OPINION 6

BHARAT RATNA: HONOURING

THE LEGACY OF JAN NAYAK

WORLD 9

IMRAN KHAN WARNS HIS

PARTY CANDIDATES

BHOPAL, THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹1.50

Late City Vol.21 Issue 24 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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the pioneer

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PM urges Ministers not to crowd Ayodhya

day after a massive rush at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Ram Mandir in Ayodnya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi advised all his Cabinet colleagues on Wednesday to refrain from visiting the holy city for now and to plan their pilgrimage from mid-February onwards. Besides, well-placed sources in the government and within the ruling party BJP told The Pioneer that each party parliamentarian and party office bearer has been given a target to facilitate an Ayodhya visit for people within their constituency or jurisdiction, particularly for women and elderly Ram Bhakts.

Sources mentioned that during the Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister suggested that, due to the heavy rush and to prevent inconvenience to the public caused by VIPs with protocols, Cabinet members should avoid visiting at this time. The Prime Minister's advisory came after devotees flocked to Ram Mandir in huge numbers a day after the praan pratishthaa ceremony on January 22.

The ministers will visit the Ram Mandir for darshan later from February onwards, sources said. Sources also mentioned that party MPs, as well as the entire Council of Ministers, will "facilitate" at least 2,500 people/devotees from their constituency for the Ayodhya pilgrimage.

In the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls likely to be held in April-

PRIORITY TO



May, the same pattern to enable a large number of visitors to Ayodhya could be replicated by the State ministers and leaders as

The Ram Temple at Ayodhya has been a major poll plank and included in the party's manifesto for the BJP for three decades, along with the abrogation of Article 370, and both processes have been completed

This was the second time that the PM had to urge refraining from visiting Ayodhya, with the first instance occurring in December after he inaugurated several projects, including the airport and railway station.

On December 30, anticipating a turnout, Modi had suggested that people, out of

emotion, should refrain from visiting Ayodhya on the praan prathishtaa day and instead plan their pilgrimage a couple of days later. In the Cabinet meeting held on Wednesday, Modi also inquired about the feedback from the public after the inauguration of the highly-awaited Ram

An idol of the new Ram Lalla was

consecrated at the Ayodhya temple on Monday, with PM Modi leading the event. The ceremony was live-streamed across the country.

Addressing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Anurag Thakur shared that the Union Cabinet congratulated PM Modi on the successful praan

INDIA Bloc speaks in confused tones

SAUGAR SENGUPTA/PNS KOLKATA/NEW DELHI

rinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday announced that her party will go solo in the forthcoming general elections. This announcement comes even as her Punjab counterpart and Aam Aadmi Party leader Bhagwant Mann expressed confidence that the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP will win "all" the Lok Sabha seats in the State. Both the TMC and the AAP have been major stakeholders in the seven-month-old Opposition coalition, INDIA bloc, led by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge as its chairman.

Interestingly, the main person who conceived the Opposition group, JDU president and Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, in June 2023 after severing ties with longtime ally BJP, is now believed to be hobnobbing to return to the NDA

Putting an end to the ongoing consultations and seat-sharing meetings held by Congress with alliance partners, Mamata said, "There is no relationship with the Congress. There is no alliance in Bengal. Let the Congress contest in 300 seats, and let the regional parties contest in the remaining seats. We will not tolerate interference in regard to those seats, and if anyone (read the causes



interference, then we will handle it in our own way. We will go it alone in Bengal."
Similarly, Punjab Chief Minister

said Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will win all 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab in the 2024 general election. Dismissing possibility of an alliance with the Congress party in the State, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said, "AAP is not going with them (Congress)."

"I have said it on several occasions that Punjab will become a hero in the country, and the AAP will win 13-0 in the 2024 Lok Sabha election," Mann said, talking to the media in Chandigarh after a

Cabinet meeting.
A visibly irked Mamata also rejected the friendship offer from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying that she had not been contacted by anyone from the grand old party.

Air India fined ₹1.1 crore for safety breaches

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a 10 crore on Air India after an airline employee alleged safety violations on flights operated on certain long-range terrain-critical routes, specifically regarding the operations of leased Boeing 777 planes

This is the second time in a week that the regulator has penalised Air India. The DGCA had received a complaint from a former Air India pilot alleging that the airline operated Boeing 777 planes to the US without having the required emergency oxygen supply

A comprehensive investigation into the matter was carried out by the DGCA, which also issued a show-cause notice to the airline. "Since the operations of the leased aircraft were not in line with regulatory/OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) performance limits, the DGCA has initiated enforcement action and imposed a penalty of Rs 1.10 crore on Air India," the DGCA said in a release on Wednesday.

Reacting to the development, Air India stated that the raised issue had been thoroughly examined by the airline along with external experts. It was concluded that there was no compromise on safety whatsoever, the airline added.

"We disagree with the order issued by the DGCA. The issues raised were thoroughly examined by Air India along with external experts, concluding that there was no compromise on safety whatsoever," Air India said.

PM headed for mega projects launch in Bulandshahr

mandir in Ayodhya.

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address his first electoral Thursday. Given that Varanasi is the home constituency of Prime Minister Modi, the decision to start the campaign from Bulandshahr has sparked speculation about the strategic reasoning behind this choice. The Prime Minister will launch development projects worth more than ₹19,100 crore, including the 173-km-long double-line electrified section between New Khurja and New Rewari on the dedicated freight corridor (DFC), by flagging off goods trains from the two stations. The rally in Bulandshahr will mark the beginning of the election campaign for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and comes days after the praan pratishthaa of Ram Mandir

The BJP claims that around five lakh people will attend PM Modi's rally in Bulandshahr. Many in the BJP feel that Bulandshahr is also lucky for Narendra Modi, as the PM launched his campaign for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls from this

Prime Minister Modi also intends to connect with voters and supporters in areas where the party faced challenges in the previous elections. The focus is on sharing the winning mantra and garnering support in a bid to secure victory in the contested



seats of western Uttar Pradesh. The BJP, which swept Uttar Pradesh in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections by winning 71 out of 80 seats, saw, albeit inconsequential, a decline of nine seats in the 2019 general elections. Notably, the BJP holds eight out of 14 seats in western Uttar Pradesh, with defeats in six constituencies in

With the upcoming 2024 elections, Prime Minister Modi aims to reverse this trend, particularly in the eight out of 14 seats the BJP currently holds in

the region. As Congress and the Samajwadi Party engage in seat-sharing talks for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the political landscape in Uttar Pradesh seems poised for an intriguing

contest in the months to come. On this occasion, PM Modi will launch development projects worth more than ₹19,100 crore, including the 173-km-long double-line electrified section between New Khurja and New Rewari on the dedicated freight corridor, by flagging off goods trains from the two stations.

Officials stated that this new DFC section is crucial as it establishes connectivity between the western and eastern freight corridors. The section is also noteworthy for its remarkable engineering feat, featuring a one-kilometre-long double-line rail tunnel with highrise electrification, the first of its kind in the world. This tunnel is designed to seamlessly operate double-stack container trains. The new DFC section is expected

passenger trains due to the shifting of goods trains onto the DFC track, they explained.

The prime minister wil inaugurate the fourth rail line connecting Mathura-Palwal and Buzurg-Dadri Chipiyana sections, along with multiple road development projects. These road projects, developed at a cumulative cost of more than ₹5,000 crore, will improve connectivity and contribute to the economic development of the region, they added.

Among other projects Modi will inaugurate is the Indian Oil's Tundla-Gawaria pipeline and an "integrated industrial township at Greater Noida" (IITGN), developed in line with the prime minister's vision of integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects under PM-

GatiShakti. Built at a cost of ₹1,714 crore, the project is spread over 747 acres and is located near the intersection of the eastern and western dedicated freight corridors, with the Eastern Peripheral Expressway to the south and the Delhi-Howrah broad gauge railway line to the east. IITGN's strategic location unparalleled ensures connectivity, infrastructure for multi-modal

connectivity is present in the vicinity of this project, officials said.

Centre allows mobile tower in forest to meet 4G target

ARCHANA JYOTI NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry is treading strike a balance between technological progress and the preservation natural habitats. It has relaxed regulations for the installation of mobile towers in forestprotected areas, including national parks and wildlife habitats across the country. However, the core and critical wildlife areas of tiger homes are excluded.

This move aims to support the government's ambitious project, spearheading the extension of seamless 4G internet connectivity 24,680 uncovered villages in the country. The project entails the construction of at least 16,464 telecom towers. However, the approval for

such construction protected areas comes with conditions. Protected land can be allocated to a "user agency" only if no private or alternative revenue land is available.

In its recently issued guidelines, the Ministry also stipulates that the user agency must obtain an undertaking from the district magistrate confirming the unavailability of alternative land. A user agency refers to the entity proposing and



and operation of the mobile tower. This entity could be a mobile network operator, government agency, or another party seeking permission for installation within a protected area. Notably, no proposal for the

installation of mobile towers in the core/critical tiger habitat, as notified under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, will be allowed.

The guidelines were formulated in response to a significant number of proposals from various States and Union Territories seeking approval from the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife under the Ministry. These proposals aimed at the installation of mobile towers and laying of Optical Fiber Cables inside national parks, sanctuaries, tiger reserves, and tiger

Lakshadweep scripts a melodious story of hope

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

akshadweep, a group of Lislands Arabian Sea, which witnessed anti-India protests for a couple of months by secessionist forces who were out to create a hub of narcotics trade, is back to normalcy and that too in style. The residents of the picturesque islands are busy driving the economy in full speed adding colour to the Blue Revolution conceived by the Centre.

Now it is time for agatti, arabianesis, koyas, sulci

palma and purushothamani to rejuvenate the lives of Lakshadweep population. What and who are these characters? That we will come to later in the story. It all began last month with

the two-day long tour of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the islands where he interacted with the local residents, especially women. When the women shared with Prime Minister Modi how they are struggling to meet both ends, the latter explained to them about the potential of Pradhan Mantri





Matsya Sampada Yojana (PM MSY), a scheme to bring about the Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development.

The Prime Minister conferred with scientists of National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, a unit under Indian Council of

Agricultural Research (ICAR). Dr UK Sarkar, director, ICAR, briefed the Agricultural Prime Minister about the five varieties of ornamental shrimps developed by the Centre for Peninsular Marine Fish Genetic Resources.

"Captive breeding of these shrimps is an ideal profession for women because it needs care, skill and of course the motherly touch. Beautiful shrimps with unique colour and design patterns have been developed in captivity by our scientists and we handed them over to the women in Lakshadweep," said Dr UK Sarkar.

Dr TT Ajith Kumar, principal scientist and the chief architect of the project, said community units, each aquaculture with an investment of Rs 2.5 lakh and

started functioning before the Minister's Prime reached New Delhi.

minimum ten women fishers

"There are 45 women fully engaged in breeding these unique shrimps which are a treat to the eyes. We have developed ornamental fish breeds and they command a good market," Ajith told The Pioneer. The ornamental shrimps

will go much higher places than the ornamental fish breeds and will add colour to the Blue Revolution," he

Guv for massive plantation to ensure environmental prosperity

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

overnor Mangubhai Patel has stressed the Jeed for massive plantations to ensure environmental prosperity. He said that trees make environment healthy and forest produce brings prosperity. He expressed the need to disseminate information on properties of forest produces and medicines on a wide

The Governor asked the officials concerned to ensure scientific certification of herbs and medicines used traditionally for treatment of ailments. Explaining about sickle cell, a genetic disease prevalent in the tribal community, he said that it is the cause of 21 types of diseases. Forest Department and

asked to do research on Ayurvedic medicines for the treatment of serious dis-

Patel was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Van Mela 2024 organized by the State Minor Forest Produce Trade and Development Federation at Bhopal Haat today.

Forest, Environment and Scheduled Caste Welfare Minister Nagar Singh Chauhan, Minister of State for Forest and Environment Dilip Ahirwar were also pre-

Mangubhai Patel commended the initiative of organizing Van Mela for improving minor forest produce based economy. He appealed to the citizens to complement the efforts for lic participation in planta-

economic empowerment of the deprived sections by ensuring maximum purchases. He said that illiteracy is the main reason of poverty. The education leads to development. He called upon the deprived sections to give top priority to education of children. He said that the challenges of climate change and global warming cause environmental imbalance. Plantation is imperative of environmental balance. He said that forest medicines do not have side effects. Their effectiveness has seen tested during Covid. He informed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as the Chief Minister

of Gujarat, had planned 12

zodiac, 27 constellation and

9 planetary forests for pub-

tion. He said that intensive plantation is an urgent need in urban areas. He appealed to the citizens to take a pledge on their birthday to plant saplings and care them constantly.

Forest, Environment and Scheduled Caste Welfare Minister Nagar Singh Chauhan said that 35 lakh people are involved in forest produce collection. The state government is making efforts for their advancement. The rate of tendu leaf collection has been increased from Rs 3 thousand per standard bag to Rs 4 thousand. As many as 126 Van Dhan Centers have been established. Education is being imparted in excellent educational institutions through Eklavya Shiksha Vikas Yojana.

Minister of State for Forest Environment, Dilip Ahirwar said that the state government is working hard to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea of Vocal for Local. The Van Mela is an effort to directly benefit the forest produce collectors.

The Governor was welcomed by tribal folk artists with traditional folk dance. The guests were presented medicinal plants. Welcome address was given by Additional Chief Secretary Forest, J.N. Kansotiya. Managing Director, Minor Forest Produce Association, Vibhash Thakur gave a vote of thanks. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest Abhay Patil, forest produce collectors and people in a large number were present.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel visits stalls after the inauguration of Van Mela-2024, at Bhopal Haat in Bhopal on

Provide basic facilities regularly to citizens: Vijayvargiya

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

rban Development Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya has said that priority should be given to providing financial resources so that urban bodies can provide basic facilities uninterruptedly to the citizens. The functioning of the bodies strengthens the image of the state government. Minister Vijayvargiya was addressing the meeting of officials of Finance and Urban Development Department in Mantralaya

on Wednesday. Vijayvargiya directed that there should be no deduction at the state level from the amount of octroi compensation payable to the urban bodies. A system should be developed so that the urban bodies themselves

tricity bill to the electricity similar guarantee should be companies. He said that the Finance Department should soon release the amount of basic State Finance told that the list of service tax Commission, road maintenance and stamp duty which amounts to Rs 1000 crore. He told the urban bodies under UIDF to immediately release an amount of Rs 500 crore for the completion of AMRUT Yojana. Secretary Finance said that necessary action will be taken in this matter within a

Department has proposed to the Finance Department to implement the scheme of 552 e-buses to strengthen the urban transport service in 6 major cities of the state. Development Minister Vijayvargiya said that other states have given guarantee in this scheme,

given by the Finance Department in the state also. The Finance Department amount imposed on various government departments of urban bodies should be made available on the basis of which, efforts will be made by the Finance Department to provide the said amount soon.

It was also decided in the meeting that the state's share for the sanctioned amount of week. Rs 350 crore regarding
The Urban Development Metro Rail should be released soon. It was decided in the meeting that a standard procedure should be decided regarding the implementation of capital item schemes by the urban bodies and issued to all the urban bodies. Officials of the Development Urban Department requested for

the approval to authorize MPUDC for taking loan under Chief Minister's Urban Infrastructure Fourth Phase to be issued soon. The Urban Development Minister directed the Finance Department to resolve the departmental proposal regarding giving gratuity to the employees of the New Pension Scheme within a week.

Action on Sankalp-2023 Instructions were given in the meeting that to ensure action on Sankalp-2023 related to urban development, the Finance Department should take immediate decisions on the pending proposals. Secretary Finance Gyaneshwar Patil, Commissioner Urban Administration Development Bharat Yadav and departmental officers were present in the meeting.

Severe cold to prevail for next 3 days in the State

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

evere cold will continue in Madhya Pradesh for the next 3 days. After this there will be some relief from the cold. Two Western Disturbances are becoming active in North India since January 25. Its effect will also be visible in the state from January 27. This will increase the night temperature by 1-2 degrees. However, there will be severe cold in the districts of Gwalior, Chambal, Rewa, Jabalpur and Sagar divisions from 24 to 26 January. The night temperature in all the cities of the state except Mandla (11 degree celsius) and Malajkhand (12 degree celsius) was 10 degree celsius or below.

IMD scientist said that two western disturbances will be active in North India on January 25 and 27. Its effect Moderate to dense fog pre-

♦ he Congress party and its leaders have been blaming

EVMs every time to hide

will be seen in the state after 2 days. There will be a reduction in fog and cold. There are also chances of snowfall over the Himalayas during Western Disturbance. Due to this, Western

after the passing of Western Disturbance, the effect of severe cold may be seen again in the state. Among the major cities the night temperature (temperature in degrees Celsius) was recorded in Bhopal 7.4,

Indore 9.9, Gwalior 7.9, Jabalpur 8.9 and Ujjain 7.3. During the last 24 hours, there was rain at some places in the districts of Ĵabalpur division of the state while rest regions remained dry. There was an effect of cold wave in Satna and Sagar. Cold day was witnessed in Khandwa, Khargone, Seoni and Nowgong (Chhatarpur).

Bharatiya Janata Party State

President and MP Vishnudutt

Sharma said this while terming

Digvijay Singh's statement

regarding EVM as a ploy of

State President Sharma said

that it has always been the

endeavor of Congress and leaders like Digvijay Singh to mis-lead and provoke voters in the

name of EVMs and always

blame EVMs for their political

failure. He said that Digvijay

Singh, who is crying today that

the Election Commission is

not ready to listen to him

regarding EVMs, is not being

was he when the Election

Commission arrested him by

hacking EVMs. Challenged to

show? Then why didn't they

hack the EVM and show it in

the Commission's office?

Digvijay Singh knew very well

that if he accepted this chal-

lenge of the Election

Commission, his lies would be

false propaganda.

vailed in Morena, Datiya, Chhatarpur and Rewa; Light fog prevailed in Gwalior, Panna.

Minimum visibility in the morning was 50 meters at Khajuraho Airport and Rewa; 150 meters at Gwalior Airport; 200 meters recorded in Datia. The minimum temperature increased especially in districts

Namadapuram division, significantly increased in the districts of Rewa division, and there was a significant change in the temperature in the districts of all the remaining divisions, less than normal in the districts of Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Ujjain and Sagar divisions, quite high in the districts of Shahdol division.

Remain high, and remain normal in the districts of all remaining divisions.

exposed and he would never

again be able to take the cover

of EVMs to mislead the public.

Shri Sharma said that why does

Digvijay Singh forget that

EVMs are the contribution of

Congress and were brought in

the 2003 elections during the

time of Congress government,

then Sonia Sena had conduct-

ed the 2004 elections through EVMs, in which The UPA

alliance had registered victory.

Then why did Digvijay Singh

not see the fault in EVM? Why

doesn't Digvijay Singh mention

how EVMs were hacked by the

only when they lose in elec-

tions. When they win, they do

not discuss EVMs. He said

how ridiculous it is that for

these parties and leaders, their

victory is the victory of their

party's policies and pro-

grammes, whereas the victory

of the Bharatiya Janata Party is

the victory of EVMs.

UPA coalition in 2009? Sharma said that Congress and Health of Tiger-40 improving fast at Van Vihar National Park

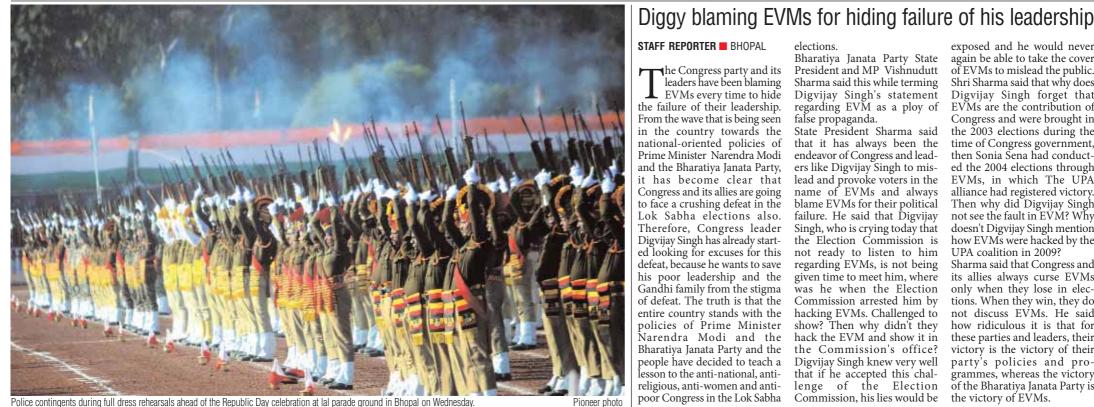
STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

slight improvement Ain the mean...
observed of in the health is Tigress-40, who was brought to Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal from Kanha Tiger Reserve. Due to illness she had stopped taking food. After this she was brought to Van Vihar. Currently she is undergoing treatment at the rescue

According to Van Vihar management, the tigress

was brought from Kanha to Van Vihar on November 5. She has been ill since December 16. Health checkup found that its kidneys were not functioning properly. Due to which creatinine and blood urea levels had increased significantly. She had also stopped taking food. The tigress is being kept under constant close observation and is being treated by wildlife doctor Van Vihar Dr. Atul Gupta. Dr. Kajal Jadhav, assistant professor of State Wildlife Forensic Health, Jabalpur, and Dr. Rajesh Tomar, wildlife doctor of Mukundpur Zoo, were also consulted regarding the tigress. The tigress was given continuous fluid therapy and necessary treatment was done. His blood sample is being taken again every eighth

As of today, the health of improved. His creatinine level has reduced significantly and he has also started eating regular food. Van Vihar Director Padmapriya Balakrishnan said, the tigress's activities are being monitored and continuous treatment is being done.



UCO bank will now focus on growth & credit expansion: MD and CEO

MD Ashwini

Kumar said

be able to

customer

market

Rs 3303 crore.

that we would

provide better

service along

with greater

growth in the

A decline of 3.85 percent in

gross non-performing assets

and a decline of 0.98 percent in

net non-performing assets was

recorded. Operating profit has

increased by 10.69 percent to

The Bank has opened 26 new

branches during the nine

months ending 31.12.2023. In this way now 3217 natives are in

Branches: 2 overseas branches in

Hong Kong and Singapore and

a representative office in Iran.

Zonal Head of Bhopal Zone of

the Bank, Rajesh Upadhyay par-

ticipated and said that as per the business policy of the bank, all

the 97 branches of Bhopal zone have organized special camps

for distribution of MSME, retail and agricultural loans.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

he bank will now focus on growth and credit expansion. It will be our endeavor to be more innovative in the times to come said Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of UCO Bank Ashwini Kumar during press conference in virtual mode.

While addressing the media persons, Kumar said that we would be able to provide better customer service along with greater growth in the market through products and schemes. It is noteworthy that the bank is organizing a special CASA campaign with the aim of adding new customers.

As well as 100 percent discount has been given in Processing Charge till 31.03.2024 to promote home loans and car loans. The total business of the bank has increased by 10.46 percent to Rs 435456 crore in the quarter ending December 2023 also, total advances increased by 18.63 percent to Rs 179195 crore and total deposits increased by 5.38 percent to Rs 256261 crore.

Retail, Agriculture and MSME (RAM) sector reached Rs 93720 crore with growth of 17.70 per-

OS ASD patient successfully operated

Bhopal: A 10-year-old girl diagnosed with OS ASD (Ostium Secundum Atrial Septal Defect), a heart condition characterized by a hole inside the heart, has undergone a successful percutaneous closure procedure in AIIMS Bhopal. This groundbreaking intervention was conducted using an ASD device under general anaesthesia, marking the first-ever procedure of its kind in the institute.

The patient had sought medical attention due to inability to gain weight and shortnessof breath, leading to a diagnostic evaluation that identified the presence of ASD. A dedicated cardiology team, consisting of Cardiologists Dr.Bhushan Shah, Dr Madhur Jain, Dr Kislay Srivastav, along with Anesthesia team comprising Dr. Vaishali Waindeskar, Dr. Harishkumar, Dr. Seema Dr. Ashima and cath lab technicians and nursing officers, worked diligently to ensure the success of

this pioneering procedure. This achievement reflects a significant step forward under the guidance of Executive Director Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh in the state's healthcare capabilities, allowing for the management of a wider range of interventional cardiac cases in pediatric patients within the state itself.

21-year-old youth killed in mishap after being hit by car

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 21-year-old youth died after three friends riding a bike were hit by a car late in the night on Tuesday in the Idgah Hills area.

The deceased was a B.Pharma student while his two freinds suffered minor injuries. At present no clue has been

found about the car which hit the bike and to establish identify police are checking the footage of CCTV cameras installed near the inci-

ASI Dulichand said that Abhishek Gurjar (21) lived in a rented room in Vitthal Nagar Lalghati, he was B.Pharma third year student with a private college in Gandhi Nagar.

Abhishek along with friend Pravesh Patharia left for Idgah Hills to drop Keshav at his home. The three friends riding the bike were coming from the Cancer Hospital towards St. Joseph's School. Then, while overtaking, a Bolero car hit the bike from behind. Abhishek, who was seriously injured in the acci-

At present no clue has been found about the car which hit the bike and to establish identify police are checking the footage of **CCTV** cameras installed near the incident site

dent, was taken to Hamidia Hospital. Where he died during treatment. He had suffered serious head



Friend Keshav Sen, who was present with Abhishek at the time of the accident, told the police that the three friends were riding a Pulsar bike. He was driving the bike at the time of the incident. While overtaking, a Bolero hit him.

Abhishek's father is farming in the village itself. He has two elder brothers, he was the youngest. After completing his studies, he wanted to start a chemist store in his village.



TV artist and actor Arun Govil, known for portraying Lord Rama in Ramayan TV series participates in a Ram Rath Yatra taken out on the occasion to celebrate Ayodhya's Lord Ram Temple consecration, in Bhopal on Wednesday.

CM congratulates on selection of Dewas police station

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav has extended **⊿**congratulations on the selection of Dewas Civil Line Police Station by the Home Ministry of the Government of India among the 10 best police stations across the country. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said in a message released on social

media that this achievement is a matter of pride for all the people of Madhya Pradesh including Dewas.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the selection of Madhya Pradesh police station in the entire country is a good example of good governance and better law and order. Congratulations to all the police officers and employees of

the police station dedicated to public service and their duties. Director General of Police Sudhir Saxena honoured Dewas Superintendent of Police Sampat Upadhyay and Police Station Incharge Ajay Channa at the Police Headquarters by presenting them a certificate and memento on behalf of the Union Home Ministry.

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Shivraj's frequent south visits: Sidelined from the State?

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

¬ormer CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan ssems to have been sideling been sidelined and kept busy in Southern States. There are speculated that he might contest upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

" I will not go to Delhi " state-ment of the then CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan was in discussion after the election results in Madhya Pradesh, later he also went to Delhi on December 3 last year, 16 days after the election results came out.

After his meeting with the party's national president JP Nadda, he was given a new task. These days, Shivraj is continuously participating in the 'Developed India @ 2047' Sankalp Yatra in the states of South India.

In such a situation, the question

PNS NEW DELHI

n internal note circu-

lated by the office of

Electoral Officer having

April 16 as the tentative

"poll date" to help officials

schedule various activities

"in the build up" to the Lok

Sabha elections created a

flutter among journalists about the possible schedule

Responding to queries, the

Chief Electoral Officer's

office clarified that the date

was mentioned only for "ref-

erence" for officials to plan

activities in accordance with

Ujjain: Chief Minister Mohan

Yadav said that religious and

spiritual tourism will be pro-

moted on priority. Domestic

tourism has increased after

Mahakal Lok in Ujjain was

inaugurated at the initiative of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Means of transportation would be maximised and air services

will also be started for the con-

venience of devotees and tourists to reach Ujjain.

Yadav was having a chat with

electronic media representa-

tives on Wednesday after inspecting ongoing works for

the convenience of devotees

and tourists visiting Mahakal

Yaday received information

from the concerned officials

regarding the quality of the

works and gave necessary

Temple in Uijain.

of the upcoming polls.

Chief

Air services for Ujjain soon: CM

instructions.

is whether there is no place for them in Hindi speaking states. His pictures have also disappeared from the party's hoardings and posters in Madhya

In fact, except Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chauhan is now seen active in the southern States.

The relevance of started decreasing in other Hindi speaking states including Madhya Pradesh. The pain of his missing photo from the poster banner has also come to light earlier. Now there is no mention of any scheme related to government programs and events, nor is there any discussion about their schemes. The pain of this is reflected in the speeches of Shivraj in the Student Parliament program of



Shivraj is being sent towards southern States. This question is arising because Shivraj has reached the South Indian state for the third time today.

on Wednesday, Shivraj has reached Tamil Nadu. He will stay here for three days i.e. till January 26.

Shivraj reached the South Indian state of Telangana for the first time on January 9 and After all, what is the reason that 10. He stayed here for two days

going on all over India. There are many neighboring states of Madhya Pradesh like During this period, Shivraj Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar had participated in Vikas Pradesh, where Shivraj could Bharat programs organized in Hyderabad, Karimnagar and have been sent, but BJP has chosen only South Indian state for him. There are various After this, the second visit of discussions going on regarding Shivraj Singh Chouhan was to the future of Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh 2024. Shivraj participated in

for almost 17 years.

Notably, a day before going on the Tamil Nadu tour, former CM Shivraj Singh Chauhan had also reached the residence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to meet him. Along with this, on January 22, he stayed in Orchha the whole day, where he worshiped Rajaram along with CM Mohan Yadav. However, his activism in party programs is not visible anywhere in Madhya Pradesh. Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra is

Guv opens newly constructed officer's houses in Raj Bhawan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

and participated in the Vikas Bharat Sankalp Yatra. A meet-

ing of workers was also held.

Kerala on January 18 and 19,

programs organized here in Kochi, Kottayam and Pala, cleanliness drives in temples

and party parliamentary con-

stituency meetings. Shivraj has reached Tamil

Nadu on a three-day tour. He

will address various programs

organized here in Madurai,

Tankasi, Courtallam and

Questions are being raised

from the above tours that

Kanyakumari.

Warangal.



It may be noted that in the year 2018, a phased action plan was made for the construction of a total of 84 housing units of 6 types at a cost of Rs 13 crore 21 lakh 49 thousand for the officers and employees of Raj Bhavan. A

plan and complete a large



target was set to construct 64 I, eight H, eight G, two E and one D and one C-type houses in three phases in the action plan. In the first phase, 48 I-type houses were constructed. A total of 80 houses including 16 I-type, 8 Htype and 8 G-type were completed in the second phase. In the third and final phase of the action plan, residences have been constructed for officers.

One of the activities started



कार्यालय नगर परिषद निवाड़ी, जिला-निवाड़ी (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक/न0परि0/ई-टेण्डर/2024/1284 //तृतीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना//

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

क्रं	टेण्डर क्रं. जारी दिनांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की समयावधि एवं लागत	निविदा प्रपत्र कामूल्य ईएमडी	
1	327946_1	Augmentation of water supply system of Niwari	ing rainy season	The state of the s	09.02.2024
	दिनांक 23.01.2024	Town Under AMRUT 2.0	2. 61355156/-		

नोट:- निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाईन की बेवसाईट https://mptenders. gov. inपर ही किया जाएगा, पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

> मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर परिषद निवाड़ी, जिला-निवाड़ी (म.प्र.)

कार्यालय जिला शिक्षा केन्द्र, सर्वशिक्षा अभियान, भोपाल

डी-ब्लॉक पुराना सचिवालय, कोहेफिजा, भोपाल (म.प्र.) दूरभाष 0755-2738279

ई-मेल : zskbhopal@mp.gov.in, zskbpl@yahoo.co.in क्रमांक/जिशिके/भण्डार/2024/139 भोपाल, दिनांक 18.01.202**4**

परिवहन दर हेतु निविदा

जिला शिक्षा केन्द्र, भोपाल द्वारा नि:शुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तक परिवहन सत्र 2024-25 हेतु परिवहन की दरें प्रस्तुत करने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (टेण्डर आई.डी. 2024_RSK_327099_1)

निविदा का प्रकार जिला शिक्षा केन्द्र, भोपाल द्वारा नि:शुल्क पाठ्यपुस्तक परिवहन सत्र 2024-25 हेतु परिवहन की दरें प्रस्तुत करने हेतु ई-निविदा निविदा प्रपत्र 500/- (पांचसौ रूपये) के भुगतान पर निविदा दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन क्रय हेत् उपलब्धता https://mptenders.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकेगा। अनुमानित परिवहन कार्य आठ लाख पचास हजार रूपये ऑनलाईन निविदा क्रय करने की दिनांक एवं समय 20 जनवरी, 2024 प्रात: 09:00 बजे से ऑनलाईन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 12 फरवरी, 2024 दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक तकनीकी बिड ऑनलाईन खोले जाने की दिनांक एवं समय 13 फरवरी, 2024 दोपहर 12.00 बजे

> (डॉ. रामिकशोर यादव) जिला परियोजना समन्वयक

G-23351/23

Name of

जिला शिक्षा केन्द्र, भोपाल

Indian Bank इंडियन बैंक

Harda Branch: Plot No. 3, Veer Tejaji Chowk, Near Nehru Stadium, Rajendra Prasad Ward,

Harda - 461 331

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Outstanding

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Indian Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice together with interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on this below date. The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor in particular & the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank for an amount detailed below. We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities

	110,011, 411, 110, 110, 110, 110, 110, 1	Date	Allibuilt		
Ram Manohar Ginare (Borrower) and to the estate of the deceased Late Mrs. Dipti Ginare represented by legal heir Mr. Rupesh Ginare S/o Ram Manohar Ginare (Guarantor)	900 Sq. ft., in name of Late Mrs. Deepti Ginare W/o Mr. Rupesh Ginare, within the Registration Sub- District Harda and District Harda, Boundaries: North: Colony's Plot No. 140, South: Colony's Plot No. 142, East: Colony Road, West: Colony's Plot No. 157	09.11.23 20.01.24	+ Interest and Cost thereon		
Place: Harda, Date: 25.01.2024 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank					

Description of the Immovable

Director MP Metro Corporation Limited Shobhit Tandon addresses the 2nd convocation ceremony of Indian Institute of

the Election Planner issued

'Some media queries are

by the poll panel.

Tentative date of April 16 for elections is only for reference: Delhi CEO

activities in the build up to the election has been given along with the timelines

coming referring to a circular by @CeodelhiOffice to clarify whether April 16 is tentative poll day for Lok Sabha elections. It is clarified that this date was mentioned only for 'reference' for officials to plan activities as per Election Planner of ECI," the CEO office post-

In a communication issued to all the 11 district election officers on January 19, the CEO's office had referred to the Election Planner issued by the ECI in which various

Yadav said that the people of

Madhya Pradesh are grateful to

the Prime Minister as the devo-

tees are visiting in a large num-

ber. Keeping in view the influx

of visitors, the need for air ser-

vices is being felt. He said that

an action plan will be chalked out for helipad and airport at

Yadav said that tourists coming

to Malwa region do visit Ujjain Mahakal Darshan.

Preparations have been started

in view of the Simhastha. The

effort is to ensure darshan of Baba Mahakal easily and the dis-

abled, elderly people and chil-

dren can have darshan quickly.

People having religious-spiritu-

al beliefs can visit various museums along with Mahakal Lok

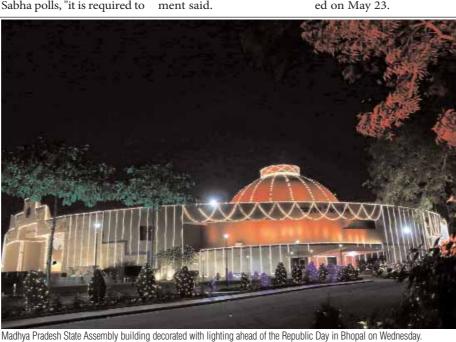
and understand Sanatan culture.

and durations for each activity to start and to be completed.

"For the ensuing General Election to the Lok Sabha 2024, the Commission has tentatively given the Poll Day as 16.04.2024 for the purpose of reference and to calculate start and end dates in the Election Planner," the circular read.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the office of the Delhi ČEO clarified that in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, "it is required to number of activities per-taining to election". "ECI Planner enlists all such important activities and provides Start date and End date with reference to an imaginary poll date as reference point to initiate and complete those activities," it said. Therefore, the date mentioned as tentative poll date in the letter was "only for reference purpose" for the election officials and "has no bearing on the actual schedule of election" which shall be announced by ECI at an appropriate time, the state-

by the EC recently is awareness campaign about electronic voting machines. According to EC's standing instructions, state Chief Electoral Officers need to start a focussed awareness campaign approximately three months prior to the announcement of election -- for this purpose the date of announcement of the last election may be considered. In 2019, Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 10 and were held in seven phases from April 11 to May 19. Votes were count-



PJMT launches two impactful books in event

New Delhi: Prem Jain Memorial Trust hosted a significant event on Wednesday, featuring the prestigious Prem Jain Memorial Address and the launch of two impactful

The event took place at the C D Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre, Delhi, as part of the annual Sustainability Festival, Harit-Prem Bharat Mahotsav. Decarbonizing India was the Theme of this Mahotsav.

The Memorial Address was delivered by world renowned architect and Urban Planner Ar. Christopher Charles Benninger and the Keynote Speaker was Honorable Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Chairman, National Green Tribunal (NGT) . The event's program commenced with the Prem Jain Memorial Address delivered by world renowned architect

Christopher Benninger, followed by a keynote address by NGT Chairman, Justice Adarsh Goel. Addressing the event legendary architect Christopher Benninger said



only 36% enjoy the rights of the

city, while the lives of the

remaining 64% remain unsus-

tainable, at the Prem Jain

Memorial Address here today.

He offered an exploration of the

9 Principles of Intelligent

Urbanisation, including a del-

icate balance with nature, tra-

He emphasized the importance

of efficiency, human scale, con-

viviality, an opportunity matrix,

balanced movement, and insti-

tutional integrity in creating

thriving and inclusive urban

environments. The event was

part of the annual Sustainability

Festival, Harit-Prem Bharat

Mahotsav held annually by the

In his Keynote Address Justice

Prem Jain Memorial Trust.

dition, and technology.

mer Chairman of National Green Tribunal (NGT), said, "Dedicated to fostering connections between sustainability champions and the youth of Bharat, this occasion marks the convergence of wisdom, literature, and environmental consciousness

He went on to add, "With 351 polluted river stretches and 134 air-polluted cities, the NGT intervenes through suo motu proceedings for effective disposal of cases related to environmental conservation.

As guardians of our environment, we must recognize the legal duty to safeguard these resources, preventing their conversion into private ownership. The fight against pollution extends beyond the Ganga cleanup, revealing a stark reality where states like Maharashtra, Assam, and Gujarat contribute significantly to the 351 polluted river stretches, despite their substantial economic conExcise Deptt takes major action

Dewas: On the instruction of Collector Dewas Rishav Gupta and under the guidance of Assistant Excise Commissioner Rajnarayan Soni, on Wednesday the joint team of the district led by S I Rajkumari Mandloi inspected village Bajrang Garh and Barjai of Excise Circle Bagli

A search was conducted in the drains located in the forest, in which many mobile distilleries were found, which were destroyed and Mahua Lahan and liquor were recovered. Since the liquor manufacturers saw the Excise staff from a distance and fled into the forest, in the process, 80 liters of hand kiln liquor and liquor were recovered. 1500 kg of Mahua Lahan was recovered, Lahan was duly destroyed after taking sample on the spot, total 06 cases in the proceedings were registered under Section 34 (1) of Madhya Pradesh Excise Act 1915 and the market value of the seized material was taken under investigation, approximately Rs 1,66,000. The district level excise raid team comprised of sub-inspector Prem Yadav, DP Singh, Umesh Swarnkar, Vijay Kucheria, Kailash Jamod, Nidhi Sharma, Dinesh Bhargava

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069 Bhopal Branch: Plot No.11, 3rd Floor, Alankar Complex, Ward No.47, M.P.Nagar, Zone-2, M.P.Nagar, Above ICICI Bank, Bhopal-462991 Authorized Officer: Lokendra Rathore, Contact: 9977783890

<u>PROPERTY FOR SALE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY</u>

Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the property ("the Secured Asset") given below The Authorised Officer has received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows:

S. N.	Loan App.No./ Branch	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Total Outstanding Loan Amount as on date 05-12-2023	Description of the Secured Asset
1.	(Loan Code No. 00600000859/ Bhopal Branch)	Late. Piyush Agrawal (Represented Through Legal Heir) (Borrower), Jyoti Agraval (Co-Borrower), Sunil Kumar Advani (Guarantor)	14-08-2017 & ₹ 3,69,580/-	₹ 1,00,000/-	Rs. 6,19,748/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Plot No. 140, Vinayak Kirti Nagar, Gram - Rasuli, Near Karond Housing Board Colony, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462001. Boundaries : East: Plot No. 125, West: EWS N. Colony Road, North: Plot No. 139, South: Plot No. 141

The Authorised officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25% of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from date of acceptance of Offer by the Secured Creditor. The proposed buyer is to note that in case of failure of payment of balance amount by him/her within the time specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly. This is 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor

(s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped. If the Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) has any buyer who is ready to purchase the mortgage property/secured asset at price above the given reserve price of then

Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) must intimate to AHFL on or before 24-02-2024 AHFL shall give preference to him. If Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) fails to intimate on or before 24-02-2024 the AHFL will proceed sale of property at above given reserve price The Date of Auction is fixed for 24-02-2024.

(Authorised Officer) Place: Madhya Pradesh, Date: 25-01-2024

For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

PM calls NCC cadets, NSS volunteers Amrit Peedhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Ahead of Republic Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with NCC cadets and NSS volunteers in the national Capital on Wednesday. "Your generation is called GenZ in your language. But I will call you Amrit Peedhi..." the PM told NCC, NSS cadres. Reiterating India's resolve to become a developed nation by 2047, the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of the next 25 years for the future of India and the present generation. "It is the Government's resolve to fulfill all the dreams of the Amrit Generation, create countless opportunities, and remove all obstacles in their

performance are also the basis for realising the dreams of The Prime Minister reiterated that 'Nation First' should be the

paths", the Prime Minister said.

He stated that the discipline,

focused mindset and coordi-

nation witnessed in today's

guiding principle of the Amrit Generation. The Prime Minister also told the young audience never to allow despair to set in their lives. Stressing the importance of every small contribution, PM Modi, stressed "Yahi Samay hai Sahi Samay hai, Ye Aapka Samay Hai - This is the right time, this is your time."

Stressing the importance of the present moment, the Prime Minister asked the youth to impart strength to their resolve to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. And to expand the horizon of knowledge so that Indian geniuses could give new direction to the world and gain new capabilities so that India could solve the world's problems. He elaborated on the steps for creating new avenues for youth to realize their full potential and mentioned creating new opportunities in newly opened sectors. PM Modi gave examples of creating new opportunities in the space sector, push towards Ease of Doing Business, creating a private sector in the



defence industry, establishing the National Research Foundation and creating modern educational facilities to cater to the 21st century.

Mentioning the Government's decision of Bharat Ratna for Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur, PM Modi marked this as the government's good fortune and underlined the need for the young generation of today to know about the great personality. The Prime Minister recalled his rise despite extreme poverty and social inequality as he became Chief Minister and always maintained his down-to-earth

The Prime Minister also mentioned reforming the education system in India which allows attaining higher education in the mother tongue and not being bound to a particular stream or subject. Encouraging the youth to engage in research and innovation, the Prime Minister mentioned Atal Tinkering Labs which inspire creativity and innovation. He underlined that the govern-

tunities for girl students who want to make a career by joining the army. "Now, girl students can also be admitted to various Sainik schools", the Prime Minister said urging them to move forward with full confidence. "Your efforts, your vision, your potential will take India to new heights", he added. Throwing light on his connections with NCC, the Prime Minister said that institutions like NCC, NSS or cultural camps make the youth aware of society and civic duties. He informed about the creation of another organization - 'My Yuva Bharat' and urged the youth to register as 'My Bharat' Volunteers.

During this Republic Day Celebration, the Prime Minister highlighted the multiple opportunities to witness multiple programs, visit various historical places and meet experts. "This will be an experience that you will remember for the rest of your life. Every year whenever you watch the Republic Day parade, you will

will also remember that I told you this", Modi said. He also urged them to record their experiences and learnings from the Republic Day celebrations which can also be shared with the Prime Minister in writing or video recording on NaMo App. "Today's young generation can stay connected with me continuously through the NaMo App", PM Modi empha-Concluding the address, the

Prime Minister expressed belief and faith in the strength of the youth. He urged them to study hard, be a conscientious citizen, protect the environment, avoid bad habits and be proud of the nation's heritage and culture. "You have my blessings, my best wishes", PM Modi concluded. Union Minister of Defence, Shri Raj Nath Singh, Union Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, and Union Ministers of Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda were present on the occasion

PM to interact I bow to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur: Modi with young voters today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $P_{\text{Modi will speak to a large}}^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}$ number of young voters on the National Voters Day on Thursday through a programme organised by the youth wing of the ruling BJP. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) president Tejasvi Surva said that young voters played a key role in electing Modi as Prime Minister in 2014 and then his re-election

"They are very enthusiastic for electing Modi ji as prime minister for a third term," he told reporters, claiming that there have been unparalleled opportunities for youngsters in the BJP-led NDA government.

The unemployment rate is at an all-time low amid the rapid

pace of economic growth and huge boost to infrastructure which has directly and indi-rectly benefitted the youth in

a big way, he said. Surya said lakhs of young voters will virtually connect with the prime minister at nearly 5,000 places across the coun-

It is historic as this is the first time a prime minister will be interacting with young voters at such a scale, he said, asserting that such an exercise will encourage their participation in elections and deepen the country's democratic roots.

There are over seven crore voters in the 18-25 years group, he noted, adding that the government has brought numerous schemes and policies to help them, including by establishing many new IIMs, IITs and medical colleges.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $P^{\text{rime Minister Narendra}}_{\text{Modi on Wednesday paid}}$ heartfelt tributes to two-time Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, who has been named for the country's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna, on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary, acknowledging his significant contributions to social justice and unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people. Modi said Thakur's relentless pursuit of social justice created a positive impact in

Sharing his write-up on the pioneering backward caste leader, Modi posted on X, "I bow to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur Ji on his birth centenary. On this special occasion, our Government has had the honour of conferring the Bharat Ratna on him. I've penned a few thoughts on his unparalleled impact on our society and polity."

Overcoming numerous obsta-

cles, Thakur achieved a lot and worked for societal betterment, the prime minister said.

Thakur's most significant contributions to India was perhaps his role in strengthening the affirmative action apparatus for the backward classes, with the hope that they were given the representation and opportunities they deserved, he said. His decision was met with heavy opposition but he did not bow to any pressure and his policies laid the groundwork for a more inclusive society, where one's birth did not determine one's fate, the prime minister wrote in an article which appeared in many newspapers on Wednesday.

the last 10 years has walked on Thakur's path, bringing in schemes and policies that have brought transformative empowerment. The prime minister said, "He belonged to the most backward strata of society but he worked for all the people, He had no trace of bitterness in him, which is what

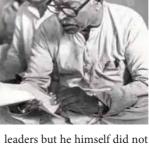
Modi said his government over



makes him truly great." He said the life of 'Jan Nayak',

as Thakur came to be known as, revolved around the twin pillars of simplicity and social justice, and his simple lifestyle and humble nature resonated deeply with the common people till his last breath.

Those who worked with him recall how he preferred to spend his own money for any personal matter, including his daughter's wedding. During his tenure as Chief Minister of Bihar, a decision was taken to build a colony for political



take any land or money for the

When Thakur passed away in 1988, several leaders went to his village to pay tributes and were moved to tears seeing the condition of his house, he noted.Looking at his torn kurta at an event to mark the birthday of socialist icon Jayaprakash Narayan in 1977, Chandrashekhar, another political stalwart, asked people to donate some money so that Thakur could buy a new kurta. but the then Bihar chief min-

ister donated the amount to the CM Relief Fund, he recalled. Modi said social justice was most dear to Thakur and his political journey was marked by monumental efforts to create a society where resources were distributed fairly, and everyone, regardless of their social standing, had access to opportunities.

He took a distinctly anti-Congress line because he was convinced very early on that the Congress had deviated from its founding principles, Modi said. Education was a subject very close to his heart and he worked throughout to improve education facilities for the poor, the prime minister said.

One of the biggest tragedies of our polity has been that barring a few leaders like Thakur, the call for social justice was restricted to being a political slogan, he said. Modi added, "Inspired by Karpoori Ji's vision we implemented it as an effective governance model. I can say with confidence and pride that Jan Nayak

Karpoori Thakur Ji would have been very proud of India's feat of freeing 25 crore people from the clutches of poverty in the last few

Today, when people from OBC, SC and ST Communities are becoming entrepreneurs due to MUDRA Loans, it fulfills Thakur's vision of economic Independence, he said. "Likewise, it was our government which had the privilege of extending SC, ST and OBC reservation. We also had the honour of setting up the OBC Commission (which was opposed by Congress, sadly), which is working on the path shown by Karpoori Ji," he added. As a person belonging to the backward classes himself, Modi said, he has much to thank Thakur for. He said, 'Unfortunately, we lost Karpoori Ji at a relatively young age of 64. We lost him when we needed him the most. Yet, he lives on in the heart and minds of crores of people due to his work. He was a true Jan

Researchers find correlation between energy drink consumption, poor sleep



Marketed as mental and physical pick-me-ups, energy drinks are popular with college students and young people in general. However, a significant correlation between the consumption of energy drinks and poor sleep quality, as well as insomnia, has been revealed in a large Norwegian study published in the journal BMJ

The study, conducted among college students, found that the higher the frequency of energy drink consumption, the fewer hours of nightly sleep students experienced. Even occasional consumption, defined as 1-3 times a month, was linked to an increased risk of disturbed

Energy drinks contain an average caffeine content of 150 mg per liter, along with sugar, vitamins, minerals, and amino acids, said the study, drawing on over 53,000 participants aged 18 to 35 and indicated that daily consumption led to around half an hour less sleep than occasional or no consumption.

Both men and women who reported daily consumption experienced associations with waking after falling asleep, taking longer to fall asleep, and poorer sleep efficiency.

prevalent among those reporting daily consumption compared to occasional or no consumption.

energy drink consumption patterns, with women more likely than men to report never or seldom consuming energy drinks. The study highlights a dose-response association, indicating that as energy drink consumption increased, so did the risk of sleep problems across various aspects, with the strongest associations found for short sleep duration.

The observational nature of the study conducted by researchers Siri Kaldenbach, Mari Hysing, A Strand and Børge Sivertsen from various top research institutes and Hospitals in Norway, means that causation cannot be definitively established, and reverse causality (poor sleep leading to energy drink consumption) could also be a factor. Nonetheless, the findings suggest that the frequency of energy drink consumption may be a modifiable risk factor for sleep issues among college and university students. Concurring with the study

observation. Ashim Sanyal, CEO of Consumer VOICE, a consumer rights organization working in the field of cardiovascular health for sever-

serve as yet another wakeup call for the Government and ensure a clear and interpretive Front of Packaging labels Sex differences were noted in (FOPL) so that a buyer knows what he/she is purchasing.

"Consumers have a right to make informed choices on the foods they eat. Having a simple Warning Label on packaged foods will help con-sumers identify foods that are high in fat, sugar and salt," he said.

These products are clearly also root causes for NCDs affecting individuals across all age groups and regions.

According to Kavita Devgan, noted nutritionist and author, "Some so-called health/energy drinks for children actually fall under the dangerous HFSS (High Fat Salt Sugar) category and can lead to obesity, diabetes, and other related problems from an early

"Parents often introduce these sugary drinks to children as early as 2 years thinking that they will supplement the missing nutrition from their children's diet,

But these sugar-laden drinks can add a lot of extra sugar to their diet and may increase the risk of lifestyle diseases among children. So parents must read the labels carefully before introducing any new packaged food in their child's

mid the blame game Amid the plant guarded Capital and its neighbouring States over the issue of emitting pollution, a review carried out by the University of Surrey and regional Government officials in Delhi has said Delhi needs the help of its rural neighbours to finally beat its killer smog problem.

Professor Prashant Kumar, founding director of Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE) at the University of Surrey, said: "Air pollution doesn't respect city boundaries - and so it must be tackled at regional level. If cities like Delhi want to avoid the lethal smog seen in recent years, they'll need neighbouring rural areas to help them.

"We know this approach works



we've seen success in places like Mexico City and Los Angeles. By working together, we can tackle air pollution." In most Indian cities (60%), the air is over seven times more polluted than it should be. This has huge health implica-

Some of this pollution comes from neighbouring rural areas

- from crop burning, wood stoves, or power plants.

Yet measures to tackle urban smog usually ignore rural sources. Instead, they focus only on measures within the city limits – like boosting public transport or controlling pollution from industry and building sites.

The GCARE review "A critical

ommends tackling air pollution at a regional level instead. This means identifying the wider area where a city's pollution is produced - its so-called "air-

The organization has enlisted a slew of measures such as regional air quality plans should be drawn up – which has worked well in places like Mexico City and Los Angeles. "Smog forecasts" could be produced with better monitoring. Satellites could spot bonfires and other sources of pollution. Scientists could then predict how it would interact with weather conditions. "Airshed Councils" could help local, regional and federal agencies co-ordinate their efforts. Dr Anwar Ali Khan, Senior

Environmental Engineer on

review of managing air pollu-the Delhi Pollution Control important role to play in helping save lives in our city - and in their areas too. We need an action plan with a sound scientific basis, and we need bet-

ter monitoring. "This requires cities, governments and others to work together. A joined-up approach is the only way to defeat this

deadly health hazard." Dr Mukesh Khare, Professor **Emeritus of Civil Engineering** at the Indian Institute of Technology, said, "A significant portion of air pollution stems from sources outside city limits, which requires a shift from city-specific to region-specific emission reduction targets. The establishment of an airshed will be a critical tool for effective air quality management and planning."

Genetic markers linked to premature ageing reversed in children with diet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Agenetic marker linked to premature aging was reversed in children with obesity during a six-month diet and exercise programme, according to a recent study led by the Stanford School of Medicine.

Children's telomeres - protective molecular "caps" on the chromosomes — were longer during the weight management program, then were shorter again in the year after the program ended, the study found. The research has been published in Pediatric Obesity. Like the solid segment at the end of a shoelace, telomeres protect the ends of chromosomes from fraying. In all people, telomeres gradually shorten with aging. Various conditions, including obesity, cause premature short-

ening of the telomeres.

The new study is the first to

link a behavioral eating and

physical activity program for weight management in children with obesity to healthy changes in average telomere length. The discovery may help scientists understand how the biological benefits of losing weight, eating healthier and being more physically active occur. The findings also imply that telomere length may be a good marker for measuring the benefits of healthy dietary changes, physical activity and weight management, as changes in telomere length appeared to be somewhat independent of traditional markers such as body mass index.

'We saw that the recommended behaviors everyone knows about — eating fewer high-fat or high-sugar foods and fewer calories, increasing physical activity, and reducing screen time — can slow down biological aging associated with obesity in children," said the study's senior author, Thomas

"It's remarkable to see effects on the chromosomes with behavioral treatments," he said. Understanding how behavior changes to reduce obesity are biologically linked with other conditions such as heart disease and diabetes would help scientists understand how the process might be slowed or reversed. "We know a lot about cardio-

vascular risk for adults, but for kids, we've just said 'obesity is bad' yet we don't know, biologically, how cardiovascular risks linked to obesity start in children," said the study's lead author, David Rehkopf, ScD, associate professor of epidemiology and population health and of medicine. "To have this biological measure with a strong genetic component turn out to be changeable when we give kids resources to be healthier, especially over a

short period of time, was very

interesting and exciting,

Murmu inaugurates Kaushal Bhawan



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday inaugurated Kaushal Bhawan - a new building of the Ministry of Skill Development Entrepreneurship

According to a statement here, the President visited the exhibition stalls set up by the beneficiaries of various initiatives of the Government such as PM Vishwakarma, PM JANMAN, Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP), Pradhan Mantri Vikas Yojana Kaushal (PMKVY) and interacted with them. The Kaushal Bhawan whose

foundation stone was laid in March 2019 will provide office space for the Ministry as well as its associated organisations the Directorate General of Training, the National Council for Vocational Education and Training and the National Skill Development Corporation.

Three lakh devotees offer prayers at Ram temple

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Despite temperatures plummeting to 2.9 degrees Celsius, the unyielding devotion of pilgrims continues to illuminate Analysis as tinues to illuminate Ayodhya, as devotees persist in seeking darshan of Ram Lalla for the second consecutive day. By the afternoon, 3 lakh people had paid obeisance to Ram Lalla, officials said.

Ramesh Mohan Shastri, a 62-year-old devotee from Chhattisgarh, shared his profound commitment, stating, "The cold weather does not deter us. The darshan has given me new energy. I am energised." Usha Mishra, another devotee, high-

lighted the patience and dedication of Ram Bhakats, saying, "Ram Bhakats have patience. They are ready to stand in line in this cold, just to have darshan of my Prabhu." The vibrancy of the scene is further enhanced by the presence of devotees, some barefoot on the marble floor, braving the cold with unwaverSanjay Singh, a member of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) deployed outside the temple, expressed his emotional response to witnessing the devotion of the people. He said, "It is heartening to see such devotion. Eldery people, some mothers carry-ing their children, are patiently waiting in line. The chant of 'Jai Sri Ram' is giving them the energy and power to move on."

Following an overwhelming first day where over 5 lakh pilgrims had darshan, strict security measures were intensified on Wednesday after the crowd of devotees went out of control the previous day. Singh, reflecting on the security measures, stated, "Our primary concern is ensuring the safety of the devotees. It's emotionally overwhelming to witness their devotion."

As a precautionary measure, the movement of inter-State buses through Ayodhya has been halted, with no buses allowed to enter the city. Long-route buses now pass through the outer periphery of the city to maintain smooth traffic flow.



Barricading inside the temple premises has been strategically implemented to streamline the devotees'

movement and prevent chaos. A security official highlighted the organised arrangement, saying,

"There was a queue outside the temple today. There was an atmosphere of chaos on Tuesday, but that is no

more. Devotees are being sent to the sanctum sanctorum by forming

of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, devotees are granted entry onto the Ramjanmabhoomi path after thorough checks. To control the crowd, the police installed sturdy steel railings on Tuesday night, ensuring a structured and safe passage for the

The detailed makeup of Ram Lalla, adorned in green clothes and a gold crown, adds a visual spectacle to the devotion. Anticipating a continuous influx of devotees, Ramlala is scheduled to give darshan for 15 hours, from 7 am to 10 pm. At noon, the temple doors will briefly close for 15 minutes, dedicated to offering food and aarti to the deity.

"The spectacle of devotion, resilience, and meticulous arrangements continues to underscore the profound significance of the ongoing pilgrimage in Ayodhya, where the spirit of 'Jai Sri Ram' reverberates, providing devotees with the energy and power to persevere in the midst of the cold," Sanjay Prasad, Home Secretary to UP



Monkey enters Ram temple; beautiful incident, says Trust

PTI LUCKNOW

Amonkey entered the sanctum sanctorum of the new Ram temple in Ayodhya and left without creating any trouble, a "beautiful incident" shared by the temple Trust on social media. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust said security personnel deployed there felt as if Lord Hanuman himself had come for a darshan of Ram Lalla, the child Ram deity consecrated at the temple on Monday.

The temple trust shared the incident, that took place on Tuesday night, on its official 'X' handle. "A beautiful incident happened in Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple on Tuesday. At around sanctum sanctorum through the southern gate and reached near the 'Utsav idol'. The security personnel posted outside ran towards the monkey thinking that it might drop the idol on the

ground.
"But as soon as the policemen ran towards the monkey, it ran calmly towards the northern gate. Since the gate was closed, it moved towards the east and passed through the crowd of visitors and went out through the eastern gate without causing any trouble to anyone. The security personnel said that for them it is as if Hanuman ji him self had come to see Ram Lalla," the Trust posted on X, formerly Twitter. The old idol of Ram Lalla, which was earlier kept in a makeshift shrine, is now being referred to as 'Utsav idol'. It has also been placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the new Ram Lalla temple.

devout disciple of Lord Ram. The grand temple was opened to public on Tuesday, a day after the

Gyanvapi survey to be given to both sides: Varanasi court

PTI VARANASI

Varanasi court on A Wednesday ruled that the ASI report on the Gyanvapi mosque complex survey will be given to both sides while making it clear that the report should not be made public, the counsel for the Hindu litigants

said.
District Judge A K Vishvesh said both the Hindu and Muslim parties shall give an affidavit to keep the report with them and not make it public, said Madan Mohan Yadav, the counsel for Hindu side.

Following a July 21 order of the district court, the ASI carried out the scientific survey of the Gyanvapi premises, located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple here, to determine whether the mosque was constructed over a pre-existing structure of a Hindu temple. Yadav said the ASI submitted its survey report in the Fast



Track Court of Justice Prashant Singh after which the matter came in the district judge court who ordered to provide hard copies of the report to the par-

On Wednesday, the Muslim side pleaded in the district court that the survey report should be with the parties and not be made public. On this, the court said while

acquiring that report, the par-

ties shall give an affidavit to keep the report with them and not make it public.

The survey was ordered by the court after the Hindu petitioners claimed the 17th-century mosque was constructed over a pre-existing temple. The ASI had submitted its sur-

vev report to the district court in a sealed cover on December

The ASI had on January 3 now stands in Varanasi.

urged the court not to make its Gyanvapi complex survey report public for at least four more weeks, citing the December 19 judgment of the Allahabad High Court ASI counsel Amit Shrivastava

had told the district court that the high court had said in its order that, if necessary, the Civil Judge Senior Division Fast Track Court can order a survey of the Gyanvapi complex once again.
Therefore, if the survey report

comes into the public domain now, a situation of contradiction may arise. Therefore, four weeks should be given to open the survey report and make it available to the parties, the counsel had said.

The high court had on December 19 dismissed several pleas from the Muslim side challenging the maintainability of a suit seeking restoration of a temple where the Gyanvapi mosque

Yogi bid to check gun culture in Bulandshahr

PTI ■ BULANDSHAHR (UP)

Nearly 400 'tamancha'-wielding people in west-ern Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshah district have been rendered ineligible for contesting the elections or Government jobs in the last three years courtesy their conviction under the Arms Act,

In the last three years, a total of 392 accused have been convicted by the local court under the stringent law, with their numbers rising from 49 in 2021 to 122 in 2022 and 221 in 2023, according to official data. Those convicted have been

jailed and also rendered ineligible for contesting the elections, getting Government jobs or tenders for contract works and cannot apply for passports or arms license passports or arms license, police officials said, citing provisions of the Arms Act. Spread over 4,353 square kilometers with a population of over 35 lakh (2011 census), Bulandshahr is known for its rich agricultural land, sugar-cane production, pottery works and historical sites like

Buland Darwaza. However, the district also infamously gained prominence over the past few years due to the prevalence of illegal firearms, particularly single-shot pistols called "tamanchas" in the region.

contributing to the proliferation of country-made arms in the region include porous borders with Haryana, historical land disputes and caste ten-

sions leading to a culture of violence and self-defense. The adjoining districts of Gautam Buddha Nagar and Ghaziabad have been impacted by this 'tamancha culture' with suspects in several incidents of street crimes like dents of street crimes like snatching, assaults and rob-beries either belonging to Bulandshahr or procuring firearms from the district.

However, 2023 saw a significant rise in the convictions of those accused in cases lodged under the Arms Act, 1959, in Bulandshahr.

There were 49 cases and 49 accused in 2021, and 122 cases and 122 accused in 2022, while there were 221 cases and 221 accused in 2023. A total of 392 cases and 392 accused, who were convicted under the Arms Act by the local court, showed the official data

accessed by PTI. "Besides the usual policing and law enforcement, there has been a constant effort to check the 'tamancha culture' which has been prevalent in the district for quite some time now," Senior Superintendent of Police, Bulandshahr, Shlok

Kumar, told PTI. The number of convictions through the court has risen significantly in the last three years through meticulous and diligent representation by the police and lawyers in the court," he added.

According to official figures, a victed by the local court under the Arms Act in 2023. In 31 cases, the convicts were awarded jail terms ranging from three to seven years.

TN CM writes to Jaishankar on arrest of fishers

PTI ■ CHENNAI

 $E^{\rm xpressing\ concern\ over\ the}_{\rm "disturbing\ trend"\ of\ arrest}$ of Indian fishermen from his state, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday urged the Centre to revive a joint working group as there was a "pressing need" for dipomatic efforts to address the sit-

In a letter to External Affairs consecration ceremony led by Minister S Jaishankar, released Prime Minister Narendra Modi. by the state government here

today, the CM flagged the latest arrest of 6 fishermen from Ramanathapuram district in the state by Sri Lankan Navy along with 2 fishing boats. The fishermen were arrested on January 22.

"In recent times, there has men by the Sri Lankan authorities, creating an alarming situation that demands immediate attention. These arrests not only undermine the

Mayawati calls

traditional fishing rights of Joint Working Group between the Tamil community but India and Sri Lanka focused on the Tamil community but also contribute to a climate of fear and uncertainty among the fishing population," he

Such arrests jeopardise these rights, threatening the culturate diplomatic channels to al and economic fabric of the convene the Joint Working the CM said.

"In light of these concerns, there is a pressing need for diplomatic efforts to address the situation. A revival of the avoided," Stalin added.

fisheries-related issues, could provide a constructive platform for dialogue."

"I request you to take the necessary steps through appropripending issues between the Indian fishermen and the Sri Lankan Navy so that the arrests of innocent fishermen are

India Russia trade to increase: Sonowal

Caste and religious differences were created to destroy Tamil unity: Stalin

PTI ■ MADURAI (TN)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Wednesday said caste and religious differences were created "later" to destroy the Tamil unity and urged that cultural festivals like the traditional bull-taming sport jallikattu should be conducted by people unitedly as Tamils.

În his address after inaugurating a grand jallikattu arena named after his father and late DMK patriarch M Karuna-nidhi, Stalin also charged the central BJP with "enacting a drama" over granting permission to hold the sport in the state, before the Supreme Court gave a favourable verdict on the

He recalled that DMK founder, the late CN Annadurai gave Tamil Nadu its name (it was earlier known as Madras Presidency) while Karunanidhi ensured classical language status for Tamil. His "Dravida model govern-

ment" has constructed the grand arena in this district to highlight "aeruthazvhuthal which is a symbol of Tamils' culture," he said

"At this juncture what I want to tell you is--caste divisions and religious differences were created later to destroy Tamils' unity. Let us conduct such cultural fetisvals unitedly with the Tamil identity," he said.

Jallikattu is also known as "aeruthazhuvuthal," meaning embracing the bull.

Stalin said that in 2014, there was a situation where jallikattu could not be held in the state and three years later, a massive



public protest was held at the Marina in Chennai demanding that the sport be conducted.

He charged the then AIADMK government with "unleashing violence" on peaceful protesters but the regime gave in to statewide protests. "But still, no permanent solution was achieved. Every year. The BJP-led union government enacted a drama in the name of giving permission for jallikattu," he said.

In the apex court also, the BJP government submitted it did not recognise jallikattu and bullock-cart race, Stalin said. However, the DMK govern-

ment later submitted in the court that jallikattu was not a mere entertainment sport but one which was intertwined with the lives and culture of farmers and assured to conduct it with due safety measures. Subsequently, the court gave a

ing the conduct of the bull-taming event, he added. Further, the 3 year-old DMK government has implemented

ey initiatives for the region including the Keezhadi musuem, besides the jallikattu The "Kalaignar Nootranduu aeruthazhuvuthal Arangam",

named after Karunanidhi to commemorate his centenary, is spread across 66.80 acres at Keelakarai village in Madurai's Alanganallur, famous for its jallikattu events It has been established at an esti-

mated cost of about Rs 62.78 crore. The CM had earlier made announcement in the state Assembly that a seperate grand arena will be constructed for jallikattu here. Among others, the complex

has 'vaadivasal' (from where the bulls are released), waiting area for bulls, veterinary hospital and first aid centre and museum and the arena can hold about 5000 spectators. Stalin also witnessed the first ial-

likattu event here and present-

ed gold rings to some of the

winners, a government release

for Bharat Ratna to Kanshi Ram PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party presi-dent Mayawati on Wednesday demanded that party founder Kanshi Ram should get the Bharat Ratna even as she welcomed the central government's decision to confer the award on former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur.

Mayawati lauded Thakur for his commitment to social justice and equality and his work for the extremely backward classes

Today, on his 100th birth anniversary, I pay immense tribute to the great leader Shri Karpoori Thakur ji, who fought to ensure constitutional right, social justice and equality to the extremely backward classes in the country throughout his life," the BSP chief posted on 'X'. Mayawati said she welcomed

the Centre's "belated decision" to award Thakur with the title of Bharat Ratna — the country's highest civilian honour. She also said that BSP founder Kanshi Ram should also get the honour for his contribution in helping Dalits live with self-

"The contribution of BSP founder, who is known for helping the Dalits and other neglected people to live with self-respect and for making them stand on their feet, is historic and unforgettable. It is the wish of crores of people that he should be honoured with the Bharat Ratna.'

Bilateral trade between India and Russia was at USD 50 billion in the last finan-

cial year and is expected to increase this year, said Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, here on Wednesday. The Eastern Maritime Corridor between the ports on the east coast of India and the Far East region of Russia promises

"immense potential" to unlock new trade

opportunities, he said. The minister was speaking at a conference on 'Operationalising Eastern Maritime Corridor' which was attended by a delegation from Moscow led by A Yu Bobrakov, Deputy Minister for the Development of the Far East and the Arctic of the Russian Federation, among others. While welcoming the visiting delegates, Sonowal said the India-Russia partnership is strong and steady building upon strate-gic convergence, geo-political interests and

mutually beneficial cooperation. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains



engaged with President Putin through telephonic conversation. The latest discussion took place on January 15," he said. India and Russia continue to interact at the Ministerial and official levels; most recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had a very successful visit to Russia in December 2023, he said.

"Our bilateral partnership has expanded to become truly multi-faceted and encompasses cooperation in military, security, science and technology. Our bilateral trade has registered rapid growth in the last financial year, where it amounted to USD 50 billion, and it is likely to be even more this year," he said.

Why no Bharat Ratna for Savarkar: Udhdhav Sena

The Shiv Sena (UBT) on Wednesday attacked the BJP-led Centre for not conferring Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, on Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar. Addressing a news conference here, Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut called the Centre's decision to honour former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur with the award posthumously a political move. Since the Narendra Modi government took charge in Delhi (in 2014), 11 people have been conferred the highest civilian award, but Savarkar has not found a place on the list, said



in 1988, was the first non-

Congress socialist leader who

became chief minister twice -

first for seven months in

December 1970 and later for two years in 1977. Bharat Ratna on Tuesday on the eve of the birth centenary of the fountainhead of OBC (other backward classes) politics in Bihar. Thakur, who passed away

"Our position remains the same that Veer Savarkar should be given the Bharat Ratna. Karpoori Thakur is a leader of the OBC and we are happy that he has been named for the Bharat Ratna," Raut said. Since it is a poll season, Bihar is said. Bihar, which sends 40 MPs to the Lok Sabha, is currently governed by Janata Dal (United) and Rashtriya Janata Dal. "BJP's every step is for political selfishness. Key people who participated in the freedom

struggle are honoured but why

is Savarkar not conferred on Bharat Ratna? Why is BJP fleeing from conferring Bharat Ratna on him," Raut asked. A polarising figure in modern Indian history, Savarkar is

known as "Swatantryaveer" and is revered among several quarters in the country, especially Maharashtra, for his contribution to the freedom struggle. However, critics charge him as a hard-line Hindutva leader.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Up, up and away!

The Indian stock exchange overtakes Hong Kong's, securing fourth place globally

■ n what must come as happy news for its economy, India's stock exchange has surpassed Hong Kong's to become the fourth largest global equity market. This accomplishment underscores India's economic resilience and its growing significance in financial arena. The surge of India's stock exchange to this reputable position is due to a confluence of factors. Foremost among these is the comprehensive economic reforms in recent years. Measures such as the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the establishment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have created a business-friendly environment, fostering investor confidence. Simultaneously, India has witnessed a steady inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI), driven by initiatives like 'Make in India' and liberalised FDI norms. These efforts have positioned India as an attractive destination for global investors. Technological advancements have played a pivotal role in transforming the Indian stock market into a more accessible and efficient



platform. The widespread adoption of online trading platforms, mobile applications and other technological innovations have democratised investment, expanding the investor base. India's stock market has exhibited resilience during global economic challenges, navigating the uncertainties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. This ability to weather economic storms and rebound swiftly has reinforced investor confidence on both domestic and international fronts. The implications of India's stock exchange securing the fourth spot on the global stage are profound.

This achievement is expected to attract increased foreign capital, stimulating economic growth, job creation

and supporting infrastructure development. Furthermore, the higher global ranking enhances India's visibility and credibility as an investment destination. The thriving stock market has the potential to translate into capital appreciation for individuals and institutions, thereby potentially boosting consumer spending and overall economic activity. However, amid these positive developments, challenges such as market volatility, regulatory concerns and geopolitical factors must be accounted for. A responsive regulatory framework is crucial to ensuring the stability and integrity of financial markets. Unfortunately, many cases of insider trading and unscrupulous practices have come to light. The sad part is that SEBI, entrusted to safeguard investor interests and regulate the market, has often failed in controlling the frenzy which results in wiping away a sizeable amount of small investors' money. That is a concern to be addressed immediately and SEBI must be made more powerful to deal with unscrupulous brokers and entrepreneurs. Indeed, India's stock exchange securing the fourth position globally is a momentous achievement that reflects growing appeal for investors. As India continues to enact reforms, attract foreign investment, it is poised for sustained economic growth. Managing challenges proactively will be essential to ensuring the long-term stability and vibrancy of our markets.



Students in traditional Punjabi attire during the full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day Parade 2024, in Amritsar

Bharat Ratna: Honouring the legacy of Jan Nayak



The Bharat Ratna, conferred posthumously to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur, gives a fitting tribute to his work and ideals

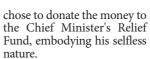
he celebration of Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur's birth centenary has been marked by a momentous announcement from the Indian government, bestowing upon him the prestigious Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in the nation. Renowned for his relentless dedication to reshaping social justice, Karpoori Thakur has left an indelible mark on the lives of millions. His remarkable journey, from the marginalized barber community to the pinnacle of political leadership, is a testament to his unwavering commitment to social reform.

In the dynamic tapestry of Bihar's socialist movement, Karpoori Thakur's name resonated alongside stalwarts such as Ram Vilas Paswan, Sharad Yadav, and Chandrashekhar. Emerging from a disadvantaged background, he surmounted numerous obstacles to not only enhance his social standing but also to champion the cause of those on society's periphery. His enduring influence on the underprivileged persists, symbolizing mental fortitude for the backward society.

The government's decision to posthumously honor Karpoori Thakur with the Bharat Ratna underscores the extraordinary legacy of this Bihar-born socialist leader. A statement from Rashtrapati Bhavan lauds him as a trailblazer of social justice and an inspirational figure in Indian politics. The award serves as a fitting tribute to his lifelong dedication to uplifting the deprived sections of society and his relentless pursuit of social justice.

Karpoori Thakur's life was a testament to simplicity and social justice, pillars that defined his persona as the people's hero. From his unassuming lifestyle to his humility, he endeared himself to the common folk. Anecdotes abound, such as the incident with Chaudhary Charan Singh, where he refused personal gains even when offered a plot of land during his tenure as Chief Minister.

, another instance snow cased his simplicity when he the foundation for a more joined party leaders in a torn kurta for a celebration in Patna. Despite offers for a new kurta, he hailing from the most back-



The Bharat Ratna announcement, made a day before his centenary, elevates Narendra Modi's standing among the Bihari and socialist public. Karpoori Thakur, a champion of social justice, envisioned a society where resources were equitably distributed, and opportunities were accessible to all, irrespective of social sta-

His political journey, beginning in the 1950s, saw him win every election, reflecting the trust bestowed upon him by the people. Serving as Chief Minister from 1970 to 1971 and later from 1977 to 1979, he aligned himself with the working class, laborers, and small farmers. As the Education Minister, he championed the abolition of English in matriculation exams and focused on improving education facilities for the underprivileged. Participating in the Quit India Movement as a youth, Karpoori Thakur remained unwavering during the Emergency, earning praise from leaders like JP, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, and Charan Singh. His pivotal role in strengthening affirmative action for backward classes, despite strong opposition, laid inclusive society. Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur,



THE POSTHUMOUS CONFERRAL OF THE BHARAT RATNA UPON JAN NAYAK KARPOORI THAKUR STANDS AS A **POIGNANT** RECOGNITION OF A **LEADER** WHOSE LIFE WAS **DEDICATED** TO THE SERVICE OF THE **MARGINALISED** AND THE **UPLIFTMENT OF THE**

ward section of society, stands as a beacon of inclusivity and a true people's hero, making the Bharat Ratna bestowed upon him a fitting tribute to his monumental contributions to Indian society. The recognition posthumously bestowed upon him not only honors his memory but also serves as an inspiration for future generations to continue the pursuit of social justice and equality. As India reflects on the life and legacy of this exceptional leader, it is a reminder that the struggle for a just society is an ongoing journey, and the ideals championed by Karpoori Thakur still remain relevant. The posthumous conferral of the Bharat Ratna upon Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur stands as a poignant recogni-tion of a leader whose life was dedicated to the service of the marginalized and the upliftment of the downtrodden. As we commemorate his birth centenary, this prestigious award serves as more than a tribute; it is a testament to the enduring impact of his vision for a just and inclusive society. Karpoori Thakur's legacy is multifaceted, embodying simplicity, humility, and an unwavering commitment to social justice. His journey from a humble background to the echelons of political leadership serves as an inspiration, proving that resilience and dedication can break through societal barriers. The government's decision to bestow the Bharat

Ratna upon him is not merely a recognition of past achievements but a call to contemporary and future leaders to emulate his principles. In a time when the pursuit of social justice remains a critical imperative, Karpoori Thakur's life provides a roadmap for leaders to navigate the complexities of governance with integrity and compassion. As Narendra Modi's government makes this historic announcement, it resonates not only with the people of Bihar but with the entire nation. It underscores the importance of recognizing and celebrating leaders who prioritize the well-being of the most vulnerable in society. The Bharat Ratna for Karpoori Thakur is a bridge between the past and the present, connecting the ideals of a bygone era with the challenges and

opportunities of today. In honouring Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur, India acknowledges the pivotal role he played in shaping a more inclusive society and encourages a new generation of leaders to champion his ideals. As the nation pays tribute to this true people's hero, the Bharat Ratna becomes a symbol not only of recognition but also a call to action, urging us all to carry forward the torch of social justice and equality in our ongoing pursuit of a more just and compassionate India.

(The writer is a senior journalist, views are personal)

THE EDITOR **BAIL PROCESS DELAYS** Sir — Indian judiciary is known to move

Policy reforms needed to boost manufacturing



JAY SHAH

By creating an environment conducive to manufacturing, India can attract investments and become key player in the global manufacturing hub

ith the swift expansion of India's manufacturing sector, the country is poised to become a leading global manufacturing force. Currently positioned among the top three preferred global manufacturing locations, India has the potential to boost its exports to an impressive USD one trillion by 2030. However, within the spectrum of various supply chains, the challenges and opportunities of Indian manufacturing are evident in the wooden pallet sector. To consolidate its position in the pallet industry, essential policy reforms are necessary for sustainable growth and global leadership. Indeed, critical policy changes are required for India to smoothly transition into a global manufacturing hub, ensuring enduring growth and competitiveness on the international stage.

Infrastructure Development India needs to focus on developing robust infrastructure, including transportation, power, and telecommunications, to support the manufacturing sector. The government should invest in building modern industrial parks,



logistics hubs, and efficient transportation networks to reduce manufacturing costs and improve competitive-

Sustainable Manufacturing In the era of increasing environmental awareness, sustainable and eco-friendly manufacturing practices are becoming imperative. The government should encourage manufacturers to adopt green technologies and sustainable processes by providing incentives and enforcing regulations that promote environmental responsibility. This not only aligns with global trends but also enhances the reputation of

Simplified Regulations The regulatory environment in India is complex, and businesses face bureaucratic hur-

dles. Streamlining regulations

and creating a more business-

tional markets.

Indian products in interna-

friendly environment will encourage investment and growth in the manufacturing sector. Implementing a singlewindow system for approvals, clearances, and licenses can facilitate ease of doing busi-

Skilled Labour Development India's education system needs to adapt to the changing needs of the economy by providing relevant skills training. Addressing the shortage of skilled workers in the manufacturing sector is crucial for its growth. The government should focus on creating appropriate skill sets among the workforce to meet the demands of modern manu-

facturing **Government schemes**

The government has introduced Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes to promote domestic manufacturing and increase India's share of global exports. These schemes encourage investments in manufacturing and provide incentives for various sectors, contributing to the growth of the manufacturing industry.

Foreign Investment India's trade policies and foreign investment regulations play a significant role in attracting global manufacturers. The government should continue to focus on policies that promote domestic manufacturing, reduce import dependence, and encourage foreign investment in the manufacturing sector.

Tax Reforms A competitive and stable tax regime is essential for attracting investment. India needs to rationalise its tax structure, ensuring that it is transparent and predictable. Reducing corporate tax rates, providing incentives for research and development, and promoting innovation through tax breaks will encourage manufacturing companies to invest

and operate in India. Becoming a global manufacturing hub requires a comprehensive and coordinated effort from the Indian government, industry players, and other stakeholders. The success of these reforms will not only boost the economy but also create employment opportunities and enhance India's standing in the world of international trade and

commerce. (The writer is an Industry expert, views are personal) at a snail's pace. As much as bail is a matter of right it is equally important that the right is accorded expeditiously to individuals. In bail orders, there should not be undue delay in the orders of the court reaching the prison authorities. The Supreme Court has said that despite its repeated directives, High Courts are delaying adjudication of bail applications. With the exception of an intervening application, all bail matters have to be decided within two weeks of being filed and all anticipatory bail within six weeks, the top court has reiterated again recently.

This order came after an anticipatory bail application was kept pending for judgment for one year by a High Court after it was initially heard. Though bail is a temporary privilege by definition, the nonuniformity in its interpretation has, sometimes, led to chaos. Despite the sheer number of bail applications filed before them, High Courts should evolve a mechanism for their speedy disposal because Section 436 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) defines bailable offences and the underlying principle behind granting of bails by courts, as "personal liberty". Freedom and personal liberty are fundamental rights of a citizen as laid down by Article 21 of the Constitution.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

POLITICAL ALLEGATIONS

Sir — Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Monday said that the Union Home Minister once had termed the National People's Party (NPP) led Meghalaya government "the most corrupt" in the country but later allied with them. Addressing the public in Ri Bhoi district, Rahul Gandhi said, "Meghalaya is not ruled from here but from Delhi. This is not acceptable. The nation is facing the highest levels of unemployment in the last 40 years. Rahul Gandhi reiterated his

Coffee plantation in Odisha



 he Odisha state cabinet has approved a coffee plantation for sustainable livelihood (CPSC) scheme with an outlay of 1,144 crore. Under this scheme, Coffee plantations in the state will be extended to one lakh from ten thousand acres. The scheme will be implemented in the six districts in the state. Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar, and Gajapati will benefit from this scheme

Additionally, women's Self-help groups will be involved in raising coffee nurseries which will benefit more than fifty thousand farm families in the region. Recently, Coffee has emerged as one of the major production from Odisha due to its agro-friendly climate and support from the state machinery.

The coffee produced in the state has already gained international recognition. Coffee is a profitable commercial crop because of its growing popularity in the market. Good quality coffee production on a large scale will make a scope for export to other countries. This scheme will encourage the tribal people of the area to engage in these activities and earn profits. This will boost the economy, tourism, and scientific education in these six districts. If distribution and marketing are done properly Odisha's coffee will spread more and get worldwide recognition through this

Deba Prasad Nayak | Dhenkanal

Modi for "not visiting Manipur" and said that the ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party has destroyed the idea of Manipur. Politics of hatred and violence have torn the state apart.

Prime Minister after so many months has not bothered to visit Manipur. Is Manipur, not an Indian state?" Congress leader said. Earlier in February last year, the Union Home Minister had said that the Meghalaya government was filling its coffers with poor people's money and said that it is the most corrupt government in the country. BJP and NPP were partners in the outgoing government but fought the assembly polls separately. After the Assembly poll results, the BJP came into coalition with the NPP by extending support. With this, it is a double standard game which is unfortunate.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM SUMMIT Sir — The 'Back to Basics' strategy, attacks on Prime Minister Narendra embraced at the World Economic Forum

(WEF) summit in Davos, fell short with elaborate discussions and superficial intentions. Conversations about warinflicted economic crisis barely captured the scenes. The looming threats of Greenwashing, market volatility, erosion of the tax base through havens, and other critical economic issues were largely neglected.

While the IMF anticipates a substantial economic downturn in 2024 alongside mounting debts, the Davos meeting appears devoid of any therapy. Furthermore, the persistent notion that 'Europe's problems are the world's problems' continues to resonate, disadvantaging the ailing Global South. Following a lacklustre COP28 and now the WEF, the desertification of multilateralism is paving the way for the return of Cold War-era bloc politics.

Abhisek Pani Bhubaneswar

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FIRST COLUMN

TO STAY BLESSED, **TAKE SHELTER IN GOD**

Those who take shelter in God and have faith in him are under His protection



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

et us examine in detail some of them. Money is most sought after by almost one and all. Is it a shelter? Yes, it provides material objects, comforts in life, etc. But are these sufficient for quality of life? If they were, rich people would be peaceful, happy and secure. Are they? Because money cannot buy these. One has to go to God for them. One has to do spiritual activities to please God. This is the way the System works. Let us agree that money has an important role in our lives, but it cannot be our shelter. By the way, God can provide what we lack and provide security for what we have, if we remain in His shelter. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 9.22) The next most soughtafter shelter is a sense of enjoyment like eating tasty food, watching something exciting, etc. These are fine if they are appropriate for our needs. (6.17) Otherwise, as the verse tells us our troubles will not reduce. Troubles there must be in this world, an impermanent place of miseries. (8.15) Rather our sufferings will increase manifold if we seek shelter in sex, considered the highest sense of pleasure. It must always be within the limit of dharma to be acceptable. (7.11) Then, there are many, who take shelter in work. They are called workaholics. A new addiction has arrived. These are our cell phones. People are forever checking it for messages, and information, and what happens? The Internet takes charge of us through provocative ads and promises of easy money. One corrupts and the other fools. It has become a pandemic, far from being a shelter.



Everyone is looking for security, beginning with a toddler. He gets it from his parents, especially from his mother. One can understand this, as this is nature's arrangement. But as we grow, we need to make the right choices. We don't; some of us seek from influential persons, and now bogus gurus. Everything has a price, but people generally don't seek it from God, where it is best available. Why? They are not prepared to pay its price, which is to surrender to the Almighty. If one does, troubles will come and go, because God will help. (18.58) Otherwise, they will take their time, as destined. Yes, many turn to God in distress. (7.16) God appreciates it also. (7.18) But again one has to deserve such help by pleasing God by spiritual acts. (18.65)But the modern man chooses to sleep over proper action. Sleeping pills have become quite common. Eat them and everything will be fine. Does it become?

Seeking shelter in greed is a common refuge, fueled by the prevailing materialism that drives the pursuit of quick wealth. However, success is not solely determined by greed or hard work; destiny plays a crucial role. Even the poorest work diligently, challenging the notion that wealth is solely a result of effort. The human psyche often grapples with negative emotions such as anger and revenge, leading to a loss of inner peace.

The alternative proposed is seeking refuge in God. Amidst life's uncertainties, relying on God's protection is advocated to avoid potential misfortunes. Actively seeking shelter from God instills confidence and invites abundant grace into one's life. Surrendering to God's guidance in the spiritual journey attracts positive fortune, transcending the challenges posed by human nature. Although the decision may contradict inherent tendencies, spiritual intelligence can overcome such resistance. Associating with spiritually wise individuals in satsang proves beneficial in navigating this transformative journey. Once embarked upon, the spiritual path becomes irreversible, guided by the munificence of God

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

Has the Non-Aligned Movement lost its plot?



Acknowledging the paradoxical essence of the Non-Aligned Movement, let us openly recognise the recent assembly's inherent absurdity

ollowing the opulent Davos event, the World Economic Forum of Klaus Schwab, gathered by Western elites, scrutinized topics ranging from the implications of AI to the looming threat of mysterious Disease X, a surge of anti-Netanyahu sentiments emerged in Kampala. This sentiment was notably expressed by members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) during their gathering. The choice of location held historical significance, situated around 53 kilometres from the site of Operation Entebbe, where Benjamin Netanyahu's brother tragically lost his life almost five decades ago. Over the years, Kampala and Entebbe have undergone transformative changes, witnessing the rise and fall of rulers. Yoweri Museveni, Africa's fourth-longest-serving head of state, now leads NAM, a leader with a complex history, having ousted the tyrannical regimes of Idi Amin and Milton Obote and faced serious accusations of crimes against humanity. The irony lies in Museveni now advocating for justice in Gaza and accountability against Israel, encapsulating the conflicting ideologies within NAM.

Addressing the paradoxical nature of NAM, let's candidly acknowledge the absurdity of its recent gathering, which diverted attention from pressing global issues. While many member states grapple with internal conflicts and political chaos, the organization indulges in verbose deliberations. Though we are passing a moment of need, it is crucial to refrain from romanticizing historical achievements and confront current failures. Instead of lamenting only the plight of Palestinians, perhaps NAM should focus on alleviating the tangible struggles of its member countries. If they genuinely wanted to help Palestinians, redirecting financial resources towards essentials such as drinking water and medicine could have a more meaningful impact. Providing victims with necessities rather than holding conferences to indulge in rhetoric would be a more effective use of public funds, emphasizing the organization's responsibility and accountability.

Despite its historical significance, the NAM finds itself in a state of decline, resembling

a fading relic. Decades have passed since the departure of its original leaders, leaving the organization with waning influence. The current members show little intent to breathe new life into this slowly deterioratentity. It is essential to grasp the reality that the heyday of NAM is long gone. The organization, which once played a pivotal role, now struggles for relevance. The lack of a cohesive vision and commitment among member countries hastens NAM's natural demise. The time has come for a critical reassessment of its purpose and the genuine dedication of member nations to its survival.

The architects of the NAM were visionary leaders from Europe, Asia, and Africa, including Josip Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Jawaharlal Nehru (India), Gamal Abdel Nasser (Egypt), Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Sirimavo Bandaranaike (Sri Lanka), and Sukarno (Indonesia). These eminent figures envisioned not only the destiny of the Third World and developing nations but also recognized the crucial role of international peace and security for humanity. Their collective insight emphasized that freedom from superpower rivalry, the cessation of colonialism and imperialism, and global peace required collaboration, not division. The founders aimed to shield newly inde-



DESPITE ITS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, THE NAM FINDS ITSELF IN A STATE OF DECLINE, RESEMBLING A FADING RELIC. **DECADES HAVE** PASSED SINCE THE DEPARTURE OF ITS ORIGINAL LEADERS, LEAVING THE **ORGANISATION** WITH WANING

INFLUENCE

cal crises. It is undeniable that this floundering organization lacks a viable future, and the persistent squandering of public funds yields no palpable benefits for human development. Despite being recog-nized as the largest multi-state organization after the United Nations, the NAM's discussions on global challenges have been confined to mere oratory, lacking the capacity to resolve crises. The platform, once rooted in the Bandung Principles, has devolved into a sanctuary for vacuous communication, funded by the hard-earned money of citizens in member coun-

Since the inception of NAM, the socalled third-world and developing countries have witnessed numerous military conflicts, often initiated and sustained without hindrance by the West and the Soviet Union. The territories of NAM member countries became pawns in the geopolitical objectives of these power blocs, with ruling elites aligning with either the Soviet or Western camps for political survival. Noteworthy conflicts such as the Vietnam War, the Six-Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the Soviet-Afghan War, the Iran-Iraq War, the Gulf War, the Bosnian War, the Rwandan genocide, the Kosovo War, the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq, the Syrian civil war, and the Yemeni Civil War unfolded in the Global South. The NAM's failure to collectively and responsibly implement its principles contributed to this tragic legacy, as accountability and responsibility could have preventpicturesque portrayal can conceal the stark reality, as the structure of NAM stands as a façade masking inherent falsehood and decay. During this year's conference, leaders reiterated the narrative of member states breaking free from colonialism but grappling with new forms of inequality and hegemony, conveniently neglecting the role of their own hegemonic politics and corruption in fostering these dispar-

As discussed at the conference, in the era of globalization, leaders perceive economic concentrations, while the rest of the world sees mere markets or resources. The pandemthe smallest needs of these countries from distant production centres. However, amidst politically correct and universalist narratives that neglect traditions, the conference amounted to little more than eloquent words in a spurious sermon, devoid of constructive significance and laden with political hypocrisy. While the dream of a multipolar world is commendable, its realization remains elusive without collective agreement. Proposals for economic decentralization and regional production lack substance if member states, lacking capital management, persist in dependence on Western financial markets and facilitate capital outflow to Western countries through money laundering, rendering the pursuit of economic independence a delusion. Changing the global order necessitates both practical and sincere measures, including the establishment of regional economic hubs, resilient

supply chains, predictable mobility, and reliable data flows. Person-centred policies promoting sustainable lifestyles and digital public infrastructure exemplify the potential benefits of technology. Prioritizing relationships while respecting sovereignty and ensuring viability, especially in addressing food, energy, and health security, as well as promoting women-led development, remains critical. However, since the end of the Cold War in 1991, the foundational principles of the Non-Aligned Nations were shattered. Attempts to recreate the movement faced a lack of consensus among member state leaders. Instead, these states formed selective ties to advance political goals, rendering the "non-aligned" policy a mere pseudo-vocabulary. Unfortunately, leaders within the movement engaged in arbitrary activities, using the platform to cover up abuses rather than addressing them.

As the old world order gave way to a new multipolar reality post-Cold ic underscored the detachment of War, the NAM struggled to adapt to emerging dynamics. Instead of col lectively facing the challenges, many leaders prioritized narrow political goals, hindering the movement's relevance in the changing world. Faced with the need to redefine its purpose and adapt to new challenges, the movement encountered various forms of sabotage and unrest. The failure to interpret challenges during this transitional period affected several organizations within the movement. Ironically, many leaders refuse to acknowledge the end of this history, preventing the birth of a redesigned and reinvented global order that could contribute to achieving a multipolar world. Consequently, the idea of a multipolar world remains but a day-(The writer is a Sri Lankan jour-

nalist and worked as a communications consultant for the Government of Sri Lanka; views are personal)

Combating the deepfake menace necessitates stern legal measures

Securing truth in the age of synthetic realities is more difficult than ever before. It must be curbed before it becomes unmanageable

¬he use of deepfake technologies has made it easier to impersonate another person physically or verbally these days. Sachin Tendulkar, the Cricket Legend, is one of the recent victims of deepfake, where in a morphed video, he is shown endorsing a gaming app and explaining how easily money can be drawn using this app. Rashmika Mandana to Alia Bhat, famous Indian Actresses, fell prey to deepfakes, hitting their reputation and prestige not only as respected Indian actresses but also as women. Some time ago, Telangana Minister KT Rao, after becoming a deepfake victim, wrote to the Election Commission and mentioned the incident and its effect on voters and the public. Seeing these incidents hap-





pening frequently, it can be easily predicted that deepfake technology may achieve an

- blurring the lines between real and synthetic. These incidents also reflect a major concern about the misuse of deepfake technologies in the spread of disinformation and misinformation that is directly hitting the informational security of society at large. In layperson's language, deepfakes are images or videos of a person's likeness or other related things that have been digitally altered in a bid to misrepresent what happened in reality such as facial expression manipulation, face morphing, face swap, face generation and full body puppetry. The synthetic media not only inflict individual harm but have a profound impact on organisations, governments, and society at large. The deleterious effects of deepunprecedented level of realism fakes transcend mere person-

al consequences, encompassing psychological, financial, and societal realms; they erode the trust that underpins organizations, sow doubt in the halls of justice, and may even threaten the foundations of democracies.Imagine a world where your carefully crafted reputation can be shattered in an instant by a fabricated video. Where companies become pawns in blackmail schemes orchestrated through manipulated footage. Where legal proceedings lose their legitimacy as the authenticity of evidence becomes suspect. This dystopian reality is no longer fiction; it's the chilling consequences of deepfakes. The IT Rules 2021 provides a complete list of prohibited content under rule 3(1)(b). Intermediaries are already

removals, blocking, or complaints regarding any deepfake content posted on their platform.There are speculations that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is soon to come up with new provisions under the IT Rules, 2021 to curb the prevalence of deepfakes. As per the author's understanding, to restrain the spread of deepfakes on the intermediary's platform, there are two ways in which IT Rules, 2021 may be amended. First, to define 'deepfake' and put it in the prohibited category of content under rule 3(1)(B) of the IT Rules, 2021. By doing this, automatically all the other due diligence requirements on intermediaries will apply in case of fake technology. Second, deep-deepfakes as well. However, the fake may be regulated under cal tools for recognizing false

bound to act in case of major consequences of deepfake, misinformation, and impersonation are already included in the prohibited category of the list. Deepfake is emerging as a service company. The increased demand for deepfakes has also led to the establishment of several companies that deliver deepfakes as a product or even online service. These services are intended for use by marketers to personalise videos, eliminating the need to record video for each recipient. Essentially, these services make producing a deepfake video as easy as editing text. Hence, the most appropriate and effective way to restrain deepfake is to directly regulate these companies that provide such deep-

the proposed Digital India Act by introducing a new class of online platforms, i.e., AI Synthesis Online Platforms (as the name may be called), and providing separate rules for their compliance. The proposed Digital India Act may include a few obligations for AI Synthesis Online Platforms. First, requiring them to ensure adherence to all the existing cyber and data protection legislation in India. Second, such online platforms, in order to ensure transparency, should provide information regarding the number of users of such platforms, their platform's management rules, adopted technologies, tools deployed, and any other relevant information. Third, they may be

and damaging information created using services of the platform, implement a realidentity information authentical system, and adopt a review mechanism of synthetic data. It should also be obligatory on such platforms to tag or label those contents that are generated by using deepfake technologies. In view of the rising deepfake incidents and the government's apparent concern for the same, it is probable that we may not have to wait for long for the necessary regulations as well as the Digital India Act to come into (Siddhartha is Sr Assistant

Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and Bhavna is a techno-legal policy professional; views are personal)

'UK has no plans for conscription'

The UK government said on Wednesday it has no plans to introduce conscription, after the head of the British Army said a "citizen army" would be needed to fight a future war with a country like Russia. Chief of the General Staff Gen. Patrick Saunders said preparing for a potential land war would have to be a "whole-of-nation" undertaking. He praised European nations closer to Russia for "prudently laying the foundations for national mobilization.'

Saunders, who has long argued for more military spending and is due to leave his job this year, said that "within the next three years, it must be credible to talk of a British Army of 120,000."

"But this is not enough," he added during a speech at the International Armoured Vehicles conference in London. "Taking preparatory steps to enable placing our societies on a war footing when needed are now not merely desirable but essen-

He said "Ukraine brutally illustrates that regular armies start wars; citizen armies win them."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesman, Max Blain, said the government 'has no intention" of introducing conscription.

The British military has a proud tradition of being a voluntary force. There are no plans to change that," he said. He added that "engaging in hypothetical wars" was "not helpful." Defence Secretary Grant Shapps has also used stark language about the threat to the UK. Last week he referred to Britain "moving from a post-war to pre-war world." Despite that, the government has no plans to increase the size of the army from its current level of about 74,000 full-time troops, down from 102,000 in 2006. The government says it will increase military spending from just over 2 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent — still much less than at the height of the Cold War.

The British Army conscripted soldiers during World War I, and again during and after World War II, but it has been an all-volunteer force for most of its 364-

Maldives oppn parties express concern about 'anti-India stance'

Calling India as the "most long-standing ally," the two main opposition parties in Maldives on Wednesday expressed concern about the government's "anti-India

The open support by the two parties — the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and the Democrats — came a day after the Maldives government said a Chinese ship, equipped to carry research and surveys, will be docking at a Maldivian port after being permitted by the Male government to make a port call for replenishment. The permission to allow

the Chinese ship comes amid strained ties between India and Maldives after its recentlyelected President Mohamed Muizzu made Beijing as his first port of call early this month soon after assuming office. Traditionally, New Delhi has been the first port of call for a Maldivian President.

'The current administration appears to be making a



In picture, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu during official talks in Beijing, earlier this month

India stance. Both, the MDP and The Democrats believe alienating any development partner, and especially the country's most long-standing ally will be extremely detrimental to the long-term develop-

opposition parties said in their sessment on "the direction in foreign policy" of the Maldivian government.

"Consecutive governments of the country must be able to work with all development partners for the benefit of the people of the Maldives, as the

Maldives has traditionally done. Stability and security in the Indian Ocean is vital to the stability and security of the Maldives," they told a joint news conference. MDP's chairperson and former Minister Fayyaz Ismail and the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, MP

Democrats party president MP Hassan Latheef and the Parliamentary Group Leader, MP Ali Azim addressed a joint press conference to flag the issues. The two parties committed to work together on several governance-related issues and expressed concern on another set of issues including the foreign policy and lack of

transparency.

The MPs of the two parties together hold 55 seats in the 87-member house. The joint statement was posted on the official websites of the two parties and their official X handles too.

The other issues of concern included a lack of transparency in the financial status of the state and the lack of transparency in the MOUs and Agreements that the Government is signing, especially, with foreign parties, although no country was named in the statement.

The opposition also criticised the attempts at censoring the media and meddling with the freedom of the press.

Building fire kills 39 people in China

PTI BEIJING/ NANCHANG

At least 39 people were killed, nine injured and some others still trapped in a building fire in east China's province Wednesday, official media reported. The fire broke out at a street shop in Xinyu city, the local fire response emergency headquarters was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua At least 39 people were

killed and nine others injured in the blaze, while some others are still trapped on the site, the report said. Videos circulating on social media showed a column of thick, dark smoke billowing from the building, and fire trucks and ambulances were at the scene of the acci-

The building where the fire broke out had internet cafes and training institutions, Central China Television

The cause of the fire is unclear and an investigation is underway. Following the mishap, Chinese President Xi Jinping has ordered steps to

curb repeated occurrences of such accidents and to protect people's lives and property and social stability. Fatal fires in China are not uncommon due to lax enforcement of building and safety standards.

On Jan 20, at least 13 students were killed when a fire broke out in a school dormitory in central China's Henan province. All the victims were third-grade students. In November last year, 26 people died after a large fire ripped through an office building in Luliang city in Shanxi province.

A hospital fire in Beijing last April claimed the lives of at

least 29 people - mostly patients - and triggered an investigation which saw 12 people detained by police for questioning.

China working to de-escalate tensions in Red Sea

China, the world's biggest exporter, says it is deeply concerned about tensions in the Red Sea that have upended global trade by forcing many shippers to avoid the Suez Canal. China has been in 'close communication with all parties concerned and making positive efforts to de-escalate' the situation in which Iranbacked Houthi rebels have attacked international ships with missiles, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily briefing on China calls for a halt to the

harassment and attacks on civilian ships and urges all relevant parties to avoid fanning flames in the area and jointly ensure the safety and security of the route in the Red Sea, Wang said. Since November, the Iranian-backed Houthis have launched at least 34 attacks on shipping through the waterways leading up to Egypt's Suez Canal, a vital route for energy and cargo coming from Asia and the Middle East onward to Europe.

The Houthis, a Shiite rebel group that has held Yemen's capital Sanaa since 2014 and coalition backing Yemen's exiled government since 2015, link their attacks to the Israel-Hamas war. However, the ships they've targeted increasingly have tenuous links to Israel – or none at all. "We are deeply concerned about the recent escalation of the Red Sea situation. The Red Sea is an important international trade route for goods and energy," Wang said. Wang also referenced the Gaza conflict, linking it to the Red Sea tensions, saying, "The priority now is to end the fighting in Gaza as soon as possible to avoid further escalation and prevent the situation from

getting out of control." "Čhina is willing to work with all parties to cool down the situation and maintain security and stability in the Red Sea," Wang said.

China exported more than \$3.5 trillion in good in 2022, the last year for which figures were available. That was about \$1.5 trillion more than the United States, the world's No. 2 exporter. Some of the world's largest container shipping companies and oil giant BP have been sending vessels on longer journeys around Africa that bypass the Red Sea. In response

to the growing impact on global trade, the United States and a host of other nations have created a new force to protect ships. At least 90% of the con-tainer ships that had been going through the Suez Canal are now rerouting around Africa and the Cape of Good Hope, according to Drewry, a maritime research consultancy.

stark pivot towards an anti-

ment of the country," the two

The cost to ship a standard 40-foot container from China to northern Europe has jumped from \$1,500 to \$4,000, according to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy in Germany. But that is still far from the \$14,000 seen during the pandemic. The delays contributed to a 1.3% decline in world trade in December, reflecting goods stuck on ships rather than being offloaded in port. The US and its allies have been striking targets Washington has said are involved in the attacks against US forces in Iraq and Syria and were threatening US military and commercial vessels in the Red Sea. China has maintained close ties with Iran, largely based on investment and oil imports, and last vear hosted talks resulting in the restoration of Tehran's diplomatic relations with Saudi

'Shipments affected by Houthi assaults'

Jerusalem (AP): Qatar, one of the world's top exporters of liquified natural gas, warned Wednesday that its deliveries had been affected by ongoing attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on Shipping over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The statement by QatarEnergy came as an explosion struck near a ship Wednesday travelling through a crucial strait near Yemen, though no damage or injuries were reported, the British military said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion immediately fell on the Houthis.

Ships carrying liquified natural gas from Qatar had been delayed previously before heading through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. That's where the Houthi attacks have snarled shipping in a key route for Asia and the Middle East to ship cargo and energy to

Qatar, which has served as a key mediator between Hamas and Israel, has yet to see any of its ships attacked, however. A statement from its state-owned Qatar Energy producer said

that its "production continues uninterrupted, and our commitment to ensuring the reliable supply of LNG to our customers remains unwavering". "While the ongoing develop ments in the Red Sea area may impact the scheduling of some deliveries as they take alternative routes, LNG shipments from Qatar are being managed with our valued buyers," the statement said. The statement suggests QatarEnergy's cargos now are travelling around Africa's Cape of Good Hope, likely adding time to their trips. Meanwhile, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, an organisation monitoring Mideast waterways overseen by the British military, reported a blast Wednesday near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen. The explosion happened some 100 metres (325 feet) from the vessel, but caused no damage and its crew is safe, the British said. The

US and the UK have launched rounds of airstrikes targeting suspected missile storage and launch sites used by the Houthis over the attacks.

EXPLOSION STRIKES NEAR SHIP

An explosion struck near a ship on Wednesday travelling through a crucial strait near Yemen, though no damage or injuries were reported, the British military said. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion immediately fell on Yemen's Houthi rebels.The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, an organisation monitoring Mideast waterways overseen by the British military, reported the blast happened near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen.

The explosion happened some 100 metres from the vessel, but caused no damage and its crew is safe, the British said.

The Houthis, who have been launching attacks on ships since November over Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, did not immediately acknowledge the incident.

Fighting in Gaza leaves patients stranded | Donald Trump wins

AP ■ RAFAH (GAZA STRIP)

Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants Wednesday near the main hospital in Gaza's second-largest city of Khan Younis, where medics said hundreds of patients and thousands of displaced people were unable to leave because of the fighting.

Israel has ordered residents to leave a swath of downtown Khan Younis that includes Nasser and two smaller hospitals as it pushes ahead with its 3-month-old offensive against Hamas. The United Nations humanitarian office said the area was home to 88,000 Palestinians and was hosting another 425,000 displaced by fighting elsewhere.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said its staff was trapped inside Nasser Hospital with some 850 patients and thousands of displaced people because the sur-

rounding roads were inaccessible or too dangerous. Nasser Hospital is one of only two hospitals in southern Gaza that can still treat critically ill patients, the group said. Gaza's Health Ministry also said the hospital had been isolated.

forces were battling militants inside Khan Younis after completing their encirclement of the city the day before. It said aircraft were striking targets as part of the operations there and had also targeted suspected militants in central and northern Gaza. Thousands of people fled

south from Khan Younis on Tuesday toward the town of Rafah. The UN says some 1.5 million people — around twothirds of Gaza's population are crowded into shelters and tent camps in and around Rafah, which is on the border with Egypt. Even there, Palestinians have found little 63,354. Its count does not dif-

safety, with Israel regularly carrying out strikes in and around the town. Palestinian witnesses said that in recent days Israeli soldiers and tanks had pushed into parts of Muwasi, a sandy area along the coast that Israel had declared The Israeli military said its a safe zone, where tens of thousands of people were living in tents without basic ser-

> In all, some 1.7 million people have been displaced within Gaza, according to the UN refugee agency. Most have fled from the north, where Israel's air and ground offensive has reduced entire neighbourhoods to shelled-out wastelands, raising the question of whether residents will ever be able to return.

Gaza's Health Ministry says the offensive has killed at least 25,490 people — the majority women and children and wounded another

ferentiate between civilians and combatants. UN officials have expressed fears that even more people could die from disease, with at least one-quarter of the population facing starvation. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to press ahead with the offensive until "complete victory" against Hamas, which started the war with its assault across the border on Oct 7 killing some 1,200 people and abducting another 250.

ISRAELI DIVISIONS OVER WAR AIMS

Netanyahu says Israel is also committed to returning the over 100 hostages that remain in captivity after most of the others were freed in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners during a November cease-fire.But many Israelis, including at least one member of Netanyahu's War Cabinet, say that's impossible

without reaching another agreement with Hamas. The militant group says it won't release any more hostages until Israel ends its offensive. Families of the hostages are also calling for a deal, and have staged increasingly aggressive protests against Israel's leaders, even interrupting a parliamentary committee meeting Monday.

BUFFER ZONE IN GAZA

Hamas was still attacking Israeli forces, even in some of the most devastated areas, and firing rockets into Israel. An attack Monday near the border killed 21 Israeli soldiers, the military's biggest loss of life in

troops were working to create an informal buffer zone about a km (half a mile) wide along the border to prevent militants from attacking Israeli commu-

a single attack since Oct 7. Israeli media said the Republican Party.

renominating Trump would lead the party to defeat.

New Hampshire Republican primary

Houthis, who have been

launching attacks on ships

since November over Israel's

war on Hamas in the Gaza

Strip, did not immediately

acknowledge the incident. The

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump has defeated Indian-American politician Nikki Haley in the New Hampshire Republican primary, continuing his march toward the party's presidential nomination and a possible final contest with President Joe Biden in the November 5 election. With three-quarters of the votes counted, Trump, 77, was leading 55 per cent to 44 per cent. Although only two states have voted so far, Trump's victory in Tuesday's primary underscored his dominance of the

The former president won a landslide in Iowa's caucuses last week. Trump's victory is remarkable, considering he faces 91 criminal charges, including those related to seeking to overturn the 2020 presidential election.But Haley, 52, the former South Carolina governor and ambassador to the United Nations, vowed to fight on, giving a feisty speech to supporters on Tuesday night in which she questioned the former president's mental fitness and warned Republicans that

Speaking after the results, Haley - who campaigned hard in the state - congratulated Trump, saying he "earned it". But she said the race was "far from over" with "dozens of states left to go". "I'm a fighter, and I'm scrappy," Haley, Trump's last remaining rival in the Republican nomination race, said. Haley said when she started, there were 14 of them in the race, and she was polling at two per cent in the polls. "And now we're the last one standing next to Donald Trump," Haley said. "A Trump

nomination is a Biden win and

a Kamala Harris presidency,"

she said. "And the next one is my sweet state of South Carolina, she said. Haley is hoping a strong showing in South Carolina could propel her into the March 5 Super Tuesday contests. Trump said that Haley "had a very bad night" and was "doing a speech like she'd won"

when she lost. Trump called her "delusional". "Who the hell was that imposter that went up on that stage that went before and claimed victory?" he asked.

Team Haley hit back almost immediately, 'describing his speech as a "furious and rumbling rant".

Notably, Trump is the first non-incumbent Republican presidential candidate to win both the Iowa Caucus and the New Hampshire primary backto-back.Trump is the only Republican candidate to have won the New Hampshire pri-

mary thrice. This is a decisive win for Donald Trump tonight," former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy told Fox News in an interview. He said that Haley must withdraw from the race in favour of Trump.

In a statement, the Trump campaign asked Haley to drop out of the race. Haley does not have a path to victory. Instead, if Haley stays in the race, she will play an active role in advancing the re-election of Harris-Biden, it said. "Nikki Haley said she's running to stop the re-election of Harris-Biden. Yet, without a viable path to victory, every day she stays in this race is another day she delivers to the Harris-Biden campaign," said Taylor Budowich, CEO of Make America Great Again Inc.

Indian American couple convicted after forcing cousin to work at gas station

found guilty of exploiting their cousin by compelling him to work extended hours at their store, subjecting him to physical abuse, threats, and confiscating his immigration documents, a US attorney has said. Harmanpreet Singh, 30, and Kulbir Kaur, 43, were found guilty of conspiracy to commit forced labour and other charges after the pair forced the victim, Singh's cousin, to work at Singh's North Chesterfield convenience store for little pay, the

Department of Justice said in a

Washington (PTI): An Indian-origin Sikh couple has been

statement on Monday. According to court documents, the victim — who was a minor at the time — came to the US in 2018 after the couple promised to help him enrol in school. After arriving, Singh and Kaur took the boy's immigration documents and immediately put him to work, prosecutors said. According to court documents, the victim was forced to sleep in an office inside the store for days at a time. He was denied access to food, and the couple also refused his requests to return to India and forced him to overstay his visa. Prosecutors said Singh also slapped and kicked the victim when he requested his immigration documents and tried to leave. On several occasions, Singh also threatened the victim with a gun when he tried to take a day off and leave the store. Prosecutors said the abuse

and forced labour started in

March 2018 and continued through May 2021. Assistant

Attorney General Kristen Clarke

of the Justice Department's Civil

Rights Division said the Singh

couple exploited the victim so

they could keep him working for

their profit.

US strikes three facilities in Iraq

Washington (AP): The US military struck three facilities in Iraq on Tuesday, targeting an Iranian-backed militia in retaliation for missile and drone attacks on American troops in Iraq and Syria over the past several days, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said.

The US strikes hit militia facilities in western Iraq, near the Syrian border, US Central Command said. "At President Biden's direction, US military forces conducted necessary and proportionate strikes on three facilities used by the Iranian-backed Kataib Hezbollah militia group and other Iran-affiliated groups in Iraq," Austin said in a statement. "These precision strikes are in direct response to a series of escalatory attacks against US and Coalition personnel in Iraq and Syria by Iranian-sponsored militias."

N Korea appears to demolish 'reunification arch' as Kim turns against ties with South

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korea appears to have torn down a huge arch in its capital that symbolized reconciliation with South Korea, a week after leader Kim Jong Un dismissed decades of hopes for peaceful reunification with the war-divided peninsula's south, according to satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press on Wednesday. South Korea's military also said Wednesday that North Korea fired several cruise missiles into waters off its western coast.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week described the Pyongyang monument as an "eyesore" and called for its removal while declaring that



long-standing goals of a peacehostile foreign adversary.

ful unification with South Korea and ordered a rewriting of the North's constitution to define the South as its most

the satellite images.

Satellite images from Planet Labs PBC appeared to show the destruction of Pyongyang's

Charters for National Reunification, also called the Arch of Reunification. An image Tuesday clearly showed the arch missing along a road-Clouds and snow cover

made it difficult to ascertain when North Korea tore down the monument, but it appeared to be within the last few days. NKNews, a website focused on North Korea, first reported on The arch was a 30-metre

(about 100-foot) tall structure that looked over a highway leading to the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea. The cruise missile launches were North Korea's second known launch event of

test-firing of the country's first solid-fuel intermediate range ballistic missile, which reflected its efforts to advance its lineup of weapons targeting US military bases in Japan and Guam. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Wednesday that the US and South Korean militaries were analyzing the latest launches. It did not immediately confirm the exact number of missiles fired or their specific flight details. "Our military has increased

the year, following a January 14

surveillance and vigilance and is closely coordinating with the United States while monitoring for further signs and activity from North Korea," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in

Imran Khan warns his party candidates

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan's jailed former prime minister}}_{\text{Imran Khan has warned his party can}}$ didates to launch their poll campaigns peacefully, failing which their tickets to contest the February 8 elections will be cancelled, according to a media report on Wednesday. The 71-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ínsaf (PTI) founder made the statement while talking to reporters at Adiala jail in Rawalpindi on Tuesday after the hearing of the cipher case, the Geo News reported. PTI-backed candidates are struggling to launch their election campaign

amid a crackdown on the party supporters.
Asking his party's candidates to take out "massive rallies" and organise public gatherings to show the strength of the PTI in their constituencies, Khan war-ned that he would replace "inactive" nominees with "suitable candidates" if the party electioneering did not pick up steam by Sunday.

Khan, who is facing multiple cases, has been incarcerated at high-security Adiala Jail since August last year. His party's electoral 'bat' symbol — a major voter driving force was taken away this month. Furthermore, the party — PTI-Nazriati with which it sought an alliance also backtracked from its commitment.

However, the PTI has vowed not to boycott the polls and run without its iconic electoral symbol. Since the 'bat' symbol has been taken away, all its candidates will be running with different signs.

EX-PAK AMBASSADOR REJECTS MENTION OF 'THREAT' IN CIPHER

Pakistan's former ambassador to the US and a key witness has rejected the mention of the words "conspiracy" or "threat" in the secret document at the centre of controversy in the cipher case. Involving jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who also is a senior leader from his party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), the cipher case pertains to a piece of paper, purported to be a diplomatic cable — the cipher — that Khan had waved at a public rally on March 27, 2022. Naming the US, Khan had claimed that

it was 'evidence' of an "international conspiracy" to topple his government. Khan and Qureshi, accused of mishandling it for political purposes, were indicted in December 2023 and both have pleaded not

During a hearing on Tuesday at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, former Ambassador Asad Majeed gave a first hand account to the special court Judge Abual Hasnat Zulgarnain about his meeting with a top US government official in March 2022, The News newspaper reported on Wednesday. Majeed was the ambassador of Pakistan to the United States from

Bringing out details about the meeting in public domain for the first time, Majeed said, on March 7, 2022, Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu was invited to a working lunch, which was a prearranged meeting hosted at Pakistan House in Washington.

Communication took place in the meeting, so a cipher telegram was sent to the foreign secretary. The deputy head of Mission and defence attaché were also present in the meeting.

"In the meeting, both sides knew that minutes of the meeting were being taken. The conversation in the meeting was reported to Islamabad in cipher telegram. There was no reference to the words 'threat' or 'conspiracy' in the secret cipher telegram," he said. Majeed further told the court that he was also called to the National Security Committee meeting. "And in the meeting, it was decided to issue demarche. had proposed to issue the demarche."

ack for Pakistan-US relations. Majeed is one of the 25 witnesses who

He said that the cipher issue was a set-

have recorded their statements in the cipher case, which was launched on August last year. Earlier on Monday, Pakistan's former foreign secretary Sohail Mahmood said that the copy of the controversial cipher had not been returned to the foreign ministry until his retirement in September 2022.

PAK EC TO HOLD MOCK TEST OF TRANSMISSION TECH

Pakistan's top electoral watchdog will conduct a mock test of its online system on Friday to transmit and tabulate the results of the February 8 general elections, a media report said on Wednesday. The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has prepared the Election Management System (EMS) app for the transmission of results from each polling station to a centralised system where tabulation of all results would be completed.

Through a letter addressed to all four provincial election commissioners, the ECP issued standard operating procedures and guidelines to hold a mock exercise of EMS on January 26, the Dawn newspaper reported. According to the letter, all returning officers (ROs) must certify and finalise Forms 28 and 33 in the EMS and map the presiding officers to polling stations till January 25. The said forms carry details of candidates and the number of polling stations in each constituency, according to the report. The top election body's letter added that dummy Form-45 will be provided to all ROs on Thursday, and they will ask the presiding officers to send results of one-two pages of each National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituency from their mobile app on Friday at 5 pm.

'Pita didn't violate law, can remain lawmaker'

AP BANGKOK

hailand's Constitutional Court ruled ■ Wednesday that popular progressive politician Pita Limjaroenrat, who was blocked from becoming prime minister even though his party placed first in last year's election, did not violate the election law and can retain his seat in Parliament. Pita had been suspended from the legislature pending the court ruling on whether he violated the law by owning shares in a media company. He was the executor of his father's estate which included stock in ITV, a company that is the inactive operator of a defunct independent television station.

The court agreed with Pita's contention that ITV was not an operator of a media business. By law, political candidates are prohibited from owning shares in any media company when they register to contest an election.

Pita was forced to step down as leader of the progressive Move Forward Party when he was suspended from Parliament. The party's election victory last year reflected a surprisingly strong mandate for change among Thai voters after nearly a decade of military-controlled government. But the party was denied power by members of the conservative unelected Senate.

The Senate, whose members were ppointed by the military, joined the elected lower house in casting votes to choose a prime minister under a constitution that was adopted in 2017 under a military government. The Move Forward Party now heads the opposition in Parliament.

The nine-member panel of judges ruled 8-1 in Pita's favour on Wednesday.

"ITV did not operate any newspa-pers or media businesses, therefore, the shareholding didn't violate the Constitution's Article 98. According to the above reasoning, the accused member's parliamentary status isn't suspended," the ruling said.

"I'm happy and will keep working planned," Pita said after the verdict. About 40 supporters who had gathered outside the court with signs and

flowers cheered Pita as he walked out. 'There is justice for the people. At first, I didn't trust the court but now I see justice," said Jiraporn Bussawaket,

Pita still faces another serious legal challenge this month.

Thousands forced out of their homes after 7.1 quake in China

Uchturpan (AP): As aftershocks continued to rock western China on Wednesday, more than 12,000 people were staying in tents and other shelters, lighting bonfires to fend off the freezing weather. The previous day, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake in a remote part of China's Xinjiang region killed three people and left five injured, while damaging hundreds of buildings.

The quake caused significant damage amid freezing temperatures, but the toll on lives and property was relatively light, owing to the sparse population around the epicenter in Uchturpan county, near the border with Kazakhstan.

Footage shown by state broadcaster CCTV on Wednesday showed evacuees eating instant noodles in tents with bonfires providing heat. Jian Gewa, a 16-year old stu-

dent in Uchturpan, said he was in the bathroom when the quake began. The entire building shook

violently.

"I just thought I had to get myself to safety as quickly as possible," Jian said.

He was evacuated to a school where he was staying in a dorm room with his grandfather, joining about 200 others. to check houses' stability before people could return.

The earthquake hit in a sparsely populated area with clusters of towns and villages scattered across an otherwise barren winter landscape. A two lane highway runs from the city of Aksu about 125 kilometers (78 miles) to the area, through frozen brown flatlands on one side and craggy outcroppings on the other. Power lines and an occasional cement factory are virtually the only signs of human presence.

China to boost property

Bangkok (AP): China's central cut by 0.5 percentage points as

lending to support its

slowing economy

bank said Wednesday it will cut

the ratio of reserves banks

must hold as part of a slew of

measures to support the slow-

ing economy. The announce-

ment by the People's Bank of

China prompted a surge in

share prices, with Hong Kong's

have languished in recent

months as investors pulled

money out, discouraged by a

faltering recovery from the

shocks of the COVID-19 pan-

week was followed by uncon-

firmed reports that the govern-

ment planned to get state-

owned investment companies

to funnel offshore funds into

the markets to help staunch the

losses. The central bank's

moves appear to be part of a

concerted effort to stabilize

the markets and instill greater

confidence in the outlook for

the world's second-largest

Gongsheng said the deposit

reserve requirement would be

Central bank Gov. Pan

A sell-off earlier in the

demic.

Chinese stock markets

benchmark jumping 3.6%.

China restores diplomatic relations with Nauru

China and Nauru formally restored diplomatic relations Wednesday after the tiny Pacific island nation cut its ties with Taiwan earlier this month, in a further move by Beijing to isolate Taipei's democratic government. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, and Wang said the resumption of ties "once again demonstrates to the world that adherence to the one-China principle is an irresistible historical trend." Aingimea said Nauru rec-

ognized that Taiwan is part of China, despite the fact that the People's Republic of China has never governed the island and that Taiwan's 23 million people overwhelmingly reject Beijing's claims to sovereignty over them.
"We look forward to the

practical cooperation that's going to happen between Nauru and China. The prospect is bright," Aingimea

Nauru's announcement on Jan. 15 came just two days after and left the self-governing republic with only 12 remaining diplomatic allies, although it enjoys strong unofficial relations with the US, Japan and most other major nations.

American officials expressed disappointment with the decision. The United States has diplomatic relations with China but also maintains extensive unofficial ties with Taiwan, including selling it fighter jets and other weaponry for its defense. Nauru first established diplomatic ties

of Feb 5. Pan said that would

inject about 1 trillion yuan

(USD 141 billion) into the

economy. As of December, the

reserve requirement ratio was

Beijing that the central bank

also plans to issue a policy soon

on lending to property devel-

opers to help support the

ering, he said, allowing ample

controllable, the overall oper-

ations of financial institutions

are sound, and financial mar-

kets are operating smoothly,"

the government website

China.com cited Pan as saying.

The economy expanded at

5.2% annual pace in the

October-December quarter,

enabling the government to

attain its target of about 5%

annual growth for 2023. But the

recovery remains uneven, and

most forecasts say the econo-

my will grow more slowly in

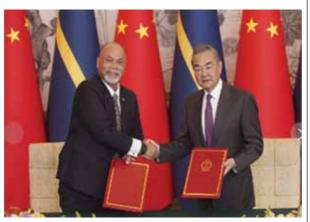
room for policy maneuvers.

China's economy is recov-

"At present, our country's financial risks are generally

industry.

Pan told reporters in



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs and

with Taiwan in 1980, then switched to Beijing in 2002, Chir then back to Taiwan in 2005, amid allegations that both sides were paying off or otherwise pressuring Nauruan officials. China claims Taiwan as its territory and doesn't recognize its government or its right to diplomatic recognition, participation in global bodies such as the United Nations or any official contact with foreign political entities.

"This policy change is a significant first step in moving forward with Nauru's development," Nauru's government announcing the severing of relations with Taiwan.

China has been gradually poaching Taiwan's diplomatic allies, partly to punish the ruling Democratic Progressive Party that advocates maintaining the status quo under which Taiwan has its own government, military and defacto independent status outside of the control of the PRC.

Ten countries have switched ties from Taipei to Beijing since the initial election offer hefty financial induceof DPP President Tsai Ing-wen ments.

China says that Taiwan must come under its control at some point and has staged military drills around the island to demonstrate its determina-

At the time of the break with Nauru, Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister Tien Chungkwang accused China of purposefully timing the news to the election of current Vice President Lai Ching-te as the island's new leader. He said China's authoritarian oneparty Communist government's intention was to "attack that the Taiwanese people are proud of." Taiwan now has official ties with 11 countries and the Vatican. Seven are in Latin America and the Caribbean, three are in the Pacific islands and one is in Africa. Nauru's switching of relations has further intensified the focus on Taiwan's remaining allies, most of which are developing nations seen as vulnerable to China's global influence and willingness to

Death toll in SW China landslide rises to 34

Beijing (AP): The death toll from a landslide in a remote, mountainous part of southwestern China rose to 34 on Wednesday, while 10 people remained missing, Chinese state media reported. The disaster struck early Monday in the village of Liangshui in the northeastern part of Yunnan province.

Search and rescue operations continued amid freezing temperatures and falling snow.

More than 1,000 rescuers were working at the site with the help of excavators, drones and rescue dogs, the Ministry of Emergency Management said Tuesday. Two survivors were found Monday and were recovering at a local hos-

State news agency Xinhua, citing a preliminary investigation by local experts, said the landslide was triggered by the collapse of a steep cliff top area, with the collapsed mass measuring around 100 metres (330 feet) wide, 60 metres (200 feet) in height and an average of 6 metres (20 feet) in thickness. It did not elaborate on what caused Aerial photos posted by Xinhua showed the

side of a heavily terraced mountain had spilled over several village homes. More than 900 villagers were relocated. Zhenxiong county lies about 2,250 kilometres (1,400 miles) southwest of Beijing, with altitudes ranging as high as 2,400 metres (7,900 feet).

Rescuers struggled with snow, icy roads and freezing temperatures that were forecast to persist for the next days. Heavy snow has been falling in many parts of China, causing transportation chaos and endangering lives. Last week, rescuers evacuated tourists from a remote skiing area in northwestern China where dozens of avalanches triggered by heavy snow had trapped more than 1,000 people for a week. The avalanches blocked roads, stranding both tourists and residents in a village in Altay prefecture in the Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice is being issued under the instruction of our clientess, Mrs. Nilima Gupta W/o Mr. Shvam Hari Gupta, resident of F-5/6 DLF City Phase-I, near Community Centre, Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002, who intends to purchase the property bearing no. A-10/22, situated in DLF Phase-l also known as DLF Qutub Enclave Complex, Gurugram, Haryana, for a valuable consideration, owned and possessed by Mr. Cristolard Annual Control Con S/o Narender Dhingra, residing at 31A, Anubhav Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, New Delhi- 110085 on 18th December, 2023 and Mr. Toshank Dhingra by virtue of the terms in his agreement has agreed to nominate his right under his agreement to sell thereby executed an agreement to sell with our clientess on 22hd January, 2024.

This public notice is being issued with a view make certain that there is no encumbrance o the property bearing A-10/22, situated in DLF Phase-I also known as DLF Qutub Enclave Complex, Gurugram, Haryana accordingly, if any persons' has any right, title or interest in the above said property of any nature whatsoever, either through Shri Vijay Kumar Khanna or Mr. Toshank Dhingra, may feel free to submit their written objection of their claim over the property bearing no. A-10/22, situated in DLF Phase-I also known as DLF Qutub Enclave Complex, Gurugram Haryana and any objection against the aforementioned agreement(s) to sell. The objections, if any, along with the justifiable

grounds, must be submitted in writing within wenty (20) days from the date of this publication to the undersigned at the following

Date: 25.01.2024 N.P Singh Associates Advocates & Solicitors G-3, L.G.F, South Extension, Place: New Delhi Part-II, New Delhi- 110049 Cont. No : 011-46020893, 46020894

E-mail: npsinghandassociates@gmail.com

<u>UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM</u> E-Tender Notice 1. Name of the work: - CONSTRUCTION OF APPROACH ROAD AT GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE ALMORA,

DISTRICT-ALMORA

2. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 55.92 Lakh (Without GST) 3. Period of Completion: - 02 Month

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 25-01-2024 (17.00 hrs)

5.Online Bid submission: End date:-07-02-2024 (17.00 hrs) 6.Date & Time of Technical bid Opening:- 09-02-2024 (11.00 hrs)

Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.

.Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Ranikhet. 3.Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place: 27-01-2024 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit.

For further details, details of subsequent Amendment correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

PROJECT MANAGER

NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN Telephone: 0135-2714074, Website: www.nagarnigamdehradun.com Email: nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com

Nagar Nigam Dehradun invites Request for Proposal (RFP) For For Scientific Dumpsit Remediation of Legacy Waste and Land Reclamation through Bio-mining, Resource Recovery and Rejects Disposal at Danda Lakhaund site, Dehradun from eligible bidders having experience as indicated in the RFP document. Interested bidders are requested to procure the RFP document up to 13.02.2024 from e-tenders portal of government of Uttarakhand.

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled at 12:00 noon on 31.01.2024. Any Addendum/ Corrigendum including date of extension will be uploaded only on www.uktenders.gov.in. The Municipal Commissioner have right to cancel tender at any stage without giving any reason. The last date for online submission of bids is 13.02.2024 at 3:00PM.

No 26/Legacywaste/2023-24 Date: 24.01.2024

Municipal Commissioner Nagar Nigam Dehradun

SL Parliament approves Online Safety Bill

Colombo (PTI): Sri Lankan Parliament on Wednesday approved with amendments the controversial Online Safety Bill that seeks to regulate online content amid criticism from the opposition that claimed it will stifle freedom of speech. As many as 108 parliamentarians voted for it while 62 voted against the

bill that was passed after a two-day debate. The new legislation would lead to the establishment of the Online Safety Commission which is empowered to make punitive rulings on offenses. A false statement on line would be

liable, if convicted, to an imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand Sri Lankan rupees. At the committee stage proceedings,

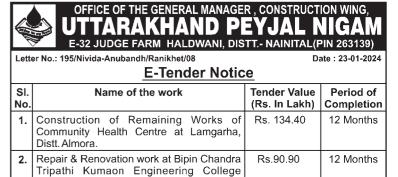
the government went ahead presenting the amendments, which had come from the Supreme Court that checked its constitutionality. The apex court had ruled to amend at least 31 of the full 57 clauses of the bill. The main opposition leader Saiith Premadasa's assertion to speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena to postpone the committee stage claiming the action was unconstitutional was ignored by the chair. Earlier, the bill was severely criti-

cised as one which impinged the free-dom of expression. The opposition argued, citing the Asian Internet Coalition (AIC), that the bill would hamper efforts to invite foreign investment. The opposition also vowed to repeal it when in power.

The AIC had said, "The proposed

legislation, in its present form, poses significant challenges that, if not addressed comprehensively, could undermine the potential growth of Sri Lanka's digital During the day one of the debate on

Tuesday, the opposition urged the Speaker to postpone the two day debate accusing the government of rushing through with it. They cited insufficient public consultation.



3.Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 25-01-2024 (10.00 hrs) 4. Online Bid submission: End date :- 08-02-2024 (17.00 hrs)

5. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening: - 10-02-2024 (11.00 hrs)

Dwarahat Block Dwarahat, Distt. Almora.

6. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid: - General Manager (Kumaon)

Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani. 7.Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 30-01-2024

(11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, 8. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction

documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in **GENERAL MANAGER**

Office of the Superintending Engineer Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh Letter No.: 364 / 962C(Yata 'C')-03/2024 Dated: 23/01/2024

National Competitive E-Tender Notice The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" for following works in anticipation of sanction. All other information will be available online from

date 27-01-2024 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in Earnest | Cost of | Validity Name of Work Money Tender of Category of No.

			(in Lac)	(in Rs.)	Tender (day)	Completion (months)	Registration
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1	PD PWD Pithoragarh Under Honorable Chief Minister's announcement No. 539/2023, the work of asphalting of the motor road from Km. 2 of Madmanle Dobans motor road to Barmo under Didihat assembly constituency of Pithoragarh district and three year maintenance work (Length- 3.125 Km.).	3.00	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'B' & above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking.
	2	PD PWD Didihat Improvement and asphalting of Vinayak to Ghasad motor road in Didihat assembly constituency of Pithoragarh district Under the state plan. (Length - 3.00 km).	2.90	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'B' & above for Road works in any State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking.
	3	PD PWD Champawat Upgradation work of Circuit House building located in Champawat.	10.50	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	06	Category 'A' & above for Building works in any State Govt. Govt. of India/Govt.

Space industry seeks liberal FDI policy, PLI scheme in Budget

'ndia's nascent space sector has sought a liberal FDI pol-Licy on a par with the defence industry and production-linked incentive in the interim Budget that the government will present next week

The industry body Indian Space Association (ISpA) has also sought GST exemption for satellites, launch vehicles and ground equipment manufacturing, lower tax rates for external commercial borrowings and reduction of satellite sector withholding tax from 10 per cent to two per cent, given the low profit

"Our expectation is for enabling a more liberal FDI (foreign direct investment) policy in the space sector. As of now, even one per cent of FDI has to go through the government

months and months," Awais Ahmed, founder and CEO of Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based start-

ne pioneer

up, told PTI. "The defence sector has 74 per cent FDI through the automatic route. Beyond that, you have to go for the government route. At least matching what is there for the defence side would be really helpful in opening up the inflow of external capital for Indian space companies trying to scale up and build more things," Ahmed said.

He also sought a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for space manufacturing. "We need to catalyse and innovate more by having suppliers and folks building a variety of different things for space technology

-- whether that is components, satellites, cameras, trackers. That would only be possible to inno-



tech solutions across domains

such as agriculture, disaster

management. "Now, to propel

this promising industry and

drive innovation, it is crucial for

the government for the develop-

ment of a comprehensive regu-

latory framework and to address

existing fiscal and taxation chal-

lenges," ISpA Director General

vate or accelerate through a PLI scheme that sort of enables that to happen," Ahmed said. ISpA also demanded a PLI scheme for space-grade components along the lines of a similar scheme for drones

The industry body also wants the government to commit to procuring and adopting space

The association has also sought reasonable spectrum usage charges (SUC) as percentage of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) for satellite services allocated non-auctioned spectrum under the new Telecommunications Act, 2023

ISpA said satellite operators should be permitted 25 per cent depreciation on one-time fee and licence charges to optimise tax impact and capital subsidy on infrastructure investments with additional subsidy for facilities in remote areas to spur manufacturing capabilities, launch infrastructure advancement and downstream space offerings growth in India's private space industry.

IN-SPACe, the space sector regulator, has projected the country's space economy to increase to USD 44 billion by 2033.

Cabinet nod to ₹8,500 crore incentive scheme for coal gasification projects

PTI NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 8,500 crore incentive scheme for coal gasification projects, sources

The adoption of gasification technology in India is expected to reduce the country's reliance on imports of natural gas, methanol, ammonia and other essential products.

The cabinet has given its goahead to Rs 8,500 crore incentive scheme for coal gasification projects, the sources said.

The government is targeting to gasify 100 million tonnes (MT) of coal by 2030.

In gasification process, coal is partially oxidised by air, oxygen, steam, or carbon dioxide under controlled conditions to produce a liquid fuel known as syngas. Syngas or synthesis gas can be used for power generation and to make methanol as well.

stituents of the NSE Nifty witnessed

Elsewhere in Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225

lost 0.80 per cent, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained sharply by 3.56 per cent. China's Shanghai Composite also ended 1.80 per cent higher.

European markets were higher on

Wednesday, with Germany's DAX and CAC 40 of France gaining 1.00 per cent and 0.58 per cent. London's FTSE 100 rose 0.29 per cent.

In the US markets, the Dow closed

0.25 per cent lower on Tuesday, while the S&P 500 settled 0.29 per cent high-er and tech-heavy Nasdaq closed the

session 0.43 per cent higher. Meanwhile, Brent crude futures, the

global oil benchmark, were trading higher by 0.58 per cent to USD 80.01 per barrel on Wednesday. On Tuesday,

Sensex fell 1,053.10 points or 1.47 per cent to settle at 70,370.55. Nifty also

declined 330.15 points or 1.53 per cent

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs)

to close at 21,241.65.

the opening of new direct flight between the two countries. and Housing, said. In an interview to PTI, he said

growing aviation market. While noting that he is

Sweden is a leading player in sustainable aviation. More than their solutions globally.

visit to India last week, also said

Sweden keen on ties with India on sustainability solutions in aviation

Keen for stronger ties with India, Sweden is looking for cooperation with the country on sustainability solutions in the aviation sector as well as on electrification efforts in the auto space. Besides, Sweden is hoping for the resumption of direct flight services with India, Johan Davidson, Sweden's State Secretary for Infrastructure

India is an important partner as it is also the world's fastest

impressed by the country's extensive investments being made in airports and aviation for expansion, he said, "there is a lot of interest in Indian growth and new business opportunities for Swedish companies"

80 Swedish companies are active in the sector, with expertise across the value chain and experience in implementing

Davidson, who was on a brief

the country is "keen to cooperate on the sustainability front in aviation and electrification in the auto sector". 'We have a lot of good compa-

nies that can contribute to the green transition in the Indian aviation sector," he said. To a query on air connectivity between India and Sweden, Davidson said it is hoping for

'In Sweden, the largest group of people from abroad are Indians. We have some 60,000 plus Indians living in Sweden and most of them in Stockholm. A direct flight between India and Sweden would be a popular one, for tourism, business and exchange on a more frequent basis," he said. In the context of sustainability aspects in the aviation space, a key focus area is Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and Sweden is open for cooperation with Indian on that

front too. Of course, we are open for that," Davidson said in response to a query on whether Sweden would like to be part of India's transition through SAF as and when it happens.

Indel Money announces public issue

New Delhi: Indel Money Limited, one of the fastest growing NBFCs in the gold loan sector, announced the 4th public issue of Secured NCDs of face value of Rs 1,000 each. The issue opens on January 30 and closes on February 12. The Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 3,115.39 crore, according to exchange data. Company has simultaneously launched eight branches in

expansion plans to open 16 branches by March 2024 We aim to continue to grow our loan portfolio by expanding our branch network by opening new branches, said Umesh Mohanan, Executive Whole Time Director, Indel

Delhi-NCR, in line with its

Sensex surges 690 points to reclaim 71K level PTI MUMBAI Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty rebounded sharply by 1 per cent on Wednesday after sliding for the past two sessions, propelled by

Government aiming to hike scrap share in steel making to 50pc by 2047

The government is aiming to increase the share of scrap in steel making process to 50 per cent by 2047, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said on Wednesday

The steel minister emphasised on usage of scrap in steel making as manufacturing the metal through scrap and other waste products is less polluting and termed it as a step "towards green steel initiative

'As per our ministry's vision 2047 document, in the next 25 years, the percentage of scrap will be 50 per cent along with the balance 50 per cent as iron ore," Scindia said at the 11th International Material Recycling

Use of scrap not only reduces the use of natural resources but also cuts emission by 25 per cent in comparison to the primary route of steelmaking, the minister said addressing through a video message

More scrap would be needed in the future to reduce emission and produce green steel and for this to happen there is a need for environment-friendly formal scrapping centres, Scindia

Today, around 25 million tonnes of scrap are produced in the country and around 5 million

Besides, various waste byprod ucts generated during mining and steel making can also be effectively used in cement manufacturing, road construction and agriculture, the minister

sector is known as a hard to abate sector...With an emissions intensity of 2.55 tonne of CO2 per tonne of crude steel pro-

At present, scrap contributes around 30-35 per cent to India's overall steel production, Sanjay Mehta, President, Material Recycling Association of India (MRAI), said.

and the increasing awareness of ic growth," Mehta said.

Around 2,000 delegates from across 35 nations have attended the two-day conference which focuses on increasing usage of scrap to promote circular economy, help India achieve the net zero goals and minimising impact on the environment, Mehta said

tonnes are imported, he said.

Scindia further said, "Our steel

"India has the potential to become a global leader in recythe importance of sustainability. The recycling industry in India has the potential to create jobs, reduce the impact of waste on the environment, and contribute to the country's econom-

bargain hunting in metal, commodity and telecom stocks. Trading through a patchy track in the opening session, the 30-share BSE Sensex gradually gained ground and jumped 689.76 points, or 0.98 per cent, to settle at 71,060.31. The benchmark

> moved between an intra-day high of 71,149.61 and a low of 70,001.60. The broader NSE Nifty also closed 215.15 points or 1.01 per cent higher at 21,453.95. Among the Sensex firms, major \ing 3.77 per cent, followed by HCL Tech,

which gained 3.62 per cent. IndusInd Bank and PowerGrid closed with a gain of 3,60 and 3.34 per cent, respectively. Other gainers were Tech Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever, Bajaj Finserve and Bharti Airtel, among oth-

old prices fell Rs 50 to Rs

63,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday,

according to HDFC Securities.

cious metal had closed at Rs

to Rs 76,000 per kilogram while

it had settled at Rs 75,700 per

kilogram in the previous close.

"Spot gold prices (24 carats) in

the Delhi markets are trading at

Rs 63,200 per 10 grams, down

by Rs 50, taking cues from the

international market," Saumil

Gandhi, senior analyst of commodities at HDFC Securities,

In the international markets,

spot gold at Comex was trading

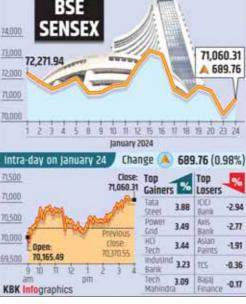
at USD 2,026 per ounce, down

63,250 per 10 grams. However, silver jumped Rs 300

On the other hand, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and TCS

Gold falls ₹50;

silver jumps ₹300



were the only laggards, sliding up to 2.94 per cent. A total of 25 stocks of the 30-share benchmark settled in green, while 43 con-

were net sellers in the capital markets on

Bank credit expansion projected at 15 pc in FY24, 12 pc in FY25: Icra

R ating agency Icra on Wednesday revised upward its bank credit growth projection at 14.9-15.3 per cent this fiscal, but said cent next fiscal.

At 14.9-15.3 per cent, the system level credit expansion in absolute terms will be Rs 20.4-20.9 lakh crore, it said, adding this will be the highest ever incremental bank credit growth and would surpass the previous high of Rs 18.2 lakh crore recorded in FY23 at a growth rate of 15.4 per cent.

The agency had earlier estimated a 12.8-13 per cent credit demand for this fiscal.

However, citing the rising global headwinds and also the higher base coupled with the challenges in deposit mobilisation, the agency said it expects the rate of incremental credit expansion to slow down to Rs 19-20.5 lakh crore or 11.7-12.6 per cent in FY25. Weaker export demand in certain sectors,



softer commodity prices, and challenges in deposit mobilisation could temper bank credit growth in FY2025, it added.

Further, the agency estimates corporate bond issuances to reach Rs 9.6-9.9 lakh crore in FY24, crossing the record level of Rs $8.7\,$ lakh crore in FY23.

Incremental bank credit growth touched nearly Rs 16.9 lakh crore in the first nine months of FY24 far outpacing the Rs 14.1 lakh crore expansion in the corresponding period last year. This was driven by the retail with annual growth of 33 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, as of November 18,

While incremental bank credit growth remained reasonably strong at Rs 6.1 lakh crore in Q3 and Rs 10.8 lakh crore in the first half of FY24, it was lower by Rs 1.3 lakh crore in December 2023 against Rs 2 lakh crore during December 2022.

According to Anil Gupta, a senior vice-president at the agency, the relative deceleration in bank credit expansion seen during December 2023 reflects the regulatory measures on increased risk-weights on loans extended to consumer credit and nonbanking finance companies, apart from the tight liquidity conditions.

Tech Mahindra Q3 net falls 60 pc to ₹510 crore

PTI MUMBAI

Tech Mahindra on Wednesday reported a 60 per cent decline in net profit at Rs 510.4 crore in the three months ended December 2023

The Mahindra group company had reported a net profit of Rs 1,296.6 crore in the year-ago period while the same was at Rs 493.9 crore in the quarter-ago period. Its overall revenue from operations declined 4.6 per cent to Rs 13,101 crore in the third quarter of the current financial year from Rs 13,734 crore in the

same period a year ago. There was a sharp decline in the operating profit, with the margin narrowing to 5.4 per cent from the 12 per cent in the year-

ago period. Shares of the company closed 3.09 per cent up at Rs 1,407.75 apiece on the BSE.

Rupee settles 2 paise higher at 83.13 against US dollar

The rupee stayed range-bound and settled 2 paise (provisional) higher at 83.13 against the US dollar on Wednesday.

Forex traders said the rupee is trading in a narrow range as pos-itive domestic markets and a soft US dollar supported the rupee while rising crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows capped gains. At the interbank foreign

exchange market, the local unit opened at 83.15 against the greenback. The unit oscillated between an intraday low of 83.16 and a high of 83.11 against the greenback and finally settled at 83.13 against the dollar, higher by 2 paise (provisional) from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee had settled at 83.15 against the US dol-

"We expect the rupee to trade with a slight positive bias as the US Dollar has softened ahead of PMI data and gains in the Japanese Yen. Markets expect PMI data to be better than the previous month's reading. However, concerns over the Red Sea region and elevated



sharp upside," said Anuj Choudhary Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Traders may remain cautious ahead of PMI data from Germany, the Eurozone, the UK and the US today. Investors may remain cautious ahead of the US GDP and ECB monetary policy decision on Thursday. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 82.90

to Rs 83.50. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.48 per cent lower at 103.11 on

"US Dollar declined on strong Yen on rising expectations that Bank of Japan may normalise its monetary policy in the coming months," Choudhary added.
Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, surged 0.35 per cent to USD 79.83 per barrel. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex advanced 689.76 points, or 0.98 per cent, to 71,060.31 points. The Nifty climbed 215.15 points, or 1.01 per cent, to 21,453.95 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday as they offloaded shares worth Rs

3,115.39 crore, according to

exchange data.

USD 2 from the previous close.

However, silver was trading higher at USD 22.70 per ounce.

Gold was trading lower on

Wednesday as traders remained

cautious ahead of US macro

data, including fourth-quarter

GDP data due on Thursday, that

could offer further insights into

the trajectory of Federal

Reserve's monetary policy approach, Gandhi added.

1 lakh Fronx sold in record time: Maruti

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday said its model Fronx has crossed the 1 lakh sales milestone in the domestic passenger vehicle segment in record time. The model has crossed the milestone in 10 months, setting a new industry benchmark, the car market leader said in a statement. Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) had introduced Fronx in the domestic market on April 24, 2023.

"Fronx was strategically added to our portfolio to address the growing demand for another compact SUV that blends distinctive design with a captivating driving experience," MSI Senior Executive Officer (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said.

The model has been instrumental in more than doubling the company's SUV segment share to 19.7 per cent last year from 10.4 per cent in 2022, he added. MSI has also commenced exports

of the Fronx for Latin America, the Middle East, and South-East Asian markets. So far, the company has exported

these markets.

over 9,000 units of the model to



The fair trade regulator allowed the four entities to acquire Religare's 5.27 per cent through stock market purchase and another 26 per cent through an open offer.

The four entities — Puran Associates Pvt Ltd. M.B. Finmart Pvt Ltd, VIC Enterprises Pvt Ltd, and Milky Investment and Trading Company — are controlled by the Burman family, CCI said in a release on Tuesday

"The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of 5.27% of the total issued and outstanding equity share capital of Religare



Burmans get CCI nod for 31.27 per cent additional stake in Religare Enterprises Limited (Religare) through open

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

approved the acquisition of 31.27 per cent of additional stake in Religare Enterprises by four entities of Dabur India promoter Burman family, enabling them to become majority owners in the financial services firm.

market purchases, and an open offer for up to 26% of the Total Expanded Voting Share Capital of Religare... By Puran Associates Private Limited, M.B. Finmart Private Limited, M.B. Finmart Private Limited, and VIC Enterprises Private Limited, Milky Investment and Trading Company," the CCI release said. Religare is engaged in the financial services business through its subsidiaries and operating entities. The Burman family has investments across

various sectors such as insurance and FMCG, among others. As of December 2023, the Burman family's holding in Religare Enterprises stood at 21.17 per

cent, according to the exchange data. After acquisition of additional 31.27 per cent stakes through open offer as well as through purchase of shares in the open market, its owner-

ship in Religare will surpass 52 per cent.

SPINBALL VS ENGLAND BAZBALL

Rohit men bank on spin for first strike

India's unalloyed dominance at home over the last 12 years will be put through its most unique examination till date when Rohit Sharma's side faces a trend-defying England in the first match of what promises to be a stirring five-Test series from Thursday.

No team has been as invincible as India at home since their 1-2 defeat against the Three Lions led by Alastair Cook in 2012, stitching together a bull run of 16 successive series wins, including seven series sweeps. If one further breaks down the stats, India have lost just three Tests out of 44 they played in their own backyard in this phase, and this is a power walk even beyond the all-conquering West Indies in the '80s or Australia of the turn of the century.

Several factors have contributed to this astonishing run over the last decade, including favourable pitches,

It was a headache to decide

between Axar and Kuldeep

as third spinner: Rohit

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma on Wednesday admitted that the team man-

agement had a tough time

making the third spinner

choice between Axar Patel

and Kuldeep Yadav for the

opening Test against England

but hinted that the former

might just have made the

Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja,

India are primed to pick a

third spinner for the first Test

against England, starting here

"If the wicket has bounce or

if it doesn't have bounce, he

(Kuldeep) still is a factor in

those types of conditions

because he's got superb vari-

ations. Obviously, he is a

very mature bowler now from

what he was a few years

back," Rohit said in the pre-

"He's not played a lot of Test

cricket in India because of

Ashwin and Jadeja. We've

seen it in the past as well.

With our middle-order (bat-

ting), in the past, a lot of us

(batters) got an opportunity

But that's the reality of it, you

can't hide away from it. But yes, he's a very tempting

Although Rohit did not give

away his final team for the

match, he indicated that Axar

might just be the one on the

He underlined the utility of

pretty late.

option," he added.

final team sheet.

match press conference.

final cut.

from Thursday.



bowlers who knew how to exploit those tracks and batters who churned out runs like popcorn from a vending machine.

But two players have stood head and shoulders above the

the left-arm spinner as an all-

rounder, the strongest clue

about the think tank's prefer-

ence for this Test at least. He

dispelled the notion that Axar

packs similar abilities as

Jadeja and, as such, he might

slip down the pecking order.

"Axar, you know, with his all-round ability, gives us that batting depth. The consisten-cy that he's shown, playing in

these conditions in Test crick-

"But it was a headache to

decide who it is going to be

for us. But I am not going to

that premier spinner Ashwin

will deliver one more time in

conditions familiar to him.

"Ashwin, obviously, we know

his class, we know his quali-

ty. Every time he plays the

game for us, he tends to

impress all of us by a notch

(higher). We do appreciate

that. "Every time he's gotten

an opportunity, he's made

can also complete 100 career

Test matches if he plays all the

five Tests in the series.

said Rohit.

his storied career.

say who it is," said Rohit. The 36-year-old also hoped

for us.

rest in these conquests — offspinner Ravichandran Ashwin and left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

From Thursday, the Ash-Jaddu duet will be on show here at the RGI Stadium,

where the pitch is expected to turn and grip as the match moves towards its conclusion. England already have a taste of what these two can do from their past visits here, and they

will be worried, particularly

with his high pace...he is a real impact builder. Bowling the 90

mile an hour with a reversing ball is obviously going to be

very difficult to play against.

He's another weapon which you can use out here with

short, sharp spells, wanting

him to be bowling as fast as he

about Ashwin.

The 37-year-old still retains the burning zest of a 17-yearold to keep improving his craft and since 2012, Ashwin has grabbed 283 wickets from 46 Tests averaging a shade as a supporting act to Ashwin, but in his own right, the Saurashtra man is a potent threat, and his deliveries that dart on straight could confuse

Jadeja might often get viewed

dart on straight could confuse the batters on a turner. Jadeja has taken 191 wickets from 39 Tests in the period where Ashwin kicked up a bedlam in opposition ranks to ensure that they don't get breathing space from both the ends. Together, they have bagged 500 wickets at an aver-

In all likelihood, India will also include a third spinner to the combination in the form of either Axar Patel or Kuldeep Yadav, with the former having a better chance at the moment England will be aware that no amount of preparation involving scruffing up pitches some 1600 miles away in Abu Dhabi will be enough to tackle this real menace, and in that sense they will also need to tame the demons inside their own



England frustration ends as rookie spinner **Bashir gets visa**

PTI ■ LONDON/HYDERABAD

England's Pakistan-origin Was on Wednesday granted Visa to play in the five-match Test series against India, end-ing a "frustrating" wait for the visiting side whose captain Ben Stokes felt "devastated" by the delay.

Shoaib Bashir has now received his visa, and is due to travel to join up with the team in India this weekend. We're glad the situation has now been resolved," the England and Wales Cricket Board post-ed on its X (formerly Twitter) page on the eve of the first Test in Hyderabad.

The 20-year-old rookie, who plays for Somerset in the English county, was forced to head back to England from the team's Abu Dhabi training base after a prolonged wait for visa. His family is of Pakistani heritage but Bashir was born in Surrey

The delay snowballed into a major controversy with a British government spokesper-son demanding "fair" treat-ment for the youngster and Stokes hardly mincing words in expressing his outrage. Bashir, who is a shock inclusion

in the squad with a mediocre 10 wickets from just six first-

class games, was never in contention for a place in the squad for the opening Test. "When I first found the news out in Abu Dhabi, I did say we shouldn't fly until Bash gets his visa," Stokes said in the pre-match press conference on Wednesday.

"But that was a little bit tongue in cheek. I know it's a way bigger thing than doing that. That was probably just emotions around the whole thing. I'm pretty devastated that Bash has had to go through this," he added. An unnamed British govern-

ment spokesperson told 'ESPNcricinfo that it wasn't the first time that citizens of Pakistani heritage faced a delay in securing Indian visas.

"The specifics of this case are a matter for Shoaib Bashir and the Indian Government. But we absolutely expect India to treat British citizens fairly at all times in its visa process.

"We have previously raised the issues British citizens with Pakistani heritage experience applying for visas with the Indian High Commission in London," he said. India have, so far, not com-

mented on the matter. Stokes hoped that Bashir would be able to join the squad by the

Wood is an impact builder: Stokes

PTI HYDERABAD

England captain Ben Stokes
On Tuesday rated Mark
Wood as an "impact builder"
with high pace after they decided to enter the first Test against
India starting here from India, starting here from Thursday, with a solitary fast bowler and three spinners. Wood was preferred over vet-

eran James Anderson for this match, and Stokes said the Durham man's ability to touch 150 clicks tilted the scales in his "Obviously, what he brings can and short periods. There're no worries about these long spells because that's how we're going to use him this week," said Stokes during his prematch press meet here.

So, how did the team management handle the situation of



looking over a highly-experienced bowler like Anderson? Stokes said Anderson has taken the whole episode quite profes-

said. "He has a good energy I love. I am happy to be around

"Jimmy's incredible professional. You never know how conditions might change and what you might feel as the best setup for your team. But now we're not looking at

having to manage Jimmy or his workloads or anything like that. You know, we put him in the spot because we think he's one of the best performers," said Stokes.

However, Stokes asserted that he will not bowl in the series The premier all-rounder is still recuperating from a knee

Roach sees plenty of promise in fellow fast bowler Shamar the team hotel rather than join old was progressing well in his

Walk-in/Online Interview for following

position(s)/ discipline(s):

Environmental Social Monitoring

(Mechanical)/ Medical Gas Line

Junior Design Engineer



AP BRISBANE

West Indies veteran fast bowler Kemar Roach is predicting big things for the new guy on the team, 24-yearold fellow paceman Shamar Joseph.

Ahead of the second Test — a sure to put the team ahead. day-night match — that begins He's shown it for a number of Thursday at the Gabba in years now. So, yeah, I hope Brisbane, the 35-year-old Roach has 267 Tests wickets, this series is no different for him, and he comes out and placing him fifth on the alldoes what he does the best," time list for the West Indies. Ashwin is on the cusp of In 2009, on his first Test tour, Roach shattered Ricky achieving twin milestones in Ponting's elbow with a blazing bouncer that forced Ponting to The 37-year-old off-spinner is 10 wickets shy of the 500retire hurt from the match. wicket mark in Tests and he

Ioseph took 5-94 on debut in the first Test in Adelaide last week, including the wicket of Steve Smith with his first delivery. Australia won the first

Test by 10 wickets in 2 1-2 days.

'The best advice I can give him

is to build his own legacy and

understand what you want from cricket," Roach said of

That's up to him to determine

.. If it's monetary, or if it's just

stats and statistics or whatever

There's gonna be a lot of dis-

tractions and he's a hot com-

The (Twenty20) franchises

are a big distraction but guys still want to relish red-ball

cricket. Test cricket is still in the

hearts of West Indian cricketers

at home. It's just about us to provide support around it."

Roach says the early signs from

"He is a very confident young

man and has shared a lot of

information with me. We have

a lot of conversations," Roach

Joseph were all positive.

modity right now.

Joseph.

him and to be a part of his career at the start of it. Let's see how long and how good he can be at the end of it. He is destined to be good if he puts the

ork in." Meanwhile, Australia opener Usman Khawaja has been passed fit by Cricket Australia's medical team to play in Brisbane. And Travis likely to play recent positive COVID-19 test. Khawaja was struck in the head by a West Indies bounc- Cummins said the 30-year-

er during Friday's short run chase in Adelaide. The 37-year-old completed

concussion assessments earlier this week, and has been approved to partner Steve Smith in Khawaja's home Gabba test.

"Khawaja was assessed again today and has no symptoms of delayed concussion," a Cricket Australia spokesperson said. After a match-winning century in Adelaide, Head subsequently contracted COVID-19 but Australia captain Pat

Head flew to Brisbane on Tuesday but decided to rest in

Specialist

40/24

the Australian team for its late afternoon training session at the Gabba

vacancies

2

3



विक्रम विश्वविद्यालय उज्जैन

क्रमांक/भण्डार/2024/761

प्री-एण्ड पोस्ट परीक्षा परिणाम प्रोसेसिंग कार्य हेत द्वितीय ई-निविदा विज्ञप्ति

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म.प्र. माध्यम/113418/2024

दिनांक 24.01.2024

Junior Design Engineer (Electrical) 43/24 CAD Draughtsman (Structural) 1 1 CAD Draughtsman (Electrical) 2 CAD Draughtsman (HVAC) CAD Draughtsman (Water Supply) 2 47/24 CAD Draughtsman (External Work) 48/24 CAD Draughtsman (Equipment)

For details regarding Position, pay scale, qualification, age, date & venue, selection process etc., candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.

(Authorised Officer)

For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069 Indore Branch: Plot No. 4&5, Shop No.105,107,109, First Flr, Shekhar Central, Palasia Square, Manoramaganj, A.B.Road, Indore - 452001 (M.P.) Authorized Officer: Deepak Malviya, Contact: 7583898990

कुलसचिव

<u>PROPERTY FOR SALE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY</u> Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the property ("the Secured Asset") given below The Authorised Officer has received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security

S. N.	Loan App.No./ Branch	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Total Outstanding Loan Amount as on date 05-12-2023	Description of the Secured Asset
1.	(Loan Code No. 00300002293/ Indore Branch)	Jamna Bai Jat (Borrower) Mahendra Kumar Jat (Co-Borrower)	16-04-2021 & ₹ 14,06,202/-	₹ 8,00,000/-	Rs. 18,98,426/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Property Situated At Survey No.119/23, Paiki Village Ghansyampura Aasta, Teh Aasta District Sehore, Madhya Pradesh - 466115. Boundaries: East: Plot of Satyanarayan Jat, West: Road, North: Duplex of seller, South: Other Duplex

The Authorised officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25% of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from date of acceptance of Offer by the Secured Creditor. The proposed buyer is to note that in case of failure of payment of balance amount by him/her within the time specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly.

This is 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.

If the Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) has any buyer who is ready to purchase the mortgage property/secured asset at price above the given reserve price of then Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) must intimate to AHFL on or before 09-02-2024 AHFL shall give preference to him. If Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) fails to intimate on or before 09-02-2024 the AHFL will proceed sale of property at above given reserve price. The Date of Auction is fixed for 09-02-2024

Place: Madhya Pradesh

Date: 25-01-2024

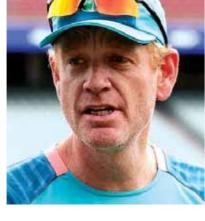
Maxwell needs to hold up his end of bargain: McDonald

PTI BRISBANE

Glenn Maxwell is a vital cog in Australia's white-ball set up but he must "hold up his end of the bargain" after his "less than ideal" incident in Adelaide, said head coach Andrew McDonald. Last week Maxwell was hospitalised in

Adelaide after he got too drunk after attending a concert by 'Six and Out', the band featuring former Australian pacer Brett Lee and passed out. He wasn't kept in the hospital for long and was discharged soon after and is now back

in training. "I've spoken to Glenn, had a good chat with him yesterday around the incident. Him looking after himself needs to be a consideration moving forward,"



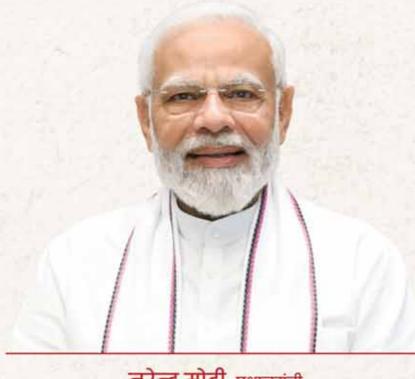
McDonald was quoted as saying to Sydney Evening News.

"We've given him the opportunity to rest and rehab in that period of time and I suppose the lessons for him around that would be to take up his end of the bargain in that space and take care of him-

Maxwell was rested for next month's three-match ODI series against the West Indies at home and he took the opportunity to attend a golf event in Adelaide

before the incident took place.
"We want to see Glenn Maxwell playing cricket for the next three to four years for Australia. Can he get to the next World Cup in 2027 in South Africa? Who knows. But, he's a key player in our whiteball formats," McDonald said.





नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

अमत काल में स्थासन

मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव द्वारा

मध्यप्रदेश सिविल सेवा परीक्षा २०१९ एवं २०२० में नवचयनित ५५९ अधिकारियों को

नियुवित पत्र वितरण एवं संवाद कार्यक्रम

25 जनवरी, 2024 - पूर्वाह्र 11:00 बजे रवीन्द्र भवन, भोपाल

आप सभी की सफलता मध्यप्रदेश के लिए गौरव का विषय है। यह सफलता आपके जान, प्रतिभा, परिश्रम और लक्ष्य के प्रति आपके संकल्प का सुखद परिणाम है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आप आगे भी अपनी सेवाओं के माध्यम से देश और समाज को बेहतर बनाने में अपना योगदान देंगे। बधाइयाँ !



डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

