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AUSTRALIA, CHASES 369

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

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

Established 1864 sunday pioneer

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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, Baijayant 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 PTI

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	

BJP fields Brijmohan from Raipur, Chintamani Maharaj from Surguja

ANNOUNCES ALL 11 CANDIDATES FROM CHHATTISGARH FOR LOK SABHA POLLS



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday announced all 11 candidates for the Lok Sabha elections from Chhattisgarh. Veteran party leader Brijmohan Agrawal will contest from Raipur and

former Congress leader Chintamani Maharaj from the tribal reserve seat Surguja. Vijay Baghel will again be fielded from Durg and Santosh Pandey from Rajnandgaon. Three candidates are women: Saroj Pandey from Korba, Kamlesh Jangde from Janjgir Champa

and Roopkumari Choudhary from Mahasamund. In a surprise move, Chhattisgarh Minister Brijmohan Agrawal has been shifted to national politics and fielded from Raipur. The other candidates include Radheshyam Rathia from Raigarh, Tokhan Sahu from Bilaspur, Mahesh

Kashyap and Bhojraj Nag from tribal seats of Bastar and Kanker respectively. In 2019, the BJP secured 10 out of 11 seats. Only the Bastar constituency was won by Deepak Baij of the Congress. In 2014, the Congress won two seats and the BJP nine.

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.

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Bansuri among four new BJP faces in Delhi to fight LS polls

Four sitting MPs denied LS tickets

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Four sitting Member of Parliaments (MPs) Meenakshi Lekhi (New Delhi constituency), Ramesh Bidhuri (South Delhi), Parvesh Verma (West Delhi), and Dr Harshvardhan (Chandni Chowk) have been denied the Lok Sabha tickets for the Parliamentary seats in national Capital marking four new entrants including late BJP stalwart and former Foreign Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj daughter Bansuri Swaraj from the prestigious New Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. Other new candidates announced by BJP are Ramvir Singh Bidhuri from South Delhi, councilor and former MCD Mayor Kamaljeet Sehrawat and Praveen Khandelwal, a well-known trade Union leader will respectively contest from West Delhi and Chandni Chowk. Remaining East Delhi currently represented by Gautam Gambhir and North West Delhi Hans Raj Hans will be announced in due course though Gambhir during the day announced his

political retirement. Bansuri Swaraj who will make her poll debut for the Lok Sabha seat is a distinguished lawyer. Last year, the BJP appointed her as the co-convenor of the BJP Delhi's legal cell will make her poll debut in the upcoming elections. Swaraj will face the INDIA bloc candidate and AAP leader Somnath Bharti, also a lawyer, Ramvir Bidhuri will face AAP leader Sahi Ram Pehalwan. Soon after her name was announced, Swaraj said that she will try to live up to the legacy set by her mother, who she was sure sent her blessings from heaven. "I know I have the blessings of Ma (Sushma Swaraj). But this achievement does not belong to Bansuri Swaraj, but to every karyakarta (worker) of Delhi BJP," Swaraj told a media house. Bidhuri too brings a wealth of political experience and strong holding in Gujjar community. After being elected as a Legislator for the fourth time in 2020, Bidhuri was chosen as the leader of the BJP Legislative Party and became the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly with the rank of a Cabinet Minister. Sehrawat was Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation and is highly educated, hold-

ing the degree in Bachelors of Commerce Honours (B Com) & Masters of Commerce (M Com), graduate degree in education (B. Ed), degree in Law programme and a Diploma in computer application. The party has preferred to repeat sitting MP Manoj Tiwari in North East Delhi. Tiwari is the BJP's Purvanchal face in the Capital. He won the North East Delhi (Lok Sabha constituency) in the 2014 general elections from BJP. He defeated Anand Kumar from AAP with a margin of 1,44,084 votes while in 2019 general elections, Tiwari, won against Congress stalwart and Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit in North East Delhi constituency of New Delhi by a margin of 3.63 lakh votes. In a surprising turn of events, former cricketer and East Delhi BJP MP Gautam Gambhir, one of the foremost critics of AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, on Saturday announced that he will not be contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. He urged the BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda, to relieve him of his political duties so that he can focus more on cricket as he is set to begin his tenure as the mentor of Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). He, however,



didn't clarify if he is quitting politics. This development also came just days ahead of his return as KKR's new mentor where he will be working closely with head coach Chandrakant Pandit. Gambhir's decision to quit politics comes amid reports that he may not get a ticket for the upcoming 2024 polls. "I have requested Hon'ble party president J P Nadda ji to relieve me of my political duties so that I can focus on my upcoming cricket commitments. I sincerely thank Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi ji and Home Minister Amit Shah ji for giving me the opportunity to serve the people. Jai Hind!," Gambhir said

on X. Hours before his sudden move, Gambhir shared on X a picture of the receipt for his donation to the BJP as his contribution to PM Modi's vision of building a 'Viksit Bharat' and urged all to join the drive. Gambhir joined the BJP in March 2019 and has since emerged as a prominent figure for the party in Delhi. He successfully contested and won the East Delhi seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, securing a significant margin of victory with 6,95,109 votes. A member of two World Cup-winning India squads, Gambhir will be next seen as a Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) mentor in the upcom-

ing edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which begins later this month. A BJP leader said that Gambhir's name did not figure on the final panel of potential candidates but leaders at the party's most senior level were batting for one more ticket for him. "His announcement to quit politics is completely unexpected," a party leader said. The East Delhi MP was involved in a spat with Gandhi Nagar MLA Anil Bajpai over different issues. Moreover, Gambhir's relations with other leaders in his constituency were less than cordial, he claimed. As an MP, Gambhir pursued with vigour his initiatives of running a community kitchen to provide free meals to the poor, opening libraries and focusing on the removal of the Ghazipur garbage dump. In the 2020 Assembly polls, the BJP won eight seats, three of which -- Gandhi Nagar, Vishwas Nagar and Laxmi Nagar -- were under the East Delhi Lok Sabha constituency. The party also won 21 of 36 wards in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi polls. It was the highest among the seven parliamentary constituencies in the city. Talking to the pioneer, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri

thanked the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda for South Delhi ticket. "I will try to live up the expectations. I am very grateful to PM Modi," he said. Soon after her name was announced, Bnsuri said that she will try to live up to the legacy set by her mother, who she was sure sending her blessings from heaven. Bansuri, a distinguished lawyer, brings a wealth of experience in legal procedures to the political arena. Last year, the BJP appointed her as the co-convenor of the BJP Delhi's legal cell. "My heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji for giving an opportunity to contest Lok Sabha Elections from Chandni Chowk. It proves that the party always gives opportunities to a small karyakarta who work honestly and with dedication for Bharat Mata. Over the last 10 years PM has worked day and night for the nation. We will propagate all the great work done by the Prime Minister to every voter of the constituency and ensure that vision of Viksit Bharat will propel BJP to more than 400 seats in the upcoming elections.

The entire trading community of 9 crore Indian traders are elated with this historic decision and stands in solidarity with the BJP in making India a super power," Khandelwal said after his name announced by the BJP from Chandni Chowk seat. The AAP on Saturday accused the BJP of fielding candidates without considering their eligibility or commitment to work for the people, citing the saffron party's East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir's request to relieve him of political duties. Gambhir, the BJP's Lok Sabha MP from East Delhi, has requested party chief JP Nadda to relieve him of his political duties so that he can focus on his upcoming cricket commitments. Addressing a press conference with Kuldeep Kumar -- the AAP's candidate from East Delhi for the Lok Sabha polls -- senior party leader Atishi claimed that Gambhir's request "revealed" that the BJP was not fielding him in this year's elections. Atishi, a Delhi minister, alleged that Gambhir did nothing in his East Delhi constituency during his five-year term. Other BJP MPs also remained unavailable in their constituencies, she charged.

3 injured in brawl between former, current students of JMI

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Three students were injured in a brawl between former and current students at Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi Police said on Saturday. The incident occurred on Friday evening near Jamia centenary gate where the two student groups clashed with each other, possibly due to regional differences, they added. Adil Khan (24) and Zafar (25), presently enrolled in the university, and Saqib (19), a student of Jamia School, were admitted to AIIMS Trauma Centre and Holy Family Hospital, the police said. An FIR has been registered in the matter for rioting and under Section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) of the Indian Penal Code at the Jamia Nagar Police Station, they said, adding that seven persons have been booked in the matter.



The police said teams have been formed to nab the accused. "It was a petty fight between two students on a very small issue. The Dean and HoD talked to them and the situation is fine now," chief proctor Atiqur Rahman told PTI. In the videos of the incident which have surfaced online, some youths can be seen exchanging blows and wielding sticks. "On January 1 at about 8.25 pm, a PCR call was received regarding quarrel in the campus of Jamia Millia Islamia University near gate number 13. Local SHO along with staff

reached the spot where only bystanders were found," the police said in a statement. "Later information was received from AIIMS Trauma Centre and Holy Family Hospital that 3 persons had got injured in the incident which took place in JMI University near gate number 13 and their MLCs (medico-legal case) have been prepared," the statement said. "An enquiry has revealed that some students and ex-students of JMI university are aligned on regional basis such as Poorvanchali, Western UP and Mewat. At times, these groups fight with each other on extremely petty issues which further gets aggravated by the involvement of non-students or ex-students," the police said. The university administration has been asked to ensure outsiders do not enter the campus and vitiate the environment, the police said.

LG sanctions CBI probe against Jain in extortion case

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has granted sanction for a CBI probe against former Minister Satyendar Jain in a complaint of extortion filed by money laundering accused Sukesh Chandrashekhar. Jain, who was the Jail Minister in Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government, is accused of running a high profile extortion racket from Tihar Jail and demanding Rs 10 crore as "protection money" from Sukesh Chandrashekhar another conman as to enable him to "live peacefully and comfortably in Jail". A former director general of Tihar jail was also accused in the matter, the Raj Niwas officials said. The LG has given his nod for a CBI inquiry against Jain under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, they said. Jain, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, was also lodged in

Tihar Jail where he had also influenced the jail officials into providing him with body massage and other VIP treatment. Saxena, having given his sanction for the CBI inquiry, also referred the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary action in the matter. Notably, on February 09, 2024, the LG had also sanctioned CBI inquiry against Raj Kumar, the then Superintendent of Tihar Jail, for extorting money at the behest of Jain and Sandeep Goel, the former DG of Tihar Jail. The case pertains to the charges made by Sukash Chandrashekhar that Jain had extorted and received Rs 10 crore from him in various tranches during 2018-21, either personally or through his accomplices, as protection money, so as to enable him 'to live peacefully and comfortably in different jails of Delhi (Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli)'. Jain was Minister (Jail) during this period in the AAP

Government. The matter is being investigated by the CBI and the request for prosecution sanction had come through the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV), Delhi government to the L.G, who is the competent authority in the matter. Apart from Satyendra Jain and Raj Kumar, Sukash had also accused Sandeep Goel and one Mukesh Prasad of extorting Rs 12.50 crore in various tranches during 2019-22 from him. Jain, Goel, Prasad and Kumar are accused of misusing their official positions as public servants in extending undue favour to Sukash Chandrashekhar and other high-profile inmates in Delhi Jails in lieu of valuable considerations. In his letter to Lieutenant Governor, Sukesh had alleged that more than Rs 50 crore was given to the AAP for giving Chandrashekhar an important post in the party in South Zone, and also to help him get nominated to the Rajya Sabha. Sukesh alleged that after his

arrest in 2017 in the 'two leaf symbol corruption case' he was lodged in Tihar Jail and was visited by Jain, who held the portfolio of Jail ministry, asking him if he had disclosed anything to the probe agency related to his contribution to AAP. "Thereafter in 2019 again I was visited by Satyendar Jain and his secretary and his close friend Sushil in jail, asking me to pay Rs two crore every month to him as protection money to live safely in jail, and to get even basic facilities," he alleged. Welcoming the L-G's decision, Delhi BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor has said the soon the inquiry will expose another nefarious face of Team Arvind Kejriwal. "Soon we will see it well established how as Jail Minister Satyendar Jain ran a racket of extortion from criminals lodged in Tihar & other Delhi jails," he said. Senior AAP leader Somnath Bharti on Saturday lashed out

at the Centre and alleged the CBI inquiry against former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain is a "political vendetta." Addressing a press conference here, Bharti said the "BJP is now taking help from Sukesh Chandrashekhar", who is currently lodged in the Tihar Jail. "Chandrashekhar had filed a complaint against former Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain and it is shocking that the LG took note of that complaint and ordered a CBI probe into it," Bharti said. "This is nothing but political vendetta by the BJP," he added. Bharti further said there are three areas (police, law and order, land) that come under the LG and that added the Delhiites have been "disappointed" by the BJP in those areas. "Jain is someone who has set an example as a health minister. Police, law and order and land are three issues that don't come under the Delhi government and the LG only cheated people of Delhi in those aspects," he said.

Expedite release of funds to six Government schools, Atishi asks chief secretary

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's Education Minister Atishi has reprimanded Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar for the delay in releasing funds for six government schools, and instructed him to expedite the process and release the funds by March 6. The Education Minister emphasized the urgency, citing the High Court's discontent with the delay and warned that any further delay would be disrespectful to the court. The Minister further demanded

that all departments work 24x7 for the next four days to ensure the funds reach the Public Works Department (PWD) before the upcoming Delhi High Court hearing. The payment has not yet been made and the file is shuttling between the Education and Finance Department. The high court has also expressed displeasure over the delay in release of funds. Atishi has directed the Chief Secretary (CS), Delhi to ensure that all departments concerned Education Department, PWD and Finance Department

work 24 hours for the next four days so that the payment is released on March 6. Expressing displeasure over the Chief Secretary's request to seek further four weeks to resolve the issue, Atishi, in a direction to him, said, "Asking for further time would be inappropriate and would seem disrespectful to the Hon'ble High Court". While fixing the timeline, so that the payment is done, the minister in her note to Chief Secretary said, "It will be the personal responsibility of the Chief Secretary to ensure that these timelines are



adhere to". The Education Minister also pulled up the Chief Secretary and asked him that pending funds for six government schools have to be released by March 6. The matter came up for hearing before the Delhi High Court on November 20, 2023, December 5, 2023 and January 4, 2024 and February 1, 2024. The Delhi High Court in its order dated February 1, 2024 said, "Let a copy of this order along with relevant files be placed by the Chief Secretary, GNCTD before the Hon'ble Chief Minister." The

next date of hearing in Delhi High Court is 6th March, 2024. In November 2023, a social rights group had filed a public interest litigation in Delhi High Court seeking directions to the Government of NCT of Delhi to hand over possession of the six newly constructed school buildings to the Delhi Government schools. The petitioner has also sought directions to the Government of NCT of Delhi to approve the payment of Rs.166.20953 lakhs to the PWD so as to complete the handover as well as pos-

session of the six newly constructed school buildings. The newly constructed buildings are in Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Mukund Pur; Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Bakhtawarpur; Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Lancer Road; Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Rani Bagh; Sarvodaya Vidyalaya Co-Ed, Sector 7, Rohini and Government Middle School, Punjab Khore. In total, there are 458 classrooms and 22 toilets to be built in these six government schools.

Hero rat hole miner refuses another offer of MIG flat

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Rat-hole miner Wakeel Hassan, who had lost his house in a demolition drive, has rejected another offer of a MIG flat in Dilshad Garden here, close to his place of residence, by the authorities. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Saturday said Hassan has now even refused to take a two bed room and a living room DDA MIG Flat in Dilshad Garden. "On Friday night, four government officers, including an SDM, came and offered me a house in Dilshad Garden but I refused to accept it as they wanted me to shift on a temporary basis," Hassan said. "It was also not in writing. That house belongs to an NGO," Hassan said. Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, who had upon coming to know about



his much feted role in the rescue operation of the workers entrapped in Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand, as a special measure asked DDA to provide him with alternate housing free of cost. The Lieutenant Governor had done this, despite the fact that his structure that was razed, was illegal and unauthorized and the DDA had carried out

the exercise in a fully legal manner for claiming the public land on which it was situated. "The DDA had immediately offered him a ready to move in flat in Narela on 29.02.2024. Hassan however, rejected this offer with some unsavoury comments about the location of Narela, where more than three thousands families are already

living, and insisted for an accommodation close to his place of earlier unauthorized residence". "Upon coming to know of this, the Lieutenant Governor had again ordered for a Indian Red Cross Society owned 2 BHK DDA Flat in Dilshad Garden to be given to him on 01.03.2024. Dilshad Garden is in the vicinity of Wakeel's earlier unauthorized house. However, Hassan refused to accept the offer letter in this regard by the Indian Red Cross Society, NCT Branch, that is headed by the Lt. Governor, when the Executive Magistrates, Karawal Nagar and Seemapuri, went to him with the same on 01.03.2024, at 8.30 PM," the DDA said in a statement. Hours after the demolition, DDA officials offered Hassan to move to an EWS (economically weaker sections) flat at Narela, which is far from

Khajoori Khas in northeast Delhi. Hassan rejected it saying it was "far and unsafe". On being asked why he is rejecting the second offer as Dilshad Garden is located near Khajoori Khas unlike far-flung Narela, he said the cost of his house, which was razed by the DDA (Delhi Development Authority), was more than Rs 1 crore and if the government wants to compensate, then the cost of the house should be matched. Reportedly, Hassan owns a company Rockwell Enterprises, whose employees dug the last stretch of the Uttarakhand Tunnel during the aforementioned rescue operation. He along with his wife and two children have been staying on a footpath and demonstrating against the drive. On Saturday, during the rain in Delhi, he made a video requesting people to come for his support.

DDA demolishes 10 acre farmhouse of late liquor baron Ponty Chadha

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing with its exercise to reclaim government land over which unauthorized occupation and illegal construction has been done, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has demolished the farmhouse of high profile liquor baron, late Ponty Chaddha alias Gurdeep Singh, spread over about 10 acres in Chhatarpur, South Delhi, worth about 400 crores. The demolition exercise which is continuing claimed 05 acres of land since Friday. The demolition drive is continued over the remaining land of Farmhouse and main building is still going on. Controversial liquor and real estate baron Ponty Chadha and his younger brother Hardeep have died in a



shootout at their farmhouse in the national capital in 2012. 55-year-old Ponty Chadha singularly ruled over the liquor business in Uttar Pradesh - he was granted the sole distributorship for liquor under the Mayawati regime. He allegedly bought liquor at low prices and subsequently sold them at exorbitant rates. Pegged at \$1.5 billion, his

corporate assets - including liquor - also spanned across real estate, sugar, film production and exhibition. Chadha, along with his brothers, managed the Chadha Group, which has been consolidated under the Wave brand. He ran a popular chain of multiplexes - under the Wave brand - in the National Capital Region. Notably, in an earlier demolition program in North East Delhi to reclaim government land, carried out between 13.01.2024 to 17.01.2024, at Gokulpuri in North East Delhi, unauthorized encroachments that included commercial showrooms including that of Raymonds, Car Dealer Ships including that of TATA Motors, Banquet Halls, a Hotel and a Godown were demolished over about 04 acres of land.

Farmers in C'garh to get paddy difference amount on Mar 12

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Saturday announced that farmers will get the difference amount of paddy worth Rs 13,000 crores on March 12.

Sai made the announcement at the inauguration of Giri Gowardhan Dham in Tamamunda village in Jashpur district.

The Chief Minister highlighted the government's efforts in the last three months to expedite the development of Chhattisgarh.

He mentioned the



Mantri Awasthi Yojana (PMAY), construction of which has

"In the next 15 days, tendupatta will be procured at support prices. Soon, distribution of footwear for tendupatta collectors and a scholarship scheme for their children will also be commenced"

begin at a war footing.

He also spoke about the government initiative to empower women through the

Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

Sai said that in the next 15 days, tendupatta will be procured at support prices. Soon, distribution of footwear for tendupatta collectors and a scholarship scheme for their children will also be commenced.

He emphasized the government's commitment to fulfill people's dreams with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee.

The budget for this year focuses on expanding healthcare facilities in the Jashpur region, including the construction of a 220-bed hospital in Kunkuri, he said.

Four killed in road accident in Jashpur

STAFF REPORTER ■
JASHPUR

Four persons were killed and two others injured after two motorcycles collided in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Saturday.

The incident occurred on Friday night near Ganjhiadih village in Tumla area, Jashpur Superintendent of Police Shashi Mohan Singh said.

As per preliminary information, a total of six persons were travelling on two motorcycles when they crashed into each other.

Three persons died on the spot while three others sustained injuries. One person



succumbed to injuries at a government hospital in Kotba.

Three of the deceased were identified as Chandan Nayak of Ganjhiadih village and Khageshwar Dhoobi and Umashankar of nearby Kolhejharia village.

Of the remaining two

injured, one was shifted to neighbouring Raigarh district while another was admitted to the Farsabhar community health centre in Jashpur.

Prima facie, it seems that both the two-wheelers were at high speed.

HNLU-IIM ink MoU for research collaboration



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

The Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), a pioneer in legal education, and IIM Raipur, a frontline management institute, signed a MoU for collaboration on

research, teaching and exchange of students and faculty.

The MoU covers joint training programmes, publications and other advocacy efforts.

Prof. V.C. Vivekanandan, Vice Chancellor of HNLU and

President of the Consortium of National Law Universities of India, said: "The MoU will synergize the interface of law and business segments for the stakeholders at large."

Speaking on behalf of IIM Raipur, Prof Ram Kumar Kakani said: "This MoU will

"This MoU will lay the foundation for several joint programmes by the two frontline institutes."

lay the foundation for several joint programmes by the two frontline institutes."

C'garh, a centre of attraction for nature enthusiasts: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap said on Saturday that Chhattisgarh's biodiversity and huge forest areas have made it a centre of attraction for nature enthusiasts.

He said this at a workshop on biodiversity conservation and promotion in tribal areas in Raipur.

"For centuries, the tribal communities have played a key role in nurturing and preserving natural habitat through eco-friendly practices.

"Preserving biodiversity is not only essential for the climate; it also has ecological and economic significance.

"It provides us with nutritional habitat, fuel, textiles and other resources as well as biodiversity tourism."



Students of tribal-dominated North Bastar-Kanker district visit Pukhauti Muktangan in capital Raipur under an excursion programme on Saturday.

Aadhaar seeding to be expedited for Mahtari Vandan Scheme



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Women and Child Development Department Secretary Shammii Abidi told bank officials on Saturday to expedite the Aadhaar

card seeding process for the Mahtari Vandan Yojana.

Addressing a meeting in Raipur, she said for this banks will be operational on holidays as well.

She also asked them to organize camps and call

Banks will be operational on holidays as well. She also asked them to organize camps and call CSP/Bank Mitra. Camps will be held soon in Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg districts

CSP/Bank Mitra. Camps will be held soon in Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg districts.

Karur Vysya Bank
Smart way to bank

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD.,
Raipur Branch
EPI Centre, Near Yashwant Hospital,
GE Road, Tatyia Para Chowk, Raipur-492001
Contact No: 0771-2223355 • Email: raipur@kvbmail.com

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, Raipur Branch, the constructive Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd., Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **22nd March 2024 (22.03.2024)**, for recovery of **Rs.16,51,591.98** (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Fifty One Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One and Ninety Eight Paise Only) as on 29.02.2024 with further interest from 01.03.2024 onwards payable as per law due to the Karur Vysya Bank Ltd, Secured Creditor from (1). **M/s. Punrasar Pulses (Borrower)**, Proprietor: **Mrs. Sunita Devi Jhanwar**, Shop No.54, 2nd Floor, Bhaisthan Road, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh (2). **Mr. Ratan Jhanwar** (Guarantor), S/o - Sri Ramgopal Jhanwar, E-560, Near Radhakrishna Mandir, Samta Colony, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh

The reserve price for Property will be **Rs.12,00,000/-** (Rupees Twelve Lakh only) and the earnest money deposit for Property will be **Rs.1,20,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand Only).

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Office No.54 at 2nd Floor, Radha Mohan Tower, area 100 sq.ft., situated at Kh. Nos. 353/08 & 354/04, P.H.No.106 A/46, Mouza-Raipur Khas, Ramsagar Para Ward No.-17, Tehsil and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The property is in the name of Sri Ratan Kumar Jhanwar.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in our Bank's Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.kvb.co.in/Property Under Auction also at the web portal www.indianbankseaction.com of the service provider, CanBank Computer Services Limited

Statutory 15 days' Notice under Rule 9(1) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002**

The borrower/s and guarantor/s are hereby notified to pay the dues as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-Auction, failing which the Schedule property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date : 01.03.2024
Place: Raipur

Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.,

Two held with cannabis valued at Rs 8.62 crore



STAFF REPORTER ■
MAHASAMUND

Chhattisgarh Police on Saturday seized 1,725 kg of cannabis valued at Rs 8.62 crores and arrested two persons for transporting it to Maharashtra from

Odisha.

Mahasamund Additional Superintendent of Police Akash Rao Girepunje said Avinash Mahaske (27) and Santosh Pawar (32), both from Maharashtra, have been taken into custody.

The police intercepted a truck at the Rehtikhol check post in Singhoda area following a tip that the contraband was being transported via National Highway 53.

The contraband was packed in 50 plastic bags.

Devpt works of Rs 1.05Cr sanctioned for Raigarh



STAFF REPORTER ■
RAIGARH

On the initiative of Chhattisgarh Finance Minister O.P. Chaudhary, 15 development works to be completed for Rs. 1.05 crore have been sanctioned for the Raigarh Assembly constituency, an official communiqué said on

The works have been sanctioned by the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgradation Authority for various gram panchayats.

Saturday. The works have been sanctioned by the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Maintenance and Upgradation Authority for various gram panchayats.

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 firmed 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 Virbhadra 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 Kuppa and Ravi Kuppa 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

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.



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 comment.

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 manager 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 Kartripakkha (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 Kalash 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 Kalash 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 RES LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Court, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
M:- 9899013918

KVB Karur Vysya 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

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

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 :- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicles for veterinary Route & Extension work.	01 No.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

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	Address: Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Executive Engineer (Building & Electric)	
Fax.No.(0240) -2331213	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

outcome and we are completely satisfied... A lot of issues continue to make progress in terms of discussions.

"Generally through the MC13, progress was made on several contentious issues which had not been closed for many years. Forward movement is always a sign of a possible closure going

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.



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.”

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 newspa-

per, 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.



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE, WRIGHT TOWN, JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 22.03.2024**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Date of Auction	Reserve Price
				EMD Amount
				Bid Increase Amount
1) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower - a) M/s Kiran Peticoat Udyog Shop No.139, Pagariya Complex, New Bus Stand, Pandri, Raipur-492001, (Chhatishgarh) b) Smt.Kiran Pritwani w/o Shri Ganesh Pritwani Prop of M/s. Kiran Peticoat Udyog , Add: Shop No.139, Pagariya Complex, New Bus Stand, Pandri, Raipur-492 001, (Chhatishgarh) c) Smt. Kiran Pritwani w/o Shri Ganesh Pritwani Prop of M/s. Kiran Peticoat Udyog , Add: H No.C-14, Palash Vihar, Mahavir Nagar, Raipur-492 001, (Chhatishgarh) Guarantor - d) Shri Harish Sachdev S/o Shri Leela Ram Sachdev H No.20, Avanti Garden, Daldal Seoni, Raipur- 492 014, (Chhatishgarh)	Rs. 27,79,238/- plus interest @ contractual rate, costs, charges and expenses thereon from 27.09.2022	All those pieces and parcels of land situate being and lying at Bahnakadi, Raipur, in the registration district Raipur Part of Khasra No. 357/1 & 361/1, PH No.14, RI Circle Arang, diverted Khata No.58, area admeasuring 9292 Sq.Ft. registered in the name of M/s. Kiran Peticoat Udyog. Property Owner - M/s. Kiran Peticoat Udyog through its Proprietor Smt. Kiran Pritwani W/o Shri Ganesh Pritwani Bounded as - North: Road, South: Land of other, East : Land of Arjun Sachdev, West: Land of M/s. Vishal Net Industries Physical Possession	22.03.2024	Reserve Price- Rs. 21,50,000/- EMD Amount- Rs. 2,15,000/- Bid Increase Amount- Rs. 20,000/-

Last Date & Time for submission of Bid Application / KYC Documents / Proof of EMD etc-AS PER IBAPI- E BIKRAY NORMS

Date & Time of e-auction- with auto extension for 10 minutes - 22.03.2024 From 11:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m

SALE IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SPECIFIED IN THE PRESCRIBED TENDER FORM and in on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"

- The sale is governed by the Provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the following specific terms and conditions.
- The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> on 22.03.2024 for mentioned property between 11 am to 04 p.m., with unlimited extension of 10 minutes time in case of receipt of bid in last 10 minutes. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiple of Rs. 20000/- (Rs. Twenty Thousand Only) during online bidding of the property.
- Last date for on-Line Bid submission of KYC documents with EMD amount by the Bidder for the properties AS PER IBAPI- E BIKRAY NORMS.**
- The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of Sale Notice, Terms and Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction from e-Bikray-I BAPI portal (<https://www.ibapi.in>).
- The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>) using their mobile number and email id, Further, they will upload the requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2-3 working days), the intending Bidders/Purchasers has to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in the Global Wallet. Only after having sufficient EMD in the Wallet, the interested bidder will be able to bid on the date of e-auction.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through only one mode i.e. NEFT (After generation of Challan from (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Bank. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheque will not be accepted. Bidders not depositing the required EMD online, will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- Bidders may give offers either for one or for all the properties, as the case may be. In case of offers for more than one property, bidders will have to deposit the EMD for each property. Bidder's Global Wallet should have sufficient balance (>= EMD amount) at the time of bidding.
- It is the responsibility of intending bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms and Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-auction and follow them strictly.
- In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during the e-auction process may contact authorized representative of our e-auction service provider (<https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>). Details of which are available on the e-auction portal.
- After finalization of e-auction by the Authorised Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/email. (On mobile no/email address given by them/registered with the service provider).**
- The secured asset will not be sold below reserve price.**
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited on the same day or not later than next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of auction in the account of the Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra, through RTGS/NEFT in Account Name: **Account No. 60231324118, Name of the A/c- ARB Administrative Account, IFSC Code: MAHB0000341, Bank of Maharashtra, Jabalpur Main Branch.** In case of failure to deposit the amounts as per above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful bidder will be forfeited to Bank and Authorised Officer shall have the liberty to conduct fresh auction/sale of the property & the defaulting bidder shall not have claim over the forfeited amount and property.
- Caution to bidders:**
 - To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officers, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrance, title of property put on auction, physical area of property, and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. Further the bidder/purchaser should make their own inquiries regarding any statutory liabilities. arrears of tax, claims etc. by themselves before making the bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation on the part of the bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any claims / rights / dues.
 - The Bank does not undertake any responsibility to procure any permission/license, NOC, etc. in respect of the property offered for sale or for any dues like outstanding water/ service charges, transfer fees, electricity dues, dues to the Municipal Corporation/ local authority/Co-operative Housing Society any other dues, taxes, levies, fees, transfer fees if any in respect of land/or in relation to the sale of the said property. Successful Bidder has to comply with the provisions of Income Tax regarding purchase of property & to pay the tax to the authorities as per applicable rates.
 - Bidders are advised / cautioned to verify the concerned Revenue Records/other Statutory authorities such as Sales Tax/Excise/Income Tax etc. and shall satisfy themselves regarding the nature, description condition, encumbrance, lien, charge, statutory dues, etc over the property before submitting their bids.
 - Bidders are advised to go through all the terms and conditions of sale and also in the corresponding public sale notice in the details before submitting the bid and participating in the online bidding/auction.
 - Statutory dues/liabilities etc., due to the Government/Local Body, if any, shown in the sale notice/tender document shall be borne by the purchaser(s).
 - The notice for sale is also being published in vernacular. The English version shall be final if any question of interpretation arises.
- The bidders are advised to go through the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link "<https://bankofmaharashtra.in/proposal.asp>". provided in the Bank's website and also on www.ibapi.in, <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> OR Contact us at **CM , Recovery, Bank of Maharashtra, Zonal Office, Wright Town, Jabalpur 482002 & Pritam Behera (Mob.: 7008226960), Mani Bhushan (Mob.: 9174483223), Smt. Meenakshi Panda (Mob.: 9890179726)**

Date: 03/03/2024

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

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 curled 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 fourth 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 on a 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

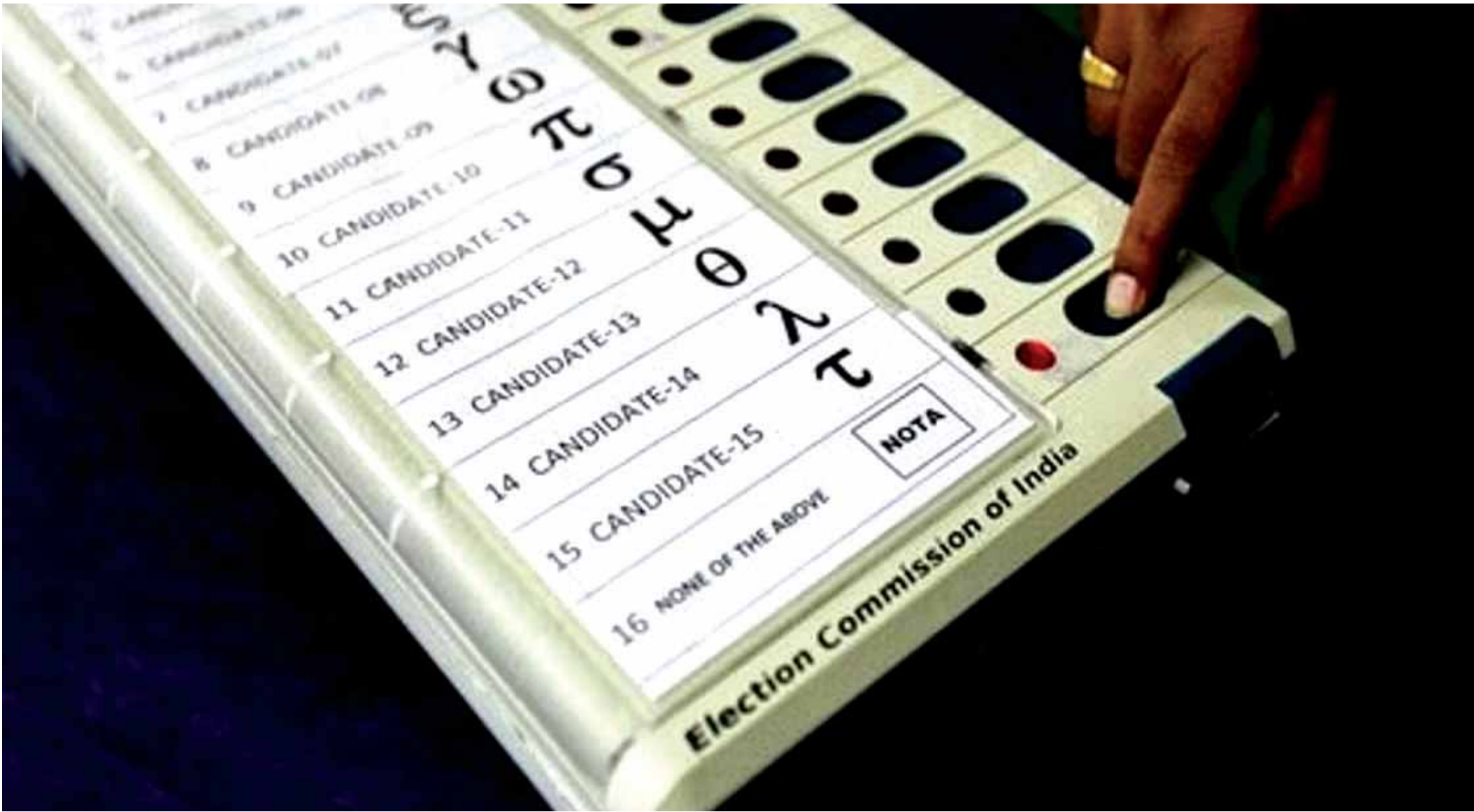
awards and honors, including recognition in world records, international records, and the Limca Book of Records. Shantamani Kala Kendra, where the exhibition took place, stands as a testament to the university’s commitment to promoting various art forms, including Fine Arts and Performing Arts, while 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)

