

OPINION 6

BHARAT RATNA: HONOURING  
THE LEGACY OF JAN NAYAK

WORLD 8

'UK HAS NO PLANS FOR  
CONSCRIPTION'

MONEY 10

SPACE INDUSTRY SEEKS LIBERAL  
FDI POLICY, PLI IN BUDGET

DEHRADUN, THURSDAY JANUARY 25, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2



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## PM urges Ministers not to crowd Ayodhya

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■  
NEW DELHI/AYODHYA

A day after a massive rush at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, 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-May, the same pattern to enable a

### ACCORD PRIORITY TO DEVOTEES



large number of visitors to Ayodhya could be replicated by the State ministers and leaders as well.

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 large turnout, Modi had suggested that people, out of emotion, should refrain from

visiting Ayodhya on the praan pratishthaa 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 mandir in Ayodhya. 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 pratishthaa ceremony.

## Air India fined ₹1.1 crore for safety breaches

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■  
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has imposed a penalty of ₹1.10 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 to the US.

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 system.

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address his first electoral rally scheduled in Bulandshahr on 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 in Ayodhya.

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 city. 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 2019.

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 high-rise 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

to enhance the operation of passenger trains due to the shifting of goods trains onto the DFC track, they explained. The prime minister will also inaugurate the fourth rail line connecting Mathura-Palwal and Chhipiyana Buzurg-Dadri 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 ensures unparalleled connectivity, as other 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 cautiously as it attempts to strike a balance between technological progress and the preservation of natural habitats. It has relaxed regulations for the installation of mobile towers in forest-protected 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 to 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 in 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 overseeing the



construction 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 corridors.

## Lakshadweep scripts a melodious story of hope

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Lakshadweep, a group of islands 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 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 aquaculture units, each with an investment of Rs 2.5 lakh and

minimum ten women fishers started functioning before the Prime Minister's flight reached New Delhi. "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 added.



# 318 meritorious girls presented smartphones on National Girl Child Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami stated that the State government will always be fully committed to ensuring the safety of girls. He stated this during a programme in which 318 meritorious girls were presented with certificates and smartphones on the occasion of National Girl Child Day on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Dhami emphasised that the Central and State Governments, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are actively working towards women empowerment. He stated that those who harm our daughters have no place in Uttarakhand or the society. As the chief minister of the state, he considers it a personal insult to witness any disrespect towards the daughters of Uttarakhand, he added.

He further assured that strict action will be taken against individuals who engage in such behaviour. Commenting further about the government schemes he said that several initiatives of the Central and State governments are being executed under the leadership of PM Modi aimed at enhancing the self-reliance and empowerment of women. In a recent development, the state government has decided to allocate 30 per cent of reservation in government jobs to women, Dhami said. Additionally, during the programme, the

## Girls in U’Khand must know their self-worth: Singh

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The governor of Uttarakhand, lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh emphasised the importance of girls in the State realising their self-worth to lead successful lives in society. He said this during a programme organised by the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) on the occasion of National Girl Child Day at the Raj Bhawan on Wednesday. During the programme, the governor along with SCPCR chairperson Geeta Khanna, presented certificates to girls in the State who have demonstrated acts of bravery or exceptional achievements in various fields. Singh said that girls in the State are making their mark in every field. He cited his visits to various universities in the State, where he found that over 62 per cent of girls received gold medals for academic excellence or completed PhDs with good marks. He stressed the need for girls to steer clear of drugs and to value themselves. Singh further praised the work of the SCPCR in terms of girls' safety and congratulated the commission on the organisation of the Bal Vidhan Sabha- 2022. He also appreciated the two successful sessions of the Bal Vidhan Sabha and encouraged the commission to continue its work in the future. Speaking on the occasion, Khanna addressed the girls and provided them with information on how to contact the SCPCR in case of any mishap involving them. She also shared information about the commission's actions against drug addiction, on child rights, against child marriage and illegally run coaching institutes. The programme also saw information being provided on gender sensitivity and equality.



chief minister also introduced the Parivartan Portal of the Women Empowerment and Child Development (WECD) department.

Speaking on the occasion, the WECD minister Rekha Arya highlighted the objective of National Girl Child Day which is to raise awareness among girls about their rights. The State government remains committed to consistently

improving the educational, social and economic conditions for girls. Efforts are being made to educate the public about the various inequalities encountered by girls, promote awareness about their rights and emphasise the importance of girls education, health and nutrition.

She further stressed on the need for eradicating discrimination against both sons and daughters. "To achieve this, we must establish the groundwork within our families, ensuring that daughters receive the same level of respect and rights they rightfully deserve. These programmes strive to prevent different forms of discrimination against girls in society, promote awareness about the importance of girls in our country and put an end to the exploitation of girls," she said.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**ICICI Home Finance**  
Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051  
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059  
Branch Address: Showroom No. 301, 3rd floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradun Pin: 248009

The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ("ICICI HFC") and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by way of this public notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address	Property Address of Secured Asset/ Asset to be Enforced	Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
1.	Mohd Shanawaz Ansari (Borrower), Najma (Co-Borrower), Jain Plot Vani Vihar Adhwiwala Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. LHDEH00001509474	Khata No 1061 Fasil Year 1422-1427 Khasra No 989 Cha Mauja Adhwiwala Pargana Parwadoon Dehradun Dehradun- Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. Bounded By- North: 15 Ft Wide Road, South: Property of Shri Rajesh Jain/, East: Property of Other/ 30 Ft, West: Property of Other/ 30 Ft.	23-01-2024 Rs. 73,673/-	03/01/2024
2.	Shanawaz Ansari (Borrower), Nazma (Co-Borrower), Jain Plot Vani Vihar Adhwiwala Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. LHDEH00001509371	Khata No 1061 Fasil Year 1422-1427 Khasra No 989 Cha Mauja Adhwiwala Pargana Parwadoon Dehradun Dehradun- Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001. Bounded By- North: 15 Ft Wide Road, South: Property of Shri Rajesh Jain/ East: Property of Other/ 30 Ft, West: Property of Other/ 30 Ft.	23-01-2024 Rs. 20,11,456/-	03/01/2024

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date : January 25, 2024  
Place: Dehradun

Authorized Officer  
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED)  
REGISTERED OFFICE : 602, 6th Floor, Zero One IT Park, Sr. No.79/1, Ghorpadi, Mundhwa Road, Pune-411036

**APPENDIX IV (SEE RULE 8(I) POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Grihum Housing Finance Limited (formerly known as Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited) has changed to Grihum Housing Finance Limited with effect from 17 Nov 2023 (Previously known as Magma Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Public Unlited Company) herein after referred as Secured Creditor of the above Corporate/ Register office under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred as the "said Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a demand notice below dated calling upon the below Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules 2002 on the dates mentioned herein below. The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of secured Creditor the amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Details of Property taken in possession are herein below.

SR. NO.	NAME OF BORROWERS	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	POSSESSION TAKEN DATE	DATE OF STATUTORY DEMAND NOTICE	AMOUNT IN DEMAND NOTICE (RS.)
1.	RAJESH, SUSHILA.	All That Piece And Parcel Of All Property Bearing Khata No. 823, Khasra Number 401/2 Min Mauza Sahab Nagar, Pargana Parwadoon, Tehsil Rishikesh And Dist. Dehradun Pin 249204 Adm.960 Sq.Ft.City Of Dehradun., Uttarakhand -249204 East By:-Gully There After House Of Other, West By :-12ft Wd Road, North By:-Plot Of Other, South By:- House Of Other.	23.01-2024	06-11-2023	Loan No. HF/0034/H/20/100403 Rs.1345615.64/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Five Hundred Sixty Four Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Paise Sixty Four Only) payable as on 06/11/2023 along with interest @ 9.9 p.a. till the realization.
2.	VINOD KUMAR, VINOD DEVI.	All That Piece And Parcel Of Residential At Plot Jui/Part Of Land, Khasra No.79m, Vill- Shekhpuri Situated At Shekhpuri Village Shekhpuri,Pargana Manglore Tehsil Laksar Distt Haridwar Adm:- 735 Sq.Ft. Near Holy Cross School Pin Code- 247663 Bounded By:- East:-Land Of Shyam Singh (49 Ft), West:-House Of Krishan Pal (49 Ft), North:-Land Of Khile Singh, South:-17ft Wide Road.	23.01-2024	06-11-2023	Loan No. HF/0173/H/20/100387 Rs.442455.42/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fourty Two Thousand Four Hundred Fourty Five Paise Fourty Two Only) payable as on 06/11/2023 along with interest @ 15.5 p.a. till the realization. & Loan No.HM/0173/H/18/100186 Rs.761656.19/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Six Paise Nineteen Only) payable as on 06/11/2023 along with interest @ 14 p.a. till the realization.
3.	SADDAM ALI, KASIM.	All That Piece And Parcel Of Khasra No 39, Situated At Vill- Rasoolpur Pargana Roorkhee Tehsil And Distt Haridwar Uk Adm:-1960 Sq.Ft. Primary School Rasoolpur Pin Code-247667 Bounded By:- East:-Plot Of Seller, West:-Plot Of Noor Alam, North:-20ft Road, South:-House Of Anil Saini.	22.01-2024	06-11-2023	Loan No. HF/0173/H/20/100510 Rs.2619318.58/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen Paise Fifty Eight Only) payable as on 06/11/2023 along with interest @ 15.5 p.a. till the realization.

Place: DEHRADUN, HARIDWAR  
Dated: 25.01.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Grihum Housing Finance Limited  
(Formerly known as Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited)

**सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India**

Regional Office, Astley Hall, Rajpur Road, Dehradun

**Appendix IV (See Rule 8(1) POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)**

Where as, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Central Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of Powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as mentioned against account stated here in to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notices. The borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rule on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset. The borrowers / Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Central Bank of India, Kotdwar Branch for the amount and interest thereon.


S. No.	Name of the Branch & Borrowers	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount
1	Branch: Kotdwar Borrowers: Jiendra Singh S/o Bachan Singh, Address: Vill- Nandpur, Udayrampur Patti Motadhak, Kotdwar Pauri Gharwal, Uttarakhand- 246149, Ms. Savita Devi Address: Nandpur, Udayrampur Patti Motadhak, Kotdwar Pauri Gharwal, Uttarakhand- 246149	All that part and Parcel of Residential Land and Building in the name of Mr. Jitendra Singh S/o Bachan Singh bearing Vill- Nandpur, Pargana- Bhabar, Tehsil- Kotdwar Pauri Gharwal, Uttarakhand- 246149, Khata No. 41, Khet No. 120/1, Area- 94.80 Sq. mtrs./1020 Sq.ft. Boundaries as per deed: North: 8 feet wide road, South: Land of Sh. Jagatram Dabral, East: Land of Sh. Keerat Singh, West: Land of Sh. Khushal Singh	30.10.2023  Date of Possession 19.01.2024	Rs. 23,32,357.85 as on 30.10.2023 + subsequent interest and expenses thereon (less if any payments made)

Date - 24.01.2024  
Place: Dehradun  
Authorised Officer

**कार्यालय नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश**  
हस्तिार रोड ऋषिकेश, जिला देहरादून पिन कोड 249201  
website : www.nagarnigamrishikesh.com, Email : npprishikesh@gmail.com, Ph. 0135-2430015, Tollfree :18003135292

**सूचना / विज्ञापित**  
नगर निगम अधिनियम 1959 के अध्याय 16 में प्रदत्त शक्तियों के अनुपालन में अधिनियम की धारा 541 एवं धारा 453(अध्याय XV1-Regulation Of Markets, Slaughtor houses, certain tredes and acts etc) के अन्तर्गत राज्य सरकार द्वारा व्यवसायिक डेरी परिसरों के संचालन एवं अनुज्ञा के क्रम में उपविधि –2024 प्राख्यापित की जानी है, जिसका प्रारूप निम्नवत् है –  
यदि किसी भी संघटन / संस्था अथवा हितवद्ध को निम्न में किसी भी प्रकार का सुझाव /संशोधन / आपत्ति / दावे किये जाने की अपेक्षा हो तो, इस विज्ञापित प्रकाशन के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के भीतर लिखित रूप में अहोरात्राक्षरी के कार्यालय में हार्ड कॉपी अथवा ईमेल –npprishikesh@gmail.com पर सुसंगत अभिलेख मय सुझाव प्रेषित किये जा सकते हैं। तदोपरान्त प्राप्त होने वाली किसी भी आपत्ति / दावे पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।  
1. **संक्षिप्त नाम :** 1. नाम यह उपविधि नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश डेरी / डेरी पशु उपविधि, 2024 कहलायेगी।  
2. यह उपविधि राजपत्र में प्रकाशन की तिथि से प्रवृत्त होगी।  
3. **परिभाषाएं :** (क) "डेरी पशु" से तात्पर्य गाय, बैल, भैंस भैंसा एवं उनकी संतति से है।  
(ख) "दुग्धशाला" से तात्पर्य उस परिसर से है जहाँ दुधारु पशुओं को रखा जाता है।  
(ग) "पशुचिकित्सा अधिकारी" से तात्पर्य नगर निगम में शासन द्वारा प्रतिनियुक्त पशुचिकित्सा अधिकारी से है अथवा पशुचिकित्सा विज्ञान में स्नातक अथवा इससे उच्च उपाधिधारक जो संघ अथवा राज्य पशुचिकित्सा परिषद में पंजीकृत हो से है।  
(घ) "व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर" से तात्पर्य ऐसे परिसर से है, जहाँ 5 अथवा 5 से अधिक वयस्क डेरी पशु को रखा गया हो से है।  
(ङ) "गौशाला" से तात्पर्य पशु कल्याण हेतु राज्य पशुकल्याण बोर्ड में पंजीकृत संस्था से है, जो कि अलगावकारी गौवश की देख-रेख के लिए स्थापित की गई हो।  
(च) अलगावकार पशु से तात्पर्य अनुत्पादक वृद्ध, बीमार एवं घायल निराश्रित गौवश तथा पुलिस-प्रशासन /नगर निकाय द्वारा गौतरकरों अथवा पशु दूरता के प्रकरण में जब्त किये गये केस प्रापटी गौवश से है।  
4. कोई भी व्यक्ति नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश की सीमा के भीतर किसी भी प्रकार के परिसर का उपयोग उक्त प्रयोजन (डेरी) के लिये जारी की गयी अनुज्ञा के बिना नहीं करेगा व न ही किसी को भी उपयोग करने की अनुमति देगा।  
5. **अनुज्ञा हेतु प्रतिबन्ध :-**  
(क) नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत डेरी परिसर संचालित किये जाने हेतु अथवा डेरी पशु पालने हेतु नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश द्वारा अनुज्ञा प्राप्त करना अनिवार्य होगा।  
(ख) नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत डेरी परिसर के संचालन हेतु अथवा डेरी पशु पालने हेतु अनुज्ञा प्राप्त किये जाने हेतु आवेदक को नगर निगम के पक्ष में नगर निगम द्वारा निर्धारित आवेदन शुल्क के साथ, प्रारूप-1 के अनुरूप निर्धारित आवेदन पत्र के माध्यम से आवेदन करना होगा। आवेदक द्वारा जमा किया गया आवेदन शुल्क अप्रतिदाय (non refundable) होगा।  
(ग) व्यवसायिक डेरी परिसर के संचालन हेतु उत्तराखण्ड राज्य प्रदूषण नियन्त्रण परिषद से नियमानुसार सी0टी0ओ0 (Consent to operate) प्राप्त कर आवेदन पत्र के साथ सलंगन करना आवश्यक होगा।  
(घ) नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम ऋषिकेश द्वारा अधिकृत अधिकारी / अधिकारियों / दल द्वारा व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर का स्थलीय निरीक्षण किया जायेगा, जिसके द्वारा प्रारूप-2 पर स्थलीय निरीक्षण उपरान्त अक्षरी प्रस्तुत की जायेगी।  
(ङ) नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम ऋषिकेश द्वारा अधिकृत अधिकारी निरीक्षण दल की प्रारूप-02 पर प्रस्तुत स्थलीय निरीक्षण आख्या के आलोक में सम्बन्धित व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर को अनुज्ञा प्रदान किये जाने के क्रम में निर्णय लेंगे। अनुज्ञा दिये जाने हेतु उपयुक्त की स्थिति में व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर में वयस्क तथा अवयस्क पशुओं की अधिकतम अनुमन्य संख्या उल्लिखित करते हुए प्रारूप-3 के अनुरूप अनुज्ञापत्र निर्गत किया जायेगा।  
(च) अनुज्ञाधारी व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर अनुज्ञा के प्रतिबन्धों / शर्तों के अनुपालन हेतु बाध्य होगा।  
(छ) अनुज्ञाधारी व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर द्वारा स्वयं के डेरी परिसर में मुख्य दीवार पर अनुज्ञापत्र प्रदर्शित करना अनिवार्य होगा। निरीक्षण के समय प्रदर्शित न किय जाने पर रू0 500 /- का अर्थदण्ड आरोपित किया जायेगा।  
(ज) नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत समय-समय पर व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर का स्थलीय निरीक्षण किया जा सकेगा। अनुज्ञाधारी व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर द्वारा अनुज्ञा के प्रतिबन्धों / शर्तों का उल्लंघन किये जाने पर अनुज्ञापत्र का तात्कालिक निलम्बन अथवा पूर्णतः निरस्तीकरण किया जा सकेगा तथा अधिनियम की धारा-457 एवं धारा-451(3) के अनुरूप अर्थदण्ड का आरोपण किया जायेगा जिसकी राशि 5000 /- प्रति अवराध तक हो सकेगी।  
(झ) नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश द्वारा निर्गत अनुज्ञापत्र अनुज्ञा जारी किये जाने की तिथि से कुल 01(एक) वर्ष हेतु मान्य होगा।  
(ञ) अनुज्ञा दिये जाने हेतु अनुपयुक्ता की स्थिति में आवेदन के एक माह के भीतर सम्बन्धित प्रकरण के अस्वीकृति की सूचना निर्गत कर दी जायेगी।  
(ट) नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रान्तर्गत अनुज्ञा के बिना व्यावसायिक डेरी परिसर संचालित किये जाने की दशा में नगर निगम अधिनियम की धारा-467 एवं धारा-451(3) के अनुरूप दण्ड का आरोपण किया जायेगा, जो रू0 25,000 /- तक हो सकेगा।  
(ठ) डेरी पालन के लिए समय-समय पर सक्षम न्यायालयों के पारित आदेशों /बोर्ड /प्राधिकरण /आयोग /विभाग द्वारा प्राप्त सभी जरूरी अनुमतियों प्राप्त करने की जिम्मेदारी अनुज्ञाधारी की होगी तथा इस आशय का शपथ-पत्र भी आवेदन के साथ सलंगन करना अनिवार्य होगा। यदि अनुज्ञा जारी करने बाद भी किसी भी सक्षम न्यायालय /बोर्ड / प्राधिकरण /आयोग /विभाग से अनुज्ञाधारी की डेरी उनके मार्गकों के अनुरूप नहीं पायी जाती व कोई कार्यवाही की जाती है तो नगर निगम द्वारा जारी अनुज्ञा स्वतः निरस्त मानी जायेगी।  
5. **अनुज्ञापत्र का नवीनीकरण :-**  
अनुज्ञापत्र के नवीनीकरण के लिये अनुज्ञापत्र धारक की जिम्मेदारी होगी कि वह अपना आवेदन पिछली अनुज्ञापत्र के समाप्त होने के 15 दिन पहले करना अनिवार्य होगा। अनुज्ञापत्र समाप्ति के उपरान्त संचालन पर नियम 4(ट) के तहत कार्यवाही की जाएगी।  
6. (क) इन उपविधि के तहत अनुज्ञापत्र के लिये वार्षिक शुल्क प्रथम बार रू0 500 /- प्रतिपशु व नवीनीकरण की स्थिति में रू0 300 /- प्रतिपशु निर्धारित है।  
(ख) उत्तराखण्ड पशु कल्याण बोर्ड में पंजीकृत अथवा मान्यता प्राप्त गोसदन / गौशाला के लिये कोई भी शुल्क नहीं लिया जायेगा।  
7. उक्त उपविधि के तहत जारी की गयी हर अनुज्ञापत्र निम्नलिखित शर्तों के अधीन होनी अर्थात् :-  
(क) प्रत्येक दुग्धशाला के फर्श को पूरी तरह से सुखा रखने की व्यवस्था पशु स्वामी द्वारा की जानी होगी तथा वायु के आवागमन एवं प्राकृतिक सूर्य के प्रकाश की उचित व्यवस्था हो।  
(ख) पशुओं को रखने के स्थान पर पशुओं को विपरीत प्राकृतिक दशाओं में जैसे-तेज धूप, गर्मी, सर्दी व बरसात आदि से बचाव हेतु उचित व्यवस्था सुनिश्चित की जायेगी।  
(ग) डेरी स्वामी को अपनी डेरी से उपलब्ध गोबर के निस्तारण की समुचित व्यवस्था करनी होगी, जिसका प्रण भी अनुज्ञापत्र अधिकारी को उपलब्ध कराना होगा। व गोबर को सीवर अथवा खुले नाले में नहीं डाला जायेगा, कम्पोस्ट बनाकर अथवा किसी कम्पोस्ट / गोबर उत्पाद बनाने वाले उपक्रम को दिया जाना अथवा बायोगैस संयंत्र के द्वारा निस्तारण ही मान्य होगा। गोबर के निस्तारण के सम्बन्ध में समय-समय पर नगर निगम द्वारा जारी दिशा-निर्देशों का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा। उक्त आशय का शपथ-पत्र भी आवेदन पत्र के साथ प्रस्तुत करना होगा।  
(घ) अनुज्ञापत्रधारी, अनुज्ञापत्र अधिकारी को किसी भी संकमण रोग के बारे में तुरन्त सूचित करेगा एवं अपने पशु / राज्य पशुचिकित्सा परिषद से पंजीकृत पशुचिकित्सक से समुचित उपचार हेतु बाध्य होगा अथवा संकमित पशुओं को बाकी पशुओं से अलग रखेगा।  
(ङ) दुग्धशाला के सभी पशुओं को माईक्रोबिय लगवार्कर पंजीकरण कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा। सभी पशुओं की संतति का रिकार्ड समस्त डेरी स्वामियों द्वारा रखना अनिवार्य होगा।  
(च) किसी भी डेरी पशु स्वामी द्वारा अपने पशुओं को किसी भी परिस्थिति में सड़कों पर अथवा अपने परिसर के बाहर खुला नहीं छोड़ा जायेगा। पशु के बाहर खुला छोड़े पाये जाने पर रू0 2000 /- प्रतिपशु प्रतिदिन / उत्तराखण्ड गौवश संरक्षण अधिनियम के तहत कार्यवाही की जायेगी।  
8. लेखाजोखा (रिकॉर्ड) रखना- व्यावसायिक डेरी प्रतिष्ठान को अनुज्ञापत्र प्राप्त करने के बाद, प्रतिष्ठान द्वारा निम्न प्रपत्रों युक्त पंजिका में अभिलेखों का लेखाजोखा रखा जायेगा :-  
(क) निर्धारित प्रपत्र के अनुरूप रखे गये सभी पशुओं का विवरण।  
(ख) पशुओं का पशुचिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य का विवरण।  
(ग) पशुओं के टीकाकरण / टोक्सॉइड का विवरण।  
(घ) कृमिरोधी दवापान का विवरण।  
(ङ) पशुओं का गर्भाधान / नस्ल का विवरण।  
(च) पशुओं के कय-विकय का विवरण।  
9. कोई भी डेरी स्वामी अनुज्ञापत्र अधिकारी या किसी भी अधिकारी को किसी भी समय पर, डेरी का निरीक्षण करने के लिये आपत्ति नहीं कर सकता।  
10. उपरोक्त उपविधियों के उल्लंघन पर रद्द की गयी अनुज्ञापत्र के निरस्तीकरण को पुनर्जीवित करने हेतु नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम ऋषिकेश के सम्म अनुरोध प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है जिस पर निर्णय नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम ऋषिकेश अथवा उनके द्वारा प्राधिकृत अनुज्ञापत्र अधिकारी का निर्णय अन्तिम होगा। दो बार निरस्त की गयी किसी अनुज्ञापत्र को किसी भी दशा में पुनर्जीवित नहीं कराया जा सकेगा। उक्त प्रकार के अनुरोध किये जाने हेतु अधिकतम समय सीमा प्रथम निरस्तीकरण के एक माह तक होगी। यदि कोई पशु बेचा जाता है या मरता है या निरस्तीरित किया जाता है तो उसकी जानकारी पशुपालक द्वारा नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश के कार्यालय में 15 दिनों के भीतर जमा कराना अनिवार्य होगा। यदि पशुपालक उक्तवत् अवधि में जाकारी नहीं देता तो पशु के कारण लगने वाले अर्थदण्ड का वहन पंजीकृत पशुस्वामी को ही करना हो।  
नगर आयुक्त,  
नगर निगम ऋषिकेश

पत्रांक: 3520स्वा0 अनु0 / 2024-25  
दिनांक:-24.01.2024

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**  
PUBLIC NOTICE

My son Kunal Kumar does not listen to what I say. I have severed my relationship with him by evicting him from my movable and immovable property and in future, I and my family will not be responsible for any work or transaction done by him. Resident- Satish Kumar C 431 Nehru Colony Dehradun.

In my Husband's service records my name is mistakenly recorded as PUSPA BORA whereas my correct name is PUSHPA BORA as mentioned in other all documents. Army No. JC 286794F. Ex SUB HOSHIYAR SINGH R/O VILL. & P.O. N A G A L B U L A N D A W A L A DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND vide IN-UK006743220161W Affidavit 24.01.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Army records my Daughter's name is mistakenly recorded as DIXA BORA whereas her correct name is DIKSHA BORA as mentioned in all other documents. ARMY No. JC 286794F Ex SUB HOSHIYAR SINGH R/O VILL. & P.O. N A G A L B U L A N D A W A L A DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND vide IN-UK006743220161W Affidavit 24.01.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Army records my Daughter's name is mistakenly recorded as NIDHI whereas her correct name is NIDHI BHARDWAJ as mentioned in all other documents. ARMY No. 4069826X Ex HAV PARMANAND R/O WARD NO 100 VILL & P.O. NATHUAWALA DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND vide IN-UK0067543220161W Affidavit 24.01.2024 before Dehradun.

In my husband's army record, my incorrect name AABHA KUMARI has been mentioned whereas as per Aadhar No.416418846155 my correct name is ABHA KUMARI. AABHA KUMARI (Existing Name) W/o Army No.18001425A SPR SHAILENDRA KUMAR SINGH-Vill-Paharpur Post- Monain, Teh-West Muzaffarpur, Dist- Muzaffarpur, Bihar-843152.

I, Srishti Pharswan D/o Subedar Major Devendra Singh (JC-332529M) do hereby solemnly affirm and inform that my name has been wrongly mentioned in the record of the service of my father as Srishti, my actual name is Srishti Pharswan for all the future purpose. Srishti Pharswan D/o Subedar Major Devendra Singh (JC-332529M) Vill-Ropa, P.O-Maithana, Distt-Chamoli, Uttarakhand.

I, Chandrakala W/o Subedar Major Devendra Singh (JC-332529M) do hereby solemnly affirm and inform that my name has been wrongly mentioned in the record of the service of my husband as Chander Kala Devi, my actual name is Chandrakala for all the future purpose. Chandrakala W/o Subedar Major Devendra Singh (JC-332529M) Vill-Ropa, P.O-Maithana, Distt-Chamoli, Uttarakhand.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The general public is informed that the address of Sampan Community Health and Development Society has been changed from Landor Cantt, H.B Mussoorie, Kyarkulli Bhatta, Mussoorie, District Dehradun to ALLEN GOWN RESTHOUSE UPPER, MUSSOORIE, DEHRADUN for all future operations.  
Chairman/Secretary

**Public Notice**  
The sale deed of my flat no. B-307, Rock Valley Residency Niranjanpur, Dehradun is lost somewhere. Which is Registered with Sub-Registrar Office 1st Dehradun. On Bahi No.1, Zild No.6793, Page- 123-162 , S. No. 1415, date 11.04.2016. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat S/o Shri Parlo Singh Shekhawat R/o Flat No. B-307, Rockvalley Residency, Niranjanpur, Dehradun.

**सूचना**  
मेरा मूल बैनाम जिसका वही नं० 1 जिल्ड 2309 पृष्ठ 111 से 148 में नम्बर 1468 पर दिनांक 17.03.2008 उप निस्वच्छ ग्रंथम देहरादून के कार्यालय में पंजीकृत किया हुआ है जिसे की मेरे द्वारा मूल बैनाम का लेनिमेशन करवा दिया है जोकि वास्तविक व सही है तथा भविष्य में अगर मूल बैनाम में किसी प्रकार की कोई अनिमित्ता पायी जाती है तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी मेरी होगी।  
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# Dhami Govt becomes benevolent on demands of employees

## Accepts demand of employees on CCL, increases vehicle allowance

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Keeping the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in mind the Pushkar Singh Dhami government has started bestowing benefits on the State government employees. After giving them the New Year gift of increased dearness allowance (DA), the government has accepted the demand of women employees for waiving off the 20 per cent cut in the salary in the child care leave (CCL). The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had already given an order regarding this by using his discretionary power. In the meeting of the State cabinet held on Wednesday the decision on CCL was presented before the cabinet which endorsed it. Informing about the decision, the chief secretary SS Sandhu said that the women employees and single parents get the benefit of CCL which is a period of two years in their service period. He said that as of now the employees get 100 per cent salary during the first 365 days of CCL while they get 80 per cent salary during the second 365 period of CCL. The cabinet approved the plan of giving 100 per cent salary during the entire two year CCL period. The decision will benefit thousands of State government employees. In another decision the cabinet endorsed the proposal to grant vehicle allowance of Rs 4,000 per month to the assistant engineers deployed in different departments of government. The cabinet also approved the proposal to



increase the vehicle allowance of the eligible employees of the State government. They will now get Rs 1,200 to Rs 4,000 vehicle allowance per month depending upon their grade pay.

In another decision aimed at pleasing the employees, the cabinet approved the proposal to create a new post of senior personal assistant with a grade pay of Rs 4,800.

The cabinet gave its approval to the proposal of increase in the purchase price of sugarcane by Rs 20 per quintal for extraction session 2023-24. Now the price of the early (Ageti) variety of sugarcane will be Rs 375 per quintal and Rs 365 per quintal for the common variety of sugarcane.

In another important deci-

sion, the cabinet approved the plan to bring the Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj Amendment Act, 2024. The amendment will give a relaxation to candidates having twin children in the two children eligibility norm for contesting the three-tier Panchayati Raj system.

In an important decision the cabinet approved the proposal to grant four per cent horizontal reservation in the government jobs in the state to the sportspersons. The government will table a bill regarding this in the upcoming session of the State Assembly.

The CS said that the cabinet gave its approval to incorporate minor amendments in the Uttarakhand River Dredging Policy 2021. The changes have been brought in the wake of a High Court order which had

allowed use of machines in river dredging with some riders. A decision to hand over a piece of five Bigha of land in the Old Jail premises to the bar association was also made in the meeting. The cabinet also approved the proposal of allotting a 0.026 hectare plot in Dehradun to National Highways Authority of India for construction of a building of the regional office of NHAI.

A decision regarding extending the lease of ponds to contractors from existing five years to ten years was also approved by the cabinet. The CS said that a proposal for granting relaxation to the candidates in the eligibility criteria of various posts of experts in the adventure sports wing of the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB).

The cabinet approved a plan to develop the Jadung village in Uttarkashi district as a home stay cluster. The village has been included in the Vibrant Village programme and holds historical significance since it was vacated by the villagers in the Indo-China war of 1962 and was taken over by the Indian army and Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

In the meeting the cabinet passed a resolution expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the consecration ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

## Locals allege mistreatment of cows in Doon's Kanji House

MCD has no role in the administration of shelter: Dr Tiwari

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Kanji House located in Kedarpuram area is once again eliciting the attention of people for gross mismanagement and mistreatment of the cows sheltered there. On Wednesday evening commotion was created in the Kanji House when some locals protested against the condition of the cows.

The angry people alleged that many cows in the Kanji House were on the verge of death and eyes of some of the cows had been gouged out. One local told The

Pioneer that the Kanji House is being operated by an NGO and that the MCD has no role in its administration. He acknowledged that some cows were found injured during the visit.

The chief spokesperson of Uttarakhand Congress Garima Dasauni also visited the spot. She said that it is a shame that the cows are kept in such terrible conditions at the Kanji House. Dasauni said that MCD cannot run away from its responsibility in the case.



Pioneer that the cows are kept in terrible conditions at the shelter and the employees take no care of the cows kept there. On hearing about the incident senior officers of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) reached the Kanji House where they faced the ire of the locals.

The senior veterinary officer of MCD, Dr DC Tiwari told this correspon-

der that the cows are kept in terrible conditions at the shelter and the employees take no care of the cows kept there. On hearing about the incident senior officers of the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) reached the Kanji House where they faced the ire of the locals.

## 1,938 childless couples avail benefit of ART for becoming parents

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A total of 1,938 childless couples in the State have availed benefit of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) for becoming parents after the successful implementation

in Uttaranchal Test Tube Baby Centre, 83 in Genesis IVF, 68 in Morpheus Prasad International IVF Centre, 57 in Vrinda Famicare Fertility, 54 in Vaishya Nursing Home ART Clinic,



of ART Act -2021 and Surrogacy Act 2021 in the State.

The State Health department has collected the data of the beneficiaries of the ART in the last two years and has dispatched a report to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

53 in Mahant Indiresch IVF Centre, 45 in Nidan Fertility Clinic, 42 in Oli Hospital Fertility Research Centre, 41 in Ashirwad Healthcare and Fertility Centre and 28 at the IVF Centre in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh.

The ART and Surrogacy Acts were passed in the State in the year 2021. Under the Act a total of 22 clinics providing ART facilities were registered in the State. The data of the department shows that out of 1,938 couples, 726 got treated in the Indira IVF clinic. Similarly 168 couples got benefit of ARY in Nova IVF Fertility Centre, 165 in Care IVF Unit, 137 in Futela Fertility Centre, 103

The Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that due to successful implementation of Surrogacy Act and ART Act 2021 in the State a total of 1,938 couples have availed the benefit of ART to become parents. He said that under the act only the couples incapable of having children and some categories of women (single and married) are eligible to avail benefit of ART for becoming parents.

## Cong cries foul on denial of Parade Ground venue for Kharge's programme

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Congress has alleged that the district administration of Dehradun has refused to grant permission to the party for organising a programme of Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge on January 28 at the Parade Ground. The vice president of Uttarakhand Congress Suryakant Dhasmana said that a written permission for allowing a programme on Parade Ground was sought from the district magistrate on which she expressed her



inability to grant permission. He said that the State leadership of Congress also contacted the Urban Development minister on the issue but nothing happened. Dhasmana said that when Congress governments were in State and Centre then permission to BJP was given on multiple occasions to hold

meetings on Parade Ground.

He alleged that the district administration is working under pressure from the State government on the issue. Dhasmana said that it appears that the BJP has imposed an undeclared emergency in the country and the nation is heading towards dictatorship. He alleged that the BJP governments are working on a modus operandi to deny the Congress to organise meetings and hold programmes. Dhasmana said that on January 22 Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was denied entry in a temple and his programme in a university on January 23 was cancelled by putting pressure on the university administration. He said the manner in which the Yatra of Rahul Gandhi was stopped in Guwahati and the Congress workers were lathi charged shows that the BJP has become frightened by the huge response the Yatra is eliciting from the general public.

## Cong starts war room for Lok Sabha elections

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

In view of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the Uttarakhand Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) has started a central war room in the headquarters of the State Congress. The chairperson of the war room Navin Joshi said that the PCC president Karan Mahara has handed over responsibilities to senior leaders in the war room.

He said that the war room will remain in constant touch with the central war room and booth level committees in all the districts. Joshi said the war room will help in sending the directives of the central and State leadership to district, Mahanagar, block, Nagar and booth level committees and will give an impetus to the election campaign of the party.

## BJP launches women SHG and NGO contact programme

PM Modi to form Govt at Centre again, BJP to again win all 5 LS seats in U'khand: Bhatt

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party State president Mahendra Bhatt said that the trust of the people in the BJP has increased further due to the efforts being undertaken by the BJP government in the Centre and State for development. This will ensure that a government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be formed once again in the Centre and the BJP will win all the five Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand for the third consecutive time. Bhatt said this on Wednesday at the

ers are publicising the schemes of the Central and State governments. The women's self help group and NGO contact programme is part of these efforts. A congregation of students will also be held and they will be felicitated as part of this campaign, she added.

Health and Cooperation minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the State government is working to provide better treatment to economically weaker people under the



Shakti Vandan programme in Haridwar which marked the start of the party's contact programme with women self help groups and non-governmental organisations. He also appealed to the party workers to unite and venture among the public.

Shakti Vandan State in-charge Lajwanti Jha said that the Central government is committed to the economic and social upliftment of women. PM Modi is consistently working for this and Shakti Vandan is a prime example of this.

BJP Mahila Morcha State president Asha Nautiyal said that the Mahila Morcha work-

Ayushman Yojana. Cooperative banks are providing interest-free loans from which women self help groups are also benefitting. Women are becoming economically self-reliant due to such measures, he added.

The Agriculture and Rural Development minister Ganesh Joshi said that women in rural areas are being provided the benefit of Ujjwala Yojana. He said that more than one lakh women in the State will be made 'Lakshmi Didi' by 2025. The manner in which work is done for this, the target will be achieved soon through self help groups, the minister added.



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# PM calls NCC cadets, NSS volunteers Amrit Peedhi

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

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 paths”, the Prime Minister said. He stated that the discipline, focused mindset and coordination witnessed in today’s performance are also the basis for realising the dreams of Amrit Kaal. The Prime Minister reiterated that ‘Nation First’ should be the

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 humility. 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-

ment has created new opportunities 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

remember these days and you 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 emphasised. 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 among others.

## PM to interact with young voters today

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will speak to a large 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 Surya said that young voters played a key role in electing Modi as Prime Minister in 2014 and then his re-election in 2019. “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 indirectly 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 country. 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.

## I bow to Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur: Modi

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra 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 people’s lives. 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. Modi said his government over 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



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

leaders but he himself did not take any land or money for the same,” he said. 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 birth-day 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 years.” 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 Nayak!”

## Researchers find correlation between energy drink consumption, poor sleep



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

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 Open. 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 sleep. 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.

Insomnia was also more prevalent among those reporting daily consumption compared to occasional or no consumption. Sex differences were noted in 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 Borge 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, AshimSanyal, CEO of Consumer VOICE, a consumer rights organization working in the field of cardiovascular health for sever-

al years said that this should serve as yet another wakeup call for the Government and ensure a clear and interpretive Front of Packaging labels (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 consumers 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 age. “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 diet.”

## Delhi needs neighbours aid to beat smog woes: Study

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■**  
NEW DELHI

Amid the blame game between the national 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 implications. 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

review of managing air pollution through airshed approach” published in ScienceDirect recommends tackling air pollution at a regional level instead. This means identifying the wider area where a city’s pollution is produced – its so-called “airshed”. 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

the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, said, “Delhi’s neighbouring States have an 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 better 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

A genetic 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 shortening 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 Robinson.

“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 cardiovascular 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,” Rehkopf said.

## 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 and Entrepreneurship here. 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 Kaushal Vikas Yojana (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.



# Minimum temperature drops in Doon, similar weather forecast today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The minimum temperature in Dehradun dropped by about two degrees below normal to 4.3 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive day intensifying the effects of the cold on Wednesday. However,

Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts. Ground frost is likely to occur at isolated places in the mountainous regions of the State today. Further, shallow to moderate fog is likely to occur in some parts of

minimum temperatures are likely to be about 22 degrees Celsius and four degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded in



the maximum temperature being two degrees above normal and sunny conditions provided some relief from the cold during the daytime. Similar weather conditions are expected to continue on Thursday with the State meteorological centre issuing a yellow warning (Watch) regarding the possibility of dense fog likely to occur in some parts of

Dehradun, Pauri and Nainital districts. Apart from this, dry weather is likely to prevail in the districts of the State today.

The meteorological centre has forecast that the provisional State capital Dehradun is likely to witness a mainly clear sky with mist/shallow fog likely to occur during the morning hours. The maximum and

various parts of the State on Wednesday were 22 degrees Celsius and 4.3 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 16.6 degrees Celsius and 6.5 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 11.4 degrees Celsius and -0.8 degree Celsius in Mukteshwar and 13.6 degrees Celsius and 2.1 degrees Celsius in New Tehri.

# DAV College NCC cadets to participate in PM rally in Delhi

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets from DAV PG College will be showcasing their talent at the Prime Minister's rally in Delhi on January 27. Providing the information, the college principal Sunil Kumar stated that every year, the students participate in the NCC Republic Day Camp in New Delhi. This year, 12 students from the college were selected to participate in the camp. The rigorous training for the camp began on January 1 in New Delhi, he added.

He further added that a cultural event will be also organised at the national level by NCC cadets during the Prime Minister's rally. The cadets from DAV College, Suraj Manwal, Sushant Badola, Deepak Singh Bisht and Vikendra Singh Samant, will showcase their talents at the rally. Additionally, a team from the college, led by senior under officer Pranay Rawat



will be participating in the main parade of Uttarakhand

at the State level on January 26.



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami greets the public at the Mumbai Kauthig in Mumbai on Wednesday

Pioneer photo

# MDDA VC directs officials to expedite various projects

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) vice chairman Banshidhar Tiwari has directed officials to expedite land related procedures with the businessmen in the Adhat Bazaar project in Dehradun so that the project can be executed at the earliest. He also directed officials to start operation of the 300-vehicle capacity parking facility ready near the Town Hall in Mussoorie and the much awaited parking facility at zero point in the hill station before the start of this tourist season. The signing of memorandum of understanding and other required procedures should be completed on time for this purpose, he said.

Dehradun, he said that the opinion of the general public is that this foot overbridge is not very useful. Considering this, this structure should be reviewed again. The construction of the Tehsil parking facility nearby will enhance convenience in the coming days, he said. The city park being developed near the Sahastradhara helipad at Tarla Nagal and the Rajpur Park should be inaugurated as early as possible. The Gaura Devi water park prepared in Defence Colony should be inaugurated soon and the park being built at Maldevta should be prepared and inaugurated soon. Further, the bus station constructed at Herbertpur in Vikasnagar

should be regularly monitored and that a report should be presented on the same. Stating that complaints are being received about flora planted at various places in the city drying out, he directed officials to issue a warning to the gardeners in this regard. Regarding the MDDA's Dhaulas and Amwala Tarla projects, he directed officials to prepare brochures for both these projects and that the executive engineer should ensure monitoring of the works being done by the marketing team to sell the units in these projects at the earliest. The vice chairman further instructed officials that the work being done by the authority on 156 roads in the city should be



Tiwari issued these and other directions while chairing a meeting to review progress in various projects and schemes of the authority on Wednesday. Regarding the foot overbridge at the Tehsil Chowk in

should also be dedicated to the public at the earliest, Tiwari said. He instructed the Horticulture department horticulture officer that the works done during the G20 summit and Global Investors Summit

expedited. Reviewing the passing of building maps, he expressed satisfaction and directed officials to ensure zero pendency of residential building map approvals.

# MDDA demolishes illegal plotting on 46 bighas

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Continuing its action against illegal plotting, the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) teams demolished illegal plotting in a total of 46 bigha area in various areas on Wednesday. Officials said that on the directions of MDDA vice chairman Banshidhar Tiwari and secretary Mohan Singh Barnia, the campaign against those undertaking plotting in violation of standards is being executed at a swift pace. The MDDA teams demolished illegal plotting on about six bigha land at Dumta



orders of joint secretary Kusum Chauhan.

village in Vikasnagar, 22 bigha land on Telpura Road, 10 bigha in Nawabgarh, five bigha in Babugarh and three bigha at Kesarbagh Babugarh-all in Vikasnagar. The sub divisional magistrate had passed demolition orders in all these cases. At Bidholi Road, Kandoli, an illegal construction was sealed on the



बैंक ऑफ बरौदा  
Bank of Baroda

Branch -Jwalapur

Near Kotwali, Jatwada Pul, Jwalapur,  
Haridwar-249407. Uttarakhand. Mob.: 8477009455

**TENDER NOTICE FOR SALE OF BANK'S CAR**

Bank of Baroda invites sealed bids for the sale of following vehicle on "As is where is and whatever is" basis which may be inspected from January 26th, 2024 to February 07th, 2024 during working hours from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Branch	Owner/Borrower's Details	Total Dues	Vehicle Details	Reserve Price	Earnest Price
Jwalapur Branch	Account No.: 41440600000477 Name: Mrs. Vijeta Bharti Address: 239, Vivek Vihar, Ranipur Mod, Haridwar, 249407	Rs. 7,67,577.86 plus interest	UK 08 AV 4566, Hyundai Venue 1.0 Turbo GDI DCT SX*, Date of Registration-14.11.2019, Fuel- Petrol, Colour- Polar White 2, KM Run- 19,499 KM, Use-Personal	Rs. 6,25,000.00 (Rupees Six Lakh Twenty Five Thousand Only)	Rs. 62,500.00 (Rupees Sixty Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AUCTION:**

- Tender will be opened on 08.02.2024 at 3.00 P.M. in the presence of all parties at our Jwalapur Branch.
- Demand Draft/Banker Cheque will be accepted till 07th February 2024 till 4:00 pm.
- The Bidding will start from the highest amount Quoted through Demand Draft/Banker's Cheque.
- The delivery of the sold vehicle will be given only after the verification of KYC documents by bank.
- The sold vehicle shall have to be removed by the successful bidder immediately at his own expenses.
- Interested parties may send their sealed tenders for purchasing the vehicle in a sealed cover super scribed as "offer for car" Above Car No. at Branch along with earnest money deposit equivalent to 10% of reserve price of the Car by banker's Cheque/demand draft favouring the Bank of Baroda, which is refundable if the bid is not successful.
- The successful bidder shall deposit 90% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his/her favour.
- The security deposit (EMD) will be forfeited if successful bidder fails to deposit balance amount of offered price.
- The successful bidder would bear the charges/fee payable for conveyance such as stamp duty registration fee etc. as applicable as per law.
- Bank will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance tax or any other dues to the govt. or anybody in respect of the vehicle under sale.
- Bank has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/postpone the sale without assigning any reason there for.
- The sale is subject to confirmation by the bank.
- The prospective bidders may satisfy themselves about condition of assets/value/measurements etc. all the details of the vehicle are as per information received by the Bank and so the Bank is not responsible for any deviation in the information.

Date: 24.01.2024, Place: Jwalapur Senior Branch Manager



कुमाऊँ मण्डल विकास निगम लिमिटेड  
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का प्रतिष्ठाान)

ओक पार्क हाउस, नैनीताल-263001

पत्रांक : 4246 / 10-निर्माण / 23-24 दिनांक : 24.01.2024

**अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना**

**निविदा :-**

1- स्वदेश दर्शन योजना के अन्तर्गत "कटारमल" अल्मोड़ा में निर्मित इन्टरप्रिटेशन सेन्टर में फर्नीचर आपूर्ति का कार्य। 2-पर्यटक आवास गृह डिकुली में "फर्नीचर आपूर्ति" का कार्य। 3-पर्यटक आवास गृह, रामनगर के बारह (12) बाथरूमों का उच्चीकरण का कार्य। 4-वैदीघूरा (जनपद चम्पावत) में स्वदेश दर्शन योजना के अन्तर्गत निर्मित शौचालयों की मरम्मत एवं उच्चीकरण का कार्य। 5-केव गार्डन, सूखाताल स्थित केन्टीन में टिन शेड का निर्माण कार्य। 6-प्रबन्ध निदेशक, आवास में रंगाई-पुताई एवं मरम्मतीकरण के कार्य। 7- पर्यटक आवास गृह, मुक्तेश्वर में दो बाथरूमों के उच्चीकरण का कार्य। 8-स्वदेश दर्शन योजना के अन्तर्गत कटारमल अल्मोड़ा में निर्मित परिसरमत्तियों में मरम्मत एवं रंग-रोगन का कार्य। 9- पर्यटक आवास गृह, रामनगर के बारह (12) बाथरूमों में विद्युतीकरण का कार्य। 10-पर्यटक आवास गृह डिकुली में "विद्युतीकरण" का कार्य।

(सम्बन्धित कार्य हेतु विस्तृत सूचना निगम वेबसाईट [www.kmnv.in](http://www.kmnv.in) में दिनांक 27.01.24 से देखी जा सकती है।)

**ई-निविदा :-**

11-माओमुघो संख्या 783 / 2021 त्रिनेत्रेश्वर एकादश रुद्र महादेव मंदिर एवं नौदवल मंदिर समूह ग्राम बमनस्वाल, अल्मोड़ा का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य।

(उपरोक्त ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित सूचना दिनांक 30.01.24 से [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) में एवं निगम वेबसाईट [www.kmnv.in](http://www.kmnv.in) में देखी जा सकती है। निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन निगम वेबसाईट [www.kmnv.in](http://www.kmnv.in) के माध्यम से ही किया जायेगा।

महाप्रबन्धक (नि०)

**Reg. off.:** 410-412,18/12, 4th Floor, W.E.A, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005,  
**Corp off.:** 716-717, 7th Floor, Tower B, World Trade Tower, Sector 16, Noida, 201301, U.P., Ph.: +91 120 4290650/52/53/54/55, Email: info@csfinance.in  
Legal@csfinance.in., Web.: www.csfinance.in, CIN: L74899DL1992PLC051462



CSL Finance  
Limited

**POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**  
[(Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)]

Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **CSL FINANCE LTD.** (hereinafter referred as Company) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
The borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors having failed to repay the demanded amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned on behalf of company has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said act read with rule 8(1) of the said rules.  
The borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the below mentioned property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the first charge of the Company for the amount as mentioned herein below with future interest thereon.

S. No	Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan No.	Demand Notice Dated and Amount	Date of Possession
1.	<b>LAN: SMEDEHLAPSL0000005002008</b> <b>Mr. Sarfaraj</b> (Borrower) <b>Shahnaj Begam</b> (Co-Borrower/ Security Provider) <b>Arif Ali</b> (Co-Borrower) <b>All At:</b> Vaheed Dadpur Govindpur Haridwar, Landmark -Drona School Haridwar, Uttarakhand, Pin Code-249402	<b>Rs 20,56,678/-</b> (Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 09/11/2023, plus future interest, penal interest, costs and charges	23.01.2024
2.	<b>LAN: SMEDEHLAPSL0000005002010</b> <b>Mr. Naeem Ahmad</b> (Borrower/Security Provider) <b>1: Bilkees Bano</b> (Co-Borrowers) <b>2: Anas Khan</b> (Co-Borrowers) <b>3: Mohammad Juned</b> (Co-Borrowers) <b>4: Md. Asar</b> (Co-Borrowers) <b>All At:</b> Adhoiwala Ward 29 Raipur Road, Dehradun Landmark -Near PNB Bank, Dehradun, Uttarakhand Pin Code - 248001	<b>Rs. 20,42,128/-</b> (Rupees Twenty Lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight Only) as on 09/11/2023, plus future interest, penal interest, costs and charges	24.01.2024

**Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property) :** A Part Of Resident Plot No 21 & 22 Land Measuring East- 30 Feet, West- 30 Feet, North- 45 Feet, South- 45 Feet Having Total Area 1350 Sq Ft I.e 125.46 Square Meter, Bearing Khaska No 67 Mi Situated At Village Dadapur Govindpur Pargana Rookre Tehsil Ad Distt. Haridwar Vide Sale Deed Bearing Documents No 8250 Dt. 08-08-2012 Registered In The Tehsil Haridwar **Four Boundaries Of The Property :** East- Plot Other Person, West- Way To 20 Feet, North- Plot No 19 & 20, South- Way 10ft Wide

**Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property) :** All The Property Khata No. 1640 (Fasil Year 1422-1427) Khaska No. 137 Min Area 60. Sq Mtr. Area Situated At Mauza Adhoiwala, Parwadoon, Distt, Dehradun., **Which Is Bounded As Under: -** East- 30' Plot No. 19 & 20, West- 30' Road 20' Wide, North- 45' Plot No. 19 & 20, South- 45' Road 10' Wide

Date: 25.01.2024  
Place: Dehradun / Haridwar

Sd/- Authorized Officer,  
CSL Finance Ltd.



## Up, up and away!

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

In 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.

### PICTALK



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

## Policy reforms needed to boost manufacturing

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

With 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 competitiveness.

**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 Indian products in international markets.

**Simplified Regulations** The regulatory environment in India is complex, and businesses face bureaucratic hurdles. Streamlining regulations and creating a more business-

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

**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)



JAY SHAH

## 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

The 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.

In 1977, another instance showcased his simplicity when he joined party leaders in a torn kurta for a celebration in Patna. Despite offers for a new kurta, he



chose to donate the money to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, embodying his selfless nature.

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 status.

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 J.R. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, and Charan Singh. His pivotal role in strengthening affirmative action for backward classes, despite strong opposition, laid the foundation for a more inclusive society.

Jan Nayak Karpoori Thakur, hailing from the most back-



THE POSTHUMOUS  
CONFERRAL OF THE  
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MARGINALISED  
AND THE  
UPLIFTMENT OF THE  
DOWNTRODDEN

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 recognition 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)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BAIL PROCESS DELAYS

Sir — Indian judiciary is known to move 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 attacks on Prime Minister Narendra

### Coffee plantation in Odisha



The 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 initiative.

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, embraced at the World Economic Forum

(WEF) summit in Davos, fell short with elaborate discussions and superficial intentions. Conversations about war-inflicted 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 Panji | Bhubaneswar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



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**

Let 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 sought-after 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?



NILANTHA  
ILANGAMUWA

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

Following 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 deteriorating entity. 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-



DEPENDENT COUNTRIES FROM THE PRESSURES OF BLOC POLITICS. HOWEVER, WHAT BEGAN AS A UTOPIAN DREAM EVOLVED INTO A STAGNANT ORGANIZATION, A CONSEQUENCE OF STRATEGIC MISSTEPS RATHER THAN A NATURAL PROGRESSION. THIS YEAR'S NAM CONFERENCE IN UGANDA, LIKE ITS PREDECESSORS, APPEARED INCAPABLE OF ACHIEVING SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOMES BEYOND CONSUMING TIME AND RESOURCES OSTENSIBLY DEVOTED TO ADDRESSING POLITICAL CRISES. IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT THIS FLOURISHING ORGANIZATION LACKS A VIABLE FUTURE, AND THE PERSISTENT SQUANDERING OF PUBLIC FUNDS YIELDS NO PALPABLE BENEFITS FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. DESPITE BEING RECOGNIZED 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 COUNTRIES. SINCE THE INCEPTION OF NAM, THE SO-CALLED 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 GEO-POLITICAL 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 PREVENT-


ed such widespread suffering. Sadly, attempting to resuscitate a moribund enterprise inevitably invites chaos, yielding neither renewed hope nor the impactful contributions promised at its inception. This is the predicament in which the NAM finds itself, failing to live up to its proclaimed principles while catering to the interests of a privileged few. No amount of picturesque 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 disparities. 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 pandemic underscored the detachment of the 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 War, the NAM struggled to adapt to emerging dynamics. Instead of collectively 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-dream.


*(The writer is a Sri Lankan journalist 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



SIDDHARTH **MISHRA**



BHAWNA **SHARMA**

opening frequently, it can be easily predicted that deepfake technology may achieve an unprecedented level of realism

– 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 deepfakes 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 bound to act in case of 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 deepfakes as well. However, the

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 a 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 deepfake technology. Second, deepfake may be regulated under 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 obliged to deploy technological tools for recognizing false

and damaging information created using services of the platform, implement a real-identity information authentication 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 existence.

*(Siddhartha is Sr Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi and Bhawna is a techno-legal policy professional; views are personal)*



# ‘UK has no plans for conscription’

AP ■ LONDON

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 essential.”

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-year history.

## Maldives oppn parties express concern about ‘anti-India stance’

PTI ■ MALE

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 stance.”

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 recently-elected 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.

AP/PTI

stark pivot towards an anti-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 development of the country,” the two

opposition parties said in their assessment 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

Ahmed Saleem, along with 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 Jiangxi province on 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 news agency.

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 accident.

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

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

AP ■ BEIJING

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 Iran-backed Houthi rebels have attacked international ships with missiles, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a daily briefing on Wednesday.

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

been at war with a Saudi-led 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.”

“China 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 container 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.

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 year hosted talks resulting in the restoration of Tehran’s diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

## ‘Shipments affected by Houthi assaults’

**Jerusalem (AP):** Qatar, one of the world’s top exporters of liquefied 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 liquefied 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 Europe.

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 developments 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 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

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.

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## Fighting in Gaza leaves patients stranded

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.

The Israeli military said its 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 two-thirds 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

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 a safe zone, where tens of thousands of people were living in tents without basic services.

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 63,354. Its count does not dif-

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 a single attack since Oct 7.

Israeli media said the 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 communities near Gaza.

## Donald Trump wins New Hampshire Republican primary

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 Republican Party.

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 renominating Trump would lead the party to defeat.

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 back-to-back. Trump is the only Republican candidate to have won the New Hampshire primary 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

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



the North was abandoning long-standing goals of a peaceful unification with South Korea and ordered a rewriting of the North’s constitution to define the South as its most hostile foreign adversary.

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

Monument to the Three Charters for National Reunification, also called the Arch of Reunification. An image Tuesday clearly showed the arch missing along a roadway.

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 satellite images.

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

the year, following a January 14 test-firing of the country’s first solid-fuel intermediate range ballistic missile, which reflected its efforts to advance its line-up 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 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 a statement.



# Imran Khan warns his party candidates

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan has warned his party candidates to launch their poll campaigns peacefully, failing 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-Insaf (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 guilty.

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 Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain 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

January 2019 to March 2022.

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 pre-arranged 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. I had proposed to issue the demarche."

He said that the cipher issue was a setback for Pakistan-US relations.

Majeed is one of the 25 witnesses who have recorded their statements in the cipher case, which was launched on August 15 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 min-

istry 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

Thailand'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 mil-

itary-controlled government. But the party was denied power by members of the conservative unelected Senate.

The Senate, whose members were appointed 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 newspapers 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 as 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, 76.

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 student 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. Local officials said they planned 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 restores diplomatic relations with Nauru

AP ■ BEIJING

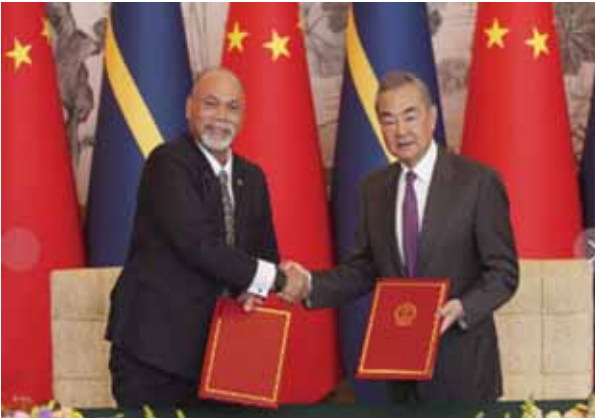
China and Nauru formally restored diplomatic relations Wednesday after the tiny Pacific island nation cut its ties with Taiwan earlier this month, in a further move by Beijing to isolate Taipei's democratic government. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs and 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 recognized 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 said.

Nauru's announcement on Jan. 15 came just two days after Taiwan elected a new president 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



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Nauru's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Lionel Aingimea.

with Taiwan in 1980, then switched to Beijing in 2002, 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 said in a news release 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 de facto independent status outside of the control of the PRC.

Ten countries have switched ties from Taipei to Beijing since the initial election of DPP President Tsai Ing-wen

in 2016. China says that Taiwan must come under its control at some point and has staged military drills around the island to demonstrate its determination.

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 one-party Communist government's intention was to "attack the democracy and freedom 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 offer hefty financial inducements.

## 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 hospital.

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 the initial collapse.

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 Xinjiang region, close to China's border with Mongolia, Russia and Kazakhstan.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice is being issued under the instruction of our clientess, Mrs. Nilima Gupta W/o Mr. Shyam Hari Gupta, resident of F-5/6, DLF City Phase-I, near Community Centre, Sikanderpur Ghosi, Gurugram, Haryana-122002, who intends to purchase the property bearing no. A-10/22, situated in DLF Phase-I also known as DLF Outub Enclave Complex, Gurugram, Haryana, for a valuable consideration, owned and possessed by Mr. Vijay Kumar Khanna s/o Late Sh. R.P. Khanna, resident of A-301, Aurelia, Pan Card Club Road, Baner, Pune- 411045, for the sale of which he has entered into an Agreement to Sell with Mr. Toshank Dhingra S/o Narendar 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 22nd January, 2024.

This public notice is being issued with a view to make certain that there is no encumbrance to the property bearing A-10/22, situated in DLF Phase-I also known as DLF Outub 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 or their claim over the property bearing no. A-10/22, situated in DLF Phase-I also known as DLF Outub 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 twenty (20) days from the date of this publication to the undersigned at the following address:

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

# China to boost property lending to support its slowing economy

Bangkok (AP): China's central bank said Wednesday it will cut the ratio of reserves banks must hold as part of a slew of measures to support the slowing economy. The announcement by the People's Bank of China prompted a surge in share prices, with Hong Kong's benchmark jumping 3.6%.

Chinese stock markets have languished in recent months as investors pulled money out, discouraged by a faltering recovery from the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A sell-off earlier in the week was followed by unconfirmed reports that the government 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 economy.

Central bank Gov. Pan Gongsheng said the deposit reserve requirement would be

cut by 0.5 percentage points as 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 7.4%.

Pan told reporters in Beijing that the central bank also plans to issue a policy soon on lending to property developers to help support the industry.

China's economy is recovering, he said, allowing ample room for policy maneuvers. "At present, our country's financial risks are generally controllable, the overall operations of financial institutions are sound, and financial markets are operating smoothly," the government website China.com cited Pan as saying.

The economy expanded at a 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 economy will grow more slowly in 2024.

**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION UNIT, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM**  
GHINGARIKHAL, RANIKHET, DISTT.- ALMORA 263645

Letter No.: 03/Camp Haldwani/

Date: 23-01-2024

**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)**

**7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:-** Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.

**8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:-** 27-01-2024 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Ranikhet.

**9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)**

**PROJECT MANAGER**

**NAGAR NIGAM DEHRADUN**  
Telephone: 0135-2714074, Website: [www.nagarnigamdehradun.com](http://www.nagarnigamdehradun.com)  
Email: [nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com](mailto:nagarnigam.ddn@gmail.com)

**Nagar Nigam Dehradun invites Request for Proposal (RFP) For For Scientific Dumpsite 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](http://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.**

**Municipal Commissioner**  
**Nagar Nigam Dehradun**

No 26/Legacywaste/2023-24 Date: 24.01.2024

# 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 Sajith 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 criticised as one which impinged the freedom 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 economy."

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.

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM**  
E-32 JUDGE FARM HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter No.: 195/Nivida-Anubandhi/Ranikhet/08

Date: 23-01-2024

**E-Tender Notice**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Tender Value (Rs. In Lakh)	Period of Completion
1.	Construction of Remaining Works of Community Health Centre at Lamgarha, Distt. Almora.	Rs. 134.40	12 Months
2.	Repair & Renovation work at Bipin Chandra Tripathi Kumaon Engineering College Dwarahat Block Dwarahat, Distt. Almora.	Rs. 90.90	12 Months

**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)  
**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, Ranikhet.  
**8. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

**Office of the Superintending Engineer**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh**  
Email : [sepwdpth@rediffmail.com](mailto:sepwdpth@rediffmail.com)

Letter No. : 364 / 962C(Yata 'C')-03/2024

Date : 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>

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	<b>PD PWD Pithoragarh</b> Under Honorable Chief Minister's announcement No. 539/2023, the work of asphaltting of the motor road from Km. 2 of Madmanle Dobans motor road to Barmo under Didihat assembly constituency of Pithoragarh district Under the state plan. (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	<b>PD PWD Didihat</b> Improvement and asphaltting 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	<b>PD PWD Champawat</b> 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. undertaking.



# Space industry seeks liberal FDI policy, PLI scheme in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's nascent space sector has sought a liberal FDI policy 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 margins.

"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

approval route and that takes months and months," Awais Ahmed, founder and CEO of Pixxel, a Bengaluru-based start-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-



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

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 development of a comprehensive regulatory framework and to address existing fiscal and taxation challenges," ISpA Director General

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 said.

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 go-ahead 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.



## Sweden keen on ties with India on sustainability solutions in aviation

PTI ■ New Delhi

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 and Housing, said.

In an interview to PTI, he said India is an important partner as it is also the world's fastest growing aviation market.

While noting that he is 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".

Sweden is a leading player in sustainable aviation. More than 80 Swedish companies are active in the sector, with expertise across the value chain and experience in implementing their solutions globally.

Davidson, who was on a brief visit to India last week, also said

the country is "keen to cooperate on the sustainability front in aviation and electrification in the auto sector".

"We have a lot of good companies 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 the opening of new direct flight between the two countries.

"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.



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

PTI ■ KOLKATA

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 Conference in Kolkata.

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 added.

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

tonnes are imported, he said.

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

Scindia further said, "Our steel sector is known as a hard to abate sector...With an emissions intensity of 2.55 tonne of CO2 per tonne of crude steel produced."

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.

"India has the potential to become a global leader in recycling, given its vast population and the increasing awareness of the 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 economic 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.

## 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 bargain hunting in metal, commodity and telecom stocks.

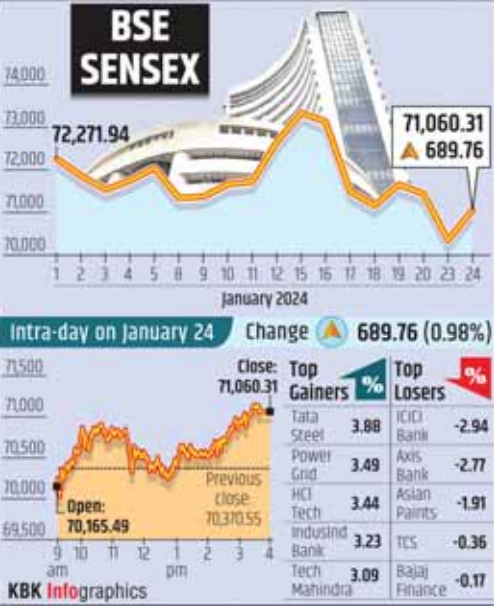
Trading through a patchy track in the opening session, the 30-share BSE Sensex gradually gained ground and jumped 689.76 points, or 0.98 per cent, to settle at 71,060.31. The benchmark moved between an intra-day high of 71,149.61 and a low of 70,001.60.

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 Finserv and Bharti Airtel, among others.

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



stituents of the NSE Nifty witnessed gains.

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 higher 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 to close at 21,241.65.

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.

## Gold falls ₹50; silver jumps ₹300

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell Rs 50 to Rs 63,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 63,250 per 10 grams.

However, silver jumped Rs 300 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, said.

In the international markets, spot gold at Comex was trading at USD 2,026 per ounce, down



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.

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rating agency Icra on Wednesday revised upward its bank credit growth projection at 14.9-15.3 per cent this fiscal, but said the same will lose steam and grow at 12 per 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 segment and non-bank finance companies, with annual growth of 33 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively, as of November 18, 2023.

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 non-banking 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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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 positive 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 dollar.

"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



crude oil prices may cap the 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 Wednesday.

"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.

## 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 over 9,000 units of the model to these markets.



## Burmans get CCI nod for 31.27 per cent additional stake in Religare

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India has 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.

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

Enterprises Limited (Religare) through open 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, 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 ownership in Religare will surpass 52 per cent.



# 4 NATIONS HOCKEY TOURNEY IN SOUTH AFRICA

## INDIA PLAY OUT 2-2 DRAW AGAINST FRANCE

**AP ■ CAPE TOWN**

The Indian men's hockey team failed to live up to its expectations after a bright start to draw 2-2 against France in its second game of the Four-Nation Tournament here on Wednesday.

Mandeep Singh (8th minute) and Amit Rohidas (19th) scored for India, while France came back in the contest with goals from Timothee Clement and B Gaspard in the 37th and 59th minutes respectively. The Indians had earlier defeated France 4-0 in their tournament opener on Monday.

The match began with both the teams showcasing their defending prowess to hold off the opposition.

India broke the resistance with Mandeep scoring the first goal for his side.

Rohidas doubled India's lead early in the second quarter as they took control of the proceedings with a solid 2-0 lead.

France started showcasing urgency to get back to level terms, but the Indian defence managed to thwart their dangerous attacks.

But India's defence finally



broke down in the 37th minute when Clement reduced the margin.

In the final quarter, both India and France made attacking moves in search of quick goals.

It was heartbreak for India as, at the stroke of the final hooter, Gaspard scored the equaliser for France.

The week-long tournament features France, the Netherlands, India and hosts South Africa.

India will take on South Africa in their third match on Friday, followed by a game against world No. 1 the Netherlands on Sunday.



## Nagal gets direct entry into Bengaluru Open

**AP ■ BENGALURU,**

Sumit Nagal on Wednesday became the only Indian to earn a direct entry into the Bengaluru Open, an ATP Challenger tournament, to be held here from February 10.

Last week, Nagal scripted history as he became only the second Indian male player after Somdev Devvarman to advance to the second round of the Australian Open, after he defeated world no. 27 Alexander Bublik in his opener.

With the cut-off for the Bengaluru Open being at 257, the 137th-ranked Nagal will be among the 21 players from 11 countries to qualify for the main draw of the ATP 100 Challenger tournament.

"This edition is expected to be high on challenges, there are many strong contenders, making this edition more challenging and definitely exciting to watch. My journey continues, and I am enthusiastic about going back on court and making a lasting impact," Nagal, who won Bengaluru Open in 2017, said in a release.

France's Benjamin Bonze, at world no. 106, is the highest-ranked player.

"With eight players ranked in the top 200, including four within the top 150, the level of tennis is such that distinguishing between players in the 100-200 range is challenging," said Priyank Kharge, chairman of the organising committee and a state minister.

The tournament is organised by the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) at the KSLTA Stadium.

Each of the last five editions, held between 2018 and 2023, have thrown different singles winners.

In 2023, Australia's Max Purcell won the title while Aleksandar Vukic and Tseng Chun-hsin emerged winners in consecutive events in 2022.

India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran won the trophy in 2018 while James Duckworth was the winner in 2020. The tournament was not held in 2019 and 2021.

## Mani qualifies for main draw of WTT Star Contender Goa

**PTI ■ MAPUSA (GOA)**

Indian table tennis player Nithya Mani qualified for the main draw of the ongoing WTT Star Contender Goa after winning her final qualifying round match at the Peddem Indoor Stadium here on Wednesday.

Chennai-based Nithya won a nail-biting contest against England's Tin-Tin Ho 3-2 (11-7 6-11 5-11 11-9 11-7) in a women's singles qualifying Round 3 match to move into the main draw, scheduled to take place from Thursday.

In the women's singles category, Ayhika Mukherjee lost 1-3 (11-5 9-11 6-11 6-11) to Turkey's Sibel Altinkaya, while Spain's Sofia Zhang beat Diya Chitale 3-1 (11-5 6-11 14-12



11-0) in the qualifying round 3 to move into the main draw.

Sutirtha Mukherjee went down 1-3 (8-11 7-11, 12-10 4-11) against Hanna Ryu in women's singles qualifying round 2 to exit the tournament.

In the men's singles category, Sathiyar Gnanasekaran lost 2-3 (7-11 11-7 6-11 11-7 8-11) against Vincent Picard of France in qualifying round 2 stage.

Senegal's Ibrahima Diaw then

got the better of Manav Thakkar 3-0 (12-10 11-6 11-7) in the qualifying round 3.

Jeet Chandra and Payas Jain made their way into the main draw in the men's doubles category as they registered a comfortable 3-1 (11-13 11-7 12-10 11-4) win over compatriots Yashansh Malik and Abhinandh Pradhivadhi.

Sayali Wani and Taneesha Kotecha beat the India pair of Suhana Saini and Yashaswini Ghorpade 3-1 (9-11 11-9 11-6 11-6) in the women's doubles qualifying round 2 to reach the main draw.

In the mixed doubles category, Manush Shah and Diya Chitale overcame the challenge of Snehit Suravajula and Sreeja Akula 3-0 (11-4 11-3 11-8) in the qualifying round 2.

# Do not think anyone will ever come close to Djokovic: Tomic

**PTI ■ CHENNAI**

With the Australian Open currently on, defending champion Novak Djokovic has once again been dubbed as a favourite to retain the title, and former world No. 17 Bernard Tomic of Australia firmly believes there will be no one to challenge the great Serbian.

Djokovic is the leading Grand Slam winner in the Open Era of tennis. He also has the chance of winning the most Grand Slam titles across eras, as another win would allow him to surpass the all-time record of Margaret Court.

Djokovic is eying his 25th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open.

Tomic, who has lost to Djokovic on all six instances in

the ATP circuit, dubbed him a "freak" and also the "G.O.A.T", besides adding that to beat him, one has to play at the highest level at all times.

"I was lucky enough to beat Djokovic at the Hopman Cup 11 years ago (chuckles). He is a freak.

"You have no choice but to play at the highest level to beat him. And, if you lower your level even the slightest against him, you will lose," he told PTI in an exclusive interaction on the sidelines of an ongoing ITF event here.

"I firmly believe he will win the (ongoing) Australian Open. And if he does win, anything is possible. He can even touch the 30-Slams mark. He is the greatest of all time, for sure."

Tennis has mostly been defined by the 'Big 3' era, which has



been dominated by Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic.

But, with the era on the verge of ending, it is likely to open the doors for other players to assert their dominance in Grand Slams.

Talking on the same, Tomic

admitted that the trio has raised the bar quite high for the sport in current date, besides terming the era as the "toughest".

However, he firmly believes there will be players coming up and dominating the circuit in about 10 years from now.

"Like it or not, everything goes forward in life. Time moves on, and different players come in. The era when I played about five years ago, as Federer, Nadal, Novak, and even Andy Murray were exchanging the top spot quite frequently, was probably the toughest era of tennis," Tomic said.

"Guys like (Juan Martin) del Potro, (David) Ferrer, (Kei) Nishikori and (Jo-Wilfried) Tsonga -- a lot of players who could have won Grand Slams. Of course, they (Big 3) have changed the modern-day tennis and raised the bar quite high.

"Obviously, a lot of similar players are coming through now, like (Carlos) Alcaraz and (Jannik) Sinner. I hope they will win many more Grand Slams in the coming years, and about

10 years from now, we will definitely be here talking about them or some other players."

Although Tomic feels that Alcaraz of Spain and Sinner of Italy would be the next big thing in tennis, he warned that as long as Djokovic is around, others will have to wait for their share of success.

"Sinner is likely to win five or 10 Grand Slams; Alcaraz as well. But, with Novak around for at least two more years, it's always going to be tough for anyone other than him," he continued.

"No, I don't think Novak is done yet, and no one has come close to him. I don't think anyone will ever come close to him in the next 10-15 years. Winning 20 Grand Slams itself will be a tedious task, and if he wins 30, it would be unreal."



## Dabang Delhi beat Haryana Steelers

**PTI ■ HYDERABAD**

Ashu Malik pulled off two raid points in dying seconds to help Dabang Delhi beat Haryana Steelers 35-32 in the Pro Kabaddi League contest here on Wednesday.

Vinay picked up three raid points as the Steelers took 4-2 lead in the fifth minute.

However, Ashish and Vikrant effected brilliant tackles and helped Dabang Delhi take 6-5 lead soon after. Malik pulled off a brilliant raid as the Delhi side continued to forge ahead. Malik caught out Jaideep Dahiya and Yogesh tackled Ashish as Dabang inflicted the first all out of the match.

Siddharth Desai effected a raid and Rahul Sethpal tackled Manjeet, but the Delhi side still held a decent lead at 14-9.

Vishal Bhardwaj and Yogesh picked up tackle points in quick

## Kiran, Sen enter second round; Prannoy, Srikanth exit in Indonesia Masters

**AP ■ JAKARTA**

Lakshya Sen and Kiran George advanced to the second round but HS Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth made early exits after suffering narrow losses in their respective opening matches at the Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

World No. 19 Sen, who is looking to qualify for the Paris Olympics, avenged his Malaysia Open first-round loss to China's Weng Hong Yang with a 24-22 21-15 win in his opening round match here.

The 23-year-old George, who had won Super 100 titles at 2022 Odisha Open and 2023 Denmark Masters, bounced back from an opening game reversal to eke out a 18-21 21-16 21-19 win over France's Toma Junior Popov in another opening round match.

George, also a product of Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, had qualified for the main draw after registering twin wins on Tuesday.

Sen will now face either Malaysia Open champion Anders Antonsen of Denmark or Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo in the next round, while George will be pitted



against China's Lu Guang Zu. However, world no. 8 Prannoy, who had reached the semifinals at India Open Super 750 last week, lost to former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 18-21 21-19 10-21 in his opening round match.

The 31-year-old Indian, who claimed maiden bronze medals at the Asian Games and world

championships last year, had lost in the first round at the Malaysia Open Super 1000 tournament as well.

For former world no. 1 Srikanth, it was yet another day when he had to return empty handed despite putting up a brave effort against Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, ranked 10th.

Srikanth, who is racing against

time to qualify for Paris, squandered an opening game advantage to lose 21-19 14-21 11-21 to Lee in a 54-minute clash to bow out of tournament. It was his second successive first-round loss of the season.

Sen was under pressure to perform following his miserable start to the new season which saw him make first-round exits in both the events he had participated so far.

His loss against compatriot Priyanshu Rajawat in the India Open had affected his Olympic qualification hopes as he needs to get inside top 16 by April end to make the cut for Paris Games.

On Wednesday, Sen watched his 7-3 lead evaporate as Weng dominated the proceedings to take a 19-12 advantage at one stage. But, Sen produced a rearguard action to pocket 12 of the next 15 points to leave his opponent behind.

After the change of sides, the battle for the first five points was a hard one before Sen marched to 11-6 at the break.

Weng fought bravely to make it 10-11 but it was all a Sen show after that as the Indian reeled off six straight points and held his fort to emerge victorious.



## Ivory Coast fires Gasset as coach

**AP ■ ABIDJAN (IVORY COAST)**

Ivory Coast coach Jean-Louis Gasset has been fired despite the team still having a chance of qualifying for the Africa Cup of Nations knockout stage.

The Ivorian Football Federation (FIF) said Wednesday that it was terminating the contracts of the French coach and his assistant "for insufficient results in accordance to the contract of objectives they had with the FIF".

Former Ivory Coast midfielder Emerse Faé was to take charge of the team on an interim basis.

Ivory Coast is hosting the Africa Cup but failed to secure automatic qualification to the tournament's knockout stage when it was beaten 4-0 by Equatorial Guinea in its final

group game on Monday.

It left the Elephants with just three points from three group games and reliant on results in other groups to finish among the best four third-place finishers for a place in the pre-quarters.

Equatorial Guinea finished top of Group A with seven points, ahead of Nigeria on goal difference.

Wednesday's final group games in Groups E and F were to determine whether the host nation could squeeze into the knockout stage.

Gasset reportedly tendered his resignation to the president of the FIF, Yacine Idriss Diallo, right after the loss to Equatorial Guinea.

The defeat prompted some irate Ivorian fans to vandalize commuter buses outside the stadium.



## INDIA SPINBALL VS ENGLAND BAZBALL

# Rohit men bank on spin for first strike

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

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,



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

rest in these conquests — off-spinner 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

about Ashwin. The 37-year-old still retains the burning zest of a 17-year-old to keep improving his craft and since 2012, Ashwin has grabbed 283 wickets from 46 Tests averaging a shade

over 19. Jadeja might often get viewed 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 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 average of 21. 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 minds.



## England frustration ends as rookie spinner Bashir gets visa

PTI ■ LONDON/HYDERABAD

England's Pakistan-origin off-spinner Shoaib Bashir was on Wednesday granted visa to play in the five-match Test series against India, ending 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 posted 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 spokesperson demanding "fair" treatment 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 government 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 commented on the matter. Stokes hoped that Bashir would be able to join the squad by the end of this week.



## 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 management 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 final cut.

Behind Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, India are primed to pick a third spinner for the first Test against England, starting here from Thursday.

"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 variations. Obviously, he is a very mature bowler now from what he was a few years back," Rohit said in the pre-match press conference.

"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 (batting), in the past, a lot of us (batters) got an opportunity pretty late.

"But that's the reality of it, you can't hide away from it. But yes, he's a very tempting option," he added.

Although Rohit did not give away his final team for the match, he indicated that Axar might just be the one on the final team sheet.

He underlined the utility of

the left-arm spinner as an all-rounder, the strongest clue about the think tanks preference 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 consistency that he's shown, playing in these conditions in Test cricket, also is an important factor for us.

"But it was a headache to decide who it is going to be for us. But I am not going to say who it is," said Rohit.

The 36-year-old also hoped that premier spinner Ashwin will deliver one more time in conditions familiar to him. "Ashwin, obviously, we know his class, we know his quality. 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 sure to put the team ahead. He's shown it for a number of years now. So, yeah, I hope this series is no different for him, and he comes out and does what he does the best," said Rohit.

Ashwin is on the cusp of achieving twin milestones in his storied career.

The 37-year-old off-spinner is 10 wickets shy of the 500-wicket mark in Tests and he can also complete 100 career Test matches if he plays all the five Tests in the series.

## 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 Thursday, with a solitary fast bowler and three spinners. Wood was preferred over veteran James Anderson for this match, and Stokes said the Durham man's ability to touch 150 clicks tilted the scales in his favour.

"Obviously, what he brings

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 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 pre-match 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 professionally.

"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 surgery.

## More intent expected from Indian batters against Ireland U-19 World Cup

PTI ■ BLOEMFONTEIN

India's young turks would be aiming for a more proactive approach while batting when they take on Ireland in the second group league encounter of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Thursday. While India disposed off Bangladesh by 84 runs in what turned out to be an easier than expected opener, Ireland game will provide them with an opportunity to play differently before tougher opposition comes calling during the Super Six phase starting next week.

Ireland are coming into the game with a defeat against Bangladesh after beating min-

nnows USA in the opening game. For India, more than battling the opposition, it will be about raising the bar for themselves and playing the 50-over game, keeping the modern approach in mind, compared to the early 1990s style of play.

The skipper Uday Saharan, who scored 64 and top scorer Adarsh Singh (76), had strike-rates of 79 and 68 respectively, which is slightly unacceptable in modern times.

That India had two terrific but vastly different left-arm

spinners Saumy Kumar Pandey and Musheer Khan doing a fantastic job for them meant coach Hrishikesh Kanitkar didn't have much to worry about.

One hopes that Saumy, easily the best bowler by a distance in the first game, doesn't have too much of a shoulder problem that forced him to take a temporary break in the first game in between his first and second spells. On a sluggish Bloemfontein track, Indian batters would need to rotate the strike better and also find more gaps in the Powerplay overs.

## 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 himself."

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 white-ball formats," McDonald said.

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

India fast bowler Mohammed Siraj believes England's much-hyped 'Bazball' strategy won't work in Indian conditions and if the visitors go with their ultra-aggressive approach then the match may get over within two days.

'Bazball', a hell-for-leather attacking batting approach, coined after Test team head coach Brendon McCullum, has given England tremendous success last year but it will face its baptism by fire on sub-continental tracks, which offer turn and bounce in equal measure.

## SIRAJ WARNING

### If England play Bazball, the match might get over within two days

"If England play Bazball in Indian conditions, the match might get over within a day-and-a-half or two. It's not easy to hit every time here as the ball turns sometimes and straightens on other occasions," Siraj told 'Jio Cinema' on the eve of the opening Test beginning here on Thursday.



"So, I think it'll be difficult to see Bazball here. But if they play it, it'll be good for us as the match may get over quickly." Talking about his preparations for the tour, Siraj said: "On their previous tour to India, the matches were getting over quickly. In that series (in 2021) I think I played two matches.

"In the first innings of one of these, I bowled five overs and took two wickets of Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow. So, the aim will be to control runs in how many ever overs I bowl. If I get wickets fine, but I'll have

to stay patient and continue building pressure on the batsmen." England are set to play five Tests against India. The 29-year-old Siraj has taken 68 wickets so far in 23 Tests since making his debut a little three years back in Australia. He said focussing on consistently hitting the right spot irrespective of the format and conditions has helped him in his career. "I bowl with the new ball, so my line and length remain the same. I don't change things whether it's the white ball or the red ball.

## Roach sees plenty of promise in fellow fast bowler Shamar

AP ■ BRISBANE

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

Ahead of the second Test — a day-night match — that begins Thursday at the Gabba in Brisbane, the 35-year-old Roach has 267 Tests wickets, placing him fifth on the all-time list for the West Indies.

In 2009, on his first Test tour, Roach shattered Ricky Ponting's elbow with a blazing bouncer that forced Ponting to retire hurt from the match.

Joseph 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 Joseph.

"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 distractions and he's a hot commodity right now."

"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 Joseph were all positive.



"He is a very confident young man and has shared a lot of information with me. We have a lot of conversations," Roach said. "He has a good energy I love. I am happy to be around 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 work in." Meanwhile, Australia opener Usman Khawaja has been passed fit by Cricket Australia's medical team to play in Brisbane. And Travis Head is likely to play despite a recent positive COVID-19 test. Khawaja was struck in the head by a West Indies bouncer 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 Cummins said the 30-year-old was progressing well in his recovery.

Head flew to Brisbane on Tuesday but decided to rest in the team hotel rather than join the Australian team for its late afternoon training session at the Gabba.

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43/24	CAD Draughtsman (Structural)	1
44/24	CAD Draughtsman (Electrical)	1
45/24	CAD Draughtsman (HVAC)	2
46/24	CAD Draughtsman (Water Supply)	2
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