



WORLD 5
CLASSICAL DANCER FROM
INDIA SHOT DEAD IN US

MONEY 6
INDIA RETAINS POLICY
SPACE AT WTO

SPORT 8
NEW ZEALAND BOWL OUT
AUSTRALIA, CHASES 369

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL
BHUBANESWAR RANCHI
RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD
VIJAYWADA

DEHRADUN, SUNDAY MARCH 3, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

Established 1864 sunday pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



BJP rolls out stalwarts on Lok Sabha 2024 pitch

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Hoping to get a massive first mover advantage as it works towards its target of winning 370 seats in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, the BJP on Saturday released its first list of 195 Lok Sabha candidates from 16 States and two Union Territories (UT), days after a marathon meeting of the party Central Election Committee (CEC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As many as 34 Ministers and two former Chief Ministers are on the list, which also includes 28 women, 47 leaders under the age of 50, 57 members from the OBC community, 27 from Scheduled Castes community and 18 from Scheduled Tribe community. Of the 195 candidates, 51 are from the all important State of Uttar Pradesh, 20 from West Bengal and five from Delhi. The list includes the party heavyweights PM Narendra Modi, who will be contesting from Varanasi for the third time, Home Minister Amit Shah, who will be fielded again from Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Union Women and Child



BJP leaders (L-R) Sanjay Mayukh, Bajirajant Jay Panda, Vinod Tawde and Anil Baluni during the announcement of first list of candidates for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections at a press conference in New Delhi, Saturday

Welfare Minister Smriti Irani from Amethi, Rajnath Singh from Lucknow, and Bhupender Yadav from Rajasthan Alwar. Sushma Swaraj daughter of late Atal Bihari Vajpayee will make her poll debut from the New Delhi seat. Kamaljeet Sehrawat will contest from the West Delhi, MLA Ramvir Singh Bidhuri from South Delhi, Praveen Khadkelwal from Chandni Chowk, while Manoj Tiwari has been retained from the North East Delhi. The list also included two former Chief Ministers -- Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Biplab Deb - as well as Om Birla from Kota in Rajasthan.

BJP HEAVYWEIGHT CANDIDATES

CANDIDATES	CONSTITUENCY
● Prime Minister Narendra Modi	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
● Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah	Gandhinagar, Gujarat
● Union Women and Child Welfare Minister Smriti Irani	Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
● Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
● Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav	Alwar, Rajasthan
● Union Health and Chemical Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya	Porbandar, Gujarat
● Union Ayush and DONER Minister Sarbananda Sonowal	Dibrugarh
● Union Minister Kiren Rijiju	Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh
● Union Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia	Guna, Rajasthan
● Union Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal	Bikaner, Rajasthan
● Tourism and Culture & DONER Minister G Kishan Reddy	Sikandrabad, Khunti, Jharkhand
● Union Tribal Minister Arjun Munda	Rajkot, Gujarat
● Union Animal Husbandry and Dairy Farming Minister Purshotam Rupaia	Udhampur
● Union PMO & Science Tech Minister Jitendra Singh	Kheri in Uttar Pradesh
● Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra Teni	New Delhi
● Bansuri Swaraj	Kota, Rajasthan
● Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla	

Government pulls up Google over apps issue

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Taking a strong view of Google pulling out some apps from its Play Store, the Government on Saturday said delisting of Indian apps cannot be permitted and that the tech company and the startups concerned have been called for a meeting next week. In an interview to PTI, IT and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the startup ecosystem is key to the Indian economy and their fate cannot be left to any big tech to decide.

The Minister's comments assume significance as Google on Friday began removing some apps, including popular matrimony apps, from its Play Store in India over a dispute on service fee payments, even as

CALLS TECH FIRMS MEET



apps and well-known startup founders cried foul. Taking a serious view of the issue, Vaishnaw said: "India is very clear, our policy is very clear...Our startups will get the protection that they need." The Minister said the Government will be meeting Google and app developers

who have been delisted, next week, to resolve the dispute. "I have already called Google...I have already called the app developers who have been delisted, we will be meeting them next week. This cannot be permitted..This kind of delisting cannot be

permitted," he asserted. Stating that India has built a strong startup ecosystem of over one lakh startups, and more than 100 unicorns from scratch in a matter of 10 years, the Minister said the energy of youth and entrepreneurs must be channelised fully and "cannot be left to the policies of any big tech." "I will be telling Google...Our entrepreneurial energy...Startups, look at the whole startup India programme, 10 years back we had practically nothing and today we have more than 1,00,000 startups, more than 100 unicorns..This is something..The energy of our youth, the energy of our entrepreneurs, energy of our talented people that has to be channelised fully well, it cannot be left to the policies of any big tech," Vaishnaw said.

Bihar to promote Buddha

ARCHNA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adorned with UNESCO World Heritage sites like the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya and the ruins of the ancient Nalanda University, Bihar is mooting a proposal to hold its first ever international roadshow in Cambodia and Vietnam, two nations steeped in

Buddhist traditions to attract the pilgrims seeking to connect their spiritual roots in the State. "Plans are being finalized and nitty-gritty being worked out," sources in the Ministry said, adding that the move aims to tap a stream of visitors seeking to connect with their spiritual roots and explore sacred sites.ce.



Abhay Kumar Singh, Chairman and Secretary of

the Department of Tourism, Bihar Government said that this will accelerate efforts to put the State on the global map. We are trying to tap in the huge tourism potential that these Buddhists dominate. Foreign tourists visit Gaya, Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda and Vaishali, all major Buddhist tourism destinations.

PATANJALI®
Kesh Kanti

Tootna mana Hai!

Power of 30 Herbs

for complete nourishment of hair

Stops hair fall • Promotes growth of new hair
• Repairs damaged hair • Prevents premature graying of hair
• Makes the scalp dandruff free

New
Kesh Kanti
Natural
Hair Cleanser

Kesh Kanti
Advance
Herbal Hair Expert Oil

Oil & Shampoo

LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
Har Pal Aapke Saath

GROW YOUR FUNDS

WHILE BEING INSURED

LIC's DHAN Vridhhi

UIN: 512N362V02 | Plan No.: 869

A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings, Life Insurance Plan

A SINGLE PREMIUM PLAN

for steady growth with guaranteed additions

Option to choose Policy Term (10/15/18 years)

Multiple Benefits

Options to choose the Sum Assured (1.25 times or 10 times of Tabular Premium)

Download LIC Mobile App **digit**

Visit: licindia.in

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Follow us: LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

Our WhatsApp No. **8976862090**

Say Hi

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

LIC/PT/2023-24/20/ENG

VIEWPOINT

Hindu Code sparked longest debate on a single issue in Parliament



Romit Bagchi

A few months before his death, when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was asked what he considered the greatest achievement of free India under his leadership, he promptly replied it was the implementation of the Hindu Code Bill notwithstanding the maelstrom of criticism it had left in its wake. His biographer S Gopal writes: “Nothing could be done for Muslim women because that might alarm the Muslim community. Even as regards Hindu women, faced with the inertia of orthodoxy, he could not secure the acceptance of the Hindu Code as a whole.”

Now, as the Uttarakhand government's Uniform Civil Code initiative has elicited both applause and opprobrium, it is interesting to note that the same arguments are being raised for and against UCC as those raised when the Nehru government sought to pass the Hindu Code Bill. The opposition to the reforms in the Hindu society as envisaged in the bill was so fierce that an embattled Nehru had to shelve it for some years, resulting in the frustrated resignation of ailing BR Ambedkar from his Cabinet.

The Hindu Code Bill, introduced in the Constituent Assembly on April 11, 1947 and referred by select committee on April 9, 1948, stoked a stinging and the longest debate in independent India's parliamentary history. Let us look back.

The origin of the Hindu Code Bill can be traced back to the Women's Rights to Property Act that came into effect in 1937 followed by the formation of a committee

with BN Rau as the chairman who later became the principal draftsman of the Constitution under Ambedkar. After exhaustive study with views gathered from diverse sections of the Hindu society, a draft Hindu Code was submitted in 1944. But things got stalled as the country got engulfed by waves of unrest that culminated in the partitioned independence amidst communal bloodbath.

After the dust had settled down a little, Nehru as the Prime Minister entrusted the task of framing the Hindu Code by overriding and repealing the faith-based Hindu personal laws governing marriage, divorce, adoption, maintenance and custody to Ambedkar in 1948. After the bill was drafted, the Cabinet decided to introduce it in the Parliament in February 1951. But the introduction was postponed until the next session slated in September. Alarmed with Nehru's vacillation in the face of crippling resistance, Ambedkar requested him to ensure that the bill was

taken up in August and passed by September, given his failing health. But unwilling to ram the bill down the throat of his orthodox colleagues in the government and the Congress, Nehru decided to bide his time. On August 30, 1951, Nehru wrote to Ambedkar: “There are quite a number of important Bills which we must pass. I had hoped, as you know, to take up the Hindu Code Bill on September 5 but, I fear, this will be difficult for a variety of reasons.” On September 15, 1951, the then President Rajendra Prasad- determined to cross swords with the government on this issue-sent a scathing note to Nehru, saying that the Provisional Parliament could not enact such a momentous legislation because the members, indirectly elected, lacked the democratic mandate of election. He even threatened to use his power to force the Provisional Parliament to shelve it or, failing that, to veto it even against the advice of his Cabinet. He asked the government chal-

lengingly to make bold to introduce a Uniform Civil Code instead of singling out the Hindu community for 'modernist' reforms in their long-enduring personal laws.

Echoing Prasad's view, the Jana Sangh founder Shyma Prasad Mookerjee said that the reformist agenda propelling the bill was meant to threaten the religious foundations of the Hindu society by wrecking the sanctity of marriage and lineage. He also threw a dare to Nehru to show spunk to reform the Muslim personal laws too through implementing Uniform Civil Code. Several outfits, opposed to the bill, hit the streets, venting anger through vitriolic campaigns. Things went to such an acrimonious pass that an ochre-robed ascetic said they would never acquiesce to an 'untouchable' intruding into the matters deemed to be the exclusive preserve of Brahmins.

The bill recommending elimination of caste-based limitations on marriage and

facilitation of divorce and equal property rights for women stirred up the hornet's nest of fear and loathing in the redoubt of Hindu orthodoxy. Nehru's threat that his government might fall if the bill could not be passed fell flat.

Pilloried by the traditionalistic Congressmen, Nehru wrote to Prasad that when any social or economic changes were proposed in an existing structure of society, some elements favouring the status quo must be there to thwart any progressive legislation. “No reform can take place if this opposition is considered to be an adequate bar to change. The mere fact of long-established static conditions can hardly be considered an argument for no change, even though facts otherwise warrant it...”

With the pitch of opposition gaining intensity both inside and outside the Parliament, the bill could not be passed in its entirety, prompting a disillusioned Ambedkar to quit the Nehru

Cabinet on September 27, 1951. “It was killed and buried, unwept and unsung...” he said despairingly while lamenting that none of the prominent women leaders had dared stand behind him on the bill which was intended to end gender injustice in the country.

Undaunted by the rancorous campaign against the bill which he hailed as an attempt to re-engineer the Hindu society by fulfilling the modernist aspirations of the people, Nehru made it one of his principal campaign planks for the first Lok Sabha election held in 1952. His government received a massive mandate with the Congress having secured 364 out of 489 seats. Fortified by the public endorsement of his stance, Nehru had the Hindu Code Bill split into four separate parts and had them passed in 1955-56.

But why did Nehru refuse to go for the Uniform Civil Code? It seems he feared that its implementation would add

more grist to the mill of the Muslim League's propaganda that as the Congress was a party of the Hindus, it would never allow the Muslims to live according to Islam in India.

He, however, reiterated his commitment repeatedly to the implementation of Uniform Civil Code at the right time. But the right time never came for the Congress. Indira Gandhi chose to shelve it in cold storage and then Rajiv Gandhi precipitated things by his Shah Bano bungling. That is another story, but it can be said with absolute certainty that left to itself, the Congress will never move on with the UCC implementation.

Now when the BJP government at the Centre prodded the Uttarakhand government to implement the UCC to test the waters before moving on with it at the national level, the Congress has found itself in the unenviable predicament of being caught between the devil and the blue sea.

State witnesses rainy weekend, more in store today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various parts of the State witness rain, hail and thunderstorm with snowfall also being reported in some high altitude regions on Saturday. The State meteorological centre has issued a yellow warning (Watch) for Sunday regarding the possibility of thunderstorms accompanied with lightning likely to occur at a isolated places in Tehri, Pauri, Dehradun, Almora, Champawat, Haridwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts. Light to moderate rain/thunderstorms are

tudes of 2,500 metres and above. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly to generally cloudy sky. One to two spells of light to moderate rain/thunderstorms accompanied with lightning are also likely to occur.

The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 22 degrees Celsius and 11 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded on



likely to occur at most places in Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh districts and at many places in Tehri, Dehradun, Pauri and Haridwar districts while and very light to light rain/thunderstorms are likely at a few places in the remaining districts.

Light to moderate snowfall is likely to occur at alti-

Saturday were 23 degrees Celsius and 14.5 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 20.2 degrees Celsius and 16 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, nine degrees Celsius and five degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 9.5 degrees Celsius and 5.6 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. Light to medium rain was reported in many places in the State on Saturday.

Floral beauty attracts throngs to Vasantotsav


PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Various types of plants including medicinal plants and hanging plants along with blooms are attracting people to the three-day Vasantotsav-2024 inaugurated at Raj Bhawan on Friday. The visitors are also purchasing plants and flowers in considerable quantities from stalls set up at the venue. However, some of the plant sellers opined that rather than purchasing plants for their beneficial properties, people are selecting them based on their aesthetic appeal and superficial qualities. Plant seller Ratan Kumar who has set up a stall at the event said that the sale of plants and flowers have been consistently impressive. However, despite offering 50 different types of medicinal plants he observed that visitors tend to prioritise plants based on their visual attractiveness rather than their practical benefits. As of the second day of the festival, he had already sold about 500 plants and anticipates even more sales on the final day. Another plant seller Viren


Kumar said that rather than purchasing plants from the market, individuals tend to wait for Vasantotsav to buy them in bulk. He observed that the sale of plants during this festival is as successful as



in past years, attributing it to the affordability and quality of the plants available. “Flowers for home decoration and hanging plants are particularly popular during the festival. People prefer buying plants during the festival rather than from the market due to their affordability and the belief that a wide variety of plants from different districts will be available,” another plant seller Harish Negi said.



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL), LANSDOWNE



1 ECHS invites applications to engage following Medical Staff on contractual basis in 03 x ECHS Polyclinic Kotdwara, Pauri and Lansdowne for period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/ till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates/ other conditions according to criteria as mention each post:-

Appointment	Minimum Qualification	No of Vac	Fixed Remuneration
Officer-in-Charge	Graduate (100% reservation for Armed Force Retired Officers)	01 Kotdwara	75,000/-
Medical Specialist	MD/MS in Specialist concerned/DNB	01 Kotdwara	1,00,000/-
Gynaecologist	MD/MS in Specialist concerned/DNB	01 Kotdwara	1,00,000/-
Medical Officer	MBBS	03 Kotdwara 01 Lansdowne 01 Pauri	75,000/-
Lab Technician	(i) B.Sc (Medical Lab Technology) or (i) Matriculation/HigherSecondary/Senior Secondary (10+2) with Science from Recognizedinstitution/Board. (ii) Diploma in Medical LabTechnology from aRecognized institution.	01 Pauri 01 Kotdwara	28,100/-
Laboratory Assistant	DMLT/Class-I Laboratory Tech Course (Armed Forces)	01 Kotdwara	28,100/-
Nursing Assistant	GNM Diploma/ Class I Nursing Assistants Course (Armed Forces)	02 Kotdwara 01 Pauri	28,100/-
Clerk	Graduate/Class I Clerical trade (Armed Forces)	01 Kotdwara	16,800/-
Female Attendant	Literate (Minimum 5 years experience in Civil/ Army Health institutions)	01 Kotdwara	16,800/-
Driver	Education - 8 Class-I MT driver (Armed Forces) Posses of Civil driving License.	01 Pauri	16,800/-
House Keeper	Literate (Minimum three years' service (nowork experience reqd for Veer Naris/ WarWidows/Widows of ESM)	01 Kotdwara 01 Pauri	16,800/-

2. **For Terms & Conditions, Application From & Remuneration.** Kindly see our website www.echs.gov.in and **WhatsApp No 7302416170**. For additional details, please contact Stn HQ (ECHS Cell) Lansdowne atMobile No **7302416170** & email ID esmccllansdowne@gmail.com. Also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen.

3. **Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website.** Application as per requisite format alongwithself attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Education Qualifications and work Experiences will be submitted to OIC, Stn HQs (ECHS Cell) Lansdowne by **16 Mar2024** in duplicate. Any application received after **16 Mar 2024** will not be accepted.

4. **Interview Date, Timing & Venue** Candidate must reach Stn HQ Lansdowne at 10:00 AM on **20 Mar 2024** for the interview to be held between with effect from 11:00 AM Candidates must bring all original certificate/mark sheet /degree of 10th/ matric,10+2 & Graduation/postgraduation/diploma/course, attempt certificate, work experience an discharge book, PPO, service records, Medical fitness Certificate and 02 PP size colour photograph at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible. Only candidate meeting the Qualitative Requirements may apply.

SOS Children's Villages India partners with U'khand to boost child welfare programmes

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Non-profit organisation SOS Children's Villages India has signed a memorandum of understanding with the State's Women Empowerment and Child Development department to enhance child welfare initiatives across the State. The MoU was signed by Women Welfare director Prashant Kumar Arya and SOS Children's Villages India CEO Sumanta Kar. The MoU encompasses four key areas of collaboration including children's home, supporting vulnerable families in the community, Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana (Kinship Care) and mentorship programme. The WECD minister Rekha Arya said, “This partnership with SOS India will be a landmark endeavour in institutional and non-institutional care for the children of Uttarakhand, towards fulfilling our commitment to Juvenile Justice practices in the State.” Kar stated, “We are delighted to join hands with the WECD department to strengthen our collective efforts in ensuring the well-being and protection of vulnerable children. Through this collaboration, we aim to create sustainable solutions that positively impact the lives of children and families across the State.” SOS Children's Villages India operates a Children's Village at Bhimtal in Nainital district where currently 182 children are supported under the Family Like Care Programme.



कार्यालय नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश
Haridwar Road Rishikesh, Distt-Dehradun, Pin-249201
Website : www.nagarigngarishikesh.com, Email : nprishikesh@gmail.com
Ph : 0135-2430015, 1800313529

अतिथिअध्यक्षकालिक विज्ञप्ति / निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम ऋषिकेश क्षेत्रांतर्गत आईएसओबीटीडी को पाकिंग हेतु इच्छुक एवं अनुमती कम्पनी / फर्मो से ई-निविदा दिनांक-03.03.2024 से 11.03.2024 सांय 3:00 बजे तक दोहरी निविदा प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो तद्विनांक को अपराह्न 3:30 बजे निविदा समिति द्वारा कार्यालय नगर निगम ऋषिकेश में खोली जायेगी। ई-निविदा के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी / सतत उत्तराखण्ड शासन की वेबसाईट <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है। टेक्निकल बिड क्वालीफाई करने वाले निविदादाताओं की ही फाइनलसिलिय बिड खोली जायेगी। इस सम्बन्ध में समस्त सूचनाएं/ जानकारी उक्त पोर्टल / वेबसाईट के माध्यम से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

पत्रांक :- 3981 / कर03नुन0 / 2023-24
दिनांक :- 02.03.2024

सहायक नगर आयुक्त
नगर निगम, ऋषिकेश



DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Financial Services
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171

PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 399 OF 2023

(SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993. READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)

Dy No. 192/2024 Date: 29.02.2024

To,
Central Bank of India V/s M/s M. S. Enterprises & Anr.

1. M/s M.S. Enterprises, Registered Office: 43, Gandhi Road, Dehradun-248001
Mr. Sunil Kumar S/o Shiv Lal, R/o 87/71 Balbir Road, Araghar, Dehradun, UK-248001
3. Mohd. Riyasat, S/o Rafik Ahmad Siddiqi 43, Gandhi Road, Dehradun-248001

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted **OA No. 399 of 2023** against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 75,32,456.45/- in which** Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on **23.02.2024**

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **15.04.2024**. Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **29th day of February, 2024.**

By order of Tribunal
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

Arya tells police to act in case of disappearance of minor girl

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Nainital district in-charge minister Rekha Arya instructed the police to take necessary action in cases of disappearance of teenage girls. She said this after following reports of a teenage girl from Bagad village going missing recently.

Arya discussed the matter with district magistrate Vandana and directed

that the case should be handed over to the police for immediate investigation of all aspects of the incident and to take necessary measures. Additionally, she directed the Forest department and SDRF team in the area to expedite their search efforts for the missing girl.



THE PIONEER
CLASSIFIEDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

मेरी दोनों पुत्रियां दीपा एवं रोहित मेरे कहने सुनने में नहीं हैं। उनके किसी भी लेन देन और कूच का मैं मे मरा परिवार जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। अतः मैं उन्हें अपनी समस्त चल-अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल करती हूँ। श्रीमती गीता पत्नी स्व० गरीब दास, निवासी —मकान नं 40/25 जंगवाल मार्ग नियर काली मन्दिर बुक्खुवाला, देहरादून

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सूचित किया जाता है कि एक रजिस्ट्री जिसका भूमि खाता सं. 17 (फसली वर्ष 1420 से 1425) खसरा सं. 17इ, रकबा 900 वर्ग फीट अर्थात 83.60 वर्ग मीटर मौजा आमवाला उपरला परगना परवादन जिला देहरादून, क्रमांक 2219 जोकि हेरिटेज बिल्डिंग प्रॉ. लि. पंजीकृत कार्यालय डी. 29 तृतीय तल, डिफेंस कॉलोनी, नई दिल्ली-110024 द्वारा अपने अधिकृत प्रतिनिधी श्री योगेश सिंह पुत्र विक्रम सिंह निवासी मंदाकिनी विहार सहस्त्रधारा रोड देहरादून के क्रेतागण श्रीमती अंकिता पोखरियाल पत्नी श्री जगमोहन पोखरियाल निवासी शक्ति कालोनी, हाथीबड़कला को विक्रय की है। यह भूमि वर्तमान में श्री विजेन्द्र कण्डारी पुत्र श्री जीत भूमि निवासी आमवाला, नालापानी, तपोवन आश्रम, तपोवन, देहरादून के नाम पर है। उक्त रजिस्ट्री कही खो गई है, जिस किसी को मिले कृपया सम्पर्क करें।

शुष्मी टंडन (अधिकृत)
सिविल कोर्ट कम्पाउंड, देहरादून
सौ: 9897006975

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that first page of original sale deed (old) related property of Khata Khatauni No 633 (Fasli year 1416 to 1421), Khadra No 1075 Kha area 53.53 Sq.Mtrs., covered area 53.53 situated at Mauza Adhoiwala, Pargana Parwadoon District Dehradun duly registered in S.R Dehradun in Book No 1, Jild 3541 page 337 to 356, Sr No 7422 dated 09.08.2010 executed by Shri Rajesh Jain in favour of 1. Shri Liyaqat Ali 2. Shri Mustkim has been actually lost. Shri Anoop Singh, S/o Shri Jagat Singh R/o 11, MDDA Colony, Dalanwala, Dist Dehradun.

NOTICE

It is informed that Sale Deed No. 6827 dated 19.09.2011 pertaining to the property at Khadra No. 422 area 920 square feet i.e. 85.5 square meters situated at Mauza Banjarawala Mafi Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun, which is in the name of Shri Avtar Singh Rawat, son of Shri Sher Singh Rawat, has been actually lost. Mr. Ragib Ullah Khan and Mr. Rashid both S/o Mr. Shahid Hussain R/o 01, Dandi Chowk, Near Primary School, Kedarpur, Dehradun are present owners and are availing loan from the IDFC First Bank, Dehradun on the said property. If anyone has any objection in this regard then within 14 days Please contact at following address: Address **SHAMMI TANDON Advocate Civil Court Compound, Dehradun.Add: 981/654, Satya Vihar, Ballapur Road-1, Vijay Park, Dehradun. Mob. No, 9897006975**

Centre, Tripura, TIPRA Motha sign tripartite pact

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

A tripartite agreement between TIPRA Motha and the Governments of Tripura and India was signed on Saturday in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to bring a lasting solution to the problems of the state's indigenous people. Shah said that with the signing of the agreement, the government has respected history, corrected past wrongs and accepted the present reality to proceed towards a brighter future. Under the pact, it was agreed to amicably resolve all issues of the indigenous people of Tripura related to history, land and political rights, economic development, identity, culture and language, according to an official statement. "I assure all stakeholders of Tripura that you won't have to fight for your rights anymore. The government of India will be two steps ahead in creating mechanisms to safeguard your rights," Shah said.



The home minister said no one can change history but everyone can learn from their past mistakes and move ahead. He said the TIPRA Motha and all tribal parties have played a constructive role and the BJP government in Tripura also worked sincerely towards this agreement. The tripartite agreement between Tripura Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance, popularly known as TIPRA Motha, and the state and central governments was signed at

North Block here. Shah said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, another treaty has been signed furthering harmony in the Northeast. "Delighted to announce the signing of a tripartite agreement resolving issues related to the economic development, land rights and the identity of the indigenous people of Tripura," he said. Shah said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, 11 peace and bound-

ary settlement agreements in Northeastern states were signed. In 2019, a peace pact was signed with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the agreement with TIPRA Motha is the last for the Northeast before going to the Lok Sabha polls, he added. TIPRA Motha supremo Pradyot Debbarma was on a 'fast-unto-death' to demand a permanent solution to the problems of the indigenous people. Following assurance of the interlocutors of the Central government, he came to the national capital and agreed for the pact. Debbarma was one of the signatories of the agreement. Tripura Chief Minister Manik Shah was also present on the occasion. The home minister said with this agreement, Tripura has moved forward to become a dispute-free Tripura. As part of the agreement, it was agreed to constitute a Joint Working Group or Committee to work out and implement the

mutually agreed points on all agreed issues in a time-bound manner to ensure an honourable solution. In order to maintain a conducive atmosphere for implementation of the pact, all stakeholders shall refrain from resorting to any form of protest or agitation, starting from the day of signing of the agreement, the statement said. Shah said Tripura will be committed to make its contribution in realising the prime minister's dream of a 'Viksit Bharat' and also have its share and will move forward as a 'Viksit Tripura'. He said under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, Ministry of Home Affairs has made efforts to give shape to vision of an insurgency-free, dispute-free and violence-free Northeast. He noted that due to several agreements signed by the Modi government, around 10,000 people have given up arms and joined mainstream in the last few years, which has resulted in an atmosphere of development for the region.

Government issues advisory to label under trial AI models

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after Google's AI platform's response to queries on Prime Minister Narendra Modi generated controversy, the government has issued an advisory for social media and other platforms to label under-trial AI models and prevent hosting unlawful content. In an advisory issued to intermediaries/platforms on March 1, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology warned of criminal action in case of non-compliance. "All intermediaries or platforms to ensure that use of Artificial Intelligence model(s) /LLM/Generative AI, software(s) or algorithm(s) on or through its computer resource does not permit its users to host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any unlawful content," the advisory said. All platforms, intermediaries and enabling software shall be

held accountable for any breaches, it added. "Non-compliance with provisions would result in penal consequences." The advisory comes within days of Google's AI platform Gemini making uncharitable comments about Prime Minister Modi's policies. The response of Gemini to queries about the Prime Minister led to a strong reaction from the government, with Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar calling it a violation of IT laws. Union Minister for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Saturday said, "The episode of Google Gemini is very embarrassing, but saying that the platform was under trial and unreliable is certainly not an excuse to escape from prosecution". "I advise all platforms to openly disclose to the consumers and seek consent from them before deploying any under-trial, erroneous plat-

forms on the Indian public internet. Nobody can escape accountability by apologising later. Every platform on the Indian internet is obliged to be safe and trusted," he further said. The advisory asked the entities to seek approval from the government for deploying under trial or unreliable artificial intelligence (AI) models and deploy them only after labelling them of "possible and inherent fallibility or unreliability of the output generated". "Use of under-testing / unreliable Artificial Intelligence model(s) /LLM/Generative AI, software(s) or algorithm(s) and its availability to the users on Indian Internet must be done so with the explicit permission of the Government of India and be deployed only after appropriately labelling the possible and inherent fallibility or unreliability of the output generated," it said.

Indian Navy to upgrade Minicoy detachment, commission it as INS Jatayu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Given the strategic importance of Lakshadweep Islands, Indian Navy will upgrade naval detachment Minicoy and commission it as INS Jatayu on March 6 in the presence of Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, navy said here on Saturday. Plans are also on to have a dual-purpose airport at Minicoy capable handling fighter jet flying besides commercial aircraft operations. Giving details about the naval base, officials said the event marks an important milestone in the Navy's resolve to incrementally augment security

infrastructure at the strategically important Lakshadweep. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited there in the first week of January. Naval Detachment Minicoy was setup in early 1980s under the operational command of Naval Officer-in-Charge (Lakshadweep). Minicoy is the southern-most island of Lakshadweep which straddles the vital Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs). Basing of an independent naval unit with requisite infrastructure and resources will enhance the overall operational capability of the Indian Navy in the islands. The base will enhance operational reach and facilitate

Indian Navy's operational effort towards anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in Western Arabian Sea. It will also augment Indian Navy's capability as the first responder in the region and augment connectivity with the mainland. The establishment of a Naval base is in line with the government's focus towards comprehensive development of islands. INS Jatayu is the second Naval base in Lakshadweep after INS Dweepprakash in Kavaratti. With the commissioning of INS Jatayu, the Indian Navy will strengthen its foothold in the Lakshadweep islands and along with extending opera-



tional surveillance, reach and sustenance, it will usher a in new era of capacity building and comprehensive development of the island territories.

During his visit, Prime Minister Modi said Lakshadweep is not just a group of islands; it is a timeless legacy of traditions and a tes-

tament to the spirit of its people. "My visit has been an enriching journey of learning and growing," he said. He also said the focus of his government is to uplift lives through enhanced development. "Our focus in Lakshadweep is to uplift lives through enhanced development. In addition to creating futuristic infrastructure, it is also about creating opportunities for better healthcare, faster internet, and drinking water, while protecting as well celebrating the vibrant local culture. The projects that were inaugurated reflect this spirit," the Prime Minister said.

With his visit leading to an increased interest of tourists in Lakshadweep, authorities have now firm up plans to develop a new dual-purpose airport at Minicoy Islands. The airbase will be able to handle military and civilian aircraft. The proposed airbase will be capable of handling take off and landing of fighter jets besides commercial planes, it was learnt. The airfield will be strategically important for India as it can be used as a base to keep an eye on the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean region where piracy and anti-social activities are on the rise. The Indian Coast Guard was

the first force under the Defence Ministry to suggest the development of an airstrip in the Minicoy Islands. As per the present proposal, the Indian Air Force will take the lead in running operations from Minicoy. The airport at Minicoy will also give defence forces the capability to expand their area of surveillance in the Arabian Sea. The airport will also provide a boost to tourism in the region, as has been planned by the government. At present, there is only one airstrip in the Union Territory at the moment, at Agatti, which only has the capacity for narrow-body aircraft.

Article 21 soul of Constitution, liberty of citizen paramount: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said that Article 21 is the soul of the Constitution as the liberty of a citizen is of paramount importance and the high court not expeditiously adjudicating matters related to it would deprive a person of this precious right. A bench of Justice B R Gavai and Justice Sandeep Mehta made the observation after noting that the Bombay High Court has granted bail to one Amol Vithal Vahile, a prime accused in the murder of a corporator in Maharashtra, after a nudge from the apex court on January 29. The bench, in its recent order, said it is thus clear that before the order was passed by this court on January 29, 2024, the high court instead of deciding the application for bail on merits shunted it on one or the other ground. "Needless to state that Article 21 of the Constitution of India is the soul of the Constitution as the liberty of a citizen is of paramount



importance. Not deciding the matter pertaining to liberty of a citizen expeditiously and shunting away the matter on one or the other ground would deprive the party of their precious right guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," it said. The bench said that it has come across various matters from the Bombay High Court where the bail and anticipatory bail applications were not being decided expeditiously. Referring to one such case, the bench said in the matter

the application for anticipatory bail was not decided for more than four years. "We have also come across numerous matters wherein the judges are not deciding the matter on merits but find an excuse to shunt the case on different grounds. We, therefore, request the chief justice of the High Court of Bombay to convey our request to all judges exercising the criminal jurisdiction to decide the matter pertaining to bail/anticipatory bail as expeditiously as possible," the

bench said. It asked the Registrar (Judicial) of the apex court to communicate this order to the Registrar (Judicial) of the high court, who shall place the same before the chief justice of the Bombay High Court. On January 29, the bench noted that on March 30, 2023, the high court had asked Vahile to approach the trial court for regular bail even though it had noted that he was languishing in jail for more than seven years. The top court had said, "When the petitioner applied for bail on merits and also on the ground that he had been incarcerated in jail for seven and a half years, the approach of the high court in only permitting him to file an application for bail before the trial court/sessions court and not deciding the prayer for bail on merits, in our view, would amount to non-exercise of jurisdiction vested in it." The bench had said Vahile had been languishing in prison for seven and a half

years at the time on which the order was passed by the single judge and by now he has suffered custody of more than eight years. The high court rather than asking the petitioner to take another round of litigation ought to have decided the matter on merits, it had said. The top court had said that the approach of the high court was not in accordance with the sanctity that has been given to personal liberty in the catena of judgments. It had then asked the high court to decide Vahile's bail afresh in view of the fact that he had served around eight years in jail. Vahile is a prime accused in the murder of one Avinash Tekawade, a corporator of Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation in Maharashtra. Police had claimed that Vahile had harboured a grudge against Tekawade due to professional rivalry and committed the murder along with others on September 3, 2015. He was arrested on September 4.

Disgruntled MLAs in Delhi as Himachal crisis for Congress continues to simmer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

There is no respite in the strange affairs of politics in Himachal Pradesh since days after Congress proved the Government was stable, more rebellions are on the way while disgruntled lot including Vikramaditya Singh and his supporters are camping in Delhi. Amidst speculations that Singh was seeking a time from top BJP brass to joining the party with his supporters, Congress sources said Singh was to meet Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to resolve the crisis. Himachal Pradesh Congress MLA Rajinder Rana on Saturday claimed that nine more party legislators "feeling suffocated" by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's style of functioning were in touch with them. Rana along with five other Congress MLAs, who had cross-voted in the Rajya

Sabha polls, have been disqualified from the Assembly for abstaining from voting on the cut motion and finance bill. Rana alleged that CM Sukhu's "friends" were running the state government. He claimed that the elected representatives, especially the ministers, were feeling "suffocated and humiliated". "Besides the six Congress and three independent legislators that cross-voted in favour of the BJP in the Rajya Sabha polls, nine more party MLAs are in touch with us," he said. Rana termed Sukhu "liar number one" and alleged that he was trying to twist the facts. "Neither Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh had told the chief minister that he is meeting the Congress rebels at Panchkula nor the CM had sent him," Rana said. "Vikramaditya Singh, who met us on his way to Delhi, did not ask us to patch up. He

has his own grievances against the government which failed to provide land for installing Virbhadr Singh's statue and interfered in his functioning," he added. Sukhu on Friday said Vikramaditya Singh had informed him that some Congress rebels have approached him and they wish to come back following which the PWD minister was told to talk to the rebel MLAs and the Congress' central leadership. Ruling out any possibility of returning to the Congress, Rana said, "After the observers said Sukhu would continue as the CM, there is no scope for compromise." "No rebel MLAs wish to come back. The question of working with the CM who has put Himachal Pradesh on back gear does not arise and we have also conveyed our stance to the observers who called us on phone," he added.

Shah inaugurates umbrella cooperative organisation to develop UCB in every city

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday inaugurated an umbrella organisation for urban cooperative banks (UCB) — the National Urban Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC) with the goal to establish Urban Cooperative Banks in every city. Shah stated that the organisation was a necessity of the time, and marked a new beginning for self-regulation, which would manifold increase the development of UCBs in the country. He called the umbrella organization for Urban Cooperative Banks as a 'security shield' for small banks, which will increase the confidence of our depositors, and in the coming days, he said, there will be further progress in our work. "It is necessary that we upgrade ourselves and adhere to all the regulations of the Reserve Bank of India. If we fail to do so, we will not be



able to sustain the competition in the times to come, Shah said at the event in the presence of Union Minister of State for Cooperatives B.L. Verma and the Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation, Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani along with other dignitaries and stakeholders. He highlighted a major role for the umbrella organisation, which is to prepare small banks for compliance with the Banking Regulation Act. "Our

goal should be to open urban cooperative banks in every city," Shah said. He also said urban cooperative banks should upgrade themselves to provide ATM facility, credit/debit cards, clearing system, maintain SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) limit and refinancing. NUCFDC has received the RBI approval to function as a non-banking finance company and a self-regulatory organisation for the urban

cooperative banking sector. The umbrella organization will provide various facilities to small banks, facilitate dialogue between banks and regulators, and work on improving communication. Shah emphasized that the organization needs to work on making our boundaries broad and inclusive. He stated that if we want to expand the cooperative movement, it is the responsibility of the umbrella organization to strengthen urban cooperative banks. The Minister emphasized that "if we want to move forward with this concept, we need to promote youth and startups in every village and city, and there is no way other than UCBs for this." The Cooperation Minister said that the organisation had a collective strength of 11,000 branches with 1,500 banks, deposits of Rs 5 lakh crore and loans totalling Rs 3.50 lakh crore. He added that the UCBs in the country had reduced their net non-performing assets (NPA) to 2.10% and there was a need for further improvement.

World Birth Defects Day 2024: WHO highlights need to raise awareness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the World Birth Defects Day 2024, the World Health Organization on Saturday highlighted the need to raise awareness about birth defects and accelerate actions to prevent, detect and manage congenital anomalies which occur during intra-uterine life of infants. "We are reminded that every journey matters and the journey of health indeed begins before birth," Saima Wazed, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia said in a statement. A regional guidance document on screening newborns for three conditions -- hearing impairment, eye abnormalities, and neonatal hyperbilirubinaemia -- is being released on this occasion to facilitate capacity-building of member states, Wazed said. She pointed out that the contribution of congenital disorders to death is increasing globally among children aged below 5 years. Between 2000 and 2021, the contribution of



birth defects to child mortality increased in our WHO South-East Asia Region from 4 per cent to 11 per cent, and globally from 4.6 percent to 8 per cent, she said. "Birth defects are sadly now the third most common cause of death among under-5 children in our Region, accounting for 11 per cent of the total. This is equivalent to the deaths of 300 under-5 children every single day," Wazed said. Birth defects not only have a profound impact on individuals but also place a considerable burden on fam-

ilies, friends, the community and health-care systems. The WHO regional director said while genetics plays a major role in their aetiology (study of the causes of a disease), many birth defects are preventable through addressing environmental factors. These include exposure to pollutants, lifestyle choices and socioeconomic conditions that affect pregnant women and fetuses. Since 2014, WHO has supported all our member states to drive rapid and sustained reductions in maternal, new-

born and child mortality, which includes targeted action to prevent, detect, manage and care for birth defects, Wazed said. An integrated approach has been adopted to implement interventions for the prevention and treatment of birth defects in existing national programmes, she said. "Guided by the Regional Strategic Framework, all our member states have national plans for prevention and control of birth defects," she added. Accelerating prevention, management and care for birth defects is a priority, and we as a region have issued a "call for action" in five key areas including at both the policy and programme levels, along with commensurate financial allocations. Finally, member states must sustain and expand surveillance of birth defects, with a focus on improving coverage and quality of surveillance with regular data analysis and application. The World Birth Defects Day, observed on March 3 every year, was launched in 2015.

Classical dancer from India shot dead in US

PTI ■ NEW YORK

In yet another deadly attack on Indians and Indian-Americans in the US in recent months, a 34-year-old trained classical dancer from India and a student of Washington University, was shot dead in St Louis, Missouri.

Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam dancer Amarnath Ghosh, who migrated to the US from West Bengal last year “to follow his dancing dreams,” was shot several times near the border of St Louis’ Academy and Central West End neighbourhoods. He died on the spot. According to the St Louis Metropolitan Police Department, the shooting happened at 7:15 pm on Tuesday at Delmar Boulevard and Clarendon Avenue, news por-

tal ‘5 On Your Side’ reported on Friday. Ghosh was pursuing his master’s in the Performing Arts Department of Washington University.

Hailing from Suri town in West Bengal’s Birbhum district, Ghosh was an alumni of Kalakshetra, a prestigious Chennai institution that is a vital centre for the study and performance of fine arts, from 2007 to 2011.

His uncle Shyamal Ghosh said in Suri on Saturday, he is still in the dark about the details of his nephew’s death in the USA even after four days. “We had informed the district police and administration about what we had heard from various sources. But till today, we don’t have any details about his death,” he said.

Calling him “very friendly

and very talented,” Ghosh’s friends Hima Kuppia and Ravi Kuppia in the US said, “He was always travelling a lot for his performances. A lot of organisations called him for performances, but he always wanted to come back to St Louis.”

Ghosh was learning ballet and dance. “I think it was a full scholarship at Wash U. His ultimate dream was to get his PhD in dance and work full-time with us at our Kuchipudi Art Academy,” Hima was quoted as saying by ‘5 On Your Side’.

He enjoyed volunteering as a dance instructor at a local studio and also taught children between the ages 5 and 18. His friends told the news outlet that Ghosh was the only child of his parents; his mother died three years ago and his father died when he was a child.

Gosh’s killing has prompted India’s consulate in Chicago to take up the issue with local police and the university.

Asserting that the mission is “extending all help to the relatives of deceased Amarnath Ghosh,” India’s Consulate in Chicago posted on X that it has “taken up the case strongly with St Louis police and the University for investigation of the reprehensible gun attack.”

Offering deep condolences to family and friends of the deceased in St Louis, Missouri, it said, “We are following up forensic, investigation with police and providing support.”

Washington University, where Gosh was a student, has condemned his killing as “senseless violence beyond comprehension.”

“There are no words to

express the pain and anguish Amarnath’s family and friends are experiencing. His death is a terrible shock to us all. This type of senseless violence is beyond comprehension and we are devastated by this loss. To have this happen in our own St. Louis community is especially heartbreaking,” Anna “Dr G” Gonzalez, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs said in a statement released to all Washington University students, faculty and staff. It was actor Devoleena Bhattacharjee, who first alerted the authorities on social media about her friend Ghosh’s death. Taking to X, she posted, “The reason, accused details everything are not revealed yet or perhaps no one left in his family to fight for it except his few

friends. He was from Kolkata. Excellent dancer, was pursuing PhD, was taking an evening walk and suddenly he was shot multiple times by an unknown.” She tagged the X handles of the Indian Embassy in the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others and said, “Some friends in US are trying to claim the body but still no update about it” and requested the Embassy to look into it.

“At least we should know the reason of his murder,” she said in the post on Friday. On Saturday, Bhattacharjee said in another post on X: “Hope we get the update of this heinous crime as early as possible. If I am not wrong, this is 5th or 6th murder of Indian Students in 2 months. We all are worried here & grieving.”

Sunak pleads to protect democracy

PTI ■ LONDON

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has issued an impassioned plea for Britain to protect its democracy as he warned that extremist forces were out to tear the country apart and undermine its multi-faith identity.

Referencing his own Hindu beliefs, the British Indian leader on Friday stressed that the enduring values of the UK are about embracing migrants of all faiths and ethnicities and urged protesters to ensure peaceful demonstrations are not hijacked by extremist forces.

“Immigrants who have come here have integrated and contributed. They have helped write the latest chapter in our island story. They have done this without being required to give up their identity,” said Sunak in a speech outside 10 Downing Street.

“You can be a practising Hindu and a proud Briton as I am, or a devout Muslim and a patriotic citizen as so many are, or a committed Jewish person and the heart of your local community, and all underpinned by the tolerance of our

established, Christian church,” he said.

“But I fear that our great achievement in building the world’s most successful multi-ethnic, multi faith democracy is being deliberately undermined.



There are forces here at home trying to tear us apart,” he added.

He was speaking soon after what he characterised as the “beyond alarming” win in a byelection on Thursday of a controversial politician, George Galloway, in Greater Manchester following a campaign dominated by the divisions of the Israel-Hamas conflict.

He said on too many occasions recently, the streets of Britain had been hijacked by small groups who are hostile to British values and have no respect for its democratic traditions.

“Islamist extremists and the far right feed off and embolden each other. They are equally desperate to pretend that their violence is somehow justified when actually these groups are two sides of the same extremist coin... both loathe the pluralist, modern country we are,” he said.

Zardari, Achakzai file papers for Pak presidential poll

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan’s former president Asif Ali Zardari and his rival ethnic Pashtun politician Mahmood Khan Achakzai on Saturday filed their nominations for the presidential election to be held on March 9.

Zardari, from Sindh province, is the co-chairman of the Pakistan Peoples Party and has the support of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz as the two leading parties joined hands to form a coalition government after the February 8 elections produced a split mandate.

Zardari, 68, is set to become the president for the second time as he is being supported by the parties that enjoy a majority in the electoral college. He also served as president from 2008 to 2013. Achakzai, 75, from Balochistan, is the chief of the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party and was nominated by Imran



Khan, the jailed leader of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. In Parliament, Achakzai would be supported by the Sunni Ittehad Council, the new home of the PTI-backed independent lawmakers. Their nomination papers were filed for the presidential elections and the scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on Monday. The elections will be held on March 9.

The new president will replace Dr Arif Alvi, who completed a five-year term last year.

However, in the absence of the electoral college required to elect the president, Alvi is still in office. The president is elected by an electoral college comprising members of the Senate, the National Assembly, and the four provincial assemblies. Voting is held through a secret ballot in Parliament and four provincial assemblies.

The president is the ceremonial head of the state and enjoys limited powers as he acts on the advice of the prime minister.

Ship attacked earlier by Houthi rebels sinks in Red Sea

AP ■ DUBAI

A ship attacked by Yemen’s Houthi rebels has sunk in the Red Sea after days of taking on water, officials said Saturday, the first vessel to be fully destroyed as part of their campaign over Israel’s war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The sinking of the Rubymar comes as shipping through the crucial waterway for cargo and energy shipments moving from Asia and the Middle East to Europe has been affected by the Houthi attacks.

Already, many ships have turned away from the route. The sinking could see further detours and higher insurance

rates put on vessels plying the waterway — potentially driving up global inflation and affecting aid shipments to the region.

The Belize-flagged Rubymar had been drifting northward after being attacked on Feb 18 in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial waterway linking the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Yemen’s internationally recognized government, as well as a regional military official, confirmed the ship sank. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as no authorisation was given to speak to journalists about the incident.

The Rubymar’s Beirut-based manager could not be immediately reached for com-

ment.

Yemen’s exiled government, which has been backed by a Saudi-led coalition since 2015, said the Rubymar sank late Friday as stormy weather took hold over the Red Sea. The vessel had been abandoned for 12 days after the attack, though plans had been made to try and tow the ship to a safe port. The Iran-backed Houthis, who had claimed the ship sank almost instantly after the attack, did not immediately acknowledge the ship’s sinking. The US military’s Central Command previously warned the vessel’s cargo of fertiliser, as well as fuel leaking from the ship, could cause ecological damage to the Red Sea.

3 held for Dhaka mall fire

AP ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh police have arrested three persons, including two owners of a restaurant, in connection with the massive fire that broke out at a shopping mall in the capital Dhaka that killed at least 46 people.

The fire broke out around 9:50 pm on Thursday at the restaurant named “Kacchi Bhai” on the first floor of the building, Green Cozy Cottage, and quickly spread to the upper floors that had more restaurants and a garment shop, according to fire service officials.

Two owners of an eatery called Chumuk and the manag-

er of Kacchi Bhai restaurant were arrested on Friday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Additional Commissioner Kh Mahid Uddin said.

He said, “The fire started from the food shop on the ground floor of the building. The police will file a case over negligence in connection with the deaths in the fire incident.”

Besides, anyone from the victim’s family can file a case if they want, said the police official.

At least 46 people were killed, and over 20 others sustained severe injuries by a devastating fire on Thursday night. Firefighters rescued 70 people, including 42 in unconscious

state, from the rooftop and different floors of the seven-storey Green Cozy Cottage.

Legal action will be taken against whoever is found responsible in this incident, he added.

He said that three people arrested in this incident are being interrogated.

The building did not have permission to house restaurants.

The building had permission for office use, not restaurants and eateries, according to Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk). But the building housed eight restaurants, a juice bar and a tea and coffee shop, the report said.

‘Mt Everest crowded and dirty now’

AP ■ KATHMANDU

The only surviving member of the mountaineering expedition that first conquered Mount Everest said Saturday that the world’s highest peak is too crowded and dirty, and the mountain is a god that needs to be respected.

Kanchha Sherpa, 91, was among the 35 members in the team that put New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay atop the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak on May 29, 1953.

“It would be better for the mountain to reduce the number of climbers,” Kanchha said in an interview in Kathmandu on Saturday. “Right now there is always a big crowd of people at the summit.”

Since the first conquest, the

peak has been climbed thousands of times, and it gets more crowded every year. During the spring climbing season in 2023, 667 climbers scaled the peak, but that brought in thousands of support staff to the base camp between the months of March and May.

There have been concerns about the number of people living on the mountain for months on end, generating trash and waste, but authorities have no plans to cut down on the number of permits they issue to climbers.

There are rules that require climbers to bring down their own trash, equipment and everything they carry to the mountain or risk losing their deposit, but monitoring has not been very effective.

“It is very dirty now. People throw tins and wrappings after eating food. Who is going to pick them up now?” Kanchha said. “Some climbers just dump their trash in the crevasse, which would be hidden at that time but eventually it will flow down to base camp as the snow melts and carries them downward.”

For the Sherpas, Everest is Qomolangma or goddess mother of the world, and is revered by their community. They generally perform religious rituals before climbing the peak.

“They should not be dirtying the mountain. It is our biggest god and they should not be dirtying the gods,” he said “Qomolangma is the biggest god for the Sherpas but people smoke and eat meat and throw them on the mountain.”

MEMBERSHIP EXPULSION NOTICE

This is to inform that the previous Managing Committee of the Fakhrudin Memorial CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 18, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 (FMCGHS) had expelled Sh. Gopal Vyas, Membership No. 435 on 28th August 2017 for non-adherence to society By-laws and non-compliance of notices served U/s 86 (1) (a).

For and On Behalf of FMCGHS
Amarjeet
President

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public at large that my client Shri Nagender Mohan Goyal S/o Late Shri Kalish Prasad Goyal R/o K-95-C, Shekh Sarai Phase-I, New Delhi-110017 declare that my brother Namely Late Shri Lalit Mohan Goyal S/o Late Shri Kalish Prasad Goyal had expired on 21.07.2021 and left behind the following legal heir Shri NAGENDER MOHAN GOYAL (Brother) as there is no legal heir of Late Shri Lalit Mohan Goyal, except the above mentioned. If anyone has any objection regarding this, he/she can raise objection within 30 days from the date of this publication at my client's address.

Vinay Kumar (Advocate)
Ch. No.582, Saket Court, New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client Janna Gupta and Vijay Kumar Gupta is owner of 95/2, area 50 sq yds, Khasra No. 105/1, Village: Palam, Vishwas Park, Block E, New Delhi and mortgaged the same with ABHFL and Janna Gupta and Vikas Gupta Purchased property from Mukesh Kumar vide sale deed dated 14.11.2023 and Mukesh Kumar is Purchase property from Om Prakash vide Notarized GPA dated 11.09.2023 and its related documents, so it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Court, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M:- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Sandeep Tomar and Sumit Tomar (partners of Tomar Construction Company) are in process to avail working capital facilities with the HDFC Bank Ltd. against their property bearing No. C-3/145, Area measuring 270 Sq. mtrs., Situated in the layout plan of Pankha Road Residential scheme, Janakpuri, New Delhi, having acquired being the only legal heirs of Late Satyabr Singh Tomar, whereas Satyabr Singh Tomar was the owner of the said property vide Conveyance deed dated 24.02.1994 (doc. No. 1616) All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower
Sec-4, Vaidh, Gb, U.P., Mob. 9810063351

KVB Karur Vysya Bank

Smart way to bank

FARIDABAD (4204) : 1-E / 20, B.P. NIT, 1-2 Chowk, Faridabad - 121001 (Haryana)

Tel.: 0129-2411612 And 0129-2411604

SAFE DEPOSIT LOCKER BREAK OPEN PUBLIC NOTICE

The following hirers have availed safe deposit locker facility from FARIDABAD (4204) branch and failed to renew the same within the stipulated time, in spite of repeated notices issued to them by The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. Since the hirers have failed to pay the locker rent dues, we are constrained to break open of the said locker on 18/03/2024, at the concerned branch premises at 11.00 AM.

This Public Notice is to the hirers/legal heirs of the hirers if applicable. Further, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd has the authority to change the Break Opening Date without any prior notice.

Sr. No	Hirer's Name	Locker no.	Amount due (Rs) with GST
1.	TARUN SEHGAL	4204001B007	15,366/-
2.	SANGEETA GAUBA	4204001B030	8,142/-
3.	NARINDER KUMAR BHATIA	4204004B031	13,806/-
4.	ASHISH KUMAR AGGARWAL	4204001B039	8,142/-
5.	SUMIT GROVER	4204002D023	20,650/-

Date : 03.03.2024
Place : DELHI

Sd/-
Branch Head, Karur Vysya Bank

Verka

Verka Patiala Dairy

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.

SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66

Notice Inviting e Tender

www.verka.coop

e- tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items :-

Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
For Verka Patiala Dairy Hiring of :-	
• Vehicles for veterinary Route & Extension work.	01 No.
• Insulated S.S Road Milk Tankers for Milk Lifting from BMC's/ MCC's & sister Dairies Cap. 9,000-11,000 ltrs.	15 No's
• Vehicle Tata 207, Mahindra Maxi truck etc. for transportation of Milk from Societies/ Farms at MCC Samana (Route No. 14, 15 & 28)	03 No's

NOTE:

1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. e-proc.punjab.gov.in.

2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/22509/2023/33133 Dated CHD :- 3/1/2024

Incharge (Purchase)

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT

O/O THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)

ARRTI CAMPUS, FATASIL AMBARI, GUWAHATI - 25,

Email-id: as-ce.asbp@assam.gov.in

No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2024/39

CORRIGENDUM

Project: Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP)

Ref: i) RFB No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2024/19, dated: 20/02/2024

ii) RFB No. CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2024/33, dated: 27/02/2024

The following RFBs for construction of RCC Bridges in the districts under the World Bank Financed ARBP as mentioned and published in the following newspapers are hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons. Fresh RFBs will follow.

Sl.No.	RFB No.	Name of Newspaper & Published date
1.	CE/EAP/ARRBP/III/TENDERS/2024/19	i) The Sentinel, dtd. 22/02/2024 ii) Niyomiya Barta, dtd. 22/02/2024 and iii) The Pioneer, dtd. 22/02/2024
2.	CE/EAP/ARRBP/III/TENDERS/2024/33	i) The Assam Tribune, dtd. 28/02/2024 ii) Niyomiya Barta, dtd. 28/02/2024 and iii) The Pioneer, dtd. 28/02/2024

Inconvenience is regretted.

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

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

MISSION DIRECTORATE OF SWACHH BHARAT MISSION(U)

:::ASSAM:::

2nd Floor, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Dispur, Guwahati-06

E-mail:sbmurhanassam@gmail.com Ph no.0361-2261436

No.SBM(U)266/2024/32

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) NOTICE

Online proposals are invited from the Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam for "Empanelment of Class - I category Govt, registered contractors/ Firm/ Limited Company etc. in any Assam Government Department or Central Government Department/Organization having requisite experience of executing works of similar complexity for the Construction of Nature-Based Sewage Treatment Plant at the ULBs of Assam under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0, Assam in EPC mode along with S(five) year operation and maintenance (O&M)"

The tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 04/03/2024 (16:00 hours) onwards. The last date & time of bid submission is 25/03/2024 at 14:00 hours and the date & time of bid opening is 26/03/2024 at 12:00 hours.

Pre-Bid meeting time and venue: 12/03/2024 at 12:00 hours at the Office of the Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6

The Tender Inviting Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any bid/tender, and to cancel/annul the bidding process and reject all the bids at any time prior to the contract award without assigning any reason thereof.

State Mission Director,
Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6
Janasanyog/CF/6145/23-3/March/24

PPGCL

PRAYAGRAJ POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED

Regd Office: Shatabdi Bhawan, B12 & 13, Sector 4, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301
Plant Address: PO- Lohgara, Tehsil-Bara, Prayagraj(Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh-212107
Phone : +91-120-6102000/6102009 CIN: U40101UP2007PLC032835

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible vendors for Repair & Revamping of 3 blocks at labour camp at PPGCL of 3x660 MW Thermal Power Plant at Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited, Bara, Dist. Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document etc. may be downloaded using the URL- <https://www.ppgcl.co.in/tenders.php> Eligible vendors willing to participate may submit their expression of interest along with the tender fee for issue of bid document latest by 4th March 2024.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

SSA-12/3/2023-MIS-Sec/SSA/1/482035/2024 Dated 02.03.2024

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites bids vide GEM/2024/B/4693414 Dated: 01-03-2024 for supply of Tablet Computers through GeM portal.

Interested bidder may visit GeM portal and submit their bid in GeM portal accordingly. The bid is also available in SSA website : <https://ssa.assam.gov.in>

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Axom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/6151/23/3-Mar-24

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences

Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203

Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items upto 18-03-2024

1) Sale of waste paper (wrm), used Answer sheets and spine cutting of used answer books etc., 2) Projector and IT equipments at BFUHS, Faridkot, 3) supply of computer and UPS at BFUHS, Fdk, 4) HP cartridge

E-tenders are invited for the procurement of following items upto 23-03-2024

1) Construction of Ramp (G+3) storey in super specialty Block in GSGMCH, Faridkot 2) Parking stand at GSGMCH, Faridkot

Terms and conditions can be downloaded from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhs.ac.in

00/12/217/2023/33097 Dated CHD :- 3/1/2024

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

SSA-34/1/2023-MIS-SEC-SSA/1/480404/2024 Dated 01.03.2024

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) through e-Tendering process from Authorized dealer or OEM of Tablet Computers.

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

Sd/-Mission Director,
Samagra Shiksha Axom
Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/6148/23/3-Mar-24

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

CHHATRAPATI SAMBAHAJINAGAR

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Building & Electrical)

Tel.No (0240) 2333536-40

Fax.No.(0240) -2331213

Address: Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Executive Engineer (Building & Electric)

Head office : Town Hall Pin 431001 E-Tender Call AMC (For Help): Cell No. 9764999592

No/AMC/EX.Eng./Bldg./19/2024

Date 28/02/2024

Sr. No	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	Construction of School for Special children, Tidco, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.	09/03/2024

(Tender Amount Rs.10,18,00,962/-)

Note 1. For the above stated work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(Building & Electrical)
Municipal Corporation
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

India retains policy space at WTO

Will protect interests of farmers, fishermen in every respect: Goyal

PTI ■ ABU DHABI

The outcome of the 13th ministerial conference of the WTO was "good" and India is "completely satisfied" as the country continues to retain its full policy space to protect the interests of farmers and fishermen in every respect, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

He said that New Delhi's procurement of food grains for distribution among the poor continues uninterrupted and without any hindrance. "India continues to retain full policy space for the benefit of our farmers, our fishermen, and in every respect, we have been able to take India's interests to the highest level possible," the minister told reporters here after the five-day meeting of the trade ministers of 166-member World Trade Organisation

(WTO). As the members were not able to reach consensus on key issues such as agriculture and fisheries subsidies, the talks that were scheduled to end on February 29 got extended for a day.

The talks at the WTO's ministerial conference ended with no decision on issues such as finding a permanent solution to public food stockpile and on curbing fisheries subsidies, but the members agreed to further extend the moratorium on imposing import duties on e-commerce trade for two more years.

The ministerial conference, the highest decision making body of the WTO, also managed to get more outcomes such as new disciplines on domestic regulation for services, formal joining of Comoros and Timor-Leste as members of the WTO, and least



developing countries continuing to get the benefits of LDC even three years after graduation.

India successfully pushed the food security issue and the country did not yield any ground on protecting the interest of poor farmers and fishermen as well as on other issues.

Goyal said that "it's a good

forward," he said.

He added that in the proposed fisheries subsidies agreement aimed to curb subsidies that lead to over capacity and over fishing, India found several ambiguities on the proposals that were on the table.

Some of the subsidies that certain countries give to their resource-poor fishermen were sought to be excluded.

Besides, definitions were not satisfactory and several areas where deeper consultations and greater degree of flexibility was required to ensure a fair and balanced agreement, were not possible in such a short period of time.

"By and large, the objectives with which we had come to Abu Dhabi are largely met and we go back fully satisfied," he said, adding, "our largest interest was to protect our farmers and our fishermen, both of which we are strongly doing and that is

our offensive interest which we are actively pursuing."

On further extension of the duty moratorium on e-commerce trade, the minister said that India was "not necessarily opposed" to it fully.

Since the members had not discussed the issues pertaining to the moratorium during the time between MC12 (happened at Geneva June 2022) and MC 13, such as its scope and its impact on different economies, "we believe that it's in the best interest that we continue this e-commerce moratorium", he said.

When asked about the effort of certain developed countries to push non-trader issues like investment agreement, environment and labour in the WTO, Goyal said India has been successful in making sure that such issues cannot become part of the WTO.

Sensex, Nifty hit all time high in special live trading session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty hit fresh all-time peaks in a special trading session on Saturday, extending their previous day's sharp rally, amid impressive GDP data and foreign fund inflows.

Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE are conducting a special trading session in the equity and equity derivative segments on Saturday to check their preparedness to handle major disruption or failure at the primary site.

The special live trading session will have intra-day switch over from Primary Site (PR) to Disaster Recovery (DR) site.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 236.77 points to reach its all-time high of 73,982.12 in early trade. The Nifty went up by 81.5 points to hit its record peak of 22,420.25.

There will be two trading sessions -- the first from 9:15 am to 10 am on the PR, and the second from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on the DR site, according to the exchanges.

"Trading members are requested to note that the exchange will conduct a special live trading session with intraday switch over from Primary Site (PR) to Disaster Recovery Site (DR) on Saturday, March 2, in equity and equity derivatives segments," BSE and NSE said in separate circulars.

Among the Sensex firms, Tata Steel, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors and State Bank of India were the major gainers.



Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, ICICI Bank and NTPC were among the laggards.

India's economy grew by better-than-expected 8.4 per cent in the final three months of 2023 -- the fastest pace in one-and-half years.

The US markets ended with gains on Friday.

India's manufacturing sector growth climbed to a five-month high in February amid a sharper uptick in factory production and sales, supported by both domestic and external demand, a monthly survey said on Friday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose from 56.5 in January to 56.9 in February, pointing to the strongest improvement in the health of the sector since September 2023.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 128.94 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.



India eliminates extreme poverty: Brookings article

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has eliminated extreme poverty, a commentary authored by economists Surjit Bhalla and Karan Bhasin in a leading American think-tank The Brookings Institution said, citing the just released consumption expenditure data for 2022-23. In the article, the two noted economists cite the data to say real per capita consumption has grown 2.9 per cent per annum since 2011-12, with rural growth at 3.1 per cent being significantly higher than urban growth of 2.6 per cent.

Also, there has been an unprecedented decline in urban and rural inequality. The urban Gini declined from 36.7 to 31.9; the rural Gini declined from 28.7 to 27.0.

The Gini coefficient, or the Gini index, measures the inequality of income distribution, whereas a higher value closer to one (or 100 per cent) represents greater inequality.

"In the annals of inequality analysis, this decline is unheard of, and especially in the context of high per capita growth," the article states.

High growth and a large decline in inequality have combined to eliminate poverty in India, it said, citing the PPP of USD 1.9 (purchasing power parity at 2011 prices and not the PPP USD 2.15 line at 2017 prices).

This, the economists argued, was more because the PPP of USD 1.9 closely corresponds to the official India Tendulkar poverty line.

The Headcount Poverty Ratio (HCR), the proportion of a population that lives below the poverty line, has declined from 12.2 per cent in 2011-12 to 2 per cent in 2022-23, equivalent to 0.93 percentage points per year.

Rural poverty stood at 2.5 per cent, while urban poverty was down to 1 per cent. These estimates do not take into account the free food (wheat and rice) supplied by the government to approximately two-thirds of the population, nor utilisation of public health and education," the authors noted in the commentary.

The decline in HCR is remarkable given that in the past it took 30 years for India to witness a similar decline in poverty levels, which has now been witnessed over 11 years, the article said.

Given the near elimination of extreme poverty, India should now graduate to a higher poverty line, which would provide an opportunity to redefine existing social protection programmes to give greater support to the genuinely poor, it added. "Official data now confirms that India has eliminated extreme poverty as commonly defined in international comparisons."

Coal production rises 27 per cent in Apr-Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coal production from captive and commercial mines has increased 27.06 per cent year-on-year to 126.8 million tonnes (MT) in the April-February this fiscal.

The coal dispatch from the

captive and commercial mines in the first eleven months of the current financial year also rose 29.14 per cent to 128.88 MT over the corresponding period of previous fiscal, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The total coal production and

dispatch in February was 14.85 MT and 12.95 MT, registering an increase of 37 per cent and 33 per cent, respectively. In the year-ago period, The total coal production and dispatch stood at 10.85 MT and 9.72 MT, respectively.

As of February 29, 2024, the

total number of producing mines was 54, with 35 allocated to the power sector, 11 allocated to the non-regulated sector, and 8 for the sale of coal.

Of the 91 mines awarded under commercial coal auctions, seven blocks have already started production.

Boeing in talks to buy Spirit AeroSystems

AP ■ NEW DELHI/DALLAS

Boeing is in talks to buy Spirit AeroSystems, which builds fuselages for Boeing 737 Max jetliners, including the one that suffered a door-panel blowout in January, according to a person knowledgeable about the discussions.

The timing of a deal - or whether the two sides even reach a final agreement - is uncertain, according to the person, who spoke about the private talks on condition of anonymity.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the talks. The newspaper said Friday that Spirit hired bankers to consider strategic options and has held preliminary discussions about a sale back

to Boeing, its former owner. Boeing and Spirit AeroSystems declined to comment.

Shares of Spirit jumped 15% in afternoon trading. A deal could help Boeing respond to critics who have blamed the company's manufacturing problems in large part on outsourcing key work to Spirit and other suppliers.

Boeing spun off Spirit in 2005 as part of a strategy to outsource the supply chain for its commercial planes. In recent years, quality problems have mounted at Spirit, including fuselage panels that didn't fit together precisely enough and holes that were improperly drilled. Those and other flaws held up deliveries of Boeing 737s and 787s.



Spirit removed its CEO in October and replaced him with Patrick Shanahan, a former Boeing executive who served as acting defense secretary in the Trump administration.

Scrutiny of Spirit - which is not related to Spirit Airlines - grew even stronger after an

emergency door plug that it made blew off an Alaska Airlines 737 Max 9 over Oregon on January 5.

Investigators said the panel had been removed at a Boeing factory to let Spirit workers fix damaged rivets, and bolts that help hold the panel in place were missing after the

repair job. It is not clear who removed the bolts and failed to put them back.

Two weeks later, Boeing CEO David Calhoun toured the Spirit factory in Wichita, Kansas. Calhoun and Shanahan pledged to work together to improve manufacturing quality.

Shanahan said Spirit would work with Boeing, regulators and airlines, and he vowed, "We will restore confidence."

Calhoun has long defended Boeing's outsourcing, but his tone changed in recent weeks. On January 31, as Boeing reported a fourth-quarter loss, Calhoun said that outsourcing probably went too far.

About 70 per cent of Spirit AeroSystems' revenue last year came from work done

for Boeing, according to Spirit's latest annual report. That is up from 60 per cent two years earlier. Most of the company's other revenue comes from making parts for Airbus, Boeing's European rival.

Spirit also is looking into selling operations in Ireland that make parts for Airbus, the Journal reported.

Spirit lost USD 616 million last year and hasn't turned a full-year profit since 2019. Since then, it has lost more than USD 2.5 billion. Boeing agreed in October to give more financial help to Spirit.

Boeing said it would provide USD 100 million for Spirit to retool its factory and adjust prices to give the supplier another USD 455 million over two years.

Lulu Group to decide on location to set up food processing unit

PTI ■ BENGALURU

A team of Lulu Group, a leading multinational diversified conglomerate that has planned to set up a export oriented full-fledged food processing plant will visit Vijayapura soon and conduct site visits to decide where the food processing unit should be set up, officials said on Saturday.

Top representatives of the

Lulu Group held a preliminary meeting about the proposed project with the Minister of Large and Medium Industries M B Patil, who is also the district in-charge minister for Vijayapura, they said.

Lulu Group export division CEO Najbuddin, Director Anant and his team participated in the meeting held on Friday at Khanija Bhavan.

In a statement issued by the Minister's office, Patil was quoted as saying that the team of Lulu Group will visit Vijayapura soon and will conduct site visits to decide on where the food processing unit should be set up.

At the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Lulu Group had expressed interest and signed an agreement to set up a full-fledged food processing plant in Vijayapura district by

investing Rs 300 crore. This meeting was held as a continuation of that and the minister assured that the government will extend full cooperation, it said.

The minister has emphasised that the proposed unit will facilitate the purchase of local food products for grading, sorting and packaging purposes for supply to domestic and export markets, the statement added.

BUSINESS BRIEF

IIFL FINANCES LAUNCHES 'LADIES FIRST' GOLD LOAN MELA

IIFL Finance, which is one of India's largest non-banking finance companies has launched a unique 'Ladies First' Gold Loan Mela Campaign for women customers only. The industry-first initiative will offer an assured gift and zero processing fee to all new women customers, who will take gold loan from IIFL Finance branches across India between March 5 and March 12, 2024.

IIFL Finance will also offer bumper prizes including gold coins to winners. Saurabh Kumar, Head of Gold Loan Business at IIFL Finance said, "To celebrate women entrepreneurs, we at IIFL Finance have launched India's first Gold Loan mela dedicated to women borrowers in the week of International Women's Day."



Strong GDP growth, weak monsoon drove up India carbon emissions in 2023: IEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Strong GDP growth and a weak monsoon drove up India's energy-related carbon emissions by around 190 million tonnes in 2023, though the country's per capita emissions remain far below the global average, the International Energy Agency said.

Global energy-related carbon emissions grew by 1.1 per cent in 2023, increasing 410 million tonnes (Mt) to reach a new record high of 37.4 gigatonnes (Gt) in 2023, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Friday.

It said emissions in China grew around 565 Mt in 2023, the

largest increase globally and a continuation of its emissions-intensive economic growth in the post-pandemic period. Per capita emissions in China are now 15 per cent higher than in advanced economies.

However, China continued to dominate global clean energy additions. "In India, strong GDP growth drove up emissions by around 190 Mt. But a weak monsoon increased demand for electricity and cut hydro production, contributing around one-quarter of the increase in its total emissions in 2023. Per capita emissions in India remain far below the world average," the IEA said.

India grappled with warm and



dry conditions throughout 2023 and experienced a weak monsoon season, with August being the driest in at least 45 years.

In 2022, energy-related global emissions increased by 490 Mt, representing a 1.3 per cent rise.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

countries together need to cut down emissions of planet-warming greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane by 43 per cent by 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The IEA noted that emissions from coal accounted for more than 65 per cent of the increase in 2023. It said global hydropower capacity increased by around 20 gigawatts (GW) in 2023. Despite this increase, the global generation of hydropower saw a record decline last year. This was primarily driven by severe and prolonged droughts that impacted major hydropower regions, exacerbated by the influence of El Niño.

Paytm shares decline 2.50 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of One97 Communications Ltd, which owns and operates Paytm, declined more than 2.50 per cent in Saturday's special trading session, after the Financial Intelligence Unit slapped a penalty of Rs 5.49 crore on Paytm Payments Bank.

Leading stock exchanges BSE and NSE conducted a special trading session in the equity and equity derivative segments on Saturday to check their preparedness to handle major disruption or failure at the primary site.

The company's stock fell by 2.56 per cent to settle at Rs 414.55 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it went lower by 3.61 per cent to Rs 410.05.

On the NSE, it declined by 2.13 per cent to Rs 414.40 per share.

Shares of One97 Communications on Friday jumped 5 per cent after the company said the board has approved the discontinuation of inter-company pacts with Paytm Payments Bank to reduce dependencies.

In fresh trouble for Paytm Payments Bank, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has slapped a penalty of Rs 5.49 crore on the payments bank for violating anti-money laundering law, the finance ministry said on



Friday. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has been in trouble after the Reserve Bank directed it to stop accepting fresh deposits from customers with effect from February 29 -- a deadline which was later extended to March 15.

Earlier this week, Vijay Shekhar Sharma stepped down as part-time non-executive Chairman of PPBL and the board of the bank was reconstituted.

The finance ministry said FIU-India had initiated a review of Paytm Payments Bank on receipt of specific information from law enforcement agencies in respect of a few entities and their network of businesses engaged in illegal acts, including organising and facilitating online gambling.

No. 1 seed Jessica in San Diego Open semis

AP ■ SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (USA)

Top-seeded Jessica Pegula beat Anna Blinkova 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 on Friday to advance to the semi-finals of the San Diego Open. Pegula, ranked No. 5 in the world, will face sixth-seeded Marta Kostyuk, who eliminated fourth-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 in a rain-delayed quarterfinal.

“Anna’s always a really tough competitor,” Pegula said. “She makes you really have to earn it. I feel like I started out playing really well, then she changed up her game plan and started hitting a lot of high balls. I wasn’t stepping in and was getting frustrated. I reeled off some really bad errors for a couple of games there, but I managed to find my range.”

Pegula finished with 24 winners. She made 17 unforced errors, the majority of which came in the second set.

Third-seeded Emma Navarro advanced to the semi-finals for the second year in a row by beating the last remaining qualifier, 113th-ranked Daria



Saville, 6-4, 6-2. She’ll face Katie Boulter, who beat 2022 runner-up Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-3.

Navarro, 2021 NCAA singles champion at Virginia, was trailing 1-4 in the opening set

before reeling off five straight games to take control of the match.

“Someone in the crowd told me to wake up. I guess that was maybe the push I needed,” said the 22-year-old

Navarro, who capitalized on eight of her 14 break-point opportunities.

“It’s tough playing someone I’ve never played before. I was just kind of getting used to her game and putting

together a strategy of how I wanted to play. It took me a little bit to find that, but I got there in the end. I’m happy with the win and excited to be moving forward.”

It will be Navarro’s fifth tour-level semifinal in less than a year. She won her first WTA title earlier this year in Hobart, Australia.

There will be no return trip to the semifinals for Vekic. The seventh seed was upset on a windy day by Boulter, who at No. 49 is Britain’s top-ranked player. Earlier this week, Boulter beat second-seeded Beatriz Haddad Maia 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

“It was an absolute battle,” said the 27-year-old Boulter, who overcame a 1-3 first-set deficit to reach the second tour-level semifinal of her career.

“Very tricky conditions. Not easy to get any rhythm for either of us, because we’re both big hitters. I found it tough to kind of get into the match. I just tried to stay as strong as I could and somehow found a way over the line. I’m an aggressive player, so I do try to go for it no matter what the conditions are.



Indian trio draws on a dull day in Prague Masters

PTI ■ PRAGUE

The Indian trio of R Praggnanandhaa, D Gukesh and Vidit Gujrathi played out draws on a dull fourth round day in the Prague Masters Chess tournament here.

It was time for some recovery for Praggnanandhaa after two back-to-back losses and the Indian just played a solid game to sign peace with local hopeful Nguyen Thai Dai Van.

Gukesh did not give any chances to Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan and split the point while Gujrathi could not make much headway against Mateusz Bartel of Poland.

The day witnessed no decisive games as the remaining two were also drawn. Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran drew with highest ranked Czech David Navara and Richard Rapport of Romania got the same result against German Vincent Keymer.

As a result the overnight positions remained unchanged with everyone heading a half to their kitty.

Abdusattarov and Maghsoodloo now share the lead on three points out of a possible four Gukesh and Rapport share the third with

two and a half points apiece. Gujrathi stands at fourth spot on two points, a half point ahead of Praggnanandhaa, Navara, Dai Van and Keymer.

Bartel moved up to a full point and remained at the bottom of the tables.

The Nimzo Indian has been a part of Praggnanandhaa’s repertoire and he used it effectively as black. The Capablanca variation by Dai Van only saw pieces change hands at regular intervals.

The players arrived at a heavy pieces endgame with white having a little pull but the Indian warded off the threats with a timely pawn sacrifice leading to a theoretically drawn rook and pawns endgame. The game lasted 40 moves.

Abdusattarov again banked on his pet Catalan opening but Gukesh was calm and in control right through. The Uzbek had ridden on his luck in the previous round when he won a lost position against Navara but in the fourth round he was presented with no such opportunity.

Gukesh went for a thematic central breakthrough in the early part of the middle game and developed his forces efficiently to force some exchanges. The players reached a Queen and pawn endgame that was just level

and offered no hopes for complications.

Gujrathi’s Scotch opening as white raised visions of a complicated game but Bartel was up to the task even though it looked like the Indian was on top. Gujrathi won a rook for a minor piece but black had sufficient counter-play. The draw was a just result.

In the Challengers section Grandmaster R Vaishali scored her second victory on the trot at the expense of Stepan Herbek of Czech Republic. The victory brought Vaishali back to a fifty percent score after two losses in the first two rounds.

Meanwhile the race for India’s top rated continued and Viswanathan Anand again reclaimed the top spot as Arjun Erigaise lost the second round game against Xiangzhi Bu in the Shenzhen Masters in China.

RESULTS round 4 (Indians unless stated): Richard Rapport (Rou, 2.5) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 1.5) David Navara (Cze, 1.5) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (Iri, 3); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 1.5) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (1.5); Nodirbek Abdusattarov (Uzb, 3) drew with D Gukesh (2.5); Vidit Gujrathi (2) drew with Mateusz Bartel (Pol, 1).

AIFF women committee discusses appointment of new coaches

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation’s (AIFF) women’s committee on Saturday held discussions regarding the appointment of new coaches for national teams and recruitment of more ‘A’ and ‘B’ License coaches.

In recent times, the country finished joint winners in the SAFF U19 Women’s Championship in Dhaka. Immediately after that, the senior team secured the runners-up position in the Turkish Women’s Cup.

The U-16 women’s team is currently playing in the SAFF Championship and won the first match comfortably.

“The women’s senior national team didn’t have the opportunity to get international exposure for many months. There are plans to give the team more frequent exposure in the near future,” said acting secretary general Satyanarayan.

“In light of these achievements and with



various international competitions underway, the ‘Khelo India’ Women’s Football League continues to serve as a beacon of progress.

“It offers a crucial platform for aspiring women footballers to unlock their poten-

tial and play an important role in fostering the growth of the sport throughout the nation.”

The committee analysed the performances of the various women’s national teams and deliberated upon the discus-

sions going on with the sport’s world governing body regarding the FIFA Women’s Development Programme and various domestic leagues that are being conducted in the country, such as the Khelo India Women’s League and the Indian Women’s League. The committee also lauded the strategic deployment of scouts across regions of the country, recognising their important role in talent identification and development. Additionally, discussions were held regarding the appointment of new coaches, signalling a promising step forward in advancing women’s football in India.

The committee underscored the importance of recruiting more A and B License coaches, particularly goalkeeper coaches, and encouraging their active participation within the ecosystem.

In addition to these initiatives, the committee recommended the celebration of Women’s Day and the organisation of virtual workshops.



With experience, things have changed for me: Sreejesh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Veteran goalkeeper PR Sreejesh says he has learned to steer clear of negative thoughts with experience, something that has helped him immensely while guarding the post for the Indian team in big matches.

As he prepares for the upcoming Paris Olympics, Sreejesh spoke about the criticism that comes with the “thankless job” of manning the goalpost for the national side.

“It is a thankless job at times because if I made 10 saves and concede one goal, everyone will remember that one mistake. But I have accepted that and I have moved on with that,” he said on Saturday.

“This profession has helped me in my personal life on how to deal with pressure and criticism as well,” Sreejesh added during a conversation with David Lee, who is the head coach of Prime Volleyball League franchise Bengaluru Torpedoes.

One of the best players in modern-day volleyball, Lee represented USA thrice at the Olympics, and led his side to a gold medal and a bronze medal.

Sreejesh, who is one of the top goalkeepers in the world, has represented India at the Olympics three times, and won the bronze medal at the

Tokyo Games in 2021.

During a discussion on how athletes can develop mental strength at an early age, Sreejesh opened up on his struggles as a young goalkeeper.

“Goalkeeping is a mental game. Being a player, we understand how we want to get involved in a match. But, being a goalkeeper, I just stand behind and my game is in my head,” Sreejesh said.

“As a young player, my negative feelings used to dominate my positive feelings, and that would lead me to concede goals. Now, with my experience, things have changed for me, and I allow positive thoughts to dominate.”

Sreejesh praised Prime Volleyball League for providing a platform for youngsters to showcase their skills and recalled his experience of playing in the erstwhile Hockey India League.

“I was always very curious to see how the top overseas players are playing and how they train and behave.

“Earlier, I never used to care about my diet, preparations, or proteins. I was a good listener, but never took an initiative in meetings. But the league helped me in learning from the overseas player and helped me improve in all these aspects of my game.”

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The seasoned Shiva Thapa, Deepak Bhorla and Nishant Dev will be among nine Indian boxers fighting it out for Paris Olympic berths at the 1st World Qualification Tournament, starting in Busto Arsizio, Italy on Sunday.

Seven men and two women from India will be aiming to secure Olympic berths at the qualifiers being conducted by the Paris 2024 Boxing Unit (PBU), an ad-hoc body created by the International Olympic Committee Executive Board.

The tournament has 49 quota places on offer and a boxer will be assured of a Paris ticket after reaching the semifinals.

In the women’s 60kg category, however, there will be a box-off between the losing semifinalists to decide the Olympic berths as only three spots are available.

While several boxers have already obtained quota places via their respective continental events, there are many world-class pugilists

including Colombia’s Yuberjen Martinez and Tomoya Tsuboi of Japan in the men’s 51kg, reigning 57kg world champion Makhmud Sabyrkhan of Kazakhsan and Olympic silver medallist Yoel Finol of Venezuela, who will be keen to seal the deal in Italy this month.

India’s hopes will be spearheaded by the trio of 2023 world championship medallists — Bhorla (51kg), Mohammed Hussamudin (57kg) and Dev (71kg).

Bhorla and Dev have emerged as strong contenders in their respective weight classes over the last year.

Two-time Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Hussamudin will be back in the ring for the first time since last year’s world championships, having undergone a surgery on his left knee.

Expectations will be high from the six-time Asian Championship medallist Thapa (63.5kg) as well as former Asian champion Sanjeet (92kg).



Super heavyweight boxer Narender Berwal (+92kg) is also a strong contender. He came the closest to clinching a quota among all Indian male pugilists at the Asian Games, which was the first qualifying

event for the boxers from the continent.

Among women, Jaismine Lamboria will have her task cut out in the women’s 60kg category. She was given strong competition by Simranjit Kaur

at the nationals in December and the CWG bronze medallist will have to up her game for a favourable outcome.

Former youth world champion Ankushita Boro

(66kg) has been given a chance over Arundhati Choudhary, who had defeated the Assam boxer in the final of the nationals in December.

Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Parveen Hooda (57kg) and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg) have already secured their passage to Paris.

This is, however, not the last chance for boxers to qualify for the Paris Games as the last qualifying event will be held in May-June in Thailand.

India had nine boxers competing at the Tokyo Olympics, which yielded one medal — a bronze by Borgohain.

SQUAD:

WOMEN: Jaismine Lamboria (60kg), Ankushita Boro (66kg).

MEN: Deepak Bhorla (51kg), Mohammed Hussamudin (57kg), Shiva Thapa (63.5kg), Nishant Dev (71kg), Lakshya Chahar (80kg), Sanjeet (92kg), Narender Berwal (+92kg).

FIA president: Red Bull boss Christian Horner controversy ‘damaging sport’

AP ■ SAKHIR (BAHRAIN)

The president of Formula 1’s governing body told the Financial Times the controversy around Red Bull team principal Christian Horner is damaging the sport but that the FIA won’t conduct its inquiry unless it receives a complaint.

Ahead of Saturday’s season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix, Mohammed Ben Sulayem said any complaint lodged with its compliance officer would be investigated. But, it had not received one related to Horner’s situation and would not “jump the gun,” the newspaper reported.

“It’s damaging the sport,” Ben Sulayem told the newspaper, which added that he was speaking Friday after a meeting with Horner. “This is damaging on a human level.”

On Wednesday, the team’s parent company dismissed a complaint of alleged misconduct by



Horner toward a team employee. A day later during practice for the Bahrain Grand Prix, a file alleged to contain evidence against Horner was emailed to nearly 200 people in the F1 paddock, including Liberty Media, F1, the FIA, the other nine team principals and multiple media outlets.

The authenticity of the files has not been verified by The Associated Press; the file came

from a generic email account. Horner has denied wrongdoing and said in a statement issued Thursday that he would not “comment on anonymous speculation.”

Three-time defending champion Max Verstappen said after qualifying for pole position Friday that Horner was “fully committed to the team” but that his team principal was also “probably a little bit distracted.

FIFA rules panel scraps plan for blue cards

AP ■ LOCH LOMOND (SCOTLAND)

There will be no blue cards shown in soccer, FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Saturday ahead of the annual meeting of the sport’s rule-making panel.

The rules panel known as IFAB is due to look at extending trials of “sin bins” at low-level games. But beyond that, the idea aired a month ago of adding blue cards to referees’ pockets with their red and yellow to remove players from the field for several minutes has been scrapped.

“Let me be clear — it’s a red card to the idea of blue cards,” Infantino told reporters in a video clip posted overnight on his Instagram account. “There will not be any blue cards used at elite level.”

“This is a topic that is non-existent for us and FIFA is completely opposed to blue cards,” Infantino said at a lakeside hotel that will host the meeting near Glasgow.

Sin bins were introduced in grassroots soccer in the 2019-20 season to try to reduce dissent and increase fair play.

The idea has been unpopular with English Premier League coaches who believe teams will use defensive and negative tactics if a



player is removed for 10 minutes.

However, the new suggestion of using blue cards to send players to sin bins was met with widespread derision.

The IFAB panel is made up of officials from FIFA and the four British soccer federations. FIFA has four votes and the federations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales each has one. Six votes are needed for a proposal to pass.

Sin bins are used in rugby for a variety of fouls. Ice hockey similarly whistles penalties that send players to the “penalty box.” Infractions such as tripping are two-minute penalties that give the other team an advantage called the “power play” that creates more goal-scoring opportunities.

NEW ZEALAND BOWL OUT AUSTRALIA, CHASES 369

AP ■ WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND)

Part-time off-spinner Glenn Phillips took 5-45 as New Zealand bowled out Australia for 164 in its second innings Saturday on the third day of the first cricket test. Phillips' maiden five-wicket total comprised the wickets of Usman Khawaja (28), first-innings century-maker Cameron Green (34), Travis Head (29), Mitch Marsh for a first-ball duck and Alex Carey (3). Matt Henry took 3-36 as Australia was bowled in less than four hours. Australia still increased its overall lead to 368 after leading by 204 on the first innings. At stumps New Zealand was 111-3 and 257 runs behind. Rachin Ravindra reached a half century from 77 balls just before stumps and was 56 not out at the close of play and Daryl Mitchell was 12.

Australia struck a major blow when it dismissed Kane Williamson for 9 in the last session. Williamson fell to Nathan Lyon, the off-spinner who likely holds the key to the match. After being run out for 0 in the first innings, Williamson was caught by Steve Smith at leg slip from a ball that bounced more than he expected. Smith moved to first slip and caught Will Young (15) off Head as New Zealand's hopes of winning began to melt away. Ravindra revived those hopes a little before stumps with his first half century in his first match against Australia. The only previous time he passed 50 in his test career, he made 240. A New Zealand win remained unlikely and of the three possible results still in play an Australia win is most probable. A draw also looms as a possibility as rain is forecast for most of the fourth

day. New Zealand's highest successful fourth-innings run chase in New Zealand is 324 and the current target would represent the 10th-highest successful chase in the history of test cricket. Still, Phillips' incredible contribution in the middle session when four of his five wickets fell helped save some face for New Zealand after it was bowled out for 179 in reply to Australia's 383. New Zealand captain Tim Southee threw the ball to Phillips as his first spin option of the second innings. New Zealand didn't take a specialist spinner into the match but relied on Ravindra who took 1-24 in the first innings. Southee then backed Phillips who bowled his 16 overs without a break. "It's a dream come true absolutely," Phillips said. "Tim (Southee) is an incredible captain and he really gives me the confidence to go out there



and stick to my plan and also gives you the chance to be able to miss every now and then. As a spinner you really need that. "The bowling unit today really stuck to the things we wanted to stick to. Partnership bowling all the way." Phillips has a reputation in the New Zealand team as a player who can make things happen in all three formats: a hard-hitting middle-order batsman, an athletic fielder and now as a serious bowling option. He had taken only 11 wickets in his five previous tests with a best of 4-53. When Green became his fifth victim, brilliantly caught by Will Young under the helmet at short leg, Phillips set off on a long, jubilant run around the Basin Reserve, finally ending the Henry's arms. "I've got a six-year-old daughter and any celebration a six-year-old girl would do, that's probably me," Phillips

said. "I've never really thought what to do if I got a five-for but the emotion, the way the crowd went up. It was just an unbelievable moment." Phillips acknowledged New Zealand's chance of winning the test is slight but happy to be able to give his team a chance. "I understand we've got to combat the situations that are out there," he said. "Obviously there's a bit of turn so it's a matter of how we go about combating (Nathan) Lyon. The way their big fast bowlers bowl as well is going to be a challenge. "I definitely think we've got the time on our hands to be able to pull this off." Australia resumed Saturday at 13-2 after losing Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne late on the second day. Nathan Lyon was once again a useful nightwatchman and he made 41 before he fell in the first session and Khawaja also was out stumped before lunch.



CSK training camp ahead of IPL 2024 gets underway

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings' pre-season camp got underway here on Saturday in the presence of pacer Deepak Chahar, who will be eyeing a national comeback through a consistent run for his franchise in the IPL beginning March 22. "The first batch of local (Indian) players arrived on Friday and more are expected to arrive in the coming days," a Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) official told PTI. On Friday, CSK confirmed the arrival of the first batch of players in the city and they included Simarjeet Singh (pacer), Rajvardhan Hangargekar (all-rounder), Mukesh Choudhary (pacer), Prashant Solanki (spinner), Ajay Mandal (all-rounder) and Deepak Chahar (seamer). Notably, Chahar has not played any form of cricket since last

December when he pulled out of the T20 series against Australia midway before skipping the tour of South Africa due to his father's illness. However, he declared himself fully fit last month while training at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. The injury-prone pacer is eyeing a comeback to the national side for the T20 World Cup scheduled in the Caribbean and the USA in June. Fan-favourite and team skipper MS Dhoni's arrival is yet to be confirmed. He was spotted with his wife Sakshi in Jannagar on Friday when he attended the pre-wedding function of Anant Ambani, the youngest son of Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani. CSK open their IPL 2024 campaign versus Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) here on March 22.

CA chief Hockley denies reports Big Three ignored study to save Test cricket

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley on Saturday rebutted reports that India, England and his organisation had not paid attention to a draft presented to the International Cricket Council to save Test cricket. A report in the Sydney Morning Herald said that the three powerful boards were dismissive of a document compiled by New Zealand Cricket chair Martin Snedden, who proposed an overhaul of the future tours program (FTP) to save the longest version of the game. "Categorically, I think there was some misreporting around that. Certainly, the discussions I'm in at the moment are very much thinking about how we can optimise the calendar and how we can continue to grow cricket around the world," Hockley told SEN Cricket. The changes proposed in the blueprint document include additional windows for T20 leagues other than the Indian Premier League, alteration in the World Test Championship points system, 40-over ODIs, apprehensions about T20Is and an effort towards pooling of broadcast rights revenue for bilateral series. Hockley, when asked about the report, denied suggestions that the powerful nations were turning a blind eye to Test cricket, saying he had met Snedden



during the New Zealand-Australia first Test in Wellington and conveyed to him that Australia was very much committed to help ICC ensure all the three formats flourish. "We had a great catch-up with Martin (Snedden) here yesterday (Friday in Wellington)," Hockley said. "We're very much involved with that piece of work. I think at Cricket Australia we've got good influence and I think we've got a really important role to play around the ICC in terms of driving strategy. "I think that Cricket Australia has been behind many of the developments. Whether that's the introduction of the World Test Championship. I'm on the FTP working group with the ICC, and making sure that we're keeping all three formats healthy and strong, that we're growing the game in all territories," he added. Pointing out the growth of cricket across the world, Hockley

said countries like the United States too had embraced the game and would be co-hosting the T20 World Cup with the West Indies later this year. "It's just brilliant to see the way that the T20 World Cup in the US has been embraced. I understand that ticket sales were 20 times oversubscribed when they were when they were released. "So, I think cricket has a great opportunity to have a format strategy where all the formats play a role and all fit together. That is really the essence of the work that Martin has started. It's incumbent on all of us as members working together to make sure that we continue to take it forward," he added. Hockley added that Australia had great respect for the World Test Championship and that its men's Test cricket was its prized property. "Practically, it is making sure that the World Test Championship is given greater prominence so each Test series has context. "I think it's looking at the economic viability in different territories and how we make sure that it is economically viable for those countries where it isn't (currently). Still for Australia... Men's Test cricket is the most valuable property. So, it's really working together. "Then on the calendar, it's trying to configure the calendar in a way that there's space for all three formats," he concluded.

RANJI TROPHY SEMIFINAL

Deshpande, Thakur shine as Mumbai thrash Tamil Nadu

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Tushar Deshpande (3/24) and T Shardul Thakur (2/48) starred with the ball to put Mumbai on top following a meek display from Tamil Nadu on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal here on Saturday. Tamil Nadu skipper B Sai Kishore's decision to bat first backfired as the visitors were shot out for a mere 146 in the first innings with Deshpande and Thakur making life miserable for the visiting batters at the BKC Ground. If it was any consolation, Tamil Nadu struck twice with the ball but Mumbai shaved off a significant chunk of first-innings deficit, reaching 45/2 at stumps to trail by another 101 runs. Musheer Khan (24 not out) and nightwatchman Mohit Avasthi (1) were at the crease with Mumbai losing openers Prithvi Shaw (5) and Bhupen Lalwani (15). Shaw fell early against Kuldeep Sen while Sai Kishore trapped Lalwani for the second wicket, but Mumbai remained on top. On a track which had movement off the surface as well as turn for spinners, Mumbai proved to be the superior side given their bowlers extracted more support and their batters did not find getting runs as tough as the visitors. Tamil Nadu, shellshocked by a disastrous start to their first semifinal in seven years, could not muster the courage to stage a fightback and folded shortly after tea despite Vijay Shankar (44) and Washington Sundar's



(43) rearguard act. The horror began when B Sai Sudharsan was trapped leg-before on the fourth ball of the match by Shardul Thakur and it did not take long for the Mumbai bowlers to get all over the Tamil Nadu side in the first hour. Mumbai bowlers exploited the early moisture with the new ball to perfection as Mohit Avasthi had TN's leading run-maker N Jagadeesan (4) caught at short leg by Musheer Khan. Coming in as first change, Deshpande remained unplayable throughout the innings for the Tamil Nadu batters. Pradosh Ranjan Paul's bat crumbled in his hands as he hit one straight to Deshpande, who took a fine return catch for the third wicket. It was a brave call for skipper R Sai Kishore to promote himself ahead of the dependable Baba Indrajith but one that did not work. Sai Kishore's footwork was all over the place when Deshpande pitched one in line of the stumps to move the ball back in, pegging back the middle-stump as Tamil Nadu slumped to 17/4. Tamil Nadu's hopes of a revival

took a body blow when Indrajith (11) was caught at short midwicket with Tanush Kotian (2/10) taking a sharp diving catch in front of him to leave the visitors reeling. Shankar and Sundar fought well on either side of the lunch break but the pitch did not relent in giving support to the Mumbai bowlers. Shankar, who began well with a flurry of fours, was tested consistently outside the off-stump by Deshpande, who kept moving the ball away from the right-hander. Deshpande's hard work resulted in a breakthrough for Thakur who had Shankar caught at the second slip by Shams Mulani for a 109-ball 44 which featured eight fours. Having shown a little interest in getting runs, Shankar's departure forced Sundar to get a move on. While he was mostly resolute in defence, Sundar also had luck favouring him twice. An outside edge off Shardul had Shreyas Iyer spilling a tough chance on 11 and when he reached 37, Musheer spilled a catch at cover. Mohammed Mohammed smacked three fours in a row of Thakur towards the end to make it 22 runs from one over, which gave a big push to the visitor's total. **BRIEF SCORES:** **Tamil Nadu** 146 in 64.1 overs (Vijay Shankar 44, Washington Sundar 43; Shardul Thakur 2/48, Tushar Deshpande 3/24, Tanush Kotian 2/10) lead **Mumbai** 45/2 in 17 overs (Bhupen Lalwani 15, Musheer Khan 24*; Kuldeep Sen 1/25, SaiK Kishore 1/3) by 101 runs.

Bayern Munich drops points against Freiburg

AP ■ BERLIN

Bayern Munich's title hopes have suffered another blow. Lucas Höler scored late for Freiburg to frustrate Bayern with a 2-2 draw in the Bavarian powerhouse's 2,000th Bundesliga game on Friday. Bayern, the 11-time defending champion, was on the verge of cutting the gap to league leader Bayer Leverkusen to five points until the 87th minute, when Höler struck a fine volley with his left boot inside the far post after the visitors failed to clear the ball. Leverkusen can move 10 points clear at the top with a win at Cologne in their derby on Sunday. Ten rounds remain after this weekend. "It's really annoying how things are going right now. For me personally, for

everyone," said Jamal Musiala, who put Bayern in front. "We all want to win and be champions. We want to get titles and we just have to stay as positive as possible and push through, and play as well as possible to maybe (win) something still." Bayern next hosts Lazio on Tuesday for the second leg of their Champions League round of 16 tie, needing to overcome a 1-0 loss from the first leg in Rome. All four goals on Friday were spectacular. Freiburg made a better start and Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer made a fine save to stop Roland Sallai's header, then Sallai hit the crossbar with an overhead kick, and Christian Günter struck the ball perfectly to send it inside the far post in the 12th. Tel equalized in the 35th with a strike as sweet as Günter's inside the right post.



The 18-year-old French forward, making a rare start because of Leroy Sané's injury, flicked the ball inside with his first touch and dispatched it past Freiburg 'keeper Noah Atubolu with his next. Bayern was better after the break, when Atubolu saved from Musiala and Höler needed to clear Harry Kane's header off

the line. Musiala scored in the 75th when he weaved through three Freiburg defenders and curled his shot inside the far post. "It's just instinct," Musiala said. "You look to see what possibilities arise, with dribbling, with head, a change of movement, and see what you can create. Everything is seeing in the moment, what can I do." But Höler had the final say to cost Bayern potentially decisive points in the league title race. "Mindlessly played first half hour and punished for it. Came back with an individual action. Nothing else was possible at the time and the second half was OK then. But sure, in the end, one half is not enough," Bayern coach Thomas Tuchel said after his second game since his end-of-season departure was announced.

Messi, Inter Miami to skip US Open Cup

AP ■ CHICAGO



Lionel Messi and Inter Miami won't compete in this year's U.S. Open Cup and just eight of Major League Soccer's 26 American teams will enter the competition. Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles FC, Salt Lake, San Jose and Seattle will enter the 96-team competition, the U.S. Soccer Federation said Friday. Houston is the defending tournament champion and the others were among the top seven teams from last year's regular-season Supporters' Shield standings who are not in this year's CONCACAF Champions Cup. MLS teams will enter in the third round and face only lower tier squads until a head-to-head MLS matchup is unavoidable. Last year, 18 MLS teams entered in the third round and eight in the fourth. Houston beat Miami 2-1 in last year's final. Messi missed the game because of an injury. Since the start of MLS in 1996, the only team not from the first tier to win the competition was the 1999 Rochester Raging Rhinos of the USL's second-tier A-League, which beat the Colorado

tives, increased travel reimbursement and added new commercial partners. MLS said it will enter 11 teams from its third tier: Austin, Carolina, Chattanooga, Chicago, Colorado, Crown Legacy, Minnesota, LA Galaxy, New York City, New York Red Bulls and Portland. The second tier United Soccer League Championship is entering all 24 teams. First-round matches will be scheduled for March 19-21, followed by the second round on April 2 and 3, the third round on April 16 and 17, the fourth round on May 7 and 8 and the fifth round on May 21 and 22. Quarterfinals will be July 9 and 10, semifinals on Aug.

Defending champion Alex de Minaur in Mexican Open final

AP ■ ACAPULCO (MEXICO)

Defending champion Alex de Minaur advanced to the final of the Mexican Open when Jack Draper retired in the third set Friday. The third-seeded Australian won the first set 6-3, dropped the second 6-2 and was leading 4-0 in the third when Draper, who was visibly diminished physically, called it quits. De Minaur will face Casper Ruud, who pulled off an upset by beating second-seeded Holger Rune 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the late match. "I'm happy to be in the final, but I'm hoping that Jack is doing fine. He has a tremendous talent and hopefully he can recover for the upcoming tournaments," de Minaur said. "It's hard to play when your opponent is not OK physically, but you need to remain focused." The 25-year-old de Minaur won his ninth straight match in Mexico and became the first

defending champion to reach the Acapulco final since David Ferrer in 2013. De Minaur has seven career ATP titles, with last year at Acapulco his most recent. Draper, from England, was playing in his first semifinal of an ATP 500 tournament. Later, in the other semifinals, Ruud lost the first set and then was down 3-1 in the third with Rune serving, but he managed a couple of breaks and hold his serve to take the win. "I did not get the best start, and the third set looked really bad, I just tried to stay in there and it seemed like Holger was struggling and at the end it worked for me," said Ruud. The 25-year-old Norwegian will try to win his 10th career title, the first one at an ATP 500. Rune, who is the seventh player on the ATP rankings, lost in the Acapulco semifinals for the second year in a row.

MP bowl out Vidarbha for 170 on Day 1

PTI ■ NAGPUR

Avesh Khan-led Madhya Pradesh pace bowling unit hit right lengths on a pitch that offered enough carry to bowl out Vidarbha for a meagre 170 on day one to gain control of their Ranji Trophy semifinal match here on Saturday. Avesh (4/49) was the pick of MP bowlers, while receiving good support from Kulwant Khejroliya (2/38) and Venkatesh Iyer (2/28). Madhya Pradesh reached 47 for one in their first innings at close, and trail by 123 runs. The VCA Stadium deck wore such fine green tinge as MP employed spin for just 2.4 overs in a total of 56.4 overs they bowled on the day. Left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya, who dismissed last man Umesh Yadav, did the spinner's duty for a brief period. Other spinners in their ranks like offie Saransh Jain remained spectators of the proceedings. Vidarbha's feeble fight came through Karun Nair, who made 63 (105 balls, 9x4). India pacer Avesh gave MP a fine start to the match when he uprooted the stumps of opener Dhruv Shorey (13). Vidarbha lost wickets at regular intervals from that point and their biggest partnership was a 36 between Atharva Taide (39, 63b, 8x4) and Aman Mokhadhe (13, 75 balls) for the second wicket.



It came in almost 16 overs but the home side failed to capitalise on all the hard work. Taide, who made a gritty hundred against Karnataka in the quarterfinals, snicked Iyer to stumper Himanshu Mantri who took a lovely tumbling catch behind the first slip. It brought Karun, Vidarbha's highest run-getter so far this season, to the middle and he played a fine innings filled with those typical drives and cuts. But the right-hander did not find support from the other end as Avesh dismissed a stubborn Mokhadhe. The hosts soon lost Yash Rathod, bowled by Iyer, and skipper Akshay Wadkar in the space of five runs to slip to 106 for five. The catch Yash Dubey took at gully off pacer Khejroliya to oust Wadkar was a stunning one. He made a low-dive to his

left to pouch a screamer as Wadkar tried to steer the ball from outside the off-stump. Vidarbha's hopes of reaching at least 200 was dashed when Karun dragged a Khejroliya delivery to his stumps while attempting a pull. However, the Vidarbha bowlers were not as accurate as their MP counterparts as the visiting batters saw off the day without any alarm. The lone jarring note was the dismissal of Dubey who feathered an edge off Umesh to Wadkar behind the stumps. **BRIEF SCORES:** **Vidarbha** (1st Innings): 170 all out in 56.4 overs (Karun Nair 63, Atharva Taide 39; Avesh Khan 4/49, Kulwant Khejroliya 2/38, Venkatesh Iyer 2/28) vs **Madhya Pradesh**: 47/1 in 20 overs (Himanshu Mantri 26 batting, Harsh Gawli 10 batting).

“I really believe that what I do as an actress is my God-given talent. This is my calling, not my career”
— Angela Bassett



HUMA QURESHI, the acclaimed Indian actress, has carved her niche in the film industry with her remarkable talent and versatile performances. Her breakthrough role in Anurag Kashyap’s crime thriller Gangs of Wasseypur garnered widespread acclaim, establishing her as a force to reckon with in Bollywood. Known for her ability to portray complex characters with nuance and authenticity, Qureshi has since delivered captivating performances in web series like Laila Maharani. Beyond her acting prowess, she advocates for social causes and gender equality, using her platform to address important issues. Huma Qureshi continues to captivate audiences with her talent, proving herself as one of the most compelling actresses of her generation. She spoke to the **PIONEER** about her craft and career

ACTRESS OF DEPTH AND VERSATILITY



I WAS INTO THEATRE IN COLLEGE AND THAT’S WHERE I DISCOVERED MY LOVE FOR ACTING. I MOVED TO MUMBAI WITH THE INTENTION OF BECOMING AN ACTOR. IN MY INITIAL DAYS IN THE INDUSTRY, I DID A COMMERCIAL WHICH WAS DIRECTED BY ANURAG KASHYAP AND HE OFFERED ME GANGS OF WASSEYPUR. THAT’S HOW MY JOURNEY IN CINEMA WAS KICKSTARTED

CAN YOU share a bit about your journey into the film industry and how you got your start as an actress?

I was into theatre in college and that’s where I discovered my love for acting. I moved to Mumbai with the intention of becoming an actor. In my initial days in the industry, I did a commercial which was directed by Anurag Kashyap and he offered me Gangs of Wasseypur. That’s how my journey in cinema was kickstarted.

What motivated you to pursue a career in acting?

In school I used to keenly participate in extra-curricular activities. Whether it was elocution, debates or plays. When I went to college, I was deeply attracted to theatre and was bitten by the acting bug. I moved to Mumbai with the dream of becoming an actor.

Of all the roles you’ve played so far, which one has been the most challenging, and why? I have played roles which have challenged me as an actor and made me push myself out of my comfort zone. It’s difficult to choose any one role. I thoroughly enjoyed playing both Mohsina and Jhilmil even though they belong to completely different worlds. In the recent past, whether it was Tarla, Monica, Shalini or Rani Bharti - they are all strong women who will not be deterred by society or it’s norms and will rise above their circumstances with sheer will power and be unapologetic about their ambitions.

Can you tell us about any upcoming projects that you are excited about?

The third season of Maharani will be streaming soon. I think this is one of the only shows which has a female protagonist and has been commissioned for the third season. I am really looking forward to how people receive it.

How do you think the film industry has evolved during your career, especially in terms of roles for women and what changes would you like to see in the entertainment industry, particularly in Bollywood?

It’s important for every actor to figure out their own path. There always will be a plethora of roles to play and actors must

choose roles that work for them. The parameters for choosing roles are one’s own. The sets have more women in all departments of filmmaking. Even though it’s still not a level playing field, for example, the pay gap between male and female actors is still an issue, the industry has space for everyone and is constantly evolving

How do you approach preparing for a new role? Are there any specific methods you follow?

Not really. For me, reading the script multiple times helps. I just follow the script and the director’s vision. Of course as an actor I improvise where it makes sense. But, essentially, I rely on the script for shaping my role.

Balancing personal and professional life can be challenging. How do you manage to maintain that balance? What are your favorite ways to unwind and relax when you’re not working? I love sleeping. On days when I am not shooting, I am usually catching up on my sleep or hang out with my friends and family.

In recent years, many actors have become advocates for social issues. Are there any causes that you are particularly passionate about? How do you see your platform as an actress contributing to social change or awareness? I made a film which addressed body shaming called Double XL. As an actor one is expected to fit a mould but I have never adhered to that. My film was about how the skills a person has is far superior and what matters more than the looks or the how much they weigh. There has always been a lot of pressure on women to look a certain way and I have always advocated against that thought process.

What advice would you give to aspiring actors who are looking to enter the film industry?

Every individual’s journey is different and they have to write their own story. What worked for me might not work for someone else. Focus, determination and resilience are key qualities.

Are there any lessons you’ve learned in your career that you wish someone had told you earlier?

I am glad that I got the opportunity to be on the journey and experience it for myself.



I LOVE SLEEPING. ON DAYS WHEN I AM NOT SHOOTING, I AM USUALLY CATCHING UP ON MY SLEEP OR HANG OUT WITH MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY







Jewellery

THAT REFLECTS YOUR STYLE

Recognised for its enduring value and cultural significance, handcrafted jewellery continues to be a preferred choice among discerning individuals looking to make meaningful and lasting investments in precious metals and stones. As the wedding season approaches, we speak to jewellery expert **GUNJAN SONI** about the latest trends. By **NIVI SHRIVASTAVA**



BRIDAL BLING

KNOWN for its stunning bridal pieces and intricate sets, the House of MBJ is famous for designing statement necklaces, traditional mangalsutras, chandbalis, jhumkas and chandelier earrings, and beautifully crafted maang tikkas. Speaking about the latest trends for brides, Gunjan informs, “We understand the importance of making every bride’s special day even more magical. We offer a curated selection of bridal jewellery that captures the essence of timeless elegance and contemporary flair. In terms of specific styles, we specialize in traditional, antique, and modern designs, ensuring that there’s something for every bride’s taste and preference. Whether

you’re looking for a classic Kundan or Gold set, a regal Polki ensemble, or a modern diamond-studded piece, our bridal collection is designed to cater to diverse style sensibilities. Each piece is meticulously crafted to complement the bride’s attire and enhance her natural beauty on her wedding day.”

As for the latest trends in bridal jewellery, the market is currently witnessing a surge in demand for contemporary yet traditional designs. Brides are gravitating towards statement pieces that blend cultural aesthetics with a modern twist. Adding further, Gunjan says, “Personalized and customizable jewellery is gaining popularity, allowing brides to add a personal touch to their bridal ensembles. For brides who

appreciate versatility, convertible jewellery is a trend to watch. Pieces that can be worn in multiple ways, such as detachable necklace pendants or convertible earrings, provide brides with the flexibility to create different looks throughout their wedding festivities. This year, we have launched the AZRA bridal collection, which aims to transport wearers to a world of timeless charm and magical allure. Each piece in this collection is meticulously crafted to capture the essence of elegance, sophistication, and grace. The collection showcases an array of exquisite gemstones, including radiant diamonds, lustrous pearls, and vibrant colored gemstones, each carefully selected for its exceptional brilliance and symbolic significance.”



EVERYDAY ELEGANCE

APART from bridal sets, contemporary jewellery with modern aesthetics is also a huge hit among young buyers, who love sporting layered necklaces for both festive and daily occasions. For festive styling, Gunjan recommends, “Consider mixing various lengths and styles of layered neckpieces with Indian wear, while delicate and dainty options work seamlessly for daily wear. Statement earrings with intricate details and vibrant gemstones are perfect for adding glamour to festive attire, while smaller, more subtle statement earrings can elevate daily outfits. Stackable rings and bracelet stacks remain en vogue, allowing for creative expression in both festive and daily ensembles. Choker necklaces, especially those with unique detailing, effortlessly enhance traditional outfits for celebrations, while simpler versions make for stylish daily accessories. Personalized jewellery, such as pieces with initials or significant dates, adds a sentimental touch suitable for both special occasions and everyday wear.”

A BLEND OF TRADITION AND MODERNITY

Currently, young jewellery buyers in India reveal a strong affinity for contemporary designs that seamlessly merge tradition with modernity. Brands have noticed a particular fondness for minimalist pieces that effortlessly complement everyday wear. Versatility is paramount, as youngsters look for designs that effortlessly transition



from casual to formal settings, meeting diverse lifestyle needs. Gunjan reveals, “Our customization options allow for personalization with initials or birthstones and resonate deeply with this dynamic demographic seeking self-expression. We prioritize ethical and sustainable practices in jewellery production, aligning with the heightened environmental consciousness among young consumers. Collaborations



with influencers and celebrities, along with our commitment to affordability and technology integration such as virtual try-ons, enrich the shopping experience for our patrons. While embracing contemporary trends, we also honour the cultural significance of jewelry, offering pieces that celebrate India’s rich heritage.”





ARTIST’S TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR OF HOPE

75 Portraits of Prime Minister NARENDRA MODI Unveiled in Delhi



DR Avinash Kate, the Dean of Shantamani Kala Kendra at Jain University, has embarked on an extraordinary artistic endeavour by creating 75 emotion-filled portraits of Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India. These diverse portraits, capturing various facets of Shri Modi’s work, emotions, and devotion to ‘Bharat Mata’, have been meticulously crafted on canvas using acrylic colors. The exhibition, which also includes a compilation detailing Modi’s journey as the Prime Minister, was unveiled to

commemorate his leadership and representational role in shaping the modern India. This unparalleled artistic feat marks a global first, with no other artist having created such an extensive series of portraits of a single individual in various forms. Dr. Avinash Kate dedicated three months of tireless effort to this meditative process, indirectly guided by spiritual influences, adding a profound dimension to the creation of these soulful portraits. Reflecting on the exhibition, Dr. Avinash Kate expressed, “The inspiring leadership

and unwavering commitment of our esteemed Prime Minister have been a constant source of motivation for me. This collection serves as a depiction of his emotional journey, portraying him as a true ambassador of hope.” Acknowledging the support received, Dr. Chenraj Roychand, Chancellor of JAIN (Deemed-to-be University), stated, “The collection provides a unique glimpse into Dr. Kate’s inner imagination, capturing the essence of Shri Modi’s emotions, whose leadership has not only shaped the

present but is paving the way for a future where India stands tall on the global stage.” The exhibition, held at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, attracted a significant number of art enthusiasts and prominent figures directly involved in the project, including Dr. Chainraj Roychand (Chairman of Jain University) and Dr. Gani Rajendra Vijay Maharaj (Founder of Sukhi Foundation Parivar, tribal Jain saint), among others. For his commitment and dedication, Dr. Avinash Kate has received numerous prestigious

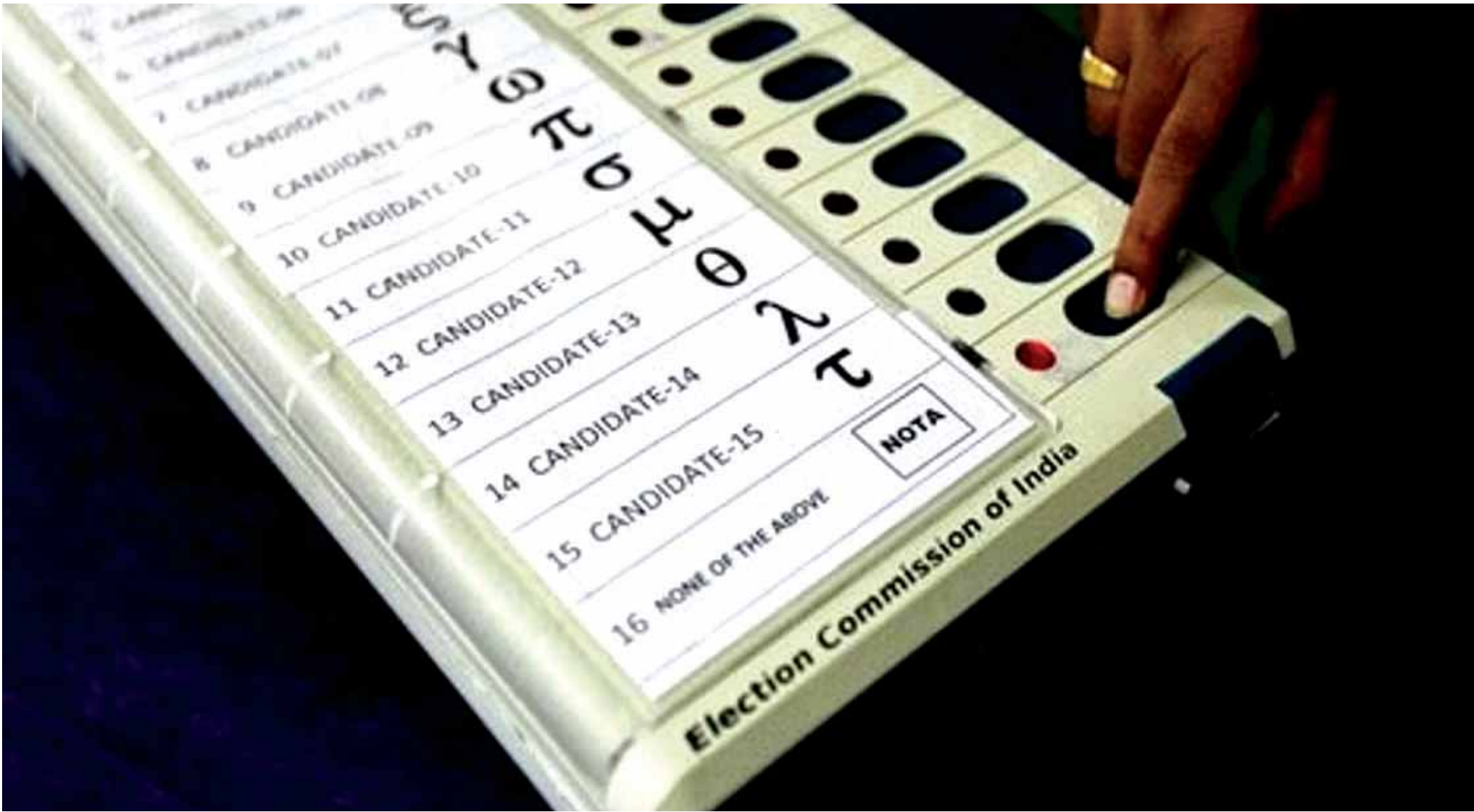
awards and honors, including recognition in world records, international records, and the Limca Book of Records. Shantamani Kala Kendra, where the exhibition took place, stands as a testament to the university’s commitment to promoting various art forms, including Fine Arts and Performing Arts, while JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) continues to be recognized among the top educational institutions in India, fostering a learner-centric environment that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship.

NOTA: THE SILENT REVOLUTION OR THE ILLUSION OF CHOICE?



ASTHA RANJAN

NOTA CONTINUES TO BE A TOOL OF DISSENT IN THE ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY. IT EMPOWERS THE ELECTORS TO REGISTER THEIR DISCONTENT WITH THE POOL OF CANDIDATES WHILE MAINTAINING SECRECY, THUS PERSUADING PARTIES TO FIELD BETTER CANDIDATES



It's impeccable to christen NOTA in the truest sense of the word as the 'Sankat Mochan' of democracy in political Lanka, as each vote deserves a political Ayodhya, not a chaotic Lanka. With the 2013 judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (PUCL v. Union of India), a firm position was set that in an exceedingly legal system, electors must be given the right to reject, which owes its genesis to freedom of speech and expression (Art. 19(1)(a)). However, this was substantially necessitated on account that secrecy of casting a vote was duly recognised under the provisions of the Representation of People's Act, 1951, and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, as being fundamental to free and fair elections. The 170th Report of the Law Commission, 1999, while laying down the chassis of NOTA,

recommended a method to ensure the purity of elections, keep out criminals and other undesirable elements, and minimise the role and importance of caste and religion. Pursuant to this, no candidate could be declared returned unless he obtains at least 50% of the votes cast, and to determine such a percentage, even the negative vote would be treated as votes cast. The report also recommends a 'run-off' and fresh election if candidates fail to secure the requisite percentage. This was endorsed by the Background Paper on Electoral Reforms, 2010. Even in Columbia, blank votes are considered to be valid ones and there stands similar provision to this effect. However, in its press release dated October 28th, 2013, the Election Commission of India clarified while referring to provisions of the Conduct of

Elections Rules, 1961 (clause (a) of Rule 64) read with the Representation of the People's Act, 1951 (Section 65), that even if the number of electors opting for NOTA option is more than the number of votes polled by any of the candidates, the candidate who secures the largest number of votes has to be declared elected. This implies that even if 99% of the electors rejected the candidature of all the candidates, conversely, in defiance of their mandate, the candidate who managed to secure just 1% of the votes could be declared to be returned. This serves as a testimony of NOTA having no electoral value in India, ergo, there's no wrong in deeming it nothing more than a protest vote. Be that as it may, to justify the forthcoming quote "Not all battles are fought for victory. Some are fought simply to tell the world that someone was there on the battlefield"

(Ravish Kumar) in an electoral democracy could set the stage for catalysing NOTA as just a token of gesture which is bound to be unjust. Nevertheless, NOTA continues to be a tool of dissent in the electoral democracy. It empowers the electors to register their discontent with the pool of candidates while maintaining secrecy, thus persuading parties to field better candidates. In the 2018 Assembly election of Madhya Pradesh, NOTA bagged fifth largest tally of votes polled (1.42%) which was more than SP (1.3%) and AAP (0.66%). Similarly, in Karnataka, NOTA secured more votes than BSP and CPI (M) which are national parties. The figures are indicative of the significant usage of NOTA in numeric sense, however, its impact still remains insignificant. The State Election Commission of Haryana deviated from the

practice of Election Commission of India during the Municipal Elections. A notification dated November 22nd, 2018 by the SEC, Haryana deemed NOTA to be a 'Fictional Electoral Candidate'. It further went on to state that if a situation arises where NOTA receives the highest number of votes, then a fresh election would be conducted. All candidates who received lesser vote than NOTA would become ineligible from contesting the re-election. Similar notification was also published by the SEC, Maharashtra in the same year. In yet another development from the past, the Supreme Court issued a notice to the Centre and the ECI on March 15th, 2021 on a PIL which sought a direction to the poll panel to nullify an election result and conduct a fresh poll if the maximum votes in a particular constituency were for NOTA.

For a democracy to survive in its true form it is essential that the best available men should be chosen as people's representative and if electors find none from the roster to be suitable enough, negative voting is necessitated. However, the rationale behind the 2013 judgement of the Apex Court has failed to bear fruits. In a vibrant democracy, voter's choice must be of paramount and if they palpably reject all the contesting candidates, their choice should be empowered by way of a fresh election. In the existing scenario, if we picture the electoral stage as a grand theatre; NOTA plays the role of a silent spectator, leaving no tangible mark on the political drama. Thus, even with the popularity of NOTA among the electors experiencing a significant rise over the years, the question of whether it is 'revolutionary' or mere 'illusionary' lingers.

Adaptability is key in today's ever-changing business landscape, and many businesses struggle to keep up with rapid changes. That's where composable architecture steps in as the game-changer. Composable architecture is like the Lego bricks of digital transformation. Brands can create independent, reusable, and scalable building blocks, mixing and matching them to fit their needs. The best part? It's fast. Brands can try new solutions, make changes, fail fast, and learn from failures quickly, making their business more agile. Take the Netflix vs Blockbuster case. Netflix embraced change early on, initially delivering DVDs by mail and then swiftly transitioning to a streaming platform. On the contrary, Blockbuster failed to adapt promptly. Even though they understood that Netflix's approach was the future, they didn't evolve quickly enough. As a result, Blockbuster couldn't keep pace and eventually faced failure. It's a lesson that being late to adjust can lead to significant consequences. The result? Blockbuster went bankrupt, while Netflix became a leader in online entertainment. The lesson? Digital transformation is no longer a choice; it's a necessity. To stay ahead, brands need a flexible and agile architecture, making composable architecture the future of digital transformation. And it comes with benefits:

The Role of Composable Architecture in Your Digital Transformation Journey

VELOCITY

One big plus of composable systems is how quickly you can get things done. Gartner predicts that by 2024, 70% of big and medium-sized companies will focus on composability to make their apps easy to put together. Teams using composable web setups show real business benefits, like faster go-to-market time.

AGILITY:

Composable architecture involves assembling systems through loosely coupled components, creating a modular structure with easily combinable, detachable, and reusable parts. Furthermore, composable architecture minimizes vendor lock-in to a great extent, allowing brands to build piece by piece. If one vendor doesn't have the required technology, a brand can get it from another, creating a customized structure using best-of-breed technologies.

SECURITY

Maintaining and updating codebases in monolithic



MAYANK MISHRA

Brands can create independent, reusable, and scalable building blocks, mixing and matching them to fit their needs. The best part? It's fast. Brands can try new solutions, make changes, fail fast, and learn from failures quickly, making their business more agile



structures affects the entire system. However, composable architectures allow alteration in each component independently, making the process far less cumbersome and risky to deploy.

REUSABILITY

The key benefit of composable architecture is the ability to reuse components. The modular

system reuses and connects standards and patterns through APIs. With reusability as a central focus, any existing modules can be reused or serve as the foundation for a new application or service. Furthermore, reusability of components lowers the development costs to a great extent.

QUICKER INNOVATION

Legacy systems are complex to handle and need lots of time and resources to change, keep up, and improve. Besides, multiple teams have to be involved in the entire process.

Composable architecture offers a more manageable IT upgrade setup, allowing seamless integration and feature launches. With composable architecture, IT can focus on developing new ideas and giving customers a better experience instead of dealing with routine tasks like marketing and maintenance.

OMNICHANNEL CAPABILITIES

A flexible digital experience platform (DXP) combined with a headless content management system (CMS) makes creating and sharing content smooth. This allows marketers to keep a consistent presence on various digital platforms and devices, all from one central place. They can quickly and easily improve and send out campaigns to reach their target audience wherever they are.

While the many benefits of composability make it desirable

for significant brands, they must first check if they have the proper framework to adopt a composable architecture. This can be done using MACH.

MACH

- M — Microservices: Independent services connected via APIs.
- A — API-First: APIs linking applications or services.
- C — Cloud-Native: Applications designed for the cloud, ensuring scalability.
- H — Headless: Decoupling front-end and back-end for flexibility.

As the business ecosystem changes, companies are figuring out that composable architecture is not only the future for business continuation but also a smart move as it makes everything work better.

Companies like Walmart, Asics, Mantel, and Shell have adopted composable architecture for efficient operations. It's not just a trend; it's the usual way of doing things now.

Digital transformation is not a one-time destination; it's an ongoing journey. The process is similar to building a stack of blocks- each piece added on-demand as your business grows. Composable architecture is the foundation of your digital transformation journey. So adopt it now and make the transformation agile and enjoyable.

(The writer is VP of Engineering, Contentstack)



Lucky number 2 | **Lucky colour** See Green
Lucky day Monday

Lucky number 14 | **Lucky colour** Black
Lucky day Thursday

Lucky number 1 | **Lucky colour** Maroon
Lucky day Sunday

Lucky number 21 | **Lucky colour** Mustard
Lucky day Saturday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331



Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com