motion against Shah in the

Rajya Sabha where the Home

Minister had said on Tuesday,

evening that Congress leaders

would have got a place in heaven had they chanted the

name of God rather than

following the fashion of

repeating Ambedkar's name.

In the Rajya Sabha, Minister

for Parliamentary Affairs

Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress of misleading the

country by using only a part of Shah's remarks made in the

Rajya Sabha and asserted that

the Home Minister had in very

clear words mentioned how

the Congress party had

(Congress) cannot use an 11-

12 second clip out of Shah's

entire speech and mislead the

nation," Rijiju said and stressed

that for the BJP, Ambedkar is

Leader of the House JP Nadda

too stood up in Shah's defence,

saying that Kharge was trying to "mislead" the nation

accused the Congress of

disdain and disrespect. Nadda

rejected Kharge's claim and

alleged that it was the

during his lifetime due to

which he had resigned from

Modi asserted that the

opposition party's "rotten

lies" cannot hide its misdeeds.

that

Parliament and

Ambedkar with

Ambedkar

and "malicious

insulted Ambedkar.

equivalent to God.

treating

Congress

disrespected

ecosystem"

the Union Cabinet.

MONEY 10
SENSEX, NIFTY EXTEND
LOSSES INTO 3RD SESSION
ON FOREIGN FUND OUTFLOW

BHUBANESWAR, THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

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Congress, BJP spar over Ambedkar legacy

massive confrontation A broke out between the Bharatiya Janata Partyled Centre and other ruling parties, and the Congress-led Opposition over Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on BR Ambedkar during his speech in Parliament on Tuesday, with the Congress and other opposition parties demanding resignation of the Home Minister on grounds of insulting the architect of the Constitution.

The attack from virtually all opposition parties, including Trinamool Congress (TMC), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Left parties and Shiv Sena UBT, led to adjournment of both Houses of Parliament and prompted the BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to come out in stout defence of Shah.

The hullabaloo in Parliament also spilled on to the streets of the national Capital and places as far as Maharashtra, Bihar and Tamil Nadu.

president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, DMK chief MK Stalin, Shiv Sena-UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav were among those who slammed Shah for his remarks.

Addressing a Press conference,



Congress SC ST cell workers stage a protest against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on BR Ambedkar in the Parliament, in Bhopal

Shah alleged that the Congress the past has also misrepresented his and even Narendra Modi's comments to spread confusion and mislead people. "I condemn the Congress for twisting facts. Why did it happen? It happened because leaders spoke on how the NDA governments upheld the Constitution and established with facts that the Congress is anti-Ambedkar, Constitution and anti-reservation," Shah told the

The senior BJP leader said the Congress also insulted VD Savarkar and blew to smithereens the values enshrined in the Constitution

"When all these facts came out, the Congress used its old tricks and made an effort to mislead the society by presenting twisted facts," Shah

Asked about Congress' demand for his resignation, the home minister said in a lighter vein that he can quit if this will make the Congress president happy but it will never solve his problems. Kharge, he added, has acted under Rahul Gandhi's pressure to be part of this "malicious" campaign against him by distorting his views on Ambedkar.

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien submitted a

13 dead, in ferry-Navy speed boat collision off Mumbai coast

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Tn a major mishap, as many **L**as 13 persons, including an Navy man, lost their lives, while more than 99 other tourist passengers on board a private ferry boat were rescued after it was hit by a speed boat belonging to the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea, off the Gateway of India south Mumbai on Wednesday.

Confirming that the mishap took place due to a hit by a Navy vessel, a Defence spokesperson said late in the evening: "At about 1600 hours on December 18 a Navy craft undergoing engine trials lost control and collided with a passenger ferry Neel Kamal off Karanja, Mumbai. The ferry was carrying passengers from Gateway of India to Elephanta Ísland. accident has reportedly led to the tragic loss of 13 lives including one Navy man and two Original Equipment Manufacturer personnel onboard the Naval Defence spokesperson said. The Navy pegged the number of survivors at 99. "The survivors -- picked up by the Navy and civil craft in the area -- have been transferred to jetties and hospitals in the vicinity," the Defence spokesperson said. The private boat named "Neel Kamal" with many passengers on board was on its way from the Gateway of India to the Gharapuri Island, where there is UNESCO World Heritage

Site of Elephanta Caves. The

Indian Navy boat had six

persons on board.



Search and rescue efforts were immediately launched by the Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and Marine Police. Four Naval helicopters, 11 Naval craft, one Coast Guard boat and three Marine Police boats are undertaking rescue efforts. Given that the collision between the two vessels was very intense, there were casualties from both the passenger boat and Navy

Owing to the impact of the hit, 'Neel Kamal' broke down, overturned and sank with the passengers on board thrown into the sea. Before long, the videos of the tragedy, clicked by passengers from other ferries in the vicinity, showed ghastly shots of people screaming for help, throwing their arms and legs to remain afloat or attempting to hold their near and dear ones from sinking in chilly sea waters. The mishap took place off the Raigad district, at around 4 pm, immediately after which a massive multi-agency Search and Rescue (S&R) operation was launched. "Accounting of all personnel is in progress along with S&R efforts in the the chief Navy spokesperson said. Teams of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Mumbai Police and Jawaharlal Nehru Authority are involved in the perations. Eleven Navy boats, three Marine Police boats, one Coast Guard boat and four helicopters are involved in the S&R operations.

Talking to media persons, the owner of the vessel, Rajendra Padte, said that the 'Neel Kamal' had departed on its regular tourism voyage to Elephanta Islands around 3.15 pm and barely a couple of hours later the mishap was reported. He claimed that his ferry vessel had no role to play in the



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pionee

NCR's noxious numbers: AQI is over 445

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi woke up to yet another day of toxic air on Wednesday as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) crossed a hazardous 445 (almost severe plus), landing in the 'severe' category. With a minimum temperature of 7.6 degree Celsius, dense fog enveloped the city, severely impacting visibility and making the already hazardous air quality even more dangerous. According to the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management, with 12.857 per cent transport sector is the key contributor to air pollution, followed by Industries (6.617 per cent), Road Constructions (1.85 per cent), Waste (1.23 per cent) and dust (0.913 per cent). Delhi has been experiencing toxic air quality for the past few days due to drop in wind speeds, allowing pollutants to concentrate in the atmosphere, according to experts. On Tuesday the city's 24-hour average AQI was 433 at 4 pm, against 379 on Monday.



Katra locals resume protest against ropeway project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti, Katra, relaunched their agitation on Wednesday by observing a peaceful bandh in the township in protest against the proposed Rs 250 Crore ropeway project connecting Tarakote Marg to Sanjhi Chhat, which leads to the cave shrine nestled in the Trikuta

To maintain the law and order situation and ensure the safety of the pilgrims the local police authorities conducted a march in the Katra town. During the day the pilgrims were seen facing hardships during the complete shutdown. The complete shutdown. transport facilities also remained suspended making it difficult for the pilgrims to commute from one place to

At the end of the first round of the four-day-long protests, the Sangarsh Samiti had given an ultimatum to the Jammu and Kashmir government to concede their demands by December 15, or else they would be left with no other option but to relaunch their

In the absence of any concrete assurance or dialogue between the different stakeholders, the Sangarsh Samiti decided to observe a peaceful bandh. A large rally, backed by various organisations, was held by the Samiti from the Shalimar Park to oppose the ropeway

Outgoing US Govt relaxes H-1B visas rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ **AGENCIES** NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON

Oprofessionals seeking a career in the United States (US) are likely to benefit the most as the Government there has announced a new set of rules for H-1B visas that makes it easier for American workers with special skill sets. It also facilitates a smoother transition from F-1 student visas to H-1B visas.

This positive development for qualified Indian professionals came late Tuesday in Washington by the Biden outgoing administration transferring

power. Donald Trump will be the next president of the US after a swearing-in ceremony on January 20. The updated rule, which takes

effect on January 17, 2025, will streamline the approval process, provide greater flexibility for employers to retain top talent, and strengthen the integrity and oversight of the programme. This move is likely to benefit Indians the most.

In recent years, Indians have cornered a lion's share of H-1B visas. The update would also benefit Indian students on F-1 visas in the US as the new rules seek to help them transition to

The rule, announced by the Department of Homeland



per their business needs and remain competitive in the global marketplace, an official release said. According to the DHS, the rule also extends certain flexibilities for students on an F-1 visa seeking to change their status to H-1B to avoid disruptions in lawful status employment authorisation for students

on H-1B visas. The changes

will help US Employers hire as

holding F-1 visas. It also will allow US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to process applications more quickly for most individuals who had previously been approved for an H1-B visa. It will also allow

H1-B visa holders with a controlling interest in the petitioning organisation to be eligible for H-1B status subject to reasonable conditions. The latest move by the outgoing Biden administration builds on its previous efforts to ensure that the labour needs of American businesses are met to reduce undue burden on employers while adhering to all US worker protections under the law.

'American businesses rely on the H-1B visa programme for the recruitment of highlyskilled talent, benefiting communities across the country," said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas.

"These improvements to the programme provide employers with employers with greater flexibility to hire global talent, our economic competitiveness, and allow highly skilled workers to continue to advance American innovation," he said.



Photo: Ranian Dimri/The Pionee

Kejriwal promises free medical treatment for senior citizens, post win

Lannouncement ahead of the upcoming Assembly Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal announced Sanjeevani Scheme which promises free medical treatment in government and private hospitals for all senior citizens aged 60 and above, if his party returns to power in the National Capital. If implemented, the scheme could prove to be a game changer in the competitive political landscape and will arguably be one of its kinds in terms of the welfare measures announced governments or the Centre. The pre-poll announcement of the new health scheme can be seen as an effort to secure votes and drum up support for AAP which is eyeing a third consecutive term in power in the capital.



Uran-Karanja, which falls in

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



restart? India-China talk peace

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $S_{ ext{the frosty ties}}^{ ext{tien}}$ between the two countries for the last four years, India and China on Wednesday agreed for crossborder cooperation and resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, data sharing on trans-border rivers and border trade. They agreed on the salience of predictable and amicable Îndia-China relations for regional and global peace and

prosperity. Announcing this, ministry of external affairs (MEA) said in a statement here, the 23rd meeting of the Special Representatives (SRs) of India and China, respectively Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, and Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, was held in Beijing on Wednesday. The SRs met in accordance

with the decision taken during the recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Kazan for them to meet at an early date to oversee the management of peace and tranquillity in border areas and



meeting, in Beijing

to explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. The SRs reiterated the importance of maintaining a political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship while seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable framework for settlement of the boundary question, and resolved to inject more vitality into this process.

This was the first meeting of the SRs since frictions had emerged in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas in 2020. The SRs affirmed positively implementation of the latest disengagement agreement of October 2024, resulting in patrolling and grazing in

November 11, staying at the

Ashok Hotel from November

11 to 13, a booking reportedly

Samal wins Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Eminent Odia essayist Prof Baishnab Charan Samal will be conferred the prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award 2024. The announcement was made on Wednes-

Prof Samal will bag the award for his book 'Bhuti Bhakti Bibhuti', which has been highly appreciated and chosen for the award for its far-reaching interpretations of extended spiritual concept. It also delves deep into a global outlook and deep human



popular for his essays in the was overwhelmed after the Odia language with high huannouncement. I have never man values and lofty spiritual portraved narrowmindedness through my cre-

ations," said Prof Samal.

Earlier in June, two other Odia writers were selected for two different prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi awards for the year 2024.

While Manas Ranjan Samal was selected for the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Sanjay Kumar Panda was selected with the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar. While Manas Samal was chosen for this prestigious award for his short story book 'Gapa Kalika', Panda was selected for his book 'Hu Baia', which is a collection of short stories in Odia.

Bishnupada fails to appear before CBI Remains incommunicado NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

 S_{enior} IAS officer Bishnupada Sethi, who was expected to appear before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday in connection with a Rs 10-lakh bribery case, remained untraceable, fuelling speculation about his whereabouts. On Tuesday, Sethi was

stripped of all his important portfolios and reassigned as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the General Admin-



ances Department. He is alleged to have been involved in tender-fixing linked to the Bridge and Roof Company and certain local contractors.

suggested that he was in New Adding to the intrigue, four Delhi on the scheduled date,



BU-7809) and spent about 30 minutes inside the premises. They were seen leaving with documents, prompting suspicions of their relevance to the ongoing investigation. Despite being summoned, Sethi has not presented himself to the CBI team. Sources

facilitated by the Home Department. Sethi's absence raises questions about his decision to skip the CBI summons in Bhubaneswar. Speculation persisted over whether he intended to meet CBI officials in

New Delhi instead.

Observers are closely monitoring the situation, questioning his movements and the circumstances surrounding his non-compliance during this critical phase of the investiga-

Rs 231-cr fraud

Pramila Mallik's brother Khirod in ED net

▲ he Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday launched extensive raids on the properties of late Khirod Mallik, brother of Opposition Chief Whip and former minister Pramila Mallik. The simultaneous raids were carried out in New Delhi and three places in Sambalpur in Odisha.

This action was part of an inquiry into alleged financial fraud amounting to Rs 231 crore. Late Khirod Mallik is a focal point in this investigation as he was accused of securing loans from different



national and private banks under questionable pretences.

His NGO, Bharat Integrated Social Welfare Agency purportedly misusing a significant amount of funds. Reports have surfaced suggesting that Mallik may have manipulated banking channels to secure large loans, which has prompted this robust response from the ED.

In Sambalpur, the raid was on at Khirod's residential building, an office of the NGO and another building belonging to him. In Delhi, the raid was on at the headquarters of BISWA office.

A case was earlier registered against BISWA with ED alleging fraud of crores of rupees and failure of non-repayment of loan. The NGO has also eign funds and its misutilisation. This apart, Mallik was also involved in the 'sattua' and 'pulses' scam during the BJD regime.

During BJD's rule, BISWA had availed the tender of supplying 'pulses' to all government schools for midday meal. He was also awarded many other government projects when his sister Pramila Malik

Several cases were registered against Khirod but were overlooked during the BJD rule, sources said. The ED suspects the involvement of many others and will expose the previous BJD government, it is learnt.

Sanitation worker returns gold bracelet to owner

A sanitation worker in Bhubaneswar has earned praise from all quarters after she returned a lost gold bracelet worth lakhs of rupees to its rightful owner.

The honest worker was identified as Saraswati Naik, a worker at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Unit-1 in the city. Saraswati, while discarding the waste, discovered an 18-gram gold bracelet amidst the debris. Instead of pocketing the bracelet, she ensured that it was safely returned to its rightful owner.

She promptly informed the authorities at the facility who then verified the ownership of the bracelet. Upon verification, it was learnt that the bracelet belonged to one Deepika Mohanty of the New Forest Park area.

Deepika had inadvertently disposed of her precious gold bracelet in her house dustbin which was later discarded into the garbage bin. Following protocol, the necessary verification was conducted, ensuring the bracelet was indeed Deepika's.

After getting her lost bracelet, Deepika expressed her heartfelt thanks to Saraswati and her team for their integrity and willingness to return the valuable item.

"I am extremely grateful for their honesty and commitment," Deepika said.

Railway job fraud: Aspirants duped of Rs 30L

1 held; main accused still at large

PNS CUTTACK

The victims have lodged a complaint in this connection at the Bidanasi police station in Cuttack.

Based on the complaint, police conducted an investigation into the matter. One of the accused, Daniel Raj, has been arrested in connection with the case.

However, the main accused Samarpita Choudhury is still at large.

As per the complaint by the victims, the miscreants took more than Rs 30 lakh.

"After coming in contact with another middleman, we gave money to Samarpita

Choudhury, her son Daniel Raj and her husband in 2022 as they promised us railway jobs. They also gave us joining letters and ID cards that were later found to be fake,'

alleged one of the victims. "They also sent us to a place for training. However, we didn't find anybody and only cows were grazing there. Later, we came to know that we had been duped. Subsequently, we asked her to return our money and she also promised us to return the amount. However, she has not returned any amount in the last two years. Rather, she threatened to eliminate us. Once, she also planned to kidnap me with help of goons in Baleswar. Around 40 to 50 youths have

Odisha sees surge in egg prices

Minister warns of action against hoarding

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik has warned that strict action will be taken against hoarding and black-marketeering of eggs in the State.

Speaking to the media, he admitted that prices of eggs have recently witnessed a surge in Odisha amid shortage due to rising exports to West Bengal.

As per Mallik, West Bengal receives shipments of eggs



from both Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. However, due to recent poultry diseases, it is only importing eggs from

"Owing to a disease outbreak in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal is completely reliant on us; hence, large quantities of eggs meant for Odisha are being exported to the neighbouring State," he stated.

The sudden surge in exports as well as increased demand due to winter has led to some shortage of eggs in Odisha, resulting in a temporary price surge which will soon be brought under control, added Mallik.

portedly taking steps to increase egg production. The government is planning to produce over 10 lakh eggs daily and is extending support to farmers for this purpose. The State aims to achieve selfsufficiency in egg production, the minister reiterated.

The shortage and rise of egg prices in Odisha comes at a time when potato prices have witnessed rapid skyrocketing in prices. However, in the case of potatoes, Odisha is overreliant on West Bengal, which has led the Mohan Majhi-led government to focus on increasing potato farming and

Utkarsh Odisha Conclave website launched

Industries Minister Sampad Charan Swain on Tuesday launched the website of Utkarsh Odisha Conclave 2025, which will be held here on January 28 and 29 next year.

The website https:// mio.investodisha.gov.in/ provides a one-stop platform for the stakeholders, industry leaders, industry associations and partners to register for various sectoral sessions.

The website also offers comprehensive insights into sectoral focus areas, a digital investor intent form, the event schedule and registration de-

Swain said, "The Utkarsh Odisha website is the gateway to register for the mega conclave. We invite all industry leaders, enthusiasts, and associations to join us."

He appealed to all stakeholders to register and invite their associates to participate, ensuring Odisha becomes the central hub for industrial growth. The Utkarsh Odisha Con-

clave is designed with various sessions spread across two days in two phases to be held in five different halls at the Janata Maidan here. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also likely to attend the business summit, officials said.

108-ft national flag inaugurated at RD varsity

been duped by them," he

 ${\cal A}$ 108-feet monumental national flag, installed by the Flag Foundation of India, was inaugurated at the Rama Devi Women's University here on Wednesday. The event was graced by Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and Odisha Legislative Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy.

Jindal Steel and Power (JSP) chairman, president of the Flag Foundation of India and MP Naveen Jindal joined the programme virtually. Flag Foundation of India CEO Mai Gen Ashim Kohli (retd) and Rama Devi Women's University Vice-Chancellor Prof Aprajita Chowdhury were present.

The towering national flag



stands as a symbol of unity, pride and respect for the na-

Singh Deo commended the efforts of the Flag Foundation of India in installing monumental national flags across the country and spreading the spirit of patriotism.

Surama Padhy also praised the effort of the Flag Foundation of India and Naveen Jindal. JSP president and head (Group CSR) Prashant Hota said, "Shri Naveen Jindal has always championed the right of every Indian to proudly and respectfully hoist and display the national flag."

This is the 158th Monumental National Flag installed by the Flag Foundation of India across the country and the eighth in Odisha.

Potato self-sufficiency plan takes a beating in Odisha As rotten, below par potato seeds supplied to

farmers PNS BHUBANESWAR

The potato crisis in Odisha continues despite calls for selfreliance by the State Government as farmers across several districts have allegedly received rotten potato seeds. Further, districts that have received better quality shipments stare at risk of spoilage owing to a lack of cold storage options.

Sources reported that a majority of the stock of potato seeds stored at the Horticulture Department office in Malkangiri had rotten away

with similar deterioration also being reported from various parts of Keonjhar district. As such, the State's plan to farm potatoes on its land is off to a rough start.

Towards the end of November, Odisha witnessed prices of the tuber skyrocketing amid blockage of shipments from neighbouring West Bengal, citing shortage and price control measures.

Subsequently, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Krushna Patra declared that the State would not rely on West Bengal and instead procure potatoes from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, shipments of which arrived recently. Meanwhile, on December 11, Deputy CM KV Singh



Deo announced Odisha's plan to farm potatoes on 15,023 hectares of land and become self-sufficient.

Farmers, however, alleged that the potato seeds procured by the State government are either rotten or of such poor quality that they cannot be cultivated for crops.

"I received a bag of seed

potatoes from the Horticulture Department but found all of them to be rotten. Such potatoes are of no use," alleged one farmer from Malkangiri who later returned the shipment. "Malkangiri had received

about 300 quintals of potatoes including the Kufri Jyoti variety but many of them were rotten. We have filed a complaint and will send back the poor-quality shipment and procure better ones soon," stated Assistant District Officer of the Malkangiri Horticulture Department Mahendra Majhi.

Meanwhile, in some places like Bhanjanagar in Ganjam and Telkoi in Keonjhar, farmers have started cultivating potatoes after receiving seeds,

with targets to cultivate potatoes across 180 hectares and 578 hectares of land, respec-

"We have already planted potato seeds in about 5 hectares of land and hope to harvest about 300 to 400 quintals of potatoes out of the 60 quintals that we received from the government and subsequently planted," said Maheswar Dehuri, a farmer from Telkoi.

Similarly, in Malkangiri district, potato cultivation is planned over 450 hectares of land. However, concerns re main over its storage once they are produced. To address this, the government has reportedly planned to set up cold storage facilities in every subdivision.

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

Adorable Mohan Majhi appears rather casual about admn

n September 2023, Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, a former Fi nance Minister of Andhra Pradesh, had said publicly that the very serious charges framed against Jagan Reddy were good enough to bar him permanently from contesting elections. He had told the media that Jagan is the biggest economic offender in India for having looted 2.50 lakh crore rupees after becoming Chief Minister. Jagan had used several superclever bureaucrats to commit the crime in a manner they all imagined would go unnoticed. So, one of the promises Chandrababu Naidu had made was to toss out Jagan's bureaucratic cronies like one discards garbage as these smart guys had helped him rob the State. Naidu had also promised the people to punish all the errant bureaucrats who had helped Jagan rule the State as a corrupt, malevolent autocrat.

So, when he became boss, he kept his promise and bundled quite a few rogue officials out of the system instantly. Several IAS, IPS and State-cadre officials got suspended



PATNAIK

or flung here and there purposefully to make them languish for the rest of their lives. The Naidu associates believe the courts will punish the crooks exemplarily, particularly Jagan, for having amassed wealth worth nearly Rs 1,00,000 crore quite when his father was Chief Minister and more when he ruled the State. The CBI has already established the fact that Jagan has acquired properties worth thousands of crores through fraudulent means. By now, properties valued at Rs 5,000 crore have already been attached by the Enforcement Directorate. Chandrababu Naidu kept his promise to make people happy. The Naveen Patnaik administra-

tion was known for its extraordinarily bureaucratic nature nowhere seen in the world. During the poll campaigns, Modi, Shah and the local BJP frontliners had promised the masses to have all the politically active bureaucrats fixed for good. Six months have gone by, but not a single top official has been identi-

fied and scraped fittingly. Though it was quite amusingly acceptable to witness most wicked political creatures bootlicking bureaucrats, in the last five years of Naveen administration, a handful of bureaucrats were seen exceeding limits, which did not go well with the masses. As long as the serving officers operated from behind the curtain, they were considered heroic performers, no matter how hard or harsh they were in behaviour. But unfortunately, a few of them began to imagine that Naveen was invincible forever. He would come back to power without effort for the masses were incredibly Naveen-

soaked and would cast votes in his favour without ever allowing any other political outfit to win and rule Odisha. This perception was not fully unfounded. The people loved Naveen immensely for his simplicity and reticence. They also trusted some of the frontline bureaucrats he consulted at most times as they appeared genuinely noble-minded, development-oriented and propoor. But they did not like any of the bureaucrats to replace Naveen as boss so soon as 2024.

It is not unknown to anyone in Odisha and elsewhere that VK Pandian was a rather young bureaucrat whom Naveen trusted like crazy. VK had proven to him that he had the enviable energy and will to make the dreams of the boss come true. Naveen had convinced himself that Pandian could perceive great development projects and get them efficiently planned and executed like never before. For all this, Naveen, being an easy-going non-political guy, handed over the sceptre to VK, who used it very discreetly for nearly twelve years before going mad just at the ultimate moment. A few political and bureaucratic rogues had gathered around him in the last stint, particularly when the corona virus had taken the hell out of mankind between 2020 and 2022 to persuade him to believe that Naveen had grown too old and he was the fittest successor. It was more so because of his marriage to an Odia fellow-bureaucrat. Naveen too kind of green-signalled him on that score to drive him further mad. Thus VK drew aside the curtain and plunged into full public glare to convince them that he had taken over as the best choice. Not surprisingly, he resigned his job and turned a full-time politician and, without losing time, treaded on a grossly miscalculated and dangerous path. As is usual, he did not hesitate to experiment dangerously on the people's front. Unwittingly, as it appeared then, he indulged in unacceptable excesses. His public conduct went haywire out of overconfidence displayed rather arrogantly while his political mates, shown in shamefully poor light, kept gaping like slaves. The bureaucracy, by this time, had turned unimaginably supreme over the elected representatives including the members of the executive. Naveen had stopped functioning normally from Covid times. He never visited his office nor cared to meet even his political colleagues. Thus, the circumstances rendered VK Pandian so powerful that everyone would forget that Naveen ever existed relevantly. A series of strange events led people to believe that Naveen had turned vegetable and Pandian had taken over. Election times came, but instead of the real boss, the proxy went around places, which the masses disapproved strongly. This message of disapproval never reached Pandian as he had himself shut the door on most of the political characters or shown strong desire to have them staying dumb. His bootlickers including a privately-inducted Principal Secretary, a self-proclaimed super-class filmmaker, a brainless media man and a very few political mates persuaded him to believe that all was not only well but magnificent on the election strategy front whereas actually the more he showed up, the more people lost faith in the BJD. The sycophants provided him with innumerable irritants to spread across the masses that got more and more furious and hateful about him. The few that tipped him on the truth were dismissed as ignorant or intolerant. Consequently, the BJD was gone.

Now, Mohan Majhi of BJP is boss. His party biggies too had promised to fix all political and bureaucratic crooks once installed in chairs of power. But unlike Chandrababu Naidu, he is not serious about bringing the errant ones to book. The reasons are obvious. The BJP has not really won the battle. People have only punished the arrogant BJD fellows to heart's content. The BJP is in place only by default. Besides, BJD beneficiaries like Ashwini Vaishnaw and the BJP top brass may be providing protection to the errant ones by way of reciprocation to the unconditional support they got from Naveen during crises in the Parliament. Perhaps, gentlemanly Majhi is under pressure to look away.

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Forest Dept fails to rein in illegal fishing by trawlers

Even as Olive Ridley turtle carcasses found at Lanch Khola RAJESH BEHERA KENDRAPADA

If the Gahirmatha rookery of Olive Ridley sea turtles is stated to be the largest rookery it also happened to be the biggest graveyard of turtles in past years. The beaches instead of being beacons of new life have turned into a mass graveyard due to illegal fishing by the fishermen, who come in giant trawlers for

If sources are to be believed carcasses of Olive Ridley sea turtles were spotted in the beach of Lanch Khola under the Gahirmatha Marine Sanc-

The turtles are killed when they are trapped and get entangled in the nets of mechanized fishing vessels during the mating season which starts from December to

Hundreds of endangered Olive Ridleys were mercilessly killed every year after they get entangled with the fishing nets of the mechanised trawlers.



Though the State Forest Department has prohibited fishing 20 km off the sea coast, but the illegal fishing is going on in the prohibited zone as the Forest Department has failed to drive away the fishermen from catching fish.

The reason behind the failure in prohibiting the illegal fishing is said to be the nexus between some of the forest staff and the fishers.

ACF of Bhitarkanika National Park, Gagan Bihari Mallick, during a turtle awareness camp at Sasanpeta informed that not less than 20 VHF sets were illegally installed at the adjoining villages of Gahirmatha forest. The family members used them to pass messages to the fishers about patrolling. As a result, the forest personnel failed to intercept the trawlers at

When contacted, Gahirmatha Marine Sanctu-Ranger Pradosh Moharana stated that as the locals share the information about the movement of forest personnel to the trawlers, by installing VHFs illegally, so the patrolling team often fail to intercept the trawlers and return empty handed.

Rubbishing report of sighting of turtle carcasses in the ongoing turtle season, Moharana stated not a single carcass of sea turtle was spotted at the beaches of

CUO Prof to be feted with Bagdevi Samman

The Keshab-Subhadra Foundation has announced the selection of Prof Narasingha Charan Panda, an eminent Sanskrit scholar, for the prestigious Bagdevi Samman-2024.

The recognition honours his remarkable contributions to the preservation and promotion of Sanskrit, as well as his dedicated efforts to spread its knowledge beyond India.

Prof Panda's illustrious career spans decades of teaching and research. He has served as a Professor at the Central University of Odisha, where he is currently the Dean of the School of Languages, Professor in the Department of Sanskrit, and acting Registrar. He has also held significant positions, including acting Vice-Chancellor and acting Finance Officer of the university.

Prof Panda's academic journev includes noteworthy tenures at Banaras Hindu University and Panjab University, earning him widespread admiration. His contributions abroad are equally commendable, with four years of service as a Professor in Thailand and Mauritius, where he showcased exceptional expertise in Sanskrit scholarship.

The scholar has received numerous accolades for his dedication to Sanskrit, including the prestigious Sanskrita Mahamahopadhyaya Award. L Prof Panda will be honoured with the Bagdevi Samman-2024 on January 19 at a cer-

In Ganjan= Organic goods factory gutted in fire mishap



Raw materials worth Rs 1 cr destroyed

PNS BRAHMAPUR

 ${m A}$ massive fire engulfed an organic goods factory in the Kodala area of Ganjam district on Wednesday, destroying all the stored materials.

The blaze swept across the Tej Agro Factory owned by one Jagannath Sahu on the main road of Kodala near Khallikote. The fire completely gutted the factory and raw materials worth over Rs 1 crore.

On being informed, Fire Service personnel from Kodala rushed to the spot and managed to control the blaze after two hours.

The incident occurred be-

in Rourkela

tween 4 am and 5 am and was suspected to have been caused by an electric short circuit. Raw materials for soft drinks, cakes and bread and some machinery parts were also destroyed in the fire, added

The damage assessment was being conducted and a probe was on to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

In a related incident, vast stocks of hay caught fire also in Ganjam district on Wednesday morning. Reports of this incident were received from Dhunkapada village under Polasara tehsil.

The reports said a massive pile of haystacks belonging to two local farmers was allegedly set on fire by some unknown miscreants.

Public hearing for Subarnarekha Port peaceful **UBLIC HEARING**

Project work expected to gather momentum

SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR

A public hearing for the proposed Subarnarekha Port under Baliapal block was held at Makar Padia under Dagara gram panchayat recently.

The hearing was chaired by Additional District Magistrate Sudhakar Nayak while Regional Pollution Control Board Officer (Baleswar) Manmohan Murmu was present. The hearing witnessed participation from hundreds of residents from nearby GPs, who shared their opinions on the port.

Members of the Bhitamati Surakhya Committee as well as Subarnarekha Development Council were also present and voiced their con-

cerns. It was by and large peaceful with no reported untoward incident although members of Bhitamati Surakhya Committee opposed the port alleging that they would lose fertile land which is significant for paddy, betel vine, fish and cashew

"The port's development predominantly involves reclaiming seabed, thereby involving no displacement of people," said Executive Director, Subarnarekha Port Private Ltd (SPPL) Sushant Kumar Mishra.

Importantly, cargo movement to and from the port will primarily utilize rail transport, maximizing efficiency. The protection along the river side through the rail line and unblocking of river mouths for

smooth river water flow would reduce risk of flood and land erosion to the nearby villages, he said.

Conceived in 2008, the project traversed speedily and smoothly on the growth trajectory in 2018 when Tata Steel acquired a 51 percent stake in the project, invigorating its accelerated development. The port's design includes reclamation of the sea bed, minimizing local impact. 692 acres of encroachment free government land has been allotted and the additional land required for future development will be through reclaimed land inside the seabed only. Hence, there would be no displacement, Mishra added.

No private land is required for the port development other than the essential land for the rail and road connec-

enters into JV with JSW Green Energy



BHUBANESWAR

he Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA) has announced a joint venture (JV) with the JSW Green Energy to source renewable energy for its smelting operations.

The IMFA has signed a binding term sheet with the JSW Green Energy One Ltd and the JSW Green Energy Seven Ltd and will invest Rs 83.26 crore in a hybrid project that combines 50-MW AC solar and 100-MW wind for a total contracted capacity of 70 MW. The company will subsequently sign a power purchase agreement (PPA) as a captive consumer which will be valid for 25 years. Vice-President & Head -

Power Business Unit Binoy Agarwalla said, "As a pioneer in the ferroalloys industry with backward integration into captive power, renewable energy is a key aspect of reducing our carbon footprint. By combining solar and wind power, we are taking a proactive step towards a green future and aligning with the global trend of sustainability."

The IMFA is putting up a 100,000-tonne-per-annum greenfield facility at Kalinganagar, Odisha to augment its ferrochrome production in line with the increasing demand.

ENDIACon: Diabetes conf ends at B'pur



die, 2 hurt hit by train at level-crossing | With presentation of 40 papers, spot and shifted the injured to

Two persons died and two others were critically injured after being hit by a goods train at the Kalunga railway crossing in Rourkela on Tuesday

The accident took place at around 10 pm when four youths were crossing the railway tracks on two separate motorbikes, unaware of an incoming goods train. While two of them died on the spot, two others were critically injured.

The Brahmani Tarang police and the Government Railway Police (GRP) reached the a nearby private hospital.

Visuals from the site showed mangled remains of the two motorcycles, displaying the severity of the accident. All the victims worked at Kalunga. One of the deceased hailed from Jharkhand and the other was from Assam.

Meanwhile, the GRP has started an investigation into the incident.

Reports stated that locals have warned of protests, citing longstanding demands for an over-bridge at the busy Kalunga railway crossing to which the authorties have turned a deaf ear.

of 40 papers, participation of 400 docs

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA **BRAHMAPUR**

 ${
m T}_{
m he\ ENDIACon-\ 2024,\ a}$ State level conference addressing various aspects of diabetes and endocrinology was inaugurated here on Saturday. The conference was organized by Dr Sunil Kumar Kota, Consultant Endocrinologist from Swasthya Sadan, Brahmapur in association with PG Department of General Medicine, MKCG Medical College and IMA (Indian Medical Association), Brahmapur.

cal Education and Training) Dr Santosh Kumar Mishra graced the event as chief guest for the inaugural ceremony while Dean amd Principal, MKCG Medical College Dr Suchitra Dash, president, IMA Brahmapur Dr Banka Bihari Das and senior Professor in Medicine Dr Lalit Kumar Meher joined the event as guests of honour.

All the guests in their address unanimously opined that prevalence of diabetes is in upswing across the globe including India. Therefore periodic update of the doctors involved in care of people.

Simultaneously they requested the doctors to reach out

handedly or in coalition with

other like-minded parties for

amending the Constitution

The BJP MPs have mainly

castigated the Congress for

imposing Emergency on June

25, 1975 and imprisoning

most of the Opposition lead-

ers till the same was revoked

on March 21, 1977. They have

also criticized the Congress for

abusing and misusing the pro-

visions contained under Ar-

for its vested interest.

education and proper management of the deadly decease.

Dr LK Meher thanked Dr Kota and Dr Nihar Sahoo for their tremendous efforts in organizing the kind of scientific event for doctors from south Odisha in greater interest of the public. DMET Dr Mishra requested Dr Kota to continue with his educational activities for doctors and general public alike.

There were a total of 40 deliberations on different aspects of diabetes and endocrinology by academic experts from across Odisha. All total 400 doctors had registered their names for the two-day long event.

Croc count

B'kanika to remain shut for tourists from Jan 14 to 22

RAJESH BEHERA KENDRAPADA

The Bhitarkanika National Park will remain close for a period of eight days for tourists from coming January 14 to 22 next as the Forest department is going to carry out the status survey of estuarine crocodiles.

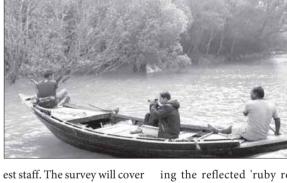
As a result, the park is going to remain close during the stipulated period for the tourists, said Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and wildlife Division DFO Gopinath Sudarshan Jadav.

He added that the ban on tourists' entry is meant to facilitate the census operation smoothly in a tranquil atmosphere. The head count drive of salt

water crocodile will be organised under the supervision of Dr Sudhakar Kar. The entire day and night census operation will be monitored and supervised by a technical expert, deputed from the Wildlife Headquarters. The enumerators, will be

assisted by trained local for-

Sadly, no MP bated for mixed PR poll model in India



the Bhitarkanika river system besides innumerable creeks, water inlets and nullahs where the reptiles are found abun-

The salt water crocodile, being amphibious in nature, can be counted directly both on land, while basking on the river bed, and on water surfaces while floating. During day time crocodiles basking on land are easier to count and their size class can be estimated easily and accurately. At night, crocodiles less than 6 feet floating on water or resting on land can be counted by using a spot light and catching the reflected 'ruby red" glow from their eyes.

However either during the day time or night time census, only a proportion of crocodiles will be visible at any one time, while others will lay submerged on water.

Polygon search method like last year will be adopted by the enumerators this year, said, Ranger of Kanika Forest

Range Manas Kumar Das. As many as 1,811 estuarine crocodiles were spotted in and outside the water bodies of Rajnagar Mangrove forest Division(wildlife) during last year's head count, said sources.

Rayagada herbal healer Sandriya feted

PNS RAYAGADA

Sandriya Puala, renowned herbalist of Kundam village under Danglodi gram panchayat under Rayagada block, has been honoured with "Indigenous Honour" for his remarkable contribution in the field of traditional medi-

To present the award on behalf of Rayagada Adivasi Mahasangha, tribal social worker and Vice-Principal of ABSKP Degree College, Gunupur Bijay Kumar Melaka and Associate Axis Bank Security Officer and social worker Kameshwer Bidika felicitated Sandria.

Sandriya has served thousands of people for a long time. Even though he is 80 years old, he is neither tired nor arrogant. He gladly receives as



Patients with broken legs come to him from different parts of Odisha and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and recovered. However, the herbal doctor, who has been treating people for many years, has not been pro-

vided a house by the State gov-A father of two, Sandriya has four grandchildren and an

≺he Parliament of India has debated on the working of the Constitution of India from December 13 to Dec 17. The ruling NDA (National Democratic Alliance) led by BJP launched a scathing attack on the Congress party that ruled India for several decades single

Debate on Constitution

BRAMCHANDRA CST VOLTAIRE

ticle 356 and thereby dismissing Opposition Governments.

The Congress on the other hand turned its heat on PM Narendra Modi misgovernance in India. BJP Central Government has poached and bought MLAs and thereby pulled down op-

position governments in the States of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Maharastra etc, the party alleged.

In the opinion of the Freethought Party of India (FPI) these arguments and counter arguments are of no use. As long as India is having the unfair and unjust First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system of election, Constitution of India would be subjected to unethical manoeuvring and the political institutions of India like the office of the Governor, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Central agencies like the ED, CBI and Income Tax would continue to be misused and manipulated for the benefit of the ruling

party or coalition of parties in

We must do away with po-

litical injustice from the soil of India. In the April-June Election to the 18th Lok Sabha certain parties have been grossly over-represented while many others have been under-represented. Here is one case of blatant injustice. Odisha is having 21 Members in the Lok Sabha. Congress has got 1 MP. The BJP has got 20 MPs. The BJD has zero representation in the LoK Sabha even though 1, 23, 84, 900 voters voted in favour of BJD led by Naveen Patnaik. The party must have got a minimum of 7 seats as it has polled 37.53% of votes in the 2024 General Elections. The BJP that has polled 45.34% (1, 49, 62,200) of votes should have got maximum 10

seats. But against 10 seats it has got 20 seats. Is it not a case of gross Political Injustice? Congress led by Mallikarjun Kharge polled 12.52% (41, 31, 600) votes and it should have got a minimum of 2 seats. It has got only 1. It has been under-represented. This should not be the case.

This is the main reason why there is so much of ill-governance throughout India. The system of election must be replaced in toto by the German or New Zealand Model of Mixed PR System of Election. Sadly, no MP of any party has raised this vital point in the Parliament debating on the working of the Constitution.

(Voltaire is general secretary, Freethought Party of India)

BJP, Congress name nominees for simultaneous poll panel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP is considering the names of its seasoned MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad and Nishikant Dubey as nominees for the parliamentary panel that will scrutinise simultaneous poll bills, while Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Manish Tewari are set to be among the Congress

representatives, sources said. Sukhdeo Bhagat and Randeep Surjewala are the Congress' other choices for the joint committee of Parliament. Kalyan Banerjee and Saket Gokhale of the Trinamool

Congress, Shrikant Shinde of the Shiv Sena, Sanjay Jha of the JD(U), and T M Selvaganapathi and P Wilson of the DMK are expected to be part of the panel which may have 31 members -- 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

Sources said Anurag Thakur and P P Chaudhary are also being considered as the probable BJP choices for the panel in which the saffron party and its allies will be in a majority due to their numerical superiority in Parliament.

The two 'One Nation One Election' (ONOE) bills, including one requiring an amendment in the Constitution, that lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections were introduced in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday after a fiery

Opposition parties dubbed the draft laws -- a Constitution amendment bill and an ordinary bill -- as an attack on the federal structure, a charge rejected by the government. Speaking to reporters on the

Parliament premises, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi had termed the bills "anti-constitu-

"It is against the federalism of our nation. We are opposing the bill," she had said.

The BJP and its allies such as the TDP, JD(U) and Shiv Sena have stoutly defended the bills, saying frequent elections are an obstruction to development programmes and simultaneous polls will boost them by cutting down on election expenditure.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and farmers during a meeting in Delhi

Sharad Pawar meets PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday, weeks after the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was trounced in the assembly elections in Maharashtra by the BJP-led

in his office in Parliament House along with two farmers from Phaltan in western Maharashtra and presented him with a box of pomegranates from their farm.

Pawar had recently written to the prime minister, inviting him to inaugurate the 98th Marathi Sahitya Sammelan

Talkatora Stadium in the national capital in February. "I did not broach the topic of Sahitya Sammelan," Pawar said after the meeting with the prime minister.

În a social media post, the Prime Minister's Office said Sharad Pawar, along with a group of farmers, met the

It also posted pictures of the NCP-SP chief presenting NCP's Mahatuti alliance

pomegranates to PM Modi. In the Maharashtra assembly elections last month, the Congress-NCP(SP)-Shiv Sena(UBT) alliance -- MVA -- faced a humiliating defeat at the hands of BJP-Shiv Sena-

Speaker, home minister, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha and deputy chairperson of Rajya Sabha as its members. Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, a member of the NHRC, became its acting chairperson after Justice Mishra demitted office.

Mamata demands Shah's resignation for Ambedkar jibe

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, launched a scathing attack on launched a scathing attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday, accusing him of making derogatory remarks against Dr BR Ambedkar inside Parliament. Banerjee demanded an apology from Shah and called for his resignation. In a cree show of column ignation. In a rare show of solidarity with the Congress party, Banerjee condemned Shah's comments, asserting that the BJP leader had exposed the party's true nature. The mask has fallen! As

Parliament reflects on 75 glorious years of the Constitution, Home Minister Amit Shah chose to tarnish this occasion with derogatory remarks against Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, that too inside the temple of democracy," Banerjee wrote on X, adding that Shah should apologise to the nation for his comments."Amit Shah's remarks are an insult to the millions who look up to Babasaheb for guidance and inspiration. But what else can you expect from a party that has internalised hate and bigotry?" Baneriee continued, reminding that Ambedkar is the "Father of the

Constitution."
She further pointed out that Shah's alleged remark was not just an attack on Ambedkar, but on all members of the Constitution. Constitution Drafting Committee, which represented India's unity in diversity.

Banerjee's attack on Shah came hours after her nephew and TMC General Ŝecretary, Abhishek Banerjee, slammed the BJP for what he called a "shameless attempt to destroy" India's federal and democratic Constitution by pushing the controversial One-Nation-One-Election bill. Abhishek Banerjee criticised Shah's remarks, calling them a "display of BJP's casteist and anti-Dalit mindset." He warned that if the BJP had achieved their goal of 400 seats, they would have rewritten his-tory to erase Dr Ambedkar's

contributions. "If this is how they behave after being reduced to 240 seats, imagine the damage they would have inflicted," Mamata Banerjee also demand-

ed Shah's resignation, accusing him of disrespecting Ambedkar and the Constitution. "He has insulted Babasaheb Ambedkar and the Constitution. His ideology of Manusmriti and the RSS makes it clear that he does not respect Ambedkar or the Constitution. We condemn this and demand his resignation. All parties should demand his resgnation. He should apologise to the country. If he keeps talking like this, the entire country will rise up because people will not tolerate Ambedkar's insult," Banerjee stated.

Shah's controversial remark came during a discussion in the Rajya Sabha, where he criticised Congress' alleged Dalit politics, suggesting that if Congress had invoked the name of God as often as they invoked Ambedkar, they would have attained heaven. "It has become a fashion—Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar," Shah had remarked, adding that if

they had taken the name of God as often, they would have earned "seven lifetimes of heaven." Parallely, Abhishek Banerjee condemned the BJP's attempt to impose the One-Nation-One-Election formula, accusing the party of attacking the federal structure of the Constitution. He called the hill an "unashamed

called the bill an "unashamed attack on democracy," asserting that it seeks to rob the people of their fundamental right to vote regularly. "The right to vote regularly holds governments accountable and prevents unchecked power," he wrote.Abhishek vowed that West Bengal would fiercely oppose the bill, stating, "This is not just a bill; it is a direct assault on the very foundation of our democracy, built through the sacrifices of our founding fathers. Bengal will not sit silently. We will fight tooth and nail to protect the soul of India and crush this anti-

First Ganges river dolphin tagged in Assam



¬anges River Dolphin, a Gnational aquatic animal has been tagged for the first time in Assam, marking a historic achievement for wildlife conservation of the freshwater species in the state. The tagging was part of a col-

laborative project between the

Ministry Environment and the National CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority), with support from the Dehradun-based . Wildlife Institute of India

The project was executed in partnership with the Assam Forest Department and based in Assam.

Bhupender Yadav, the Union Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change shared the information on his official X handle and stated, "Happy to share the news of the first-ever tagging of Ganges River Dolphin in Assam—a historic milestone for the species and

"This MoEFCC and National CAMPA-funded project, led by the Wildlife Institute of India (@wii_india) in collaboration with Assam Forest Dept and Aaranyak, will deepen our understanding of conserving our National Aquatic Animal," he further stated.

The Ganges River Dolphin, once widely distributed across the major river systems of the Indian subcontinent, has seen its population decline significantly in recent years.

These tagging efforts have proven crucial in understanding the movement, behavior, and habitat preferences of these vulnerable species, aiding in their protection and management. "This data will be crucial for analysing the movement patterns of dolphins in response to changes in water flow within this carefully regulated river system. It will also offer insights into their habitat selection and behavioral preferences which is crucial for its conservation in the face of mounting environmental pressures," explained Syed Ainul Hussain, a WII scientist and an expert in aquatic wildlife.

the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in collaboration with the Sindh Wildlife Department, successfully tagged three dolphins in Pakistan with satellite transmitters. This marked the first time such technology was applied to any river dolphin

species in Asia. Satellite tagging of river dolphins was first pioneered in South America, where approximately 50 Amazon river dolphins have been successfully tagged. This initiative has provided essential data for the conservation of these dolphins and their habitats. Additionally, a Yangtze finless porpoise, the only species of freshwater porpoise, was tagged in China, marking a significant contribution to the study of freshwater species.

SJE ministry report slams allocation failures in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

tribal welfare

A parliamentary panel has taken exception to the Government's failure to allocate funds under the Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) scheme during 2022-23 in states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand which have significant tribal populations.

The parliamentary panel report on Social Justice and Empowerment for demand for grants by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in its report tabled in Lok developmental projects could proceed effectively in the absence of financial resources, particularly in states with large tribal populations.

It highlighted that the budgetary allocation for the PVTG scheme had been substantially reduced during the 2020-21 to 2022-23 period while no funds were released to states such as Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, despite the large tribal populations in these regions.

The committee also flagged systemic inefficiencies, including delayed submission of utilization certificates by states and procedural bottlenecks that have hampered progress in previous years.

Panel meets to select next NHRC chairperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Acommittee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met here on Wednesday to select the next chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), sources

They also said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi attended the meeting as leaders of the opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha respec-

The post of NHRC chairperson has been vacant since Justice (retd) Arun Kumar Mishra completed his tenure on June

A former judge of the Supreme Court, Justice Mishra served as the eighth chairperson of the rights panel and was appointed to its top post in June 2021. According to the law governing NHRC, while the committee which selects the NHRC chief is headed by the prime minister, it has the Lok Sabha

A former chief justice of India or a retired judge of the top court is appointed as NHRC chairperson by the president on the recommendation of the selection committee.



The report also pointed out 74 sanitation workers out of 1,035 sanitation workers who died while cleaning the sewer and septic tanks are yet to be paid

Report highlights gaps in SC protection, welfare

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $A^{\text{mid growing demand by the}}_{\text{Opposition for a national caste census, a Parliamentary}}$ panel has expressed concerns over the failure of several states to set up the necessary systems to effectively address atrocities against Scheduled Castes (SCs). The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment headed by Member of Parliament PC Mohan in its report tabled in Lok Sabha on Wednesday took exception to the persistent systemic gaps in the implementation of laws designed to protect SCs from violence and discrim-

The report pointed out that despite the availability of central government funds, many states have not effectively utilised these resources or established proper mechanisms to enforce the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act,

The report also emphasised broader challenges in the implementation of welfare schemes under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Significant allocations under key programmes like the Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for SCs and the National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) publicity.

To address these issues, the panel recommended stricter monitoring, greater accountability, and more coordinated efforts between central and state governments. It also called for expanding outreach and awareness about welfare programs, especially in marginalized communities, and ensuring better implementation of schemes like SMILE (for transgender persons and beggars) and SHREYAS (for SC students in higher education).

Jaishankar, Gideon Sa'ar talk amid ceasefire talks between Hamas-Israel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

of a possible ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

There have been flurry of diplomatic engagements in the last few days for the proposed ceasefire and hostage release deal after months of deadlock in the negotiations between the two sides. Around 95 hostages are reportedly in the custody of Hamas in Gaza.

"Pleased to speak to FM @gidonsaar of Israel today. Appreciate his briefing on the ongoing developments in the region. Also discussed our bilateral relations and efforts to strengthen them," Jaishankar said in a social media post.

"Look forward to meeting in person," he said. The two foreign ministers were understood to SJaishankar, minister of external affairs, on Wednesday held a phone conversation with lowing the collapse of President Bashar Assad's

democratic agenda.

Rebel forces overthrew Assad's authoritarian government on December eight after capturing several other prominent cities and towns. Assad fled to Russia after the rebel group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) took control of Damascus,

marking the end of his family's 50-year rule. In its reaction, India pitched for a peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led political process in that country. "We underline the need for all parties to work towards preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on

SC terms low pension for retired judges pitiable

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DEI HI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday lamented the meagre pension, ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000, being given to some retired High Court judges and termed it 'pitiable". The top court asked he authorities to have a "humane approach" instead of adopting a "legal approach". A bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan was dealing with a batch of pleas raising the issue of different pension being payable to retired High Court judges

One of the key reasons was that the High Court judges, who have been elevated from District judiciary, were covered under the New Pension Scheme. While those, who have been elevated to the High Court from the Bar, were the beneficiaries of the Old Pension Scheme leading to the mismatch in the pension payable to two sets of high court judges. 'You cannot have a legal approach in every matter. Sometimes, you need to have a humane approach," observed

the Bench

"It is pitiable," the bench said, noting some retired High



Court judges were getting pension between Rs 10,000 and Rs 15,000. Attorney General R Venkataramani mentioned the matter before the bench and requested for a hearing in January, 2025. The AG said said the government would try to resolve the issue. "It is better you persuade them that our intervention should be avoided," the bench observed. It said the matter would not be

decided on individual cases and whatever the top court might lay down would be applicable to all the High Court judges. The bench posted the hearing on January 8, 2025. While hearing a separate plea in March, the SC said there cannot be any discrimination in

High Court judge, who was elevated from the District judiciary, should be computed based on his or her last drawn salary as a High Court judge, it had said. During the hearing on one of the pleas in the matter in November, the top court expressed "shock" that some refired high court judges were getting a meagre pension ranging between Rs 6,000 and Rs 15,000. The bench was hearing a petition filed by a retired

computing the pensionary ben-

efits of retired judges of High

Courts based on whether they

were elevated from the bar or

Pension benefits of a retired

the District judiciary.

The petitioner, who was elevated as a judge of the Allahabad High Court after serving as a judicial officer in the district court for 13 years, claimed the authorities had refused to consider his judicial service while computing the pension. "If there are retired High Court judges before us who are getting Rs 6,000 and Rs 15,000 as pension, it is shocking. How can that be?" the bench had remarked while

High Court judge who said he was receiving a pension of Rs

hearing the plea.

Gagan Gill and Easterine Kire among 21 recipients of Sahitya Akademi Awards PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW Kaur has been selected for her

 $H^{indi\ poet\ Gagan\ Gill\ and}_{English\ writer\ Easterine}$ Kire are among the 21 recipients of the annual Sahitya Akademi Awards, the organisation announced on Wednesday. Recommended by jury members in 21 languages, the awards recognise works in different categories including novels, short stories, poetry, essays and

Gill was selected for her book on poetry "Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar", Kire made it to the coveted list for her novel "Spirit Nights" The winning list includes eight

poetry books, three novels, two short stories, three essays, three works of literary criticism, one play and one research.

Sohan Kaul will receive the award for her Kashmiri novel "Psychiatric Ward", while Paul

Punjabi book on poetry "Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihaasnama Punjab". Other recipients of award in

poetry include K Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani) and Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit).

Apart from Kire and Kaul, Aron Raja also made it to the winning list in the novels genre for his fiction book "Swrni Thakhai" in Bodo. Yuva Baral's "Chhichimira" (Nepali) and Hundraj Balwani's "Purzo" (Sindhi) were the picks in the short stories section.

Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili) and Baishnab Charan Samai (Odia) will receive the award for their essays, while AR Venkatachalapathy (Tamil), recognised for his research and

Maheshwar Sorn for his play "Seched Sawnta Ren Andha Manmi" (Santali). KV Narayana, Sudhir Rasal

Penugonda Lakshminarayana will be awarded for their literary criticism in Kannada, Marathi and Telugu, respectively. The awards were approved by

the executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met on Wednesday under the chairmanship of its president Madhav Kaushik, the academy of letters said in a statement. The awards relate to books first published during the five years

immediately preceding the year of the award, i.E. Between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022. The authors and poets will receive a plaque, a shawl and an amount of Rs 1 lakh in an award ceremony on March eight, 2025. Bengali, Dogri and Urdu language awards will be

remained underutilised, with bottlenecks such as incomplete documentation, errors in Aadhaar seeding and delays in states releasing their share of

States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Odisha were singled out for consistently lagging in fund utilisation and achieving implementation targets. Many eligible beneficiaries, it noted, remain unaware of their entitlements due to inadequate

The report also pointed out 74 sanitation workers out of 1,035 sanitation workers who died while cleaning the sewer and septic tanks are yet to be paid compensation despite Supreme Court Judgement of 2014 which directed that the State Governments /UTs must ensure payment of compensation of Rs 10.00 lakh to the family of a victim in case of death of a worker while cleaning sewer/septic

Farmers disrupt train services in Punjab over MSP guarantee and other demands



Farmers in Patiala block railway tracks on Wednesday as part of their state-wide 'Rail Roko' protest to press the Union government for various demands including a legal guarantee for MSP.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Train services in Punjab were affected as farmers squatted on rail tracks on Wednesday as part of their three-hour 'Rail Roko' protest to press the Centre into accepting their various demands, including a legally binding minimum support

price for crops.
The call for the 'rail roko' was given by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha.

Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said farmers have been squatted on rail tracks at many places from

12 noon to 3 pm. Protesting farmers blocked train routes at many places, including Moga, Faridkot, Kadian and Batala in Gurdaspur; Phillaur in Jalandhar; Tanda, Dasuya, Mahilpur in Hoshiarpur; Makhu, Talwandi Bhai in Makhu, raiwanan Errozepur; Sahnewal in Ludhiana; Shambhu in Patiala; Mohali; Sunam and Lehra in Sangrur, Rampura Phul in Bathinda and Devidaspura in Amritsar.

The Humsafar Express from Jammu to Sealdah, Dadar Express from Amritsar to Mumbai and Shan-e-Punjab Express from New Delhi to Amritsar were halted at different platforms of the Ludhiana railway station.

The Shatabdi Express coming from New Delhi for Amritsar was halted at Khanna railway station. A protesting farmer said, "We are demanding a legal guarantee for MSP from the

government Farmers under the banner of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan

Mazdoor Morcha have been

camping at Shambhu and

Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces.

For the past three weeks, Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on a fast-unto-death at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana to press the Centre to accept the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP on crops. A "jatha" (group) of 101 farmers made three attempts to enter Delhi on foot on December 6, December 8 and

again on December 14. Haryana security personnel did not allow them to proceed. Besides a legal guarantee on MSP for crops, the farmers are demanding a debt waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in the electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence. Reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21 are also part of their



Congress leaders across UP placed under house arrest ahead of Assembly protests

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Several senior Congress leaders heading to Lucknow to gherao the Uttar Pradesh Assembly were stopped in various districts on Wednesday, many were also placed under house arrest. Congress workers who managed to reach the party office in Lucknow were detained by the police and later taken to Eco Garden. Leaders attempting to reach the Vidhan Bhavan faced similar action.

Ajay Rai, the state Congress president, who led the protest, was arrested and fainted briefly during a scuffle with the police. Congress legislature party leader Aradhana Mishra Mona staged a protest near Chaudhary Charan Singh's statue at the Vidhan Bhavan, raising issues related to law and order and farmers' grievances. She too was arrested after voicing her concerns during the Assembly session.

As Congress leaders began arriving in Lucknow on Wednesday morning, authorities intensified security measures. Barricades were set up at multiple locations, and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel were deployed outside the Congress state headquarters. Police started detaining leaders gathered near the party office. Ajay Rai criticised the security measures, alleging that the government was using sharp barricades designed to cause harm. "This government wants

to kill our workers. We will enter the Assembly despite all obstacles," he said. Police also issued notices to over two dozen senior Congress leaders, including outgoing state general secretary Anil Yadav and Dinesh Singh, warning them against creating disturbances.

According to police notices, the ongoing Assembly session and the presence of VIPs in the area necessitated strict law-and-order measures. Prohibitory orders were enforced under Section 163 of the Indian Civil Defense Code, with officials warning of "strict action" in case of any disruption.

Suresh Khanna, the UP parliamentary affairs minister, defended the administration's actions, asserting that steps were taken to prevent any breach of peace. "The administration is fully prepared to maintain law and order," he said. Despite the crackdown, Ajay Rai vowed that the Congress would not be deterred. "Just as the

Modi government built walls of thorns against farmers, the Yogi government has laid thorns on the path of Congress workers. But these barriers will not shake our resolve," he asserted.

Meanwhile, a Congress worker, Prabhat Pandey, died during the protest in Lucknow. He had come from Gorakhpur to participate in the demonstration. The reason of his death is not known. His body was taken to Civil Hospital, where Rai met family members of the deceased.

Manipur CM seeks Naga support for peace in state

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Singh Wednesday sought support from Naga bodies in Senapati district to help restore peace violence-hit northeastern state and asserted that his government was working hard to bring unity among communities.

the last 19 months and the improving situation is gradually by God's grace".
"This event is based on the

theme of getting together, reconciliation and forgiveness, which are needed Manipur," Singh said.

"The role of the people of Senapati district is huge. The role of the Naga Peoples' Organisation, Senapati District Students' Association, United Naga Council Headquarters and other civic societies is huge in protecting the unity and integrity of the state and strengthening the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOTTAYAM

Kottayam-based doctor has been rescued Ain real time from a 'virtual arrest' by

"fakesters" who were posing as Mumbai police

officers to defraud him, Kerala police said on

The cyber cell of Kerala police and officials of State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday worked

together to identify the fraud being committed

on the doctor and managed to recover most of

the Rs five lakh that was fraudulently taken

from him by the culprits, Kottayam SP Shahul

Giving details of the incident, a cyber cell officer told a TV channel that SBI has a

Hameed A said at a press briefing here.

indigenous communities of Manipur," the chief minister

The Go-to-Hills campaign of the state government was launched launched to initiate interactions between residents of the hills and people of the plains, Singh said. He also said another objective

of the campaign was to bring the government to the people of the hills

Speaking at a cultural event - "I came here today to seek Robvena Ni - in Punanamei help from the people of village, Singh said Manipur Senapati district to restore state," he said.

The chief minister asserted that it would be "difficult to establish a united Manipur without equal development and mutual respect" among the people of the hills and the

Singh also said the war on drugs campaign was aimed at saving the youths from the menace, while illegal identification of immigrants was initiated constitutional "through provisions to protect the numerically less indigenous population'

Kerala doctor narrowly escapes

Rs 5 Lakh virtual arrest scam

Oxygen pipe theft leaves babies gasping for breath in MP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The theft of an oxygen supply pipe at the staterun Rajgarh district hospital in Madhya Pradesh left 12 newborns in discomfort with breathing difficulties, officials said on Wednesday.

The theft of the 10 long copper pipe by unidentified persons on late at night Tuesday disrupted the oxygen supply to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), triggering panic as newborns started crying due to breathing difficulty, officials said.

As the inbuilt alarm system in the NICU started beeping, medical staff scrambled to restore the oxygen supply. An official said they managed the potentially threatening situation by swiftly attaching a backup jumbo oxygen cylinder to the system.

NCP (AP) activist arrested in Beèd sarpanch murder TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In what came as an embarrassment to the ruling MahaYuti, an activist belonging to its ally NCP (AP) was arrested on Wednesday in connection with the murder of Sarpanch of Massejeog village Santosh Deshmukh in Beed district of Marathwada on December 9.

Identifying the arrested NCP (AP) activist as Vishnu Chate, Beed district's Additional Superintendent of Police Sachin S Pandkar said that Beed-Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar highway as he attempted to flee the district. With the arrest of Chate, the total number of arrested accused has gone up to four. The police are on the look-out for three more absconding accused.

Chate, who was on the run for nine days before being taken into custody by the Beed police, has been charged with masterminding the killing of the Sarpanch.

Chate was earlier allegedly involved in an extortion case of Rs. 3 Crore. The police have found a link between the extortion case involving a windmill company and the Sarpanch murder case

In the previous (extortion) case lodged by the local windmill company, one of the accused was Walmiki Karad, who is alleged to have been linked to a senior NCP (AP)

The investigations have revealed that Sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh was allegedly killed for attempting to thwart the extortion bid on the windmill company. He was first abducted, brutally tortured and later killed in broad daylight near the windmill company office on the afternoon of December 0. The Sarpanch's murder has The Sarpanch's murder has brought to the fore a major caste-politics nexus in Beed

The killed sarpanch was a Maratha while the prime OBC (Vanjari) community. Both were bitter rivals. Their rivalry intensified during the ongoing reservation agitation. The Sarpanch's murder figured during the ongoing winter session of the Maharashtra Legislature for the third consecutive day, as the Maha Aghadi (MVA) constituents Congress-Nationalist Congress Party (SP)-Shiv Sena (UBT) staged a walk out from the State Legislative council.

On its part, the BJP-led MahaYuti government appointed Investigation Team (SIT) to look into Sarpanch Santosh

Deshmukh's murder. Leader of Meanwhile, Opposition in the Council Ambadas Danve of the Shiv Sena (UBT) came down heavily on the MahaYuti for the total collapse of law-andorder in Beed and Parbhani

State LoP close aide involved in Goa 'Share Market' scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Economic Offence Cell of Goa Police has fast

tracked its investigation in the

infamous 'Share Market' scam in Goa. It has registered an enforcement case information report (ECIR) against key accused Myron Rodrigues and investigations, the accused's intention from the outset has been to deceive and defraud Goan investors. Myron Rodrigues and his wife, Deepali Parab, posing as experts, who deal in the stock market directly promised investors lucrative returns for their investment. The moniker 'Fatorda to London' is increasingly being attached to the scam primarily because of the connections of the accused. Sushant Manohar Ghodge is a close associate of Goa Forward Party MLA and Former Dy CM of Goa Vijai Sardesai. He held the position of PS to the Minister, when Vijai Sardesai was Minister of Town Country planning, Agriculture, Archives, Archaeology & Factories & Boilers, Govt of Goa. Even as the investigation is on, it is fast

Uttarakhand to implement UCC from January 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Uniform Civil Code will be implemented in Uttarakhand from January, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Wednesday. During a meeting of the Uttarakhand Investment and Infrastructure Development Board (UIIDB) in Dehradun, government has completed its "homework" and the UCC will be implemented across the state from January 2025. With this, Uttarakhand will

become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code after independence. On the last day of campaigning for the 2022

assembly elections, the chief minister had promised the people of Uttarakhand that if the BJP retained power, the UCC would be implemented in the state.

Dhami said that after the formation of the new government in Uttarakhand in March 2022, it was decided in the first meeting of the cabinet to form an expert committee to implement UCC in the

He said that a five-member expert committee was formed under the chairmanship of retired judge Ranjana Prakash

Desai. On the basis of its report, the Uniform Civil Code, Uttarakhand, 2024 Bill was passed in the state assembly on February 7, 2024. Dhami said that the Act was notified on 12 March 2024 after presidential assent. He said that now the rules of

the Uniform Civil Code Act have also been prepared and Uttarakhand is fully prepared to implement the January. The Uniform Civil Code Act

of Uttarakhand will give a new direction to the society by following the basic spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas. This law will open new doors empowerment, especially for women and children of Devbhoomi," Dhami said. Speaking in Rajya Sabha on Union Home Tuesday, Minister Amit Shah had said that UCC will be implemented

in all BIP-ruled states. Dhami instructed the officials to provide proper training and facilities to the personnel for the implementation of the provisions of UCC.

The chief minister said that keeping in mind the convenience of the common people, a portal and a mobile app have also been prepared so facilities including registration and appeal can be made available online.

From timeless tradition to digital obsolescence, the journey of personal diaries

benefit from it.

becoming evident that the

accused planned to swindle the

money of the investors and

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Every year end is marked with the clamor of people looking for diaries. All business and commercial establishments make sure that their patrons, clientele and customers are kept in good humor and gifting of diaries and calendars is considered the ideal way to usher in the New Year. For those who are take journaling or

note taking seriously, diaries they receive as gifts take them to cloud nine, particularly if they are well printed and bound in leather. Most such diaries are a ready reckoner for holiday lists, income tax rates, PIN Codes and other such general purpose

The diary written by Ann Frank, a German born Jewish girl who was one of the victims of the Holocaust during the Second World War is proof of what a diary can do. Frank wrote in her diary about the hardships and cruelties suffered by her and fellow

Jews in concentration camps. Someone had saved Ann's diary from getting destroyed and later on it was published by her father as The Diary of a Young Girl, a 1952 book which continues to be published in more than 70 languages.

Diary notes by leading statesmen, literary figures, political leaders and artists have turned out to be the chronicle of their life story as they have expressed themselves in their writings. Every year-end people could be seen enquiring with their friends about the possibilities of getting diaries as gifts. A number of avid diary writers have

come down over the last few decades, while the new generation considers this an alien and outdated habit. Every day's personal experiences and major developments could be the topic of the diary. Jayaprakash Valliathan, a marine engineer with passion for globe-trotting keeps his more than six-decade habit of diary writing

intact. "I maintain two diaries. One for my personal jottings and the other for the money I spent on the day. It has helped me to keep a check on my habits and also to find out whether I have squandered money," said Valliathan who returned to his village in Mavelikkara and opened a school where education is free

Literary critic MG Sasibhooshan learnt the art of diary writing from his father, Kerala's teacher par excellence Prof S Guptan Nair. "I owe a lot to my habit of diary writing. In addition to personal experiences, I also note down major developments that hog the limelight," said Sasibhooshan.

Prof PG Haridas, eminent historian and former principal of the Sree Sankara Vidya Peetam College, never goes to bed without completing his diary writing. "It is a great feeling to know what I was doing last year on the same day. I speak to my diary about my encounters with people and incidents," said the professor.

But diary manufacturers have a different story to tell. "The orders for diaries have down drastically over the years. It is a clear signal that demand for diaries too has fallen," said Imtiaz Khan of Kolkata whose main business is printing of diary and calendar. Sivakasi, the head quarters of printing industry is almost dead, says Santhosh Kumar, a printer of repute. "There was a time when diary printing commenced by March of every year.

Not anymore. Now, it has become a ritual," said Santhosh who is slowly switching over to packing materials. Even public sector institutions such as banks and insurers have almost done away with diaries, which used to be their main public relations work. The world may not get any more Ann Franks as the next generation has switched to ephemeral media based on digital technologies. "We are left with no keys to unlock the past if diaries fall silent or become museum pieces," said Valliathan.

financial tracking system for monitoring suspicious transactions and they flagged a Rs five lakh transaction made by the doctor on Tuesday to an account in north India. "They immediately informed the cyber cell,

which forwarded the address of the doctor to the Changanassery police station and an officer was sent from there to his residence to find out what happened," the officer said. Kottayam SP Hameed, in his press briefing,

said that the officer who went to the doctor's home was not allowed inside by the doctor on the directions of the fraudster posing as a Mumbai police officer "The Inspector heard the person on the phone

telling the doctor in Hindi not to go outside or allow anyone inside. So the Inspector entered the home by force and examined the phone. "On examining the phone, it was found that the fakesters had put him under 'virtual arrest'. When they saw the Kerala police officer, they cut the call," the SP said.

The SP further said that due to the prompt steps taken by the police and the financial tracking system of SBI, around Rs 4.65 lakh of the doctor's money was recovered and only Rs 35,000 was lost.

Giving details of the modus operandi of the fraudsters, the SP said that they sent fake letters with the letter head and emblem of the Reserve Bank of India and the Supreme Court of India to the doctor stating that he was under investigation for money laundering. When the doctor contacted them, one of

them posed as a Mumbai police officer and said that he was under virtual arrest. They then asked him to send them Rs 5 lakh," police said. The officials of the Changanassery branch of SBI, from where the doctor sent the amount to the fraudsters, said that they were suspicious of the transaction, but when they asked the doctor, he told them he was sending the money "Initially, he was not ready to believe that all of

it was a fraud and it took some effort to convince him and lodge a complaint," the cyber cell officer said. SP Hameed said that the central government,

RBI and the police have been issuing advertisements cautioning people to be alert against such frauds. go through these should

advertisements and be vigilant and if anything happens, they should immediately call 1930 to block any suspicious online transaction," he

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Not again!

Delhi air quality once again plummets to unbreathable 'severe' category despite GRAP IV

You may not be a smoker but you are still smoking 10 cigarettes a day if you happen to be in Delhi. This is what the doctors have to say about Delhi pollution. The capital witnessed a sharp decline in air quality on Wednesday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) crossing the 400 mark and entering the 'severe' category once again. This alarming situation unfolded despite the implementation of Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), which entails stringent anti-pollution measures. Monitoring Stations Report Severe-Plus AQI Out of the 37 monitoring stations listed on the Sameer app. These figures highlight the widespread and acute nature of air pollution across the city. GRAP, a tiered system of air quality management, categorises air quality into four stages based on AQI levels: Stage I (Poor, AQI 201-300) Stage II (Very Poor, AQI 301-400) Stage III (Severe, AQI 401-450) Stage IV (Severe Plus, AQI above 450) Under Stage IV, measures such as a complete ban on construction and demolition activities, including



public infrastructure projects and the prohibition of diesel trucks carrying non-essential items entering Delhi are enforced. Offices—public, municipal and private—are advised to reduce staff attendance to 50 per cent, with the rest working from home. Additional measures like the closure of colleges, non-essential businesses and odd-even vehicular restrictions are considered during such extreme conditions. Despite these restrictions, Delhi's air quality has continued to deteriorate, raising questions about the efficacy and enforcement of these measures.

However, experts feel that it is more due to metrological conditions and not a failure of GRAP. They attribute

the sudden spike in pollution levels to unfavourable meteorological conditions, particularly a significant drop in wind speeds. The stagnation allows local pollutants to accumulate, exacerbating the already critical air quality. During winters, Delhi's air pollution crisis is compounded by a combination of factors. Vehicle emissions is a primary contributor to the city's air pollution. Besides vehicular pollution, paddy straw burning adds to the pollution burden. Factories emit significant quantities of pollutants. But right now it is the dip in temperatures. During winters heavy air traps pollutants near the ground, creating a thick layer of smog. The hazardous air quality in Delhi poses severe health risks to its residents. Prolonged exposure can lead to respiratory ailments, cardiovascular issues and other chronic conditions. Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing health conditions, are at the highest risk. This is not the first time Delhi's air quality has entered the severe-plus category this season. In November, similar conditions led to the imposition of GRAP Stage IV. The recurrence of severe pollution highlights the cyclical nature of Delhi's air quality crisis, driven by a mix of local and regional factors. Unfortunately, authorities lack a comprehensive plan to address the issue, relying instead on knee-jerk reactions and ineffective quick fixes.



isitors click photographs of the frozen Drung waterfall, in Baramulla

Year 2025: Prophecies, politics and progress



From hosting grand spiritual and political events to navigating economic growth and political turbulence, 2025 is poised to be a year of transformation and change

hat does the crystal ball reveal about the upcoming year 2025? The predictions are a mixed bag. Nostradamus, the famous French astrologer and seer, has made significant predictions regarding global affairs and India's future for 2025. The 16th-century seer has predicted significant events that have shaped our world, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the moon landing, lending credibility and a sense of awe to his predictions. People today are trying to interpret the 16th-century seer's prophecy, impressed by his historical accuracy. Nostradamus has predicted that the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war may end in 2025.

He warned that both nations could face climate change and floods. According to the New York Post, Turkey and France could significantly facilitate the peace process between Ukraine and Russia. Nostradamus also foretold an 'ancient plague' in England in 2025, indicating a resurgence of a historical disease and the resolution of Brazil's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and various natural disasters.

Additionally, Nostradamus has predicted that the earth may be hit by a asteroid. He said 'From the cosmos, a fireball will rise, a harbinger of fate,' could engage us in potential future events with profound and concerning implications.

As for India's future, the year begins with the 2025 Republic Day parade. The theme is Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas. It is yet to be finalised who will be the chief guest. On the religious side, the next Maha Kumbh Mela will be held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, from January 13, 2025, to February 26, 2025. The Mela is a grand and holy spiritual gathering every 12 years at a rotating location. Millions of pilgrims rush to the venue to ake the holy bath In 2025, India will likely see fast

economic growth, social challenges and new technology. The government is making sig-



The cracks within were visible in the latest Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand Assembly polls. While the Congress has done poorly in Haryana and Maharashtra, it is in coalition in Jharkhand with the JMM. The partners in the coalition are unhappy about the Congress's dismal performance. They are watching how Congress performs in the upcoming Deini and Bihar polls scheduled for

dently.

The upcoming Assembly polls will indicate the future



IN 2025, INDIA WILL LIKELY SEE FAST **ECONOMIC** GROWTH, SOCIAL CHALLENGES, AND NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING **SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS** IN TECHNOLOGY **EDUCATION**

AND RENEWABLE

of political realignment. Delhi will hold Assembly elections in February, with the BJP looking to unseat Aam Admi Party chief Arvind Keiriwal.

The AAP has faced many challenges, including corruption allegations against several leaders in the recent past. As a tactic, the AAP has appointed Athishi as a temporary chief minister for the polls. The AAP and Congress were partners in the Lok Sabha elections. While AAP performed reasonably well, the Congress got no seats.

Bihar will also have elections this year. It is politically a critical state. The ruling NDA, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, may face intense competition from the Mahagathbandhan, headed by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav. The BJP and the JD(U) are working to retain the state.

Two political organisations the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS) and the CPI will celebrate their birth centenary. The RSS will complete 100 years in September, while the CPI will begin its centenary celebrations in December this year. With its ups and downs, the RSS has strongly influenced Indian

politics and society now making it hard for future governments to weaken their power. At the same time, communist parties have less impact now, as right-wing parties are becoming more popular. On international affairs, India will hold the Quad Summit, originally scheduled to be held in New Delhi this September, which was relocated to New York due to a scheduling conflict among the attending leaders. Now, India will host the

The US President Trump will likely visit New Delhi for the summit, further revealing India's position in international affairs. Another important visit is that of Russian President Putin, in the first half of next year. The Kremlin has said it will set a date early next year. It will be Putin's first visit since the Ukraine conflict began.

QUAD summit in 2025.

Overall 2025 will be a mixed year for India. The economy is progressing well, and foreign relations are stable, but the political situation remains unclear. By next year, Congress could recover, or the BJP and the regionai satraj is would nave a fur ther hold on the electorate.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

HE EDITOR

Preparations underway in Prayagraj for Mahakumbh 2025



Prime Minister Modi visits the Triveni Sangam, offers prayers and reviews the arrangements for the world's largest spiritual gathering

Pear 2025 is going to witness the largest reli-L gious gathering of humanity at Prayagraj -Mahakumbh. The preparations are already in full swing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached the holy city of Prayagraj, the land of pilgrimage, to oversee preparations for the grand Mahakumbh. This becomes even more significant at the confluence of three holy rivers-Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati. At this Triveni Sangam, the auspicious gathering of saints and sages during Mahakumbh elevates it into a grand event. The significance of Mahakumbh lies in its occurrence every 12 years, an event described in depth in our religious texts and Puranas.

According to the estimates of government of Uttar Pradesh, over 45 crore people will attend the Mahakumbh Mela 2025. This makes it the world's largest religious gathering. Though everybody would like to take a dip at Sangam, but there are other centre of attractions too.

Among the ancient temples of Prayagraj, the Nag Vasuki

Worship of serpents or Nagas has been integral to Sanatan Dharma since ancient times. Among these, Vasuki, considered the king of serpents, is an essential figure. Vasuki Nag is also depicted as Lord Shiva's According to the legend of

Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean), Vasuki Nag was used as the rope during the churning of the ocean by gods and demons, with Mount Mandarachal serving as the churning rod. Vasuki Nag's body was injured during this process, and on Lord Vishnu's advice, he rested at Prayag and bathed at the Triveni Sangam to heal.

It is believed that a visit to the Nag Vasuki Temple after a holy dip at Sangam completes the spiritual journey. This temple, located in the Temple holds a special place. Daraganj area of Prayagraj ties and strengthening the

along the Ganga River, has its roots in ancient mythology. A story mentions that King Divodas of Kashi performed penance to bring Lord Shiva to Varanasi, and Vasuki Nag was requested to stay in Prayagraj by the deities. Vasuki Nag agreed, stipulating that devotees must visit him after bathing at Sangam and worship him on Nag Panchami. The temple was subsequently established

under divine guidance. **Preparations** Mahakumbh 2025: The grand Mahakumbh, to be held from January 13 (Pausha Purnima) to February 26 (Maha Shivratri) next year, is being meticulously planned. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated projects worth Rs 5,500 crores aimed at improving pilgrim amenicity's infrastructure. Key projects include: 1. Doubling and electrification of the Varanasi-Madhosingh-Prayagraj rail

bridge over the Ganga. 2. Construction of underpasses and overpasses to ease traffic.

section, including a new rail

3. Development of nine new ghats, 3,000 additional trains, 300 parks, and the planting of 300,000 trees over 4,000 hectares.

While in Prayagraj PM Modi not only saw the preparation first hand but also performed rituals at the Sangam, prayed at the Akshay Vat tree, visited the reclining Hanuman Temple, and offered prayers at the Saraswati Koop. He also toured the Mahakumbh exhibition site. The Mahakumbh is expected to draw millions of pilgrims to the Sangam, where it is believed that a dip in the holy waters cleanses one of sins and leads to spiritual liberation (moksĥa). Apart from bathing rituals, devotees participate in prayers, discourses by saints, and spiritual enlightenment

(The writer is a freelance journalist; views are personal)

DISTRACTING FORM ISSUES Madam -The introduction of 'One

Nation One election' bill is a conscious attempt to waste the precious time of the parliament, and it is definitely timed to divert the attention of all from crucial issues like Manipur, serious allegations over Adani Group's misconducts, inflation, declining growth rates, the stunningly widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, and the fast deteriorating relationship with many countries. The ruling dispensation, in spite of being aware of a lack of enough strength to get this amendment bill through, tabling it in the parliament displays the intention behind its introduction. Moreover, the reasons counted upon to place this bill do not sound either logical or rational.

Losing majority support and deciding to refer the bill to the Joint Parliament Committee is a preplanned act deliberately meant to divert the course. It has already been explained by many quarters that the very idea of this proposal runs against democratic norms, as the demands of the people vary from a state and central government and are altogether different from local bodies. The narratives of national parties are sure to sway over the elections of state assemblies and the local bodies. The claims about expenditure do not deserve to be considered. Claims of hurdles to development programmes are not correct, as the restrictions are only for the launching of new projects during the notified period. Above all, the inability of the Election Commission to hold such a huge project is visible from the time schedule it keeps up to hold elections. Therefore it is not good to waste huge resources and take away the time of parliament sessions.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS Madam— Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi carrying a bag to Parliament that has "Palestine" emblazoned on it proves that she is most concerned about the war, where the innocent people in Palestine are dying because of the deadly war. She has right-

Goa Liberation Day



December 19 and has its importance in the history of Goa. This is the day when Goa got her freedom from the dominant rule of the Portuguese with the help of the Indian armed forces and the navy. The Liberation of Goa was rather a historic event. The fight for Goa's freedom was dual-inside Goa and outside Goa-which was performed by the Indian government.

ly raised her voice against Israel's actions in Gaza and expressed solidarity with Palestinians. She has rightly said that it is the moral responsibility of every rightthinking individual, including all those Israeli citizens who do not believe in hatred and violence and every government in the world, to condemn the Israeli government's genocide actions and force them to stop. On her first day speech in Parliament, she raised the issues of Bangladesh and Modi's government's failure to negotiate with Bangladesh.

In her 32-minute speech, she talked about key issues like the BJP's alleged attempt to change the constitution, the growing monopoly of the Adani Group, atrocities on women, incidents of violence in Sambhal and Manipur, and the demand for a nationwide caste census. She has also met the victims of the Unnao rape case, the father of the Hathras rape case, and the Sambhal violence victims. She has also raised the iconic frame of India's greatest military victory, a painting of the Pakistan army signing the instrument of surrender in Dhaka on December 16, 1971. We

cessful talks, the Indian government deployed armed forces.

On December 17, 1961, more than 30,000

Indian ground troops with the help of the Indian Air Force and the army conquered the 3,000-



the operations, on December 19, 1961, Goa, at last, became a part of India. The day is observed with a lot of celebrations in Goa Jubel D'Cruz | Mumbai deserve more leaders like Priyanka Gandhi.

Zakir Hussain | Kazipet

DILJIT WANTS BETTER CONCERT INFRA

Madam — Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh recently announced during his performance in Chandigarh that he would not hold any concerts in India until the government improves the country's concert infrastructure. India boasts a large number of talented singers who represent the nation globally and deliver phenomenal performances in international concerts. However, within their own country, they face inadequate concert infrastructure and a lack of basic facilities. This is concerning, as well-organised concerts could serve as a significant source of revenue and provide livelihoods to thousands. It is high time that the government recognises the potential of the music industry and invests in developing world-class infrastructure to support artists and their audiences.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

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FIRST COLUMN

THE POWER OF **POSITIVITY**

By embracing spiritual self-reflection and cultivating positivity, we can rise above turmoil



RAJYOGI BRAHM KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

owadays there seems to be a crisis, disappointment and conflict of duality at every step of life. How do we deal with this? How do we prevent the self from becoming pessimistic or disheartened? Today the great modern disease of human consciousness is all about looking outward to find means to derive happiness without examining the inner self, values, attitudes and motives; relying and depending more on the external signals and hoping for the best. However, in practicality, life cannot be created with such hopes, as there are no shortcuts to achieving happiness. In today's world, no individual and nothing can create a permanent state of wellbeing within us, as it is our prerogative and responsibility. The external factors can contribute, guide and inspire us but ultimately our life is what we make out of it.

True happiness or a lack of it does not come from external things but from what is inside oneself. For example, money is not the means to happiness nor is it the cause of one's unhappiness. In reality, it is our attitudes and values that determine the use or misuse of external instruments, whether that is money, a person, an event or an object. A life that has value and is worthy of living is only possible when there is a reflective examination through which there can be illuminating change. So, to reorientate our consciousness, we would require a consciousness based on self-knowledge i.e the knowledge of the spiritual self which creates self-respect and positivity, enabling us to gain the right perspective on life which in turn would help us to deal with any kind of negativity in a balanced and less painful way. Accordingly, with positivity, we



experience inner strength to cope with external issues affecting the sense of balance in our lives. When we are more positive towards ourselves, obviously we express the same attitude towards others and in all situations. Inner strength also comes when we interact with others in such a way that love, peace and happiness are honestly expressed and experienced.

The pivotal point is "honesty" because there cannot be a sense of fulfilment through falsehood, imitation or duality expressed through attitude. Hence the need of the hour is to live a life based on "Eternal Spiritual Principles" that would allow us to keep a positive attitude towards the self and others, thereby making our life joyful rather than conflicting or a bundle of confusion. Spirituality is not a system or technique of worship or ritual, it is in essence, knowing how to lead a life and through this knowing there is happiness. A spiritual person has found that spark of eternal reference within, which gives him or her not only deep contentment but also a sense of purpose. The first prerequisite for spirituality is a life that functions appropriately and thinks and cares about one's self in the most decent way. Thinking and caring about one's self inappropriately creates too much dependence on others, too many needs, too many demands, too much possessiveness.

So the right way to proceed is to first examine oneself and then acknowledge the positive abd the negative traits within us. By doing so, we get the courage to change whatever needs to be transformed without any kind of fear and, without pretence. The basis of successful change for betterment is to understand the attitudes, feelings and motives that drive us for the change by accepting the original positivity of the self, the immortal goodness of the soul. It is this goodness of the self that forms the foundation of our dignity as human beings. The expression of this original goodness in our life is what is called 'divinity' which makes us truly human. So let us awaken the expression of the divine within us to live a fulfilling joyful life amidst all the chaos & crisis around

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist;

views are personal)

Education: From Kothari Commission to NEP-2020-



The educators and policymakers are called upon to transcend ideological divides and lead India toward inclusive progress and innovation



he most comprehensive initiative in education in post-independence India was the report of the National Commission on Education, usually referred to as the Kothari Commission. İt submitted its report entitled "Education for National Development' on June 29, 1968. The first two sentences say it all: "The destiny of India is now being shaped in its classrooms. This, we believe, is no rhetoric." It was this report that led to the first national education policy of 1968. For the first time, science and mathematics became compulsory for both boys and girls up to tenth standard!

Yes, it was generally believed that only boys could handle the tough subjects of science and mathematics, and girls could opt for lighter options of spinning weaving, home science; and the like! The compulsory study of science and math was resisted and opposed as being unjust and unfair to girls! This one change transformed the lives of millions of girls and has brought global accolades to the Indian advancements in the world of science technology ICT at 1 ence, technology, ICT and space research. Policies once formulated and formalised deserve support in vigilant implementation, persistent monitoring, and scrutiny based on their relevance 'in the great enterprise of national reconstruction'. India today has great challenges ahead, both national as well as global.

It has the manpower and enough experience to confront these successfully. In the third decade of the 21st century, it's the quality of education and skill acquisition that would equip India shall remain its prime contributory tool against every challenge. The content and process of education shall have to specifically equip itself against nurtured negativity, increasing mutual distrust and ballooning bitterness in public life. Solutions shall certainly not emerge from those that thrive only on negativity and are illequipped to see light and positivity



THE CONTENT AND PROCESS OF EDUCATION SHALL HAVE TO SPECIFICALLY NEGATIVITY, INCREASING MUTUAL

> **BALLOONING BITTERNESS** IN PUBLIC

DISTRUST,

Who must come forward and accept responsibility to normalise such an unacceptable socio-cultural environment? Why not ask the Gandhi ji? Once, before independence, one Dr Mote posed a query to Mahatma Gandhi: what he thought was the greatest prob-lem facing his country! The expected answer could have been, in those days, related to slavery, poverty, illiteracy, ill health, or in the social context.

While narrating it in his Gandhi Katha, Narayan Desai tells the audience: that the answer was the 'callousness of the intellectuals'! Narayan Desai Goes ahead: "Give it a thought. If we stand by and watch the poor blaming their poverty on fate, Gandhi is rele-Vant today. If we can see the callousness of the intellectuals, then Gandhi is relevant today. What are the problems according to intellectuals?

'Why X or Y has become Vice-Chancellor and not me'! They think only of this and are unaware of other social issues". Their concerns for critical social, cultural, social cohesion and religious amity are minimal.

One's obvious inference would be that solutions to major national concerns shall - and must emerge from institutions and the educated and the learned responsible for attaining their stated objectives. It includes the dilapidated structures running Sarkari schools, much sought-after private schools, and the universities. It also includes the glittering campuses of national institutions that have brought international repute to our educational enter-

So, mainly it points out to teachers; from primary schools to for the last four years. Having

professors of the universities, and researchers working in institutions of science, technology, psychology, social sciences and every other area. One wishes each one of them

recalls the assessment of Gandhi shuns away the dreaded callousness and strives to create centres of dialogue and discussions on improving the life and living standards of our people, particularly the 'last man in the line' who was so dear to the Mahatma! At first glance, the existing climate makes such a transformation rather impossible!
Despite all the odds, sincere

attempts must be launched to create institutional think tanks with open boundaries that provide for healthy academic, scholarly and intellectual deliberations, not constrained but individual ideological affiliations. For an academic, who shapes the lives of numerous individuals, it is the well-being of others that must precede his own!

And this is no rhetoric or a cliché in the Indian context and culture. For a broad-minded person, this becomes a must, an integral part of his thought and action and hence, an achievable premise.

This is the main task of every teacher preparation institution, from where it shall percolate to schools via teachers trained there, and then to the establishment and the society. After the education policies of 1968, 1986 and 1992, and a gap of around three decades, another policy formulation comes before the nation in the shape of the National Education Policy; NEP-2020. It has been under implementation

been associated with the implementation and also policy formulations, one could venture to infer that the NEP-2020 was prepared with unprecedented enthusiasm from teachers, scholars academics institutions, organisations and individuals.

As the process was long overdue and rightly very extensive, it inspired active participation from practically every section of society. Unfortunately, its implementation stands hampered in certain states on grounds that may not necessarily be academic.

India has a developed well-knit interactive system of the national and state-level bodies and institutions that have learnt over the years how to arrive at a national consensus in the sectors of education and teacher education. This institutional strength of consultation, collaboration and cohesion need not be diluted in cases where the union and state governments belong to different ideological affiliations.

Intellectuals in education and research must convincingly internalize that they are making the future of individuals and creating the future of India. No one else is destined and better placed than them to reconstruct India. The moment each one of them expands his horizons, thinks holistically, and takes a long-term view, the road ahead would emerge very clearly; how to proceed individually and also collectively to sed the intellectual callousness and lead the nation on the right path.

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. He is Atal fellow with the PMML, New Delhi; views expressed are personal)

Guarding digital India: The urgent need for cybersecurity in a rapidly evolving digital space

India has the potential to lead the world in cybersecurity innovation, but achieving this requires more than technological solutions

n the fast-evolving digital landscape of India, a silent ▲battle is being fought—not with traditional weapons but through malicious code, complex algorithms, and increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks. As the country embraces its "Digital India" initiative, the rise of cyber threats demands immediate attention. Protecting the digital future requires strong cybersecurity frameworks, skilled professionals, and widespread public awareness. The call for "Digital Guards" or "Cyber Warriors" has never been more

The scale of the digital threat is staggering. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) recorded 53,117 security incidents in 2017. By October



2023, this number soared to an alarming 1.32 million—a twentyfold increase that exposes critical national vulnerabilities. Globally, the situation is no less concerning. Operations like INTERPOL and AFRIPOL's 2024 Operation Serengeti, which arrested over 1,000 cybercriminals across 19 African nations, underscore the scale of the problem. These operations identified over 35,000 victims and uncovered underscoring cybercriminals'

financial losses nearing \$193 million, demonstrating the global reach and devastating impact of cybercrime.

Phishing remains a primary weapon for cybercriminals, accounting for 22 per cent of all incidents. These attacks manipulate victims into revealing sensitive information or downloading malicious software. Credential theft, responsible for 16 per cent of incidents, further exposes individuals and organisations to system breaches, financial fraud, and corporate espionage. Emerging threats like mobile app malware are amplifying risks. For instance, 15 SpyLoan malware apps on Google Play, downloaded over 8 million times, went beyond data theft to harass and extort victims,

The economic toll of these attacks is devastating. About 65 per cent of Indian enterprises have been forced to pay ran-

growing ingenuity.

soms to recover critical data, with average demands reaching \$4.8 million. Recovery costs add another \$1.35 million per incident, straining even large corporations. Smaller businesses, lacking resources for robust cybersecurity measures, are particularly vulnerable. This systemic vulnerability has been termed the "cybersecurity poverty line," where approximately 60 per cent of Indian companies lack the infrastructure and expertise to defend themselves against cyber threats.

High-traffic online shopping periods, such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday, are prime



targets for cybercriminals. During these events, fraudsters employ phishing scams, fake ecommerce websites, and malware to exploit consumers and businesses alike. Recent high-profile incidents highlight these vulnerabilities. In November 2024, a ransomware attack on Blue Yonder disrupted Starbucks' operations, forcing a return to manual processes. Similarly, McLeod Russel's system com-

promise sent shockwaves through the corporate sector, emphasising the interconnect-edness of digital systems and the widespread disruptions that a single attack can cause. India's cybersecurity preparedness is worryingly insufficient. Only 4 per cent of Indian enterprises have robust infrastructure capable of withstanding advanced attacks. This shortfall is a national security concern, as cyberattacks transcend corporate interests, threatening essential services and critical infrastructure.

Initiatives like the Cyber Challenge 2024, a joint effort by the Delhi Police and CyberPeace Foundation, offer hope. This programme engages developers, engineers, and cybersecurity experts to

cutting-edge technologies such as AI, blockchain, and quantum computing. Collaboration with institutions like DRDO, MeiTY, and the National Forensic Science University underscores the comprehensive approach needed to address these challenges. Experts emphasise that cybersecurity must move beyond being an IT department's responsibility to become a core component of every organization's strategy. This shift involves continuous employee training, regular security audits, investments in advanced technologies, and fostering a culture of vigilance. Drawing inspiration from global models like the European Union's GDPR, India could implement strin-

craft innovative solutions using

gent cybersecurity standards, offering subsidies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to invest in security measures and penalising negligence in cyber protection. As digital transformation accelerates across sectors such as finance, healthcare, education, and government services, robust cybersecurity is no longer optional—it is a fundamental necessity. The path forward demands a collaborative effort. Government agencies, private enterprises, educational institutions, and cybersecurity professionals must unite to build a resilient digital ecosystem. (The writer is Assistant

Professor Indian institute of information technology sonepat Haryana; views are

Trump says India charges lot of tariff, threatens to impose reciprocal tax

S President-elect Donald Trump has said that India charges "a lot" of tariff, reiterating his intention to impose reciprocal tariffs in retalia-tion for what New Delhi will impose on the import of certain American prod-

Trump made these remarks on Tuesday and also said that India and Brazil were among countries that impose high tariffs on certain US products.

"Reciprocal. If they tax us, we tax them the same amount. They tax us. We tax them. And they tax us. Almost in all cases, they're taxing us, and we haven't been taxing them," Trump told reporters on Monday.

He made the remarks while responding to a question on a potential trade agreement with China. Trump said India and Brazil were among countries that impose high tariffs on certain US products.

"The word reciprocal is important because if somebody charges us — India, we don't have to talk about our own — if India charges us 100 per cent, do we charge them nothing for the same?," Trump said.

"You know, they send in a bicycle and we send them a bicycle. They charge us 100 and 200. India charges a lot. Brazil charges a lot. If they want to charge us,



that's fine, but we're going to charge them the same thing," Trump said at a news conference at Mar-a-Lago.

Responding to a question, his Commerce Secretary pick Howard Lutnick said "reciprocity" is something that is going to be a key topic for the Trump administration. " H o w the Trump administration. you treat us is how you should expect to be treated," he said. During his election campaign in October, Trump has

claimed that India imposes the highest tariffs on foreign products. But they do it with a smile. "Perhaps the most important element of my plan to make America extraordinarily wealthy again is reciprocity. It's a word that's very important in my plan because we generally don't charge tariffs. I started that process, it was so great, with the vans and the small trucks, etc," Trump had said Thursday in October.

In 2019, Trump has repeatedly claimed that India is a "tariff king" and imposes "tremendously high" tariffs on American products.

He has criticised India's "big tariffs" on American paper products and the iconic Harley-Davidson bikes.

The US is the largest trading partner of India in 2023-24. India's exports stood at USD 77.51 billion, while imports aggregated at USD 42.2 billion in the last

During April-October this fiscal, the country's exports to America rose by 6.31 per cent to USD 47.24 billion, while imports grew by 2.46 per cent to USD

Between FY 2020 and FY 2024, India's merchandise exports to America rose by 46 per cent from USD 53.1 billion to USD 77.5 billion.

Imports from the US also grew to USD 42.2 billion last fiscal from USD 35.8 billion in 2019-20. On the other hand, trade in services between the two nations expanded 30.3 per cent from USD 54.1 billion in 2018 to an estimated USD 70.5 billion in 2024.

India is also a key destination for American businesses such as professional, scientific, and technical services, manufacturing, and IT. Washington is the third largest investor. India received USD 66.7 billion of FDI inflow between April 2000 and June 2024.

'Confident of weathering challenges to India-US ties arising from indictments'

being involved in a plan to kill a Sikh separatist leader

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

PTI WASHINGTON

rhe outgoing Biden administration on Tuesday exuded confidence that India and the US will be able to "weather" the challenges to their relationship that arose after two recent indictments — one related to a Sikh separatist and the other to an Indian billionaire. "I'm confident that we will be able to weather this appropriately," a senior administration official said responding to a question that the two indictments cast a shadow on the India-US relationship.

In a New York court, the US Department of Justice has accused an Indian official of

The other indictment charges Indian billionaire Gautam Adani of corruption. "Many people say that that kind of casts a shadow on the relationship and it raises questions about trust (between India and US) once again," the official was asked. "I would just simply say the relationship is increasingly complex, increasingly diverse and increasingly deep. It is the case that invariably, we will reach occasions of challenges

how we deal with those," said "I can just assure you that

the official.

on both sides, and the key is

we've had the deepest possible appropriate consultation between the two sides, and I'm confident that we will be able to weather this appropriately," said the official.

A second senior administration official described the indictments as regulatory and law enforcement issues that are best left to the agencies directly involved to speak to. "It wouldn't be appropriate for us to comment from either the White House or the State Department," the official said. But we stand by and strongly believe in the view that this relationship is in a very strong position," said the second administration official.



President Joe Biden and grandson Beau walk to Marine One to depart from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington

Leaving India-US ties in a very good place, expect continuity in Trump era: Biden admin

PTI WASHINGTON

 $T^{\text{he outgoing Biden adminstration said it was leaving the India-US relationship "in a statement of the very strong place", and exuded confidence that it will continue to have bipartisan support during the Donald Trump presidency as well.

"We continue to be very

ambitious about the US-India relationship. We've had very high-level engagement over the course of the last several months with the QUAD summit in Delaware, and we are anticipating a high-level engagement in the last few weeks of the Biden administration," Kurt Campbell, Deputy Secretary of State, told reporters during a conference call here on Tuesday.

Campbell joined by Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer and Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra, were in Houston on Tuesday to meet with astronauts from th Space Research Organisation who are training at NASA's Johnson Space Center to execute a joint effort to the

International Space Station in partnership with NASA next

We are quite confident that we'll be handing the bilateral relationship off to the incoming Trump team at its strongest possible apex, with key support from stakeholders in the industry, in technology, in finance and defence. As we were here today, it was inspirational to see the manifestations of engagement between the United States and India in critical endeavours associated with space," Campbell said.

Observing that the US-India partnership is an "anchor of stability", not only in the Indo-Pacific, but increasingly for the world, Finer said from southeast Asia to Africa, the two countries can play a leading role in building prosperity, driving development and contributing to security.

To a large degree, there has been bipartisan consensus senior administration official on the importance of this rela-Over the last two decades, different administra- driving force, increasingly in all tions in Washington and New Delhi have helped strengthen the ambition of India. They've our cooperation. While no

relationship is without challenges, we believe that we are leaving this partnership in a very strong place as we prepare to pass the baton to the incoming team," Finer said.

Responding to a question, a senior administration official exuded confidence that the India-US relationship will have the same speed and scale with bipartisan support from both sides as has been the case under the several previous administrations. The same goes for QUAD as well, the official said. "The QUAD originated in the George W Bush administration. It was continued on at the foreign ministry level and through other venues in the Trump administration. We have engaged closely with the incoming team, and I think there is substantial interest in continuing the QUAD given its remarkable achievements in such a short period of time," a said.

areas of QUAD endeavour, is made clear in a variety of statements and engagements with the incoming team their desire to continue there. I do not think the ambition, though, for the US-India relationship stops there. You are going to see a variety of areas of continuing activity," the official said.

The official described the progress made by India and US in various fields, including space. "I expect technology work will continue at a pace. We are engaging more in the Indo-Pacific. We are sharing information and intelligence on matters of critical concern, including along the line of actual control. We are also very much focused on increasing our cooperation and collaboration in the Indian Ocean. These are new avenues for important dialogue," said the

"My expectation is that this work will continue and that it will receive broad support in a bipartisan manner, not only in Congress, but frankly, it is ment that is broadly supported across the Indo-Pacific as well," said the official.

A second senior adminis-

tration official said that the Biden Administration has found the QUAD to be an extremely valuable format, including at the head-of-state level, befitting relationships that are as consequential as those among the four countries involved.

"That said, the US-India relationship is bigger than any particular format. It's really much more about common interests, and the interests that we've described .. and that we have worked on together over the last four years, from technology cooperation to an increasing defence relationship, to our broader economic engagement to increasing collaboration on global and regional issues, is going to be unbounded by any particular administration, frankly, in either country."

"We expect a degree of continuity here that may not be the case across the whole set of issues we face. But that has een the case for the US-India relationship, and we have no reason to believe that won't continue," said the second senior administration official.

Biden admin makes it easier for US companies to hire foreign workers with H-1B visas

The outgoing Biden adminis-I tration has relaxed rules for H-1B visas that will make it easier for American companies to hire foreign workers with special skills and facilitate a smoother transition from F-1 student visas to H-1B visas, a move that is likely to benefit thousands of Indian tech professionals.

The most sought-after H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend

on it to hi employees each year from countries like India and China.

The rule, announced by the Department of Homeland

ity to employers and workers by modernising the definition and criteria for special positions and nonprofit and governmental research organisations that are exempt from the annual statutory limit on H-1B visas. The changes will help US employers hire as per their busi-

Security (DHS) on Tuesday,

aims to provide greater flexibil-

itive in the global marketplace, an official release said. President-elect Donald Trump will take charge as the next president of the US after his swearing-in ceremony on

ness needs and remain compet-

According to the DHS, the rule also extends certain flexibilities for students on F-1 visas seeking to change their status to H-1B to

avoid disruptions in lawful status and employment authorisation for students holding F-1 visas. It also will allow US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to process applications more quickly for most individuals who had previously been approved for an H1-B visa. It will also allow H1-B visa holders with a controlling interest in the petitioning organisation to be eligible for H-1B status subject to reasonable conditions. The latest move by the outgoing Biden administration builds on its previous efforts to ensure that the labour needs of reduce undue burden on employers while adhering to all US worker protections under the

return delayed till late March

AP CAPE CANAVERAL

 $N^{\mbox{ASA's}}$ two stuck astronauts just got their space mission extended again. That means they won't be back on Earth until spring, 10 months after rocketing into orbit on Boeing's Starliner capsule.

NASA announced the latest delay in Indian-origin Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore's homecoming on Tuesday. The two test pilots planned on being away

just a week or so when they blasted off June 5 on Boeing's first astronaut flight to the International Space Station. Their mission grew from eight days to eight months after NASA decided to send the company's problem-plagued Starliner capsule back empty in September.

Now the pair won't return until the end of March or even April because of a delay in launching their replacements, according to

A fresh crew needs to launch before Wilmore and Williams can return and the next mission has been bumped more than a month, according to the space agency. NASA's next crew of four was supposed to launch in February, followed by Wilmore and Williams' return home by the end of that month alongside two other astronauts. But SpaceX needs more time to prepare the brand new capsule for liftoff. That launch is now scheduled for no earlier than late March.

NASA said it considered using a different SpaceX capsule to fly up the replacement crew in order to keep the flights on schedule. But it decided the best option was to wait for the new capsule to transport the

at the space station for a smoother tran-

months, with a few reaching a full year.

NASA prefers to have overlapping crews sition, according to officials. Most space station missions last six

Sunita Williams' Hundreds of N Korean troops killed in Ukrainian battles

AP WASHINGTON

Acouple hundred North Korean troops fighting alongside Russian forces against Ukraine have been killed or wounded during battle in the Kursk border region, a senior military official said Tuesday.

The official didn't provide details on exactly how many have been killed, but said the North Korean forces don't appear to be battle-hardened, which contributes to the number of casualties they've had. The official was providing the first significant estimate of North Korean casualties, which comes several weeks after Ukraine announced that North Korea had sent 10,000 to 12,000 troops to Russia to help it in the almost 3-year war.

The White House and Pentagon on Monday confirmed that the North Korean forces have been battling on the front lines in largely infantry positions. They have been fighting with Russian units and, in some cases, independently around Kursk.

The casualty disclosure comes as the Biden administration is pressing to

send as much military aid as possible to Ukraine before President-elect Donald Trump takes over. But a senior defense official told reporters Tuesday that the Defense Department may not be able to send all of the remaining USD 5.6 billion in Pentagon weapons and equipment stocks intended for Ukraine before Jan. 20, when Trump is sworn in. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity to provide a US assessment of the war.

According to the Pentagon, there is about USD 1.2 billion remaining in longer-term funding through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which is used to pay for weapons contracts that would not be delivered for a year or more. The official said the administration anticipates releasing all that money by the end of this year.

The USD 5.6 billion is in presidential drawdown authority (PDA), which allows the Pentagon to take weapons off the shelves and send them quickly to Ukraine. That is a substantial amount of money, the defense official said, and while the US will continue to provide weapons to Ukraine until Jan 20, there may well be funds remaining that will be available for the incoming Trump administration to spend. Trump has talked about getting some type of negotiated settlement between Ukraine and Russia, creating some

unease about whether he will provide

Ukraine all the weapons funding

approved by Congress.

Ukrainian and Russian forces have been in a fierce battle around Kursk. and the official said Russia has been able to take back about 20% of the territory gained there by Kyiv. They said it will be possible for Ukraine to hold ground there for some time, but it will depend on how the rest of the fight is

going, including the long-range strikes

that Kyiv has been launching. The officials said it's not clear if Moscow has asked Pyongyang for additional forces, but acknowledged that Russia continues to lose as many as 1,200 troops a day in casualties including both dead and wounded. But so far, Russia has been able to generate enough forces to replace them.

B'desh HC commutes ULFA leader's death sentence

ABangladeshi High Court on Wednesday commuted the death sentence of ULFA leader Paresh Barua to life imprisonment and acquitted a former junior minister and five others in a 2004 case of attempted smuggling of weapons to the separatist outfit in northeast India.

A total of 10 truckloads of weapons were seized in April 2004 despite alleged efforts of certain "influential quarters" for its safe passage to United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) hideouts in northeastern India through Chattogram, which was then spelled as

'Chittagong'.
The seized weapons included over 27,000 grenades, 150 rocket launchers, over 11 lakh ammunition, 1,100 sub machine guns and 11.41 mil-

The two-member High Court bench commuted the punishment of ULFA leader Paresh Barua, who was sentenced to death after a trial in absentia now assumed to be living in China — and sentenced him to life imprisonment, said a government attorney at the bench. The High Court bench comprising Justice Mostafa Zaman Islam and Justice Nasrin Akhtar acquitted former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and six others, who were handed down capital punishment following the death reference hearing, he added.

The five others to escape the gallows are former director general of forces Intelligence (DGFI) retired major general Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury, former managing director of a state-run fertilizer plant (CUFL) Mohsin Talukder, its general manager Enamul

Hoque, former additional secretary of industries ministry Nurul Amin and Iamaat-e-Islami leader Motiur Rahman Nizami.

The plant site was said to have been used for trans-shipment of weapons for ULFA.

Former chief of Bangladesh's National Security Intelligence ex-brigadier general Abdur Rahim, a former DGFI director as well, was also sentenced to death but he died a normal death in prison as the appeal and death hearing process was underway.

Nizami, a former minister in the past Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)-Jamaat alliance government, however, was nanged several years ago on charges of crimes against humanity during Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War siding with the Pakistani troops while his party was opposed to the country's independence.

Battered by regional tensions and energy crisis, Iran's rial hits record low

AP TEHRAN

he Iranian rial on Wednesday I fell its lowest level in history, losing more than 10% of its value since Donald Trump won the US presidential election in November and signalling new challenges for Tehran as it remains locked in the wars raging in the Middle East. The rial traded at 777,000 rials to the dollar, traders in Tehran said,

down from 703,000 rials on the day Trump won. Iran's Central Bank has in the past flooded the market with more hard currencies as an attempt to improve the rate.

In an interview with state television Tuesday night, Central Bank Gov. Mohammad Reza Farzin said that the supply of foreign currency would increase and the exchange rate would be stabilised. He said that \$220 million had been injected into the currency market.

The currency plunged as Iran ordered the closure of schools, universities, and government offices on Wednesday due to a worsening energy crisis exacerbated by harsh winter conditions. The crisis follows a summer of blackouts and is now compounded by severe cold, snow and air pollution. Despite Iran's vast natural gas and

oil reserves, years of underinvestment and sanctions have left the energy sector ill-prepared for seasurges, leading to rolling blackouts and gas shortages.

In 2015, during Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, the rial was at 32,000 to \$1. On July 30, the day that Iran's reformist President



Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn in and began his term, the rate was 584,000 to \$1. Trump unilaterally withdrew

America from the accord in 2018, sparking years of tensions between the countries that persist today. Iran's economy has struggled for years under crippling international sanctions over its rapidly advancing nuclear program, which now enriches uranium at near weaponsgrade levels.

Pezeshkian, elected after a heli-copter crash killed hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi in May, came to power on a promise to reach a deal to ease Western sanc-

Tensions still remain high between the nations, 45 years after the 1979 US Embassy takeover and the 444-day hostage crisis that followed. Before the revolution, the rial traded at 70 for \$1.

Iran remains deeply involved in the Middle East conflicts that have roiled the region, with its allies battered - including the militant groups and fighters of its selfdescribed "axis of resistance," such as Palestinian Hamas, Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthi

Russia says suspect detained in killing of senior general

AP MOSCOW

vices.

 $R^{ussia's \ security \ service \ said}_{Wednesday \ that \ it \ has}$ detained a suspect in the killing of a senior general in Moscow. The suspect was described as an Uzbek citizen recruited by Ukrainian intelligence services. Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, didn't name the suspect, but said he was born in 1995. According to a statement by the FSB, the suspect said himself that he was recruited by Ukrainian special ser-

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov was killed Tuesday by a bomb hidden in a scooter outside his apartment building in Moscow, a day after Ukraine's security service levelled criminal charges against him. His assistant also

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that

Israeli forces will stay in a buffer

zone on the Syrian border.

seized after the ouster of Syria's

President Bashar Assad, until

another arrangement is in place

"that ensures Israel's security."

Netanyahu made the comments

from the summit of Mount

Hermon — the highest peak in

the area — inside Syria, about

10 kilometers (6 miles) from the

border with the Israel-held

It appeared to be the first time

a sitting Israeli leader had set

foot that far into Syria.

Netanyahu said he had been on

the same mountaintop 53 years

ago as a soldier, but the summit's

importance to Israel's security

has only increased given recent

Israel seized a swath of south-

ern Syria along the border with

the Israeli-annexed Golan

Heights days after Assad was

Israel's capture of the buffer

zone, a roughly 400-square-

kilometer (155-square-mile)

demilitarised area in Syrian ter-

ritory, has sparked condemna-

tion, with critics accusing Israel

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOW TO ALL CONCERNED THAT We Shri Vishal Gupta S/o Shri Vinod Gupta

R/o 12/4 First Floor, Subhash Nagar, New

Delhi-110027 And Shri Nand Kishore Yaday

S/o Late Shri Chiru Yadav Resident of

Sarwan Khurd Barachatti, Dist. Gaya (Bihar-

824201) and Sh. Mukesh kumar Yadav Slo

Sh. Nand Kishore Yadav resident of Sarwar

Khurd Barachatti, Dist. Gava (Bihar

824201), are the partners of the firm namely

M/s Ramras Builders that the partners have

mutually agreed to dissolve the said

partnership as per the deed of dissolution of

partnership firm dated- 11 December 2024.it

anybody have objection or claim any thing in

espect to the firm may contact within :

South Delhi Circle, 7 UGF,

Shikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

Email:cosdelgad@pnb.co.in

BANK PREMISES REQUIRED

Punjab National Bank requires suitable

ready built and well-constructed hall type

building having Caroet Area including space for ATM (1600-2000 sqft. approx.) on

1. Central Road, Jangpura Bhogal, New

Premises should be preferably on Ground Floor and if on first floor should have lift

facility. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory authorities. Interested owners/ registered Power of Attorney Holders of such premises

in the desired locality who are ready to leas

out their readily available premises on lon-term lease basis preferably for 15 years o more may send their offers in the prescriber

format available on Bank's Web Sit

https://www.pnbindia.in or the same ma

be obtained from the above address durin office hours. The complete offer duly seale & signed and should reach the undersigne on or before 31.12.2024 till 2.00 PM at the

above address. No brokerage will be paid by the Bank. Bank reserves the right to accep or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion

vithout assigning any reasons whatsoever.

No. 3741

Assistant Genera

se/rental basis at following places

Delhi-110014

Date:19.12.2024

0-915

days with the partners of the firm.

ousted by rebels last week.

Golan Heights.

AP JERUSALEM

died in the attack. A Ukrainian official said the service carried out the attack.

The FSB said the suspect had been promised a reward of USD 100,000 and permission to move to a European Union country in exchange for killing

The agency stated that, acting on instructions from Ukraine. the suspect travelled to Moscow, where he picked up a homemade explosive device. He then placed the device on an electric scooter and parked it at the entrance to the residential building where Kirillov

The suspect then rented a car to monitor the location and set up a camera that livestreamed footage from the scene to his handlers in the central

of violating a 1974 ceasefire and

possibly exploiting the chaos in

Syria in the wake of Assad's

"We will stay ... until another

arrangement is found that

ensures Israel's security," said

Netanyahu who had traveled to

the buffer zone on Tuesday

with Defense Minister Israel

Katz.Katz said he instructed

the Israeli military to quickly

establish a presence, including

fortifications, in anticipation of

what could be an extended stay in the area. "The summit of the

Hermon is the eyes of the state

of Israel to identify our enemies

who are nearby and far away," he

An Israeli military official, who

spoke on condition of anonymi-

ty in line with military regula-

tions, said there is no plan to

evacuate the Syrians living in

villages within the buffer zone.

The buffer zone between Syria

and the Israeli-controlled Golan

Heights was created by the U.N.

after the 1973 Mideast war. A

UN force of about 1,100 troops

had patrolled the area since

A UN spokesman said Tuesday

that the advance of Israeli

troops, however long it lasts,

violates the 1974 deal that set up

Haryana

Date: 18.12.2024

form will disqualify the offer. No brokerage will be paid.

क्रमांक 337/यांत्रिकी/पविनि/24

म.प्र. माध्यम/117864/2024

ordiffmail.com GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR

1st Corrigendum Notice

Under unavoidable circumstances, the availability of tender online for bidding & opening of Technical Bids of the tender invited vide eProcurement Notice No.3497 Dtd.26.11.24/ Bid Identification No. NCB-17/ RWCKJR / 2024-25 of Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar is hereby rescheduled as below.

Availability of tender Online

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA
WORKS DEPARTMENT

Dt.30.12.24

up to 5.00 P.M.

Dt.04.12.24

11.00 A.M.

Tender call Notice

ouster to make a land grab.

Ukrainian city of Dnipro. Once Kirillov was seen leaving the building, the suspect detonated the bomb. According to the FSB's statement, the suspect faces "a sentence of up to life

imprisonment. Kirillov, 54, was the chief of the military's nuclear, biological and chemical protection forces and was under sanctions from several countries, including the UK and Canada, for his actions in Moscow's military operation in Ukraine. On Monday, Ukraine's Security Service, or SBU, opened a criminal investigation against him, accusing him of directing the use of banned chemical

weapons. Russia has denied using any chemical weapons in Ukraine and, in turn, has accused Kyiv

occupation,

spokesman Stephane Dujarric

said. There was no immediate

comment from Hayat Tahrir al-

Sham, the insurgent group that

led the ouster of Assad, or from

Israel still controls the Golan

Heights, which it captured from

Syria during the 1967 Mideast

war and later annexed — a

move not recognized by most of

the international community.

Mount Hermon's summit is

divided between the Israeli-

annexed Golan Heights,

Lebanon, and Syria. Only the

United States recognizes Israel's

सार्वजनिक सूचना

मै ललित सिंह भाकुनी निवासी Block H, House No 123, Sector 22, Noida, G.B.Nagar, U.P. 201301

NOIDA AUTHORITY LETTER DTD 09-10-2014 IN FAVOR OF MRS DHANULI DEVI

रखे हैं, यदि किसी को मिलते हैं तो कप्या वर्णित पते पर

भिजवाने का कष्ट करें और इनका किसी भी प्रकार र

Mob. & Landline

Mob- 96060 84363

Ph: 0129-4151209

Deputy General Manager

दिनांक : 18.12.2024

कार्यपालन यंत्री

Will be intimated later

Tender in O/o C.C.E., R.W.
Circle, Keonjhar.

ललित सिंह भाकरन

POSSESSION LETTER

स्तेमाल गैरकानूनी होगा।

Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 Web: www.canfinhomes.com

Sir M N Krishna Rao Road, Near Lalbagh West Gate

WANTED OFFICE PREMISES

Can Fin Homes Ltd. a Housing Finance Company requires space of 800-1000 sg. ft in Groun

First / Second Floor in a good locality on lease for 5 to 10 years at the following location:

(Deputy General Manager)

Interested Premises Owners may send their offers in a closed envelope to

Can Fin Homes Ltd. Zonal Office-North Zone, 112A, Part-B, Second Floor,

NIT No.5, Nation HUT, Main Road (171 ft wide road), Faridabad, Haryana as per ou

brokers / intermediaries will not be entertained. Can Fin Homes Ltd. reserves the right to

reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. Canvassing in any

पर्यटन भवन, भदभदा रोड, भोपाल-462003

फोन: +91-755-4027100, 2774340/42, वेब.: www.mpstdc.com

निविदा सूचना 161/2024_STDC 389284_1

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम भोपाल द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेत्

ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा प्रपत्र APPENDIX 2.10 पर म.प्र. लोक निर्माण

विभाग में उपयक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य का

नाम : कशाभाऊ ठाकरे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कंवेंशन सेंटर, भोपाल में MICE

(Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) हेत् सिविल, बाहरी

विकास, इंटीरियर, फायर फाइटिंग एवं अन्य विकास कार्य (आंतरिक विद्यतीकरण

वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन भगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डॉक्यमेंट) वेबसाइट के

माध्यम से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम

तिथि 29.01.2025 समय सायं 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत

Dt.27.12.24

up to 5.00 P.M.

Date: 17.12.24

Dt.31.12.24

11.00 A.M.

E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com

Dt. 13.12.2024

Chief Construction Engineer

Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordh

विवरण वेबसाइट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

सहित)। (15 माह)। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 5784.00 लाख

format in our website www.canfinhomes.com on or before 26th December, 2024.

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास

निगम मर्यादित

emises should be ready for occupation with all facilities/ amenities. Offers fi

Designation

Mr. S.P. Srivastava

the buffer zone.

remains

Arab states.

of using toxic agents in combat. Kirillov, who took his current job in 2017, was one of the most high-profile figures to level those accusations. He held numerous briefings to accuse the Ukrainian military of using toxic agents and planning to launch attacks with radioactive substances claims that Ukraine and its Western allies rejected as propaganda.

The bomb used in Tuesday's attack was triggered remotely, according to Russian news reports. Images from the scene showed shattered windows and scorched brickwork.

Russia's top state investigative agency said it's looking into Kirillov's death as a case of terrorism, and officials in Moscow vowed to punish Ukraine.

Netanyahu says Israeli troops will occupy a buffer zone inside Syria for the foreseeable future

control of the Golan Heights. That agreement "needs to be With Assad gone, a top UN official said Tuesday that militant respected, and occupation is leaders who have taken over occupation, whether it lasts a week, a month or a year, it

Syria have committed to "an ambitious scaling-up of vital humanitarian support" for mil-Branch Details/Contact No.:lions in desperate need of food and other aid. The leader of the insurgent HTS — Ahmad al-Sharaa, for-

Advocate Details/Contact: leepak Singh, Delhi High Court ontact: 9999170066

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Ume Lata had acquired Property bearing No. IX/2792area measuring 25 sg. vards. Khasra No. 8, 9, 11 t 16, situated at abadi Gali No. 4, Chandar Puri, Kailas Nagar, in the area of Village Seelampur, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi vide GPA Dt. 12.01.1993 along with will executed by Mrs. Bhagwati and Now Mrs. Bhagwat s the undisputed owner of the said property.

ny person / firm / institution / company having an claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance wsoever or otherwise is hereby required to mate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days om the date of publication of this notice of is/her/their share or claim, if any with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. Aftee expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of suct person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Aiav Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161. Baser Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

This is to inform the general public that the Bank of Baroda, S.S.I. Noida Branch, Sector-18 Noida, (U.P.) intends to accept the ntioned properties standing in the nam of Mr Manupriyam Jindal S/o Mr Sandee of Mr Manupriyam Jindal S/o Mr Sandeep Kumar Jindal, having Leasehold Residential Property hereinafter referred to as Details of Property -Residential House No. 72, Measuring 45() sq mtr., Situated at Block No. D, Sector-48, Noida, District Gautam Budh, Uttar Pradesh, owned by Mr Manupriyam Jindal S/o Mr Sandeep Kumar Jindal, R/o C-209, Sector-48, District Cautam Budh Nagar LIP, as a security. Sandeep Admar Jinda, H/O C-209, Sector-46 District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., as a securit for loan/credit facility requested by M/s Atharv Laboratories Pvt Ltd, having its Regd. office a House No 29, Plot No 28, Parijat Apartmen Sector 4, Dwaraka, New Delhi-110075.

If anyone has any right/title/interest/ claims ove the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim. If no response is received within 10 days, it i presumed that the property is free from any charge/claim/encumbrance, and the Bank shall

charge/charn/encumbrance, and the Bank Shair proceed with the mortgage.

Details of Property-1:- Leasehold Residential House No. D-072, Measuring 450 sq mtrs., Situated at Block No. D, Sector-48, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. Registry No. 2003 on 21-03-2023 Nagraty 110, 2000 off 21700-2023 Soundaries: East: Plot No. D-73, West: Plot No. 3-71, North: 12 Mtrs. Wide Road South: Plot 40, D-139

Mr. Anurag Singh, Branch Head Contact: +91-967517685

Sabharwal, to be financed & mortgaged by my clien .e., Axis Finance Limited and Mrs. Raksha Sawhne ad expired and thereafter on the basis of will date 3.07.2021, Mr. Varun Sawhney became the owner of roperty No. K-11/58 A, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds ituated at Laipat Nagar-II. New Delhi. If any person(s situate at Lajpat riagar-II, New Deini, II any personis) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.

Raghay Tiwari, Advocate

ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: 107/W-2/APDJ by the undersigned for the following Tender No.: 28-AP-III-2024 Name of Work: At Binnaguri Development of Goods yard, provision of System, Covershed, Connecting Road & provision of Hume Pipe Culvert. Tende Value: ₹5,66,81,288.65/-; Earnes Money: ₹4,33,400/-; Date & time o Closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. an opening at 15:00 hrs. on 03-01-2025. For

Dated: 13-12-2024: E-Tender are invite by the undersigned for the following works Tender No.: 36-AP-II-2024; Name of Work: Manufacturing and supply of alumino mic welding portion of 52kg/60kg/60El-R260 including 25mm gap in-situ welding during traffic block using Railway's welding portion vide Estt No. 04/Enga/AP/II of 2024-25 under the jurisdiction of DEN/II/ Alipurduar Jn. Tender Value: ₹26,50,744.50/-; Earnest Money ₹53.000/-: Date & time of Closing of tender at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 08-01-2025. For details please visit in the vebsite http://www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

that Sh./Smt. Lakshmi Kutty W/o C. H BALAKRISHNAN was allotted member The Nava Kairali CGHS Ltd, Plot No. 10 Sector-3. Dwarka. New Delhi- 110078 She expired on 06/04/2023 without naming her nominee. Smt. Lakshmi Kutty has now sought transfer of her membership to her elder son Rijesh Balakrishan incase an person has any claim or objection against this transfer, the same may be submitted to the ociety within 30 days from the date of thi notice at the above mentioned address.

nformation is given to general public at large the limt. Sanju Devi w/o Shri Santosh Kumar who is/al Smt. Sanju Devi w/o Shri Santosh Kumar who is/are purchasing Portion of Plot No. RZF-905/6 Back Side, area measuring 35 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 47/1, Village Palam, abadi Raj Nagar-II, F-Block New Delhi from Shri Harish Chander Syo Late Smt. Mesar who was the owner of the said property by virtue of Relimquishment Deed dated 24.06.2014 (Doc. No. 7680) executed by Smt. Meera Devi Dyo Late Smt. Mesar Smt. Poonam Kumari Ø/o Late Ent. Mesar & Smt. Poonam Kumari Ø/o Late Smt. Mesar Lintend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. Surviving Member Finance Company Limited. Surviving Membe Certificate of Smt. Mesar w/o Shri Kehar Singh is no available with the Seller i.e Shri Harish Chander S/ available with the Seller Le Shri Harish Chander S/C Late Late Shri Kehar Singh (Father) & Smt. Mesa (Mother). To comply the requirements o BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days at below address. NCR LAW ASSOCIATES (Advance & Consultants) & 4-98

कार्यालय मुख्य महाप्रबन्धक, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तराख.ड जल संस्थान की ओर से निम्न कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा, टू–बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कार्मिशियल बिड) आधार पर

111.37	मुसार जानात्रस का जाता है।								
विदा	कार्य विवरण		निविदा प्रपत्र	ई-निविदा द्वारा निविदा	तकनीकी बिड		प्री—बिड		
सं		धनराशि	डाउनलोड करने	प्रपत्र जमा करने की	खोले जाने की	की	मीटिंग की		
		₹.	की तिथि एवं समय	अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	तिथि एवं समय	वैधता	तिथि एवं समय		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
	दर अनुबन्ध आधार पर उत्तराखण्ड राज्य के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थापित विभागीय कलैक्शन सेंटर्स पर विभागीय साफ्टवेयर								
1 के	के माध्यम से जलमूल्य आदि के बिल तैयार करना, बिलों के विरुद्ध कलैक्शन प्राप्त करना एवं तत्सम्बन्धित कार्य								
		93000.00	19.12.2024	17.01.2025	18.01.2025 at 11:00 a.m	on dove	26.12.2024		
		93000.00	from 11:00 a.m.	upto 5:00 p.m	at 11:00 a.m	90 days	at 11:00 a.m		
–निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त जानकारियां व शर्ते उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की									
ा सकती हैं।									

THE PIONEER S LASSIFIED

Kankarawa, Father No.16021831P Hav Rampal Kankarawa, R/o- Vill+Po-Palri Jodha, Teh- Marwar Mundwa, Dist- Nagaur, Rajasthan- 341028, have changed my name from Bhanwaru Ram Kankarawa to Bhanvaru Ram, vide affidavit dated 18/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

No.16021831P Hav Rampal Kankarawa, R/o-Vill+Po- Palri Jodha, Teh-Marwar Mundwa, Dist-Nagaur, Rajasthan- 341028, have changed my son's name from Virender Kankarawa to Virendra Kankrawa, vide affidavit dated 18/12/2024

PD(1098)C I, Geeta Devi, Mother of-No.16021831P Hav Rampal Kankarawa, R/o- Vill+Po-Palri Jodha, Teh- Marwar Mundwa, Dist- Nagaur, Rajasthan- 341028, have changed my name from Geeta Devi to Gita, vide

Fuladi, Mother of-No.6942946P Hav Mukesh Kumar, R/o- Vill+P.O-Kishorpura, Teh- Chirawa, Dist- Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan-333028, declare that in my son's service records, my name & D.O.B is wrongly written as Phool Kaur-05.04.1959, whereas my correct name & DOB is

PD(1100)C Lalita Devi W/o-No.6942946P Hav Mukesh correct name & DOB is Lalita Devi-10.02.1986.

PD(1101)C I, Malti Dixit (Aadhar No.2393 5237 2166), W/o SH. Rakesh Dixit R/O.F-136, Flat No. A-2, Jawar Park, Devil Road, Khan Pur, New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi-110062. hereby declare that by mistakenly recorded as Malti instead of Malti Dixit. that I am declaring that Malti Dixit and Malti are the same and

PD(1103)C

I, Daljeet Kaur W/o Dalveer Singh R/o 154, Gali No-31, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi-110029 declare that Daljeet Kaur and

same and one person. My name Daljeet Kaur shall be

I, Arvinder Kaur Bhogal W/o Devinder Singh R/o B-20, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018 after marriage have changed my name to Arvinder Kaur Sodhi and my correct Date of Birth is 04.11.1970.

PD(1096)A

AKASH DEEP HANDA S/o SH B.D.Handa, Residing, at Apt 501, Olive County, Sector 5, Vasundhra, Ghaziabad-201012, DO HERE BY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HERE AFTER BE KNOWN AS AKASH KAPOOR IN FUTURE, FOR ALL PUROSE.I ALSO DECLARE THAT AKASH DEEP HANDA AND AKASH KAPOOR IS ONE AND THE SAME AND ONE PERSON.IT IS CERTIFIED THAT I HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE LEGAL OTHER REQUIREMENTS IN THIS

Ali Residing At - H.No B-11, B Block, 20 Futa Road Brij Puri, Gokulpur, Delhi -110094 Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Daughter Laeba Malik Aged 1 Year And She Shall Hereafter Be Known As Haniya Saif Ali, In Future, For All Purpose. I Also Declare That Laeba Malik And Haniya Saif Ali Is The One And Same Person. It Is Certified That I Have Complied With The Other Legal Requirements In This Connection

I, Kamla, W/o. Shri Puran Chand, R/o. A-1462, Jahangirpuri Delhi-110033. that I, have changed my name from Kamla Devi to Kamla for all purposes.

I, Procheta Chatterjee Spouse Of Soumik Chatterjee Resident Of House No.1, 2nd Floor, Pocket-C/5, Sector 6, Near Chotu Ram Park, Post-Rohini Sector-7, Dist- North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name from Procheta Chatterjee to Procheta Banerji vide affidavit dated. 17.12.2024

PD(1108)C

E AUCTION NOTICE

Interested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Accidental Caterpillar-SEM 656D)," on "Lump Sum Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As s Where is". Whatever there is" and "No be inspected at M/s. Ashok Chouhan & Co ying at M/s. Gainwell Commosales Pvt Ltd (Formerly Tractors India Pvt Ltd.) #1-C/1 Ecotech-II, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida, between 19-12-24 to 30-12-24 between 10 AM to 5 PM only. Kindly contact Mr. Shisher Daljit Kaur Manku both are Parkash at 9958392281 for inspection

E-Auction will be held on 31-12-24 Kindly contact Ms. Pranita Parab at

8369644069 to obtain the form containing terms & conditions of e-Auction or download from website https://www.sealthedeal.co.in/

Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at 148. Pocket C2. Sector 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085 Last date of Submission of form &

enders are invited by the

indersigned for the following work Tender No: 50-AP-I-2024. Name of Work: Manufacturing and Supply of Alumino thermic welding portions of 52kg/60kg/60EIR260 including 25mm gap 'in-situ' welding during traffic block using Railway's welding portion vide Estt. Nos. 13/Engg/APof 2024-25, 14/Engg/AP-I of 2024-25 & 15/Engg/AP-I of 2024-25 under the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/I/Alipurdua Jn. Tender Value: ₹41,48,068.83 Earnest Money: ₹83,000.00. E

ender will be closed at 13:00 hrs on 06-01-2025 and opened at 15:00 hrs. on 06-01-2025. The complete information with the tende documents of above e-tender will be available in the website http:// www.ireps.gov.in.

MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

-tender for the under noted work:

Rs. 62.40.699.36/-Rs. 1,24,800/-30.12.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time 08061032 details of tender documents can be seen

[UNDER RULE 8(6)OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002] E AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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OrderNotice | Date of Last Date | 21.01. Rs.40 Rs.40,0 2025 ,00,0 0,00/-Sq. Meters , 38HK.
On property No.
1417, A/13,
Khashara No. 93
situated at Govind
Puri , Kalkaji, New
Delhi-110019 virtue of Registered
Sale Deed having
registration No.
10967 in book No. 1
Volume No. 1358 Eighty Seven Thousand Five Hundred And Eight Nine All that piece and 27.06. 01.12. 2024 2023

ime of Bank & Branch ICICIBANK LTD, MOTINAGAR, DELHI AKASA FINANCE LIMITED

used for all future purposes. PD(1095)C

I HITHERTO KNOWN AS

CONNECTION

PD(1107)C

Before District Court Rohini,

CCTV, Merchant room, Goods office Labour rest room, Toilet Water Supply http://www.ireps.gov.in. DRM(W), Alipurduar Junctio NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

पत्रांकः 5557 / ई-निविदा / 2024-25

सचिव (प्रशासन)

CHANGE OF NAME

Asking Prices USD-5310

Said Property.

Alka Khanna intends to transfer the ownership aforementioned Property by way of Sale Deed Bhushan Goyal. Subsequently, Bhushan Goyal in the process of mortgaging the said property will rata Capital Housing Finance Limited. Ar objections or concerns regarding this transactic should be raised within a period of 7 days from it date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said proper

Maxheights Metro View Apartments,

Santosh (Wife)

Jagvir Singh Jakhar (Son)

Poonam (Daughter) company, and thereafter no objection/ claim will be entertained in this regard.

Kshitij Sharda Advocate
Date: 18.12.2024

writing, with documentary evidence, to egistered AD Post, to the undersigned the address mentioned herein below with 07 days of publication of this notice an the event of no response having be ceived to the notice, the title of the attorne holder in respect of the said floor shall I deemed to be clear of any charge encumbrance of any nature whatsoever a any subsequent claim shall not bind o nt/Purchaser, in any manner wha

AZERBAIJAN EMBASSY Car for Sale Audi A-4, Petrol-2014, KM-79,500,

merly known as Mohammed al-

Golani — and the country's

caretaker prime minister

Mohammed al-Bashir, pledged

to support the movement of aid

from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan

and other neighboring countries

"for as long as humanitarian

operations are required," said

Tom Fletcher.

Indian Money Contact: Mr.Ramil Adiyev Mobile: 9717060044

This is to inform the united States. This is to inform the general public that Alka Khan the general public that Alka Khan the united States and the property of the Barea measuring 1995 sq. yds. out of Khan the states of the united States o

Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultant at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s

On behalf of M/S MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT, LTD having its registered office at 408, 4th floor, RG Trade Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi -110034, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of application/documents submitted by Sh. Jagvir Singh Jakhar S/o Late Sh. Kapoor Singh Jakhar R/o B-133, Block B, Palm Global School, Sector-35, Sonipat-131001, the Developer M/s Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd is Substituting, in place of Late Sh. Kapoor Singh Jakhar, the name of following Class 1 Legal heirs of Late Sh. Kapoor Singh Jakhar, qua allotment of Flat No. B-034, 3rd Floor,

Sector - 35, Sonipat, Haryana:-

Neelam Chahar (Daughter) Ranjan Jakhar (Daughter) Ajay Jakhar (Son)

If any person has any objection/claim or the said property or against the said substitution, they may file his/her claim/objection within 15 days to the

PUBLIC NOTICE Reg: Built-up Second Floor Left Side (withour nof rights), area measuring 29.17 sq mtrs "said floor", part of Property bearing Nex-316-C, measuring 58.34 sq. mtrs., Gall No. 20, falling in Khasra No. 448 & 449, situated at Tughlakabad Extn., New Delhi-110019 (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Ajay Kumar (hereinafter called the "Purchaser"

Said Property 7.

Be it known to all that our client, Mr. Ajay Kumar (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intends to purchase the said floor from Mr. Ramakant Samal, Attorney of Mrs Sashmita Samal (hereinafter called the "Attorney-holder"). In this connection, the Attorney-holder has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute attorney holder in respect of the said floor vide. POA documents viz.,GPA, ATS and Will dated 21/08/2023 executed by Mrs Sashmita Samal owned the said floor vide Sale Deed further informed that Mrs Sashmita Samal owned the said floor vide Sale Deed registered as Document No. 9007 on 14.10.2013 executed by Mrs RBS Infratech (P) Ltd., in her favour (SRO V, New Delhi). The Attorney holder has also informed the Purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s. relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Resistered AD Post, to the undersigned at

PD(1104)C

PD(1097)C

before Notary Public Delhi.

affidavit dated 18/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi PD(1099)C

Fuladi-01.01.1961. Kumar, R/o- Vill+P.O-Kishorpura, Teh- Chirawa, Dist- Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan-333028, declare that in my husband's service records. my name & D.O.B is wrongly written as Lalita Kumari-10.02.1984 whereas my

one person.

I, Rakesh Dixit (Aadhar No.6068 5451 9912), S/o SH. Baleswar Dayal R/o. F- 136, Flat No. A-2, Jawar Park, Devil Road, Khan Pur, New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi-110062. hereby declare that by mistakenly recorded as Rakesh instead of Rakesh Dixit. that declaring that Rakesh Dixit and Rakesh are the same and one person.

PD(1102)A I Saif Mohd. S/O Shamshad

PD(1105)A

Letter, No Objection And Perpetual Lease Deed issued by the DDA has been lost. A F.I.R to this effect has been lodged to police station dt 18/12/2024. Any person(s) claiming any right, having any objection o found in possession of original document may write. contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this (Industry) A- Block , First Floor, DDA, Vikas Sadan **ALIPURDUAR DIVISION** E-Tender Notice No.: 112/W-2/APDJ

PUBLIC NOTICE e known to all that I, Vidhya Mittal W/o Chhabil s Mittal R/o. 8 Upper Ground Floor New Sainik ir Pitam Pura Delhi-110034, Mob. 9311584123,

NCR LAW ASSOCIATES (Advocate & Consultants) A-98 Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, (U.P.)-201009

जल भवन, 'बी' ब्लाक, नेहरु कालोनी, देहरादून।

दिनांक : 18/12/2024

ALIPURDUAR DIVISION E-Tender Notice No. 108/W-2 APDJ; Dated: 13-12-2024. E

DRM (Works), Alipurduar Jn

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open

Name of Work with its location Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of SCADA system of GZB-SRE section for a period of Four Years. Approx. Cost of work **Earnest Money Deposit** E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period

6 Fund Allocation Website particulars where complete

E-Tender No.: 41-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Date: 18.12.2024 3878/2024 **SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

E AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice For Sale Of Immovable Property under the Securitization and Recon
of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ('the said Act') read with pro
Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('the said Rules'), Rule 8(g)of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). And Guarantor(s) that below described given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that below described immovable property mortgaged/charged in favor of Akasa Finance Limited (formerly known as Pooja Finiease Lid.) (Secured Creditor), the possession of which has been taken by Authorized Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever is there Basis" on the date and time specified herein below, for the recovery of the amount due to the Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and the Co-Borrower(s). The Reserve Price and the earnest money deposit of the immovable property ("Mortgaged Property") is mentioned herein below.

Amount
Due as or
18.11.202
Rs 1.03,76,
20/-(Rupee:
One Crore
Three
Lakhs
Seventy Six Ms. Surmedha All that piece and Nagpal Dro Late Shri H.C. Nagpai Dortion without (Borrower/ Mortgager) SBHK, On property No. 1561, Gali Number 13, Khashara No. 93, admess/riting area onwar d till 4 Seventy Si Thousand admeasuring area 75 Sqr yards, situated at Govino Puri , Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019

Name of Bank & Branch
Name of Bank (Branch
Name of Baneficiary
AKSAFINANCE LIMITED
Account No
38405003562
The bid price to be submitted shall be above the Reserve Price and the bidders shall improve their further
offer in multiple of Rs. 50,000/C (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only). The property will not be sold below the
reserve price set by the Authorized Officer. The bid quoted below the reserve price shall be rejected and
the EMD deposited shall be for feited.
The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the purchase amount (including Earnest Money deposit
of 10% paid as above) on the day of declaration of successful bidder or not later than next working obly
thereof, as the case may be. The Balance 75% of the purchase price shall have to be paid on or before
the 15th day of confirmation of the sale by Secured Creditor or such extended period as may be agreed
upon in writing between the purchaser and Secured Creditor in any case not exceeding three
months. The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be returned on the closure of the E-auction proceedings
within 15 working days from the date of auction.
The sale is subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor, if the Borrower/Guarantor pays the amount of
the Sale is subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor, if the Borrower/Guarantor pays the amount of
the Sale is subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. If the Borrower/Guarantor pays the amount of
the Sale is subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. If the Borrower/Guarantor pays the amount of
the Sale is subject to solve the sale of execution sale deed, no sale will be concluded. Since the
prospective tenderers are advised to do their own due diligence in this regard. The Authorized Officer shall not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the
Government or anybody in respect to the aforesaid mortgaged property tax or any other dues to the
Government or anybody in respect to the property without assigning any reasons thereof. There are
certain minimum societ

property. The sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the said Act and the said Rules and the conditions mentioned above. For further details contact the Authorized officer on +91-97171-71117

For detailed terms and conditions please refer to the Tender Document which may be provided from the authorized officer by email. (the contents whereof shall be treated as part of this notice). STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULER & (5) MADE UNDER SARFAESIACT.2002

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

Date:18.12.2024

For Akasa Finance Limited

Authorised Officer

For any query please contact Mr. Braiesh Pandey, on +91-97171-71117

For any query please contact Mr. Brajesh Pandey on +91-97171-71117

Available of Bid document in : From 10.00 AM of Dt.21.12.2024 up to 05.00 PM of the Website : Dt.30.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM
Date of opening of Bid : Dt.31.12.2024 at11.30 AM
The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website:
https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Nature of Work Building Work No of Work 1No Rs.10000.00 (On-Line) **Tender Cost** Class of Contractor Available of Bid document in B& A Class From 10.00 AM of Dt.21.12.2024 up to 05.00 PM of

All other contents remain unchanged.

NCB-17 / RWCKJR 2024-25

OIPR-34127/11/0024/2425

Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-22/2024-25 Memo No - 2502 The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invitin tage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for building works as detailed

Sensex, Nifty extend losses into 3rd session on foreign fund outflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

 $E_{\text{Sensex and Nifty stayed}}^{\text{quity benchmark indices}}$ on the back foot for the third straight session on Wednesday as investors offloaded utility, capital goods and metal stocks amid foreign fund outflows.

Besides, investor sentiment remained subdued ahead of the outcome of the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, traders said.

The 30-share BSE benchmark tumbled 502.25 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 80,182.20, taking its downtrend to the third day. During the day, it tanked 634.38 points or 0.78 per cent to 80,050.07.

As many as 2,563 stocks declined while 1,442 advanced and 94 remained unchanged on the BSE.

The NSE Nifty declined 137.15 points or 0.56 per cent

"The near-term market construct has turned weak, with FIIs turning sellers on rallies. Yesterday's massive FII sell figure of Rs 6,410 crore in the cash market indicates that more selling is in store on market bounces.

"The focus of global markets today will be the Fed decision expected tonight. A 25 bps rate cut is priced in by the market. So, the attention will be on the Fed commentary," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. From the 30-share blue-chip

pack, Tata Motors, Power Grid, NTPC, Adani Ports, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro and Bajaj Finance were the main laggards. In contrast, Tata Consultancy

Services, Reliance Industries, Tech Mahindra and HCL Technologies were the gain-

"Nifty fell for the third consecutive session, losing 137



points amid selling pressure ahead of the US Fed's interest rate decision later on Wednesday. Over these three sessions, Nifty dropped by 2.3

FII selling intensified on Tuesday as they offloaded

GDP data to be released tomorrow. We expect markets to remain sideways with the Fed commentary determining the near-term direction, Siddhartha Khemka, Head Wealth Research, Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. The BSE smallcap index

decisions of Japan and England as well as US Q3

declined 0.76 per cent, and the midcap gauge dipped 0.61 per cent. Among sectoral indices, utilities tanked 2.06 per cent, power (1.78 per cent), capital

goods (1.56 per cent), metal (1.44 per cent), industrials (1.30 per cent) and financial services (1.20 per cent). BSE Focused IT, healthcare and IT were the gainers.

The rupee dropped 3 paise to close at an all-time low of 84.94 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday. "Investors shunned stocks led by banking ahead of the outcome of the US rate decision with a focus on the Fed chairman's commentary on inflation and growth outlook in the backdrop of the worsening global economic situation.

"The rupee continuing its downward trajectory and hitting fresh lows also dampened the sentiment, as extended fall could further worsen trade deficit and hit inflation going deficit and hit inflation going ahead," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities

worth Rs 6,409.86 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

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

European markets were trading in the positive territory in mid-session deals. Wall Street ended lower on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.48 per cent to

"15 companies are set to launch their IPOs by December 20, 2024, with many more in the pipeline. This surge in IPO activity is drawing substantial liquidity from the market, adding pressure to major indices.

"FIIs, who are major participants in the Indian equity markets, often wind down their trading activities towards the end of the year due to the Christmas Holiday in Europe and North America. This reduced participation can lead to lower demand for Indian equities, adding pressure to the Nifty," Vinit Bolinjkar- Head of Research at Securities, said. Ventura

Falling for the second day in a row, the BSE benchmark tanked 1,064.12 points or 1.30 per cent to settle at 80,684.45 on Tuesday. The Nifty tumbled 332.25 points or 1.35 per cent to 24,336.

Bihar to host 2nd edition of investor meet on Dec 19-20

A fter an impressive maid-en show, Bihar will on December 19-20 host the second edition of Bihar Business Connect - the global investor summit that looks at boosting industrial and entrepreneurial growth in the state.

The prestigious event, curated by the state's Department of Industries, seeks to showcase Bihar as a vibrant investment destination.

"The inaugural edition in 2023 witnessed participation from over 600 entrepreneurs from India and abroad. Bihar Business Connect 2023 was a landmark initiative. During the two-day summit held last year, a total of 278 investment proposals amounting to Rs 50,530 crore were signed as MoUs, out of which 244 projects worth Rs 38,000 crore have already been implemented on the ground," an official statement said.

This investment has significantly accelerated industrial development in the state and created numerous employment opportunities.

"Considering the success of last year's Bihar Business Connect, the Department of Industries, Government of Bihar, is once again organising this event," it said. "Bihar, once known for its agricultural heritage, is now emerging as a hub for industrial transformation, entrepre-



The event will feature Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, senior ministers of the state government, prominent industrialists, policymakers, and regional experts.

This two-day conference aims to establish Bihar as a premier destination for industries and investors while showcasing the state's economic and industrial growth potential.

The Bihar government has introduced several reforms and policy initiatives to encourage investment across various sectors. The Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy 2016 offers tax exemptions, subsidies,

industrial growth. Besides, there are sector-spe-

cific policies that target investments in high-potential industries like textiles, leather, logistics, biofuels, IT, and renewable energy.
Under the Startup Bihar

Policy, a fund of Rs 500 crore dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship has been set up. The state's Export Promotion Policy looks to boost global trade through facilities like Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and export packhouses.

With a Single-Window Clearance System and an investor-friendly administration, Bihar prioritises ease of domestic and international investors, the statement said. Key focus areas of Bihar Business Connect 2024 include manufacturing sector, infrastructure and connec-

tivity, and exports. Bihar's manufacturing sector is undergoing rapid develop-ment, with a focus on textile cluster and bag manufacturing, military footwear exports, ethanol plants and food pro-cessing units. The state has implemented several initiatives to empower MSMEs and startups. Under the Mukhyamantri Udyami Yojana, financial assistance of up to Rs 10 lakh for entrepreneurs from marginalized

scheduled castes/tribes, and persons with disabilities is provided. Over 21 incubation hubs are fostering innovation and providing a platform for startups. Also, affordable plug-and-play workspaces in Patna and Purnia are supporting emerging enterprises. Bihar has witnessed unprecedented growth in infrastructure development. The state ranks third in road density in India, facilitating smoother trade and transport. Its energy capacity has expanded from 700 MW to 7,000 MW. IT parks and upcoming data centers are propelling digital growth across the state. Projects like the Multi-Modal

inducing cautiousness in

Indian markets. Investors will

also watch out for interest rate

Logistics Park (MMLP) in Patna provide integrated supply chain solutions. 'Éihar is positioning itself as

a hub for global trade with focused infrastructure and policies," it said.

Bihar's Industry & Tourism Minister Nitish Mishra will inaugurate the two-day event. The session will include the signing of initial MoUs and 4-5 sector-specific sessions, with a special focus on MSMEs and startups.

A CEO roundtable is planned

on the second day.
"Significant MoUs will be signed in the presence of Nitish Kumar," the statement said adding during plenary sessions, key insights will be shared regarding Bihar's industrial potential and pol-

Tata Power-DDL awarded prestigious Certificate of Merit in DISCOM sector'



behalf of Tata Power-DDL.

The award was presented in the

esteemed presence of Minister

of State for Power and New &

Renewable Energy, Shripad

Naik. The event was attended by

many dignitaries from the gov-

ernment and private industries.

Tata Power-DDL has been a

pioneer in energy conservation,

actively participating and advo-

cating in demand-side man-

agement programs. The com-

pany's flagship initiatives,

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL), a leading power utility supplying electricity to a populace of around 9 million in North Delhi, has been awarded with the prestigious 'Certificate of Merit in the DISCOM sector' at the 34th National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2024. The award ceremony was organised by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the Union Ministry of Power (MoP) on the occasion of National Energy Conservation Day at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

received by Kiran Gupta, Chief Customer Experience, programs, aim to optimize Commercial, Govt. Affairs, energy usage while empower-EAC & Consumer Litigation, ing consumers to reduce their Shashank Sharma, HoD - G&I, carbon footprint. Commenting on the accolade, Gajanan S. Kale, Chief E&S, NBS & Street Light Projects and Kapil Kumar, HoD - PSC, BD & Storage on

Executive Officer, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said, "At Tata Power-DDL, energy efficiency and sustainability are at the core of our operations. We are honored to receive the 'Certificate of Merit' at the prestigious 'National Energy Conservation Awards 2024. This recognition motivates us to continue driving impactful energy conservation initiatives and inspires us to lead by example in building a greener, more sustainable

Gold falls Rs 200 to Rs 79,100 per 10 gm; silver rises Rs 500

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell Rs 200 to Rs 79,100 per 10 grams in the national capital on Wednesday amid a firm trend in international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity settled at Rs 79,300 per 10 grams in the previous session. Snapping a three-day losing

run, silver climbed Rs 500 to Rs 92,000 per kg on Wednesday. It closed at Rs 91,500 per kg on Tuesday. In the last three sessions, the white metal plunged Rs 5,500

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity slipped Rs 200 to Rs 78,700 per 10 grams from the previous close of Rs 78,900 per 10 grams on Tuesday.

Gold remains on the defensive as the market braces for the outcome of the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) meeting, which can provide forward guidance for bullion prices, experts said.

Meanwhile, in futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for February delivery went up Rs 74, or 0.1 per cent, to trade at Rs 76,945 per 10 grams.
"Gold continues to trade

within a range as market participants await the Fed's policy announcement tonight, with increased focus on the 2025 outlook and concerns surrounding the job market," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst of Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities,

In MCX, gold is trading near Rs 76,950. The policy



statement is expected to set the tone for the next leg of movement in gold prices, Trivedi added.

However, silver contracts for March delivery slipped Rs 45, or 0.05 per cent, to Rs 90,830 per kg on the Comex gold futures in the

Asian trading session rose 0.08 per cent to USD 2,664.10 per ounce. Gold prices declined on

Wednesday as the US dollar's strength and better-than-expected US retail sales data weighed down on bullion, Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

The solid consumer spending, along with the US economic resiliency and warmer inflation data in recent months, implies that the Fed may stop its rate-cutting cycle at the January meeting, which acts as negative for precious

metals, Gandhi said. Meanwhile, silver traded flat at USD 30.92 per ounce in the global markets.

'Gold and silver slipped under pressure from a strengthening US dollar, climbing Treasury yields, mixed US economic data and ceasefire updates," Manav Modi, Analyst, Commodity Research at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. Traders will focus on macroeconomic data such as the US housing, GDP and inflation, which could provide more insights on the trajectory of the gold and silver prices, Modi said.

According to traders, investors will be looking for clues about the outcome of the FOMC rate decision and focus on the Fed Chair Jerome Powell's commentary at the post-meeting news conference and the updated economic estimates.

This, in turn, will influence the dollar and provide some impetus to the gold price, they

We have to wait and watch to see how it pans out: Official on Trump's tariff threat

Imposing reciprocal duties violates global trade rules but one has to follow a "wait and watch" approach to US President-elect Donald Trump's remarks on imposing reciprocal tariffs, a senior official said on Wednesday.

US President-elect Donald Trump has said that India charges a lot of tariffs, reiterating his intention to impose reciprocal tariffs in retaliation for what New Delhi will impose on the import of certain American products.

Trump made these remarks on Tuesday and also said that India and Brazil were among countries that impose high tariffs on certain US products.

"It will be very difficult to decipher from one or two sentences which Mr Trump makes but if I understood from what he was saying. His main intent is that reciprocity will matter in future. So if you are putting a tax on Harley-Davidson (bikes) we will also put a tax on your motorbike exports. So from that point of view, this will be in clear violation of the WTO (World Trade Organization) norms but there are instances when Mr Trump has used measures like Section 232 of the Tariff Act which allows the US to take unilateral measures against countries on national

security grounds. "So one will have to wait and watch and see," Director General of Foreign Trade (DGF) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said here at CII's export competitiveness event. He said that there are many

areas where India has tariff

peaks but the country does not

necessarily export those to the



For example, India has high customs duties on a number of agri goods but they are not necessarily exported to America. "So if the US uses reciprocity and imposes taxes on that, it will not harm us in a major way but there could be a few items where this reciprocal principle thing might impact us," he

Further, he added, "So one has to wait and watch, how it is panning out and the fine print of this will be available only after they undergo a process like they have a process like they have a process where the USTR (US Trade Representative) examines, investigates and recommends

an action. Before guessing the impact, one will have to wait and watch as to which are the kind of products that they are looking at." In 2019, Trump repeatedly claimed that India is a "tariff

criticised India's "big tariffs" on American paper products and the iconic Harley-Davidson

The US was the largest trading partner of India in 2023-24. India's exports stood at USD 77.51 billion, while imports aggregated at USD 42.2 billion in the last fiscal.

In FY2024, India's top exports to the US included medicines (USD 8 billion), Garments and Made-ups (USD 7.5 billion), Cut and Polished Diamonds (USD 5.6 billion), Smartphones (USD 5.6 billion), Solar Cells (USD 1.9 billion), Shrimps (USD 1.9 billion), Shrimps (USD 1.7 billion), Gold Jewellery (USD 3.3 billion), Auto Parts (USD 2.1 billion), Steel (USD 475 million), and Articles of Steel (USD 2.8 bil-

Commenting on the Trump remarks, think tank GTRI said while Indian tariffs comply with WTO rules, the proposed king" and imposes "tremendously high" tariffs on Trump tariffs would violate

Reliance Nippon Life starts negotiation with IndusInd Bank on bancassurance tie up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, a subsidiary of debt-ridden Reliance Capital (RCAP), has initiated talks with IndusInd Bank for bancassurance partnership as the IIHL and RCAP deal has

reached the final lap.

Mauritius-based IndusInd International Holdings Ltd (IIHL), the parent entity of IndusInd Bank, won the bid to acquire RCAP and entities under it.

"IIHL and Japan-based Nippon Life have struck a good understanding and they are absolutely clear about promoting the insurance business. This augurs very well for the business and policyholders as IIHL has a very strong capital base and a solid global aspiration in BFSI space," Reliance Nippon Life Insurance CEO Ashish Vohra

Hinduja Group company IIHL is expecting to complete the acquisition of RCAP by next month nearly a year after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

approved its rescue plan. Bancassurance was a missing link in our structure and we have started exploring the possibility with IndusInd Bank and we are already in dialogue to strike a win-win deal for all stakeholders," he said. At the same time, he said, the

company has started talks with other financial institutions as the regulation allows more than one such tie-up. IndusInd Bank serves about 41 million customers through 3,040 branches/banking out-



lets and 3,011 ATMs across

"Most of the approvals and procedures related to the resolution process of Reliance Capital are complete. Couple of the procedures at the end of the administrator and CoC are to be completed. We hope that all these will be over in the next 4-6 weeks and RCAP should come into the fold of Hinduja Group by the end of January," IIHL Chairman Ashok P Hinduja had said earlier this month.

As soon as delisting of shares is over, money will be handed over to RCAP debtors, he said, adding that delisting usually takes 4-6 weeks.

Sharing the road map for business expansion, Hinduja had said the focus will be on value creation, bancassurance and digitalisation to improve customer and policyholder experience.

He emphasised that the bancassurance model creates value for all stakeholders banks as well as the insurance companies.

"We aim to establish relationships on terms that are beneficial for all parties involved," he had said

Vinícius Júnior and Aitana Bonmati win FIFA best player of the year awards

Real Madrid star Vinícius Júnior finally got his hands on a big global player award on Tuesday.

Vinícius was named the men's player of the year at the FIFA's "The Best" awards, where awards, where Barcelona playmaker Aitana Bonmati confinued to clean up in the prizes for women's soccer.

The 24-year-old Vinícius was so disappointed to lose out to Manchester City midfielder Rodri for the Ballon d'Or in October that he and his Madrid team snubbed the ceremony in Paris in

This time Rodri ended up second to Vinícius by five points. The Brazil forward was at the FIFA ceremony to collect his award having travelled to Doha on Monday with Madrid for the Intercontinental Cup final against

"I don't even know where to begin," Vinícius said in Portuguese. "It was so far away that it seemed impossible to get

here. I was a kid who only played football barefoot on the streets of São Gonçalo, close to poverty and

"Getting here is something very important to me. I'm doing it for many children who think that everything is impossible and who think they can't get here."

Vinícius echoed those sentiments in an Instagram post, where he took a thinly-disguised dig at presumably the Ballon d'Or voters – journalists from the top 100 countries in the FIFA rankings.

Today I am writing to that boy who saw so many idols lift this trophy... Your time has come," he wrote. "Or rather, my Yes Larry Yes Larry come. The time to say... Yes, I am the best player in the world and I fought hard for it.

They tried and still try to invalidate me, to diminish me. But they are not prepared. No one is going to tell me who I should fight for, how I should behave." Vinícius has been subjected to racist abuse in Spain and at one point earlier this year said he was "losing my desire to play" but



added "I'll keep fighting."

making it back-to-back prizes at Bonmati won the award for best FIFA's version of the older and women's player of the year more prestigious Ballon d'Or has won the Ballon d'Or for two

prize. The 26-year-old Spain midfielder

straight years, and won the Spanish league, Spanish cup and Champions League Barcelona in 2024. "I am grateful to receive this

award. As I always say, this is a team effort," Bonmati said. "It was a great year, very difficult to repeat. I am grateful to the people who help me to be better every day, from the club, to my teammates, who always help me to be better." to be better"

FIFA said the award winners were decided by an "equally weighted voting system" by fans, the current captains and coaches of all national teams, and media representatives.

There was an 11-player shortlist for both awards, with the contenders selected based on

their performances from Aug. 21, 2023, to Aug. 10. 2024. Vinícius had the best season of his career, scoring 24 goals in 39 appearances for Madrid and helping the Spanish team to a record-extending 15th European Cup — and his second Cup — and his second Champions League trophy.

He also netted in the final, becoming the youngest player to score in two Champions League finals. Madrid teammate Jude Bellingham was third, ahead of Dani Carvajal and Lamine Yamal, with Lionel Messi - who had won the award the previous two vears — sixth.

Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti was named best men's coach, and United States coach Emma Haves took the women's prize.

Hayes steered the USWNT to Olympic gold in Paris in August. Their shotstopper, Alyssa Naeher, was given the women's goalkeeper award. Aston Villa and Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martínez won the men's prize for the

second straight year. Alejandro Garnacho won the FIFA Puskás Award for the best goal, for his sensational overhead strike for Manchester United against Everton in November

Marta won the award that is named after her — the inaugural FIFA Marta Award — for her goal for Brazil against Jamaica in June.



Six teams pick 48 players in draft for World Pickleball League

Atotal of 48 players were picked by six franchises in the player draft for the inaugural edition of the World Pickleball League which will be held here next

While the players draft consisted of 75 players from 20 countries, the tournament will feature men and women players from 14 countries including India, Japan, Spain, South Korea, Australia and

the United Kingdom. The WBPL, which works closely with All Indian Pickleball Association Association (AIPA), is co-founded by former Indian tennis players Gauray Natekar and Arati Ponnappa Natekar and will be rom January

The six franchises in the tournament will represent Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Delhi. The owners were guided by the league during the player draft here on Wednesday.

February 2.

"To ensure that the draft process was smooth, fair and transparent, we curated a special in-house software that consisted of all the necessary information about players," Natekar said.

We wanted to pick some of the best players across the globe and have a combination players who are experienced as well as new, young talent. We also wanted to give our Indian players a chance to shine so we had mandated each team that one player should be from India in each team," Natekar told

A total of eight players will be in each team including four men and as many women including a mandatory Indian

player. "The league format will comprise of a round-robin stage, where each team plays against the other resulting in 15 ties. Each tie featuring five including women's singles, doubles in each category and mixed doubles," the league

"Each team will play a total of 5 ties, at the group stage, the top four teams going forward to semi-finals and finals. Giving fans the opportunity to witness a total of 90 matches during the entire duration of the league," it

Delhi: Alexa Schull, Isha Lakhani, Eduardo Irizarry, Chung, Willy Miyoshi, Yoshitomi

Pune: William Sobek, Molly Vanshik Kapadia, Revuelta, Louis Laville, Molly O'Donoghue, Matysik, Rocio Mateusz Cardo.

Mumbai: Brandon Lane, Glauka Carvahal Lane, Mayur Patil, Sabrina Dominguez, Mihae Kwon, Kim Eung Gwon, Bartosz Karbownik, Katie Morris.

Ratie Pro-Bengaluru: Jack Poster Katerina Stewart, Vrushali Thakare, Trang Hyunh Jardim, McClain, Marcelo Jardim, Alejandra Bobaria, Grunert, Mauro Garcia

Chennai: Maria Klokotzy. Etienne Blaszkewycz, Sonu Tanner Vishwakarma, Thaddea Lock, Tomassi, Edward Perez, Calderwood, Sarah Jane Lim. Hyderabad: Max Freeman, Cavataio, Kuldip Mahajan, Ross Whittaker, Madalina Grigoriu, Karolina Owczarek, Ben Cawston,

India to face Pakistan in opening match of inaugural Kho Kho World Cup on Jan 13

Hosts India will face arch rivals Pakistan in the opening match of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup on January 13, the organisers announced on Wednesday.

As many as 24 countries have confirmed their participation in the week-long event (January 13-19), which will be organised at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in the national capital and at the Noida Indoor Stadium. "The league matches will start

on January 13. There will be an opening ceremony on that day and after that the most exciting match of the season, the match between India and Pakistan men's teams will be played," Kho Kho World Cup CEO Vikram Dev Dogra said during a media interaction. 'Thereafter, on 14th, 15th and

16th January, the remaining league matches will carry on,

PTI NAVI MIIMBAI

Harmanpreet Kaur's participation in India Women's T20I series decider

here on Thursday is under doubt after the

regular captain was sidelined from the

second match having suffered a niggle in

Smriti Mandhana, who stood in for Kaur as the West Indies levelled the series 1-1

on Tuesday, said the team is awaiting

update on Kaur's availability for the third

'Harman's fitness, (the) BCCI medical

team is observing on day-to-day basis.

They'll be at a better place to answer that

question. I think we'll have to wait for the

update from their side," Mandhana told

media after India's crushing nine-wicket

Kaur, who turned up for practice here last

Saturday with her knee strapped, scored

13 not out in India's big total of 195/4 but

she did not take the field in the series-

'Ĥarmanpreet Kaur sustained a niggle in

her knee while batting during the first

T20I against West Indies. Hence, she

remains unavailable for selection for the

second T20I. The BCCI Medical Team is

monitoring her progress," the team issued

a statement ahead of the second T20I

loss here on Tuesday.

opener here.

her knee during the first game.



quarterfinals will be held on January 17 and semifinals on January 18 and final on January 19."

The tournament will see 21 men's and 20 women's teams competing for the top prizes. Dogra said the national camp for 60 men and 60 women is currently underway at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, and the Indian teams for the event will be selected from among these players.

Kho Kho Federation of India president

India waiting on Harmanpreet's

fitness update: Smriti Mandhana

ORERM!

chairman of the tournament's organising committee, Sudhanshu Mittal announced that Bollywood megastar Salman Khan will be the brand ambassador of the World Cup. "I am announcing with pride that the brand ambassador of the event will be Salman Khan," Mittal said.

"I am proud to be associated with the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup 2025. This is not just a tournament – it's a tribute to India's soil, spirit, and strength. All of us,

including me, have played Kho Kho at one point in our lives," Khan said in a message.

"It is a sport with non-stop action and relentless spirit that has already captured the global attention. Let's come together and celebrate the soul of Kho Kho on the global stage," he

USA, England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil are among the teams that have confirmed their participation in the

tournament. The event will take place in a league-cum-knockout format, for both men and women.

Among Asian countries, Indonesia will send only their women's team while all other nations will send both their men and women's squads.

Mittal had said that 615 players and 125 support staff will take part in the event. Each team will comprise 15 players, one coach, one manager and international

player. The executions were not at the

mark," she said after her counterpart

"As a as a bowling unit, our execution can

be better. The only way we can get them

out is to put pressure by dot balls. We

couldn't do that, even in the start or

maybe even after six overs. We couldn't

create a lot of dot balls and the pressure

"As a bowling unit we did give a lot of

Windies skipper Matthews hailed West

Indies' nine-wicket win as a "massive feat".

"I think that's our first win against India,

as far as I remember probably since (the)

2016 World Cup here, so that's a massive

feat for us. However, we feel like it's just

the beginning. These are the kind of

performances we want to be consistent

Matthews, who cracked 17 fours in her

knock in a brutal display of power-hitting,

emphasised on hitting boundaries for a

T20 cricket is a game where it's probably

very boundary oriented. Anytime you are

scoring 80 plus, you're probably going to

have a lot of boundaries. It's quite

motivating coming down here after the

first game especially, and being able to level the series one all," she added.

Matthews hit a 47-ball 85.

width," Mandhana added.

was never there?

with," she said.

long innings.



against West Indies

PTI ■ NAVI MUMBAI

India will look to make amends in all areas and counter the West Indies' power game when the two teams face off in the decider of the women's T20I series on Thursday, with regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's participation still shrouded in

uncertainty. A comprehensive 49-run win in the series opener helped India extend their domination in the format to nine consecutive victories but West Indies crushed the hosts by nine wickets to level the ms in the second game

The manner in which West Indies cruised to win with 26 balls and nine wickets to spare, hitting a total of 27 fours and two sixes, the visitors left India scrambling for answers.

None of the Indian bowlers could pose any threat as heavy dew made their job only tougher. On their part, the West Indies used the conditions to their benefit. They send the balls to the ropes more times rather than attempting to hit sixes which also worked in their favour.

The conditions expected to change much in a day's time but India will be required to change a lot in terms of their collective batting and bowling, aside concerns over the availability of Kaur.

Kaur didn't take part in India's fielding innings in the first match last Sunday and missed the second on Tuesday owing to a "niggle in her knee".

Her unavailability for the series decider will certainly

rob India off an in-form batter, for Kaur has struck two fifties in her last three T20I

outings. Stand-in skipper Mandhana's second fifty of the series gave India a platform to push on for a competitive total but the rest of the batters could not carry their form from the first game in which they had put a

collective show. A visible improvement in the West Indies' tactics to bowl tighter lines and not give width made the batters' job difficult but beyond Mandhana and Richa Ghosh (32) no one el their way through a phase where the ball was also losing

pace off the surface. In Kaur's absence, the seniors in Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma will have to shoulder extra responsibility in the middle order which featured debutant Raghvi Bisht at the number 4 slot in

the second game. India will also have to watch out for the all-round threat posed by West Indies veteran Deandra Dottin, who has made a strong impression on this series. The pair of Hayley Matthews and Qiana Joseph provide West Indies a lot of firepower at the top, which again will be a challenge for

India to manage. "It would mean a lot to the group if we were able to win this series. But we know in order to do that, we've got to come back and play just as good as we played today or even better. We know it's not going to be easy work,"

Matthews said after the

Will await with interest India's bid for 2029 World Championships: WA chief Coe

Mandhana, meanwhile, brushed aside any

concerns regarding her after she copped a

blow to her hand towards the end of the

"I think (the) finger is fine now. Just that

initial impact, where you think that 'oh, it can be wrong,' but it's all good now,"

Mandhana, who struck a 41-ball 62 to lead India's charge, said her side did not

bowl enough dot balls to put pressure on

"We did try everything to stop them. But Hayley (Matthews) is definitely a quality

the free-flowing West Indies batters.

second match.

Mandhana said

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe says his organisation will "await with interest" India's expected bid for the 2029 World Championships but indicated that there will be tough competition from other countries to get the hosting right of the showpiece.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is set to formally express its interest to host the 2029 World Championships when the process is launched in the next few months, in line with the country's plan to stage a series of high-profile events to mount a serious bid for the 2036 Olympics.

2029 Championships, look, we will await with interest (India's

expected bid). I have to tell you, we've got a lot of interest in those Championships already, and the process will open shortly," Coe replied to a PTI question during a virtual conference with the global

It was in December last year when the AFI first revealed its intention to bid for the 2029 World Championships.

The bidding process is expected to start in January-February 2025 along with the publication of a time-line. World Athletics is expected to announce the host city in

running powerhouse Kenya has also declared its interest to host the 2029 World Championships while Britain, which staged the showpiece officials.

in 2017 when the legendary Usain Bolt ran his last international race in London, has also done the same, though not formally.

The bidding process for the 2027 World Championships to be held in Beijing, China, began in January 2023 and the announcement of the host city was made in March 2024. 2025 Championships will be held

in Tokyo. Earlier, the AFI officially submitted its expression of interest to host the World U20 Championships in 2028 when Coe made a two-day visit to India last month.

He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, besides AFI



Minister with Prime (Narendra Modi) and actually with PM Modi. was comforted by the recognition that sport,

the most accessible sports,"

Coe said about his discussion "He (PM Modi) sees (it) as a

growth and development of ambitious communities, particularly among young people, both mentally and physically. And that was in large part the discussion.

"I have to say that I spend a lot of time talking to senior politicians and political leaders. I've rarely found such commitment to that concept. I was very pleased to hear that commitment."

Coe, who is one of the frontrunners to become Olympic International Committee president in the March 2025 elections, said Indian athletics is moving ahead in the right direction, with javelin superstar Neeraj Chopra's achievements being the key to its growth.

Adille chief) athletics, is very key element in the Sumariwalla is a very

federation president. We will continue to have good dialogue with India, both at governmental level and certainly federation level.

"And yes, Indian athletics is moving in the right direction. And it's not unhelpful that Neeraj (Chopra) is there on the scene, just reminding people that there is occasionally an alternative to cricket."

A few days back, the AFI announced that India will host its maiden World Athletics Continental Tour event -- a bronze level meet --August Bhubaneswar, and Coe said he is delighted with the development.

Continental Tour is an annual series of track and field

competitions held under the aegis of World Athletics and it forms the second tier of international meetings after the prestigious Diamond League. "While I was in Mumbai just

recently, I received a letter of intent for the the Under 20 World Championships in 2028. "I know Bhubaneswar well

It's a city that staged successful Championships (in 2017). And it's a city that has a commitment to sport and legacy. So, that's a good thing,"

said Coe, who had attended the Asian Championships in The host city for the 2028 World U20 Championships

will be announced by September next year.

the pioneer

Third Test between India and Australia ends in a draw

ndia escaped with a crucial draw in the weather-hit third Test against Australia after intermittent rain wiped out majority of play on day five, leaving the five-match series tantalisingly locked at 1-1.

Resuming the day at 252 for nine, India batted for 24 balls and were all out for 260 in their first innings. With limited time left in the day to

force a result after majority of the morning session was rained out, the Australian batters came out all guns blazing and stuttered to 89 for seven in 18 overs before making a brave declaration, giving India at least 54 overs to chase down 275.

Bad light and rain forced an early tea break soon after with India at 8 for no loss in 2.1 overs. The rain got heavier as the time passed and no play was possible thereafter. The absorbing series is nicely

poised going into the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. India would have fancied chasing

275 on day five but weather

helped them immensely in the game controlled by Australia. Jasprit Bumrah (3/18) was brilliant as usual in the second

innings with Mohammed Siraj (2/36) and Akash Deep (2/28) offering good support.

Australia's approach in the second essay was brave and questionable at the same time.

Nathan McSweeney (4) and Marnus Labuschagne (1) went after balls outside the off-stump and perished while Usman Khawaja (8) and Mitchell Marsh (2) fell to good deliveries.

Wickets falling in a heap did not impact Australia's approach as they kept going for the big hits. Skipper Cummins chipped in with two sixes and as many fours before the declaration.

In the morning session, lightening and subsequent rain allowed only 24 balls to be bowled.

The warning of severe weather was flashed on the digital scoreboard at the Gabba shortly after India were bowled out for 260 in their first innings, handing Australia a lead of 185 runs. Akash Deep (31) was the last man



out, stumped off a Travis Head delivery, bringing an end to a 47-run stand with Jasprit Bumrah (10 not out).

The duo had done well to avoid the follow-on on day four.

Players were asked to remain in the dressing room and fans were requested to take shelter away from the fence after the visitors were all out.

The forecast was largely clear for Brisbane from Thursday onwards but the entire game has been adversely impacted by bad weather with rain forcing multiple stoppages for four out of five days. Only day two of the game was not impacted by weather as Australia coasted to 405 for seven on the back of memorable hundreds from Head and Steve Smith.

Going into the fourth Test beginning December 26, India have major concerns in both batting and bowling department which they must address.

Barring K L Rahul, who has been

India's standout batter on the tour, the star-studded line up has not found a way to negotiate the threats posed by the Australian

Head confident he'll be 'fine' for

Boxing Day Test in Melbourne

Skipper Rohit Sharma has been woefully short of runs and after the hundred in Perth, superstar Virat Kohli has struggled with ball outside the off-stump.

Majority of the batters have been guilty of playing away from their bodies in challenging conditions. They will need to curb their white-ball instincts to make an impact at MCG.

On the bowling front too, it has been effectively a one man show with Jasprit Bumrah doing the heavy lifting in all the games. Mohammed Siraj bowled in the

Brisbane Test with a niggle, leaving a question mark over his fitness ahead of the Melbourne Akash Deep, who played ahead of Harshit Rana, bowled well in the game but did not have a lot of

luck, especially against Smith. He is expected to retain his place the India have picked three different spinners in the first three Test. It

remains to be seen what strategy they adopt for the Boxing Day



Will go to Melbourne with confidence: Rohit

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma hailed the resilience of the lower-order batters after his team managed to salvage a crucial draw in the rain-hit third Test against Australia here on Wednesday, saying the side it has given the side renewed confidence for the remaining series.

With the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy now tied 1-1, Rohit believes the team's will be high during the Boxing Day Test Melbourne.

"I mean, we will take that. Obviously to have interruptions like that wasn't great, but going to Melbourne at 1-1 pretty much gives us that confidence to go out there and pull things towards us," Rohit said at the post-match presentation.

The situation we were in just after lunch (on Day 4), needed someone to stand up and take us through, we knew with the weather, we knew it wasn't going to be a full game."
Opener KL Rahul once again

shone, top-scoring with 84 before Ravindra Jadeja (77) put up a lower-order resistance. Then the last duo of Akash Deep (31) and Jasprit Bumrah (10 not out) put on a gritty 47-run partnership to help India avoid follow-on

Australia captain Pat Cummins is not bothered

if India walked away with

momentum from the drawn third Test but is pleased that

they did not let the visitors

conditions in the first innings.

Australia, who largely controlled the third Test,

declared their second innings

at 89/7 to set India a 275-run

target but rian prevented an

exciting climax. "(I) can't say I've ever been

scared of momentum — don't really care about that. I think

we can take a lot from this

week," he told media after the

end of the contest.

batting

exploit better

PTI BRISBANE

before they were all out for 260 in reply to Australia's big first innings score of 445.

"Credit to (Ravindra) Jadeja, the way he played and (KL) Rahul, the way he played was magnificent at the top of the order, the fight that Akash Deep and Bumrah (gave) was great to watch, we have seen them work so hard at the nets (on their batting).

Despite the challenges posed by intermittent rain and lightning on the final day, wlers held their own in the second innings.

Bumrah was particularly brilliant, taking 3/18, while Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj chipped in with two wickets each.

Australia's bold approach in the second innings saw them declare at 89/7, setting India a target of 275 in 54 overs, but bad light and rain ensured no further play was possible after the early stages of the chase.

"Coming to the bowling, Bumrah was outstanding, Akash Deep is a feisty cricketer, always wants to be involved in the game, very new to international cricket, he has worked hard at the nets, still new to international cricket, but he has put in the hard

yards...
"There are people in the group to put their hand across and help him going forward. As he

momentum in India's favour after draw

conditions were probably a

little bit better. We can take a

Ashwin is one of the all time

expectedly ended in a draw

with the series tied 1-1, India's

spin great Ashwin announced

his immediate retirement

Cummins said Ashwin's decision midway through the

"Yeah, (the timing was) a bit of a surprise. He's obviously

been a fantastic player all

around the world really.

There aren't too many finger

spinners that have that kind

of longevity. He'll go down as

"(He was) always a fantastic

one of the all-time greats."

from international cricket.

series was surprising.

greats While the contest the number of times players

said.

Australian capatain Cummins denies

lot from that," he said.

showed with the bat, these are the sort of characters we needed in the team," Rohit added.

Cummins rues not leading 2-1 Australia captain Cummins lamented impact of rain on the game's outcome. Would be better to be 2-1, lot

of rain, nothing we can do about it. We set a huge total and felt like we were right ahead of the game throughout," said Cummins. heartbreak with pacer Josh Hazlewood ruled out of the entire series with a calf strain.

probably helped, Starc and I were able to push through. "Day 5 here can be up and down, there wasn't much cricket played on it, felt challenging when the ball was

"Poor Josh, one of those

few rain breaks

things,

new and hard." Cummins also highlighted the positives that his team could take from the match.

"(Steve) Smith and Head's innings' were fantastic, Alex Carey too... (Nathan) Lyon looked really good, Starc got wickets, just about ticked off every box."

On the Boxing Day Test, Cummins said: "That will be amazing, one of those things here in Australia that you wake up and can't wait for.

The home skipper said the

Brisbane Test was one of the

most frustrating games due to

"It's right up there. I can't

remember (in the past) even

coming close (to) the amount

of times we were on and off

throughout the five days," he

"Especially here in Brisbane, I

feel like it normally just pelts

down for a couple hours and

then you're back on and it's

clear... yeah, frustrating. (It)

felt like we were ahead of the

game for pretty much all of it,

Hazlewood to miss remainder

of series, Head will be fine

but not to be," he added.

were forced off the field.

Pacer Ihsanullah returns to action after injury fiasco

PTI KARACHI

Promising young Pakistan pacer Ihsanullah has to competitive returned cricket in the ongoing Cup Champions tournament in Rawalpindi after being sidelined since late 2022 following a botched diagnosis of his injury. The Pakistan Cricket Board

appointed independent medical panel to oversee his rehabilitation, following prolonged issues with his treatment and recovery.

Ihsanullah emerged as a bright prospect during the 2022 Pakistan Super League to be fast-tracked into Pakistan's white-ball squads for T20 and ODI matches. However, his progress was halted by an elbow injury, which led to significant scrutiny of the PCB's medical management. The independent medical panel discovered that the injury had been misdiagnosed, and appropriate treatment was not initially recommended.

Ihsanullah had also not adhered to his rehab properly. This mismanagement eventually prompted the resignation of the PCB's head of medical panel, Dr Sohai

Saleem. his treatment, During Ihsanullah even underwent an elbow surgery but he was later sent to England to see a specialist by the independent medical panel who ruled out another surgery recommended a new rehab programme for the player.



PTI ■ BRISBANE

ustralia's man in form, A Travis Head, played down concerns over his fitness after appearing to struggle with a potential groin issue during the rain-marred drawn third Test against India at the Gabba here on Wednesday.

Head said he expects to be "fine" for the Boxing Day Test Former pacer Brett Lee called

The five-match series is tied 1- noting 1 going into the Boxing Day Test after the drawn affair. 'Very pleased with the way I am batting at the moment. Just a little sore, but I should be fine (before the next game)," Head, who was adjudged the player of the match, said after the game.

The 30-year-old, who has been in red-hot form with 409 runs at an average of 81.80 this series, noticeably struggled to run between the wickets during his brief innings of 17 on day five. At times, he was seen

clutching his groin, raising concerns among commentators.

Head's limited movement, while Indian great Ravi Shastri also expressed concern, describing the potential injury as a "body blow" for Australia, given Head's big role in the batting lineup. Head did not take the field

during India's second innings,

Rairangpur Municipality

fuelling further speculation. "Travis, he'll be fine. It's a bit of a tight quad. He'll be fine for Melbourne," asserted his captain Pat Cummins.

The left-hander further reflected on his approach this series, attributing his success 2024 that' I now onwards I shall to adapting well challenging conditions and staying composed at the

work through the gears. I had different plans, pleased I could get through those. Good partnership with (Steve) Smith," he said on their centuries, contributing to their 241-run massive stand. "I just try to sum up the conditions well. What I've done well this series is assess the conditions. Pleased with the tempo I've batted with. Pretty relaxed communication. "Felt like he was back in his rhythm, and he gives me full freedom and confidence

"Challenging wicket. I had to

AFFIDAVIT

knowing he's going to be there for a long while. I feel like I am

playing the situation in front of me," he added.

Rajendra Prasad, aged about 50 years, Son of Late Ram Lochan Vishwakarma, resident at- Jindal Steel and Power Base Camp, G/7, Base camp Soyabali, P.s. Barbil, Dist. Keonjhar, Odisha, pin 758035, declare by this affidavit No 3202 dtd.- 29/08/ be known as Rajendra Prasad Vishwakarma for all future purposes.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: BALANGIR Address: - Office of the Balangir Municipal Council Balangir, Opp. Of Rajendra Park Balangir, Pin: -767001, Ph No.: - 06652 232720, Email ID:- bgrmc1972@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Balangir Municipality invites Request for Proposal (RFP) in Double Covers from reputed NGOS/CBOs/Agencies/Joint Ventures/Company/Service Providers for Providing Sanitation Services in the Designated Zones under Balangir Municipality.

The sealed RFP document supported by relevant details and proof of their eligibility is to be submitted in closed covers addressed to the Executive Officer, Balangir Municipality, Dist. Balangir (Odisha), PIN-767001 on or before 1.00 PM 06.01.2025 through Speed Post/Registered Post only. The complete RFP document can be downloaded from the Balangir District website (https://balangir.odisha.gov.in/) from 17.12.2024 onwards. All bidders are requested to go through the RFP before submission of proposal. Balangir Municipality reserves the right to reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reason thereof. Executive Officer

Balangir Municipality



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION, ROURKELA email ld :- seridrkl@gmail.com 'e' Procurement Notice

e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO - SERID-RKL-10/2024-25 (ONLINE) DT 13.12.2024

The Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percenatge Rate Bid in single cover system to be received in online mode from the eligible contractor registered with the State Government, contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class Registered with Central Government/ MES/ Railways/CPWD work as detailed below

OVELLI	ment MES/ Kanways Cr WL	***	ork as actualled octors.
1.	Nature of Work	:	CIVIL WORKS
2.	Total Number of works	:	06(six) nos
3.	Bid Identification No.	:	BID IDENTIFICATION NO. SERID-RKL-10/2024-25 (ONLINE)
4.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 4.2 lakh to 32.00 lakh
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'D' , 'C' & 'B' class Contractor
6.	Cost of Tender Paper	:	Referred to DTCN
7.	Earnest Money Deposit	:	Referred to DTCN
8.	Period of completion	:	Referred to DTCN
9.	Date & time of	:	From dt 20.12.2024 at 10.00 A.M to dt. 30.12.2024
	Availability of Bid documents in the portal		up to 05.00 P.M.
10.	Last Date / time for receipt of bids in the portal	:	Dt. 30.12.2024 at 05.00 P.M
11.	Date and time of Opening of Bids	:	Dt.31.12.2024 at 11.30 hours
12.	Last date & time of seeking of clarification	:	Dt 26.12.2024 at 5.00 P.M
13.	Place of Opening	:	Office of the Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela
14.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, Rourkela Irrigation Division, Rourkela

1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said

2. Further details can be seen from Government Website http://tenderodisha.gov.in

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
ROURKELA IRRIGATION DIVISION

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: RAIRANGPUR No. 3495 Dt. 17.12.24 Ph. No. (06794) 222054 Fax- 06794 222054

It is notified to all concerned that, Rairangpur Municipality has fulfilled all the parameters of ODF ++ accordingly preliminary notice is hereby published to the same effect that Rairangpur City is going to self declared itself as ODF ++ on dt.27.06.2024. It is further called upon that duration of Rairangpur Municipality being ODF ++ to the municipality office Rairangpur within 15days from the date of publication of the notice in public domain. The complete parameters for fulfillment of ODF++ are available on office website www.rairangpurmuniciplaity.org. **Executive Officer**

OIPR-13106/11/0007/2425

FOREST DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
SIMILIPAL SOUTH WL DIVISION, BARIPADA
e-mail – dfo.similipalsouthwi@odisha.gov.in.

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.- DD South-BPD-06/2024-25

02 (Two number of work) Approximate estimated cost: Name of the Work Construction of 02 storey 02nos of Forest Guard Quarters at Pithabata under CAMPA APO 2024-25 Construction of 01no Forest Guard Quarter at Podadiha Range Office Campus, Podadiha under CAMPA APO 2023-24 (in Rs.) 29,82,364/-

Period of Completion: - 3 (Three) Calendar months.

Date & Time of availability of bid documents in the portal:- Dt.20.12.2024 to 29.12.2024

Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal:- Dt.29.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM

Date of Opening of bid:- Dt.30.12.2024 at 11.00 AM

Name & address of the Office inviting bid:- O/o the Deputy Director, Similipal South

WL Division, Baripada, Mayurbhanj.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Office of the Superintending Engin Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjan (Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E -mail: <u>cembbn</u>

INVITATTIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E -BNJ-R&B- 25 / 2024-25. : - Electrical Work 2 Nos. Electrical Work

: Single Cover : - Three Calendar Month

> Up to 6.00 PM. of dated 01.01.2026 : - At 11.00 A.M. of dated 02.01.2025.

Name of work

No. of Covers Period of Completion

Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal Last dato/time for receipt of bids in the portal Date of opening of bid documents

: • From 12.00 Noon of dated 23.12.2024 to 5.00 PM, of dated 01.01.2025.

OIPR-32018/11/0009/2425

competitor, (we) had a lot of Cummins lamented that "A couple great Class of Contractor :- "HT" Elect. Contracto partnerships, to be sent in on pacer Josh Hazlewood has battles against him over the Name.and.address.ot.otticer.inviting.Bid a (fresh) wicket and score 450 vears here in Australia as well been ruled out of the series due to injury but said Travis (445) and then managing to over in India. Just a massive Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tondorcodicha.gov.in. The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will Head would be fine from a bowl India out for 250 (260) respect from our change room to the career that he's when the wicket, the "tight quad" trouble.