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# **One Nation, One Election Bills in Parliament today**

→he Narendra Modi-led Government is likely to introduce two Bills in the Lok Sabha paving way for simultaneous elections One Nation, One Election, on Tuesday. The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, the legislation seeks to synchronise elections for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and possibly local bodies. While the Union Territories (Amendment) Bill is to amend the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will introduce the Bills in the

The BJP has issued a threeline whip to all its Lok Sabha

The Union Cabinet has facilitate simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, though the decision on local body polls has been deferred for

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Constitution ((One Hundred Twenty-Ninth

Amendment) Bill, 2024), the Bill proposes to insert a new article 82A (Simultaneous People and all Legislative Assemblies) and to amend article 83 (Duration of Houses of Parliament), article 172 (Duration of State Legislatures) and article 327 (Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures). According to Section 2 sub

clause 5 of the Constitution (129th) Amendment Bill, "If the Election Commission is MPs to be present in the of the opinion that the the rule

Assembly cannot already approved two Bills to conducted along with the general election to the House of the People, it may make a recommendation to the President, to declare by an order, that the election to that Legislative Assembly may be conducted at a later

The General Elections to the House of the People and all State Legislative Assemblies were held simultaneously in the years 1951-52, 1957, 1962 elections to the House of the and 1967. However, due to premature dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the cycle of holding Polls simultaneously with the House of the People got disrupted. The Law Commission of India in its 170th report, on "Reform of the Electoral Laws", inter alia, suggested that holding separate elections for State Legislative Assemblies should

## Gear up NCR, GRAP-IV is back

As Delhi's average AQI rose to 399 at 9 pm on Monday, and breached the 400 mark at 10 PM, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Monday invoked Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to curb air

As a result, entry of truck traffic into Delhi (except for trucks carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services) banned. All LNG/CNG services) banned. All LNG/CNG /Electric/BS-VI Diesel trucks shall however be permitted to enter Delhi and NCR. Light Commercial Vehicles registered outside Delhi, other than EVs/CNG/BS-VI diesel, can't enter Delhi, except those carrying commodities/ providing essential essentia

Delhi-registered BS-IV and below dieseloperated medium and heavy goods vehicles will be prohibited from operating, except for those carrying essential services. The NCR State Governments/Delhi government will decide whether to permit 50 per cent. of employees in Government, municipal, and private offices to work from home. All construction activities, including

highways, roads, flyovers, power lines, pipelines and other public projects, have been suspended. Schools are closed. Employees are asked to work from home."Considering the steep rise in the AQI of Delhi owing to highly unfavourable meteorological conditions and absolute calm wind conditions,the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP called for an emergency meeting. The Sub-Committee decided to impose Stage-IV ('Severe+' Air Quality) of the GRAP schedule (issued on 13.12.2024) in the entire NCR, with immediate effect", the CAQM said in its order. The GRAP-IV is the highest level of restrictions and is intended to reduce the public health impact of hazardous air quality.

"Considering the highly unfavourable meteorological conditions including calm winds and very low mixing height leading the AQI of Delhi into the higher end of the very poor category, the panel's sub-



### **Coldwave conditions** sweep across NCR

SAUMYA SHUKLA I NEW DELHI

oldwave conditions swept several Cparts of the national Capital for a second consecutive day on Monday as the minimum temperature dropped to 4.5 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal. This is the joint lowest minimum temperature so far this season after the city recorded 4.5 degree Celsius on December 12 as well. In the coming days, Delhi may witness a further increase in the coldwave with shallow fog in various parts due to calm winds and high humidity. In its weather bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has also issued a cold wave warning for certain states of northern India, including Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, among other states that would persist till Saturday in Delhi and several other states. The temperature in certain areas of

Delhi went even below 4.5 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature in Pusa was recorded at 3.5 degrees Celsius, while in Ayanagar, the minimum temperature was recorded at 4 degrees

committee on Graded Response Action Plan decides to impose Stage 3 of the revised GRAP schedule (issued on Friday) in the entire NCR, with immediate effect," an official order said. According to the revised GRAP plan, non-essential diesel light commercial vehicles of BS-IV or older standards, registered outside Delhi, are also not allowed to enter the city. Construction and demolition activities which generate dust leading to air pollution are restricted. Additionally, the ban on construction work extends to all nonessential projects, though exceptions are made for national security, healthcare, and specific public infrastructure projects. To further combat the pollution, the authorities have ramped up efforts to suppress dust by deploying mechanised road-sweeping and water-sprinkling machines across the city.

As a result, schools and colleges in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Budh Nagar are mandatorily required to shift classes up to Class V to hybrid mode under GRAP Stage III. Students and parents will have the option to choose online education wherever it is available. Diesel generator sets, another significant contributor to air pollution, will be restricted to emergency use only



### **Yes. I am upset:** Chhagan Bhujbal

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Making no bones about his displeasure over his exclusion from Maharashtra Cabinet, a miffed The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-AP) leader and a popular Other Backward Classes (OBC) face in the State, Chhagan Bhujbal said on Monday that he would decide on his next move after talking to his constituents and members of a Phule organisation of which he is the president.

Yes. I am upset... I may or may not have been given a ministerial post but Chhagan Bhujbal is not finished," Bhujbal said, when media persons button-holed him for comment on his exclusion from the State Cabinet. Talking to media persons on

the first day of the Winter Session of the State Legislature in Nagpur, Bhubal said, "I will take a call on my future course of action after consulting the people in the constituency and also the members of the Samata Parishad". Seventy-sevenyear-old Bhujbal, who is an influential leader from OBC's Mali community, is the founder- president of the Akhil Bharatiya Mahatma Phule Samata Parishad.

# 'Stay one step ahead of criminals'



CM advises police PNS CUTTACK

Uriminals are devising new modus operandi. So, police should remain one step ahead of the criminals, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at the valedictory function of the 69th Police Duty Meet at Cuttack on Monday.

He directed the police to take stringent action against those who commit crimes against women and the cyber fraudsters.

Majhi said the government determined for the modernisation of the police.

He further said that in the districts where there are no cyber police stations, new

cyber police stations would be set up and an exclusive cyber wing would be set up to tackle cyber frauds. Majhi said four districts would have courts for women soon

On the occasion, the CM inaugurated new buildings of Astarang, Delanga and Balanaga police stations in Puri district in virtual mode.

# Bribery case Bishnupada yet to appear before CBI

CBI Joint Director arrives to oversee probe

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investiga-(CBI) reached Bhubaneswar on Monday to take stock of the investigation process into the Rs 10-lakh bribery case allegedly involving IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi. It is learnt that the case is being investigated under the direct supervision of the CBI Joint Director.

Contractor Santosh Moharana, who has been arrested and taken into remand in connection with the case as the main accused, became sick before the completion of the remand period on Monday. He has been admitted to the

Capital Hospital after suffering from diarrhoea.

On the other hand, Bishnupada Sethi is yet to appear before the CBI despite repeated summons. Security around the government quarters of Sethi has been reportedly tightened

B&R Company General Manager (East Coast) BK Singh said, "CBI inquiry into the matter is going on and I will not give any comment about it. Everything will be clear after CBI report comes out. CBI has got all the documents and some of our officials are questioned. We are fully cooperating with the CBI in the investigation process."

"We have been working on various projects of the State Government for the last eight to 10 years. No tender-fixing has been done," he added.

## CM hears 1,000 complaints at grievance cell



PNS BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday heard the complaints of around 1,000 people at his grievance cell here. It was the sixth hearing by Majhi since he came to power.

The CM initially attended to the complaints of Divyangs. Around 30 differently-abled people from across the State

had turned up to submit their grievances. He personally went to each of them and patiently heard their problems Most of the complaints re-

lated to housing, government allowances and other basic problems of the people. Majhi directed officials of the concerned departments to immediately solve the problems at the grassroots level.

Several ministers including

Mukesh Mahaling, Krushna Chandra Patra, Pradip Balsamant, Ganeshram Khuntia and Rabi Narayan Nayak were present during the

grievance hearing. It may be noted the Chief Minister's grievance cell is opened every Monday. But it had remained closed for last several weeks due to pressing engagements of the Chief Min-

## Subhadra 4th phase on hold till E-KYC process over

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he fourth phase of the first installment of the Subhadra Yojana, which was scheduled to be disbursed on December 25 on the occasion of Christmas, has been put on hold for the time being, informed Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Monday. With over 5 lakh women

beneficiaries still on the waiting/process list, the government has decided to postpone the payment of the fourth phase until the verification and E-KYC process is completed.

With an aim to cover all eligible beneficiaries, as this is the last phase, the government has decided to postpone it until the verification process is over.

"Over 20L women beneficiaries will benefit from the fourth or the last phase of the



Subhadra Yojana. So, applicants who are facing problems in E-KYC process must update their biometrics. Moreover, those who have done their E-KYC through mobile OTP have to do it once again through biometrics. For that, they can visit Jana Seva Kendra or Mo Seva Kendra. Currently, around 5 lakh people are in the

the Deputy CM informed. "We have also set up helpdesks comprising

waiting/under process list,"

Anganwadi Workers and CDPOs. They will visit every village with the help of people's representatives and assist applicants facing problems. RIs have also been advised for field visits and resolve any land-related issues," Parida said.

She advised applicants to put up their grievances in the Subhadra portal or visit the block office. Should problems arise, the Deputy CM also encouraged applicants to reach out to the block office, local sarpanch or Anganwadi Workers with their grievances.

"The next course of action will be taken after the verification process is completed. We will talk to the CM and fix the new date of disbursement. Our government's aim is to include every single eligible beneficiary. So, I request everyone to take benefit of the ambitious scheme," Parida

### Demo against Bishnupada Sethi Bees turn violent after attack on their hive, chase protestors

NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

A protest rally organised here by Odisha Chhatra Congress and Yuva Congress workers turned chaotic on Monday when a swarm of honeybees attacked the demonstrators, journalists and police personnel outside the residence of Principal Secretary to the government Bishnupada Sethi.

The protest was aimed at pressuring authorities to arrest Sethi in connection with a Rs 10-lakh bribery case. However, the situation escalated when someone inadvertently disturbed a beehive situated in a tree near the protest site, leading to a frenzy of angry

Those attending the rally, including journalists, were caught off guard and sought refuge lying on the ground and shielding their faces as the bees descended upon them.



"Protesters were tossing tomatoes and eggs at the walls of Sethi's residence and nearby trees, which likely led to the disturbance of the beehive," noted Sukanta Kumar Mohanty, a journalist present at the scene.

After approximately 30 minutes of chaos, the bees eventually dispersed, allowing the Congress workers to resume their demonstration. They resumed their chants calling for Sethi's arrest, alleging he had attempted to accept bribes through his drivers to favour certain contractors.

As tensions mounted, some protestors attempted to breach the barriers surrounding Sethi's official residence, leading to the detention of several persons by police.

"Everyone in Odisha knows that many blacklisted companies were awarded contracts during the previous BJD regime. We are urging the Mohan Majhi government to take swift action against Bishnupada Sethi. Where is he hiding? Why is he avoiding the CBI summons? We're also calling for the arrest of Nityananda Gond, the Minister for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Welfare, for

his involvement in corrup-

tion," a Congress leader said.

## Bridge & Roof director wants to meet Sethi

Move raises several questions PNS BHUBANESWAR

 ${f A}$ mid a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe involving senior controversial bureaucrat Bishnupada Sethi,

a request by top officials of Bridge & Roof Company to meet him has drawn scrutiny and raised several questions.

Bishnupada Sethi, Principal Secretary of the ST & SC De

velopment, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare Department, is suspected of having met Chanchal Mukherjee, Director of Bridge & Roof Company, just two days before the CBI conducted a raid on December 7.

A letter dated December 5, 2023 has surfaced, revealing that the company had sought a meeting with Sethi. The letter, signed by Mukherjee, stated: "Dear Sir, we would like to inform you that the following officials, C.K. Mukherjee

and B.K. Singh, GM, East Coast, request to meet the Honorable Principal Secretary in connection with various projects executed by us in different districts in Odisha."

While the sequence of events has raised suspicions, no concrete evidence has

emerged to confirm whether the meeting between Sethi and Mukherjee actually took place.

The timing is particularly noteworthy as records indicate that on October 19,

Sethi approved a contract awarding the upgradation of Ashram Schools and High Schools to Bridge & Roof Company. This contract, coupled with the meeting request and the subsequent CBI raid, has prompted speculations about the nature of their interactions.

Authorities are now delving deeper into the matter to determine if the meeting occurred and whether it holds any relevance to the ongoing investigation.

# Mega solar plant to be built in Dhenkanal

Rs 25,000 cr to be invested; to create 14,000 jobs To generate 6 GW of electricity

PNS DHENKANAL

Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra conducted the groundbreaking ceremony for a mega solar power plant at Neulpoi



The project, initiated by the WAREE Energies Limited, will be constructed over an area of 595

acres with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore. It will have a production capacity of 6 gigawatts (GW) of solar energy, significantly boosting the region's as well as Odisha's growing energy demands.

The plant will manufacture solar panels, modules and related components. The project is expected to create around 14,000 job opportunities.

Speaking at the event, Patra, who also holds the Science and Technology portfolio, emphasised that the

project would be transformative to the development of Dhenkanal. "This project marks the foundation

of Dhenkanal's progress," he said. The factory's director Hitesh Mehta stated that the plant would begin electricity production within the next nine months.

The mega-solar power plant will be the largest of its kind in Odisha and will massively influence the State's energy production as well as its shift to green and renewable

# Interview of the week Industrial growth can be aligned with sustainable practices



**SUGYAN CHOUDHURY** 

Humility is the hallmark of wisdom. Er Bijaya Kumar Behera is currently working as the Chief Environmental Engineer (CEE) of the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB). He keeps a low profile while having his Nelson eye over the vicious syndrome of current pollution by industrial establishments and other agents of pollution. He has contributed substantially to multiple key divisions, including consent to establish CTE, Consent to Operate (CTO), Hazardous Waste Management and Biomedical Waste Management in the course of his career. His expertise spans over critical areas of environmental regulation and compliance. Currently, Behera heads the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Cell, where he is responsible for evaluating projects for environmental clearance and ensuring adherence to sustainable practices. Besides, he oversees public hearing processes, facilitating transparent engagement between stakeholders, the public and regulatory authorities.

In an interview to The Pioneer, Er Behera spoke to Sugyan Choudhury on many aspects of the environmental hazards and their remedial measures.

What are your plans for containing air and water pollution in the State?

Addressing air and water pollution in Odisha requires a multifaceted approach, integrating scientific methodologies, regulatory measures and community-driven initiatives. The SPCB has devised a multipronged approach to address air and water pollution, combining scientific innovation, regulatory measures and stakenolder collaboration.

Our plans to control air pollution are by adopting latest emission control technologies, promoting cleaner energy sources, vehicular emission reduction, greenbelt development, data-driven regulation, regional action plans under NCAP, promoting electric vehicles

(EVs) and cleaner fuels. Similarly, our water pollution control strategies are treatment of industrial effluents by mandatory installation of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) giving emphasis on the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) concept, urban waste water management by establishing and upgrading Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in urban centres to prevent untreated sewage discharge into rivers.

It is alleged that many heavy industries are not effectively undertaking treatment of their indus-



**ER BIJAYA KUMAR BEHERA** 

trial wastes. How are you going to tackle such a syndrome?

It is not a fact that many heavy industries are not effectively undertaking treatment of their wastes. Most of the heavy industries are having treatment facilities for their wastes. However, addressing the failure of heavy industries to effectively treat industrial wastes requires a robust and scientific strategy focused on enforcement, monitoring and technological solutions. The SPCB is tackling such situation through (i) strengthening enforcement mechanisms such as conducting frequent inspections, action against the violators issuing showcause notices followed by closure directions and legal action, penalty provision for the violators, monitoring and data-driven governance such as mandatory installation of real-time monitoring systems. By combining strict enforcement, technological advancements, stakeholder collaboration, and community engagement, the issue of untreated industrial wastes can be effectively mitigated. Odisha's industrial growth can be aligned with sustainable practices, ensuring both environmental protection

What are the ultramodern techniques prescribed by SPCB to be followed by industries for effective control of pollution?

and economic development.

The SPCB recommends a combination of traditional and ultramodern pollution control techniques to industries for effective environmental management. Prescribed Ultra-Modern Techniques for (i) Air Pollution Control: Flue Gas Desulturization (FGD) to re move sulfur dioxide (SO?), Electrostatic Precipitators (ESPs) to capture fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) to reduce Nitrogen Oxides (NO?) by converting them into harmless nitrogen and water, Bag Filters and Cyclone Separators to capture coarse and fine particles, Low-NOx Burners to reduce NO? emissions, (ii) Water Pollution Control: Treatment of waste water by use of advanced treatment technologies like Reverse Osmosis (RO), Nano bubble filtration technology and Membrane Bioreactors (MBR), Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), Oil-Water Separators for separation of oil from industrial waste water, Activated Carbon Filters for removal of residual organic pollutants and toxins from treated effluents, (iii) Solid and Hazardous Waste Management: Co-Processing of Hazardous and non-recyclable industrial wastes in ce-

ment kilns, Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM), which focuses on reducing, reusing and recycling solid waste, Circular Economy Practices i.e. waste or by-products from one industry serve as raw material for another, (iv) Monitoring Technologies : Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS), which tracks air pollution in real-time by monitoring gases like SO?, NO? and PM, Continuous Effluent Quality Monitoring Systems (CEQMS), which tracks water quality at the point of discharge, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS), which tracks Ambient Air Quality.

How is SPCB going to achieve resilience by tackling climate

The SPCB can enhance resilience to climate change by integrating mitigation and adaptation strategies within its regulatory, monitoring, and policy frameworks by adopting certain points such as (i) Strengthening Climate-Resilient Policies: Incorporating Climate Change in Environmental Clearance, Carbon Budgeting for Industries, Green Infrastructure Development, (ii) Promoting Renewable Energy Transition: Scaling Renewable Energy Deployment, Electrification of Industrial Processes, Off-Grid Renewable Solutions, (iii) Enhancing Monitoring Systems: Climate-Integrated Environmental Monitoring, Satellite-Based Monitoring, Early Warning Systems (EWS), (iv) Improving Waste Management for GHG Reduction: Circular Economy Models, Methane Capture from Landfills, Biochar Production, (v) Natural Resource Management for Climate Resilience: Afforestation and Reforestation, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Soil Carbon Sequestration, (vi) Capacity Building and Awareness: Training Programs, Public Awareness Campaigns, (vii) Encouraging Innovation and R&D: Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), Hydrogen-Based Economy, Nature-

Based Solutions. By integrating climate resilience into its policies and enforcing cutting-edge solutions, the SPCB can position Odisha as a leader in tackling climate change while ensuring sustainable industrial and community development. Collaboration among industries, government agencies and local communities is essential to achieve this vision.

How has SPCB enhanced its capabilities for confronting and containing emerging environmental challenges?

To address emerging environmental challenges more effectively, the SPCBs can adopt next-generation scientific approaches and state-of-the-art technologies with advanced and scientifically robust strategies that can be implemented for superior environmental management. Integrating innovation, multi-stakeholder collaboration and robust regulatory systems will not only address immediate environmental challenges but also create a sustainable framework for

## 'Bishnupada Sethi is habitually corrupt'



Alleges Youth Congress, holds demo

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Members of the Pradesh Youth Congress led by its president Ranjit Patra attempted to gherao the residence of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Welfare Department Principal Secretary Bishnpada Sethi on Monday alleging his involvement in the Bridge and Roof Corporation scam.

The Youth Congress members, who were marching towards Sethi's residence in a procession, were intercepted by police near Sishu Bhawan Square here, following which a scuffle ensued. Many of the agitators were rounded up by police.

Patra said that as Bishnupada Sethi is directly involved in the Bridge and Roof Corporation scam, stringent action should be taken against him and he should be arrested. Besides, action should be taken against the politicians and officers who are involved in the

Former Youth Congress president Yasir Nawaj alleged that Sethi commits massive corruption in whatever department he is posted. When he had worked in the Higher Education Department, he committed many scams. The CBI has proof of Sethi's involvement directly in the Bridge and Roof Corporation scam, for which the Central agency has summoned him. A probe should be conducted into all the departments in which he has

### 'Odisha's forest cover to increase considerably in 45 yrs



Union Min Pradhan calls for use of tech for forest

conservation NIMAIN CHARAN SAHU BHUBANESWAR

Forests are the backbone of Odisha's economy and play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, said Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at the Odisha Non-Gazetted Forest Service Association's Conference.

He began his speech saying in forest coverage, and Sambalpur is one among the districts having the largest forest coverage

The Minister said," In the upcoming 45 years, between 2025 and 2070, there is an aim to increase the forest coverage. There are four sanctuaries in Sambalpur out of a total of 19 sanctuaries in the State. Hence, there should be efforts for sustainable development of all the jungle products, livelihoods, wildlife, and economy in coordination."

He further directed the development of ponds, forest land rights, and proper implementation of PESA law. There should be continuous efforts from the government to reduce the human-animal conflict, besides promoting the use of advanced technology for the development and conservation of forests, he added.

launched by the PM," Pradhan

of forests in the education curriculum of schools, the Minister said cided to implement the New Education Policy in the State. There will be a new syllabus as per the policy, which will include forest-centric culture, history of forest conservation movements, and education of new possibilities in the forest.

Development is not just the development of the capital city Bhubaneswar; success of development should reach every region in the State. Through new technology, the forest staff can be empowered and make Odisha the No. 1 State in forest force, which will help in fulfilling PM's dream of forming a developed nation by 2047, opined

"We have taken an oath to bring the carbon emissions to net zero by 2070 as per the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Following mission LiFE, PM's 'Ek Ped Maa k Naam' (One tree in the name of mother) movement was

Coming down to the inclusion



G Udaygiri coldest in State at 6.6 deg

#### BBSR 13 deg; Cuttack 11.5 deg

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here on Monday issued a warning of a further drop in temperature and continuation of the cold wave in the State for another

Besides, it also issued a Yellow warning for potentially severe cold wave conditions for the districts of Jharsuguda, Sundargarh and Angul. The lowest temperature in the State was recorded at G Udayagiri at 6.6 degrees Celsius. Jharsuguda and Rourkela also saw mercury plummet to 6.8 degrees.

The steel city also had the lowest visibility at 50 meters with dense fog prevailing.

The capital city of Bhubaneswar recorded a minimum temperature of 13 degrees while Cuttack shivered at 11.5 degrees.

The IMD also said that there is a possibility of light rainfall at a few isolated places across Puri, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada and Koraput districts on Tuesday.

The weather office also added that no large change in minimum temperature would be observed over the next two days, giving people no respite from the cold wave. However, mercury may see a rise of 3 to 5 degrees Celsius after that in several districts of the State.

## Disability a mere thought, not physical deficiency



CM distributes 500 e- rickshaws to **PWDs** 

NIMAIN CHARAN SAHU 
SAMBALPUR

Disability is just a thought, not a physical deficiency, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in cial Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD)Department to distribute 500 e-rickshaws to persons with disabilities (PWD) across the State at Mandlia ground in Sambalpur city.

Majhi said, "The differently abled don't need our mercy but a right to live a life with respect. Our government is giving importance to PWD's safety and to include them in the mainstream society. The SSEPD Department is continuously working to facilitate them with a life of self-respect."

CM further added, "Today the differently-abled are showing their unique talents in government ser-

vice, art, sports, and business. Shrikanta Bolla could get an education from America's MIT and has employed 100s of differentlyabled. In the recent Paris Olympics, the PWD athletes have won many medals. We are emphasising how the differently-abled people can reach out to us directly."

He concluded by than officials of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL).

The 500 e-rickshaws were funded by the MCL. The differently-abled people across the State received keys to the vehicles. The MCL funded Rs 7.5 crore for the e-rick-

Apart from this, prosthetic limbs and hearing aids were also distributed to the deaf and marriage aids to the poor families. PWD students received scholarships, and senior PWDs received pensions in the programme, which was attended by Sambalpur MLA Jay Narayan Mishra and Collector SB Bondar among other dignitaries.

# 'Odisha needs robust healthcare infrastructures'

Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly Surama Padhy emphasised the need to build robust healthcare infrastructures across the State and up-skill human resources in the sector during a Vision Odisha Healthcare Conclave 2024 here on Sunday.

The event, jointly organised by English newspaper Indus Valley Times and New Delhi's research body Centre for Socio-Economic Studies (CSES), was inaugurated by the Speaker.

Highlighting existing gaps, Padhy noted that many Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) in Odisha continue to lack adequate numbers of doctors, paramedics and other skilled personnel to operate modern healthcare equip-



Chief guest Health Minister Dr Mukesh Mahaling outlined the government's efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructures. He announced plans to significantly increase the number of medical seats in Odisha from the current 2,500 to 31,000 and to establish medical

insufficient manpower to effectively

use available technology," she

colleges in all 30 districts. "Our government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, is committed to ad-

dressing the healthcare needs of the State. These initiatives will go a long way in improving access to healthcare for all," he said.

Former Health and Finance Minister Prafulla Chandra Ghadai delivered an in-depth presentation on Odisha's current health infrastructures. He urged the government to focus on modern training for paramedics, who form the backbone of the healthcare system.

Professor Dr Ashok Acharya underscored the importance of preventive care and strengthening wellness centres to reduce the burden on hospitals. He also advocated for a robust trauma care system to save lives in critical situa-

director of Hi-Tech Group Dr Rakesh Panigrahi called for healthcare services to be made more affordable and accessible to all sections of society.

Almost all the speakers reiterated the importance of establishing medical colleges in every district to improve access to healthcare and education. They lauded government initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat and Gopabandhu Jana Arogya Yojana aimed at expanding healthcare coverage for underserved commu-

The event, held under the theme 'Making Healthcare Accessible, Affordable and Equitable for All,' brought together policymakers healthcare professionals and thought leaders to discuss innovative solutions for Odisha's healthcare challenges.

## Ayushman Bharat in Odisha in 2024-25 Old health cards to

be replaced: Minister

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Ayushman Bharat healthcare scheme is on track to be rolled out in Odisha in the financial year 2024-25. Alongside this, the Gopabandhu Arogya Yojana health insurance cards would be introduced, bringing promising benefits to citizens across the State, said Health Minister Dr Mukesh Mahaling on Monday.



He indicated that in its initial rollout, approximately 3.5 crore people would benefit from this health insurance scheme. A budgetary allocation of around Rs 3.5 thousand crore has been earmarked to support the initiative. The 'Head of Account' has under-

gone revisions, and previous health cards would be replaced.

The scheme is expected to be

implemented in about 27,000 medical facilities with a specific emphasis on benefiting migrant workers,

"The 27,000 health facilities across the country exclude Delhi and West Bengal since those two have not yet implemented Ayushman Bharat Yojana. However, we will empanel some of the major hospitals in Delhi and West Bengal for the purpose," Dr Mahaling stated.

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# Turmoil in Paradip Port Banik Sangha

A few persons forcibly take control of union office

**PRASANT ROUT** ■ PARADIP

The Paradip Port Banik Sangha, a prominent merchant association in Paradip, has been embroiled in a controversy since the BJP came to power in Odisha. For over 50 years, the Sangha had been electing its office bearers through consensus every three years, maintaining a peaceful democratic process. In August 2023, this tradition continued with the election of prominent labour leader Santosh Kumar Pattnaik as president, Debabrata Sahu as

Kumar Mahapatra as trea-

However, tensions erupted on June 24 this year, when alleged supporters of the BJP, reportedly instigated by local politicians and accompanied by anti-social elements, forcibly entered the Sangha office and created a disturbance. The act led to chaos within the as-

General secretary Sahu filed a complaint at the Paradip Model Police Station in this regard. However, the complaint was reportedly not accepted by the police. Consequently, Sahu filed a civil suit (Civil Suit No-223/2024 /A No-167/2024) in the Civil Court Junior Division,

The court intervened, ordering the Sangha to maintain the status quo indefinitely. Despite this, reports emerged that the accused individuals identified as Khirod Swain, Amiya Pani, Galekha Chandra Sahu and Sambunath Khuntia, among others violated the court order. Armed with deadly weapons, they allegedly attacked elected office bearers, broke the lock of the Sangha office, and forcibly took control of the premises. They have since declared themselves the new leadership of the union, claiming dominance over the association.

Sangha vice president Ayash Kant Samal expressed deep concern over the unpreclawlessness has never occurred in the union's history. Violating court orders and forcibly seizing control with weapons is not only unconstitutional but also deeply troubling."

The situation highlights growing concerns about law and order under the current administration. Traders and members of the Sangha are now anxiously awaiting the court's judgment to restore order and uphold justice.

The incident marks a dark chapter in the history of the Paradip Port Banik Sangha, raising questions about the enforcement of law and respect for judicial authority in the region.

# Cash, jewellery looted from ex-IAS officer's house

Burglars broke into the ancestral house of a former IAS officer and decamped with valuables, including a TV set, an inverter, gold jewellery and cash in Bhadrak district.

Reports said the miscreants entered the house through a window and looted the house of former IAS officer Bijay Nayak in the Haladharbindha area of Budanga village under the Tihidi police station.

The occupants of the house were not at home during the time of burglary.

"Gold worth Rs 1.5 lakh and cash of Rs 20,000 are stolen. The thieves broke into the house after twisting open

metal grills of the gate," said a tenant of the house.

Later, a complaint was lodged with police, following which authorities roped in a forensic team and started an investigation into the mat-

"Today they have looted

gold and valuables from this house. Tomorrow such miscreants may target my property and someone else will fall victim on the day after. Repeated incidents of burglary are occurring and the authorities need to take ac-

group of masked robbers had attacked a family in Napanga village of the district and injured four, including three women. Using sharp weapons, they terrorised the family members and looted cash and gold worth Rs 6 lakh.

### Sensitisation' workshop at Gopalpur College



BRAHMAPUR

 ${f A}$ n awareness programme on 'Gender Sensitisation ' was organised at Gopalpur College by the IQAC on Saturday where Principal Dr Ram Prasad Panda presided.

Associate Professor of Berhampur University Dr Sasmita Behera as chief guest addressed the students and staff emphasising the human psychology on gender sensitisation and the par value system of men and women in the society while guest of honour former Reader in Eco-

he Adani Foundation, a

CSR unit of Adani Group

Dhamra unit, celebrated the

World Soil Day with a grand

celebration at Kuamara vil-

lage of Karanapali Gram

The event witnessed enthu-

siastic participation from 120

farmers and women SHG

members representing nine

The programme com-

menced with a vibrant

Prabhat Pheri, where partici-

pants toured nearby villages

carrying flags and raising

awareness about soil health.

The rally concluded at the

Adani Skill Development Cen-

ter (ASDC), Kuamara, where

core Gram Panchayats

Panchayat.

nomics, Gopalpur College, Dr Purushottam Sahu delivered a thought-provoking talk on the existing social setup in relation to gender system and its implications in future.

IQAC coordinator Dr Manoj Patnaik introduced the guests with warm welcome and faculty, IR and PM, Aparajita Pandey invited the guests to the dais. The faculties present were Laxmam Palo, Dr Girish Chandra Behera, S Rupa Laxmi and Dr Pradeepta Patnaik. At the concluding event, faculty, Education Department, Ipsita Das offered a vote of thanks.

a meeting was held.

Associate Director of Re-

graced the occasion as the chief

guest. Addressing the gather-

ing, Dr Nayak emphasized the

critical role of soil care, fertil-

ity, and health management in

achieving sustainable agricul-

tural development. He under

search at RRTTS, Ranital, Dr Umasankar Nayak

### In Balangir = Maoist dump unearthed; arms seized



BALANGIR

A team of the District Voluntary Force (DVF) on Monday unearthed a major Maoist dump in the Chhatrdandi Reserve Forest under the Tureikela police station in Balangir district, said Northern Range IGP Himanshu Lal

Based on intelligence inputs about Maoist arms and ammunition being stockpiled in the Chhatradandi forest area, a search operation was launched on December 14 by the Balangir DVF team led by Turekela PS OIC RK Sahu, said Balangir SP Rishikesh Khilari. Rifles, ammunitions, Maoist

literature and banners and other items were recovered from the dump. The busting of Maoist dump would deal a blow to the supply chain of the Maoists. "Anti-Maoist operations are going on. We will intensify it and make the Gandmardan area free from Maoist activity," said the SP

## Juvenile assaulted, tied to tree for stealing in K'pada

Police register case against people for such street justice RAJESH BEHERA KEDNRAPADA

scored the importance of pre- ${
m T}$  own police here rescued a serving healthy soils for ensuring long-term productivity Jharkhand-based juvenile and environmental balance. from the wrath of the locals The event concluded with a after he was caught by public vote of thanks to all particiwhile attempting to steal a pants, farmers, guests, delmobile phone from a person egates and stakeholders, reafat the busy Keshpur Bazar's firming the collective resolve weekly vegetable haat. to protect and nurture soil, a

According to police sources, the 13 years old boy

on Sunday morning was caught while stealing a mobile phone from a person near Santasahi bridge. The locals later went on assaulting him, undressed him and tied him to a drumstick tree.

Acting on information, Kendrapada Town police rushed to the spot and rescued the juvenile. During interrogation, the juvenile confessed to the crime. He informed that he came with his grand mother to have a darshan of Lord Jagannath at Puri. But he went on missing midway. In order to reach at

his native people, he attempted to steal a mobile with an intention to sell the same for some money, with which he could return to his village.

The juvenile was later produced before the chairperson of CWC.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case against the people who assaulted him and tried to subject him to street justice. Police have started an investigation by collecting video footages and CCTV footages of the nearby location to identify and nab the people involved in taking law into their hands.

## In Rayagada

## Smugglers fire at forest staffs during raid

tion," said a local resident.

A gang of ivory smugglers opened fire at forest officials, who conducted a raid in a forest area of Rayagada district on Sunday and tried to nab

As per sources, the forest officials conducted the raid near the Muniguda area based on a tipoff regarding the alleged smuggling of elephant tusks for ivory.

The officials subsequently located the smugglers near the Jarapa area adjoining the Rayagada Forest range. Upon spotting the forest department vehicle, the smugglers opened fire.

The forest officials who were



treat after coming under heavy fire. Their vehicle was riddled with several bullets while its windows and rear windshield were completely shattered.

The forest officials had earlier arrested five wildlife smug-

glers involved in the illegal sale of elephant tusks for ivory. Following this, a team of forest officials went to the villages of Malimunda and Jarapa in Muniguda for further investigation when the incident oc-

## Colourful NIST Alumni Meet held



35 past students join

The NIST Alumni Association with the tion, in collaboration with the Bhubaneswar Chapter, organised the Alumni Meet on

Sunday at Bhubaneswar. The event brought together over 35 alumni of the institute. The meet was graced by president of NIST University Dr Sukant K Mohapatra, along with Vice Chancellor Dr

Priyadarsan Patra, Registrar In-Charge Dr Bishnukar Nayak, Associate Dean of Student Welfare Dr Preeti Ranjan Sahu and PIC of Alumni Relations Prof Mitu Baral.

Dr Mohapatra in his address highlighted the vital role of alumni in supporting NIST through diverse initiatives like research, workshops, and placements, emphasizing the enduring bond between alumni and their alma mater. Dr Patra described alumni as bassadors, while Dr Nayak encouraged leveraging the vast alumni network of 18,000 members all over the globe. The evening featured a soulful performance by Jaswinder Singh (BTech 3rd year) and a book presentation by Niladri Bihari Nayak (2010 batch). The alumni received mementos in recognition of their contributions. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Preeti Ranjan Sahu.

PTI and published a depart-

Bhanjbihar. Today, the de-

partment is equipped with

modern infrastructure, 50

seats, and a dedicated faculty

led by Head of Department

Odisha has expanded sub-

department's inception. Insti-

Journalism education in

since the

Prof Bandita Panda.

stantially

mental

newspaper,

## Is Habalikhati Nature Camp safe after cyclone Dana?

fundamental resource for the

future of agriculture.



Online booking started without repair of damaged cottages

PNS 

KENDRAPADA

I hough the guesthouse at Habalikhati beach under Rajnagar block within Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district has been substantially damaged by Cyclone Dana, the Forest Department has started online booking of those cottages. As a result, questions have now been raised over the safety and security of the visitors.

High tidal waves formed due to the impact of Cyclone left the seaside guesthouse at Habalikhati beach severely damaged. Habalikhati attracts many

tourists round the year. However, days after churning in the Bay of Bengal, the cyclone storm made a landfall at Habalikhati beach on October 25 midnight submerging the nine-room guesthouse.

Though the Forest Department has already started online booking of the cottages at Habalikhati beach for the tourists from November 16 for their overnight stays from

December 1, those have suffered extensive damages and become a kind of threat to the lives of the tourists As per reports, the sea has

been gradually engulfing the cottages. Hundreds of trees were uprooted in the effect of the storm. Due to the high tidal wave, the pillars of the cottages have got substantially damaged and rods have come out of the concrete structures. Under the circumstances, considering the safety and security of the tourists, questions have been raised over the Forest Department's move to start booking of the cottages.

### BU JMC Dept sets benchmark for media edu in State Holds Golden Iubilee fest

**RAJEEV RATHAN** ■ BRAHMAPUR

he Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Berhampur University celebrated its 50th anniversary on Saturday with a grand Golden Jubilee event. Alumni from across the globe, now holding prominent positions in the corporate and media sectors as well as academia, gathered to commemorate the department's illustrious legacy. The celebrations highlighted its remarkable journey as a trailblazer in journalism education, producing leaders across diverse fields over five decades.

Established in 1974, the department holds the distinction of being Odisha's first formal journalism course. At the time, prominent newspapers like Asha (1913) and Samaj (1919) were thriving in the State, yet there was no structured journalism education. Berhampur University took the pioneering step by launching the Bachelor of Journal-



ism and Mass Communication (BJMC) programme, just seven years after the university's inception.

The department's early days were modest, with eight students and one teacher, Anshamani Mohapatra, who typewriting and print production. Students visited local newspapers like Asha to observe the letterpress printing process and learn about lead typesetting, galleys, and imagery. This hands-on training became the cornerstone of the department's approach, preparing students for the evolving media industry.

By 1986, the undergraduate programme transitioned to a postgraduate course, attracting students aspiring to specialize in journalism and mass communication. Esteemed faculty members like Dr Dasharathi Mishra, Dr Sunil Kant Behera and Dr Pradeep Mahapatra further enriched the academic environment. Alumni such as MP Dr Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi, MP Manas Mangaraj, environmentalist Prafulla Samantra and senior journalist Rajaram Satpathy reflect the department's legacy of ex-

The department also pioneered innovative journalism practices in Odisha. It introduced real-time news training

tutions like Utkal University, Fakir Mohan University, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) in Dhenkanal now offer robust courses. However, Berhampur University's Department of Journalism and Mass Communication remains the pioneer, having set the benchmark for journalism education in the State. The Golden Jubilee cel-

ebrated more than a milestone; they are a reflection of the department's unwavering commitment to nurturing media professionals who shape public discourse, advocate for social change, and contribute to the dynamic world of journalism.

## **PM Modi holds talks** with Sri Lankan President

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

India and Sri Lanka on Monday here adopted a futuristic vision to expand their partnership, resolved to soon conclude a defence cooperation pact and decided to ramp up energy ties by establishing electricity grid connectivity and multi-product petroleum

pipelines.

The decisions were taken during wide-ranging talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayaka. Modi said both sides decided to emphasise investment-led growth and connectivity for the India-Sri Lanka economic partnership, and it was decided that

of the cooperation. Work will be done to establish electricity grid connectivity and multi-product petroleum pipelines, Modi said, adding India will supply liquefied nat-ural gas to the island nation's

physical, digital and energy

connectivity will be key pillars

power plants. The prime minister also announced that a ferry service will be started between



Rameshwaram and Talaimanar to boost connectivity between the two nations

"We both agree that our security interests are interconnect-We have decided to soon finalise the defence cooperation agreement. There has also been an agreement for cooperation on hydrography," Modi said. The vexed fishermen issue also figured in the talks. "We also discussed issues related to the livelihood of fishermen. We agree that we must proceed

to this matter," Modi said. Referring to the Tamil issue, the Prime Minister said India hopes that the Sri Lankan government will fulfil the aspirations of the community.

The prime minister also noted that India has so far provided Lines of Credit and grant assistance worth USD 5 billion to

We have cooperation in all 25 districts of Sri Lanka and selection of our projects is always based on priorities of our partwith a humanitarian approach

## Why Govt not acting against SEBI chief, asks Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Congress on Monday levelled conflict of interest allegations against the SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch and claimed that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's "failure" to act decisively on it has not only tarnished the credibility of the tarnished the credibility of the government but also jeopar-dised the financial gover-nance framework. Attacking the government over the Adani issue during the dis-cussion on the supplementary demands for grants in Lok Sabha, Congress MP KC Venugopal said a joint parliamentary committee must probe the entire matter. He alleged it is a government "by Adani, of Adani, for Adani". Venugopal said between

'What does it mean sir, SEBI 2017-2024, Buch allegedly is investigating the company received over Rs 16.4 crore and the chairperson is renting from ICICI bank while servout property to entity linked to that company," he said. Venugopal also alleged that ing as a Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) official regulating that the SEBI chairperson traded bank. "This was five times her in securities worth of Rs 36.9 salary from SEBI, presenting crore while holding access to a blatant conflict of interest, unpublished price-sensitive he said. She received rental information which he said income from entities linked to was a direct violation of SEBI a firm under SEBI investigacode of ethics. She failed to tion, said Venugopal, who disclose assets in Singapore also heads the Public and the US between 2017-21 despite being obligated to do Accounts Committee (PAC).

so, Venugopal said.

Despite these allegations, the finance minister neither initiated an independent inquiry nor has taken any disciplinary action, Venugopal said. "Inaction undermines the government's claim of transparency and commitment to investor confidence," he said. Posing questions to the Finance Minister, Venugopal asked why has the Finance Ministry not initiated any disciplinary and legal proceedings against the SEBI

employment and abolish

"I want to inform the House

that the Supreme Court had

rejected Madras state's deci-

He said the other aspect of

Zamindari system.

sion on reservation."

chairperson despite clear evidence of conflicts of interest that undermines the integrity of the regulatory body.

Doesn't the finance minister take note, acknowledge and take responsibility for the damage to investor confidence, both domestic and foreign, due to the lack of timely action against SEBI chairperson?" he said. Can the Finance Minister clarify whether the government is willing to accept responsibility for the uncertainty and

stemming from the conflict of interest involving the SEBI chairperson, he said. What steps does the finance minister intend to take to ensure transparency and accountability in SEBI leadership especially in the light of the allegations, Venugopal asked.
"Does the Ministry believe

that retaining the chairperson under such circumstances send a wrong signal to India's commitment to corporate governance and regulatory transparency?" he said. "The Finance Minister's failure to act decisively not only tar act decisively not only tarnished the credibility of the government but also jeopardised the national financial governance framework. What is the complicit interest of the government and the SEBI chairperson?" Venugopal said. Why the Government is not taking any action, he asked. He alleged that the name of Adani group figured in stock manipulation and questioned how the SEBI chairperson can investigate that when "she is part of the scandal". He demanded that a JPC inquiry be initiated in the entire matter. In the country, 11 crore people are dependent on stock markets, most of them from middle income groups,

## Debate on Glorious Journey of 75 Years of Constitution of India: Treasury, Opp benches trade charges

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $R^{
m ajya}$  Sabha on Monday saw treasury and opposition benches trading charges during the discussion on the 'Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India. Initiating the debate, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Congress party carried out major amendments to the Constitution to brazenly help the "family" and the "dynasty'

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of misleading the country by "twisting facts" about Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's letter on reservation to states and demanded an apology. The Upper House will debate on the issue on Monday and Tuesday.

Sitharaman also termed the Congress party as "anti-women" for not passing the Women's Reservation Bill under pressure of its coalition

The senior BJP leader said the vious Congress governments for about 50 years did not strengthen the Indian econo-

"Each time the Congress Constitution)... Only to help the family, the dynasty... Kept

amending the Constitution," she said.

Citing various amendments, including the 42nd Constitutional Amendment and one related to the Shah Bano case, the Finance Minister said none of the amendments passed the test of four criteria -- economic good, social intent, due process, and constitutional

She said the amendments were not to strengthen democracy but to protect those in power and strengthen the family.

In her speech, she said renowned lyricist Majrooh Sultanpuri and actor Balraj Sahni were both jailed in

Congress' record of curtailing freedom of speech was not just confined to Sultanpuri and Sahni, she said and highlighted many more instances, including banning of a film called 'Kissa Kursi Ka' just because it questioned the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her son.

Sitharaman further said the spree of curtailing the freedom of press had happened before 1949 and thereafter also during the Congress rule. The Minister said India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru adopted the Soviet Model and was carried forward by Indira Gandhi, but

the socialist model did not benefit India.

She said the economic policies followed by the Congress governments for 50 years did not strengthen the economy. Referring to the women reservation in Parliament and state assemblies, Sitharaman said a bill regarding it was passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2008, but the ruling Congress did not take it to the Lok Sabha, as its favour of the legislation. She said Congress is "antiwomen" as it did not pass the Women's Reservation Bill to

save "Kursi" (power). Rajiv Gandhi had 426 mem bers in Lok Sabha and 159 members in the Rajya Sabha, they did not have the conviction to pass the Women's Reservation Bill at that time. Very clearly, they have always been anti-women. Shah Bano case is a very clear example, she said.

The Congress Party, she said passed the Muslim Women Protection of Rights on Divorce Act, 1986 which denied Muslim women their right to alimony.

government brought the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in the first session, which was held in the new building of the Parliament.

On the contrary, she said her party, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), has always been

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Delhi's groundwater resources are heavily strained, with the overall

extraction rate at 99.13 per cent, categorised as "critical",

while the situation in Bengaluru is even more alarming with the overall

groundwater extraction rate at

150.84 per cent, the Union Jal

Shakti ministry said on

Responding to a question in

the Rajya Sabha, Minister of

State for Jal Shakti, Raj

Bhushan Choudhary, said that

while desalination technolo-

gy using reject heat from

nuclear reactors is opera-

tional at Kalpakkam, Tamil

Nadu, it is not widely applic-

Instead, the reverse osmosis

(RO) membrane technology

is deemed suitable for treat-

ing groundwater, the minister

**NEW DELHI** 

Monday.



committed to women's reservation and increasing women participation in politics. "I myself am a beneficiary of this," the Finance Minister

At the start of her speech, she paid homage to the 389 members of the Constituent Assembly, including 15 women, who took up the arduous challenge and prepared the Constitution for Îndia in a very challenging environment.

The Constitution of India "has stood the test of time," she said. "Today we are

Stating that India and its Constitution stands out in a separate league of its own, Sitharaman said post the second World War, over 50 countries had become independent

heavily strained, says Jalshakti Minister

Delhi's groundwater resources

and they had their constitu-

While accusing Prime

Minister Modi of misleading

the country by "twisting facts" about Pandit Nehru, Kharge also charged the BJP leaders

of indulging in 'bhakti' of

Prime Minister Modi, assert-

ing that it was leading the country towards dictatorship.

The Congress President cited Modi's speech in which he

had said there was no elected

government between 1947-

1952 and the Congress had illegally amended the

ment was carried out by the

Constituent Assembly mem-

bers which included Syama

Prasad Mookerjee and was

undertaken to provide reser-

vation to Scheduled Caste,

Scheduled Tribes, fix prob-

lems related to education,

Constitution.

tion written.

this amendment was to stop communal propaganda and Sardar Patel in a letter on July three, 1950 had suggested to Nehru that constitutional amendment was the only remedy for this problem. Therefore, Neĥru wrote a letter to chief ministers. This

has been mentioned in PM's speech after twisting facts to defame Nehru for which he should apologise to the nation. This is my demand. If you twist the facts before the nation and attempt to defame, then you should apologise in this House and other House and before people of this country," Kharge said. He said the prime minister

lives in past, not in present and it would have been better had he listed present achievements that strengthened democracy. Kharge claimed erstwhile

leaders of RSS were against the entire country knew that RSS leaders opposed the Constitution because it was not based on Manusmriti. RSS mouthpiece Organiser in the edition of November 30, 1949 had written about it,"

Kharge said it is clear from debates of the Constituent Assembly that erstwhile leaders of RSS were against the Constitution.

Those who hated the flag, Ashok Chakra and the Constitution are today giving lessons to us on the Constitution."

He said even when many powerful countries were not practising universal adult franchise, women and all sections of societies in India were given the right to vote during the Congress regime through the Constitution. He said that government lead-

ers cut-paste information and present them as per their convenience to twist facts. Those who did not fight for the country, how will they know the importance of freedom, Constitution?" Kharge

asked. asked.
BJP has been giving 'jumlas' and befooling people of the country and questioned promises made by Modi to pay Rs 15 lakh, he said adding people are still waiting for the money as well as two crore jobs and doubling of farmers'

Kharge said that BJP is against reservation and that is why the party is against caste cen-He further said the Congress government will implement women reservation faster than BJP. He also raised the issue of

Manipur, which is suffering from ethnic violence for the last one-and-half years. He said the prime minister travels everywhere but has no time to visit the strife-torn

Some other Opposition MPs

accused the government of attacking the federal structure and undermining constitu-tional bodies while claiming that an Emergency-like situation exists in the country. Debashish Samantaray, whose party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is not a part of either the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) or opposition's Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), alleged that Constitutional

verted into "pet-dogs". "What is the situation today, anyone can be sent to jail, chief ministers were put in jail, denied bail. There is definitely an Emergency in the country, I will say it openly,'

watchdogs have been con-

he said. Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale alleged that justice is being denied to people under the accused it of destroying the Constitution. He alleged that minorities are being subjected to "atrocities every day". DMK's Tiruchi Siva accused the Union government of undermining the federal

structure of the country.

## 224 big dams in country over century old, Minister tells RS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

India has 1,065 large dams that are between 50 and 100 years old while 224 are over a century old, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry said on Monday. There are a total of 6,138 constructed and 143 under-construction dams in the country.

Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary said the government enacted the Dam Safety Act, 2021 to address the challenges posed by ageing dams and to prevent disasters arising from dam fail-

He said dams, apart from serving irrigation and power generation purposes, play a significant role in mitigating floods.

According to the National Register of Large Dams (NRLD-2023 edition), compiled jointly by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and CWC, there are 6,138 constructed and 143 under construction dams which aggregate to a total of 6,281 large dams.

Of these numbers, only 224 dams are more than 100 years old and there are 1065 large dams which are 50 to 100

years old. Choudhary said the govern-



Act and is also implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and III, aimed at rehabilitating 736 dams across 19 states and three central agencies.

After China and America, India ranks third in the world in terms of the number of dams. In August, the Government had told Parliament that at least 47 dams—38 commissioned and 9 under construction—have been identified by the Central Electricity Authority as potentially affected by Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) from glacial lakes in India. GLOF studies have been completed for 31 of these projects, the Government said. A glacial

lake outburst flood (GLOF) is

a type of outburst flood

caused by the failure of a dam

containing a glacial lake.

The government has also assessed groundwater dynamics in urban areas like Delhi and Bengaluru, but similar data for Mumbai is unavailable due to insufficient data collection. Delhi's groundwater resources are heavily strained, with the overall extraction rate at 99.13 per cent, which is categorised

as "critical", Choudhary informed. Areas like Vasant Vihar, Mehrauli, and Saket are in



dire straits, recording extraction levels of 153.13 per cent, 117.9 per cent, and 116.31 per cent, respectively.

Vasant Vihar topped the chart for overextraction, drawing more than 1.6 times the available resource, he said. The critical zones in Delhi

include central and south regions like Karol Bagh (114.47)per cent), Chanakyapuri (131.45 per cent), and Dwarka (99.83 per

cerning levels, with overextraction exacerbating water

Shahdara and south-west districts also reported con-

The situation in Bengaluru is even more alarming, with the overall groundwater extraction rate at 150.84 per cent, the minister said.

Yelahanka emerged as the most stressed region, extracting over 225 per cent of its available groundwater resource. Other urban areas, including Bangalore North, East, and South, recorded over extraction rates exceeding 200 per cent. Bangalore City itself reported

an extraction rate of 217.4 per

The minister also emphasised that advanced desalination and groundwater recharge technologies could play a role in water conservation, but their scalability is constrained by infrastructure and feasibility chal-

### Only 28 per cent of urban wastewater undergoes treatment in India: CSE report

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

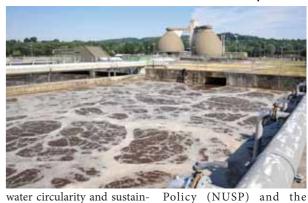
Tust 28 per cent of about 20,236 million liters per day urban wastewater generated in India undergoes treatment, leaving the remaining i.e. 72 per cent untreated and flowing into rivers, lakes, and land, a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has revealed.

The largest gap in wastewater treatment is seen in states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Haryana. The untreated water not only

causes environmental damage but also presents an opportunity to tackle India's growing urban water crisis due to rapid urbanization, industrial growth, population expansion, and climate change, says the report 'Waste to Worth: Managing India's urban water crisis through wastewater reuse.' It was released recently at a national workshop organized jointly by CSE and the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Speaking on the occasion, Sunita Narain, director general, CSE said: "India faces significant water scarcity challenges due to rapid urbanisation, industrial growth, population expansion - and most importantly -- climate change. Wastewater reuse can be a key

part of the strategy to address

these concerns and promote



water circularity and sustainability.'

Rajiv Kumar Mital, director general, NMCG echoed similar views and said that "Using and disposing treated water, without harnessing its potential, means we are losing out on utilising an important resource. The challenge is to scale up and ensure that the work we do in this sector is impactful."

The Jal Shakti Ministry has mandated that cities must recycle and reuse at least 20 per cent of the water they consume.

The report also highlights good examples -- cases of states that have introduced policies to encourage treated wastewater reuse." Maharashtra, for instance, mandates industries in urban areas to use treated wastewater. Gujarat targets 100 per cent reuse with applications in agriculture and industry, and Tamil Nadu promotes reuse for industrial and urban

greening projects. At the national level, the National Urban Sanitation

Namami Gange Programme emphasise wastewater management and reuse as key components of water security initiatives. Cities like Nagpur, Benguluru and Chennai have taken the lead in implementing wastewater reuse practices. Nagpur supplies treated waste-

water to power plants, significantly reducing freshwater usage, while Benguluru utilises it for agriculture, lake revival and groundwater recharge. Chennai has adopted treated wastewater for industrial applications, urban landscaping and groundwater recharge. While advancements in decen-

tralised and cost-effective treatment technologies can address infrastructure deficits, the report also calls for public-private partnerships that can help mobilise investments for scaling up reuse projects, and capacity-building initiatives to improve awareness and acceptance among urban managers and communities.

# Sambhal violence: Yogi accuses Opp of 'misleading' Assembly

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath fiercely defended his government's handling of the recent Sambhal violence during a charged assembly session, accusing the opposition of shedding "crocodile tears" while ignoring past communal killings involving Hindus.

"Since Independence, 209 Hindus have been killed in Sambhal during communal riots, but not a single opposition leader ever spoke out," Adityanath claimed, referencing historical riots that scarred

Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey hit back, accusing the CM of evading accountability. "Instead of answering the real issue, the Chief Minister has tried to mislead the House by dragging in unrelated historical events," Pandey said. He urged the government to focus on present challenges rather than deflecting responsibility through historical narratives.

Adityanath questioned why Hindu religious processions face restrictions in Muslimmajority areas, while Muslim processions proceed freely in Hindu-dominated regions. "This discrimination will not

"This discrimination will not be tolerated," he declared, announcing a judicial inquiry into the Sambhal violence to uncover the facts.

Recalling past communal clashes, Adityanath listed violent incidents from the 1970s



in cities like Agra, Azamgarh, Gonda, Prayagraj, Meerut, and Pilibhit. He contrasted this with his administration's record, claiming a 97% reduction in communal riots under BJP rule, citing National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

"How can chanting 'Ram Ram,' a cultural tradition, be communal?" the CM asked, accusing the opposition of undermining India's religious heritage. He also cited historical texts like \*Babar Nama\* to assert that several mosques were built by demolishing temples, linking Friday prayers to recent violent clashes. "We have historical evidence supporting our claims," he asserted.

Backing the implementation of

a Uniform Civil Code, Adityanath argued that it reflects the people's will and accused the opposition of resisting court-backed reforms for vote-bank politics. "Our Constitution guarantees equality for all. Why should anyone oppose a law ensuring uniform personal rights?" he questioned.

Reaffirming his government's strict stance against violence, he promised harsh legal action against anyone found involved in riots. "We have zero tolerance for lawlessness," he said, pointing to video evidence showing rioters pelting stones and wielding weapons. "No culprit will escape justice," he

The Chief Minister framed recent electoral victories in

and Phulpur as symbolic wins for \*Sanatan Dharma\* over divisive politics. He stressed that festivals such as Navratri and processions like Shobha Yatra are central to India's cultural identity.

Yatra are central to India's cultural identity.

Adityanath also warned the opposition against inciting communal tension through inflammatory speeches. "If anyone creates anarchy, they will face strict action under the

law," he emphasized.
Concluding his speech,
Adityanath pledged unwavering commitment to preserving
India's religious heritage while
maintaining law and order.
"We will not allow history to
repeat itself. Peace and justice
will prevail in Uttar Pradesh,"

urged the main opposition

# Himachal Government exploring proposal to build underwater tunnel

PTI BILASPUR (HP)

The Himachal Pradesh gov-I ernment is exploring a proposal for building an under-water tunnel in Gobind Sagar Lake to connect Bilaspur city to four-lane road between Kiratpur and Manali, said Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani on Monday. Interacting with a group of reporters here, he said the tun-nel will be built from Luhnu Maidan to the four-lane road. If the plan becomes fruitful, it will not only prove to be a lifesaver for Bilaspur city but will also be the first bridge in the country to be built inside a lake. Govind Sagar Lake reservoir in Una and Bilaspur districts of Himachal Pradesh is about 56 km in length and 3 km in

After the construction of Kiratpur-Manali four-lane road, Bilaspur city has lost its connection with the main road. This has resulted in the slowing down of economic activities here. Construction of the bridge will also provide a new path to traders and industrialists.

The underwater tunnel bridge will not only connect the city



directly to the four-lane road but it will also become a centre of attraction for tourists. If there are possibilities of bridge construction, experts and consultants from Germany will be hired for the ambitious project, he said.

"The bridge will be constructed using Germany's advanced immersion tunnel technology and tunnel boring machine. In immersion tunnel technology, parts of the tunnel will be built on land and installed under the lake.

"It will be made safe and durable by digging below the lake bed with a tunnel boring machine" be said A team of experts will be formed to assess the possibilities of the project. If the plan is found to be feasible, it will be proposed for budget under the Setu Bharatam scheme of the central government. Several hundred crore rupees are estimated to be spent on the project, the minister said.

Keeping in mind the environmental balance, advanced and sustainable German technology will be used in this project which will write the story of the revival of Bilaspur, Dharmani. If this project comes to fruition, it will become an example not only for the state but also for the entire country, he added.

# BPSC cancels its preliminary examination held at centre in Patna

PTI PATNA

The Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) on Monday cancelled its preliminary examination held at one of the centres in Patna, where an official on duty died of heart attack following a ruckus created by "unruly" candidates on December 13.

The incident took place at the Bapu Pariksha Parisar in Patna's Kumhrar locality, which was one of the more than 900 centres for the Combined (Preliminary) Competitive Examination (CCE). Nearly 5 lakh candidates appeared for the exam held for hiring people in Group A and B posts. "The BPSC has decided to cancel its preliminary examination held at Bapu Pariksha Parisar examination centre due to disruption created by a group of unruly aspirants as part of a conspiracy to disrupt the exam," BPSC Chairman

The Commission will soon announce a fresh date for the examination for that particular centre. Around 6,500 students, who had appeared for the exam on December 13, will be able to

reporters.

Parmar Ravi Manubhai told



write the papers again, he said. However, those who created trouble at the centre on Friday would be debarred, Manubhai

"The commission has identified 30-40 aspirants - who can be described as anti-social elements. They created disruption in the examination process at the centre. More such candidates are being identified by the police. They all will be debarred from appearing in the BPSC exam," the chairman said.

On the date of the exam, a group of candidates at Bapu Pariksha Parisar stormed out of their examination halls, alleging that question papers were leaked on social media before the exam started.

A huge crowd had gathered outside the centre as well and the situation was brought under control through police ntervention.

The Patna district administration on Sunday recommended slapping of murder charges on those who had tried to disrupt a recent examination.

Following the ruckus, an additional examination superintendent, Ram Iqbal Singh, died of cardiac arrest and a woman candidate fell unconscious.

The BPSC chairman on

Monday said, "The CCE 70th preliminary examination was held in a single shift from noon to 2 pm. The examination was held in 912 centres across the state, and of those, free and fair exams were held in 911 centres," he said.

"CCTV footage of Bapu Pariksha Parisar has revealed that some of the candidates snatched question papers from the invigilators and stormed out of the examination hall screaming that the paper had been leaked. "Snatching question papers

from invigilators and showing those to outsiders are tantamount to looting public property. Police action will be initiated against these persons who seem to have acted as a part of a conspiracy," Manubhai said.

# Telangana Assembly adjourned without completing debate on tourism

**PTI** ■ HYDERABAD

Amid sloganeering by opposition BRS MLAs against the Congress government, the Telangana Assembly was adjourned for the day on Monday without completing a debate on tourism policy.

When the House resumed after a tea break, Speaker G Prasad Kumar took up a short discussion on 'Telangana State Tourism Policy', but the opposition party members kept raising slogans against the Congress dispensation. Taking exception to the BRS legislators allegedly not following the rules and traditions of the House, Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu said the government is ready to respond to any issue raised by the opposition members. The Speaker directed BRS MLAs to hand over the pamphlets to the marshals and disapproved of them raising slogans and displaying placards inside the House. Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao began his speech on Tourism sector, but the BRS MLAs continued to raise slogans. The Speaker promised to provide opportunity to BRS MLA T Harish Rao to speak and

members to return to their seats. As the slogan shouting continued, he adjourned the House for the day. Addressing reporters after the adjournment of the House, BRS Working President K T Rama Rao hit out at the ruling Congress for not taking up debate on the arrest of "farmers" over the November 11 attack on government officials during a public hearing for land acquisition at Lagacharla village in Kodangal assembly segment, represented by CM A Revanth Reddy. Congress whip Adi Srinivas told media that the BRS was not sincere in raising people's issues in the Assembly and was only wasting the precious time of the House. The BRS is raising a hue and cry about the arrest of farmers in connection with the attack on government officials, but peasants were handcuffed during the previous BRS regime in Khammam, he alleged. Later, the BRS members held a protest at the assembly entrance in the legislature premises against the Congress government and held placards condemning a farmer being taken to hospital in handcuffs last week.

# Miscreants target parked car over minor dispute under Shivaji Nagar Police Station

STAFF REPORTER 
GURUGRAM

Pew miscreants targeted a parked car near an old jail complex over a minor dispute under the Shivaji Nagar police station area on Monday around 12.00 noon. The parked Maruti Eco car was set ablaze which was parked at old jail complex on Monday. However, in connection with the incident no compliant was filed in the matter. Meanwhile, the Gurugram police has started initial investigation into the matter.

After the incident, locals rushed to pacify fire but by then the car was completely engulfed in fire by the miscreants, however police is looking for the suspects who set ablaze vehicle in the area. It is being said that a minor fight that took place between the two groups on Sunday night of the area which was resulting this incident. On Sunday night the miscreants had also broke widow pain of a swift car.

"A group of few suspects who arrived in the morning created a lot of ruckus and set the vehicle on fire. They also broke a



road side Dhaba and fled the spot," a police officer privy to the matter said. Meanwhile soon after the incident panic prevailed in the area on Monday after parked car was torched by miscreants damaging it badly. The victim however failed to pacify fire after he found that car was set ablaze. Police said they are investing the matter. "The investigation teams are scanning the CCTV camera

installed in the area which could help in revealing the details of the miscreants involved in the incident," Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson of the Gurugram police said. During the investigation, locals revealed car was torched due to a fight between two groups but they failed to disclose the motive behind the incident but they suspect that the fight broke out over on food at the Dhaba

on Sunday night.

On Monday morning on receiving the information of fire police team reached the spot and along with the locals

fire police team reached the spot and along with the locals pacified and controlled the fire. The CCTV cameras at the squares and roundabouts would be investigated. Based on the details provided by the victim the case would be registered. The matter is under-

# Winter Session in MP Assembly begins with tributes to Tata, other departed leaders

TI BHOPAL

The Winter Session of the Madhya Pradesh assembly began on Monday with the House paying rich tributes to industrialist Ratan Tata, former Union ministers Natwar Singh and SM Krishna and other leaders who died recently.

Speaker Narendra Singh Ťomar administered oath to newly elected MLAs Kamlesh Pratap Shah from the Amarwada (ST) seat and Ramakant Bhargava from the Budhni constituency. Tomar later mentioned the deaths of industrialist Ratan Tata, former union ministers Singh and Krishna, former Madhya Pradesh ministers Captain Jaipal Singh, Arif Aqueel and Bharat Singh, former Rajya Sabha member Prabhat Iha and others and recalled their contributions to

the country and the state. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said Tata was a simple and decent man. He was not only a renowned industrialist but also a social worker and a nationalist who served humanity. Remembering Jha, Yadav said



the BJP leader was a man of the organisation and a renowned writer and journalist. He was a member of the Rajya Sabha, served as the state BJP president and was a good social worker.

He also paid rich tributes to Natwar Singh and S M Krishna and recalled their contributions.

Yadav condoled the death of Baiga tribal artist and Padma Shri recipient Jodhaiya Bai, who passed away on Sunday. He said Jodhaiya Bai's creative works on clay and wood were exhibited in Milan and Paris. Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar paid tribute to Arif

Aqueel, saying the former minister was known for his simplicity and straightforwardness. He wore rubber slippers his entire life and served people without any discrimination. Speaking about Natwar Singh, Singhar said that as the external affairs minister, he took bilateral relations between

nations to a new height and was

The LoP lauded Ratan Tata's efforts in giving a new direction to the corporate social responsibility (CSR) sector and setting an example to show how an industrialist can serve society by forming different trusts to help weaker sections and

a renowned diplomat.

youth.

youth.

The House also paid tribute to soldiers who lost their lives in a road accident in Sikkim and noted Saint Siyaram Baba, who passed away recently. A two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed souls, following which the Speaker adjourned the House for 10 minutes.

After Question Hour, the Opposition Congress raised the issue of the shortage of fertilisers and problems faced by farmers across the state and sought a reply from the gov-

ernment.
The Speaker said the government would respond when the House takes up the matter for discussion. However, Congress members insisted on it and staged a walkout when the

chair did not relent.
Later, State Urban
Administration and
Parliamentary Affairs Minister
Kailash Vijaywargiya moved a
resolution to congratulate the
Indian Army for its valour
during the war that led to the
creation of Bangladesh on

December 16, 1971.

## Amid freezing cold, Ayodhya ensures special winter wear for Lord Ramlala

BISWAJEET
BANERJEE/KAMLESH
SRIVASTAVA A AYODHYA

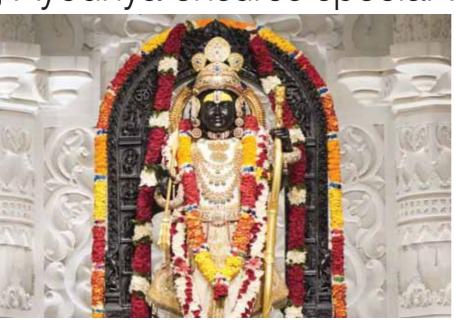
A yodhya is shivering under an intense cold wave, with temperatures plunging to a biting 3°C, six degrees below normal. As residents bundle up with layers of warm clothing, even Lord Ramlala at the Ram Janmabhoomi temple is being dressed in special woolen attire to shield Him from the harsh winter.

To combat the freezing temperatures, Ramlala will don a woolen dhoti made from Kullu wool and an Angavastra crafted from Ladakh's Pashmina wool. These meticulously designed garments were sent from Delhi and have already reached Ayodhya.

designed with intricate patterns keeping in mind the sanctity and tradition," said Manish Tripathi, designer of Ramlala's attire. "As the cold intensifies, we will adjust the fabric and design accordingly."

Currently, Ramlala is adorned in a Pashmina shawl and silk garments. With winter tightening its grip, these new woolen outfits will provide additional warmth. Two Angavastras—one draped over His shoulder and the other in His hand—will also be made from fine Pashmina wool.

wool.
The temple priests are ensuring Ramlala's well-being with meticulous care. "Ramlala is treated like a child," said Santosh Kumar Tiwari, assis-



tant priest of the Ram Mandir. "In the morning, His Abhishek (ritual bath) is done with lukewarm water, and heaters have been installed in the cancium control with the can

the sanctum sanctorum." The deity's daily offerings also reflect winter's demands. Before the Mangala Aarti in the early morning, peda and dry fruits are offered. At 7:30 a.m., during the Shringar Aarti, fruits and more dry fruits are presented. Later, poha or desi ghee halwa is served at 9:00 a.m., followed by Rajbhog, a full meal including kheer, at noon.

by Rajbhog, a full meal including kheer, at noon.
After a mid-day rest, sweets and water are offered at 1:30 p.m. At 4:00 p.m., various snacks and coconut water or fruit juice are presented in

Pilgrims visiting Ayodhya

expressed awe at the elaborate winter care arrangements for Ramlala. "It feels heartwarming to see how the Lord is being taken care of with so much devotion," said Poonam Sharma, a devotee from Kanpur. "This level of dedication makes us feel spiritually connected despite the cold."

Vijay Singh, a pilgrim from Varanasi, shared, "I have visited many temples, but the detailed care here during winter is unmatched. Seeing Ramlala wrapped in warm woolen clothes makes us feel He is among us as family."

Ayodhya has emerged as the coldest district in Uttar Pradesh over the past three days, with temperatures dipping below 5°C consistently.

On Friday-Saturday night, the mercury hit a freezing 3°C.

The Meteorological Department at Acharya Narendra Agricultural Technology University attributed the icy conditions to continuous snowfall in the Himalayas and the chilly western winds blowing across the plains. "This pattern is likely to persist for about a week," a department official said. "However, daytime sunshine will provide some relief."

Amid these frigid conditions, residents are relying on bon-fires and heaters to stay warm. As the cold wave continues, Ayodhya's spiritual and human lives intertwine, reflecting resilience in the face of winter's icy grip.

Indian Airlines

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Economy slowing down**

India, celebrated as the fastest-growing economy in the world, is showing signs of slowdown

■ ndia is facing a pivotal moment as it navigates a notable slowdown. Between July and September 2024, the country's GDP growth rate fell to 5.4 per cent, its lowest in seven quarters and well below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 7 per cent. While this growth rate remains enviable compared to developed economies, it highlights significant structural challenges that could impede India's long-term economic ambitions. The implications of this slowdown are multifaceted. A decline in consumer demand and muted private investment have curtailed economic momentum. Sales of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) have dropped, wage bills of publicly traded firms have shrunk, and urban spending has softened. In November alone, car sales plunged by 14 per cent, underscoring the waning strength of urban consumption. Rising inflation adds another layer of complexity. In October 2024, inflation surged to 6.2 per cent, exceeding the RBI's target ceiling of 4 per cent. Escalating

food prices, driven by climate disruptions and inefficiencies in supply chains, have inflated costs across sectors, further squeezing disposable incomes.

The slowdown has also placed pressure on India's exports, which account for just 2 per cent of global goods trade. A stronger dollar and rising tariffs have eroded the competitiveness of Indian products in international markets. Compounding the issue is stagnant job creation, particularly in agriculture, manufacturing, and small-scale industries. Collectively, these factors are eroding confidence in India's growth narrative, despite the government's optimistic outlook. The roots of this economic deceleration lie in several fac-

tors. Demand weakness is a central issue. While rural demand remains relatively resilient thanks to a favourable monsoon, it alone cannot offset the broader slowdown. Restrictive monetary policies have further constrained growth. To combat inflation, the RBI has kept interest rates steady for two years, leading to high borrowing costs that discourage both business investment and consumer spending. Global and domestic challenges compound the problem. Slowing global demand and climate-related disruptions in agriculture have adversely affected exports and food production. Additionally, the RBI's interventions to stabilise the rupee by selling dollars have inadvertently tightened liquidity, slowing economic growth. A stronger rupee, while stabilising in some respects, makes Indian exports more expensive and less competitive internationally. Addressing these challenges requires targeted solutions. Boosting consumption through wage growth could be a key strategy. Policy measures that reduce bureaucratic hurdles, provide tax incentives, and simplify labour and land laws can unlock the potential of small and medium enterprises, which form the backbone of the economy. Tackling inflation and strengthening supply chains will also play a critical role in stabilising the economy.



An artist paints a wall at Lodhi Road area, in New Delhi

# South Asia: Two decades of turmoil



### December marks two pivotal anniversaries — Soviety intervention in Afghanistan and Kandhar Hijacking — that changed South Asia's geopolitics

ecember marks two pivotal anniversaries that significantly influenced South Asia's geopolitical landscape: 45 years since the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan and 25 years since the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 from Kathmandu to Kandahar. Despite occurring two decades apart, these events underscore the fragility of South Asia and the profound influence of external powers and non-state actors in shaping the region's tra-

On December 24, 1979, Soviet troops entered Afghanistan to support the struggling communist regime in Kabul, led by Babrak Karmal. This intervention, ostensibly aimed at stabilising Afghanistan, set off a decadelong occupation and transformed the country into one of the Cold War's fiercest battlegrounds. The repercussions extended far beyond Afghanistan, triggering global, regional and internal upheavals that persist to this day. The Soviet invasion catalysed a chain of events that hastened the disintegration of the Soviet Union and radicalised South Asia. The mujahideen-fighters armed and financed by the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and other allies-became a formidable force against the Soviets. This external patronage laid the groundwork for militant extremism, which would later engulf the region. The Soviet intervention underscored Afghanistan's strategic

importance as the fulcrum of great power politics. Pakistan emerged as a critical player, acting as a frontline state in the anti-Soviet effort. Two decades later, on December 24, 1999, South Asia faced anoth-

er defining moment when Indian Airlines Flight IC-814 was hijacked en route from Kathmandu to Delhi. Five armed men commandeered the aircraft, eventually forcing it to land in Kandahar, then under Taliban control. What ensued was a weeklong standoff that exposed the vuinerabilities of regional counter-terrorism strategies and marked a turning point in how nations approached security and terrorism.



The Kandahar hijacking exposed the evolving nexus between terrorism and geopolitics in South Asia. The Taliban's willingness to shelter the hijackers highlighted its transition into a state sponsor of terrorism. For India, this incident was a stark reminder of the threats posed by crossborder terrorism, often enabled by Pakistan's support for extremist proxies in Afghanistan and Kashmir. The release of Masood Azhar not only emboldened groups like JeM but also underscored the growing influence of nonstate actors in undermining regional stability. Although the Soviet interven-

tion and the Kandahar hijacking may seem unrelated, they are deeply interconnected in shaping South Asia's trajectory. The destabilisation of Afghanistan during the Soviet occupation created fertile ground for militancy, enabling the rise of networks that facilitated events like the Kandahar hijacking.

Pakistan's role as a key US ally during the Soviet-Afghan war empowered its military-intelligence complex, which later exploited jihadist networks to further strategic objectives in Kashmir and Alghanistan. These same networks became instrumental in orchestrating attacks against India, exemplified by the IC-814 hijacking.



ADDRESSING SOUTH

ASIA'S FRACTURED

**SECURITY** LANDSCAPE **REQUIRES** COLLECTIVE ACTION. **COUNTRIES IN THE REGION MUST** TRANSCEND HISTORICAL ANIMOSITIES TO **COMBAT TERRORISM** AND ADDRESS SHARED

CHALLENGES LIKE EXTREMISM AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC The mujahideen's success against the Soviets emboldened militant groups across the region, while the Kandahar hijacking demonstrated their ability to exploit state vulnerabilities for political gains. The Kandahar episode underscored the inadequacy of India's counter-terrorism infrastructure at the time. It led to significant reforms, including the establishment of specialised counter-terrorism units like the National Security Guard (NSG) and the strengthening of aviation security protocols.

Pakistan's dual role in these episodes-as a US ally during the Soviet-Afghan war and as a sanctuary for groups like JeM-has perpetuated instability in the region. Its support for extremist proxies has strained relations with India and exacerbated internal security chal-

Addressing South Asia's fractured security landscape requires collective action. Countries in the region must transcend historical animosities to combat terrorism and address snared challenges like extremism and socio-economic disparities. Both the Soviet intervention and the Kandahar hijacking highlight the need

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain passes away

for strong democratic institutions and accountable governance. Weak states are particularly susceptible to external manipulation and internal subversion, further destabilis-

ing the region. The lessons from these pivotal episodes remain crucial as South Asia navigates the 21st century. The radicalisation fueling terrorism often stems from socio-economic deprivation. Investments in education, healthcare, and employment can help counter extremist ideologies.

Strengthened regional cooperation and robust international partnerships are essential to addressing the complex interplay of geopolitics and terror-

Much like the Grand Trunk Road connecting distant regions and histories, these events remind us of the intersecting paths of interventionism and terrorism in shaping modern South Asia.

They were not mere crises but turning points that redefined the region's political, social, and economic trajectories. As South Asia confronts new challenges, the enduring lessons of these anniversaries emphasize the importance of resilience, cooperation, and proactive governance in securing a stable future.

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

## Overcoming fear to unlock limitless possibilities



#### Embracing the unknown is essential for innovation, resilience and realising our true potential

umans possess four basic emotions happiness, sadness, anger and fear. Each has a unique place in our lives and shapes much of our responses to situations. The unknown is probably one entity that invokes all four emotions and spurs us into action. However, it is the fear of what we project onto the unknown that often paralyses us into inaction. Action is built into our psyche. We must necessarily move, even though we do not know the results of our endeavours.

Instead of focusing on the happiness we will derive from success, we let this uncertainty bog us down. We procrastinate terrified of failure and refuse to take

the next step. This is an all too familiar phenomenon that we encounter every day of our lives. As we start going up the professional ladder, many of us follow time-tested formulae, handed down to us by predecessors. We hesitate to make decisions contrary to the established norms, even though such decisions may result in sub-

stantial gains, within the framework of certain acceptable risks. All our efforts are guided by that one decision in 10 which did not click. We do not look at the nine that did. We forget that as a child we had no fears when we started exploring the universe

around us. We fell, as we tried to get on our two feet, but were encouraged, or even forced, to keep trying till we mastered the art of walking; or for that matter everything. We also forget that we were not scared to take up a job after college, even though we knew nothing about the work we had to do. We learned from our mistakes. The worst was that we failed

was that we succeeded eventually. Ah! The joy of success!We forget that humans evolved due to an inherent desire to explore the unknown, without a care for failure or success. New worlds were found, and new inventions and scientific discoveries were made.

All because a few dared to venture into the unknown. We deny ourselves the endless new opportunities that each new day brings. It is not that we do not possess this spirit. It is just that generations of conditioning have made it dormant, till we are in a situation with our backs to the wall. Nowhere is it more in evidence, than in jugaad, the flexible approach to solve a problem innovatively when one has limited resources.In our personal lives, we are told to pursue our dreams but are often guided towards the more tried and

safer options. We do not even try to think of the endless possibilities and the heights that society can reach if everyone is encouraged not to fear the the first time, and the best failure of the unknown, but

to think about success, and is free to follow his or her heart!

This is the contradiction that most of us from the earlier generation, specifically from the middle class, face when teaching the young. Fortunately for our race, the young of today are better prepared for the unknown with the availability of much better sources of information which were also created by a few who dared to dream.

We should teach the young to step out in the rain without an umbrella and get drenched.

Let the sky be the roof. They should not regret that they might have led a better life if they had not feared the unknown. Esmeralda Santiago sums it up so well. "How can you know what you are capable of, if you do not embrace the unknown?"

(The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant. He conducts workshops on creative writing for young adults and corporate executives. The views expressed are personal)

#### **DEBATE ON CONSTITUTION** Madam -The two-day debate on the

Constitution, which began on 13th December, has seen heated discussion on the historical and contemporary significance of the Constitution. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh initiated the debate, emphasising the collective efforts behind the creation of the Constitution. Though he accused Congress and Indira Gandhi for imposing an emergency and supercession of Supreme Court judges to charge Congress with violating constitutional principles, he lauded the progressive and transformative nature of the Constitution that allows individuals from humble backgrounds to rise to the highest positions of power in India.

The newly elected MP, Priyanka Gandhi, an articulate and combative speaker, accused the government of undermining the constitutional promises of social, economic and political justice over the past decade. Without mentioning the name of Jawaharlal Nehru, she lauded his contribution in creating so many public sector as well as government firms. She also warned the present government that his role in the freedom struggle and Independent India could never be erased from Indian history. Concluding the debate, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the role of women members of the constituent Assembly in making the Indian Constitution. He also hailed Indian democracy and reminded the journey of the Constitution.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

#### **INDIA'S GDP RISES**

Madam — Forbes India estimates India's GDP to be \$3.94 trillion in 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India rose to the 11th largest economy in the world in seven decades of independence, but in just the last decade, India has risen to the 5th largest economy while addressing a gathering at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre after the inauguration of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024. He attributed this growth to the IMF World Economic Outlook

## THE EDITOR

**¬**he four-time Grammy Award winner, Indian tabla maestro and an innovative music fusion creator, Zakir Hussain is no more with us. The silence on his tabla is a huge loss for Hindustani classical music and jazz fusion. Zakir was truly an indelible gem in the world of music. The list of his national and international accolades is really long, as he had always made India proud with his tireless contribution in

to the exceptional efficiency of his gov-

Nevertheless, the story would be incomplete without a mention of the economc growth across different regions. Southern states, which occupy 19.34 per cent of India's land area and 20.76 per cent of its population, contributed about 30.5 per centof the GDP. Western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat, which together occupy 15.32 per cent of India's land area and 14.27 per cent of its population, added another 21.4 per cent.

On the contrary, the NDA-BJP-ruled states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, which cover 34.09 per cent of the area and have 38.95 per cent of the population, together contributed only 22.4 per cent to the GDP. This is despite the fact that the five BJP states received a significantly higher share of funds from the central divisible revenue pool. They received a 45.29 per cent share, whereas the five southern states got only 15.81 per cent. Further, according

taking Hindustani classical music to collaborate and fuse with world music. Like his father, Ustad Alha Rakha, Zakir always attempted to proceed to the legacy footprint of his father.

His tabla virtuoso legacy had been curated in the golden letters in the history of Indian music because of his glorious contribution to music. Taking an Indian, 18th-century membranophone percussion instrument (tabla) to the world stage is truly an incredible achievement, and history will credit this legendary maestro, Żakir Hussain, for his pertinacious contribution towards Hindustani classical music. He will always stay alive in our hearts and continue to inspire the upcoming generations of music and instrument lovers.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

(October 2024), India is currently ranked 144th among 194 economies in terms of GDP (nominal) per capita at \$2698 at current prices. This suggests that the standard of living and quality of life in much of India improved at a snail's pace, even though the economy expanded rapidly. Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode

#### **PM MODI SLAMS CONGRESS**

Madam — Modi lambasted the first parivar as the killers of the constitution during the debate on the constitution in parliament. Right from Nehru's letter in 1951 to the state CM's, Indira's emergency, Rajiv's dealing with the Shah Bano case, and Rahul's tearing of an ordinance, Modi spoke the truth. It is a big blow to the Congress since they were at fault in their earlier tenure. It should introspect. Secondly, Modi has drawn up an 11-point Sankalp like the 20-point programme of

N R Ramachandran | Chennai

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### **FIRST COLUMN WORKPLACE SURVEILLANCE**

As remote work redefine workplaces, businesses are increasingly turning to employee monitoring



n the modern workplace, the rise of remote and hybrid work has led to significant shifts in how businesses operate, manage and monitor their employees. Among the most controversial developments is the growing use of tattleware or brassware, the common nicknames of software applications that monitor employees' activities during work hours.

With the advent of normalised remote work, employer surveillance of workers has accelerated. Today, such tools can track a wide range of data, including keystrokes, mouse movements, screenshots, and even video or audio feeds from an employee's device. Not only this, but the much-advanced systems may also use artificial intelligence to analyse patterns, flag unproductive behaviour, or even detect potential security breaches. Employers claim these tools provide valuable insights into work habits, protect sensitive data, and improve overall efficiency. It allows businesses to track productivity metrics thereby ensuring that the employees meet deadlines and work efficiently, especially in remote setups where physical supervision

Also, such surveillance tools help prevent data breaches or intellectual property theft by monitoring unauthorised activities. Moreover, these wares provide evidence in disputes about working hours or performance, thereby offering an objective record of employee activity. When implemented transparently and ethically, these tools even foster accountability and help underperforming employees improve. Despite the above-mentioned benefits, the use of tattleware raises significant ethical concerns wherein the most



common one talked about is privacy. Employees believe that privacy is a fundamental right, and excessive surveillance can infringe upon it. A survey conducted recently found that nearly 78 per cent of employers use monitoring software to track employee performance or online activity.

When employees are monitored constantly, they often feel dehumanised, as though they are untrusted or reduced to mere data points resulting in eroding trust between employers and their teams, making it harder to foster collaboration and loyalty. Additionally, the psychological impact often leads them to stress, anxiety, and burnout. Employees may feel pressured to overwork or engage in performative productivity - appearing busy rather than genuinely contributing. Over time, this can harm creativity, innovation, and overall job satisfaction. Not only these, but the use of tattler has also resulted in legal challenges, including claims of unpaid wages for work performed away from computers or intrusion upon privacy. Some employers face allegations of unfair labour practices if monitoring interferes with protected activities, such as union organising? To adhere to the challenges posed by tattlers, businesses must strive to balance productivity goals with respect for employees' rights. As rightly said transparency is the key to success

Only when employees are informed about them being monitored, the necessities for the use of such tattlers or how the data will be used can help build trust and foster a sense of shared responsibility. As businesses navigate the complexities of remote and hybrid work, they must adopt a thoughtful and balanced approach to workplace monitoring. Only by prioritising transparency, fairness, and respect for individual rights, companies and business organisations can create an environment that values both productivity and human

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

# Call for fast-tracking WT agricultural negotiations



In a recent WTO meeting, India urges prioritisation of issues, including a permanent solution for public stockholding and special safeguard mechanism



n a meeting of the Committee on Agriculture (CoA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in Geneva on December 4, 2024, India insisted that negotiations on unresolved/previously mandated issues in agriculture, including a permanent solution to public stockholding, special safeguard mechanism (SSM) and elimination of trade-distorting cotton subsidies by rich countries etc, be 'prioritised' and 'fasttracked' by treating them as standalone issues instead of clubbing them with other

The US, on the other hand, criticised the prioritisation of certain issues over others, stating that this was the primary cause of the longstanding stalemate in agriculture. India also rejected a new proposal presented by Guyana to advance agricultural negotiations ahead of the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14 is tentatively scheduled to take place in Cameroon in 2026) by adopting a socalled 'non-traditional approach based on convergence. India reiterated that any facilitator-led process should be 'consensus-based' and respect WTO's multilateral principles. It emphasised on Text-based negotiation (TBN). TBN refers to the process of working up the text of an agreement that all parties are willing to accept and sign. Negotiating parties may begin with a draft text prepared by the Chair of the particular committee dealing with the subject.

The draft is based on discussions amongst the member countries and is fine-tuned till all the nations are in agreement with it. This is in sharp contrast to a convergence-based approach that involves superimposition of non-multilateral trade regimes on the multilateral trading system (MTS). The theorists dealing with international trade in particular, WTO-related issues describe it as a process of 'gradually aligning different trade regimes, in particular preferential trade agreements (PTAs) and the MTS'. Others define convergence as requiring 'greater coherence between trade rules and policies, norms and standards in other areas of international cooperation. Shorn of jargon, this is a well-orchestrated attempt by the developed countries - the US, the European



THE DRAFT IS BASED ON **DISCUSSIONS** AMONGST THE **MEMBER COUNTRIES AND** IS FINE-TUNED TILL ALL THE NATIONS ARE IN **AGREEMENT** WITH IT. THIS IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO A **CONVERGENCE-**BASED APPROACH THAT **INVOLVES** SUPER-**IMPOSITION** OF NON-**MULTILATERAL** 

Union (EU), the UK, Australia, etc (they exercise disproportionately greater influence during actual confabulations at the WTO, set the agenda of meetings, float proposals more often through small countries such as Guyana and get away with what they want) to scuttle the standard practice of taking decisions by consensus where every member

country has an equal voice.
Therefore, India has rejected this approach, rightly so. But, what happens to India's demand for 'prioritising' and 'fast-tracking' negotiations? In a meeting of the CoA held on October 2, 2023, in Geneva, the EU agreed to consider India's demand for a permanent solution to the public stock-holding (PSH) program for food security.

Accordingly, India had urged WTO members to start TBN on the issue as soon as possible and get this deliberated at the WTO MC-13 slated to be held in Abu Dhabi from February 26-29, 2024. But, that was not to be. The Ministerial Conference ended in a deadlock. On the issue of finding a permanent solution to the (PSH) for food security, India's stance was vehemently opposed by the USA/EU. Earlier attempts by India also met with the same fate. At the Trade Policy Review (TPR) meeting held at WTO in January 2021, India insisted that the three issues should be taken up on a priority basis at the MC-12. But, in that Ministerial Conference held in Geneva on June 12-17, 2022, the issues were not even put on the table. The deadlock has existed for more than two decades despite India taking up these issues at WTO under what has come to be known as the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Developed countries had junked DDA at MC-10 held in Nairobi (2015). On the most contentious issue of a permanent solution for PSH, a ray of hope emerged when in the WTO-General Council (GC) meeting in Geneva (July 31, 2014),

India insisted on a time-bound action plan on the subject matter to be executed before the end of 2014 co-terminus with approval of Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) - an area of great interest to developed countries. This was a good strategic move but it was abandoned midstream. In December 2014, even as the developed countries got away with the TFA, the developing countries got an "extension of the peace clause till a permanent solution was found." Put simply, India had literally surrendered its right to secure a permanent solution; that it was "Ok" with "the benefit of peace

clause. What is the peace clause?

To understand this, let us look at the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) of the WTO. Under it, a developing country cannot give aggregate measurement support (AMS) - an acronym for subsidies - over 10 per cent of the value of its farm produc-

The AMS includes "product-specific" subsidies and "non-product specific" subsidies on agricultural inputs such as fertilisers, seed, irrigation and power. The "productspecific" subsidy is the excess of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) paid to farmers over the External Reference Price (ERP) multiplied by the quantum of agri-produce. Whereas the MSP is taken for the relevant year, say, 2023-24, the ERP is the average of the global price prevailing during 1986-88 fixed in rupee terms. If the subsidy given by a developing country exceeds 10 per cent, it will be treated as a violation of its WTO commitment. This has been a major worry as India could face action in a situation of AMS exceeding the 10 per cent threshold. In this backdrop, the MC-9 in Bali (2013) had agreed to a "peace clause" under which "if a developing country gives AMS in excess of 10 percent, no member will challenge this until 2017, when the WTO would look for a permanent

solution to address their food security concerns." It came with several riders such as submission of data on food procurement, stockholding, distribution and subsidies. These also include establishing that subsidies are not "trade distorting." Besides, programs implemented after 2013 are not covered under the ambit of the 'peace clause'. In December 2014, the WTO-GC modified the above decision to provide for "extension of the peace clause till a permanent solution was found". Unfortunately, India concurred with this modification. This took away the sanctity of the 2017 deadline by which time members were to find a permanent solution as per the MC-9 mandate.

A decade since then, India is still looking for a solution! In regard to SSM - it allows members to temporarily raise tariffs beyond the bound levels" (this is the maximum permissible duty that a member country can impose under a bound rate agreement) to counter surges in import or price drops. The 2015 MC-10 in Nairobi recognized that developing countries will have the right to take recourse to SSM as envisaged under the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration. That was at MC - 6 (December 2005).

Since then, it has been almost two decades. Even now, these countries can't take recourse to SSM. They haven't also been able to prompt developed countries to eliminate their cotton subsidies. To conclude, despite the deft handling of negotiations at the WTO and representing the majority of the developing countries (India leads about 80 countries - the G33 including India, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries or ACP) so far, India hasn't succeeded in securing the intended outcomes. Given the intransigence of developed countries and their clout at WTO, there is little hope from the MC – 14.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

## Persisting Central Information Commission vacancies challenge transparency claims Eight vacancies of Information Commissioners undermine the cause of transparency and accountability

Recently on December 10, Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS (Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension) made a pitch for Vikashit Bharat, 2047 while addressing the 16th Annual Convention of Central Information Commission at Mandampam in Pragati Maidan. Ironically, it was the last date allowed by the Supreme Court for the central government to file a status report on the eight posts of Information Commissioners lying vacant out of a total of ten in the Central Information Commission (CIC) for the last year. It might be remembered in October 2023 Anjali Bharadwaj had brought to the notice of the Supreme Court that whereas seven posts were already lying vacant in the



CIC, four incumbents were due to retire within a week. Sadly, the situation has worsened over the last year, notwithstanding the government's claim to transparency and accountability. At present, there are two Information Commissioners viz. Anandi Ramalingam and Vinod Kumar Tiwari in addition to Information Commissioner viz. Heeralal for filling eight vacancies in on November 11, 2023. The

Samariya. As per the Pending Cases Report available on the website of CIC, there were a total of 3134 cases - comprising 2310 second appeals and 824 direct complaints with the Commission as of November 1, 2023.

A year later on November 1, 2024, the total number of pendency has risen to 20,437 - comprising 17,717 second appeals and 2720 direct complaints. At the time of writing this piece, the total pendency clocked 22,957. This figure is not quite a compliment to the government's alleged commitment to transparency and accountability. A recent RTI application filed by Commodore Lokesh Batra (Retd) elicited the reply that 161 applications were received

CIC in response to the DoPT's advertisement dated August 14, 2024. Under Section 12 (3) of the RTI Act, 2005 the appointments are to be made by a committee chaired by the Prime Minister, and comprising the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and another Union minister nominated by the Prime Minister. Filling these positions before the 16th Annual Convention on the RTI would have been a favourable gesture. However, the government did

not prioritize the task. A second appeal from this columnist filed on September 13, 2023, is indicated at no 18162 in the list of pendency. The matter was transferred to IC Vinod Kumar Tiwari, after IC Ms. Saroj Punhani retired



TRADE

high amount of pendency incentivizes the CPIOs/ Appellate Authorities in the ministries/departments to display a cavalier attitude towards applications filed under the ŘŤI Act, 2005.

This columnist, however, was able to obtain the information through a fresh application. Though in both cases, the Appellate Authority within the division, who in an IAS officer colluded with the CPIO,

in one of his decisions he stated that the reason for denying information was that the file was under submission with the

Joint Secretary. The columnist filed a third application under the RTI Act, 2005 asking the CPIO whether the Joint Secretary has been 'exempted' from the obligation to provide information under the RTI Act, 2005. If the Joint Secretary had been 'exempted', the CPIO must produce the necessary official order, and further inform who else in the ministry had been similarly exempted'.

Any claim that a Joint Secretary has been 'exempted' from the obligation to provide information would have become controversial for the government. It could have sullied the service record of the

officer attracting a minor if not major penalty for disregarding a Parliamentary statute. The RTI Act, 2005 provides no authority-wise 'exemption'. Exemption under Section 8 of the Act applies only to certain well-defined matters based on merit like security/diplomatic/ trade secrets, matters expressly forbidden by court from publication, or cabinet papers etc. This time the CPIO quickly provided the information. The episode, however, underscores a few grievous lapses. First, had the Central Information Commission (CIC) been working at full strength, the second appeal would have been decided within a few months, and the delinquent CPIO might had to pay the monetary penalty for

denying information.

Appellate Authorities, who are part of the department, actually help the CPIOs to suppress the information, where it is in their interest. Instead of this obligation, they can manipulate the CPIOs in other matters. The high amount of pendency in CIC could be attributed to the devious behaviour of the Appellate Authorities. The RTI Act, 2005 should have provision to penalize not just the CPIO but also the First Appellate Authority if the Information Commissioner declares him/her guilty of deliberate suppression of infor-(The writer is an author and

an independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed are his personal)

# Yunus celebrates end of Hasina's 'autocratic govt'

## No mention of Mujibur Rahman in his Victory Day address

out the currency notes current-

will not carry Rahman's image.

On Monday, Army bugles played the Last Post, com-

memorating those killed during the 1971 War.

East Timor President Jose

Ramos-Horta accompanied

Deviating from tradition, Bangladesh did not stage a

Victory Day Parade in the cap-

"The army is currently engaged

in activities across the country,

and organising the parade

requires advance preparation, which wasn't feasible this year,"

Liberation War Affairs Adviser

Farook-e-Azam told the Daily

Star newspaper.
But he said the celebration

would be inclusive for all with

'Victory Fairs' across the coun-

try featuring art and craft

**12 Indians** 

found dead

at restaurant

Twelve Indian nationals were found dead at a restaurant

in Georgia's mountain resort of

Gudauri, according to the

Georgia's Ministry of Internal

Affairs said in a statement that

no signs of injuries or signs of

violence were detected in an

initial inspection. All victims

died from carbon monoxide

poisoning, local media report-

The Indian mission in Tbilis

said that all 12 victims were

Indian nationals. However,

Georgia's internal affairs min-

istry statement said 11 were

foreigners while one victim

Indian mission here.

ed, citing police.

was its citizen

in Georgia

PTI TBILISI

Yunus at the celebrations.

hief Adviser Muhammad Yunus led Bangladesh Monday in marking the 54th Victory Day, his speech making no mention of founding leader Mujibur Rahman while calling deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's administration the "world's worst autocratic government".

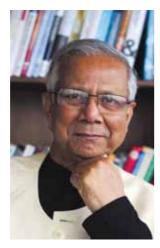
"Bijoy Dibosh" commemorates the Pakistan military's surrender to Indian forces and the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. 'Bangabandhu' Mujibur Rahman is seen as the independence movement's iconic fig ure. His daughter Sheikh Hasina fled to India on August 5, after massive student-led protests against her government. Nobel laureate Yunus then took over as head of an interim government.

In his televised address to the nation, Yunus indicated that elections might be held by

"Broadly speaking, the election can be scheduled between the end of 2025 and the first half of 2026," he said.

The country could not build on its achievements because of its own faults and, of late, a "monstrous autocratic government" had grabbed power, he said in an apparent reference to Hasina's Awami league government. He said the ouster of the 'world's worst autocratic government" amid a mass upsurge added extra significance to the

celebration this year. Yunus and Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin separately paid tributes to Liberation War mar-tyrs at the National Memorial on the outskirts of the capital. "I recall the millions of martyrs including numerous children and juveniles, youths' and the elderly people's sacrifices that made possible the achieve-ment of our independence," he



His speech, however, made no mention of the political leader-ship in 1971 and of Mujibur Rahman -- a sharp departure from previous Victory Day addresses.

Critics accuse his interim government of trying to erase Mujibur Rahman's legacy. The authorities have earlier exhibits and agricultural product displays, and showcasing announced a decision to phase domestic goods. He said schools were hosting ly in circulation. The new ones

their own events as part of the festivities and cultural programmes would include the participation of children, women and men, making the celebration inclusive for all.

'The shift in the celebration format aims to bring more active public involvement and create a festive atmosphere in every part of the country," Azam said.

The liberation movement began when the West Pakistan leadership refused to hand over power to the Awami League in line with the 1970 election results. India backed Bengali guerrillas and dealt with mass migration of people from Bangladesh.

Eight Indian military veterans of the Liberation War travelled to Dhaka this year to mark Victory Day. Similarly, eight Bangladesh veterans were in Kolkata to join the Vijay Diwas celebrations

In his speech, Yunus indicated that elections would be held in 2025 or early 2026 after updating the voters' list.

From now on, the responsibility has been entrusted to them to start the process of forming the future government. They have started their preparations. They have a lot of work to do," he told a local news agency, referring to the Election Reforms Commission.

'We have to make sure that the names of all those who have become eligible to vote in the last 15 years are included in the voters' list. This is a big task," he said

He said after the student the student uprising there is no room for making any mistakes. Many young people who were deprived of this right in the past will vote for the first time, he added.

## Two killed on first day of anti-polio campaign in Pak

A polio worker and a police Constable were shot dead in separate incidents in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Monday as the country began a week-long polio eradication campaign amid tight security. Unidentified assailants opened fire and killed a polio worker in Bannu district on the very first day of the anti-polio drive that commenced across Pakistan on Monday.

The incident occurred in Kala Khel Masti Khan and the attackers managed to escape. Police stated that the deceased polio worker was on his way to duty when he was attacked. In a separate incident in Karak

district, Constable Ishtiaq Ahmed, escorting a team of polio workers, was killed when unidentified motorcyclists opened fire. The assailants managed to escape. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Governor Faisal Karim Kundi and Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur condemned the attacks on polio teams in the province.

A week-long polio eradication campaign across Pakistan began on Monday amid tight security to ensure its smooth sailing against the crippling disease that saw a surge this year with 63 cases reported so far. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the only countries where the paralysing virus is still rampant. News agency AP reported that authorities deployed thousands of police officers to protect the health workers following intelligence reports that insurgents

could target them. Citing health officials and authorities, AP said more than 200 polio workers and police assigned for their protection have been killed since the

## Amnesty: Serbia spying on political opponents, journalists

AP BEI GRADE

Serbia's secret service and police have been spying on journalists and opposition activists by installing a spyware on their mobile phones, Amnesty International said Monday.

The watchdog's report, backed by testimonies of those who claim their phones have been hacked in recent months, says the spy software was used to unlock phones to capture covert screenshots and copy contact lists, which were then uploaded to a governmentcontrolled server.

The report titled "A Digital Prison: Surveillance and the Suppression of Civil Society in Serbia" said the Serbian police and the Security Information Agency (BIA) used the spyware to infect devices while their owners were detained or interviewed by police.

"Our investigation reveals how Serbian authorities have deployed surveillance technology and digital repression tactics as instruments of wider state control and repression directed against civil society," said Dinushika Dissanayake, Amnesty International's deputy regional director for Europe. Serbia's police did not respond to a request for comment by The

Associated Press. Serbia's spy agency said on its website that it "works exclusive-ly in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Serbia."

"Therefore, we are not even able to comment on nonsensical allegations from their (Amnesty) text, just as we do not normally comment on similar content, BIA said. The Amnesty report comes as President Aleksandar Vucic is facing one of the biggest challenges to more than a decade of his increasingly autocratic rule, with widening anti-government protests that so far have been largely peaceful.

Protests have been led by university students and opposition activists following the collapse last month of a concrete canopy at a railway station in the country's north that killed 15 people on Nov. 1. Many in Serbia believe rampant corruption and nepo-tism among state officials led to sloppy work on the building reconstruction, which was part of a wider railroad project with Chinese state companies. Vucic has accused Western intelligence services, NGO groups and foreign media of conducting a "hybrid warfare" against him and his country by illegally

financing the protests.

The Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, an NGO group, strongly condemned the authorities' misuse of digital technologies for surveillance and demanded an immediate, transparent and independent investigation into the allegations reported by Amnesty International. It also called for the prosecution of those responsible within the police and the Security and Information Agency.

"In a country where civil protests are growing in scale, and discontent with the regime is becoming louder, these practices represent a direct attack on fundamental freedoms, including the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and the right of association," the group's statement said. Serbia, which formally seeks European Union membership, has been forging close ties with Russia and China, including their spy agencies in what officials said was a joint action against the so-called "coloured revolutions" street protests against repres-

It added that the bodies of all victims, employees in the same Indian restaurant, were found sive regimes. in bedrooms on the second floor of the facility. "Mission has just learned about

the death of 12 Indian nation als in Gudauri, Georgia Deepest condolences to the touch with the local authorities to get details of the Indian nationals who lost their lives. All possible assistance will be given," the Indian mission here said in a statement.

The police started an investigation under Article 116 of the Criminal Code of Georgia, which implies negligent manslaughter.

According to the preliminary investigation, a power generator was placed in an indoor area, a closed space near the bedrooms, which was turned on, probably after the power supply was turned off on Friday

A forensic medical examination has also been appointed to determine the "exact cause of death".

Investigative actions are "active-

ly" being carried out, with forensic-criminalistics working on the spot, and interviews of persons related to the case are being conducted.

dots for eyes and bangs like an

ocean wave first appeared in a

supplement to the Belgian

newspaper Le Vingtième Siècle,

and became a weekly feature.

The comic also first appeared

in the US in 1929. Its signature

bright colors — including

Tintin's red hair — didn't

## 'Death toll in Gaza Strip from Israel-Hamas war tops 45,000'

AP DEIR AL-BALAH

The death toll in the Gaza Strip from the 14-month war between Israel and Hamas militants has topped 45,000 people, Palestinian health officials said Monday, with 52 dead arriving at hospitals across the bombed-out strip over the past 24 hours.

The Gaza Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count, but it has said that more than half of the fatalities are women and children. The Israeli military says it has killed more than 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.
The Health Ministry said

45,028 people have been killed and 106,962 have been wounded since the start of the war. It has said the real toll is higher because thousands of bodies are still buried under rubble or in areas that medics cannot access. The latest war has been by far the deadliest round of fighting between Israel and Hamas, with the death toll now amounting to roughly 2 per cent of Gaza's entire prewar

population of about 2.3 million. Among the dead reported in the overall toll were 10 people, including a family of four, who were killed in an overnight Israeli strike in Gaza City, Palestinian medics said.

house in Gaza City's eastern Shijaiyah neighbourhood, according to the Health Ministry's emergency service. Rescuers recovered the bodies of 10 people from under the rubble, including those of two parents and their two children, it said.

Israel claims Hamas is responin civilian areas in the densely populated Gaza Strip. Rights cient precautions to avoid civilian deaths.

led militants stormed into 2023, killing some 1,200 peosion into the Palestinian enclave. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Most of the rest were released during a cease-fire last year.

The strike late Sunday hit a A separate strike on a school on

sible for the civilian death toll because it operates from withgroups and Palestinians say Israel has failed to take suffi-

The war began when Hamassouthern Israel on October 7, ple, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Israel Sunday in the southern city of Khan Younis killed at least 13 people, including six children and two women, according to Nasser Hospital where the bodies were taken. The hospital initially reported the strike had killed 16 people, but it later revised the death toll as the three other bodies had been from a separate strike that hit a house.

The Israeli military said it had "conducted a precise strike on Hamas terrorists who were operating inside a command and control centre embedded within a compound" that had served as a school in Khan Younis. It did not provide evi-

In central Gaza's Nuseirat urban refugee camp, mourners gathered for the funeral of a Palestinian journalist working for the Qatari-based Al Jazeera

TV network who was killed Sunday in a strike on a point for Gaza's civil defence agency. They carried his body through the street from the hospital, his blue bulletproof vest resting

The strike also killed three civil defence workers, including the local head of the agency, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. The civil defence is Gaza's main rescue agency and operates under the Hamasrun government.

Al Jazeera said Ahmad Baker Al-Louh, 39, had been covering rescue operations of a family wounded in an earlier bombing when he was killed. The International Federation of Journalists said last week that 104 journalists and media workers have been killed so far in 2024, with more than half of them perishing during the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza

The group said that since the October 7, 2023, start of the war, at least 138 had been killed, including 55 Palestinian media professionals in the cal-

## Japanese bank apologises over theft of millions of dollars from safe deposit boxes

**AP** TOKYO

Tapan's biggest bank apologised Monday for the J gised Monuay alleged theft by an employee of more than 1 billion yen (USD 6.6 million) from customers' safe deposit

The bank, formally known as Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc., said Monday that it was investigating and that verified thefts from about 20 of the 60 clients thought to have been affected amounted to 300 million yen (nearly USD 2 million). Compensation was being worked out, it said.

The thefts occurred at two Tokyo branches of the bank, from April 2020 until the end of October this year, when the problem was discovered. MUFG's president and CEO

reporters the female employee responsible for managing the safe deposit boxes and their keys is suspected of taking advantage of that position to steal cash and other valuables.

The case has undermined the customers' trust and confidence and shaken the very business," Hanzawa said. He apologised for causing concern and trouble to MUFG

MUFG said the employee admitted taking the money and using it for investments She was fired and was coopnal probe and a police investigation but has not yet been arrested. After news of the thefts sur- Hayashi.

foundation of our banking

and her personal purposes. erating with the bank's inter-

Junichi Hanzawa told faced, dozens more people came forward claims of suspected losses that the bank is working to verify, it said.

The MUFG case is the second recent one involving criminal activity at a major Japanese

financial institution.
In November, Nomura Holdings acknowledged that a former employee had been arrested on suspicion of robbery, attempted murder and arson targeting a client in Hiroshima.

Asked about the MUFG thefts, the chief government spokesman said Monday that banking operations require high levels of trust and a sense of public service.

The case was "extremely regrettable," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa

But as with Mickey Mouse last



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends his trial on corruption charges at the district court in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday.

## Popeye, Tintin enter public domain in 2025 along with novels from Faulkner, Hemingway

**AP** WASHINGTON

Popeye can punch without permission and Tintin can roam freely starting in 2025. The two classic comic characters who first appeared in 1929 are among the intellectual properties becoming public domain in the United States on Jan 1. That means they can be used and repurposed without permission or payment to copyright holders

This year's crop of newly public artistic creations lacks the landmark vibes of last year's entrance of into the public domain of Mickey Mouse. But they include a deep well of canonical works whose 95year copyright maximums will expire. And the Disney icon's public domain presence expands.

"It's a trove! There are a dozen new Mickey cartoons — he speaks for the first time and dons the familiar white gloves,"

said Jennifer Jenkins, director of Duke's Center for the Study of the Public Domain. "There are masterpieces from Faulkner and Hemingway, the first sound films from Alfred Hitchcock, Cecil B. DeMille, and John Ford, and amazing music from Fats Waller, Cole Porter, and George Gershwin. Pretty exciting! Here's a closer look at this

year's crop.

Comics characters loom large: Popeye the Sailor, with his bulging forearms, mealymouthed speech, and propensity for fistfights, was created by E.C. Segar and made his first appearance in the newspaper strip "Thimble Theater" in 1929, speaking his first words, "Ja think I'm a cowboy?" when asked if he was a sailor. What was supposed to be a one-off appearance became permanent, and the strip would be renamed "Popeye."

year and Winnie the Pooh in 2022, only the earliest version is free for reuse. The spinach that gave the sailor his superstrength was not there from the start, and is the kind of character element that could spawn legal disputes. And the animated shorts featuring his distinctive mumbly voice didn't begin until 1933 and remain under copyright. As does director Robert Altman's 1980 film, starring Robin Williams as Popeye and Shelley Duvall as his oft-fought-over sweetheart Olive Oyl. That movie was tepidly received initially. So was director Steven Spielberg's "Adventures of Tintin" in 2011. But the comics about the boy reporter that inspired it, the creation of Belgian artist Herge,

were among the most popular

in Europe for much of the 20th

The simply drawn teen with

century.

appear until years later, and could, like Popeye's spinach, be the subject of legal disputes. And in much of the world, Tintin won't become public property until 70 years after the 1983 death of his creator. Books show American lit at its height: The books becoming public this year read like the syllabus for an American literature seminar.

"The Sound and the Fury," arguably William Faulkner's quintessential novel with its modernist stream-of-con-

sciousness style, was a sensa-

tion after its publication despite

being famously difficult for

readers. It uses multiple nonlinear narratives to tell the story of a prominent family's ruin in the author's native Mississippi, and would help lead to Faulkner's Nobel Prize. And Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms" joins his earlier "The Sun Also Rises" in the public domain. The partly autobiographical story of an ambulance driver in Italy during the First World War cemented Hemingway's status in the American literary canon. It has been frequently adapted for film, TV and radio, which can now be done without permission. John Steinbeck's first novel, "A

Cup of Gold," from 1929, will also enter the public domain. The British novelist Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own," an extended essay that would become a landmark in feminism from the modernist literary luminary, is also on the ture epic that includes Ford's

list. Her novel "Mrs. Dalloway" is already in the US public domain Movie legends in the making:

While a host of truly major movies will become public in the coming decade, for now early works by major figures from the not-always-stellar early sound era will have to suffice. A decade before he would move to Hollywood and make films like "Psycho," and "Vertigo," Alfred Hitchcock made "Blackmail" in Britain. The film was begun as a silent but shifted to sound during production, resulting in two different versions, one of them the UK's — and Hitchcock's first sound film.

John Ford, whose later Westerns would put him among film's most vaunted directors, also made his first foray into sound with 1929's "The Black Watch," an advenfuture chief collaborator John Wayne as a young extra. Cecil B DeMille, already a Hollywood bigwig through

silents, made his first talkie with the melodrama "Dynamite." Groucho, Harpo with and the other Marx Brothers had their first starring movie roles in 1929's Cocoanuts," a forerunner to future classics like "Animal Crackers" and "Duck Soup." "The Broadway Melody," the

first sound film and the second film ever to win the Oscar for best picture - known as "outstanding production" at the time - will also become public, though it's often ranked among the worst of best picture winners. And after "Steamboat Willie" made the earliest Mickey Mouse public, a dozen more of his animations will get the same status, including "The Karnival Kid," where he spoke

for the first time.

Music rings out the 20s: Songs from the last year of the Roaring Twenties are also about to become public prop-Cole Porter's compositions

"What Is This Thing Called Love?" and "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" are among the highlights, as is the jazz classic "Ain't Misbehavin, written by Fats Waller and Harry Brooks. "Singin' in the Rain," which would later forever be associated with the 1952 Gene Kelly film, made its debut in the 1929 movie "The Hollywood Revue" and will now be public domain. Different laws regulate sound recordings, and those newly in the public domain date to 1924. They include a recording of "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen" from future star and civil rights icon Marian Anderson, and "Rhapsody in Blue" performed by its composer George Gershwin.

the pioneer

## For first time in 8 years, US Navy ship makes port call in Cambodia

AUS Navy warship arrived Monday in Cambodia, the first such visit in eight years to a nation that is China's close ally in Southeast Asia.

Cambodia's government has

suggested the port call reflects

an upgrade in often-strained

The USS Savannah docked at

the port of Sihanoukville on the

Gulf of Thailand for a five-day

visit. The Savannah, classed as

a Littoral Combat Ship, carries

"It's great to be back, returning

US presence to here after eight

years," the ship's commanding

officer, Daniel A. Sledz, said in

brief remarks to reporters. He

was given a bouquet of flowers

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Manohar Lal Chadha S/o. Sh. Fateh Chand Chadha R/o. F-1/U-168, Vishakha Enclave, Pitam pura, Saraswati Vinar, Delhi-110034, Allottee/mutatee of Piot No. 35/9, Block-C, Lawrence Road, Indl. Area, New Delhi, vide Conveyance Deed duly registered as Document No. 27730 in Additional Book No. 1 vol No. 5043 on Pages 26 to 30 on dated 06.12.2013, in the office of the SR. New Delhi have Lost/ misplaced few documents of the aforesaid property i.e Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Position, Completion Certificate and others and are not traceable inspite of the best efforts. An FIR/NCR to this effect has been lodged in Crime Branch vide LR. No 2389644/2024, dated 11-12-2024.

f any person has any objection / claim regarding this can write to undersigned with proper evidence within 30 days of this publication failing which all rights, claims etc shall stand waived abandoned and my client shall be free to deal with same as absolute owner

same as absolute owner Gaurav Gambhir (Advocate) Gambhir & Jurists F-50, South Market, East Kidwai Nagar, N.D-110023 #9013351003

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Be it known to all public that my client Mrs. Suman W/o Late Sh.Nirmal R/o H.No.46,

Church Lane, Bhogal Jangpura, New Delhi-110014 has severed all relations with her son

Rahul Bhasin from all her immovable and

movable properties due to his disobedience and bad behaviour. My client and her family

members namely Sunny S/o Late Sh. Nirmal Bhasin & his wife Smt. Preeti and my grandson

namely Raghav Bhasin shall not be responsible

for his any acts (civil as well as criminal) and

Ch. Block New Delhi-110017, Mob.8585998377

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

It is informed to the general public that Shri Samar Pal Singh son of late Shri Babu Singh resident of BE-243, 2nd floor, Avantika Tehsil

resident of 8E-243, 2nd floor, Avantika lensil and District Ghaziabad passed away on 21/06/2019. After his death, his family consists of his wife Smt. Sushila, son Kapil Singh, daughter Yojana Singh and Meena Singh as heirs. Apart from them, there is no other heir. Deceased Samar Pal Singh has half when it the above meditated house, which is

share in the above mentioned house, which i

being sold by the above mentioned heirs

anyone has any objection, he can express h objection to the competent officer within 1 days of publication. Objection will not b accepted after 15 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/s. V. R. Consultants holding

registration Certificate No. B

0891/DEL/PART/ 1000+/5/9282/2017

under the Emigration Act, 1983 for export of

manpower, have closed our business with

In the event if there is any claim against

company or Proprietor/ Managing Partner/

Managing Director, the same may be

referred within 30 days of publication of this

Notice. Copies of the complaint may also be

sent to Protector General of Emigrants,

Ministry of External Affairs, Akbar Bhawan

ATHE PIONEER A

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Beauty Kumari D/o Jay

Prakash Prasad R/o Quarter

No-157, VTC R.K Puram, Po-

R.K Puram, Sector-5, New

Delhi-110022 declare that i

have changed my name from

Beauty Kumari to Ayushi

Prasad for all future

I, Sachin Kumar S/o Mr. Karan

Singh R/o 106, Meerut, Dungar,

Meerut, Uttar Pradesh-250502.

hereby declare that my son's

correct name is Yadvik Singh, that

my son's name pertains to the

one and same person Yedwik

Singh, and Yadvik Singh that now

my son's name should be known

as Yadvik Singh in future.

PD(1086)C

PD(1087)C

purposes.

Mr. Vinod Kumar (Managing Partner)

Satya Marg, Chankyapuri, New Delhi.

effect from 23rd Jan. 2023.

han (Advocate) Ch No 574

deeds in any manner whatsoever

relations.

a crew of 103.

shook hands with a line of her colleagues.

The United States for many years has had rocky relations with Cambodia, criticising its government for political repression and human rights violations. There is particular con-

cern about its close ties with

China, which Washington fears

may get exclusive access to a

Cambodian naval base on the

Gulf of Thailand, not far from

Recently, there seem to have

been moves to patch up rela-

Cambodia's Ministry of

National Defence said last week

that the visit was scheduled

after a US request for a port

where the Savannah docked.

by a Cambodian officer and shook hands with a line of her bilateral cooperation" between the two nations.

Two days before that, Cambodia's foreign ministry noted "positive momentum of bilateral ties and cooperation" and "the reinvigoration of military-to-military cooperation"

between Cambodia and the U.S.

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin visited Cambodia in early June, where he held talks Prime with Minister Hun Manet and other senior officials.

He also met with Cambodian alumni of US military training programmes. Hun Manet Manet himself is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point

A Cambodian flag flutters as USS Savannah arrives for a port call at Sihanoukville port, Cambodia on The US Defence AP/PTI Department said at the time that Austin's discussions concerned

'opportunities to strengthen the US-Cambodia bilateral defense relationship in support of regional peace and security, and other matters But Washington remains con-

cerned that the upgrading of

Cambodia's Ream Naval Base near Sihanoukville will serve call, and would "strengthen Beijing's and expand the bonds of strategic

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

RETIREMENT OF PARTNER FROM PARTNERSHIP FIRM Notice is hereby given to the public, that Mr. Robin Chanda a partner of the partnership firm M/s Hub Ads, having its principal place of business at 55, Second Floor, Lane-2, Westend Marg, Saidullajab, Near Saket Metro Station, New Delhi-110030, has retired from the partnership firm with effect from 30th November 2024. Any person having claims or dues against the partner is hereby requested to send their claims to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this notice. Similarly, those indebted to the firm are requested to make immediate payment to the authorized representative of the firm

Date: 17.12.2024 Place: New Delhi

Robin Chanda Mob.: +919650981703 E-mail : robin@hubads.in

PUBLIC NOTICE R/ O HOUSE NO.C-3, NIZAMUDDIN EAST, NEW DELHI-110013, owner/single legal heir of property bearing FREE HOLD DDA SFS FLAT NO.106,00 RGOUND FLOOR, POCKET, CSECTOR-19, CATLII, SITUATED AT ROHINI, DELHI-110085, VIDE DDA FILE NO. F.139 [10 12]91/SFS/RO/III, has applied for supplying the certified copy in DDA. All the original documents i.e. Demand Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Sip, Conveyance Deed & NOC for water and electricity connection and payment challans etc issued by the DDA R. NOC for water and electricity connection and payment challans etc. issued by the DDA of the above flat have been lost. An FIR/ NCR /LR to this effect has lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, New Delhi, vide NCR/FIR/LR. No.2402679/2024. Any person (s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 987.1096052 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-1,D Block, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

Public Notice.
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Mannu Shanker is the owner of Property bearing no. 2382 area measuring 12.61 sc, mtrs. in ward no. XII situated at Gall Pahiyewali, Teliwara, Delhi 110006 through Sae Deed dated 21.12.2023 doc. No. 2023/ Ihrough Sale Deed dated 21.12.2023 doc. No. 2023/ 19J/13884 executed by Mr. Rajesh & Sm. Geeta Devi & Smt. Reshma & Mr. Virender Kumar in favour of Mr. Mannu Shanker instepect of Said Property. Mr. Mannu Shanker instends to transfer the ownership of aforementioned Property by way of Sale Deed to Nand Kumar Mehto. Subsequently, Nand Kumar Mehto is mithe process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. Ld. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.). Any (Formerly Fullerton India Greatt Co. Ltd.). A bojections or concerns regarding this transacti should be raised within a period of 7 days from II date of this public notice. Any objections submitta after the completion of this 7-day period will not considered binding with respect to the said proper or the interests of our client.

or me interests of our client if anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@Ivnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Vinod
Goel had acquired House No. 62/8, measuring
132 sq. yrds. Plot No. 97, Khasra No. 202,
Khewat No. 1, at Ohkar Nagar B Tri Nagar, area of
Village Chowkir Mubarkabad, Delhi vide Regd.
GPA of 19.04.1983 executed by Mr. Tek Chand
along with ATS and read, will everylet by Mr. Shi along with ATS and regd, will executed by Mr. Shri Kishan and Mrs. Shanti and Now Mr. Vinod Goel is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company havin Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, ease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, parthers or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate 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 supportfine documents at below mentioned upporting documents at below mentioned ddress. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated ull 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

Public Notice Public Notices
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Man Mohan and Mrs. Charanjit Kaur are the owner of Property no. M-37, of Piot no.37, area measuring 72.1/2 s. yds. + 72.1/2 s. yds., out of Khasra no. 2062, skuiated in the area of village Tihar. Delhi state of Delhi abadi known as Hari Nagar, clock tower, New Delhi-110064, through Sale Deed dated 21.12.2001 doc. No. 11241 executed by S. Narinder Singh as GPA of S. Gurditt Singh in divour of Mrs. Charanjit Kaur in respect of Northern Haif Portion of Jolt no.M-37, area measuring 72.1/2 s. yds., out of Khasra no.2062and Sale Deed dated 30.10.1991 doc. No. 3601 executed by Mrs. Krishna Walt through GPA Mr. Madan Mohan in favour of Mr. Man Mohan in respect of Property no. Ni-37, southern Portion of Plot no. 37, area measuring 72.1/2 s. yds., out of Khasra no.2062. easuring 72.1/2 s. yds., out of Khasra no. 2062.

Man Mohan and Mrs. Charanjit Kaur hald all the other Floors except Ground Floor of S perty, and they are the process of mortgaging Ground Floor without Roof rights of the sai perty with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd rmerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.). Any

If anyone wishes to raise an outsulur procession within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting turbin the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at 0ffice No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@tvnorth.in

The US and others suggest China's navy is establishing a permanent base at Ream. which would give it easier access to the Malacca Strait, a critical shipping route between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Controversy over the Chinese activity at Ream initially arose in 2019 when The Wall Street Journal reported that an early draft of an agreement seen by US officials would allow China 30-year use of the base, where it would be able to post military personnel, store weapons and berth warships.

Cambodia's government has denied such an agreement or any intention to grant China special privileges at the base, though Beijing has funded its expansion.

In September, Cambodia's Defense Ministry said that China is giving its navy two warships of the type it has had docked there for months. China is set to hand over two newly built Type 56 corvettes - smaller vessels typically

the

patrols — next vear at the earliest, after Cambodia requested China's support. Cambodia's defense ministry said

Savannah's port

used for coastal

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan 'F' - Block, General Pool Office Complex, INA, NEW DELHI- 110023 Telephone No 011-24608801-04

Fax No. 011-24651505 Consumer Complaint No. 48 of 2023 Hardam Singh & Ors Complainants M/s Himalaya Real Estate Pvt Ltd

M/S Himalaya Real Estate PYL Ltd
Opposite Party
THE PURCHASERS/ALLOTTEES OF
THE UNIT/APARTMENT IN TOWER — D
OF THE PROJECT AS "HIMALAYA
PRIDE" SITUATED AT: PLOT No.10 B
TECHZONE-IV, GREATER NOIDA
WEST, UTTAR PRADESH DEVELOPED
BYTHE RESPONDENT.

BY THE RESPONDENT.
Whereas the above Complainants namely, Hardam Singh and Ors. Flat No D-4/14, Himalaya Pride, Noida Extension. Gautam Budh Nagar-201306, Utta Pradesh, through Mr. Paras Choudhary Advocate, Office at: Cabin No. 4.91 Plot No. D-107, Vyapar Marg, D-Block Sector-2, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, filed th captioned Consumer Complaint before the Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi, or behalf and/or for the benefit of all the consumers who have either booked of consumers who have been allotted an apartment in the above mentioned project, being developed & maintained by the Opposite developed & maintained by the Opposite Party namely - M/s Himalaya Real Estate Pvt Ltd, Plot No 10-B, Tech Zone-IV Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh 201306, for redressal of their commo grievances, and seeking the following

A. Allow the Present complaint and:

B. Grant permission to file the present complaint on behalf of the Allottees of Tower-"D" of the project titled as "Himalaya Pride situated at Plot No. 10 B, Techzone-IV, Greater Noida West U.P. under Section 35 (1) (C) of the Consumer Protection Act 2019 read with Order 1 Rule 8 of the Code of Civil Procedure 1908 Allow any aggrieved homebuyers

buyers of residential flats of "Tower-"E in project "Himalaya Pride" situated a Plot No, 10 B, Techzone-IV, Greate Noida West, U.P. to join the presen complaint for redressal of their dispute in light of the prayers made herein

Direct the Respondent to Offer complete/ lawful possession to the allottees of Tower'-D of the Project "Himalaya Pride" after obtaining requisite approvals such as Occupanc Certificate/Completion Certificate NOC's from the appropriate Authorities Direct the respondent to execut

conveyance deed of the apartment booked by the allottees of Tower-D of the Project "Himalaya Pride";
Direct the Respondent Delay Interest
@18% to allottees from the promisec

date of possession till the date of actua legal possession of the apartment to the allottees of Tower-D of the Project "Himalaya Pride". Direct the Respondent to pay the allottees of Tower-D of the Project that the Project of Tower-D of the Project that the Project of Tower-D of the Project of the Project of the Project of the Project of Tower-D of

"Himalaya Pride" Rs. 10 000 00/- (Ter lakhs) each towards damages for gross negligence, deficiency in service unfai trade practice committed by the Respondent and mental harassmen faced by the complainants

Direct the Respondent to Not to levy any maintenance charges from all the allottees of Tower-D of the Project "Himalaya Pride" till the receipt of the Occupancy Certificate for the project. Direct the Respondent to Return Direct the Respondent to Return/ Refund the sums paid by the allottees of Tower-D of the Project "Himalaya Pride" along with 18% interest P.A towards illegally charged maintenance charges by the Respondent. Award cost of litigation to the tune of Rs, 5,00,000/- (Five Lakh) K. Pass such other Order(s)/Direction(s) as "may be

other Order(s)/Direction(s) as\* may be deemed fit and proper under the fact and circumstances of the Present case
Pass such other Order(s)/Direction(s
as may be deemed fit and proper unde the facts and circumstances of th

Present case.

And whereas the Hon'ble Commission vide its orders dated 05.03.2024 & 08.08.2024 (Copy enclosed) is pleased to direct issue of notice of the institution of the above captioned complaint to all the consumers relates to Tower-D only in the matter. Accordingly all allottees of units in the above referred Project having the same grievance against the opposite Party, may appear before the Commission in-person or through an Advocate Authorized Representative on 07.01.2025 at 10:30 a.m. They can inspect the file of the aforementioned complaint in the office of the Counsel for the Complainant (s) and apply for being impleaded as a party to the

complaint. They may also note that the decision of the Commission in the captioned complain will be binding on all the consumers or whose behalf and/or for whose benefit the

iven under my hand and the seal of this Commission on this 12th day o December, 2024 By Orde

(Iqbal Ahmed) Joint Registra

call will include "a working meeting with the commander of the Ream Naval Base," as well as meetings with provincial officials and "a friendship

sports competition between

the crews of the US Navy and

the Cambodian Navy." Cambodian Navy Capt. Mean Savoeun, deputy commander of the Ream Naval Base, was among those dockside welcoming the Savannah to Sihanoukville. He said he was happy to see the good relationship between Cambodia and the US, especially their navies, and believed the visit will bring closer diplomatic cooperation.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients Smt **Meera Devi Gupta** W/o late **Sant lal Gupta** R/o T-1/ 7 Budh Vihar Phase-1, Budh Vihar <mark>North West Delhi india</mark> 110086 have disowned/debarred her Sor Abhilash Kumar Gupta s/o Late Sh Sant lal Gupta from all his movable and immovable properties and ceased all relations with them If anybody dealing with them, shall do so at his/her/their own risk, cost and responsibility. My client will not responsible in any manne

VISHAL VASHISHT (Advocate) Ch. No. 316 Lawyers Ch. Block, Rohini Court, Delhi-110085

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED ManiBhaynam

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)

Whereas the Authorized officer of ManiBhaynam Home Finance India Pyt. Ltd., a (hereinafte referred to as "MBHF"). MBHF, which has duly been Authorised by the Central Government, vide notification dated 17.06.2021, to be treated as a Financial Institution, for the purposes of the "The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2020 having its registered office at:- 2nd Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi-110049, unde

he provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security nterest Act. 2002 (54 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferrec

Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "ACT") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules

2002 on as per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereb cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge c "MBHF" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address Of Borrower/Co-Borrower : 1. Pushpa Devi W/O-Ashok Kumar, 2. Asho Kumar S/O-Mahipal Singh. Both R/O - H.No. 605-A, 1st Floor, Nyay Khand -11, Indirapuran

haziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014., Also At:- H.No. 607, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-20100

ulso At: Shree Sai Propeties And Construction Company 801 of, Nyay Khand 2, Indirapuram Ghaziabad 01014. **Also A**t : Flat No. 651-A, First Floor, E.W.S., Nyay Khand-li, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014. **Si** 

etails of Property: ALL THAT THE PIECE OF PARCEL OF FLAT NO. 651-A, E.W.S, 1ST FLOOR WITHOU

OOF RIGHTS, HAVING TOTAL COVERED AREA 19.505 SQ. MTRS., E.W.S., NYAY KHAND-II, INDIRAPURAM EHSIL & DISTRICT- GHAZIABAD. BOUNDED AS:- EAST: OTHER FLAT WEST: PASSAGE/FLAT NO. 650-/ IORTH: OTHER FLAT SOUTH:HOUSE NO. 652-A.

POSSESSION NOTICE [SECTION 13(4)]

Whereas: the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the CANARA BANK under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security

Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 09.10.2024 calling upon the Borrower M/S ALBATROSS PARCEL EXPRESS PVT. LTD. (hereinafter referred as

borrower) and Mr. TUSHAR GUPTA (guarantor) and Mrs. MEENA GUPTA (guarantor) to pay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs. 87,27,930.53 (Rupees Eighty

Seven Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paisa Fifty Three only

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property

described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 16th day of DECEMBER

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal

with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank for an amount of Rs. 87,27,930.53 (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakhs Twenty

Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty and Paisa Fifty Three only) and interest thereon

DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1. All the part & parcel of the Residential Flat, Measuring 138.91 sq. mtr. Entire 1st Floor (Without Roof Rights), Built on Property Bearing Plot no. 39, Block-B, Known

As B-39, Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, Boundaries: - East: 9.00 Mtr. Wide North: - Service lane, West: - Property No. B-38 South: - 9.00 Mtr. Wide

2. All Part & parcel of the Property located at 1st Floor Flat (Duplex Floor). Flat No. RL/26 Chaukhandi Village, Ganga Ram Vatika, Najafgarh Road, Tilak Nagar, New

Delhi-110018, Measuring:- 125.42 sq mtrs, Boundaries:- East:- Service Lane, West:- Road/Park, North:- Property No. RL-28 South:- Property No. RL-27

Directorate of Ports & Inland Water Transport,

Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone - A,

Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar

Phone: 0674-2300885, Email: - portsniwt.od@nic.in

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in

vithin 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

Date: 16-12-2024, Place: Delhi

01. Name of the Work

02. Bid Identification No.

04. Approximate Value of Work

Bid Document in the portal

Bid Document in the portal

03. No. of Covers

05. Tender Paper Cost

06. Period of completion

in the portal

Technical Bid (Cover-I)

OIPR-38035/11/0012/2425

JJ-34

Authorised Officer ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd

REGIONAL OFFICE, WEST DELHI,

PHONE: 011-2845099, 9821711328

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

:- Improvement of Passenger Jetty at Mahensha

Puri District, Odisha.

:- DPIWT-09/2024-25

:- Rs.13.50 Crore

:- Rs.10,000,00

Date & Time of availability of :- 17.12.2024 to 02.01.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.

Date & Time of submission of :- 17.12.2024 to 02.01.2025 up to 05.00 P.M.

Date & Time of Bid Clarification :- 17.12.2024 to 23.12.2024 up to 03.00 P.M.

:- 18 (Eighteen) Months

:- Double

in Chilika Lake under Krushnaprasad Block of

Io. 1 Also At - H.No.- 801, Gf, Nyay Khand-Ii, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014.

and Notice Dated: 04-Oct-2024, Date of Possession: 12.12.2024

ount of Demand Notice: Rs.11,12,581.67/- as on 25-Sep-2024

केगरा वैक Canara Bank 📣

### **MEDICAL RESEARCH TRUST Public Notice - Environmental Clearance**

NIROGI CHARITABLE AND

It is for the information of general public that Nirogi Charitable And Medical Research Trust, Patpargani, New Delhi has been granted Environmental Clearance by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for the construction of new hospital at Community Facility Institutional Complex, Mandawali Fazalpur, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 vide EC identification No. EC24C3804DL5173605N dated 11.12.2024.

The copy of environmental clearance is available on Parivesh Portal of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the website of Max Healthcare Institute Ltd.

Links are appended below:

https://parivesh.nic.in/newupgrade/#/trackYourProposal

https://www.maxhealthcare.in/environmental-clearances

The interested person can also contact the following;

#### Nirogi Charitable and Medical Research Trust

Community Facility Institutional Complex, Mandawali Fazalpur, Patpargani, Delhi-110092

Phone: 011 4303 3333, 011 7124 1000

www.maxhealthcare.in

#### केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 📣 Branch

#### **DEMAND NOTICE (SECTION 13(2))**

Ref: CB2455/SARFAESI/POONAMSHARMA/2024/1

1.Mrs. POONAM SHARMA (BORROWER), ADD:- PLOT NO. 70, FIRST FLOOR, POCKET-09, SECTOR-22, ROHINI, NEW DELHI PIN CODE - 110086

VIKASPURI

2.Mr. PARVEEN SHARMA (CO-BORROWER) ADD:- PLOT NO. 70, FIRST FLOOR, POCKET-09, SECTOR-22 ROHINI, NEW DELHI PIN CODE - 110086 ALSO AT

3. M/S FISH EYE SPORTS, ADD:-KH. NO. 102/21 A3, FF PH-2, RAJIV NAGAR, NEW DELHI- 110086 Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, VIKASPURI Branch (hereinafter referred to as the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to

That Mrs. POONAM SHARMA & Mr. PARVEEN SHARMA (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower/Co-Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above

mentioned agreements. That ... (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for

credit facilities up to the limit of with interest thereon You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets

which are detailed in Schedule 8 hereunder. However, From SEPTEMBER 2024 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit

facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs 60.18,223.99 (Rupees: Sixty Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Three & Paisa Ninety Nine Only), the details of which ogether with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the prower/Guarantor having falled to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/les having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 05.12.2024 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to

repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by ssuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of Interest as mentioned in Schedule C per annum together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues. Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs

60,18,223.99 (Rupees: Slxty Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Three & Paisa Ninety Nine Only), together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under subsection (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue.

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in subsection (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely (a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of

lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset; (b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease,

assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable.

the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of

sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor, in this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or emedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

SCHEDULE -A [Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

91 MD	Luan no	Mathre of Four Figure	Date of sancoon	Amount	
1	160001464475	HOME LAON	28.02.2023	45,75,000.00	
2.	164003242653	HOME LOAN SECURE	23.03.2023	3,98,512.00	
3.	125003723343	MSME OD/OCC	21.06.2024	10,00,000.00	
			Total:	59,73,512.00	
		The second secon	EDULE -B	To the second second	
		DETAILS OF	SECURITY ASSE	ISI	

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY** SI No. Name of Title holder All the part & parcel of the Residential property at Entire First Floor (without Roof Rights), Part of Freehold Built Up property bearing No. 70. Pocket -9. Sector-22. Situated in the layout plan of Rohini Residential Scheme, Rohini, Delhi-110086, Measuring:- 90.00 sq. mtr. Boundaries.

South: - Entry

SI No.

East.- Plot No. 71 West:- Plot No. 69, North:- Service Land MOVABLES

Name of Title holder | CERSAI DETAILS Mrs. FISH EYE Asset id-200070660968 SPORTS

**AUTHORIZED OFFICER** 

Mrs. POONAM

SHARMA

W/O PARVEEN

SHARMA

CERSAI DETAILS

Asset Id-

200070558066

Security Interest

Id-400069386378

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY HYPOTHECATION OF STOCK AND INVENTARIES Security interest (Prop. Mrs. POONAM id-400069482570 SHARMA) SCHEDULE - C DETAILS OF LIABILITY AS ON DATE!

SL LOAN NO NATURE OF LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON RATE OF INTEREST NO LOAN/LIMIT DATE 06.12.2024 Rs. 45,04,421/-{Principal} 9.00% + (PENAL INTEREST) 160001464475 HOME LOAN + Rs. 1,24,469/- (Interest Rs. 3,80,465/- (Principal) 2. 164003242653 HOME LOAN 9.35% + (PENAL INTEREST) + Rs. 9,254/- (Interest) 125003723343 Rs. 9,99,614,99 (Principal) 11.50% + (PENAL MSME OD/OCC + NIL (Interest) INTEREST) TOTAL Rs. 58,84,500.99 (Principal) + Rs. 1,33,723.00 (Interest)

The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only. Director

Pin-751023 Phone-0674-2390355, Fax-2396885,

Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids :- 02.01.2025 up to 05.00 P.M. :- 'A' & 'Special' Class Contractor

12. Class of Contractor Date & Time for opening of :- 03.01.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

10. Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting :- 24.12.2024 at 03.30 P.M

14. Name and Address of the Officer :- Director, Ports & Inland Water Transport, Inviting Tender (O.I.T) Fortune Tower, Ground Floor, Zone-A, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha,

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

e-Mail:- portsniwt.od@nic.in

# **Sensex falls 385 points**

 $B^{\rm enchmark\ indices\ Sensex}_{\rm and\ Nifty\ closed\ lower\ on}$ Monday due to weak global cues amid caution ahead of the US Fed interest rate decision later this week.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex declined 384.55 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 81,748.57. During the day, it dropped 581.84 points or 0.70 per cent to 81,551.28.

The NSE Nifty lost by 100.05 points or 0.40 per cent to 24,668.25

From the 30-share Sensex blue-chip pack, Titan, Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and JSW Steel were the biggest laggards.

On the other hand, IndusInd Bank, Bajaj Finance, Power Grid, Mahindra & Mahindra and Axis Bank were the gain-



In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were quoting in the red. Wall Street ended mostly lower on Friday. Meanwhile, wholesale pricebased inflation declined to a three-month low of 1.89 per cent in November on cheaper food items.

Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 2,335.32 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.75 per cent to USD 73.91 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 843.16 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 82,133.12 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 219.60 points or 0.89 per cent

## Rupee falls 9 paise to all-time low of 84.89 against US dollar

The rupee depreciated by 9 paise to close at an alltime low level of 84.89 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, dragged down by a negative trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee declined on weak domestic markets and rising US bond yields. However, a soft US dollar cushioned the downside.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.83 and touched 84.89 against the greenback during intraday trade. The unit finally ended the session 9 paise down at 84.89 (provisional) against the dollar.

On Friday, the rupee rebounded from its all-time low level and settled with a gain of 8 paise at 84.80 against the US dollar.

The unit's previous all-time low level was recorded on December 12 when it closed at 84.88 against dollar.



trade with a negative bias on rising odds of a rate cut by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) and

prices may also weigh on the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary Asset Sharekhan.

However, FII inflows and

support the rupee at lower

On the domestic macroeconomic front, wholesale pricebased inflation declined to a 3-month low of 1.89 per cent

in November on cheaper food

Retail inflation declined in November to 5.48 per cent and came within the Reserve Bank's comfort zone mainly due to easing food prices, creating headroom for a rate cut at the central bank's rate-setting panel meeting under new Governor Sanjay Malhotra in February.

"Traders may take cues from PMI and Empire State Manufacturing Index data from the US. Investors may watch out for the FOMC meeting decision later this week. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 84.65 to 85.05," Choudhary

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading marginally lower by 0.14 per cent

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.78 per cent to USD 73.91 per barrel in

futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share benchmark index Sensex closed lower by 384.55 points or 0.47 per cent at 81,748.57 points. The Nifty was down 100.05 points, or 0.4 per cent,

to 24,668.25 points.
Foreign Institutional
Investors (FIIs) purchased Rs
2,335.32 crore in the capital markets on net basis on Friday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, India's forex reserves dropped by USD 3.235 billion to USD 654.857 billion for the week ended December 6, the RBI said on

In the preceding week, the reserves had increased by USD 1.51 billion to USD 658.091 billion, ending a multi-week decline in the

## Indian IT services hiring to remain low till growth momentum picks up by H2 FY26: ICRA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hiring in the Indian IT services industry is expected to remain low-key in the near term until the growth momentum picks up by H2 FY2026, according to ICRA.

The formation of the new government in the US may create some policy uncertainty in the immediate term and thus will remain moni torable, it said.

Lower discretionary tech spends by customers in key markets of the US and Europe, amid an uncertain macroeconomic environment, has led to moderation in demand for Indian IT services companies over the last 6-8 quarters. Factors such as lower employee attrition and a focus on increasing employee utilisation also contributed to the slowdown in hiring.

"While there has been some recovery in Q2 FY2025, ICRA expects hiring to remain low in the near term until the growth momentum picks up by H2 FY2026," the agency



Moderation in demand coupled with the increase in utilisation of excess manpower added during FY2022-FY2023 exerted pressure on hiring by IT services companies through FY2024 and Q1

Coupled with an increase in attrition levels, this also led to negative net employee addition for the seven quarters till Q1 FY2025 for ICRA's sample set companies, which includes HCL Technologies, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra and Wipro Ltd.

As Gen AI makes rapid inroads, all leading IT services companies are upskilling their employees as they explore Al-driven business opportunities. This is likely to lead to an overall moderation in fresh hiring, as compared to pre-Covid levels, it pre-

ICRA said that the impact of higher adoption of Generative AI (Gen AI) on improving employee productivity is expected to be visible over the next few years.

Average revenue in USD per employee for the sample set has largely been stable at around USD 50,000 over FY2020-FY2024.

However, this metric will show steady improvement if assessed on revenue in rupee terms due to depreciation of the rupee against some key foreign currencies over this

The last twelve-month (LTM) attrition rate had peaked at about 23 per cent đuring Q4 FY2022 and Q1 FY2023, led by significant hiring and subsequent demand-supply mis-

However, it sequentially tapered with lower hiring by IT services companies amid moderation in demand in key markets of the US and Europe. The LTM attrition rate for ICRA's sample set companies started stabilising from Q3 FY2024 at about 13 per cent, much lower than the pre-pandemic level of about 18 per cent in Q1 FY2020 for the sample set companies.

## Historic milestone: Delhi airport first in India to connect 150 destinations

PNS NEW DELHI

Delhi Airport has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first airport in India to connect 150 destinations and a preferred gateway for passengers. Thai AirAsia X has launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi Airport.The route will operate with Airbus A330 aircraft at a 2x weekly frequency, increasing to 4x weekly by mid-January 2025. In a statement, Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) said it has become the first airport in the country to connect 150 destinations. Over the years, Delhi Airport has added more than 20 exclusive international destinations, including Phnom Penh, Bali Denpasar, Calgary, Montreal, Vancouver, Washington Dulles, Chicago O'Hare, Tokyo Haneda, etc. "Of all the long-haul destina-tions from India, 88 per cent of destinations are connected from Delhi and 56 per cent of



departing from India, operate from Delhi. "Almost 50 per cent (42 per cent to be precise) of long-haul passengers from India chose Delhi airport as their gateway," it said. The airport handles around 1,400 flight movements daily. 'In the last decade, the airport has experienced a 100 percent increase in transfer passengers, solidifying its position as

destinations from India, 88 percent of destinations are connected from Delhi & 56 percent of all long-haul weekly flights departing from India, operate from Delhi. Almost 50 percent (42 percent to be precise) of long-haul passengers from India chose Delhi airport as their gateway," it added.

"This milestone of connecting 150 destinations is a testament to our unwavering commitment to enhancing global connectivity and providing world-class travel experiences. We are proud to lead India into a new era of aviation and remain dedicated to being a hub of choice for travelers worldwide," said Videh Kumar Jaipuriar, CEO, Delhi International Airport Limited.

## JNPA, DGS ink pact for skill training in Vadhvan region

Leading container port JNPA on Monday said it has signed an initial pact with the shipping regulator DGS for providing skill development training to locals and project-affected people in the Vadhvan region, where a new greenfield port is coming up through selected Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs).

The facility, being developed near Dahanu in Palghar district of Maharashtra at an investment of Rs 76,200 crore, is being developed by Vadhvan Port Project Ltd (VPPL), a special purpose vehicle formed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) holding a 74 per cent stake and Maharashtra Maritime Board owning the remaining 26 per cent.

The pact between JNPA and the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) is aimed at empowering local candidates from the Vadhvan Port area by providing recognised mar-



itime qualifications in GP (General Purpose) Rating and certificate in maritime catering, enabling them to pursue careers as seafarers, the port operator said.

Supported through JNPA's CSR funding, with an estimated cost of Rs 2-3 lakhs per candidate, the initiative will cover training fees, accommodation, and boarding, it said, adding collaborating with DG Shipping and MTIs, the program ensures highquality training, including

shipboard experience, to create sustainable career pathways in the maritime sector while contributing to India's growing seafaring workforce. Besides this, another pact was signed between VPPL and the Dye Makers Association at Vadhvan to provide exclusive branding opportunities to the Association, it said.

"The signing of important Memorandums Understanding and the start of the Vadhvan Port skilling program represent an enor-

mous step in achieving our ed community empowerment. These programs are aimed at establishing long-term employment possibilities and promoting economic growth in the Vadhvan area, from giving youth skills as per their needs to providing branding, finance, and advanced training to dye manufacturers," said Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Chairman and Managing Director of JNPA

The facility, once completed, is expected to create 1.2 million direct and indirect jobs. In addition to this, JNPA and VPPL will also be singing an MoU with Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth for developing and implementing an integrated agricultural and horticulture plan for the selected villages in Dahanu and Palghar taluka of Palghar district as a part of the welfare activities for locals in and around greenfield Vadhvan port project, it statCompensation Policy is being designed to support the fishermen community aligning with the guidelines of the Maharashtra Government and funds to the tune of Rs 300 crore is allocated for the construction of two fishing

To support dye makers, the port operator, in collaboration with the Union Bank of India, has proposed a cluster-specific scheme with a concessional rate of interest and an attractive interest subvention scheme to provide low-cost funding, enabling artisans to invest in better machinery and scale

up their businesses. Additionally, initiatives will focus on technology upgradation through training programs on automation, AI, and advanced tools like AutoCAD and CNC machines to enhance productivity and competitiveness, it stated.

### Concord Enviro Systems' IPO to open on Dec 19; fixes price band of Rs 665-701/share

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

oncord Enviro Systems, Can environmental engineering solutions firm, on Monday said it has set a price range of Rs 665-701 per share for its initial share-sale, which will open for public subscription on December 19.

The initial share-sale is scheduled to close on December 23 and the bidding for anchor investors will open for a day on December 18, the company announced.

The proposed IPO comprises a fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 175 crore and an Offer For Sale (OFS) of 46.41 lakh equity shares valued at Rs 325.33 crore, at the upper end of the price band, by promoters and an investor. This aggregates the issue size to Rs 500.33 crore

Those selling shares in the OFS are, promoters -- Prayas Goel and Prerak Goel, promoter groups -- Namrata



Goel, Nidhi Goel and Pushpa Goel-- and investor AF Proceeds from the fresh issue

will be invested in Concord Enviro FZE (CEF) for setting up a new assembly unit for water treatment systems as well as its working capital requirement.

Additionally, funds will be in Rochem invested Separation Systems (India) Private Ltd to expand its manufacturing facilities and support activities, payment of debt, technology and growth initiatives, working capital requirements and for general corporate purposes.

At the upper end of the price band, the company's market capitalisation has been pegged at Rs 1,450 crore. Half of the issue has been

reserved for qualified institutional buyers, 35 for retail investors and the remaining 15 per cent for non-institutional investors. Concord Enviro Systems is an integrated solutions provider for industrial waste water reuse and zero liquid discharge solutions, with an in-house position across the value chain. The company's reach extends to diverse regions with exports to countries in North America, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and

Southeast Asia. Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors and Equirus Capital are the book running lead managers to the issue. The equity shares of the company are expected to be listed on December 27 on the NSE and

### Project of Rs. 35.5 lakh sanctioned to **GNDU's Assistant Professor**

PNS AMRITSAR

research project has been Agranted to Dr. Amanpreet Kaur, Assistant Professor (Contractual), Department of Mathematics, Guru Nanak Dev University to develop efficient estimators of population parameters of sensitive study character in survey sampling using randomized response tech-

The project is sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, under WISE PDF Scheme that has sanctioned Rs. 35.5 lakh to carry out the research work under the mentorship of Dr. Lovleen Kumar Grover, Associate Professor,

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Dr. Palwinder Singh, Dean Acadeimc Affairs said that this research will help in the development of estimators for population parameters of sensitive variables that may be used for government policy making decisions.

Department of Mathematics,

Vice-Chancellor, Karamjeet Singh congratulated on her achievement. Prof. Palwinder Singh, Dean Academic Affairs and Prof. K.S. Kahlon, Registrar also congratulated her. Dr. Amanpreet Kaur is thankfull to the Vice Chancellor & other officials for providing the infrastructure and support.

### **GNDU** Music Department pays tribute to Zakir Hussain ing a special place to Tabla

The Department of Visual and Performing Arts of the Guru Nanak Dev University organized a Tribute Ceremony on the occasion of the eternal departure of the World Renowned legendary Tabla Player of India, Ustad Zakir Hussain Khan Sahib.

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Head of the Department, while gar-landing on the picture of late Ustad Zakir Hussain said that although Ustad Zakir Hussain Ji has left us physically but he will remain alive in the hearts and memories of every music lover due to his contribution to the field of music and giv-

playing as a solo Vadan. Along with this, he also moti-

vated the students to move forward by learning and taking inspiration from the lives of these personalities. After this, the departmental faculty Dr. Murli Manohar, Sh. Siddhartha Chatterjee, Dr. Gavish, Dr. Harmeet Singh,

Dr. Priyanka Arora, Dr. Ramandeep Kaur, S. Gunveer Singh and research scholars Satnam Singh, Hasandeep Singh, Krishan Singh and other students also paid their tributes to Ustad Zakir Hussain Ji and prayed that God may grant his soul a

## WPI inflation declines to 3-month low of 1.89 pc on cheaper food, RBI may cut rate in Feb

PTI ■ NEW DELHI,

Wholesale price based inflation declined to a 3month low of 1.89 per cent in November on cheaper food items, and experts predicted a 0.25 per cent interest rate cut by the RBI in the policy review in February. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 2.36 per cent in October 2024. It was 0.39 per cent in November, last year. In August,

2024, it was 1.25 per cent. As per the data, inflation in food items eased to 8.63 per cent in November, as against 13.54 per cent in October. The decline was led by a dip in vegetable inflation which stood at 28.57 per cent, as against 63.04 per cent in October.



Inflation in potato, however, continued to be high at 82.79 per cent, while in onion it fell sharply to 2.85 per cent in

November. The fuel and power category witnessed a deflation of 5.83 per cent in November, against deflation of 5.79 per cent in October. In manufactured items, inflation was 2 per cent

in November, against 1.50 per cent in October.

In a research note, Barclays said wholesale price inflation softened in November, on lower primary food inflation, which more than offset higher inflation seen in manufactured

"December to date, global prices are up 0.7 per cent and are likely to push December WPI inflation higher," Barclays As per the consumer price

index data released last week,

retail inflation moderated to 5.5

per cent in November, com-

pared with 6.2 per cent in October. Barclays said this is within the monetary policy committee's (MPC) tolerance band of 2-6 per cent indicating that CPI

inflation will be drifting closer to the 4 per cent target by March 2025. "We expect the MPC to cut the

policy repo rate by 25bps in its February meeting. We are mindful of the almost newlooking MPC that will be in charge of this decision," Barclays said.

the pioneer

# **Manchester United stuns Manchester City with 2-1 win**

mad Diallo struck a 90thwinner Manchester United staged a stunning late comeback to beat Manchester City 2-1 in the

Premier League. Four-time defending champion City led the Manchester derby 1-0 going into the 88th minute at the Etihad Stadium. But the game was turned round in dramatic fashion as Bruno Fernandes leveled from the penalty spot and Diallo sealed victory for United — prompting head coach Ruben Amorim to declare "something magic happened."

"It was a very tough match but we believe until the end. We managed to score. We needed that win. It was important for us and for our fans," Amorim said.

City fans jeered at the final whistle as their once dominant team's woeful run of form extended to one win and eight losses in 11 games.

"I'm the boss, I'm the manager and I'm not good enough. It's as

simple as that," Guardiola said. It was a first derby victory for new United head coach Ruben Amorim, who led Sporting Lisbon to a 4-1 win against City in one of his last games in charge of the Portuguese club in November. But for a long time it looked like being a third-straight league loss for United after Josko Gvardiol's headed goal in the 36th.

Fernandes was guilty of missing the target when through on goal in the second half and United struggled to create chances against a City team that rarely looked like adding to its lead.

But in a dramatic end to the match, Diallo raced after an underhit backpass from Matheus Nunes. Nunes then brought down the United forward in the box and referee Anthony Taylor pointed to the penalty spot.

Fernandes made no mistake this time - sending Ederson the wrong way.

Moments later, Diallo ran onto a long pass from Lisandro Martinez, flicked the ball high and past Ederson before rolling it



into the net from a tight angle. United is 13th and five points behind fifth-place City, which has seen its title defense unravel "We have a lot to do but it was massive for our fans," Amorim during its losing run.

"This is a big club and in a big club when you lose eight in 10 (11) something wrong happening," Guardiola said.

CHELSEA CHALLENGE Chelsea, in second, closed the gap

on Liverpool to two points after a 2-1 win against Brentford. It's now seven straight wins in all competitions for Enzo Maresca's team, which is unbeaten in 10. It's last league defeat was in October

— a 2-1 loss to Liverpool.

Marc Cucurella scored in the 43rd and Nicolas Jackson made it 2-0 in the 80th for his ninth goal of

the season.

Bryan Mbeumo scored for Brentford in the 90th and Cucurella was sent off for a second yellow card in added time. Chelsea is four points ahead of third-place Arsenal.

MARTIN FIRED

Southampton fired manager

Southampton fired manager Russell Martin after being routed

5-0 by Tottenham. Last-place Southampton is nine points from safety and appears to be heading straight back to the second tier after earning promotion to the top flight last

The decision came on the same as another relegationWolverhampton, fired head coach Gary O'Neil. Wolverhampton is second to last in 19th.

Spurs scored all five goals against Southampton before halftime at St Mary's Stadium, with James

Maddison getting two. Son Heung-min, Dejan Kulusevski and Pape Sarr also scored. Tottenham moved up to 10th and is five points off the Champions

League places. SARR DOUBLE Ismaila Sarr scored twice as

Crystal Palace beat Brighton 3-1 in the Premier League on Sunday. The forward also provided an assist for Trevoh Chalobah in the win at the Amex Stadium, which lifted Palace four points clear of the relegation zone.

Brighton is ninth and without a win in four matches.

Palace went ahead in the 27th minute through Chalobah, and Sarr doubled the lead for the visitors in the 33rd. Sarr scored his second in the 82nd

before Marc Guehi's own-goal pulled one back for Brighton.

# coach Mikael Stahre

PTI ■ KOCHI

Kerala Blasters FC on Monday announced the termination of services of their head coach Mikael Stahre with immediate effect after a string of poor performances by the club in the ongoing Indian Super League.
Assistant coaches

Wesstrom and Frederico Pereira Morais have also left the club, along with Stahre. "The club sincerely thanks

Mikael, Bjorn, and Frederico for their contributions throughout their time with Kerala Blasters FC. We wish them nothing but success in their future endeavours," the club said in a statement.

"The new head coach will be announced in due course." Till the new appointment is confirmed, reserve team head coach and head of youth development, Tomasz Tchorz, and assistant coach TG Purushothaman will take over the responsibility of managing the first team.

The 49-year-old Stahre, appointed ahead of the current season, enjoyed a promising



start in the Durand Cup, but the Blasters suffered a lastminute elimination in the quarter-finals against rivals Bengaluru FC.

However, Blasters' campaign under the Swede has been a challenging one.

Kerala Blasters currently sit 10th in the table, with just three wins and two draws from their first 12 matches. They are on a three-match losing streak, managing only one win while losing six of their last seven games. Four of their seven defeats have come at home.

In total, the Blasters played 16 under Stahre matches (including four non ISL matches), managing only five wins while suffering eight

### Kerala Blasters sack head 'Completely and utterly blindsided': Gillespie slams PCB for lack of communication

**PTI** SYDNEY

 $F_{\text{Jason}}^{\text{ormer}} \begin{tabular}{ll} Australia & pacer \\ Gillespie & on \end{tabular}$ Monday slammed the PCB, revealing that he stepped down as Pakistan's Test head coach after being "completely and utterly blindsided" by the country's cricket board.

Gillespie, whose contract was set to expire in 2026, resigned last week and he expressed his frustration over the lack of communication, which led him to feel that the Pakistan Cricket Board no longer wanted him in the role.

"There were certainly challenges. I went into the job eyes wide open, I want to make that really clear. I knew that, you know, Pakistan had cycled through a number of coaches in a pretty short space of time.

"The straw that broke the camel's back, I suppose, was, as a head coach, you like to have clear communication with your employer," Gillespie told ABC Sport. "I was completely and utterly

blindsided by a decision to not have a high-performance



coach," he added. The PCB didn't review the

contract of Tim Nielsen, who was brought in on the recommendation of the former Aussie quick, as the high performance coach of

'Tim Nielsen was told that his services were no longer required and I had absolutely zero communication from anyone about that.

"And I just thought after a number of other things that had gone on in the previous few months, that was probably the moment where I thought, 'Well, I'm not

really sure if they actually want me to do this job or

Adding to Gillespie's frustration was the fact that the feedback given to him regarding Nielsen and the team's performance was positive.

'I developed a really close relationship with the Test captain, Shan Masood, and felt we were certainly going in the right direction and things were going really ' he said.

"All the feedback that I'd got or the feedback the PCB got was just how effective, you before at least the the game," he said.

know, Tim had been in his role as well and the players were getting a lot out of him." Gillespie guided Pakistan to a 2-1 win against England in October, after losing the first match by an innings and 47

first Test, he was informed that a new selection panel would be introduced, and he would not be a part of it. He felt his role as head coach was diminished and even suggested that he often didn't

know the team lineup until the day before a match.
This lack of clarity and communication only deepened his frustration with the PCB's handling of his

position. I felt I was basically hitting catches and that was about it on the morning of a game,"

he said. You want to be able to have

clear communication with all stakeholders, with selectors, for instance, knowing what the team is as head coach well before the game, or before at least the day before



**AP** ■ LONDON

The competitive imbalance in women's club soccer in Europe will be underscored this week in the final round of Champions League group-stage matches where little is on the line because of the dominance of the continent's

top teams. The eight teams advancing to the quarterfinals have already secured their spots with one round remaining: Lyon and Wolfsburg from Group A; Chelsea and Real Madrid Munich and Arsenal from Group C; and Manchester City and Barcelona from Group D.

All are either established clubs in the women's game especially Lyon Wolfsburg, the winners of nine of the 10 Champions League titles from 2011-2020 — or huge European clubs in men's soccer who have started to really pour money and extra focus into their women's teams in recent years. Madrid's women's team, for example, was only founded in 2020.

The only thing needing to be settled across Tuesday and Wednesday is which teams qualify in first place and which progress as group runners-up, though there might not be any huge benefit either way given the high standard of the teams going through.

The qualified teams play each other this week, with only Group A fully decided as Lyon is guaranteed to finish in first place with Wolfsburg second.

The two meet in France on Tuesday.

In Group B on the same night, second-place Madrid hosts first-place Chelsea and can jump above the English team with a win courtesy of a superior goal difference.

On Wednesday, Arsenal hosts Bayern and is one point behind the visitors from Germany in Group C. Bayern just needs to avoid defeat to finish top. Also that night, Barcelona is at home to firstplace Man City and must beat the English team by two goals

Growing gapThe lopsided results in the fifth round of games highlighted the gap between the so-called bigger and smaller clubs in the Champions League.

The eight teams advancing to the knockout stage all won their games, scoring a combined 33 goals and conceding a combined three. On the same night, Chelsea, Lyon and Wolfsburg each scored six goals.

Barcelona, the defending champion, has scored 23 goals in its five group games so far
— including a 9-0 win over Hammarby and a 7-0 thrashing of St. Polten in its last two outings.

Of the teams in third or last place in their groups, only one
— Roma — has more than

three points. The Champions League will

expand next season to 18 teams in a single standings, with UEFA hoping for same uplift that the men's Champions League has had since increasing to a 36-team

# map error at 2026 World Cup draw



AP ZURICH

IFA apologised to the FUR apologistal Ukrainian soccer federation for displaying a map during its World Cup qualifying draw that excluded Russia-occupied Crimea from the country's territory

"We fully understand the delicate sensitivity of this matter and while the incident was unintentional, we sincerely regret any concern it may have cause," FIFA's chief member association officer, Elkhan Mammadov, wrote in a letter

published Sunday by the Ukrainian soccer body.

Ukraine was one of 54 national teams included in the draw Friday in Zurich for European qualifying groups for the 2026 World Cup. Russia, which has been banned from FIFA competitions because of the military invasion of Ukraine, has illegally occupied Crimea since 2014. The peninsula was not colored as part of Ukrainian territory in a graphic broadcast during the headquarters.

"Are you OK, (at)FIFAcom?" Ukraine government spokesman Heorhii Tykhyi wrote Saturday in a post on social media platform X, adding: "We fixed the map for you and expect a public

Mammadov replied that the map was provided by an outside supplier and FIFA was reviewing how to "ensure such oversights do not recur in future.

Ukraine was drawn into a qualifying group with either France or Croatia, plus Iceland and Azerbaijan. The group winner will advance directly to the World Cup being hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, and the runner-up will enter a playoff in March 2026. FIFA and European soccer body UEFA banned Russian teams from international competitions February 2022, citing expected chaos because some European federations refuse to play games against

## FIFA apologises to Ukraine for Crimea | Edoardo Bove says he's 'feeling good' as he recovers from on-field collapse

**AP** ■ FLORENCE

midfielder  $F_{ ext{Edoardo Bove said he is}}^{ ext{iorentina}}$ "feeling good" and that the support he received from teammates opponents helped him recover after being placed in a medically induced coma. Bove collapsed on the field during a game against Inter Milan on Dec. 1.

"It's in moments like these that I understand how genuine this sport truly is and how, beyond the results, competition and rivalries, we are all connected," Bove posted on Instagram on Monday in his first public comments since the incident. "Connected by a bond that, once created, grows stronger during challenging times becoming almost unbreakable.

"I have experienced it firsthand in these last few days: the affection I've received, the warmth of the fans, the support from



teammates and opponents and the closeness of the ENTIRE football world gave me incredible strength and courage," Bove added. "I felt surrounded by positive energy, which helped me stay calm and not feel the loneliness that often comes with situations like this."

The 22-year-old Bove was released from the hospital on Fridav but won't be able to play in Italy again if he needs a defibrillator for his heart. Playing with a defibrillator is

But Bove could follow former Inter Milan Christian midfielder Eriksen, who resumed his career in the English Premier League after he went into cardiac arrest while playing Denmark at the European Championship in 2021 and had a defibrillator implanted. "I'm feeling good and that's

the most important thing!" Bove said. "See you soon... On the pitch!"

#### It's not just about chess, there's lot of emotional pressure too: Gukesh on world title Udhayanidhi Stalin for Viswanathan Anand to claim supporting him in his chess the world title. Anand played

teenager at his academy here. Accidental chess player Gukesh's father Rajnikanth, who is an ENT surgeon by profession, said he

a pivotal role in shaping the

encouraged his son to join chess sessions in the school as a hobby.

"You have to have interest and hard work, otherwise nothing will happen. We did not plan to make him a chess player, but enrolled him in Velammal school chess class as part of the extra-curricular activity.

"But we supported him once he showed interest and worked hard. As a parent, we tried to give him as much

what I can suggest to other parents as well. We should try to give as

much exposure as possible to

what your children are interested in," he added. Rajnikanth said Gukesh likes to continuously play in tournaments to ensure that he always remains in touch with the sport.

"Some players tournaments once in two months one month preparation and next month playing in tournaments. As far as he (Gukesh) is concerned, games are his

He learns from his losses and wins. If I don't give him a tournament for a month, he becomes restless.

That's his choice," he added.

#### PTI CHENNAI

His history-scripting world title was not just a result of good strategy on the chess said Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh on Monday, crediting mental conditioning coach Paddy Upton for helping him tame the "emotional pressure" of competing at the biggest

The 18-year-old Gukesh, who defeated China's Ding Liren to become the youngest ever owner of the world title, arrived here on Monday to a rousing welcome enthusiastic fans and officials. "In a world championship, it's not only about chess. There is a lot of mental and emotional pressure to deal with. Paddy's teachings helped me in that regard," Gukesh said in a press meet organised by Velammal important part of Vidyalaya, his childhood school.

Upton, a renowned mental conditioning coach, worked with Gukesh in the run-up to and during the the 14-game marathon event in Singapore. "The suggestions and the

conversations I have had with him, have been very important for me and my development as a player," he

Gukesh also detailed how his association started with the South African, who has the experience of working with the 2011 cricket World Cupwinning Indian cricket team and the national men's hockey team that bagged a bronze at understanding of how to do

"Paddy has been a

important part of my team. After I won the Candidates (April), I asked Sandeep sir Westbridge Capital) for a mental trainer," Gukesh mental recalled. "He immediately put me in

touch with Paddy Upton, who has a lot of experience with working performance athletes," said the youngster. In an interview to PTI a day

after Gukesh's win, Upton had lauded the teenager's 'selfawareness. "I think that's the thing that's

so," Upton said. ...He is a world champion really stood out, his ability to because he was able to manage himself and remain recognise his thoughts and focused and stay in the game even though he's 0-1 down manage his mind and his

right from the beginning. So that really is a mark of a champion," he had stated. Gukesh also thanked Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and Deputy CM

"Definitely, there was a lot of support from the Tamil Nadu government. Honorable Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister invite me home and encourage me whenever I

achieve something. 'The Tamil Nadu government sponsored me during the Chennai Grandmasters last year. They made all the arrangements. That's how I won the tournament and qualified for the Candidates. "If we get more support like this, I believe more chess

players will come. I am very thankful to the Tamil Nadu government," he said. Gukesh is only the second Indian after the great

exposure as possible. That's

oractice.

# Jasprit Bumrah defends struggling Indian team in Australia

**PTI** BRISBANE

asprit Bumrah on Monday defended the struggling Indian team in Australia and played down talk of additional pressure on him, saying it's a side in transition and given his experience, it's his shoulder extra responsibility.

Having taken a seemingly erroneous call of bowling first in the third Test at the Gabba here, India conceded a huge firstinnings total of 445 despite Bumrah returning 6/76.

In response, the visitors were 51/4 on a rain-hit third day with questions being raised about batters' technique and the quality of bowling, save for Bumrah.

"We don't, as a team, point fingers at each other and we don't want to get into that mindset where we are pointing fingers at each other that you should do this, you should do that," Bumrah told media after stumps when asked for his assessment of India's batting.

"We, as a team, are going through a transition, new players are coming here and it's not the easiest place to play cricket. Over here, it's a different atmosphere with this wicket being a different challenge so yeah, we are not looking at that." Bumrah, who leads the bowling chart in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with 18 wickets so far, defended the Indian attack amid chatter that he is not getting adequate support from fellow

"As a bowling unit, as I said, we are in transition so it's my job to help the others. I have played a little more than them so I am trying to help them," said the owner of 191 Test wickets in just 43 Tests. "Everyone will learn through it,

will get better and eventually will find different ways so this is the journey that you'll have to go through," he added.

Bumrah rejected suggestions that India's poor first innings scores were putting more pressure on the bowlers and on him.

"We have 11 players, it's not like that. I don't look at it that I have to do extra (work). As I said, we are a new team, a lot of new players have



come into the side. We have to be considerate and give them that cushion that they will learn from experience," he said.

"Nobody is born with all the experiences, nobody is born with all the skills. You keep learning, you keep finding new ways (and) you keep learning about your own game," he continued.

The Indian vice-captain said he has enjoyed the challenge of bowling on different pitches in Australia

"I always find different challenges very interesting. Because in the Test match that we played in Perth, the wicket was different. (At) Adelaide (with the) pink ball (was) different, the wicket behaved different, the ball behaved differently," he said.

"Here it is a little different because the wicket is at a level and the runup is low. In India we are not used to that," he explained.

'Don't like whinging, don't take opinions seriously' Bumrah said his primary target on

encountering a challenge is to tackle it instead of looking at

solutions.

"I look at how do I solve it, what can I do in this scenario rather than whinging or complaining or looking at someone else or pointing fingers that I need this

from this person," he said. Bumrah reiterated he wants to remain level-headed in dealing with success and failures and that he cannot carry the "baggage of expectations".

When I was a youngster, yes, maybe I used to take extra baggage of fans and opinions. But I don't take any opinions seriously," he

"I look at myself. I look at answers what I have to do. I give it my absolute best. If I have given it my absolute best, I will accept the results. (But) I cannot carry someone else's energy or baggage that people are expecting me to do the heavy-lifting," he gave a peak into his mindset.

'There will be days when I will not get wickets. Somebody else will do, so I will have to do a holding job," Bumrah added.



## Marsh admits being nervous at gully, hails team's bowling on Day 3

**PTI** ■ BRISBANE

Australian Mitchell all-rounder Marsh that conceded fielding at gully makes him "most nervous", particularly because of Cameron Green's excellent reputation in that position. Green is not playing in the

Border-Gavaskar Trophy owing to a spine injury, but Marsh has stepped intox that role with some degree of comfort, underlined by his flying catch to dismiss India batter Shubman Gill on day three of the Third Test

"Yeah, I think since I've come back into the Test team, when I feel the most nervous because Green is likely to go down as one of the best ever. If you drop one there, you're always compared to him," Marsh said during the post-

day press conference. Marsh's brilliant catch off leftarm quick Mitchell Starc led to Gill's dismissal for one as India ended Day 3 on a precarious 51 for four.

Any time I can do something like that -- I probably didn't even need to dive, to be fair -but I thought it had a bit of a moment, and it is a fun team. It's a great team to be a part of. "So, yeah, I like fielding there, but honestly, being at square leg is just as good?

Marsh was happy to see the hosts scoring  $4\overline{45}$  in their first

"I think when you get sent in and you make 450, it's always positive, and then I guess you earn the right to attack, especially early with the ball. Like I said before, now it's just about how do we try and take 20 wickets. We've got six more to get, and then we just assess from there.

Asked if they would enforce the follow-on, he said: "I think we've got six wickets to take first, but we know that we've got to take 20 wickets to try and win this Test and I guess all the conversations and all the planning will be, how do we do that. "So, hopefully the weather

holds off, and then tomorrow having a crack, and see where we get to."

After their humiliating defeat in the opening Test in Parth, Australia have been able to get on top of the Indian batters. "I think we bowled really well.

Today was no different, and we've been able to take wickets with the new ball, albeit the second innings in Perth.

"Our bowling attack has some great bowlers, and they're attacking, they look to take wickets all the time, and hopefully that can continue." Premier batter Virat Kohli once again fell prey to his longstanding vulnerability outside the off-stump, chasing a delivery pitched wide and edging it to the wicketkeeper Alex Carev.

## Mohammed Siraj bowling with a niggle

**PTI** ■ BRISBANE

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah on Monday revealed that Mohammed Siraj has been bowling with a niggle and praised him for fighting through pain during the ongoing third Test against Australia here. Siraj claimed two wickets in

his 23.2 overs in the first innings, and Bumrah, who once again emerged as the best bowler with figures of six for 76, credited his colleague for supporting the team despite the discomfort. "We (Siraj and I) have had

conversations but this was the conversation he had with me before we came here (Brisbane). When we came here in Perth, as well as the last game, he looked in very good spirits," Bumrah told reporters after day three.

"He was bowling well and he has picked up a fair few of the wickets. In this game, I will give him credit that he had a



little bit of a niggle but he still kept on bowling and still helped the team because he knew if he goes inside and he doesn't bowl, then that team will go under pressure.

"So I think he has got a great attitude and he has got a fighter spirit that the team loves," he said

Siraj looked in discomfort when he clutched his hamstring after bowling the second ball of the 37th over of Australia's first innings. The physio was called onto the

field and Siraj then left the field as Akash Deep completed

The 30-year-old, however, returned to the field on Day 2 and ended up taking the wickets of Australia skipper Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon.

'Í personally love that as well, that he is up for a fight and he always gives it all for the team. So I think that is the biggest positive for any cricketer going

"That he gives it his absolute

best on the field. And even when he is not 100% fit, when he has got a niggle, he is still fighting for the team. So that is a great attitude."

Keep running in, keep having a smile on your face'

Siraj has taken five and four wickets in the first two Tests in Perth and Adelaide but he has also been criticised for a lack of control over his lines and lengths, especially during the third Test, which allowed the Australian batters to get away early in their innings on Day 2. However, Bumrah has advised Siraj to just focus on the controllables

Yes, in terms of wickets and all, some days you will bowl well, the wickets will come as I spoke to him before. And some days you will not bowl very well but the wickets will follow. So it's all money in the bank," Bumrah said.

That is the conversation that I have had with him. That you keep focusing on your stuff, things that you can control."



## **Gavaskar urges Virat Kohli to refrain from** playing cover drive

**PTI** ■ BRISBANE

The legendary Sunil Gavaskar on Monday Sunil he (Tendulkar) had kept his patience and control on his urged India superstar Virat off-side game, scoring those Kohli to draw inspiration from Sachin Tendulkar's monumental 241 against Australia in Sydney in 2004 and refrain from playing cover drive in order to end his persistent struggle against deliveries outside off-stump. covers. On a rain-marred third day of the ongoing Brisbane Test, Kohli copped yet another failure when Josh Hazlewood had him caught behind for 3 as a struggling India ended at 51 for 4 when the stumps

were drawn. Gavaskar said Kohli, who has scores of 5, 100 not out, 7, 11 and 3 so far on this tour, need not look beyond "his hero" Tendulkar, who responded with an exceptional 436-ball 241 including 33 fours at the SCG when he too was going through a similar phase of getting caught behind during the Australia tour of 2003-04 Tendulkar's knock, for which he batted more than 10 hours, is widely considered as one of his best-ever as the legendary batter curbed his instinct to drive and scored the majority of his runs on the on-side.

241 runs at Sydney,' Gavaskar told Star Sports. "He did not play any shot on the off-side, or at least in the cover (region) because before that he was getting dismissed while attempting to play in 'The shots that he played

look at his hero, Sachin Tendulkar. The way in which

were pretty much straight or on the on-side," he added. Gavaskar said Kohli, who has wickets thrice on this tour, must look to defend every single delivery in the channel of the off-stump and find other scoring areas like Tendulkar did.

'Similarly, he (Kohli) should keep a control on his mind and on his game. If the ball is on the off-stump, (he should think that) 'I would defend it. would not try to score of it," Gavaskar said.

The legendary batter said Kohli should trust his bottom-hand play more than

going for his drives in order to banish his troubles. 'He has such a wonderful bottom hand play, with that

he can play in that area, straight midwicket," Gavaskar said.

## Isa Guha calls Bumrah a 'primate', apologises for her remark later

PTI BRISBANE

**T**ormer England player to Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as a "primate" during the third Test between India and Australia here, apologised for her racist remark on Monday

She said she was "deeply sorry" for choosing a wrong word to describe the India pacer's brilliant display with the

Guha made the comment in response to Brett Lee's praise of the Indian bowler after Bumrah dismissed both Australian openers on day two of the Test on Sunday. "Well, he's the MVP, isn't he? Most valuable primate, Jasprit Bumrah," Guha had said while commentating for Fox

'He is the one that's going to do all the talking for India, and why so much focus was on him in the buildup to this Test match, and whether he would be fit." The usage of the word "primate" by Guha

caused a social media storm, as fans



slammed her and forced the 39-year-old to issue an apology.

Yesterday in commentary I used a word

that can be interpreted in a number of different ways. I'd like to apologise for any offence caused," Guha said on air at the start of day three "I set myself really high standards when it

comes to empathy and respect of others. If you listen to the full transcript I only meant the highest praise for one of India's greatest players. And someone that I Guha, who is of Indian heritage and has

been in Fox Sports' broadcast team for her comments. "I'm an advocate for equality and

someone who has spent their career thinking about inclusion understanding in the game. "I was trying to frame the enormity of his

achievement and I've chosen the wrong word. For that I am deeply sorry," she added. "As someone who is also ... of South

Asian heritage, I hope people would recognise there was no other intention or malice there. I hope this doesn't overshadow what has been a great Test match so far and I look forward to seeing how it progresses. Once again, I am really, really sorry.

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who sat next to Guha when she issued the apology, praised her for addressing the matter live on air.

Former Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist was also there.

"He (Kohli) only needs to

## Kane Williamson makes 156 as New Zealand sets a target of 658 for England

AP HAMILTON

∕ane Williamson made 156 Kas New Zealand amassed a lead of 657 runs before both England openers dismissed to leave the hosts in a commanding position at the end of the third day of the third cricket test on Monday. To compound an already dimsal day for the tourists, England captain Ben Stokes limped from the field with a recurrence of a hamstring

Williamson's 33rd test century was his seventh at Seddon Park and his fifth in consecutive tests on a home ground on which he averages more than 100.

New Zealand finally was dismissed for 453 after leading by 204 on the first innings and in five overs before stumps England slumped to 18-2.

Tim Southee bowled Ben Duckett (4) off an inside edge in the second over of the England innings as the opener charged the veteran seamer who is playing his final test.

Zac Crawley (5) was dismissed by Matt Henry for the sixth time in the series, trapped lbw one over before stumps. Jacob Bethell 9 not out and Joe Root had yet to score were at the crease at the

"Whenever you take a wicket for New Zealand it's special," said Southee who now has 390 test wickets. "Playing for New Zealand has been such a big part of my life and it's been such an honor to do what I've been able to do.

"Hopefully the next couple of days will be a good couple of days but an emotional couple of days too." Stokes was bowling the second ball of his 13th over

when, on his follow-through, he clutched at the hamstring of his left leg. He immediately walked from the field with his hand covering the lower half of his face on which was etched both pain and distress. Stokes suffered a serious injury to his left hamstring while playing in The Hundred in August for the Northern



subsequent series against Pakistan. Ollie Pope took over the

captaincy in Stokes' absence. During his six-hour innings, Williamson overtook South Africa's Graeme Smith to move up to 17th place on the list of leading test run-scorers six behind another South African, Hashim Amla. He shared partnerships on Monday of 107 with Rachin

Ravindra (44) and 92 with

Daryl Mitchell (60). century came from 137 balls and his 150 from 196 balls, the third 50 from 59 runs as New Zealand stepped up its scoring towards an expected declaration. The entire first session on the

third day was lost to rain and a damp outfield. resumed at 1.30 with New Zealand 136-3, Williamson 50 not out and Ravindra 2.

Williamson scored fluently throughout the day, hitting 14 fours and a six in his century. He was typically powerful square of the wicket, particularly in his use of the

Ravindra was sometimes bogged down, at the start of the day when he added only a handful of runs in the first hour and later when he found his scoring options limited. At times England bowled to a

7-2 offside field which plugged some scoring zones. With wide gaps on the leg side, Ravindra tried to drag a ball from Matthew Potts outside his off stump through mid-wicket but edged it from the outside half of the bat to Brydon Carse at mid-off.

Mitchell joined Williamson and batted with more urgency which seemed an indication of an impending declaration. He hit two sixes and seven fours in his 60 from 84 balls before holing out to Matthew Potts in the deep to give Jacob Bethell his first test wicket.

New Zealand had a 500 run lead by 4.55pm on a day when play could go on until 7.30pm, under lights if necessary, because of the loss of the morning session. It led by 600 at 6.10pm but no declaration came.

## e-Procurement Notice for Road & Buildings Works Identification No.

52 Nos

o-893

1. Procurement Officer 3. Total No. of Works

office of the Superintending Engineer R.W.Division, Jaleswar

OIPR-25051/11/0005/2425

:- Approx. Estimated Cost ₹.0.84 Lakh to ₹.37.04 Lakh 5. Class of Contractor 6. Time of Completion

7. Avaliability of tender On-line for bidding

9. Date & Time of Opening of tender

:- 'D' & 'C' and 'C' & 'B' Class Two & Three Calender months ( As pe From 20.12.24 at 11.00 P.M. to 27.12.24 upto 05.00 P.M

Additional Chief Engineer R.W.Division, Jaleswar OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PURI** 

Letter No. 8940 / Dt. 12.12.2024

Due to some emergent circumstance the 1st corrigendum of TCN No. Tender Online-03 of 2024-25 / Dt.29.11.2024 is being made:

1) Revised period of availability of tenders. Revised period of availability of tenders online-03 of 2024-25/ Date & time of bidding on-line/ last date of seeking clarification/ Date of opening of tender papers are as follows.

24.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M Office of the S.E.,R.W. Division, Puri. 2) All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged

Superintending Engineer R.W. Division, Puri