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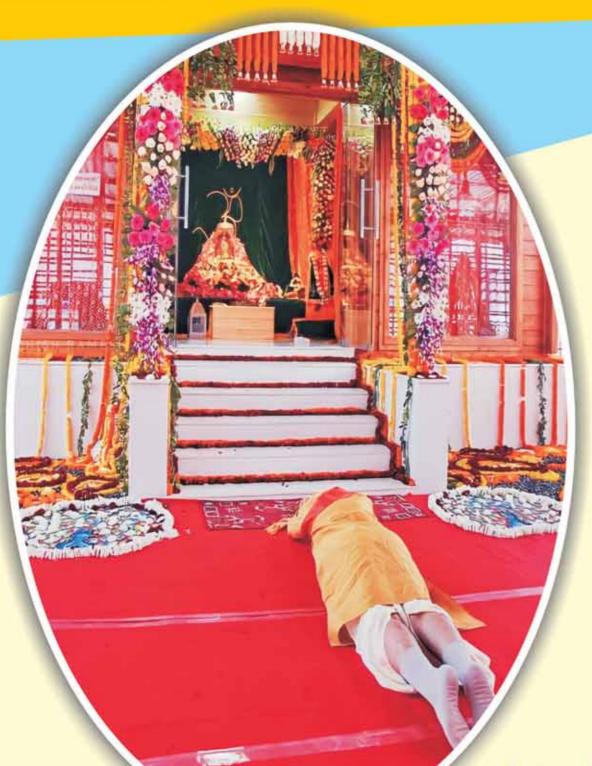
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Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Ayodhya Ramlalla Pran-Pratishtha Ceremony

Paush Shukla Dwadashi, Vikrami Samvat 2080 Monday, 22 January 2024, Time 12:20 pm





Honourable Presence

Mahant Nritya Gopaldas Ji Maharaj

President, Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

Honourable Narendra Bhai Modi Ji

Prime Minister, Government of India

Dr. Mohanrao Bhagwat Ji

Sarsanghchalak, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

Anandiben Patel Ji

Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath Ji Maharaj

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Saints & Seers of about 125 Bhartiya Traditions and 2500 Dignitaries from various fields will grace the occasion

Let us also make our Village / Locality / Colony Ram Mayi.

Rejoice and Welcome Ram Lalla
By Singing Auspicious Songs By Colouring Bharat Ram Mayi By Lighting Diyas At Our Doorstep In These Historic Moments

- Run a cleanliness campaign at your nearest temple from Makar Sankranti to 22nd January.
- On 22nd January, collectively perform Ram Naam Sankirtan in a temple near you.
- Watch the Pran Pratishtha program collectively by installing a TV/LED/Screen at your nearest temple.
- After Pran Pratishtha, distribute Prasad in your village/colony/locality.
- . On the day of Pran Pratistha in the evening, light at least five diyas at the doorstep of your house and workplace/shop.
- After Pran Pratistha Day, visit Ayodhya at your convenient time for Darshan.

Regd.No.76/1683

PAN - AAZTS6197B

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra

Restore Sheesh Mahal, Delhi LG directs DDA

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday directed the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to work out a road map for restoration and rejuvenation of Sheesh Mahal in Shalimar Bagh in north Delhi.

He issued these orders after visiting the historical gardens, commissioned by the wife of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, Akbarbadi Begum,and that houses the Sheesh Mahal constructed by the emperor himself, officials said

After taking stock of the situation on ground, Saxena directed the DDA to work out a road map for the redevelopment, restoration and rejuvenation of the hitherto lying neglected, historic complex, in coordination with the Archeological Survey of India (ASI).

The LG also visited the historic Sheesh Mahal in the park, which was the site of coronation of Emperor Aurangzeb in 1658, and also took stock of the gardens, spread over 150 acre. He instructed the DDA to



immediately start works on the restoration of gardens and complete the entire process of redevelopment/rejuvenation within the next six months.

Saxena expressed anguish that this architectural beauty of the medieval era was lying in a state of neglect due to apathy of the stakeholder departments/agencies and directed their officials to coordinate with each other for the restoration as has been done in last one year for many such monuments in the National Capital.

The most notable of these has the Mehrauli Archaeological Park, which has emerged as a new destination in the city, witnessing a footfall of more than 1500 vis-

The Sheesh Mahal – Shalimar Bagh Complex, apart from having restored greens, gar-

dens, repaired monuments, water channels and walkways, will also have a restaurant and other public utilities, once the exercise is completed. Saxena gave specific instructions for rejuvenation of the water body in the complex

Saxena was told by local residents including people from neighbouring urbanized village, who were present there in large number, that huge tracts of the park had been encroached upon and had become a den for criminal

During his two hours inspection, Saxena asked the DDA and ASI to immediately start cleaning work of area and explore the remains of water channel leading to the fountain area and restore them. He said other structures around the monument would also be restored. The park has various facilities including open gym, nursery and compost plant, lying in a state of disrepair.

One Nation, One Election will change basic structure of Constitution: AAP

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday said holding simultaneous elections in the country will damage the idea of parliamentary democracy and the basic structure of the Constitution. It will not be able to deal with hung legislature and will actively encourage anti-defection, the AAP said.

The remarks of the AAP, a constituent of the INDIA bloc, came a day after the Congress, also part of the same grouping, strongly opposed the idea of holding simultaneous elections in the country, saying it goes against the guarantees of federalism and the basic structure of the Constitution.

In a statement on Saturday, the AAP said, "One nation, one election' will damage the idea of parliamentary democracy, the basic structure of the Constitution and federal polity of the country. It is unable to deal with hung legislature, will actively encourage the evil of anti-defection and open buying-selling of MLAs and



It added that the cost sought to be saved by holding simultaneous elections is a mere 0.1 per cent of the Central government's annual budget.

The AAP further stated that the tenets of the Constitution and democracy cannot be sacrificed for "narrow financial gains" and administrative

Flagging some serious concerns about its constitutionality the AAP noted that holding simultaneous elections will damage the basic structure of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has held that the Basic Structure of the Constitution cannot be undermined, whereas the idea and mechanism of One Nation One election(ONOE)

fundamentally damages elements of the Basic Structure. "ONOE encroaches on the exercise of democratic power by the people by forcing the legislature to necessarily remain in office for five years even if the government loses the confidence of the people. It also demolishes the idea that the will of the people is paramount and their will provides for the authority of the government.

Even when a government loses the confidence of the people, ONOE allows it to continue in office. Some reports on ONOE suggest curtailment and extension of tenure of various state governments and legislatures, which would directly violate the mandate granted by the people through the exercise of the vote," the Aam Aadmi Party mentioned.

The AAP further added that in a parliamentary democracy, the government stays in office till the time it enjoys the confidence of the legislature. If a government loses the confidence of the representatives of the people, it must

Rajnath praises NCC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

reativity, interpersonal Uskills, emotional intelligence and sensitivity are the qualities which will make a person relevant and employable in the present age of machines and artificial intelligence, Defence Minister Rainath Singh said here on Saturday.
Making this assertion while addressing the National Cadet
Corps (NCC) during his visit to
the Republic Day Camp for this
tyear he appreciated the NCC. year, he appreciated the NCC for equipping the cadets with these qualities and ensuring their all-round development to lead the next generation.

Sharing his insights on the rise of artificial intelligence in today's technology-driven era, Rajnath asserted that with time and further advancements, people will begin to focus more on creating a career in sectors where machines cannot execute the desired tasks.

He, however, stressed on the fact that even if machines could perform physical and intellectual tasks, they cannot be creative, generate con-sciousness and develop interpersonal skills like humans. This is where, he pointed out, the NCC is playing a crucial

The Defence Minister said "the NCC, through its various initiatives and programmes, is ensuring holistic growth of cadets by making them physically, mentally and emotionally strong, developing their social skills and instilling the feeling of patriotism and national pride.

Along with studies, it is extremely important for the cadets to imbibe these qualities. This will help them to give their 100% in the progress of the country." On the occasion, Rajnath gave away the Raksha Mantri Padak Commendation Cards to the NCC cadets for their exemplary performance and devo-

tion to duty. This year, the Raksha Mantri Padaks were awarded to Senior Under Officer Makkatira Kalpana Kuttappa of Karnataka and Goa Directorate, and Junior Under Officer Dechen Chuskit of Jammu Kashmir

and Ladakh Directorate. The Raksha Mantri Commendation Cards were given to Under Officer Amar Morang of North Eastern Region Directorate, and Senior Under Officer Jyotirmaya Singh Chauhan of Uttar Pradesh Directorate.

Do not sell meat, fish on January 22 in honour of Ram: Delhi trader body

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Meat Merchant Association general secretary Irshad Qureshi on Saturday appealed to all traders selling meat and fish to close their shops here on January 22 in honour of the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya.

All slaughter houses in Delhi along with the shops selling meat and fish have been asked to keep their businesses closed for the day respecting the sentiments of the people for the "pran pratishtha" ceremo-

The motive behind the appeal is to promote unity and harmony between the two communities and bring people together,

"We have made an appeal to all slaughter houses and meat and fish sellers to close their shops on January 22 to show respect to the celebration of our Hindu brothers and sisters on the occasion of Ram temple inauguration," Qureshi said.

Shutting the business for a day would not impact the traders as much, he added stating that sentiments of both the commu-

Many restaurants in Delhi's Cannaught Place have also announced not to serve non-veg to the customers on January 22. New Delhi Traders Association (NDTA) joint secretary Amit Gupta said that many restaurants in Cannaught Place have pledged to serve vegetarian food on the day

The "pran pratishtha" ceremony in Ayodhya will take place on January 22 in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will be attended by many

of the "pran pratishtha" ceremony in

announces new list of office bearers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Janata Dal (United) on Saturday came out with a new list of national office bearers, approved by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar who took over as the party president less than a month

Veteran socialist leader Vashishth Narayan Singh, a Rajya Sabha MP and close aide of Kumar, who stepped down as the state unit chief three years ago citing health reasons, has been made the national vice president.

Singh, whose friendship with Kumar dates back to the 1974 students' movement in Bihar led by Jayaprakash Narayan, replaces Mangani Lal Mandal who in March last year became only the second leader to have been made the JD(U)'s vice president after former poll strategist Prashant Kishor, who was given the post in 2017. Mandal has been made a national general secretary. The party's most visible face in the media, K C Tyagi, has been

spokesperson in the list is Rajib Ranjan, a former MLA from the Chief Minister's home district of Nalanda, who returned to JD(U) last year after quitting the BJP, though he has been stripped of the post of national general secretary he had been holding so far. The number of national general secretaries has been trimmed down to 11, compared with 20 in the previous list that came out in March last year when the party was head-

designated as "political advisor and spokesperson". The other

ed by Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', who stepped down last month to concentrate on his Lok Sabha seat Munger, amid rumours that he had grown too close to ally RJD.

Lalan, however, continues to

enjoy the trust of Nitish Kumar and has accompanied the supreme leader at meetings of the INDIA bloc, besides Sanjay Kumar Jha, who has been retained as a national general secretary. Jha is the only Bihar minister to figure in the list of national general

Manhunt for foreign terrorists who attacked Army continues

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Even as the Indian Army is maintaining high alert in the frontier districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the run-up to the Republic Day celebrations no major headway has been footprints of the foreign terrorists behind one of the most provocative strikes on two Army vehicles in the Dera ki Gali area of Poonch on December 21, 2023. Four Indian soldiers were

'killed in action' and three others were injured in the ambush. The Indian army personnel were passing through the Thannamandi-Surankote road link in two separate vehicles including one gypsy and an army truck at the time of the attack.

The soldiers Naik Birender Singh of Chamoli district in ations in the thickly forested

Rifleman Gautam Kumar of Pauri Gharwal, Uttarakhand, Naik Karan Kumar of Kanpur, and Rifleman Chandan Kumar of Nawada in Bihar made the supreme sacrifice in the line of

During the last month, the Indian army has launched several combing and search oper- The three civilians along with

six others were picked up for questioning from the Topa Peer village in connection with the attack on the army vehicles. After the residents and aggrieved families alleged they were killed in custody, the Army authorities launched an inter-So far, after shunting out the

senior officers including the Brigade Commander of the 13 Sector Rashtriya Rifles the Indian army has rushed additional troops into the region to further intensify their antiterrorist operations to neutralize terrorists hiding in the area taking advantage of the undulating terrain and natural cave-like structures.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh along with Army Chief General Manoj Pande also visited the forward areas and took stock of the prevailing security situation.

Kerala CPM Government takes off posters of Modi from website

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The personal enmity the ruling CPI(M) in Kerala has for Prime minister Narendra Modi came out in the open by Saturday as it has been reported that the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Government forced the Public Relations Department to remove posters depicting the simple life style of the Prime Minister from its official web-This is the first time in Kerala a report about the Prime Minister's visit to the State had been blacked out from the official public domain.

Prime Minister had stayed in the Government Guest House at Ernakulam during his two-day whirlwind tour to the State on Tuesday. "During his stay he was fasting and had consumed only hot water and slept on the floor of his room. He used a Yoga Mat to sleep," the Public Relations Department had said about his life style in a press release sent to accredited journalists. The same had been posted on the

website of the PRD. Modi is observing an 11 day ritual (Anushtan) in connection with the 22 January consecration of the Ram Janmabhumi Temple at Ayodhya.

But the same was removed from the website following the intervention of the cyber cell of the CPI(M) which asked the PRD officials why such a release was posted on the Government website. It may be remembered mouthpiece of the CPI(M), had stated in its bulletins that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had deicated to the nation infrastructure projects worth ₹4000 crore in the presence of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. The PM on Wednesday had dedicated to the nation ₹4000 crore infrastructure projects built by the Centre which include the country's biggest dry dock facility, a ship repairing unit and an import terminal exclusively for liquified petroleum project which would benefit three States viz Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

2,000 sarees to be on display on Republic Day



ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

As India will unfold its rich cultural heritage, economic progress and strong security through tableaux and contingents along the Kartavya Path on the 75th Republic Day i.e. January 26, the Union Culture Ministry has a colourful surprise in store for the visitors at the venue: It is displaying around 2,000 sarees from across the States and Union Territories to be mounted at a height with wooden frames along the Path, giving a glimpse of the sartorial diversity of the country.
"A highlight of this year's

Republic Day parade will be the spectacular display of sarees from different states and union territories of India in the form of "Anant Sutra--The Endless Thread". "This is the entire country's tribute to the women power of India and the millions of weavers of India," the Ministry posted on social platform X (erstwhile Twitter).

Amita Prasad Sarbhai, Joint Secretary Culture Ministry said that every saree will have QR codes which can be scanned to know the details about weaving and embroidery arts used in it. Curator of the exhibition Richa Kamboj gave details of the sarees to be displayed with each piece having a story of its own to be told. Kanchipuram, Venkatagiri, Chanderi, Paithan and Patan will be among an array of Indian weaves that will be showcased on the D-day. There's more. Lovers of the

five-yard fabric can also participate in the Saree Selfie Competition organized by the Ministry. They can post their selifie onMyGov.in to "celebrate the grace of Indian women!" The post says, "Join the Bharat Ki Nari In Sari Selfie Competition on #MyGov. Capture the elegance of saris and showcase the spirit of

Indian women." Delhi's Mayur Vihar Phase II resident Ánjana Cashyap, a retired government official who is a die-hard saree lover, was excited at the Ministry's plans to showcase the fabric on the Day which is witnessed by millions of Indians here and abroad besides foreigners. "It is an ode to the apparel that is part of women's wardrobes in India and is also a tribute to the weavers who weave them," she

I appreciate this concept! We

have such a rich traditional heritage in the form of this unstitched drape which can be draped in a variety of ways. It will be an absolutely amazing experience to watch all Indian sarees at this historical event. Our next generation will also have a glimpse about this heritage," said Sangeeta Sharma, Professor at Delhi-based Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences (IHBAS). In fact, Parade with the themes of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat -Loktantra ki Matruka', will be women-centric. For the first time, the parade will be heralded by 100 women artists playing Índian musical instruments. The parade would commence with the music of Sankh, Nadaswaram and Nagada played by women

For the first time, the parade will also witness an all-women Tri-Service contingent marching down the Path. The CAPF contingents will also consist of women personnel.

artists, said the official.

Section 144 in Noida till January 26

STAFF REPORTER **NEW DELHI**

 $R^{\text{estrictions under CrPC}}_{\text{section 144 will be}}$ invoked across Noida and Greater Noida from January 21 to 26, the Gautam Buddh Nagar police said on Saturday The order came in the wake of the consecration ceremony at the Lord Ram temple in Ayodhya on January 22 and the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

The restrictions include a ban on unlawful assembly of five or more people, unauthorised processions and demonstrations among others, according to an order issued by Additional DCP (law and order) Hridesh Katheriya. "The live telecast of Shri Ram

Mandir Pran Pratishtha is scheduled on January 22 along with Diwali programme. Then the birth anniversary of late Hazrat Ali on January 25 and Republic Day celebration on January 26," Katheriya said.

Nadda to watch Ram mandir consecration from Jhandewalan temple



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW

 $B_{\text{skip the consecration cere-}}^{\text{JP president JP Nadda will}}$ mony at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and instead watch the historic event from the Jhandewalan temple here.

In a post on X on Saturday, he thanked the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which is in charge of the temple's construction and management, for inviting him to the January 22 "Pran Pratishtha"

Noting that the grand temple is being built after 500 years of

with his family after January 22 for "darshan"

belt of Surankote but to date, no

major success has been

achieved. On the other hand,

an internal probe ordered by

the Indian army into the recov-

ery of three civilian dead bod-

ies under mysterious circum-

stances in the Surankote area of

Poonch is also going on.

Several BJP leaders, including Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, have been invited to the event where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's presence will be one of the high-

The ruling party's leaders are likely to watch the ceremony from different parts of the country along with others, including the masses, amid the suggestion from the leadership that they should visit the temple after January 22 when a large number of guests are expected.

Congress condemns attack on Bharat Jodo Nyay yatra in Assam

SERVICE NEW

Saturday condemned the attack on the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Assam "by BJP goons" and accused the

ruling party in the state of seeking to "trample and demolish" every right and justice guaranteed by the Constitution to the people of India. president Congress

Mallikarjun Kharge said the party will not be cowed down by such tactics aimed at intimidating its workers and leaders. "We strongly condemn the shameful attack on the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra vehicles and tearing of the Congress party's banners and posters by BJP goons in Lakhimpur, Assam," he said in

a social media post. "In the last 10 years, the BJP has attempted to trample and demolish every right and jus-

tice guaranteed by the

Constitution to the people of India.

"It wants to subjugate their

voices, thereby hijacking democracy," he added. Kharge said the Congress will not be cowed down by this tactic of attack and intimidation "by the BJP government in Assam, which is responsi-

ble for this."

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal also shared a video of the purported attack and said, "Want more evidence of how scared 'MostCorrupt' CM Himanta is of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra? Look at his goons vandalise our Congress posters and vehicles!'

Engineer held in Rashmika deepfake video case STAFF REPORTER

 $D_{\text{said it has arrested a B-}}^{\text{elhi Police on Saturday}}$ Tech graduate from Andhra Pradesh in connection with a deepfake video of actor Rasĥmika Mandanna that was widely circulated on social

The accused, identified as 23year-old Eemani Naveen, a native of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, had created the video to increase the followers on his fan page of Rashmika Mandanna on Instagram, an official said.

On November 10, an FIR was registered under sections 465 (punishment for forgery) and 469 (forgery for purpose of harming reputation) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and sections 66C and 66E of the Information Technology Act at the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) Unit of the Delhi Police's Special Cell.

The case was registered on the complaint of the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW)

BUSINESS 6

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MEMBERS IN NOVEMBER

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AGENDA 9

EPIC JOURNEY OF

RAM LALLA



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CAPSULE

ED questions Soren in money laundering case

RANCHI: Sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate on Saturday questioned Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren at his official residence here in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.

Will protect border with Myanmar: Shah

GUWAHATI: Minister Amit Shah on said government will stop the free movement of people at the Myanmar border and will protect it like that of Bangladesh. Addressing the passing out parade of the first batch of five Assam Commando Police battalions, he said the Centre is rethinking the free-movement facility with Myanmar.

₹10,000 crore needed for EVMs for polls in one go: EC

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission would require an estimated ₹10,000 crore every 15 years to procure new EVMs if simultaneous polls are held for Lok Sabha and Assemblies. In a communication sent to the Centre, the EC noted that the shelf life of EVMs was 15 years.



SPORTS 8

INDIA OUTCLASS

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BISWAJEET BANERJEE AYODHYA

the chief priest of the Ram Lalla temple, Satyendra Das, raised concerns about the appearance of pictures depicting the idol of Ram Lalla with uncovered eyes. Das said this is a violation of Hindu rituals, emphasising the need for an enquiry to identify and penalise the individual responsible for unveiling the eyes.

In explaining his stance, the

chief priest outlined the customary procedure of installing the idol, which includes covering its eyes to maintain a veil until the ceremony, consecration known as Praan Pratisthaa. "The sanctum sanctorum is the designated space for this sacred installation. This is the only place where the eyes should be uncovered by removing the cloth," Das said. While admitting uncertainty about the authenticity of the images circulating in newspapers and on TV channels, Das asserted that any depiction of the idol with open eyes before the Praan Pratisthaa ceremony is inaccurate, as the idol assumes that form only during the consecration ritual. Expressing concern over the situation, the chief priest remarked, "If someone has removed the cloth from the eyes, then it should be investigated." Hindu referenced



scriptures, which strictly prohibit the removal of the cloth covering the eyes before the consecration ceremony. The eves must remain covered throughout other preparatory rituals, including bathing, adornment, and offerings. A member of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust had earlier informed that the eyes would be uncovered on January 22 during the "Netronmelan" ritual,

involving the application of honey to a gold bar. Continued on Page 4

Stringent Bandobast in Ayodhya

As the city of Ayodhya eagerly anticipates the historic Praan Pratishthaa ceremony at the new Ram Lalla temple on January 22, the administration has implemented stringent security measures by sealing the city's boundaries and restricting entry for outsiders and vehicles from restricting January 20.

Special Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar underscored the these importance importance of these measures, said, "No outsider will be allowed to enter the city from January 20." This decision is a critical component of the security plan to ensure the smooth consecration ceremony, which is expected to draw a large congregation

devotees and spectators. Subsequently, the security cover for Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the coronation will be of the highest order, with a five-tier arrangement involving 550 commandos from the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and 35 SPG personnel already stationed in Ayodhya.

An extensive security blueprint has been devised for the event, deploying over 30,000 personnel from various agencies, including civil police, with special attention given to the Prime Minister's security.

The five-tier security cordon

and secure conduct of the consecration ceremony, which is expected to draw a the Prime Minister. The first tier will consist of SPG bodyguards armed with assault rifles, automatic guns, 17M revolvers, and other modern weaponry. The second layer will comprise SPG commandos, followed by the elite Black Cat commandos of the NSG taking charge in the third

> ATS and other commandos will be strategically positioned. The fourth layer will include personnel from paramilitary forces, while the fifth and final layer will consist of civil police personnel responsible for securing the surroundings.

Continued on Page 4

Centre issues warning against false propaganda

PNS NEW DELHI

The Centre issued an advisory on Saturday to media outlets and social media platforms, cautioning them against publishing any false or manipulated content related to the January 22 Ram temple event in Ayodhya. The advisory, issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said it has unverified, observed provocative, and fake messages being spread, especially on social media, which could disturb communal harmony and public order. Ahead of the consecration of the idol of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, many people have received fake messages related to VIP invitations, donation drives, and prasaad of the mega event. The advisory newspapers, private satellite TV channels, and publishers of news and current affairs on digital media to refrain from publishing and telecasting any content that may be false or manipulated or has the potential to disturb

communal harmony. Continued on Page 4

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's highly anticipated visit to Ayodhya has experienced a minor schedule change. Originally planned for January 21, the visit is now rescheduled for January 22, during which the Prime Minister will spend approximately four hours in the sacred city.

The Prime Minister is expected to arrive at Maharishi Valmiki International Airport at 10:30 am on January 22.



From there, he will proceed to the Ram temple complex, entering at 11 am. The visit is slated to last about three hours. During this time, the Prime Minister will inaugurate the statue of Jatayu, a significant character from the Ramayana, and perform a worship ceremony.

After the inaugural rituals, the Prime Minister is scheduled to participate in the Praan Pratishthaa puja, a crucial



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Contact for registration: 8954555888, 8954666222, 8954666333, 8954555999

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of mentioned diseases. Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision

consecration ceremony.

Continued on Page 4

Take a pledge on the occasion of the consecration of Ram Lala

To follow the ideals of Maryada Purushottam Shri Ramji and to bring Ram Rajya in the country by making Sanatan Dharma the religion of the era and to free the country from all kinds of economic, ideological, cultural, educational and medical slavery and to make it completely self-reliant and prosperous.

Pledge for Swadeshi

Trillions of rupees have been looted since the time of the East India Company, MNCs still have control over the economy worth trillions of rupees. To get rid of this, take the pledge of Swadeshi and help the country gain economic independence. Use the country's money in service of the country.

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For asthma, cough, cold, etc.

For BP and sugar

For arthritis, joint pain and Vata diseases

For liver diseases and digestive system

Big B, Ambani, Sachin among 8,000 invited to Ayodhya event

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $B_{\text{Amitabh Bachchan, busi-}}^{\text{ollywood}}$ megastar ness tycoons Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani, and sporting icon Sachin Tendulkar are among India's crème de la crème who have been invited as state guests for the consecration of the Ram temple on Monday. While about 8,000 people are in the long list of invitees, the select list features 500 A-listers, including prominent politicians, leading industrialists, top film stars, sportspersons, diplomats, judges and high priests. According to the list, Bachchan will fly into Ayodhya in a private chartered plane. From the film industry, the list features Tamil superstar Rajnikant as well as Telugu mega stars Prabhas, Allu Arjun and Junior NTR. Bollywood actors Akshay Kumar, Anupam Kher and Ajay Devgn are on the list, which also features Kangana Ranaut, Madhuri Dixit as well as BJP's actor-MPs Hema Malini and Sunny Deol.

Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan, lyricist and poet Manoj Muntashir and his wife, lyricist and writer Prasoon Joshi, and director Sanjay Bhansali have been invited as state guests.

Also in the list are directors Madhur Bhandarkar as well as singers Shreya Ghoshal, Kailash Kher, Shankar Mahadevan, Anup Jalota, Sonu Nigam and Anuradha Paudwal have also been invited. Actor Arun Govil, who portraved Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's TV series "Ramayan", has also been invited as has his co-star in the show Dipika Chikhlia who played the role of Sita.

The South film industry is represented by Chiranjeevi, Mohanlal and Allu Arjun among others.

Cricketing icon Sachin Tendulkar, chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand, sprint queen PT Usha and fooballer



View of the Ram Mandir ahead of its consecration ceremony, in Ayodhya, on Saturday

Bhaichung Bhutia are among the prominent sports personalities who have received invi-

Cricket stars former and present, including Kapil Dev, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, little master Sunil Gavaskar, Virat Kohli, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Virendra Sehwag, Ravindra Jadeja and

Rohit Sharma have got invites. Weightlifter Karnam Malleswari, women cricket captain Mitali Raj, shuttler Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu and her trainer Pullela Gopichand have also been invited. Former prime minister

fairness,

Additionally,

No.CE/Maint/MMPNA/01/2023-24/21

2023-24 in 22(Twenty Two) LACs of Assam"

www.assamtenders.gov.in

Janasanyog/CF/4946/23/21-Jan-24

Manmohan Singh, BJP president J P Nadda and Chief Justice of India DY

reference to caste, religion,

and communities, and

paramount national interest.

Television channels have been

Chandrachud and several sitting and former judges, including Ranjan Gogoi have been included in the state guest list. Senior BJP leader and former deputy prime minister L K Advani and senior party leader Murli Manohar Joshi, who played prominent roles in the Ram temple movement, are

the family of Kalyan Singh, who was chief minister of Uttar Pradesh when the Babri Masjid was demolished. Former Union minister

Mukhtar Abbas Nagyi, Ranjan Bhattacharya, son-in-law of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former presidents Ramnath Kovind and Pratibha Patil, and former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu are there too. Former ISRO chairperson K

Sivan and DRDO scientist

Sudarshan Sharma too have

been invited. Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, ISRO director Nilesh Desai, senior advocate Harish Salve as well as former diplomats Veena Sikri and Lakshmi Puri, Vande Bharat Express train mastermind Sudhanshu Mani, and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant are also among the invitees.

Former union minister Arun Jaitley's wife Sangeeta and daughter Sonali, former Planning Commission chair-Montek Singh person

Ahluwalia, former Lok Sabha speakers Sumitra Mahajan and Meira Kumar, and HD Kumaraswamy are in the list too. Uma Bharti and Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti as well as several top priests have been given state guest status.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani, his mother Kokilaben, wife Neeta, sons Akash and Anant, daughter-in-law Shloka and would-be daughter-in-law Radhika Merchant as well as Ratan N Tata, chairman emeritus of salt-to-software Tata Group, and Tata Sons chairperson N Chandrasekaran and wife Lalitha are in the list of invitees.

Business tycoon Gautam Adani is there too as is mining mogul Anil Agarwal. Hinduja group's Ashok Hinduja, Wipro's Azim Premji, Nusli Wadia of Bombay Dyeing, Torrent group founder and chairperson Sudhir Mehta, GMR Group's GMR Rao, and real estate baron Niranjan Hiranandani have also been

Other prominent industrialists invited include Aditya Birla Group chairperson Kumar Mangalam Birla and his wife Nirja, Piramal Group's Ajay Piramal, Mahindra and Mahindra's Anand Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) CEO K Krithivasan. Jindal Steel & Power head

Naveen Jindal, Kotak Mahindra Bank founder Uday Kotak, and Infosys co-founders N R Naravana Murthy and his wife Sudha Murthy. Infosys head Nandan Nilekani and companv co-founder TV Mohandas Pai are also on the list. ISRO chairperson S Somnath, Delhi Metro principal advisor E Sreedharan, and NITI member V K Saraswat are invited too. While some on the list may fly in private jets on January 22, others are likely to take regular flights to reach a day earlier and stay overnight either in

Ayodhya or nearby cities like

Centre Form No. 3 [See Regulation-15 (1)(a)]/16(3) issues DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL CHANDIGARH (DRT 2) 1st Floor, SCO 33-34-35, Sector 17 A, Chandigarh Case No. OA/208/2022

(Additional space allotted on 3rd & 4th Floor also) [Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule

of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993] Exh. No. 20741 ICICI BANK LIMITED VS ROHIT BERI

(1) ROHIT BERI D/W/S/O- M N BERI SON OF SHRI M.N. BERI R/O HOUSE NO. 1496, SECTOR - 15, PANCHKULA, HARYANA - 134 113. PALV/AL, HARYANA - 134 113

ROHIT BERI SON OF SHRI M. N, BERI R/O MAG 214/108, JUMEIRAH LAKE TOWER **DUBAI, UAE - 50001** Also At. ROHIT BERI

S/O SHRI M. N. BERI AT SEM OWNERS, ASSOCIATION MANAGER, OFFICE 1507, TECOM, DUBAI UAE- 50001. ROHTI BERI S/O SH. M.N. BERI

AT J-004, CAPITAL GATEWAY, SECTOR -111, GURUGRAM, HARYANA- 122101 (2) SANDRA RODRIGUES WIFE R/O HOUSE NO. 1496 SECTOR- 15, PANCHKULA,

HARYANA - 134113. Also At. SANDRA RODRIGUES WIFE OF SHRI ROHIT BERI AT MAG 214/108, JUMEIRAH LAKE

TOWER, DUBAI- UAE- 50001. SANDRA RODRIGUES WIFE OF CAPITAL GATEWAY, SECTOR -

111, GURUGRAM HARYANA-122 101. GURGAON, HARYAN A -122 101 (3) M/S TASHEE LAND DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE

AT 5174, NARAIN MANZIL 23. BARAKHAMBA ROAD. NEW DELHI - 110 001 SUMMONS

WHEREAS, **OA/208/2022** was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar on 04/10/2023. WHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 16105250/- (application along with copies of documents etc

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 days of the service of summons 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 number (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;

(iv) you shall not transfer by way of le, 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 applican 22/02/2024 at 10:30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

seal of this Tribunal on this date:

Signature of the Officer

warning against...

Letter No. 108/Nivida/12

UTTARAKHAND.

. Estimated Cost: - Rs. 28.69 Lakh

3. Period of Completion: - 05 Month

portal: 20-01-2024 (17.00 hrs)

Lohaghat (Champawat).

portal www.uktenders.gov.in

No.: CE/ASRIP/E.405365/3

System on the State Road Network in Assam

staff would be required for the assignment.

any state / central road agency.

state / central agencies etc.

AIIB's policy on conflict of interest and eligibility.

From Page 1

"Furthermore, as part of their due diligence obligations, social media platforms are

advised to make reasonable efforts to not host, display, or publish information of the nature mentioned above," the advisory stated.

The ministry highlighted the relevant portions of the Norms of Journalistic Conduct, the Programme Code laid down by the Press Council Act, and the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act that deal with

PROJECT MANAGER

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF

INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES -

FIRMS SELECTION INDIA

Assam Secondary Road Network Improvement Project (ASRIP)

Loan No.: L0440A

Consultancy Services for Upgradation and Implementation of Road Asset Management

This request for expressions of interest follows the General Procurement Notice that

appeared in UN Development Business and national Newspapers on February 5, 2021 for

The Government of India on behalf of Government of Assam has received financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) toward the cost of Assam Secondary Road

Network Improvement Project for improvement and upgradation of State Highways (SH)

and Major District Roads (MDR). It intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting

The services would include technical and functional upgradation of the RAMS which is in

operation in the department. It would also include addition of new modules, data collection

Annual and Multi-year Asset Management Plan for the priority road network. The period of

the consultancy services would be 66 months including 18 months for RAMS software

upgradation, 4 years for Operation & Maintenance support. The data collection, updation

and preparation of Asset Management Plan will be undertaken concurrently for 24 months

on 57000 km. It is estimated that an input of about 190 person-months of key-professional

The Chief Engineer (EAP), Public Works Roads Department, Government of Assam now invites

eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services.

Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required

qualifications and similar experience of the firm, such as core business and years in

business, specific experience, technical and managerial capability of the firm. The firm

shall have experience in the last five years on (i) successfully completed at least 1

development / upgradation of road asset management system for any road agency at

state (provincial) or central (federal) level; (ii) collected data required for RAMS for more

than 10,000 km in any one financial year, undertaken analysis and prepared

maintenance plan using RAMS for primary / secondary road network (NH, SH, MDR) of

(2) availability of key professionals within the firm having expertise to deliver the Services.

(3) financial soundness of the firm in terms of annual turnover and net worth. The firm

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section II, paragraph 4.4, and paragraph

4.9 of the AIIB's "Procurement Instructions for Recipients" June 2, 2016, setting forth the

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should

indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-

consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly

and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. The maximum no. of firms allowed in

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS)

method set out in the Procurement Instructions for Recipients. Further information and Terms of Reference can be downloaded from Tenders section in the website

https://pwdroads.assam.gov.in or https://apwd.in obtained at the address below during

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person,

Chief Engineer (EAP), PWRD Assam,

Fatasil Ambari, Guwahati - 781 025, India

should have an annual average turnover of INR 400 million in the last five years.

It shall include at least 5 no. of road asset management specialists, 30 no. of highway

pavement / bridge / traffic engineers, 10 no. of data acquisition specialists, 10 no. of IT /

software engineers and 2 no. of GIS specialists with experience in RAMS projects for any

qualifications and experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

updation of PWRD road network comprising of around 57,000 km and preparation of

services, which includes upgradation of existing Road Asset Management System (RAMS).

Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam Degree College Road, Lohaghat, Dist.-Champawat (262424)

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL

4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the

Last date/Time of receipt of bids in the portal:- 03-02-2024

6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening :- 06-02-2024

. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- Office of the

Project Manager, Construction Unit, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam,

3. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place:-25-01-2024 (11.00 hrs) Project Manager Construction Unit,

9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction

documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procuremen

Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Lohaghat (Champawat).

CLASS ROOM AT GGIC LOHAGHAT, CHAMPAWAT

instructed to adhere to the Programme Code, which states that no programme should be broadcast on the cable service if it contains anvthing obscene. defamatory, deliberately false, suggestive innuendos, halftruths, or content that is likely to encourage or incite Office of the Project Manager, Construction Unit

accuracy and

programs should not contain anything against maintenance of law and order or promote anti-national

also on the list, which also has

attitudes. The Ministry also announced that elaborate arrangements are subscribers to the agency have been made for the live telecast of the ceremony. The entire event will be broadcast in 4K quality by Doordarshan on DD News and DD channels. On National 2024, January 23. Doordarshan will conduct a live telecast of the Aarti and request.

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer (Border Roads & NEC Works), PWRD, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

invites Rebids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 28 (Twenty Eight) nos. of packages

amounting to Rs.3256.06 Lakhs (approx) including GST etc. from approved and eligible

contractors registered with PWRD, Assam, subject to approval of works proposes under

Periodic Renewal/Repair of roads under Mukhya Maatrir Path nabikaran Aachani for the year

Details may be seen from 24-01-2024 to 01.02.2024 at website www.assamtenders.gov.in

Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this

website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder

must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website

Formal work order will be issued after receipt of Administrative Approval from competent

Note: - N.1.T Value is inclusive of GST (12%), Labour cess (1%) etc.

the opening of Shree Ram Temple for the public.

Doordarshan will share the clean feed of the event in Ayodhya on the day and has advised all TV channels that to obtain the feed from there. For other national and international broadcasters, a YouTube link with the key of the clean feed has been generated. This link will be shared with the concerned broadcasters upon their

Sd/

PM Modi...

From Page 1

A significant moment during this ritual will be the removal of the blindfold from the idol of Ram Lalla in the presence of the Prime Minister. It is reported that kajal (kohl) will be applied to the deity using a gold needle, and Ram Lalla will be symbolically revealed in a mirror.

The subsequent part of the programme includes addresses by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, and Trust president Mahant Nritya Gopal Das, who are expected to speak to the gathering. Following these engagements, the Prime Minister, along with other dignitaries, is set to depart for Delhi at 3:30 pm.

UNVEILED EYES OF RAM...

From Page 1

'The eyes of the idol will remain covered in whatever rituals are going on even now (before the consecration of life)," clarified Das. The chief priest mentioned exceptions made for rituals like Jaladhivas and Kesaradhivas, where the cloth may be removed from the body but not from the eyes.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) had released a picture of Ram Lalla adorned with a garland of roses and veiled with a yellow cloth covering its eyes. This newly sculpted idol of Lord Ram has been placed in the sanctum sanctorum of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple.

security cordon, 35 SPG

arrived in Ayodhya, and an

have already

Stringent Bandobast...

personnel

From Page 1 To implement this foolproof

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CENTRAL IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Chief Engineer, PWD (Border Roads & NEC Works)

			ui eiiieiii	NOTICE IN	o. ACECI	C-3// 202	3-24			
Procure ment Officer	Bid Identific ation No.	Name of Work	Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.) E.M.D.	Cost of Bid Docume nts (Rs)	Class of Contractor		nts Available r bidding To	Date of Opening of Technical	Period of Completion of Work
ACE,	NID23/ 2023-24	Improvement to Astaranga Minor from RD.00 to 5.338 Km of Kakatpur Branch Canal System.	808.69	808700/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	22.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	05.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	06.02.2024 At.11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
CIC, Bhub anes	PRD-16/ 2023-24	Construction of Spur at RD.62.140 Km with Restoration to old Spur at RD.61.30 Km on KSDR Embankment.	660.94	606100/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" & "Special" Class	22.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	05.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	06.02.2024 At.11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)
war	PRD-17/ 2023-24	Protection to Service Bank on KSDR Embankment from RD.21.20 Km to 21.60 Km near Tithapada.	374.68	374700/- (On Line)	10000/- (On Line)	"A" Class	22.01.2024 At 10.00 Hours	05.02.2024 At 17.00 Hours	06.02.2024 At.11.00 Hours	12 (Twelve Calendar Month)

e-mail ID: -secic_dowr@yahoo.com Further details conditions can be seen from Govt. website www.tenberodisha.gov.in OIPR-32160/11/0044/2324

Additional Chief Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM: GUWAHATI-3 **PRESS NOTICE**

No. CE/TB-III/40/2023/Pt/7

The Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), (Health & Education) Assam, Chandmari Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invite bids through Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode-I of contract (sing e stage two-part bidding system) for the following work from eligible contractors having experience of similar nature of work.

Detail of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e www.assamtcndcrs.gov.in.

The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

SI.	Name of Work	Bid Value	Bid Security	Tender Cost	Time of		
٧o		(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)	completion		
1	Construction of 50 bedded		(2% for General,		24 months		
	Ayush Hospital at Kaliabor,	14,09,69,186.00	and 1% for	20,000.00			
	Nagaon District		Reserved category)				
Note:- 1 All terms and conditions will be as per the bidding document. Press Notice will be a							

part of bidding document. 2. The Bid Price may vary at the time of uploading of DNIT for which no claim will be

admissible. Spl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Bldg.

(Health & Education) Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/C/15221/23/21-Jan-24

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER: PWD: BUILDING: ASSAM: CHANDMARI: **GUWAHATI-3**

NO):CE/TECH-V/02/2024/I

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Building), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-03 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites fresh bid through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode- I of contract for the works detailed in the table below, from eligible Firm/Contractor of repute having experience in similar nature of work. Details of bid may be seen at e -procurement portal i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in The bidders must be enrolled with e-tendering web portal www.assamtenders.gov.in

		9 1			
SI	Name of Work	Bid Value	Completion	Bid Security	Cost of Bid
No		Period			
1	Construction of District Judge	Rs. 11,66,20,009.00	20(Twenty) Months	2% of Bid value	
	residence, Addl. District Judge and Chief Judicial Magistrate		ivionins	for General Category and	(Rupees Twenty
	residence and Grade - II &			1% of Bid value	,
	Grade- III Judicial Officer's			for reserved	only.
	quarter at Majuli.			Category.	
l					

The Bid price may vary at the time of uploading DNIT, for which no claim will be admissible

Janasanyog/C/15226/23/21-Jan-24

Chief Engineer, P.WSX (Building) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

equivalent number of soldiers are additional anticipated. Furthermore, 550 ATS commandos have been continuously stationed in the In a display of readiness, ATS rehearsal from

commandos conducted a Udaya Friday, showcasing their preparedness for any securityrelated contingencies.

KEY CORP LIMITED CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547 Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur-01

Email: kevcorpltd@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

It is for the information of general public that the STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023 published in The oneer and Swatantra Chetna dated 20.01.2024. please read (G.D. Maheswari) Whole Time Director Instead of G.D. Maheswari) Director. Inconvenience caused is

PUBLIC NOTICE undersigned in writing on the below memoried addiction within 14 days of the present. Deepanshu Sharma, Advoc SG Associates (Law Firr FF18, Lotus Plaza Vaibhav Khand, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad U E-MAII - snassaciatesbi@omail.com,Ph?011172764, 81302018

This notice is hereby given to the general public hat Mr. Harsh Singhal, \$70 Mr. Devender Kumar Singhal who claimed to be owners and in possession of property bearing Municipa Vumber: 51/49, with roof right, which is built on marea measuring 14 Square meters, situated al Sall Number: 15, Nai Basti, Anand Parbat, Village Sadhora Khurd, Dalbi, Step Dalbi, (Hereinerfield) Gall Number: 15, Nai Basti, Anand Parbal, Village Sachora Khurd, Delhi, State Delhi. (Hereinafter called the SAID PROPERTY), same has been purchased through sale deed dated: 21-10-2015, Document. Number: 3932, Regd. Vide SRO-I, Delhi and There is no other charge/encumbrance/ownership of any other individual rono-individual is clear from all other charges that is municipal authority or any other authority and no loan taken by any person of the said property, apart from Mr. Harsh Singhal. Any person having any claim regarding the ownership of the surproperty or any part, or here by requested to undersigned with supporting documents within seven days from the date of publication.

Shivam Moudgil, Advocate Office-Property No 62, Block- A1, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi

Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Smt. Meera the unequivocal owner of Unit No. 5/123B on First Floor built on Property No. 5-123 built on Piot No. 123 area measuring 8.2 sq. vds village Dheerpur colony known as Nirankari Colony Delhi 110009. This legal ownership was established through Regd. Will vide doc. No. 2205 dated 16.05.2011 executed by Smt. Chander Kanta who acquired the said entire property vide sale deed dated 10.09.1979 executed by Smt. Devi Bai in favour of Smt. Chander Kanta. Smt. Meera intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of the aforemonitoned Floor to Sh. Vikram Sachdeva is underward to the process of mortigaging the said property with Aditya Birlar Housing Finance Limited Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the considered binding with respect to the said property of the interests of our client, if anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated Orday period by contacting Law Vertias: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11 st Floor, Building No. A-444A, Sector-16, Notida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683/4562809; e-mail: accounts@(vnorth.in)

The Press Notice will form part of the Bidding Document

Email: as-ce.asrip@nic.in

Janasanyog/CF/4938/23/21-Jan-24

or by postal mail, by February 20, 2024.

office hours 1000 to 1700 hours.

Israeli airstrike on Damascus kills 4 Iranian advisers

AP DAMASCUS

n Israeli strike on the Syrian capital on A Syrian capital a Saturday destroyed a building used by the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, killing at least four Iranians, Syrian and Iranian state media reported.

Iranian state television said four advisers from the Revolutionary Guard had been killed in the strike in Damascus, without identifying them, adding that Israel was behind the strike. Nour News, which is believed to be close to the country's intelligence apparatus, identified two of the dead as Gen. Sadegh Omidzadeh, the intelligence

 $R^{\text{elatives of hostages held by}}_{\text{Hamas in Gaza protested}}$

on Saturday outside the home

of Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu, express-

ing frustration over his govern-

ment's seeming lack of progress

in getting the more than 100 captives released as the war in

ilies of the hostages said they had "begged for 105 days" and

now demanded that the gov-

ernment show leadership and

take bold steps to free the

hostages. A member of Israel's

War Cabinet has called a cease-

fire the only way to secure their

release, a comment that implied

criticism of Israel's current

prime minister's home and the

remark by former Israeli army

chief Gadi Eisenkot were

among signs of growing strife in Israel over the direction of

the war in its fourth month.

push for "complete victory"

against Hamas but has not

outlined how he would achieve

it. Critics have accused him of

preventing a Cabinet-level

debate about a post-war sce-

nario for Gaza, alleging

Netanyahu was stalling in

hopes of avoiding conflict that

Netanyahu has said he will

The protest outside the

A group representing fam-

Gaza drags on.

deputy of the guard's expeditionary Quds Force in Syria, and his deputy, who goes by the nom de guerre Hajj Gholam.

An opposition war monitor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said at least six people — five Iranians and a Syrian — were killed in the missile attack that struck while officials from Iran-backed groups were holding a meeting.

The Observatory's chief, Rami Abdurrahman, said three of the Iranians were commanders, adding that four other people are still missing under

Syrian state TV reported that the "Israeli aggression" targeted a residential building in the tightly guarded western

Families of hostages protest

outside Netanyahu's home

right-wing ruling coalition.

Israel launched its war

against Hamas following the

militant group's unprecedented

October 7 attack that killed

about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in Israel and saw

about 250 others taken hostage

Hamas-ruled Gaza say Israel's

offensive has killed nearly

25,000 Palestinians, most of

most destructive military cam-

paigns in recent history, has

pulverised much of territory

and displaced more than 80 per

cent of its population of 2.3

million people. An Israeli

blockade that allows only a

trickle of aid into Gaza has led

to widespread hunger and out-

breaks of disease, United

the only way to secure the

hostages' return is by crushing

Hamas through military

means. But relatives of the

remaining captives have been

escalating their campaign seek-

ing a deal for the release of their

mostly women and children,

were released during a brief November ceasefire in

exchange for the release of

More than 100 hostages,

loved ones.

Netanyahu has insisted that

Nations officials have said.

The offensive, one of the

them women and children.

from the country's south. Health authorities in

Mazzeh, home to several diplomatic missions. Saturday's strike was close to the embassies of Venezuela and South Africa.

An official with knowledge of the situation said that the building was used by Revolutionary Guard officials, adding that the "Israeli missiles" destroyed the whole building and that 10 people were either killed or wounded in the attack. The official is from an Iran-backed group, but asked that his name and affiliation not be used because he was not authorised to speak

publicly about security affairs. The Israeli military did not comment on the strike.

imprisoned by Israel. Israel

has said that more than 130

hostages remain in Gaza, but

only about 100 are believed to

28-year-old man who has been

held by Hamas since October

hunger strike outside

Netanyahu's home in the

Eli Shtivi, who son Idan was among the people kid-

napped from a music festival in southern Israel, pledged to eat

only a quarter of a pita a day —

to show how little food some

hostages were reportedly given

on some days— until the prime

minister agreed to meet with

him. Dozens of people joined

Shtivi late on Friday and were

chief who is one of the five

members of Israel's War

Cabinet, has called into ques-

tion Netanyahu's insistence

that only Israel's blistering air

and ground offensive would

killed in December while fight-

ing in Gaza, said during a tele-

vision interview late Thursday

that claiming the captives could

be freed without a deal and a

cease-fire "is to spread illu-

Eisenkot, whose son was

bring the hostages home.

Eisenkot, the former army

still there Saturday morning.

coastal town of Caesarea.

began what he called a

On Friday, the father of a

be alive.

Security forces deployed around the destroyed fourstory building as ambulances and fire engines were seen in the area. A search for people trapped under the rubble was underway. Windows were also shattered in nearby buildings.

A grocer near the scene of the strike said he heard five consecutive explosions at about 9:15 a.m., adding that he later witnessed the bodies of a man and a woman being taken away as well as three wounded peo-

inside for few seconds then went out and saw the smoke billowing from behind the mosque," the man, who asked that his name not be used for

"The shop shook. I stayed

"What happened was terrifying. I collapsed," said Khaled Mawed, who lives near-

The strike came amid widening tensions in the region as Israel pushes ahead with its offensive in Gaza. Israel's assault there, one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history, has killed nearly 25,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, caused widespread destruction and uprooted over 80 per cent of the territory's 2.3 million people from their homes.

Israel launched the offensive after an unprecedented

by Hamas on October 7 that killed 1,200 people and took some 250 others hostage. Roughly 130 hostages are believed by Israel to remain in Hamas captivity. The war has stoked tensions across the region, threatening to ignite other conflicts.

Last month, an Israeli airstrike on a suburb of Damascus killed Iranian general Seved Razi Mousavi, a longtime adviser of the Iranian paramilitary Revolutionary Guard in Syria. Israel has also targeted Palestinian and Lebanese operatives in Syria over the past years.

Iranian and Syrian officials have long acknowledged Iran

experts in Syria, but denied there were any ground troops. Thousands of fighters from Iran-backed groups took part in Syria's conflict that started in March 2011, helping tip the balance of power in favour of President Bashar Assad.

Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes on targets inside government-controlled

said that it targets bases of Iranallied militant groups, such as Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has sent thousands of fighters to support Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

21, including schoolkids, die in China fire mishaps

PTI BEIJING

A t least 21 people, including school students, were killed in two separate fire incidents in China, local authorities said on

In the first accident, 13 students were confirmed killed in a fire that took place at the Yingcai School in Henan Province's Yanshanpu village on

The local fire department received an alarm about the fire at the school at 11 pm local

Rescuers arrived at the scene quickly and the flames were extinguished at around

One person injured in the fire is currently receiving treatment at the hospital and is in

Xinhua news agency reported. All of the dead were thirdgrade students, a teacher told Zonglan News, a state-backed

Local authorities have launched an investigation into

In another incident, eight people were killed in a fire fol-lowing a dust explosion at a production workshop in Saturday morning.

3:38 am. It also resulted in minor injuries to eight people, according to the district's emergency management depart-

investigations as well as followup work are currently under-

uncommon due to lax enforcement of building and safety standards.

died after a large fire ripped through an office building in Luliang City, Shanxi province.

A hospital fire in Beijing last April claimed the lives of at least 29 people - mostly patients and triggered an investigation

parts of war-torn Syria in recent Israel rarely acknowledges its actions in Syria, but it has

Friday night. time Friday night.

stable condition, state-run

media outlet from Hebei province.

the cause of the fire.

Changzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province on early The explosion took place at

Rescue operations at the site have been concluded, and

way, the Xinhua report said. Fatal fires in China are not

In November, 26 people

Tim Scott endorses Trump ahead of New Hampshire primary

AP ■ CONCORD

Cen Tim Scott of South Carolina on Friday Sendorsed former President Donald Trump ahead of next week's New Hampshire primary, a blow to his fellow South Carolinian Nikki Haley, the former UN ambassador.

Scott travelled from Florida to New possibility. Hampshire with the GOP front-runner to give his support for Trump at a rally in Concord. The US needs a president who will close the

southern border, unite the country, protect social: security and restore order, and one who doesn't see race, said Scott, one of the most promi-: nent Black Republicans, in an effusive endorsement of his former rival. "We need a president who sees Americans

to the very warm state of New Hampshire to endorse the next president of the United States, President Donald Trump," Scott said at a conference center in the frigid state that will hold the first primary on Tuesday Scott last May launched his own bid to chal-

lenge Trump before shuttering his effort about : six months later, having had trouble gaining trac-: repeatedly said she is not running for tion in the polls despite millions invested by high-profile donors. In his efforts to run a positive campaign,

Scott was often overshadowed by other candidates — particularly on the debate stage, where : mate. he seemed to disappear as others sparred. In a sign that the GOP is increasingly coa-

lescing around the front-runner, Trump has: been appearing on the campaign trail with several other former rivals who have endorsed him, including North Dakota Gov. Doug Republican race, where her poll num-Burgum and biotech entrepreneur Vivek bers steadily climbed in recent months,

Haley as running mate $F^{\rm ormer\ US\ president\ Donald\ Trump}_{has\ thrown\ cold\ water\ on\ the\ idea\ of}$

Donald Trump not to pick

picking Indian-American presidential candidate Nikki Haley as a running mate, saying that she was not of that calibre, hours after she herself nixed the "She is OK, but she is not presiden-

tial timber. And when I say that, that probably means she is not going to be chosen as the vice president," Trump, who is the dominant front-runner for the Republican nomination, said at a rally in Concord on Friday. When you say certain things, it sort

of takes them out of play, right? I can't as one American family, and that's why I came say, 'She's not of the timber to be the vice president' and then say, 'Ladies and gentleman, I'm proud to announce that I've picked," The Hill quoted Trump as saying about the former United Nations Haley, who is Trump's closest rival

in the polls in New Hampshire, has second place in the Republican primary — but had previously declined to specifically comment on whether she would be the former president's running

Earlier on Friday, Haley, 51, appeared to more definitively nix the idea, telling a group of voters that being vice president was "off the table".

Haley's momentum in the has fuelled speculation that she could



Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) his son Donald Trump Jr. and former adviser Steve Bannon said choosing Haley as a running mate would lead to a revolt among his most ardent support-

Some in Trump's orbit, including

esses as a candidate.

However, sources close to Trump downplayed the idea that he was ever seriously considering the Indian-American candidate.

Trump, 77, has in recent weeks levied personal attacks against his former cabinet member, including sharing a false "birther" conspiracy. Born Nimrata Nikki Kandhawa to

immigrant Punjabi Sikh parents in Bamberg, she is the two-term Governor of South Carolina.

Trump is still leading Haley by just over 10 per cent, according to the most recent polling average from The Hill.

which saw 12 people detained by police for questioning.

Iran launches satellite as regional tensions spike

the latest for a program the West fears improves Tehran's ballistic missiles.

The announcement comes as heightened tensions grip the wider Middle East over Israel's ongoing war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, and just days after Iran and Pakistan engaged in tit-for-tat airstrikes in each others' countries. The Soraya satellite was

placed in an orbit at some 750 kilometers (460 miles) above the Earth's surface with its three-stage Qaem 100 rocket, the state-run IRNA news agency said. It did not immediately acknowledge what the satellite did, though telecommunications minister Isa Zarepour described the launch as having a 50-kilogram (110pound) payload.

The launch was part of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' space program alongside Iran's civilian space program, the

independent confirmation Iran Iran said Saturday it had con-ducted a successful satellite had successfully put the satel-lite in orbit. The US military not immediately respond to request for comment.

> viously said Iran's satellite launches defy a UN Security Council resolution and called on Tehran to undertake no activity involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons. UN sanctions related to Iran's ballistic missile program expired last October. The US intelligence com-

> munity's 2023 worldwide threat assessment said the development of satellite launch vehicles "shortens the timeline" for Iran to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile because it uses similar technology.
>
> Intercontinental ballistic

missiles can be used to deliver nuclear weapons. Iran is now producing uranium close to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers. Tehran has enough enriched uranium for "several" nuclear weapons, if it says its space program, like its



chooses to produce them, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency repeat-

edly has warned. Iran has always denied seeking nuclear weapons and

victims could perform the last

provide compensation to the

family of the deceased as per the

nuclear activities, is for purely civilian purposes. However, US intelligence agencies and the IAEA say Iran had an organized military nuclear program up until 2003.

The involvement of the

Guard in the launches, as well as it being able to launch the rocket from a mobile launcher, raise concerns for the West. only to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, revealed its space program back in 2020.

Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space. The program has seen recent troubles, however. There have been five failed launches in a row for the Simorgh program, another satellite-carrying rocket. A fire at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in February 2019 killed three researchers, authorities said at the time. A launch pad rocket explosion later that year drew the attention of then-President Donald Trump, who taunted Iran with a tweet showing what appeared to be a US surveillance photo of the site.

In December, Iran sent a capsule into orbit capable of carrying animals as it prepares for human missions in the

Czech court rules Nikhil Gupta can be extradited to US

Czech high court has ruled A Czech nigii court me Athat Indian national Nikhil Gupta, detained in a prison here on murder-for-hire charges in an alleged assassination attempt on a Khalistani extremist on American soil, can be extradited to the US, according to local media reports.

Gupta, 52, was charged by US federal prosecutors in an indictment unsealed in November last year with working with an Indian government employee in an alleged plot to kill Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who holds dual US and Canadian citizenships, on American soil. Gupta, arrested in the

Czech Republic on June 30 last year, is currently held in Prague's Pankrak prison. The Prague High Court

confirmed in a closed session that Gupta can be extradited to

the US, the Seznam.cz web por-

Tesla car light show organised ahead of Ram temple opening

tal reported on Friday.

The Prague High Court's news.eseuro.com. Gupta's appeal against a December decision by a lower court that ruled that extradition was allowed.

A spokesman for the Prague High Court declined to immediately comment.

"We have not yet confirmed that the resolution has been delivered to all procedural parties, for that reason we cannot comment on the decision in more detail," Katerina Kolarova, the spokeswoman of the Prague High Court, said.

Minister of Justice Pavel Blazek now has the final say on whether Gupta will be extradited to the US

He has yet to give his consent to the extradition, the portal reported.

"Justice Minister Pavel Blazek will decide later whether or not to allow Gupta's extradition to the US," Czech Justice Ministry spokesman Vladimir Repka was quoted as saying by

frame of the minister's decision cannot be predicted. "If the Minister of Justice

has doubts about the correctness of the court's decision in a given matter, he can submit a motion to the Supreme Court to review their decision within three months from the day the matter was submitted to the Ministry," added Repka.

Gupta's lawyer Petr Slepicka at the Prague High Court said they will still file a complaint with Constitutional Court.

'We will file a constitutional complaint and at the same time we will ask the Minister of Justice not to extradite my client to the US," said Slepicka.

Gupta claimed that his case had a political or military background.

In the indictment, US investigators claimed that Gupta was hired by an Indian government agent.

Nepal requests Russia not to recruit its nationals into army

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal has requested Russia to not admit Nepalese nationals into the Russian Army and help repatriate those who have already joined the country's forces to fight the war in Ukraine.

At least 200 Nepalese youths have joined the Russian Army through illegal channels and 12 of them have already lost their lives while fighting against Ukraine.

Nepalese Foreign Minister NP Saud, during his meeting with Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Vershinin Sergey Vasilievich on Friday at the sideline of the ongoing Non-Aligned Summit in Kampala, Uganda, asked Russia "not to recruit Nepalese nationals into the country's Army and to help repatriate those who have already joined vate secretariat of Saud.

Saud clarified that "Nepal has no policy to send its nationals to foreign army except those few countries with which it has traditional arrangements".

'Therefore, I have asked the Russian minister not to recruit our nationals into its army," Saud was quoted as saying by his personal secretariat. Saud also asked the Russian

side to "send back the dead bodies of those killed in the Russia-Ukraine war while fighting for the Russian Army and to provide due compensation to the family of the victims".

The Nepalese Foreign Minister has requested the Russian government to make necessary arrangements to return the dead bodies at the earliest so that the family members of the

rites of the deceased relatives as per their traditional rituals," the personal secretariat quoted Saud as saying. The Russian side has informed Saud that necessary arrangements will be made to

> Russian law. Vesilievich, who is also the leader to the NAM Summit from Russia, has assured Saud that initiatives will be taken to address the concerns raised by

"During the meeting the two leaders also discussed various aspects of bilateral relations between Nepal and Russia,"

Saud on the occasion mentioned the long historical relations existing between Nepal and

ccording to Saud's secretariat.

PTI ■ HOUSTON

 $B_{\mbox{\footnotesize grand}}^{\mbox{\footnotesize arely hours away from the}}$ Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, enthusiastic devotees here have arranged an awe-inspiring and innovative Tesla car light show dedicated to Lord Ram.

Over 100 Tesla car owners, calling themselves "Ramji ki Gilahariyan of Greater Houston", gathered at Shri Guruvayurappan Krishna Temple for the light show on Friday evening, attracting hundreds of Ram Bhakts and passersby in the neighbour-The cars had a giant-sized

Ram Rath in the backdrop, with a life-size temple oil painting, and loud music of "Jai Sri Ram" giving the place a divine look and feel of being at the

Tesla Car drivers use a key

feature wherein the headlights can be programmed to off and on at the same time.

of the Tesla Light Show, participating car owners had to reg-Soon after the beautiful ister for the event in advance. light show, they assembled at the

'We requested all the Ram nple for aarti, joined by other Bhakts to register for the show, bhakts who sang resounding acknowledge and sign the waivbhajans dedicated to Lord Rama er form, to provide vehicle plate and Krishna and distributed numbers for security reasons. Prasad amongst the devotees. Everybody who registered got a

magnetic decal or sticker for According to the organisers their car along with a screenprinted T-shirt of Ayodhya temple." The cars were lined up in such a way that when drones

> took pictures, an unusual letter of "RAM" in red illuminated the surroundings "Despite chilly weather and long workday, it was heart-

amongst hundreds of participants as well as attendees at the temple for this show," said Achalesh Amar from Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), one of the organisers of the event. Throughout the USA, we noticed unprecedented enthu-

warming to see the enthusiasm

siasm for these events. Since mid-January we (VHP) organised 51 massive car rallies in 21 states and 41 cities around the US and participation has been at its peak," he said. "The Tesla light shows in Houston, DC and San

Francisco, or rallies and rath yatras are a small gesture of love for the beginning of the celebration of the Ram Temple inauguration in India as the Hindu community has waited for over 25 generations (495 years) for this moment," said Umang Mehta, one of the active volun-

Government

PTI NEW DELHI

The Steel Ministry has suspended two board-level

officials of steel PSU SAIL and

one director of iron ore major NMDC for alleged miscon-

duct, according to exchange

filings by the companies. SAIL also has suspended

26 other officials with imme-

V.S. Chakravarthy, Director

(Commercial) and A.K.

Tulsiani, Director (Finance)

on suspension with immedi-

that its board-level official, V.

Suresh, has been suspended

Conduct, Discipline and

with immediate effect,"

SAIL also said that 26 below-board-level officials of

the company have also been

platforms and tools already

created and building upon

those tools to develop applica-

tions relevant for the Indian

"We have big problems in sectors like education, health-

care, agriculture. There are

massive opportunities for solv-

ing these problems with uniquely Indian AI and

Generative AI-powered solu-

Given the scale of these problems, he said, "I believe they should be addressed by a

collaborative effort between

the private sector, the govern-

ment, and NGOs. We also

need to create nation-wide AI

we are building the talent

Technology Officer, ONDC,

opined that Generative AI can

improve the lives of people at

Raghav Gupta, MD, India and

Asia Pacific, Coursera, focused

on the role of Generative AI in

making learning more engag-

ing and widening access to

high-quality education.

the bottom of the pyramid.

Nitin Mishra, Chief

During the deliberations,

needed for the future.

tions," he pointed out.

NMDC said.

with immediate effect.

Another Steel Ministry

"Ministry of Steel...In exer-

ate effect".

said in a filing to BSE.

suspends 2 directors

of SAIL, 1 of NMDC

Sensex, Nifty end lower; FMCG, IT stocks top drags

PTI MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty pared initial gains and settled lower on Saturday due to selling in FMCG and IT shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 259.58 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at 71,423.65 as 24 of its components declined and six advanced.

The Nifty declined 50.60 points or 0.23 per cent to

Among the Sensex firms, Kotak Bank, PowerGrid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, PowerGrid

were the major gainers. HUL, TČS, M&M, IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech

were among the losers.

"Amid rising optimism about AI, US markets surged over the weekend. However, domestic markets exhibited a subdued trend influenced by extended holidays, low volumes, and weekly option expiration," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

Profit booking was noted in IT and FMCG, while private banks witnessed selective buying post the recent sharp correction and stable Q3 earnings, Nair added.

Among sectors, FMCG and IT stocks suffered the most, while banks and financial

instead of applying for final set-

tlement, thereby extending

their social security protec-

payroll data showed that of the

7.36 lakh new members added,

around 1.94 lakh are new

female members joined EPFO

Percentage of net female members of net subscriber

addition stood at 20.05 per cent

-- the highest since September

2023 -- showing a growing par-

ticipation of female employees

in the organised sector work-

roll data denotes that net

Territories of Maharashtra,

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka,

58.81 per cent of net member

addition, with 8.20 lakh mem-

led with 21.60 per cent net

ison of industry-wise data dis-

plays significant growth in the

members working in estab-lishments engaged in agricul-

ture farms, coffee plantations,

sugar, rubber plantations, tiles.

Haryana, and Delhi.

bers during the month.

members additions.

State-wise analysis of pay-

five states/Union

These constitute around

Of all states, Maharashtra

Month-on-month compar-

Total female members addition during the month stood at around 2.80 lakh.

for the first time, it stated.

A gender-wise analysis of

tion, it stated.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

EPFO adds 13.95 lakh

net members during

November 2023

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

on Saturday.

statement said.

 $R^{\rm etirement\ fund\ body\ EPFO}_{\rm added\ 13.95\ lakh\ net\ mem}$

bers in November 2023, as per

the latest payroll data released

members during the current

financial year continues to

remain higher than that of the

corresponding period of the

previous year, a labour ministry

According to the statement, the EPFO's (Employees'

Provident Fund Organisation)

provisional payroll data high-

lighted that the body added

13.95 lakh net members in

November. The data indicates

that around 7.36 lakh new

members were enrolled during

stitutes 57.30 per cent of the

total new members added dur-

ing the month, showing that a

majority of members joining

the organised sector workforce

of the country are youth, who

are mostly first-time job seek-

that about 10.67 lakh members

exited but rejoined EPFO dur-

switched jobs and rejoined the

establishments covered under the ambit of EPFO, and opted

to transfer their accumulations

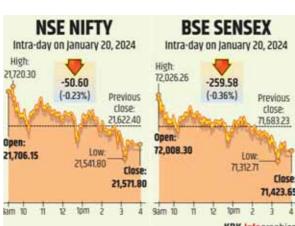
ing the month.

The payroll data reflects

In fact, these members

The 18-25 age-group con-

Cumulative net addition of



Shares of HUL and Reliance Industries were under

pressure after their December quarter results.

Reliance Industries shares settled 0.80 per cent down at Rs 2713.20 on BSE post its third quarter earnings announcement on Friday.

The company posted a 9 per cent rise in its December quarter net profit as a planned maintenance-induced weakness in oil business earnings was offset by stability in retail and telecom verticals.

The stock of HUL was closed 3.72 per cent down at Rs 2469.30 apiece.

Hindustan Unilever Ltd on Friday reported an 1.08 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,508 crore in the third quarter ended December 2023.

On Friday, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 496.37 points or 0.70 per cent to settle at 71,683.23 points. The Nifty climbed 160.15 points or 0.70 0.75 per cent to close at 21,622.40 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,689.68 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. NSE and BSE on Friday announced holding normal trading sessions on Saturday as stock markets are closed on January 22 amid a half-day holiday declared by banks. Money markets and forex trading will

suspended with immediate diate effect for violation of its

code of conduct, the steel PSU "The company has also The filing said the placed some below-board level officials which include S.K. Sharma, ED (F&A), CMC, Ministry of Steel vide its letters dated January 19, 2024, Vinod Gupta, ED (Commercial), Atul Mathur, "in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (1) of Rule 20 of the Conduct, ED (Sales & ITD) and R.M. Discipline and Appeal Rules, Suresh, ED (Marketing 1977 of Steel Authority of Services), on suspension with India Limited, has placed immediate effect," it said.

In a separate statement, SAIL said the issue pertains to some investigations being carried out as per the directions of Lokpal.

Chairman PSU NMDC also announced Amarendu Prakash said "The company's business is being carried out as usual and it is not going to impact the performance of the company. We are cise of the powers conferred by sub-rule 1 of Rule 20 of the dedicated to uphold the highest standards of corporate governance and ethical conduct. Appeal Rules, 1978 of NMDC Ltd. Has placed V. Suresh, Director (Commercial), NMDC Ltd. Under suspension SAIL continues to stand strong in the industry focussing on quality and customer satisfac-

SAIL, under the Ministry of Steel, is the country's largest steel-making company, while NMDC is India's largest iron ore producing entity.

One crore job applications received from women in tier-II, III cities in 2023: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The number of women striv-I ing to join the active workforce in the tier-II and III cities witnessed a 13 per cent growth in 2023 with 1 crore applications, a report said on Saturday.
In 2022, there were 2.7

crore applications from tier-II and III cities, of which 87 lakh were from women looking for financial independence, according to data from jobs

RIL shares

settle 1 per

Q3 earnings

PTI MUMBAI

cent lower post

Shares of Reliance Industries recovered some of the lost

ground and settled for the day

lower by 0.80 per cent on Saturday after the company

reported its quarterly earn-

During the morning deals, it fell 1.30 per cent as the oil-to-retail-to-telecom conglom-

erate reported a consolidated

net profit of Rs 17,265 crore in

the third quarter of the current

fiscal, 9.3 per cent higher com-

pared to the year-ago period.

day low of Rs 2,698.60 during

the day on the BSE. Later, it

ground and ended at Rs

2,713.20, lower by 0.80 per cent

Reliance Industries opened at Rs

2,730.00, then fell to Rs 2,700.00

and finally settled for the day at

Rs 2,716.00, down 0.69 per cent

over its last close. Reliance

Industries' quarter-on-quarter

profit was lower when compared

to Rs 17,394 crore earnings in

the preceding three months

ended September 30.

On the NSE, the shares of

from the previous close.

The stock touched an intra-

and professional networking platform apna.Co.

According to the report, the total applications for tier-II and III cities in 2023 were 3.2 crore, of which 1 crore were from women, the report said. Over 100 job applications

per minute from women in tier-II and III cities signal a turning point in workforce dynamics, the report said.

Over 80 per cent of these applications are for officebased roles, underlining the

Major investments in generative AI (artificial intel-

ligence), incentives from the

government and open-source

content can boost employment

generation and reduce dispar-

ities in the country, say experts.

ligence refers to the use of new-

age technology to create new

content like text, images, music,

new job roles and can help peo-

ple with limited skill levels per-

form higher level jobs, thus

reducing the economic divide",

said Vishal Talwar, Director,

According to the state-

ment, highlighting the need for

robust infrastructure and spe-

cial provisions in the upcom-

ing budget for Generative AI-

related innovation, IMT

Ghaziabad steered a key dis-

cussion on Generative AI's

role in skill development, job

creation, and business educa-

tion transformation earlier this

The deliberations conclud-

audio, and videos.

Generative artificial intel-

"Generative AI will boost

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

eagerness of women to engage in the workplace physically, refusing to let the option of working from home limit their career growth, it revealed.

The report by apna.Co is based on an analysis of data of job applications and postings on its platform in 2022 and 2023. There has been a tenfold increase in managerial job postings in sales support, enterprise sales, advertising, real estate, inside sales, brand and marketing and e-commerce, as

Investments, incentives, open source content for

ed that major Investments in but for empowering individu-

Generative AI can boost job creations: Experts

"Applications pouring in from women in tier II-III cities... Totaling 1 crore. The surge reflects the unstoppable rise of women in reshaping our workforce," apna.Co founder and CEO Nirmit Parikh said.

The report added that the job market in the smaller cities is witnessing a growth in freshers hiring with 60 per cent of job postings in tier-II and III cities specifically targeting those new to the workforce.

HUL shares settle 4 per cent lower post Q3 earnings

PTI MUMBAI

Chares of Hindustan Unilever Settled lower by nearly 4 per

On Friday, the company reported a 1.08 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 2,508 crore in the third quarter ended December

Its revenue from sales of products was slightly down at Rs 15,259 crore in the December quarter. The company's HUL's total expenses in the

3.72 per cent over its previous close. Similar movement was seen on the NSE as well, where the stock opened at Rs 2,519.95, then touched an intraday low

cent on Saturday, after the company reported its quarterly earnings.

given period were marginally higher at Rs 12,305 crore. the company opened at Rs 2,514.15, touched an intraday low of Rs 2,465 and finally settled at Rs 2,469.30, down by

of Rs 2,466.10 and settled for the day at Rs 2,470.00, lower by 3.72 per cent over its last close.

Realtors for hike in tax exemption limit on principal, interest on home loans

employment and reduce dis-

the deliberation that in the

wake of India's ambitious AI

initiatives, including India's

AI Mission, the nation is poised

for a significant leap in AI-dri-

ven skill development and job

sions a future where Generative

AI acts as a catalyst, not just for

technological advancements

The IMT Ghaziabad envi-

Talwar, emphasized during

parities in society.

opportunities.

PTI NEW DELHI

In its pre-Budget wish list, realtors apex body CREDAI has urged the government to increase tax exemption limit on principal amount as well as interest paid on home loans to boost demand for residential

Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations

of India (CREDAI) has also sought changes in definition of affordable housing.

In its pre-Budget recommendations, CREDAI has sought deduction under section 80C for principal repayment of housing loan should be increased from existing limit of Rs 1.5 lakh. Alternatively, it suggested

that the deduction for princi-

pal repayment of housing loan should be considered for a separate or standalone exemp-

Moreover, CREDAI said the definition of affordable housing, which was capped at Rs 45 lakh, was given in 2017 and is yet to change since.

"Due to inflation alone, there has been significant rise in real estate prices in the past

7 years. As per data from the National Housing Bank (NHB), there has been an increase of 24 per cent in housing rates since June 2018 in India, which makes the current cap of Rs 45 lakh extremely unfeasible for developers to

rapidly evolving job landscape,

Associate Dean, Digital

Innovation, McCormick

Technology, Director of the Centre for Research in

Technology & Innovation,

Northwestern University's

Kellogg School of Management

said that Indian companies

can level the playing field in

Generative Al by using the

Foundation

Prof. Mohanbir Sawhney

Chair of

CREDAI has recommended that the definition of affordable housing to be revised as "a

adhere to," it argued.

unit with 90 square meter RERA carpet area in Metros Cities and 120 square meter RERA Carpet Area in Nonmetros without a cap on cost of the unit".

Among other major demand, the association said the present limit for deduction of interest on home loans under section 24(b) is Rs 2

Contribution to Ayodhya illumination

Ayodhya: Havells has completed the project of lighting Shri Ram Mandir in Ayodhya We feel honored and privileged to have been entrusted with the responsibility of illuminating Shri Ram Mandir, contributing to the timeless legacy of this sacred site, said Parag Bhatnagar, president, Havells





VICE PRESIDENT, ICSI ICSI GETS NEW PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT

CS B Narasimhan was elected as the president and CS Dhananjay Shukla elected as the vice president of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for the year 2024. Narasimhan is a postgraduate in Economics and a Fellow Member of ICSI. He has over four decades of experience in Corporate Law and Management, with special expertise in the Capital Market. Shukla, a Commerce and Law graduate, is a Fellow Member of the ICSI. He is a Practising Company Secretary based at Gurgaon and has been practising in the areas of Corporate Law, Securities Law and Taxation.

Amusement industry to reach ₹25,000 crore mark by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The amusement industry to grow ing at 15 per cent and is likely to The amusement industry is growreach the Rs 25,000 crore mark by 2030 or even before that in the country, say industry officials. Industry experts said that the sec-

tor holds huge potential for job creation and offers investment opportunities in religious and mythological theme-based parks with the help of technological innovation, laser shows and others

Speaking at a panel discussion on the growth of tourism, amusement, food, travel, Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI) chairman Shrikant Goenka said that the amusement industry is growing at the rate of 15 per cent, and there are huge employment opportu-

There are immense investment



opportunities to create more themebased stories, mythological and religious theme parks with the help of Goenka said. technological innovation, laser shows, videos etc. At various religious cir-

cuits which are being developed by the Centre and State tourism boards,

"Our annual turnover stands at Rs 11,500 crore and we hope that it will

reach Rs 25,000 crore by 2030 or we will be able to achieve this figure even before that," Goenka said.

There are about 300 amusement parks and 2,500 indoor amusement centres in India.

Panelists that included Arun Chittilappilly, Managing Director, Wonderla Holidays, Jai Malpani, Managing Director of Imagicaaworld and Abhishek Bansal, Executive Director of Pacific Development Corporation also discussed the growth prospects in the amusement industry in collaboration with other related associations like travel, food will help in driving tourism in the country.

Experts also discussed the growth of the amusement industry in recent ears, the opportunities that exist, and the challenges ahead at the event on Friday, the Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI) said in a statement.

ICICI Bank net profit jumps 25.7 per cent to Rs 11,053 cr in Q3

PTI ■ MUMBAI

CICI Bank on Saturday said its consolidat-Led net profit for the December quarter jumped 25.7 per cent to Rs 11,052.60 crore, up from Rs 8,792.42 crore.

posted a 23.6 per cent rise in standalone net profit for the third quarter of the current fiscal to Rs 10,272 crore. The bank's core net interest income was

The second largest private sector lender

back of net interest margin narrowing to 4.43 per cent and the domestic advances growth coming at 18.8 per cent. The bank's other income grew 19.8 per

up 13.4 per cent to Rs 18,678 crore, on the

cent to Rs 5,975 crore during the reporting Its provisions came down to Rs 1,049.37

crore from the Rs 2,257.44 crore in the yearago period, helping the profit growth.



Indian recycling sector meet

New Delhi: Material Recycling Association of India is organis-

ing the 11th IMRC conference and expo on the recycling indus-

try from January 23-25 at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata.

The 11th IMRC conference and Expo is Asia's biggest event which

will be attended by more than 2,000 delegates having 200

exhibitors from more than 35 countries are participating in this

event. The year 2024 will turn out to be the year in which India's

newly introduced reforms will propel it into a growth trajecto-

ry exceeding 8 per cent which will cross the \$4 trillion GDP mark,

WOMEN HOCKEY SEARCHES FOR ANSWERS

rienced players, apparent Linconsistency in tempo, and inability to address long-standing weaknesses — there would be plenty to ponder for the Indian women's hockey team when it gets down to the arduous task of rebuilding for the next Olympic cycle after the shocking failure to qualify for

The 0-1 loss to Japan in the third-place match of the FIH Olympic Qualifiers here on Friday can seem stunning on the face of it but dig just a little bit deeper and it would be apparent that the debacle was a long time coming.

Skipper Savita Punia and her teammates had tears rolling down their dejected faces and all one could see in their eyes was uncertainty, perhaps a hint of fear too as to what awaits them

"I don't know," said the team's very shaken coach Janneke Schopman unable to articulate what the future holds for either her or her wards.

Hockey India has ruled out any drastic measures and quite frankly with an Olympic cycle lost, what would any drastic measure achieve at this point? The rebuilding process, after all, has to be a carefully thought out Having qualified for two consecutive Olympics in 2016 and 2020 after efforts of more than three decades, the Indian women made gradual progress at the world level.

sunday pioneer

The big moment under the sun was of course the Tokyo Olympics. There was no medal but the side's gallantry in a campaign that fetched it the fourth spot won over the nation, which decided that these women deserved to be feted as much as those who came back with a medal around their necks.

So, what changed in a matter of three years? Where did the momentum go?

The answer to these questions is not an all-encompassing one

The first of the many reasons probably lies in the loss of their charismatic Dutch coach Sjoerd Marijne, who decided to pack his bags after Tokyo as he didn't want to stay away from his family in a high-pressure job. Marijne had created a very committed, happy unit that roared in Tokyo and Schopman, also from the Netherlands, was his assistant at that point. It looked like a smooth transition of role to her.

But clearly, she has struggled to get the balance right even though to her credit, the team did rise to its highest ever world number six standing on the back of some good performances.



And that's why none could be faulted for believing that this team ought to have made it to Paris in the Asian Games last year, where a gold was needed to seal the deal.

home a bronze, one would say a medal nonetheless but then, it was just that, a medal which did not fetch them the bigger prize on offer.

That result should have set Instead, the Indians brought alarm bells ringing but call it complacency or confidence, have to start from the scratch there was immense belief that in Ranchi, the job would be done. And now that it hasn't happened, the questions are aplenty.

"...Obviously it has been a disappointing outing for us. We now

Olympics," Hockey India secretary general Bholanath Singh told PTI.

and have four years time in hand

to prepare for the next

The optimism of his statement

would be a hustle for the team and that decades of hard work has come undone in a matter of months. And HI has a lot to answer as well for its own role in what has transpired.

Rani Rampal, the mid-field fulcrum and captain of the side in Tokyo, was axed within months of the Games without so much as a proper explanation.

There were murmurs of rift in the side and the currently 29year-old did not mince words in saying that only the coach, the team management and the selectors knew just why she was being ignored.

A nagging hamstring injury had a role to play perhaps but her exclusion from the Asian Games squad was still a sur-prise and she made her dis-pleasure clear especially after making a strong case for come-back with 18 goals in the National Games.

What followed was HI's bizarre decision to appoint her as the coach of sub-junior players despite the fact that she had not vet retired. She accepted the role but refused to give up on a possible comeback on the field. Seasoned defender and penalty

corner specialist Deep Grace Ekka and drag-flicker Gurjit Kaur also made way for younger players but the experiment didn't yield the desired result, as was visible here.

ped, Deep Grace, after talking about how devastated she felt following the Asian Games heartbreak, opted out of the Olympic Qualifiers for person-

al reasons. The two were key players for India in Tokyo even though one could argue that the team management was entitled to take a

punt on youth. Their replacements — Deepika and Udita -, however, lacked

consistency. 'Deepika is young and doesn't have that experience, while Udita has just one slap shot.

There is no variation," said former India captain Ajitpal Singh. "I don't know why the Indian team management didn't select Deep Grace and Gurjit, who are very good from penalty corners and also have the experience behind their backs," he won-

Having said that, it is not that the Indians played badly in the tournament, but they were guilty of not playing to their strength which is attacking hockey. Skipper Savita, who is also the

goalkeeper, mid-fielder Neha Goyal, forward Navneet Kaur are among those who would face some tough questions.

But for any fair assessment, the team will have to first overcome the agony of missing out on an Olympics. And that wound will take a while to heal.



Dhillon secures India 18th Olympic quota with silver

7oung Raiza Dhillon secured Y India's 18th quota place for the Paris Games with a silver medal in women's skeet event of the Asia Olympic Qualification for Shotgun here on Saturday. Dhillon, 19, looked to be on top of her game and led the sixwomen final till it reached the the Indian missed two-three targets to cede ground to China's Jinmei Gao, who won the gold medal by shooting 56 targets in the 60-shot final.

Dhillon finished second with 52

Both Gao and Dhillon secured a Paris Games quota each for their respective country.

Dhillon's compatriot Maheshwari Chauhan settled for the bronze with 43, while Ganemat Sekhon, the other Indian shooter in the final, ended in fourth position with 30.

To begin with, Dhillon was on top of the table with six out of six targets. The Indian continued to lead the final with 14 hits, remaining two ahead of Gao. However, in what was turning out to be an engrossing final, Dhillon then missed two targets as Gao went in lead for the first time in the competition.

Dhillon missed again in the next outing as the Chinese main-tained her lead to leave the two Chauhan — to fight for the silver medal. Dhillon prevailed to enter the fight for the gold medal, as Chauhan left her station with bronze

Dhillon missed twice at the start of gold medal contest, as Gao led by three points to seal the issue in her favour.

Earlier, Sekhon was second in the qualification with a total score of 117. Chauhan was placed third with 115 after prevailing in shoot-off with Qatar's Al Sharshani Reem, while Dhillon qualified for the final in sixth place, completing the top six lineup.

Tai enters women singles final at India Open

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei progressed to her second successive women's singles final of the season with a straight-game win over Singapore's yeo Jia Min at the India Open Super 750 tournament here on Saturday. The former world number one, who has decided to retire after this season, had finished runner-up at Malaysia Open Super 1000 last week On Saturday, the fourth seeded Taiwanese

erased a six-point deficit in the second game to record a 21-13 21-18 win over world no. 20 Jia Min in the first women's singles semi-

She will face the winner of the all-Chinese semifinal match between Olympic champi-



on and second seed Chen Yu Fei and Eang Zhi Yi.

Tai Tzu was behind in both the games but stepped up just in time to outwit Jia Min, who suffered her fifth straight loss to the Taiwanese in as many meetings.

The Chinese shuttlers continued their impressive run with two of their pairs progressing to the finals of mixed and women's doubles competition in the tournament. World no. 5 Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin were the first to dazzle as they beat Korgo's Kim Wan Ho and Joong No Fun 21. Korea's Kim Won Ho and Jeong Na Eun 21-19, 21-18 in the mixed doubles semifinals at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall. The world no. 7 pair of Zhang Shu Xian and

Zheng Yu then prevailed over compatriots Li Wen Mei and Liu Xuan Xuan 19-21, 21-17, 21-18 in the women's doubles semi-finals. World no. 7 Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai of Thailand also made it to the summit clash after beating Ye Hong Wei and Lee Chia Hsin of Chinese Taipei in the second semifinals in mixed doubles category.

Clarity of thought made huge difference to the way I played tennis: Bopanna

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

elebrating the 500th match-✓win milestone of his career, Rohan Bopanna says his consistent success had a lot to do with the clarity of thought and improved health that came with practising Iyengar Yoga.

Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden beat John Millman and Edward Winter in the second round of the Australian Open. This was Bopanna's 501st win of his

Bopanna is one of the most successful Indian tennis players. Leander Paes and Sania Mirza have enjoyed more than 700 wins in their respective glorious careers while Mahesh Bhupathi ended his own successful career just three short of the 700-win mark.

"It's a truly special feeling that I have been a lot of sacrifices in this journey and a lot of people were with me during this time," Bopanna, who is still going strong at the age of 43, told official broadcast channel while talking to former Indian player Somdev Devvarman.

Asked about the changes and adjustments he had to make during his journey, Bopanna said he had altered his playing style of serve and volley and restricted himself to baseline play due to a knee issue.

"It was very difficult to not be able to serve and volley which I was always taught to do and was

my style. I did not have cartilages on my knee and it would pain. "I had to manage it and find new ways of playing that worked while playing at the highest level. Back in 2020, during the pandemic, I started doing the lyengar Yoga and that significantly made a positive impact on my health. I could do 90-minute

sessions four times a week." taught and made famous by Bellur Krishnamachar Sundararaja Iyengar, who was a yoga teacher and author of many books on yoga. "I think mentally also I became

much stronger. İ was clearer in the way I was thinking while playing tennis. That made a great difference, it resulted in a great last year for me as I enjoyed myself being on the court.

At 43, Bopanna became the oldest tennis player to win a ATP Masters series doubles title when he triumphed at Indians Masters with partner Ebden.

I see Prannoy as dark horse at **Olympics: Denmark head coach**

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amatured and experienced HS Prannoy is enjoying the best phase of his career and es at the Paris Olympics, reckons Denmark's head coach Kenneth Jonassen.

Prannoy had a phenomenal season in 2023, winning a maiden bronze medal at the Asian Games and World Championships, and also sealed his first super 500 title at the Malaysia Masters besides finishing runner-up at Australia Open.

Jonassen, who has coached the likes of world no. 1 Viktor Axelsen and world no. 7 Anders Antonsen, believes Prannoy has an all-round game and is mentally strong.
"I definitely see him as one of



dark horses. The last 12 months that he's had, he is again extremely confidence. His game is very rounded. It's a good

attack, good defense, very physical appearance, fast and mentally very strong on court," Jonassen told PTI during an

Prannoy, 31, qualified for his maiden semifinal at the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament after defeating here on Friday. "I see him as one of those outsiders that maybe not go in as a

favourite. But one of those that when he puts in his his 'A' game is very, very hard to beat, no matter who you are. "And, I think a little bit what has

seemed to have happened, he has been injury free for a long time. He is slowly getting confidence and then matured and experienced, all put into one. "And that's why I believe, together with his coaches, he's enjoying, I think, the best time of his badminton career at the

Lydia feels at home and shares lead in LPGA opener

Hussein scores twice as Iraq upsets Japan to reach Asian Cup knockout stage

AP ■ DOHA (QATAR)

ymen Hussein scored both goals as Iraq Ashocked Asian Cup favorite Japan 2-1 to claim a place in the knockout stage on Friday.

Hussein struck twice in the first half at Education City Stadium to inflict Japan's first group-stage loss at the Asian Cup since 1988. An injury-time header from Wataru Endo was a late consolation for

The win lifted Iraq, the 2007 champion, to the top of Group D and a guaranteed spot in the round of 16. Four-time winner Japan, Asia's highestranked team at 17, was second

"It's impossible to have a perfect match but we were close to perfect," Iraq's Spanish coach, Jesus Casas, said. "It is a great day for the people of Iraq." Iraq took the lead after just six minutes when Japan goalkeeper Zion Suzuki palmed Ali Jasim's cross from the left straight to Hussein, who headed it

Japan streamed forward in search of an equalizer but Iraq defended in numbers and doubled its lead in first-half added time. Hussein headed in Avmed Yahva's cross

"Conceding at the end of the first half hit us hard and made it a very difficult game," Japan coach Hajime Moriyasu said.

Japan was awarded a penalty 10 minutes into the second half after Takuma Asano was judged to have fouled by Rebin Sulaka. However, referee Khalid Al-Turais overturned his original decision after viewing the pitchside monitor.

Endo eventually got Japan within a goal in added time when goalkeeper Jalal Hachim failed to col-



Indonesia moved level with Japan in the standings after beating Vietnam 1-0.

The deadlock was broken after 42 minutes when Nguyen Thanh Binh pulled Rafael Struick's shirt in the area. Captain Asnawi Mangkualam fired home the penalty to give Indonesia the victory and a chance of a place in the second stage for the first

Vietnam, which has lost both of its games, was reduced to 10 men late in the game after Le Pham Γhanh Long's second yellow card.

In the final round of games in the group on Wednesday, Vietnam takes on Iraq while Japan meets Indonesia. In Group C, Iran defeated Hong Kong 1-0 to

secure a place in the round of 16. Mehdi Ghayedi

scored with more than an hour left. The win put three-time champion Iran on top, two points ahead of the United Arab Emirates. The teams meet on Tuesday. Hong Kong stayed on the bottom with successive defeats, a point behind

final group opponent Palestine.



Ko had a year she'd pretty much like to forget. She struggled mightily on the golf course after winning three times the previous season, and on several occasions left the 18th green at a tournament in tears. Ko, a 19-time LPGA Tour win-

ner, two-time major champion and still only 26, will have a great chance to bounce back this weekend at the Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions on the Lake Nona course she now calls home.

Ko played bogey-free for a 5under 67 as temperatures began to cool in the LPGA's season opener, and she heads into the weekend alongside Japan's Ayaka Furue (71) in a share of the 36hole lead. They were at 8-under 136.

Scotland's Gemma Dryburgh (68) and Mexico's Gaby Lopez, à former TOC champion who shot 71, are two shots back. Defending champion Brooke Henderson and Alexa Pano - at 19, the youngest player in this week's field - will begin the weekend three shots out of the lead. Both shot 70 on Friday.

Ko tasted success elsewhere in 2023, winning an event on the



Ladies International) and an unofficial mixed-team tournament alongside the PGA Tour's Iason Day late in the year. That gave her the confidence she was searching for.

Her results on the LPGA were a mess. After a tie for sixth to begin her season in Thailand last February, Ko teed it up in 19 other LPGA events, with only one other top-10 finish. She failed to qualify for the year-ending CME Group Tour Championship, which was

Two days into the TOC - which

features LPGA winners from the past two years - Ko's game appears strong, and very steady. She ripped a 3-wood into the par-5 ninth hole to set up an eagle from 9 feet and finished strongly with a 4-hybrid to 15 feet to run in one last birdie at the 18th hole. She missed only one green on a challenging day. Ko and her fellow LPGA pros will be tested this weekend with a cold front expected to drop

Fahrenheit. On Friday, she and a few other late finishers, including Furue, dealt with rain at the end of the round.

temperatures into the low 40s

"It wasn't easy, especially the wind picking up after nine holes," Ko said. "So that's going to be the mindset for the next couple days ... But definitely glad that I'm done and it's still raining outside."

One season after leading the LPGA in total strokes gained on the field, Ko slipped to 56th last season. Ko is close enough to be thinking about the World Golf Hall of Fame - she is two points away, with victories counting as one point and majors two - and she enters a new season refreshed, with a new coach (Si Woo Lee) and boosted confidence. Furue, a 23-year-old who is a

strong putter and owns one LPGA victory at the 2022 Scottish Open, did not play as well as she did a day earlier, when she opened with a tournament-record 65. But she managed to hang in there in more difficult conditions. Furue did not make her first birdie until the 12th hole, and one more birdie on the shortened par-5 15th carried her to an under-par round. The LPGA members play 72 holes of stroke play in their season opener, doing so alongside a field of 50 athletes and celebrities who compete in a separate division using a Modified Stableford points system.

Annika Sorenstam, a 72-time winner on the LPGA and a Lake Nona resident, is tied with former NHL player Jeremy Roenick for first among the celebrities, with 75 points. Former MLB pitcher Derek Lowe, who clipped Sorenstam in a playoff two years ago, had one of his best rounds, shooting the equivalent of 70 on Friday.

India outclass Bangladesh by 84 runs

eft-arm spinners Saumy Kumar Pandey and Musheer Khan head-✓lined a dominant Indian performance as the defending champions outclassed Bangladesh by 84 runs in their opening game of the ICC U-19 World Cup here Saturday

While the total of 251 for 7 didn't look big, the two Indian spinners choked the run-flow, shooting out 'Tiger Cubs' for a meagre 167 in 45.5 overs.

Skipper Uday Saharan (64 off 94 balls) and left-handed opener Adarsh Singh (76 off 96 balls) hit half-centuries after Bangladesh invited the holders to take

Saumy (4/24) was economical and bowled the lethal arm ball with a skiddy action while all-rounder Musheer (2/35) tossed it up and got enough drift to tighten the noose around Bangladeshi batters.

Musheer, younger brother Mumbai's domestic stalwart Sarfaraz Khan, was a livewire on the field. He also effected a run-out

What was impressive to see was no overt celebrations from either Saumy or Musheer, who carried on their job like thoroughbred professionals.



It was a fairly ill-tempered match with players from both sides indulging in sledging as the two teams have history of tension across senior men, senior women and U-19 level.

For Indian team, it was a sweet revenge after losing the Asia Cup semi-final to While the Indian batters found it difficult to get boundaries, the target was never below par as average score of teams batting first in Youth ODIs (U-19 ODI) at this ground was 201, and the highest successful chase being 243. In fact, India's 251/7 on the day was the third highest score at this ground.

The team's designated finisher Sachin Dhas showed admirable technique and temperament during death overs with a nice little unbeaten cameo of 26 off 20 balls that took the score past 250run mark. The pulled six off seamer Rohanat Doullah Borson was a treat for

This despite allowing Bangladeshi bowlers to bowl dot balls worth 26 overs during their innings. Left-arm seamer Maruf Mridha (5/43)

did damage at the start and during slog overs by bowling in right areas but would be a bit miffed with his skipper, who got his calculations wrong and didn't let him complete his quota of 10

Possessing a skiddy action like Mustafizur Rahaman, Maruf varied his lengths, bowled closer to stumps at the start and mixed cutters with wide yorkers at the death to make life difficult for the India colts.

The foundation of the Indian innings was laid by Adarsh (76 off 96 balls) and skipper Saharan (64 off 94 balls), who added 116 runs for the third wicket in nearly 23.5 overs.

The two youngsters didn't look comfortable against the Bangladesh spinners offie Sheikh Paevez Jibon (0/39) and left-arm spinner Mahfuzur Rahaman Rabby (1/41).

The two spinners didn't let the set batters get away as Adarsh had six fours and Saharan only four. In fact, Indian batters got only 14 boundaries and two sixes in 50 overs but it proved to be enough in the end.



Donald suggestion to English pacers Bring stumps into play every

ball on low bounce Indian tracks PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pitching full length deliveries, attacking the stumps and setting straighter field placements should be the mantra for England pacers when they counter a star-studded Indian batting line-up during the upcoming Test series, says South Africa great Allan Donald.

Donald had toured India in 1996 and in 1999-00. On the second occasion, South Africa managed to blank India 2-0 with four pronged pace attack comprising Donald himself, Shaun Pollock, Nantie Hayward and Jacques Kallis making life miserable for Indian batters.

Donald, in fact, had dismissed Rahul Dravid at Wankhede stadium and Sachin Tendulkar at Chinnaswamy stadium during that series.

An acclaimed bowling coach now, Donald was asked what could potentially work for the likes of James Anderson, Ollie Robinson and co during the next five weeks and he narrated what they did during the 1999-2000 series.

"Our mindset was always to attack when Hansie Cronje was captain. Coach (late) Bob Woolmer obviously had more Indian experience than we ever did because he played a fair bit, he coached there, understood the mindset, Indian mindset and the mentality," Donald told PTI during an interaction arranged

The first thing we always talked about was the importance of the first 25 to 30 overs with a new ball. And the length was always going to be slightly fuller, attacking the stumps, setting straight fields almost straight away. The 'White Lightening' feels that English pacers would know that pitches won't have a lot of

carry.
"We knew that there weren't going to be much carry in the pitches, so bringing the stumps into play almost every ball is important. And if there is a bit of swing, that's the only thing that you've got to work with in a short space of time," he explained.

Donald believes that setting negative fields like stationing a deep square leg or sweeper is actually a negative strategy in India.

"Once we get past that new ball, you don't set negative fields, you don't have sweepers out, but you do have maybe an extra fielder out into the covers. It gives you that extra protection," he further elaborated

Donald, who was Bangladesh's bowling coach till ODI World Cup, said he would love to be back in the IPL set-up like earlier times when he was associated with RCB and before that with a franchise in SA20.

"I'd love to, I really do. Obviously, when SA 20 came in, I was busy with Bangladesh, so that would have been in conflict of interest. 'So I missed out there and hopefully next year something comes up. And hopefully even in the IPL, with the years going forward, I had such a wonder ful time with RCB. It's a magnificent franchise.

"And not to talk about the IPL, IPL is just an amazing two months that you will never forget. It's the best tournament in the world. There's no question

getting an opportunity or foot in the door and hopefully that will happen next year," the leg-

Bharat warms up for Test series with century



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Kona Bharat made a strong case for his selection for the first Test against England with an attacking hundred as India A made hot pursuit of an improbable winning target of 490 before the opening firstclass game against England Lions ended in

a draw, here Saturday. When umpires called off proceedings on the fourth and final day, India were 426 for 5 in 125 overs, eventually finishing 64 runs short of the target

Bharat, whose batting performances left a lot to be desired in Test matches, made 116 not out off 165 balls with 15 boundaries. With India looking to give relief to KL Rahul from keeping wickets, Bharat's century would come as a big relief for his greatest backer, head coach Rahul Dravid, who has been bullish about playing the Andhra player in Tests despite his below-par batting

Manav Suthar, who came in as night-watchman on third evening, remained unbeaten on a dogged 89 off 254 balls with 16 boundaries — 10 of which came off left-arm spinner Callum Parkinson (3/182).

While B Sai Sudharsan (97 off 208 balls) missed out on a hundred, Bharath-Suthar duo took full advantage of flat deck adding 207 runs for the unbroken sixth wicket stand in 54.5 overs. The only wicket to fall on the day was southpaw Sudharsan. On the final day, England Lions skipper Josh

Bohanon mainly bowled with his spinners

— Parkinson and off-break bowler Jack Carson (0/74 in 21 overs)

Bharat was solid on both flanks as nine off his 15 fours came off the two spinners and were mostly hit on the on-side. He got an able ally in Suthar, who applied himself well and by tea time, even England Lions knew that they have lost an opportunity to win a first-class game on an Indian track.

BRIEF SCORES:

England Lions 553 and 163/6 decl. India 227 and 425/6 in 125 overs (Kona Bharat 116 not out, Manav Suthar 89 not out).

Nasser warns against writing off England chances in India

PTI ■ LONDON

Given their recent success with the 'Bazball' approach, former skipper Nasser Hussain has warned against writing off England's chances in the upcoming fivematch Test series in India, though the hosts will start as firm favourites.

Since embracing Bazball, England are yet to lose a Test series, while India remain unbeaten at home since 2012-13.

'India are the favourites, but every single challenge Bazball has faced they've stuck to their guns and Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum's record is seriously good, I wouldn't write them off," Hussain told Sky Sports. "Bazball has been very successful,

especially at home, and the two toughest places to tour are India or Australia. It's going to be a massive challenge for England.

"India want to see how this new approach will work at home. It will be fascinating cricket and will be interesting to see how this particular side will go against what is one of the great cricketing outfits at the moment, which is the India side."
'INDIA'S SPINNERS ARE VERY **DIFFERENT TO ENGLAND'S':** With the Indian pitches tradition-



ally being slow, spin will again play an important role. Former captain Michael Atherton feels the Indian spin attack offers more variety.

"If you go to India, spin will play a big part, it historically has done, and I suspect it always will do. India do have a very strong seam attack as

"India's four spinners are very different to England's. They have two left-arm finger spinners in Ravindra

Jadeja and Axar Patel. They have a wrist spinner in Kuldeep Yadav, and Ravichandran Ashwin is one of the greatest spinners of all time

"England have a solid left-arm spinner in Jack Leach and then three very inexperienced spinners after that with Tom Hartley, Shoaib Bashir and Rehan Ahmed. It will be a particular challenge for them, but the selectors see a high ceiling for them," he said.

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Sindhu made 119.

508 for three.

"I'm definitely not discounting myself out. It's just a matter of

RANJI TROPHY

Avasthi grabs seven to put Mumbai on top vs Kerala Haryana hand Manipur

PTI THUMBA (KERALA)

Medium-pacer Mohit Avas-thi singlehandedly dismantled Kerala batting line-up with seven wickets to leave Mumbai in command on day two of their Ranji Trophy Group B fixture here on Saturday.

In response to Mumbai's first innings 251, the home side were restricted to 244 with Avasthi's accurate and disciplined bowling (7/57). With a narrow lead of seven runs in the first innings, Mumbai came out for their second innings with a strong intent to extend their advantage Openers Jay Bista and Bhupen

Lalwani exhibited class and composure, remaining unbeaten at the close of play. Bista's unbeaten 59 (67b; 3x4,

1x6), combined with Lalwani's resilient 41 (90b; 4x4), propelled Mumbai to 105 for no loss, an overall lead of 112 runs with all wickets intact.

Earlier, Sachin Baby was Kerala's top scorer (65; 130b) but he could not convert it into a big one, falling to Tanush Kotian (1/10; 3 overs)

Skipper Sanju Samson (38) also fell cheaply with Avasthi running through the Kerala middle-

POREL'S MAIDEN TON POWERS BENGAL: Young gun Abishek Porel notched up his maiden first-class century to steer hosts Bengal to a formidable 381/8 against Chhattisgarh at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

The 21-year-old wicketkeeperbatter's knock of 114 runs came off 219 deliveries, featuring an impressive array of strokes, including 14 boundaries and a

Porel's innings proved to be the backbone of Bengal's batting, providing stability and resilience against the Chhattisgarh bowling attack.

His 120-run partnership with veteran Anustup Majumdar, who contributed 71, played a pivotal role in Bengal's innings.



Resuming the day on 206/4, the duo completed their respective fifties before Chhattisgarh finally broke the partnership with Śourabh Majumdar dismissing the Bengal veteran.

Suraj Singh Sandhu (33 batting) Karan Lal (24 batting), Shubham Chatterjee (21) also made valu-

Narayan Jagadeesan smashed his way to unbeaten 245 as it propelled Tamil Nadu

team to a commendable first innings score of 489 against Railways on the second day of its Ranji Trophy Group C fixture. Resuming the day on 286 for five, Jagadeesan added 45 more to bring up his maid.

45 more to bring up his maiden first-class double ton.

He got decent support from the other end and added another

45 before eventually running

out of partners. For Railways,

Akash Pandey grabbed three whereas, with the bat, it man-

aged to finish the day on 126

for two, with Pratham Singh

currently batting on 76. Openers Shivam Chaudhary

(16) and Vivek Singh (11) have

been dismissed for the

PTI ■ COIMBATORE

able lower-order contributions to take Bengal close to the 400-

ANDHRA TAKE UPPER HAND: In Dibrugarh, Lalith Mohan and Manish Golamaru bagged three wickets each to lead Andhra's bowling, as Assam were bundled out for 160 in 60.1

Tamil Nadu lead Railways by

Railways, with Sandeep Warrier knocking them over in

both instances. In another

Group C in Mysore, courtesy hundreds from Mayank Agarwal (114) and Devdutt

Padikkal (101) have propelled

Karnataka has managed to finish Day 2 on 251 for four, trail-

ing by 70 runs, with Goa's Dar-

shan Misal and Mohit Redkar

Earlier, Karnataka bundled out

Goa for 321. The visitors began

the day on 228 for eight, with Arjun Tendulkar (53) being

their last man to be dismissed, whereas Snehal Kauthankar

(83) was their top scorer. Vijaykumar Vyshak, M

Venkatesh and Rohit Kumar

got three wickets each for

In Chandigarh's Group C

Karnataka.

clutching two wickets each.

Karnataka to 251 for 4.

overs from being 43 for no loss overnight.

At close on day two, Andhra were 147/1, taking an overall lead of 175. Skipper Ricky Bhui (52) and Hanuma Vihari (48) were at the crease in an unbroken 100-run partnership for

encounter, Gujarat finished Day 2 on 86 for two against Chandigarh after the opening day's play was called off due to

With the hosts opting to field, Gujarat was reeling at 19 for two, as Jagjit Singh dismissed

both openers Priyank Panchal (5) and Urvil Patel (14). Also, in Mohali's Group C meet, Punjab finished Day 2 on

78 for seven versus Tripura

after Day 1's play was suspended due to poor visibility. As the

visitors chose to field, it turned out to be the right decision.

So far, Punjab opener Prabhsimran Singh (21) and

Nehal Wadhera (33) have been the only two lads to enter dou-

ble figures, while for Tripura, Manisankar Murasingh and

Rana Dutta have captured two

wickets each.

BRIEF SCORES

IN THUMBA: Mumbai 251 and 105 for no loss; 26 overs (Jay Bista 59 batting, Bhupen Lalwani 41 batting). **Kerala** 244; 55.2 overs (Sachin Baby 65, Rohan Kunnummal 56; Mohit Avasthi 7/57). Mumbai lead by 112

IN KOLKATA: Bengal 381/8; 128 overs (Abhishek Porel 114, Sudip Gharami 49, Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 33 batting; Shashank Singh 2/42, Sourabh Majumdar 2/72, Vashudev Bareth 2/85) vs

Chhattisgarh. IN DIBRUGARH: Andhra 188 and 147/1; 42 overs (Ricky Bhui 52 batting) Assam 160; 60.1 overs (Rahul Hazarika 20. Lahu) (Rahul Hazarika 39; Lalith Mohan 3/27, Manish Golamaru 3/21, Nitish Reddy 2/32). Andhra lead by 175 runs. IN MEERUT: Bihar 126/3; 48

IN COIMBATORE: Tamil

Nadu 489 (Narayan Jagadeesan 245, Boopathi Kumar 67; Sai Kishore 59; Akash 3/102) leads

Railways 126-2 (Pratham Singh 76 batting; Sandeep Warrier 2/35) by 363 runs.

IN MYSORE: Goa 321 (Snehal

Kauthankar 83, Arjun Tendulkar 52, Heramb Parab

53; Vijaykumar Vyshak 3/76, M Venkatesh 3/41, Rohit Kumar

3/90) leads Karnataka 251-4

(Mayank Agarwal 114, Devdutt Padikkal 101; Mohit Redkar 2/65) by 70 runs.

IN CHANDIGARH: Gujarat

86-2 (Sunpreetsingh Bagga 39; Jagjit Singh 2/27) vs

IN MOHALI: Punjab 78-7 (Nehal Wadhera 33; Manisan-kar Murasingh 2/11) vs

Chandigarh.

overs (Sraman Nigrodh 72) vs Uttar Pradesh. 363 runs

> In Delhi, the Group A match between Jharkhand and Services saw twin centuries from Virat Singh (108) and Kumar Kushagra (132), as the former posted a modest total of 316. Jharkhand had resumed the day on 195 for four before the duo put on a 171-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

For Services, Varun Choudhary

Opener Nitin Tanwar (1) retired hurt before Shubham Rohilla (35) and Ravi Chauhan (59 not out) added 82 more Services finished the day on 128

for two. In Nagpur, the Group A game between Vidarbha and

Saurashtra saw the former getting dismissed for a mere 78. Vidarbha began the day on 26 66 for one, with Pavan Shah (13) being the only batter to get out, as the team trailed by 15 runs. for four before conceding a lead of 128 to Saurashtra. While



Jitesh Sharma (28) was their top scorer, Chirag Jani dominated

In the second innings,

Saurashtra put on a strong show, finishing the day on 205 for three, with Kevin Jivrajani (57)

and Vishvarajsinh Jadeja (79) having contributed efficiently, as

The Group A contest between Rajasthan and Maharashtra in

Jodhpur saw the former getting

with a four wickets.

they led by 333 runs.

shot out for 270.

In reply, Manipur were bundled out for a paltry 77 in the first innings, thanks to Rahul Tewatia and Jayant Yadav grabbing three wickets each, with K Priyojit Singh (24 not out) being the top

Resuming Day 2 on 391 for three, Haryana went on to post

In the second innings, Manipur could only better their first innings total by 16 runs, getting bowled out for 93.

grabbed four wickets. In reply, Services batted decently.

Starting the day on 110 for two, Karan Lamba (53), skipper Deepak Hooda (63) and Shubham Sharma (53) allowed Rajasthan to take a lead of 81

Ashav Palkar took a five-for for Maharashtra, while Hitesh Walunj impressed with four wickets.

Maharashtra finished the day on

IN AHMEDABAD: Haryana

508/3 (Ankit Kumar 56, Himanshu Rana 250, Nishant Sindhu 119; Kangabam Priyojit 1/51) defeat **Manipur** 77 & 93 (Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 50; Rahul Tewatia 3/30) by an innings and 338 runs.

IN DELHI: Jharkhand 316

(Vint Single 100 IV

(Virat Singh 108, Kumar Kushagra 132; Varun Choudhary 4/56) leads **Services** 128-2 (Ravi Chauhan 59 batting; Shahbaz Nadeem 2/33) by 188 runs.

IN NAGPUR: Saurashtra 206 & 205-3 (Kevin Jivrajani 57, Vishvaraj Jadeja 79; Yash Thakur 1/23) leads Vidarbha 78 (Jitesh Sharma 28; Chirag Jani 4/14) by

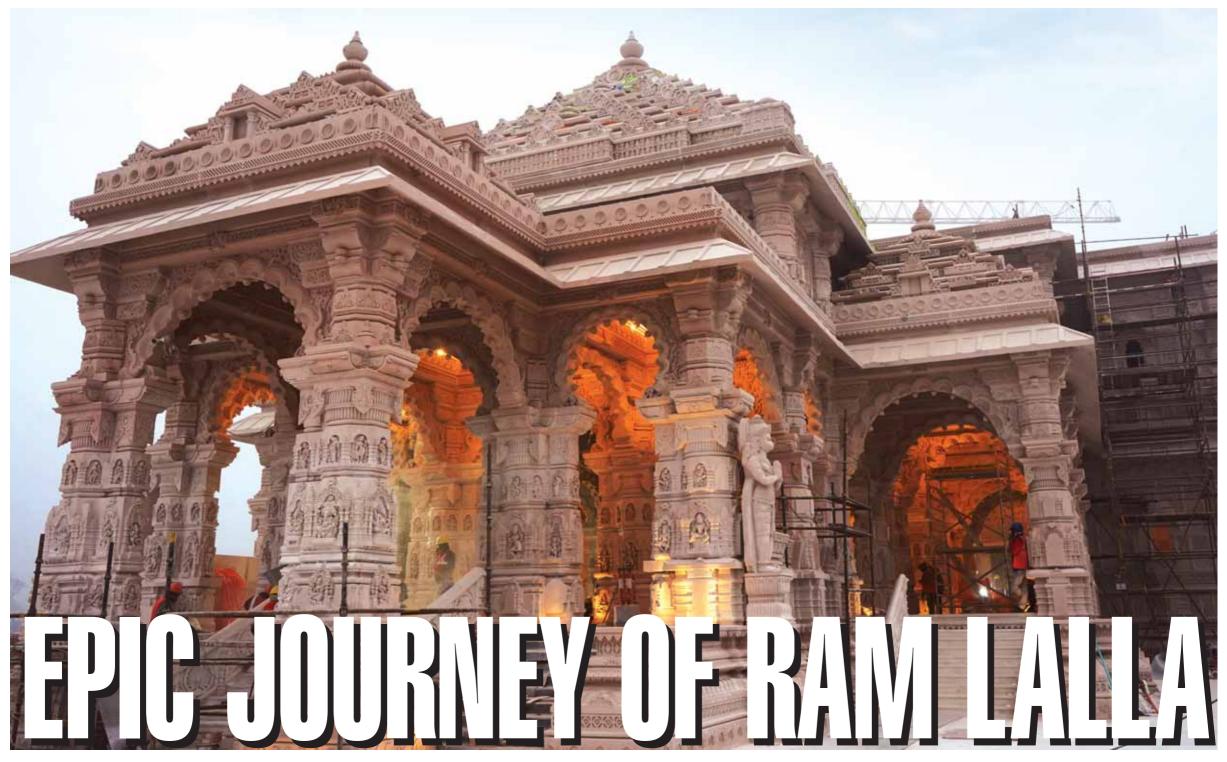
IN JODHPUR: Maharashtra 189 & 66-1 (Siddhesh Veer 36 batting; Arafat Khan 1/11) trails Rajasthan 270 (Karan Lamba 53, Deepak Hooda 63, Shubham Sharma 53; Ashay Palkar 5/46, Hitesh Walunj 4/80) by 15 runs.

a Contract the pioneer of the pionee

"As different streams having different sources all mingle their waters in the sea, so different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to God"

— Swami Vivekananda





Chronicling the journey from Rath Yatra to consecration, **BISWAJEET BANERJEE** captures the perseverance, struggle, and unyielding commitment of leaders who shaped the Ram Mandir movement

he journey towards the consecration of Lord Ram in Ayodhya on January 22 is a testament to a five century-long arduous struggle. This historic moment, marked by the completion of the grand Ram temple, is the culmination of a tumultuous saga characterised by disputes, violence, and prolonged legal battles. The path to this monumental achievement was paved by the unwavering perseverance of devotees and a landmark court ruling that resolved long standing conflicts. The Ram Janmabhoomi struggle had its roots deeply embedded in history, with the dispute over the site being a focal point for centuries. It revolved around the belief that the Babri Masjid was constructed on the birthplace of Lord Ram, becoming a flashpoint for communal tensions and triggering a series of events that defined the course of the struggle.

The perseverance of the devotees emerged as a driving force that sustained the movement across generations. The unwavering faith in Ayodhya as the sacred birthplace of Lord Ram fueled the determination of those involved in the movement. Over decades, they encountered challenges ranging from political opposition to societal discord, yet their commitment remained steadfast.

The movement also witnessed the instrumental role played by key figures who became central to its narrative. These individuals not only dedicated their lives to the cause but also navigated the intricacies and challenges of the struggle. Their leadership, often in the face of adversity, was crucial in steering the movement towards its ultimate goal.

A landmark court ruling in 2019 provided a decisive resolution to the legal disputes surrounding the site. The judgment acknowledged the historical and religious significance of the land, paving the way for the construction of the Ram temple. This legal victory marked a turning point in the struggle, offering a path for reconciliation and

As Ayodhya prepares for the consecration of the Ram temple, it stands as a symbol of triumph over adversity and a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who dedicated their lives to the cause. The

completion of the majestic temple signifies not only a religious milestone but also reflects the resilience and determination that shaped the history of the Ram Janmabhoomi struggle. The saga witnessed significant contributors who played pivotal roles in shaping the movement and steering it towards success. Among them are key figures whose journeys reflect the intricacies and challenges faced during this transformative period.

LAL KRISHNA ADVANI RATH YATRA ARCHITECT

The Rath Yatra led by former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani in 1984 is widely regarded as a watershed moment in the Ram temple movement. In the aftermath of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination, Advani's Rath Yatra became a significant catalyst, solidifying the roots of the movement. Despite the BJP winning only two seats in the 1984 Lok Sabha elections, Advani assumed leadership, emphasising Hindutva policies. Under his guidance, the BJP included the goal of building the Ram temple in its manifesto. In 1990, Advani announced the Rath Yatra from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh. The journey, filled with fervent support, encountered obstacles when Lalu Prasad, then Chief Minister of Bihar, arrested Advani. Nevertheless, the Rath Yatra had already set the movement in motion, becoming a defining moment in the history of the Ram temple struggle.

MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI THE TORCHBEARER

After Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi emerged as a significant leader actively involved in the Ram temple movement. Present during the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya, Joshi played a crucial role in shaping the movement's strategies. His involvement extended to studying every aspect related to the Ram Mandir movement, contributing to meticulous planning and implementation.

Joshi's influence reached a peak during a meeting held in Lucknow in December 1992, where he urged people to go to Ayodhya the next day. His

resolute stance, expressed in statements

like "there is no power that can stop the

construction of the Ram temple,'

underscored his commitment to the

AS AYODHYA PREPARES FOR THE CONSECRATION OF THE RAM TEMPLE, IT STANDS AS A SYMBOL OF TRIUMPH OVER ADVERSITY AND A TESTAMENT TO THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF THOSE WHO DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO THE CAUSE. THE **COMPLETION OF THE MAJESTIC TEMPLE IS NOT ONLY A RELIGIOUS** MILESTONE BUT ALSO A REFLECTION OF THE **RESILIENCE AND DETERMINATION THAT** SHAPED THE HISTORY OF THE RAM JANMABHOOMI STRUGGLE



cause. Joshi's political career included serving as an MP from various constituencies, including Varanasi, Allahabad (now Prayagraj), and Kanpur.

KALYAN SINGH UNWAVERING COMMITMENT

In 1991-92, at the peak of the Ram Mandir movement, then UP Chief Minister Kalyan Singh played a crucial role in galvanising Ram devotees. Initially expected to refrain from participating in the yatra to avoid potential arrest, Singh surprised everyone by joining the procession near Hanumangarhi. His impassioned address emphasised the relentless pursuit of building the Ram temple, further energising the movement. Despite the movement's success, Kalyan Singh faced political repercussions and lost his position due to his unwavering

commitment to the cause. Unfortunately, he passed away in August 2021, missing the consecration of the Ram temple.

VINAY KATIYAR Bajrang dal Commander

In 1984, Vinay Katiyar assumed the role of the first president of Bajrang Dal, formed for the Ram Mandir movement. Tasked with rallying people for the cause, Katiyar travelled from village to village, organising meetings, and garnering support. These efforts bore fruit as, under Vinay Katiyar's leadership, Bajrang Dal successfully connected people across the country for the Ram Mandir movement. His political stature grew postmovement, leading him to become the National General Secretary of the BJP. He served as an elected Member of

Parliament thrice from the Faizabad (Ayodhya) Lok Sabha seat.

UMA BHARTI The Firebrand Leader

Known for her fiery speeches during times of crisis, Uma Bharti played a pivotal role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Post the movement, Bharti remained active in politics, serving as a minister in the central government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi. She also held the position of CM of Madhya Pradesh from 2003 to 2004.

SADHVI RITAMBHARA

VOICE OF PASSION
As the second firebrand woman leader of the Ram Mandir movement, Sadhvi Ritambhara's impassioned speeches resonated across the country. Despite her withdrawal from active politics, she

continues her spiritual journey, running an ashram named Vatsalya Gram in Vrindavan.

ASHOK SINGHAL CHIEF ARCHITECT

Ashok Singhal, the international president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad for 20 years, is considered one of the chief architects of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. His strategic planning and leadership were instrumental in shaping the movement, including the organisation of the parliament held at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi in 1984. Singhal's role extended to leading the Kar Sevaks who demolished the disputed structure in 1992. He passed away on November 17, 2015.

RAM AND SHARAD KOTHRI SAFFRON FLAG BEARERS

Real brothers from Kolkata, Ram Kumar Kothri, and Sharad Kumar Kothri played significant roles in the movement. They were part of the initial group of Karsevaks in 1990, raising the saffron flag on the disputed structure. Tragically, both brothers were shot during the kar seva on November 2, 1990, becoming martyrs and inspiring a surge of support for the movement."

CHAMPAT RAI BEHIND-THE-SCENES ARCHITECT

Champat Rai, the General Secretary of Ram Mandir Trust, worked diligently behind the scenes, gathering documentary evidence related to the Ram temple even before the demolition of the disputed structure. Rai's meticulous efforts included studying thousands of documents, reading scriptures, and providing crucial evidence to lawyers fighting the legal battle for Ram Janmabhoomi.

PRAVEEN TOGADIA FIREBRAND VHP LEADER

Alongside Vinay Katiyar, Praveen Togadia actively contributed to the Ram Mandir movement as a leader associated with Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Recognised for his dynamic speeches, Togadia played a significant role in rallying public support and fostering enthusiasm during the movement. Although currently not affiliated with Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Togadia's legacy remains connected to the fervor of the Ram Janmabhoomi movement.





AS RAM RISES, BHARAT TOO WILL

UTPAL KUMAR'S treatise on emerging India is a compelling read to put its past in perspective and understand its future trajectory

By Monica Verma

ndia is on the cusp of a transformation. Nothing speaks Lthis more than the sense of exhilaration in the air ahead of Ram Mandir inauguration in Ayodhya. There may be a small section which is associating the event with a particular political party, but largely across India, people are mostly engulfed in a sense of warm comfort that finally their revered God will be in a home of his own. That's not it, there is a strong conviction even among the most elite and educated class that the Ram Mandir inauguration marks a moment of civilisational awakening in India. It is this India which is confident about its roots that Utpal Kumar is writing about in his latest book, Bharat Rising: Dharma, Democracy, Diplomacy.

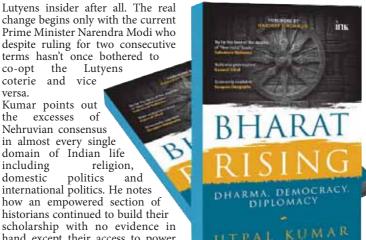
As someone who has lived through the 1990s and 2000s and grown up watching Doordarshan, studied from NCERT textbooks and watched TV debates with one-sided members, the current India seems like a fundamentally changed country. When Kumar writes about this new India, he starts by outlining the characteristics of the Old India first. The old India refers to India under Congress rule where Jawaharlal Nehru may have been personally active only until his death in 1964 but the remnants of Nehruvian state continued to shine for nearly 50 years thereafter. Even Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a Prime Minister from the Sangh fold, hasn't been spared by Kumar for being a

Lutyens insider after all. The real change begins only with the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi who despite ruling for two consecutive terms hasn't once bothered to co-opt the Lutyens coterie and vice

Nehruvian consensus in almost every single domain of Indian life religion, including domestic politics and international politics. He notes how an empowered section of historians continued to build their scholarship with no evidence in hand except their access to power corridors and their poor scholarship of cross-citing each other exclusively. The Indian state in its desperation to please the Left-'liberal' lobbies world over, chose secularism which turned out to be Hindumisic in all its glory. Whether it was the forced imposition of personal laws on only Hindus, or the violence against Brahmins and Dalits, or even the insertion of the word 'secular'

undemocratically by the Indira Gandhi government during Emergency in the Constitution, the Indian state has done more to damage the civilisational fabric of this country than to actually make India more egalitarian in character for all the religions.

Kumar's book has focused on three important pillars of new India which include - Dharma, Democracy and Diplomacy. Each of them have been



BHARAT RISING: DHARMA, DEMOCRACY, DIPLOMACY BY UTPAL KUMAR BLUONE INK, ₹599

addressed through twelve eclectic essays that are a must-read for every young Indian in today's date. Revisionist scholarship can sometimes pave the way for a more confident and self-secure polity. For instance, when Kumar talks about the "three musketeers" of India's freedom struggle - Subhas Chandra Bose, VD Savarkar and BR Ambedkar and how they were personally hounded by Gandhi-Nehru regime for presenting an

justifies India's current quest to gather tangible power something Bose actually did and also stay aware of the danger of pan-Islamism, something which Ambedkar warned about. Similarly when Kumar calls Marxist scholarship on India as a project to declare it as a "Railway Station" where no one is native and everyone including the Indians themselves have migrated, then it leads to a reckoning as to why the positioning of India as a civilisational state which it rightfully is leads to so much discomfort among the Left-'liberals' today.

Kumar's attention is not limited to domestic politics or dharma debates alone. He shifts his thoughts to the domain of international politics where early Indian leaders' failure to read the political undercurrents has caused significant strategic damage to India. As an Indian who grudgingly looks at China today in terms of its reach, I can't but agree wholeheartedly with him. At a time when Beijing was courting Western powers to build its strength by showing them the chimera of an accommodative China, India was busy putting its foot on the diplomatic axe. We failed to read Mao's aggression, we were busy identifying the good Pakistani from the bad Pakistani, and we kept on ignoring the friendly Japan and sympathetic US in the process. Kumar highlights this while also alternative idea of free India, then it cautioning that India's rise is

not something to which US should be expected to commit unconditionally. Among other gems that this book offers, this one stands out for its sheer truth value. If China slows down, the daggers will be out for India's rise and that's already started to happen if we look at the West's attitude towards India lately. We must always keep this in mind while focusing on our long-term Overall, Kumar's book is a sincere

attempt in critiquing the old shibboleths and explaining why the new India must get rid of them to enable its rise globally. Every single country that has become a formidable power in the world had a set of people who were proud of their civilisational bedrocks and believed that they are destined for great things. In India, too much energy has been spent in pleasing the international lobbies - whether it includes nitpickers who cajole India to appease Islamists or the international press that vents out its looks at China today in terms of its hatred towards strong governments Kumar has befittingly exposed them without any mercy at all. His book will be one for the keeps which must be read by every young Indian mind today. A great intellectual churn is going on and Utpal Kumar's contribution to this would be

> The revieweris a columnist and a visiting faculty of International Relations at NEĆU, Dimapur. She completed her PhD from South Asian University and writes regularly on strategic affairs and foreign policy.



EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK

In Romance of the Three Kingdoms, a Chinese classic, there is a story of third century BC to the Zhuge Liang, a general of the Shu kingdom. As the story goes, the general finds his fortress city of Xicheng besieged by a much superior army of the Wei kingdom. Finding it difficult to hold on to the fort, Zhuge does the unthinkable: he gets all the city gates opened and asks his soldiers to disguise themselves as ordinary householders and go about their daily lives in full view their daily lives in full view of the advancing Wei army. Zhuge himself sits atop a city gate, playing 'qin', a Chinese string instrument. Confused, the Wei forces dare not enter the gates, suspecting some sort of ambush awaiting them. They, instead, make a hurried withdrawal.
While one should desist from robotically applying historical patterns.

historical patterns, much less an old tale, to understand present-day China, the story does provide an overarching view about how the Chinese mind works: that China may not always mean what it says, and it can do what it vehemently denies in public. This makes China a difficult country to comprehend, more so if one is alien to its history and culture. The communist cocktail, present in China for over a century now and in power since 1949, has further given a heady turn to the already intricate Chinese mind. Today, as the militaries of India and China are stuck in

a standoff-like situation for

more than three years at the Line of Actual Control [LAC] in eastern Ladakh, India needs to crack the Chinese code faster than others. It needs to understand why China would never say never to a neighbour's territory that it strongly believes it can have least lay claims at. And, why invariably finds itself on the wrong side of the dragon. Explaining the innate imperialist streak in China, eminent historian R.C. Majumdar wrote in *The Organiser*, Diwali issue, 1965: "Thanks to the systematic recording of historical facts by the Chinese themselves, an almost unique achievement in oriental countries [...] we are in a position to follow

present day, a period of more than 2,200 years... It is characteristic of China that if a region once acknowledged her nominal suzerainty even for a short period, she would regard it as a part of her empire

forever and would automatically revive her claim over it even after a thousand years whenever there was a chance of enforcing it." Sadly, for most part of its

post-Independence history, scholars like R.C. Majumdar were viciously targeted and hounded out by the Leftist gang of intellectuals who found instant political patronage in the Nehruvian ecosystem. This new intellectual class, despite its proclaimed emphasis on scientific temper and rational academic rigour, was attuned to give preference to ideology over truth.

India, thus, failed to produce real experts on China. There is no doubt a few brilliant Indian minds explaining China, but they exist not because of Chinese Studies in India but despite them. To add to it, becoming an independent-minded China expert isn't an easy exercise. As Michael Pillsbury writes in The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower, "It has long been known among China scholars that the people most trusted to report on China are those academics, journalists and writers who have been denied visas into the country. The rest routinely make compromises, consciously subconsciously, to maintain

No wonder, India still doesn't a thorough, annex, intrude into, or at comprehensive the proverbial elephant China'. Most scholars who masquerade as China experts, especially in the field of academia, are Sinophiles, who blindly admire Chinese system and culture, are often in awe of them, and many a times compromised by Chinese favours!

their access.

The above article is an edited extract from Utpal Kumar's book, 'Bharat Rising: Dharma, Democracy, Diplomacy', published by Bluone Ink

A Roller Coaster Of Thriller And Suspense

BAPPADITYA CHAKRAVARTY has skillfully curated a gripping narrative that promises to captivate thriller enthusiasts—exploring the intricate lives of terrorists, navigating the diverse schools of terrorism, and delving into the dark underbelly of drug and arms

BY KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

Tt is rare to find out from book **⊥**readers those who have not read at least a dozen spy novels in their youth. Authors ranging from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the Scotland born writer credited with the creation of Sherlock Holmes and his associate John Watson), Agatha Christie, Ian Fleming, Ken Follet, Frederick Forsyth, Robert Ludlum etc were a craze for generations belonging to the pre-1980 era. The National Network of Doordarshan had telecast the series "The telecast the series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" during late 1980s and it had considerable viewership. Agatha Christie was rated as the

best-selling novelist by none other than conservative literary critics. Once you start reading books by Christie to Ludlum, chances of leaving the books midway through are bleak because of the heights to which these works elevate readers and the style in which these authors tell the stories. Fleming's James Bond, (the British spy with a plot of the story.

obsession among the youth as well as the middle aged for

The spy novels by authors from USA and UK had focused on two World Wars and the subsequent Cold War which kept the world tense and panicky. There was no literature in these works of fiction except the possibilities of science and technology which were utilized to its full extent by the authors. Thus, we had James Bond wearing a wrist watch with which he could communicate with his Boss sitting in London from anywhere in the world.

These books had varieties in them. The plots did not limit to just Capitalism v Communism but the two World Wars too provided enough canvas for the authors. Ken Follet's "Key To Rebecca" and "Eye of the Needle" are based on Second World War and retain their freshness even today. The Day of the Jackal by Frederick Forsyth is based on a real life story featuring the then President of France General Charles de Gaulle. An assassin was hired to assassinate de Gaulle in 1963 and this forms the

license to kill!!) had been an The fact that a spy story need not be written in the format of a novel was first established by "God's Bankers, A History of Money and Vatican" authored by Gerald Posner, a lawyer-turnedjournalist. It is a chilling account of the death of Pope John Paul I, the last Italian to be ordained as the Holy See and the boss of the Vatican Bank. The book is the result of nine years of painstaking research by Posner and it is as exciting and thrilling as any work of fiction. Posner's another book "Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK" has been described as a classic work of investigation and research. Spy novels are a rare commodity in India, despite the fact that the

Moghul Rule and the freedom fight against the British colonial masters offer a wide canvas to prospective authors. Once the Cold War ended and the unipolar world emerged, the spy novels lost their charm, But the emergence of a new form of terrorism in West Asia with special focus on Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and of course the Punjab's Khalistani

SMOSOSTVA BAPPADITYA CHAKRAVARTY ultras has given enough

ingredients and raw materials for our spy masters.

Indian authors are yet to make use of the possibilities while one of the works by Forsyth had Islamic terrorism as theme (The Afghan). The book featured India in certain chapters and it was a runaway success in the subcontinent.

Though B Raman, a reputed counter terrorism expert working with RAW had forewarned the policymakers through his treatise 'A Terrorist State As a

Frontline Ally", our own Flemings and Follets failed to see the scope of the topic. It took many years for an Indian author to hit bookshelves decades and SWORDPLAY by Bappaditya Chakravarty is the book which we were waiting for. The book is published by Garuda

Prakashan, which shot into fame by bringing out the pathbreaking work "Delhi Riots 2020-The Untold Story", authored by Monika Arora, Sonali Chitalkar Prerna Malhotra.

SwordPlay is a chilling account of extremism of the highest order involving Islamic and Khalistani terrorists capable of doing anything for realizing their objectives. What the world missed with the collapse of Communism as well as the Iron Curtain has come back to haunt us. SwordPlay has everything including the terrorists, various schools of terrorism, drug and

arms running, under cover

agents, cold blooded murders and experts in double crossing. Set in America, Europe, Asia

(particularly Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, south east Asia, India and Hong Kong), the book takes the reader for a trouble -free flight from the opening page itself. Please do not ask whether this is a work of fiction or a flower that bloomed in a fertile mind. There is a proverb that states that no questions should be asked about the authenticity of a work of fiction. The undercover agent Paramjyot Singh and his deputies declare an inter-continental war against an axis of Islamist-Khalistani terrorists and tuhat forms the storyline.. The Khalistani terrorists have

managed to mobilize a nuclear weapon from the country's western border to Haridwar under the guise of a bike-rally for unity of religions. The spy master Brigadier Paramjyot Singh is the person who briefs the country's top political authority about the operation which has been launched to save millions. The narration shifts from Canada to Marseilles to New Delhi and

central India as the plot unfolds. To bring in a feeling of western spy thrillers, the author has added steaming black coffee, bourbon whiskey and what not. The only items missing are the conventional Aston Martin and other sleek sports cars. SwordPlay may not be in the same league as that of Eye of the Needle, Day of the Jackal, Odessa File or Bourn Identity. But it is interesting and readers will enjoy it. Chakravarty has made it easy for a movie maker to make a suspense thriller and the film to be made out of this plot has the potential to fill the moolah. Hope he writes more as with IS, JeM, LeT and Khalistani Forces working overtime to create subversion across India. One more important observation to be noted is that forces are out to disintegrate India by hook or by crook. This has been brought to light by Rajeev Malhotra through his works "Breaking India" (co-author Aravindan Neelakandan) and "Snakes in the Ganga" (co-author Vijaya Viswanathan). Bappaditya Chakravarty has a bright future to be a desi Frederic Forsyth or Ken

A forgotten war: Looking back, looking forward

 $T^{
m he}$ Russia-Ukraine war, which began in February 2022, is about to enter its third year. When Russia invaded Ukraine, not even those within President Vladimir Putin's inner circle believed that the war would last for such an extended period.

Why has the West provoked Russia? Can Putin reshape his image as a strongman after the bloody war? Is Volodymyr Zelenskyy a winner? It is certain that, under the leadership of the US, the West has been attempting to Russia. Putin, being a former KGB man, is sensitive to the limits of security and the opportune time to intervene. Russia can't be further bullied by the West. The reason behind this is that the West, especially the US, has its own internal problems and external responsibilities.

For Putin, losing is not an option. He is desperate to win not only against Ukraine but also against the West. As temperatures drop to freezing points, forces on both sides are gearing up for hardened battles.

For Zelenskyy, the war, despite being a significant financial burden and humanitarian crisis, hardly makes any difference. The reason is that Ukraine, as a frontline state to Russia, has been reeling under the threat of war for years. Ukrainians know what they are destined for; they have to fight for their survival against the onslaught of a Russian invasion, whether today or tomorrow. The international community still recalls what Zelenskyy aired just before the onset of the war in 2022. He warned the West not to create panic about the buildup of Russian forces on the border of Ukraine. However, US President Joe Biden then clearly stated that he believed "Russia could attack its neighbour next month." Ultimately, Putin did attack Ukraine, signaling his intention to dislodge and denazify the country.

A war-monger from the beginning, Putin employed numerous narratives to justify his invasion of Ukraine. Initially, he claimed that Nazi," controlled by the "Little

A top Russian lawmaker then



should be tried before a court. Another lawmaker called for the establishment of a "modern analogy to the Nuremberg Tribunal" as Moscow geared up to Ukraine. summary, the language used various Russian top leaders, officials, pro-Kremlin journalists, writers, and especially Putin himself, was absolutely shocking.

Clearly, the term Nazi was an unbelievable assertion about country whose leader, Zelenskyy, is Jewish. Interestingly, just before the war's onset last fall, Zelenskyy had passed a law combating antisemitism in his country. Certainly, the war between Russia and Ukraine is a battle Ukraine's government is of wills and might. The stealth. Putin is a world-class "openly neo-Nazi" and "pro- current conflict, propelled by Putin's belligerence and attention of the media and he, too, had failed to asserted that President Biden showman Zelenskyy, who had understand how the US and and American officials are scarcely understood how to its allies in Europe might the address and when to convince react to what he had been Nazification of Ukraine and the major world powers to doing overtly or covertly.

stop the Muscular Man of Moscow. By the time Kiev took action, Moscow was already well ahead in launching the invasion, ostensibly in the name of protecting the ethnic Russian population in the Donbas region. Indeed, Putin had planned it long in advance. According to many experts, he remained quiet for nearly eight years after the annexation of Crimea from February to March 2014.

As John Simpson rightly said, "The annexation of Crimea was the smoothest invasion of modern times. It was over before the outside world realised it had even started." The occupation of Crimea had occurred entirely strategist, a true "Spy Guy". On many occasions, the West arrogance, caught the had miscalculated his moves,

When the current war had just begun, both Bill Powell and Naved Jamali strongly argued that "Putin has never lost a war." They further pointed out that "during past conflicts in Chechnya, Georgia, Syria, and Crimea, over his two decades in power, Putin succeeded by giving his armed forces clear, achievable military objectives that would allow him to declare victory credibly in the eyes of the Russian people and a wary watching world. His latest initiative in Ukraine is unlikely to be any different." So, these are the strong credentials of Putin, who has delivered significant victories to his fellow countrymen since his accession to power in August 1999, when the first 2036. President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, entrusted him with the job of Prime Minister after the tumultuous breakdown of the

erstwhile USSR. The political atmosphere in Russia at that time led to the former KGB man very

Yeltsin's resignation, paving the way for Putin to take over as the Acting President of the country. Subsequently, he won the presidential election in March 2000, becoming the second President of the Russian Federation. Since then, he has been the President of the country, except for a full term from 2008-2012 when his friend Dmitry Medvedev occupied the post, simply because the Russian Constitution barred a person from remaining as President for a third consecutive term.

However, this provision no referendum conducted in to remain as President until

Today, he is the longestserving Russian leader since USSR from 1924 to 1953. This current rank and power. Washington needs to handle

carefully. He is well-versed in all the routes and dangers that might emerge from the current war. An aging Biden and NATO members in Europe, not closely aligned (as many, like Germany, have definitive interests and dependence on Russia), may fail to check Putin's Kremlin this year in Ukraine.

Yes, it is true that the offensive moves from both Ukraine and Russia have failed to attain a decisive victory for either party throughout the year 2023. However, this has led to a narrative suggesting that the longer exists (thanks to a war has reached a stalemate. Given the current global 2021), and Putin can continue focus on the Israel-Hamas conflict since October 7 of last year, discussions and efforts for an immediate solution to the situation in the Joseph Stalin, who ruled the contested Gaza Strip have responsibility for the current taken precedence, pushing is how Putin has risen to the Russia-Ukraine war to a backseat in global politics.

The perception of a stalemate, debated by many strategic

material and military advantage of both parties will determine the course of action this year. The West, especially the US (facing a presidential election on November 5), will face a challenging time, and the rest of Europe, particularly NATO members, will need to decide whether to provide substantial aid to Kiev for a credible offensive in 2025 against Moscow or concede an irrecoverable advantage to Putin. Putin is expecting and planning his grand strategies accordingly. However, a new strategy can protect the sovereign frontiers of Ukraine and prevent Russia from winning the war.

Peace continues to elude Ukraine, with Russia on a warpath and Putin showing no inclination to negotiate. Since his entry into the Kremlin, Putin has been consistently opposed to the West. The futile goal of the West so far has been to defeat Russia and humiliate Putin, but this approach is no longer effective. Engagement with Russia by the West must be realistic and flexible, offering a sustainable guarantee that Russia's leadership is acknowledged, and further NATO expansion in Europe is halted to avoid encircling the country. It is time to address mutual interests, and Washington should adopt a forward-looking approach if Putin is willing to abandon his aggressive stance. Importantly, the West needs to

understand that Putin and the Kremlin, under his leadership, do not speak for all Russian people, even though it may seem so for now. America should have learned by now how to navigate dealings with leaders like Putin. If Biden returns to power in 2025, he must remember that in Putin's unpredictable world. expecting the unexpected is

always prudent. America should be realistic and agile in handling Putin to prevent further suffering akin to that of Zelenskyy. The world has witnessed enough bloodshed in the last three decades, and a significant portion of it can be attributed Washington's

miscalculations or misguided policy perspectives. While Putin is not solely to blame, America bears its share of

(The writer is currently president of the Global Research Foundation)

Amid the **Russia-Ukraine** conflict's complexity, it is crucial for the West to adopt a pragmatic approach. Recognising Putin's strategies and prioritising mutual interests can potentially reshape the geopolitical landscape, preventing further bloodshed and fostering a path towards lasting



stability.

REVIEW

Navigating perpetual complexities of love

rafting the narrative for commitment across aesthetic, the 2023 novel "Lost in the Love Maze," Mukul religious dimensions. Kumar, a postmillennial The author adopts a focus on writer, delves into the perpetual complexities of love. He emphasises commitment, seizing opportunities, and immersing in the space between conflicting interests and practices. The author skillfully dramatises contradictions within Mihir's character, addressing shyness and egoism, thereby adding dynamism and multidimensionality to his personality. Kumar's heightened canonises the storyline, exploring internal conflicts, character development, and the potential for growth or

This commitment to precision is evident in the author's exploration of themes such as identity, selfdiscovery, and the nuances of human behaviour. Kumar with cultural ramifications that contribute overwhelming to the separation of Jyoti and Mihir. Mukul skillfully dramatises the crises, vulnerabilities, and

transformation.

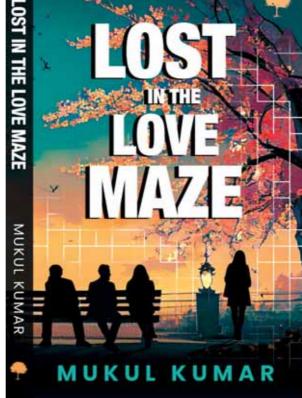
poetic realism, exemplified through Mihir's dual dreams of becoming an IAS officer and a writer. This choice reflects the complexity of Mihir's aspirations and mirrors the multifaceted nature of human desires. Kumar's approach places emphasis on psychology and a broader exploration of the human fabric. juxtaposition of

highlights the tension between societal expectations and personal passion. The writer shifts to relational Importantly, this poetic aesthetics, turning away from realism acknowledges the utopianism and the aesthetics insights from modernism, learning from them rather ethos of collaboration and than disregarding them. As a postmillennial writer, characters

Kumar delves into the sociocultural structures of love, marriage, family, and caste. He between actual didactic institutions and the school of life through the "lived" realities in the creation and

Jyoti's realisation of Mihir's melancholy suggests an underlying emotional struggle, possibly stemming from the conflict between conventional paths and unconventional aspirations. Mihir's analogy of life as a balloon with the potential to burst at any time conveys fragility and unpredictability, echoing existential themes. The reference to Albert Camus and absurdism adds a philosophical deepening the thematic bureaucratic ambition with exploration of existential the creative pursuit of writing angst and the quest for purpose in the face of life's uncertainties.

of confrontation towards an dialogue. The struggles of achieve meaningful empathetic institutional connections challenge readers' assumptions. Characters like Jyoti and navigates the difference Mihir dislocate themselves outside narrow cultural models to imagine and maintain their empathies with others, challenging production of postmillennial assumptions and embracing



collaborative approaches. envision experiences of the other while the writing seems to be in competition with reality.

Acknowledging divided love and obligations to his parents and Jyoti initiates

responsibilities. The clash between parental selflessness and Mihir's love creates a moral dilemma, urging readers to ponder the navigation of societal norms and personal fulfillment. Mihir's sacrifice for Jyoti, while recognising his parents' sacrifice, adds moral and philosophical dimensions, influencing characters' choices and the narrative trajectory. This prompts to consider implications and question expectations when pursuing happiness within the constraints of obligation and

The character of Sheetal introduces another angle to the paradigm of narcissistic deception, and manipulation to achieve one's goals, implying a strategic and opportunistic approach to interpersonal relationships. masterpiece. Sheetal, also the author's favorite, serves as a catalyst, highlighting the dual and contradictory aspects of human behaviour and tensions between genuine emotions and concerns, especially in the pursuit of love. This adds depth to the

fabric for postmillennial

The line of argument in the novel unfolds as a characterdriven chronicle, seamlessly blending the cultural backdrop into the lives of its protagonists.

Mukul Kumar's emphasis on

the complex fabric of human existence elevates aesthetic commitments and aspirations into a moral form, crafting a nuanced depiction of identity and otherness that resonates not only with 20th-century readers but also transcends its temporal boundaries to endure in the new millennium. The author has indeed intensified exploration and succeeded in infusing virtue into potentially repetitive and recycled anecdotes, transforming the work into a psychologically nuanced and socially detailed transformation, deeply rooted in enduring beliefs about character, authenticity, and

agency, broadens the range of perspectives offered to readers and leaves a compelling and enduring

impression. "Lost in the Love Maze" exploration of conflicting establishment of the moral manages to leave a lasting

imprint with its exploration of human complexities, poignant thematic depth, and Mukul Kumar's skilled portrayal of characters navigating the delicate balance between collective expectations from life and personal desires. Despite minor flaws, the novel succeeds in delivering a thought-provoking emotionally experience.

('Lost in the Love Maze' author Mukul Kumar is a bureaucrat, novelist, and poet. He serves as an Indian Railway Traffic Service Officer and is currently posted in the Ministry of Railways. Mukul has received the National Award for outstanding service to the Indian Railways, the Bharat Nirman Award for literary excellence from the Bharat Nirman Foundation, and the Poorvanchal Gaurav Samman for his contributions to society as both a bureaucrat and a writer. His latest work is his fourth fiction title. The reviewer, Chetana

Pokhriyal, is the Head of Department of English, Dean, School of Languages, Doon University, Dehradun)























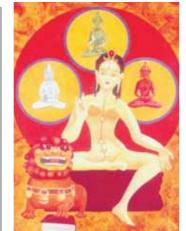




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week marks the beginning of a triumphant phase for you, where your achievements are not only recognized but celebrated. As the days unfold, you'll find yourself in an environment that not only understands but also respects your capabilities. Your ability to bring forth innovative ideas and implement cutting-edge methods will be well-received and celebrated by those around you. Midweek might offer a nostalgic twist, as you reconnect with someone from your past or revisit a place filled with childhood memories. As the week draws to a close, despite a sense of fatigue and some concerns, your resilience and determination stand strong. You're well-equipped to navigate through any challenges that come your way, maintaining your stride in the journey of life.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Sky Blue Lucky day Monday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week, you're set to experience a surge of creativity and deepening personal connections. Your intuition is remarkably sharp, enabling you to understand and solve personal and social issues with ease. You'll find yourself naturally guiding and comforting others, effortlessly finding solutions to their challenges. Midweek brings an emotional uplift, filled with optimism and new possibilities. It's a time when your deepest aspirations begin to find their voice, leading towards fulfillment. Financial stability is also in focus, with prospects for gains through your efforts or unexpected sources. However, as the week ends, there's a tendency to linger on past events. Embrace the present and the joys it brings, letting go of past reflections to fully enjoy the opportunities life is presenting now.

Lucky number 14 | Lucky colour Mustard Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week may start with challenges, but it will end on a high note, bringing joy and inspiration. You'll encounter obstacles and misunderstandings that could initially dishearten you. However, a new phase, though demanding, beckons. Focus on sharpening your intellectual abilities and communication skills. Midweek, your focus will shift to the younger ones in your life, particularly their educational and career choices, requiring your immediate attention. If you're supporting someone in their academic pursuits, your encouragement will be crucial. As the week concludes, a sense of joy and unity will envelop your family. Your efforts will bear fruit, leading to personal fulfillment and a sense of well-being. The younger family members will be a source of happiness, enhancing the overall mood at home.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Purple Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week brings promising prospects. In your career, look forward to potential advancements or a notable increase in earnings. For those in new marriages, joyful news might be on the horizon. Travel is likely, presenting opportunities for financial gain, but stay alert for any misadventures or dishonesty. As the week concludes, a comforting sense of security and familial support will surround you, evoking warm, nostalgic feelings. Expect to receive meaningful gifts and experience a positive financial flow, especially if you're in business. Any outstanding debts owed to you are likely to be settled, rounding off a week characterized by personal fulfillment and professional progress, all within a harmonious balance. Embrace this period of growth and positivity, as it paves the way for future successes.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Lemon Yellow Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week appears to be a dynamic period filled with movement and enjoyment. You might find yourself embarking on new ventures or tasks that will require your dedicated attention for successful completion. As the week progresses, social gatherings and celebratory events are likely to be a significant part of your schedule, following the achievement of your goals. These could include various community events and personal celebrations. Despite ongoing life challenges, this period offers an opportunity to momentarily set aside daily stresses and cherish moments with friends and family. However, towards the week's end, be prepared for some professional challenges. You might encounter competitive scenarios or individuals who seem unsupportive of your progress. This could lead to disagreements or stress. It's important to approach these situations with caution and not make impulsive decisions.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Fuschia Lucky day Thursday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week you exhibit a calm and natient demeanor focusing on your ambitions with a gentle approach. You tend to lean more towards the belief in destiny rather than the power of actions. As the week progresses, you'll find yourself feeling joyful, especially due to a significant financial gain. Your business is set to thrive, with income flowing in from multiple sources. You'll find vourself engaged in planning various innovative projects. Additionally, you'll be drawn towards spiritual activities and practices. This period can be seen as a time of abundant fortune, as things seem to align in your favor. You're experiencing success in various aspects of your life. As the week concludes, you'll find yourself in a state of heightened creativity, immersed in a world where everything appears ideal and free of challenges.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Magenta Lucky day Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week holds promising developments for you. Expect positive career news, such as a potential job opportunity or a welcome increase in earnings. For those who have recently embarked on marital life, there's a possibility of joyful family-related announcements. A journey may be on the horizon, so it's wise to be travel-ready. This trip could lead to beneficial financial outcomes. However, exercise caution during your travels, as there might be risks of loss or deceit. As the week progresses, a sense of security and contentment will envelop you. Family support and cooperation will be abundant, bringing a comforting sense of belonging. Memories of past times might surface, filling you with nostalgia. Expect to receive thoughtful gifts and experience a positive flow in financial matters, especially if you're involved in business.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Wine <mark>Lucky day</mark> Wednesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week heralds a period of abundant rewards and deep contentment, both in your personal achievements and material gains. You might find these benefits stemming from a legacy or as fruits of your own diligent efforts. Your self-discipline and achievements are likely to be recognized and admired by those around you. It's an opportune moment for initiating new ventures or relationships. Your understanding of interpersonal dynamics will aid in smooth collaborations. However, as the week progresses, you might find yourself grappling with uncertainty, possibly hesitating to embrace new opportunities. It's important to release any apprehensions about the future and avoid impulsive reactions. Embracing a calm and clear $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(mindset will illuminate your path, helping you navigate challenges with ease and clarity. This approach will enable you to find effective solutions to any obstacles you face.

Lucky number 9 | **Lucky colour** Jade Green **Lucky day** Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week begins with unresolved challenges that are causing you stress. You might feel isolated and overshadowed by a sense of gloom. Amidst this confusion, you're searching for a way to resolve these issues, yet a clear solution seems elusive. It's important now to reflect on your past experiences and future direction. Gaining this perspective can help ease your journey from a negative state to a more positive one. Embrace your emotions rather than suppressing them; acknowledging their influence can be beneficial. Achieving harmony between your physical and mental well-being can lead to significant accomplishments. As the week progresses, anticipate notable shifts in your life, bringing some relief from your current worries. Positive events, such as a significant personal or professional milestone, are likely to bring you joy and satisfaction.

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you may encounter fluctuating thoughts and a lack of focus, with several challenges requiring decisive action. Mental unrest could hinder your ability to tackle these effectively, as trying to address multiple issues at once may lead to confusion. Prioritizing focus and avoiding indecision is key. Practices that promote inner peace, such as mindfulness or relaxation techniques, can help restore mental equilibrium. A joyful encounter with someone from your past could uplift your mood. Guidance from a mentor or respected figure might provide clarity and direction. By week's end, you're likely to feel a sense of stability and well-being in both personal and financial aspects. Embrace this period of growth and self-discovery as it paves the way for future successes

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Grey **Lucky day** Sunday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week marks a period of rapid transition and new beginnings in your life. You may find yourself presented with an unexpected opportunity to join a new group or organization. Amidst this, you might encounter several alternatives, leading to a sense of uncertainty and difficulty in making a decisive choice. However, this week is characterized by dynamic action and creative thinking. You are at a pivotal moment where one phase of your life is concluding, paving the way for a fresh chapter on a more enlightened path. It's a time to release the old and embrace what's ahead with optimism. The need for a resolute decision is paramount. As the week progresses, you'll find a harmonious balance between your rational thoughts and emotional intuition, aiding in clear and beneficial decisionmaking for your professional growth.

ucky number 2 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

In the coming days, you're likely to embark on a significant journey, involving various important events or workshops. Professionally, be prepared for some competitive challenges, and handle personal relationships with care to avoid emotional strain. This period may test your resilience, but it's important to remember that any difficulties are temporary. Your health deserves attention yet it's crucial to keep a balanced view of these transient challenges. As the week unfolds, a sense of order and harmony will gradually restore itself in your life, signaling a shift towards more positive circumstances. Support and comfort, reminiscent of maternal care, will be a source of strength for you. If you're seeking new beginnings in love, career, or creative ventures, patience and dedicated

ucky number 17 | Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Friday

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rind defines the functional mandate of a being and then steers through the journey of life. All happenings out in open originate in mind by way of arousal of desire and thereby related thoughts, ideation, articulation, and the will to act upon. Also, it directs the mind how to engage with the world around, and react or respond to external stimuli. It is again our mind, which carries forward the legacy carried over from the past. That makes a deep imprint in our mind and psyche, which sets the terms of the way we perceive issues in hand, and accordingly act upon. But mind is just an instrument. It has no drive of its own as it doesn't have a light of its own either. It draws light from the fundamental element of consciousness. Mind, in fact, is just like earth mass, which transforms a seed sown into a plant. Similarly, mind acts takes off on feed primarily drawn from two sources -

thought seeds in store reflecting indwelling desire trends and habit tendencies, coming as it may as Karmic carryover from the past, and external influ-

In so far as earth mass is concerned, the farmer is in control of what seed he plants, depending on what to grow based on environmental and soil conditions. Mind's control mechanisms is, however, complex. Invariably, every being is born with a preconditioned mind, bound by desire trends, habit tendencies, likes, dislikes, prejudices and passions. That tempts the Ahamkara element - the sense of 'I' that brings in doer element in a being, and which drives all actions on our part – identify itself with the inherent tendencies and passionately follows them as if that would be its end game. It doesn't allow looking beyond for a reality check. Consequently, one remains slave to inherent mind traits. But at the same time



every being carries an inherent sense of freedom. Also, human beings are armed with exclusive privilege to guide their actions by choice and discrimination. The two, read together, offers the opportunity to transcend imitations of mind through

conscious efforts, when it gets submerged in the omniscient fundamental element of consciousness. Whence, it knows no limits as full landscape of mind becomes accessible. Otherwise, a clouded mind has access to hardly 5 to 7 percent of mind space. You then become master of your mind, and use it as an instrument. The choice is yours. Mind, in fact, is a versatile equipment, which offers window to self-reflect, identify and acknowledge one's limiting tendencies, and then address them through fresh educative inputs. All that is needed is to get into dhyana mode, turn your attention inwards, when the limiting tendencies will come into sight. Following the process further, one needs to get into pratyahara mode – get disengaged from the indwelling thought seeds that otherwise prove limiting. You then become master of your own self.

Become your own master

Long back, someone having met suc-

cessive failures, and having lost all hope in life, came asking: "Sir, what is in store of my destiny. What wrong I did that I have been through such an unpleasant ordeal for so long?" Well, you have been a victim of your own self-undoing acts. "How?" He countered. You are born in fiery sign Aries, with its lord too in another fiery sign. That makes you haughty, impulsive, aggressive, and erratic. You wish to live in a demanding mode on your whims and fancy. You are selfwilled and overconfident about your capability. Adverse aspect of Mars over Jupiter points to your inflated ego. That binds you to self-defined beliefs and perceptions. It doesn't allow the space necessary to look beyond for a reality check. You are not keen to entertain advisory and counsel, of elders and superiors. It is difficult for you to digest things don't happen on expected lines. Moon opposite Venus makes you emotionally too much

sensitive, which makes you get overexercised even on trivial issues. You keep unnecessarily mulling on them much beyond their due. Consequently priority preferences get compromised. You jump into action without applying proper forethought. Moon being in a dual sign, you lack the focus necessary to put in consistent efforts. The result is there to see. "Is it possible to overcome the above shortcomings that are certainly there in me?" He asked. You need to pursue dhyana regularly to fry the indwelling thought seeds that are limiting and then redefine the thought process afresh seeking regular counselling. He religiously followed the advisory and is a changed man now. Through his reasoned conduct, has tasted success..

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