OPINION 6

HARMING OUR INSTITUTIONS

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THOSE

WORLD 8

SHEHBAZ TO BE PM AGAIN

PPP, PML-N STRIKE DEAL:

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TAKE MORE STEPS TO CURB

ILLEGAL LENDING APPS: FM

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NEW DELHI, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 the plant 1864 the stablished 1864 the plant of the stablished 1864 the stablished 186 Established 1864

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Modi Marches Towards Sandeshkhali

mid widespread complaints of sexual offences against women allegedly committed by members of the ruling Congress Sandeshkhali, the BJP has intensified its campaign efforts in West Bengal even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged unwavering support to the women of Sandeshkhali. Modi's visit to West Bengal to address an all-women rally on March 7 is poised to deliver a resounding response to the TMC in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, effectively addressing the concerns raised by the victims in Bengal. The BJP has been striving to gain

ground in West Bengal and managed to secure its symbol on 18 out of the total 42 Lok Sabha seats in the 2019 general elections, while holding 70 legislators in the 294-member Assembly. However, in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP had only two MPs, but in 2024, with the clarion call of securing 370 plus seats, the party hopes to win over 25 seats in the State. The Opposition bloc of the Congress, the TMC, and Left parties has nearly disintegrated in Bengal.

The BJP on Wednesday accused the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government of exceeding the erstwhile CPI(M) administration in subjecting the people of West Bengal to atrocities. Raising the issue of alleged sexual harassment of women in Sandeshkhali, senior BIP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad

criticised the Congress and other constituents of the Opposition INDIA bloc, questioning their silence on the matter. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that Sandeshkhali would be the "downfall" of his Bengal

her party. West Bengal DGP Rajeev Kumar Sandeshkhali

counterpart Mamata Banerjee and

situation in the area, which has been marked by protests following allegations of sexual abuse of women by TMC leaders. In his first visit to the area since the protests began, Kumar, accompanied by senior police officers, including ADG South Bengal Supratim Sarkar, went to Sandeshkhali police station and

Wednesday afternoon to assess the held meetings there, according to a police source.

Meanwhile, a row has erupted after Sikh IPS officer Jaspreet Singh retaliated after being called "Khalistani" while he was speaking to a group of protesting State BJP leaders and workers led by Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday. Singh is part of a special team deployed by the

West Bengal Police to maintain law and order and investigate complaints by villagers in Sandeshkhali. While the senior police officer has maintained that he will lodge a case, the BJP has dismissed the claim and sought to prove when the Khalistani slur was used against the officer on duty. On the other hand, West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose has

"opened the doors" of the Raj Bhavan for the victimised women of the trouble-torn Sandeshkhali region who feel unsafe in their homes.

DREAMI

"The Sandeshkhali issue is becoming very serious. The blatant assault, humiliating treatment, and sexual assault on women are a shame on our society and democracy," Ravi Shankar Prasad said at a press conference at the BJP headquarters in the national capital. The BJP leader also criticised West

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for "defending" such incidents in the State, questioning her conscience and that of other Opposition parties. "When Mamata Banerjee

struggled (in the past) against the CPI(M)'s atrocities and sat on an indefinite agitation against it, we all became her fans and lauded her struggle. Today, her atrocity and police repression have surpassed that of the (then) CPI(M) rule," he charged.

"It's a shame. Where is her conscience?" Prasad asked, adding, "Mamata ji, you will have to give a reply. Mamata ji, you will have to pay for it. People will give a political reply to you.

Sources within the BJP have indicated that the Prime Minister is planning to address a women's rally in Barasat, West Bengal, on March 7, a day International Women's Day.

The riverine Sandeshkháli area, situated on the borders of the Sunderbans about 100 kilometres from Kolkata, has been witnessing protests after local women accused absconding Trinamool Congress

(TMC) leader Sheikh Shajahar and his supporters of land grab and sexual assault under coercion. West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar said the Prime Minister is likely to visit Barasat on March 7 to address a women's rally. Majumdar had to be hospitalised with injuries last week as BJP workers clashed with police personnel after being stopped from going to Sandeshkhali. A senior BJP leader said it is very

likely that the visit by the Prime Minister will occur in early March, before the announcement of General Elections, as the model code of conduct will be enforced. "PM Modi will visit West Bengal shortly as several projects are lined up. Most importantly, the PM is concerned about the incident in Sandeshkhali, and the party is planning a first-ever all-women rally as the NDA government has been specifically working for the welfare of women and related schemes. The final tour program will be known shortly," said the

party leader. While Sheikh has been missing since January 5, when a mob attacked Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers during a raid at his residence in connection with an alleged ration scam, TMC supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has blamed the BJP for orchestrating an incident in the area along with the ED and the media.

Senior BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya, who was the BJP incharge of West Bengal, claimed a strong nexus exists among goons, police, and politicians in West Bengal.

Bhishma Pitamah of Indian judiciary passes away

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Legal luminary Fali S Nariman passed away here on Wednesday at the age of 95. He was suffering from multiple ailments, including cardiac issues. Tributes poured in for him from across ry as Vice President Jagdeen Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla condoled the death of the veteran advocate, often referred to as the "Bhishma Pitamah" of the Indian

Born on January 10, 1929, Nariman was enrolled as an advocate at the Bombay High Court in November 1950 and was designated a senior advocate in 1961. He practised law for more than 70 years, initially in the Bombay High Court and since 1972 in the Supreme Court.

Nariman is survived by his son and former Supreme Court judge Rohinton Nariman, daughter Anaheeta and daughter-in-law Sanaya. His wife Bapsi Nariman died in 2020.

Nariman was appointed as the additional solicitor general of India in May 1972. He resigned from the post a day after the imposition of Emergency on June 26, 1975.

Continued on Page 2

EC readies poll machinery



RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With political parties gearing up for their campaigns as the Lok Sabha polls are likely to be announced between March 10 and 15, the Election Commission (EC) has directed the Railway Board to ensure "smooth and hassle-free" train movement for more than 3.4 lakh security personnel to be deployed for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with specific instructions to avoid the recurrence of delays noticed in the

Additionally, the Bengaluru-based Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd has been tasked with providing over 26 lakh vials of indelible ink, which leaves a deep indigo-coloured mark on a voter's left forefinger, to various States for the upcoming Lok Sabha

elections. As the countdown begins, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also expected to chair a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers on March 3, days before the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections schedule. According to officials, the meeting of the Council of Ministers is scheduled to be held at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in the Chanakyapuri diplomatic enclave. In 2014, the Election Commission

had announced the schedule for the nine-phased Lok Sabha elections on March 5, and the results were declared on May 16. In 2019, the poll panel had announced the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections on

declared on May 23.

The EC, in a communication issued to the railway board last week, said "a large-scale" deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and police forces drawn from various States for election purposes was essential as they will undertake and ensure area domination, confidence-building area measures, poll day duties, and guarding of EVM/centres, etc.

As many as 3,400 companies of the CAPFs and State police forces have been requisitioned by the EC for ensuring free and fair polls during the upcoming general elections and Assembly polls in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim. The poll panel has sought the setting up of a 24x7 control room which will oversee this mega cross-country movement of the troops over the next few months and to make adequate arrangements for fans and air conditioning in coaches, meals, medical facilities at stations en route, availability of special and splinter bogies, and pest control in the wagons during this exercise period.

It expressed particular concern over the "delay" in the movement of forces and the "inconvenience" faced by its personnel, which was raised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) during rail travel for election duty in 2022 and 2023.

Farmers pause Delhi march after violence

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The "Delhi Chalo" protest march by farmers from Punjab has been suspended for two days after a protester was killed and about 12 police clashes at Khanauri, one of the two protest sites on the Punjab-Haryana border. "We will hold discussions regarding the incident that occurred in Khanauri. Our march towards Delhi will be on hold for two days. We will provide further clarification on our future actions later, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher, head of the Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, stated at a press conference.

The farmers' announcement comes after the Centre appealed to them for another round of discussions. This marks the second time the farmers' march has been put on hold. Previously, it was halted before the fourth round of talks between the farmers and the Central Government. Earlier, a 21-year-old farmer was killed, and several others were injured following a clash Continued on Page 2 | between security personnel



Smoke rises from tear gas being fired upon the protesting farmers during their 'Delhi Chalo' march, near the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu Border in Patiala district

and protesting farmers at Khanauri on the Punjab-Haryana border. A farmers' leader said the victim has been identified as Shubh Karan Singh, a resident of Baloke village in Punjab's Bathinda district. This incident marks the first casualty of the second round of farmers' protests, known as the "Delhi Chalo March", which began on February 13. The Haryana Police has alleged that the farmer protesters surrounded the police from all sides by

pouring chili powder in the stubble, and attacked the policemen using sticks, maces, and stone pelting at the Khanauri border. Around 12 policemen were seriously injured. The police appealed to the protesters for peace. Meanwhile, it has denied that any farmer has died yet in the clash on the Shambhu border, contrary to claims made on various platforms, as the farmers protesting against the Centre intensify their defense against the Haryana Police. Continued on Page 2

A Golden voice silenced by Mortality

RAHUL DATTA ■ NEW DELHI

The greeting "Behno aur bhaiyon", which has been a tradition for more than five decades, will never again resonate with millions of avid radio listeners as its iconic voice, Amin Savani, has fallen silent. The most recognised voice of radio passed away at the age of 91 due to a heart attack in Mumbai. His last rites will be held on Thursday. Generations of Indians grew up listening to Sayani on his immensely popular weekly radio programme, Binaca Geetmala, aired every Wednesday, featuring the most popular Hindi film

singers, music directors, and even

actors anxiously awaited the

an era devoid of television. More than just an announcer,

Sayani was an institution in the world of radio, spanning generations. His popularity and credibility can be measured by the fact that radio listeners and the film fraternity remained devoted to him for nearly 40 years. "Namaste behno aur bhaiyon,

main aapka dost Amin Sayani bol aspiring raha hoon." This familiar greeting, in his iconic voice with its thick timbre, resonated through countless homes every Wednesday on Radio Ceylon from 1952 to 1988, still evoking strong nostalgia among listeners. songs and rating them accordingly. Almost all playback After 1988, Binaca Geetmala moved to All India Radio's Vividh Bharati, where it continued to

dominate the charts until 1994.

broadcast to assess their ratings in Sayani interviewed the who's who of Hindi filmdom, including Lata Mangeshkar, Kishore Kumar, Raj Kapoor, and Amitabh Bachchan, among many others. His distinctive style of presentation, delivered easy-to-follow Hindustani, became the benchmark for radio

hosted, presented, and voiced over 50,000 shows over the course

announcers. In fact, many attempted to emulate Sayani, but failed to captivate audiences in the same Born in Mumbai into a multilingual family on December 21, 1932, Sayani

Showing creative talent since

childhood, Sayani began writing for his mother's fortnightly journal, Rehbar, at the age of just 13. He also became proficient in broadcasting

English during this time, participating children's programmes on the English service of All India Radio Bombay. He later left Bombay

to study in Gwalior. Upon his return to Bombay post-Independence, he auditioned for AIR's Hindi service but was Bombay

and Broadcasting Minister BV Keskar banned Hindi film songs on AIR.

accent. In 1952, then Information

Around that time, Radio Ceylon, founded by the British, began gaining popularity for its programmes in English, Tamil, and Hindi. Broadcasting from Colombo, Radio Ceylon embarked on its journey in 1949. American businessman Daniel Molina saw an opportunity there and established his company, Radio Advertising Services in Mumbai. He hired Sayani's elder brother, former AIR broadcaster Hamid Sayani, to oversee Radio Ceylon's production arm.

Both Hamid Sayani and Molina were eager to produce a programme on Hindi film songs, rejected due to a slight Gujarati and the elder Sayani selected his

vounger brother for the task. The rest, as they say, is history. Sayani became a radio presenter in Hindi with Binaca Geetmala, a programme of Hindi film songs sponsored by the toothpaste brand, in December 1952 and never looked back. The first of its kind show, it ran for 42 years to

massive popularity. Condoling his death, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the iconic radio presenter "nurtured a very special bond with his listeners. The Editor and owner of The

Pioneer, Dr Chandan Mitra, grew up listening in Kolkata to Sayani's programme and became an avid Hindi film music follower. Dr Mitra interviewed the legendary radio announcer for Darpan magazine of The Pioneer.

Congress, SP alliance for 2024 polls sealed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

After months of roller-coast-er political ride, INDIA Bloc partners Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress on Wednesday announced a tie-up for the Lok Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, with UP's main Opposition party leaving 17 out of the 80 seats in the State for the grand old party.

Among the 17 seats on which the Congress will contest in UP included Raebareli and Amethi, once considered pocket boroughs of the party, and Varanasi which is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's constituency. In Madhya Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party will contest on a single seat, Khajuraho, and support the Congress in the remaining constituencies in the state.

The seat-sharing announcement was made at a joint press conference here by SP state chief Naresh Uttam Patel, SP national general secretary Rajendra Chaudhary, Congress state president Ajay Rai and AICC in-charge of UP Avinash



Pande. Pande said the Congress will contest on 17 seats, while on the rest of the 63 seats in the state, the SP and other alliance partners will contest.

Amidst the logjam between certain parties and several of its partners breaking away from the opposition INDIA bloc, the deal was clinched by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi who spoke to SP president Akhilesh Yadav over phone on Wednesday and is understood to break the deadlock to give a final shape to the SP state president Patel said, The Congress will contest on 17 seats in UP and on the rest of the 63 seats, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav will decide candidates."

Apart from Raebareli, Amethi and Varanasi, the other seats on which the Congress will be contesting included Kanpur City, Fatehpur Sekri, Basgaon, Saharanpur, Prayagraj, Maharajganj, Amroha, Jhansi, Bulandshahr, Ghaziabad, Mathura, Sitapur, Barabanki and Deoria, Patel said.

Bengal police to take legal action against Suvendu

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Bengal Police has said it is initiating legal actions against State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari for his alleged "communal and racist" remarks against a senior Indian Police Officer. The remarks were reportedly made during a heated exchange between the BJP leaders and the police officials led by the stated officer when the police stopped Adhikari and the BJP team from entering Sandeshkhali.

Though the BJP leadership refuted such charges and dared the police to prove them, Additional Director General of Police (South Bengal), Supratim Sarkar said the police fraternity was "outraged by his communal remarks" adding, the force was "initiating strong legal action" against Adhikari.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee too slammed Adhikari for his alleged comment saying "today, the BJP's divisive politics has shamelessly overstepped constitutional boundaries. As per BJP every person wearing a TURBAN is a KHAL-ISTANI. I VEHEMENTLY CONDEMN this audacious attempt to undermine the reputation of our Sikh brothers and sisters, revered for their sacrifices We stand firm in protecting Bengal's social harmony and will take stern lawful measures to prevent any attempts to disrupt

The altercation took place when Jasprit

Singh a 2016 batch IPS officer — a Sikh by religion — was leading the police force that was deputed to handle the law and situation in the area. While the police stopped Adhikari and BJP MLAs Agnimitra Paul and Shankar Ghosh from entering Sandeshkhali a heated exchange of words ensued during which the official was allegedly called a "Khalistani." The officer immediately shouted back asking "how can you brand me a Khalistani just because I am wearing this

Both Adhikari and Paul stoutly dismissed the officer's allegations saying "no one has

turban... is that what you have learnt to

deal with the police can a police officer

be called a Khalistani because of his tur-

abused him ... and neither anyone has called him a Khalistani — the offensive term which apparently originated from a separatist movement that plagued Punjab in the closing decades of 20th century.

The police had not been able to produce any video footage showing the Adhikari uttering the objectionable word. During the heated arguments with the said offi-

cial his back was facing the camera. Sarkar however said that the offensive words were used against Singh during an altercation between him and the BJP MLAs. "We strongly protest against it. We are initiating legal action against him (Adhikari) for this serious comment," he

fires broadside at Mamata

PNS KOLKATA

The BJP has upped the ante on the Mamata Banerjee Government with senior saffron leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on Wednesday accusing Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of crossing all the limits of atrocities on women.

Referring to the Sandeshkhali land-grab and mass sexual assault on women Prasad said that the situation in the river

serious and that the "patent assault, humiliating treatment, sexual assault on woman is a shame on our society and

Hitting out at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee he said that she had not only lost her conscience in trying to "defend" the TMC goons who raped the women of the area but also crossed the limits of atrocities of the previous CPI(M) government ousting which she came to supported her struggle. "When Mamata Banerjee strug-

gled (in the past) against the CPI(M)'s atrocities and sat on an indefinite agitation against it, we all had become her fan and lauded her struggle. Today her atrocity, police repression, has surpassed that of the (then) CPI(M) (rule)," he charged.

It's a shame. Where is her conscience?" he asked and added, "Mamata ji, you will have to give a reply. Mamata ji, you will have

to pay for it. People will give a political reply to you," she said. While the TMC leaders had been on a denial mode regarding alleged mass rape of women, the police have registered two FIRs against two TMC leader, one being a district board member. Meanwhile, after the National Commissions for Women and Scheduled Caste - which had earlier advocated President's Rule for Bengal — the NCST too has issued notice to the State

ED quizzes TMC MP Deepak

PNS KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday subjected another Trinamool Congress MP to a marathon interrogation to inquire into his alleged role in money laundering.

Bengali super star and TMC's two-time MP Deepak Adhikary alias Dev was still being questioned at the ED's Delhi office when reports last came in on Wednesday evening.

"I will cooperate with the investigating agencies and whenever they call, I'll go," he earlier said before adding, "if anyone can prove a corruption charge of a single paisa then I will quit politics.

Dev was earlier questioned by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as a key witness in the cattle smuggling case in which senior TMC leader and strongman Anubrata Mondal was earlier arrested and was presently parked in Tihar Jail.

Dev's name came up during the interrogation of Enamul Haque, the prime accused in the case. The ED is investigating the money laundering part of the case.

The cine star-cum-TMC MP was recently in the news following rumors that he was in touch with a BJP Chief Minister and that he was quitting his party. He even resigned from some of his 'ornamental'

Even as reports of his differences with the party made the rounds a meeting between him and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was organized foland that he would continue to

Plan afoot to identify hotspots to safeguard sharks

Days after the tragedy related to the fatal attack on a female bull shark with 15 pups by locals in Mumbai following an incident where a man's leg was tragically ripped off by the aquatic animal, the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has proposed a plan to identify shark hotspots in Indian water to safeguard the endangered species from targeted fishing activities.

The move also aims to prevent shark-human conflicts as happened in the recent Bull shark case who, the local authorities say, might have swam the coastal area of Manor in Palghar district to deliver the pups and increase their chances of survival. However, on the way, it



probably unintentionally attacked one Vinkya Gowari (32), who was crossing the river. According to the International Shark Attack File latest report, in 2021 the number of deaths was slightly above normal, reaching 11 sharkrelated fatalities, 9 of them classified as "unprovoked." However, in the same year the frequency of attacks remained close to average, with only 73 confirmed shark attacks on

humans worldwide. Despite the recent spike in fatalities, longterm trends show the annual number of deaths is declining. However, more sharks are being caught by humans for consumption. As per a 2019 CMFRI report on marine fish landings estimates, India caught 20,000 tonnes of shark in 2017 while the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC estimated, using FAO data, India caught an average of 67,000 tonnes of sharks every year between 2007 and 2017. The International Fund for Animal Welfare reports that every year, humans kill around 100 million sharks globally, painting a grim picture given that sharks are indicators of the overall health of the ocean

The Shark hotspot plan will ensure enforcing spatial and temporal fishing regulations to protect the dwindling shark population from overfishing, said the CMFRI scientists. This objective intends to shield

both young sharks and breeding adults from the detrimental effects of targeted fishing activities, explained Dr. Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, Head of the Finfish Fisheries Division at CMFRI. She said sharks are ill-equipped to endure overexploitation due to their slow reproductive rates and extended lifespans. Director Dr. A Gopalakrishnan

added the plan envisages developing effective conservation, sustainability, and management strategies and ensuring the livelihood security of coastal communities. CMFRI is a CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Scientific Authority in India for conducting non-detrimental finding (NDF) studies on CITES-listed marine species.

The CITES is a treaty between 185 countries, lists ten varieties of sharks under its protection list, some of them commercially exploited in Indian waters. While India is a signatory to the CITES convention, only one of these species, the whale shark, is protected under Indian law.

Red carpet welcome awaits Modi in Kashi

PNS VARANASI

A red carpet welcome awaits Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his two-day visit to his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on Thursday.

The district administration and Bharatiya Janata Party have geared up their preparations to make the prime minister's visit a grand success. The BJP is more enthusiastic as Modi is visiting Kashi for the first time after the consecration of Ram Lalla in the newly-built Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Avodhya, when the Lok Sabha elections are round the corner. The party has made six grand welcome points between Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur and Officers Guest House in Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) where the prime minister will stay. At each of these gates, a senior BJP leader will remain to welcome Modi on his

Elaborate security arrange- stituency Varanasi.

University (BHU) on the second day of his visit on February 23. After that the prime minister will go to Sant Ravidas temple located at Seer Govardhan where he will have darshan of Sant Ravidas, the Dalit poet of medieval period, and taste langar. Later the prime minister will unveil the statue of Sant Ravidas and address a public meeting. After this, the prime minister will go to Banas (Amul) dairy plant located in Karkhiyaon where, before addressing a huge public meeting, he will give gift of 36 projects worth

ments have been made at all

the venues and routes. Several

traffic restrictions have been

imposed on all the routes from

where the prime minister's

motorcade will pass through.

The prime minister will par-

ticipate in a programme to be

organised at Swatantrata

Bhawan in Banaras Hindu

(eastern UP) including his own parliamentary con-

AIIMS, IIT Delhi to revolutionise elbow replacement surgery

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

wo premier organisations namely All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Institute of Technology in the national Capital have teamed up to revolutionise elbow replacement surgery, offering affordable, high-quality solutions to patients suffering from stiff elbow joints and limited mobility. Recognising the challenges posed by expensive imported setups, this partnership aims to provide precise and accessible implants for elbow replacement surgeries in India.

Elbow replacement surgery is vital for individuals with debilitating conditions affecting their elbow joints. However, the high cost of imported setups and the lack of exact-fit and high-quality implants have posed significant challenges for patients seeking relief through surgery in

Dr. Bhavuk Garg, Department of Orthopedics, AIIMS said, "Through this collaboration, we aim to ensure that patients receive the best possible care without the burden of exorbitant costs." Unlike imported setups, which can cost between 1 to 1.5 lakh rupees, the AIIMS-IIT Delhi implants are expected to be available at a fraction of the cost.

This partnership marks a significant milestone in Indian orthopaedic surgery. With AIIMS and IIT Delhi leading the way, patients can now access advanced elbow replacement solutions that promise improved mobility and enhanced quality of life. Elbow replacement surgery aims to relieve pain

and increase range of motion in people with chronic elbow pain. This surgery often improves people's quality of life when medications or physical therapy (exercises to improve strength and mobility) do not ease their pain adequately, according to the doctors.

towards

machinery From Page 1 personnel and officers of these The Railways should address

these concerns to avoid the recurrence of such incidents during the train journey of security forces. The issue of the availability of rolling stock recurred in the recent elections November-December 2023, resulting in delays in the movement of forces, the EC said.

The poll panel has asked the Ministry of Railways to appoint nodal officers at its headquarters and zonal offices for "smooth coordination" of this movement, ensuring the availability of rolling stock (bogies), comfortable seating and resting arrangements for security personnel, and provision of essential facilities such as electricity, water, fans, ACs, etc, keeping in mind the summer season.

The poll body has also desired that the railways deploy "dedicated" officers and staff for timely inspection of these trains and ensuring AC-II tier and AC-III tier bogies for the

Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd, a Karnataka Government undertaking, has been manufacturing the ink since 1962, solely for the EC. A 10 ml vial of ink can be used to mark the fingers of around 700 people. A polling station has around 1,200 voters. Over 12 lakh polling stations would be set up for the polls expected to be held in April-May. The indelible ink mark is normally expected to last for three days when applied to the skin but lasts for a few weeks on the fingernail until the nail grows

According to sources, of the total 26.5 lakh vials of ink, around 60 per cent of the total material has been dispatched to the States and the remaining would be supplied by March 20. The indelible ink is exported to more than 25 countries, including Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, South Africa, and the Maldives.

EC readies poll Bhishma Pitamah of Indian iudiciary passes away

From Page 1

In his long and illustrious legal career, Nariman argued in several landmark cases, including the Bhopal gas tragedy case, TMA Pai case, ayalalithaa disproportionate assets case, and the famous case of the National Judicial Appointments Commission, which was struck down by the Supreme Court.

Nariman authored books, including "Before the Memory Fades," "The State of the Nation," "India's Legal System: Can it be Saved?" and "God Save the Hon'ble Supreme Court."

He received the Padma Bhushan in January 1991 and in 2007, he was awarded the Padma Vibhushan. Nariman was also nominated as a member of the Rajya Sabha in November 1999. His son, Rohinton Nariman, was a judge of the Supreme Court. Vice President Dhankhar described Nariman as a

towering figure in the Indian legal system. "Deeply saddened by his demise. My heartfelt condolences to his family members and the legal fraternity on this unbridgeable loss. His legacy and contribution will always serve as a guiding light to the nation at large," Dhankhar said.

Meghwal recalled that Nariman was awarded the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan, and said his unwavering commitment towards civil liberties and principles was strong and commendable.

In a post on X, Speaker Birla said Nariman's contributions to the Indian legal system are immeasurable. "May his legacy continue to inspire generations on the path of making justice accessible to all," he wrote.

Offering his condolences, Modi said Nariman had devoted his life to making justice accessible to common citizens. In a post on X, Modi said, "He devoted his life to making justice accessible to common citizens. I am pained by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and admirers. May his soul rest in peace."

Home Minister Amit Shah said Nariman had served as the guiding light for the country's judicial system. "A trailblazing luminary, Nariman Ji's profound knowledge of the law and keen intellect served as the guiding light for our judicial system. With his passing, a powerful voice of law fell silent today," Shah wrote on

Congress leader Rahul said Nariman's contributions have not only shaped landmark cases but also inspired generations of jurists to uphold the sanctity of the Constitution and civil liberties. The veteran lawyer's demise leaves a profound void in the legal community, he added.

Farmers pause Delhi march after violence

"This is just a rumour. Two policemen and one protester received injuries on the Data Singh-Khanauri border and are under treatment," the Haryana Police posted on X. Farmer leader Baldev Singh Sirsa identified the victim as Shubh Karan Singh (21), who died at Khanauri on the Sangrur-Jind border. Singh was a resident of Baloke village in Punjab's Bathinda district, he said. Patiala-based Rajindra Hospital's medical superintendent HS Rekhi also confirmed to reporters that three people, one of them deceased, were brought to the hospital from the Khanauri border point. "He (Singh) had

an injury to his head," Rekhi said, adding that the condition of the other two is stable. The Haryana Police has

claimed that 12 police personnel have been injured in the attack by farmers at the Data Singh-Khanauri border. Farmers in Khanauri, one of border, Puniab-Ĥarvana claimed that Haryana Police personnel fired rubber bullets, as well as tear gas shells, to disperse protesters. Tear gas shells were fired to disperse farmers from Punjab at Shambhu and Khanauri border points as they attempted to move towards barricades hindering their protest march to Delhi.

Amid renewed outrage by protesting farmers over a between massive tussle farmers and Haryana Police at Shambhu and Khanauri borders, Union Minister Arjun Munda, who was part of previous rounds of talks with the farmers, once again the two protest sites on the offered to hold negotiations with them to diffuse the simmering tension across the three states.

As protesting farmers moved forward, Haryana police on Wednesday fired tear gas shells at them on the Punjab-Haryana Shambhu and Khanauri borders as they tried to advance towards barricades stalling their protest march to

The farmers, who have been protesting over Minimum Support Price (MSP) demand against the government, are equipped with gas masks, bulldozers, and other heavy machinery to police. confront Meanwhile, daily commuters between Delhi-Noida, Delhi-Gurugram, and Delhi-Ballabhgarh witnessed massive traffic jams due to blockades, barriers, and heavy

security arrangements set up at border points by Delhi police, along with their counterparts in Noida and Gurugram, to prevent farmers from entering the national According to reports prepared

by Central security agencies, nearly 14,000 people have been allowed to gather at the Shambhu barrier on Rajpura-Ambala Road, with nearly 1,200 tractor-trolleys, 300 cars, 10 mini-buses, and other small vehicles. Similarly, Punjab has permitted a gathering of

around 4,500 people with close to 500 tractor-trolleys at the Dhabi-Guiran barrier. "After the fourth round, the

government is ready to discuss all the issues like MSP demand, crop diversification, stubble burning issue, and FIR registration during the 2020-21 protest in the fifth round. I again invite the farmer leaders for discussion. We must

maintain peace," wrote on X in Hindi. However, there is no consensus among the farmer leaders on holding a meeting with Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda. While some are in favor of it, others argue that nothing substantial has come out of the previous meetings, so why hold another one? Scores of farmers resumed

their agitation two days after the fourth round of talks with the government over their demands, including a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops and farm debt waiver, failed. earthmoving Heavy including

excavators, and modified tractors were seen at the protest sites, with police cautioning that these might be used to break barricades and cause harm to security personnel.

Police fired tear gas shells to disperse some farmers who started moving towards the multiple layers of barricades at the Shambhu border point near Ambala in Haryana. By mid-afternoon, there had been at least three rounds of tear gas shelling. A drone was also deployed by security personnel at Shambhu to drop tear gas shells.

In Khanauri too, police fired tear gas shells to disperse farmers as they moved

Following the tear gas shelling, a chaotic situation was witnessed at the protest sites with the farmers running for cover as the smoke enveloped the area. Many protesting farmers were seen wearing masks and glasses to protect themselves from the Drones are also being used by

police to keep an eye on the activities of the farmers on the other side of the barricades. The farmer leaders have asked the protesters to maintain calm and peace. Volunteers deputed by the farmer leaders at the protest sites have been asking young farmers not to move ahead.

Barricading for farmers protest clogs traffic along Delhi borders

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ommuters taking the bor-∙der routes of Delȟi-Noida, Anand Vihar, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, Ballabhgarh witnessed massive traffic jams on Wednesday due to massive security arrangements and barricades, rod blockades put up at different entry points by the Delhi police to stop the farm-ers from entering the national capital after protesting farmers announced to continue their 'Delhi Chalo' agitation. Huge traffic and congestion were reported at the three Inter State Bus Terminals- Kashmeri Gate ISBT, Anand Vihar and Sarai Kale Khan.

The move led to traffic chaos at places like Rajokri border, Sarhol border, Delhi-Gurugram Highway (NH-48) Delhi-Bahadurgarh Highway during the peak hours in morning and evening. Several videos were shared online of hundreds of vehicles stuck in traffic jam at Delhi-

Bahadurgarh roads due to the restriction of movement. Multi-layered barricades have been put up at several locations.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police has beefed up security in the national capital on Wednesday and directed its personnel to ensure strict vigil at Tikri, Singhu and Ghazipur borders after the protesting farmers announced to continue their 'Delhi Chalo' agitation. Deputy Commissioner of

Police (Outer) Jimmy Chiram said there was sufficient deployment of the force besides paramilitary personnel at the Delhi-Haryana borders. "Our motive is not to disturb traffic. Our main motive is to ensure safety, security and law and order. Deployed teams are checking all the vehicles to ensure that farmers do not enter the national capital," said

The Delhi Police became alert again in view of the farmers' protest in Manesar on Tuesday



and their proposed march to Delhi. Police checked the ID cards of the drivers and then only allowed them to go further. That, and closing of the service lanes near Rajokri, caused a glut of vehicles on the expressway. The barricades were later removed by the Gurugram and Delhi Police and the normal run of the traffic restored. . "The entire team of traffic police managed the traffic within time. After some time the traffic was smooth there," Traffic Inspector Satish

ed travellers about the impending jam in a post on X.

The two border points of Delhi and Haryana - Tikri and Singhu - are sealed with the heavy deployment of police personnel and paramilitary forces and multi-layered bar-

nails. Two lanes of the Ghazipur border have also been shut with multi-layer barricades and deployment of police personnel.

Two lanes of the Ghazipur border have also been shut, expected to cause heavy traffic in the area. The border can also be shut down if need be, Delhi Police said. Another officer said the Delhi

Police was prepared to stop the farmers at the Delhi borders. Security personnel have been directed to not allow even a single protester or vehicle to enter Delhi, he said, adding that mock security drills were conducted. The Delhi Police said earlier that there is a heavy deployment of security personnel and multi-layered barricading, iron nails and concrete barriers in place at these

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police has issued an advisory that it will be implementing for five days a plan on a trial basis to avoid frequent traffic jams at

the Bagga roundabout. The trial will be started from Thursday, it said.

According to the advisory issued on Wednesday, the Faiz Road will be open for one-way traffic from the Bagga round-about towards Rani Jhansi Road. During the trial period, the vehicles going towards Rani Jhansi Road via the roundabout will take the Faiz Road. Traffic will be prohibited in the opposite carriage way, it said.
The traffic coming on the Faiz

Road from the Bagga round-about will be allowed to take only left turn at the Kalka Das chowk towards Desh Bandhu Gupta Road. At this point, the right turn towards Desh Bandhu Gupta Road will be prohibited. The traffic going straight towards Rani Jhansi Road via 'Kalka Das Chowk' will be allowed, it stated. The traffic coming on Desh Bandhu Gupta Road from Karol Bagh side will be allowed only to move straight up to the Rani

right turn towards the Faiz Road, it said.

The traffic coming from Paharganj railway station side will be allowed to move straight and will not be allowed to take left turn towards the Faiz Road,

the advisory said. The traffic coming on the New Rohtak Road from the 'Liberty Cinema' side will be allowed only up to the T-Point Rohtak Road and will also be allowed to take left turn to reach the Rani Jhansi Flyover. At this point, the traffic will not be allowed to take night turn towards the Faiz Road, it stat-

The traffic coming from the T-Point Rohtak Road on the New Rohtak Road will be allowed only to move straight and not to take left or right turn on the Faiz Road, the advisory said, adding that the commuters are advised to follow the directions of the traffic police personnel posted in the area to

900 kg Meow Meow seized from 2 spots in city in major drug haul

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major drug haul, police have seized around 900 kg of Mephedrone, commonly called "Meow Meow", from two locations in south Delhi, officials said on Wednesday, putting the total value of the seizure at more than Rs 2,000 crore. The seizure was made following raids by officials of Pune and Delhi police forces on Tuesday in Kotla Mubarakpur and Hauz Khas. This drug seizure by the Pune police is the largest ever in Maharashtra and one of the biggest in the country.

The bust in Delhi was based on information from the Pune Police, which is probing a case registered by it under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, they said.

Meow Meow, scientifically termed as Mephedrone, is a potent synthetic stimulant often associated with party culture due to its euphoric effects. Its consumption poses



can lead to addiction and adverse mental health out-

Mephedrone is a synthetic stimulant often associated with the "rave party culture" for its euphoric effects, a senior police officer. Over the last two days raids were conducted in Pune and in the national capital, the officials said and added that a total of 1,100 kg of Mephedrone worth Rs 2,500 crore in the international mar-

ket was seized from the two

'On Tuesday, a team of the Pune Police's Crime Branch requested for a joint raid in connection with the case registered under the NDPS Act in Pune. It had already arrested three people and seized Mephedrone," the officer said. The officer said based on information from those arrested, a raid was conduct

ed at Kotla Mubarakpur in Delhi. Around 300 kg of Mephedrone was seized and

two people arrested.
"On further interrogation, around 600 kg of Mephadrone was seized recovered from a rented shop in Masjid Moth in Hauz Khas. The room and the shop were recently taken on rent," the officer said.

According to Pune police com-

missioner Amitesh Kumar 700 kg of mephedrone was discovered in various locations in Pune district, including the Kurkumbh MIDC area. This seizure was made following the arrest and subsequent interrogation of the three individuals on Sunday. Acting on the information provided by the accused, the Pune police seized an additional 400kg of mephedrone from two godown-like structures in South Delhi. The police are actively probing the supply chain and connections involved in this drug racket.

Seat sharing talks between AAP, Congress much delayed: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The talks between the AAP and the Congress over seat sharing in Delhi for Lok Sabha polls were "much delayed", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday, amid salams by sources in both sides claims by sources in both sides that the chances of an alliance have hit a roadblock.

On Tuesday, Kejriwal had said that talks for seat sharing in the national capital were in "final stages" and a tie up between the two parties would be announced soon. There are seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi currently held by the BJP.

Sources in the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) indicated that if the alliance did not happen with the Congress, the party could declare its candidates in the next few days.

When asked by reporters on the possibility of alliance with the Congress in Delhi, Kejriwal said, "It is much delayed, it should have happened much earlier. Let us see what happens



in the next one-two days.' Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely said that the party is prepared for elections on all the seven constituencies in Delhi. "The committee headed by

Mukul Vasnik is continuously talking to the members of the INDIA bloc. It would not be appropriate for me to comment about that," he told reporters. Sources said despite several rounds of talks between the leaders of two parties, an agreement over number of seats to be contested by them was yet to be agreed upon.

Congress sources claimed that the party wanted to contest four of the seven Lok Sabha seats and leave the rest for the AAP. "This is justified as in the 2019 polls, the Congress candidates were runner-ups on six of the seven seats in Delhi while AAP candidates were on third place except for South Delhi constituency," said a senior Delhi Congress leader.

Although AAP leaders remained tight-lipped on seat sharing, sources in the party said, "The Aam Aadmi Party wants to contest four seats --North East Delhi, West Delhi, South Delhi and North West

The AAP earlier said it was holding talks with the INDIA bloc partners for a pact in Gujarat, Haryana, Delhi, and Goa. The party has already decided to go solo in Punjab. AAP national general secretary (organisation) Sandeep Pathak recently said that the party has demanded eight out of 26 Lok Sabha seats from the Congress in Guiarat.

He said that the AAP won five

seats by polling a total 13 per cent votes in the last Assembly polls in Gujarat and claimed eight Lok Sabha seats in the state for the upcoming polls, while offering remaining 18 to the Congress.

He had also offered one Lok Sabha seat in Delhi to the Congress saying it did not deserve even that based on its previous election track record. The Congress currently does not have any Lok Sabha MP or MLA from Delhi.

The AAP has so far unilaterally declared its candidates in two seats each in Gujarat and Assam and one in Goa. Pathak had said that if a decision was not soon taken on seat-sharing in Delhi, his party would declare its candidates.

The BJP won all the seven seats in Delhi back to back in 2014 2019 elections. Interestingly, the BJP candidates in 2019 polled more votes than the combined tally of Congress and AAP candi-

Kejriwal slams BJP over SC overturning Chandigarh Mayoral poll results

Chief Minister and

DAAP convener Arvind Kejriwal slammed the BJP over the Supreme Court overturning the outcome of the Chandigarh mayoral poll. Speaking in the Delhi Assembly on Wednesday, Kejriwal quoted a verse from the Bhagavad Gita "Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya Glanirbhavati Abhyutthanamdharmasya tadatmanam srijamyham, saying,"The meaning of this verse is that Lord Shri Krishna is not just saying it to Arjun, he is trying to tell the entire creation through Arjun that whenever righteousness will be crushed on earth and whenever unrighteousness will become

I will incarnate. "The God decided to intervene and put an end to the prevailing "adharm (unrighteousness)" of the BJP He also thanked the Supreme Court and the chief justice of India for the court's verdict on the Chandigarh mayoral poll, saying it saved the country's democracy," he said.

too much, then I will be born,



"It seemed as though god were speaking through the CJI," Kejriwal said, hailing the Supreme Court that declared defeated AAP-Congress alliance candidate Kuldeep Kumar as the new mayor of the Union Territory by setting aside the January 30 poll result. Slamming the BJP, Kejriwal alleged that the saffron party would do anything to win elections and accused it of

indulging in poaching MLAs and toppling governments openly. He said all the devotees of Lord Ram, Krishna, Shiv-Parvati are with the country and finally, the "adharm" of the BIP will come to an end and "dharm (righteousness)" will prevail

Kejriwal also hit out at the BJP over the ongoing farmers protest and said it is not allowing the agitating farmers to reach Delhi. "Why don't they allow the farmers to come to Delhi? They do not pay the price for their crops and also do not listen to them," he said. Kejriwal said today, there has been so much unrighteousness all around, so much wrongdoing has become prevalent that MLAs are being bought openly. "Our MLAs were offered Rs 25-25 crores. Governments are being openly toppled by buy-

Uttarakhand, MLAs were bought openly. MLAs are being bought with black money worth crores of rupees; governments are being openly toppled. People are losing faith in religion, there is so much unrighteousness everywhere," he said. Criticising the Centre for its highhandedness in not allowing the farmers to march to Delhi, Kejriwal said, "Today our farmers want to come to Delhi but they are being stopped. Delhi is the capital of the country, they (farmers) do not have any weapons with them, let them come to Delhi. We had protested in Ramlila Maidan, give them Ramlila Maidan and the poor farmers will sit there. Everyone has the right to raise their voice under Article 19 of the Constitution. But farmers are not allowed to come and protest. They are Bidhuri said while according demanding fair price for their crops. They are saying that they should get the full benefit of the crops they produce. You will not pay the price of crops, will not even allow

ing off MLAs. In Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Bidhuri criticises AAP conduct in Chandigarh Mayoral poll case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

eader of the opposition in Leader of the opposition the Delhi Legislative Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday here criticized the Aam Áadmi Party(AAP) over its conduct in the Chandigarh mayoral election case and said the party, which claims to uphold democracy, should take a moment to look into its own actions.

He said in the elections for the standing committee members in the Delhi Municipal Corporation, the AAP adopted authoritarian and unconstitutional practices, and after court orders, the election of three BJP members was declared valid.

to the rules, the Chandigarh mayoral case cannot be discussed in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, it was brought up in the Assembly by breaking the rules, although this matter does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Assembly. Therefore, Bidhuri left the Assembly when this matter was raised.

Bidhudi recalled that last year, on February 24, when elections were underway for the standing committee of the Delhi Municipal Corporation, AAP's mayor Shaili Oberoi not only declared valid votes invalid but also announced to conduct the standing committee elections again.

Surprisingly, for conducting these elections, the Election Commission had sent its representatives, but the AAP was not even ready to heed the officials of the Election Commission. When the BJP took this matter to the Delhi High Court, in May, the High Court not only declared the invalid votes as valid but also invalidated the decision to conduct the elections again by the Mayor. Bidhuri said the AAP is currently making noise, but in reality, it does not believe in democracy. While

we respect the Supreme Court's decision in the Chandigarh mayoral election case, the other aspect of the picture is that the AAP does not have a majority in the Chandigarh Municipal

Corporation. In the council of 35 members, the AAP has only 10 members, while the BJP has 18 members. He said the murder of democracy by the AAP is not an isolated incident. By suppressing the voice of the opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, it con-

tinuously mocks democracy. Taking a dig at Kejriwal's statement in Delhi Assembly, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva stated that Kejriwal, like many other opposition leaders across the country, has lost his political balance & is frustrated due to the visible wave in favor of the BJP thanks to the rising global image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the construction of the Ram Temple.

_G flags delay in constitution of statutory bodies in letter to Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a five-page letter to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has flagged "inordinate delay" in the constitution of some important statutory bodies and related appointments, Raj Niwas officials said on Wednesday.

The LG, in his letter dated February 19, also remarked that the facts bring forth a "set pattern" being followed across departments where ministers "hold back files for months at length for no reason" without taking any decision.

"You would agree that such omissions and commissions on the part of the government and its ministers, apart from adversely impacting the lives of millions in Delhi, also reflect poorly on the state of governance in the city and needs to be rectified," Saxena said.

The LG "advised" the chief minister to issue a directive to his ministers to ensure that all matters submitted to them are disposed of expeditiously in larger public interest effecting accountability in governance. In a strong worded reprimand, the LG also noted that "it would not be an overstatement if one were to assume that Delhi government is possibly the only government in the country where files are held and delayed inordinately and unjustifiably for months and

years together.'

The LG urged the chief minister to take "personal interest" in the matter to avoid any recurrence of the same. The letter cited pending con-

stitution of a state-level monitoring committee under Plastic Waste (Management & Handling) Rule, 2011; declaration of district magistrates as responsible sanitation authority (RSA) under Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013; constitution of governing council of Rajiv Gandhi Super specialty Hospital and constitution of search-selection committee for the appointment of chairperson to the board of gover-



of Information Technology He sought to draw the atten-Delhi, IIITD. It is "distressing" tion of the government towards to note the "unmindful neglect "what seems to have become a and inordinate delay" in all the habit on the part of the gov-

ernment by way of inordinately and inexplicably delaying appointment/constitution of statutory bodies that are mandated with welfare of the people of Delhi".

The proposal for state level committee on plastic waste was moved by the Urban Development department through the chief secretary in May 2023. It was with the urban development minister for nearly eight months and was forwarded in a routine and perfunctory manner to the LG, through the chief minister, without any value addition on January 16, 2024, Saxena mentioned. The file of declaring district magistrates as RSA was submitted by UD department

to the then deputy chief minister in June 2022. In September 2023, the department requested current urban development minister to expedite the matter who, after four months, finally cleared the file. It reached for LG's approval, through the chief minister, on January 19, 2024, after a gap of 19 months since it was initiat-

The file for constitution of the governing council of the Rajiv Ğandhi Super specialty Hospital was submitted to the then health minister in December 2022, which was sent for the LG's approval 14 months later, in January 2024, he cited another instance. The appointment of chairperson

ed, he said.

of IIITD was pending for five years. The IIITD after being stonewalled" for years moved a separate proposal for the purpose to the LG secretariat on January 30, he stated. Further, the LG flagged delays in constitution of the state

food commission and appointment of district grievance redressal officers and reconstitution of the Delhi Animal Welfare Board and its executive committee. In both the cases, the files

finally came to the LG under 'pressure" from courts and the Union government. All the while, the Delhi government kept "misleading" the courts that the files were pending approval of the LG, he said.

Amrit Bharat stations to get service plazas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on February 26 lay the foundation stone of 550 Amrit Bharat stations to improve facilities at railway stations by developing rooftop plazas and city centres at a cost of ₹40,000 crore.

The prime minister will also lay the foundation stone of nearly 1,500 road overbridges and underbridges across different states during a function that will be conducted virtually at over 2,000 railway stations.

The prime minister will join the function via videoconferencing. Prizes will also be given to about 50,000 school students who had participated in speech, essay and poetry writing competitions on the "2047 — Viksit Bharat ki Railway" theme, organised by the Indian Railways across 4,000 schools. Nearly four lakh students par-



ticipated in different competitions and about 50,000 prizes will be awarded by divisional railway managers and senior railway officers during the function. The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme was launched for the development of stations on Indian Railways.

It involves the preparation of master plans and their implementation in phases to improve amenities at the stations through improvement of station access, circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, lift/escalators as necessary, cleanliness,

free WiFi, kiosks for local products through schemes such as 'One Station, One

Product', better passenger infor-

mation systems.

The scheme also involves building executive lounges, nominated spaces for business meetings and landscaping, keeping in view the necessity at each station. It envisages improvement of buildings, integrating the stations with both sides of cities, multimodal integration, amenities for persons with disabilities, provision for ballastless tracks, 'roof plazas'

feasibility and creation of city centres at the station in the long

The scheme envisages a gradual shift to sustainable and environment-friendly solutions, as per availability of funds and condition of existing assets. To ensure smooth access, it also proposes widening of roads, removal of unwanted structures, properly designed signages, dedicated pedestrian pathways, well-planned parking areas and improved lighting.

level platforms (760-840 millimetres) at all categories of stations. According to the scheme, the length of the platforms shall generally be 600 metres. So far, 1,318 stations have been selected under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme based

The scheme envisages high-

on proposals received from zonal railways and stations located in major cities and

North-East region being recognised as growth engine of India: Mandaviya

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय

भारत सरकार

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $F^{\rm or}$ the first time, the North-East region is being recognised as the growth engine of India, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Wednesday, adding that the sig-nificant strides made in healthcare accessibility and availability across the entire region has been possible under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister aims to establish a healthy and developed India where quality, affordable, and accessible healthcare services are equitably distributed to every citi-

Healthcare today has become accessible and available for this entire region, he said after virtually inaugurating a 'Regional Consultative Workshop on Research Priority for Providing Accessible and Affordable Healthcare for Northeastern States of India. Union Minister of State for

Health Bharati Pravin Pawar and Minister of Health in Meghalaya government Dr Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh were also present at the workshop jointly organised by the Department of Health Research, Union health ministry, Indian Institute of Public Health, Shillong, and Indian Council of Medical Research -

Regional Medical Research

Centre, Dibrugarh.

Addressing the gathering, Mandaviya said, the effort of the government is to ensure that everyone gets access to health facilities in an equal manner without any distinction between rich and poor.

"To achieve this objective, the government has worked with policies and various schemes due to which India has created a health model that gives meaning to the spirit of 'Sarva Jan Hitaay, Sarva Jan Sukhaay," he said.

Giving examples of the measures initiated for the development of the Northeast region, Mandaviya said in the last 10 vears, efforts have been made to bring it into the mainstream of the country by connecting it with all types of connectivity like health, roadways, railways, I-ways, waterways and rope-

"In the last 10 years, institutions like RIMS (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences), RIPANS (Regional Institute of Paramedical and Nursing Sciences), NEIGRIHMŠ (Northeastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences) and Assam AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) have been developed and 23 new medical colleges have been opened in the region. ICMR has also developed various health facilities in the region,"

Centre creates 24,000 deputation reserve pool in Central paramilitary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Union Government has sanctioned the creation of a 24,000-personnel deputation reserve within the existing manpower of the five Central Armed police forces and Assam Rifles in a bid to ensure better promotion avenues, fresh recruitment of personnel and ensuring quality manpower for a variety of internal securi-

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued an order on Tuesday for creation of a 23,958 'deputation reserve' in the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF, SSB and Assam Rifles.

These five central armed police forces (CAPFs) apart from the Assam Rifles are deployed for undertaking various internal security duties like counter-terrorist operations, border guarding and conduct of elections and maintenance of law and order across the country.

They are also the primary manpower feeders of various specialised deputationist organisations like the Special Protection Group (SPG), the National Security Guard (NSG), the National Disaster



Intelligence Bureau (IB) among others. These agencies function under the MHA which is responsible for India's internal

Deputation reserves are intended to serve as substitutes for regular duty posts in the event of service officers (holding these duty posts) being temporarily away from their cadre on deputation to any other organisation.

Officers holding the posts under such reserves perform regular functions of the posts against which they are posted as substitutes and they are only temporary replacements for regular cadre officers who Rifles at 1,729 (about 65,000 are currently away and as such in strength).

the reserve posts do not represent net additions to the cadre, according to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) guidelines.

The maximum of the 'deputation reserve' posts at 6,733 have been created in the Border Security Force that has a strength of about 2.65 lakh personnel followed by the Central Reserve Police Force at 5,765 (total strength 3.25 lakh), Indo-Tibetan Border Police at 4,764 (about 90,000 in strength), Sashastra Seema Bal 2,669 (about 80,000 staffers), Central Industrial Security Force at 2,298 (1.80

Modi to launch ₹61,000 crore projects in UP, Gujarat PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh on Thursday and Friday during which he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more tĥan ₹61,000 crore in the two States.

While Modi will inaugurate, lay the foundation stone and initiate work commencement of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 48,000 crore in Gujarat, he will also launch and inaugurate projects worth over Rs 13,000 crore for transforming Varanasi and its adjoining areas, according to a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Wednesday.

On February 22 (Thursday), at around 10.45 am in Ahmedabad, Modi will participate in the golden jubilee celebration of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF). At around 12.45 pm, the prime

minister will reach Mahesana and perform 'pooja' and 'darshan' at the Valinath Mahadev Temple. Around 1 pm, he will participate in a public function in Tarabh, Mahesana, where he will inaugurate and lay the



foundation stone of multiple development projects worth

At around 4.15 pm, the prime minister will reach Navsari, where he will inaugurate, lay the foundation stone and initiate work commencement of multiple development projects worth about Rs 17,500 crore. At around 6.15 pm, Modi will visit the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station and dedicate to the nation two new Pressurised Water Reactors Heavv (PHWRs).

On February 23 (Friday), Modi will participate in a programme for prize distribution to the winners of Sansad Sanskrit Pratiyogita at Swatantra Sabhagar, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. At 11.15 am, the prime minis-

'darshan' at Sant Guru Ŕavidas Janmasthali. At 11.30 am, the prime minister will attend a public function commemorating the 647th birth anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas. In the afternoon, Prime

Minister Modi will attend a public function where he will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 13,000 crore in Varanasi.

At the two public functions in Gujarat's Mahesana and Navsari, the prime minister will dedicate to nation and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects that will encompass important sectors such as road, rail, energy, health, Internet connectivity,

urban development, water supply and tourism, among others, districts such as Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Anand, Mahesana, Kachchh, Kheda, Bharuch, Tapi, Vadodara, Surat, Navsari, Panchmahal, Valsad, and Narmada.

At a public function in Tarabh, Mahesana, the prime minister will dedicate to the nation important projects, including Bharat Net Phase-II - Gujarat Fibre Grid Network Limited, which will provide high-speed Internet to more than 8,000 gram panchayats, multiple projects for rail line doubling, gauge conversion, new broadgauge line in Mahesana and Banaskantha districts, and multiple road projects. The PMO statement also said

since 2014, Modi has focused on transforming Varanasi and its adjoining areas by initiating a number of development projects catering to important sectors such as road, rail, aviation, tourism, education, health, drinking water, urban development and sanitation.

Taking another step in this direction, the prime minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 13,000 crore in Varanasi.

projects, including four-lan-ing of the Ghargra-Bridge-Varanasi section of National Highway 233 and four-laning of the Sultanpur-Varanasi section of National Highway 56. To provide impetus to industrial development in the region, the prime minister will also inaugurate an HPCL LPG bottling plant in Sewapuri, Banas Kashi Sankul milk processing unit at UPSIDA Âgro Park Karkhiyaon, various infrastructure work at the UPSIDA Agro Park, Karkhiyaon, and silk fabric printing common facility centre for weavers. Providing impetus to the famous textile sector of

To further enhance Varanasi's

road connectivity, Modi will

inaugurate and lay the foun-

dation stone of multiple road

education and training infrastructure of the textile sector, the statement said. Augmenting the health infrastructure in Varanasi, the prime minister will lay the foundation stone of a new medical college. He will also lay the foundation stone of the National Centre of

Ageing at Banaras Hindu

Varanasi, Modi will lay the

foundation stone of a National

Institute of Fashion Technology

(NIFT) in Varanasi. The new

institute will strengthen the

Previously unreported | India, Greece to firm up migration, mobility agreement soon genetic variants found

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

 $R^{\text{esearchers have discovered}}_{\text{more than 275 million pre-}}$ viously unreported genetic variants, identified from data shared by nearly 250,000 participants of the National Institutes of Health's All of Us Research Program. Nearly 4 million of the newly identified variants are in areas that may be tied to disease risk. Half of the genomic data are

from participants of non-European genetic ancestry. The unexplored cache of variants provides researchers new pathways to better understand the genetic influences on health and disease, especially in communities who have been left out of research in the past. The findings are detailed in (link is external)Nature(link is external), along with three other articles in Nature journals.

Nearly 4 million of the newly identified variants are in areas that may be tied to disease risk. The genomic data detailed in the study are available to registered researchers in the Researcher Workbench(link is external), the program's platform for data analysis.

"As a physician, I've seen the impact the lack of diversity in genomic research has had in deepening health disparities and limiting care for patients," said Josh Denny, chief executive officer of the All of Us Research Program and an author of the

study. "The All of Us dataset has already led researchers to findings that expand what we know about health - many that may not have been possible without our participants' contributions of DNA and other health information. Their participation is



where scientific discovery is more inclusive, with broader benefits for all." To date, more than 90% of par-

ticipants in large genomics studies have been of European genetic ancestry. NIH Institute and Center directors noted in an accompanying commentary article in Nature Medicine that this has led to a narrow understanding of the biology of diseases, and impeded the development of new treatments and prevention strategies for all populations. They emphasise that many

researchers are now utilizing the All of Us dataset to advance precision medicine for all.

While more research is needed before these findings can be used to tailor genetic testing recommendations for specific populations, researchers believe the difference in the number of these variants may be influenced by past studies' limited diversity and their diseasefocused approach to participant enrollment, rather than a difference in the prevalence of the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India and Greece on Wednesday here reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral ties and agreed to firm up a migration and mobility agreement soon, besides ramping up their overall cooperation in the areas of trade, defence production and to combat terror-

These were the main takeaways from the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis. Expansion of the overall strategic cooperation figured prominently during extensive talks between the two leaders. Mitsotakis is

on a two-day visit to India. It is the first visit to India by a head of state of Greece in 15

India and Greece have common concerns and priorities in the fight against terrorism, Modi said in his media statement. "We discussed in detail how to further strengthen our cooperation in combating terrorism," he added.

The prime minister said the growing cooperation between India and Greece in defence and security reflects the deep mutual trust between the two

We discussed early firming up of the migration and mobility partnership as well, he said. New opportunities are opening



up in defence manufacturing in India, which can be beneficial to both countries, Modi said. "We agree that all disputes and tensions should be resolved through dialogue and diplo-

macy," he added. Modi welcomed Greece's active participation and positive role in the Indo-Pacific. "We deliberated extensively on expanding the India-Greece cooperation in the agriculture sector,"

The strategic partnership between India and Greece is of

"particular" importance and further expansion of their overall ties with a focus on economic engagement is being explored, Prime Minister Mitsotakis said on Wednesday. "For Greece, the strategic partnership between our two countries is of particular importance and we will have the opportunity to discuss a wide range of topics including on strategic partnership, and fostering our economic engagement," he told reporters.

Mitsotakis was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan ahead of his talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Greek prime minister began his India visit this morning by paying homage to Mahatma

Gandhi at Rajghat. In the morning, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on the Greek prime minister. "Delighted to call on Prime Minister @kmitsotakis of Greece today. Valued his commitment to enhancing India-Greece ties. Look forward to the strengthening of our strategic partnership," Jaishankar posted on 'X' India-Greece relations were elevated to a 'strategic partnership' during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Greece in August

Rahul to take break from Yatra for lecture at alma mater

PNS NEW DELHI

The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra Will take a break from February 26 to March 1 to enable Rahul Gandhi to deliver two special lectures at his alma mater, Cambridge University, and attend important meetings in New Delhi, the Congress said on Wednesday. Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh also said February 22 and 23 will be rest days for the yatra after its Kanpur leg on Wednesday. The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra will resume on the morning of February 24 from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh and thereafter, cover Sambhal, Aligarh, Hathras and Agra districts, before arriving in Rajasthan's Dholpur, Ramesh said. "February 26th to March 1st

will be break days to enable

Rahul Gandhi to fulfil his long-

standing commitment to deliver two special lectures at his alma mater Cambridge University (UK) on February 27th and February 28th and also to enable him to attend other important meetings in New Delhi," Ramesh said in a social media post. The Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra Morena, Gwalior, Shivpuri, Guna, Shajapur and Ujjain, among other districts in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress leader added. Ramesh also informed that at

2 pm on March 5, Gandhi will have "darshan" at the Mahakaleshwar temple in Ujjain. The former Congress will once again resume from chief had last had this darshan Dholpur at 2 pm on March 2, on November 29, 2022, during he added. It will then cover the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

IT Department withdrew ₹65 crore from our accounts undemocratically: Congress

 $T^{\text{he}}_{\text{Wednesday}} \stackrel{\text{Congress}}{\text{alleged}} \stackrel{\text{on}}{\text{that}} \\ \text{the Income} \stackrel{\text{Tax}}{\text{department}}$ has "withdrawn" a sum of ₹65 crore from its accounts in different banks "undemocratically" even when the case pertaining to their return for previous years is sub judice.

AICC treasurer Ajay Maken has claimed that "democracy will be over if the action of probe agencies goes unchecked" and said the Congress has full faith in the judiciary.

The Income Tax department had written to various banks to withdraw a sum of Rs 65 crore from different bank accounts of the Congress and Indian Youth Congress in view of the demand raised by the Income Tax authorities earlier, despite the appellate authorities hearHe said even when the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, which

the Congress had moved against the Income Tax department's claim of Rs 210 crore as recovery for "discrepancies" in previous tax returns has been stayed and a lien has been marked, the tax authorities have resorted to "undemocratic action" by taking out the amount from their accounts.

The Congress leader said the party had written to its bankers not to withdraw any amount as the case was sub judice and hearing in the case before the I-T Tribunal was still on.

"Alarming Update: Concerns rise over the actions of Central Government agencies, potentially threatening the multiparty system in India. If unchecked, democracy in India will be over. Without

intervention of judiciary, our democratic principles will be endangered," Maken said in a social media post.

In another post in Hindi, he said, "Since Tuesday evening, Congress has been a victim of the anti-democratic attitude of the government machinery. 'We have full faith in the judicial system of India," he said, adding that he would share more information on the issue The Income Tax authorities are

hearing the matter on Wednesday. The Congress' main bank accounts were frozen on Friday over an Income Tax demand of Rs 210 crore but an I-T appellate tribunal later allowed it to operate them pending a further hearing next week, a huge relief for the party which said the move had impacted all political activity.

India, China reiterate resolve to maintain peace along LAC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India and China reiterated their resolve to maintain peace and tranquility on the ground in border areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh during the 21st round of talks between Corps Commanders of the two armies. The talks were held at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on February 19, Ministry of External Affairs(MEA)said here in a statement on Wednesday.

The two sides are engaged with each other at the military and diplomatic levels to resolve all outstanding issues including continuing tension at the some friction points at the LAC in eastern Ladakh since May

While the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to maintain peace at the border, there was no clear forward movement at Monday's talks in resolution of the more than three-and-halfyear lingering row in a number of friction points, it was learnt. The MEA statement said "the 21st round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting was held at Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on 19th February 2024. The discussions built on the previous rounds, seeking complete disengagement in the remaining areas along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh as an essential basis for restoration of peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas. The two sides shared their perspectives on this in the talks held in a

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mr. Dharmender Gaur and Mrs Sunita Gaur intends to purchase First Floo vithout roof rights part of Property No. E 97, land measuring 62.5+40.00 = 102. Sq.Yards, out of Khasra No. 1976, in the are of Village Tihar, Colony known as Ha Nagar, New Delhi-110064 from Mrs. Shas Kaur (present owner) who had lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated lost/misplaced the Original sale Deed date 05.06.2008 Registration No. 1337 in th name of Mrs. Devender Kaur and my clien is mortgaging the same to LIC HFL. I anybody including Bank, Financia Institutions, persons, relative has any claim right, interest whatsoever in the said property shall inform within 15 days to the undersigned with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, tha our client shall presume that title of the said operty is unencumbered and clear.

Karnail Singh, Advocate, K8

BSES



friendly and cordial atmos-

phere. The two sides have agreed to maintain communication on the way ahead through the relevant military and diplomatic mechanisms. They also committed to maintain peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas in the interim."

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, देवास (म.प्र.) क्रमांक/259/स्व.भा.मि./2024 देवास, दिनांक 16.02.2024

// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

| क्रं. | टेण्डर | कार्य का नाम | कार्य की | निविदा प्रपत्र | निविदा की |
|--|------------|------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| | क्रं. जारी | | समयावधि | का मूल्य एवं | अंतिम तिथि |
| | दिनांक | | एवं लागत | EMD | |
| 01. | 2024_ | स्वच्छ भारत मिशन के अंतर्गत | एक वर्ष | 10,000/- | 01.03.2024 |
| | UAD_ | उज्जैन रोड़ स्थित गॉर्बेज ट्रांसफर | 70,00,000/- | 2,10,000/- | 06:00 PM |
| | 334048 | स्टेशन के संचालक एवं सधारण | | | |
| | _1 | के कार्य हेतु निविदा प्रपत्र। | | | |
| नोट :- निवदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाईन | | | | | |

https://mptenders.gov.in की वेबसाईट पर ही किया जावेगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

> उपायक्त नगर पालिक निगम, देवास (म.प्र.)

CORRIGENDUM

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

DEMAND NOTICE PUBLICATION UNDER SARFAESI ACT FOR LOAN ACCOUNT NO. '002105023126, 002155000039 & 002155000045 NAME OF THE BORROWER TECHNOCRATS TOOLING PRIVATE LIMITED, UMESH KUMAR SINGH-DIRECTOR, PRAVEEN RAO-DIRECTOR, SPS TECHNOLOGY, UMESH KUMAR SINGH, REENA SINGH, VINOD KUMAR DHAIYA & VIJAY SHARMA WERE PUBLISHED IN DEMAND NOTICE DATED December 01, 2022 AND PUBLISHED DATED 24 February, 2023 AT THE PIONEER (HINDI), & THE PIONEER (ENGLISH) RESPECTIVELY AND SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE DATED MAY 04, 2023 IT'S PUBLISHED DATED MAY 09, 2023 at PIONEER (ENGLISH) and PIONEER (HINDI), MAY 10, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & MAY 10, 2023 published at ODISHA TODAY (ENGLISH) and UTKAL MAIL (ODI), and Physical possession notice, pre-sale notice, Inventory, Inventory list & Panchnama dated NOVEMBER 30, 2023 & Post possession to borrower & Police and Vacation notice borrower dated DECEMBER 01, 2023, published dated DECEMBER 06, 2023 at PIONEER (ENGLISH) and PIONEER (HINDI), DECEMBER 06, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 at The PIONEER (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 22, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at INDIAN EXPRESS (ENGLISH) and PRATAHKAL (HINDI), & DECEMBER 21, 2023 published at ODISHA TODAY (ENGLISH) and DECEMBER 21, 2023 publ 2023 published at ODISHA TODAY (ENGLISH) and UTKAL MAIL (ODI) under the securitization, reconstruction of financia asset and enforcement of Security interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the power conferred under section 13(2) the entire sarfaesi notices missed to sent to the guarantor PRAVEEN RAO one address at 6 A SHOK VIHAR PHASE-3, PALAM VIHAR ROAD, NEAR SAMRAT GARDEN, GURGAON- 122001 & VINOD KUMAR DAHIYA ADDRESS AT PLO 505-506 SECTOR 8 MANESAR GURGAON-122051 & VINOD DAHIYA ADDRESS AT DHANWANPUR DAULATABAD(53) GURGAON HARYANA- 122006 & VIJAY SHARMA ADDRESS AT PLOT 505-506 SECTOR 8 MANESAR GURGAON-122051 AND 227 URBAN ESTATE SECTOR'S MANESAR GURGAON-122051 AND 227 URBAN ESTATE
SECTOR- 4 GURGAON HARYANA- 122001 & VIJAY KUMAR
SHARMA ADDRESS AT 5/18 INDUSTRIAL AREA, HUDA,
DHARUHERA, REWARI, HARYANA- 122100, respectively. We Wish To
Mention That Inadvertently And Unintentionally The Said notices are
missed to sent to the above borrower addresses but all these information
are activity wise captured in our all notice publications. The information
are activity where a present of the above the sent of the sent of the sent of the sent of the above the sent of the se regarding entire physical possession activities are dispatch to the above borrowers like physical possession notice, Pre-sale notice, post possession intimation & Vacation notices are dispatched dated 24 January 2024 to above missing borrower's addresses also only

Date : February 22, 2024 Place : Gurgaon

Authorized Officer

| DCEC Vamuuma | Power Limited, | Dalhi |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| DOEO Tamuna | rower Limiteu, | Dellii |
| A joint venture | with Govt of NCT of | of Dalhi |

| | NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 22.02.2024 | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Sealed tender under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for the following work: | | | | | | | |
| NIT No. | Brief Description | Estimated Cost (₹) | Due Date & Time of Submission | Date & Time of Opening | | | |
| CMC/BY/23-24/ RS/SvS/AvS/39 | Renewal of Group Term Life and other Related Insurance Policies for the Employee of BYPL for the F.Y. 2024-25 | ₹4.00 Crores | 07.03.2024 14:00 Hrs | 07.03.2024 15:00 Hrs | | | |
| CMC/BY/23-24/ RS/SvS/AvS/40 | Renewal of Various General Insurance Policies in BYPL for the F.Y. 2024-25 | ₹8.00 Crores | 07.03.2024 14:00 Hrs | 07.03.2024 16:00 Hrs | | | |

Cost of each Tender Document: NIL or details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tended documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com ->BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD-->Tender-->Ope

Head (Contracts & Materials CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525

| | O-2597 | | GOVERNMI OF THE CHIEF URAL WORKS O e Procu | CONST | RUCT | TION ENGINEER ANGIR | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Name of wo | rk | | | Ch | nstruction and Manandrali Hill road MSY-TRIP for the y | in the district | |
| 2. | No. of work | | | | 1 1 | (Nine) road wo | rk. | |
| 3. | Time for completion varies from | | | 6 | 6 calendar months | | | |
| 4. | Approximate estimated cost varies from | | m | R | Rs. 271.40 lakhs | | | |
| 5. | Mode of Sub | ode of Submission of tender | | | | Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in | | |
| 6. | Other details | are as follow | | | 1 | | | |
| | Procurement Officer | Bid Identification | Availability of line for I | | r on | Lastdate and time of | | e of opening o |
| | | No. | From | Т | 0 | seeking tender clarification | Technical Bid | Financial Bid |
| | Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir | BLGR-Online- 52/2023-24 | 26.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | 12.03. upto 8 | 5.00 | 11.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M. | 13.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M. | The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later |

· Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only OIPR-25118/11/0082/2324

> **GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM** O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP), PWRD, ASSAM ARRTI COMPLEX, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI - 25

Email id- as-ce.asbip@assam.gov.in No.: CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/Tenders/2024/6

CORRIGENDUM-1 FOR CANCELLATION OF PACKAGE

Project:- Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP)

Package No.:- i) CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Biswanath/06 Ref:- RFB No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2024/1, dtd. 12th February, 2024

The following package published on The Assam Tribune, Niyomiya Barta and The Pioneer dated 13th February, 2024 is hereby cancelled as one bridge from the package is in high risk environment zone (Within eco-sensitive zones of Gibbon WLS) and hence falls under exclusion criteria of World

| SI No. | RFB No. | Date of Publication in Newspaper | Package No. | Exclusion of bridge due to high risk environment zone |
|--------|---|--|---|---|
| 1. | CE/EAP/ARRBP/111 /TENDERS/2024/1, dtd. 12th February, 2024 | 2023 | CE/EAP/ARRBP/ OCB/Bridges- 2/Biswanath/06 | Br. No. 1/1 on Phuleswari Aai Than Road |

Janasanyog/CF/5772/23/-22-Feb-2024

Inconvenience is regretted

Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD, Assam ARR&TI Complex, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25

Chief Engineer

R.W.Circle, Bolangi

• CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohd Imran S/o Mohd Idrees R/o K-166/31, Gali No-7, Near Khaddey Wali Masjid, Gautam Vihar Delhi-110053 declare that my father's name mentioned in my passport as Mohd Idris instead of Mohd Idrees. hence Mohd Idris and Mohd Idrees both are same and one person.

PD(283)C

IRIS PLAZA PVT. LTD. "Terra Lavinium" SECTOR-75, FARIDABAD (HR)

Licence No.79 Dated: 04.10.2017 | RERA Regn.No.: HRERA-PX1-F80-8-2018 dated: 21.05.2018)

DEFAULTER LIST (Under Haryana Government affordable housing scheme)

Kindly clear the dues at the earliest and mmediately get in touch with the Customer Care Executives for the payment till 01 March 2024. If you ignore this final notice and don't make the payment then it will be understood that you are agreed to get forfeited your deposited amount without any objection. You are accepting that you will not claim your deposit amount from 01 March 2024 onwards or deduction as per

| Unit No. | App. No. | Unit No. | App. No. |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 108-A | TLV304-5756 | C-105 | TLV127-333 |
| B-405 | TLV730-5928 | C-302 | TLV1106-910 |
| B-403 | TLV1191-9150 | D-304 | TLV030-317 |
| B-807 | TLV1234-9246 | E-503 | TLV916-606 |
| B-408 | TLV883-7156 | E-504 | TLV523-562 |

favour of "IRIS PLAZA PVT LTD"

(2) Please mention your Unit No, Form No. Name & Mobile Number on the back of cheque/DD, Cheque should be payable at par. (3) All payments should be made at Ground Floor, Plot No-190, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Sector-18, Gurugram-122015 (HARYANA). (4) Please ignore this list if Chequei Demand Draft already submitted.

For any queries please contact: 9971502333, 9971089333 CORPORATE OFFICE:

round Floor, Plot No-190, Phase-IV Udyog Vihar, Sector-18 Gurugram-122015 (HARYANA). Website: www.terragroup.co.in

PUBLICATION FORM NO. 3 [See Regulation- 15 (1)(a)]/16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II.

CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also) Case No.: OA No. 1487 of 2023

Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993. **ICICI BANK LIMITED**

AVINASH CHANDRA AND OTHERS

. Avinash Chandra Son of Shri Sagar Das Chandra, R/o Flat No. 902, Tower-14, Close South, Nirvana Country, Gurugram, Haryana- 122 018. 2nd Address:- Flat No. IF24-03, 2nd Floor in Independent Floor-

24 Block/Tower, Raheia's Oma. Sector 2A, Dhauhera, Gurugram Haryana- 123 401. 3rd Address:- C/o M/s Invista Sales and Service India Private

2nd Floor Vatika Point, M.G. Road, Gurugram Haryana- 122 002.

2. Anupama Singh Chandra Wife of Shri Avinash Chandra, R/o Flat No. 902. Tower-14. Close South, Nirvana Country Gurugram, Haryana- 122 018. 2nd Address :- Flat No. IF24-03 2nd Floor in Independent Floor-24 Block/Tower, Raheja's Oma, Sector 2A, Dharuhera, Gurugram

Haryana- 123 401 SUMMONS
WHEREAS, OA/1487/2023 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 29/01/2024. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/Notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 42,65,666.71/- (application along with copies of documents

etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-To show cause within thirty as to why relief prayed for should

2. To disclose particulars of properties of assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application;

3. You are resptrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

4. You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal: 5. You shall be liable to account for

the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposi such sale proceeds in the accoun maintained with the bank of financial institutions holding security interest over such assets You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before **REGISTRAR** on 04/06/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal

of this Tribunal on this date: Signature of the Officer Authorized to issue sumi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Basgari is in process to avail the LAP from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd against her Plot No. 3, in Block-G area measuring 100 Sq. Vis. part of Kharar No. 2529, situated in the area of Village Dasna, Pargana Dasna, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad (U.P.) purchased the same from Mr. Wasim vide Sale Deed dated 30-12-200 (Doc. No. 7576), whereas she has lost an Original Sale Deed dated 130-32-018 executed by Mr. Shailendra Yadav on behalf of Mrs. Dhaneshwari in favour of Mr. Wasim (Document No. 1820) pertain to the said property, an FIR has already been lodged for that on dated 21/2/2024

All personls having any claim against or in respect of BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

| | I LINDLIN IN | JIICL | | Date. | 21.02.202 | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| ealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders. | | | | | | | |
| NIT No. | Brief Tender Description | Estimated Cost (₹) | | Due Date & Time of Submission | Date & Time of Opening | | |
| CMC/BR/24-25/ RB/CR/SL/1181 | | 1.17 Cr. | 2,34,000/- | 13.03.2024. 15:30 HRS | 13.03.2024 15:45 HRS | | |

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials) fication No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

lodged for that on dated 21/2/2024
All personls having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandomed. Kamal Kam Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluximi Metro Tower

d/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)

ARRTI CAMPUS, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI - 25, Email-id: as-ce.asbip@assam.gov.in

RFB No CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2024/19

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Open Competitive Bidding (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below.

| | | TABLE | Approx. | Bid | Tender | Completion |
|------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| SI. No. | Package no. | Name of the work | Estimated Amount (Rupees in Lakh) | security (Rupees in Lakh) | Processi ng fees (INR) | Period (month) |
| 1 | ges-2/Karbi-Anglong/05 | Construction of Bridges in Karbi- Anglong district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on NH-36 to Phongbirik PWD Road via Bashbari Das Gaon ii) Br. No. 3/2 on NH-36 Dengaon bazar to Parakhowa Panjuri Road via Haza Rongpi Gaon | 487.94 | 9.76 | 5000 | 30 |
| 2 | ges-3/Karbi-Anglong/06 | Construction of Bridges in Karbi- Anglong district: i) Br. No. 4/1 on NH-39 to Tinglijan via Kachari Basti ii) Br. No. 28/1 on Old ND iii) Br. No. 1/1 on NH-39 to RJ Road via Paklangso | 505.93 | 10.12 | 5000 | 30 |
| 3 | ge-I/Cachar/05 | Construction of Bridge in Cachar district: i) Br. on S. F. Road to Kanakpur Road | 144.96 | 2.90 | 5000 | 12 |
| 4 | ge-I/Karimganj/01 | Construction of Bridge in Karimganj district: i) Br. No. 1/3 on Nayagram to Tikarpara Road | 227.76 | 4.56 | 5000 | 18 |
| 5 | | Construction of Bridges in Biswanath district: i) Br. No. 6/2 on Rampur Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Rongajan Nahorbari Link Road iii) Br. No. 1/1 on Borjaroni Monabari Link Road | 509.84 | 10.20 | 5000 | 30 |
| 6 | CE/FAP/ARRBP/QCB/Brid ge-I/Biswa nath/07 | Construction of Bridge in Bitwanath district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Brahmajan Bagan Road | 120.03 | 2.40 | 5000 | 12 |
| 7 | ge-I/Biswanath/08 | Construction of Bridge in Biswanath district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Dolonguri to Majuligarh Road | 107.10 | 2.14 | 5000 | 12 |
| 8 | | Construction of Bridges in Udalguri district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Banseria to Pachim Hahini Road ii) Br. No. 2/1 on Palashbasti to Tekelibill Village | 281.98 | 5.64 | 5000 | 24 |
| 9 | ges-2/Baksa/06 | Construction of Bridges in Baksa district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on SH-10 to Bhogpur Road ii) Br. No. 3/1 on Athiabari to Manikpur | 333.84 | 6.68 | 5000 | 24 |
| 10 | | Construction of Bridges in Dibrugarh district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on LBT Road to TamulbariTE ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Pulunga to Chetia Pather ii) Br. No. 5/1 on Moud TE to Jalpunia TE connecting Road | 607.66 | 12.15 | 5000 | 30 |
| 11 | CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridge-I/Charaideo/04 | Construction of Bridge in Charaideo district: i) Br. No. 1/2 on Pothaligarh Road | 388.32 | 7.77 | 5000 | 24 |
| 12 | | Construction of Bridges in Charaideo district: i) Br. No. 1/2 on Majidpur Road ii) Br. No. 1/2 on Lakhimipam to Konwari Pather connecting Road | 645.21 | 12.90 | 5000 | 30 |
| 13 | | Construction of Bridge in Lakhimpur district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Namoni Narayanpur Chapori to Ghilaguri | 357.18 | 7.14 | 5000 | 30 |
| 14 | CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB /Bridges-2/Lakhimpur/15 | Construction of Bridges in Lakhimpur district: i) Br. No. 2/1 on Rangchali to Kulamon Miri ii) Br. No. 3/1 on Bhugmon Silikhaguri to Gohain Tekela | 886.08 | 17.72 | 5000 | 30 |
| 15 | /Bridge-I/Tinsukia/11 | Construction of Bridge in Tinsukia district: i) Br. No. 3/1 on Jagun Kathasema Tekeri Brahmajan Road connecting Road | 1155.36 | 23.11 | 5000 | 30 |
| 16 | | Construction of Bridges in Tinsukia district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Beesakopie 9 no. line to Beesakopie Factory ii) Br. No. 4/1 on Dangari Dighaltarang to Samaguri Habigaon Road iii) Br. No. 2/1 on Nahorjan to Tara TE 49 Sec. | 545.58 | 10.91 | 5000 | 24 |
| 17 | | Construction of Bridges in Majuli district: i) Br. No. 1/1 on Pub Sriram Dewri to Kotia Sapori Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Nayabazar Salmari Kekurighat Road | 1066.06 | 21.32 | 5000 | 30 |
| 18 | ges-2/Sivasagar/ll | Construction of Bridges in Sivasagar district: i) Br. No. 3/1 on Roadhgaiting Road ii) Br. No. 2/3 on Changmaigaon Road | 178.38 | 3.57 | 5000 | 18 |

The bidding documents are available online on http://www.assamtenders.gov.in from 27/02/2024 to 27/03/2024 Bidders will be required to register on the website which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is equired to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC). Bids must be submitted online on http://www.assamtenders.gov.in on or before 14:00 Hours on 27/03/2024. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The method of paying Bid Security, Tender Processing fees as indicated in the table above of this e-procurement shall be required to be submitted online on http://www.assamtenders.gov.in by selecting "Pay Online" option.

> Chief Engineer, (EAP) PWRD Assam, Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati-25

pinion 06

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Fair play

Rules forcing women out of job for marriage or family unconstitutional, SC has ruled

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has declared regulations mandating the dismissal of women from jobs upon marriage as "archaic, discriminatory and in violation of constitutional principles." The judgment marks another significant step towards gender equality and the protection of women's rights. For decades, countless women across job sectors have faced the harsh reality of being forced out of employment solely because of their marital status or family obligations. Such discriminatory practices not only perpetuate gender inequality but also hinder women's economic independence and professional growth. The Supreme Court's decision to strike down these rules is a resounding victory for gender justice and workplace equality, besides reaffirming the constitutional guarantee of equality before the law and nondiscrimination on the grounds of gender. It is also a stride towards ensuring a society that typically takes the fair sex as unreliable and untrustworthy who would leave



their work midway to tend to their families. The repercussions of such regressive rules extend far beyond individual women; they contribute to a culture of inequality and reinforce harmful stereotypes. By dismantling these barriers, the judiciary has taken a significant step towards dismantling systemic gender discrimination and promoting a more inclusive and equitable society. Of course, changes that stand the test of time must come from within a society but legal protection is also necessary to ensure a progressive society.

The judgment underscores the importance of upholding women's right to work and pursue career

opportunities without facing arbitrary restrictions. Women should not have to choose between their personal lives and professional aspirations; they deserve the freedom to navigate both spheres on their own terms. Besides, the economic implications of depriving women of employment opportunities are profound. Gender equality at the workforce is not just a matter of principle but also a crucial factor in promoting economic growth and social development. By harnessing the talent and potential of all individuals, irrespective of their gender, societies can foster innovation, productivity and prosperity. Additionally, efforts to combat gender-based discrimination must extend beyond legal frameworks to encompass broader societal attitudes and norms. Education, awareness campaigns and advocacy are essential tools in challenging deep-rooted biases and promoting gender equality. While the apex court's decision represents a significant milestone in the fight for women's rights, it is only the beginning of a broader movement towards gender equality. Sustained efforts from all stakeholders, including Governments, employers, civil society and individuals, are necessary to create a truly inclusive and equitable society. For the moment, however, we can cherish that one more glass ceiling has been breached and the court deserves a round of applause.



J&K's first electric train during its flagging off ceremony, at Srinagar railway station, in Jammu & Kashmir

Accountability for those harming our institutions



Loyalty, courage and sacrifice hold great significance within the institution, while long-standing customs and traditions are revered as sacred

n 1927, the French intellectual and philosopher, Julien Benda, published his classic 'La Trahison des Clercs', or "The Treason of the Clerks'. He used the term 'treason' to imply betrayal, and "clerks" to refer to writers or members of the intelligentsia; journalists, academics, commentators and other professionals. His book was an attack on how the intelligentsia of the period had betrayed the legacy of the 'Age of Enlightment'; the fruits of the Revolution, by descending into extreme nationalism and racism, a phenomenon that seems to have raised its ugly head again, the world over. We have not been immune either, given the existing state of affairs within our society, though religion and caste may have replaced race to some extent.

In our case, it is not about any particular political party or group suborning our democratic institutions, in its efforts to push through its ideology, or about the unconscionable actions of some within institutions of supinely kowtowing before the powers that be for self-aggrandisement. That kind of behaviour is not unknown from the past, though probably was not as overt or extensive as prevalent today. The problem with all of this is, as Ayn Rand so perceptively observed, "each individual has the power to suspend, evade, corrupt or subvert his perception of reality, but not the power to escape the existential and psychological disasters that follow." In essence, we may avoid facing reality, but its adverse consequences will always catch up with us.

Take the military for instance. As an institution given its exacting selection process, emphasis on discipline and accountability it is relatively devoid of many ills that plague our society in general. It has always been seen as a reputable and trustworthy institution within the country, and even internationally, a fairly unique phenomenon in the developing world, including in our neighbourhood. Primarily because of its apolitical nature of functioning and the profession-alism it has always displayed, whatever the task. Moreover, its senior leadership is also greatly

respected and given unquestioned loyalty by the rank and file, because of their competence and integrity and for having the interest and wellbeing of their troops in mind at all times.

Moreover, loyalty, courage and sacrifice are greatly valued, and long-standing customs and traditions are treated as sacrosanct, which greatly strengthens the foundations of the institution itself. Its members are fully aware of the onerous responsibility on their shoulders to maintain the reputation of the institution itself, which calls for utmost dedication, discipline and self-sacrifice. All of this adds to esprit-decorps, comradery and morale, instilling in each of its members a strong sense of what is right and wrong. It is an environment that needs proper nurturing to flourish if it is not to be found wanting even in the most difficult of circumstances. This is not to suggest that there are no deviations from the norm. Far from it, but these are relatively few and far between. Moreover, such egregious behaviour is not condoned and corrective steps are initiated at the earliest possible time to prevent reoc currence. More importantly, those involved, invariably face social opprobrium within the community, both from serving



THERE HAS BEEN A **GRADUAL DETERIORATION IN** ETHICAL STANDARDS. **INCREASING** CORRUPTION AND A **BLATANT DISREGARD** FOR SOCIETAL NORMS THAT HAVE INFECTED OUR SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, ESPECIALLY THE POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT. HAVE IMPACTED THE MILITARY AS WELL

and veteran colleagues. Unfortunately, there has been a gradual deterioration in ethical standards, as increasing corruption and a blatant disregard for societal norms that have infected our society as a whole, especially the political establishment, have impacted the military as well. In the earlier days, most aberrations at the highest levels were more like sins of omission than of commission. This changed from the time the late General Bipin Rawat was appointed Army Chief. Since then, questionable initiatives have been undertaken, that appeared more geared towards pleasing the political leadership and fulfilling their ideological aims than enhancing our capabilities or protecting institution-al integrity. The best example of this was when General Rawat acquiesced to the stopping of funding for the Mountain Strike Corps midway through its implementa-tion, because the present dispensation did not perceive its need as a priority. Indubitably, the contemporary adverse sit-uation in Eastern Ladakh would never have occurred, if this short-sighted step had not been taken. Iruly a case of being pennywise but pound

Similarly, seniority and laid down service rules were arbi-

trarily ignored while appointing the Chief of Defence Staff, following General Rawat's tragic demise. With the sanctity of such appointments compromised, we not only see greater interference by politicians in purely military matters but also a blatant disregard of all prevailing norms by senior officers in vain attempts to push personal agendas. The invitation to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister as the Chief Guest for a Regimental Reunion, with which he has no affiliation, and the ridiculous initiative underway to change uniforms and badges of rank of one service as they reek of colonial influence are examples of such perverseness. While such behaviour has come to be increasingly normalised, its adverse impact on the rank and file cannot be wished away. Sooner rather than later, we will all pay a very high price for our obvious unwillingness to condemn such reprehensible behaviour that is destroying the very foundations of one of our most cherished institu-

(The author, a military veteran, is a visiting fellow with tne Observer Research Foundation and a senior visiting fellow with The Peninsula Foundation, Chennai, views are personal)

THE EDITOR

India to dominate the global solar industry



The solar manufacturing sector in India is at a critical juncture, teeming with potential for high growth and an abundance of employment opportunities

≺he solar manufacturing sector in India stands at a pivotal moment, presenting significant potential for growth and employment opportunities. Historically, India has been a laggard in the manufacturing landscape of the solar industry, relying heavily on imports and expertise from foreign markets. Consequently, this dependency has led to a scarcity of skilled manpower and a deficiency in indigenous technological capabilities.

From an HR perspective, the solar manufacturing sector offers a unique set of challenges and opportunities. The spillover effect of manufacturing is particularly noteworthy, creating employment not only within the industry but also generating a ripple effect across related sectors. As the global demand for solar products rises, the necessity for skilled workers in manufacturing, project planning, and execution becomes increasingly pronounced.

India's reliance on imports has impeded the development of a robust solar man-

However, there is a positive shift underway as both Central and State governments emphasise manufacturing. Initiatives like "Make in India" and incentives for the solar industry are expected to foster a conducive

environment for skill development within the nation. A primary challenge has been the limited pool of skilled workers and a lack of project planning and execution experience in the solar manufacturing domain. To address this, cross-industry resources must be mobilised to fill existing gaps. With the improving demand situation and concerted efforts by the Indian government to

boost manufacturing, the

solar sector is poised to

observe significant expan-

sion. Also, once industrial

scale, it will take the R&D sector along, adding highlevel technological inventions and innovations from Indian institutions.

As India aligns itself with global competitors in both scale and technology, the solar manufacturing sector is positioned to be a major contributor to employment, economic growth, and sustainability. With the implementation of the right HR strategies and government support, India has the potential to emerge as a key player in the solar manufacturing landscape in the coming

İn conclusion, India's solar manufacturing sector is undergoing a transformative phase, marked by a shift from dependency on imports to fostering indigeufacturing ecosystem. manufacturing picks up nous capabilities. Despite

historical challenges in skill shortages and limited technological expertise, concerted efforts from both government and industry stakeholders are driving significant progress. Initiatives like 'Make in India" and incentivization schemes are propelling the growth of a robust manufacturing ecosystem. However, challenges persist, particularly in addressing the shortage of skilled workers and enhancing project planning and execution capabilities. Collaboration across industries and continued government support will be crucial in overcoming these hurdles. As India aligns itself with global standards in scale and technology, the solar manufacturing sector is poised to become a cornerstone of employment, economic growth, and sustainability. With the implementation of effective HR stratesustained and Government backing, India is well-positioned to emerge as a key player in the global solar manufacturing landscape in the years ahead.

(The writer is an energy expert; views are personal)

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

MSP GUARANTEE IS CRUCIAL

Sir — Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that "lies" are being spread that the MSP guarantee is not feasible under the government's budget. Legal guarantee for MSP will not make Indian farmers a burden on the budget but ensure that they become drivers of GDP growth. Gandhi claimed that ever since Congress resolved to provide a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP), "Centres's propaganda machinery and media friendly to him have spread a barrage of lies on MSP". According to CRISIL, giving MSP to farmers in 2022-23 would have resulted in an additional burden of Rs 21,000 crore on the government, which is only 0.4 per cent of the total budget.

In a country where bank loans worth Rs 14 lakh crore have been waived and corporate tax exemption of Rs 1.8 lakh crore given, why is even a little expenditure on farmers irking the government? With the legal guarantee for MSP, investment in agriculture will increase, demand will increase in rural India and farmers will also get confidence in growing different types of crops, which is a guarantee of the country's prosperity. Those who are spreading confusion on MSP are insulting Dr Swaminathan and his dreams.

CJI'S CONCERN OVER SURGE IN CASES Sir — Expressing concern over the growing number of cases while addressing the inauguration ceremony of an arbitration centre inaugurated by him, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud wants to pay attention at trial courts to reduce the burden of a growing number of cases. The Chief Justice opines that the solution to problems lies in trial courts. He also says that the problems that can be solved in trial courts are coming to the Supreme Court. Naturally, the apex court is worried about the increasing number of cases knocking at its door.

He advocates for constructive friction between the judiciary and executive, believing it maintains checks and bal- first-class cricket. Despite the interrup-

Shaping tomorrow's democracy



propos of 'The implications of Supreme Court ruling (Feb 20), In a landmark decision that reverberates through the corridors of power, the Supreme Court of India has dismantled the Electoral Bond scheme, branding it "unconstitutional" "arbitrary" and violative of Article 14. With an eloquence rooted in democratic principles, the court articulated that the scheme's secretive nature undermines the essence of transparency essential for informed voter participation. While the

Government championed Electoral Bonds as a bulwark against black money, the court resolutely rebuffed this narrative, asserting that the scheme fails to pass the litmus test of curbing corruption. However, as the gavel falls on Electoral Bonds, the path forward beckons with possibilities. Embracing transparency as the cornerstone of electoral integrity, policymakers must heed the clarion call for reform.

Reforms should include stringent disclosure requirements for all political contributions, regardless of size, ensuring that citizens have access to information about the sources of campaign funding. Additionally, measures should be implemented to regulate corporate donations and prevent undue influence in politics. By enacting reforms, we can pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable democracy, where the voices of all citizens are heard and respected.

Sagar Gambhir | Ludhiana

ances. Timely justice would boost public trust, as many endure injustice rather than face prolonged court processes. Advocates seek excessive adjournments, shielding aged clients. Political criminals contest lower court rulings, exploiting the lengthy appellate process. Justice delay becomes a curse for victims, a boon for offenders, as some die before judgment. Revamping the system is crucial; no case should surpass 2-3 years, ensuring timely punishment to curb crime rates.

KV Seetharamaiah | Bengaluru

ADIEU, MIKE PROCTOR

Sir — Mike Proctor, a cricketing icon, passed away on February 18, 2024, at the age of 77. Born in Durban in 1946, Proctor's legacy in cricket is unparalleled, marked by his exceptional prowess as an all-rounder and his enduring influence on the game. From his early days in Natal to his storied career with Gloucestershire, Proctor consistently showcased his formidable talent, amassing over 20,000 runs and taking more than 1,300 wickets in tion of his international career due to South Africa's isolation, he continued to excel, leaving an indelible mark with his performance, including a remarkable feat of six consecutive centuries for

Rhodesia Beyond his playing days, Proctor's impact extended to coaching and administration, where he further shaped the cricketing landscape. As the inaugural coach of South Africa's national team post-isolation, he guided them to the semi-finals of the 1992 World Cup, highlighting his strategic acumen and leadership. His subsequent roles as an ICC match referee and South Africa's convener of selectors underscored his commitment to the sport's governance and development. Proctor's legacy as a true legend of the game is defined not only by his on-field achievements but also by his integrity, sportsmanship, and enduring influence on cricket worldwide.

Amarjeet Kumar | Hazaribagh

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FIRST COLUMN

FINDING SOLACE IN DIVINE SHELTER

God is there for us, but we must qualify to get His help through spiritual practices



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

s smallness is a comparative term, we must ascertain compared to whom. The answer is God, who is so big that He is immeasur-Able. Imagine God being spread over uncountable galaxies, of which our Earth planet is a very small part. Now imagine how small we are. But this shouldn't bother us too much because God being very kind helps out wherever our smallness is an andicap. Let me start with getting a measure of our smallness. The count of human beings on this planet has gone beyond eight billion. Where do we normally live?

In a room, which is part of a building, which itself is a part of a small locality. Many of such localities constitute a town, and we can go on till we get to the entire world. As regards our ability to exist, it has been estimated that we need the help of about twenty-five persons daily simply to exist. Our knowledge is severely limited in the larger sense even with the internet being available to us. Combined with our forgetfulness, we are not self-sufficient in this aspect. Consequently, we generally don't know what to do. Aren't we meditating endlessly on what concerns us? To achieve anything of substance like in a business venture, we need many to help us. We can get proof of our smallness whenever we look. Let us see how big God is. He is omnipotent, which means that He has unlimited power. He must have created uncountable galaxies. Compared to God, what power do we have? God is omnipresent also; He must be to do what He does. Lord Krishna confirms in the Bhagavad-Geeta, "This entire world is spread by Me by My unmanifest form." (9.4) He is watching all of us all the time. God is omniscient, which should not cause any surprise. And He is very different from us, which should also be obvious. God is very much involved in running of the Creation; He is very much here as should have been clear from the information pro-



God balances our free will with what cannot be permitted. It is a tough task, but God, as He is, strikes a balance such that we can keep our free will more or less intact. In short, God will not allow an all-out nuclear war, which will cause premature annihilation of the world. God is for our benefit. He is not like a regular big, who is bent upon gathering everything for himself or herself. Why should God do that? Isn't He the owner of everything in the first place; God is complete in all respects.

Wise persons advance themselves by taking God's shelter. They control their egos, because that is the main hindrance in getting guidance

The only bigness allowed is to become a big devotees of God like Adi Shankaracharya or Swami Vivekananda. Then, we can endear ourselves to God by aligning our free will with God's plan for us. What does God want from us? We should contribute to the smooth running of the Creation; we should have a net positive effect on it. For that, we must follow 'dharma' - sound moral principles. We can seek guidance from God by sincerely praying because God can guide us perfectly; He knows what will transpire in future. Why be confused or swim in darkness; get the right knowledge from God, and avoid making expensive mistakes.

We can get a lot from God, but we must qualify to get such help. It is best done by doing spiritual practices. There are very simple acts like doing 'namaskar' to God, chanting His name, thanking Him for all the help received and having 'darshan' of God in His Deity or photo form. After all, there must be some way to determine who deserves such help. The conclusion is: that we are very small and helpless. This should be an accepted fact, but the Creation is based on sound principles. We can get all needed help from God by taking His shelter; our smallness need not be a handicap. What will you do? I, on my part, am trying to remain in God's shelter more and more.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

Preserving the symphony of voices



We must strive to preserve languages, as the disappearance of a language is not merely the loss of words but the erosion of culture and tradition

nternational Mother Language Day is celebrated on 21st February, under the auspices of UNESCO. This international observance was first proclaimed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1999 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. It started being observed annually in 2000. Each year they come up with a theme. The theme for the International Mother Language 2024 is "Multilingual education is a pillar of intergenerational learning".

The date holds historical significance as it commemorates the sacrifices made by students of East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) during the Language Movement of 1952, who bravely protested for the recognition of their mother tongue, Bengali, as one of the official languages of Pakistan. 54.1% of the population of the then East Pakistan spoke Bengali. Apart from the identity of Islam, there were many linguistic, cultural, ethnic and geographical contradictions between West Pakistan and East Pakistan. Amidst this cultural clash, the rulers of Islamabad declared Urdu as the official language, totally neglecting the Bengali language which the population held close to their hearts.

Thousands of students gathered in Dhaka, the capital of East Bengal, and launched an agitation. West Pakistan was trying to brutally suppress the protests by students at Dhaka University and Dhaka Medical College. Student leaders Abdul Salman, Rafiquddin Ahmed, Abdul Balkhad and Abdul Jabbar were also martyred in the military operation which claimed several lives. This language movement, which took place on 21st February 1952, finally succeeded and Bengali along with Urdu became the mother tongue of undivided

Mother language is not just a means of communication; it is the cradle of our cultural identity, the keeper of our heritage, and the bridge that connects us to the wisdom of generations past. However, today, many languages are disappearing with time. It is estimated that every two weeks a language disappears in the world. About 43 per cent of spoken languages may disappear in the future. The day, organised by UNESCO, is especially meant to emphasise the need to preserve languages. There are about 6000 languages in the world, both with script and without script. Chinese or Mandarin is the most widely spoken language in the world, with 16 per cent of the world's population using it as their mother tongue. English and Hindi occupy the second and third positions respectively.

People who speak multiple languages are called polyglots. Proficiency in as many languages as possible is considered to be a great skill in the present globalised society. Former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, who was fluent in 17 languages, is a good example of a polyglot.

More than 3000 languages are endangered. After 1950 alone, 230 languages that existed in the world disappeared from the face of the earth. Under the leadership of Irina Bokova, the former Director-General of UNESCO, several projects had been formulated for the conservation of endangered languages. One of them is the International Mother Language Institute established in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

With the aid of the United Nations, several schemes have been put together for the protection of the mother tongue. 2008 was celebrated as the International Year of





MORE THAN 3,000 LANGUAGES ARE ENDANGERED. ONLY SINCE 1950, 230 LANGUAGES THAT EXISTED IN THE WORLD DISAPPEARED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH

made to preserve the vanishing languages. The fourth item in the UNled Millennium Development Goal is to provide better and more inclusive education through the mother language. According to UN esti-mates, half of the approximately 7000 languages spoken in the world are not guaranteed to last for another generation. Of these 96 percent of the languages are currently used by only 4 percent of the world's population. Linguists have documented that among some societies in Asia and Africa, there are languages that are spoken only by women. The Dakhini language, which is still popular in Gulbarga in Karnataka and Solapur in Maharashtra, is one such language. According to the 2011 language census, the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution contains 22 languages, including 121 mother tongues. 52.8 crore individuals, i.e. 43.6% of the population, speak Hindi. Bengali is the mother tongue of the next largest number of people—8%. Out of the 2.6 lakh English speakers (who have their mother tongue as iish) more than one iakh are in Maharashtra. As a second language, English is preferred over Hindi in the North-Eastern parts. In 2011, of the 17.6 lakh people whose mother tongue was Manipur, 4.8 lahks declared English as their second language. While English, along with Hindi, is one of the two official languages of the Central Government, it is not among the 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule; it is one of the 99 languages that are not scheduled. In terms of mother tongue, the

number of English speakers in India in 2011 was just 2.6 lakh — a small fraction of the 121 crore people estimated in that census. In Fiji, Hindi is the official language spoken by 44 per cent of the population. In percentage terms, Fiji has more Hindi speakers than India.

In India, a land of linguistic diversity, apart from Hindi and English, 22 regional languages also occupy

Schedules of the Constitution. However, Sanskrit, the heritage language, can be seen fading in the society. Less than 15,000 people use Sanskrit as a spoken language. While the central and state Governments have launched several schemes to promote Sanskrit, there is only one daily newspaper in the world in this language which is Sudharma. Uttarakhand is the only Indian state to have included Sanskrit in its official languages. According to the 1961 census, there were 1,652 languages in India classified as 'mother tongue'. However, according to the 2011 census report, the number of mother tongues in India is 234. More than 800 mother tongues have disappeared in the last fifty years. Nihali is still considered the mother tongue of more than 15,000 people in about 15 vil-lages in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, similarly around 1,000 Portuguese-speaking people in a village in Maharashtra. Arunachal Pradesh, where the population is much smaller, yet has the highest level of linguistic diversity. The multilingual tribes and regions are the identity of Indian culture. In India, 220 languages have recently become extinct due to a lack of adequate care. As many as 197 Indian languages have been listed by UNESCO among the most likely to be alienated. According to the 2011 census, 96.71 per cent of the population speaks 21 languages recognised by the Constitution of India. English, Spanish and French are languages that have not developed their own script. These languages borrowed from the Latin script for writing. Hindi is a language which does not have its own script. Devanagari is the script used by Hindi today. Arabic is a language that is precisely convinced that language is a culture. Arabic is the spoken language of about 422 million people and the mother tongue of 24 countries in the world and is a perfect example of how one of the oldest languages developed strongly and

ern languages.

Amar Sonar Bangla, the national anthem of independent Bangladesh, was composed by Rabindranath Tagore in 1905 in the backdrop of the first partition of Bengal. Ananda Samarakoon, a disciple of Rabindranath of Visva-Bharati, composed the national anthem 'Namo Namo Matha' of Sri Lanka in Sinhalese. Ten decades before the Sri Lankan civil war that ended in 2009, Tamil, along with Sinhalese, was recognised as the official language of Sri Lanka.

The Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights was held in Barcelona in 1996, but hundreds of languages are still fading away from time to time. It is doubtful whether writing will have any significance fifty years from now. The technology to turn sound into text is already in vogue.

Of the 6,000 languages in use in the

world, at least 4,000 are likely to be extinct. According to language researchers, 90 per cent of the languages currently in use will disappear from the earth's surface by 2050. Less than 10,000 people use one-third of the world's existing languages. According to the Central Government, more than 200 Indian languages have disappeared since 1961. Most of these are languages used by tribals, including Adivasi communities. After the 1961 census, the Government decided to do away with the national status of languages used by less than 10,000 people. We must recognise that the disappearance of a language is not merely the loss of words but the erosion of culture and tradition. As put by Noam Chomsky "A language is not just words. It's a culture, a traditión, a unification of a community, a whole history that creates what a community is. It's all embodied in a language." Allowing languages to become extinct is a sin being committed to our ancestors and future generations

(The writer is an associate professor, views are personal)

Influence of AI and digital media on general elections

Laws and moral standards governing the application of AI to political campaigns ought to be developed to reduce the possibility of abuse and guarantee openness

owadays, national, and international interests are entwined with technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, and nanotechnology. As it progresses, it creates several dependencies, power conflicts, rivalries, risks, and opportunities, in addition to posing economic, political, and cultural issues. It has the power to completely change the electoral environment, offering both benefits and difficulties for Indian democracy.

Challenges for Democracy

Algorithms driven by AI are used by all social media sites to improve the user experience. The use of these algorithms to determine political strategy is growing in importance. As a result, voters might discover themselves in isolat-



ed informational bubbles that limit their exposure to opposing ideas and could influence their voting decisions and preferences. Deepfakes, or videos that have been altered to look authentic, can be used to spread untrue stories and defame opponents. Social media bots can amplify messages and create fake trends, which might be used to influence people who aren't sure what to vote for. The complex- propagated negative stereo-

ity of AI-driven disinformation makes it harder and harder to separate fact from fiction, which poses a serious risk to making well-informed decisions during elections.

Because AI technologies are becoming more sophisticated, it is becoming more challenging to identify and link illicit activities to foreign actors (terrorist organisations or sleeper cells). This may make it more difficult to hold them responsible and stop meddling in the future. AI-powered bots were deployed by foreign Governments and the troll farms they were associated with to flood social media platforms with a network of fictitious identities and deceptive information intended to sway public opinion. These bots types and conspiracies against other candidates, amplified some communications, and gave the impression that a particular candidate was receiving broad support. A few months ago, when the Indian Prime Minister's deepfake video went viral on social media, we got a sneak peek of this.

This poses a severe risk to democracy since it can be used to influence voters' decisions and actions. For example, the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica created comprehensive psychosomatic profiles of voters by using information that was accumulated from billions of Facebook accounts. Using this data, they were able to target these individuals with customised social media messages and advertisements,

which might have an impact measure public opinion, on how they voted in the US presidential elections of 2016 and 2020 as well as the Philippine midterm elections. Looking at the Positive Side On the positive side, social media and artificial intelligence can support and enhance democracy.

The capacity of AI to precisely micro-target voters is among its most important effects. This entails creating comprehensive profiles of each voter utilising a plethora of data, including demographics, social media activity, and internet conduct. AI-powered applications provide customised tactics that are more likely to sway voters than traditional mass campaigns. Sentiment analysis techniques, for instance, can detect emerging issues and

enabling campaigns to modify their messaging and concentrate on the issues that matter most to voters.

AI-driven chatbots can answer common questions and inform voters around the clock, freeing up human resources for more important work. Data-driven models improve campaign efficacy and affordability by forecasting voter turnout and allocating resources optimally. AI and social media can be used to raise awareness, reach a larger audience, and resolve complaints

The electoral commission can share pertinent information on social media. To answer the complaints, the Election Commission's website can deploy an AI-based chatbot. dling in elections, we need to

AI algorithms can separate the true news from the false one with the use of fact-checking

In a nation the size of India, it is nearly hard to govern and regulate social media usage. Therefore, if we are unable to solve the issue, we ought to search for a solution. Considering how AI will probably affect our elections, we need to take urgent action on several fronts.

To prevent assaults on electoral infrastructure and voter data, strong cybersecurity measures are first and foremost required. Second, to recognise and reject disinformation and propaganda, voters need to hone their media literacy and critical

thinking abilities. Third, to prevent foreign med-

improve information exchange and international collaboration among democracies. Fourth, the Government needs

to sensitise its employees regarding the handling of data. They should undertake capacity enhancement programmes like data science and decision

Lastly, laws and moral standards governing the applica-tion of AI to political cam-paigns ought to be developed to reduce the possibility of abuse and guarantee openness. Besides, All election content should also be distinctly watermarked with authenticated political parties, candidates, or registered media.

(The writer is an Associate Professor at Bennett University, India; views are personal)

PPP, PML-N strike power-sharing deal in Pakistan

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan Peoples Party have finally agreed on a power-sharing deal to form a coalition government led by former prime minister Shehbaz Sharif, a move that could effectively sideline their arch-rival, Imran Khan. Both the PML-N and the PPP won fewer seats in Parliament than candidates backed by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan in an election mired in controversies, including vote rigging. Khan, who could not contest the February 8 elections due to his convictions in some cases including that of corruption has been barred from holding any public office for 10 years.

At a joint news conference here late Tuesday night after



Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari announced that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif, 72, will assume the role of the prime minister

Similarly, PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, 68, will be the joint candidate for the president's office.

Last week, the PML-N, in a surprise move, announced without revealing the number of lawmakers they have in the National Assembly after the February 8 elections.

To form a government, a party must win 133 out of 265 contested seats in the 266member National Assembly or the lower house of Parliament. He said former prime minister Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party-backed independent candidates and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) failed to achieve a simple majority in Parliament to form a government in the

Bilawal hoped that the news of the political alliance with the PML-N to form a coalition government would lead to a positive market response as the cash-strapped country faced a hung Parliament after the elections.

Shehbaz to be PM, Zardari President Imran's party steps up demand for resignation of 'Mandate Thieves'

Tailed former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party on Wednesday rejected the attempts by two of its archrivals to form a coalition government, warning that robbing its public endorsement by the "mandate thieves" will result in the worst political instability. Almost two weeks after the February 8 general elections that delivered a fractured mandate, there was finally a breakthrough late on Tuesday night that could end the political impasse in the country. Much to the chagrin of Khan and his party – independents backed by his Pakistan-Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won majority seats at the National Assembly the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have agreed on a powersharing deal to form a new coalition government. PML-N's Shehbaz Sharif has been nominated as the prime min-

lishment and his political opponents by posted its official statement on X han- elections "were made to win". dle which said, the PTI "completely

ister candidate while PPP's Asif Ali Zardari is for the president's office. The NPP will to the president of
PPP said it will not join the federal cab- Washington/Islamabad (PTI): The US has said inet but the Senate chairman will be that that allegations of "interference or fraud" in of the PPP.Reacting sharply to the late- Pakistan's recent elections must be fully and night political developments, the PTI transparently investigated according to the counsaid it "completely rejected the attempts try's laws and procedures. US state department to create a spectacle of PDM-2 in the spokesperson Matthew Miller made the remarks country by collecting the people's reject- on Tuesday while responding to a question about ed mandate thieves." Earlier on Tuesday, rigging allegations made by former Rawalpindi Khan had slammed the powerful estabCommissioner Liaqat Ali Chattha.

On February 17, the senior Pakistani bureauterming the country's election process crat alleged that the chief election commissioner and as the 'Mother of All Rigging' and the chief justice were involved in "poll-rigging" in demanded that the people's mandate the February 8 elections and resigned from his post, that was "stolen" from his party must taking the "responsibility for all this wrongdoing". be returned.On Wednesday, the party Chattha said the candidates who were "losing" the

"I am taking the responsibility for all this wrongrejected the attempts to create a spec- doing and telling you that the chief election comtacle of PDM-2 in the country by col-missioner and the chief justice are also completely lecting the people's rejected mandate involved in this," he was quoted as saying by the

Israeli strike kills 2 in Syria

I sraeli strikes hit a neighbourhood of the Syrian capital on Wednesday morning, killing two people and causing material damage, Syria's state TV said. There was no confirmation of the strikes from Israel. The Syrian state TV reported that several missiles hit the western neighbourhood of Kfar Sousseh but did not elaborate or say who were the people killed. The progovernment Sham FM radio station said the strike hit a

wounding another.Rami parts of war-torn Syria in Abdurrahman, who heads the recent years.Israel rarely Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britainbased opposition war monitor, said the two killed were inside an apartment but did not give any clues about their identities. He added that the strike was similar to last month's killing in Beirut of Saleh Arouri, a top official with the militant Palestinian Hamas group. The strike damaged the fourth floor of a 10-storey building, shattered window glass on nearby buildings and were seen rushing to the school to take their children. Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled

acknowledges its actions in Syria, but it has said that it targets bases of Iran-allied militant groups, such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has sent thousands of fighters to sup-port Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.Last month, an Israeli strike on the Syrian capital's western neighbour-hood of Mazzeh destroyed a building used by the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, killing at least five Iranians. In December, an Revolutionary Guard in Syria. Israel has also targeted Palestinian and Lebanese operatives in Syria over the

three-time former premier

Nawaz Sharif nominated his

younger brother Shehbaz as a

candidate for the slot of prime

minister. Nawaz, 74, was earli-

er confident of securing a

record fourth term. However,

his party failed to win enough

seats to form a government on

its own."The PPP and PML-N

have achieved the required

number, and (now) we are in a



A gunman fires into the air as mourners carry the body of Palestinian militant Aref Marwan Aref Ali, 25, draped in the Fatah flag, who was killed by Israeli fire in the Jenin refugee camp, during his funeral in the West Bank city of Jenin, Wednesday. The Israeli army said three people were killed in an Israeli military operation in the Israeli occupied West Bank city. Israeli troops were searching for explosives and roadside bombs during the operation, which took place overnight on Tuesday, the military said.

building near an Iranian also damaged dozens of cars Israeli airstrike on a suburb of parked in the area. An empty Damascus killed Iranian gen-The state news agency, parked bus for the nearby eral Seyed Razi Mousavi, a SANA, quoted an unnamed Al-Bawader Private School longtime adviser of the military official as saying that was also damaged and people paramilitary

the Israeli missiles were fired from the direction of Syria's Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and hit a building, killing two civilians and

Attacks on ships, US drones show Houthis can still fight despite US-led airstrikes

Despite a month of US-led airstrikes, Yemen's Iranbacked Houthi rebels remain capable of launching significant attacks. This week, they seriously damaged a ship in a cru-American drone worth tens of millions of dollars. The continued assaults by the Houthis on shipping through the crucial Red Sea corridor — the Bab el-Mandeb Strait — against the backdrop of Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip underscore the challenges in trying to stop the guerrilla-style attacks they have used to hold onto Yemen's capital and much of the war-ravaged country's north since 2014.

The campaign has boosted the rebels' standing in the Arab world, despite their human rights abuses in a yearslong stalemated war with several of America's allies in the region. Analysts warn that the longer the Houthis' attacks go on, the greater the risk that disruptions to international shipping will begin to weigh on the global economy. On Monday, both the

acknowledged one of the most serious attacks on shipping launched by the rebels. The Houthis targeted the Belizeflagged bulk carrier Rubymar a Yemeni port city they hold on the Red Sea. The footage missiles, and one struck the included a video of men drag-Command said.

The Rubymar, which reported problems with its propulsion in November, apparently became inoperable, forcing her crew to abandon the vessel. spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya

Saree claimed on Monday night that the Rubymar sank. However, satellite images from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press showed the Rubymar still afloat at 2 p.m. local time Tuesday just north of the Bab el-Mandeb. A large oil slick trailed the vessel.

The Rubymar attack marked one of a few direct, serious hits by the Houthi rebels on shipping. In late January, another direct hit set a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker ablaze for hours. Meanwhile, the Houthis early rier full of grain bound for

Tuesday released footage of what they described as a surface-to-air missile bringing down a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone off the coast of Hodeida, water onto a beach. Images of the debris, which included writing in English and what seemed to be electrical equipment, appeared to correspond to known pieces of the Reaper, usually used in attack missions and surveillance flights. Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told journalists in a briefing the Houthis shot down the drone. In November, the Pentagon acknowledged the loss of an MQ-9, also shot down by the rebels over the Red Sea.Since the Houthis seized the country's north and its capital of Sanaa in 2014, the U.S. military has lost at least four drones to shootdowns by the rebels — in 2017, 2019 and this year. Meanwhile, the

Houthis claimed an attack on

the Sea Champion, a Greek-

flagged, U.S.-owned bulk car-

Aden, Yemen, carrying grain from Argentina. Central Command said the carrier "has delivered humanitarian aid to Yemen 11 times in the past five years" as the country remains on the edge of famine amid the

war there. claimed an attack on the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Navis Fortuna, a ship that had been broadcasting its destination as Italy with an "all Chinese" crew to avoid being targeted. Private security firm Ambrey reported that the vessel sustained minor damage in a drone attack. The US shot down 10 bomb-carrying Houthi drones, as well as a cruise missile heading toward the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Laboon over the last day, Central Command said Tuesday.

The U.S. military also conducted strikes targeting a Houthi surface-to-air missile launcher and a drone prior to its launch. The Houthis acknowledged the drone attacks and claimed other assaults not immediately acknowledged by the West.

'US opposes UN court's call for Israeli withdrawal'

The Hague (AP): The United States said Wednesday the United Nations' top court should not issue an advisory opinion that says Israel should "immediately and unconditionally and unconditi diately and unconditionally withdraw" from territories sought for a Palestinian state. Acting State Department legal 15-judge panel at the International Court of Justice should not seek to resolve the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict "through an advisory opinion addressed to questions focusing on the acts of only one

party". Visek spoke on the third day of hearings at the court into a request by the General Assembly for a non-binding advisory opinion on the legality of Israel's policies in the occupied territories. He said the court "can address the questions before it within the established framework based on the land for peace principle and within the parameters of established principles of occupa-tion law". Visek added that the court's opinion "will have consequences for the parties to the conflict and for the ongoing efforts of all of those working to achieve a durable peace".

Iran accuses Israel of sabotage attack

An Israeli sabotage attack on An Iranian natural gas pipeline caused the multiple explosions that struck it a week ago, Iran's oil minister alleged on Wednesday, further raising archenemies amid Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The comments by Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji come as Israel has been blamed for a series of attacks targeting Tehran's nuclear programme.

The "explosion of the gas pipeline was an Israeli plot," Owji said, according to Iran's state-run IRNA news agency. The enemy intended to disturb gas service in the provinces and put people's gas distribution at risk."

He added: "The evil action and plot by the enemy was properly managed." Owji provided no evidence to support his claims.

Israel has not acknowledged carrying out the attack, though it rarely claims its espionage missions abroad. The office of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a longtime foe of Iran, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The blasts on February 14 hit a natural gas pipeline running from Iran's western Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province up north to cities on 1,270-kilometre pipeline begins in Asaluyeh, a hub for Iran's offshore South Pars gas field. Owji earlier compared the attack to a series of mysterious and unclaimed assaults on gas pipelines in 2011 — including around the anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Tehran marked the 45th anniversary of the revolution just days before the pipeline blasts.Israel has carried out attacks in Iran that have predominantly targeted its nuclear programme. Last week, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog warned that Iran is "not entirely transparent" regarding its atomic programme, particularly after an official who once led Tehran's programme announced the Islamic Republic has all the pieces for a weapon "in our

to stay in presidential race: Haley

Determined

Washington (PTI): Indian American Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley has refused to quit and vowed to stay in the party's race to the White House even after the South Carolina primary, where her rival former president Donald Trump is leading far ahead of her.

"I'm not afraid to say the hard truths out loud. I feel no need to kiss the ring. And I have no fear of Trump's retribution. I'm not looking for anything from him. My own political future is of zero concern. So, I hear what the political class says. But I hear from the American people too," Haley said in a major political speech in South Carolina, where the Republican primary is scheduled for February 24.

Haley, 52, also contended that many of the same Republican politicians "who now publicly embrace Trump privately dread him" and were "too afraid" to speak up, despite knowing he had been "a disaster" for the party.

She argued that Americans deserved a choice and not a "Soviet-style election," which she described as only one candidate drawing 99 per cent of

"I refuse to quit. South Carolina will vote on Saturday. But on Sunday, I'll still be running for president. I'm not going anywhere. I'm campaigning every day, until the last person votes, because I believe in a better America and a brighter future for our kids. Nothing good in life comes easy. I'm willing to take the cuts, the bruises, and the name-calling. Because the only way you get to the blessing is by going through the pain," she

"Dropping out would be the easy route. I've never taken the easy route. I've been the underdog in every race I've ever run. I've always been David taking on Goliath. And like David, I'm not just fighting someone bigger than me. I'm fighting for something bigger than myself," she said.

'Assange should face spying charges'

AP ■ LONDON

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange should face espionage charges in the United States because he put innocent lives at risk and went beyond journalism in his bid to solicit, steal and indiscriminately publish classified US government documents, lawyers for the American government argued on Wednesday. The lawyers spoke before

Britain's High Court in response to a last-ditch bid Assange's defence to stop his extradition from the Kingdom to the US.

Assange's lawyers are asking the of whom lived in war zones or High Court to grant him a new appeal — his last legal roll of the dice in the long-running legal saga that has kept him in a British high-security prison for the past five years.

The 52-year-old Australian has been indicted on 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse over his website's publication of a huge trove of classified US documents almost 15 years ago. American prosecutors allege Assange encouraged and helped US Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

Lawyer Clair Dobbin told the High Court on Wednesday that Assange damaged US security and intelligence services and "created a grave and imminent risk" by releasing the hunments — risks that could harm and lead to the arbitrary deten-

repressive regimes.Dobbin added that in encouraging Manning and oth-

dreds of thousands of docution of innocent people, many

ers to hack into government computers and steal from them, Assange was "going a very considerable way beyond" a journalist gathering information. Assange was "not someone who has just set up an online box to which people can provide classified information," she said. "The allegations are that he sought to encourage theft and hacking that would benefit WikiLeaks."Assange's supporters maintain he is a secrecy-busting journalist who

Assange's lawyers argued on the first day of the hearing on Tuesday that American authorities are seeking to punish Assange for WikiLeaks' "exposure of criminality on the

exposed US military wrongdo-

ing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

They have long argued that the

prosecution is politically moti-

vated and he won't get a fair trial

part of the US government on an unprecedented scale,' including torture and killings.

Lawyer Edward Fitzgerald said Assange may "suffer a flagrant denial of justice" if he is sent to the US. Dobbin rejected claims that the charges are a "tool of oppression" to punish Assange for his political opinions. She said the prosecution is based on law and evidence, and has remained consistent despite the changes of government in the US during the course of the legal battle. She added that it was not necessary for WikiLeaks to publish sensitive material, including names of those who could be endangered. Media outlets that went through the process of redacting the documents before publishing them are not being prosecuted, she said.

Assange's lawyers say he could face up to 175 years in prison if convicted, though American authorities have said the sentence is likely to be

Thousands of farmers advance to Madrid for major tractor protest over EU policies

Hundreds of farmers drove their tractors into central Madrid on Wednesday as part of ongoing protests against European Union and local farming policies and to demand measures to alleviate production cost hikes.

The protest, the biggest to take place in the Spanish capital after more than two weeks of daily protests across the country, will include a rally outside the Agriculture Ministry headquarters. Many of the tractors flew Spanish flags and some farmers carried banners reading, "There is no life without farming," and "Farmers in Extinction".

for," Silvia Ruiz, 46, a livestock

"It is impossible to live from the rural industry, which is what we want, to live from Associated Press. The Union of Unions our work. That is all we ask



farmer from the north-central area of Burgos told The

organising group said they

and many more farmers on buses. Many of the tractors may have to stay outside of the city because of government

Polish authorities voiced grave concerns Wednesday after slogans praising Russian President Vladimir Putin and his war against Ukraine appeared at Polish farmers' protests. The Foreign Ministry said it believed that extreme groups were trying to take over the farmers' protest movement "perhaps under the influence of Russian agents". On Tuesday, one tractor at

a protest in the southern region of Silesia carried a Soviet flag and a banner that said: "Putin, put things in order with Ukraine, Brussels, and our rulers."

Interior Minister Marcin Kierwinski called the banner "scandalous," and said that it was immediately secured by police, and that prosecutors were also investigating.

Navalny's mother moves court for son's body

The mother of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has filed a lawsuit at a court in the Arctic city of Salekhard contesting officials' refusal to release her son's body, Russia's state news agency Tass reported on Wednesday. A closed-door hearing has been scheduled for March 4, the report said, quoting court officials.Lyudmila Navalnaya has been trying to retrieve her son's body since Saturday, following his death in a penal colony in Russia's far north a day earlier. She has been unable to find out where his body is being held, Navalny's team reported.Navalnaya appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin Tuesday to release her son's remains so that she could bury him with dignity.

"For the fifth day, I have been unable to see him. They wouldn't release his body to me. And they're not even telling me

cumstances of Russian dissi-

dent Alexei Navalny, the top

political opponent of Russia's autocratic leader Vladimir

Putin who died in a remote arc-

tic prison after being jailed by

the Kremlin leader. Appearing

on a Fox News Channel town

hall pre-taped before a live

audience in Greenville, South

Carolina, Trump bemoaned

Navalny's death, which

President Joe Biden and other

Western leaders have blamed

himself, repeating his assertions

that the prosecutions against

him are driven by politics

despite no evidence that Biden

 $M^{
m ore\ than\ USD\ 400\ million\ is\ needed\ for\ western}$

Afghanistan to recover and

rebuild after a devastating

earthquake last October that

Nations

The magnitude 6.3 quake

on October 7, one of the most

destructive in the country's

recent history, flattened entire

villages in Herat province and

also left thousands injured

and homeless. Months on, sur-

vivors are still struggling to

rebuild their lives. In a new UN

report, released together with

the World Bank, the European

Union and the Asian

Development Bank, estimated

them.

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

Wednesday.

Trump then pivoted to



where he is," a black-clad Navalnava, 69, said in the video, with the barbed wire of Penal Colony No. 3 in Kharp, about 1,900 kilometres northeast of Moscow.

"I'm reaching out to you, Vladimir Putin. The resolution of this matter depends solely on you. Let me finally see my son. I demand that Alexei's body is released immediately, so that I can bury him like a human being," she said in the video, which was posted to social media by Navalny's team. Russian authorities have said the cause of Navalny's death is

two weeks as the preliminary inquest continues, members of Navalny's team said. They accused the government of stalling to try to hide evidence. On Monday, Navalny's widow, Yulia, released a video accusing Putin of killing her husband and alleged the refusal to release his body was part of a cover-up. "They are cowardly and meanly hiding his body, refusing to give it to his mother and lying miserably," she said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov rejected the allegations of a cover-up, telling reporters that "these are absolutely unfounded, insolent accusations about the head of the Russian state." Navalny's death has deprived the Russian opposition of its best-known and inspiring politician less than a month before an election that is all but certain to give Putin another six years in

seen Navalny as a rare hope for political change amid Putin's unrelenting crackdown on the opposition. Since Navalny's death, about 400 people have been detained across in Russia as they tried to pay tribute to him with flowers and candles, according to OVD-Info, a group that monitors political arrests. Authorities cordoned off some of the memorials to victims of Soviet repression across the country that were being used as sites to leave makeshift tributes to Navalny. Police removed the flowers at night, but more keep appearing.Several men who were detained at memorials to Navalny were also ordered to report to their local army recruitment office, where Russian authorities are actively recruiting volunteer soldiers and updating records of men eligible for service, according to Go by the Forest, an activist group helping Russians to avoid

UK sanctions heads of Russian penal colony

London (PTI): Those in charge of the Arctic penal colony where Russian Opposition figure Alexei Navalny was detained and later died will be banned from the UK and see their assets frozen under new sanctions announced by the British government on Wednesday. The sanctioned individuals include Vadim Konstantinovich Kalinin, who oversaw the brutal prison camp where Navalny was kept in solitary confinement for up to two weeks at a time.

According to the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Navalny's condition had deteriorated in his three years in prison and he suffered from being denied medical treatment, as well as having to walk in minus 32 degrees Celsius weather while being held in the prison."It's clear that the Russian authortried repeatedly to silence him," said UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron.

FSB operatives poisoned him with Novichok in 2020, they imprisoned him for peaceful political activities, and they sent him to an Arctic penal colony. Noone should doubt the oppressive nature of the Russian system. That's why we're today sanctioning the most senior prison officials responsible for his custody in the penal colony where he spent his final months," he said.

"Those responsible for Navalny's brutal treatment should be under no illusion - we will hold them accountable," he added. The FCDO said the UK is the first country to impose sanctions in response to the death of Navalny, a political prisoner who dedicated his life to exposing the corruption of the Russian system, calling for free and open politics, and holding the Kremlin

ities saw Navalny as a threat and they EU countries agrees on new

age of sanctions against Russia to target individuals and businesses suspected of assisting Moscow in its war against Ukraine, including Chinese companies. The decision coincides with the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion, which began on February 24, 2022, and comes days after the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Belgium, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the 27-nation bloc, said the "package is one of the broadest approved by

nies, which are believed to have pro-

tioned. Details of the entities targeted will be revealed when the sanctions are published in the EU's legal journal.

The EU has imposed several rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine. The measures have targeted the energy sector, banks, the world's biggest diamond mining company, businesses and markets, and made Russian officials subject to asset freezes and travel bans.

The new sanctions will further enhance trade restrictions against entities linked to the Russian military industrial complex, diplomats said Additional bans on exports to Russia of highly technical components for drone production were adopted.

"I welcome the agreement on our 13th sanctions package against Russia, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. "We must keep degrading Putin's war machine. With 2,000 listings in total, we keep the pressure high on the Kremlin. We are also further cutting Russia's access to

Russia has no intention of putting nukes in space: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin declared on Tuesday that Moscow has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons in space, claiming that the country has only developed space capabilities similar to those of the US. Putin's statement follows the White House confirmation last week that Russia has obtained a "troubling" anti-satellite weapon capability, although such a weapon is not operational yet. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said it would violate the international Outer Space Treaty, but declined to comment on whether the weapon is nuclear-capable.

The treaty signed by more than 130 countries, including Russia, prohibits the deployment of "nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction" in orbit or the stationing of "weapons in outer space in any other manner." The White House said it would look to engage the Russians directly on the concerns.

Our position is quite clear and transparent: we have always been and remain categorically opposed to the deployment of nuclear weapons in space," Putin said. "Just the opposite, we are urging everyone to adhere to all the agreements that exist in this sphere."

Speaking during a meeting with his defense minister, Sergei Shoigu, Putin noted that Russia has only developed space capabilities that "other nations, including the US have."

"And they know it," he added.

"We haven't deployed any nuclear weapons in space or any elements of them to use against satellites or to create fields where satellites can't work efficiently," Shoigu said.

Shoigu alleged that the White House could have made the allegations of a new Russian space capability in order to force Congress to support aid for Ukraine and also encourage Moscow to reenter nuclear arms control talks that Russia has suspended amid the tensions with the US over Ukraine. Putin didn't rule out possible future contacts with the US, but reaffirmed his view that Washington's push for Russia's defeat in Ukraine makes them impos-

"The US and the West, for one thing, are calling for Russia's strategic defeat, while, on the other hand, they would like to have a dialogue on strategic stability, pretending that those things aren't connected," he said. "It won't work."

Patanjali Bhartiya Ayurvigyan Evam Anusandha Sansthan, Haridwar-249405, Uttarakhand

Faculty Recruitment Notification

Patanjali Ayurveda College, Haridwar invites application from eligible candidates for the following

Sr. Department Associate Assistant

| No. | | Professor | Professor | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|--|--|
| 1 | Swasthavritta | 01 | | | |
| 2 | Kaumarbhritya | | 01 | | |
| 3 | Prasuti Tantra & Stri Rog | | 01 | | |
| Interested candidates can send resume on | | | | | |

pacoffice@divyayoga.com on or before 29-Feb-2024 for walk in interviews through video conferencing. Please contact for further assistance 9779137498, 9997811414

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY 6-TCN NO.EM/PD-06/24 dt. 16/02/2024 To be known to all, VEENA GROVER W/O LATE SH.SUNIL KUMAR GROVER B/O L151 GDOUMD Name of the work Providing Assistance Office-cum-Site Works under E&M Dept. on job work basis for a period of one year. Estimated cost-

Rs.1,25,68,494/-. The bid submission start on dt. 16.02.24 at 12:00hrs. & Bid Submission end on dt.10.03.24 at 18:00 hrs. Bid opening on dt. 11.03.24 at 11:00 hrs. Detailed Tender Document is available at the website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Sd/- FE (E), P & D CELL PPA/PR/89/2023-2024 dtd.20.02.2024 To be known to all, VEENA GROVER W/O LATE SH.SUNIL KUMAR GROVER R/O -151,GROUND FLOOR,SAKET, NEW DELHI-110017 Owner of SHOP NO.13,BIOCK-B-6, LSC, SAFDARIUNG, NEW DELHI vide DDA File No. F.14(14)1973/IMPL, have applied for certified copies & free-hold in DDA.The original documents i.e. Demand-Cum-Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC For Water and Electricity Connection,Site Possession Slip & Other Documents of the above said shop has been lost.An F.I.R./NCR/IR NO.1470196/2024 dated 21/02/2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi.Any person(s)claiming any right,interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents,may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9717336989 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice.The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (CE) or Director (CE), Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

tender is hereby invited for the supply of following item: Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative For Verka Head Office, Sector- 34 A, Chandigarh 1. Freezer On Whee 100-110 Ltr 15 Units 2. Bulk Milk Coole

10 No's 80 No's 500 Ltr 1000 Ltr 2000 Ltr 50 No's

For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e.eproc.punjab.gov.in.
 Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

ELECTION PROGRAMME

Election programme for the election of the Managing Committee of The S.P. Majri Primary Agriculture Co-operative Society Ltd., S.P. Majri to be held on 07.04.2024.

| 01. | Exhibition of List of voters as required under Sub Para(2) of rule 35 and objection on the list of Voters will be submitted on the last day Exhibition of Voter list in the office of Assistant registrar, Coop. Societies G | 23-02-2024 to 01-03-2024 | 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. | In the Regd. Office of the Society & village failing in the area operation of the society Assistant Registrar Co-operative Socieites, Gurugram Near John Hall Civil Line, Gurugram Central Co-operative Bank, Gurugram |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 02. | Hearing of objection of the list of voters as required under sub para(4) of rule 35 | 04-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | ARCS Office, Gurugram |
| 03. | Filing of Nomination Papers. | 18-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | In the office of Assistant Registrar, Co-opeartive Societies Gurugram, Near John Hall, Civil line, Gurugram |
| 04. | Scrutiny of Nomination Papers. | 19-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Do |
| 05. | Display of List of Validly nominated Candidates. | 20-03-2024 | 04:00 p.m. | Do |
| 06. | Withdrawal of Nomination Papers. | 26-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Do |
| 07. | Allocation of Symbols | 26-03-2024 | 03:00 p.m. | Do |
| 08. | Display of List of contesting candidates. | 26-03-2024 | 04:00 p.m. | Do |
| | | | | |

Trump again compares his criminal indictments to imprisonment, death of Putin's top rival uation and he's very brave, he He extended the compari-

power. Many Russians had

Donald Trump doubled down on comparing his criminal indictments to the cir-

and it did happen.

in many ways."

or the White House ordered

was a very brave guy," Trump said in response to a question from Fox News Channel's Laura Ingraham.

"He went back, he could have stayed away, and frankly probably would have been a lot better off staying away and talk-ing from outside of the country as opposed to having to go back in, because people thought that could happen,

"And it's a horrible thing, but it's happening in our country, too," Trump continued, suggesting his criminal indictments — which include two cases stemming from his efforts to overturn his 2020 defeat are proof that the US is "turning into a communist country

'I got indicted four times all because of the fact that I'm in politics," Trump said. "They indicted me on things that are

More than USD 400 mn needed for

Af to recover from Oct quake: UN

son to his loss in a civil fraud trial last week, in which a New York judge ordered Trump to pay USD 355 million in penalties after finding he lied about his wealth for years. With interest, Trump owes the state about USD 454 million.

"It is a form of Navalny," Trump said. "It is a form of communism, of fascism."

He did not give a clear answer when asked whether he would post a bond covering the judgment, which is one way he'd be able to avoid having to pay the full amount while he

Trump made no mention of Putin, part of his longstanding pattern of refusing to denounce and often complimenting the Russian leader going back to when he was in the White House.

But his remarks come as

House Republicans have refused to provide more funding to Ukraine in its defense against Russia's invasion and as many in the Republican Party grow more accepting of Russian expansionism.

Putin recently suggested he preferred Biden in the White House to Trump. US intelligence assessments of both the 2016 and 2020 elections found that Russia was behind influence operations to boost Trump at the expense of his

Democratic Party opponents. Ingraham interrupted Trump at the town hall Tuesday to ask whether he believed he could become a "potential political prisoner" for the rest of his life like Navalny. Trump sidestepped the question.

"If I were losing in the polls, they wouldn't even be talking about me and I wouldn't have had any legal fees," he

sanctions against Russia vided help to Russia, have been sanc

AP ■ BRUSSELS

European Union countries on Wednesday agreed on a new pack-

According to several diplomats, EU ambassadors from all member countries agreed to impose sanctions on about 200 companies and individuals. The diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorised to disclose details about the sanctions, which have yet to be formally adopted.

They said several Chinese compa-

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

N.I.T. No.: 49/23-24/WE Name of work with its location: (A) Heavy repairs to roof, wall plaster, replacement of deteriorated doors, windows and other allied works in connection with shifting of record room in old TA office at DKZ including electrical works in the section of

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procure

SSE/W/DKZ-I under ADEN/E-IV. Approx. cost of work: (A) Rs. 84,64,244.45

Completion period of work: (A) 04 Months

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Closing date of

Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No.: 128-W/269/OET/23-24/WE/NIT/49 Dated: 16.02.2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

I, on behalf of my clients Mr. Ratnesh Gupta S/o Late Shri Rachubar Daval Guota and Mr. Raiu Guota S/o Late Shri Raghubar Dayal Gupta, both R/o H. No. 45, Block-P, Pandav Nagar, Mayur Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091, hereby declare that my clients are beneficiary of Will dated 24th April, 2019, duly executed and duly signed by their mother Smt. Raj Gupta W/o Late Shri Raghubar Dayal Gupta and witnessed by Mr. Tarun Chander Malik S/o Shri Tara Chand Malik and Mr Mohit Jain S/o Shri Suresh Chand Jain in respect of Property bearing H. No. 45, area measuring 266.55 Sg. Yds, constructed as Stilt Parking Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor with its Roof, in the abadi of Block-P, Pandav Nagar, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, in the area of Gharonda Neen Ka Banger, out of Khasra No. 281 min. Illaga Shahdara, Delhi-

Now whereas Smt. Rai Gupta W/o Shri Raghubar Dayal Gupta got deceased on 14/12/2022, hence my above mentioned clients are applying for registration of aforesaid will in office concerned Sub-Registrar Office, hence if any one has any objection in registration of above mentioned will kindly submit his/her/their objection in concerned Sub-Registrar Office or to my below mentioned address within 7 days from the date of ADVOCATE UDYAN VATS

Office No. 1, Building No. 10, Near Ahlcon International School Patpar Ganj Village, Delhi-110091 Mob.: 9711597050.

PUBLIC NOTICE his is to inform the general public that Mi uneet Kumar Bhatia (having 25% share o Late Promod Kumar Bhatia, resident o

TTG-042, DLF Ultima Sector 81, Gurugram, 4r. Udit Bhatia(having 25% share) s/o Late dromod Kumar Bhatia resident of Tower-7/1202, Vipul Greens, Sector-48, Sohna oad, Gururgram and Mr. Nitin hatia(having 50% share) s/o Sh. Suresh hander Bhatia R/o WZ-49, Ramesh Nagar attan Park, New Delhi are joint owners of 2/15, Rew Delhi, Who entered into an agreement to sell for the ale of the said property with our clien Irs. Pooja Chaudhary w/o Mr. Raji haudhary resident of C-3, Second Floo nationary resident of C-3, Second Floor, ajouri Garden, New Delhi. We invitee laims/objections from claimants/ bjectors to the above mentioned sale within period of 10 days from the ublication of this advertisement. Any one aving any claim on this property or bjection to this sale shall contact nmediately to the undersigned with ocumentary evidence. In the event of no esponse to this notice, than our client shal resume that title of the said property is

Karnail Singh, Advocate, K-8, Basemer Jungpura Extension New Delh Contact No. 9811163363 & 9953683363

encumbered and clear.

SPAG CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED

Park Sector 14, Gurgaon, Basal Road, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana, India E-mail sudhir.rai@spag.asia; Website: www.spag.asia Form No. CAA. 9 [Pursuant to Section 233(1) and rule 25(1)]

ne Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 And

otice is hereby given by SPAG DIGITAL PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor) that a scheme

bjections or suggestions are invited from Registrar of Companies-NCT of Delhi & Haryana, 4th Floor, IFCI Tower, 61, Nehru Place

New Delhi -- 110019: i) Official Liquidator-Corporate Bhawan 2nd Floor Plot No 4B Sector 27B Madhya Mar Chandigarh 160019and ii) Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed scheme.

respect of the scheme should send their objections or suggestions within thirty days from he date of this notice to the Regional Director at B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan 2GO Complex, New Delhi – 110003, and to Aman Gupta (Dir: 02053713) at Flat no. D3 No 004, Parsvanth Exotica Golf Course Road, Sector 53. Gurgoan Sector 56 Haryana Indi 122011 being authorised representative of the Transferor and Transferee Company.

Dated this 16th February, 2024

(CIN: U74140HR2002PTC11793) Registered Office: Unit No 501 to 504 Palm Court Sukhrali Chowk, Opp. Huda

In the matter of: The Companies Act, 2013
And
n the matter of: Scheme of Merger under section 233 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with

In the matter of: Scheme of Merger of SPAG DIGITAL PRIVATE LIMITED (Transferor) and its respective shareholders and creditors ("Transferor Company")

With

SPAG CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED and its respective shareholders and creditors

the reger or amalgamation is proposed to be entered with SPAG CONSULTANTS PRINATISMITED (Transferee Company) and in pursuance of sub-section (1)(a) of Section 233 of the companies Act, 2013, objections or suggestions are invited in respect of the scheme. Copy of the scheme of merger or amalgamation can be inspected at the registered office one transferor company situated at 5th Floor, Unit no. 501 to 504 Palm Court, Old MG Roar то сапълсто солграну situated at 5th Floor, Unit no. 501 to 504 Palm Court, Old MG Road Surgaon, Sadar Bazar, Haryana, India, 122001 or transferee company situated at Unit no 01 to 504 Palm Court Sukhrali Chowk Opp. Huda Park Sector 14, Gurgaon, Basal Road laryana, India, 122001.

any person mentioned in (i), (ii) or (iii) above, desirous of providing objections or suggestion

By order of the Board of Directo For SPAG CONSULTANTS PRIVATE LIMITED

EMD Amount: (A) Rs. 1,69,300.00 tender on 12.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs

opportunity to rebuild stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient communities," Ratwatte added. Earthquakes are common

in Afghanistan, where there are a number of fault lines and frequent movement among three nearby tectonic plates. Afghans are still reeling from recent quakes, including the magnitude 6.5 earthquake last March that struck much of western Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan, and an earthquake that hit eastern Åfghanistan in June 2022, flattening stone and mud-brick homes and killing at least

"We are committed to not

quake-safe housing, especially for the most affected families. It said its assessment of the urgent needs relied on field data, publicly available infor-The report represents the

oritise restoring access to basic only addressing the immediate needs but ensuring a sustainservices and building earthable and resilient recovery for those affected by the earthquakes," stated Indrika Ratwatte, the UN chief's deputy representative and This tragedy presents an

first joint assessment since August 2021 and showcases an international resolve to address the needs of disaster-affected communities and support their

It surveyed some nine districts with roughly 2.2 million people and offers a detailed breakdown of the numbers affected, including categories such as pregnant women, infants and people with disabil-

According to the report, the districts of Herat, Injil, and

there is "an urgent need for USD 402.9 million to support Zindajan were the hardest hit, the critical recovery and reconwith rural and vulnerable comstruction efforts in the munities suffering the most. province." The report said recovery strategies should pri-1,000 people. S Korean govt warns striking doctors

to return to work or face legal action **AP** ■ SEOUL

The South Korean govern-I ment on Wednesday warned thousands of striking doctors to return to work immediately or face legal action after their collective walkouts caused cancellations of surgeries and disrupted other hospital operations. About 7,800 medical interns and residents in South Korea have walked off their jobs this week to protest the government's push to recruit more medical students. Officials say they want to increase the nationwide medical school admissions cap by 2,000 from next year to brace for South Korea's rapidly aging population. But doctors groups have refuted the plan, saying universities aren't ready to offer quality education to that many students. They argue the government's push to have more doctors would lead to increased public medical expenses because physicians locked in competition could perform unnecessary treatments. The 2,000 additional admissions

"is a nonsensical figure", the Korean Intern Residents Association said in a statement Tuesday. "We hope the government will rethink its plan and formulate a policy that reflects the voices of trainee doctors." Junior doctors typically

support senior doctors during surgeries and deal with inpatients. Their joint walkouts have burdened hospital operalso lead to the revocation of ations. The Health Ministry their medical licenses, accordsaid Wednesday that authorities have received 58 public complaints over the walkouts, mostly regarding indefinite delays of surgeries and cancellations of other medical treatments. "A collective action taking the lives and safety of the people hostage cannot be justified for whatever reason," Interior and Safety Minister Lee Sang-min told a news conference with other top officials. Lee said the government issued an official order for striking doctors to return to

work. He said the government

will sternly deal with the doc-

tors' walkouts in line with the

medical law and other regula-

tions. South Korea's medical law allows the government to issue such back-to-work orders to doctors and other medical personnel when there are grave concerns about public health. If they refuse to abide by the order, they could face up to three years in prison or 30 million won (USD 22,480) in fines, a punishment that would

ing to the law. Justice Minister Park Sung-jae accused some doctors of seeking to protect "their vested interests". He said that if they refuse to return to work, authorities will file legal charges against them and arrest others who had led their walk-Trainee doctors said the

government's return-to-work order was intimidation and must be withdrawn immediately. The Korea Medical Association, which represents 140,000 doctors, said it supports the trainee doctors' walkouts but hasn't decided whether to join their walkouts.

Baba Farid **University of Health Sciences**

Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following Machinery on turnkey basis upto 07-03-2024

1) Linear Accelerator 2) Supply and

tallation of PET-CT and SPECT-CT machine with Civil work. downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tende notification and document from the

University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.ir Dated CHD :- 2/21/2024

NOTICE Notice is Hereby given to the public at large that the properly more particularly described in schedule hereunder written, Shri Praveen Gupta is the current owner and in possession of the subject property The original documents as mentioned in Annexus below have been lost of which FIR Dated 29.06.2018 has also been Lodged in Police Noida Sector-49, Gautam Buddha Nagar. The owner Shr Praveen Gupta mortgaging the subject property with DBS Bank India Limited, New Delhi against the Private Limited. By this notice, All Person are being nformed that if any one having any claim/interest in respect of the scheduled property are requested to inform the same in writing to the YOGESH PACHAURI. Advocate 23, Lawyer's Chambers, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi-110001, M:9811895298 E-mail: yogeshpachauriassociates@gmail.com within 14 days from date of hereof failing which the claims if any of such person or persons will be considered to

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO Plot No. 025, Block-C, Sector-48 , Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P Annexure Above Referred to: Original allotment letter dated 17.05.2003 in favour of Shri Ashwani Punia

have been waived and/or abandoned and

succession shall be completed in the name of Shri

Original Lease deed dated 29.11.2004 (documer no.6219) in favour of Shri Ashwani Punia
Original Transfer Memorandum no. Noida/
Resplots/ 3010 dated 04.03.2005 in favour of RC Arora & Sons (HUF) Through Karta RC Arora
Original Transfer Deed dated 11.03.2005 in favou of RC Arora & Sons (HUF) Through Karta RC Arora Original Transfer Memorandum no. Noida/ Resplots / 7920 dated 25.09.2009 in favour of Shri Praveer

Original Possession letter issued by Noida in favor of Shri Ashwani Punia

| | list in the office of Assistant registrar, Coop. Societies Gurugram | 01-03-2024 | 5:00 p.m. | Gurugram Near John Hall Civil Line, Gurugram 3. Central Co-operative Bank, Gurugram |
|-----|---|------------|----------------------------|--|
| 02. | Hearing of objection of the list of voters as required under sub para(4) of rule 35 | 04-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. | ARCS Office, Gurugram |
| 03. | Filing of Nomination Papers. | 18-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | In the office of Assistant Registrar, Co-opeartive Societ Gurugram, Near John Hall, Civil line, Gurugram |
| 04. | Scrutiny of Nomination Papers. | 19-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Do |
| 05. | Display of List of Validly nominated Candidates. | 20-03-2024 | 04:00 p.m. | Do |
| 06. | Withdrawal of Nomination Papers. | 26-03-2024 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. | Do |
| 07. | Allocation of Symbols | 26-03-2024 | 03:00 p.m. | Do |
| 08. | Display of List of contesting candidates. | 26-03-2024 | 04:00 p.m. | Do |
| 09. | Taking of poll, if necessary. | 07-04-2024 | 08:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. | In the premises as per list of Booth attached |

(2) Election will be held as per orders of Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana in BejulSomaia Vs. State of Haryana in CWP no. 3648 of 2007 (Rajesh Kumar) (3) Election will be held under the instructions of Government (Covid-19) as applicable. Assistant Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Gurugram, (Returning Officer)

Take more steps to curb illegal lending apps: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

¬inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Wednesday asked financial sector regulators, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to take further measures to check spread of unauthorised lending through

Addressing the 28th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) here, Sitharaman also asked regulators maintain constant vigil and be proactive towards detecting emerging financial stability risks, given the domestic and global macro-financial situation.

The FSDC deliberated on issues related to macro financial stability and India's preparedness to deal with them, an official statement said after the meeting.

Stock markets

PTI MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{indices}}^{\text{quity}} \quad \substack{\text{benchmark} \\ \text{Sensex} \quad \text{and}}$

Nifty broke their six-day

winning run on Wednesday and settled

with a steep fall amid fag-

end selling triggered by a

rush for profit booking and

The 30-share benchmark

Sensex stayed mostly firm

settled 434.31 points or

0.59 per cent lower at

touched the intra-day low

of 72,450.56, down 0.83

per cent from the previous

closing level of 73,057.40

Similarly, the broader Nifty

gains before closing 141.90

points or 0.64 per cent down at 22,055.05 points.

The 50-share barometer

had hit a lifetime peak of

22,196.95 points on Tuesday and remained mostly in the upward trajectory on Wednesday. In the Sensex pack, 20 stocks ended in the red

stocks ended in the red while 37 of the Nifty

constituents closed the

NTPC was the biggest loser

among the Sensex constituents, ending with a

loss of 2.71 per cent. It was followed by PowerGrid,

Wipro, HCLTech, L&T and

has outlined its strategic expectations and initiatives,

positioning itself as a front-

runner in Cloud Services,

Analytics, AI, Cybersecurity,

It aims for 30-40 per cent

growth, with an ambitious 60-

70 per cent surge in services

revenue as it aims to adapt to

industry shifts by developing

technologies, ensuring it

emerging

and managed IT services.

IT-tech firm plans growth

New Delhi: Leveraging a remains a dynamic force in robust partnership with the ever-evolving tech Microsoft, Embee Software landscape.

session with losses.

intra-day

points.

but

mixed global cues.

snap six days rally

Tech Mahindra.

In contrast, Tata Steel, SBI,

ISW Steel and IndusInd

Bank closed in the positive

territory. Tata Steel gained 1.99 per cent and SBI

ended 1.51 per cent higher. Vinod Nair, Head of

Research at Geojit Financial Services, said the

Indian market is facing

stiff resistance at higher

levels and the valuation of

a broader index is at a

leading to an unfavourable

influences investors to

"Global markets treaded

cut, which is put at risk by

January's higher-than-expected inflation," he

The BSE Midcap index declined sharply by 1.27 per cent and Smallcap by

0.84 per cent. The fall in

the large cap index was contained at 0.59 per cent.

Analysts attributed the steep decline in midcap

and smallcap indices to

investors' concern about

volatility ahead of the

release of US Fed minutes.

We are propelling the firm

towards a future where

innovation and strategic

exceptional growth and to aim for a 30-40 per cent

increase, we are leveraging

our expertise in AI, cybersecurity, and cloud

services to surpass market

expectations, said Sudhir Kothari, CEO & MD, Embee

Software.

partnerships result

policy interventions.

reward,

significant

book profits.

Geojit

premium,

which

The ongoing inter-regulatory issues were also discussed to support GIFT IFSC in its strategic role to become one of premier world's international financial centres and perform its envisioned role of facilitating foreign capital and financial services for the domestic economy, it

The FSDC discussed various related to the formulation of strategy to implement the FSDC decisions the Union Budget announcements. These included prescribing

uniform KYC norms, interusability of KYC records across the financial sector, and simplification digitalisation of the KYC process; kickstarting fundraising by social enterprises through social stock exchanges

and to arrest the harmful



effects of unauthorised lending through online apps and

measures to curb their further provide the requisite financial

The government in December informed Parliament that Google has suspended or removed over 2,500 fraudulent loan apps from its Play Store between April 2021 and July

The objective is to remain proactive, maintain cyber security preparedness with constant vigilance, and take appropriate and timely action to mitigate any such vulnerabilities in the Indian financial system.

Fraudulent loan apps have defrauded many gullible borrowers of their money, leading to distress in many

The FSDC members also decided to strengthen interregulatory coordination to further develop the financial sector so that it continues to

resources economic growth. The FSDC also took note of

the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and the action taken by members on the previous decisions of the

Besides Das, Securities and Exchange Board of India Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) Chairman Debasish Panda, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairman Ravi Mital, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Chairman Deepak Mohanty, and International Financial Services Centres Authority Chairman K Rajaraman also



Zee Entertainment shares settle 15 per cent lower

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

Shares of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) settled 15 per cent lower on Wednesday amid reports that Sebi has found financial discrepancies

accounts of the company.
On the BSE, the scrip of the company tumbled 14.77 per cent to close at Rs 164.50

ZEEL shares nosedived 14.02 per cent to end at Rs 165.65 apiece on the NSE. During the day, the stock hit a low of Rs 163.75 and Rs 164.10 -- its lower circuit limit -- apiece on the NSE and the BSE.

In volume terms, 10.68 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE, while 1.46 crore equity shares changed hands on the BSE during the day. On Wednesday, the 30-share

BSE Sensex slumped 434.31 points, or 0.59 per cent, to settle at 72,623.09, while NSE Nifty slipped 141.90 points to close at 22,055.05. As per the reports, during Sebi's probe into Zee's founders, the regulator discovered that

With the negotiations for the proposed India-UK free trade approximately Rs 2,000 crore (equivalent to USD 241 million) may have been diverted from the company. agreement reaching its last leg, a high-level Indian official delegation is in London to iron out the differences on However, the company spokesperson clarified that remaining issues. India and the UK launched the reports related to accounting issues "incorrect and false"

The report suggested that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has been in conversation with officials, senior Zee including its founders Subhash Chandra and his son Punit Goenka, and some board members to explain their stance.

Further, the report noted that the amount found missing is not final and may change after Sebi reviews the responses from the company executives. A ZEEL spokesperson said,

"The reports and rumours pertaining to accounting issues in the company are incorrect and false.

Pursuant to the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) order, which granted relief to the current Key Managerial Personnel (KMP), the company has been in the process of providing all comments, information or explanation requested by Sebi, and has extended complete co-operation on all aspects," the spokesperson

On Tuesday, shares of ZEEL settled 8 per cent higher amid reports that Zee and Sony Pictures Networks (India) are working to salvage their USD 10-billion

ZEEL shares have seen a massive downfall after the collapse of its merger with Sony Group Corp's India

India negotiates trade, investment deals with fairness, open mind: Goyal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

ommerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday India said trade negotiates investment agreements with fairness and open mind and takes care of the interest of

He also said countries that are negotiating Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and investment pacts with India should keep in mind that New Delhi offers a huge market to them in terms of demand and business opportunities. "I can assure you that India

negotiates with fairness, with an open mind... India also takes care of its wider and larger interest in the long run," he said at the CII India-Europe conclave.

FTAs or Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), or agreements fastest growing economies of on geographical indications, will have to stand the test of



fair, equitable, and balanced demand for goods and agreements as the level of services, opens up huge economic developments varies, he said.

"We will have to respect the very different opportunities that are offered by India vis-avis the offer on the table from other countries," he said, adding that India is one of the

young population,

opportunities for businesses across the globe, the minister added.

remarks The assume significance as India is negotiating such agreements with countries such as the UK, Oman, and the European Union.

Speaking at the conclave, the UK's minister Lord Ahmad of the talks for a FTA in January

Liquidity deficit tightening financial conditions: CRISIL

huge

Indian firms in the UK.

opportunities are there for

adding

business

However, the keep the interest rates unchanged, the research body said in the report. 'We believe that the central

bank will be active in liquidity management and adopt regulatory measures to growth. We foresee the RBI system, which is one per cent cutting rates from June 2024,"

According to the report, the deficit in domestic systemic liquidity almost doubled in January compared with December

of net demand and time

liabilities (NDTL) by the RBI. The report said that liquidity has been in deficit in the economy since September

Due to a crunch in liquidity, This has led to a net infusion money market rates are under rate hovering above 6.75 per cent, the report said

ABB India shares

cautiously awaiting the US Federal Reserve (meeting) minutes while Chinese CRISIL "Concerns lingered since investors were heavily betting on a US Fed rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI.

Artificial intelligence will provide a helping hand and free up a lot of time for

chartered accountants to focus on analytical work,

ICAI President Ranjeet
Kumar Agarwal said on

Wednesday and highlighted

that there is a huge demand

The Institute of Chartered

Accountants of India (ICAI)

expects there will be a need

for around 30 lakh chartered

accountants in the next 20 to

25 years and last year, around

22,000 students cleared the

At a briefing in the national

capital, Agarwal, who took

charge as the president on

February 12, said a committee

will be coming out with a roadmap in the next two

months on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at

the Institute of Chartered

accountants

chartered

examination.

for chartered accountants.

PTI KOLKATA

Ptightened the economy with liquidity going into a deeper deficit putting upward pressure on short-term rates, Market Intelligence and Analytics.

Cinancial conditions have

The report released during the month also said that foreign portfolio investors turned net sellers further aggravating the tight liquidity conditions.

With tightening of the lianidity

chartered accountants: ICAI

Accountants of India (ICAI).

He emphasised that Artificial

Intelligence (AI) is a tool and

accountants) more time for

analytics... I believe AI is

going to be a helping hand for

the profession of chartered

accountants so that they can

compliance part from the

chartered accountants and

more on other

taking away the

is saving a lot of time. "This will give you (chartered

application

analytical areas.

focus

Al to save more time for

remained lower than the 250 basis points of repo rate increase by the RBI since May 2022, the report said.

cumulative rise in most

deposit and lending rates

January.

interest rates improved across of monetary policy prompted lending and deposit rates in the Reserve Bank of India to

giving them more scope to

work on bigger areas... AI

cannot overtake human intelligence," Agarwal said. In the audit profession, for

instance, to check a 700-page annual report of a listed

company, one can make a PDF and put it in

Now, one doesn't have to read

the 700 pages as an auditor. "You have to ask the questions

like what is the profitability,

what is the adverse comment... Whatever you ask, Chat GPT will answer,"

Amid instances of chartered

accountants coming under

the regulatory scanner, Agarwal said the institute has self-developed "so many

The target is to have "lesser

anomalies", he said, adding

that efforts are made to

continuously enhance the skills of the chartered

checks and balances".

Chat GPT.

Agarwal said.

accountants.

Motilal Oswal secures ₹1,250 crore in first close for new AIF real estate fund

it said.

Motilal Oswal Alternates (MO Alts), the alternative investments arm of Motilal Oswal Financial Services, on Wednesday said it has successfully closed the first tranche of its sixth real estate fund, India Realty Excellence Fund VI (IREF VI) and has secured commitments

approximately Rs 1,250 crore in this first close.

The company said it is a significant milestone for MO Alts, achieving the largest and fastest first close for any of their real estate funds to date. The fund will scout for opportunities in real estate in Kolkata and seven other top cities of India including Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Pune, Bangalore and Chennai. IREF VI strategically focuses

on early-stage investments, primarily targeting midincome/affordable residential projects across India's top eight cities.

"This successful fundraising, even amidst a buoyant equity market, underscores the unwavering investors have placed in our capabilities," MO Alts, MD & CEO, Vishal Tulsyan said.

MO Alts said it boasts a strong track record, having invested in over 150 real estate projects, funding Rs 7.500 crore across 50 7,500 crore across 50 developers, and successfully exited over 85 investments with an impressive return exceeding 20 per cent over pre-approval bets.

The fund, structured as an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF Category-II) the first close (which is commonly referred to as an initial offer) saw participation from high net-worth individuals, nonresident Indians, and family offices/corporates.

rise 11 per cent; hit 52 weeks high

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

Shares of electrification and automation major ABB India surged 11 per cent on Wednesday after the company posted a rise in profit in the December quarter. The scrip of the company zoomed 10.60 per cent to close at Rs 5.003.95 cent to close at Rs 5,003.95 apiece on the NSE. On the BSE, shares of ABB

India soared 10.33 per cent to end at Rs 4,989.30 apiece. During the day, ABB India stock hit a 52-week of Rs 5,134 and Rs 5,019 apiece on the NSE and the BSE.

In volume terms, 44.04 lakh equity shares were traded on the NSE, and 1.48 lakh on the

BSE during the day. In broader markets, the 30-share BSE Sensex slumped

434.31 points, or 0.59 per cent, to settle at 72,623.09, while NSE Nifty slipped 141.90 points to close at 22,055.05.

Need research on ways to reduce fossil fuels dependence: Gadkari

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

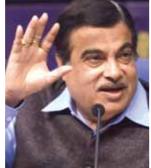
expertise in

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said research work needs to be done on ways to cut down the dependence on fossil fuels as that will also help in reducing ecological and environmental issues.

Research works also have a huge potential to make sustainable life for socially, economically and educationally backward classes, the Minister for Transport Highways said.

"The research we need is going to (be to) reduce our import (of fuels), research which is going to help people socially, economically and educationally backward, and the research where we can use waste to reduce problems

of ecology and environment," Gadkari said while addressing the 14th Edition of Aegis Graham



Bell Awards.

different using technologies, one day India will be in a strong position, he said and added that a day will come in 5 years when the country will be an exporter of bio-aviation fuel. bio-mass from bamboo wheat straw and rice straw, ethanol can be made and from ethanol, bioaviation fuel can be made, the minister said. According to him, research development of villages, water conservation diversification agricultural practices.
"I will request you to give

huge potential by which we for people who are socially, economically, educationally backward," he said.

He also mentioned about an ongoing research work to he said.

works will also help in the make ethanol from carbon smart dioxide. "I am doing a lot of experiments. Presently, we have a plant of 15,000 litres agricultural practices. per day where the experiment is going on... Scientists from Tamil Nadu agriculture, rural... There is a are making ethanol from carbon dioxide. So, anything can make a sustainable life which is going to be a big for people who are socially, research which is related to carbon dioxide, it will be a great addition and relief to the people of this country,"

International Conference on Bioengineering held at SRM The School of

Bioengineering at SRM Institute of Science and Technology organised a threeday international conference on "New Horizons



Bioengineering: Fostering Academia-Industry Partnership". The inauguration ceremony of the conference was graced by Prof Rakesh Kumar Mishra, Director of the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bangalore. It was presided over by SRMIST Vice-Chancellor Prof C Muthamizhchelvan.

WTT TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Indian men, women paddlers move to pre quarterfinals

PTI ■ BUSAN (SOUTH KOREA)

armeet Desai won the decisive fifth rubber to steer Indian men's to pre-quarterfinals while the women's team strolled into the last-16 stage of the World Table Tennis Team Championships with an 3-0 victory, here Wednesday.

The men's team had to toil hard to edge Kazakhstan 3-2 but the women's team had an easy day out as it blanked Italy 3-0 to move to the next round.

The men's team will now compete against the powerful South Koreans while the women will take on Chinese-Taipei, later on Wednesday.

Harmeet lost the opening match 2-3 to Kirill Gerassimenko (9-11, 12-10,

11-8, 7-11, 11-8) before teammate and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Sharath Kamal brought India on level terms with a come-from behind 3-2 victory over Kurmangaliyev.

The age-defying 41-year-old Sharath Kamal dug deep into his reserves after being two games down to turn the tide his Kazakh opponent.

Sharath Kamal finally won 6-11, 7-11, 11-7, 13-11, 11-9.

G. Sathiyan then gave India a 2-1 lead after a minor lapse of concentration in the second game, finally notching up an easy 3-1 victory.

The two-time CWG gold medallist in team event, Sathiyan won the opening game 11-6 but lost the next game tamely 5-11. He



recovered from the lapse to win the last two game 11-2, 11-7, giving his opponent absolutely no chance, as his top spin earned him the maximum points.

Sharath Kamal though lost his second singles match 1-3 to Kirill Gerassimenko (4-11, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11) as Kazakhstan levelled the

Harmeet did not show any signs of nerves in the decider and won 3-1 (11-6, 11-8, 8-11, 11-7).

In the women's section, Sreeja Akula defeated Nikoleta Stefanova 12-10, 11-6, 11-8, while Manika Batra crushed Giorgia Piccolin 12-10, 11-6,

Ayhika Mukherjee sealed the tie with a 15-13, 11-9, 13-15, win over Gaia

Indian Paddle Festival to be held in Mangalore from March 8, 10

from the

PTI MANGALORE

Japanese world champion Shuri Araki, the youngest to win the title, will be the cynosure of all eyes in the India Paddle Festival, the country's first-ever international stand-up paddling event, which will take place at the Sasihithlu Beach here from March 8 to

Araki was 16 when he won the world title.

With this event Association of PaddleSurf Professionals World Tour (APP) will mark its entry into the country.

The event will be conducted prior to the launch of the 2024 APP World Tour. Some top athletes from the APP World Tour, as well as

Tourism and organised by Surfing Swami Foundation. India Ño.1 Sekar Patchai and the 17-year-old Japanese Araki will be seen in action among others. "We are extremely pleased to

participate in the event,

presented by Karnataka

region, will

make our first entry into India with the Surfing Swami Foundation and Karnataka Tourism. We hope that the India

Paddle Festival will help the sport get the much-needed push to expand in the region," CEO of the APP World Tour, Tristan Boxford

said in a statement. "This championship will also provide an opportunity for the athletes to experience international other aspiring professionals

India win against Estonia



PTI ■ ALANYA (TURKEY)

The Indian football team withstood a late charge by Estonia to pick up a hard-fought 4-3 win in the Turkish Women's Cup on Wednesday, the side's first victory against an European

Striker Manisha Kalyan scored a brace and the Chaoba Devi-coached side created a piece of history as the Indian senior women's team had never before triumphed over a team from the UEFA confederation in an official

The teams were locked 1-1 at half time.

Manisha struck in the 17th and 81st minutes while Indumathi Kathiresan (62'), and Pyari Xaxa (79') scored the other goals for India. Lisette Tammik (32'), Vlada Kubassova (88') and Mari Liis Lillemae (90') found

the target for Estonia. the Blue Tigresses made a perfect start when they shot into the lead through a

Manisha goal. After Estonia drew level off a strike by Lisette Tammik, a rampaging India struck thrice through Indumathi, Xaxa and Manisha to take a commanding 4-1 lead.

Just as it appeared that the Indian women were on their way to a resounding victory, Estonia made a lastditch effort to equalise, scoring twice through Vlada Kubassova (88') and Mari Liis Lillemae (90').

However, the Indian defence did a fine job to see out the rest of the time and secure a memorable win.

At the start, India began with an intent to hit Estonia on the counter, using their speedy wingers while letting the opponents drive deeper into the box.

This played into the hands of the Blue Tigresses from the start, as Karthika's interception on the right allowed Pyari to rush into the space behind the Estonian defence.

The India striker laced her shot past Estonia keeper Karina Kork, but it struck the upright and was eventually cleared.

Pyari often acted as the focal point of the Played at the picturesque counterattacks for India, she created opportunity for the Blue Tigresses in the eighth minute when she made a swift turn to leave her marker stranded at the halfway line and played a through ball to Manisha on the left with acres of space. However, the latter scuffed

Horner with Red Bull team at start of F1 testing in Bahrain

AP ■ SAKHIR (BAHRAIN)

 $T_{\text{Horner was with Red Bull}}^{\text{eam principal Christian}}$ as Formula 1 preseason testing began Wednesday even as he faces an ongoing investigation by the team's parent company into an alleged claim of misconduct. Horner was alongside the team's chief technology officer, car designer Adrian Newey, as Max Verstappen drove the team's new car at the start of Wednesday's morning session. It is the start of the Dutch driver's campaign for a fourth consecutive world title.

allegations of misconduct toward a team employee. Horner denies wrongdoing and continued in his role as team principal during investigation. On the track, Red Bull still had

the fastest car in Wednesday's first session. Max Verstappen set the pace with a time that was 0.699 seconds faster than Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, and also overtook his rival on track near the end of the session. Williams was the only team with obvious reliability issues as Alex Albon's car stopped on the track with a technical fault.

The Red Bull parent company There are three days of said Feb. 5 it was investigating preseason testing from



ahead of the season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix at the same venue next week.

Each day is split into two sessions, and teams can only have one driver on track in each. That meant Lewis Hamilton, who is leaving Mercedes at the end of the year to join Ferrari, was sitting out the first day as his teammate George Russell

McLaren driver Lando Norris said he would wear a helmet with the design used by 2003 Indianapolis 500 winner Gil de Ferran, who died in December. De Ferran was McLaren's sporting director when Norris first raced in F1

Wednesday through Friday in 2019 and had more recently been an adviser to the team.

We lost someone really special to us at the end of last year, he was a dear friend of mine and he'd been with me pretty much since I came into Formula 1. Someone who I not only had many laughs and great times with, but someone who helped me out on and off the track whenever I needed it," Norris posted on social media. "This is the design he won the Indy 500 with, and I'll be wearing it today as my little way to say thank you for everything and to let him know we're thinking of him and he's still very much part of McLaren.

Nagal drops out of top-100 | Real Madrid in good shape



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's top singles player Sumit Nagal dropped out of top-100 after losing 16 was defending those points points from his kitty, and could earn only 25 in resulting in him sliding three spots to 101 in the latest ATP rankings.

United States under interim coach Twila Kilgore, who

took over when coach Vlatko

Andonovski departed the following

Americans' disappointing finish at the Women's World

Cup last summer.
Kilgore will coach the United

States until May, when Emma

Hayes, currently coach of

Korbin Albert, who plays for Paris Saint-Germain, also

Veteran defender Becky

Sauerbrunn, the captain for

the match, was also a late

addition to the roster because

Alana Cook sustained a

minor knee injury. It was

The Dominican Republic

clinched a spot in Group A with a 1-0 victory over

Kathrynn González scored

Saturday.

on

Sauerbrunn's 216th cap.

Guyana

Chelsea, takes over.

made her first start.

Last year in the same week, Nagal had earned 41 ranking points by reaching the semifinals of the Chennai Challenger as a qualifier. He was defending those points Bengaluru last week.

Nagal had become one of the few Indian tennis players to Chandrasekar (94, -4).

crack the top-100 following his tremendous show in Chennai where he won his fifth Challenger level title. India's next best singles player, Ramkumar Ramanathan, gained 42 places to get to 420 and was followed Sasikumar Mukund (457, 20), S D Prajwal Dev (595) and Digvijay Pratap Singh

Nagal is competing in the Pune Challenger this week. He is scheduled to take on round on Thursday.

In the doubles, Bopanna continued to be world number one player and was followed by Yuki Bhambri (60, +1), N Sriram Balaji (80, 1), Vijay Sundar Prashanth (81, +1), Saketh Myneni (89,

club restructure its debts and

Signing Kylian Mbappé Slikely would not be a problem for Real Madrid financially, as it remains the Spanish club with the highest spending limit at 727 million euros (\$786 million).

Barcelona's financial struggles continue, though, with its cap being reduced to 204 million euros (\$220 million), the Spanish league said Tuesday. delicate situation going into players, coaches, youth Mbappé told Paris Saintthe next transfe Atletico Madrid has the second-highest cap at 303 million euros (\$327 million). Each Spanish league club has a different spending limit based on factors such as revenues, costs and debts. It is proportional to roughly 70% denote the maximum amount maneuvers that helped the million).



The Catalan club could be in a each club can spend on to. veteme a nd other areas Ćlubs that are overspending leave the French club at the need to find ways to either reduce costs or attract new

270 million euros after the France star in 2022, with one summer transfer window, has of its offers rejected by PSG been gradually reduced after it reportedly reaching nearly of a club's revenues. The limits had been boosted by financial 200 million euros (\$216

investment.

gain space to sign new players. If it can't restructure its finances again, the club will be in danger of not being allowed to register its players to

Madrid has a much brighter outlook, with enough cap space to add Mbappé and possibly others. The club hasn't made many blockbuster signings in recent seasons and is free to spend now if it wants

end of the season, opening the door for another attempt by Madrid to sign him. Madrid Barcelona's cap, which was at made a big push to sign the

US women defeat the **Dominican Republic 5-0**



AP CARSON (US)

Olivia Moultrie scored twice in her first national team start and the United defeated Dominican Republic 5-0 in the inaugural CONCACAF Women's Gold tournament.

Moultrie, 18, making just her third appearance with the national team, scored her first goal in the seventh minute on Tuesday night when she stretched to tap the ball across the goal line.

Lynn Williams added a goal off a pass from Midge Purce in the 30th minute to make it 2-0 in the US team's first game

of the year. Purce also fed Moultrie for her second goal in the 59th minute. Moultrie, who plays for the Portland Thorns in the

National Women's Soccer League, is the third-youngest player to score multiple goals in a game for the United States

Jenna Nighswonger scored her first goal for the US on a penalty in the 86th minute to make it 4-0.

Alex Morgan, who was brought into the team earlier Tuesday, came in as a secondhalf substitute. Morgan was a roster replacement for Mia Fishel, who tore a ligament in her right knee in practice a dav earlier.

Morgan, who normally wears No. 13, wore Fishel's No. 7 because of CONCACAF

Morgan converted a penalty kick in stoppage time to wrap up scoring. It was her 122nd international goal.

the lone goal early in the second half. Gonzalez, a Pennsylvania native, came in as a secondhalf substitute against the United States.

It was the sixth victory for the Diego and Houston.

Earlier Tuesday at Dignity Health Sports Park, home to Major League Soccer's LA Galaxy, Argentina and Mexico played to a scoreless draw to open Group A play. There are three groups of four teams in the tournament, with matches in Carson, San



Ivo officially announces his retirement from tennis

AP ■ ZAGREB (CROATIA)

Ivo Karlovic has officially announced his retirement from tennis after having not played a tournament match in 2.5 years.

The 2.11-meter (6 foot, 11inch) Croatian said in a post Wednesday on X, formerly Twitter, that "I've had a very gratifying, unorthodox and long career coming from extremely humble extremely beginnings, especially for a tennis player.

The 44-year-old Karlovic - he will turn 45 next week played his last ATP match in a second-round qualifying loss at Indian Wells, California in October 2021. His last Grand

Slam tournament match was a first-round singles loss at the US Open about six weeks earlier. He finished his 25-year career with eight singles titles and a record of 371

wins, 346 losses and USD 10.1 million in prize money His highest singles ranking was at No. 14 in August 2008. His best Grand Slam singles performance was Wimbledon in 2009, when he advanced to the quarterfinals. He also won advanced the Davis Cup in 2005 with Croatia when it beat Slovakia in the final for the country's

first title. He finished his career with 13,728 aces, second behind John Isner with 14,470. Karlovic has the most aces in a best-of-three-set match with 45 at Halle in 2015 and weeks later Wimbledon became the only player to hit at least 40 aces three consecutive

matches. Six-time Grand Slam singles champion Boris Becker was among those to congratulate Karlovi c on X, calling his serve "the best in tennis."

Alcaraz retires hurt from his Rio Open match

AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

 $T^{ ext{wo-time}}_{ ext{Carlos}}$ major winner Carlos Alcaraz retired hurt from the Rio Open on Tuesday after two games due to a right ankle injury.

The retirement at 1-1 meant Brazil's Thiago Monteiro advanced to the second round. He will face his compatriot Felipe Meligeni Alves for a place in the

quarterfinals. Ālcaraz twisted his ankle in the first game after only two points. He received medical attention, broke Monteiro's serve, but after the Brazilian pulled level he shook his rival's hand and left the court walking as his coach Juan Ferrero looked Carlos

concerned. The Spanish player said his doctors said the injury was not serious.

"These things happen, even more so on clay," Alcaraz said, "It was not a problem of the court, I got injured as I switched direction. That happens in this kind of surface?

Alcaraz said he does feel pain when he walks and that he will have medical scans on Wednesday.

"I came back to the game to see whether I could carry on or not. I spoke to the physio on the court and we decided together I should continue to see if this would get better. It



didn't happen, so we chose to be careful and abandon due to precaution," he said.

Monteiro said it was strange to go through after playing so little time against Alcaraz. "On the court it didn't look so

serious, but then I saw it in the big screen and it was a bad twist. Now I can only cheer for him to recover, he is a star, a dominant one in the new generation," the Brazilian

Alcaraz was the runner-up at the clay court tournament in Rio de Janeiro last year, and its winner in 2022.

The injury adds to Alcaraz's below-par performances at the Argentina Open last week. The 20-year-old, who won the title in 2023, was eliminated by Chile's Nicolás Jarry in the semifinals in Buenos Aires. Earlier, three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka was beaten 7-5, 6-4 in the first round by Argentina's Facundo Díaz Acosta. The 23-year-old Díaz Acosta beat Jarry in the final to win his first title on Sunday at the Argentina Open. Tuesday's match was delayed

for almost two hours due to rain in Rio de Janeiro. Diaz Acosta's next opponent will be his compatriot Sebastián Báez.

The 38-year-old Wawrinka won the 2014 Australian Open, 2015 French Open and 2016 U.S. Open, where he defeated the world No. 1 player in the final on all three occasions.

Díaz Acosta played in Argentina as a wild-card entry with a career-high ranking of 87. He rose to No. 59 on Monday.

Expectations that I kept on myself made me disappointed, says Gill

hubman Gill had twin Schallenges to tame when he entered the Test series against England — a barren run that gripped him for nine innings, which was made grimmer when he dropped down to bat at a rather new No. 3 slot at this level.

Three Tests into the ongoing five-match rubber, Gill has managed to find some answers scoring 252 runs at 42 with a match-winning 104 at Visakhapatnam and a classy 91 at Rajkot. For Gill, it was all about coping

with the expectations he had placed on himself, rather than making any sweeping technical changes to his batting.

"It is a bit tough (living up to his own expectations). When people from outside talk about all those things, it did not make much difference to me. But the expectations that I kept on myself made me a bit disappointed," Gill said in a press conference here on Wednesday.

However, Gill said he has still placed the same level of expectations on him but has

learned to adjust to them. "You will definitely have some expectations on you as to how you want to play for the team, the country. But I don't think that has changed my mindset. I still have the same set of expectations for myself.
"It is all about how you are able

Rajput roped

in as UAE

 $F^{\rm ormer\ India\ cricketer}_{\rm Lalchand\ Rajput\ has\ been}$

appointed head coach of the United Arab Emirates men's

team for three years, replacing Pakistan's

Rajput's first assignment with the side will be the ICC

Cricket World Cup League 2

tri-series against Scotland

and Canada, being hosted in

the UAE from February 28.

It will be followed by a three-

match T20I series against

The 62-year-old Rajput's appointment comes in the backdrop of UAE failing to

make it to the T20 World

Cup to be held in the West

Indies and the USA this year.

"UAE has emerged as one of

the stronger Associate

Members in recent years,

two Tests and four ODIs for

India, said in an Emirates

Cricket Board release on

"I am confident that the

boys, buoyed by their

batch

replacing Mudassar Nazar.

month.

current

PTI DUBAI

head coach

to forget them and move on quickly and be ready for the next challenge. That is the difference between a big player and an average player," he

including the Hyderabad Hyderabad Test against England last month, once he started batting at No. 3, deviating from his preferred

tour to the West Indies midlast year till he broke it against England at Visakhapatnam.

task even though he had batted matches earlier. "I have batted at No. 3 and No. 4 for India A and in some Ranji

never done in my life. There

are not many technical changes

that I had to make to my game.

"But it is different when you open the innings because you don't get that much time to think as you are going right in after the toss. You are the one who is setting the tone."

Gill said playing in the middlestage. When you are opening then you are dictating the terms, but in the middle-order you will be playing according

Vizag and Rajkot Tests to underline his theory.

Gill was joined by Śhreyas Iyer when India were 30 for two, and he had to marshal the hosts' innings for their entire second dig while batting for

slightly different role in

supporting a marauding Yashasvi Jaiswal (214) in the second innings at Rajkot.

"I would not have played any differently even if I was feeling any calm or composed (in Vizag). But definitely, what I was feeling at Vizag was a bit different from what I was feeling in the earlier matches for India (in terms of the match situation).

"But in Rajkot, the situation was different, we were in a very good position, leading by some 300 runs. So, keeping that in mind, it was a much calmer and composed innings."

Indian batters' failure to kick on after getting a start was a major reason behind their defeat in the first Test.

Gill said there was a talk in the dressing room about converting the starts into big knocks to pile pressure on the opposition.

'If you look at the first Test, a lot of players had got the starts. They played almost 50 balls and there were 80s and 90s. All the batsmen had opportunity to make a big score but unfortunately, they

did not get a big one. "So, we had a chat and the point was if a batsmen get set and make a big score like 150 or 200, then it makes a big difference to us and the opposition. It will be good to score runs in the first innings almost 48 overs.

The right-hander said he had a tough in fourth or fifth day," he



Australia snatches last ball win over **New Zealand**

AP ELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND)

Tim David hit a four from the last ball of the match to give Australia a six-wicket win over New Zealand on Wednesday in Twenty20 first international.

New Zealand made 215 for three batting first in an innings which included 13 sixes and 10 fours. Captain Mitch Marsh piloted Australia's innings with an unbeaten 72 from 44 balls and was man of the match and was man of the match for his role in Australia's third-highest successful run chase.

But, David took over at the end, hitting two sixes and a four from the last three balls of the 19th over to leave Australia needing 16 runs from the last six balls. Veteran seamer Tim Southee was given the responsibility of bowling the last over for New Zealand as the highest wicket-taker in T20 cricket. His first two balls were wides, then there was a leg bye and Australia needed 12 from three balls. David came close to settling the issue when he just caught up with a ball from Southee heading down the leg and hit a remarkable six behind

That left Australia needing six from two balls. Marsh and David ran two from the penultimate ball of the innings, leaving Australia needing a four to win with David on strike. Southee bowled full and

David clubbed the ball through the mid-wicket and just wide of Glenn Phillips' despairing dive to the boundary. David finished 31 not out from

"It was a very good wicket and I felt we were just on the run rate right through the innings," Marsh said. "There was no doubt if we were going to chase down

216 we were going to need a bit of luck. 'That was just a great game of cricket to start the series.

These two teams have played a lot of great games over time and it's really nice to be on the right end of it tonight. Australia's 216 for four was

its third-highest successful run chase in T20s. Earlier, Devon Conway and

Rachin Ravindra put on 113 from 66 balls for the third wicket to lift New Zealand to 215 for three as it batted first. Conway broke a form williamson who is absent awaiting the birth of his third child. He staked a strong claim for a place in New Zealand's squad for the Twenty20 World Cup later this year hitting six later this year, hitting six sixes in an innings of 68

slump with an innings of 63 from 46 balls. It was

Conway's first half-century

in 23 innings across all

Ravindra came into the New Zealand team as a placeholder for Kane

formats.

from 35 balls. The New Zealand innings was given an explosive start by Finn Allen who made 32 from 17 balls in a 66-run opening partnership with Conway. Glenn Phillips finished 19 not out, Mark Chapman 18 not out and every New Zealand batter

hit at least a six. Zealand Mitchell Santner decided to bat on winning the toss on a new drop-in pitch at Sky

Stadium. Allen missed at times early in his innings but settled into his work and hit three sixes and two fours in an

innings of only 17 balls. He hit the first six of the match from the second over, bowled by Josh Hazlewood, then hit two sixes and 20 runs from the third over, bowled by Glenn Maxwell. Allen hit another off Pat Cummins in his first over which

yielded 15 runs as New Zealand reached 50 from

only 3.5 overs.

He was out inside inside the power play when New Zealand was on 62. After six overs it was 68 for one. The New Zealand run rate dropped a little after the power play as the Australian bowlers made good use deliveries. But, Conway and Ravindra stepped things up again and Conway reached his halfcentury, his 10th in T20s

Ravindra followed him to a 50 from 29 balls amid a barrage of sixes. Ravindra was out to the last ball of the 16th over and Conway to the first ball of the next

and third against Australia,

from 34 balls.

Santner appeared to have produced a key play near the end when he bowled the 17th over, conceding only three runs and taking the wicket of Josh Inglis (20). But, David came to the crease, hit the ball out of the middle from the start and clinched the game for Australia.

The 24-year-old could not score a fifty in 11 continuous innings,

opening position.
The rut set in during India's

Gill said batting at No.3 presented him with a different

in that slot in domestic Trophy matches, and as such, it was not something that I have

order made it mandatory for him to bat as per the situations. "But when you bat at three or four, there is a certain situation that you have to bat at. If a couple of wickets have fallen early, then you are setting the to the situations. Gill offered the examples of

In form Jaiswal breaks into top 20 of ICC Test Rankings PTI DUBAI



cricket and practice facilities here in Dubai, will continue to prosper. UAE cricket has a very bright future and my goal would be to make the team perform more consistently and take them to the next level which I am very confident they are fully capable of," he added.

and the players have put in Rajput was India coach when some good performances in both ODIs and T20Is. The the team won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007. He also had a coaching stint exceptionally talented, and I with Afghanistan between 2016-17, during which the look forward to working with them and further harnessing their cricket ICC granted the country Test status skills," Rajput, who played

His last stint as coach was with Zimbabwe (2018-22), helping the side qualify for the 2022 T20 World Cup in where Australia, Chevrons made it to the Super-12 stage.



cricketers to score double centuries in two consecutive Tests including two Indians --Vinod Kambli and Virat Kohli. Jaiswal scored 209 in India's first innings in the Visakhapatnam and then hit unbeaten 214 runs in the

second essay at Rajkot to contribute in the home team's massive 434-run victory over England that took them 2-1 up in the series. Ravindra Jadeja, who was the player-of-the-match

Rajkot, also climbed up in the batting rankings from 41st to 34th position after his knock of 112 in the first innings, the ICC said in a statement. He also returned with a

seven-wicket match haul that lifted him three places to sixth in the bowling rankings. off-spinner Veteran Ravichandran Ashwin, who entered the elite 500 Test wicket club at Rajkot, climbed a rung to the second position behind pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah.



Rajkot, while Shubman Gill

(91) progressed three places

to 35th after coming close to a century in the second innings. Debutants Sarfaraz Khan and Dhruy Jurel also entered the rankings in 75th 100th positions, respectively. Star batter Virat Kohli, who is not playing in the series due to personal reasons, remains the only Indian in top-10 batters' chart at the seventh spot. For England, opener Ben Duckett's quickfire 153 in the first innings lifted him 12 places to 13th.

Zealand's Wiliamson strengthened his position at the top of the batting rankings after notching a century against South Africa, his seventh in seven Tests, joining Aravinda de Silva, Mohammad Yousuf and Clyde Walcott as the only players to have achieved the unique feat.

Spin friendly wicket will make it even playing field in Ranchi: Pope

PTI RANCHI

Wednesday.

 $E_{\text{rank turner in the fourth}}^{\text{ngland would not mind a}}$ Test because assistance to spinners from the word go will make it a level-playing field, vice captain Ollie Pope said on Wednesday. The Tests in Hyderabad,

Visakhapatnam and Rajkot all had sporting pitches, which were not predominantly spinfriendly and had something for everyone.

"If it does spin from ball one, it takes the toss out of the equation, then it's an even playing field," Pope told reporters here.

"A lot of the time the wicket starts out flat and then deteriorates. We won the first

game batting first, India the last two batting first. It doesn't define the result if you bat first on slightly flatter wicket but it does give you an advantage," he added. Pope, one of the heroes for

England in Hyderabad, feels that a wicket offering good turn will provide them with wicket-taking options.
"If it does do a fare bit like we

expect it to then it gets us into the game. We have got some young spinners, they have bowled well in some pretty good surfaces. It definitely give us wicket taking opportunities. They have done a good job on flat wickets as

Pope had used the sweep shot to blunt the effectiveness of



Indian spinners to score a his length. It helps if you try majestic 196 and fashion England's victory in the

"If it's spinning we will see series-opener. "Personally, when the ball is more sweep shots, innovative doing more your best batter is shots. We have realised that trying to hit the bowler, the threats that they pose on trying to get him to bowl off spinning wickets, the likes of

to put pressure on the bowler like we did in Hyderabad.

Jadeja, Ashwin and Kuldeep. "Our best bet is to put them under pressure like we did in Hyderabad in the second innings. That can give us a large amount of confidence going to the test if it does end spinning a lot like it did then." With India resting Jasprit Bumrah, Pope feels the hosts can opt to field a fourth spinner in Axar Patel.

Potentially (India will bring fourth spinner), we got to see what they do once they see the wicket and train this afternoon. See what they want from the pitch, if they want some grass left.

"They have watered the pitch so potentially an extra spinner could be seen from India. With Jasprit missing they

might go down that avenue, Axar Patel is definitely an option for them."

Talking about the pitch, he said it looks "platey" "The pitch looks interesting,

very 'platey'. The cracks in the wicket aren't just cracks, there are separate bits of ground that could open up with a lot of sun on them. The ball could deviate more off them if they open up like we expect them to.

Stokes can bowl in Ranchi

Initially he had said that he won't be rolling over his arm in this series but England skipper Ben Stokes, who hasn't bowled since June, has hinted at resuming his allrounder duties after the colossal 434-run loss in the Rajkot Test.

The fast-bowling all-rounder was seen bowling during the training session here on Wednesday.

"There is definitely a chance, but he has not confirmed yet even in the changing room. He's had a good bowl against our batters," said Pope. "Let's see how he pulls up

tomorrow and see how he goes and if that's good we can see a ball in his hand," Pope added. 's first innings, has met Dhoni only once during his first year in the IPL for

Rajasthan Royals in 2021. But the 23-year-old stumper aspires to meet Dhoni again and pick his brains as much as

possible.

"It is always my dream to meet Mahi bhai. The last I met him was in IPL, but I wanted to meet him in India jersey. Whenever I spoke to him, I got to learn some things and that helped a lot in my cricket," Jurel told BCCI.TV.

"I will try to meet Mahi bhai in Ranchi and talk to him." Jurel recollected his first meeting with Dhoni during IPL 2021.

"I was just watching him and stood up, like 'is this MS Dhoni standing in front of me'. That was the first time I interacted with MS Dhoni, so I was just pinching myself, 'Is this a dream?' I met him in 2021, I guess, my first year of IPL," he said.

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