a player picks and chooses the format and gives royal ignorance to the domestic cricket, Ranji Trophy.

Ideally, when they are not representing the country, they should go back to domestic cricket and play red-ball cricket rather than preferring to play money-minting IPL. It is high time that representing the country must take precedence over IPL. No player should take his place for granted in the national team and it has to be earned through hard grind.

### **UPI goes beyond India**

THE EDITOR



nified Payments Interface (UPI), introduced by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016, has emerged as a transformative force in the realm of digital finance. By facilitating real-time fund transfers between bank accounts via mobile devices using unique UPI IDs or QR codes, UPI has revolutionized the way individuals and businesses conduct transactions in India. With over 10 billion transactions and a total value of? 15.7 lakh crore recorded in August 2023 alone, UPI has solid-

ified its position as a cornerstone of the country's fintech ecosystem. Its remarkable growth trajectory is exemplified by its market size, which surged from \$50 billion in 2021 to an estimated \$150 billion by 2025, highlighting its immense potential to drive financial inclusion and economic growth.

Beyond its domestic success, UPI has also expanded its reach internationally, establishing partnerships with local banks and payment platforms in countries like Singapore, Bhutan, and the UAE to facilitate cross-border transactions. This global expansion underscores India's leadership in fintech innovation and its ability to leverage technological advancements for international collaboration and financial connectivity. Moreover, the recent launch of UPI services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, following its introduction in France, further enhances the accessibility and convenience of cross-border payments, enhancing the travel experience for Indians and international travellers while showcasing India's fintech prowess on the global

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

### TRAINING FOR LAWYERS

Sir — When judges have judicial academies to be trained in salient features of law, why not the lawyers" was an apt query by the Supreme Court bench of Justices Bela Trivedi and Pankaj Mittal. A young lawyer's "knowledge" in submitting a bail petition, without a summoning order, rightly disturbed the court. The top court's observation is a wake-up call for a profession that once enjoyed unquestionable reverence but has had several questions asked about its ethics and professionalism over the Young lawyers who emerge from smaller places are often thrown into the vast sea of legal professionals without proper hands to guide them. They are often found wanting in courtroom etiquettes and decorum. Barring **Bal Govind** | *Noida* senior lawyers who have a reputation to

maintain, and a handful of old timers, many young lawyers suffer from paucity of drafting skills and presentation acumen.

Evolving changes in law and jurisprudence only mean they have to keep abreast of the latest developments because their advancement in the legal profession hinges on favourable court verdicts. Therefore, a successful lawyer is an amalgamation of impeccable courtroom behaviour and outstanding arguing skills that can impress the judges. Also, transparency and accountability are not commodities to be compromised at all.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

## **FIRST COLUMN**

## **MODI'S TOUR SIGNALS A GEOPOLITICAL SHIFT**

Modi's visit to UAE and Qatar would assert India's position in the region



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

rime Minister Narendra Modi was in UAE and Qatar earlier this week, underscoring the importance of the region in India's growing interests in the geo-political strategic outcomes from Arabia. This land masses west of the India ocean, and, especially UAE hadn't seen a visit by an Indian Prime Minister in more than three decades, till Narendra Modi decided to refocus. For nearly three decades before 2015, these nations on the other end of the Arabian Sea had been a distant place for Indian political leadership, occasionally grabbing domestic headlines for the wrong reasons, even though a sizeable chunk of the Indian diaspora was toiling away mostly in labour intensive jobs, sending precious hard foreign currency back to their villages in India. However, the importance of the region especially strategically important countries such as UAE as a key balancing power in West Asia was lost to the foreign policy makers of the time. The Indian prime minister's seven official visits to the UAE in a decade and reciprocal visits by UAE president Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in a similar timeline, underscore the seriousness both sides have attributed to nurturing, this relationship.

It was in August 2015 when PM Modi visited UAE on the invitation of then crown prince Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, which was the foundation of this ever-greening relationship. The joint statement released, stated "The visit of an Indian Prime Minister to UAE after 34 years marks the beginning of a new and comprehensive strategic partnership between India and UAE in a world of multiple transitions and changing opportunities and challenges.'

In recent decades, UAE's economic progress has been one of the global success stories, transforming the nation into a regional leader and a thriving international centre.



India's rapid growth, modernization, and skilled workforce position it as a key player in the global economy. The robust economic partnership between India and the UAE, upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2015, culminated in the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).

This was one of the first CEPAs or bilateral trade agreements India entered with any country with significant economic clout, in decades and a statement released last year on the first anniversary of the CEPA implementation highlighted the positive impact it had on exports in labour-intensive sectors such as 'Mineral Fuels; Electrical Machinery (particularly telephone equipment); Gems & Jewellery; Automobiles; Essential Oils; Other Machinery; Cereals; Other Agri Products; and Chemical Products. The CEPA with UAE proved to be a template for a similar trade agreement India managed to sign with Australia in the same year.

However, another key element of the strategic partnership between India and UAE was the close cooperation on defence, security, and counterterrorism measures outlined during the 2015 visit. The two sides had in 2015 pledged to" Coordinate efforts to counter radicalization and misuse of religion by groups and countries for inciting hatred, perpetrating and justifying terrorism or pursuing political aims. Denounce and oppose terrorism in all forms and manifestations, wherever committed and by whomever, calling on all states to reject and abandon the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructures where they exist, and bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice. And Work together to control, regulate and share information on the flow of funds that could have a bearing on radicalization activities cooperate in interdicting illegal flows and take action against concerned organizations.

Prime minister's visit this week which could be his last during his current tenure, signifies the importance of West Asia in India's geo-political and geo-economic approach for the 21st Century.

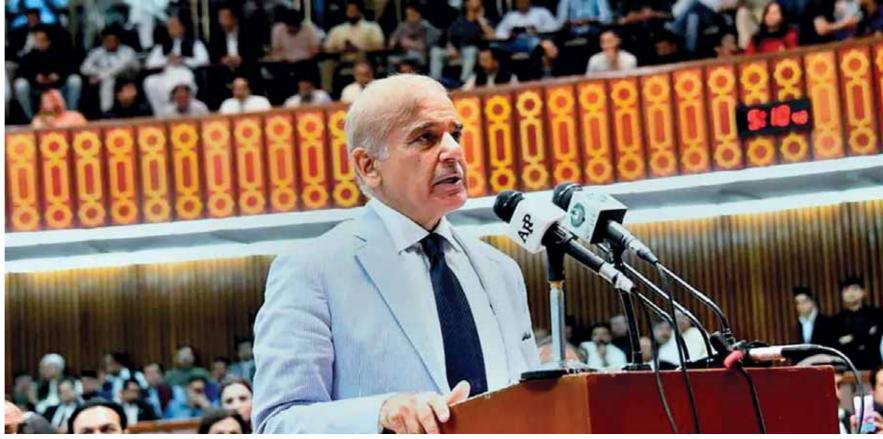
(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

# History repeats itself in Pakistan



**KS TOMAR** 

Shehbaz Sharif emerges as the 'selected' PM candidate amidst elections scripted by the military to ensure PML-N's success, echoing past patterns



s per the amended version of the famous quote of American humorist and writer, Mark Twain history repeats itself but, at times in Rhymes, holds true in a stereotyped manner to the outcome of polls in Pakistan which is evident from the decks cleared for

Shahbaz Sharif to become prime minister of Pakistan and the army has executed full proof strategy through the process of selection".

The results of the 2024 general elections in Pakistan had been a novella or saga scripted by the super-powerful army to ensure the success of Nawaz Sharif's party, PML-N which is identical to the previous elections held in 2018 to enthrone Imran Khan in the post of prime minister of Pakistan. Owing to this predominant factor of supremacy of the army and 'mindset of people", none will question the "selection" of Shehbhaz in this country which has got tradition and history of being ruled by the army indirectly by proxy for decades and directly for 33 years ranging from 1958-1971,1977-1988 and

It was also an illusion that democracy was restored for the rest of the period as the military had a hundred per cent dominance in domestic and international affairs as 'selected prime ministers' always acted as symbolic public figures. Now the cat is out of the bag and the outcome of the polls in Pakistan is in consonance with the expectations and estimation of the entire world besides the people of this beleaguered country.

Unexpected Drama Unfolds: Amidst the volatile and uncertain political scenario, in a surprise move, three-time PM, Nawaz Sharif has nominated his younger brother, Shehbaz Sharif for the post of PM which will enable him to rule by "Proxy' and confirm the post of chief minister of Punjab for his daughter, Maryam Nawaz. Experts say that Nawaz has tried to kill two birds with one stone thereby keeping the scope of the Pakistan Peoples Party's



NAWAZ WILL BE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND HE MAY MAKE CONCERTED **EFFORTS TO** IMPROVE THE **RELATIONS WITH** NEIGHBOURS, INCLUDING INDIA, WHICH WAS MENTIONED BY HIM IN HIS

VICTORY SPEECH

chances to join the government as Bilawal Bhutto chairman of the party has declared to support the PML-N government from outside. Bilawal may bargain with PML-N to nominate his father, Asif Ali Zardari for the post of the president which may lead to a change of equations.2nd, it will pave the way for the rehabilitation of his daughter Maryam and PML-N Information Secretary as CM of the most important province, Punjab. The coalition government will comprise various parties including PML-N, PPP, MQM, PML-Q, BAP etc. which will have a strength to 152 as against the required tally of 133 in the house of 265 which may go up to 169 after the addition of nominated members.

and he may make concerted efforts to improve the relations with neighbours including India which was mentioned by him in his victory speech. A cursory look at Indian PM, Narender Modi's attempts to have cordial relations with Pakistan shows that he had attempted to normalize the relations when he made a sudden trip to Lahore on Dec 25, 2015 and wished happy birthday to Pakistan EX PM Nawaz who turned 66. Prior to it, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had visited Pakistan in 2004 who will be credited for bringing a thaw in relations with Islamabad.

As per the principle of diplomacy, dialogue must continue even if enmity governs the ties between two nations. India may resume the talks if Pakistan shows sincerity and comes out of Kashmir phobia. Experts are unanimous over the attitude of Chinese President Xi Jinping who is having animosity

towards democratic set up whereas the United States will feel ease at the continuation of democracy in Pakistan. Modi even attended the marriage reception of Nawaz's granddaughter, Merun Nisa in Dec 2015 at Jati Umrah outside Lahore but the army disapproved of these initiatives and hence sabotaged the same. In this backdrop, the situation is

different now as the army and Nawaz seem to be on the same page which may yield positive results. Army's IŚI wing will have to shed its' policy to support terrorists in indulging in violence in Kashmir. Nawaz is expected to come out of Kashmir's phobia and focus on economic issues which can act as guiding principles to his brother, Shabaz. Ties with India to improve: Shebhaz and Asim duo will yell at rule by proxy. Imran was disqual-

Nawaz will be in the driver's seat the US administration. Imran Knan wiii de remembered for directly accusing America of ensuring his defeat in Parliament in April 2022 which brought Shahbaz Sharif to power. Imran had quoted a secret diplomatic cable to prove his allegation which was at variance with the stand of the army. Imran also took cudgels against the powerful army which cost him the PM chair especially when he won the election with the help of the military.

The track record shows that the US administration always had a close relationship with the Pakistan army which will be true to the current set-up also. Army will fully support Shehbaz to improve ties with the US which may help Pakistan to get more financial assistance from the IMF. Army Chief, General Asim had visited the US to lobby for getting a financial bailout package from the IMF. Army had been instrumental in

the installation of Shahbaz after orchestrating the downfall of Imran in 2018 which witnessed cordial relations between ex-PM and army chief, Asim Munir. Nawaz will be the guiding force to cement the ties with the army and ensure the success of the coalition government.

Unequal Playing Field: It is a paradox and none will doubt that the present elections in Pakistan were a reflection of an unequal playing field especially when Imran Khan, a strong contender and popular leader was eliminated from the electoral process under a well-planned conspiracy. Imran's loyalists say that the army played a predominant role in giv-ing the PM chair to Nawaz Sharif on the plate who has preferred to ified and convicted in several cases to put him in jail which made his party, PTI, rudderless. The election commission snatched its symbol of Bat to put it in a disadvantageous position.

Analysts opine that Pakistan is poised for another spell of pain, mess and chaos as Imran's supporters have won in big numbers and are bound to create problems for the Shahbaz government.

They may continue their tirade against the army and demand the release of their leader from jail. India should not expect some tangible result from such an unstable and fragile government though Ex-PM Nawaz and the army are on the same page hence there are chances of change in dynamics in diplomacy but let us wait and watch.

(The writer is a political analyst and has six years experience of in foreign posting in a neighbouring country; views are personal)

## Lakshadweep has strategic importance and tourism potential

China has invested heavily in Sri Lanka and also now in Maldives. This compels us to look at Lakshadweep with a fresh sense of urgency

akshadweep-Maldives-Chagos group of islands

are actually the tops of a vast undersea mountain (Chagos-Laccadive) Range in Indian Ocean. Lakshadweep has 36 islands that are located 400 km to the west of the nearest coast. The islands have a total land area of 32 sq km but add to a 400,000 sq km Exclusive Economic Zone to India as 200 nautical miles astride the nearest land area is economic zone of that country as per the international maritime law. Possession of these islands away from the mainland provides a strategic, military and political advantage to Índia.

Lakshadweep stands as India's fingers in the Indian Ocean, almost touching the Sea Lines



Of Communication that pass through the 'Nine Degree Channel'. The channel is used by all ships shuttling to and from Europe, the Middle East, West and South East Asia and also the Far East. It's thus essential that these islands are given due infrastructure so that they can be hubs of

tourist and commercial activity in the years to come. So the question now is how do

Tri-service unit come up in Lakshadweep in the years to come, with a suitable component of the Coast Guard? Should we add on to the existing infrastructure or just start building a new set-up altogether? Should we concentrate on tourism aspects initially or go for a multi-dimensional approach to development straight away? Are the people of Lakshadweep on board for a rapid pace of development? These questions need to be answered before we can make tall claims of disturbing the Apple Cart of some third Lakshadweep islands can be we get the infrastructure built used as a launch pad during the potential increase we

land? Should an Integrated

and add on to the integration

of the islands with the main-

then be used as a vantage point to monitor any movement of vessels in the Arabian Sea. These islands would play a key role in controlling the Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) conflicts/crises due to their close proximity to many choke points. For now, the basic infrastruc-

symmetric and asymmetric

conflicts and hence must have

the basic infrastructure to

support a Tri-service setup to

include a multipurpose air-

port and a proper dockyard. Lakshadweep Islands can also

ture exists in bits and pieces. Tourism requires ample accommodation and sustainable infrastructure to facilitate comfortable stays, which right now is limited as compared to envisage in the years to come. Obviously, Mumbai is a major feeder point for all foreign and domestic tourists. Cruise lines like Cordelia provide accommodation at sea and access to tourists as well. This kind of tourism model could be very effective and sustainable without adversely affecting the land and population of Lakshadweep. The cruise line right now acts as a major feeder of tourists to Lakshadweep. More such cruise lines are a must to boost the economy of Lakshadweep and also to establish trade routes further

Adding on to the existing infrastructure is always the first step of development, though obviously, new pro-

ship in this regard could be very helpful. Education of locals also needs to be a pri-ority for them to be able to interact with tourists in both Hindi and English. Small helipads in all ten islands that are inhabited would facilitate fast movement between the islands and could be used as air taxis by the tourists, further adding to the charm of Lakshadweep. These helipads would also be handy for setting up an anti-drone grid, so essential for the protection of these islands. They could help in times of Tsunami and medical emergencies as well.

Suitable communication means along with numerous satellite communication channels need to come up on an jects would come in some urgent basis. The islands have time. Private public partner- no petrol pumps and maybe of these islands. Each island in

that is good, for subsidized electric vehicles must be provided to locals which would be very effective there. Since the distances to be travelled are short, the range barrier of electric vehicles won't be an issue. So a multidimensional approach to development along with a push to tourism for Lakshadweep and Andaman may go a long way in consolidating India's position in the Indian Ocean. China has interests in the Indian Ocean and has invest-

ed heavily in Sri Lanka and also now in Maldives. This compels us to look at Lakshadweep with a fresh sense of urgency. It would be prudent if we educate the population of the mainland about the overall importance

the Indian Ocean needs to be protected and integrated with the mainland.

Lakshadweep is India's Strategic Sentinel, Maritime and Trade Route Guardian. The current 'Maldives political row is a spark that should propel us to take steps to develop India's maritime muscle. A well-orchestrated use of these islands would go a long way in helping India establish itself as a major economic and military player. Make no mistake that the ten inhabited islands of Lakshadweep act as ten fingers of India in the Indian Ocean. These fingers give us a long arm to help us build up resources, beyond our imagination.

(The writer is an expert on international relations; views are personal) NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 16, 2024

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008 Tel. +91 11 45108609, Fax:- +91 1704 225178

E-mail id:- cs@himalyainternational.com l website:- www.himalayafoodcompany.com EXTRACT OF UN-AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER & NINE MONTH ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 2023

(Rs. In Lakhs)

		(RS. III LAKIIS)										
Sl. No.	Particulars		Quarter Ende	d	Nine Mon	ths Result	Year Ended					
	raiticulais	31.12.2023	30.09.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023					
		[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Audited]					
1	Total Income from Operations	1315.33	1106.68	2074.97	3474.91	5457.36	9751.16					
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax & exceptional items	144.24	102.28	538.76	301.56	1,358.19	-2470.64					
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after exceptional items)	144,24	102,28	538.76	301.56	708.19	-2470.64					
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after exceptional items)	144.24	102.28	538.76	301.56		-2419.64					
5	Total Comprehensive income for the period (Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other comprehensive Income (after tax)	144.24	102.28	538.76	301.56	708.19	-2419.64					
6	Paid-up Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- per share)	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29	5787.29					
7	Earning Per Share of Share											
	a) Basic in Rs.	0.25	0.18	0.93	0.52	1.22	-4.18					
	b) Diluted in Rs.	0.25	0.18	0.93	0.52	1.22	-4.18					
No	tes:-											

1. The above unaudited results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and thereafter approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on February 14, 2024.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial results for the Quarter and NineMonth ended December 31, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesaid Unaudited Financial results for the Quarter andNineMonth ended December 31, 2023 are available on BSE Limited (www.bseindia.com) and the Company website (www.himalayafoodcompany.com).

3. Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

Sl.		Quarter Ended			Nine Mon	hs Result	Year ended				
No.	Particulars	31.12.2023	30.09.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023				
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)				
1.	Income from										
	Operations	1315.33	1106.68	2074.97	3474.91	5457.36	9751.16				
2.	Profit before tax	144.24	102.28	538.76	301.56	708.19	-2470.64				
3.	Profit after tax	144.24	102.28	538.76	301.56	708.19	-2419.64				
						4 4 40					

For and on behalf of the Board

Date:-14.02.2024 Place:- New Delhi Man Mohan Malik

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has granted In- Principle approval vide Memo no. LC-4633/JE(SK)/2024/5327 dated 13/02/2024 for transfer of license from Yohaan Buildcon LLP to JMK Holdings Private Limited against License No. 70 of 2022 dated 27/05/2022 over an area measuring 2.515 acres for setting up of Commercial Plotted Colony in the revenue estate of Village Harsaru, Sector-88A, Gurugram.

While according the said in-principle approval, the Director Town & Country Planning Haryana, Chandigarh has directed the company to inform the general public about the proposed transfer of license through public notice in the leading newspapers (Two English & One Hindi) and accordingly the notice is hereby issued for their information and if there is any objection, the same may be sent to the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram within 30 days  $\,$ from the date of publication of this notice. The said permission granted is also being uploaded/hosted on our website www.signatureglobal.in

Sd/-AUTHORISED SIGNATORY JMK HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U70109DL2013PTC255232 REGD OFF- 13TH FLOOR, DR. GOPAL DAS RHAWAN 28 RARAKHAMRA ROAD NEW

PUBLIC NOTICE

n the mutatee/legal owner of PLOT NO. 559 DCKET-C,AREA-50SQ M.,IFC GAZIPUR,DELH

LE NO. F-28 (71)2007/CL which is allotted by the DDA. I have lost the Original Allotmen etter, Handing Over Possession, Situssession, Situssession Slip of the above Plot.FIR/NCR to

20th I vide Lt Not: 144/333/2027, Dates a 2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, inter having any objection or found in possession vide/contact white/contact white/contact was a control of the control

publication of this notice. Any person piming any right, interest, or having any ejections with respect to this property can

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that MR. Jitendra Pal Singh Chauhan ("said Owner") residing at 1493, park view apartment, Sector-29, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar and is

sufficiently entitled to as the owner of the Scheduled Property. The said Owner has represented that his title to

the Scheduled Property is clean, clear and marketable free

ADAIRCOILEG. THE SCHEDIII E ABOVE REFERRED TO

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO All had price and parcel of Flat No. 2401 admeasuring 1053 sq.ft. (Super built up area) on the 23rd floor, together with right to use 1 (one) Car Parking Space in building known as "Kobusta" (Tower 5) of the Project known as Godrej Woods and being part of the condominium Godrej woods, constructed on all the price and parcel of land situated, lying and being on the plot of land admeasuring 44310 sq.mtra bearing No. GH-0171A, sector 43, Noida and within the Jurisdiction of hite Sub-Registrar Noida, Uttar Pradesh

Advocate N.N. Agnihotri (Government of India Notary Public) Email ID: deedwriternoida@gmail.com

vide LR No: 1447555/2024, Dated-15-02

Be it known to all that I, HIMANSHU JAIN S ATISH JAIN R/O-QP-59, PITAMPUR A, DELF Im the mutatee/legal owner of PLOT NO. 5

DELHI-110001

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY YOHAAN BUILDOON LLP LLPIN: AAB-9033 REGD OFF- 326, THIRD FLOOR, C-1/3, LAXMI TOWER, NANIWALA BAGH, AZADPUR DELHI-110033

Dated: 16/02/2024

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has granted In- Principle approval vide memo no. LC-4632/JE(SK)/2024/5321 dated 13/02/2024 for transfer of license from Yohaan Buildcon LLP to JMK Holdings Private Limited against License No. 69 of 2022 dated 27/05/2022 over an area measuring 3.428 acres for setting up of Commercial Plotted Colony in the revenue estate of Village Harsaru, Sector-88A, Gurugram.

While according the said in-principle approval, the Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has directed the company to inform the general public about the proposed transfer of license through public notice in the leading newspapers (Two English & One Hindi) and accordingly the notice is hereby issued for their information and if there is any objection, the same may be sent to the office of Senior Town Planner, Gurugram within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. The said permission granted is also being uploaded/hosted on our website www.signatureglobal.in

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IMK HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED CIN: U70109DL2013PTC255232 REGD OFF- 13TH FLOOR, DR. GOPAL DAS

RHAWAN 28 RARAKHAMBA ROAD NEW

DELHI-110001

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY YOHAAN BIIII DOON LEP LLPIN: AAB-9033 REGD OFF- 326, THIRD FLOOR, C-1/3, LAXMI TOWER NANIWALA BAGH, AZADPUR DELHI-110033

Place: Gurugram Dated: 16/02/2024

### **UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED**

Regd.Office: - Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana-122001 CIN:-L17100HR1983PLC033460, Website:-www.ulilltd.com, Email id:- investorrelations@ulilltd.com, Phone:- 011-2628237, 49075251

Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended December 31, 2023

(Rs. In lacs, except per sha									
Sl. No.	Particulars	(	)uarter Ende	d	Nine Mon	ths Ended	Year Ended		
	(Refer Notes below)	31.12.2023	30.09.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023		
		[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	(Unaudited)	[Unaudited]	[Unaudited]	[Audited]		
1	Total Income from Operations	245.09	158.01	445.19	527.51	935.51	1,047,44		
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax and exceptional & extraordinary items	13.60	5.32	17.13	32.70	66.77	55.59		
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax and exceptional & extraordinary items	13.60	5.32		32.70		43.00		
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax	13.60							
5	Total Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-		
6	Paid-up equity share capital	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		
7	Earning Per Share of Rs.10/- each (not annualised)								
	a) Basic	0.45	0.18	0.43	1.90	1.70	1.43		
	b) Diluted	0.45	0.18	0.43	1.09	1.70	1.43		

Place :- Gurugram, Haryana

Dated :- February 14, 2024

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended December 31, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended December 31, 2023 are available on the Bombay Stock Exchange website www.bseindia.com and on Company's website www.ulilltd.com.

> For UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED Sd/

HARISH RAWAT ( Director) DIN:-06918651 **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

The general public is informed that the cars with the following car numbers which have completed their life Petrol Cars 15 Years Diesel Cars 10 Years. The MCD drive was confiscated by Pine View Technology Pvt Ltd and has not been claimed by anyone till now. All these vehicle owners are informed to come to the company's office and claim the scrap value of the vehicle. Otherwise all these vehicles will be scrapped in the next three days.

 NOREG97,
 DL9SX2492,
 UP82C7682,

 DL2CAE3154,
 DL8CL5480,
 DL7SAD9552,

 DL8CJ8512,
 DL3CBH0783,
 DL9SR7621,

 DL4CAH7908,
 RJ23RA5911,
 DL7SAZ6522,

	DL4CAH7908,	RJ23RA5911,	DL7SAZ6522,
	DL4CS6840,	DL8CZ5520,	DL13S2743,
	DL8CX7496,	DL3CBF0454,	DL7SBC9796,
	DL9SU2485,	HR26V6379,	DL4SBK3747,
	DNN3020,	HR26AK8841,	DL4SAV1269,
	DL4SAB7852,	DL2SL9695,	UP52E4191,
	DL9SL0769.	DL6SL0203,	DL3SBF4353,
	GJ03BR1716,	DL9SL6124,	DL9SX2827,
	DL7SAH9747,	DL9SJ6977,	HR06M7973,
	DL1SP9611.	DL3SK0399,	RJ1916M3894
	DL6SR9551,	DAA219,	UP70AM9776,
	DL8SAG6931,	DL4SBD9305,	MP20SB3283,
	DL9SQ6423,	DL8CP2485,	DL1SP8668,
	DL9SR6689,	DL12CB3003,	JH05X0468,
	DL8SAP4585,	DL8CL5517,	DL9SX2891,
	DL9SV4879,	DL9SR6569,	PB02AD0820,
	UP32BJ7490,	DL8SAN3550,	UP83M2832,
3	HR26AJ2474,	DL1SM9398,	JK02AG0901,
.	DL9CS1484,	DL13SB1025,	DL1CM1443,
1)	DL4SNA2254,	DL6SV7003,	DL9CQ5475,
	DNE7966,	DL7SAS0005,	DL4CAM0369,
	DL3SAE7443,	DL7SAH2424,	DL1GC0175,
-	DL4SE4377,	DL1S8258.	DL8CNB4982.
3	DL9SE1757,	DL8SNC0535,	DL5CF3338,
<u> </u>	DL9SS5263.	DL8SU1924.	DL3CBC2335,
-	DL9SL7140,	DL7SAB1206,	DL4SAR2910,
ŀ	DL3SBL2836,	DL8SAG1463,	DL8SAM3724,
_	DL9SN1222,	DIP883,	DL8SAG5104,
	DL9SV9013.	HR16B5722,	DL3SBK1124.
	MP07MD1652	DL4\$AZ8054.	DL7SAR4605.
,	DL9SV0565,	DL7SAN9521,	DL8SAG8696,
_	DL9CF9397,	DL8SNB2919,	DL6SAB0114,
	DL7CJ3281,	DL9SU8778,	DL3SR4331,
	HR26S5666,	HR14D3057,	DL5SL8652,
	DL6SAB2985,	DL3SAK6012,	DL8SAR3187,
)	DL9SL7711,	DL3SZ7918,	DL1SL1330,
-	DL6SZ2488,	DL9SP1797,	DL6SAA5948,
	DL4SBF2478,	DL8CS4026,	DL8CZ9787,
)	UP80B7773,	DL8SAN8316,	DL9SU1134,
_	DL3SW2625,	DL8SX3023,	DL9SX0260,
.	DL4SAD8411,	DL8SAB8128,	DL6SAB1334,
-	DL4SAW4901	DL8SAC7754,	TN02R7790,
	PB03G2236,	3420021-	DL9SZ0568,
)	MAKGD851-	719272,	UP60E0577,
_	A7N336936,	DL9CAG8588,	KA38H1881,
	DL4SBK1753,	DL3SBF5468,	DL9SL7816,
	DL3SAS9026,	UP15AB5814.	DL8SAN8302,
3	DL2CQ3789,	DL9SV2808,	DL9SU9533,
3	DL2CAS5590,	DL9SS3919,	DL4SBE4556,
-	DL13C6194,	DL9ST9504,	DL9SV9121,
	DL4SAL9880,	DL4\$BB5291,	DL4SBL1899,
e	DL8ST4861,	DL4CAH7922,	DL8CS1984,
d	DL9SC7262,	DL5CV4444,	DL9SR3341,
e	DL2SK2548,	DL8CQ3173,	DL8CS1921,
e	DL8SAE6138,	DL9SV1709,	HR51AR0045,
	DL9SU1547,	DL3SAY2207,	DL3CAS4949,
	DL6SA5230,	AP31AF8279,	MH15CE3050,
О	DL3SAJ6306,	DL9ST8502,	DL3CBF4045,
-	DL6SAC1168,	HR01P1370,	HR14J4428,
Г	HP51A0963,	DL2CAD3805,	DIC0048,
-)	DI OCCODO	DI 701/0000	DLOGAWIZECO

DL8SG3021, DL7CK0223, DL3CAW7569, DL9SH5410, DL7SAX3816,

# the Scheduled Property is clean, clear and marketable free from all encumbrance with the second property of the scheduled Property or any part thereof or its share by way of sale, mortgage, exchange, charge, lease, lien, inheritance, succession, grift, trust, maintenance, possession, easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make known the same in writing to the undersigned together with documentary proof thereof at the address mentioned below within 14 (FOURTEEN) days from the date hereof, failing which the transaction shall be completed without any reference to such claims and the claims if any will be deemed to have been waived and /or abandoned.

Sd/

**Managing Director** (DIN:-00696077)

For the Quarter For the Quarter For the Year

### **ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED**

Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi – 110019 CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550 Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com

### ANNEXURE I

Format for publishing financial results in newspapers [Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

		ended	ended	ended
S. No.	Particulars	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.03.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	0.39	1.43	26.19
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(7.07)	(74.43)	(427.77)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(7.07)	(74.43)	(427.77)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(5.23)	(51.37)	(280.79)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(5.23)	(51.37)	(280.79)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve )	(2,767.78)	(2,548.20)	(2,739.74)
8	Securities Premium Account		-	-
9	Net worth	(2,766.78)	(2,547.20)	(2,738.74)
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,36,920.59	2,12,151.56	2,18,477.59
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	(71.82)	(83.29)	(71.56)
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic:	(52.26)	(513.75)	(2,807.90)
	2. Diluted:	(52.26)	(513.75)	(2,807.90)
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	(0.0006)	(0.0016)	(0.012)
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(0.05)	(0.020)	(0.030)
18	Current Ratio	1.05	1.09	1.08
19	Long Term debt to working capital	1.02	0.93	0.93
20	Bad Debts to Account Receivable ratio	NA	NA	NA
21	Current liability ratio	0.94	0.91	0.91
22	Total debts to Total assets	0.61	0.73	0.65
23	Debtors Turnover Ratio	NA	NA	NA
24	Inventory Turnover Ratio	NA	NA	NA
25	Operating Margin %	NA	NA	NA
26	Net profit margin %	-1332%	-3592%	-1072%

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.

b) For the other line items referred in the Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock

c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable

Date:14-02-2024

Place: Noida

**Getamber Anand** Director

Director Date: 14-02-2024 Place: Noida

Rajesh Raizada

### **ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED**

CIN: U45400DL2007PTC168922

ANNEXURE I

		For the Qu	arter ended	For the Year ended
S.	Particulars	31-12-2023	31-12-2022	31-03-2023
No.		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	384.91	452.27	2,196.80
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(69.47)	(83.20)	(1,305.74)
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(69.47)	(83.20)	(1,305.74)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	(69.91)	(62.51)	(1,320.39)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)]	(69.91)	(62.51)	(1,314.29)
6	Paid-up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve )	(2,545.48)	(1,099.93)	(2,280.02)
8	Net worth	(2,544.48)	(1,098.93)	(2,279.02)
9	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	16,425.32	16,061.00	16,064.14
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio*	(0.95)	(14.62)	(7.05)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each)			
	(for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic: (in Rs)	(699.15)	(625.13)	(13,203.94)
	2. Diluted: (in Rs)	(699.15)	(625.13)	(13,203.94)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.024)	(0.040)	(0.441)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	(0.19)	1,079.23	(0.90)
17	Current Ratio	0.88	1.54	1.49
18	Long Term Debt to Working Capital Ratio	_	169.57	1.06
19	Bad Debt to Accounts Receivable Ratio	-	-	-
20	Current Liability Ratio	1.00	0.60	0.60
21	Total Debt to Total Asset Ratio	0.05	0.35	0.36
22	Debtor Turnover Ratio	7.08	8.06	40.98
23	Inventory Turnover Ratio	0.01	0.01	0.08
24	Operating Margin	-28.45%	-36.03%	-79.90%
25	Net Profit Margin	-18.16%	-13.82%	-60.11%

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quaterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI  $(Listing\ and\ Other\ Disclosure\ Requirements)\ Regulations, 2015.\ The\ full\ format\ of\ the\ quaterly/annual\ financial\ results\ are\ available\ on\ the\ websites$ of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.

b) For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).

c) # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is

d) \* - The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. e) Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary

> For and on behalf of Board of Directors of **ATS Infrabuild Private Limited**

> > Sd/-Naveen Joshi

Director DIN-00120610

Place: Noida Date: 14.02.2024

Sd/-**Getamber Anand** 

Director DIN-07922648

## Nawaz's career over? Speculation rife after Shehbaz nomination as PM

The surprise nomination of ■ Shehbaz Sharif as Pakistan's next prime minister is being seen here as a likely end of his elder brother Nawaz Sharif's political career after he failed to secure the coveted post for a record fourth time.

Shehbaz Sharif, 72, is expected to become prime minister after a post-poll alliance of leading political parties led by the two brothers struck a deal with other parties to form a coalition government after last week's elections resulted in a hung Parliament.

If everything goes as planned, the six-party coalition government is likely to take the reins early next month in the coup-prone country. None of the three major parties, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, the Pakistan People's Party, or the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf have won the necessary seats in the February 8 general elections to secure a majority in the National Assembly and, therefore, will be unable to form a government on their own. Shehbaz Sharif has prevailed over 74-year-old Nawaz

Sharif in the race to grab the coveted post apparently with the blessings of the powerful military establishment, sources

Pakistani media has been reporting that the powerful stakeholders are more comfortable working with Shehbaz than Nawaz though they facilitated his return from London in October last year, ending a four-year self-imposed exile.

However, Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz was quick to dismiss speculation about her father's political career. "Nawaz Sharif wanted to become PM for a fourth time but after the split mandate, he withdrew from the top slot," Maryam, the frontrunner for the post of Punjab chief minister, posted on X on Wednesday.

Rejecting reports that her father's political career is over, the 50-year-old, considered to be the political heir of Nawaz Sharif, said: "My father's political career is not over yet. There is also no truth in the inference that Nawaz has decided to quit politics. He will supervise the federal and Punjab governments and play

She said when Nawaz Sharif was in power on the three previous occasions, he had the majority in the National Assembly, but now the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) did not get a simple majority.
"Those who know Nawaz

are also aware that he is not interested in leading a coalition government," Maryam, also senior vice president of the PML-N, said.

"Shehbaz and I are his soldiers, bound to follow his command. We will work under his leadership and supervision," Marvam added. Differences within the

PML-N ranks have also come to the fore following the announcement of Shehbaz Sharif as prime minister hopeful as some senior leaders insisted that Nawaz Sharif should have become the premier of the coalition government. For years, the PML-N and its leaders have been shouting slogans of "Wazeer-e-Azam, Nawaz Sharif" - PM [would be] Nawaz Sharif. Even, when Shehbaz Sharif was the prime minister and during the

Chancellor Olaf Scholz. On

Saturday, Zelenskyy will give a

speech at the annual Munich

Security Conference in Germany. He also is to hold bilateral meet-

ings there with US Vice President

Kamala Harris and some

European leaders as well as heads

of major corporations. The

Russian missiles used on

Thursday included Iskander bal-

listic missiles, Kalibr cruise mis-

siles, guided aviation missiles and

adapted S-300 anti-aircraft mis-

siles. Ukraine has also struck tar-

gets in Russian territory deep

behind the front line. A fire broke

out at an oil depot in Russia's

Kursk region after an attack by a

Ukrainian drone, Starovoit, the

governor, said Thursday. There

were no casualties, he said. The

Russian bombardment came a

day after Ukraine's military said

it used high-tech naval drones to

sink a Russian navy ship in the

Black Sea, in what would be a sig-

nificant success for Ukraine days

before the second anniversary of

Russia's full-scale invasion on Feb.

rage injured four people in the

southern Zaporizhzhia region,

where public infrastructure was

were also heard in Kyiv. In Lviv,

two schools, a kindergarten and

18 residential buildings were

damaged, injuring three people,

range attacks, neighbouring

Poland's army said it has taken

steps to ensure the safety of the

country's airspace. "All necessary

procedures to ensure the safety

of Polish airspace have been

launched. ... We warn that Polish

and allied aircraft have been acti-

vated, which may result in

increased noise levels, especial-

ly in the south-eastern part of

the country," the army's

Place: New Delhi

Date:14.02.2024

a statement.

In response to the long-

Mayor Andrii Sadovyi said.

The Thursday morning bar-

24, 2022.

election campaign, the party projected Nawaz Sharif as the next prime minister if PML-N came to power. However, it seems, the split mandate and the last-minute adjustments left the elder Sharif with no other option but to nominate his younger brother and daughter and assume a new role for himself: the person who nominates people in key positions, The Express Tribune newspaper commented.

"We are utterly disappointed that Nawaz Sharif is not becoming PM," PML-N Senator Asif Karmani said. He said during the whole campaign, the people and the party workers were told that Nawaz Sharif would be the party's prime ministerial candidate. But the last-minute change disappointed the party workers,"he said.
"It seems jailed Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder and former prime minister Imran Khan has ended Nawaz's political career by forcing him to withdraw himself for the coveted post seeing the split mandate," another party leader said. On Wednesday, social media was abuzz if Nawaz Sharif's political career was over. There were more than 91,000 tweets seemingly by PML-N supporters under the hashtag "Pakistan Ko Nawaz Dou (Give Pakistan Nawaz)" showing that the Nawaz group in the PML-N is not happy over Shehbaz's surprise nomination on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, Maryam is set to become the first woman chief minister of Punjab, a crucial province of over 120 million people. The PTI has alleged that Maryam would become the Chief Minister on its "stolen mandate" thus having no credibility of her selection. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan's tally, the total number of general seats won by these six parties comes to 152, which shows they can easily achieve the minimum required number of 169 to form the government at the Centre after the addition of 60 women and 10 minority seats in their tally.

Pakistan recorded 47.6 per cent voter turnout in the February 8 election, which was lower than the previous one in 2018 when 52.1 per cent of voters cast the ballot.

Imran Khan's party nominates Umar Ayub Khan as PM pick

Tailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Thursday nominated as its prime ministerial candidate the party secretary general Umar Ayub Khan, grandson of former military dictator Ayub Khan. Umar Ayub Khan, 54, joined Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) before the 2018 general elections after losing the 2013 polls as a candidate of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) from Haripur in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Due to the fractured mandate with none of the parties getting a clear majority, Pakistan is yet to get a new government. Even when more than 100 independents backed by Khan's PTI party won the February 8 polls, it has alleged that its mandate was stolen.

If those troubles were any less, over the last three days, some of the independents have

be formed by PTI's rival parties. Pakistan Muslim League-(PML-N) Nawaz has announced that its President Shehbaz Sharif, 72, will be its prime ministerial candidate. The former prime minister is supported by the Pakistan Peoples Party and four other smaller parties.

"I am hopeful that Umar Ayub Khan will be elected as Prime Minister," former PTI speaker Asad Qaiser said while talking to media persons after meeting Khan in the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi, where he has been lodged since September last year. Separately, PTI top leader Gohar Khan also confirmed that Umar Ayub Khan was nominated as PM by Imran Khan himself. "We will try our best that our candidate wins," he said talking to the media. Umar Ayub Khan belongs to the Haripur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and is

dictator Ayub Khan. He won from National Assembly Constituency NA-18 and also served thrice as a member of the National Assembly.

He was elected as a member of the National Assembly for the first time on the ticket of Pakistan Muslim League-Q in 2002 and was the Minister of State for Finance from 2004 to 2007 during the regime of former military dictator Pervez Musharraf. He was the candidate of Pakistan Muslim League-N from Haripur in the year 2013 but was defeated by a PTI candidate. He alleged rigging and re-voting was held in seven polling stations of this constituency and Umar Ayub Khan won after re-polling. He joined the PTI before the 2018 general elections and won on the party ticket. Later he served as Minister for Economic Affairs in the PTI

## Six killed by missile strike in Russia's Belgorod city

missile strike on the Russian Acity of Belgorod near the Ukraine border on Thursday killed six people, including a child, and injured 18 others, a Russian official said. It was the latest in exchanges of long-range missile and rocket fire in Russia's war on Ukraine.

Hours earlier, Russia fired two dozen cruise and ballistic missiles at a broad area of Ukraine, hitting multiple regions after a midnight strike in Ukraine's northeast killed five people in an apartment building, authorities said. Five of the 18 people injured in Belgorod, a city of around 340,000 people, were children, regional Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram. Tass news agency reported that 15 people were hospitalised. A shopping centre and a school stadium were hit in Belgorod, according to Roman Starovoit, the governor of Russia's Kursk region, which is next to Belgorod. "There are many casualties: dead and wounded," he

said on Telegram. Russia's Ministry of Defence said air defence systems destroyed 14 missiles over the launched by Ukraine using a RM-70 Vampire multiple launch rocket system. Belgorod city, 25 miles (40 kilometres) north of the Ukrainian border, has been a regular target of Ukrainian fire, putting its residents on edge. Dozens of people were killed and injured in an attack there over Russia's New Year holiday weekend. Those assaults have undermined President Vladimir Putin's attempts to reassure Russians that life in the country is largely going on as normal.

In Ukraine, five people were killed and 10 were wounded in the nighttime attack on the village of Velvkvi Burluk, in the Kharkiv border region, regional

### France, Ukraine to sign security pact in Paris

Paris (AP): French President Emmanuel will sign a bilateral security agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday in Paris, the French presidency said in a statement. It did not release specific details about the agreement, to be signed at the Elysee presidential palace.

This will be the third visit by Zelenskyy to Paris since Russia's invasion of Ukraine almost two years ago, following those in February and May 2023, the statement said.

Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. Hours later, missiles the targeted the capital Kyiv, the southern Zaporizhzhia region and Lviv in western Ukraine, among other places. The Ukrainian air force said it intercepted 13 of the 26 missiles fired across the country. Frequent Russian long-range bombardments are occurring as become bogged down in mostly trench and artillery warfare, which is destructive but is not bringing much change to the 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) front line. Thursday's salvos on Ukraine were notable for the geographic spread of its targets and the wide variety of missiles deployed by the Kremlin's forces. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says that one of his priorities is improving Ukraine's air defense systems. He is due in France on Friday to sign a bilateral security agreement as part of his efforts to ensure continuing Western military support.

Zelenskyy's office announced Operational Command said in he would also travel Friday to

## Pak EC dismisses Nawaz review plea

Islamabad (PTI): Pakistan's election commission on Thursday dismissed a plea by former prime minister Nawaz Sharif to stop the notification of the winning candidate in a constituency in Punjab province where he was defeated by an independent candidate backed by ex-premier Imran Khan's party, according to a media report. Hearing the plea, a two-

member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja dismissed the request and directed Nawaz Sharif's counsel to refile the application, the ARY News reported. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-(PTI) backed independent candidate Shahzada Gustasap Khan won the NA-15 Mansehra seat with 105,249 votes, while Nawaz Sharif, a three-time former prime minister and supremo of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) came second with 80,382 votes.

Following defeat in the constituency, Nawaz Sharif challenged the victory notification of Gustasap, according to the report. The returning officer, in the report submitted to the ECP, stated that the result compiled as per Form 45 according to a report in The Express Tribune newspaper.

Nawaz Sharif, 74, contested the February 8 polls from two constituencies. Apart from the NA-15, he also contested from the NA-130 constituency in Lahore which he won by 59,000 votes. On Thursday, Nawaz Sharif's counsel urged the election body not to reject his client's plea, to which ECP directed ĥim to apply again. The development came amidst Nawaz Sharif's younger brother and former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, 72, is expected to become the premier



after a post-poll alliance of leading political parties led by the two brothers struck a deal with other parties to form a coalition government after last week's elections resulted in a hung Parliament.

None of the three major parties, the PML-N, the Pakistan People's Party, or the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf have won the necessary seats in the February 8 general elections to secure a majority in the National Assembly and, therefore, will be unable to form a government on their own.

### Pak SC seeks assurance from govt to ensure military focus on defence-related matters own job. At the hearing, the set up marriage halls on mili-Supreme Court has come tary lands and then sought down hard on the powerful assurance from Attorney military's commercial activities General for Pakistan Mansoor

and sought a commitment from the government to ensure the armed forces exclusively focus on defence-related matters rather than business ventures. The assurance was sought by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, who was heading a threejudge bench in a case scrutinising the use of military lands for business purposes. The top court emphasised that all institutions of the country must stay within their constitutional boundaries, the Dawn newspaper reported on Thursday. The matter was initiated by

former CJP Gulzar Ahmed in 2021 when the court's attention was drawn to the alleged illegal use of cantonment board lands in Karachi, which were acquired for strategic purposes but used for commercial gains. On Wednesday, Justice Isa regretted that the army had

1050 76 1313 50

2.18

2.18

300.00

2.53

300.00

1658.73

3.03

300.00

745.88

Usman Awan that the military would not engage in running business. "Can you get this assurance?" Justice Isa asked Usman, adding that every institution should remain within its domain and work according to its mandate. The attorney general conceded that the principle demanded that everyone should do their

counsel for the Evacuee's Trust Property Board (ETPB) told the court the building from which the dispute erupted belonged to the board since the individual to whom the land was allotted sold it on fake papers after which a fivestorey building was built on the land. Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar wondered if the ETPB was a bystander when the building was being

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION** uidssmt.csmc@gmail.com No. CSMC/Garden Section/1151/2024 Construction of Digital Dome Theater Planetarium park@ Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Entertainment Garde lear Amkhas Maidan Put to Tender:- Rs.2,51,75,640/ Executive Enginee

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation



III rd Call (Third Call) E Tender Notice No.2023\_AMCA\_971328\_3

Municipal Commissioner of "Chhatrapati Sambhaiinagar Municipal Corporation (CSMC) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of bidder to undertaking development of a project under BOT to development of CTS No. 13917 Mechanica Multilevel Car Parking at

Paithan gate having admeasuring area 1100 Sq.mtrs as per UDCPR. applicable norms and on the basis of sanctioned plans. Details Such as bid document last date of submission, date of Pre bid conference etc. will be available from 15/02/2024 from 17.00 hrs. on

following e-tender portal https://www.mahatenders.gov.in

All interested bidders may apply online through this portal

Municipal Commissioner & Administrator **Municipal Corporation, CSMC** 

### arnings per share (of 2/- each) Diluted (0.02)0.03 0.01 0.06 0.07 0.10 . The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial Results filed with the Stoc Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation 2015. The ful format of the Quarterly/Annual Financial Results are available on the website of the Sto Exchange, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website, www.unitedtextileslimited.com

**UNITED TEXTILES LIMITED** 

Registered Office:- 7th K.M. Stone, Barwala Road, Hisar

CIN: L17115HR1993PLC032092

**EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND** 

PERIOD ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

318.75

0.75

300.00

0.21

366.84

0.40

300.00

Date: 13th February, 2024

Total income from operations Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax

Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax

[ Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period

shown in the Audited Balance Sheet

after tax) and Other Comprehen

Equity Share Capital

of the previous year

For United Textile Limited (Vivek Aggarwal Whole Time Directo DIN 07079208

### SAMTEL INDIA LIMITED

Regd. Office: 1212, 12th Floor, 43, Chiranjiv Towers, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 CIN No:L31909DL1981PLC426653

**EXTRACT OF STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS** 

FOR THE QUARTER and NINE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

							Rs. in Lakhs
S.No	Particulars	Quarte	er Ended		Period Ended		Year Ended
		31.12.2023	30-09-2023	31-12-2022	31-12-2023	31-12-2022	31.03.2023
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations	3.45	3.45	0.85	10.35	2.17	16.51
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	0.56	0.80	(2.14)	0.43	(7.72)	(2.83)
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	0.56	0.80	(2.14)	0.43	(7.72)	(2.83)
4.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and Extraordinary items)	0.56	0.80	(2.14)	0.43	(7.72)	72.23
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period(Comprising Profit/(Loss)for the period(After						
	Tax)& other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)	0.56	0.80	(2.14)	0.43	(7.72)	72.23
6.	Equity Share Capital (Face Value Rs. 10/- each)	708.42	708.42	708.42	708.42	708.42	708.42
7.	Reserves(excluding Revaluation Reserves) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet of						
	the previous year)						(510.21)
8.	Earning Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)	0.001	0.001	(0.003)	0.001	(0.011)	0.102
	Basic	0.001	0.001	(0.003)	0.001	(0.011)	0.102
	Diluted				•		

.The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange's under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The detailed financial results and this extract were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the meeting held on 14th February, 2024. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange www.bseindia.com

The above Financial Results have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS-34), interim financial reporting as prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and with Rule 3 of the Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rule, 2015 abd the Companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Amendment Rule 2016.

> For and on behalf of board of Directors SAMTEL INDIA LIMITED

Satish K. Kaura **Chairman and Managing Director** 

debate Wednesday that most Greeks already accept the idea of same-sex marriages. "We are not deciding on change in this chamber," he said. "It has already happened ... Society changes and develops without requiring parliament's permission." The bill would con-

fer full parental rights on married

State Minister Akis Skertsos

stressed at the opening of the two-day

ed the draft law.

same-sex partners with children. But it precludes gay couples from parentreece's parliament is set to vote on hood through surrogate mothers in Thursday to legalise same-sex civil marriage, in a first for an Orthodox Christian country and despite opposition from the influential Greek Church. Opinion polls suggest that most Greeks support the proposed reform, and the issue has failed to trigger deep divisions in a country more worried about the high cost of living. The landmark bill drafted by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis 'centre-right government is backed by four left-wing parties, including the main opposition Syriza. That would secure it 243 votes in the 300-seat parliament. Several majority and left-wing lawmakers are expected 2015. But that only conferred legal to abstain or vote against the reform guardianship to the biological parents but not enough to kill the bill. Three small far-right parties and the Stalinistof children in those relationships, leaving their partners in a bureaucratic rooted Communist Party have reject-

In a first, Greek parl to vote on

legalising same-sex marriage

The main opposition to the new bill has come from the traditionalist Church of Greece — which also disapproves of heterosexual civil marriage. Church officials have centred their criticism on the bill's implications for traditional family values, and argue that potential legal challenges could lead to a future extension of sur-

Greece — an option currently available to women who can't have children for health reasons. Governing New Democracy lawmaker Maria Syrengela said the reform would redress a longstanding injustice for same-sex couples and their children. "And let's reflect on what these people have been through, spending so many years in the shadows, entangled in bureaucratic procedures," she said. Polls show that while

most Greeks agree to same-sex weddings they also reject extending parenthood through surrogacy to male couples. Same-sex civil partnerships have been allowed in Greece since

rogacy rights to gay couples.



## **'India, UK trade pact** talks at advance stage'

he negotiations for the proposed India-UK free trade agreement are at an advanced stage, and both sides are working to iron out differences on the remaining issues, a top government official said on Thursday.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said the negotiations are taking time because "we want" to safeguard India's interest.

"India should commercially gain out of it and we should also be able to safeguard the interest of our farmers, PLI (production linked incentive) scheme goods. So, we are there to see that the deal is a fair deal," he told reporters here.

NBCC to redevelop

housing project for

MEA at ₹262 crore

State-owned NBCC Ltd on Thursday said it has bagged

a Rs 262 crore project to rede-

velop Ministry of External

Affairs Housing in the national

capital. In a statement, NBCC

said the "Bhoomi Poojan Cere-

mony" for the redevelopment of

on February 14, 2024. Y K Sailas Thangal, Joint Secretary in MEA; Nidhi Anand

Senior Architect, MEA and KP

Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC,

among others attended the

"With a project value of approximately Rs 261.70 crore, NBCC

has been entrusted with the exe-

cution of this transformative

endeavour. The scope of work

includes construction of 54

Type-VI Quarters, 18 Type-IV

Quarters, and 18 Transit Quarters...," NBCC said.

This initiative reaffirms the

commitment of both MEA and

NBCC to enhance infrastructure

and create conducive living

NBCC is into Project

Management Consultancy

(PMC) and real estate business.

environment for its residents.

Extern: Housing at KG Marg took place

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Additional Secretary in the In June 2022, India and the EU Commerce Ministry L Satya Srinivas said the talks are at an advanced stage and going on at a "very" high level to iron out differences.

The 14th round of talks started on January 10. The investment treaty is being

negotiated as a separate agreement between India and The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to USD 20.36 billion in 2022-23

from USD 17.5 billion in 2021-On the India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement, the ministry informed that the seventh round of talks is scheduled from February 19restarted the negotiations for the long-pending trade and investment agreement on Friday after a gap of over eight

On the India-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), Additional Secretary in the ministry Rajesh Agrawal said that legal scrubbing of text on clean and fair economy agreements is underway.

He said the supply chain resilience pact will come into force from February 24 this

To implement this, he said, action plans are being developed to optimise to optimise participation in institutional structures under the supply

## Recurring food price shocks pose challenges in tackling inflation: Das

Inflation eases as Wheat,

Potatoes, Egg, Meat and Fish

JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

fiscal-monetary

coordination was at the core of

The governor said the global

crossroads, and challenges

remain in plenty, but new

Together, the course we take

from here will decide our

destiny in times to come. We

need policies that are attuned

to the new realities of the

global economy. In an

uncertain world, central banks

need to be proactive to better

serve the objectives of price

and financial stability," he said.

He noted that prospects of a

He noted that domestic

equities are taking support

stands

are

India's success, he added.

economy

opportunities

knocking at the door.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday said recurring food price shocks and renewed flash points on the geo-political front pose challenges in tackling inflation.

"We remain vigilant to navigate through the last mile of disinflation as it is often the most difficult part of the journey. We firmly recognise will provide the necessary bedrock for sustainable economic growth," the governor said. that stable and low inflation

Das stressed that stable and low inflation will provide the necessary bedrock for necessary sustainable economic growth.

India has successfully navigated through multiple challenges and emerged as the fastest-growing large economy, he said in his keynote address at the 59th SEACEN Governors' Conference here.

"Prudent monetary and fiscal policies have paved the path for India's success in sailing through these rough waters. The Reserve Bank projects the Indian economy to grow by 7.0 per cent during 2024-25, marking the fourth successive year of growth at 11.1

Das further said inflation has moderated from the highs of the summer of 2022. The retail inflation, which the RBI mainly factors in while

arriving at its bi-monthly

per cent," he added.

Previous day close: 71,822.83

monetary policy, is inching supply-side interventions by towards its target of 4 per cent, the government alleviated supply-side pressures and with the January imprint at 5.1 moderated cost-push inflation. He highlighted that recurring Effective

food price shocks and renewed flash points on the geo-political front pose challenges to the ongoing disinflation process.

Pulses 16.06

29.18

5.38 Egg, Meat & Fish

GRAPHICS

He was speaking on the topic 'Fundamental Shifts in the Economy: Complexities, Challenges and Policy Options'.

India's coordinated policy response in the face of a series of adverse shocks can be a good template for the future, the governor noted.

monetary worked on anchoring inflation expectations and quelling

TOP GAINERS

6.51 - M&M

279 Power Grid

215 HDFC Bank

Axis Bank

"Our sustained engagement in the India Stack and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), especially during the pandemic and thereafter, has given us the confidence that digital public

horizon.

infrastructure can become a critical part of global public good when scaled up beyond national boundaries," the governor said. The linkage of the Indian UPI and the fast payment systems of a few other countries drives home the potential of the UPI

shape in the years to come.

for cross-border model payments, he added. Das said SEACEN, as a platform for central banks of the region, serves as a valuable forum for sharing insights and fostering cooperation in several areas for enhanced

to become an international

progress and prosperity. The cooperation among countries should give due consideration to the principles of comparative advantage and resource endowments so that each one of us benefits, he added.

The Reserve Bank of India is the current Chair of the SEACEN (South East Asian Central Banks) forum.



### Majority of Indian enterprises have deployed Al: IBM report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Nearly 59 per cent of large organisations (those with over 1,000 employees) surveyed in India are using Artificial Intelligence (AI) actively in their businesses, according to a new research commissioned by IBM.
The 'IBM Global AI Adoption

Index 2023' found early adopters are leading the way, with 74 per cent of those Indian enterprises already working with AI, having accelerated such investments in the past 24 months in areas like R&D and workforce reskilling.

Ongoing challenges for AI adoption include hiring employees with the right skill sets and ethical concerns, inhibiting businesses from adopting AI technologies into their operations.

For 2024, addressing these inhibitors would be a priority like providing people with the relevant skills to work with AI and having a robust AI governance

framework, according to the report.

The increase in AI adoption and investments by Indian enterprises is a good indicator that they are already experiencing the benefits of AI. However, there is still a significant opportunity to

experimentation and deploy AI at scale," Sandip Patel, Managing Director, IBM India and South Asia, said. To harness its full potential in the coming months, data and

accelerate as many businesses

are hesitant to move beyond

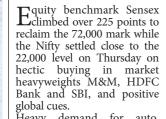
AI governance tools are going to be critical for building AI models responsibly that enterprises can trust and

'Without the governance tools, AI can expose companies to data privacy issues,

'Today, 59 per cent of IT professionals at organisations report that they have actively deployed AI while an additional 27 per cent are actively exploring using the technology," the report said, adding that the levels in India

global survey conducted among a representative sample of 8,584 IT Professionals in

## Markets rise for third straight day



**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Heavy demand for auto, energy and utility stocks also boosted the momentum as the market consolidated the gains, traders said.

Rising for the third straight day, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 227.55 points or 0.32 per cent to close at 72,050.38 points. The index touched a high of 72,164.97 points and a low of 71,644.44 points during intra-day trade.

The broader NSE Nifty also gained 70.70 points or 0.32 per cent to end at 21,910.75 points. Sensex and Nifty started on a positive note but turned volatile soon after. During the day, the indices witnessed a range-bound trading with a positive bias and buying accelerated in the second half

of the trading session. Shares of HDFC Bank surged 2.15 per cent to close at Rs 1,413.75 apiece against its previous close. The benchmark indexes

inched higher, mirroring the positive sentiment prevailing in the global market. The disinflation trend in the euro zone, coupled with better lifted investor earnings, sentiment.

"Despite the broad-based recovery, market participants are more inclined towards quality large-cap stocks owing to the prevailing valuation gap, which led them to exercise caution on small and midcaps," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said. M&M was the biggest gainer in

the Sensex chart, rising 6.51 per cent, followed by NTPC, PowerGrid, SBI, HDFC Bank, Asian Paints and Wipro. In contrast, Axis Bank, ITC, HUL, Nestle India and Sun Pharma were among the

laggards.

"PSU stocks resumed their ongoing rally after a short pause. Oil & Gas (stocks) posted solid gains due to impressive quarterly results...," Siddhartha Khemka, Head — Retail Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, Head of Retail Research at

from better-than-expected inflation which would keep the trend positive. "Nifty is now close to 22k as well as its alltime high, we expect it to surpass these levels and touch new highs".

Among sectoral indices, oil & gas gained 2.61 per cent, followed by utilities (2.59 per cent), power (1.99 per cent), auto (1.41 per cent) and telecom (1.26 per cent) telecom (1.26 per cent). Healthcare and FMCG indices declined up to 0.89 per cent.

BSE smallcap index rose 1.24 per cent while midcap closed with a gain of 0.93 per cent. Apart from Asian equities, European shares also rose on Thursday, boosted by gains in French stocks and UK's soft GDP data, Deepak Jasani,

by European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde on the disinflation process in the euro zone also lifted the investor sentiment.

HDFC Securities, said. According to him, comments

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled with gains while South Korea's Kospi closed in the red. China's financial markets are closed for the Lunar New Year holidays. The US market settled with

gains on Wednesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude slipped 0.09 per cent to USD 81.53 a barrel.

In the previous session, Sensex rose by 267.64 points or 0.37 per cent to close at 71,822.83

points. Nifty also gained 96.80 points or 0.45 per cent to end the day at 21,840.05 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Wednesday as they sold shares worth Rs

confidently adopt. 3,929.60 crore, according to exchange data.

NMDC

Mineral

dilemmas - cases of which we have already seen plaguing many across the world," he

were highest among countries surveved

India, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, UAE, UK, US and LATAM (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and

## Juniper Hotels ₹1,800 crore IPO to open on February 21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Juniper Hotels Ltd, which runs hotels under the "Hyatt" brand, on Thursday fixed a price band of Rs 342-360 per share for its Rs 1,800-crore initial public offering (IPO). The maiden public issue will open for subscription on February 21 and close on February 23, the company said in a statement.

The IPO is entirely a fresh issue of equity shares worth Rs 1,800 crore with no Offer For Sale (OFS) component.

Of the total proceeds, funds to the tune of Rs 1,500 crore will be utilised for payment of debt availed by the company and subsidiaries — Chartered Hotels Private Limited and Chartered Hampi Hotels Private Limited.

Besides, a portion will be used for general corporate purposes. Juniper Hotels is promoted by Saraf Hotels Ltd and its affiliate Juniper Investments Ltd and Two Seas Holdings Ltd, an indirect subsidiary of a global hospitality company Hyatt Hotels Corporation. The

hospitality firm has a portfolio of seven hotels and serviced apartments and operates 1,836 keys across the luxury, upper upscale, and upscale category of hotels across India, as of September 30, 2023. At present, Saraf Hotels owns a

44.68 per cent stake in Juniper Hotels, Two Seas Holdings holds a 50 per cent stake and Juniper Investments has a 5.32 per cent shareholding. Investors can bid for a

minimum of 40 equity shares in the IPO and in multiples of 40 equity shares thereafter.

### NMDC iron ore output grows 15 per cent in Q3 creating a secure supply channel to meet the domestic

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned NMDC has registered a 15 per cent rise in its iron ore production to 12.22 Million Tonne (MT) in October-December 2023, a company statement said.

The miner had produced 10.66 MT iron ore in the third quarter of the preceding financial year, according to the statement on Wednesday.

The sales volumes also rose 19 per cent to 11.39 MT from 9.58 MT in the same quarter a year

Amitava Mukherjee, NMDC, CMD (Additional Charge) said, the steel demand in India is rapidly growing and is



to continue its upward momentum, directly aligning with the overall GDP

To match the increased demand for steel, NMDC has been ramping up its production capacity and is

that are reaping us high returns," he said. On Wednesday, NMDC (National Development Corporation)

over Rs 3,924.75 crore a year

posted a 62 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 1,469.73 over Rs 903.89 crore in the year-ago period. The company's total income too surged to Rs 5,746.47 crore

demands of the industry. "The company's financial and

physical figures demonstrate

our prudent investments in

technology and innovation

The findings are part of a

SANJA KUMAR JAIN ASSUMES CHARGE OF IRCTC CMD

New Delhi: Sanjay Kumar Jain, an Indian Railway Traffic Services (IRTS) Officer of 1990 batch, has taken over the charge of Chairman & Managing Director of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) today. A qualified Chartered Accountant (CA), Jain's career is a blend of leadership roles in policy making, commercial ventures and developmental ventures of the Govt. of India and PSUs. He brings with himself more than three decades of extensive experience of handling important portfolios in Ministry of Railways, PSUs and Department of Public Enterprises, Min of Finance, Govt. of India. As Group General Manager (North Zone), IRCTC, he was instrumental in giving the luxury train Maharajas' Express a new dimension through unique marketing initiatives. He was also instrumental in launching India's first 'Executive Lounge' on the lines of Airport Lounges

### VITOPIA KICKS OFF AT VIT-AP UNIVERSITY



AMARAVATI: Vitopia 2024, the annual sports and cultural extravaganza, was launched with immense enthusiasm at the VIT-AP University campus in Amaravati. Andhra Pradesh today. This marks the Vitopia, a unique blend of cultural vibrancy and sporting excellence. What sets Vitopia apart is the unparalleled passion and participation it garners from students nationwide, making it a standout

event in the sports and cultural festival landscape. Addressing the gathering, Dr. S.V.Kota Reddy, Vice Chancellor VIT-AP University, emphasized the significance of events like Vitopia in providing a common platform for students from diverse backgrounds to showcase their talents and excel in both sports and cultural activities

## Introspect on ways to stay relevant, FM tells SPMCIL

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday asked state-owned Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India (SPMCIL) to find ways to transform itself at a time when its core business of printing currencies is depleting because of India's transition to a digital economy.

Addressing the foundation day of SPMCIL,

Sitharaman said at a time when minting coins in a digital era has become slightly jaded, the corporation has kept itself relevant by coming out with commemorative coins which can be gifted as souvenirs.

The commemorative stamps and coins produced by the organisation are reflective of India's branding, cultural and environment issues, she said.

SPMCIL has set the standards in gold and silver refining, and since 2022-23, SPMCIL has refined 5,300 kg of seized gold. It has paid a dividend of Rs 533.77 crore for 2022-23.

The core strengths of SPMCIL include manufacture of bank notes and coins, also commemorative coins, and security products like passport and non-judicial postal stamps. Sitharaman said SPMCIL is performing in an era where its core business of minting currencies



will probably become a token in a future era when there will be digital currencies.

"So you have to look at and introspect as to how, when the core business is getting depleted, not because of your performance but because we are moving to a digital era, what is it that you have for the future. would leave this thought behind for the

managers and all those who are part and parcel of running this institution as to how you transform yourself, how you walk on the bridge to a new developed India, a new digital India and a new country looking forward to pushing all frontiers using technology," the minister said.

## Exports rise 3.12 per cent in January despite Red Sea crisis

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports rose to a three-month high of 3.12 per cent to USD 36.92 billion in January despite global uncertainties including the Red Sea crisis, while the trade despite deficit narrowed to a nine-month low of USD 17.49 billion, the government data released on Thursday showed. After recording negative growth for two months in a row, imports grew by about 3 per cent to USD 54.41 billion in January.

The previous low in trade — the difference deficit between imports and exports — was recorded in April 2023 at USD 15.24 billion. In January 2023, it was USD

17.03 billion. Crude oil imports rose by 4.33 per cent to about USD 16.56 billion during the month under review. Gold imports

jumped by about 174 per cent

in January to USD 1.9 billion. Cumulatively, exports during April-January this fiscal dipped by 4.89 per cent to this fiscal USD 353.92 billion. Imports contracted by 6.71 per cent to USD 561.12 billion, leaving a trade deficit of USD 207.2 billion in the ten-month period of this fiscal as against USD 229.37 billion in April-January 2022-23.

Crude oil imports declined by about 15.91 per cent to USD 146.75 billion in April-January 2023-24 while gold imports surged 301.7 per cent to about USD 38 billion.

Briefing reporters on the data, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that despite the Red Sea crisis, recession in economies of advanced and countries, falling commodity prices, India has recorded "positive growth in merchandise exports January'

Barthwal said that he has held

three meetings with exporters, concerned ministries and stake holders on the Red Sea

The objective was to help the exporters navigate the difficult situation created in the Red "We also try to tell banks that

whatever maximum credit can

be given during this period to

our exporters that should be extended. Exim bank and ECGC was told not to increase insurance premium rates. This overall positive atmosphere which we create...Has helped in (promoting) the export growth," he told reporters here. I assure you that we will be continuing our efforts by working with them, so that in

our exports," he said. The commerce ministry has also set up a task force on nontariff barriers to help exporters get greater market access.

the coming year also we are

able to see a positive growth in

at New Delhi Railway Station

# Bajrang urges UWW to reimpose suspension on WFI

medallist Punia on Thursday urged world governing body UWW to reimpose suspension on Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), saying reinstating the Sanjay Singh-led body has again put wrestlers under "threat and harassment".

The United World Wrestling (UWW) on Tuesday lifted the provisional suspension imposed on WFI but with a condition: the national federation must provide written guarantees ensuring no discriminatory action against the protesting trio - Punia, Sakshi Malik, and Vinesh Phogat.

"This decision has again put Indian wrestlers under threat and harassment by WFI members," Punia wrote in his letter, shared on his social media handle 'X'.

UWW had suspended WFI in August 23 for not holding elections on time. After numerous hurdles, WFI finally held its polls and Sanjay Singh



was elected President.

'We wrestlers request you kindly support Indian athletes against unfair practices and harassment through various means. Indian wrestlers are looking up to you for justice and their rights to fair and safe

"We are hopeful that you will consider our request to support clean and fair sports activities in India and take necessary actions against the WFI." Punia sent a copy of the letter to Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

Ťokyo Games bronze

medallist reminded UWW that the Indian Sports Ministry had on December 27 last year suspended WFI, citing "serious anomalies within days of taking charge."

In response to the suspension, took proactive measures by forming an Ad manage wrestling activities.

"Despite these efforts, the suspended WFI members allegedly continued to make "blatant decisions and conduct sporting activities without any recognition from sports ministries, all under the same leadership.

'Wrestlers all over India have lost trust and belief in functioning of Wrestling Federation of India. Because of this MYAS took diligent steps and issued a circular dated January 7, 2024.

"Even after this they have publicly issued statements against wrestlers and Ad Hoc Committee. This elected body is still being run by same individual and their allies who have serious charges against them and MYAS also took the same in consideration while suspending the body," he

Punia, Malik, and Vinesh Phogat had led a protest former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, demanding his arrest over sexual harassment allegations.



## Nadal pulls out of Qatar Open

**AP** ■ DOHA (QATAR)

 $R^{ ext{afael}}$  Nadal put off his return to the tennis tour because he isn't yet healthy enough to play, announcing that he will sit out next week's Qatar Open.

"I would have loved to play in Doha, where the tournament team, as well as the amazing Qatar fans have always supported me greatly. Unfortunately I am not ready to compete and I won't be able to come to Doha where I really wanted to be and play again at the Brisbane International in after that unforgettable win in early January — his first 2014," Nadal wrote on social media. "I will focus on keep working to be ready for the exhibition in Las Vegas and the Indian amazing

tournament.

scheduled to participate in an exhibition match with Carlos Alcaraz on March 3, then head to Indian Wells, California, for the hard-court tournament there next month.

The 37-year-old Spaniard is

Nadal played in three matches

early January — his first competitive action in nearly a full year — but then pulled out of the Australian Öpen and hasn't been back since.

He hurt his hip flexor during the Australian Open in 2023, and eventually needed surgery, missing the rest of last season. Nadal has indicated this year might be the last of his career, and he's pointed to the French Open — where he won 14 of his 22 Grand Slam titles - as his

## Nagal battles past Wong, English clubs financial power detailed in moves into quarterfinals

**PTI** ■ BENGALURU

Sumit Nagal was put through his sternest test yet by Coleman Wong but the second seeded Indian had enough grunt in him to fight past the Hong Kong man to enter the quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open here on Thursday. Nagal won 6-2 7-5 after an

hour and 46 minutes of intense

But the beginning belied the struggles awaited Nagal in the later stages of the match. Nagal continued the pattern of

earning an early break when he went up 2-0 in the opening set. But it was not all smooth sailing as the 26-year-old had to battle past from 0-30 down in the very next game to hold his serve.

Nagal got another break in the eighth game to bag the first set

But the 19-year-old Wong had more fight in him in the second

After the first four games went by serve, the Hong Kong player broke Nagal in the fifth game, and it was the first time the

Indian dropped his serve in this tournament.

Wong found his serves and ground shots going during this passage, as Nagal looked a tad perplexed by the unexpected fightback.

However, the world No. 98 broke back in the sixth game itself to restore the parity at 3-3, though it was more the result of his rival committing a couple of unforced errors.

In the seventh game, Nagal found himself 0-40 down as Wong pulled out a couple of fine winners on either flank of the

But Nagal lifted his game by a notch at this moment to make it a deuce and a couple of points

later he managed to hold the serve to go 4-3 up. The Indian star received a brilliant chance to close out the game in the 10th game when he went up 40-15 on Wong;s serve.

But Wong saved both the match points, hammering an ace down the middle first and followed it up with another bazooka serve that Nagal failed to retrieve from his backhand.

Wong eventually held his serve when Nagal drove a backhand into the net

But Nagal did not miss his third match point which came in the Up 40-30, Nagal was pushed to

a corner by Wong's strong volley, but the former champion found enough space to squeeze in a forehand cross court winner to finally walk off the court with a relived smile on his face. Results (Singles, Pre-Quarterfinals): Sumit Nagal (2) beat Coleman Wong 6-2, 7-5, Stefano Napolitano (7) beat Vasek Pospisil 6-4 4-6 6-4, Moez Echargui beat Enrico Dalla Valle 6-2 6-2, Adam Walton (5) beat Gauthier Onclin 6-2 6-2.

# UEFA review of European soccer economy The financial power of English soccer was

detailed in a UEFA report Thursday analyzing the record 24 billion euros (\$25.75 billion) economy of top-tier clubs across Europe. The 20 Premier League clubs' total revenue of 6.5 billion euros (\$7 billion) in 2022 was almost equal to the next two richest leagues combined -Spain's La Liga and Germany's 18-team Bundesliga each had about 3.3 billion euros (\$3.54 billion).

Those 20 Premier League clubs combined had as much revenue as all 642 clubs in the 50 countries outside the big five leagues of England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France, UEFA said.

Closing the gap on English clubs' spending power had been cited in 2021 as a reason why clubs in Spain and Italy pushed hardest for the breakaway Super League project that failed. UEFA's annual review of club



industry has recovered from "lingering pandemic impacts" of the COVID-19 outbreak that shut down European soccer in 2020.

It predicted total revenue topping 26 billion euros (\$27.9 billion) in the 2023 financial year fueled by broadcast deals, commercial sponsorships and ticket sales. The top 20 revenue-earning clubs are set to get almost half that income in European soccer and about half of those clubs are likely to be English. English clubs also accounted for 764 million euros (\$820 million) of the collective pretax losses of 3.2 billion euros (\$3.43 billion) by European clubs in 2022.

Still, UEFA said it saw positive signs from the first financial reports posted by clubs in 2023 with wage

continuing "appetite for investment in European clubs," and they were involved in seven of the 15 foreign takeovers at topdivision European clubs in

RICHEST CLUBS: Clubs with most revenue were the two Spanish giants and two state-backed clubs. Real Madrid led with 841

million euros (\$902 million); Dhabi-backed Abu Manchester City, Champions League winner, had 836 million euros (\$897 million); Barcelona was on 815 million euros (\$874 million); Qatar-backed Paris

Saint-Germain had 807

million euros. PSG was the most expensive team to watch, according to UEFA. The average matchday spend by fans on tickets and hospitality prices was 140 euros. Only Juventus and Tottenham also had fans paying average matchday prices above 100 euros.

ENGLAND DOMINATES: clubs in Europe by revenue were English, Brighton which had income of 264 million euros. That was just 13 million euros less than Serie A champion Napoli. The 20 English clubs collectively ranked No. 1 in

Europe for most revenue,

most domestic broadcast rights sales, most UEFA prize money from European competitions and most matchday ticket revenue. Spain ranked second in most metrics. The average revenue of a

Premier League club — 323 million euros - was almost 10 times more than the average club in the seventhrichest league, Netherlands. The money flowing into

England fuels its popularity with international investors and so it ranked No. 1 in Europe with 16 of the 20 clubs having "at least one foreign shareholder." It was seven of 20 clubs in Spain.

## Ronaldo scores first goal of 2024 Woods is wearing many hats at Riviera

AP RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA)

Cristiano Ronaldo scored his first goal of 2024 to give Al-Nassr a 1-0 win over fellow Saudi Arabian club Al-Fayha in the first leg of the Asian Champions League's round of 16.

Ronaldo broke the deadlock in t he 81st minute by playing a neat one-two with former Inter Milan midfielder Marcelo Brozovic, who lifted his return pass over the Al-Fayha backline from the edge of the box for Ronaldo to run onto and flick a lob past the goalkeeper with a first-time shot. The 39-year-old Ronaldo has now scored a club goal in 23 straight calendar years, going back to 2002. Al-Nassr is looking for a first continental title, with the second leg

✓ orean Football Association

Kofficials have recommen-

ded Jurgen Klinsmann be fired

as head coach of the South

Korean national team after an

Asian Cup semifinal exit and

reports of infighting among

Klinsmann was already under

heavy criticism after South

Korea's upset 2-0 semifinal loss

between captain Son Heung-

min and young star Lee Kang-



played next Wednesday.

Saudi Arabia has four teams that reached the knockout round, which is split into two geographic zones until the final. Fourtime winner Al-Hilal travels to Iran to take on Sepahan on Thursday while Al-Ittihad meets Navbahor of Uzbekistan

Earlier on Wednesday, Al-Ain of the United Arab Emirates drew 0-0 with Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi.

In the eastern zone, Thailand's Bangkok United scored in injury time to complete a comeback from two goals down to draw 2-2 against Yokohama F. Marinos of Japan. Elber put Yokohama ahead after 18 minutes and Kota Watanabe added a second six minutes later. Bangkok hit back through Nitipong Selanon and then Palestinian international Mahmoud Eid leveled in the second minute of added

In an all-South Korean game, Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors defeated Pohang Steelers 2-0 with a goal in each half from Hernandes and Ahn Hyeon-beom.

**AP** LOS ANGELES

iger Woods is wearing a lot of hats at Tiger Woods is wearing a lot of nats at the Genesis Invitational - one of them featuring a new logo — without a lot of clarity on the state of his game or the future of the PGA Tour.

Woods joined the PGA Tour board last summer and has been involved in negotiations that led to Strategic Sports Group becoming a minority investor in a deal worth as much as \$3 billion. Still unclear is where that leaves the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, the financial backer of LIV Golf

"Ultimately we would like to have PIF be a part of our tour and a part of our product," Woods said Wednesday at Riviera

"Financially, we don't right now. And the monies that they have come to the table with, and what we initially had agreed to in the framework agreement, those are all the same numbers. Anything beyond this is going to be obviously over and above." As for his game, Woods said his speed is not the same with a 48-year-old body that includes a fused lower spine and a fused

right ankle. "I built this golf swing the last few years ... Based on my hands and what that feels like," he said. "What that looks like, sometimes it doesn't look pretty, but I can

still hit the ball flush." That hasn't translated at Riviera, the course he has played the most times as a pro (12) without winning. The short answer on why is that he's never putted well here.

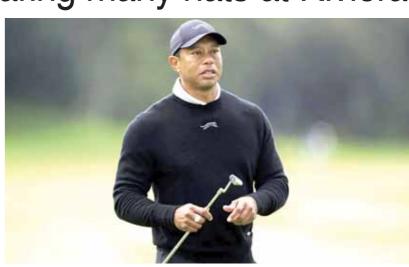
But he was clear when it came to launching his new "Sun Day Red" brand with TaylorMade Golf after 27 years with Nike. Asked what would become of his "TW" logo from Nike that he often wore on the front of his cap and back of his shirt, Woods said he doesn't get that back. "I don't want it back. I've moved on," he said. "This is a transition in my life. I've

moved on to Sun Day Red' and we're

looking forward to building a brand that

elicits excitement." The other hat — host of the Genesis Invitational — requires little commentary. Riviera has been one of the premier stops on the PGA Tour for 60 years, and now it is a signature event that offers a \$20 million purse.

The player-hosted events — Riviera, the Arnold Palmer Invitational and Memorial award \$4 million to the winner (compared with \$3.6 million for other signature events), though it also comes



with a 36-hole cut to the top 50 and ties, and anyone within 10 shots of the lead. The field is as strong as any this side of a major. The course has held up remarkably well despite two "atmospheric rivers" that dumped heavy rain on Los Angeles. behind.

The course, a rectangular piece of property between the tony Brentwood neighborhood and Sunset Boulevard, is a haven for pure iron players and Woods has

long been among the best. But he has only three top 10s at Riviera, and only one serious chance at winning, finishing two shots behind Ernie Els in 1999. Most telling about Woods and Riviera was the end of 1999 and early 2000. Woods had 10 out of 11 starts on the PGA Tour when he either won or finished second. The exception was Riviera. He tied

for 18th. "I have traditionally not putted well here," he said. "I've driven it well here. There are small greens and traditionally throughout my entire career my iron game has been pretty good, but I have never really gotten not with the putter at this course.

His health is good enough that he hopes to play at least once a month through the majors. The Genesis Invitational is his first PGA Tour-sanctioned event since the Masters.

Woods was walking fine (the shoes are prototype TaylorMade, but he abandoned the Nike swoosh after his February 2021 car crash in Los Angeles). He began his pro-am with Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen and Los Angeles Angels outfielder Aaron Hicks by holing a 12-foot eagle putt on the first hole.

He talks about a "W" being nice, but that's

always the case. Since his last PGA Tour victory in Japan at the end of 2019, only once has Woods finished closer than 15 shots of the winner. That was at Torrey Pines in 2020, when he was six shots

"In talking to him over the offseason, he was as enthusiastic as I've ever heard him," Notah Begay III said from the PGA Tour Champions event in Florida. "He understands what his limitations are. Ten years ago, 15 years ago, there were no limitations on Tiger Woods. Now he understands, and that's fine. He's not the longest ... But he's way above average. So it's just kind of like, can he piece it together at the right time? We'll see

Woods still attracts a big crowd, and that's expected when the tournament starts Thursday. "I'm just happy to see the man not limping as much," Max Homa said. "It's pretty amazing what he brings to an event with his presence on the golf course. ... You have less people watching you play golf, but there are more people watching

golf, which is cool."
He still rules golf to the point this is one week the chatter about all the top players being divided among the PGA Tour and

LIV Golf gets overshadowed. Woods said the deal with SSG and ongoing negotiations with the PIF include "different models for pathways back" - a reference to the potential of LIV players rejoining the PGA Tour.

What that looks like, what the impact is for the players who have stayed and how we make our product better going forward, there is no answer to that right now," he said.

to Jordan last week and pressure intensified following media reports of a spat

star players.

**AP** ■ SEOUL

in during the tournament. At an Asian Cup campaign review at KFA headquarters in Seoul, the eight-member National Team Committee talked to Klinsmann via video conference from his home in the United States, before

reaching its findings. "For a number of reasons, we concluded that Klinsmann would no longer be able to show his leadership as head coach of the national team, the KFA's Technical Director Hwangbo Kwan said. "We will report our conclusion to the KFA." The final decision will be made by KFA chairman Chung Mong-gyu.

The incident involving the players resulted in Son facing Jordan and then returning to

time.

Klinsmann job in jeopardy



England to play for Tottenham Hotspur with a dislocated finger. Lee, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain, apologized on Wednesday on social media.

have caused great disappointment to fans who always support our national team. I am really sorry," Lee wrote on Instagram . "I should have set an example and listened to older teammates. I'd like to apologize to many people who must disappointed in me."

Hwangbo during the meeting refusing to base himself in South Korea, in contrast to added that Klinsmann, who

has refused to stand down ahead of World Cup qualifying games next month, had said that the infighting affected the performance of the players against Jordan.

There were opinions that Klinsmann failed to show his resolve to find new talent and that he failed to grasp internal conflict or mood among squad members," Hwangbo said. As well as his leadership and tactical skills, Klinsmann has

been unpopular with fans for

success as coach of the German and U.S. Teams before taking on the role in South Korea. "Some committee members said the coach has not shown willingness to watch players in person and identify talent," Hwangbo said. "Also, there

previous foreign coaches.

Klinsmann won the World

Cup as a player and had

were opinions that Klinsmann has been disrespectful toward the Korean public by not spending enough time in the country." Chung, the KFA chairman, has also been criticized for the performance of the national team, his hiring of Klinsmann in February of last year and for his leadership. There were protestors outside KFA House in Seoul on Thursday holding banners calling for Chung also to go.
One of those protesting, 28-year-old Shin Seung-chul, said he wanted Klinsmann and

gyu to "take responsibility for this situation and resign." Kang Min-gu, a 50-year-old soccer fan, said it was up to the federation soccer coaching staff to help players reconcile differences.

KFA president Chung Mong-

# Rohit, Jadeja lead India robust recovery against England

Ravindra Jadeja dropped Saviliura jaucja alli anchor on a benign track to lead a robust recovery for India, steering the hosts to 185/3 at tea on the first day of the third Test against England here on Thursday. With Rohit (97 batting) bringing up his 17th Test fifty,

first of the series, in a shared first session between the two opponents, Jadeja (68 batting) followed his captain's feat in the second session with his 21st half-century. Rohit and Jadeja cashed in on a batting-friendly surface here at the Niranjan Shah Stadium, which had provided early troubles to India's youngsters in the first session. Sarfaraz (62 off 66) was going all guns blazing before Jadeja misjudged a call for a quick

single, leading to a run out at the non-striker's end. India were left reeling at 33 for three in the first hour's play having lost Yashasvi Jaiswal (10), Shubman Gill (0) and Rajat Patidar (5), but Rohit and Jadeja rebuilt the

Rohit and Jadeja opted to grind it out in the morning and themselves in the afternoon without taking any undue

UK club cricketer Rizwan gets

attempts in Abu Dhabi League

among those charged and is

currently serving a two-year

September 19, 2023, was

imposed after Rizwan failed to respond to charges related

to his involvement in the 2021

Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket

He faced charges under various articles of the Anti-

Corruption Code, including

attempting to fix matches in the Abu Dhabi T10 2021 on

three separate occasions

He was also charged offering

rewards to induce corrupt

conduct (Article 2.1.3), and

failing to disclose full details

engage in corrupt conduct

Additionally, he was charged

with failing or refusing,

justification, to cooperate

Rizwan by failing to respond

to the charges, was deemed guilty of the offences and

waived his right to a hearing.

any

approaches received to

League.

(Article 2.1.1).

(Article 2.4.4).

(Article 2.4.6)

without

with

which backdates to

lengthy ban for match fixing

I JK-based club cricketer ban.

Thursday banned for 17-

and-a-half years from all

cricket for making various

attempts to fix matches during the Abu Dhabi T10

"Rizwan Javed has received a

lengthy ban from cricket for

his repeated and serious

professional cricketers," ICC

General Manager Integrity, Alex Marshall said in an ICC

should send a strong message

to other corrupters trying to

target cricket at any level and

attempt to corrupt cricket will

Abu Dhabi T10, approved by

Emirates Cricket Board

(ECB), was launched in 2017

Rizwan is among eight players and officials charged by the

ICC on behalf of the ECB in

Bangladesh all-rounder Nasir

Hossain was also named

demonstrates that

be strongly dealt with."

September last year.

sanction imposed

corrupt

League in 2021.

attempts

statement.



the fourth wicket so far.

Rohit was one hit away from his 11th ton in the format and certainly a timely one given the circumstances. He has faced 154 balls with 11 fours and two sixes. On the other hand, Jadeja went about his business with consummate ease to reach a resolute 68 not out from 126 balls with six boundaries and one six.

The dashing all-rounder found the gaps on a packed leg-side field and his immaculate running between the wickets was the stand-out aspect of his knock. Jadeja had fielders standing

close to his bat and even on the leg side, but the local favourite displayed excellent use of his wrists to work the ball around for singles and doubles.

As the pitch flattened out As the pitch flattened out under the sun to provide nothing in terms of assistance for the English bowlers, the visitors were forced to work with their field settings and try different angles with their bowling. But nothing seems to have worked out.

For more than one spell, express pacer Mark Wood, who rocked India twice early, barraged Rohit with a deep

barraged Rohit with a deep fine leg and deep square leg in





## Tears, hugs and joy as Sarfaraz, Jurel make India Test debuts

Emotions ran high in the Indian team's huddle this morning when domestic batting star Sarfaraz Khan and wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel were handed their Test caps on debut, before the start of play for the third Test against England here on Thursday.

A consistent performer on the domestic circuit for Mumbai, Sarfaraz has been in contention for national selection for a long time but the 26-year-old has had to wait for his chance to break into the Indian Test side.

Having received his maiden India call-up earlier in the series, Sarfaraz was in line for debut ever since India lost the services of KL Rahul for this Test and also given that his Mumbai teammate Shreyas Iyer lost his spot and Virat Kohli is unavailable.

On the other hand, with a sparkly average nearing 47 with the bat, Uttar Pradesh's Jurel became the obvious pick for the wicketkeeper-batter's spot after KS Bharat failed to

make the most of the opportunities with the bat. The two youngsters got their names engraved on the rich roster of India's Test cricketers with Sarfaraz becoming the with Sarfaraz becoming the 311th player and Jurel the 312th.
The right-handed Sarfaraz

presented his cap by former Îndia captain and most successful Test bowler Anil Kumble.

"Sarfu, really proud of you, the way you have come through. I am sure your dad and your family will be extremely proud of what you have been able to achieve. I know you have done all the hard work," Kumble, also the former national coach

were

said in the team huddle.

'There

disappointments but despite that, all the runs you have scored through the domestic season — well done to you. I am sure you will have lots of wonderful memories today. (This is the) start of a long career, only 310 people have played before you, and this is for you. Good luck," he added. Sarfaraz was later seen showing his India cap to his father and coach Naushad Khan who was overwhelmed with emotions and broke

Sarfaraz was also seen wiping off his wife's happy tears at the

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik shared interesting anecdotes and statistics while making his speech during the cap presentation to Jurel.

"Coming from Agra, moving to Noida at a very young age, your mother being with you... all the tough things that must have happened in the journey, there must have been so many people through that journey who would have really helped you. I am sure all of them would be watching today," he

"You must have played a lot of matches in different colours, mainly blue, but there is something divine and pure about wearing the whites and representing India in Test cricket. It is the toughest format of the game, it is relentless but there is tremendous satisfaction that comes when you do well in this format," Karthik added.

Karthik said doing well in Test cricket is paramount for every cricketer and wished Jurel to have success like his teammate Rinku Singh.

'Your dad is watching today who is your biggest hero and he will be really proud and happy like everybody else are," he said.

different and what you have done in this short duration of time and achieved... let us take an example, Rinku Singh, who has been your roommate for sometime now and (also) your housemate," Karthik revealed. "He has done some special things in the last six months

stumper added. Karthik pulled up some numbers to highlight how rare

and may you do special things as well," the former India

for India. Not many have played this format - I tell you that in the last 10 years — as a

"This is the toughest form and very hard to get in. What you

added. Henry. Ruan de Swardt (1) top-scored for South Africa with 64 in



Rahul Dravid will continue to remain in the position of India's head coach till the upcoming T20 World Cup in June this year, confirmed BCCI secretary Jay Shah. Dravid's contract ended after the ODI World Cup final last year, but he was asked to continue in his role along with other support staff for the December-January tour to South Africa without finalising the

But Shah said he held an initial talk with Dravid here before arriving at the decision to retain the former captain's services till the ICC showpiece to be held in the West Indies and the USA. "After the (2023) World Cup, Rahul bhai had to leave for the South Africa tour immediately. We did not get to meet in between which finally happened today,"

Shah said here on the sidelines of the renaming function of the Saurashtra Association Stadium on

Wednesday night. "Why are you worried about a contract for

such a senior person like Rahul Dravid? Rahul bhai will remain the coach in the T20 World Cup," Shah asserted. However, Shah indicated that they will hold a few more rounds of discussions ahead of the marquee event.

"I will speak with him whenever there is time, there are back-to-back series happening right now. They were in South

Africa, then there was a (T20I) series against Afghanistan (at home) and now England. We did not get to speak in between at all," he added.

Shah said the IPL franchises will have to comply with workload management guidelines set by the BCCI for the centrally contracted players. contracted players.
"This is the BCCI's mandate. The BCCI is

the supreme body and whatever it decides the franchises will have to follow - we are above the franchises," he said.

## How Guru Gary using cricket to keep slum kids away from drugs

**PTI** ■ CAPE TOWN

 $N_{\text{crime}}^{\text{otorious}}$  for drugs and crime and afflicted by large-scale poverty, Khayelitsha township here is better known for being one of the biggest slums on the planet. But World Cup-winning coach Gary Kirsten is attempting to change the image for good through cricket.

The idea struck him when he returned to his home here after guiding India to a World Cup title in 2011.

When I came back from India, I wanted to have a look at cricket in our poorest neighbourhoods in Cape Town," Kirsten recalled in an interview with PTI.

He ended up touring Khayelitsha, situated 30km south-east of Cape Town and considered one of the most unsafe areas where a majority of the inhabitants still live in



"I took a tour of the area with local school authorities and found that no cricket was happening which disappointed me a lot. I thought of this centre and we started with two concrete nets in two schools and then included three more schools," Kirsten said. What ultimately shaped up was

the Catch Trust Foundation,

originally called the Gary

Kirsten Foundation, in 2014

and its plan was to ensure that kids don't take the path of drugs and violence. Much like his cricketing career,

which was built on discipline and was defined by a voracious appetite for runs, Kirsten's foundation has also been gradually making a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of kids.

"It is helping me to avoid street things like smoking weed and

helping me keep my body and lungs fit. I see myself as a future South African player," said 15year-old Lukholo Malong, a trainee spinner whose parents work as domestic helps. 'Talent is universal, opportunity is not, reads the guiding principle of the foundation with the stated goal being to create sporting ecosystems in low-income

The foundation has been operating at five schools in Khayelitsha and claims to have worked with over 1000 kids in 5-19 age bracket. A strong team has also women's emerged and some girls of them have managed to reach the provincial representation level.

"I take motivation from Virat Kohli as he inspires me to work hard and keep going. I want to play for South Africa one day," said Malong, spelling out his dreams for a better life on the back of a sporting career

it is to get to play Test cricket

commentator I took up some stats: 65 people have played T20Is, 56 have played ODIs but just 30 have managed to play Test cricket," he said.

have achieved is really special and may you stay here long and do really well," Karthik

### **AP** ■ HAMILTON (NEW ZEALAND)

David Bedingham made a maiden century Thursday to bat an under-rated South Africa lineup to a 266-run lead over New Zealand on the third day of the second cricket test.

New Zealand lost Devon Conway with one ball left in the day's play and was 40-1 at stumps, still 226 behind with two full days remaining. Conway fell lbw to off-spinner Dane Piedt on the fifth ball of the 14th over, only seconds before the scheduled end. Tom Latham was 21 not out.

While Bedingham was at the crease on the way to a career-best 110 and during a 98-run partnership with Keegan Peterson (43), a Proteas team which had been written off before its tour began was in control

### of the match, setting a difficult chase for New Zealand

compelling

investigation

South Africa is without most of its leading players who stayed at home to play in a domestic Twenty20 league. After losing the first of two tests by 281 runs, it looked in danger of becoming the first Proteas team to lose a test series against New Zealand.

Bedingham has given South Africa hope of avoiding that record. But the lead he worked so hard to create ended up much smaller than he hoped as South Africa lost its last six wickets for 33 runs.

That was due to tall fast bowler Will O'Rourke who took 5-34, the best innings figures by a New Zealander



on test debut, and Glenn Phillips, who took two wickets and two catches as the Proteas innings unraveled. O'Rourke's 9-93 for the match was also the best by a New Zealander on test debut.

"It's a real special day," O'Rourke said. "I was running in well, the ball felt like it was coming out well and there was a bit of bounce and carry. "I'm ashamed to admit it but there were a few nerves," he added, recounting his thoughts when he had four wickets and there was only one wicket left in the South Africa innings. "I threw a couple down leg side being a bit greedy but it was all good?

The highest successful fourth

innings run chase at any ground in New Zealand is 345 by the West Indies at Eden Park, Auckland in 1969

The 227 New Zealand still needs to win will be demanding on a pitch at Seddon Park which will take turn over the last two days, and Piedt showed just before stumps. Piedt took a career-best 5-89 as South Africa bowled out New Zealand for 211 in its first innings in reply to

In an action-packed start to the final session on Thursday, Petersen fell just two runs short of a century partnership with Bedingham. He was brilliantly caught by Phillips at gully from the bowling of Matt

around his legs by Phillips as he attempted to sweep.

Bedingham reached his century from 127 balls and then was out, chopping a ball from O'Rourke directly to Phillips in the gully. O'Rourke was the only New Zealand bowler Thursday who

the first innings but was bowled

Neil Wagner pursued his usual leg theory but took only 1-42 from eight overs and Tim Southee once again went wicketless, having taken only one wicket in the series.

troubled the South Africa batters

with bounce.

Piedt was caught by Southee at short mid-on from Phillips' bowling and O'Rourke wrapped up\_the innings, dismissing Shaun von Berg (2) and Dane Paterson (7).

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