

## **BANGLADESH CHALLENGES INDIA** Capital chaos continues

#### PTI DHAKA

Bangladesh on Tuesday summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to the Foreign Affairs Ministry office here, a day after Dhaka lodged a strong protest against the alleged vandalism of its mission in the Indian state of Tripura.

India-Describing the Bangladesh relationship as "multifaceted" and one that cannot be reduced to a single issue or agenda, Verma told reporters after his meeting with acting foreign secretary Riaz Hamidullah that New Delhi remains interested in working with Dhaka "to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development."

Affairs Earlier, Foreign Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain said the Indian envoy was asked to come to the foreign office after the Agartala incident.

India on Monday described as "deeply regrettable" the incident of the breach of the premises of the Bangladesh consulate in Agartala in the northeastern state of Tripura, bordering Bangladesh, by a group of people protesting the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das here.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came hours after the protesters reportedly barged into the assistant high commission of Bangladesh and allegedly resorted to vandalism.

The envoy described the relationship as "multifaceted and wide-ranging," which could not sit with one issue or agenda and India is interested



Police officers stand guard outside Indian High Commission after a call for anti India protests

added.

to work with Bangladesh government to fulfill the two countries' shared aspiration for peace, security and "We are development. working across so many issues. And we really want to build a positive, stable, constructive relationship," he said.

Verma also pointed out the many interdependencies and Delhi is keen to build on that "for mutual benefits."

India will keep ensuring that mutual cooperation the benefits the two peoples, and the number of positive developments that have taken in the bilateral place relationship in the last few months, "whether it is trade, it is power transmission, supply of essential commodities, we

have maintained lot of positive momentum in the relationship," he added. "We are willing to engage with the interim government of

Bangladesh, and we remain interested in working with the Government of Bangladesh to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development," the envoy Bangladesh

Meanwhile, announced that all consular services at its Assistant High Commission in Agartala will remain suspended until further notice "because of security reasons" with immediate effect.

Earlier in the day, terming the vandalism at Bangladesh's diplomatic mission in Agartala as India's "failure,"

Law Affairs Adviser in the interim government Asif Nazrul asked New Delhi to reassess its neighbour afresh after the toppling of the Sheikh Hasina regime.

"We believe in a friendship based on equality and mutual respect. While Sheikh Hasina's government followed a pro-India policy to cling to power without elections, India must realise that this is not Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Three days after Hasina fled to India following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system, Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the

interim government. The tension between the two neighbours simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India, aggravated further with the arrest of the Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das last week. Nazrul alleged an outfit named Hindu Sangharsh

Samiti was responsible for what he described as "the disgraceful act" when Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala was vandalised, and "Bangladesh's national flag was set on fire." He emphasised that Bangladesh is an independent, sovereign, and self-respecting nation driven by a "fearless and dynamic young

generation.

SAUMYA SHUKLA 📕 NEW DELHI

**T**he National Capital's I roads, known for their infamous traffic jams, are also notorious for rampant disregard of traffic rules, with official data revealing a massive 150 per cent jump in driving" 'wrong lane violations, as compared to last year. while incidents of "driving against traffic" increasing by about 70 per cent. While police credit this staggering rise in number of violations to better enforcement, the city's traffic congestion may also be pushing drivers to break rules, as they look for quicker ways to reach their destination.

According to official data, till December 2 2024, the police issued 4,662 challans on vehicle owners for not plying in designated lanes as compared to 1,732 challans in 2023 and 1,829 challans in 2022. The fine for this violation is Rs 1,000 for private vehicles and Rs 10,000 for commercial vehicles.

Similarly, in the same period, 99,962 challans have been issued for driving against the flow of traffic marking a significant rise from the last year when 59,527 challans were issued in 2023 and 43,768 issued in 2022. Violations in this result in a fine of Rs 5,000 against the vehicle owners. Even for "no entry" restrictions, the city witnessed 1,37,318 challans this year while it was 1,14,646 in 2023 and 84,067 in 2022 even as a hefty fine of Rs 20,000 is slapped on drivers. According to Special In light of the air pollution Commissioner of Police in Delhi and the subsequent



(Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary, the rise can be attributed to special drives conducted by the Delhi Police and coordinated efforts of the department to curb such violations on the roads.

The streets of the Capital are also constantly cramped with vehicles parked improperly with a total of 4,88,602 such violations seen this year, marking a rise from 4,70,771 challans in 2023 and 3,58,067 challans in 2022. A fine of Rs 500 is issued for such violations by the police. They also towed 1,78,108 vehicles for improper parking as against 1,60,799 vehicles in 2023, and 1,33,800 vehicles in 2022.

Additionally, a total of 4,56,189 vehicle owners have been slapped with challans, which amount to Rs 10,000, regarding non possession of Pollution under Control Certificate (PUCC), as against 2,32,885 in 2023 and 1,64,638 in 2022. The police have impounded 8,231 End of Life vehicles (ELVs) while only 528 were impounded in 2023 and 1,147 in 2022.

pulling up of the Delhi Police by the Supreme Court for failing to implement the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) Stage 4 restrictions, police have also intensified its drive against non destined goods vehicles trying to enter the city. The police checked 2,28,235 such vehicles this year including 2,16,028 being checked when the GRAP came into force on October 15, marking a steep rise from 23,089 checked in 2023 and 12,268 checked in 2022. Out of the checked vehicles, 26,379 were returned in this year, 10,012 in 2023 and 3,274 in 2022. Addl/CP (Traffic) Satyaveer

Singh Katara added that the police will continue its drive and ensure that tough measures are implemented on the roads. "Some people think they can take shortcuts to avoid traffic but we all need to develop basic road sense. We will ensure that we curb such violations and take strict measures against these offenders," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shashank Jaiswal said.



**President Murmu arrives in State** To attend several ture and Technology in

events during 5day visit **PNS** BHUBANESWAR

President Droupadi Murmu arrived here on Tuesday evening on a five-day visit



Bhubaneswar. Later, she will inaugurate a judicial complex in the State capital.

On December 6, Murmu will interact with students and residents at Uparbeda village, her birth place, in Mayurbhanj district and then interact with students and

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitates Divyang persons at his residence in Bhubaneswar on the occasion of the the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Tuesday.

## Navy's operational demo in Puri beach today

### PNS PURI

 ${
m T}$ he Indian Navy is set to display an exhilarating operational demonstration on Wednesday at the pristine Blue Flag Beach, Puri, to mark the Navy Day 2024. President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Droupadi Murmu has consented to be the chief guest for the event hosted by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.

The Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate the successful 'Operation Trident' in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

This event will showcase the Navy's prowess and commitment towards safeguarding India's maritime interests and will also highlight the historical connection of the State of Odisha as a maritime giant in medieval and modern his-

15 ships, more than 40 aircraft, submarines and the Marine Commandos along with personnel and equipment from the Indian Army will be participating in the show. The highlights include high-octane aerial dominance display by Mig-29K and Hawk fighter jets, breathtaking Combat Free Fall and Slithering demonstration by Marine Com-



being issued by local authori-

ties to the general public with

locations for parking being

many naval aircraft will be fly-

ing off Puri for various air

demonstrations and fly past.

General public are advised

not to litter garbage/ any

other food materials in and

around the Blue Flag Beach,

which could be a potential

flight safety hazard. Flying of

Drones/ Drone Camera/

Kites is strictly prohibited

during the event, as they can

interfere with aircraft move-

ments and compromise pub-

lic safety.

During rehearsal days,

clearly indicated.

mandos (MARCOS) from helicopters, submarine display, amphibious operations and advanced manoeuvers and rocket firing by warships.

The evening will conclude with the traditional Beating Retreat Ceremony by the Eastern Naval Command Band and a mesmerising Continuity Drill followed by Drone and Laser show making it an evening to cherish and remember.

The Indian Navy and the Government of Odisha are operating in close coordination to facilitate smooth movement of the public, visiting the beach for the event and for regulated entry and exit. Ad-

to Odisha, during which she will attend the Navy Day celebrations and operational demonstrations at the Blue Flag Beach in Puri besides attending other programmes.

Murmu was accorded a warm welcome at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here, where she was greeted by Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries.

Then, the President unveil a statue of Santali writer and educator Pandit Raghunath Murmu and visit the Adim

Owar Jarpa Jaher in Bhubaneswar.

On December 4, Murmu will have darshan and perform puja at the Jagannath Temple in Puri and then attend the

75th anniversary celebrations of Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Puri.

On the same day, she will attend the Navy Day celebrations and operational demon-

strations at the Blue Flag Beach in Puri.

> On December 5, the President will attend the 40th convocation ceremony of the Odisha University of Agricul

teachers at the Mahila Mahavidyalaya in Rairangpur. On the last day of her visit, the President will lay foundation-stone for various

projects including Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Kendujhargarh rail lines, the Tribal Research and Development Centre in Rairangpur, Dandbose Airport in Rairangpur and the Sub-Divisional Hospital in Rairangpur.

## State's 403 migrant workers die in 10 yrs

#### PNS BHUBANESWAR

Labour and Employees' State Insurance Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia informed the State Assembly on Tuesday that 403 migrant labourers from Odisha died while working outside the State during the last 10 years.

Replying to a query of BJP member Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister said the deaths took place during 2015 to 2024 (till November 27). The highest 59 migrant workers from Ganjam district died outside the State during the period. It was followed by Kalahandi district with 39 migrant workers' death in other States.

Balangir, another migration-prone district of Odisha, recorded the death of 35 migrant workers outside the State since 2015.

Among other districts, 32 such death cases were re-

ported from Kandhamal, 28 from Rayagada, 18 each from Boudh and Nuapada, 17 from Khordha and 16 from Nabarangpur, the minister stated.

Singkhuntia informed that the government has issued Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979,

for migration of 26,397 workers from Odisha in 2014. In 2024 (till October), 883 licences were issued for migra-

tion of 60,683 workers from Odisha, he stated. The minister said the government has set up a high-level taskforce under the chairman-

ship of Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo to address the issue of distress migration in the State. The taskforce is functioning through the Panchayati Raj Department.

## MLAs demand salary hike to Rs 2.5 lakh

### Speaker forms advisory committee PNS BHUBANESWAR

Legislators in Odisha, cutting across party lines, on Tuesday demanded their salary increase to address rising costs and inflation.

They proposed to raise their monthly salary to Rs 2.5 lakh and pension for former MLAs to Rs 70,000 for one term.

They also requested an increase in constituency development funds.

These demands were supported by leaders from various parties and endorsed by Speaker Surama Padhy, who committed to discussing the matter with the Chief Minister.

The Speaker formed an advisory committee headed by MLA Bhaskar Madhei for giving a report in this regard. Raising the issue during the

Zero Hour, Opposition Chief Whip and BJD leader Pramila Mallik urged that in light of soaring prices of essential commodities, the salary of MLAs should be raised to Rs 2.5 lakh and the pension for ex-MLAs should be increased to Rs 70,000 for one term.

She also recommended raising the MLA LAD fund from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore.

Mallik further called for an increase in the Special Repair Fund and Critical Gap Funding and asked the Speaker to issue a ruling on the matter. Her request was backed by BJD MLA Pratap Keshari Deb.

Deb pointed out that a committee set up by the previous BJD government, after studying the practices in several States, had recommended salary and pension hike for MLAs. However, this recom-

mendation had not been implemented for various reasons

He stressed that Odisha's MLAs earn significantly less compared to their counterparts in other States, with Odisha ranked 27th in terms of MLA salaries and pensions, and argued that an increase is necessary.

Deb suggested that either the government implement the previous committee's report or form a new committee to address the issue.

Several ruling party members, including Bhaskar Madhei and Sanatan Bijuli, and Congress leaders Rama Chandra Kadam and Tara Prasad Bahinipati also voiced their support for the hike.

Speaker Padhy assured the Assembly that she would inform the Chief Minister and ensure the Parliamentary Affairs Minister raises the issue with the government.

388 licences as per provision made under the Inter-State



## In Assembly **Opp slams govt over soaring prices of commodities**

### BHUBANESWAF

In Banki

Opposition BJD and Congress on Tuesday criticised the Odisha Government in the State Assembly over the soaring prices of essential commodities, accusing it of failing to take corrective measures.

They pointed to the sharp increase in the costs of potatoes, onions, pulses, edible oil and fuel, arguing that the gov-

ernment has left the public to suffer.

During the debate on an Adjournment Motion, the Opposition members alleged that the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister is merely a spectator in the cri-

They further accused him of issuing misleading statements to the media rather than addressing the root causes of the

issue. Congress leaders Tara Prasad Bahini Pati and Ashok Das, along with BID legislators Byomkesha Roy, Dhruba

Charan Sahu and Goutam Buddha Das, emphasised the hardships faced by the poor due to the rising inflation. They noted that Odisha's

inflation rate has surged to 6.2%, exceeding the rates in neighbouring West Bengal (4.3%) and Jharkhand (5.3%),

and crossing the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance threshold.

Responding to the debate, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushana Chandra Patra attributed the current potato shortage to policy failures of the previous government.

He cited climatic irregularities and international and domestic market fluctuations as

key factors behind the price hikes of essential goods.

Patra also criticised the BJD's long tenure in power for not improving irrigation systems or boosting agricultural production.

He said Odisha depends upon other States like Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal for staples like potatoes,

edible oil, onions and pulses. He assured the House that Odisha has sufficient stock of potato and appealed to people

not to be panicked. The minister added that the district Collectors have been directed to monitor the market and engage with traders to stabilise prices. Dissatisfied with the minister's explanation, members of the Opposition staged a noisy walkout.

## Asst Executive Engineer in Vig net

capital 02

2 buildings, 18 plots, 850 grams of gold found PNS CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday carried out raids on the properties linked to Biswanath Patro, Assistant Executive Engineer of Jeypore block in Koraput district, on the allegation of possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Patro is also the in-charge Municipal Engineer of the Jeypore Municipality.

During house searches, a triple-storied building (7,200 sqft) located at Jeypore town, a double-storied building (3,400 sqft) at Koli Sahi in

# Ganjam district, 18 plots of

which six in prime areas of Bhubaneswar, one in Jeypore town, one in Brahmapur town and 10 plots at Jagannathprasad in Ganjam, gold jewellery weighing 850 grams were found in the names of Patro and his family members.

The raids were continuing and Patro's bank, insurance, postal deposits and other investments were being ascertained.

Purighat police station area of Cuttack with the help of the

cafe owner. Later, she was

called to a house in Baranga

and was gang-raped by her

accused lover and his friends.

blackmailed the girl with the

video and subsequently raped

her repeatedly before she ap-

proached police.

The accused boyfriend then

### **Cuttack gang-rape** 1 more accused held; total arrests rise to 7 moments at a cafe in the

### PNS CUTTACK

 $T_{
m he\,Commissionerate\,police}$ on Monday arrested another person in connection with the gang-rape case of a college student in November in Cuttack.

The arrested, identified as Badal Sahu, was nabbed by a police team from Visakhapatnam. With this, the total number of arrests in the sensational case reached seven.

Acting on the complaint, On November 8, police had authorities raided the cafe and arrested six persons for allegseized a mobile phone. Within edly gang-raping a college stutwo days, six of the accused dent for several days in were arrested and produced Cuttack. However, the victim's before the court. However, one family had alleged that one of them was absconding after more accused was absconding. the incident. As per reports, the victim's

The heinous crime had sent shockwaves across the State.

## Notification issued for RS by-polls on Dec 20

There is every possibility

that the BJP might re-nominate Kumar to the Rajya Sabha. According to political ob-

servers, "When Rajya Sabha elections come, names of several candidates do round. But there has been a pattern seen in BJP where the party is trying to weaken the BJD. Rajya Sabha members are being made to resign and they are joining the BJP and being sent to the Upper House. There is a 99-per cent possibility that Sujeet Kumar will be nominated to Rajya Sabha by the BJP. If this doesn't happen, he might be appointed for the Western Odisha Development Council."

### stage

Sarathi Baba followers hold Satsang

 $\mathbf{A}$ fter a brief lull, a Satsang event of a significant scale in the name of self-styled Godman Santosh Raul, known as Sarathi Baba to his followers, was held in Cuttack district on Monday.

CUTTACK

The 'Sarathi Satsang' was organised at Rajiba village under the Baideswar police limits in Banki block.

Reports stated that the event consisted of Sarathi's photo atop a stage adorned with garlands of flower and a peacock feather placed on its head as his followers performed rituals, including offering flowers and lighting diyas.

Hundreds of his 'devotees' stayed for an extended period while attentively listening to the Bhajans and tales of the controversial godman narrated by preachers from the

In Banki

Speaking on the intention

behind the event, Hitesh Nayak, a preacher and follower of the Sarathi Baba, stated that he had no ulterior motive behind programme.

stated.

the

PNS 📕

BHUBANESWAR

Governor of Odisha

Raghubar Das met a delega-

"I conducted the Satsang for my internal peace. Since I am an ardent devotee of the Baba, I held the event and called upon people who are connected with him to attain a

The Satsang event this year was held after followers of the Sarathi Baba observed Janmashtami and Nandotsav at his ashram in Kendrapada's Barimula in September last year. In 2015, Sarathi Baba was

arrested in a case registered by the Crime Branch of Odisha Police for harassing a woman and her daughter at his Barimula Ashram.



He interacted with the students and inspired them to contribute towards the objective of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'

tion of 50 students from diverse higher education insti-Das said, "India reflects tutions from Maharashtra, unity in diversity. The Yuva youths of various parts of the country."

He urged the delegation to gain knowledge about the cultural heritage, traditions and developmental initiatives of Odisha and spread their learning in their State, which, in

"Odisha is a perfect blend of

turn, would promote the inter-State relationship.

Shift garbage dump from VSS Nagar



tradition, tourism and natural resources, which has a great potential of growth," said the Governor. He also emphasised that the New Education Policy is based on India's ancient knowledge system, developed in line with the

who are on an exposure trip Sangam initiative will support the objective to foster the strength of unity among the global standards.

to Odisha as part of Yuva Sangam Phase 5 on Monday.

boyfriend had filmed intimate

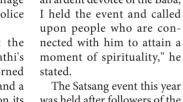
BIP likely to House in September. nominate Sujeet

Kumar PNS BHUBANESWAR

 ${
m A}$  notification was issued on Tuesday regarding the upcoming by-election to six Rajya Sabha seats, including one from Odisha, to be held on December 20.

Sex racket busted; 2 girls rescued PNS CUTTACK police was also underway to

 ${
m A}$  sex racket was busted at Kalapathar in the Banki area



of Cuttack district on Tuesday by the Baideswar police based on inputs. The cops posed as customers to reach the spot. During the raid, two girls

were rescued and two young men were arrested from the spot by the police. Further investigations were ongoing to ascertain the involvement of others in the racket and their modus operandi.

found that a minor girl from Bangladesh was allegedly forced into prostitution in Cuttack city.

unearth sex rackets operating

in the district after it was

A major investigation by

16-year-old-The Bangladeshi girl was rescued by police from the Link Road area under the Madhupatna police station jurisdiction on November 9. Later, a couple was arrested in connection with the case.

BHUBANESWAR PNS manded to shift the garbage

Nagar and adjoining areas. In a meeting presided over dump from the area immediby the Parishad vice-presiately.

dent, secretary Dillip Dashsharma said two Dashsharma and other officemonths ago the BMC had asbearers criticised the waste sured to shift the dump from the area and construct a beaumanagement policy of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Cor-

tiful park there. But the polluporation (BMC) and detion due to the garbage is in-

creasing by the day. On the National Pollution Prevention Day a symbolic protest was held, but it would be intensified further.

Maheshwar Biswal, Pratap Kumar Nanda, Nimai Charan Das and other Parishad functionaries were present.

There are six casual vacancies in the Council of States from four States following the resignation of members from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana. The one seat from Odisha is vacant because of the resignation of BJD leader Sujeet Kumar, who later joined the BIP. Kumar had tendered his resignation from the Upper

## Urban planning getting innovative, tech-driven world over

### Odisha cities mustn't stay in isolation

he other day while booking a cab we were thinking how technology changed our dependency on travel agencies. Now we have multiple options of having a cab, one app saying it will take twenty minutes while another showing up arriving in eight minutes. So we have the option of having a cab based on the time factor. Similarly, a service delivery reaches home in ten minutes than making us travel over 20 km burning fuels adding to carbon footprints.

People these days choose their location for accommodations in minutes. Means how much time it will take to reach workspace, school, market, parks etc, than over distances in km. Perhaps in the last decade not just business went into e-commerce platforms serving in minutes but also urban planning which got a major shift from age-



### **PIYUSH RANJAN ROUT**

old practice of location-based distance in km into 15-minute cities.

Before we get into what a 15minute city is, we must understand how quick society is moving from myths into transformation. Today, videoconferencing (VC) technology has transformed the way we communicate and work. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court introduced virtual hearings, which to date allow litigants and lawyers from outside



 ${
m T}_{
m he}$  Veer Surendra Sai

Nagar Unnayan Parishad on

Monday, while observing the

National Pollution Prevention

Day, demanded shifting of the

garbage dump near the Sainik

School, which is polluting VSS

**SWAPNA SARITA SWAIN** 

Delhi to appear before the Supreme Court. Courts across India held as many as 43 million hearings through VCs. These millions of hearings made the decision support system quickly realize how virtual hearings helped female lawyers who otherwise face difficulties appearing physically in court due to the gender demands of domestic

> work and care-giving. During the COVID-19 pandemic, not just the Supreme Court,

we saw many sectors introducing virtual modes of work culture. One sector that led much faster than other sectors was urban planning. Cities through various cross-cutting technologies were able to reach out to citizens. Grievances that remained over decades were solved in hours. Suddenly, people realised that their very own neighbourhood is so vibrant that they get it within 15-20 minutes. We have realised technology will make our cities more dynamic as well as compact and distances will shorten by minutes- all happening in an era of artificial intelligence, IOT and machine learning etc.

This also drives cities setting up their own cloud software for video conferencing to enable virtual city planning for participatory governance by connecting not just neighbourhoods but also households, thus reaching a lower level of administration across the city.

It is often said that technology develops at a speed which society can't cope with. There used to be a time when telephone was required to talk with each other having a landline connection. Even, solving urban problems required physical presence of complaints as well as civic officials under one roof. But the COVID pandemic changed everything by bringing technology of the virtual world overcoming telephone and physical presence. A small device called mobile helped the cities get connected with civic officials as well as citizens from any part of the world.

Historically technology development doesn't take place in a social vacuum; rather it happens inside social reality. Some years ago in America and Europe, lightning often hampered churches because of their elevated architecture and metallic bells on top. The followers believed lightning often was caused by supernatural phenomena of demons. Therefore during thunderstorms the church used to toll the bells in a hope of repelling lights, with many bell ringers having lost their lives struck by lightning. Then with simple kite experience, Benjamin Franklin explained lightning is nothing but electricity which could be safely discharged using a conductor. This is an example of how a scientific innovation can change a supernatural phenomenon of demons. Same way our cities are getting increasingly safer due to technology and innovation. Today artificial intelligence (AI)

is on everyone's lip. AI is fast moving with its tools be-

ing deployed to enhance productivity of computers and hardware in every part of society. In a relatively short period, AI and its associated tools are proving a computer can draft a leave letter, draft an assignment, prepare a lesson plan and even prepare questions and teaching notes. Even in the professional world of urban planning AI tools like image processing can generate images from ideas of city planning instantly that often used to take years of debate and discussion.

We need collaborative effort

between cities, academics and governments. We need to work together, listen to each other and talk to each other regularly. We must engage in dialogue with a great belief and understanding that we are really part of one nation and we represent a common mission of igniting innovation benefiting the common man in our society. Let us overcome the trust deficit that sets restrictions on innovation, technology and communication.

The 15-minute city is a flexible concept that local governments can tailor to their city's culture and circumstances. Odisha need not remain in isolation; rather cities and towns like Bhubaneswar, Puri, Cuttack, Brahmapur, Sambalpur and Rourkela must integrate the 15- minute city concept in respective urban planning exercises.

(Dr Rout and Swain are faculties in Department of Planning, Odisha University of Technology and Research(OUTR). They can be *reached at X @piyushrout)* 

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## Prez's native place lacks edu in Santali tive and honours courses at

Memo given to heads of Bamanghati institutions **PNS** ■ RAIRANGPUR

he All- Odisha Santali PG Students Association has intensified its campaign to address the lack of Santali language education in the Bamanghati Subdivision, famously known as the birthplace of President Droupadi Murmu.

Under the leadership of President Bikram Beshra, the association submitted memorandums to various educational institutions, advocating for the introduction of Santali as a mother language at the intermediate level and as elec-

campaign, memorandums were submitted to Rairangpur Degree College, Principal Sunil Kumar Jena, Gorumahisani Degree College, Principal Subrat Kumar Giri, Dhirajlal College, Bahalda, Principal Motilal Mohanta, Govt. Science Higher Secondary School, Tiring, Principal Meton Ulaka, Gorumahisani Higher Sec-

In the latest phase of the

the graduation level.

ondary School Principal Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Gouri Shankar Higher Secondary School, Khadiasole, Principal Ramkrishna Das, Kalinga Degree College, Manada, Principal Bhupati Kumar Mohanta, Rajanikanta Higher Secondary School, Luhasila, Princi-



pal Kabi Sangram Satpathy, Janaki Balava Higher Secondary School, Hatbadra, Principal Bhaba Sankar Parida, Badampahar College, Principal Bhupati Bhusan Giri, Badampahar Higher Secondary School, Principal Dillip Kumar Giri, Govt. SSD Higher Secondary School, Badampahar, Principal Dr Bibhuti Bhusan Sahu, among others

Community leaders, activists, and members of ASECA (Adivasi Socio-Educational and Cultural Association) participated in the drive. The campaign highlights the urgent need to include Santali in educational curricula to preserve the language and culture of the tribal community while empowering the region's youths.



capital 03

### Film and television producer Ekta Kapoor calls on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at his State Assembly chamber on Tuesday and thanks him for making her movie 'The

### In Angul members of 9 dacoity gang held

mobile phones, Rs 30,000 in

cash, 10 gold earrings, a

Mangalsutra, and a bracelet.

"We have seized weapons,

cash, jewellery and several

other items from the nine ar-

rested persons and are further

investigating the case," said

On November 25, one Bijay

Sahu died after falling from a

tractor near Bagdia Barsahi.

Incidentally, on the same day,

the arrested persons had alleg-

edly entered the house of the

deceased, brandished lethal

weapons and looted valuables

while holding the family at

Angul SP Rahul Jain.

Arms, jewellery, cash seized PNS ANGUL

Sabarmati Report' tax-free

Police on Monday arrested nine members of a dacoity gang in connection with an armed robbery at a house that was mourning the death of a person at Laxmipriyapur village in the Handapa area of Angul district.

As per reports, the police seized a country-made pistol, three machetes, an axe and a knife from the possession of the gang. The police also recovered a car, a motorcycle, 15

## Int'l PwDs Day observed by PPA



PNS PARADIP

he Paradip Port Authority (PPA) organised an event for differently-abled children on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on Tuesday.

Gracing the occasion as chief guest, PPA Chairman PL Haranadh saluted the spirit and determination of the school children and said the PPA would take necessary steps within its ambit for the all-round development of the port township's schools. He assured that within short

bring smiles on their faces.

time, regular sessions by occupational, speech, audio therapists would be ensured for the school children to

Haranadh also distributed mementoes to the 51 Divyang employees of the PPA. PPA Traffic Manager and Secretary-in-Charge G Edison was also present on the occasion. The PPA presented school kits to the children. PPA Welfare Officer Rama Chandra Pradhan offered a vote of thanks. Cultural performances by the school children enthralled the audience on the occasion.

#### Scribe Dev Addressing the Pandit for independence. The success to a portrait of Pandit of India's non-violent path has Lakshmi Narayan Mishra. Dr Lakshmi Narayan Mishra mespeaks at talk in morial lecture at Lakshmi cemented its unique position Sudarshan Panigrahi, former ĹΝ Narayan Mahavidyalaya on in the world," he stated. principal of LN College and Mahavidyalaya Monday, Dev highlighted the The event, presided over author of Gandhi Bicharak, along with other dignitaries **PNS** ■ JHARSUGUDA

'False propaganda on Gandhiji not good for nation'

 $R_{
m enowned\,journalist\,Rahul}$ the Nation. Dev emphasized the detrimental impact of false propaganda against Mahatma Gandhi, stating that such actions harm not only the leader's legacy but also the nation's interest.

misuse of social media as a tool for spreading misinformation about the Father of

Dev underscored that India's freedom, achieved through Gandhiji's non-violent movement, stands as a ings global example. "Violence has no place in a nation's struggle

by college principal Snehlata including Narendra Panda, Mishra, featured a welcome Bibhuti Bhushan Das, DAV address by noted journalist School Principal PK Panda, Mehboob Mehatab on behalf of the Gandhi Bichar Manch. Chamber of Commerce presi-Senior lecturer Tapan Kumar dent Hiralal Lokchandani, and coordinated the proceedsenior lawyer Chapas Roy Chowdhury, felicitated Rahul As part of the ceremony, Dev with citations and me-

the guests paid floral tributes

mentos. Pallahara to be agri hub in 5 yrs: MLA

PNS PALLAHARA

Pallahara will be an agriculture, horticulture and veterinary hub within five years, said local MLA Ashok Mohanty attending as chief guest in the inaugural function of the three-day sub-divisional level agri implements exhibition here.

Pallahara block being a non-industrial and non-mining area and completely dependent upon agriculture, veterinary and horticulture, top priority will be given to these sectors to enhance the farmers' earnings, said MLA





60th Raising Day: BSF

Koraput holds run

### **KORAPU**

L he BSF Koraput organised a 5 km and 10 km run for both male and female at the Railway Ground here to commemorate its 60th raising day.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response from the local authorities, civilians of all age groups, students and security forces. Total 1,008 participants enthusiastically took part in the race. The run was flagged off by Collector Koraput V Keerthi Vasan along with DIG BSF Sector Koraput Satyavan Khanchi.

### Apart from them Lalat

Ranjan Sethy (Municipality Chairperson Koraput), Shrabani Nayak,(SDPO Koraput), Sanjay Das, Commandant 180 Bn BSF graced the occasion. The winners of the run in

both the categories were rewarded with cash prizes by the honoured guests.

DIG Khanchi thanked all the participants, civil dignitaries, police and BSF troops specially the Commandant 180 Bn BSF Sanjay Das and his team for organising such enthusiastic events in the Naxals affected regions.

### Sexagenarian held for raping minor in K'pada on her cheeks , shoulder and

### PNS 🔳 KENDRAPADA

The Pattamundai Rural police arrested a sexagenarian person on Sunday on the charges of raping a 9-year-old minor girl of Pattamundai Rural PS area on Friday evening, informed Pattamundai SDPO Khyamasagar Panda.

According to Panda, the arrested has been identified as Batakrushna Sahoo(65), a neighbour of the victim. Accused Sahoo allegedly raped the minor victim while she was alone at her house.

The accused also assaulted the victim, resulting in injuries

other parts of the body. He also threatened her not to disclose the matter to anybody, else she would face dire consequences, stated the victim's mother in her FIR.

Acting on the FIR, the Pattamundai Rural police registered a case under various section of BNS and POCSO Act. Meanwhile, accused Sahoo has confessed to his

crime before police. He was later produced before the local court where his bail plea was rejected and the court remanded him in judicial custody, stated SDPO Panda

Mohanty. He also assured to set up a vegetable mandi and cold storage unit in each block under Pallahara constituency

In Balangir

PNS BALANGIR

town on Tuesday.

as Sidharth Pradhan.

rate local residents staged a

road blockade after a security

guard of jewellery showroom

was run over by a truck at

Patna Chowk in Balangir

The deceased was identified

As per reports, a speeding

truck rammed into a

Under the chairmanship of DAO Angul Dillip Mishra, a meeting was held where MLA Mohanty was the chief guest and Priyanka Pradhan were present as guest of

there.

(BAO), ADH Dharua, Biswaprakash Sahu (BVO) and Brajabandhu Swain (Assistant Executive Engineer)

honour. The programme will continue till December 4. Many agricultural machinery products companies have

opened their stalls in the ex-

hibition. Three female farmers and four SHGs of Pallahara block were awarded on the occasion by the MLA.

Tension after security guard dies in mishap

Pradhan was the only

earning member of the family and he lost his life due to the rash driving of the truck driver who was in an inebriated condition.

"A person lost his life in a deceased's mother.

road accident in the area. Some local residents staged the road blockade in protest. We don't know about their exact demand. We are trying to clear the road blockade," said a police official.

"I have lost my only son in the accident. Now we are completely helpless. I don't know what to do," said the

### In Nabarangpur 2 convicts flee from court premises

gunpoint.

**PNS** ■ NABARANGPUR

**L** wo persons escaped from police custody in a court after their conviction in an ATM loot case in Nabarangpur district on Monday.

According to sources, on January 31, 2024 the ATM kiosk of State Bank of India (SBI) located in front of Nabarangpur block office was looted. Following investigation, police had arrested five persons.

The arrested were Sakil Khan, Shahrukh Khan, Fazal Khan and Jahul Khan from Haryana and Nikhil Kumar from Bihar. Later, Sakil and Shahrukh were granted bail by the court.

All the five accused were produced in the court of the Nabarangpur Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) for hearing of the case. The court was scheduled to announce its verdict on Monday. After hearing the case and examining the evidences produced by police, the court convicted the five accused and sentenced them to seven years' imprisonment. Soon after the court announced its verdict, Sakil and

Shahrukh managed to police give a slip to and escaped from the premises. Police have launched a hunt

to trace the two convicts by carrying out checking and blocking operations in the town and its nearby areas.

149 HIV+ in K'pada shy away from enrolling in MBPY

### For fear of their identity being disclosed

### **RAJESH BEHERA** KENDRAPADA

T he district administration is very much alert and trying its level best to create awareness on AIDS. But the ground reality is somewhat different in the district as many AIDS positive persons are shying away from availing the Madhubabu Pension Yojana

because of fear of identity disclosure.

According to District Nodal Officer of HIV /AIDS Dr PK Behera, as many as 903 persons were affected with HIV/AIDs in the district from 2003 to 2024 October and among them at least 730 persons have been detected as HIV positive. While 358 HIV positive patients have registered their names at the ART centre of the district, 347 HIV affected persons were getting medi-

cines from the Health Department. As many as 577 HIV positive patients have been getting benefits under Madhubabu Pension Yojana in the district. But the striking fact is as many as 149 HIV positive patients have denied to enrol their names in Madhubabu Pension Yojana due to various reasons.

Though the Union and State governments have been funding crores of rupees to create awareness among the

locals, apart from their rehabilitation but the awareness in this regard is yet to reach to the remotest corner in the district. This might be the reason for these patients to skip enrolling their names in Madhubabu Pension Yojana, said sources.

Most of the affected patients are from weaker sections which include drivers, plumbers and daily labourers, who are going in search of work to places like Kolkata, Delhi, Surat and

other big cities. After being affected with the deadly disease, they return home and spread the high risk diseases by keeping relations with their spouses and others.

It can't be ruled out that in some cases the stigmas related to HIV/AIDs have a role to play. The Health Department has not been able to wipe out the stigmas by creating awareness and discussing with the locals.

Nodal Officer Dr Behera said HIV/AIDs affected per-

sons are shying away to get Madhubabu pension as there is every possibility that their identity would be disclosed publicly. The State government sponsored Madhubabu Pension Yojana to provide financial assistance every month to the AIDS affected persons. But the reluctance among the AIDs-hit to avail its benefits is primarily attributed to the procedure which is never fool-proof in hiding their identity.

road due to the protest. The protestors had a scuffle with Following the mishap, police when they tried to

clear the road blockade. tension prevailed in the area. Locals kept the body in front of the Collector's office and demanded compensation for the family of the deceased.

They also staged a road blockade in the area. Several vehicles were

jewellery shop and ran over stranded on both sides of the Pradhan who was on duty



## nation 04

## Committed to engaging with China for fair, mutually acceptable framework for boundary settlement: EAM

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said here India remains committed to engaging with China to arrive at a fair and mutually acceptable framework for boundary settlement. He also said the recent developments that reflect continuous diplomatic engagements have set India-China ties in the direction of "some improvement." His statement in Parliament came two months after India and Chinese armies disengaged from friction points in eastern Ladakh. This process came about after nearly four years of stand-off between the soldiers of the two countries there after tension flared up in May 2020 leading to clashes in the Galwan valley. Twenty Indian army personnel including the commanding officer were killed. Nearly 40 Chinese soldiers were died in the clash. On its part, Beijing had stated after disengagement that a resolution had been reached on

"relevant matters" and that it would work alongside New Delhi to implement the terms of the agreement.

Jaishankar said India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of a clearly articulated approach. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, the minister said India-China ties have been abnormal since 2020 when peace and tranquility in border areas were disturbed due to Chinese actions.

"The amassing of troops by China in eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020 resulted in face-offs at a number of points. After the Galwan Valley clashes, we were addressing a situation that not only saw fatalities but events that needed heavy weaponry deployment," he said.

The recent developments that reflect continuous diplomatic engagements have set India-China ties in the direction of "some improvement", he said. "We remain committed to engaging with China to arrive at a fair and mutually acceptable framework for boundary



settlement... The government has maintained that India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of peace and tranquility in the border areas, the combination of a firm and principal stance on this situation and the border areas, as well a clearly articulated approach to the totality of our ties," Jaishankar said.

"We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquility will be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward," he added. Jaishankar credited the Indian forces, saying that despite logistical challenges and the Covid

pandemic, they countered the Chinese troops rapidly. He said bilateral relations between India and China were on course of some improvement after the successful disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Our (India-China) ties have been abnormal since 2020 when peace and tranquility in the border areas were disturbed as a result of Chinese

actions. Recent developments that reflect our continuous diplomatic engagement since then have set our ties in the direction of some improvement," he said while briefing the Lok Sabha on India-China ties and the border truce reached in October. Jaishankar also said in the

Galwan Valley clash, "we were addressing a situation that had not only seen fatalities for the first time in 45 years but also a turn of events serious enough for heavy weaponry to be deployed in close proximity to the LAC".

"While a determined counterdeployment of adequate capability was the government's immediate response, there was also the imperative of a diplomatic effort to defuse these heightened tensions and restore peace and tranquility."

The Minister went on to list a series of agreements reached in the past between India and China, including those signed in 1991, 1993, 1996, 2003, 2005, 2012 and the last one in 2013 to reach an understanding on border defence cooperation. "The purpose of my recalling

these agreements is to underline the elaborate nature of our shared efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity and to emphasise the seriousness of what its unprecedented disruption in 2020 implied for our overall relationship," he said.

The current agreement pertains to patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok areas. Earlier, the militaries of the two countries had pulled back from four of six friction points in eastern Ladakh, including the Galwan Valley, after the clash.

In November, Indian and Chinese armies completed one round of patrolling in Demchok and Depsang and also agreed to carry out one coordinated patrol every week in the areas where tensions have persisted.

In an effort to maintain ongo

Former CBI director

Vijay Shankar breathes

ing stability, talks will continue at the local commanders' level, involving brigadiers and officers of similar ranks.

## Recent violence in Sambhal figures in both houses of Parliament

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Recent violence in Sambhal, RUttar Pradesh figured in both house of Parliament on Tuesday. While Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in the Lok Sabha criticized the local administration, his uncle Ram Gopal Yadav claimed in the Rajya Sabha that violence was pre-planned.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav said violence part of a "wellplanned" conspiracy and that the talk of "khudai" (digging) across the country by the BJP and its associates will end up hurting communal amity.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister squarely blamed the local police and administration for the recent violence in Sambhal.

He alleged that police personnel fired from official and personal weapons, killing five innocent people and injuring dozens after some locals pelted stones at them to protest their high-handedness. The MP from Kannauj

demanded the suspension of guilty officials and registration of a murder case against them to ensure that there is no such and Chairman Jagdeep "violation" of the Constitution



Dhankhar said certain parts of again. Akhilesh Yadav, amid occahis statement would not go on sional interruptions from the record. At this, the SP and some treasury benches, suggested other opposition parties staged that the BJP's inner politics was a walkout. also at work and claimed that Indian Union Muslim League it was a "battle" between Delhi (IUML) MP E T Mohammed Basheer described the Sambhal and Lucknow. incident as shocking.

Ram Gopal Yadav said in the Rajya Sabha Sambhal was converted into a police zone and people were baffled why it was being done.

At one point, water started flowing out of the mosque and people thought some mischief was happening inside. Peace was disturbed with police opening fire, in which five people were killed and several injured, he said. Ram Gopal Yadav, however, failed to complete his speech

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With a view to ensure a nationwide compliance of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all states and union territories to constitute an internal complaints committee in all government departments and undertakings.

Issuing a slew of directions, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh said that the POSH Act must be uniformly implemented across the country.

The top court therefore directed the states and UTs to appoint an officer in each dis-The peaceful coexistence (of trict by December 31, 2024, different communities) in this who would constitute a local country is becoming more and complaints committee by January 31, 2025 and appoint nodal officers at taluka levels. The apex court directed the ment is supporting the cam-paign aimed at targeting mosques and demanded a deputy commissioners/district magistrates to survey the public and private organisations for comprehensive inquiry by a judicial commission. Akhilesh ICC compliance under Section 26 of the POSH Act and sub-Yadav also spoke outside mit reports. They would Parliament and said the Uttar engage with private sector stakeholders to ensure ICC Pradesh government was constitution and adherence to



The bench granted time till March 31, 2025 for the compliance of its directions and directed chief secretaries to oversee the execution.

Ensure ICC for sexual harassment at

workplace in all Govt departments: SC

The direction came on a petition dealing with the imple-mentation of the court's May 2023 order directing the Centre and the state governments to undertake a time-bound exercise to verify whether panels to probe sexual harassment allegations at workplace were constituted in all ministries and the departments.

The top court said it was "disquieting" to note "serious lapses" in the enforcement of the 2013 Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act despite such a long time.

Calling it a "sorry state of of natural justice.

affairs", the apex court said it reflected poorly on all the state functionaries, public authorities and private undertakings.

The court direction came on a plea filed by a former head of department at Goa University Aureliano Fernandes, who challenged an order of the Bombay High Court over allegations of sexual harassment against him.

The high court rejected his plea against an order of the executive council of Goa University (disciplinary authority) which dismissed him from services and disqualified him from future employment.

The top court set aside the high court order, noting procedural lapses in inquiry proceedings and violation of the principles



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Former CBI Director Vijay Shankar breathed his last on Tuesday after prolonged illness, his family said. He was 76. Shankar was admitted to a private hospital in Noida for some time. His mortal remains will be donated to AIIMS as per his last wish, they said. A 1969batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Shankar headed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005 to July 31, 2008

During his tenure as CBI director, the agency took over the infamous Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case. As

Additional Director of CBI, he supervised the extradition of gangster Abu Salem and actor Monika Bedi from Portugal. He also supervised the investigation into the Telgi scam. Before being appointed CBI director, Shankar headed National Disaster Response Force, and Civil Defence and Home Guards.

He served as Inspector General in the BSF and was posted in Jammu and Kashmir at the peak of militancy in the 1990s. A recipient of the coveted President's police medals for distinguished and meritorious service, Shankar also served in Uttar Pradesh Police and Moscow under the Ministry of External Affairs.

## President calls for empathy, inclusivity, equal opportunities for Divyangian

behind the incident.

more difficult. We have to pre-

serve our secularism," he said.

Basheer alleged the govern-

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu, on Tuesday, underscored the importance of providing opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment for Divyangjan (people with disabilities), saying such avenues can significantly improve their lives, enabling them to live more meaningful and independent lives.

Speaking at the National Awards ceremony on World Disability Day on December 3, President Murmu highlighted the need for empathy, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities). She emphasised that persons with disabilities deserve empathy, not sympa-

thy; natural affection, not special attention; and, above all, they should experience respect. She urged society to foster an environment that treats Divyangjan with dignity and equality.

President Murmu pointed out that being differently-abled is not a limitation but a special condition that requires tailored support. "Special training, counselling, and facilities must be provided for their needs. While the government is prioritizing their welfare, society must also step forward to ensure their inclusion," she

said The President also lauded the significant achievements of Divyangjan in various fields, especially sports and noted the remarkable improvement in



Paralympics. She said in 2012, India won only one medal, but by 2024, increased awareness and support for Divyangjan had led to a remarkable 29 medals.

A truly sensitive society ensures equal opportunities and seamless access for everyone," she said. She also praised the collaboration among various ministries and depart-India's performance in the ments under a whole-of-government approach to enhance accessibility and urged them to work more cohesively to advance the social and economic empowerment of Divyangjan.

At the ceremony, 33 individuals, institutions, and organizations were recognized for their significant contributions to the empowerment of persons with disabilities in various fields.

Among the honorees were Ivtha Mallikarjuna, recognized as the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan for his work in creating opportunities for persons with dis-abilities, and Prateek Khandelwal, a Bengaluru-based social entrepreneur, awarded for his efforts in making urban spaces accessible through his initiative Ramp My City. In a related event, the National Centre for Promotion

of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) Helen Keller Awards celebrated 25 years, honoring 17 individuals and organizations for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce. Notable awards included Role Model Persons with Disabilities to Basant Sahu (Chhattisgarh), Nishtha Thaker (Gujarat), Resham Talwar (Delhi), and

Dilip Kumar Dahyalal (Gujarat). Role Model Supporters of Increased Employment for Persons with Disabilities: Ashish Verma (Hyderabad), Ameesha Prabhu (Mumbai), and Ajay Govind (Dehradun) while Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on Thilakam Rajendran, for her relentless dedication to disability inclusion.

WCD Minister slams two BJP-Opp ruled States for not enforcing women's safety measures

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

day after Union Minister AMansukh Mandaviya rapped the Delhi and West Bengal Governments for failing to implement central flagship Ayushmaan Bharat health insurance scheme, Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi pulled up the two BJP-Opposition ruled States for not enforcing crucial women's safety measures despite central funding and support.

Addressing the media, the Minister pointed out that the Delhi government had failed to pay the staff working at the One-Stop Centres (OSCs), which were set up under the Nirbhaya Fund to assist women in distress.

She emphasised that the Centre had consistently provided support through initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund, yet state-level delays in implementation were disappointing. The Delhi High Court had recently directed the Delhi government's revenue department to streamline payment processes for OSC staff and take action against the responsible officials.

'The Centre has consistently supported states through initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund, but it is disappointing to see delays in implementation at the state level," the Minister said.

Minister Devi also took aim at the West Bengal government for its failure to operationalise Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) aimed at expediting cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)



Act, an initiative that received central backing.

In contrast, she highlighted the success of these programs on the national level, citing the 802 OSCs across the country that have supported over 10 lakh women and the 752 FTSCs that have resolved over 2.66 lakh cases. Devi further emphasized the central government's commitment to women-led development, noting the increase in the Gender Budget from Rs 97,000 crore in 2013-14 to over Rs 3 lakh crore in 2024-

25.

Devi also referred to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, which reserves 33 percent of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies, as a landmark step toward empowering women. She reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that India's progress is closely tied to the empowerment of its women. Savitri Thakur, the Minister of State for Women and Child

Development, echoed Devi's sentiments, celebrating the progress in gender equality. She highlighted the election of 74 women to the Lok Sabha in 2024 as a record and noted the successes of programs like Beti Bachao, Beti which have Padhao, improved the national sex ratio.

Thakur also pointed to the significant number of women who have benefited from housing initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, as well as financial empowerment programs like Stand Up India and Pradhan Mantri

Up India and -Mudra Yojana. Former Union Health Mandaviya had on Monday vehemently criticised the Delhi and West Bengal Governments for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, saying that there should not be any politics over health schemes

### NCPEDP marks World Disability Day 2024 with the launch of a Media Toolkit

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

s one of its vital institu-Ations, media has enormous influence on society and societal values. It's a potent tool to influence behavior and chalstereotypes. lenge Acknowledging the role of media in transforming societal initiatives, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment Disabled for People (NCPEDP) in collaboration with O.P. Jindal Global University and EXL launched a Media Toolkit - A Guide to Reporting Disability.

This toolkit would provide journalists with guidelines on respectful language, best practices, and strategies to engage with disability issues thoughtfully, ensuring that this invisibilized topic receives accurate representation in media.

'This toolkit has been developed to equip journalists with the tools to report on disability with accuracy and respect, promote the use of empowering language that highlights rights and capabilities, not just challenges, serves as a resource for understanding the socio-political and legal framework that governs disability rights in India, such as the RPWD Act 2016 and the UNCRPD. I hope this initiative will contribute to building a media landscape where persons with disabilities are portrayed not as victims or heroes but as individuals with equal rights, aspirations, and contributions to make.," remarked Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP, during a panel discussion held

on the launch of the toolkit on Fuesday.

The launch of the media toolkit was followed up by a panel discussion titled "The Role of Media in Shaping the Discourse on Disability," moderated by Prof. Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Professor & Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, O.P. Jindal Global University. The panelists included Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP; Dr. Navneet Anand, Founder GreyMatters Director, Communications; Bharat Sharma, Senior Assistant Vice President – Transformation and Solutioning, EXL; and MuskanJain, Assistant Vice President – Global Corporate Social Responsibility Lead, EXL

### **PM Modi speaks to TN CM enquiring** about flood situation

crops.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday to enquire about the flood situation in parts of the state and assured him of all possible support from the Centre. Official sources said Modi called up Stalin regarding the flood situation.

Villupuram district in north Tamil Nadu continued to reel under unprecedented flooding on Monday following extremely heavy rainfall, virtually blocking access to villages and residential colonies as bridges and roads were



In Tiruvannamalai, tragedy

unfolded as five bodies were

recovered from a house

crushed by a boulder that

rolled down a hilltop follow-

ing a mud slip on the night of

December 1 during rains.

## the pioneer BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 4, 2024

## Maharashtra village cancels ballotbased repoll after police warning

The ballot

decision by

for the Election Commission

fear, imposing restrictions

and deploying a massive police force. This raises

questions about the state of

democracy," he told reporters.

Ram Satpute, who lost the

electoral contest in Malshiras

constituency, accused BJP

MLC Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil

of orchestrating the unrest among villagers. "This was not

created a false narrative to

malign the administration at

the state level while targetting

EVMs. The administration

movement.

Mohite Patil

villagers'

Satpute said.

"Ranjitsinh

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE SOLAPUR/MUMBAI

Assection of villagers from Maharashtra's Malshrias Assembly segment seeking reelection using ballot papers gave up their plan on Tuesday after intervention by police and administration, NCP (SP) leader Uttam Jankar who won the seat said.

Nana Patole, state Congress president, alleged that officials used police to block villagers under the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) pressure, raising serious concerns about the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Earlier, residents of Markadwadi village under the Malshiras segment in Solapur

district had put up banners claiming a repoll will be held ballot papers on on December 3. The village is part of the Assembly Malshiras constituency, where Jankar defeated BJP's Ram Satpute by 13.147 votes in the November 20 polls.

Though Jankar won the seat, Markadwadi residents claimed the quantum of votes polled by the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) (NCP-SP) leader was less compared with Satpute, expressing doubt about EVMs.

The Malshiras sub-divisional magistrate on Monday imposed prohibitory orders, under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, from December 2 to of December 5 in the area.

Tehsildar Vijaya Pangarkar

rejected the villagers' plea why is the administration seeking re-poll using ballot afraid of a mock poll, Patole questioned.

papers. "The Assembly elections were conducted lawfully, and no objections were raised during but instead, the influence has eroded faith in voting or counting. Conducting a ballot paper the electoral system," the Congress leader stated. NCP (SP) MLA poll now is illegal and beyond the scope of the election process," Pangarkar said on Ahilyanagar district, Rohit Pawar, also criticised the Tuesdav. administration.

Later, Narayan Shirgavkar, deputy superintendent of police (Malshiras division), said they had a detailed meeting with the villagers and NCP (SP) leader Jankar. "We explained the procedures

in the law to them and warned them that even if one vote is cast, cases will be registered," Shirgavkar said. Jankar said after discussions with police officials and villagers, the repoll plan was cancelled.

The Congress, which won only 16 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, has questioned the election process and EVM credibility. On Tuesday, Patole claimed that the people of Maharashtra suspect that the

elections were not conducted transparently. "Markadwadi villagers took a democratic step to address

has rightly dismantled his plan. For the past three days, these doubts through a ballot paper poll. Instead, the administration, under BJP pressure, imposed restrictions Mohite Patil's men have been threatening villagers, trying to instigate unrest. Uttamrao and used police force to block Jankar is merely a pawn, while them. This raises serious concerns about the credibility Mohite Patil is the mastermind behind this scheme," Satpute alleged. EVMs and the government's intent," Patole Earlier this year, Mohite Patil's tweeted.

younger brother and NCP If there were no irregularities (SP) leader defeated Satpute

in the Lok Sabha elections. Jankar said a meeting was held with police officials who This was an opportunity to warned of seizing the material restore public trust in EVMs, at the polling station and filing cases. BIP's

"After meeting police, we discussed the matter with villagers. The villagers opined (SP) MLA from if the administration does not allow polling, there will be chaos and conflict between police and residents, which paper poll Markadwadi will deter people at the polling station," he said. villagers was an opportunity

Considering the stand of the police and the administration, the villagers decided to stop of India (ECI) to demonstrate the "polling" process, Jankar EVM transparency. Instead, the administration acted in said

Earlier, a villager Ranjit Markad claimed the village had 2,000 eligible voters on the polling day, and 1,900 of them exercised their franchise

tranchise. "The village always supported Jankar in the past, but this time, as per the counting of votes through EVMs, Jankar got 843 votes while BJP candidate Satpute polled 1,003 votes. This is not possible and we do not trust these EVM numbers that is these EVM numbers, that is why we decided to conduct the repoll through ballot papers," said Markad.

In the recently concluded Maharashtra polls, the Mahayuti won 230 of the state's 288 seats, with the BJP emerging victorious in 132 Shiv Sena 57 and Ajit Pawar's NCP 41.

NCP 41. The Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), managed to get just 46 seats.



Residents affected by cyclone fengal in Villupuram block Chennai-Tiruchirappalli National Highway demanding relief from the

## Stalin announces Rs 2,000 for families affected by Fengal

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHENNAI

The families in Villupuram, Cuddalore and and Kallakurichi districts which bore the brunt of damage caused by Cyclone Fengal would be provided a relief of Rs 2,000 each, Tamil Nadu Chief M K Stalin announced to cyclone or floods. on Tuesday.

Chairing a meeting at the Secretariat here to assess the damage due to rain in the state, the chief minister directed the officials to provide a relief sum of Rs 2,000 on the basis of family ration cards to families whose livelihood was affected due to a very heavy rain in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Kallakurichi districts. These districts

and trees damaged. It also decided to give Rs 8,500 witnessed per hectare for rain-damaged (rain-fed) crops, Rs 37,500 as unprecedented rain for more than two davs.

Kanavu

scheme)

The meeting decided to extend relief assistance to the rain-hit people in Villupuram, K a l l a k u r i c h i , Thiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, and extend Rs 5 lakh as compensation each to the families who lost their kin due The government has decided

to provide Rs 10,000 as compensation for damaged said in a release here. huts, give priority to construct houses under the Kalaignar Illam (housing students. for completely

damaged huts, provide Rs 17,000 per hectare relief for rain-damaged paddy crops, the damage due to rain and to including irrigated crops to farmers, and Rs 22,500 per hectare for perennial crops supervise the relief and restoration work, while Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and state ministers supervised the relief work in various other districts

Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam compensation for the loss of cattle including oxen and cows, Rs 4,000 for the loss of goats and sheep and a relief of Rs 100 for the loss of chicken. Special camps would be conducted in the rain-affected country's first administrative unit where 100 per cent areas for issuing certificates, voter's ID and other documents lost or damaged due to floods, the government

laws has been done. Speaking on the occasion, the prime Textbooks and notebooks minister said the new criminal damaged due to rain would be laws represent a concrete step provided for the affected towards realising the ideals enshrined in the Constitution for the benefit of all citizens.

The chief minister himself visited Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts to assess in the state.

> appears that the body was being sent to Mumbai, possibly

> for some examination," said

whether the courier company

or the agent was aware of the

box's contents. As of now, no

official documents have been

presented to justify the transportation of the body.

The identity of the newborn

and the circumstances of their

death remain unknown, and

the airport post in-charge. Authorities are investigating

### Newborn's body found in a box at Lucknow airport

### BISWAJEET BANERJEE 🗖 LUCKNOW

Ashocking incident unfolded at Lucknow's Amausi Airport on Tuesday morning when the body of a newborn was discovered in a courier box during routine cargo scanning.

The package, booked for Indigo flight 6E 2238 to Mumbai, triggered a security alert, prompting immediate action by the airport's cargo staff and authorities. The discovery occurred when

a scanning machine beeped unusually during the inspection of cargo items.

Upon opening the box, staff found the lifeless body of a month-old infant inside a plastic container. The matter was promptly reported to the Central Industrial Security (CISF), which is sible for airport Force responsible

handed over to the CISF for questioning. However, Yadav reportedly failed to provide explanation anv or documentation regarding the presence of the newborn's body in the courier package.

According to airport sources,

the cargo team, led by staff member Ankit Kumar, was conducting routine scans of goods booked for air cargo. The scanning machine flagged the package, and upon manual inspection, the body of the newborn was found. Shocked by the discovery, the cargo team immediately informed the CISF and local police, who took charge of the situation.

"We were shocked to find the infant's body inside," Kumar said. The airport police confirmed

the recovery of the body from the cargo premises and are probing the circumstances surrounding the incident. "It

police are working to uncover more details. The incident has raised serious concerns over the misuse of courier services and airport security measures.

### security. The courier agent who booked the parcel, identified as Shiv Baran Yadav, was detained and

Engineering seats scam,

## Students protest Waqf claim, chant Hanuman Chalisa in Varanasi College

## nation 05

New laws

protecting

rights of

citizens,

CHENNAI

∠country's

claims PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

handigarh has become the

administrative unit where 100

per cent implementation of the

three criminal laws has been

done with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on Tuesday saying these new legislations are

becoming protector of citizen's rights and the basis of ease of justice. The laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya

Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and

came into effect on July 1,

replacing the British-era Indian

Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian

Chandigarh has become the

implementation of the three

He said the new laws came into

effect at a time when country is

moving ahead with the pledge

of "Viksit Bharat" and 75 years

of adoption of Constitution have been completed, thus the

launch of the Bharatiya Nyaya

constitutional values, is a

significant occasion.

rooted

Sanhita.

Evidence Act, respectively.



Members of the United Zou Organization (UZO) stage demonstration against the decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime and fence the India-Myanmar border

### Zou group protest border fencing, FMR

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHURACHANDPUR

demonstration was held in AManipur on Tuesday to protest the government's decision to scrap the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR). Demonstration, led by the United Zou Organisation, started at the 'Wall of Remembrance' around 11.30 am. The demonstrators raised slogans against the government's decision to scrap FMR and fence the international border.

secure Indo-Myanmar border PIONEER NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL

Poordinating Committee of armed militant groups Con Manipur Integrity within the state in a stipulated (COCOMI), an umbrella body of Meitei civil society time," COCOMI said in a statement. organisations, on Tuesday asked the central government to secure the Indo-Myanmar infrastructure of armed militant groups. COCOML also called for militant groups. COCOMI also called for demographic balance in Manipur, it said.

transparent investigations into allegations of collusion between security forces and state resulted from "Kuki aggression" and that the Kuki armed groups. The Centre needs to take

"decisive action to secure the India-Myanmar border has Indo-Myanmar border and to been "mismanaged dismantle the infrastructure deliberately".

Both the central and state governments have repeatedly claimed that infiltration from Myanmar is the root cause behind the violence between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and Kukis based in hill districts.

Manipur has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes between the two communities COCOMI also alleged that first erupted in May last year. the crisis in the northeastern At least 258 people have been thousands killed and rendered homeless since then.

10 arrested

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

Ten people, including a staff I member of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), have been arrested for their alleged involvement in an engineering seat-blocking scam, police said on Tuesday. According to police, the matter came to light on November 13 when KEA officials lodged a complaint at the Malleswaram police station, reporting a suspected seat-blocking scheme during the undergraduate 2024-2025 engineering

admissions. A senior police officer said that during the investigation, three private engineering college managers were questioned based on the complaint, which led to the collection of evidence. 'We have arrested 10 people, including a KEA staffer. The others include middlemen and staff members from some engineering colleges," the officer said. The arrests were made over some time, with three suspects apprehended on of land. While the mosque has

### BISWAJEET BANERJEE 📕 LUCKNOW

Tensions flared at Uday Pratap College (UP College) in Varanasi as College) students staged a protest on Tuesday, reciting the Hanuman Chalisa near a campus shrine in defiance of police efforts to maintain order. The demonstration was a

direct response to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board's contentious claim over the college premises.

of students Hundreds gathered, raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and breaking through police barricades. A heavy police presence, led by Additional Police Commissioner (Law and Order) Dr. S. Channappa, was deployed to contain the unrest, but the students remained resolute in their demands.

Protesting students alleged that an increase in religious activities on campus was affecting the academic atmosphere. "The rise in such activities is spoiling the study environment. We cannot allow

this to continue," said one of the agitators. The situation escalated further when a group of individuals

attempted to offer namaz at the campus mosque. Police intervened, detaining one individual, identified as Mukhtar, for allegedly inciting religious gatherings. Authorities clarified that no religious activity would be permitted on campus until ongoing concluded. exams were

Despite efforts by the police to prevent further demonstrations, students managed to breach barricades and continue their protest near the shrine.

The unrest stems from a 2018 notice issued by the Sunni Central Waqf Board, claiming the college land as its property. This notice, which has recently resurfaced, has sparked outrage among students and staff, who see it as an infringement on the institution's autonomy.

UP College spans over 100 acres and includes a mosque built by Nawab Tonk, along with the tomb of Kachnar Shah, occupying three biswas

historically been frequented by four to five daily worshippers, over 500 people reportedly gathered for Friday prayers last week—an unusual surge that coincided with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to the college. During the event, the CM announced plans to upgrade the institution to university status. The land dispute dates back to 2008, when Wasim Ahmed, a resident of Varanasi, filed a claim with the Waqf Board, alleging that the college administration had encroached on Waqf property. In 2018, the board issued a notice warning that the land would be registered as Waqf property if the college failed to

respond. Founded in 1909 by Maharaja Rajarshi Singh Judeo, Uday Pratap College is an educational hub comprising multiple institutions, including Uday Pratap Inter College, Rani Murar Balika Inter College, Uday Pratap Public School, a management college, and an autonomous college, catering to over 15,000 students

### Fighting for justice, 40 years past midnight in Bhopal



### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL

Meity groups urge Center to

Organisations representing survivors of the Bhopal gas tragedy on Tuesday took out a protest march to mark the 40th anniversary of one the biggest industrial disasters in the world and demanded an end to the "injustice" faced by them.

The rally participants, carrying an effigy of "corporate crime" at the now defunct Union Carbide factory site, denounced various regional, national and international leaders and relief organisations for their

continued involvement in the "denial" of justice and a life of dignity to survivors of the catastrophe.

A large number of women and holding placards, men, marched towards the abandoned factory site while raising the slogan "Bhopal Ka Insaaf Karo".

On the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, the highly toxic gas methyl isocyanate (MIC) leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide plant, killing 5,479 persons and maiming more than five lakh others. Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila

Stationery Karmchari Sangh

president Rashida Bee, alleged that successive US presidents have actively protected Union the half-a-million survivors and that successive US presidents have actively protected Union Carbide and Dow Chemical

Monday.

'We wish that US Presidentdesignate Donald Trump puts an end to the long history of injustice in Bhopal in his effort to make America great again. We hope Trump will take action against Union Carbide Corporation and the Dow Chemical company," she said

Pensionbhogee Sangharsh Morcha, claimed all scientific studies were now pointing out city, she further claimed.

health impacts on their children.

Bhopal Group for Information and Action representative Rachna Dhingra claimed the Union Carbide-owned Dow Chemical's business in India has increased more than 10 times under the present regime at the Centre.

In 10 years, the groundwater in Bhopal, which should have been cleaned up by Dow Chemical according to the polluter pays principle, has moved 3 kilometres into the

### Over 400 workers from Odisha died across India in last decade

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

Over 400 migrant workers from Odisha died outside the state in the last 10 years, the assembly was informed on Replying to a by BJP MLA Tuesday., question Tankadhar Tripathy, Labour Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia said 403 migrant workers from Odisha died in other states between 2015 and November 27, The highest number of 59 migrant workers from Ganjam district died while working outside the state during the period. It was followed by Kalahandi, 39, Bolangir, 35, Kandhamal, 32, and Rayagada, 28, districts., Singkhuntia said the government issued 388 licenses to labour contractors under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service, Act for the migration of 26, In 2024, he said., Singkhuntia said his government has set up a highlevel task force led by Deputy CM KV Singh Deo to address the issue of distress migration.

from prosecution in India.

Balkrishna Namdeo, from the Bhopal Gas Peedit Nirashrit

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 4, 2024

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### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Junta under siege

## Myanmar's Junta is losing grip as rebel gains mount, raising fears of a balkanised future

fter years of oppressive rule, human rights abuses, and atrocities against its own people, Myanmar's military rulers are now on the defensive. Their grip on power Appears increasingly fragile as armed rebels gain significant ground. A year-long offensive has allowed anti-junta forces to seize much of the 480-km National Highway 3, connecting Mandalay to China, a critical route cutting through northern Myanmar's rugged terrain. This victory denies the military lucrative taxes, threatens its strongholds in the central plains, and boosts rebel morale as the civil war enters its fourth year. Myanmar is teetering on the edge of disintegration as the military junta, which seized power in a 2021 coup, confronts increasingly severe attacks from armed rebel groups across the country. Over the past year, ethnic armed organisations and local militias have intensified their offensives, capturing key regions and heightening the risk of Myanmar splintering into fragmented zones of control. The most biggest challenge to the junta has



come from the alliance between the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Operating primarily in Shan State along the border with China, these groups have launched strategic, synchronised assaults, undermining the junta's control in this crucial region.

The Arakan Army's offensives in Rakhine and Chin States have yielded significant territorial gains, placing vast swathes of land and critical townships under their control. These advances threaten the junta's ability to project authority in regions vital for natural resources and strategic positioning. China, a key stake-

holder with significant economic interests in Myanmar, has sought to balance its influence between the junta and rebel groups. As rebel forces secure near-total control over regions such as Rakhine and parts of Shan State, the junta's ability to govern the country as a unified entity is waning fast. This fragmentation could pave the way for the de facto partition of Myanmar into autonomous zones controlled by various factions. The war within has not been easy and the common people are paying the price. Entire communities have been displaced, particularly in the Rohingya-majority regions, where people face violence from multiple fronts. Basic services are scarce, and the humanitarian crisis is deepening. Prolonged conflict has devastated Myanmar's economy, deterring foreign investment and crippling key sectors. Infrastructure projects backed by China and other countries are at risk, compounding economic instability. The instability in Myanmar has broader implications for Southeast Asia, particularly for neighboring countries like Thailand and India. Cross-border violence, refugee flows, and the potential for illicit activities such as drug trafficking pose significant challenges for regional stability. The coming days will be critical in determining whether Myanmar can salvage its unity or succumb to a spiral of fragmentation and perpetual conflict.



## How Nehru targeted his opponents



ANIRBAN GANGULY

Nehru targeted Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Dr B R Ambedkar, leaders who had shaped India's Constitution but differed with his vision for the nation

s the campaign for the first general elections in 1951-1952 played out, the Congress led by Nehru fiercely targeted two leaders. For the fledgling Jana Sangh and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Nehru came out in open abuse, vowing to 'crush Jana Sangh'. For Dr Ambedkar and the Scheduled Caste Federation, the Congress adopted a ruse.

Nehru deputed his trusted com-munist friends to ensure Babasaheb's defeat. Jawaharlal was essentially a petty man when it came to his political and intellectual opponents. It did not matter to him that they were his colleagues in the Constituent Assembly till the other day and had contributed to erecting the constitutional edifice of free India He wanted both Ambedkar and Syama Prasad defeated. He was allergic to their parliamentary skills and to their vocal advocacy of a new polity for India. He wanted a new Parliament shorn of opponents, except communists, who, in any case, were his ideological co-travellers. Nehru did not put up a candidate against A K Gopalan in Kannur. This camaraderie overflowed especially after Sardar Patel's death. Despite Nehru's flame-throwing blitzkrieg Dr Mookerjee won his Calcutta south seat, with his Jana Sangh just about managing to stay afloat as a national party.

Babasaheb lost from Bombay North seat, primarily because of the machinations of the communists who were outsourced by Nehru to carry out the hit-job against him.

It did not matter to Nehru that Dr Ambedkar's health was failing restricting his mobility. It did not matter to him that Dr Ambedkar had completely exhausted himself in the gargantuan task of putting together the Constitution and was therefore worthy of a noble gesture of support. Speaking of his defeat, Dr Ambedkar, one of his most authentic biographers Dhananjay Keer tells us, felt that it 'was due to the machinations of



NEHRU AND

CONGRESS

A SECOND

**ENGINEERED** 

**DEFEAT WHEN** 

Communism, was 'like a forest fire; it goes on burning and consuming anything and everything that comes in its way. Nehru deftly fanned that forest fire. Dr Savita Ambedkar, in her reminiscences of her life with Dr Ambedkar, recalling this first election writes how Nehru was 'keeping a sharp eye on the constituency' and of how 'S K Patil (Mumbai boss of the Congress) and S A Dange of the Communist Party had agreed?

It emerged, writes Savita Ambedkar, that 'Nehru, S K Patil and Dange had decided that they would do all that was required, use whatever strategy suited the occasion, but they were determined not to let Dr Ambedkar win.' The Congress-Communist conspiracy, as Savita Ambedkar describes it, left 'the Constitution-making Doctor Saheb defeated.' It was a terrible psychological blow for Saheb.

It was Congress's manipulation that caused the defeat of the maker of the Indian Constitution.' This first defeat, deliberately inflicted on Dr Ambedkar, deeply disappointed him since he was looking forward to returning to Parliament. Parliament, he felt, was his natural arena of work,

could give his best to his country's regeneration in his remaining years. 'This horrendous defeat in the elections, writes Savita Ambedkar, 'had an extremely harmful impact on his already debilitated health, melancholy, disappointment, depression and disability returned?

Nehru and Congress engineered a second electoral defeat when Babasaheb lost the by-elections to Lok Sabha from the Bhandara seat. For this election, Babasaheb chose ELECTORAL a young RSS pracharak Dattopant Thengadi as his election convener.

Thengadi would closely work BABASAHEB as Babasaheb's understudy for LOST THE the next two years and would go on to found the world's **BY-ELECTIONS** largest trade union movement Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. TO LOK SABHA The Bhandara by-elections FROM THE were a chance for the Congress to make amends and to give up BHANDARA SEAT its pettiness, but Nehru stuck to his blind opposition to

Babasaheb. Dr Savita Ambedkar, ruefully writes that the Congress 'should have displayed the largeness of heart to re-invite [to Parliament] the sculptor of the Constitution with due

Sabha. But quite to the contrary, the Congress shook hands with a person like Dange and applied all its strength and got into all kinds of machinations to defeat Saheb, which proves that Congress cared more for the party than for the welfare of the country.' During the Bhandara elec-

tions, Dr Ambedkar writes Keer, was scathing of Nehru and Congress. He was fighting the elections, he said, 'so that he might give the people the other point of view from the Opposition. It would not have been difficult, he said, for him to be in Parliament if he was prepared to make ca ompromise with the Congress.' Babasaheb firmly chose not to compromise or succumb before Congress and thus faced political humiliation and insult in his last years.

When Nehru's heirs, thus, comically wield the Constitution today, they must be greeted with loud guffaws. Their action needs to be dismissed as the irrelevant and desperate posturing of the managers of a defeated political cartel.

(The writer is chairman Dr Syama Prasaa Mookerjee **Research Foundation and** member National Executive Committee, BJP; views are personal)

o.A.Dange

During the campaign Dange had given out a vicious slogan, he said, 'Spoil your votes but don't vote Dr Ambedkar.' To Dr Ambedkar, a forum standing on which he

nonour. For the sake of the welfare of the nation, if not for anything else, Nehru should have left the way open for Saheb to be elected to the Lok

Bullock carts loaded with sugarcane head towards the Sugar Factory for crushing, in Karad

## One nation one subscription as a catalyst for equitable education



DHARAMPALAN

Access to quality academic resources remains a significant challenge for students and researchers, especially in India's remote regions

ccess to quality resource materials remains a critical challenge for students and research scholars, particularly in the remote corners of India. While the digital age has transformed the way information is disseminated, physical libraries continue to be the cornerstone of acade-

mic excellence. Yet, these essential knowledge hubs are increasingly becoming relics of the past, accessible only to a privileged few associated with national institutions and selected universities. So far, every agency in the country has subscribed for their digital library resources, UGC have INFLIBNET, which is available in selected universities and colleges, CSIR and DST institutions have the National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC); ICAR institutions have CeRA, etc, paying crores of rupees. In many cases, these e-resources are limited to the users of the host institute alone, though they are funded through public money. The ambitious One Nation One Subscription initiative, if implemented effectively, has the potential to the effort to visit libraries. A tion and collaboration.



address this disparity and revitalize the educational landscape. Despite technological advancements, access to quality academic resources has not been democratised in India till now.

Libraries in most colleges and universities face an alarming decline for various reasons. The lack of interest among younger generations straints. in visiting libraries and shrinking funds has exacerthis bated crisis. Unfortunately, in many public institutions, mainly libraries associated with national institutions, library staff often lack the enthusiasm and interpersonal skills to create a welcoming environment for readers. This, in turn, alienates even

the most genuine readers who, despite the odds, make

lack of support and an The Government should prouninviting atmosphere can deter students and researchers from making libraries their go-to space for academic and intellectual pursuits, further eroding the library culture that is already under threat. The One Nation One Subscription initiative aims to address these challenges by providing nationwide access to high-quality academic resources through a centralized system. By negotiating bulk subscriptions to international and national journals,

databases, and e-books, the initiative can ensure that every student has the same environment. knowledge regardless of geographic or economic con-

What a student or scholar gets in a national institute will be available to a student in a university situated in a remote corner of the country. It's democratising the knowledge resource. However, the success of this initiative depends on more than just access. India needs a parallel effort to rejuvenate its library ecosys-

tem. Even in the digital age, physical libraries are irreplaceable as spaces for reflec-

vide adequate funds to modernise the libraries and also take steps to recruit skilled, motivated librarians who understand the evolving needs of readers and can effectively manage digital and physical resources. To ensure inclusivity, The One Nation One Subscription must provide individual login credentials to every registered student and scholar, enabling direct access to resources anytime, anywhere. This would bypass traditional institutional gatekeeping and foster a more reader-friendly Policymakers must ensure

this ambitious plan does not falter due to a lack of implementation or neglect of complementary measures. Knowledge is the cornerstone of progress, and access to it must be recognised as a fundamental right, not a privilege. To fully realise the potential of this initiative, it is essential that the government ensures access to these resources for every student.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced *Studies; views are personal)* 

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **POPULATION GROWTH RATE DECLINES**

Madam — The Rashtriya Swayamsevak (RSS) Sarsanghachalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat raised concerns about declining birth rates, emphasising the importance of maintaining a birth rate of at least 2.1 to ensure the existence of social groups. He underscored unity despite differences and highlighted the inclusivity of Indian culture without caste discrimination. It is, however, true that birth rates are falling in every nation and in the developed West, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China.

Population is shrinking because of decreasing incidence of marriages among eligible young bachelors and spinsters and traditional marriages for life are fast getting replaced by live-ins, same-sex marriages, increasing rates of incidence of divorces, consensual/temporary affairs, and above all, spreading birth control measures irrespective of religious opposition to the same due to loosening of popular restraints or fear of religious tenets and prescriptions in all faiths. In India , Middle-class families are finding it difficult to provide better education for even two children and the value of rupees is decreasing and the purchasing power of rupees is going down. No educated person would like to have a third child. Just see how high the inflation is, GDP (gross domestic product) is down, the rupee is weak against the dollar, and we are having more children-who will feed them? Moreover, does Bhagwat have any solutions for real problems like poverty, jobs, and inflation? I feel this statement from Mohan Bhagwat is absurd and illogical.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

### **CONTROVERSY OVER EVM**

Madam— The growing controversy over the performance of EVM shows the dire need for a thorough study of its tamper-proof quality. Only when one loses, finds fault with EVMs is it acceptable? Definitely, it is the loser who seeks

### Earth suffers from plastic pollution



Plastic has become the biggest headache for all living beings on the earth. Because of the chemicals present in it, this garbage is not only polluting the earth and water, but it is also causing problems for the animals in the sea. The talks held in the South Korean city of Busan to find a solution to plastic waste ended inconclusively on Monday. It has been said that all the countries will meet again next year i.e. in 2025. But the way the world has been divided into two parts on this subject in this meeting itself, it does

his doubts to be clarified. It is the responsibility of the Election Commission and the government to clear the doubts of anyone being the winner or the loser. Such doubts do arise because electronics are found to be the most vulnerable to manipulation.

After pushing in a big way for digitalisation, the Prime Minister himself expresses his concern over the mounting cyber crimes and digital arrests. Moreover, the persons in the helm of affairs also need to prove their integrity and their tamper-proof quality. The varying number of polling percentages from time to time instills, naturally, doubt in the minds of people. Above all, the pioneering countries in the field of electronics have not switched over to EVMs and are still sticking to the ballot papers. EVMs have not added anything as extra benefits in the process of conducting polling except in the process of counting votes. Ensuring the systems to be foolproof is as important as keeping democracy alive.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

#### not seem that there is any scope for any kind of agreement after this. It is estimated that since 1950, more than eight billion tonnes of plastic have been produced worldwide, but less than 10 per cent has been recycled. Due to this, millions of tonnes of plastic have reached the oceans around the world, posing a serious threat to aquatic life and their environment.

While developed countries want a complete ban on its production. A group of 95 countries, including the UK, the European Union, the African Group and many South American countries, has emerged, calling for making Article 6 a legally binding pledge to reduce production levels. But a group of oil-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait and Russia, strongly opposed it. India too has expressed its concern about including any commitment to cut plastic production, as it could impact its right to development. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

**COP29 FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS** 

Madam — The COP29 conference held at Baku was disappointing to say the least. It would be an understatement to say that it has delivered a deadly blow to international efforts to restrict global warming and put extra pressure on developing nations that are already struggling to emerge from the economic slowdown due to ongoing wars in West Asia and Europe.

How can they put developed nations and developing nations at par and expect the latter to do the heavy lifting? And to make matters worse, we have US President-elect Donald Trump, who has completely different ideas on this critical issue. With developed nations shying away from their responsibilities of helping developing nations to fight climate change, the future outlook for global climate mitigation looks grim. Developed nations will have to stop behaving like big brothers now and accept the reality and responsibility.

Bal Govind Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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### **FIRSTCOLUMN THE ETERNAL JOURNEY OF THE SOUL** Life and death are interwoven in an eternal cycle of

renewal, granting the soul opportunities for growth



### RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

ery few humans know when death will come, how it will occur and where it will lead because death is inevitable and it keeps no calendar. Life may not be fair to all, but death deals equally with all, whether rich or poor, mighty or meek, deity or demon, saint or a sinner. Death has many shades to it. Dying for a noble cause such as for patriotism, or a social cause brings glory to the dead. Such deaths win over a lot of sympathy and goodwill for the soul.

Then some die a silent death without suffering much illness or pain. Such deaths happen to fortunate souls who perform good actions. There are also violent deaths such as accidents, murders, suicides, executions etc. Such deaths are preceded by suffering and bitterness and followed by more agony for the soul. So! Are there any happy deaths or can death be a rewarding experience? Well!!

To understand this, we have to first understand life. For this, we need to ask a few questions to ourselves as to what is it that lives when a human being is alive. What is it that ceases to exist when death occurs? On one hand, we say that a person has died and on the other hand, we talk of the body as the mortal remains. So what is mortal? The person or the body? In essence, life is a phenomenon that unfolds when a soul enters a body and death is simply a state when a soul leaves one body and enters a new one. Hence the person who passes away is the soul



that was living in the body. So, what is a soul? A soul is a sentient energy that manifests itself in three levels, the mind, intellect and sanskaras. A common saying goes that when you die the world is dead for you. Hence, what ends with death is the soul's connection or attachment to the limited world that it is related to whilst in the body, such as relationships, possessions, roles, etc. However, an amazing trait of the soul is that it carries over the karmic debts and sanskaras into the next life. We all know that everyone has to die one day yet we never think about our death. This may be because as souls, we have been living in different bodies birth after birth for ages. Our attachment to the body is so strong that even in old age people buy bigger and better properties and continue to invest for the future so that they can live in comfort. Death is not the end of everything but it marks a major turning point in the journeyof the soul in the human world.

Death also means newness. It fills the soul with freshness and renewed

## Delhi's pollution crisis: A call for sustainable solutions



analys \$ 07

A comprehensive approach to urban mobility, affordability and infrastructure is the need of the hour to reclaim Delhi's air and ensure a healthier, sustainable future



s India aspires to emerge as the world's third-largest economy, it continues to grapple with the challenge of **A** grappic with the charcing of framework to combat the persistent envi-ronmental crises (read pollution) in its capital city, Delhi. Thankfully, the stubble-burning season officially concluded on November 30, 2024, and it is perceived as the end of the annual apoca-lypse of Delhi's air pollution. But, it needs to be seen that although the practice was outlawed in 2015, it continues unabated, contributing to approximate-ly 35 per cent of Delhi's pollution. However, the core issue extends far beyond stubble burning, encompassing broader atmospheric and industrial factors. Decisive action in addressing these deeper challenges – and not prolonged silence – is the need of the hour.

After weeks of smog and burning eyes and a high Air Quality Index (AQI), on December 2, 2024, Delhi's air quality showed marginal improvement for the second consecutive day, with the AQI that was recorded at 273 in the morning – though still within the 'poor' cat-egory. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's 24hour average AQI on December 1 stood at 285, providing a modest reprieve after 32 consecutive days of 'very poor' and 'severe' air quality (AQI levels exceeding 400). However, despite these minor improvements, the Supreme Court on December 2, 2024, refused to ease emergency restrictions under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for air pollution in Delhi. The Court emphasised that any relaxation of measures would depend on a consistent and substantial downward trend in AQI levels. The schools have nevertheless opened giving a fresh breath to the students from the online or hybrid mode. Although experts caution that pollution levels could potentially worsen, the past three days have seen clear skies and sustained, stronger winds from the northwest, which have facilitated the dispersion of pollutants. One

of the most contributing factors of pol-

THE STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN DELHI **REMAINS DEEPLY** INADEQUATE. ACCORDING TO A **REPORT DELHI CURRENTLY HAS** 

lution, according to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), is 'vehicular pollution' which remains the most significant contributor to Delhi's air pollution, accounting for 51.1 per cent of emissions from all local sources, despite technical interventions aimed at reducing emissions. CSE's analysis highlights a persistent 'mobility crisis' in the city, charac-terised by systemic shortcomings in the public transport infrastructure despite years of investment. This crisis has driven a sharp increase in the number of private vehicles, which now play a substantial role in fuelling winter air pollution. Notably, even during periods of reduced stubble burning 22 per cent on the Metro. These figures underscore the eco-nomic burden placed on vulnering, Delhi's air quality frequently remains in the 'poor' or 'very poor' categories. CSE's report draws attention to several critical issues undermining public transporta-tion, including its lack of reliability. For instance, instances of buses breaking down during transit rose significantly, from 781 in 2018-19 to 1,259 in 2022-23. Furthermore, high waiting times at bus stops reveal a fundamental inefficiency in the system: less than 1 per cent of bus stops offer waitannual average of 610,000. ing times of less than 10 minutes, while approximately 50 per cent require passengers to wait over 15 minutes. The state of public transportation in Delhi remains deeply inadequate. According to a report Delhi currently has approximate-ly 45 buses per 100,000 residents, based on data from the 2011 census. This figure is significantly below the benchmark set by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, quality challenges. which recommends a ratio of 60 buses per lakh of the population. In comparison, major global cities such as London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Seoul exhibit considerably higher ratios, ranging pollution crisis. from 69 to 90 buses per 100,000 According to data obtained in

residents, highlighting a significant disparity in Delhi's public transportation infrastructure.While the Delhi Metro has been championed as a cornerstone of urban mobility, its impact remains constrained. With an average daily ridership of only 2,700 passengers per train, the Metro's limited capacity - that poor labourers aren't able to afford - and reach is evident, failing to address the broader needs of the city's commuters. According to The Economic Times, an unskilled daily-wage labourer in Delhi spend approximately 8 per cent of their income on travel via non-air-conditioned buses, 14 per cent on airconditioned buses, and an alarm-

able sections of the population. The challenge is addressing the issue of 'affordability'. Data from the 'Economic Survey of Delhi 2023-24' further paints a stark picture of the city's growing vehicle ulation. Delhi currently has 7.9 million registered vehicles, with an for reducing the dependence on additional 650,000 vehicles added private vehicles. in 2023-24, a figure that surpass-By prioritising these initiatives, it es the pre-pandemic (COVID) is believed that a significant Moreover, the city experiences a daily influx and outflow of 1.1 milvehicular emissions can be achieved, contributing to a cleanlion vehicles. The annual growth er and healthier urban environrate of two-wheelers and cars stands at 15 per cent, contributing significantly to transport-related pollution. Notably, according to the CSE, the transport sector accounts for 81 per cent of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the capital, further worsening its air There is a reports that the number of vehicles in the capital doesn't correspond to the size of its population, showing how a small proportion of the population has an outsised contribution to the air

the latest cycle of the National Family Health Survey, only a small proportion of families residing in Delĥi own cars – 19 per cent in its rural areas and 28 per cent in its urban centers. Yet, Delhi streets are often congested by this small proportion of car-owners." However, an equally concerning factor lies in the extensive proliferation of industries across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), which persist as major and consis-

tent sources of pollutants. These industrial emissions subject the residents of Delhi to a form of 'slow violence (read poison)'. Therefore, enhancing public transportation systems is a pivotal strategy for addressing the challenges posed by urban mobility and environmental sustainability in Delhi. Key measures such as improving last-mile connectivity, reducing fares to ensure affordabil-ity for a broader demographic, and expanding the public transport fleet to accommodate the city's cowing population are essential

decrease in traffic congestion and

zest for life and broadens the scope for the soul to enrich itself and evolve with new experiences with different souls in different roles, bodies and places. This renewal is what makes the concept of eternity meaningful. The cycle of life and world drama could not go on eternally if there were no death. For a spiritually enlightened soul, death means final liberation from earthly bondages; it's an ascension to a higher realm of existence where the soul can experience total freedom and bliss because an enlightened soultakes rebirth in a golden age where it will not suffer untimely or painful death.

So, how does one get over the fear of death? For that, we need to understand that the root cause of our fear that leads us to sin & suffering is the consciousness and attachment of the body. Hence the awareness that we are eternal souls is the key to conquering the fear of death. Immortality is the awareness of our eternity and mastery over the body. It does not imply that we will go on existing in the same body forever, NO. A spiritually empowered soul becomes immortal by practising soul consciousness whilst living in the body. On the other hand, for sinful souls life itself is a living death for they die every day out of fear, remorse and suffering but those who die alive i.e. those who live in the world with no attachment to worldly matters are indeed liberated even in life. (Writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

APPROXIMATELY 45 BUSES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS. BASED ON DATA FROM THE 2011 CENSUS

ment. Moreover, such measures would improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the city, enabling individuals without personal vehi-cles to navigate Delhi more efficiently. In the long term, a robust and affordable public transport network would not only promote environmental sustainability but also enhance the overall quality of life for all residents by fostering greater equity and mobility within the city.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are *personal*)

## The impact of COVID-19 and lessons for preventing future pandemics

By strengthening healthcare systems and fostering global collaboration, we can minimise the risk of future pandemics write SUMER SINGH AHLUWALIA and SAISHA ANAND

OVID-19 has caused over 7,000,000 deaths worldwide, with countless others affected. These statistics barely begin to convey the immense impact of the pandemic, which brought loss to almost everyone. Wearing masks became the norm, schools transformed into virtual classrooms, and homes turned into makeshift workspaces. For a time, the world seemed to turn into a vast cemetery. Addressing and preventing future pandemics requires both personal behavioral changes and strict government regulations. These efforts can significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 and similar health crises in the future. Origins and Ethical

The origin of COVID-19 remains controversial, though it is widely believed to have stemmed from an animal sold at the Huanan Seafood Market in China. The consumption of meat, normalised for centuries, has often been linked to the emergence of infectious diseases. Diseases arising from the butchering of animals highlight the need for dietary shifts. Vegetarianism, for instance, is a proactive step that could reduce the likelihood of zoonotic spillovers and the spread of diseases like ĊOVID-19. This also raises an ethical

Considerations

question: is it justifiable to kill animals merely to satisfy human taste preferences? The Role of Vaccination Vaccination has long been a of the microbe" emphasises

COVID-19 vaccines faced significant backlash. Many were hesitant due to concerns about the intentions of pharmaceutical companies and the fact that the vaccines did not provide sterilising immunity. However, vaccinations remain essential to eradicating diseases. According to the National Center for Immunisation and Respiratory Diseases, individuals who received the COVID-19 vaccine were 54 per cent less likely to contract SARS-CoV-2. Áchieving herd immunity is crucial, requiring the transmis-sion rate (Rt) to fall below 1, meaning each infected individual transmits the virus to less

than one other person.

selves from infectious diseases. For instance, self-isolation, mask-wearing, and vaccination not only protect individuals but also shield vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated. **Preventative Measures** Personal precautions, such as wearing masks, self-isolating, and following hygiene proto-

cols, are critical in containing the spread of viruses like SARS-CoV-2. A study in Bangladesh revealed that mask usage significantly reduced COVID-19 infections. As an RNA virus, SARS-CoV-

others by safeguarding our-

2 evolves quickly, facilitating asymptomatic transmission. Research by Wang and Tong, published in the 'National The concept of the "socialism Library of Medicine,' stresses topic of debate, and the our responsibility to protect the importance of strict quar-



antine measures for asymptomatic individuals to control the pandemic.

**Government Interventions** Not everyone maintains the same hygiene standards, underscoring the need for government intervention. Investments in research and healthcare infrastructure are essential for pandemic pre-

Global Virome Project and DEEP VZN aim to identify high-risk regions, animals, and viruses, enabling better predictions and preventive measures

India's 2021 healthcare crisis serves as a stark example of unpreparedness. A lack of oxygen, hospital beds, and essential facilities led to thousands of deaths daily. Despite this, the country still faces a deficit in healthcare infrastructure, highlighting the urgent need for increased healthcare budgets.

Economic barriers also prevent many from accessing necessary care. A study published in the 'National Library of Medicine' found that one in six adults avoids healthcare due to cost. Governments could paredness. Projects like the address this by subsidising

basic health insurance, covering vaccines, health checkups, and screenings. This would ensure equitable access to healthcare and encourage public participation in disease eradication efforts.

### Education as a Tool for Change

Education plays a vital role in fostering behaviour change. Courses like "Global Change and Infectious Disease," offered at Wesleyan University, teach valuable skills for reducing infection risks. Such courses should be mandatory to instill a lifelong sense of personal and social responsibility. Teaching hygiene practices, such as proper handwashing, should start at a young age, while mass educational campaigns can raise awareness about infectious diseases across all age

groups. Social media can amplify these messages, encouraging responsible behaviors and helping curb the spread of future diseases.

Conclusion

Minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics requires a combination of personal behavioral changes and robust government interventions. These pandemics are a wake-up call, reminding us of the harmful impacts of human activities on the planet. By promoting practices like vegetarianism, personal hygiene, and social responsibility, we can mitigate the dangers of pandemics and build a hopeful future. (Ahluwalia & Saisha are studying economics at Wesleyan

*University*; *views are personal*)



## China retaliates, bans export of chip-making minerals to US

Trade

### AP BANGKOK

hina announced Tuesday Lit is banning exports to the United States of gallium, germanium, antimony and other key high-tech materials with potential military applications, as a general principle, lashing back at US limits on semiconductor-related

exports. The Chinese Commerce Ministry announced the move after the Washington expanded its list of Chinese companies subject to export controls on computer chip-making equipment, software and high-bandwidth memory chips. Such chips are needed for advanced applications. The ratcheting up of trade

has been threatening to sharply raise tariffs on imports from China and other countries, potentially intensifying simmering tensions over trade and technology. China's Foreign Ministry also issued a vehement reproof. "China has lodged stern protests with the US for its

update of the semiconductor export control measures, sanctions against Chinese companies, and malicious suppression of China's technological progress," Lin Jian, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in a routine briefing Tuesday. "I want to reiterate that China

firmly opposes the US over-

restrictions comes as stretching the concept of President-elect Donald Trump national security, abuse of Such minerals are considered critical for national security. export control measures, and China is a major producer of illegal unilateral sanctions and antimony, which is used in long-arm jurisdiction against flame retardants, batteries, Chinese companies," Lin said. night-vision goggles and nuclear weapon production, The minerals sourced in China are used in computer according to a 2021 US International chips, cars and other products China said in July 2023 it Commission report. The limits announced by would require exporters to apply for licenses to send to the US the strategically important materials such as gallium and germanium. In August, the Chinese Commerce

Beijing on Tuesday also include exports of super-hard materials, such as diamonds and other synthetic materials that are not compressible and Ministry said it would restrict extremely dense. They are exports of antimony, which is used in many industrial areas used in a wide range of prodsuch as cutting tools, disc brakes and protective coatucts from batteries to ings. The licensing requireweapons, and impose tighter

ments that China announced

in August also covered smelt-

ing and separation technology and machinery and other items related to such superhard materials

China is the biggest global source of gallium and germanium, which are produced in small amounts but are needed to make computer chips for mobile phones, cars and other products, as well as solar panels and military technology. China says it's protecting itself from US trade restrictions

After the US side announced it was adding 140 companies to a so-called "entity list" subject to strict export controls, China's Commerce Ministry protested and said it would act to protect China's "rights and interests." Nearly all of the companies affected by

Washington's latest trade restrictions are based in China, though some are Chinese-owned businesses in Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

Both governments say their respective export controls are needed for national security. China's government has been frustrated by US curbs on access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds but had been cautious in retaliating, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling developers of chips, artificial intelligence and other technology. Various Chinese industry associations issued statements protesting the US move to limit access to advanced chip-making tech-

nology. The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said it opposed using national security as a grounds for export controls, 'abuse of export control measures, and the malicious blockade and suppression of China." "Such behaviour seriously violates the laws of the market economy and the principle of fair competition,

China, according to the US Geological Survey. China exported about 23 metric undermines the international economic and trade order, disrupts the stability of the tonnes (25 tonnes) of gallium global industrial chain, and in 2022 and produces about ultimately harms the interests 600 metric tonnes (660 tonnes) of all countries," it said in a of germanium per year. The statement. US has deposits of such min-

The China Semiconductor Industry Association issued a similar statement, adding that such restrictions were dis-

Hezbollah attack draws Israeli strikes on Lebanon, 11 killed

graphite.

controls on exports of

response" after what it called

### AP JERUSALEM

Israel unleashed its largest wave of airstrikes across Lebanon since agreeing to a ceasefire with Hezbollah last week, killing at least 11 people on Monday after the Lebanese militant group fired a volley of projectiles as a warning over what it said were Israeli truce violations

The projectiles were apparent-ly the first time that Hezbollah took aim at Israeli forces after the 60-day ceasefire went into effect last Wednesday. The increasingly fragile truce aimed to end more than a year of war between Hezbollah and Israel part of a wider regional con-

flict sparked by the devastating Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. In the United States, President elect Donald Trump demanded the immediate release of Israeli hostages held by the Palestinian militant Hamas group in Gaza, saying on social media that if they are not freed before he takes office in January there would be "HELL TO PAY? It was not immediately clear

whether Trump was threatening to directly involve the U.S. military in Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. The US has given Israel crucial military and diplomatic support throughout the nearly 15-month conflict.

A new exchange of fire threatens Lebanon ceasefire: Lebanon's Health Ministry said violations' an Israeli airstrike on the south-Before the Hezbollah projectiles, ern village of Haris killed five airstrikes and an artillery barrage people and wounded two while in southern Lebanon, including another airstrike on the village of Tallousa killed four and also a drone strike that killed a perwounded two. Israel's military son on a motorcycle, according carried out a string of airstrikes to Lebanese state media. late Monday against what it Another strike killed a corpo said were Hezbollah fighters, ral in the Lebanese security serinfrastructure and rocket vices Israel has said its strikes are in launchers across Lebanon, in response to Hezbollah firing two response to unspecified Hezbollah violations, and that projectiles toward Mount Dov a disputed Israeli-held terriunder the ceasefire deal it tory known as Shebaa Farms in reserves the right to retaliate. Lebanon where the borders of Lebanon's parliament speaker,

Lebanon, Syria, and Israel meet. Nabih Berri, accused Israel of Israel said the projectiles fell in violating the truce more than 50 open areas and no injuries were times in recent days by launchreported. Hezbollah said in a ing airstrikes, demolishing statement that it fired on an homes near the border and violating Lebanon's airspace. Israeli military position in the area as a "defensive and warning

Officials in the US - which along with France helped broker "repeated violations" of the the truce and heads a commisceasefire deal by Israel. It said sion meant to monitor adherence to the deal - played down complaints to mediators tasked the significance of Israeli strikes. with monitoring the ceasefire White House national security spokesman John Kirby said, were futile in stopping these Largely speaking, the ceasefire is holding." Israeli carried out at least four

"We've gone from dozens of strikes down to one a day maybe two a day," Kirby told reporters, referring to Israeli strikes. "We're going to keep trying and see what we can do to get it down to zero."

Under the deal, Iran-backed Hezbollah has 60 days to withdraw its fighters and infrastructure from southern Lebanon. During that time, Israeli troops are also to withdraw to their side of the border.

### PTI 📕 DHAKA

writ petition has been filed Ain the Bangladesh High Court seeking a ban on the broadcast of all Indian TV channels in the country citing provocative news aired on them, according to a media report. Lawyer Ĕkhlas Uddin Bĥuiyan filed the petition and confirmed

the matter on Monday, the Dhaka Tribune reported. Bhuiyan said a hearing on the nels, the report added. application may take place on

the High Court bench, which provocative news is being aired will consist of Justice Fatema on Indian channels and that Najib and Justice Sikder unregulated broadcasts of content opposing Bangladeshi cul-Mahmudur Razi. The writ petition was filed in the ture are leading to the destruc-High Court seeking a ban on the broadcast of all Indian TV tion of the youth, the report added.

It further claims that these channels in Bangladesh, the report added. channels are not adhering to any

#### The writ seeks a directive under regulations. Section 29 of the Cable

**Plea to ban Indian TV channels in B'desh** 

The secretaries of the Television Network Operation Information Ministry and the Act 2006 to prohibit the broad-Home Ministry, the Bangladesh cast of all Indian TV channels. Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), and oth-It also asks why a rule should not be issued instructing a ban ers are named as respondents in on Indian TV channels in the petition.

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under The writ calls for a ban on chanstrain after the interim govern-ment headed by Muhammad nels like Star Jalsha, Star Plus, Zee Bangla, Republic Bangla, Yunus came to power following the ouster of Prime Minister The petition alleges that Sheikh Hasina in August.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that coun-

There has been a rise in violent attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh. Hindu minority groups have been frequently reporting atrocities against their of a lawyer.

Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was denied bail and sent to jail by the Chattogram's Sixth Metropolitan Magistrate court in a sedition case on November 26. It triggered clashes between his

November 25.

world 08

rupting supply chains and inflating costs for American

'US chip products are no

longer safe and reliable. China's

related industries will have to

be cautious in purchasing US

The US gets about half its sup-

ply of both gallium and germa-nium metals directly from

erals but has not been mining

them, though some projects

underway are exploring ways

community members in differ-

ent parts of Bangladesh, even

The diplomatic row erupted between India and Bangladesh after Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das, a former member

of the International Society for

Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), was arrested from

Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal

International Airport on

Das, the spokesperson for the

after Yunus took charge.

to tap those resources.

companies.

chips," it said.

supporters and the security personnel that led to the killing

## UK Parliament raises concerns over attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh

### PTI LONDON

The British government con-tinues to monitor the situation in Bangladesh as members of Parliament raised concerns over recent attacks on the minority Hindu community there and arrest of religious leaders, a senior minister said here.

During an urgent question tabled in the House of government following the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Commons by Labour MP Das, a well-known Hindu Barry Gardiner on Monday, the Foreign Office Minister in charge of the Indo-Pacific, leader, on sedition charges. The UK Foreign, Foreign, Common we althand Development Office (FCDO) Catherine West said that she had been given assurances by desk is closely monitoring the interim government in those developments," said West. support was The UK on ernment will conavailable for minority com- tinue to monitor the situation, government over a controver-

Bangladesh last month.

and all other Indian TV chan-

She stressed that the UK was one of the first countries with ministerial support to arrive in Dhaka to speak with Chief Adviser Professor Yunus and be 'vocal" in support of minorities.

"We are aware of the statement of concern from the Indian including making representations from this House, and will engage with the interim government in Bangladesh on the importance of freedom of religion or belief specifically as it affects the Hindu community," she said.

Tension between India and Bangladesh has been simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India. The situation aggravated further with Das' arrest last week. The Hindu community in Bangladesh has regularly faced attacks on its members and places of worship during the widespread protests against

sial job quota system. The attacks have continued even after Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the interim government on

August 8. Gardiner, MP for Brent West in London with a large British Hindu population, described the situation as being "clearly on a knife edge" and raised concerns on behalf of the "large diaspora populations in the UK and large Hindu communities with strong links to the community in Bangladesh".

The shadow foreign secretary, Conservative MP Priti Patel, noted that the degree of escaation in the vi



Bangladesh

munities during her visit to

Chander Kholia, R/o- D-199, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi - 110008, have changed my name from Kusum Devi to Kusum, vide affidavit dated 03/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, Mahesh Chand Kholia, Father of- No.18004558F Hav Yogesh Chander Kholia, R/o-D-199, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi - 110008, have changed my name from Mahesh Chand Kholia to Mahesh Chander, vide affidavit dated 03/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1012)C

I, Hairsh Chandra, S/o Sh. Lal

Muni Fulara & F/o Komal AP KABUL R/o A-40 Gali No.-6, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091 solemnly affirm and declare that Harish Chander & Harish Chandra is one and same person . PD(1013)C

I, Shama Bhatham W/o Rajan Bhatham R/o House No. 50, Anup Nagar, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059 have Changed my Name Shama for all future purposes. PD(1014)A

I, Rahisuddin, S/o, Farmuddin. House Number - 1118, Gali Number, 18/5, Nehru Vihar, Dayalpur Delhi - 94, That, I, have Changed My Name From Rahisuddin To Aryan, For All Purposes.

THANKSGIVING

Thank you holly spirit for all the blessings Celine .

President Joe Biden is greeted by Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio as he arrives at Quatro de Fevereiro international airport in the capital Luanda, Angola long-promised visit to Africa

## Thanks to peace, luxury housing most sought after in Kabul

their cash with them.

option" - when someone pro-

vides a fixed sum to a landlord

in return for living on his

property and staying there

until the landlord returns the

money. People were afraid to

invest in Kabul before the

Taliban takeover, according to

another real estate agent,

Haqdoost. But the country's

rulers have created better con-

ditions for the property market

The city is less violent since the

Taliban transitioned from

insurgency to authority and

foreign forces withdrew,

although armored vehicles,

checkpoints and militarized

compounds remain common

in more ways than one.

Mohammed

Ghulam

 $\mathbf{I}^{n}$  a town that has been through it all and is clawing its way back, a man named Omidullah is looking to hit paydirt.

The Kabul real estate agent is selling a nine-bedroom, ninebath, white-and-gold villa in the Afghan capital. On the roof's gable, glittering Arabic script tempts buyers and bro-kers with the word "mashallah" "God has willed it? The villa is listed at \$450,000,

a startling number in a country where more than half of the population relies on humanitarian aid to survive, most Afghans don't have bank accounts, and mortgages are rare. Yet the offers are coming

"It's a myth that Afghans don't have money," Omidullah said. We have very big businessmen who have big businesses abroad. There are houses here

PD(1015)C worth millions of dollars." In Kabul, a curious thing is happening to fuel the high-end real estate market. Peace, it seems, is driving up property prices Many are coming home:

sights PD(1010)C People who spent years living The Taliban, sticklers for an

intricate bureaucracy, have and working abroad are returning home, keen to take advanpledged to stamp out corruptage of the country's muchtion and regulate legal and improved security and stabilicommercial matters. That means no more dealing with ty after decades of war, destrucwarlords or bribing local offition and infrastructure decay. cials for land purchases or They include Afghans escaping deportation campaigns in Iran

construction projects. Haqdoost is happy with how easily and quickly things are and Pakistan who are taking Mortgages are rare because getting done under the new banks don't have the deposits administration. to facilitate lending. Afghans buy in cash or use the "geerawi

"House prices have risen by almost 40%," he said. "In the last three years, we have sold almost 400 properties. It wasn't like that before?

For builders, times are good: Business is good for Haqdoost, who employs 200 people in administration, including women who deal exclusively with female customers, and then some 1,000 in the construction arm of his company. He said most customers bring their wives along to viewings. That's because it's women who call the shots when it comes to real estate purchases — even in a nation that critics say oppresses and disempowers women. "The power and authority of the house is in the hands of the women," Haqdoost said.

Hasin deeply concerning".

Nepal, China sign nine-point pact during Oli's visit to Beijing

KATHMANDU/BEIJING

Nepal and China on Tuesday signed a nine-point agreement as Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met President Xi Jinping in Beijing when the two leaders discussed connectivity, industrial development, infrastructural development and trade and tourism among other issues. Earlier, Oli — who is on a four-day official visit — held a

bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang in Beijing, the Prime Minister's Secretariat said.

The bilateral meeting with the Chinese president, at the signed include an exchange of

State Hall in Beijing, mainly dwelt on matters related to connectivity, industrial development, infrastructural development, medical cooperation, agricultural development, trade and tourism, investment, science and technology, sports, disaster management, peopleto-people contact and poverty alleviation, Krishna Prasad Dhakal, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in Kathmandu.

Dhakal said that a ninepoint agreement was also signed during the visit, including several memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

Agreements that were

letters regarding the construc-tion of the Tokha-Chhahari tunnel road near Kathmandu: an MoU on Nepal-China trade promotion, and an exchange of certificates of completion of the renovation of the historic ninestorey palace situated in Basantapur in Kathmandu. Also, MoUs on protocol relating to the export of thermally processed buffalo meat to

China; on development and construction works; on economic and technical assistance; on Chinese language education, and on cooperation in communication technology between Nepal Television and China Media Group were signed. There was also an

exchange of letters relating to aid in cash, he said.

Prime Minister Oli is on a four-day official visit to China starting Sunday. He will return on December 5.

On Sunday, the Nepal government announced that it has accepted projects worth USD 20 million as grant assistance from China ahead of Prime Minister Oli's first official visit to that country after assuming office for the fourth time.

Besides, the Nepali Cabinet also decided to accept 300 mil-lion Chinese Yuan (USD 4.13 million approximately) worth projects proposed by the government of China, the government spokesperson said.

## Zimbabwe court allows abortion rights to marital rape victims, girls below 18

### AP HARARE

law prohibiting abortion ser-Avices for women raped by their husbands and girls under the age of 18 is unconstitutional, Zimbabwe's High Court has ruled. In his ruling handed down on November 22 and made public this week, Judge Maxwell Takuva said since Zimbabwe's laws already criminalise marital rape and sex with a minor, victims should be allowed to abort if they become pregnant. The ruling is significant, given

Zimbabwe's restrictive abortion laws that often lead women and girls into illegal and unsafe backstreet abortions that in many cases turn fatal.

circumstances in Zimbabwe, including such as if the pregnancy endangers the life of a woman, or if there is a risk of a physical or mental defect "of such a nature that (the child) will permanently be seriously handicapped." Women can also access legal abortion services in cases of unlawful sex such as incest. Zimbabwe criminalised sex with any person below 18 in September following an earlier constitutional court ruling ordering parliament to raise the legal

age of consent for sex to 18 from 16. But the highly restrictive Termination of Pregnancy Act still denied abortion services for girls under 18.

There is no doubt that it is tor-Abortion is allowed in very few ture, cruel and degrading treat-

ment for a child to carry another child, for a child to give birth to another child or for a child to be forced to illegally abort because of cruel circumstances," said the judge. The government did not mount any opposition to the case, which was brought by a women's rights group, although the ruling must still be approved by the Constitutional Court to become effective.

The judge said providing access to safe and legal abortion services for underage girls "is significant in light of the massive instances of teenage pregnancies in Zimbabwe, and consequently illegal teen abortions and teenage mortalities."

The country of 15 million people records about 77,000 unsafe

abortions annually, but many others go unreported. Many girls and women die from abortion complications each year, accord-ing to the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF.

Teen pregnancies are rife in the southern African country because of lax enforcement of laws, cultural and religious practices and widespread poverty that also make it difficult for girls and women to access contraceptives and clinics.

Almost one of every four girls falls pregnant between the ages of 10 and 19, according to figures by the government and UNICEF. One of every three girls is wed before age 18 in the deeply conservative southern African country.



### world 09

### Palestinians say Hamas, Fatah close to agreement Floods wreak havoc in Malaysia, southern Thailand; over 30 dead on committee to administer post-war Gaza

### AP CAIRO

 $P_{\text{and Hamas}}^{\text{alestinian officials say Fatah}}$ on an agreement to appoint a committee of politically independent technocrats to administer the Gaza Strip after the war. It would effectively end Hamas' rule and could help advance ceasefire talks with Israel.

The rival factions have made several failed attempts to reconcile since Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007. Israel has meanwhile ruled out any postwar role in Gaza for either Hamas or Fatah, which dominates the Western-backed Palestinian Authority

A Palestinian Authority official ing a timeline. on Tuesday confirmed that an agreement had been reached following weeks of negotiations in Cairo. The official media on the talks. There was

said the committee would have no immediate comment from 12-15 members, most of them Israel Prime Minister Israeli

It would report to the Benjamin Netanyahu has Palestinian Authority, which is vowed to continue the war headquartered in the Israeliuntil Hamas is dismantled and scores of hostages are returned. occupied West Bank, and work He says Israel will maintain with local and international parties to facilitate humanitaropen-ended security control over Gaza, with civilian affairs ian assistance and reconstruction. A Hamas official said that

from Gaza.

administered by local Palestinians unaffiliated with Hamas and Fatah had agreed the Palestinian Authority or on the general terms but were Hamas No Palestinians have publicly still negotiating over some volunteered for such a role, and details and the individuals who would serve on the committee. Hamas has threatened anyone

The official said an agreement who cooperates with the Israeli military. would be announced after a The United States has called for meeting of all Palestinian factions in Cairo, without provida revitalised Palestinian Authority to govern both the West Bank and Gaza ahead of Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they eventual statehood. The Israeli government, which is opposed were not authorised to brief to Palestinian statehood, is

return from a planned ascent of

New Zealand's highest peak,

Aoraki, authorities said

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

ly client **Mrs. Geeta** W/o Mr. Balraj owner of built-up

Tuesday.

reportedly discussing a postwar plan with the United Arab Emirates, which normalised relations with Israel in 2020 and backs a rival Fatah faction. The Hamas official said the emerging Palestinian agreement would fulfil one of Israel's war goals by ending Hamas'

rule in Gaza. It's unclear if

Israeli officials would see it that way. The Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank, recognises Israel and cooperates with it on security matters, a policy that is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, many of whom view it as a subcontractor of the occupation. Israel says the authority has not done enough

to combat militancy or curb incitement. The committee would assume

Association. A statement by

New Zealand's police did not

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT

प्र. कार्यपालन यंत्री ( विद्युत )

नगर निगम भोपाल

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

inistrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.

its responsibilities after a cease-

fire agreement with Israel, the Hamas official said. American and Arab mediators have spent nearly a year trying to broker such an agreement, but the negotiations have repeatedly stalled.

Hamas ignited the war with its October 7, 2023, attack into Israel, in which Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Some 100 hostages remain inside Gaza, at least a third of whom

are dead. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 44,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many of the dead were combatants. The offensive has levelled much of the coastal territory and displaced the vast majority of its 2.3 million residents.

### AP 📕 KOTA BHARU (MALAYSIA)

evere floods caused by mon-**S**soon rains killed more than 30 people and displaced tens of thousands in Malaysia and southern Thailand, officials said Tuesday, with both countries preparing shelters and

evacuation plans in anticipation of more heavy rain. Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said five days of heavier-than-expected rain that battered the country's east coast last week was equal to the rainfall over the past six months, wreaking havoc in the northeastern state of Kelantan and neighbouring Terengganu.

The heavy downpours damaged roads and houses in Kelantan and other parts of Malaysia. Rescue workers used boats to distribute food to victims trapped in their homes. Anwar said it would cost the government an estimated 1 billion ringgit (USD 224 million) to repair infrastructure

damaged by the floods. The rain eased over the week end, but the Meteorological Department forecast heavy rains later Tuesday. Anwar said the government is bracing for another monsoon surge that is expected to hit on

25 people perished in floods in the southernmost part of the country in the past week. More than 300,000 households have been affected, with many schools and 98 health facilities forced to close. The health ministry said 34,354 evacuees remained at 491 government shelters on Monday. Although water levels have receded in several provinces the department also warned of more heavy rains through Thursday, putting the areas further at risk of flash floods. Authorities prepared shelter, water pumps, evacuation trucks and boats, and put rescue workers on standby to prepare for more downpours.

### South Korean declares AP WELLINGTON emergency martial law Three mountain climbers from the US and Canada are missing after they failed to

### AP SEOUL

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared an "emer-gency martial law," Tuesday accusing the country's opposition of controlling the parliament, sympathising with North Korea and paralysing the government with anti-state activities.

Yoon made the announcement during a televised briefing, vowing to "eradicate pro-North Korean forces and protect the constitutional democratic order." It wasn't immediately clear how the steps would affect the country's governance and democracy.

Yoon — whose approval rating has dipped in recent months has struggled to push his agen-

### PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs Seema had acquired Property bearing No. H-23/2 area measuring 25 sq. yards, Khasra No. 665 situated at Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar, in the abadi of H – Block, Gali No. 27, Jai Prakash Nagar, Ghonda, Illaga - Shahdara, Delhi vide GPA J 19.03.2024 along with ATS & amp; Will executed by Mr. Ved Prakash and Now Mrs. Seema is the undisputed owner of the said property.

undisputed owner of the said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to infimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim. If any, with all supporting documents at claim, if any, with all supporting documents a below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

da against an opposition-controlled parliament since taking office in 2022. Yoon's conservative People Power Party had been locked in an impasse with the liberal opposition Democratic Party over next year's budget bill.



### नियम व शर्ते :

3.

निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

voiga

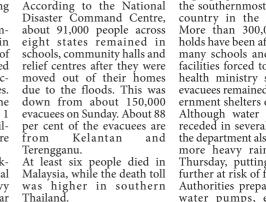
बजट मद- Deposit work

नि.क्र. 871/024/025

Three climbers missing on New Zealand's highest peak The Americans — Kurt Blair, 56, from Colorado and Carlos family Romero, 50, of California are certified alpine guides, according to the website of the American Mountain Guides

citing the need to notify his

The men flew to a hut partway up the mountain on Saturday to begin their ascent and were reported missing on Monday when they did not arrive to meet their prearranged transport after the climb. name the Canadian climber,



Thailand's Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said Tuesday that

Sunday

#### कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह ( म.प्र. ) MARINE DEPARTMENT /ACCTS/WK/R-07/2023/1539 Date: 26.11.20: E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (E-TCN) क्र./लो.नि.वि./न.पा./2024/2433 दमोह दिनांक 26.11.2024 Name of the Work: Supply of 01 no. All Weath -:: निविदा सूचना ::-Steel Hull Vessel along with Manning Crew & additional accommodation for 10 Nos. CISI Security staff for deployment at Paradip SPMs or round the clock 24 x 7 as Pollution Response निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट <u>https://mptenders.gov.in</u> पर देखा जा सकता है। cum-SPMs Security Duties for a period of C verse. Estimated cost put to tender: Rs.75,52,98,000/-. Last date & time of submi-ssion of tender through on-line bidding is 15:00 Hours on dt. 07/01/2025. Date & time for निविदा प्रपत्र अनमानित अमानत समयावधि टेण्डर नं. कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण लागत राशि का मल्य of Technical Bid is 15:30 hours or 2024 UAD 384478 1 मुख्यमंत्री नगरीय क्षेत्र अधोसंरचना 100.91 13,000 77,000 1 वर्ष For further details, please log on to the Website निर्माण योजना ग्रुप-1 Date- 02.12.2024 लाख https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority 2 2024\_UAD\_384556\_1 मुख्यमंत्री नगरीय क्षेत्र अधोसंरचना 97.30 10,000 73,000 1 वर्ष PPA/PR/52/2024-2025 dtd.03.12.2024 Date- 02.12.2024 निर्माण योजना ग्रुप-2 लाख 2024\_UAD\_384764\_1 मुख्यमंत्री नगरीय क्षेत्र अधोसंरचना 23.00 6 माह 5,000 19,000 Date- 02.12.2024 निर्माण योजना ग्रप-3 लाख 2024 UAD 384804 1 मख्यमंत्री नगरीय क्षेत्र अधोसंरचना 60.17 6 माह 10.000 NOTICE 46,000 Applications are invited from reputed Date- 02.12.2024 निर्माण योजना ग्रुप-4 लाख Vender/Contractors for supply नोटः installation, testing & commissioning of P4 (Outdoor) उच्छक निविदादाता विस्तुत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल <u>www.mptenders.gov.in</u> पर Key LED Digital Signage at Ajronda Date अनुसार देखी जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय किये जा सकते है। (Faridabad) & IBD Agra Branch निविदा में यदि कोई संशोधन होता है तो केवल ऑनलाईन प्रकाशित किया जावेगा समाचार पत्र में नहीं। under Punjab & Sind Bank, Zonal office Gurugram. समस्त करों की कटौतियाँ शासन नियमानुसार की जावेगी। For More Details, visit our website: मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी www.punjabandsindbank.co.in नगर पालिका परिषद दमोह ZONAL MANAGER RUCTION OF ETP WASTE WATER RECYCLING PLANT CAPITAL PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING E-TENDER NOTICE NO KYO CDO-ETP-02-24-25; dated: 30-11 ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office : Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266. Office : First Floor, Vijaya Bank Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi- 110001 DEMAND NOTICE U/S 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT - 2002

Loan Account No./ Name and Address of the account

Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)

Loan Account No. - ABND LAP000000615821 & ABND LAP000000748207

You the below mentioned borrower has availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mention has stood as borrower / Co - borrower /Mortgagor for the loan agreement. Consequent to the default committed by you, your loan account has been classified as NPA under the provisions of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement or the security of the security

Security Interest Act, 2002 (in short SARFAESI Act). We **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** has issued Demand Notice u/s 13(2) read with section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act to the address furnished by you. The contents of the said notices are that you had committed default in payment of the verious loans sanctioned to you. Therefore, the present publication carried out to serve the notice as per the

ovision of Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act and in terms of provision to the rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the genera public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of JANTA PRITI NIDHI MANDAL The office of the party is located at GI-48, G.T. Karnal Road Industrial Area, Delhi-110033. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 - Names / Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: **President :** 

### **ASHWANI MINDA** General Secretary / Secretary:

### **ANIRUDH MINDA**

### Treasurer : **VINOD GARG**

If any one has any objection to the registration of JANTA PRITI NIDHI MANDAL (name of the proposed party) they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road New Delhi-110001 within 30 days o the publication of this notice.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EOI Notice No. : C/470/AP/OSOP/2023-VIII dated : 29-11-2024. Applications are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Scope of work: Participation in One Station One Product Scheme by showcasing/selling indigenous/ local products at 37 Nos. Station over Alipurduar Division. Selected station of the project & commencement date: (1) Alipurduar Jn. (APDJ)=03 units. (2) New Alipurduar (NOQ)= 04 units. (3) New Coochbehar (NCB)= 04 units, (4) Dhupguri (DQG)= 02 units, (5) New Mal Jn. (NMZ)=2 units, (6) Kokrajhar (KOJ)=02 units, (7) Hasimara (HSA)= 01 unit, (8) Falakata (FLK)= 02 units, (9) New Maynaguri (NMX)=01 unit, (10) Kamakhyaguri (KAMG)=01 unit, (11) Gulma (GLMA) = 01 unit, (12) Fakiragram (FKM)= 01 unit, (13) Binnagur (BNV)= 01 unit, (14) Dalgaon (DLO)=01 unit, (15) Dinhata (DHH)=01 unit, (16) Chalsa (CLD)= 01 unit, (17) Nagrakata (NKB)=01 unit, (18) Banarhat (BNQ)=01 unit, (19) Coochbehar (COB)=01 unit, (20) Bamanhat (BXT)=01 unit, (21) Tufanganj (TFGN) = 01 unit, (22) Mathabhanga (MHBA) = 01 unit, (23) Gossaigaon Hat (GOGH)= 01 unit, (24) OOdlabari (ODB) = 01 unit, (25) Hamiltanganj (HOJ)= 01 unit, (26) Golakganj (GKJ) =01 unit, (27) Bagrakot (BRQ)= 01 unit, (28) Madarihat (MDT)= 01 unit (29) Rajabhatkhawa (RVK)= 01 unit, (30) Dewanhat (DWT)=01 unit, (31) Dhubri (DBB) =01 unit, (32) Altagram (ATM)=01 unit, (33) Salbari (SXX)=01 unit, (34) New Changrabandha (NCBD)=01 unit, (35) Ghoksadanga (GDX)=01 unit, (36) Salakati (SLKX)=01 unit, (37) Basugaon (BSGN)=01 unit total 49 units at 37 stations. Date of commencement of issue of EOI forms : 03-12-2024; EOI box will be available for dropping of applications at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Office/Sr.DCM/Chamber, Alipurduar Jn. at 15.00 hrs. of 26-12-2024 and EOI box will be opened at 16.00 hrs. of 26-12-2024. The EOI documents will aslo be available in N.F. Railway website www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in during the above mentioned period. Divisional Railway Manager (C), Alipurduar Jn



CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL AT GROUND FLOOR

E-Tender Notice No. 36 of 2024 Dated: 29-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. DCESTMLG-25-2024. Name of work & Location: At Maligaon (HQ): (1) Construction of PCEE Conference hall at Ground floor of West block (ii) At Nambari-Construction of CCTV control room at Nambari officer's colony. Tender Value: ₹23,04,023.66/- Earnest Money: ₹46.100/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 13.00 hrs. of 23-12-2024 & will be opened at 13.00 hrs. of 23-12-2024. The complete information

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY NORTHEA Serving With A Smile

with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in Dy. Chief Engineer/Estate, Maligaon

**E-TENDER NOTICE** E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids

can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these website for any changes amendments & corrigendum etc.

09/Manager System/Jal-Billing/2023-24, AMC of Water Billing Software/System and Facility Management. Cost Rs 56.12 Lacs Inclusive of GST @18%

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 10.12.2024 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-gualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 11.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.

### महत्वपूर्ण सूचना-

नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विपरीत प्लॉटिंग या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अवैध है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अवैध कॉलोनियों एवं अवैध निर्मित भवनों में भूखण्डों / अपार्टमेंट / दुकान / गोडाऊन / फार्महाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णत सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाईजर के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचे। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिण्डन एवं यमुना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनधिकृत/अवैध प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में संलिप्त भूमाफियाओं के चंगूल में न फंसे।''

Manager (System)

### **CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

### Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

VACANCIES

Advt. No. BFU-24/26

Online applications are invited w.e.f. 05-12-2024 to 24-12-2024 from eligible candi dates through University website i.e. www.bfubs.ac.in to the recruitment of 02-Professor, 04-Associate Professor and 16-Assistant Professor on regular basis at Tertiary Cancer Care Centre, Fazilka constituent institute of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For details/ Updates/ eligibility/ no. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit website

-Sd REGISTRAR

00/12/330/2023/39777 Dated CHD :- 12/3/2024

#### **Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot** 0 Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

### Advt. No. BFU-24/26

VACANCIES

Online applications are invited w.e.f. 09-12-2024 to 31-12-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfuhs.ac.in to the recruitment of Professor (Physiotherapy)-01 (UR) on regular basis at constituent colleges/ institute of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot. For details/ Updates/ eligibility/ no. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit website w.bfuhs.ac.in. Sd/

#### REGISTRAR 00/12/329/2023/39776 Dated CHD :- 12/3/2024

Name of work: Construction o ETP waste water recycling plant fo reuse of discharge water of nechanized laundry /Kamakhya a Coach Maintenance Depot Kamakhva Advertised Value: ₹2,37,65,900/-Earnest Money: ₹2,68,800/-; Bidding Start Date : 07-12-2024: E-tender wil be closed at 12:00 hrs. on 21-12-2024 The complete information with the tender document of above e-tende be available in website will

2024. E-tenders are invited by the

Tender No. KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-24-25

ndersigned for the following



#### INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC **BLOCK SIGNALLING SYSTEM**

E-Tender Notice No. S&T/APDJ/18 dated: 29-11-2024. E-tenders are nvited by the undersigned for the ollowing work: SN.1. E-Tender No.: AP ST-18-2024-25; Name of Work Introduction of Automatic Block Signalling System for trainees at Operating Model Room at MDZTI Alipurduar Jn. Advertised Tender Value: ₹59,82,635/-; Bid Security ₹1,19,700/-. E-tenders will be closed a 15:00 hrs. on 26-12-2024 and will be opened on 26-12-2024 after closing The complete information with tende document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in DRM (S&T), Alipurduar Jn NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Letter No. : 5461(i)/ Nivida-01/2024-25

1.M/s. Ossify Industries Private Limited Through its Directors, 2. M Sandeep Kumar, 3. Mrs. Divya Singh, 4. Mr. Pardeep Kumar Verma, 5. Mi 2,95,59,443.62/-Anil Sharma, 6. M/s Usfour Sales Private Limited, Through its Directors, 7 Rupees Two Crore Meenakshi Sharma, 8. Jonny, All at - H008, Site C, Surajpur, IND Area, Greate 16.11.2024 linety-Five Lakh oida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP- 201308, Also At - Unit No. 1001 and 1002, Fifty-Nine 10th Floor, Gulshan One 29, Plot No. C3/E1, Sector- 129, Noida, Uttar Pradesh NPA Date 201304, Sr No. 2, 3 Also At - P-1, Tower- 5, Zeta- 1, Amrapali Grand, Great **Thousand Four** Hundred Forty-Ioida, Sakipur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201306, Sr No. 5 Also At Three and Sixty use No. 98, Kh No. 655, Ground Floor, BLK- F, Near Anand Fans Park, Karam Pura, West Delhi, Delhi- 110015, Sr No. 6, 7, 8 Also At - 1617 Two Paise Only) as paces 16, Max Towers, Sector-16 B, Noida, Gautam on 16.11.24 dha Nagar, Utt radesh-201301 "DETAILS OF SECURED ASSETS TO BE ENFORCED" "Unit No. 1001 and 1002, 10th Floor, Gulshan One 29, Plot No. C3/E1, Sector- 129, Noida, Utt All that piece and parcel of : radesh- 201304' You are hereby called upon to pay Aditya Birla Finance Limited within the period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost failing which Aditya Birla Finance Limited will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Morgagor, The power available to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited under the said act again (Line) and the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Morgagor, The power available to the Aditya Birla Finance Limited under the said act include (1) ower to take possession of the secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Mortgagor including the rights to transfer by way o ease, assignment of sale for releasing secured assets (2) Take over management of the secured assets including rights to transfer to ways of lease, assignment of sale and reliable the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets including rights to transfer by ways of lease, assignment or sale and reliable the secured assets and any transfer as of secured assets by **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** shall vest in all the rights and relation to the secured assets that any transfer as of secured assets by you. In terms of the Provisions of the Section 13/13) of the said act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the normal course of your business), any of the secured asset as referred to above and hypothecated / mortgaged to the **Aditya Birla Finance Limited** without prior written consent of the **Aditya Birla Finance Limited**. ate : 04.12.2024, Place : Noida Authorised Officer, Aditya Birla Finance Limite



Dated : 02/12/2024

ount due as pe

Demand Notice

**Date of Demand** 

### NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 04/12/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in Iakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	CD PWD Ranikhet Improvement and Damarikaran of Amyadi - Kudkoli Motor road under State Sector in Tarikhet Block of Almora District (Length 3.75 Km)	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 4.71 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.
2	PD PWD Bageshwar Almora Construction work of Type-II and Type-III Residential Buildings for the staff of Civil Judge (Judiciary) court, Garur in District-Bageshwar under State Sector.	Rs. 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 7.46 Lakh	120 Days	15 Month (including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "A" & Higher in Building work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.



## **Dharavi redevelopment project revolutionises** slum mapping with drones and LiDAR technology

### PTI MUMBAI

n a first for any slum In a first for any rehabilitation project in Óharavi India, the Redevelopment Project (DRP) has embraced cuttingedge technologies to survey and document Asia's largest slum, officials said.

Drones and remote sensing technology Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) are being used to map the 620 acres densely populated Dharavi slums. This is to accuracy, ensure transparency, and efficiency in a redevelopment project of this scale and complexity. The Dharavi Redevelopment

Project Pvt Ltd, in which the Adani Group holds an 80 per cent stake along with the state government, plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three-quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About 7 lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums, close Mumbai's to international airport, are to be given flats up to 350 square feet free of cost. Officials said advanced

digital tools are being used to map the entire area and



Áuthority

identify the beneficiaries. better data analysis and decision-making, a Dharavi Traditionally, surveys for Rehabilitation Slum Redevelopment Project-Slum Authority (SRA) projects Rehabilitation relied on conventional (DRP-SRA) official said. methods such as total station LiDAR is an active remote sensing technology which surveys and manual collection of physical plays a pivotal role in this documents. project. Known for its ability However, the modern tools to rapidly capture geospatial data, LiDAR uses laser light Lidar such as drones, technology, and mobile to measure distances and applications has

been create highly accurate 3D implemented to collect and representations of terrain, evaluate data digitally. These buildings, and objects. A portable LiDAR system, such tools are being used to create a 'digital twin' of Dharavi - a as a backpack-mounted virtual replica that facilitates scanner, is being used to

navigate the narrow and congested lanes of Dharavi. Drone technology supplements this capturing aerial images of the area, providing an overhead perspective that aids in mapping and planning.

On the ground, survey teams use mobile applications for door-to-door data collection. These apps ensure that information is gathered at the actual location of each slum dweller, with all data stored and evaluated digitally.

This not only improves

accuracy but also reduces the scope for errors or data loss. 'The creation of a digital twin - a virtual representation of Dharavi marks a significant step forward," the official said. According to him, this is the first time such advanced

technologies are being used in a slum rehabilitation scheme in India. The digital model will allow authorities to evaluate data

more effectively, especially when determining the eligibility of residents for rehabilitation at the end of the survey. It also enables faster resolution of disputes and reduces the chances of oversight.

While an estimated one million (10 lakh) reside in including Dharavi, about 7,00,000 are thought to be eligible because of the resident definition of one having proof of living in the area prior to January 1, 2000. The Maharashtra govt had recently approved the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land for the Dharavi redevelopment.

The land will be used to build housing for residents of Dharavi. A survey of existing residents and businesses is being done to determine who them.

would be rehoused in Dharavi or be relocated. The survey process, however, is not without challenges. To address concerns of Dharavikars like fear of fraud or misuse of data, theP-SRA is conducting extensive information, education, and communication (IEC) activities.

These include meetings, pamphlet distribution, and the establishment of call centres to inform residents about the survey process. the Most importantly,

residents are explained aboutP/SRA which is a government entity overseeing the implementation and

monitoring of the project, the smooth execution of the survey.

The field supervisors help residents by ensuring they provide the right documents. If the documents are complete, residents get an acknowledgement slip signed by theP-SRA officer and details about the next steps. Residents, who fail to furnish the correct documents at the low-cost and affordable time of the survey, are explained about the importance of the survey and are helped in retrieving

## Domestic air traffic to rise to 164-170 million in FY25: Icra

### PTI NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{projected to rise 7-10 per}}^{\text{omestic air traffic is}}$ cent to 164-170 million in the current fiscal year, while the aviation industry's loss is pegged at Rs 2,000-3,000 crore during the same period, according to rating agency Icra.

In the first half of 2024-25, Icra said domestic air passenger traffic stood at 79.3 million, marking a 5.3 per cent annual growth that was partly impacted by the severe heat wave and other weatherrelated disruptions.

The international passenger traffic growth for Indian carriers increased and stood at 16.2 per cent in the first half of the current financial year. On Tuesday, the rating agency

said domestic air traffic is expected to jump 7-10 per cent on an annual basis to 164-170 million in FY2025.

Icra maintained a 'stable outlook on the Indian aviation industry, amidst continued growth in domestic and international air passenger traffic. Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head at Icra, said the industry is expected to report a net loss of Rs 20-30 billion in FY2025 and FY2026 each, significantly lower than the losses witnessed in the past

supported by improve pricing power of the airlines. improved 'The spread between revenue per available seat kilometre and cost per available seat kilometre saw some moderation in H1 FY2025 over FY2024 due to higher fuel prices and overall increased costs amid grounding of aircraft, while vields moderated marginally as airlines strove to maintain adequate passenger load factors.

"Nonetheless, the same is expected to pick up in H2 FY2025, amid healthy passenger traffic," Shah said. Airlines' cost structure is typically driven by two key components Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices and

the INR-USD movement. On a year-on-year basis, Icra said average ATF prices eased by 6.8 per cent to Rs 96,192/KL in the first eight months of FY2025, though exceeding the levels seen during pre-Covid period (first eight months of FY2020) of Rs 65,261/KL. Fuel costs account for around 30 to 40 per cent of an airline's costs, while about 35-50 per cent of the operating expenses, including aircraft lease payments, fuel expenses and a significant portion of aircraft and engine maintenance expenses are denominated in dollar terms.

### Imposition of additional duty on steel imports to hit exports by MSMEs says Exporters Tata Power-DDL and THDCIL sign MoU to develop skilled professionals for energy sector PTI NEW DELHI

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### PNS NEW DELHI

 $T_{
m Distribution}^{
m ata}$ Power Delhi Limited (Tata Power-DDL) and Limited THDC India (THDCIL) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a robust pool of skilled and qualified professionals to meet the needs of both the domestic energy sector and international markets.

The MoU was signed by Praveen Agrawal, Chief Human Resource, Industrial Relations, Facility & Management Health Services of Tata Power-DDL and Dr. A.N. Tripathy, General Manager (HR & A) of THDCIL in the presence of Anoop Nandi, Head (BD Collaboration), Tata

training workshops, research initiatives and consultancy projects with a focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in the energy sector. This strategic partnership will leverage the infrastructure facilities of the HRD Takshshila -

SLCDC in Rishikesh and the Learning Centre of Tata Power-DDL in Delhi to develop in cutting-edge domains such as smart grids, grid Ravi automation

officials from both the Speaking organisations.

mutually

Praveen partnership, Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human The MoU aims to establish a beneficial Industrial Resources, Relations, FM and Health framework for collaboration between Tata Power-DDL Services, Tata Power Delhi and THDCIL to organize Distribution Limited said leadership, wellness & other "This privilegedpartnership THDCIL programs, with national seminars, institution of importance, is indeed a landmark collaboration in the area of cutting-edge training programs for the energy sector.

Given changing the landscape of energy sector worldwide, we aim to prepare a highly trained and qualified resource pool both for India and international stakeholders. initiative and deliver This advanced training programs underscores

also our commitment to enhancing development, skill individuals to emp

about

 $M^{\rm SME}_{\rm engineering\ sector\ on}$ Tuesday said that any move to impose additional duties on steel imports would make domestic products uncompetitive and impact the country's outbound shipments from the sector.

Association Hand Tool Chairman S C Ralhan said that the MSME engineering exporters are already facing problems on the liquidity front and high prices of steel in the domestic market.

"Increasing prices of steel by domestic steel makers are hurting us and now we have seen in the media reports that the government is planning to impose a 25 per cent safeguard duty. This will MSME severely impact exporters," Ralhan said. Federation of Indian Export

imposes additional duty, they December 2 Domestic steel players are should ensure that the raising concerns over rising domestic steel companies do not increase the prices of the cheap steel imports from inputs. select nations like China. Think tank Global Trade "Increase in input prices will impact exports of value-added Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report has claimed that

steel products," Sahai said. The steel ministry has proposed for a 25 per cent safeguard duty on import of certain steel items into the country. The proposal came at a meeting between Union Minister of Steel H D

(MOS).

tarnished India's global reputation, with even countries like Japan formally requesting the government to release stranded shipments, GTRI said.

India's steel imports are neither excessive nor unwarranted, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding half of these imports are critical raw materials for domestic production, while 40 per cent consist of specialised items that India does not produce in sufficient quantities.

He said that steel imports are just 6 per cent of domestic production and an estimated over 70 per cent imports are

done by large steel firms. thousands of containers carrying imported steel An impression has been remain stranded at JNPT and created that India's steel imports are high, lack quality other ports due to complex clearance procedures imposed and supplied at below market by the Ministry of Steel prices and hence need iron clad controls and data does support high import not disrupted theory, Srivastava said. and "In FY2024,

production met 94 per cent of India's steel demand, with imports contributing just 6 per cent. Over half of these imports consist of steel scrap (33.8 per cent) and semifinished steel (17.3 per cent), both of which support domestic steel production. Such imports are made by large steel producers," he added.

The remaining 43.4 per cent imports are of high-end flatrolled steel products used in critical industries like automotive, construction, and household appliances.

"Domestic stainless steel prices are 25-30 per cent higher than comparable imported steel for certain thicknesses, even after

accounting for duties. This price disparity, driven by restrictions, import significantly boosts the profit margins of large steel firms wh small enterprises (SMEs) bear the domestic brunt," the think tank said.



Budhlakoti

THDCIL) and other senior technologies.

(HRD- complementary

meet the dynamic demands of the industry effectively." Director General Ajay Sahai Commerce and Industry delays has said that if the government Minister Piyush Goyal here on production

Organisations

Kumaraswamy

have lines

### Hyundai Motor Group ties up Govt should leverage sports industry with IITs to advance battery

### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor Group on Tuesday said it has tied up with three IITs to establish a collaborative research system in the fields of batteries and electrification entailing an investment of USD 7 million over five years. The South Korean group, which has presence across multiple segments including mobility, has tied up with IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. Hyundai Motor Group plans to invest around USD 7 million over five years, from 2025 to 2029, to jointly conduct battery and electrification-related research with the IITs.

As part of the collaboration, Hyundai Center of Excellence (CoE), will be set up within IIT Delhi and would operate through sponsorships from Hyundai Motor Group, the said.

group said in a statement.

The primary objective of the Hyundai CoE is to take the lead in driving advancements in batteries and electrification, specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of the Indian market, it added. 'We believe that Hyundai CoE will cultivate a strong network of talented individuals from India's academic landscape, driving innovation and future growth." Hyundai Motor Group Head of Research and Development (R&D) Planning Coordination Center Naksup Sung said. The Hyundai CoE will not only conduct joint research on academic-industrial cooperation tasks but also Corporate facilitate technical and human exchanges between battery and electrification experts from Korea and India, the group

market."

NCR market.

### for economic growth: Report including PTI 📕 NEW DELHI international

skill

sports

(O)

coaches, nutritionists, and The government should focus on developing a mental and physical trainers. It said that the government model to leverage the sports may formulate policies to establish and industry for economic growth support and frame policies to comprehensive encourage more investment in development programmes for sports infrastructure, events, sports coaching, and related goods and management, and sports-related ancillary industries to services, according to a report. The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report, titled 'Future of Sports in India,' also boost employment generation through sports, especially in tier-2 and rural areas. suggested that the government While the sports industry has could provide incentives to the remarkable seen private sector to fund largeadvancements, challenges scale, holistic sports programmes to support talent such as financial insecurity for athletes, underutilised infrastructure, and the need development as part of their for greater inclusivity persist. Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Expanding financial aid CSR contributions could be programmes, developing leveraged to establish and run robust career transition high-performance training centres with facilities,

address these issues, the report said.

"The Indian government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth, in addition to developing the capacity of Indian athletes to compete at higher levels," said the Future of Sports in India report.

The report also suggested that the government must actively bid for and host international competitions and sporting events. It may also diversify sports

offerings in multiple states by promoting winter and traditional sports, thereby also encouraging sports tourism. The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report also said that the Indian sports industry pathways, and fostering a is experiencing a period of culture of inclusivity can dynamic growth, with

projections to expand from JSD 27 billion in 2020 to USD 100 billion by 2027.

This transformation is driven by various factors, including the commercialisation of sports leagues, technological advancements, and a growing emphasis on diverse sporting disciplines.

Sectors such as sports goods, apparel, and media rights are contributing significantly to this growth, with the sports media market alone expected to grow from USD 1 billion in 2020 to USD 13.4 billion by 2027.

Additionally, landmark achievements by Indian athletes at the 2023 Asian Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics highlight the nation's increasing competitiveness on the global stage, it added.

### Japanese firms keen to set up semiconductor units in India

### PTI NEW DELHI

Tapanese firms are keen to set up semiconductor units in India and they have all the expertise and specialisation to partner domestic with firms, Deloitte has said. It also said that skilled

workforce, funds and continuation of support measures are key to push growth of the semiconductor sector in India.

Japanese firms are "super enthusiastic" about India, Shingo Kamaya, Deloitte AP and SRT Leader, Deloitte Japan said.

In July, Japan became the second Quad partner after the US to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain. The two countries signed the memorandum for design, semiconductor manufacturing, equipment research, talent development and to bring resilience in the semiconductor supply chain. With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have а semiconductor ecosystem. Japan houses companies that are global leaders in raw form of semiconductor wafers, chemical and gases, lenses that are used in chip manufacturing equipment, and display technologies. India aspires to have 10 s e m i c o n d u c t o r

manufacturing plants in 10

vears.

"Given the technology, given the specialization, there is no better partner to get on to developing such an ambitious and a critical ecosystem of semiconductor than Japan," Rohit Berry, President - Strategy, Risk and Transactions, Deloitte India, said.

said that He the semiconductor story in the country is not just about setting up one factory, but it is about that entire ecosystem. "And that is where many Japanese companies who have set up such ecosystems in Japan or in any other places are going to be absolutely critical to

set it up (in India). So this is the vision. This is a grand plan. This is

the investment. This is the commitment," he added.

Berry also said that developing the right kind of partnerships between Indian and Japanese firms are fundamental for the growth of the sector.

This is not a one year game, it's not a two year game.

This will basically benefit us and Japan for generations,' noted. he He also emphasised that the government incentive program on a sustained basis will also be a key factor for the sector's growth in India. When asked if Japanese firms are looking for any specific support measures from states, he said that a "centre-state partnership, together with the private and Japanese partnership, all four of them coming together will be a prerequisite to create a once in a lifetime setup".

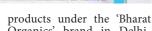
### Mother Dairy to market co-operative society NCOL's organic products in Delhi-NCR



&

### PTI NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with the National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL) to exclusively distribute the latter's organic for their range of organic extensive



Organics' brand in Delhi-

NCR. In a statement, Mother Dairy healthier said it has "signed up with sustainable 'Bharat Organics' as the exclusive distribution partner

network and deep consumer staples to the Delhi NCR trust, we are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap Under the initiative, Mother Dairy will ensure distribution between premium organic of packed and certified brand products and affordability," Mother Dairy Managing Director Manish Bandlish 'Bharat Organics' produce for consumers across NCR through its network of booths said. Mother Dairy has entered across the region. The into a memorandum of collaboration marks the

launch of 'Bharat Organics Atta' and 'Bharat Organics understanding (MoU) with NCOL to distribute the 'Bharat Organics' brand across multiple channels and Sweetener (Jaggery) in the "With this partnership, geographies. Mother Dairy aims to build a and more

India.

The Bharat Organics range will be made available at 300 Safal stores and around By combining NCOL's expertise 10,000 general trade outlets in Delhi NCR, as well as through in organic farming with our distribution modern trade and e-

commerce platforms. Vipul Mittal, Managing Director of NCOL, said "Atta is just the beginning. Our vision is to offer an entire basket of organic staples that cater to the daily needs, while ensuring fair returns for organic farmers." Dairy Mother was commissioned in 1974. It is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Mother Dairy is a leading which

dairy player manufactures, markets & sells milk and milk products including cultured products, ice creams, paneer, ghee, etc.

Under the 'Mother Dairy brand.

The company also has a diversified portfolio with products in edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand and fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables & snacks, unpolished pulses, pulps & concentrates, etc. Under the 'Safal' brand.

NCOL is a multistate cooperative society, supported by NDDB, NAFED, NCDC, GCMMF Ltd, and NCCF. It has been formed to promote organic farming through the cooperative model, creating organic clusters, and ensuring fair trade practices.

## the pioneer BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 4, 2024

## sports 11

## India to host first ever women's T20 World Cup for Blind in 2025

### PTI NEW DELHI

Pakistan will play its share of matches in next year's inaugural blind women's T20 World Cup in either Nepal or Sri Lanka after a hybrid model for the event was finalised at the World Blind Cricket Council's (WBCC) Annual General Meeting in Multan. The development comes a few The development comes a few weeks after India withdrew from the men's T20 Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan owing to security concerns.

The hosting rights for the women's event were awarded to India last year and affirmed at the AGM on Monday in which 11 member countries were present. India, England and New Zealand joined the meeting virtually.

"The hosting rights of the tournament was awarded to India last year (2023) only. It was also decided back then that in case there is visa issue with the Pakistan team's coming to India, the tournament will be held in Hybrid Model. Pakistan will play all its matches at a neutral venue," GK Mahantesh, president of the Cricket Association of Blind in India (CABI), told PTI. Asked where would Pakistan's



be held, Mahantesh matches informed that they have zeroed in on two countries. "Pakistan's visually challenged women's team will be based either in

Nepal or in Sri Lanka for the entire stated

duration of the tournament," he

them. The cost of the entire event will be borne by our cricket board. We will pay for Pakistan team's "The Indian team will travel to entire stay in either of these two Nepal or Sri Lanka to play against countries," he added.

The CABI is neither affiliated to

BCCI, nor the ICC. Several other key decisions were also taken at teh AGM, including the appointment of India's Rajanish Henry and Chandrasekhar KN as the Secretary General and Director Finance respectively, for a two-year

Henry, who previously served as Vice President of WBCC, is also the President of the Cricket Association for the Blind in Kerala.

While Chandrasekhar, a founder member of the CABI, has previously served as its Treasurer.

It was confirmed that the next men's T20 World Cup will be held in 2027, the date and venue for which will be finalised during the AGM in 2025.

The members also decided that all international tournaments for cricket for the blind will now adhere to the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Sight Classification rules, ensuring uniformity and inclusivity across the sport.

It was also decided that CABI will lead efforts to promote cricket for the blind in the USA and UAE, facilitating the formation of men's and women's teams in these regions.



World No. 4 Indian Arjun

Erigaisi to compete at

Norway Chess 2025

next year. Norway Chess 2025 will take place from May 26 to June 6. At just 21 years old and ranked world No. 4, Arjun is expected to bring youthful ambition and exceptional talent to one of the most premier tournaments in the chess calendar.

Reflecting on his style and growth, Arjun remarked, "I used to lose games because of over-ambition and a lack of objectivity, but now I strive to channel my ambition in a balanced way." As anticipation builds up for the tournament. Arjun the tournament, Arjun expressed his enthusiasm about the event's innovative format.

"There are a lot of exciting things about Norway Chess, but for me, I would say the time control and Armageddon format stand out the most to me," he said. Arjun's journey to the top has been nothing short of

In January, he won the prestigious Tata Steel Chess Challengers, and by March he was crowned the national champion. That summer, he dominated the 28th Abu Dhabi International Chess Festival, showcasing his

## To cap off the year, Arjun claimed victory at the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz, strengthening his reputation

as a rising star. He continued in same vein in 2023 and emerged as the outright winner of the Sharjah Masters, and later in the year he reached the quarterfinals of the World

Cup. This year, Arjun reached new heights as he began with victories at the Menorca Open A, the Stepan Avagyan Memorial, and the WR Chess Masters Cup in London, proving his London, proving his consistency and dominance

in competitive play. In September, Arjun led Team India to gold at the Chess Olympiad, delivering a standout performance on board three with a breathtaking rating performance of 2968. The remarkable performance also earned him an individual gold medal.

The same month, Arjun became India's top-rated

and female players in a distinctive six-player double round-robin format. The introduction of Norway Chess Women in 2024, with equal prize funds for men and women, underscores the event's commitment to innovation in the sport.

## **Australian Tennis** Legend Neale Fraser **Passes Away At 91**

AP MELBOUNRE

Teale Fraser who won

## Al-Sadd clinches Asian Champions League playoffs spot after beating Al-Nassr

### AP RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo was Cabsent when Al-Nassr lost for the first time in the AFC Champions League Elite, to Al-Sadd of Qatar 2-1 on Monday.

already was Al-Nassr guaranteed a place in the round of 16 so Ronaldo, who has five goals in his last three matches, was rested. He watched from the sidelines. Al-Sadd took the lead through Akram Afif, named the Asian player of the year in November, eight minutes after the break.

While Sadio Mane and Anderson Talisca went close for Al-Nassr, an own goal from close range by Romain Saiss made it 1-1 with 10 minutes remaining. moving into fourth in the 12-However, Afif was brought team group, a point behind

down in the area and, in the ninth minute of added time, Ounas Adam Algeria's converted the penalty. The win ensured 2011 champion Al-Sadd booked a place in the round of 16,

Al-Nassr in third. The top eight from each of the two groups progress to the knockout stage.

"It was a tough and close game," Al-Sadd coach Felix Sanchez said. "We worked hard to stop Al-Nassr having the ball, and to win at their Rayyan of Qatar 1-1.

Ivan Toney scored both goals Ivan Toney scored both goals for the host in Jeddah. Raphael Silva opened the scoring for the Tehran team after 42 minutes but Toney made it 1-1 just before the break from the spot. Mohammad Hossein Eslami restored Esteghlal's lead six minutes after the restart but

Elsewhere, Persepolis of Iran beat Al-Shorta of Iraq 2-1, while Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates drew with Al-

home stadium. The players showed their character." Al-Ahli was first in the group after the Saudi Arabian side was held by Esteghlal of Iran to 2-2.

minutes after the restart but Toney scored his second penalty four minutes from the end, a fourth goal in Asia for the England striker in the space of a week.

players. phenomenal, with 2022 being his breakout year, when he claimed several high-profile victories.

player, reaching a career-high live rating of 2801 in December. By crossing the prestigious 2800 threshold, joining an elite club of The Norway tournament brings together the top male

**IN** three Grand Slam singles titles and guided Australia to four Davis Cup titles during a 24-year career as team captain, has died at 91.

Tennis Australia released a statement Tuesday saying the sport "has lost one of its giants.

Fraser beat Australian tennis great Rod Laver to win Wimbledon in 1960, in between sweeps at the U.S. Open where he won the singles, men's doubles and mixed titles in 1959 and '60. He won 11 major men's doubles titles, including at least two at each of the four Grand Slam tournaments. Laver, the only man to twice

win all four singles majors in a calendar year, posted a tribute to his "dear mate and fellow lefty" on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Fraser "was a true gem in a golden era of Australian tennis legends -- an incredible World No. 1, a Grand Slam

beste pushing me to become a better player. I'll miss you dearly, buddy."

Fraser helped Australia win four consecutive Davis Cup titles as a player and rejected lucrative offers to turn professional in a quest to succeed Harry Hopman as the

national team captain. "That ambition was fulfilled in 1970 and he remained in the position until 1993, helming 24 Davis Cup campaigns during which Australia won the title four times," Tennis Australia said. "Generations of players were inspired by his leadership including John Newcombe, John Fitzgerald and Pat Cash.

Fraser was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1984. In 2008 Fraser was awarded the International Tennis Federation's Philippe Chatrier Award for outstanding achievement in the sport.

champion, and a Davis Cup icon," Laver posted. "Neale bested me in 2 major finals, India women's team heads to Oman Arne Slot aims cheeky for Junior Asia Cup title defence

PTI BENGALURU

The Indian junior women's hockey team departed for Muscat on Tuesday to defend its Asia Cup title which would also help the side qualify for next year's FIH Junior World Cup

The Junior Asia Cup is scheduled to be held from December 7 to 15 and India will begin their campaign against Bangladesh on Sunday. The top three teams in the showpiece will make the cut for the World Cup scheduled in Santiago, Chile.

India will be up against China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh in Pool A while Pool B will feature South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. India's campaign will be spearheaded by captain Jyoti



Singh along with vice captain Sakshi Rana and the squad also features players who have had the experience of playing with the senior side.

These players are Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo, Mumtaz Khan, Deepika and Beauty Dungdung. The team is being coached by former India captain Tushar Khandker.

"We are very confident and upbeat about our campaign. We have a good, experienced team. We have worked hard

over the past few months and the team is quite eager to do our best in Muscat, Oman," Jyoti said ahead of the team's departure.

"It's heartening to see the men's team enter the knockout stage and they are cruising towards the title. We have been following their matches and we will be there to cheer for them in the remaining matches," added Sakshi, referring to the men's continental event currently being held in Muscat.

## dig at Manchester City

### AP LIVERPOOL

 $D^{\mathrm{ays}\,\mathrm{after}\,\mathrm{leading}\,\mathrm{Liverpool}\,\mathrm{to}\,\mathrm{a}\,\mathrm{convincing}}_{\mathrm{win}\,\mathrm{over}\,\mathrm{Manchester}\,\mathrm{City},\,\mathrm{Arne}\,\mathrm{Slot}}$ aimed a cheeky dig at the beleaguered English Premier League champion over its charges for allegedly breaching financial rules.

Slot was asked at a news conference on Tuesday for the latest news about the future of Mohamed Salah, who is out of contract at the end of the season and said on Sunday that the 2-0 victory over City might be his last game against Pep Guardiola's team at Anfield.

Smiling, Slot replied: "Maybe Mo knows more about the 115 (charges) that are done, so he expects them not to be in the Premier League next season.

He immediately emphasized that was a joke. City faces more than 100 charges, ranging over the period from 2009-18, for financial breaches allegedly committed when the club was trying to establish itself as the biggest force in English soccer. Punishment could be as extreme as expulsion from the league.



City denies the charges and a closed-door hearing is taking place. A verdict is not expected until early next year. Slot has kicked City while it is down.

The champion has lost four straight games in the Premier League amid a seven-match winless run, easily its worst streak in Guardiola's tenure that started in 2016. Slot was speaking ahead of Liverpool's match at Newcastle on Wednesday. The Reds hold a nine-point lead in the league after 13 games, and are 11 clear of fifth-placed City.

### Mollie Marcoux Samaan stepping down as LPGA commissioner

### AP FLORIDA

Mollie Marcoux Samaan is resigning in January as LPGA commissioner, a surprise announcement Monday after record growth in prize money along with criticism the LPGA wasn't gaining in popularity during the surge in women's sports. Marcoux Samaan is leaving on Jan. 9, three weeks before the LPGA begins its 75th season. Liz Moore, the chief legal and technology officer, will be interim commissioner until a

search committee hires a new one. Marcoux Samaan did not cite a specific reason for resigning except to mention spending more time with her three children. She will serve the third-shortest stint among

Jim Ritts (1996-99) and Bill Blue (1988-90)

"With the LPGA positioned for continued growth, it's time for me to have more time to cheer on our three amazing children as they live their dreams while I continue to pursue my passion for building leaders, uniting communities and creating value through sports, particularly women's sports," Marcoux Samaan said in a value statement. The LPGA said prize money

increased by more than 90% under Marcoux Samaan, a big part of that the major The five championships. majors had a combined prize fund of \$23.4 million in 2021. Next year, the majors combine to offer at least \$47.8 million in prize money

She announced the end of her

season-ending CME Group Tour Championship awarded \$4 million to the winner, Jeeno Thitikul, from an \$11

million purse. "Since joining the LPGA in 2021, Mollie has been instrumental in solidifying our position as the global leader in women's professional golf, realizing record growth in player earnings and fan engagement," said John B. Veihmeyer, chairman of the LPGA board. "Mollie has been a steadfast advocate for equity in the sport and has worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for women and girls through the game." The LPGA said the average

earnings for the top 100 players topped \$1 million this year, compared with an average of just over \$570,000



landscape has seen a spike in money and interest, though Marcoux Samaan was criticized for the LPGA not getting enough attention behind remarkable story lines this year. Nelly Korda tied an

won Olympic gold to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame, and then won another major at the Women's British Open at St. Andrews.

The Americans also won the Solheim Cup, but not without nine LPGA commissioners She announced the end of her in 2021. LPGA record with five a transportation mess on the enormous growth. That's dating to 1975, behind only tenure a week after the Women's sports across the straight wins, and Lydia Ko opening day at the Robert really what my job is."

Trent Jones Golf Club in Virginia when there were not enough buses for spectators and many of them waited hours before they could get in, missing the opening tee shots that typically feature packed grandstands and raucous cheering.

Marcoux Samaan pointed to growth in defending her job when some of the criticism was raised at the seasonending tournament.

"I focus every day on trying to support the athletes, to try to grow the tour, and to try to make this the best place in the world to play and to give additional opportunities to girls and women. So I feel like the statistics really speak for themselves," she said at the Tour Championship.

"I think we're experiencing

Along with huge increases in earnings, Marcoux Samaan announced full subsidized health care for the LPGA for the first time in its history. She also was behind stipends for missing the cut and domestic travel in a bid to make sure players were adequately compensated.

Official prize money for the LPGA in 2025 is \$127.5 million.

Terry Duffy, the chairman and CEO of CME Group, signed a two-year extension of the LPGA deal. In an interview with Golfweek, he gave Marcoux Samaan high marks.

"I don't know how you could not give A++ to where the tour is at today under her leadership," Duffy said. "I run markets. I don't care if you're running a business at a hardware store or an

exchange or professional golf, there's ebbs and flows to everything in life and everything in business. ... If you're worth more today than you were 10 years ago or three years ago, you're doing the right things.'

Marcoux Samaan was the ninth commissioner - and second female commissioner when she left her role as athletic director at Princeton. Marcoux Samaan replaced Mike Whan, who took over in 2010 when players revolted and ousted Carolyn Bivens. Whan brought high energy

and a big personality during his 11 years, making him the longest-serving LPGA

commissioner in history. The LPGA board will work with an executive search firm to conduct a global search for the organisation's next commissioner.

## sports 12



## Carey backs Australia's 'world-class' batters to counter Bumrah threat

### PTI ADELAIDE

lex Carey on Tuesday maintained Australia are a "united group", confident that their "world-class" batters will come up with better plans to counter India's pace threat Jasprit Bumrah in the upcoming pinkball Test here.

With their backs against the wall, India came out all guns blazing in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series opener at Perth to win by a massive 295 runs with Bumrah (5/30 and 3/42) ripping apart Australia's batting in each innings.

The heavy margin of defeat left Australia looking for answers as their batters flopped collectively, leaving their famed bowling attack with a lot to do.

"He's obviously a fantastic bowler; (he) has been for a number of years. Our batters are world class as well and always find ways to come up with

solutions," Carey told the media. We've had a look at him now. Hopefully we can combat that first, second spell. Get him bowling a little bit deeper in the innings with an older ball."

"We saw Travis (Head) sort of counterpunch a bit (in the second innings). I trust our batters, we'll find a way not only (against) Bumrah. They played a couple of other debutantes who bowled well as well," Carey said.

After Australia were set an improbable 534 to win, Josh Hazlewood had invited the media to ask their batters how they planned to go about in the second innings, sparking rumours of a rift between the batting and bowling groups.

Carey, however, declined there was any tensions in the dressing room.

"If you ask the batters, we all want to perform better and (as) cricketers, you go out there to score a hundred and if you don't



do that, I think you're at times

disappointed," Carey said. "But we're a very united group. We all do get the opportunity to bat and we're all keen to continue to put those big runs on the board and I trust the guys to do that" he added

Carey said Australia's resounding loss at Perth sparked a "big reaction externally" but maintained that the team will stick to its processes.

"It's quite a big reaction externally for one Test loss. Internally, we don't feel that. We didn't play the way we would have liked to have played."

"We know (that) over four or five Test matches, (if) we keep rocking up and playing our style of cricket we will have the success. We've had that success to, I guess, call upon the method does work" does work."

"We're calm internally, we're excited to get back out and play a better style of cricket and we've

got that opportunity come Friday."

Carey did not want to draw much attention to the last contest here in which India were shot out for their lowest-ever Test total of 36. 'There are obviously amazing days in cricketing history but we don't expect to go out there and do that again. We have a process and a plan that we try to execute and whatever happens, happens. I was not here for that Test match? Australia have never lost a pink ball Test in Adelaide, in fact they have only lost once in day and

night fixture. We are excited. We take a lot of confidence for our record in pink-ball cricket - it doesn't mean we will have the success but (with) our methods, our style of play and the experience we have in this group we'll bounce back from Perth," he added.

was staring at a losing position for a long time, till Gukesh blun-

dered. The Indian, playing

white, got a huge advantage but

miscalculated to let the Chinese off the hook in what was the

longest game of the match thus

It was a miraculous save by

Liren after getting into what the

chess pundits termed as a lost

rook and minor piece endgame.

Earlier in the day, Gukesh yet

again tightened the noose in the

opening. He has clearly been the

better player when it's come to

springing opening surprises. Moving his knight forward on

the first move, the Indian faced the Neo Grunfeld defense from

Liren, and as early as on the sev-

seen and tende

The two teams will take on each other in the second Test, starting here from Friday.

World Chess Championship:

**Gukesh squanders advantage** 

far.

**Gilchrist advises** 

legendary Adam

Australian

Gilchrist has advised the

batters to stay longer at the

crease to nullify the threat

posed by the Jasprit Bumrah-

led Indian bowling attack in the pink-ball second Test

The swashbuckling former keeper-batter also backed

the out-of-sorts Marnus Labuschagne to regain form.

through the Australian

batting line-up, taking eight

wickets including a five-for

in the first innings at Perth,

Bumrah scythed

Australian batters to

stay longer at crease

finds

Gilchrist

## New Zealand penalised WTC points, drop to fifth in table

### PTI DUBAI

New Zealand's aspirations of qualifying for the World Test Championship Final suffered a setback after they were docked three penalty points due to slow over-rate against England leading to a drop in the ranking table, the ICC stated on Tuerday. on Tuesday.

The deduction is a welcome news for India, who enjoy pole position with 61.11 percentage points.

New Zealand now have a points percentage of 47.92 percent and can only move as high as 55.36 percent with victories from their remaining two fixtures against England. South Africa (59.26), Australia (57.26) and Sri Lanka (50) are placed second, third and

"The race to feature at next year's ICC World Test Championship Final at Lord's has taken a twist with

opposition camp, and didn't see it as a technical issue. "I'm sure the people around him are already doing this but he needs to be reminded that he is a class act," Gilchrist said of Labuschagne.

withstand everything that



New Zealand and England sanctioned for maintaining a slow over-rate during the opening Test of their series in Christchurch," the ICC said in a statement.

"Both teams were fined 15 percent of their match fees and penalised three crucial World Test Championship competition points, adding more intrigue to the thrilling final stages of the ongoing

cycle," it further stated.

While England are already out of contention of reaching next year's final despite the impressive eight-wicket triumph at Hagley Oval, the

off Test in June 2025, with two wins against England and several other results also needing to go their way if they are to reach the Lord's decider.

were both found to have three overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, with sides penalised one point for each over they were found to be short.

Both captains - Tom Latham of New Zealand and Ben Stokes of England - pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Rod Tucker, third umpire Adrian Holdstock and fourth official Kim Cotton levelled the charges, with David Boon of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposing the sanctions

to settle for draw in Game 7 PTI SINGAPORE The youngest-ever challenger T to the world crown, D Gukesh let go of a very promising position and had to settle for

a fourth consecutive draw against defending champion Ding Liren of China in a marathon seventh game of the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday. The stalemate, which came after

five hours and 22 minutes of nerve-wracking play, left both players on an identical tally of 3.5 points each, still shy of four more points in order to win the championship. The two players signed peace

after 72 moves. It turned out to be a tough day

in office again for Liren, who

enth turn, Gukesh came up with a surprise idea. FICE OF THE SR. GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL JPPER INDRAVATI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT, MUKHIGUDA DIST: KALAHANDI-766026, E-mail: sgmel\_uihep@ohpcitd.com OHPC A HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A Regd. Office OSPH & W.C Building, Vanivihar Chhak, Janpath, Bhoin. Tel: 91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826, Fax:2542102, E-Mail: oh WEB: www.ohpcitd.com, CIN: U401010R1 NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO.UIHEP/36/2024-25 DATED.30.11.2024 The Unit Head, UIIHEP, Mukhiguda, Dist. Kalahandi invises percentage rate bids in double cover system i.e. Cover-! (Technical Bid) & Cover II (Price Bid) in Online mode from eligible contractors for the work as detailed in the table below. <u>'e'- Procurement Notice</u> NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO.UIHEP/36/2024-25 DATED.30.11.2024 Approx. timated co (in Rs.) EMD (in Rs.) (online) Cost of bid Class of Contractor Period of contract Name of work (in Rs.) (online) 'C' & 'D' Class Six (06) surfaces of electrica 6,74,162/date of ha (Excluding GST) 6,742/with State @18% = 4,720/ver of site by

Govt./Centra Govt. / MES /

ability of tender document in the portal: From 04.12.2024 to 17.12.2024 (up to 13:00 Hrs.)

Last date & time of submission of tenders in the portal: 17.12.2024 up to 13:00 I

cument can be downloaded from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tender

The date & time of opening of the bid: 17.12.2024 at 16:30 Hrs (Only Technical Bid) The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can

Todd Greenberg appointed

loss in competition points is a major blow to New Zealand who drop from equal fourth to outright fifth on the standings as a result. It means the inaugural World Test Championship winners face a tough ask to qualify for next year's one-

Queenslander Labuschagne has been struggling for runs in recent months and now under immense pressure to retain his place in the side. fourth respectively. attributed Labuschagne's poor run of

form to conditions and the quality of bowlers in the

himself

"He's got a game that has been able to tolerate and cric ting has presented, and he's dominated for a number of years? The former star added, "Most players that have played long enough will have been in this situation at some point in time and it's about not letting any self-doubt creep in and understanding you don't lose that skill you don't lose that edge -

new Cricket Australia CEO

New Zealand and England

Gilchrist advised the hosts to Smith Steve and

PTI ADELAIDE

beleaguered

¬he

here.

After

Labuschagne, the team's two batting mainstays, flopped in he series opener and that did

not help Australia's cause. "Marnus had the onus to do that (stay at crease) and tried at good effect to nullify 50odd deliveries. So, if you face an average of 50 deliveries every Test innings, you're probably going to be on the right side of the ledger more than you're on the wrong side of it," Gilchrist was quoted as saying by Nine's Wide World of Sports. "He just couldn't find a way

to score and maybe that's what (the Australians) as a collective will look to try and

"It will bring with it risk, for sure, but it is a risk for reward."

(and) certainly not in a short space of time. Ĝilchrist's urged Labuschagne to "trust your training, get out there, see the ball and play it." The second Test, a day/night affair, will begin on Friday at

Adelaide Oval India lead the five-match series following their 295run victory in the opener at

 $F_{\text{League boss Todd Greenberg}}^{\text{ormer National Rugby}}$ will succeed Nick Hockley as the chief executive officer of Cricket Australia next year, the governing body announced on

Tuesday. Green, who is the current chief executive officer of the Cricketers' Australian Association, will assume the role from March.

Hockley, who was appointed in 2020 initially on an interim basis, had announced in August that he would step down from the post at the end of the current

domestic season. Greenberg has previously worked with Cricket New South Wales. A top-order batter, he played 10 seasons for Randwick CC in Sydney. Apart from serving as the CEO

### Former England captain Alastair Cook Praises India for being 'Brave' in Perth Test sides only, and then it'll be a

Perth last week.

### PTI LONDON

Opting to go in without a proven performer like R Ashwin and batting first in an opening Test of a high-pressure series in Australia are reflections of an Indian team that is brave and supremely confident in its ability to win from any situation, feels England's all-time great Alastair Čook. Cook, a former captain and the first England batter to make 10,000 runs in Test cricket, praised India for their remarkable comeback after getting bowled out for just 150 in the first Test at Perth.

"I thought India was so brave. I thought that first, you know, they win the toss and bat on that wicket, you look there, even though there's only 150 they got, the thought process to say, 'we're going to take Australia on there. We know it's going to be hard, but we think it's going to be hard for both

one-innings game," Cook said on TNT Sports. He added, "I think most captains would have bowled first, certainly would have done and probably got the end of a bad result, like normally in

Australia. But India took it on brilliantly. It was just an allround fantastic performance. You think ... Bowled out for 150, you think we're struggling here, but to bounce back when you've got Boomer (Jasprit Bumrah) up with the new ball on those kinds of wickets, he's always going to be outstanding and backed up by team."

Captaining the team in the absence of Rohit Sharma, pace spearhead Bumrah came up with a magnificent performance to grab eight wickets, including a first-innings fivefor, to lead India to a memorable win. Speaking about India's move to

Ashwin from the playing XI, Cook said, "... Just think of how brave they were? They didn't bother playing Ashwin who has got 500 Test wickets. They've kind of played a couple of like, not makes you spinners, but you know, I thought Ashwin

would have been outstanding, but you know, great thinking by them.

"And isn't it nice to see Australia get thrashed?"

Cook lauded the "classy' Yashasvi Jaiswal for the manner in which he dominated the formidable Australian pace attack and said he wouldn't have told the menacing Mitchell Starc he is bowling too slow even if he

was. After failing to open his account in the first innings of the series opener, Jaiswal adapted to the conditions beautiful ly and played a brilliant 161 run knock in the second essay, his maiden century on exclude the senior off-spinner Australian soil.

of NRL, Greenberg also worked with NRL club Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs before joining the ACA in January 2021. "This is an extremely exciting time for cricket with the rapid growth of the game across the globe creating fantastic opportunities, while also presenting

Australian cricket retains its position at the very peak of the game," Greenberg was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au. Thanks to the work of the cur-

rent administration the game has strong fundamentals in place. I want to ensure we build on this momentum so Australian cricket continues to thrive – from local parks to the nation's biggest stadiums," he

worked closely with Hockley and the two reached an amica-

Tender Call Notice No. 2929/29/11/24

Civil co

Bid documents consisting of specification the schedule of

Memorandum of Understanding for cricket, which outlines the distribution of wealth within the game and resulted in a significant increase

in women's remuneration. 'We are entering a period of great opportunity and the recruitment panel and CA Board was enormously impressed by Todd's passion for cricket and his vision to build on the achievements of the past few years and continue the game's growth," CA chairman Mike Baird said.

seen in the

struction works as mentioned in website Rs.9.45 lakhs

06.12.2024 by 5.30 PM. 07.12.2024 to 5.30 PM of 07.12.2024

Executive Officer NAC, Khariar Road

Date: 02.12.2024

Pottang

As per DTCN 10.00 AM 30.11.2024 to 5:00 PM 06.12.2024

Unit Head UIHEP, Mukhigu GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA ID: ee.randbjyp@gmail.com OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, JEYPORE (R&B) DIVISION, JEYPORE e-Procurement Notice cation No. S.E (R&B)-03/2024-25/JYP(K B-68 No. 12745 Date 27.11.24 Bid Documents consisting of work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender paper, EMD, Time o completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other documents can be seen in Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in Name of the Work Building works as mentioned in DTCN. 2. No. of Works : 5 Nos Estimated Cost : Rs.5.29 lakhs to Rs.26.47 lakhs Period of completion : Two months to Six months 5. Date & Time of Bidding : From 11.00 hours of 07.12.2024 Up-to 17.00 hours of 17.12.2024 Last date & time for receipt of bids in portal 17.00 hours of 17.12.2024 Bids received online shall be opened on : 11.00 hours of 18.12.2024 Name and address of the officer inviting Bid Superintending Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Division, Jeypor Further details can be seen from the www.tendersodisha.gov.in Superintending Engineer Jeypore (R&B) Division

ernment of Odisha, Department of Water Resources OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER KANDHAMAL IRRIGATION DIVISION, PHULBANI A-665 e-Mail: kidphulbani@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice No- EE, KID-02/2024-25

No: 1012

Date: 02.12.2024

The Executive Engineer, Kandhamal Irrigation Division, Phulbani on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on-line percentage rate tender through e-procurement for execution of the following works. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

1	Nature of the work	:	Construction of Building work,		
			Improvement to canal service road,		
			Construction of compound wall and repair works etc.		
2	Number of Works	:	05 Nos.		
3	Estimated cost of Works	:	Rs. 6.40 to 24.45 Lakh		
4	Class of Contractor	:	C & D Class		
5	Period of Completion	:	60 to 90 days		
6	Date and Time of availability of Bid document	:	From 06.12.2024 at 10.00 hours to		
	in the portal		15.12.2024 upto 17.30 hours		
7	Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dt. 15.12.2024 up to 17.30 hours		
8	Bids received in online shall be opened on	:	Dt. 16.12,2024 at 11.00 hours		
9	Name and address of the officer inviting bid	:	Executive Engineer,		
			Kandhamal Irrigation Division, Phulbani		
F	urther details can be seen from e-Procurement p	port	al <u>www.tendersodisha.gov.in</u>		
			Executive Engineer		
0	IPR-32450/11/0003/2425		Kandhamal Irrigation Division		
Ĩ			Phulbani		



Nature of work Estimated Cost Period of Complet e of availability of

Last date/

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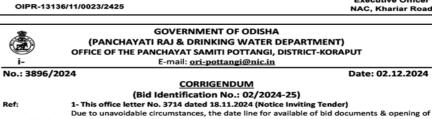
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Ref:

the portal ne for receipt of Bids in the portal fline Submission of Bid

Further the details can be seen from the

### condition of contract and other necessary doc www.tendersprossa.gov.in Date



online bids (Technical & Financial) for the following 4 Nos. of tender works has been extended and reschedul ner as detailed below

Further, as per Office memorandum No. 12586, dated 09.09.2022 of the Principal Secretary to Govt., Works Department, Odisha, the required class of contractors for the following 4 Nos. of tender works has modified as detailed below

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (In Rs.)	Bid Security/ EMD Amount (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid Docume nts (In Rs.)	Modified Class of Contractor	Extended date for available of bid documents online	Extended date for opening o online Bid (Technical 4 Financial)
1	Const. of BT road from PWD road to Gunthaguda via Dekapadar, Chandaka GP.	42,10,708/-	43,000/-	6,000/-	"в"	19.11.2024 to 19.12.2024	20.12.202
2	Const. of BT road from NH-26 to Nuaguda via Podalguda, Pottangi GP.	42,12,188/-	43,000/-	6,000/-	"в"	19.11.2024 to 19.12.2024	20.12.202
3	Const. of BT road to Badadevta via Sishumandir Pani Tanki, Pottangi GP.	21,01,729/-	22,000/-	6,000/-	"B" & "C"	19.11.2024 to 19.12.2024	20.12.202
4	Const. of BT road from Katateda to Dharampadu via Epalpadu Metapadu, Talagoluru GP.	42,10,520/-	43,000/-	6,000/-	"в"	19.11.2024 to 19.12.2024	20.12.202
OIPR	-19174/11/0004/2425	•		•	Block [	<b>Sd/-</b> Development	Officer