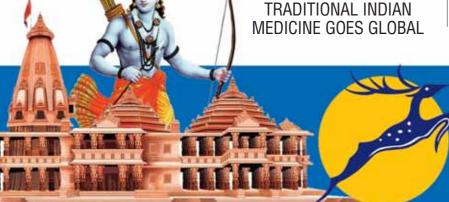
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ECONOMY TO SEE STRONGER GROWTH IN 2023-24: RBI

WORLD 8

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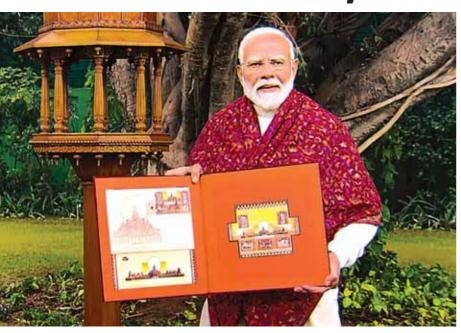
the ploneer

Modi travels with Ram, from Rameswaram to Ayodhya

7ith the consecration ceremony of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya just around the corner, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is currently touring temples in south India to garner support for the upcoming event. These temples are of particular significance in the Ramayana, as they mark the paths traversed by Lord Ram during his vanvas.

In a statement, the Prime Minister's Office announced that Prime Minister Narendra will visit some significant temples in Tamil Nadu on January 20 and 21. On January 20, Prime Minister Modi will participate in a programme at the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, around 11 am. He will also listen to various scholars reciting verses from the Kamba Ramayanam in the temple. Thereafter, Prime Minister Modi will reach Rameswaram around 2 pm and perform darshan and pooja in the Sri Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple. "This aligns with Bharatiya

cultural ethos and bonding, which is at the core of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,' the statement said. In the Sri Arulmigu Ramanathaswamy Temple, Prime Minister Mod will also participate in Bhajan Sandhya, where multiple devotional songs will be sung in the temple complex in the



OPINION 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases commemorative postage stamps on Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple and a book of stamps issued on Lord Ram around the world, in New Delhi, on Thursday

evening. Meanwhile, Modi on Thursday commemorative postage stamps on Thursday, honouring Ayodhya's Ram Mandir. Additionally, a book containing stamps dedicated to Lord Ram from around the world was released. The intricate design of the stamps captures the essence of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, featuring six distinct components. These include the Ram Mandir itself, the timeless Choupai "Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari," a radiant depiction of the sun, the sacred Saryu river, and sculptures found in and around the temple. The release of the commemorative stamps comes days before the consecration ceremony at the Ayodhya temple on Monday. The commemorative stamp collection consists of six different stamps, each featuring important

touch to the miniature sheet. Continuing the practice observed during the Prime Minister's visits to temples in the last few days, where he attends Ramayana chanting in various languages such as Marathi, Malayalam, and Telugu, he will participate in a program called Ramayana Paryana' in this temple. In the programme, eight different traditional Mandalis will recite the Sanskrit, Awadhi, Kashmiri, Gurumukhi, Assamese, Bengali, Maithili, and Gujarati Ramkathas, recounting the episode of Lord Ram's return to Ayodhya, said the PMO.

Lord Ram's story. These include Lord Ganesh, Lord

Hanuman, Maa Shabri, Kevatraj, Jatayu, and the Ram

Mandir. The use of gold leaf

detailing for the sun rays and

the Choupai adds a regal

Continued on Page 2

Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra not over yet: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Thursday that a transparent system implemented by his government, coupled with honest efforts and a focus on people's participation, has resulted in the upliftment of nearly 25 crore people out of poverty

in the last nine years.
"Nobody could have imagined that poverty in India could decline, but the poor have demonstrated that it is possible when provided with resources," Modi said during a virtual interaction beneficiaries of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.

Minister

The Prime

mentioned that the "Vikas Rath" has transformed into a "Vishwas Rath", instilling trust among the people that no deprived person will be excluded from its benefits. Referring to a Niti Aayog report highlighting the reduction in poverty numbers, Modi remarked that India has set a model for other countries in assisting the poor and has garnered global attention. He expressed satisfaction

with the encouraging findings of the report. The Prime Minister said that the Yatra has surpassed his expectations for success,

and due to increasing demand from the masses, government considering extending its deadline beyond January 26. People are urging that the vehicles, intended to publicise welfare schemes enroll beneficiaries, should visit their areas as well.

"It has evolved into a mass movement in just two months, and a study will recognise it as a great example of last-mile delivery," Modi added, noting that it has already reached 70-80 per cent of

panchayats. He mentioned that health check-ups for over four crore people have been conducted during the Yatra, with more than 2.5 crore for screened Additionally, over 50 crore Ayushman cards have been distributed, and nearly 35 lakh farmers have been included in the PM Kisan Yojna. These are not just statistics for him; they are a

Continued on Page 2

BISWAJEET BANERJEE/BP SINGH **AYODHYA**

In a historic event that resonates with the hearts of millions, the new idol of Lord Ram Lalla has taken its revered seat in the sanctum sanctorum of the majestic Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya

The sacred installation ceremony commenced with elaborate rituals, initiated by the Ganesh puja on Thursday afternoon.

Lord Ganesha was invoked to bless the proceedings, which included the ceremonial bathing of the idol with water from holy rivers and the application of various consecrated medicines.

The journey of the silver statue of Ram Lalla to the sanctum sanctorum began late on Wednesday night, symbolically touring the Ram temple complex. Originally intended for a Janmabhoomi complex tour, the decision to use a smaller silver statue



was made for security reasons and due to the substantial weight of the immovable idol.

Under the guidance of chief host Dr Anil Mishra, the 10 kg silver statue embarked on a palanquin journey through the city, accompanied by resonating Vedic chants that echoed through the temple complex. Flowers showered the procession from Acharyas, temple construction engineers, and security personnel. Continued on Page 2

source of life.

CAPSULE

JK insurance scam: ED attaches ₹36 cr assets

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday said it has attached fixed deposits and a land worth more than Rs 36 crore belonging to Reliance General Insurance Pvt Ltd and Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Private Limited as part of a money laundering probe linked to an alleged insurance scam in Jammu and Kashmir. P2

Curbs on BS III, BS IV vehicles lifted in Delhi

NEW DELHI: The Central Government on Thursday lifted a ban on non-essential construction work and plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers in Delhi-NCR amid an improvement in air quality in the region. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) noted a significant improvement with an AQI of 316 at 2 pm, well below the threshold for invoking Stage-III actions under the air pollution control plan called the Graded Response Action Plan.

Yasin Malik main shooter of 4 IAF men killing: Eyewitness

JAMMU: JKLF chief Yasin Malik lifted his 'pheran', pulled out his gun and opened fire at a group of IAF personnel, an eyewitness deposed before a special CBI court on Thursday while narrating what happened in Srinagar on January 25, 1990. Former IAF corporal Rajwar Umeshwar Singh, who survived the terror attack in which four IAF personnel were killed, pointed to Malik in the courtroom as the main shooter. Malik attended the court proceedings on video from Delhi's Tihar Jail where he has been incarcerated since 2019.

Youth dies of heart attack in coaching class

INDORE: A 20-year-old man preparing for the civil services exam died after he fell unconscious at his coaching class in Indore in Madhya Pradesh due to a heart-related disorder, officials said on Thursday. In footage from the coaching class' CCTV, which went viral on social media, Raja Lodhi, a resident of Sagar, can be seen falling unconscious on a table.

Indian Navy rescues crew from drone attack in Gulf of Aden

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 A^{n} Indian Navy warship came to the rescue of a merchant vessel that had come under a drone attack in the Gulf of Aden, rescuing all 22 crew members, including at least nine Indians. The commercial ship is now en route to its next port of call.

Providing details on Thursday, Navy officials said that the guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam intercepted MV Genco Picardy a little over an hour after the Marshall Islandflagged ship came under a drone strike in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday night.

The strike on the cargo vessel MV Genco Picardy, about 60 nautical miles south of Port Aden, occurred amid increasing global concerns over attacks on merchant ships in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea. There were no reports of any casualties, and officials said the fire on the vessel

was contained. The Indian Navy's frontline warship INS Visakhapatnam responded within an hour to the distress call from MV Genco Picardy following the drone attack at 23:11 hours on

Wednesday, they said.
The Indian Navy's EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) specialists boarded the vessel early Thursday morning to inspect the damaged area, adding that the vessel was cleared for further transit following thorough scrutiny. The vessel is proceeding to the



next port of call.

Visakhapatnam, INS mission-deployed in the Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy operations, swiftly responded to a distress call by the Marshall Island-flagged MV Genco Picardy following a drone attack at 23:11 hours on January 17," the Navy said. It stated that the warship intercepted the vessel at 00:30 hours on Thursday to provide assistance.

"Indian Naval EOD specialists from INS Visakhapatnam boarded the vessel in the early hours of January 18 to inspect the damaged area. After a thorough inspection, the EOD specialists

have rendered the area safe for further transit," the Navy said in a

statement. Navy spokesperson Commander Madhwal said INS Visakhapatnam was undertaking an anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden. The Indian Navy thwarted an attempted hijacking of the Liberian-flagged vessel MV Lila Norfolk in the North Arabian Sea on January 5,

rescuing all its crew members. The Liberian-flagged vessel MV Chem Pluto, with 21 Indian crew members, was the target of a drone attack off India's west coast on December 23. In addition to MV Chem Pluto, another commercial

oil tanker en route to India came under a suspected drone strike in the Southern Red Sea on the same day. The vessel had a team of 25

Indian crew members

Meanwhile, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar stated that the Navy has already enhanced the deployment of its frontline ships and surveillance aircraft for maritime security operations in view of the maritime environment in the critical sea view lanes, including in the North and Central Arabian Sea.

The Indian Navy has deployed its assets along the western coast to protect India's maritime interests and is committed to preventing

any "instability," said Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar.

Addressing the situation in the Arabian Sea and Red Sea area, he mentioned that Indian assets are already deployed for two antipiracy operations. Speaking at the fourth edition of the Global Artificial Intelligence Summit, he ensure that our national interest in the maritime domain is protected. We have our own deployments, including two ongoing anti-piracy operations and anti-drone support for merchant shipping."

These remarks come amid growing global concerns over Houthi militants targeting cargo vessels in the Red Sea, particularly against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The Navy chief emphasised the Navy's role in preserving, protecting, and pursuing national interests in the maritime domain, highlighting ongoing anti-piracy operations since 2008. Operation Sankalp, near the Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Oman, aims to counter piracy, with an adequate number of deployed assets to prevent any resurgence.

Admiral Kumar reassured that no attacks have occurred on Indian merchant ships, stating, "Our message is that we are not going to permit any instability or insecurity to happen." He also mentioned that in the last piracy attempt on a ship with a high number of Indian crew, Indian assets were deployed promptly, and an effective response was provided.

Kejriwal skips **ED summons** fourth time

STAFF REPORTER

iterating his claim that the

NEW DELHI

KBJP was targeting him, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal refused to appear in person before Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday. He asserted that the communication accompanying the fourth summons issued on January 12 was arbitrary, mala fide, and illegal. This marks Kejriwal's fourth notice from the agency, requiring him to appear on either January 18 or January 19. Sources indicated that the Chief Minister alleged the ED is summoning him at the BJP's behest, not for a specific investigation or statement recording, but to arrest him. The alleged motive is to prevent him from fulfilling his

duties and campaigning in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Meanwhile, the BJP has criticized Kejriwal for consistently disregarding the Enforcement Directorate's summons, asserting that he fears arrest due to his alleged involvement as the "kingpin" in the excise scam.

constitutional and statutory

Continued on Page 2

Pakistan retaliatory attacks on Iran kill nine

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

 $P^{\text{akistan on Thursday used}}_{\text{killer drones and rockets to}}$ carry out "precision military strikes" against what it called "terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Siestan-Balochistan province, killing 9 people, a day after Islamabad downgraded diplomatic ties with Tehran following Iranian attacks on terror bases in Balochistan.

On Thursday morning Pakistan undertook a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes against terrorist hideouts in Siestan-o-Baluchistan province of Iran," Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement on Thursday.

killed during the intelligence-based operation codenamed (Death Sarmachar' Sarmachar). In Persian, "marg bar" means "death to" while "Sarmachar" means guerrilla in the Baloch language.
The precision strikes were

carried out using killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and stand-off weapons, according to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the Pakistan military's media

It said that "hideouts used by terrorist organisations namely Balochistan Liberation Army Balochistan and

It said a number of terrorists Liberation Front (BLF) were were killed during the successfully struck." The two groups have carried out several deadly attacks in Pakistan in the past.

> Foreign Ministry Iranian spokesman Nasser Kan'ani condemned the attack and said that the Pakistani chargé d'affaires was summoned by the ministry to convey Tehran's protest to Islamabad and provide an explanation about the attack, Iran's state-run Press TV reported.

Quoting Deputy governor of the province Alireza Marhamati, official news agency 'IRNA' said that nine non-Iranian nationals two men, three women and four children - were killed in the

being attack, which is investigated by the Iranian security officials. There was also an explosion near

Saravan city, 347 km southeast of the provincial capital Zahedan, where there were no casualties, he added. Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi confirmed the figures later in the day. The strikes came two days after

Iran launched unprecedented missile and drone attacks on what it said were directed at the bases of the Sunni Baloch militant group 'Jaish al-Adl' in the restive Balochistan province, prompting Pakistan to recall its ambassador to Iran and suspended all planned high-level bilateral visits.

Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Baloch Wednesday said the Iranian envoy to Pakistan who is currently visiting Iran may not return to Islamabad for the time being.

The tit-for-tat attacks within two days have raised tensions in the volatile region, already roiled by Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip and the targeting of the merchant ships in the Red Sea by Yemen's Houthis.

In its statement on Thursday, the Foreign Office said Islamabad has consistently shared its serious concerns with Tehran about the safe havens and sanctuaries enjoyed by Pakistani origin terrorists calling

themselves Sarmachars inside

However, because of lack of action on our serious concerns, these so-called Sarmachars continued to spill the blood of innocent Pakistanis with impunity. This morning's action was taken in light of credible intelligence of impending largescale terrorist activities by these so-called Sarmachars," it added. This action is a manifestation of Pakistan's unflinching resolve to protect and defend its national security against all threats," it said, adding that Pakistan will continue to take all necessary steps to preserve the safety and security of its people which is "sacrosanct, inviolable and

E carts to ferry devotees visiting HC okays Mamata harmony rally **Ayodhya to Ram temple**

Battery-operated carts will be made available for devotees visiting Ayodhya to offer prayers at the Ram temple and the Hanuman Garhi temple, officials said on Thursday.

The e-carts or golf carts will offer free rides to the elderly, divyangjans, and pregnant women while the fare for others will be announced soon, they said.

The 650 e-carts, to be deployed till March in the first phase, will be available at the parking lots across the city, Vice chairman of the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) Vishal Singh said.

A 'hyperloop model' for connecting the entire Ayodhya is being prepared and the ecart project is a part of it. In the near future, restrictions will be imposed on the entry of four-wheelers on the Ram



Path, a significant thoroughfare in the heart of Ayodhya, and only e-carts will be allowed, Singh said.

devotees, including the elder- For the devotees arriving in

ly, divyangjans, and pregnant women, are expected to visit Ayodhya for a 'darshan' of Ram Lalla after the consecra-Singh said a large number of tion ceremony on January 22.

their vehicles, e-carts will be available at the parking area. Through these e-carts, devotees can visit the Ram temple, Hanuman Garhi temple and other religious sites in the vicinity, he said.

Wheelchairs will also be provided free of cost at the Ram temple for the elderly, divyangjans, and pregnant women, he added.

The ADA has invited several corporate houses that had earlier expressed their desire to "serve" in Ayodhya to contribute to the e-cart project through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds, Singh said.

After obtaining their approval the plan will be implemented on a large scale, he said, adding substantial donations for the initiative have been received from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, the Indian Oil Corporation, and

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

There was a judicial setback I for Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari as the Calcutta High Court on Thursday dismissed his plea seeking deferment of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Sarva Dharma Sampriti Yatra or All Religion Harmony Rally on January 22 the day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Adhikari had earlier moved the

Court seeking deferment of the harmony rally and deployment of forces apprehending communal disturbance.

Saying that the petitioner himself had on several occasions approached the Court seeking permissions for rallies, the Division Bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam however said that it was the duty of the State administration to ensure that the common public was not

The Court also turned down the plea seeking deploy of central forces but imposed certain of the fast alienating Muslim



conditions on the organizers of the rally.

The Court said, "no speech shall be made hurting the sentiments of people belonging to a religion or sect. All participants of the rally shall be sensitized. If any violation occurs then organizers may be held responsible."

Earlier after filing the petition Adhikari had said that it was alarming that the Chief Minister had asked her party cadres to descend on the streets to stage a so-called rally for harmony. "This has been done by her to win back the confidence

voters ... now in the name of ensuring peace she wants her party to fan communal disturbance so that she can emerge as the savior of the minorities and win back their confidence ... this is a big conspiracy being hatched by her ... this is

alarming not only for the administration or police but also for the people of Bengal in general," Adhikari said.

"The lives and properties of the people of Bengal is in great danger ... and the TMC is planning to fan a communal disturbance which is why the Chief Minister has decided not only to confine the rally to Kolkata but carry it out in the districts and at block levels ... we will have to stop it at all cost," he maintained.

The Chief Minister had on Tuesday announced that she would lead a Harmony Rally which would start from Kalighat near her residence and end at Park Circus Maidan a locality dominated by a particular community.

Before embarking on the rally she would offers prayers at the

Mamata threatens to

use Central laws to

Banerjee said --- dropping an apparent message that Devi Shakti (Mother Goddess) was essentially the presiding deity of Bengal which she had often iterated in her previous speeches. Banerjee said that the rally would pass various places of worships from different religions.

Meanwhile, Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar attacked the Chief Minister for failing to pay obeisance to Lord Ram by refusing to visit Ayodhya during the inauguration of the Ram Temple.

"Lord Ram will never forgive Mamata Banerjee and she will feel the consequence for disregarding the God of all Hindus ... she was invited to Ayodhya to take part in the inauguration ceremony of Ram Temple but she refused the invitation ... but on the same day she is getting enough time to take out political rallies in the garb of so-called harmony rally ... all to appease a section of people

and stop erosion in her minor-

ity vote bank," Majumdar said.

Eyewitness identifies JKLF chief Malik as main shooter behind 1990 killings

▼KLF chief Yasin Malik lifted his 'pheran', pulled out his gun and opened fire at a group of IAF personnel, an eyewitness deposed before a special CBI court on Thursday while narrating what happened in Srinagar on January 25, 1990. Former IAF corporal Rajwar Umeshwar Singh, who survived

room as the main shooter. Malik attended the court proceedings on video from Delhi's Tihar Jail where he has been incarcerated

Besides the four men, including squadron leader Ravi Khanna, who were killed, 40 people were injured on January 25, 1990, in Rawalpora on the outskirts of Srinagar. The IAF employees were waiting for their pickup to old Srinagar airfield for duty when they came under fire from terrorists. A charge sheet



was filed on August 31, 1990 Malik as the man behind the against Malik and five others before the designated TADA

Court at Jammu. Besides Malik, others accused in the killing of the IAF personnel are JKLF operatives Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir alias 'Nalka', Showkat Ahmed Bakshi, Javed Ahmed Zargar and Nanaji.

"This is an important development in the case... The prosecution witness has identified

shooting," said Senior Public Prosecutor for CBI Monika Kohli. Kohli is the chief prosecutor in two key cases against Malik - the 1989 abduction of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, and the killing of the IAF personnel. Malik was given an offer to cross-examine the eyewitness but he refused and has been pressing for physical appearing in court.

kick out bad babus

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has threatened the State Government employees with dismissal — by application of Central Government laws —

should they be found guilty of dereliction of duty and also said that they should be prepared to work even on the holidays and if required all the seven days of a week.

The Chief Minister has been upset with the government employees who have been carrying out a long drawn movement demanding hike in dearness allowances from the present 6 percent to 38 percent. In virtual meeting with the district administrative officials the Chief Minister reportedly said that if required she would apply the provisions of Fundamental Rules (FR) 56(j)/(l), Rule 48 of Central Civil Services (CCS) Pension

Rules, 1972 and send govern-

ment officials on compulsory

retirement.

Already the government had applied the rules in case of 96 officials sending them to comexpect DA on par with the central government officials then you will have to accept the central government laws regarding early retirement for dereliction of duty," Banerjee reportedly told in the meeting held on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister who also asked the district magistrates to be vigilant in preventing cases of corruption at the pan-chayat level said that the Government officials would have to be prepared to work all the seven days of the week if required so that the benefits of the Government schemes can be taken to each and every household.

For this the Chief Minister entrusted the officials from the rank of the Principal Secretaries of each departments to Divisional Commissioners, District magistrates and Superintendants of Police who she said would have to supervise the implementation of government projects. All the leaves of the Government employees would be cancelled she reportedly

Reacting to Banerjee's statements Sanket Chakraborty, a leader of the Steering Committee, a state government employees organisation, said: "The chief minister recently said that her government has completed all the work. How can those work be completed if the government employees did not work? Her

statement itself is contradicto-P Ghosh another leader of the joint committee of the State government employees unions said that "many former governments had tried similar coercive tactics but subsequently ended up not only reinstating the employees but also paying them compensations... so before taking such

steps she must think twice."

the terror attack in which four IAF personnel were killed, pointed to Malik in the court-Call for early Cervical

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $E^{ven \ as \ the \ Government \ is}_{yet \ to \ decide \ on \ the \ launch}$ of a vaccine against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) causing Cervical cancer, doctors from the private and Government hospitals have underscored the need for early introduction of the shot along with health education on menstrual hygiene and sexual health to prevent the deadly disease.

According to the WHO, 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths from cervical cancer the fourth most prevalent cancer in women. It is the second most common cancer among Indian females with 123,907 new cases and 77,348 deaths estimated in 2020. Dr Pallavi Shukla, Associate

Professor, Preventive Oncology, Dr BRA IRCH, AIIMS, New Delhi told reporters here that three pronged strategy as per

cancer vaccine the WHO is the need of the hour for elimination of cervical cancer by the year 2030, she

> In early adolescent period-vaccination against HPV along with health education on menstrual hygiene and sexual health is needed while in reproductive period, there should be screening of sexually active female with any of the 3 screening/early detection tests like Pap test, HPV DNA test or Visual Inspection with Acetic acid (VIA), she said. Underscoring the gravity of the problem, The Fortis Hospital Greater Noida of Comprehensive Oncology

> "Cervical cancer is the fourthmost common cancer that occurs in women worldwide. As per global estimates, around 453 million Indian women aged 15 years and older are at risk of developing the cancer," said Dr. Jalaj Baxi, Senior Consultant, Oncologist Department.

Government offices to be closed for half day on January 22

All Central Government offices across the country will remain closed for half a day on January 22, due to the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya, a Personnel Ministry order issued on Thursday said. The 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of the new idol of Ram Lalla at the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram temple is scheduled for Monday. The ceremony is set to be performed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya will be celebrated on To enable employees to participate in the celebrations, it has been decided that all central government offices, central institutions and central industrial establishments throughout India will be closed for half day till 1430 hours on 22nd January 2024," it said in the order issued to all central government ministries/

Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said the decision has been taken in view of the "overwhelming" public sentiments.

'There was a huge public demand across the country regarding this. Decision on halfday closure of central government offices on January 22 has been taken in view of overwhelming public sentiments,"

Other States too have declared a public holiday with Uttar Pradesh leads the way. Others who have also announced a public holiday on January 22 are Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and few others are likely to follow the suit.

The 'Pran Pratishtha' event promises a historic spectacle, drawing dignitaries, sages, and saints from across India. Security measures in Ayodhya are heightened as the country eagerly anticipates this significant cultural and religious milestone.

ED attaches ₹36 crore properties in JK health insurance scam case

PNS JAMMU

Tn a significant development, the Enforcement Directorate has attached properties worth over Rs 36 crore in the case of M/s Reliance General Insurance Pvt. Ltd. (RGIPL) and M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Private Limited (TRBL) linked to health insurance of employees in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, the ED said Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached immovable and movable properties worth Rs 36.57 Crore in the case of M/s Reliance (RGIPL) and M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Private Limited (TRBL) related to fraudulent awarding of Tender of Mediclaim Insurance Policy for the J&K Government Employees, PSU's employees & Pensioners fraudulently to M/s Reliance General Insurance and implementation of the Pvt. Ltd. by the Finance said Health Scheme for Department, J&K in collusion Government.

with M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited (Insurance Broker).

The investigation in the case was initiated by the ED based on FIR registered by the CBI, ACB, Srinagar for the commission of offenses under various sections of RPC (Pari-Materia to sections 120-B & 420 of IPC) and JKPC (Pari-Materia to sections 13(1) (d) read with 13(2) of PC Act), based on complaint filed by the GAD, Govt. of UT of J&K against M/s Trinity Reinsurance Brokers Limited, M/s Reliance General Insurance Company Limited & private persons.

ED investigation revealed that the Finance Department, Govt. of J&K, deliberately awarded the tender for the engagement of the Intermediary (i.e Insurance Broker) for designing, floating the tender for

Modi travels with Ram...

The main deity worshipped in this temple is Sri Ramanathaswamy, a form of Bhagwan Shiva. It is widely believed that the main lingam in this temple was installed and worshipped by Sri Rama and Mata Sita. The temple contains one of the longest temple corridors, famous for its beautiful architecture. It is one of the Char Dhams - Badrinath, Dwarka, Puri, and Rameshwaram, and also one of the 12 Jyotirlingas.

It is said that this is where Vibhishana first met Shri Rama and asked him for refuge. Some legends also claim that this is the place where Sri Rama conducted the coronation of Vibhishana. The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple, located in Srirangam, Trichy, is one of the most ancient temple complexes in the country and is mentioned in various ancient texts, including the Puranas and Sangam era texts. It is famous for its architectural grandeur and numerous iconic gopurams. The main deity worshipped here is Sri Ranganatha Swamy, a reclining form of Bhagwaan Vishnu.

Sri Ramanujacharya, the great philosopher and saint, is also deeply associated with the history of this temple. Moreover, there are various important places in this temple; for example, the famous Kamba Ramayanam was first presented publicly by the Tamil poet Kamban in a particular location within this complex.

On January 21, Prime Minister Modi will perform 'darshan and pooja' at Kothandaramaswamy Temple, Dhanushkodi. Near Dhanushkodi, Modi will also visit Arichal Munai, which is said to be the place from where the Ram Setu was built. The Kothandaramaswamy Temple is dedicated to Sri Kothandarama Swamy. The name Kothandarama means Rama with the bow. According to sources, PM Modi has asked his Cabinet colleagues to celebrate the Ayodhya Ram temple consecration ceremony on January 22 like Diwali by lighting up diyas at their homes and also feeding the poor. Cabinet ministers, sources said, have also been urged to visit the temple along with devotees from their respective states after January 22.

Viksit Bharat...

From Page 1 He emphasised that he has consistently strived to ensure the saturation of welfare schemes' coverage, emphasising the crucial need for good nutrition, healthcare, and treatment, in addition to providing houses with water, cooking gas, and power connections. He highlighted how millions of people now have bank accounts and opportunities to

pursue independent endeavours.

In the last 10 years, over four crore poor families have acquired their own homes, with 70 percent of them being owned by women, thereby significantly enhancing their empowerment," he stated. He further pointed out that the average time required to build a house for the poor has decreased to nearly 100 days from the previous 300 days. Modi emphasised that boosting the rural economy and empowering farmers remains a top

priority for his government. 'India is changing rapidly. People's selfconfidence, trust in government and the resolve to build a new India is visible all round," he said.

Ram Lalla...

From Page 1
Dinesh Chandra and Dr Anil, members of the Board of Patrons of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, performed worship rituals on the silver statue.

Upon returning to the temple complex, Mahant Dinendra Das of Nirmohi Akhara and priest Sunil Das led further ceremonies, culminating in the worship of the throne in the sanctum sanctorum. The majestic new idol of Lord Rama, standing at an impressive 51 inches, now occupies a regal position atop a lotus throne, depicting the deity wielding a bow and arrow. The marble throne, reaching a height of 4 feet, radiates opulence with its gilded exterior, while the golden touch for the temple spire is reserved for a subsequent phase in the ongoing project. The collective height of the idol, throne, and elevated platform approaches nearly 11 feet, promising a spectacular sight for devotees visiting the sanctum sanctorum. While the combined height of the throne and idol stands at 8.25 feet, details regarding the height of the elevated platform are yet to be disclosed by the overseeing trust.

The luxurious golden embellishments within the temple will harmonize with the grandeur of the gold-adorned doors. The temple spire is poised for a transformative gilded enhancement in the next stage of the undertaking. As part of symbolic gestures and remarkable architectural

features, subsequent to the installation of Lord Rama's idol, golden padukas (footwear) crafted by Shri Challa Srinivas Shastri from Hyderabad will be placed within the temple. Each divine paduka, weighing 1 kilogram, is a blend of gold and silver (7 kilograms of silver).

To facilitate devotees' entry for darshan, a 'parikrama' or protective enclosure has been erected in front of the Ram Temple. Recent videos showcase a stunning two-tiered structure with a saffron flag flying high, creating a captivating visual display. The temple's interior is illuminated by vibrant yellow lights, creating an ethereal ambiance reminiscent of a golden aura enveloping the sanctum. The luxurious golden embellishments within the temple will harmonise with the grandeur of the goldadorned doors. The temple spire is poised for a transformative gilded enhancement in the next stage of the undertaking. As part of symbolic gestures and remarkable architectural features, following the installation of Lord Rama's idol, golden padukas (footwear) crafted by Shri Challa Srinivas Shastri from Hyderabad will be placed within the temple. Each divine paduka, weighing 1 kilogram, is a blend of gold and silver (7 kilograms of silver). To facilitate devotees' entry for darshan, a 'parikrama' or protective enclosure has been erected in front of the Ram Temple. Recent videos showcase a stunning two-tiered structure with a saffron flag flying high, creating a captivating visual display. The temple's interior is illuminated by vibrant yellow lights, creating an ethereal ambiance reminiscent of a golden aura enveloping the

Kejriwal skips ED **summons** fourth time

From Page 1 During a press conference at the party headquarters, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed that Kejriwal

because he was "sweating" in winter and "shaking in fear," anticipating his arrest, given his purported role in the excise police scam. Referring to the latest ED

did not appear before the ED

summons dated 12.01.2024, requesting Kejriwal's appearance on January 18/19, along with a communication received from the ED, sources reported that Kejriwal criticized the ED's response for being rife with contradictions, incorrect facts/law, and vagueness. In his reply, he empha-

erned by the rule of law, the language and tone of the ED's communication overlook this fundamental principle. Kejriwal argued that the ED's approach is arbitrary and biased, contrary to established norms and constitutional principles. Additionally, he asserted that the ED has levied baseless accusations against

explained whether he is per-

sized that, in a country gov-

Sources indicated that Kejriwal argued that none of the communications sent by the ED

ceived as a suspect, a prospective accused, or a witness. Additionally, it remains unclear whether he is being summoned in connection with an investigation or inquiry into the role of a political party or any other aspect. Furthermore, the ED com-

munications do not provide clarity on whether the requirement for his in-person examination under Section 50 PMLA is necessary for any specific purpose. Kejriwal questioned whether, in the absence of the need for any

document as envisaged under campaigning for the upcom-Section 50(2) PMLA, the ing Lok Sabha polls. recording of his statement 'to give evidence' would justify his appearance without disclosing the facts under inquiry. This enquiry was raised in his response to the communication and summon dated 12.01.2024, as per the sources. Speaking to reporters at an event organized by the Delhi government, Kejriwal asserted that the ED summonses issued to him were "illegal" and part of a political conspiracy to hinder him from

He alleged that the entire exercise of serving him summons was carried out with the intention to arrest him before the high-octane polls expected in April-May. The chief minister stated that he received a summons from the Enforcement Directorate last week for the fourth time, requiring him to appear before the agency on January 18 or January 19. "The BJP is running the ED. Their sole intention is to arrest me to

prevent me from campaigning for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," he said. Kejriwal mentioned that he had sent his reply to the central agency. "The four notices sent to me are illegal in the eyes of the law. General, non-specific notices like these have been quashed by the courts in the past. I have repeatedly written to the ED, stating that the notices are illegal, but they have not replied to me," he said. Alleging that the notices are part of a "political conspiracy," he mentioned

that the probe into the excise

policy case has been ongoing for two years without substantial findings. "False statements are being extracted from people through coercion," he added. Kejriwal received the fourth

summons in the liquor policy case on January 12, instructing him to appear before the central agency for questioning on Thursday, January 18. He had skipped the previous summons asking him to appear before the ED on November 2 and December 21, 2023, and January 3, 2024.

BJP slams Kejriwal for skipping ED summons

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

the BJP on Thursday slammed Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for repeatedly skipping the Enforcement Directorate's summonses and said he fears that he will be arrested as he knows he is the "kingpin" of the alleged excise scam.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged Kejriwal did not appear before the ED as he was "sweating" in winter and "shaking in fear" anticipating his arrest since he knows that he is the kingpin of the excise policy

Bhatia described the ED's summonses to Kejriwal as "justified" and asked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor why he doesn't approach the court challenging the probe agency's summonses, instead of writing letters and skipping them.

"You are sweating in winter and shaking in fear. Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, sitting behind bars, are asking Kejriwal when

Bhairon Marg

underpass to

open soon: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi PWD Minister Atishi has informed that the

underpass constructed on

Bhairon Marg will be opened to

the public soon, providing relief

from traffic congestion for hun-

dreds of vehicles traveling daily

from Central Delhi to Trans

Yamuna and Noida. On

Thursday, Atishi inspected the

underpass and directed officials to expedite the remaining

work, with instructions to open the underpass for traffic at the

The PWD Minister said, "After

the underpass is operational

daily commuters from Central

and New Delhi to destinations

like Ring Road, Trans Yamuna,

East Delhi, and Noida will find

their journey more convenient.

This will eliminate the need for

a U-turn of approximately 1.5 km near the ITO depot, which

is currently being used by the

directly from Bhairon Marg to

Ring Road by using the underpass. This will reduce the traf-

fic load on the Pragati Maidan

tunnel, and evening traffic at this

location will also be lessened.

During this inspection, Atishi

stated that with the underpass

on Bhairon Marg being a signif-

The underpass, constructed with exceptional engineering, will

benefit daily commuters from

Central Delhi to Trans Yamuna

and Noida, saving time and

fuel costs. People will now be

able to reach home quickly,

spending precious time with family and loved ones, while also

contributing to traffic deconges-

icant effort in this direction.

earliest.



will he join them (in prison)," he said. The BJP spokes person said now it "seems certain" that the "kingpin" of the liquor scam will be put behind bars.

"Now it's confirmed that Arvind Keiriwal knows that he committed this scam worth thousands of crores of rupees. Arvind Kejriwal has come to know that summonses issued to him were

his future is dark "he said Listen carefully Arvind Kejriwal, you are not above the law. People who are accused or have been issued summons can escape the law for some time but can't survive. You are not going to survive," he warned. Earlier in the day, Kejriwal said the ED

'illegal" and part of a political conspiracy to stop him from campaigning for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Hitting back, Bhatia said, "Ulta

chor kotwal ko dante (pot is calling the kettle black)...It's for the first time in the history of independent India that someone is asking the probe agency to

withdraw its summons. "Kejriwal is synonymous with anarchy. Breaking the law, corruption, loot and kickbacks are in his DNA," he added. The BIP leader likened Keiriwal

to the protagonist of the Aamir Khan-starrer film "Ghajini" who suffers from amnesia and reminded the chief minister that he had said in the past that anyone facing allegations of graft should resign and return to his position only after getting a clean chit. Delhi BJP President Virendra

Sachdeva has said that the way Arvind Kejriwal hiding from ED notice he looks like an economic fugitive. "It seems that Kejriwal knows that the investigation conducted by ED has established that he is the main brain behind the liquor scam and the beneficiary of the scam. Therefore, now he is trying to linger on the investigation as much as possible but he should know that the countrymen have now understood that the AAP government is immersed in corruption and Kejriwal will face the consequences in the upcoming Lok Sabha and assembly elections. Sachdeva said.



LG nod for amendment in Delhi Prison Rules 2018

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved a draft notification for amendment in Delhi Prison Rules 2018, paving way for premature release of infirm prisoners aged over 70 years who have completed half of their sen-

Giving this information here on Thursday, officials said the amendment was made in compliance of a Delhi High Court order, passed while hearing a writ petition that sought the premature release of infirm prisoners in terms of the reports of All India Committee on Jail Reforms (1982-1983 Mulla Committee) and model Prison Rules, 2003. The amendment seeks to ensure a humanitarian approach towards such old-age and infirm prisoners, while also decongesting Delhi's overcrowded jails at Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini that are housing over 20,000 inmates against their total capacity of 10,026 only.

The amendment will however not be applicable to convicts serving life or death sentence or those convicted under treason, terrorism, POCSO charges,. An Evaluation Committee will be formed to assess if a prisoner will be eligible for release.

All eligible cases recommended by this committee will be submitted to the LG for approval of remittance of remaining sentence for pre-mature release, they said

As per the amendment, Rule 1246-A has been inserted in the Delhi Prison Rules 2018, as proposed by the Prison Department and concurred by the Home and the Law Department, they said. Presently, as per the Rule 1251 of Delhi Prison Rules 2018, only life convicts who have spent 14 years of their total sentence are pre-maturely released on the recommendations of the Sentence Review Board.

With the latest amendment in the prison rules, incapacitated convict — those aged 70 years and above and unable to perform their own daily tasks could be released prematurely on the recommendations of a review committee set up for this purpose, they said.

The prisoners to be released under the amended rule will have to be certified "incapacitated convicts" by a medical board. The Evaluation Committee will evaluate the medical condition of the convict on the basis of certification of medical board, the officials said.

The Evaluation Committee will comprise: deputy inspector general (prisons), superintendent of the jail concerned as member secretary, resident medical officer of the jail and two specialist doctors from any government hospital to be nominated by director general (prison) as members.

Further, a social investigation report including feedback from the victim(s) of the crime involving the convict, too will have to be submitted to the committee while deciding the remittance, they said.

The DG (Prisons) may also take opinion of any medical authority like AIIMS as it deems fit in this regard. The Evaluation Committee may also recommend whether convict is fit for premature release under this rule, they added.

This move will cover prisoners who are undergoing either rigorous or simple imprisonment for a fixed term of sentence and their appeals against the convictions have been decided by the appellate courts.

However, these rules shall not be applicable to any incapacitated convict or otherwise who has been sentenced to death or is a life convict or prisoner convicted under offences under NDPS Act, 1985, POCSO Act, 2012, Negotiable Instrument Act 1881 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985, or Prevention of Corrup tion Act, 1988, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 or any offences relating to terrorism or cases investigated by the National Investigation Agency

5 held for robbing trader of ₹75 lakh

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested five people for allegedly robbing a businessman of around Rs 75 lakh in Shalimar Bagh of northwest Delhi, officials said on Thursday. Those arrested have been identified as the businessman's driver Vicky Kumar (33), his brother-in-law Robin (25), Mukesh (50), Mukesh's son Sudhanshu (23) and Abhishek On January 13, the businessman sent Vicky

Kumar and another employee Vinod to bring Rs 75 lakh from the Janakpuri area. They were given a bag of money by a person and Vicky put it in the car. When they reached their office, four men on two motorcycles snatched the bag at gunpoint and fled, Special Commissioner of Police (law and order) Ravindra Singh Yadav said.

The next day, an FIR under IPC sections 392 (robbery), 397 (robbery or dacoity, with an attempt to cause death or grievous hurt), and 34 (common intentions) IPC was registered



based on the businessman's complaint and an investigation was taken up

"As the incident took place during the night, it was very difficult to locate the culprits even with the help of CCTV cameras. Dense fog coupled with low visibility was hindering the investigation," said the special CP.The accused were arrested from the Kirari Suleman Nagar area on Wednesday.

"During interrogation, it was revealed that Vicky was an employee of the complainant and worked as a driver for the last one-andhalf years. Vicky was facing financial hardship and wanted to earn more money in a short period.

"He had discussed his financial situation with his brother-in-law Robin, who was going through the same circumstances and had mortgaged his house by taking loans," the police officer said. Police said Vicky told Robin about the mon-

etary transaction. Robin in turn roped in Sudhanshu, his father Mukesh, a history sheeter, and two others — Abhishek and Rohit. They together hatched a conspiracy and carried out the robbery, the officer said. "Mukesh, previously involved in four criminal cases of attempt to murder, robbery, and under the Arms Act, provided vehicles and weapons to commit the crime. So far, we have recovered Rs 60.70 lakh. One more accused Rohit is still at large and will be arrested soon," Yadav said.

A motorcycle, an automatic pistol and a country-made pistol have been seized, he

No relief from dense fog yet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's minimum temperature rose by a degree at most locations across the national Capital on Thursday, even as dense fog persisted for nearly six hours. Early-morning foggy weather in north and northeast India has heavily impacted road, rail and air traffic over the last perature was settled at 6.6 degrees Celsius, one notch below the season's average. There is a possibility of dense fog

flight operations. However, it improved to 350 metres by 8:30 am. Due to foggy conditions, over 50 flights being delayed during that period, and at least five flights were cancelled in the early hours of the day. The maximum temperature was recorded in Palam 17.2 degrees Celsius, Lodhi Road 17.4 degrees Celsius, Ridge 17.8 degrees Celsius, Jafarpur 16.2 degrees Celsius, Narela 16.1 degrees Celsius, SPS Mayur Vihar 14.2 degrees Celsius and Pusa 19.3 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, at least 18 trainseither originating from or bound for the capital, were delayed by over one hour. Several flights were delayed due to fog at airports. Delhi had recorded five cold wave days between Friday and Tuesday, with the minimum temperature recorded below 4°C on all five days. Mercury has risen by nearly three degrees in the last 48 hours, owing to warm easterly blowing towards the national Capital. Delhi's A layer of fog lowered visibility to zero metres at several places in north and northeast India. affecting rail traffic, officials said. Satellite imagery showed some reduction in fog over Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh However, 'dense' to 'very dense fog prevailed in parts of Punjab, Haryana, west Rajasthan, Bihar, Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh, In the plains, the MeT office declares a 'cold wave' if the minimum temperature dips to 4 degrees Celsius or when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees or below and is fourand-a-half notches below the normal. A 'severe cold wave' is when the minimum temperature dips to 2 degrees Celsius or the departure from the normal is by more than 6.4 degrees.

A 'cold day' is when the minimum temperature is less than or equal to 10 degrees Celsius below normal and the maximum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees below normal. A 'severe cold day' is when the maximum is 6.5 degrees Celsius or more below normal.

on Friday morning and the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 18.6 degrees Celsius, a notch below the normal , the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said . The moderate sunlight gave much relief in the day time from the icy winds. The weather department has issued a "yellow alert" for dense fog in the national capital and adjoining areas for the next two days. The IMD said visibility at the Delhi airport oscillated between 50 and 100 metres between minimum on Tuesday was 3.5°C 12:30am and 6:30am, impacting and it was 5.7°C on Wednesday.

Business Blasters to be added in curriculum: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pelhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said the 'Business Blasters' programme will be introduced in Delhi Government-funded colleges and grants for the curriculum are being sanctioned.

Addressing the students and teachers at the Excellence in Education Awards of the Delhi government, Kejriwal said. Business Blasters programme shaped the students' mindset of becoming job givers and not seekers." "We aim to introduce the same curriculum in the colleges funded by our government. Funds are being sanctioned to those colleges to begin this curriculum," he said.

The programme is an extended practical component of the Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum that provides Class 11 and Class 12 students with Rs 2,000 each in seed money for

developing business ideas. Fifty-one government and private schools were awarded the 'Excellence in Education Award' of the Delhi government under seven categories by the chief minister and Education Minister Kejriwal further said the credit

for the "education revolution" in the national capital should be given to the teachers of the government schools. These schools have surpassed the private schools in all aspects, he said.
"We haven't changed the teachers, we only gave them an environment to excel. Even the underprivileged children get the best education in Delhi today," the chief minister said.

Keiriwal said Delhi government school teachers are "nothing less than role models" for the students."When the students were receiving awards, most of them told me they wanted to become teachers when they grew up. Hence, it proves that Delhi government school teachers are

nothing less than a role model to these students," he said. While Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya (Rajokari) received the 'Chief Minister trophy' for the state's best school, 13 schools received the 'Education Minister trophy' for best district school.

Twenty schools were awarded 'Zonal best schools', and 12 schools were awarded for best management committee.

Speaking at the event, Delhi Education Minister Atishi said more than 23,000 children with special needs are studying in Delhi government schools and specialised teachers have been provided by the government for

"Children with special needs get special treatment in our schools now. There are more than 23,000 children studying in Delhi government schools and we have also provided specialised teachers for them too," Atishi said. She further said that parents and school management committees played a crucial role in development of the government schools in the last nine years.

"Not just academic performance, children get a vast range of curricular activities in Delhi government schools. Parents and school management committees also played a crucial role in the development of these schools,



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Security situation in Red Sea matter of concern: India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ndia on Thursday described as a "matter of concern" the as a "matter of concern" the unfolding security situation in the Red Sea and said it is closely watching the developments in the critical sea lanes in the region.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reaffirmed India's emphasis on the importance to freedom of navigation and commerce in the Red Sea.

Amid the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Houthi militants have been targeting commercial vessels in the Red Sea triggering global concerns.

A guided missile destrover of the Indian Navy on Thursday intercepted a cargo vessel with 22 crew members, including nine Indians, over an hour after the Marshall Islandflagged ship came under a drone strike in the Gulf of Aden.

The US and the UK have already launched air strikes targeting the Houthi positions in Yemen.

"It is a matter of concern to us. We give a lot of importance to freedom of navigation and freedom of commerce in that region. Whatever is happening there not just impacts us, but it impacts economic interests and several other interests of so



Jaiswal said.

He was responding to a question on the situation in the Red

"We are closely monitoring the situation and looking at the unfolding situation with a constant watch," the MEA

During his recent visit to Tehran, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed the situation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

spokesperson said.

"We are deeply concerned about the whole situation. It is an important shipping lane for not just India but for the world. We have our interests there which are being impacted," he said.

The Red Sea has strategic importance as around 15 per cent of global trade passes through it via the Bab al-Mandab Strait. Asked about Pakistan carrying

out a retaliatory missile attack on alleged Baloch separatist camps inside Iran, Jaiswal chose not to comment on it. On Wednesday, India backed Iran's deadly missile attack targeting terror bases in western Pakistan, saying it understands actions that countries take in self-defence.

India also asserted that it has "an uncompromising" position rorism.

Asked about South Africa accusing Israel of committing genocide against the Palestinians following the Hamas's October 7 attack on Israeli cities, Jaiswal did not give a direct reply, but said India's position on Israel-Hamas conflict has been con-

"Our position has been consistent and steadfast. We have condemned terrorism; we have called for release of hostages and have sought protection of civilians. We also called for humanitarian assistance and we stand for a long-term twostate solution," he said.

India committed to its development agenda with Maldives: MEA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In the backdrop of Maldives asking India to withdraw its military personnel from there, New Delhi on Thursday said here India remains committed to take forward its development agenda with the Maldives, including implementation of various welfare projects in the island nation.

The comments by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came amid strain in ties between the two countries following President Maldivian Mohamed Muizzu's call for withdrawal of Indian military personnel from his country

by March 15.
"We remain committed to our projects and to take them forward. We have been an important development partner of the Maldives," he said at his weekly media briefing while replying to a question. 'We remain committed to doing all things that we can do as a development partner of the Maldives," Jaiswal

added. On Male insisting on withdrawal of Indian troops, he suggested that the matter will be deliberated upon at the second meeting of India-Maldives core group. The next core group meeting is set to take place in New Delhi early next month.

The issue of the Indian military personnel was extensive-



ly discussed at the first meeting of the core group in Male on January 14

"Both sides held discussions on finding mutually workable solutions to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medvac (medical evacuation) services to the people of Maldives," the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement following the meeting.
The India-Maldives ties came

under some stress as Muizzu, widely seen as a pro-China leader, maintained after assuming charge as the president in November that he will keep his election promise of evicting Indian military personnel from his country. The Maldives is one of India's key maritime neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties including in areas of defence and security witnessed an upward trajectory under the previous government in Male. In May last year, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited the Maldives during which he handed over a fast patrol vessel and a landing craft to the island nation.

PM interacts with beneficiaries as they share their transformative stories

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday celebrated the transformative stories of individuals from diverse backgrounds, who have harnessed government initiatives to bring positive change to their lives and communities. Kalpana Bai, a transgender person from Mumbai who leads the Sai Kinnar Bachat self-help group (SHG), shared her challenging journey from a life of begging to entrepreneurship. She thanked the prime minister for the government's support through the Urban Livelihood Mission and SVANidhi scheme.

She now runs a basket-making business and an idli-dosa and flower business, dispelling misconceptions about the transgender community.

The prime minister told her that she is doing what the transgender people are capable of doing.

The interaction, part of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, witnessed thousands of beneficiaries from across the country joining via video conferencing, along with Union Ministers, MPs, MLAs and local representatives, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Another beneficiary was Silme Marak from Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya. She graduated from a small shop to leading an SHG which aids over 50 such

A beneficiary of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and other schemes, Marak is actively involved in food processing and bakery businesses.

The prime minister praised her confidence, calling her the "Modi of your village". He highlighted her hands-on experience with the government schemes and her dedication to social service.

Sandeep, a farmer from Haryana's Rohtak, shared how the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi



has positively impacted his joint family of 11 members. Modi applauded the success of the scheme in Haryana, emphasising its role in supporting farmers like Sandeep with direct financial assistance for

fertilisers and seeds. Mamta Dhindhore, a selfemployed woman from Dungarpur in Rajasthan, shared her journey of empowerment under the Gramin Ajivika Mission. She works with 7,500 women

in 150 groups, providing awareness, training and assistance in obtaining loans, according to the statement. Her zeal for spreading awareness about government schemes earned praise from the prime minister, who noted her significant role in empow-

ering women. M Mallikarjuna Reddy, a farmer from Karimnagar in Telangana and a former software professional, showcased the potential of an integrated approach to farming. Possessing a BTech degree, Reddy doubled his income through animal husbandry, horticulture and natural farm

Recognised by various organisations, he now inspires others and trains farmers in the region. PM Modi lauded Reddy's commitment to agriculture and urged him to encourage more educated youth to enter the sector, the statement said.

In Rajasthan's Dungarpur, Prime Minister Modi interacted with Mamta who told him that the schemes of the central government have brought a big change to her life, according to an official statement.

The Prime Minister said that with the help of women like her, the resolution of making two crore 'Lakhpati Didis' will soon be realised. Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma also participated in the programme through video



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

smart cities

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Thursday released data on smart city projects saying more than 600 kilometres of cycle tracks have been developed in 100 smart cities while over 76,000 CCTV surveillance cameras installed so far.

Under the Smart Cities Mission, 6,855 "smart classrooms" and 40 digital libraries have been developed. Also, over 50 lakh solar and LED streetlights have been installed and over 89,000 km of underground electricity cabling constructed, it said.

The ministry said special purpose vehicles in these 100 cities are developing around 8,000 multi-sectoral projects worth more than Rs 1.7 lakh crore while 6,650 projects worth Rs 1.32 lakh crore have been completed till January 15

this year.

The Ministry released the data on smart city projects at a time when the deadline for the June this year. The Smart Cities Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and give a decent quality of life to their citizens through the applica-

tion of "smart solutions' The ministry said 674 economic infrastructure projects have been completed and 263 more are under implementation with a total investment worth more than Rs 13,800 crore, a move that will establish smart cities as growth hubs which attract investments and create jobs through the establishment of start-up incubation centres and market

redevelopment projects.

Mission Director Kunal Kumar said integration of intelligent traffic management systems having surveillance systems has improved road safety and added that more than 76,000 CCTV surveil lance cameras have been installed in 100 smart cities which helps in monitoring crime. He said that as part of boosting urban mobility, these 100 cities have completed around 1,300 smart mobility projects and 383 projects are nearing completion.

The total investment in the development of smart mobility projects is more than Rs 40,000 crore. "Over 2,500 km of smart roads with universal accessibility, utility ducts and proper signages have been developed. Over 7,500 new buses, including more than 2,000 electric buses), have been procured. Over 600 km of cycle tracks have been developed in 100 smart cities under the Mission," the ministry said in a statement. Besides, intelligent transport

management systems have

been implemented and mon-

itored through the Integrated

Command and Control

Centres which is improving

traffic operations, enforcing

traffic violations and improv-

ing journey time.

Niti Aayog claim of 24 crore out of poverty in 9 years a jumla, alleges Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

ongress on Thursday termed as "jumla" a Niti Aayog report that claimed 24.82 crore people have been moved out of multi-dimensional poverty in nine years to 2022-23, and alleged that the government was hatching a "conspiracy" to exclude these people from the safety net of welfare schemes and free

The Congress' attack came a day after the report said as many as 24.82 crore people moved out of multidimensional poverty in nine years to 2022-23, with Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh registering the largest decline. According to the NITI discussion paper, multidimensional poverty in India declined from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14 to 11.28 per cent in 2022-23, showing a reduction of 17.89 percentage points, with about 24.82 crore people moving out of the bracket during this peri-

Addressing a Press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress spokesperson and social media department head Supriya Shrinate said the claim that 24.84 crore people have been moved out of multidimensional poverty was the "latest jumla in a list of jumlas" that will be seen up until elec-"The truth cannot be further

away from this and the reality is how NITI Aayog has arrived at these numbers -- it has changed the established criteria of how poverty is calculate ed and neither the World Bank nor the IMF have cited any third party stories on it," she

"It was a report prepared by the NITI Aayog, a survey done by them and reported by them but the reality on the ground is extremely stark," she said, adding that the figures were nothing but "blatant lies of the BJP ecosystem".

'Reality of these numbers is that there is a conspiracy being hatched against the poor of this country, because very soon close to 25 crore people who have now been declared 'not poor' wiil be taken out of the safety net that the government offers to the poor," Shrinate

NCC transforms minds into patriotic citizens: Minister PNS NEW DELHI Bhatt recalled his days as an

 $N_{({
m NCC})}^{
m ational}$ Cadet Corps is not just an organisation but a movement which transforms young minds into more responsible and patriotic citizens, Minister of State for defence Ajay Bhatt during his visit to the NCC Republic Day Camp here on efforts of the NCC in creating the future heroes of India, he described the camp as an amalgamation of diverse cultures, languages and traditions, which reflects the vibrant image of the country at the international stage and its identity of unity in diversity

Bhatt also lauded the NCC for inculcating values & skills in the cadets and developing their leadership abilities. True to its motto 'Unity and Discipline,' the NCC has grown from scratch into the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, he said

NCC cadet and stated that the organisation filled him with a profound sense of pride. He appreciated their commendable efforts towards the community service schemes like 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan', 'Ganga Utsav Campaign', 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan', 'Plastic Pollution Campaign', 'Coastal Clean-up etc. which had a positive impact. He concluded his address with a call to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of the Constitution and strive to build a more inclusive and stronger India on this Republic Day.

As part of the event, Bhatt reviewed an impressive 'Guard of Honour' presented by the smart cadets of the NCC. Following this, NCC cadets of Sainik School, Kapurthala put on a splendid band display. He also visited the 'Flag Area' which portrayed various social awareness themes and cultural activities.

Coaching centres cannot enroll students below 16 years: MoE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With rampart reports of coaching centres luring even class five students to seek guidance for entrance for engineering, medical, law and other competitions, the Centre on Thursday issued stringent rule enroll students below 16 years of age which means either a student should be in class 10th or class 11th.

The Ministry of Education (MoE) also called that the coaching institutes should avoid making any misleading promises and guarantee rank or good marks.

The Centre has also clarified that the state government will be responsible for monitoring the activities of the coaching centre and enquiring about any coaching centre regarding the fulfilment of required eligibility of registration and sat-



isfactory activities of the coach-

The MoE has also suggested that coaching centres be penalised up to Rs 1 lakh or their registration be cancelled for charging exorbitant fees that cause undue stress leading to student suicide or for other malpractices.

The new guidelines has come for regulating the coaching institutes and they have been framed to address the need for a legal framework and manage the unregulated growth of private coaching centres. It comes following complaints received by the government about rising cases of student suicides, fire incidents, lack of facilities in coaching incidents

as well as methodologies of

teaching adopted by them. "No coaching centre shall engage tutors having qualifications less than graduation. The institutions cannot make misleading promises or guarantee rank or good marks to parents

for enrolling students in the coaching centres.

Erratic monsoon due to climate change events. Titled, "Decoding fall rise of over 30 per cent dur-

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

ccelerating rate of climate Achange has resulted in fastshifting and erratic monsoon patterns in India in the last decade (2012-2022) with approximately 30 per cent of the country's districts experiencing a notable increase in deficient rainfall years, while 38 per cent witnessed a rise in excessive rainfall years.

Flagging the notable shift in the monsoon patterns in India which is bound to have severe impact on agriculture production, and livelihood as well as water availability, the study by think-tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) has called for imme-



diate adaptive measures and robust environmental policies. Spanning 40 years, the study noted that monsoon rainfall increased in 55% of Indian tehsils in last 10 years amid climate change while 11% tehsils saw a decrease, which are locatrainfall in more than 4,500 tehsils across India covering 1982-2022 "Majority of India is seeing a surge in southwest monsoon rainfall, with 55 per cent of

'tehsils' or sub-districts seeing a significant increase of more than 10 per cent in the last decade (2012-2022)," according to the study. This includes tehsils in tradi-

India's Changing Monsoon

Patterns," the study is a first-of-

its-kind granular analysis of

tionally drier regions such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, central Maharashtra, and parts of Tamil Nadu. Out of these, nearly a quarter of the tehsils are seeing a pronounced raining the June to September period. Moreover, says the study, the increased rainfall in these tehsils is frequently coming from short-duration, heavy rainfall, which often leads to flash floods. "For instance, 31 per cent of

Indian tehsils experienced an increase of four or more days of heavy rainfall per year in the last decade (in comparison to the previous 30 years) during the southwest monsoons. As 2023 was declared the hottest year on record globally, and 2024 is expected to continue that trend, the impacts of the climate crisis will be seen in the form of increased extreme

relatively low cost locally. Servati envisions a seamless transition of the glove into the consumer market with ongoing improvements, in collaboration with different industrial partners. The team also sees potential applications in virtual reality augmented reality, animation

New Smart glove to help stroke patients recover use of limbs itor patients' hand and finger PNS N ARCHANA JYOTI "This is the most accurate finger movements during rehadetermine the angles of all costly motion-capture cameras, the researchers said.

 $S^{\text{troke survivors can now}}_{\text{look forward to a new}}$ 'Smart glove' developed by Canadian researchers that can aid recovery and ultimate restoration of use of their limbs and hands.

The new gadget is capable of tracking the patients' hand and

bilitation exercises as it incorporates a sophisticated network of highly sensitive sensor yarns and pressure sensors that are woven into a comfortable stretchy fabric, enabling it to track, capture and wirelessly transmit even the smallest hand and finger movements. "With this glove, we can mon-

movements without the need for cameras. We can then analyse and fine-tune their exercise programmes for the best possible results, even remotely," said Janice Eng, a leading stroke rehabilitation specialist and professor of medicine at University of British Columbia (UBC).

glove we know of that can track hand and finger movement and grasping force without requiring motion-capture cameras," added Peyman Servati, professor of electrical and computer engineering at UBC. Using machine learning models the team developed the glove, which can accurately

finger joints and the wrist as the patients move. The technology, described in a paper published in the journal Nature Machine Intelligence, is highly precise and fast, capable of detecting small stretches and pressures and predicting movement with at least 99 per cent accuracy -

ed in rain-fed Indo-Gangetic

plain, Northeastern region in

the country and upper

Himalayan region. These areas

are crucial for India's agricul-

tural output and contain frag-

ile ecosystems particularly vul-

nerable to extreme climate

Unlike other products in the market, the glove is wireless and comfortable, and can also be easily washed after removing the battery. Servati and his team have

developed advanced methods to manufacture the smart - matching the performance of gloves and related apparel at a

and robotics.

Ram temple turning Ayodhya into economic hub

n a paradigm shift, the construction of the Ram Temple **▲**in Ayodhya is not merely a testament to faith and spirituality; it is catalysing a remarkable economic transformation in the vibrant city of Saryu, turning it

into a major economic center for

the nation.

Principal Secretary of Tourism, Mukesh Meshram, said, "The wave of development and enthusiasm surrounding new projects in Ayodhya is poised to propel the overall growth of Uttar Pradesh.'

As per the Tourism Department, the city witnessed a surge in tourists in last few years, with numbers escalating from a modest three and a quarter lakh in 2021 to an astounding 2.39 crores in 2022. This further increased to 31.5 crore, as claimed by Chief Minister Yogi

"Following the consecration of Shri Ram Lalla on January 22, Avodhya is set to emerge as a highly developed and prominent tourist destination on the global tourism map. The doubleengine government is actively working on the development of religious tourist sites across the state," the CM said and added:

'Ayodhya's increasing prominence is not just limited to its spiritual and emotional significance; it is emerging as a major tourist destination. The city has recently been granted international airport status to facilitate global connectivity.'

The economic impact is anticipated to be substantial, with experts projecting an additional business boom of Rs 50,000 crores, reflecting the nationwide enthusiasm for the upcoming Pran Pratistha ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. on December 30, dedicated numerous development projects to Ayodhya, laying the foundation for works worth over ?15,000 crore and envisioning Ayodhya as a regional growth hub

The ambitious redevelopment of Ayodhya, outlined in Master Plan 2031, is slated to be completed over 10 years with an investment exceeding ?85,000 crore. The city's potential to attract pilgrims and tourists is emphasized by the expected 1:10 ratio of residents to tourists. 'Avodhva holds immense potential as a spiritual destination for tourism, especially with the upcoming opening of the Ram temple. We believe the tourism industry could see a tenfold increase by 2024, making Ayodhya a global spiritual center," asserted Kamlesh Singh, a tour operator in Lucknow.

Tour operators, like Manoj Singh, are witnessing a rapid surge in tourists to Ayodhya and

Banaras, with bookings for 2024 experiencing a staggering growth of over 100 percent. Singh highlights the positive impact on the travel industry and tourism in Uttar Pradesh, positioning it as a much-needed boost after a decline in tourist numbers post-2019.

Manoj Singh reveals that his company is facilitating comprehensive travel arrangements for pilgrims from Kerala and Tamil Nadu to Ayodhya. The 5-day, 4night trip costs a minimum of Rs 15,000 per person, excluding travel expenses, covering accommodation, food, and transportation. Singh emphasizes that while there is a set minimum expenditure, there is no upper limit for those willing to spend more. From January 23 to September 23, a total of 2,03,64,347 tourists visited Ayodhya. Among them, the number of domestic tourists

was 2,03,62,713, while 1,634

were international tourists.

Government".

The expected business generated by this influx of tourists is estimated to exceed Rs 150 crore, with over a thousand small and large travel agents operating in cities like Lucknow, Banaras, and Prayagraj. Chairperson of the Shri Ram

Mandir Construction Committee, Nripendra Mishra, foresees a surge in economic activities around Ayodhya after the inauguration of the Ram temple, potentially leading to city expansion akin to the National Capital Region.

The Ram Mandir Committee is committed to accommodating the faith of devotees by ensuring that 70,000 worshippers can have daily darshan. Ayodhya, similar to renowned temples like Padmanabha Swami, Tirupati Balaji, Vaishnodevi, Siddhivinavak, and Kashi Vishwanath, is implementing convenient arrangements for devotees. Since the groundbreaking

2020, Ayodhya has undergone a remarkable transformation. The city is witnessing projects worth thousands of crores, including the construction of Rampath, Bhakti Path, and Darshan Path, aimed at facilitating easy darshan of Ramlala. Several temples are undergoing renovation to encourage tourists to extend their stay and explore the rich religious heritage of Ayodhya. Plans for the 84 Kosi Parikrama Marg and approximately 60 associated religious places are

also in the proposal stage. Prof. Devashish Das Gupta from the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, advocates implementing a model akin to South Indian temples in Ayodhya. "This model prioritizes devotee convenience, safety, health, and local cottage industries to enhance the overall experience and promote local goods," he said.

Dinesh Goyal, the National Ser ior Vice President of the Indian Industries Association, anticipates a significant economic boost, estimating an additional business turnover of Rs 50,000 crore in the country due to the preparations for Pran Pratistha. He sees tremendous potential in Ayodhya as a major contributor to the national economy.

The growing interest in Ayodhya is not limited to its spiritual significance but is also manifesting in the widespread popularity of products related to Ramlala. These products include Shri Ram flags, Angavastras, garlands, lockets, key rings, pictures of Ram Darbar, models of the Ram Temple, decorative pendants, bangles, and more," Goyal said and added: "Business entities across the country are capitalizing on these opportunities, seeking to connect Ayodhya's identity with consumers nationwide".

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

After the "epoch making" Nava Kerala Sadass that saw Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan (also known as Karana Bhoothan) leading his entire council of ministers for a Statewide tour from Kasargod to Thiruvananthapuram, the CPI(M) is all prepared for the next stage of its Lok Sabha election campaign.

"The Nava Kerala Sadass was held to create an awareness among the people of the State about the kind of welfare measures and schemes unleashed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, our glowing Sun," said M V Govindan, the lively secretary of Kerala CPI(M).

He said the NKS was the first of its kind event in the country which saw the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues visiting all assembly constituencies in the State to interact with the people and solve their problems.

conditions of the agreement.

from the date of this publication.

other allotment done by the builder.

Dated: January 19, 2024

CPM all prepared for Lok Sabha campaign

"Having succeeded in that mission, we are into the next phase of the Lok sabha Election Campaign. On 20th January, the DYFI, our party's youth wing, will hold a human chain from Kasaragod

Thiruvananthapuram to proclaim to the world that the Central Government is throttling the Kerala Government by denying us all financial dues as well as preventing the State to borrow money from outside world," said E P Jayarajan, convener, Left Democratic Front and former industries minister. The entire LDF constituents including the fringe outfits are mobilizing their cadre to make the human chain a grand success. The theme of the human chain is "Should we continue suffering this discrimination and neglect against Kerala." A

big duel is on between the Center and Kerala Government over the "denial of the dues to the State by the Union

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that I,AGHA KHURSHID MUJITABA S/O AGHA MUZAFFAR MIRZA R/O-1433,CHHATTA NAWAB SAHEB, FARASH KHANA,DELHI-6,I am the mutatee /legal owner of PLOT NO.170,BIK-C10, GHONDA RESIDENTIAL SCHEME, AREA-70 SQM.,YAMUNA VIHAR,DELHI-53,FILE NO. F-17(2611)1976/LSB(R),which is allotted by the DDA.I have lost the Original Possess ion Letter,Completion Certificate/"0"Form of the above Plot.FIR/NCR to this effect has lodged in P. S.Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No:1357648/2024,Dated-08/01/2024 Any person(s)claiming any right,interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents,may write/contact with above named person at above address //phone No.9899127357 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. Any person claiming any right, interest, or having any objections with respect to this property can also personally inform/contact me.

Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/ 16(3) DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2)

1st Floor SCO 33-34-35 Sector-17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also)

(Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993]

For ICICI Bank Limited

APPENDIX IV-A

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

Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh,

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Builder Cancellation

This is to bring to your notice that Jhuma Banerjee/ Manish Banerjee

(borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement

number LBGUR00002958774 located at Flat No T6 1002, 10th Floor

Rps Auria Tower 6, Sec 88, Faridabad- 121002. The borrower/s has

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated

January 06, 2024 informing that RPS INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED has

cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are

therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the

said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 20.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 19.98.794/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNOD00332058, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest ti 08.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and othe related loan document(s) w.e.f. 09.01.2024 along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from PRADEEP KUMAR UPADHYAY and SHASHI SHUKLA.

The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 1,50,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

FLAT NO. FF-2, FIRST FLOOR, FRONT RIGHT HAND SIDE, PLOT NO. B-5/12. D. L. FANKUR VIHAR, LONI, GHAZIABAD, NEW DELHI - 201014

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

Place: GHAZIABAD

Authorized officer Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited



New Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthoritvonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

-resh-Tend	er Work: -	
Job No.	Name of Work	Tender Amour (in Lacs)
53/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24	Strengthening of Street Light with Low Height Pole at sector-96 & 98 service road, Noida (Dark Spot Identified 46/by Police)	Rs. 99.60
54/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24	Construction of new Diamond shape fountain at Parthala chowk sector-122, Noida	Rs. 69.29
55/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24	Providing Low Height Decorative Street light pole on Main Road in sector-100, Noida	Rs. 33.97
56/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24	Providing Path Lighting & Decorative pole in Tikona Park sector-50 and C-block Park sector-44, Noida	Rs. 58.51
	Job No. 53/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 54/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 55/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 56/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24	53/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 54/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 55/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 55/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 55/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 56/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 56/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 57/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 58/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 59/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 59/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 50/DGM (E&M)/S.M/ E/M-III/23-24 50/DGM Providing Path Lighting & Decorative pole in Tikona Park sector-50 and C-

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 01.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 02.02.2024 at 11.00 AM. Office: Dv. General Manager

(E & M) NOIDA CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Case No.: OA/1774/2021

Exh. No.: 21170

SHALINI CHAUDHRY

(3) M/s. Raheja Developers Ltd. 406, 4th Floor RECTANGLE ONE

D4 DISTRICT CENTRE, SAKET, NEW DELHI, DELHI SUMMONS

WHEREAS, OA/1774/2021 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 15/11/2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of **Rs.** 26847816/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed as under:-(i) to show cause within thirty as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial numbe 3A of the original application;

(iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;

sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal: (v) you shall be liable to account for

the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before **Registrar** on 13/03/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date 17/11/2023

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue summons

FORM NO. 14

By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICE-I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector

[See Regulation 33(2)]

17 A, Chandigarh (Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also) **DEMAND NOTICE** [NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT,

1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961] RC/444/2023 15-11-2023 ICICI BANK LIMITED

Versus ASHWANI JOLLY S/O

(CD 1) ASHWANI JOLLY S/O SH. RAM KUMAR, R/O FLAT NO. 515-C, CENTRAL PARK-2, SOHANA ROAD, PARK-2, SOHANA RO GURGAON,- 140 603

Also At:-ASHWANI JOLLY SON OF SHRI RAM KUMAR JOLLY, R/O HOUSE NO. 52, CHINNAR APARTMENT, SECTOR-9, Also At:- ASHWANI JOLLY SON OF SHRI RAM KUMAR JOLLY, C/O TDI INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED, VICE PRESIDENT HAVING ITS REGISTERED

OFFICE AT 10, BHAGAT SINGH MARG, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI- 110001 (CD 2) ISHAN JOLLY

S/O SH ASHWANI JOLLY, FLAT NO. 515 C, CENTRAL PARK 2, SOHANA ROAD, GURGAON, HARYANA- 140 603

Also At:- HOUSE NO. 52, CHINNAR APARTMENT, SECTOR ROHINI, NEW DELHI (CD 3) SONY INFRATECH PRIVATE LTD, 517 A, 5TH FLOOR, NARAYAN

MANZIL, 23, BARA KHAMBA ROAD, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI, NEW DELHI, DELHI- 140 603 ALSO AT: - 21 AND 22, GROUND FLOOR, VIPUL AGORA, MG ROAD, GURUGRAM

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) in OA/891/2022 an amount of Rs. 10959213 (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakh Fifty Nine Thousands Two Hundred Thirteen Only) along with bandostellists and characterists. with pendentellite and future interest @ 9% Simple Interes Yearly w.e.f. 06/05/2022 til realization and costs of Rs 112000 (Rupees One Lakh Twelve Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financia nstitutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the

particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. 4. You are hereby ordered to

appear before the undersigned or 31/01/2024 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all othe proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

CHANDIGARH (DRT 2

Nirmala Sitharaman had beard-

No. of work

Nature of work

Class of contractor

Tender paper cost

Date of opening of bid

ed the lion in his own den dur-But Union Finance Minister ing her last visit to Kerala. She quoted from official data which

Government of Odisha

The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B)Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of

Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE

Building works

'B' & 'A' Class

The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from

the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of

Dt.06.02.2024 at 11.00 Hours

01 No.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK E-mail.ill-sectorb_2006@yahoo.cc

stated that Kerala has received from the Center more than what was due to it. "The easy way out for the CPI(M) is to put the entire blame on the Center and that is what the chief minister and other ministers are doing.

Chief Construction Engineer

Cuttack(R&B)Circle

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajesh S/O Kali Ram Gupta R/o S 43 phase 1 Budh Vihar Delhi 110086, Have Changed My Name to Rajesh Kumar for all purposes.

I, Harsha D/o Gopal Anandani R/o A-4/267, Sector-4, Rohini, New Delhi-110085, changed My Name to Harsha Anandani for all purposes.

PD(247)C



Available of bid document :-

Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 37 /2023-24.

दि बाजपुर को-आपरेटिव शुगर फैक्ट्री लि०, आसवनी बाजपुर, जिला-ऊधमसिंह नगर (उत्तराखण्ड)

from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned below.

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

आसवनी बाजपुर में 6.00 लाख बी०एल0 ई०एन०ए० (मोलासेर ′ग्रेन बेस) की ऑपूर्ति तथा चीनी मिल में विभिन्न सेवाओं / सामग्री , की आपूर्ति हेतु जीoएसoटीo में पंजीकृत व प्रतिष्ठित आपूर्तिकर्ताअं ⁄ फर्मों से दिनांक 19.01.2024 सांय 4.00 बजे से दिनांव 28.02.2024 सांय 4.00 बजे तक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है ई-निविदा सूचना www.bazpursugar.com तथा विस्तृत निविदा प्रपत्र www.uktenders.gov.in से डाउनलोड की उ प्रशासक / जिलाधिकारी

New Delhi Institute of Management

Affiliated to Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha UniverRECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR ICSSR FUNDED MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT Title of the project: The Study of UPI's Effects on the Micro-business in Digital India

Number of posts: Research Assistant- 01: I Field Investigator- 01

Research Assistant

Qualification- Post graduate in management/social science discipline (55% min.) with NET/M.Phil./Ph.D.
Emoluments- Rs. 37,000/-p.m.

Qualification- Post graduate in management/social science discipline with min.55% marks.

Emoluments- Rs. 20,000/-p.m.

Desirable Skills

Desirable Skills

Sound knowledge of writing Literature review and interest in Data collection. Data analysis using SPSS. Qualitative tool for bibliometric.

collection, Data analysis using SPSS, Qualitative tool for biblion analysis and typing on computer. tes must send their CV along with the statement Application Process Interested candidate of purpose to the Project Director on shubhamagarwal@ndimdelhi.ii Last Date to Apply 31.01.2024

Note: Date of interview will be intimated to shortlisted candidates via email. No TA/DA will be paid to attend the interview. For any query, please email Project Director at shubhamagarwal@ndimdelhi.in 61, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, New Delhi-110062 Ph. 9582132651, 011-29962605/ 06 website: www.ndim.edu.in

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor") the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whateve there is" basis on 20.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery o Rs. 31,85,687/- (Rupees Thirty One Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven only) pending towards Loan Account No. HDHLYAM00485754, by of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest ti 06.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 07.01.2024 along with legal expenses and othe charges due to the Secured Creditor from SUKHDEEP WALIA and NEETIRANI. The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 32,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 3,20,000/ (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

PLOT NO. 64, MEASURING 283 SQ.YDS, COMPRISED IN KHASRA NO. 12/21 17/1, SITUATED AT MAUJA PANSARA, NOW KNOWN AS KAILASH NAGAR PANSARA. YAMUNA NAGAR. TEHSIL - JAGADHRI. DISTRICT YAMUNA NAGAR 135003, HARYANA, WHICH PLOT IS BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS NORTH : PLOT NO. 65 SOUTH : GALI 20' PLOT NO. 68

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

Place : YAMUNA NAGAR APPENDIX IV-A

of the Reserve Price.

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

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY APARTMENT NO. T9/1036 HAVING SUPER AREA 53.88 SQUARE METERS CARPET AREA 35.05 SQUARE METERS ON 10TH FLOOR, TOWER - 9B IN THE PROJECT KNOWN AS DREAM HOMES CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. GH 6A, SECTOR - 5, GREENWOOD ENCLAVE, WAVE CITY, NH-24, GHAZIABAD 201002, UTTAR PRADESH ALONGWITH OPEN CAR PARKING SPACE BEARING

Rs. 1,53,000/-(Rupees One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10%

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

Date: 16.01.2024 Authorized office Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

Rs.10000/- (online) From 24.01.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 05.02.2024

APPENDIX IV-A

Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ead with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described Immovable Property mortgaged to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. [CIN: L65922DL2005PLC136029] ("Secured Creditor"), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is" and "whatever there is" basis on 20.02.2024 from 02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M., for recovery of Rs. 71,69,538/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight only) i.e. Rs. 66,85,695/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Five only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHLNO100415973 and Rs. 4,83,843/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. Eight Hundred Forty Three only) pending towards Loan Account No. HHENOI00415987, by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till 16.01.2024 with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. 17.01.2024 along with legal

penses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from RIDHI JAIN and The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 1,09,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Nine Lakh only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 10,90,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Ninety Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY FLAT NO. 1403 HAVING SUPER BUILT - UP AREA 1690 SQUARE FEET, CARPET AREA 980 SQUARE FEET ON 14TH FLOOR, TOWER - I, IN GROUP HOUSING RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX KNOWN AS "SAMRIDHI LUXURIYA AVENUE", CONSTRUCTED UPON PLOT NO. SC-02/D SITUATED IN SECTOR - 150, SPORTS CITY, DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR, NOIDA – 201301, UTTAR PRADESHALONGWITH COVERED CAR PARKING SPACE.

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

Date: 16.01.2024 Place: NOIDA Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited NORTHERN RAILWAY

The Dy. Chief Engineer/TMC/Line, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi fo and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-tender under One Packet

Name of Providing and fixing of crimped fitted Hydraulic Hose Assemblies on work and Track Machines during Major Repair at TMMD/TKD,LKO,KKDE, BTI & MB and during break down at site under the jurisdiction of Dy.Chie Engineer/TMC/Line, State Entry Road, New Delhi," 2. Completion period of the work

. Approx. cost of work Rs. 83.79 Lakhs 4. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online) Rs. 1,67,600/-5. Cost of Tender Document (to be deposited Online) Rs. Nil. Date & Time for Tender document remain available on IREPS website i.e.

submission of E-

09.02.2024. Tender Bids may be uploaded from 26.01.2024 & opening of tender upto 15:00 hrs on 09.02.2024 on IREPS web site. The tende will be opened soon after 15:00 hrs on 09.02.2024. 7. Detailed The detailed tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in

www.ireps.gov.in from 19.01.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. on

Above tender document will be available for submission of offer or Notice & IREPS website i.e www.ireps.gov.in from 19.01.2024 to 09.02.2024 All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the

Notice Board of the above office. Tender Notice No. 1-W-DyCETMC-L-HH-22-23-24 Dated 18.01.2024 215/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

> APPENDIX IV-A Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Property

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The Reserve Price of the Immovable Property will be Rs. 9,50,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Fifty Thousand only) and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be Rs. 95,000/- (Rupees Ninety Five Thousand only) i.e. equivalent to 10% of the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY GDA BUILT - UP LIG FLAT NO. 99, GROUND FLOOR (WITHOUT ROOF RIGHT), AREA ADMEASURING 29.24 SQ. MTRS, SITUATED AT BLOCK - F, SECTOR - 11,

PRATAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD - 201009, UTTAR PRADESH BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: HOUSE NO. 100. NORTH: 21 FT, WIDE ROAD

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

Authorized officer

Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited

SOUTH: COMMON SPACE HOUSE NO. 110

Date: 16.01.2024 Place: GHAZIABAD

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Bloody Exchange

Sensex witnesses steepest one-day drop in nearly two years, and the scary story is far from over

t was mayhem at Dalal Street recently as both benchmark indices, the S&P BSE Sensex and the NSE Nifty, plunged sharply. In fact, the day marked one of the steepest drops In almost two years. The bears dominated every sector, except the technology pack, as weak global cues and disappointing performance by banking giant HDFC Bank fuelled a sharp decline in investor sentiment. This wiped out thousands of crores of money, most of it coming from small investors. The reasons for the decline were foreign rather than domestic, but losses were for the real. The global economic scenario plays a vital role in making or breaking market sense and this has been proved once again. European shares extended losses due to more hawkish remarks from European Central Bank (ECB) officials, dampening expectations of interest rate cuts. Additionally, discouraging Chinese growth data and rising US bond yields further fuelled concerns and triggered widespread profit-booking. According to market experts, the correction was trig-

gered by elevated valuations. Optimism regarding earnings and GDP growth for Financial Year 2024 was already factored into the market, leading to profit booking. The correction, in this context, reflects a market reassessment of these optimistic projections.

The banking sector, particularly the high-beta Nifty Bank index, witnessed a nosedive correction. HDFC Bank's disappointing numbers, combined with broader concerns over delays in US Federal Reserve rate cuts, significantly impacted market sentiments. The Nifty Bank index, comprising major players like SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, sank 4.28 per cent, contributing significantly to the overall market decline. The Indian

market, like any other market, is exposed to the interconnected world economy and even a slight negative sentiment can trigger a downslide. Two wars are already raging and the chances of these wars spilling across borders are quite real. Even the sea routes from where most Indian goods reach Europe are at risk and incidents of attacks on ships have been reported. This does not augur well for world economy in general and Indian businesses in particular. It could delay order deliveries and hit the profit margins and was likely to result in a choppy share market. In this scenario, small investors are at maximum risk as they do not have enough funds to hedge their investments. They need to diversify their investment portfolio across different sectors and asset classes can help mitigate sector-specific downturns. Besides, keeping abreast of global economic developments is crucial. Regularly monitoring international events, central bank policies and economic indicators can help investors make informed decisions. For its part, the Government must ensure that investor interests are safeguarded and SEBI must keep a close watch on the price movement and act before things get out of hand. Understanding the reasons behind market fluctuations and adopting prudent investment strategies can help investors navigate through challenging times.



Students perform during Educational Excellence Awards at Thyagaraj Stadium, in New Delh

Traditional Indian medicine goes global



A pivotal shift is underway as the Ministry of Ayush spearheads a global medical revolution, bridging the gap between ancient wisdom and modern healthcare

rom ancient to the modern culture of human healthcare, aeons have witnessed the heritage of great Indian Traditional Medicine Systems. We have been living in a culture of a holistic healthcare system with a rich repository of various disease terminologies, data, and treatment formulae. Following multiple streams of ancient medicinal systems like Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani, our ancient Vaidyas, health professionals have transferred traditional healthcare values from one generation to the next. Ayush focuses on stimulating the body's natural healing abilities and restoring the balance between mind, body, and con-

In today's era of globalisation, it has become the demand of time to create mechanisms of universally proven and evidence-based medical systems to cater to the global human population with similar methods of medical treatment. At the Ministry of Ayush, a strong framework has been structured to cater to this need. The recent establishment of the first and only Global Centre of Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar Gujarat by the World Health Organization has marked a milestone in the global acceptance of the traditional medicine system. The field of international healthcare has witnessed a significant paradigm shift in recent years, with a growing recognition of the potential benefits of traditional medicine (TM).

This time, the Ministry of Ayush is coming up with a wave of international medical revolution. Now the terminologies of various diseases in Ayush healthcare, Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani will be included in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11 prepared by the World Health Organisation. The International Classification of Diseases maintained by WHO is the key instrument for member countries like India to collect primary as well as secondary data on various communicable and nontality statistics.

The Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) under the Ministry of Health and Family



Welfare acts as a WHO Collaborating Centre for ICDrelated activities and facilitates morbidity and mortality data collection and dissemination. Previously, the collected data was predominantly based on the health conditions diagnosable through biomedicine only. The stats and glossaries about the disorder conditions based on Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani systems from Ayush were not part of the captured data. Although some countries have had national Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani classification systems for many years, the information from such systems has not been standardized nor made available globally. By including Ayush within the ICD, international standardization will be possible allowing for measuring, counting, comparing, formulating questions, and monitoring over time. With this initiative of the World Health Organisation and the support of the Ministry of Ayush, the collected data about the disease terminologies from Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha will be converted into morbidity codes and included in the international classification of

India is committed to imp menting the ICD 11 TM2 module for the collection of morbidity statistics for public health care delivery, Ayush



THE CENTRAL

BUREAU OF HEALTH **INTELLIGENCE UNDER THE** MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE ACTS AS A

COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR ICD-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND FACILITATES MORBIDITY AND **MORTALITY DATA COLLECTION AND** DISSEMINATION

Insomnia are included in this classification. Diseases like Giddiness disorder with the acronyms in Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani as Brahm, Azal Kirukiruppu, and Sadr-O-Duwar respectively are some commonly known diseases that are being released as a glossary of codes by WHO through ICD11.

By incorporating TM2 into ICD-11, the WHO encourages the rigorous scientific evaluation of traditional practices. This move can lead to more robust research on TM modalities, ensuring that effective and safe treatments are utilised in clinical settings.

The inclusion of TM2 in ICD-11 facilitates the exchange of medical knowledge between different cultures and healthcare systems. This cross-cultural collaboration can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of health and disease, paving the way for innovative and inclusive healthcare solutions. This integration can expand access to healthcare and promote cost-effective interventions. Continuous demand from different dimensions of Ayush systems across

the globe led to rigorous efforts in India and come up with Ayurveda-Unani-Siddha standardised terminologies and National Morbidity codes. The development of the National Ayush Morbidity and Standardised Terminologies Electronic (NAMASTE) Portal (2017) was a consequence of this effort only. The portal created a platform for testing and validation of Ayurveda-Unani-Siddha diagnoses and terminologies. The implementation of the same in the real-time clinical setting was initiated through the Ayush-Hospital Management Information System (A-HMIS) in the year

The Donor Agreement signed between the Ministry of Ayush and WHO for developing a second module in the traditional medicine chapter of the International Classification of Diseases-11, (ICD-11) on 11th February 2020 was a breakthrough development. It's a matter of satisfaction that the global reach of the traditional medicine system is intensifying many other member countries of WHO to apply the same format of inclusion of Traditional Medicine diseases terminologies to ICD. There is approach to patient care.

(The writer is Secretary, Union Ministry of Ayush; views are personal)

Striving for gender parity in corporate India



Through data-driven insights and advocacy, gender parity can be given a boost. Government support is vital for an inclusive workforce

ender parity in corpo-rate India faces numerous challenges that impede the progress towards a more inclusive and diverse workplace. One significant obstacle is the persistent gender bias prevalent in recruitment and promotion processes, leading to unequal opportunities for women. Stereotypes and cultural norms further contribute to the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles. Discriminatory workplace practices, such as the gender pay gap, hinder the professional growth of women, creating a barrier to achieving

parity. To address these challenges, gathering data becomes a crucial tool in understanding and dismantling gender disparities within corporate structures. By collecting comprehensive data on hiring practices, promotion rates, pay scales, and overall representation, companies can identify specific areas of concern and implement targeted strategies. This data-driven approach allows organizations to establish benchmarks, track progress over time, and hold themselves accountable



for fostering an equitable work environment. Moreover, transparently sharing this information helps raise awareness and encourages a collective effort from stakeholders, including employees, leaders, and policymakers, to actively contribute to achieving gender parity in corporate India.

The NGOs like Udaiti Foundations have taken initiatives for data-driven gender parity in the corporate world. It is accelerating women's economic empowerment in India and aims to address the challenges hindering the growth of female participation in the workforce.

India stands at an exciting point in its economic history, with sustainable growth and ambitions to become a 5 trillion-dollar economy in the near future. However, achieving this goal is closely tied to addressing the country's low

female labour force participation rate, currently hovering around 27-28%. To tackle this issue credible data is required. Focused on building data-backed evidence, collaborating with state governments and businesses to understand the challenges is a must

The "Close the Gender Gap" platform analyses annual reports of 2000 NSC companies and 450 Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSRs). This platform aims to provide insights into gender parameters, such as the representation of women in key management positions and on corporate boards. While some sectors, like services and healthcare, show improvement in women's employment, others like IT, Consumer Goods, and Financial Services remain stagnant.

In larger corporations, although there is an initial attraction to women's talent, there is a significant drop in the representation of women in key management positions as the company size increases. This suggests that women face challenges and impediments to their growth within these organizations, hitting a glass ceiling that hinders their career progression. To drive change our focus must be on creating a network of champions, including CHROs, CXOs, and board members, who can lead efforts to make workplaces more gender-diverse. The organization aims to provide data that not only highlights the importance of diversity for its own sake but also demonstrates the positive impact on business outcomes.

The government initiatives like Mission Shakti and PM Swanidhi can make a vital difference. The conversation has shifted from questioning the need for gender diversity to figuring out how to implement it effectively. Many NGOs are actively working with state governments, leveraging successful case studies, and publishing white papers to guide the public and private sectors towards gender paritv.Probably within the next decade, the initiatives for gender parity in corporte Îndia will no longer be nec-

essary, fingers crossed. (The writer is a gender activist; views are personal)

PUCCA HOUSES FOR ALL

diseases.

Sir —In pursuit of providing essential amenities to the first wave of beneficiaries, including the development of robust infrastructure such as pucca houses, power and water connections, the focus is on implementing 11 key interventions across ministries. This initiative aims to benefit approximately 22,000 individuals from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). Programs like PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) are instrumental in realising the aspirations of vulnerable groups and marginalized societies, facilitating their transition to permanent residences. Additionally, awareness campaigns are being conducted to raise awareness about the significance of essential documents like Aadhaar cards, PM-Jan Dhan cards, caste certificates, and Kisan Samman Nidhi cards.

Sustainable habitation in these houses is envisioned through collaborative efforts involving local, central, and state administrations. Ensuring last-mile connectivity through education about basic rights is crucial to prevent eligible individuals from being inadvertently excluded.

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur

CASTE BIAS IS A REALITY

Sir —The paramount challenge in educating children in our nation is imparting the understanding that caste inequality is a stain on society that needs eradication, akin to sati. In certain schools in Tamil Nadu, students wear color-coded wristbands signifying their caste, exemplifying the pervasive nature of this issue.

Incidents such as a teacher from a lower caste being attacked with a firecracker in response to her teaching a class in a school dominated by upper-caste students exemplify the harm "caste-educated" children can inflict. Sensitising children to the dangers of caste inequal-

THE EDITOR **Glass-coated manja is killing birds**



he much talked about Manja used for kite flying during Makar Sankranti in Mumbai and its suburbs caused great concern for birds in general and humans in particular. The sale of such threads and flying kites made of

such glass-coated threads have taken multiple human and bird lives this year too. Aarey Key Foundation (AKF) and Mumbai Animal Association (MAA) Foundation rescued over 100 birds in the last three days while 12 pigeons, a kite and an Asian koel couldn't survive the injuries and died.

The list includes pigeons, black kites, rose ring parrots, house crows, flamingos, parakeets, owls, Asian koels, common myna, falcons and many more who were found with their wings slit, their toes and tarsus cut such that they may never walk again, some have their throat slit, and some lose their ability to fly or fetch food for themselves and in such cases, the need to foster them for life. Most of the birds that have been rescued are from Andheri, Versova, Jogeshwari, Powai and Goregaon. In the last two years, we have had over 810 birds rescued of which 200 were injured by Manja. The Manja is causing fatal injuries and there must be high fines for misuse of Manja despite restrictions

C K Subramaniam | Chennai

from hatred is a critical challenge for educators in India. The need for teachers to unlearn their own "caste education" is apparent, emphasising the urgency of addressing this issue.

Sujit De | Kolkata

THE MENACE OF DEEPFAKES

- Recent instances of deepfake videos featuring cricketer Sachin Tendulkar underscore the vulnerability we face in the realm of Artificial Intelligence.

Deepfakes, utilising AI tools to craft fabricated images, audio, and videos, pose a serious threat. Targeting individuals, including men, this not only impacts mental health but also damages selfesteem, strains relationships, and tarnishes reputations.

The inability to easily detect deepfakes due to the absence of traditional indiity and fostering an environment free cators used by visual forensic experts

poses a significant challenge. In the ever-evolving landscape of AI, where technology advances at an unprecedented pace, safeguarding against malicious applications becomes paramount. As India assumes a pivotal role in the global AI ecosystem, it is imperative for tech companies to not only enhance detection mechanisms but also proactively devise preventive measures.

The implementation of features like watermarks on AI-generated content could serve as a deterrent, mitigating the potential negative repercussions of AI on individuals and society at large. As we embrace the benefits of AI, a concerted effort towards responsible and ethical AI practices will be crucial in ensuring a secure digital future for all. Gourja Soni | Delhi

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FIRST COLUMN INDIA-IRAN TIES ON A NEW HIGH

India needs Iran by its side to keep its maritime trade routes to Europe safe



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

■ ndian external affairs minister S Jaishankar visited Iran this week, amidst the severe disruptions emerging in one of the busiest and crucial maritime trade routes the Gaza war zone bleeding into the sea. Mr Jaishankar had a fortnight back made a special five-day trip to Russia, which is unrelenting in its pursuit against Ukraine to have a greater say in Europe politics. Earlier this week Indian PM also spoke to President Putin on several geo-political issues and the two military combats in Europe and

India's outreach to countries such as Iran and Russia, both of whom are from the non-US block, at a time of growing partnership between India and the US, is strategic, given, the damaging impact of the raging wars on India's economy. During his Iran visit, EAM Jaishankar, also nuanced India's Middle East (read Palestine) foreign policy outlook. India and Israel have been close allies and collaborate on several high-end defence technology projects, however, India hasn't distanced itself from Palestine. Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a warm relationship with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on Israel on October 23, had come out strongly in support of the nation. However, nearly five months after the Israel terror attack, the war has spilt beyond into the Red Sea, an important maritime trade route. The Houthi extremists (who unofficially enjoy Iran patronage) have fanned out into the Red Sea targeting multiple ships, moving billions of dollars in goods to Europe and further to the US. As per the Indian Ministry of Commerce, nearly 80 per cent of India's exports to Europe take place via the Red Sea route and the recent attacks on Indian ships have worsened the situation. Indian exports to Europe were already under pressure due to the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war and with the Red Sea route becoming another flashpoint, exports particularly of low-value items are facing higher shipping costs, which could India's export growth.



EAM Jaishankar in his joint statement with the minister of foreign affairs of Iran stated "There have also been recently a perceptible increase in threats to the safety of maritime commercial traffic in this important part of the Indian Ocean...This is a matter of great concern to the international community. Obviously, it also has a direct bearing on India's energy and economic interests. This fraught situation is not to the benefit of any party and this must be clearly recognised." Meanwhile, in a balancing act, he did mention the loss of civilian lives in Gaza and stated "India has a long-standing and uncompromising position against terrorism in all forms and manifestations. This remains so very much.

At the same time, we strongly believe that it is imperative to avoid loss of civilian life in any conflict situation. The deeply concerning situation in Gaza was naturally a subject of our discussions. The loss of civilian lives, especially that of women and children was our primary focus. There is a visible humanitarian crisis that needs to be addressed and the creation of sustainable humanitarian corridors is the need of the day. We welcome the international community's efforts in that direction. India itself has delivered shipments of relief material to Gaza and contributed to the UNRWA. On the issue of Palestine, let me reiterate India's longstanding support for a two-state solution, where the Palestinian people are able to live freely in an independent country within secure borders. I stressed the need for all parties to avoid provocative and escalatory actions, and to facilitate movement towards dialogue and diplomacy." Iran has a crucial voice in matters related to West Asia and ensuring the safety of Indian sailors and goods on ships, besides impacting the fate of exporters on ships. It was perhaps no coincidence that even as EAM was in Iran, the latter had launched massive strikes on terrorist sites in Pakistan.

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

India-China relations head towards a thaw



As the India-China border standoff enters its fourth year, diplomatic nuances and symbolic gestures hint at a potential thaw in bilateral relations



he India-China border standoff enters its fourth year and there are intermittent aberrations from both countries. Even problems in third-world countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka and now in Maldives have also become irritants for both the Asian giants. The most recent one is the avoidable situation created by a very small country like Maldives. There is also natural competition between the two rising economic powers especially in the neighbourhood. But as India's External Affairs Minister,

Dr S Jaishankar recently said the rise of China is a reality but there is an equal reality that is the rise of India. During a conversation with a journalist at the High Commission of India in London, Dr Jaishankar emphasised that the rise of China is a reality but there is an equal reality that is the rise of India. "The rise may be different...quantitatively or qualitatively they may not be identical," he said. "The two (India and China) are among the oldest civilisations in the world...Some realities need to be recognisea, 'ne pointea out.

In between two small but important events took place in India which points out a possible détente if not now but in future. A group of top Chinese scholars visited Smruti Mandir (memorial of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar) in RSS headquarters, BapuKutir, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya (Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University) in Nagpur and nearby Wardha. Though many foreign delegates visit Nagpur frequently, this visit was not that significant on the face of it. But it was the high-level visit of a group of scholars from China with whom India does not have a once excellent relationship after the 2021-22 clashes in the vast borders. Prior to this the leading Chinese media Global Times in an unusual article lauded India's foreign policy strategy under Modi, highlighting the nation's multi-alignment approach and bolstering ties with major global powers such as the US, Japan, and Russia. Normally, the official media in China do



FOR INDIA, ITS **DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES** INCLUDING CHINA ARE DEEPLY ROOTED IN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES. ANCIENT TRADE **ROUTES LIKE THE** SILK ROUTE CONNECTED INDIA

TO VARIOUS PARTS OF ASIA, **FACILITATING CULTURAL EXCHANGES** not comment in such a positive way with India.

Unlike frequent bonhomie between Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, diplomatic relations are not on good terms for over three years. But as the famous saying goes in international rela-tions, there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies, only permanent interests. Bilateral relations between two countries who are both big in population, size, economy and many other fields are also governed by the same principle mostly - Economy. This trend is slowly but steadily becoming visible in the relationship between India and China in recent times despite the border standoff. One should also remember that the nearly four yearlong border impasse has not deteriorated further and there are regular talks even though there is not much progress. There are no further clashes. The year 2023 saw some stabilization in relations, which offers promise for the future. The two sides discuss resolving the border standoff and signal interest in restoring some normalcy in their relations, but their militarized border remained mostly quiet in the last year.

Symbolically, with momentum from the 2022 handshake and brief exchange between the Indian Prime Minister and Chinese President at the G-20 summit in Indonesia, disengagement in five areas on the border, and the fast and quiet resolution of the border clash at the Yangtze, the background seemed promising. There were also meetings between the defence and foreign ministers of the two sides as part of India's hosting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization allowed discussion of border tensions, while the 19th round of the

corps commander-level talks produced an agreement that the two sides should resolve the remaining issues on which they disagreed

"in an expeditious manner."
India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks before their respective leaders were scheduled to meet and worked on disengagement in the two remaining areas of immediate tensions on the border. The Economist, a famous British weekly stated a "detente" between China and India, Xi and Modi discussed relations in person at the BRICS summit in Johannesburg and agreed "to intensify efforts at expeditious disengagement and de-escalation," according to the Indian side.

It was not that there was no damper. Xi did not attend the G-20 summit in Delhi in September through his Prime Minister. There is tension in the Indo-Pacific region and the emergence of QUAD, a diplomatic network between Australia, India, Japan and the United States. The personal chemistry between the top two is yet to be revived. Both countries keep on trying to spread presence and influence in the neighbour-hood. But all these are natural trends for any country in today's complete world.

At the same time as former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the world has enough space for the growth ambitions of India and China. In practice, both New Delhi and Beijing have maintained a status quo that has not worsened the situation. Moreover, the two sides are actively talking to each other and discussing their troubled relationship and the tense situation on the disputed border. This has been happening both between the military and

two countries and between their top leaders. Negotiations on stabilizing the border itself continue, most recently with the 28th round of talks that form part of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.

Apart from all these factors, India, its diplomatic relations with Asian countries including China are deeply rooted in history and cultural ties. Ancient trade routes like the Silk Road connected India to various parts of Asia, facilitating cultural exchanges.

Buddhism, which originated in India, spread to several Asian nations, creating lasting cultural and religious connections. Such historical and cultural linkages prove to be strong foundations of diplomatic ties. India also has a lot to gain by forming regional alliances, such as economic opportunities, strategic partnerships and cultural diplomacy.

Economically, Asia is one of th fastest-growing regions globally and stronger ties could open new markets for trade and investment. Politically, a united Asian front could serve as a counterbalance allowing for a more multipolar world order where India plays a significant role.

India will be the biggest beneficiary of such a wonderful partnership as it will give a chance to cross borders more easily and explore their Asian culture through trade, travel and employment opportunities. But all depends on the result of the Parliament elections in India before this mid-year. But to put it in the words of late Atal Behari Vajpayee "we can change our friends but not our neighbours. (The writer is former member of

of press council of India and presently coordinator of World Association of Press Councils;

The success of Indian scientists inspires young girls in rural areas

The achievements of Indian scientists have become a wellspring of inspiration for the country's youth, even in the remote villages of Uttarakhand

t the onset of 2024, when the entire world was celebrating the arrival of the new year, a historic moment unfolded at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh. At that very moment, scientists at ISRO successfully launched the 'X-Ray Polarimeter Satellite,' making it the second in the world and the first in India to study radiation beyond the Moon, Mars, and the Sun. This satellite will be able to explore black holes, the cosmic web, and radiation spread throughout space. It will not only identify the sources of radiation and capture their images but also study the 50 most shining sources in the universe, such as pulsars, X-ray binaries with



nuclei, and non-thermal supernovae. The achievements of Indian scientists have not only enhanced India's global standing but have also become a wellspring of inspiration for the country's youth, particularly in regions where even the sight of an aeroplane in the sky is a rare occurrence. Baisani, nestled in the vast Himalayan hills of Uttarakhand's

one such village, where young girls are now aspiring towards careers in space exploration. Mahima Joshi, a 19-year-old student in Class 12 from Baisani Village, expressed, "The consecutive successes of ISRO scientists have motivated me to delve into the realm of space exploration. Studying ISRO scientists revealed that they encountered failures despite their unwavering efforts. However, their resilience, ability to learn from mistakes, persistent dedicaing impact on me."

tion, and eventual triumph in creating history have left a last-The growing interest in space science among children brings immense joy to parents. Chandra Prakash, a 52-year-old resident, emphasized that black holes, active galactic Bageshwar district, stands as the impact of scientists' success



particular, have now begun to take a keen interest in space. Observing them explore space-related information on social media is indeed a positive development. The strides made by Indian scientists in space research have not only captivated the curiosity of adolescent boys but also girls, encouraging them to delve into the study of science. Gopal Joshi, a septuagenarian from the village, expressed that he had never witnessed such a keen interest in science among children in the village before. Remarkably, even girls, have now set goals to study and pursue careers as scientists. The surge in enthusiasm for science is particularly heartening for schoolteach-

Uma Shankar Joshi, a geography teacher at the Government Middle School in Baisani, noted, "While there was limited interest in space science among children before, they now pose questions that go beyond our expectations. Children are eager to participate in science-related quizzes and competitions at school. As a teacher, witnessing this fer- that impact girls' lives more teaching positions, raises sig-

vor among children is truly gratifying. I am optimistic that the children of Baisani village will make significant progress in the field of science." This indeed highlights that the success of Indian scientists has inspired the children espe-cially young girls of Baisani village towards science and technology. But several challenges mar their dreams of becoming a space scientist and the list is quite long. These girls face various challenges – a lot more than boys do. More specifically the social and cultural norms that do not allow girls to even fulfil their basic right to education. Early child marriages, preference given to sons in the family, social taboos, and poverty are some of the socio-economic factors

than boys'. The challenges of remoteness, challenging geography, and harsh weather conditions significantly contribute to their exclusion from the country's progress. The absence of fundamental infrastructure, such as roads, education, healthcare, telecommunication, and internet facilities, poses a hindrance. The challenges faced by youth,

especially young girls, in the remotest villages of a country like India in pursuing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields are deeply rooted in the defi-ciencies of the educational system. The inadequacy of facilities in rural schools, such as the absence of advanced science laboratories and prolonged vacancies in science

nificant concerns. Addressing these fundamental deficiencies is crucial for unlocking the true potential of these vil-

If the government and the education department collaboratively tackle not only the visi-ble symptoms but also the root causes, the path can be paved for the emergence of the next generation of scientists, potentially from places like Baisani village. It is essential to nurture and empower the youth, ensuring that opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are accessible to all, transcending geographical and societal barriers.

(The author is a young peer leader from Uttarakhand; views are personal. Charkha

India most trusted country; world should consider trust-shoring for business: Vaishnaw

sserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made India the mosttrusted country for the world, senior Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said global businesses should consider "trust-shoring" to reap benefits of the resilience and steady high growth of the Indian economy. In an extensive interview to PTI here at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2024, Vaishnaw said India will deliver 6-8 per cent economic growth for at least 10 years, given the strong foundation laid by Prime Minister Modi and there will be opportunities for everyone across all sectors.

"In my meetings with business leaders, investment bankers, tech CEOs and other leaders, one common factor that has come out very clearly is the resilience of the Indian economy and people want to know more about it.

The Indian economy is projected to record stronger-

than-expected growth in 2023-

24, and the government's thrust

on capex has started to crowd-

in private investment, said an

People want to know in deep about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies. I had discussions with several top investment bankers and global CEOs on how PM Modi has given a stability and resilience to the Indian economy and how it has been given a stead growth path," the minister said.

He said the four pillars of the Indian economy under the watch of PM Modi - investment in infrastructure, focus on manufacturing, inclusive growth, and simplification have generated a good impact. 'All global leaders agree that India will deliver 6-8 per cent economic growth for at least 10 years because PM Modi has laid such a strong foundation," he

Vaishnaw, Minister for Railway, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, said he has already met more than 40 top leaders here so far and all of them gave a clear and consistent reply that

economies led by Asia are poised

to outperform the rest of the

world, said the article on 'State



the policies of PM Modi are right and to-the-point and they are clearly benefiting from those. The minister said all CEOs in the manufacturing sector and investment banking heads that he has met here, they all are clear that the consistent growth rate being shown by India and the systematic way the Indian economy is transforming, there will be opportunities for everyone. "Most importantly, Modi has established India as a trusted country before the entire world and this trust is a very important factor. People were talking about friend-shoring and nearshoring, I say 'trust-shoring' is more important now than friend-shoring, near-shoring and all other things in the supply chain and this is very clearv visible now." Vaishnaw said. After offshoring and onshoring, near-shoring and friend-shoring have been recent buzzwords in global business, meaning shift-

In India, the authors said poten-

tial output is picking up with

actual output running above it,

although the gap is moderate.

"In 2024-25, the objective should

with neighbouring and friendly countries, respectively. Trust-shoring would mean doing business with or in a country that you trust, Vaishnaw

The minister said all CEOs and investors he has met here are

unanimous that they want to increase their manufacturing footprint in India.

"Second, people are very impressed that India is moving very fast on renewable energy. Modi has emphasised on this from the very beginning and the results are visible.

The energy to be used in manufacturing, if that is renewable, the manufacturing process becomes very competitive. If a product goes to the market at Rs 100 with conventional energy, it will fetch a price of Rs 110 in the market if it goes with renewable energy. This everyone knows and therefore they appreciate PM Modi's policy a lot," he

Indian economy to see stronger-than-expected growth in 2023-24: RBI Also, balance sheets of financial institutions need to be strengthened and asset quality improved even further, the article said, and added the ongoing consolidation

of fiscal and external balances

needs to continue. "The gains of the transformative

"Above all, the virtuous thrust to investment from government capex must be partnered and even led by the corporate sector, supplemented by foreign direct

India for finding solution to food stockholding issue first at WTO

after 2013 under the ambit of

The WTO members at the Bali

ministerial meeting in Decem-

ber 2013 had agreed to put in

place a mechanism popularly

called 'Peace Clause' and com-

mitted to negotiating an agree-

ment for a permanent solution.

Under the Peace Clause, WTO

members agreed to refrain from

challenging any breach in the

prescribed ceiling by a develop-

ing nation at the dispute settle-

ment forum of the WTO. This

clause is there till a solution is

Under global trade norms, a

WTO member country's food subsidy bill should not breach

the limit of 10 per cent of the

value of production based on the

external reference price (ERP) of

Subsidies over and above the prescribed ceiling are seen as

trade distorting. The limit is

fixed at 10 per cent of the value

of food production for develop-

India has earlier informed the

ing countries like India.

'Peace Clause'.

found.

 $I^{
m ndia}$ would not negotiate any other issue on the agriculture sector till a permanent solution on public stockholding for food grains is found by the WTO members, an official said on Thursday.

The issue would prominently figure in the 13th ministerial conference (MC) of the WTO (World Trade Organisation), which is scheduled from February 26-29 in Abu Dhabi. MC is the highest decision-making body of the 164-member global trade watchdog

"The public stockpiling of food grain is the longest pending issue. Promise was made by the members in Bali MC and then later endorsed by subsequent conferences.

Without that, we will not take part in any discussion on any other issue on agriculture, unless the mandated issue is settled. This is our first ask," the official

Developed countries have raised flags over India's food security programmes such as buying rice and wheat from farmers at a government-administered price for distribution through public ration shops. They allege that this public procurement at subsidised rates and storage distorts global agri trade.

However, India has maintained they have to protect the interest of poor and vulnerable farmers, besides taking care of the food security needs of a large section of the population.

The government provide 5 kilogrammes of free foodgrains per month to around 80 crore poor people free ration to about 80 crore people under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY). The Covid-19 pandemic has proved the importance of such initiatives. Over 80 countries including

WTO that it has used the peace from Africa are backing India's clause to provide excess support As part of finding the solution, measures to rice farmers for India has pitched for changes in marketing year 2020-21, in order the formula to calculate the to meet the domestic food secufood subsidy cap and inclusion rity needs of its poor population. Some WTO nations including of programmes implemented

> holding (PSH) to value-chain, market access and export restric-"India strongly opposes any comprehensive outcome on agriculture, linking PSH with domestic support or work programme as suggested by some developed country members,

the US and Europe have been

trying to shift the narrative of

food security from public stock-

the official added. These members want discussions on issues like providing information on export restrictions at least 30 days prior to the notification, which is not feasi-

India has also conveyed that support measures given by them to its poor farmers like input subsidies such as on electricity, irrigation, fertiliser and even direct transfers are non-nego-

Further New Delhi is pitching for reducing support measures by the developed countries to their agri sector which runs into billions of dollars.

of the Economy'. "The Indian economy recorded ment of macroeconomic stabilstronger-than-expected growth ity," they said. Accordingly, inflation needs to in 2023-24, underpinned by a shift from consumption to align with the target by the second quarter of the year, as projected, and get anchored there.

investment," it said.

The government's thrust on

be to sustain this momentum by securing real GDP growth of at least 7 per cent in an environ-

technological change that is underway must be harnessed for inclusive and participative growth in a sound risk-free environment.



Stock markets fall for 3rd day on profit-taking

 $B_{\text{and Nifty fell for the third}}^{\text{enchmark indices Sensex}}$ day running on Thursday, dragged by continuous selling in HDFC Bank and profit-taking in consumer durables and utility

shares. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 313.90 points or 0.44 per cent to settle at 71,186.86. During the day, it tanked 835.26 points or 1.16 per cent to 70.665.50.

The Nifty declined 109.70 points or 0.51 per cent to 21,462.25. During the day, it plunged 286.4 points or 1.32 per cent to

21,285.55. The heavy fall in the markets comes on the back of a recent record-breaking rally. The BSE benchmark hit an all-time high of 73,427.59 on Tuesday, and the Nifty also reached its lifetime peak of 22,124.15 the same day. In three days, Sensex lost 2,141 points or nearly 3 per cent while Nifty retreated by 635 points or 2.89 per cent to fall below the key support level of

Grid, Titan, IndusInd Bank, Nestle and Maruti were among the major laggards. However, gains in Reliance

Mahindra, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Axis Bank and Larsen & Toubro helped trim losses. "The benchmark indices exhib-

"Furthermore, oil price advances and rate escalation risks have led to disruptions in global shipping and crude production. The broader market continued its selling pressure given the elevated valuation and profit booking with an aim for sector rotation," said Vinod Nair, Head of

Services. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge dipped 0.08 per cent while smallcap index advanced marginally by 0.02 per

Research, Geojit Financial

Among the indices, consumer durables fell by 2.07 per cent, utilities declined 1.70 per cent, power (1.30 per cent), financial services (0.82 per cent) and

services (0.58 per cent). Energy, healthcare, telecommu-

nication, realty and oil & gas were the gainers.
"Nifty couldn't defend the short-

term moving average i.E. 20 EMA on the expected lines and came closer to the next crucial support of 21,200 level. Indications are now in favour of some consolidation after the recent fall and any rebound to 21,700-21,850 would attract fresh shorts," Ajit Mishra, SVP

Broking Ltd. In Asian markets, Tokyo settled lower while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the positive territory.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended lower on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors

article published in the latest RBI capex is starting to crowd-in private investment, said the article The world economy faces diverauthored by a team lead by Reserve Bank Deputy Governor gent near-term growth prospects Michael Debabrata Patra. emerging

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Tender Notice Reference No.893/ DR

r. No.	ltem	Quantit
1	Leg Extension / curl Rehab Unit	1 No.
2	Bioharness System	1 No.
3	Fluorescene Spectrophotometer	1 No.
4	Coreldraw Graphics Suit 2023	1 No.

Closing date & Time: 02/02/2024 at 4:00 PM For details log onto: www.eproc.punjab.gov.ir Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above webs

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No. MD/MK/04/3864

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Punjab Agro invites offers from interested parties dealing with Maize Silage to take the FR500 Forage harvesters (Qty 2) on rent for the period 01.02.2024 to 15.04.2024 and rent to be quoted will be on per acre basis. The detailed terms and conditions can be checked on the website of PAIC i.e. https://punjabagro.gov.in/paic-silage.

terested parties may submit their Expression of Interest through e-mail or hard copy for above latest by 25.01.2024 to enable us to plan General Manager (AS)

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Global rice supply falls by 2 million | Customs Duty applies to tonnes after India export ban

he export ban on 100 per cent bro-▲ ken (fragmented) rice and non-Basmati white rice from India has led to a decline of 2 million tonnes in the global rice supply. Moreover, the global carryover stock of rice is likely to significantly drop by 50 to 80 million tons, potentially leading to a continued increase in prices.

The export of rice from India has been decreasing. Since August 25, there has been a reduction of 46.70 million tons. plied an additional 20 million tons of rice, but still, there is an overall decline of more than 20 million tons in total supply. According to the International Grains Council, despite the halt in the export of broken rice and non-Basmati white rice, India will

remain the leading rice exporter in the 2023-24 marketing season.

A 2 per cent decrease in global rice trade is projected for the year 2024, primarily due to weakened demand in Asian countries, especially in Indonesia. India will continue to be the world's largest rice exporter for a prolonged period.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has stated that India's export restrictions are impacting the global market in various ways. Many importing countries heavily the sudden halt in its shipment is nat-

urally affecting them. In 2022, about half of the rice exported from India to the Sub-Saharan African countries was Sella rice, with most shipments going to West African countries.

bra cup pairs: CESTAT

The Banglore Bench of Customs, Excise, and ▲ Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) has held that if a pair of bra cups is used for one brassier, customs duty is to be charged on the value of the pair. The bench of PA Augustian (Judicial Member) and R Bhagya Devi (Technical Member) has observed that duty is to be charged on the value of the pair and not on a single piece.

The appellant argued for the classification of Bra Cups under CTH 3926, citing multiple factors such as the composition of the imported item, test reports from recognized institutions, and the raw form of at the time of importation. The relying on the findings of the Commissioner (Appeals), contended that the goods fell under 'parts of Brassieres' under CTH 6212. The tribunal addressed three key issues: the legitimacy of reclassifying cleared goods, the proper classification of Bra Cups, and eligibility for duty benefits under Notification No. 26/2000 Cus. dated 3.2000.

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Bhopal, Dated: 18.01.2024

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Tender Specification Number	Particulars of Material for Procurement	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee (Incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Date of Pre Bid Con- ference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/ 04/1030	11 KV, 1500 KVAR Automatic Switched Capacitor Banks with associated equipments & mounting structures.	616.17	11800	29.01.2024 3.00 PM	08.02.2024 3.00 PM
MD/MK/ 04/1031	100 KVAR Capacitor Unit	113.63	5900	29.01.2024 3.00 PM	08.02.2024 3.00 PM
MD/MK/ 04/1032	Procurement of 33/11 KV 8 MVA Low Loss (6/36 KW) & 10 MVA Low loss (8/50KW) Power Transformers.	488.92	11800	30.01.2024 3.00 PM	09.02.2024 3.00 PM

Other details and full tender document would be available on our Company website https://portal.mpcz.ir & Govt. website https://mptenders.gov.in very shortly.

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (PROC.)

M.P. MADHYA KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.

(Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking) Nishtha Parisar, Bijlinagar, Govindpura, Bhopal-462023

Phone No.: 0755-2602033-34, Fax No.: 0755-2589821, E-mail: dgmp2.cz@mp.gov.in Website: https://portal.mpcz.in, CIN Number: U40109MP2002SGC015119 Bhopal, Dated : 18.01.2024 No.MD/MK/04/Abgd.NIT/3856 TENDER NOTICE

Tender Specification Number	Particulars	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Tender Fee including GST @18% (in Rs.)	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Date of Opening of Tender
MD/MK/ 04/1016	Survey, Supply & Installation of "BORE EARTHING" at various 33/11KV Substations on Semi Turnkey Contract Basis in Bhopal Region under SSTD Scheme in MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.	551.397	11800.00	25.01.2024 3:30 pm.	06.02.2024 3:30 pm.
MD/MK/ 04/1017	Survey, Supply & Installation of "BORE EARTHING" at various 33/11KV Substations on Semi Turnkey Contract Basis in Gwalior Region under SSTD Scheme in MPMKVVCL, Bhopal.	593.309	11800.00	25.01.2024 3:30 pm.	06.02.2024 3:30 pm

PhonePe sells 90 lakh digital insurance policies, 40 lakh in just one year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Walmart-backed payments firm PhonePe on Thursday said it has sold over 90 lakh insurance policies since entering the market in September 2021, of which 40 lakh were in just one vear in 2023.

PhonePe had entered the insurance space in 2020 with a corporate agency licence, before acquiring a full-fledged insurance broking licence. It currently distributes life, health, motor and car insurance with partners such as Acko, among others, and allows users to pay in monthly subscriptions through UPI. "PhonePe started offering insurance on its platform in Septem-



ber 2021, and since then has sold over 9 million overall policies, with over 4 million being sold in the last year alone. The digital insurance market is growing at a CAGR of 24 per cent, with a

said in a statement. The fintech giant announced that it has contributed to over 65 per cent growth for two-wheeler digital insurance in India, over the last 2 years. The company has also facilitated over 75 million vehicle insurance quotes and 400 million quotes across insurance products. The digital insurance industry is rapidly growing at a 24 per cent CAGR Compound Annual Growth Rate)

In an attempt to ease financial burden on customers, PhonePe recently introduced a unique monthly premium plan for health insurance, allowing large part of this growth coming monthly payouts instead annual lump sum payments. monthly payouts instead of

Global rice supply falls by 2 million tonnes after India export ban especially in Indonesia. India

PNS NEW DELHI

The export ban on 100 per cent broken (fragmented) rice and non-Basmati white rice from India has led to a decline of 2 million tonnes in the global rice supply. Moreover, the global carryover stock of rice is likely to significantly drop by 50 to 80 million tons, potentially leading to a continued increase in prices. The export of rice from India

has been decreasing. Since

August 25, there has been a

reduction of 46.70 million tons.

Other exporting countries have supplied an additional 20 million tons of rice, but still, there is an overall decline of more than 20 million tons in total supply. According to the International

Grains Council, despite the halt in the export of broken rice and non-Basmati white rice, India will remain the leading rice exporter in the 2023-24 marketing season. A 2 per cent decrease in global rice trade is projected for the year 2024, primarily due to weakened demand in Asian countries,

will continue to be the world's largest rice exporter for a prolonged period. The United States Department

of Agriculture has stated that India's export restrictions are impacting the global market in various ways. Many importing countries heavily rely on India for raw (white) rice, and the sudden halt in its shipment is naturally affecting them. In 2022, about half of the rice exported from India to the Sub-Saharan African countries was Sella rice.

21,500 points. Among the Sensex firms, HDFC Bank fell the most by 3.26 per cent. The private lender, which tanked more than 8 per cent on Technical Research, Religare Wednesday on weaker-than-expected third-quarter results, contributed 305 points to the fall. NTPC, Asian Paints, Power

Industries, Sun Pharma, Tech

ited recovery from the day's low and ended in red amid weak global cues, as investors are trimming bets on rapid FED cuts due to strong US retail sales and the resulting rise in global bond yields.

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 10,578.13 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. On Wednesday, the BSE benchmark plunged 1,628.01 points, or 2.23 per cent, to settle at 71,500.76. The Nifty tanked 460.35 points or 2.09 per cent to settle at 21,571.95. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.50 per cent to

USD 78.27 a barrel.

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OR DISTRIBUTION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OUTSIDE INDIA. INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF EQUITY SHARES ON THE MAIN BOARD OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER II OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (ISSUE OF CAPITAL AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS) REGULATIONS, 2018, AS AMENDED ("SEBI ICDR REGULATIONS"



EPACK DURABLE LIMITED



Our Company was incorporated on April 20, 2019, as 'EPACK Durables Solutions Private Limited' in Greater Noide, Uttar Pradesh at Kanpur ("RoC"), upon the conversion of M/s E-Vision, a partnership firm (constituted in 2005 pursuant to the partnership deed dated July 16, 2005), into a private limited company. Subsequently, pursuant to a resolution passed by our Shareholders in the extraordinary general meeting held on July 30, 2021, the name of our Company was changed from 'EPACK Durables Solutions Private Limited to 'EPACK Durable Private Limited', as part of the corporate rebranding of our Company, and consequently, a fresh certificate of incorporation dated September 17, 2021, was issued by the RoC to our Company. Thereafter, our Company was converted from a private Imited company to a public limited company, pursuant to a resolution passed by our Shareholders in the extraordinary general meeting held on June 13, 2023, and the name of our Company was changed to "EPACK Durable Limited", and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated June 28, 2023, was issued to our Company by the RoC. For details of changes in the name and the registered office address of our Company, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters — Brief history and Certain Corporate Matters — Change in registered office of our Company" on page 212 of the red herring prospectus of our Company and "History and Certain Corporate Matters — Change in registered office of our Company" on page 212 of the red herring prospectus of our Company 16, 2024 ("RHP" or "Red Herring Prospectus").

Corporate Identity Number: U74999UP2019PLC116048; Website: www.epackdurable.com

Registered Office: 61-8, Udyog Vihar, Suraipur, Kasna Road, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar 201 306, Uttar Pradesh, India; Corporate Office: TR - 901, AltF 142 Noida, 9th floor, Plot Number 21 and 21A, Sector 142, Noida 201 304, Uttar Pradesh, India Contact Person: Esha Gupta, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer; Telephone: +91 120 496 9771; Email: investors_ed@epack.in

THE PROMOTERS OF OUR COMPANY ARE BAJRANG BOTHRA, LAXMI PAT BOTHRA, SANJAY SINGHANIA AND AJAY DD SINGHANIA

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF 7 10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF OUR COMPANY FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF 7 [] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF 7 [] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO 7 [] MILLION ("OFFER"). THE OFFER COMPRISES A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [•] EQUITY SHARES AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 4,000.00 MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO 10,437,047 EQUITY SHARES ("OFFERED SHARES") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 4,000.00 MILLION. THE OFFER WILL CONSTITUTE [•]% OF THE POST-OFFER PAID UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY.

		DETAILS OF THE OFFER FOR SALE BY THE SELLING SHAREHOLDERS	
NAME OF SELLING SHAREHOLDER	TYPE	NUMBER OF SHARES OFFERED / AMOUNT (* IN MILLION)	WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE (IN ₹) ⁴ .
Bajrang Bothra	Promoter	Up to 1,172,976 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	14.94
Laxmi Pat Bothra	Promoter	Up to 666,798 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [•] million	12.10
Sanjay Singhania	Promoter	Up to 748,721 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	11.04
Ajay DD Singhania	Promoter	Up to 748,721 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [•] million	17.16
Pinky Ajay Singhania	Promoter Group	Up to 286,351 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ (•) million	NII
Preity Singhania	Promoter Group	Up to 286,351 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	NII
Nikhil Bothra	Promoter Group	Up to 442,905 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [•] million	10.00
Nitin Bothra	Promoter Group	Up to 442,905 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [+] million	NI
Rajjat Kumar Bothra	Promoter Group	Up to 379,633 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [•] million	11.57
India Advantage Fund S4 I	Other	Up to 4,630,284 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each aggregating up to ₹ [●] million	101.36
Dynamic India Fund S4 US I	Other	Up to 631 402 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each appregating up to ₹ [•] million	101.36

As certified by N B T and Co, Chartered Accountants, registered with the ICAI and bearing firm registration number 140489W, by way of their certificate dated January 12, 2024

We manufacture room air conditioners and small domestic appliances, and its components.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process pursuant to Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Offer | Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Offer | Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Offer.

PRICE BAND: ₹218 TO ₹230 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 21.8 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 23.0 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

THE PRICE TO EARNING RATIO BASED ON DILUTED EPS FOR FISCAL 2023 AT THE FLOOR PRICE IS 46.98 TIMES AND AT THE CAP PRICE IS 49.57 TIMES.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 65 EQUITY SHARES AND IN MULTIPLES OF 65 EQUITY SHARES THEREAFTER.

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST ONLY RELY ON THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS OF THE OFFER, INCLUDING THE RISKS INVOLVED AND NOT RELY ON ANY OTHER EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER AVAILABLE IN ANY MANNER.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated January 15, 2024, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section of the RHP vis-à-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition of primary and secondary transaction(s) disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section on page 130 of the RHP and provided below in the advertisement.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

- Negative Cash Flows: We have had negative cash flows in the past and our net cash used in operating activities for Fiscal 2022 is ₹ (289.41) million.
- terms of revenue generation for a year / period shown as percent of revenue from operations for the six months period ended September 30, 2023, and Fiscals 2023, 2022 and 2021 is 79.62%, 82.66%, 76.82% and 71.22%, respectively.
- Supplier Concentration Risk: We are dependent on third party suppliers for our raw materials. As on September 30, 2023, our supplier network comprised 342 suppliers. The raw materials used by us include copper tubes, steel, aluminium sheets, plastic granules, compressors, controllers and RAC motors. The percentage of total purchases from top 10 suppliers vis-à-vis total purchases for that year / period for 11. the six months period ended September 30, 2023, and Fiscals 2023, 2022 and 2021 is 62.38%, 53.04%, 46.84% and 33.87%, respectively.
- Our Company will not receive any proceeds from the Offer for Sale.
- Growth risk: We have experienced significant growth over the past three Fiscals. EBITDA for the six months period ended September 30, 2023 and the Financial Years ended March 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, is ₹369.77 million, ₹1,025.25 million, ₹688.03 million and ₹420.33 million, respectively. We cannot assure that our growth strategy will continue to be successful or that we will be able to continue to grow further, or at the same rate.
- Seasonality of Products: The demand for RACs typically peak during the first half of the calendar year and reduce in the second half of the calendar year. Erratic weather conditions impacting the warm weather during the peak sales season of summer, may adversely affect our sales volumes, and could therefore have a disproportionate impact on our results of operations and financial condition in the relevant year. The percentage of revenue from sale of RACs (including sale of RAC spares and RAC components) to total revenue from operations for the six months period ended September 30, 2023, and Fiscals 2023, 2022 and 2021 is 78.34%, 83.23%, 81.68% and 86.80%, respectively.
- Trade Receivables Risk: In the ordinary course of business, we extend credit to our customers. Consequently, we are exposed to the risk of the uncertainty regarding the receipt of the outstanding amounts. As on September 30, 2023, trade receivables is ₹1,377.65 million. The trade receivable days for six months period ended September 30, 2023 are 95 days.
- MOU with East India: We have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") with East India Technologies Private Limited ("East India"), a member of promoter group and our group company. Pursuant to the MoU, only our Company may (and East India may not) engage in the manufacture of specified products such as air conditioning and refrigeration products, air handling products, kitchen appliances and washing and drying equipment, while only East India may (and our Company may not) engage in the manufacture of specified products such as audio equipment, camera equipment, desktop computers, laptops and computer accessories, renewable energy electronics, industrial engineering products, televisions and lighting equipment. In the event of any breach of the MoU by East India pursuant to which East India manufactures products similar to those manufactured by us, it may result in a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.
- Import of Raw Material Risk: We currently import certain of our raw materials from China where in the past there have been conditions imposed by the government in relation to the commerce and trade. China accounted for 34.05%, 21.02%, 17.01% and 14.05% of the total cost of raw materials purchased (including purchase of

- stock-in-trade) by our Company in the six months period ended September 30, 2023 and in Fiscal 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.
- Customer Concentration Risk: The total contribution from top five customers in 10. Foreign Exchange Risk: We import components and materials such as copper and aluminium sheets. The percentage of the cost of raw materials imported to total cost of materials purchased (including purchase of stock-in-trade) for six months period ended September 30, 2023 and the Financial Years ended March 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 is 39.87%, 39.31%, 36.63% and 26.95%. The Profit / (loss) on foreign exchange fluctuation for six months period ended September 30, 2023 and the Financial Years ended March 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, is ₹11.21 million, ₹(37.43) million, ₹19.00 million and ₹13.92 million, respectively.
 - Competition Risk: Our industry is competitive. While there are significant barriers to entry to the RAC and SDA manufacturing industry, our competitors may win market share from us by providing what may be perceived to be more advanced technologies, better designs and quality or lower cost solutions to our customers. Our competitors' actions, including expanding manufacturing capacity, expansion of their operations to newer geographies or product segments in which we compete, or the entry of new competitors into one or more of our markets could cause us to lower prices in an effort to maintain our sales volume.
 - The Offer Price, market capitalization to revenue from operations multiple, market capitalization to tangible assets multiple and enterprise value to EBITDA multiple, calculated on the basis of Cap price, of our Company may not be indicative of the market price of the Company on listing or thereafter.

Particulars	Market capitalization to revenue from operations	Market capitalization to tangible assets	Enterprise value to EBITDA
Our Company	1.43*	1.57*	25.56*
Industry Peers			
Dixon Technologies (India) Limited	29.28	11.48	69.53
Amber Enterprises India Limited	1.51	1.84	26.86
PG Electroplast Limited	2.73	3.84	36.38
Elin Electronics Limited	0.70	1.03	11.28

- To be updated in the Prospectus once the Offer Price is finalised. Source: The information for the industry peers has been sourced from NSE and the filings of the respective company available on the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Market capitalization has been computed based on the closing market price of equity shares on NSE on
- 2. Tangible Assets = Total assets less intangible assets, intangible assets under development, right of use assets, goodwill and deferred tax assets (net), as applicable plus lease liabilities (non-current and
- 3. Enterprise Value (EV) = Market capitalisation plus net debt as on March 31, 2023. Net debt is calculated as sum of current and non-current borrowings as reduced by cash and cash equivalents and bank balances other than cash and cash equivalents.
- EBITDA = Profit before tax, share of profit/(loss) of associate and exceptional items plus finance costs, depreciation and amortisation expense minus other income.
- 13. The average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares held by the Selling Shareholders ranges from Nil to ₹101.36 per Equity Share, and the Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹230.
- Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2023, 2022 & 2021 is 15.43%.
- 15. The Weighted Average Cost of acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in last

continued from previous page

three years and one year preceding the date of the RHP:

Types of transactions	Number of Equity Shares acquired	Weighted average cost of acquisition (₹ per share)	Cap Price is 'x' times the weighted average cost of acquisition^	Range of acquisition price per Equity Share: lowest price – highest price (in ₹)**^#@
Last 1 year	26,318,375	121.59	1.89	101.36 – 151.90
Last 3 years	31,196,542	120.92	1.90	90.90 - 227.00

^ As certified by N B T and Co, Chartered Accountants, registered with the ICAI and bearing firm registration number 140489W, by way of their certificate dated January 12, 2024.

**Excluding gift transactions. | @ Including Equity Shares allotted on the conversion of Preference Shares.

16. Weighted average cost of acquisition, floor price and cap price:

Types of transactions	Weighted average cost of acquisition (₹ per share)	Floor price (i.e. ₹218)	Cap price (i.e. ₹230)
Weighted average cost of acquisition of Primary Issuances during 18 months prior to RHP	121.59	1.79 times	1.89 times
Weighted average cost of acquisition of Secondary Transactions during the last three years to RHP	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Note: As certified by N B T and Co. Chartered Accountants, registered with the ICAI and bearing firm registration number 140489W, by way of their certificate dated January 12, 2024.

There have been no secondary sale / acquisitions of Equity Shares or any convertible securities, where the Promoters of the Promoter Group, Selling Shareholders, or Shareholder(s) having the right to nominate director(s) on the Board of Directors of the Company are a party to the transaction (excluding gifts), during the 18 months preceding the date of filing of the Red Herring Prospectus, where either acquisition or sale is equal to or more than 5% of the fully diluted paid up share capital of the Company (calculated based on the pre-Offer capital before such transaction(s) and excluding employee stock options granted but not vested), in a single transaction or multiple transactions combined together over a span of rolling 30 days.

17. The three BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 88 public issues in the past three Financial Years, out of which 26 issues closed below the Offer price on the listing date.

Name of the BRLMs	Total Issues	Issues closed below IPO Price on listing date
Axis Capital Limited*	22	4
DAM Capital Advisors Limited*	8	4
ICICI Securities Limited*	27	5
Common issues of above BRLMs	31	13
Total	88	26

BID/OFFER PERIOD

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON*: TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

*UPI Mandate and time shall be at 5.00 pm on the Bid/Offer Closing Date. | *Please refer to *Terms of the Offer-Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors)* on page 418 of the RHP, for detailed timeline on submission of Bids.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors): Bid/Offer Period (except the Bid/Offer Closing Date) Submission and Revision in Rids

*Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs.

Only between 10.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time ("IST") Submission of electronic applications (Online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST Submission of electronic applications (Bank ASBA through Online channels like internet banking, Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 4.00 p.m. IST mobile banking and Syndicate UPI ASBA applications where Bid Amount is up to ₹ 500,000) Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 3.00 p.m. IST Submission of electronic applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications) Submission of physical applications (bank ASBA) Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 1.00 p.m. IST Submission of physical applications (syndicate non-retail, non-individual applications where bid Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 12.00 p.m. IST

Only between 10,00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST Upward Revision of Bids by QIB Bidders and Non-Institutional Bidders categories# on Bid/ Offer Closing Date Only between 10.00 a.m. and up to 5.00 p.m. IST Upward or downward Revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by Retail Individual Bidders UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 p.m. on Bid/ Offer Closing Date.

QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their bids Bid/Offer Period

Event	Indicative Date
Finalisation of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Wednesday, January 24, 2024
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors) / unblocking of funds from ASBA Account	On or about Thursday, January 25, 2024
Credit of the Equity Shares to depository accounts of Allottees	On or about Thursday, January 25, 2024
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Monday, January 29, 2024

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF BSE AND NSE.

ASBA"

Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA. Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.



UPI-Now available in ASBA for all Individual investors applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Bidders and Non-Institutional Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press release dated September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no. 7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022, read with press release dated March 28, 2023.

ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor investors accept Anchor investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail individual investors in the Retail Portion, (ii) Non-institutional Investors in the Retail Portion, For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bell Cum Application Form and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 425 of the RHP. The process is also available on the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sehl.gov.in. UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. Axis Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Issue, in accordance with the inquirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Issue related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number 18001201740 and mail (if. ipo.upi@npci.org in.

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, our Company, the Promoter Selling Shareholders and the Investor Selling Shareholders may, in consultation with the BRLMs, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid /Offer Period for a minimum of three Working Days, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Member and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks, as applicable.

This Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contract (Regulation) Rules, 1957 ("SCRR") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Offer shall be available for ellocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs", and such portion, the "QIB Portion"), provided that our Company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis ("Anchor Investor Portion"). One-third of the Anchor Investor Portion shall be reserved for the domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the price at which allocation will be made to Anchor Investors ("Anchor Investor Allocation Price") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under-subscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion. the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the QIB Portion (other than the Anchor Investor Portion) (the "Net QIB Portion"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to QIB Bidders (other than Anchor Investors) including Mutual Funds subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders (out of which one-third of the portion available to Non-Institutional Bidders shall be reserved for Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 0.20 million and up to ₹ 1.00 million and two-thirds shall be reserved for Bidders with an application size of more than ₹ 1.00 million, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of the aforementioned sub-categories may be allocated to Bidders in the other sub-category) and not less than 35% of the Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. All Bidders, other than Anchor Investors, are required to participate in the Offer by mandatorily utilising the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective ASBA Account (as defined hereinafter) and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders (as defined hereinafter), as applicable, pursuant to which their corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or by the Sponsor Banks under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA process. For further details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 425 of the RHP.

Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for RIBs bidding through the UPI mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with

DAM Capital Advisors Limited

Telephone: +91 22 4202 2500

Email: epack.ipo@damcapital.in

Investor grievance email:

complaint@damcapital in

Website: www.damcapital.in

Contact Person: Anurag Byas

SEBI Registration No.: MB/INM000011336

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

One BKC, Tower C, 15th Floor, Unit No. 1511, Bandra Kurla

Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, Maharashtra, India

Addhaar and are in compliance with the notification issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021, September 17, 2021 and March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard. CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of the Company, please

see the section "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 212 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of the Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, please see the section titled "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 480 of the RHP. LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY: Limited by shares

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of the Company is ₹1,050,000,000 rided into 105,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each, ₹ 200,000,000 divided into 20,000,000 CCPSs of face value of ₹ 10 each and ₹ 111,000,000 divided into 11,100,000 Series A CCPSs of face value of ₹ 10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up share capital of the Company is ₹ 784,073,870 divided into 78,407,387 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each. For details, please see the section titled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 98 of the RHP.

NAMES OF SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF THE COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The of <10 each. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company, please see the section entitled "Capital Structure" beginning on page 98 of the RHP. LISTING: The Equity Shares offered through the Red Herning Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their respective letters each dated October 6, 2023. For the purposes of the Offer, BSE is the Designated Stock Exchange. A copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Sections 26(4) and 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus until the Bid/Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 480 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"); SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does. not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities or the offer document. The investors are advised to refer to page 403 of the RHP for the full text of the

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 405 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE (DESIGNATED STOCK EXCHANGE): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 405 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE. GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to

take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares have not been recommended or approved by SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to 'Risk Factors' on page 41 of the RHP.

AXISCAPITAL

Axis Capital Limited 1" Floor, Axis House, C-2 Wadia International Centre Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India Telephone: +91 22 4325 2183

Email: epack.ipo@axiscap.in Investor grievance email: complaints@axiscap.in Website: www.axiscapital.co.in Contact Person: Sagar Jatakiya / Mayuri Arya

SEBI Registration No.: INM000012029

Availability of the RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 41 of the RHP, before applying in the Offer. A copy of the

Availability of the Abridged Prospectus: A copy of the abridged prospectus is available on the website of the Company, the BRLMs and the Registrar to the offer at www. epackdurable.com, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.damcapital.in, www.icicisecurities.com.and.www.kfintech.com.

Telephone: +91 120 496 9771, Axis Capital Limited, Telephone: +91 22 4325 2183, DAM Capital Advisors Limited, Telephone: +91 22 4202 2500, ICICI Securities Limited, Telephone: + 91 22 6807 7100 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Offer. ASBA Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock

Sub-syndicate members: Almondz Global Securities Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Anand Brokers Limited, Anand Brokers Limited, Anand B Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Ashwani Dandia & Co. Axis Securities Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Centrum Wealth Management Ltd. Choice Equity Broking Private Limited, DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd, Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd, G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Pvt. Ltd, HDFC

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

(formerly known as KFin Technologies Private Limited)

Selenium, Tower B, Plot No - 31 and 32, Gachibowli, Financial District Nanakramguda, Senlingampally, Hyderabad 500 032, Telangana, India Telephone: + 91 40 6716 2222 / 1800 3094001 Email: epack.ipo@kfintech.com

Investor grievance email: einward ris@kfintech.com Website: www.kfintech.com Contact person: M Murali Krishna SEBI Registration No: INR000000221

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER Esha Gupta TR - 901. AltF 142 Noida, 9th Floor, Plot Number 21 and 21A.

Sector 142, Noida 201 304, Uttar Pradesh, India Telephone: +91 120 496 9771; Email: investors ed@epack.in

Investors may contact the Company Secretary and Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-Offer or post-Offer related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Alfotment noncredit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Offer related queries and for redressal of complaints, Investors may also write to the BRLMs.

^in compliance with the proviso to regulation 21A and explanation (iii) to regulation 21A of the SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations, ICICI Securities Limited will be involved in only the marketing of the Offer. ICICI Securities Limited has signed the due diligence certificate and has been disclosed as a BRLM for the Offer

Investor grievance email: customercare@icicisecurities.com

VICICI Securities

ICICI Securities Limited*

Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi

Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India

Email: epack too@icicisecurities.com

Contact Person: Ashik Joisar / Gauray Mittal

SEBI Registration No.: INM000011179

Website: www.icicisecunties.com

Telephone: + 91 22 6807 7100

ICICI Venture House

RHP shall be available on website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. Axis Capital Limited at www.axiscapital.co.in, DAM Capital Advisors Limited at www.damcapital.in, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, respectively and on the websites of BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and

Availability of Bid-cum-Application Forms: Bid-cum-Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered Office of the Company, EPACK DURABLE LIMITED.

SECURITIES Limited, Inventure Growth & Securities Ltd, IDBI Capital Markets & Securities Ltd, Jhaveri Securities, JM Financial Services Limited, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Keynote Capitals Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, Kotak Securities Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Marward Shares & Finance, Motifal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Religere Broking Limited, RR Equity Brokers Pvt Limited, SBICAP Securities Limited; SMC Global Securities Limited, Systematix Shares and Stocks (India) Limited, Tanna Financial Services, Trade Bulls Securities (P) Ltd, Yes Securities (India) Limited. Syndicate member: Sharekhan Limited.

Escrow Collection Bank: HDFC Bank Limited Refund Bank: HDFC Bank Limited.

Public Offer Bank: Axis Bank Limited

Sponsor Banks: Axis Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited. UPI: UPI Bidders can also bid through UPI Mechanism

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP

For EPACK DURABLE LIMITED On behalf of the Board of Directors

Date: January 18, 2024

Place: Noida

Esha Gupta Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

EPACK DURABLE LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to undertake an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with the RoC. The RHP shall be available on the website of the Company at www.

epackdurable.com, the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, the websites of the Stock Exchanges, i.e., the BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchanges, i.e., the BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchanges of the BRLMs, i.e., Axis Capital Limited, at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., Exchanges, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., Exchanges, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., Exchanges, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., Exchanges, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and websites of the BRLMs, i.e., the SEBI at www.seindia.com, respectively, and respectively. www.damcapital in and ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com respectively. Any potential investor should not rely on the DRHP for making any investment decision instead investors shall rely on RHP filed with the RoC. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities and may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the

registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities are said outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S and the applicable laws of each jurisdictions where such offers and sales are made. There will be no public offering of

Kunlavut, Yamaguchi, Li crash out of India Open

orld champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn crashed out of the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament after losing his round of 16 men's singles match to Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu on a day of upsets

here on Thursday.

The 22-year-old defending champion, who has struggled to cope with expectations following his world championship title win, was edged out 21-16 20-22 21-23 by Yiu in an hour and 22 minutes.

Two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi and reigning All England champion Li Shi Feng too bit the dust. While world No. 4 Yamaguchi

was sent packing by Thailand's world no. 18 Busanan Ongbamrungphan 11-21 19-21, unseeded Japanese Koki Watanabe outwitted third seeded Chinese Li Shi Feng 32-24 13-21 21-9 in a 71-minute

Later, Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia beat fifth seed Jonatan Christie 21-15 21-13 in another second round match

Sneha flies

eagles to win

Sneha Singh played a superb closing round to grab her

first win of the season in the sec-ond Leg of the Hero Women's

Pro Golf Tour here on Thursday.

Sneha, winner of the Hero

Order of Merit in 2023, opened

and closed the final round with

eagles on way to a card of 7-

under 63. She rallied from four

shots behind overnight leader

Hitaashee Bakshi (68) to win by

Sneha with 68-73-63 totalled 6-

under 204 and Hitaashee, who

finished runner-up for the sec-

ond time in as many weeks, fin-

Ridhima Dilawari had a solid 2-

under 68 and was third, while

last week's winner, amateur

Nishna Patel shot a 71. She was

tied fourth with Khushi Khanijau (71) at 2-over 212.

Amandeep Drall (68-71-74)

finished sixth and Vani Kapoor

and Vidhatri Urs (73) empha-

sised the amateur strength in Indian women's golf by finish-

ing tied eighth at 216. Rhea Jha (76) was 10th, Neha Tripathi (74) was 11th and Ananya Datar (70) ended 12th.

Sneha and Hitaashee played in

different groups but were engaged in a close tussle. Sneha, who was four behind Hitaashee, got off to a super start

with an eagle and added a birdie on the third. Hitaashee,

playing in the lead group, also birdied the second and third

and added a third birdie on the

Sneha eagled the final hole and

ioined Hitaashee at 6-under

Hitaashee needed a birdie on the

Par-5 18th and a par would

mean a play-off. She ended up

dropping a shot to hand Sneha the win. Sneha and Hitaashee

were tied for second last week

behind amateur Nishna who

Sneha now takes the lead on the

Hero Order of Merit after the first two legs of the Hero

Women's Pro Golf Tour.

for the tournament.

(76-69-70) was seventh.

ished at 5-under 205.

on twin

PTI MUMBAI



It was a narrow loss for Kunlavut, who hasn't won any tournament since competing in Copenhagen.

"Today it wasn't a good performance from me. The last game there was pressure and I couldn't control things. The opponent played well and I need to learn again from every tournament," said world no. 8 Kunlavut, who had won the last edition here

PTI NEW DELHI

the big event.

Plaiming to be wiser from

Upast experiences, the Indian Olympic Association

on Thursday unveiled a slew of

measures to ensure "comfort"

of its athletes at the upcoming

Paris Games, promising that

they would not face the stress

of logistical challenges during

The measures include lodging

athletes, specifically golfers, close to their competition

venue, installing rehab equip-ment specific to the needs of

Indian athletes at the Games

village and engaging experts to ensure mental wellbeing of

"Learning from past experi-

ences and taking athlete com-

fort into consideration, the

IOA is implementing strategic

measures to ensure that the

athletes are at their peak per-

formance during the presti-

those bound for Paris.

"I am getting better, but I am not yet good enough. I still feel the pressure in the game and sometimes I'm not in control. He was good in his attack and was fast. I need to focus on myself, without thinking about

Every player is fast and strong so I need to train hard and get more fit.

Talking about the upset win, World No. 18 Lee said: "I am

So far, 49 Indian athletes,

including 17 shooters and the

men's hockey squad, have qual-

ified for the July-August

Games. The number would

go up in the coming months

and expectations would be

high after the stupendous per-

formance in Tokyo where India

won seven medals, including a

first ever gold in athletics through javelin thrower Neeraj

The IOA said the golfers would

not be required to travel too far

to get to the course, a hassle

that they endured in Tokyo

where they were lodged in the

Games village, a good 75km

from the competition venue. Aditi Ashok, who missed a

medal and finished fourth,

had cited this as one of the

major challenges during her

'Unlike the Tokyo 2020

Olympics, where Indian golfers

faced the unique challenge of

ceeding one

Chopra.

campaign.

happy and excited to beat him. I have lost some tough matches and I always tried to get stronger and better.

'The secret for me has always been to think about myself and not worry about others and play every point and just keep going." "Now every player has a chance to beat top players. The Olympic is coming soon so that is the final target. This win means a lot to me:

IOA promises no stress Olympics for Indian athletes

Announces measures to ensure comfort

win in 11 meetings against Yamaguchi and said this victory will give her confidence in the Olympic year. "I had a bad leg injury last sea-

Busanan Busanan had just one

son. My body is getting better and today me and my team tried to do more about game plan which was about control the game and it was working,"

"This year I am hoping to

make a good start. It's a wonderful memory for me here for me as I was a champion here. It is hard to beat her, she can get every shuttle but I kept telling myself that I can do it. This win means a lot to me.

"It will give me important points for Olympics. Our 4-5 players are competing for the Olympic spot. I just try to be the best version of myself, only focus on myself."

Koki Watanabe vs Li Shi Feng Watanabe came into the match with a 1-3 deficit but dished out a superb performance to outwit the world number 3 Chinese.
"I was playing well, but I got tired in the second game, but once I was back on the winning court, I stepped up the pace and looked at placements as my opponent is a tall guy," said Watanabe, who started playing the sport at the age of 5 after being influenced by his elder sister who was also a shuttler. Among others, top seed An Se Young, fourth seed Tai Tzu Ying, sixth seed He Bing Jiao progressed to the next round in women's singles, while sixth seed Shi Yuqi and Lee Zii Jia also entered the quarterfinals.

condition to compete at the

The IOA said it is also in dia-

logue with the Paris 2024

Organising Committee to implement "high-performance interventions" at the Olympic

"This includes the strategic placement of additional reha-

bilitation equipment, catering

specifically to the needs of

The IOA is also advocating for

the inclusion of traditional

Indian meals in the menu,

something that has been done in the past as well. IOA President P T Usha said

athlete comfort is topmost on

"Our commitment is not just to

participate, but to excel. We

have learned from past experi-

ences, and this time, we are

leaving no stone unturned to

ensure our athletes are com-

fortable, supported, and ready

Team India athletes."

the body's agenda.

highest level," it stated.



The United States of America produced a brave performance to register a come-from-behind 2-1 win over former Asian Games champions Japan to enter the final of the FIH Women's Olympic Qualifier, thereby securing their berth in the Paris Olympics here

on Thursday.

Japan took the lead through Amiru Shimada in the 38th minute before Americans produced two late goals through Ashley Hoffman (52nd) and Abigail Tamer (55th), both from penalty corners, to come out winners.

USA have booked their ticket to the Paris Olympics as the top three teams from this tournament will qualify for the quadrennial extravagan-za to be held later this year. As suggested by their Indian coach Jude Menezes, Japan played attacking hockey from the onset.

Their ploy reaped rewards immediately as Japan bagged the first penalty corner of the match in the second minute, but wasted the opportunity. The Americans too made some circle penetrations but the Japanese defence was up to the task to thwart any danger to their goal. In the 11th minute, USA

secured their first penalty corner but their effort was kept at bay by Japanese goal-keeper Eika Nakamura.

Japan continued their attacking game in the second quarter and grabbed their second penalty corner in the 17th minute but they shot wide. lanan cont

hard on the American their Paris ticket.

defence and secured their second penalty corner in the 26th minute but wasted the chance as the deadlock continued at half-time.

The Japanese kept the pressure on the American defence after the cross-over and fetched another penalty corner in the 38th minute. This time they were successful in converting the chance through Shimadu, who scored from a rebound after Kana Urata's slap hit was saved by American custodian Bing.

Trailing by a solitary goal, the Americans gave their all in the final quarter and exerted immense pressure on the Japanese defence, who seemed to have taken the game a bit lightly.

USA's plan worked wonders as they scored twice from as many penalty corners in a span of two minutes to turn the match on its head.

Japan conceded a penalty

corner in the 52nd minute and Ashley Hoffman converted the chance with a powerful ground-flick to

draw level Pepped by the equaliser, the Americans continued their attacking game and earned another penalty corner two minutes later and Tamer made no mistake while converting the chance to hand

her side a 2-1 lead. The Americans received another penalty corner just a minute from the final hooter with Japan withdrawing their goalkeeper for an extra field player, but failed to cash in on the chance. Nevertheless, the lead was enough for the Americans,

who are unbeaten in the

Avani rallies on back nine to be placed seventh at Australian amateurs

PTI MELBOURNE

ndia's Avani Prashanth recov-Lered from two double bogeys on the front nine with five birdies on the back nine before closing with a bogey in the third round of the Australian Amateur Championships here on Thursday.

Avani carded a second straight

2-over 75 at the Par-73 courses. Avani, ranked 50th in the world and the top ranked star from the Indian Golf Union, shot 72-75 on the first two days and is now 3-over 222 and in tied seventh place. The leader in the women's sec-

tion is Amelia Harris, who had two eagles in her round of 5-



under 68 and she is 9-under for three rounds. She is way ahead of second placed Mamika Shinchi of Japan who carded 71 in the third round and has a total of 3-under.

Only four players are under par after three rounds at the challenging course, where the conditions became tougher after rain on the second day. The other Indian in the

Indian golf team will be accom-

modated in a hotel in close

proximity to the golf venue...,"

The IOA said this is being done

to alleviate the stress of daily

travel and allow athletes to

to reach the golf venue...The In addition to this, the body ensuring they are in optimal said.

focus entirely on their game

the IOA said.

women's section, Heena Kang, missed the cut on the weatherhit second day. She shot 80-80. In the men's section the lone Indian to make the cut was Varun Muthappa (74-73-77) who was 12-over and T-74, while Sandeep Yadav and Rohit

Narwal missed the cut. Avani opened with three pars and then ran into a disastrous stretch with a bogey and two double bogeys in a span of four holes between the fourth and the sixth.

Mohun Bagan, East Bengal renew rivalry with eye on Super Cup semifinal

PTI BHUBANESWAR

said it is engaging with experts in mental wellness and sleep

therapy to provide "compre-

hensive support" to the Indian

"These initiatives aim to

enhance the physical and men-tal resilience of the athletes,

Bitter foes Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal will renew their rivalry when they clash in the Super Cup with an aim to seal the semifinal spot here on

They have six points each in Group A and are also level on goal difference (+2), but East Bengal have a slight edge on goals scored.

A draw will do for Carles Cuadrat's side as they chase their first semi-final appearance in the Super Cup since the inaugural edition in 2018. "Both teams must be very

motivated. We know in football that when you're looking for a draw, you end up losing the game. So, for us, it's about winning. No question about that," said Cuadrat at the pre-match press conference.

East Bengal forward Cleiton Silva agreed with his coach's

"We cannot go for a draw, we must win the game. It's always interesting to play a derby. It's a big game, the biggest game in India. I'm happy to be a part of it," said the Brazilian.

Both teams are missing Indian players who are a part of the national team at the ongoing AFC Asian Cup.



"It's also going to be the first Kolkata Derby in Odisha since the 2017 Federation Cup semifinal in Cuttack, where Mohun Bagan ran out 2-0 winners.

"We are training well and are very focused. We have been working on our tactics. The only difference between here and other competitions like the ISL and the Durand Cup is that now we can play six foreigners. 'It can make a difference, but the rest is the same. Our players have the same never-say-die attitude, and I'm very happy to see that?

Friday's meeting is set to be the third Kolkata derby of the sea-

PTI MELBOURNE

hinese tennis prodigy Juncheng Shang blunted Sumit Nagal's challenge at the Australian Open to halt the Indian's impressive run at the first major of the season here on Thursday

Coming into the match after an inspiring win over a top-30 player, Nagal began in the same dominating fashion but the 18year-old wild card entrant got better as the game progressed to walk out a winner with a 2-6 6-3 7-5 6-4 scoreline.

The second round contest lasted two hours and 50 minutes and it was clear that Nagal had run out of steam in the fourth

In contrast, Shang began to serve well from the third set onwards and was at ease in pocketing his service games despite being troubled by high

Bopanna, Ebden pair moves to second round backhand balls in the match. Nevertheless, the 26-year-old Nagal, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, will exit" the Melbourne Park with cherishable memories, having made the

main draw through the Qualifiers and scripting a win over world number 27 Alexander Bublik. Nagal will take home AUD

180,000 (nearly 98 lakh) for his effort. The money should take care of most of his 2024 Tour

Nagal got the Chinese engaged in baseline fight from the begin-

ning and drew the first blood in the very first game of the match. It was a passing forehand win-ner from Nagal that helped set up the first break point and then a lucky net chord handed him his second chance which he converted with the Chinese making a backhand error. Shang tried hard to get the break

back by raising the intensity and power in his strokes but Nagal was ready to fight fire with fire and succeeded in opening up a 3-1 lead with consecutive holds. The Chinese found himself in a spot of bother again when he



Nagal gritty run halted by Shang

was down 0-30 in game five but pulled himself out of the hole by serving well.

A forehand error by Shang handed Nagal another break Nagal under pressure but could not convert the two break points opportunity for a handsome 5-

2 lead but the Chinese saved that with a drop shot. Shang saved two more chances in a slugfest that saw six deuce points but a double fault gave Nagal his fourth breakpoint. Shang's 17th unforced error of the match -- a wide backhand

-- resulted in another break and it allowed the Indian to serve out the opening set in the next The Chinese came out playing better and aggressive in the second set and had a chance to put

the set, Nagal began with an unforced error but managed to hold. Shang was still troubled by the high backhand balls, but closed the second set in his favour with a powerful forehand, which Nagal could not return.

in the second game.

two breaks.

Shang cut down on his errors,

served well and the court cov-

erage also improved and in no

time, he was leading 5-2 with

Coming out to serve to stay in

The third set was a tighter affair with no break of serve

until Shang cashed in on a flurry of backhand errors by Nagal at 5-5. At 15-all, Nagal buried backhand on net and then netted one more to be down by two break points. Nagal saved both but handed

another chance to the Chinese, who converted with a screaming down-the-line forehand winner. Shang served out the set with an

excellent serve. As the match wore on, Shang's

serve became better and better. He hardly conceded points on his serve. It put pressure on the Indian. A visibly tiring Nagal had his back on the wall after he lost serve at 3-3.

It was a backhand winner from Shang that earned him two break chances. At the net, Shang received a feeble return which he smashed for a winner to take a 4-3 lead and made it 5-3 with an easy hold.

the pioneer NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | JANUARY 19, 2024

World Cup squad not final: Rohit GenNext takes centerstage as rivals out

'BUT YOU KNOW 8 TO 10 PLAYERS WHO WILL BE THERE

The squad is not yet finalised but in his mind, India captain Rohit Sharma says he knows about 10 players who will be part of the side in the ICC T20 World Cup to be held this June in the Americas.

The series against Afghanistan was India's last T20 engagement before the World Cup. It also marked Rohit and Virat Kohli's comeback to the format after 14 months. Fringe players like Shivam Dube also got an opportunity to prove themselves in the series that India

Speaking to Jio Cinema, Rohit said some of the promising players will be left out for the event in Americas but that is the nature of professional sport. "Like when we were playing the ODI World Cup, we tried out many boys in T20s. They perform but when the main squad is announced, some boys have to be left out. So, it is disappointing for them. But our job is to bring clarity to the team. "So, in the pool of 25-30 players we have, they know what is expected of each player. We have still not finalised the squad for the T20 World Cup, but obviously in the mind you know the 8-10 players who are going to play," he said on Wednesday night after the third and final T20 here. Majority of the games will be

played in the Caribbean where

the pitches are expected to be

on the slower side. "In the West Indies, the conditions are quite slow, so we have to pick the squad accordingly. Again I say, Rahul bhai and I have tried to maintain clarity in the team. The one thing I have learnt from captaincy is that you can't keep everyone happy. You have to focus on the needs of the team," said the skipper. After a couple of ducks, Rohit got back among the runs with a record fifth T20 hundred. In

his memorable effort, the skip-

per also attempted reverse hits

multiple times with the surface

playing out a few tricks in the

powerplay. "I have been practising it a lot in the nets. You have to play some shots in order to put the bowlers under pressure. When the ball is spinning and you can't hit straight, you have to try something new.

"I have been practising reverse sweeps and sweeps for the past two years. You would have

England Lions continued to dominate India A despite a rollicking unbeaten hundred from Rajat Patidar on the second day of their first unofficial Test

Patidar made 140 off 132 balls

with 18 fours and five sixes but

India A could only make 215 for

here on Thursday.

seen me play them once or twice in Test matches. You have the options and it's up to you how you are using those

"The ball was spinning and gripping today so, I thought I'd play with the spin rather than step out and hit hard in front of the wicket," he said.

options.

With the three games, Rohit also got up to speed with the team's plans for the World

Cup. "I had not played for one year,

mat despite Patidar quick 140

eight declared in first innings.

India A are still trailing by 338

Pacer Matthew Fisher led

England's bowling with a four-wicket burst (4/57) while he

received strong support from fellow pacer Matthew Potts (2/26)

and left-arm spinner Callum Parkinson (2/43).

India A were, in fact, in all kind

England Lions pin India to

so I discussed ideas with Rahul bhai (Dravid). Although I was watching the games, I was not playing. I got an understanding of a few things, so we wanted

to implement them and also do

something different. 'We wanted our bowlers to bowl in a different way, some-one wasn't comfortable bowling in the power play, so we had to use them there. Some were not comfortable bowling at the death, we asked them to bowl there," he added.

late support from Tushar Deshpande, who scored India's

second highest individual score

of 23, and Navdeep Saini as India A struggled past the 200-

Earlier, England, starting from their overnight 382 for 3,

motored on riding on a fine 125

clash in Benoni. Sixteeen teams are divided into

U-19 WORLD CUP

to halt India unparalleled dominance

PTI ■ BLOEMFONTEIN (SOUTH

Many dreams will take flight and futures will be shaped when the Under-19 World Cup begins here on Friday with rival teams looking to halt dominance of record five time champions

The legacy of the Under-19 World Cup as a breeding ground for future cricketing stars is well established.

The tournament has unearthed a bevy of Indian stars — Yuvraj Singh in 2000, Rohit Sharma in 2006, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Iadeia in 2008, Rishabh Pant and Íshan Kishan in 2016, Shubman Gill in 2018 — to name a few. At the world level also, the tournament has produced players who went on to become legends of the game.

But at the same time, there have been many who have not been able to replicate the immense promise shown at the age group and they include the likes of Ravikant Shukla, Manish Pandey, Unmukt Chand, Yash Dhull, Manjot Kalra and

Kamlesh Nagarkotti. All eyes again would be on India, who will be led by Punjab's Uday Saharan. They begin their campaign against neighbours Bangladesh in Group A on Saturday.

Group Á also features the USA and Ireland who will set the ball rolling in the opening match of the tournament that will run till February 11 with the summit

four groups with top three making the Super Sixes where 12 teams will be divided into two pools. The top-two will then make the semi-finals, also slated in Benoni on February 6 and

India this time did not have a proper build-up and have arrived here after a series of National Cricket Academy camps and just two tournaments — the Asia Cup and the recently concluded Tri-series in South Africa.

The journey has been marked by

exit at the Asia Cup, where the Saharan-led side lost to hosts icant roles to play. and eventual champions Bangladesh by four wickets. Skipper Saharan is also in the But the team's trajectory has seen

to clinch the Tri-series in South Africa where Afghanistan were the third team. The honours were shared by India and South Africa after a wash-out in the final earlier this month. It remains to be seen if

they're able to maintain their stranglehold on the coveted U-19 ODI trophy without extensive preparation. Australia are the next most suc-

a significant upswing since then,

culminating in an unbeaten run

cessful side in the tournament with three titles in 1988, 2002, and 2010, while Pakistan secured the title in 2004 and

Bangladesh (2020), South Africa (2014), West Indies (2016), and England (1998) have won the event once. Part of India's squad is Arshin

Kulkarni, who one of only two players in the team to be signed at the IPL auction. A find of the Maharashtra

Premier League, Arshin hit maximum sixes (19) to outshine the seniors like Ruturaj Gaikwad, Kedar Jadhav and Rahul Tripathi. Chennai Super Kings recruit

Aravelly Avanish caught attention with a remarkable 163 off 93 balls at the quadrangular series in November. He later impressed in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy as well. Musheer Khan, player of the

tournament in Cooch Behar Trophy last year, and skipper Bhatinda in Punjab from Rajasthan, will also have signif-

midst of a fine run in the Triseries with scores of 112, 74 and 50 not out in his last three innings.

Raj Limbani raised eyebrows by taking 7/13 (9.1) against Nepal, while vice-captain Saumy Pandey impressed with 6/29 against Afghanistan.

In other teams, the players to watch out for are New Zealand's Rahman Hekmat, who idolises Shane Warne and Rashid Khan, Pakistan rising pacer Ubaid Shah, Afghan offspinner Allah Mohammad Ghazanfar and England's Luc Benkenstein. Hosts South Africa will begin

West Indies in Group B where they will also find formidable opposition in England and Scotland

Australia will be challenged by Sri Lanka and African teams Zimbabwe and Namibia for the top spot in Group C.

The second-most successful team of the tournament are coming on the back of a successful tour of England in late 2023. In Group D, it seems to be a three-way fight among Pakistan, Afghanistan and New Zealand for the two available spots for the Super Sixes.

THE GROUPS

Group A: Bangladesh, India, **Group B:** England, Scotland, South Africa, West Indies

Group C: Australia, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe Group D: Afghanistan, Nepal,

Warner, Boult, Bravo among stars to light up International League T20

series in India

Steven Finn.

For England to replicate their 2012 victory in India, their IPL superstars need to gain admirers by delivering entertaining performances, feels former pacer-turned-commentator

India have won 16 home series since their 1-2 reversal against England 13 years back, a series which Finn was part of. "I think the IPL superstardom of

some of the players will count to England's benefit," Finn told ESPNCricinfo. "Kevin Pietersen aside, that

2012 team, people weren't really superstars in India, whereas you have quite a few guys this time going over who have played in the IPL and are superstars in that. I think that will count." England have some IPL house-

hold names in the touring party with the likes of Ben Stokes, Mark Wood, Jonny Bairstow and Harry Brook part of the

England will embark on their five-match series against India with the Hyderabad Test from January 25.

"The three most memorable tours I went on, India 2012, Australia 2010-11 and South Africa 2016, all three of them, one of the motivations for us was to try and get the opposition public on side and turn them against their own team.
"That's a huge benefit to you,

and having Stokes and McCullum at the helm gives England an opportunity to do

"If they play well and give a good account of themselves, as the series goes on that tide can turn, because we know how polarising the Indian cricket team can be to their public depending on how they are playing

SUPERHUMAN HMMY: Finn further said veteran James

despite a difficult Ashes last year.On his sixth tour to India, the 41-year-old Anderson has taken an impressive 34 wickets at 29.32, with 12 of them coming on that 2012 tour. "Jimmy is superhuman. People

Finn tells England

to woo fans to win

have been anticipating he will retire for about seven years now and he keeps surprising people and performing," Finn said. "He didn't have a fantastic sum-

mer last year, but I know from knowing him as a character that he wouldn't be doing this unless he felt he could make a differ-"I think a determined Jimmy Anderson well-managed is someone who will be important to England, especially making the most of the reverse swing because he is an absolute master at that.

"He would have worked on his fitness, he would have trained hard, he has got the skills and has got the experience so I anticipate when he plays, he'll be an impor-

tant cog."
'MEASURED AGGRESSION': Finn further urged the touring party to show measured aggression taking a cue of Alstair Cook and Kevin Pietersen's centuries in their 10-wicket win in the

2012 Mumbai Test. "Cook ground them down and then Pietersen came out and played this knock and everyone was like, 'oh my word, we're going to win this series. That was the moment we all realised.

"England can take some of the motivation from the way that affected the way India played and try to take that into this series, but it has to be a mea-

sured aggression. "If you go 100 percent aggression from the beginning, I think you can become unstuck. But if vou've given yourself a chance and then assert pressure back on India, that could serve England well," he added.



The likes of Australian big-hit-Zealand pace spearhead Trent Boult will headline the second edition of the six-team DP World International League T20, beginning on Friday in the UAE. A total of 34 games will be played in the league including the final in Dubai on February 17. Dubai will host 15 games, Abu Dhabi 11 and Sharjah will be the venue for the remaining

eight games. Former India batter Ambati Rayudu has also signed up for the competition and will represent Mumbai Indians Emirates. The other ILT20 teams apart from MI Emirates (Reliance Industries) are Abu Dhabi Knight Riders (Kolkata Knight Riders), Desert Vipers (Lancer Capital), Dubai Capitals (GMR), Gulf Giants (Adani Sportsline), and Sharjah Warriors (Capri Global).

Besides Warner and Boult, the other big games who will be a part of the tournament are Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Corey

Australia was set to force an early end to the first crick-

et test against West Indies after

taking five second-innings wick-

ets late on the second day at the

The Caribbean side was 73-6 in

its second innings and still trails

Australia by 22 runs going into

Day 3. Travis Head earlier scored

119 from 134 balls to help put Australia in a strong position

with 283 runs and a first-innings

Shamar Joseph took his third

prized wicket of new Australian

Adelaide Oval on Thursday.

AP ADELAIDE

lead of 95 runs.



Anderson, Dwayne Bravo, Dasun Shanaka, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Sam Billings, David Willey, Alex Hales, Tom Curran, Rovman Powell, Shimron Hetmyer, James Vince, Chris Woakes and Martin Guptill. The recently-retired Warner, who would be captaining Dubai Capitals, is also the face of the league's marketing campaign alongside former India spinner and the event's official ambassador Harbhajan Singh. Boult, who is an active international cricketer but has opted out of New Zealand's central contract pool, will play for MI Emirates. As I gear up for my debut in one of the world's most competitive

T20 leagues, it's truly an honour to be the face of this season's marketing campaign," Warner

The competition will be shown live on Zee's 10 channels -&Pictures, &Pictures HD, Zee Cinema HD, Zee Anmol Cinema, Zee Zest, Zee Ganga, Zee Cinemalu HD, &Flix, &Flix HD and Zee Zest HD — and

streaming app ZEE5. "We are delighted to have David Warner along with league's ambassador and commentator Harbhajan Singh to kick off DP World ILT20 Season 2 marketing campaign," said Rahul Johri, President - Business, ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Limited

(ZEEL). Gulf Giants had won the inaugural edition after beating MI Emirates. The tournabetween Sharjah Warriors and Gulf Giants on January 19. The ILT20 has also announced

a star-studded commentary panel that includes Harbhajan, Virender Sehwag, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Shoaib Akhtar, Alan Wilkins, Simon Doull, Daren Ganga, Danny Morrison and Niall O'Brien. The event will feature both Hindi and English commentary. According to the organisers, the event's first season attracted 367 million viewers from India and around the world, making it the second most watched T20 cricket league globally.

'The deep distribution and disruptive marketing strategy for the second season aims to further enhance the league's reach and ensure widespread viewership, emphasizing ILT20's appeal to a broad and diverse audience. In the previous season, the league achieved a remarkable reach of over 250 million across India," the organisers stated.

FIR against gaming site, FB page as Tendulkar raises concerns over his deepfake video

PTI MUMBAI

The Mumbai police have ■ registered a case against a gaming site and a Facebook page after Sachin Tendulkar raised concerns over a deepfake video that falsely showed that the cricketing legend was promoting its gaming app, an official said on Thursday.

An FIR has been registered under section 500 (defamation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 66 (A) (sending offensive messages through communication service) of the IT Act on a complaint filed by the former cricketer's personal assistant at the West Region Cyber police station on Tuesday, the official said.

Earlier, a deepfake video, carrying a digitally manipulated clip and voice of Tendulkar, was shared on Facebook in which it was falsely shown that the former ace batsman was promoting a gaming app. The deepfake also sought to

create an impression that Tendulkar and his daughter

Sara had won large sums of money by playing a certain

According to the complaint, the video was edited and posted on Facebook. It said deepfake technology was used to mimic Tendulkar's gesture and voice. At this stage, the police did not share details about the owner of the gaming site and the Facebook page.

Tendulkar himself had flagged the fake video on his official X handle. He called the video a "disturbing" misuse of technology and stressed that it was

"These videos are fake. It is disturbing to see rampant misuse of technology. Request every one to report videos, ads and apps like these in large numbers," Tendulkar had appealed

Social media platforms need to be alert and responsive to complaints, he said, "Swift action from their end is crucial to stopping the spread of misinformation and deepfakes," he had asserted.

Australia set to end 1st test against West Indies early on Day 3 at Adelaide Oval

opener Steve Smith with his first ball in test cricket on the opening day Wednesday at the Adelaide Oval.

Joseph added the wicket of Marnus Labuschagne before stumps Wednesday, when Australia was 59-2. On Thursday, Joseph had new No. 4 batter Cameron Green out for

wicket on his debut for West Indies and Australia went to Pace bowler Joseph, who made 36 batting at No. 11 - the secondlunch Thursday at 144-5 and trailing the Caribbean side by 44 highest score in the visitor's innings - had figures of 3-52 at The 24-year-old Joseph took the the lunch break

Australia captain Pat Cummins



and Josh Hazlewood took four wickets each as Australia restricted West Indies to 188 all out and made good use of the Adelaide Oval pitch after winning the toss and bowling first. West Indies, which hasn't won a test match Down Under since February 1997, has brought only five players who appeared in the two tests against Australia in 2022-23 and added seven uncapped players to the touring

The second and final test in the series, a day-night match at the Gabba in Brisbane, begins Jan.

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