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Opposition, Treasury benches agree to discuss Constitution



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, JP Nadda, and others during the screening of the film 'The Sabarmati Report', at the Parliament in New Delhi

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

After a week of acrimony with no business or discussions held ever since the Winter Session of Parliament started last week, the Opposition and Treasury benches on Monday are believed to have resolved to break the deadlock, and "work for smooth functioning," until a fresh provocation is bulldozed from either side. On a day when a group of Parliamentarians, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, watched a special screening of the Bollywood movie 'The Sabarmati Report' in the Annex, leaders from both the sides came close to breaking the impasse in Parliament with a discussion on the

Constitution to mark its 75th year of adoption. The breakthrough came at a meeting of Speaker Om Birla with floor leaders of different parties. The Opposition parties had demanded discussions in both Houses of Parliament to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly. Several Opposition leaders, who attended the meeting, also echoed similar sentiments. The Congress said that the Modi Government has accepted its request for a special two-day discussion on the Constitution and hopefully now it will "allow both Houses to function". The party alleged the Government does not want Parliament to function as it is "running away" from a discussion on issues such as Adani indictment, Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest. Proceedings in both Houses were adjourned for yet another day on Monday amid protests by Opposition members over the Adani indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and other issues.

Kazhagam's (DMK) TR Bалу and Trinamool Congress' (TMC) Kalyan Banerjee among others besides Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and his deputy in the ministry Arjun Ram Meghwal. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju expressed confidence that both Houses will function smoothly from Tuesday. Sources said the Lok Sabha will take up the discussion on the Constitution to mark its 75th year of adoption on December 13 and 14, and the Rajya Sabha on December 16 and 17. Asked about the Opposition raising other issues such as Sambhal violence and Manipur, Rijiju said a decision will be taken in accordance with the rules. Congress said the Modi Government has accepted its request for a special two-day discussion on the Constitution and hopefully now it will "allow both Houses to function". The party alleged the Government does not want Parliament to function as it is "running away" from a discussion on issues such as Adani indictment, Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest. Proceedings in both Houses were adjourned for yet another day on Monday amid protests by Opposition members over the Adani indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and other issues.



NCR in GRAP IV grip till Dec 5

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The ban on driving BS-3 petrol or a BS-4 diesel cars in Delhi will continue till Thursday, as the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday refused to relax restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) amid high levels of air quality index levels. The SC observed that despite the alarming air quality levels, there has been a lack of serious enforcement of measures outlined under GRAP Stage IV, which is triggered when air quality deteriorates to hazardous levels, and it will take a call on a proposal for relaxation by the Commission for Air Quality Management on Thursday. The SC stressed on finding a permanent solution to the issue of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR), saying a similar situation arose every year between October and December. It further directed the Delhi police to provide armed protection to those Court Commissioners who

wish to continue monitoring implementation of GRAP IV measures in Delhi-NCR. Notably, there was a slight improvement in Delhi's air quality for the second consecutive day on Monday, even as it remained of "poor" quality with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 280 in the morning. According to data provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the National Capital recorded an AQI of 285 on Sunday, an improvement to the "poor" category, and a welcome relief following 32 consecutive days of "very poor" and "severe" air quality (AQI above 400). A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih further directed the chief secretaries of NCR states to appear before it through video-conferencing on December 5 to inform whether or not any subsistence allowance was paid to the construction workers who went without work owing to the restrictions.

All is well in Maharashtra: BJP

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After days of uncertainty, in the wake of it leading the MahaYuti to a spectacular victory in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) finally began to get its act together on Monday as it called its legislature party meeting on December 4 to elect its leader - ahead of the swearing-in ceremony scheduled to be held on the following day. Though the BJP has not yet formally announced its Chief Ministerial choice, party sources said that the party's central leadership has put a stamp of approval on the name of its senior leader and former CM Devendra Fadnavis for the top post in the state. At a meeting to be held at 10 am on December 4 in the Central Hall of the Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan, Fadnavis will in all likelihood be elected as the BJP's Legislature Party (BJPLP) leader, paving the way for his being sworn in as the next CM of Maharashtra on December 5. The BJP's Parliamentary Board is sending former Gujarat CM and the party's in-charge for Punjab Vijay Rupani and Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the central observers for the BJPLP meeting. After the BJPLP meeting, the leaders of the ruling MahaYuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar), will call Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, and formally stake claim to form a new government in the state. While confirming that the



The BJP's Parliamentary Board is sending former Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani and Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as central observers

BJPLP leader would be elected on December 4, Maharashtra party president Chandrashekar Bawankule announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be present at the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP-led MahaYuti government to be held at the historic Azad Maidan at 5 pm on December 5. The BJP is inviting prominent personalities from various walks of life for the swearing-in ceremony. Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena (ES) and Ajit Pawar (AP) are likely to meet in the afternoon of December 4 to discuss and formalise the nitty-gritties of the new government. While the CM and two Deputy CMs will take oath of office and secrecy at the swearing-in ceremony, it remains to be seen as to how many ministers from the BJP, Shiv Sena (ES) and NCP (AP) will be sworn into the office at the December 5 event. Given that there are issues relating to the Cabinet portfolio allocations that need to be sorted out among the MahaYuti constituents, the three leaders are expected to meet immediately after the swearing-in ceremony and formalise the ministry allocations. Since the Maharashtra Assembly comprises 288 members, there can be a maximum of 43 ministers in the State Cabinet, a number that accounts for 15 percent of total members in the lower House of the State Legislature. A struggle to grab key portfolios has begun among the MahaYuti constituents. The ministries like Home, Finance & Planning, Revenue and Urban development are the key portfolios in the State Cabinet. Apart from these four major portfolios, there will be a lot of bargaining among the MahaYuti constituents over other important portfolios like Agriculture, Industries, Water Resources, Forests, Rural Development, Energy, Public Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development and Excise.

SC fumes after V Senthil Balaji returns to TN Cabinet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over reinstatement of DMK leader V Senthil Balaji as a Cabinet minister in Tamil Nadu, just days after it granted bail in the money laundering case related to the cash-for-job scam, and agreed to examine a plea raising apprehensions on independence of witnesses in the case. "We granted you bail and days after you go and become minister. Anybody will be bound to be under the impression that now with your position as a senior Cabinet minister, witnesses will be under pressure. What is going on?" A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Balaji. The Bench, however, refused

to interfere with SC's September 26 order granting bail to Balaji on a plea filed by one of the complainants seeking its cancellation. The Bench made it clear it would not recall the order as the law laid down by the SC was benefitting several other persons. Justice Oka further said the court would not issue any notice in the matter but limit the scope of enquiry to whether the witnesses would be "under pressure" to depose in the case. "The apprehension is that considering the seriousness of allegations against the second respondent (Balaji) in the predicate offences, the witnesses may not be in the frame of mind to depose against the second respondent who is holding the position of Cabinet Minister. "This is the only aspect on which prima facie we are inclined to consider the application, and while making it clear that there is no reason to interfere with the judgement on merits and adjudication of the application remains confined to the aforesaid," the Bench wrote in its order. It then asked Balaji's counsel Ram Sankar to get instructions and posted the matter for further hearing on December 13.

Tragic end to a promising life

PNS ■ HASSAN (KARNATAKA)

A young Indian Police Service (IPS) officer died in an accident while he was on his way to take up his first posting in Hassan district, police said on Monday. Harsh Bardhan, (26), was a 2023-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya Pradesh, they said.



The accident took place on Sunday evening, when the tyre of the police vehicle he was travelling in allegedly burst near Kittane in Hassan taluk, following which the driver lost control and the vehicle hit a house and a tree on the roadside, police said. According to police, Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to report on duty as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipur, police said.

Akal Takht declares Badal a 'tankhaiya'



Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders of the previous SAD government during the hearing of 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct) case by the Akal Takht

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The Sikh clergy at the Akal Takht on Monday pronounced 'tankhah' (religious punishment) for Sukhbir Singh Badal for the "mistakes" committed by the Shiromani Akali Dal and its Government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, directing him to perform 'sewa' and clean utensils and shoes at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Pronouncing the order from the 'faseel' (podium) of the Akal Takht in Amritsar, Jathedar of the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, Giani Raghbir Singh, also directed the working committee of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to accept the resignation of Sukhbir Badal as party chief, besides forming a committee to hold elections for the post of SAD president and office-bearers within six months. The Jathedar further announced to withdraw the title of 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' bestowed upon former Chief Minister late Parkash Singh Badal, father of Sukhbir Badal. The five Singh Sahibans (Sikh clergy) also pronounced religious punishment for other Sikh leaders who served as ministers in the Akali Cabinet during 2007 to 2017. Giani Raghbir Singh said Sukhbir Badal, who

was on a wheelchair because of a fractured leg, and rebel leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa have been asked to sit outside the Golden Temple dressed as 'sewadars' for one hour each for two days. They will also perform 'sewa' at Takht Kesgarh Sahib, Takht Damdama Sahib, Darbar Sahib at Muktsar and Fatehgarh Sahib for two days each. Both Sukhbir Badal and Sukhdev Dhindsa were asked to clean utensils and shoes of devotees at the Golden Temple for one hour, besides listening to 'kirtan'. Before the pronouncement of the edict, Sukhbir Badal admitted his mistakes, including pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case during the SAD regime. The punishment came nearly three months after Sukhbir Badal was declared 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct) by the Akal Takht. The Jathedar also directed Akali leaders Sucha Singh Langah, Hira Singh Gabria, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, Daljit Singh Cheema and Gulzar Singh Ranike to clean washrooms for one hour at the Golden Temple, and then clean utensils at the community kitchen after taking a bath. They will also listen to 'kirtan' for one hour, the Jathedar said. Other Akali leaders, including Bibi Jagir Kaur, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Bikram Singh Majithia, Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal, Charanjit Singh Atwal, and Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, were also told to clean washrooms at the Golden Temple for one hour. The Jathedar had summoned the entire Akali Cabinet from 2007 to 2017, the party's core committee, and the 2015 internal committee of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee. Badal was declared 'tankhaiya' after rebel party leaders, including Chandumajra, Kaur and others, appeared before the Akal Takht on July 1, and sought forgiveness for four "mistakes" during the SAD rule between 2007 and 2017, including failure to punish those responsible for the 2015 sacrilege incidents and pardoning Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case.

China making Pak Navy stronger: Admiral Tripathi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Monday said here Indian Navy is aware of "surprising growth" of the Pakistan Navy, that aims to become a 50-ship Navy in the next decade with the help of China. He also said Pakistan has chosen weapons over the welfare of its people. Making this assertion here, the Naval Chief said given the state of its economy, Pakistan is strengthening its Navy. "They have chosen weapons over the welfare of their people," he said and quipped "good luck to them." "We are aware of the surprising growth of the Pakistan Navy which aims to become a 50-ship Navy," he said. On China helping Pakistan boost its maritime prowess, the Navy Chief said it showed Beijing's interest in making that country militarily stronger. "Many Pakistan Navy warships and submarines are being built with Chinese support showing that China is interested in making Pakistan's Navy stronger," he said. "Their eight new submarines will have significant combat potential for the Pakistan Navy but we



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi addresses a press conference, ahead of Navy Day

are fully aware of their capabilities. That is why we are tweaking our concepts to be able to tackle all threats from our neighbours," Admiral Tripathi added. On China's growing prowess, he said it has declared to have its rightful place and has resources to strive to become a world power. Once it does so, friction takes place with existing world powers and it is already being played out, the Navy Chief said, adding it will manifest in the Pacific region. As regards the Indian Ocean region, he said the Indian Navy is keeping a close watch.

Delhi airport gears up for foggy days ahead

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a preemptive move foreseeing the fog this winter, the Delhi airport, for the first time, has made elaborate arrangements for passengers, by making provisions for dedicated enclosures for their comfort in case the travellers' flight is delayed. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates and manages the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport with three (T1, T2, T3) terminals has set up special enclosures to accommodate passengers who shall be disembarked from flights delayed for over three hours to allow their faster return to board their

respective flights. According to DIAL, these enclosures will be located at the Bus Boarding Gates and certain aerobridges in Terminal 3, the transfer area in Terminal 2, and the bus boarding gate in Terminal 1. The facilities will serve both domestic and international passengers. The new plan will allow passengers to remain in a separate enclosure, saving time and reducing hassles for both flyers and airline staff. The government has relaxed the security protocols at airports to allow passengers of flights delayed by over three hours or canceled due to fog, weather or technical issues to disembark and return to the terminal. "Ranging from 250 to 450



square meters, these enclosures will be able to hold between 55 and 120 passengers at a time. They are intended to facilitate security screening, allowing passengers to smoothly re-enter the terminal's Security Hold Area (SHA). These enclosures will have essential amenities like toilets and vending machines wherever feasible. The enclosures would only be utilized as a security processing area after which the passengers would

enter the SHA which would give the passengers access to all the facilities available there. Only airline staff escorting passengers from stranded flights would be permitted to enter the enclosures for security reasons", DIAL said in a statement. To maintain safety and security, CISF personnel will be stationed in the enclosures to screen passengers returning from delayed or stranded flights before they are allowed to join other screened passengers in the SHA. Additionally, personnel from the Private Security Agency (PSA) will verify the documents of passengers affected by the fog/weather or technical issues.

Parking dispute fuels inferno

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

A routine parking dispute in Southeast Delhi's Lajpat Nagar erupted into a shocking act of arson, as a man's car was set ablaze, allegedly by his not-so-friendly neighbor. Police tracked down the 28-year-old suspect in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, over 600 kilometers away from the National Capital. According to the victim, this fiery attack was just the culmination of a string of threats, and he believes that if he had been at the scene, his life would have been endangered as well. According to the victim, 48-year-old Ranjeet Singh, an Urdu poet, winner of a peace award from Pakistan, and the founder of cultural



organisation 'Jashn-e-Adab', the accused has been harassing and threatening him for over two years. Despite multiple complaints to police, the authorities used to release the accused, identified as Rahul Bhasin, on bail, Singh said. The issue came to a boil reportedly after some residents of the locality were not happy with Singh for complaining to the police over

them drinking and loitering in the area at night. "I have been living in this locality for about two decades now and the accused moved here two years ago. His landlord and others instigated him against me. They asked him to park his car in front of mine. When I came on July 13, my car slightly touched his car in the parking lot. However, his brother quickly resolved the issue with me and I even agreed to pay for any damage," Singh said. However, events took a turn for the worse after that when Bhasin damaged two of Singh's parked cars with rods. An FIR was registered following which he was arrested on August 14 but released on bail in two hours, he said.



Jugran requests President to appoint VC in Garhwal University

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Expressing concern over non appointment of a vice chancellor in HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, BJP leader Ravindra Jugran has requested the President of India to intervene on the issue. In a letter to the President, Jugran who is the former chairman of Uttarakhand Rajya Nirman Andolanikari Samman Parishad and former vice president of State youth welfare council said that the tenure of former VC Annpurna Nautial had ended on October 31, 2024 and thereafter the central university is functioning sans VC. He said that after superannuation of the former VC, the process of appointment of a new VC in accordance with the Central Universities Act 2009 should have started. However the process has not started due to which the functioning of

the University is being affected. Terming the situation as unprecedented the BJP leader requested the President who also is the visitor of the university to issue an order which ensures that the important post of VC does not remain vacant for a long period of time. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is endeavouring to make India a world leader and sincere efforts in this direction are being made. "However we should not forget that the path of becoming a world leader passes through our universities. If there is carelessness in ensuring proper arrangements in University then it would be detrimental for the students. I request to appoint an acting VC in the HNB Garhwal University," wrote Jugran in his letter to the President.

Expedite construction of Sainya Dham: Minister to officers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Soldier Welfare minister Ganesh Joshi visited the under-construction Sainya Dham in Guniyal Gaon on Monday. In the visit the minister directed the officers concerned to expedite the construction work of the Sainya Dham which is in its last stage of completion. He said that the work should be

of the State government will be opened and dedicated to the people of the State soon. Joshi said that the Sainya Dham is being constructed for preserving the proud and rich history of the armed forces of the country and to show respect to the martyrs. He added that the Sainya Dham will act as a source of inspiration for



completed within the stipulated time frame. Joshi said that special emphasis should be laid on ensuring divinity and magnificence of the Sainya Dham. He said that the Dham which was envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and is the dream project

the future generations. The director of Soldier Welfare, brigadier (retd) Amrit Lal, deputy director colonel (retd) MS Jodha, joint secretary Sunil Singh and other officers accompanied the minister.

Winter temperatures remain above normal as December starts

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The bone chilling cold usually experienced in Uttarakhand in the winter is not yet being experienced even with the start of December. The lack of rain and snowfall during the winter is a major reason for the lack of winter chill, among other factors. This trend is expected to continue in the coming days. The State meteorological centre has forecast that dry weather is likely to prevail in all districts on Tuesday. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a mainly clear sky with mist likely to occur during the morning hours. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 26 degrees Celsius and nine degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today. Meanwhile, the temperatures have continued to remain above normal in Dehradun and other parts of

the State. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded on Monday were 26.7 degrees Celsius and 9.8 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 26 degrees Celsius and 8.3 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 18.2 degrees Celsius and 5.4 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 18.8 degrees Celsius and 7.1 degrees Celsius in New Tehri. The maximum temperature was three degrees Celsius above normal while the minimum was a degree above normal in Dehradun. The maximum and minimum were both a degree above normal in Pantnagar. Similarly, the maximum temperature was two degrees above normal while the minimum was one degree above normal in Mukteshwar. The minimum temperature was one degree above normal in New Tehri.

352 penalised for flouting various traffic rules in Dehradun

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Considering the spate of accidents and other problems caused by irresponsible vehicle users violating the law, the Dehradun police took action against such violations in the district. Acting on the directions of Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh, the district police is acting against vehicle users - especially youth - violating the traffic rules. On Monday, the police penalised a total of 352 persons for violating various traffic rules. According to information provided by the police, those penalised on Monday include 204 riders for not wearing a helmet, eight for rash driving/overspeeding, 129 for violating traffic rules,

seven for underage riding and four for drunk driving. The police telephoned the parents of the youths penalised and counselled them. The parents were motivated to become aware of traffic rules and ensure that their children also follow the rules. It is pertinent to mention here that the blatant violation of traffic rules and irresponsible behaviour of vehicle users has resulted in a rise in fatal accidents, traffic congestion and other problems on the road in the district. The action being taken by the police is in response to the rising concern over the deteriorating situation on the roads in the district.

Questioning people's mandate akin to insulting public maturity: BJP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has stated that former chief minister and senior Congress leader Harish Rawat has insulted the mandate of the public by questioning the maturity of the people. The BJP State president Mahendra Bhatt said that everybody has seen the "magic" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, adding that now the Congress needs to address its proclivity for the politics of negativity and its other shortcomings. Responding to Rawat's reaction to the Kedarnath Vidhan Sabha by-election results, Bhatt said that it was akin to "trying to clean the mirror to clear the dust on the face". He said, "The reality is the Congress which is without leadership and ideology is totally cut off from the public. This is the reason why leaders of the Congress party are playing politics by spreading confusion and rumours while lacking real issues. While Harish Rawat and his associates spread confusion about the pilgrimage being hampered, the people are viewing it as secure due to better management. The local people are experiencing the results of the improve management of the pilgrimage in better eco-



nomie results every year. Rawat is spreading lies about bad roads while the people are enjoying the travel made easier by the all-weather road project. He is moaning about unemployment which fuelled the copy mafia while more than 19,000 youth have secured government jobs in the State." The BJP State president further said that the people trust the work-based magic of Modi and Dhama, considering which the Congress should accept the mandate of the public. Instead of questioning the choice of the public, the Congress should evaluate its negative and anti-Sanatani politics and do its bit for the development of the State. Stating that the decision of the public is neither against any party nor in favour of any party, Bhatt said that the people had voted in favour of a developed Uttarakhand for which all should rise above

politics and contributed in public interest.

Unveiling the Life of Tipu Sultan through the lens of history and scholarship with Vikram Sampath

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Prabha Khaitan Foundation (PKF) under its book launch initiative Kitaab, brought together history enthusiasts, literature lovers, and scholars under one roof at India Habitat Centre in Delhi to celebrate eminent author and historian Vikram Sampath's latest literary contribution, his tenth book, Tipu Sultan: The Saga of Mysore's Interregnum (1760-1799). The book was launched in the presence of the Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, former MP Pavan K Varma and former ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee. "In a world that constantly seeks to understand its past, Vikram Sampath's book on Tipu Sultan offers not just a historical narrative but a deeply nuanced exploration of a pivotal chapter in Indian history. Sampath's work is a testament to the impor-



tance of rigorous scholarship and critical inquiry and we are elated to be part of this celebration of history, intellect, and thought," PKF national advisor Vinnie Kakkar said.

Jaishankar emphasised the importance of such historical works that bring to light both celebrated and lesser-known facets of the past. He praised Sampath's dedication, noting how crucial it is to revisit historical narratives with a discerning eye, especially when they concern figures as controversial and polarising as Tipu Sultan.

Rs 1.92 crore released for resettlement of 43 disaster affected families

PNS ■ JYOTIRMATH

The government has approved a sum of Rs 1.92 crore and issued it to Jyotirmath Tehsil authorities for resettlement of 43 families living in landslide affected areas. These families include 40 fami-

bilitation and resettlement are distributed to the affected families in the disaster affected areas without delay. The basic facilities should be developed in the places families identified for resettle-



lies in Pagno and three families in Talla Badginda Tok. The district level rehabilitation committee headed by the Chamoli district magistrate Sandeep Tiwari granted its approval for this task. The process of rehabilitating the remaining families in Pagno village and identifying the land for this purpose at the Tehsil level is currently underway. The district magistrate has directed the Jyotirmath sub divisional magistrate to ensure that the approved funds for reha-

ment of the disaster affected families, the district magistrate said.

The district disaster management officer NK Joshi informed that the government has approved Rs 1.92 crore for rehabilitation and resettlement of 40 families from Pagno and three families from Talla Badginda. The said amount has been released to the district administration for the intended purpose, he said.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES CENTRES AUTHORITY
2nd and 3rd Floor, Pragya Tower, GIFT City, Gandhinagar Gujarat
November 06, 2024

File No.73/IFSCA/Consultants/2020-21

VACANCY NOTIFICATION

The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a unified regulatory body set up under the IFSCA Act, 2019, invites applications from eligible Central Government Officers retired from the level of Principal Staff Officer (PSO) or equivalent for **One (1)** position of Consultant/Grade 2 purely on contract basis. The place of posting is GIFT City, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

2. The candidates willing to apply are requested to refer www.ifsc.gov.in/career for detailed vacancy notification. The last date for receipt of application along with requisite documents by post is 17.12.2024 by 6.00 PM.

General Manager
Dept. of General Administration
CBC - 15228/12/0008/2425

कार्यालय-नेनीताल दुग्ध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ लिणलालकुआं (नेनीताल)
दिनांक 02/12/2024

पत्रांक 2779-85/प्रशा./निविदा सूचना-25

"निविदा सम्बंधी आवश्यक सूचना"

नेनीताल दुग्ध उत्पादक सहकारी संघ लिणलालकुआं (नेनीताल) द्वारा विभिन्न कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु दिनांक 13.08.2024 को प्रकाशित "निविदा आमंत्रित सूचना" के क्रम में प्राप्त निविदाओं को दिनांक 03 दिसम्बर 2024 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे से खोली जानी थी, अपरिहार्य कारणों से निविदाओं को खोलने की तिथि को स्थगित किया जा रहा है।

(अनुराग शर्मा)
सामान्य प्रबंधक

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Information for Gati Shakti Multi Modal Cargo Terminal (E.O.I.)

On behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-FS, Northern Railway, Moradabad invited EO (Expression of Interest) for the establishment of Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal near **Roza junction** on the Railway land at Ex. Butt welding plant, of Moradabad Division under GCT Scheme, as per GCT Policy issued vide No. 2021/TC(FM)/18/23 dated 06.12.2022 whose last date for submission was scheduled for 06.12.2024 which is now being revised to 23.12.2024. The eligible and interested parties may submit their Expression of interest for the above location of Moradabad Division. The interested parties are requested to specify the projected railway traffic potential of the proposed GCTs in their respective EOIs and also commercial feasibility of the same. The coordinates for the location are-27°51'31"N 79°56'52"E

For more information, visit the Northern Railway website at www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in or may contact 9760534973.

The last date for submission of EO I: 23 December 2024, till 15:00 hrs. **3712/2024**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Government of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Department of Health and Family Welfare,
Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi, 110011

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited for the post of **Vice- Chairperson of the National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Profession (NCAHP) from the date 20.11.2024 to 20.12.2024.**

1. Applicant must be less than 65 years of age as on 20.12.2024
2. The last date of receipt of application shall be 20.12.2024.
3. Detailed advertisement and the application format will be hosted on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in> and may be downloaded.
4. Duly filled application in the prescribed proforma along with attested copy of all relevant certificates super-scribing on the envelope "Application for the Post of Vice-Chairperson of the NCAHP" should be sent to the following address:
Secretary,
Department of Health and Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi, 110011,
5. Scanned copies of the applications along with all relevant documents must be sent on the email address: ahssection-mohfw@gov.in
6. **Both the hard copy and online applications are mandatory for consideration of candidature. The scanned online copy will be considered as the final application and must be received by the due date and time at the designated email address.**

CBC - 17102/11/0020/2425

Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha Committee
(in the matter of PACL Ltd.)
PUBLIC NOTICE

1. This Public Notice is being issued for the attention of the general public, in view of the order dated 08.08.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 13301 of 2015 titled Subrata Bhattacharya Vs. SEBI & Ors. with other connected matters.
2. In compliance with the above-mentioned order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, all objections with respect to properties of PACL Limited, shall now be heard by Recovery Officer attached to the Justice (Retd.) R.M. Lodha Committee (In the matter of PACL Ltd.).
3. In this regard, the general public is hereby informed that objections with respect to properties of PACL Limited can be filed in accordance with the requirements which can be accessed on the website of SEBI, www.sebi.gov.in. by following Home Page PACL Matters Public Notices. Objections not in conformity with these requirements shall not be entertained.
4. Further, the above mentioned Recovery Officer shall also deal with such objections filed earlier by parties before Shri R.S. Virk, District Judge (Retd.), but remain pending for disposal. Fresh dates of hearing of such objections shall be intimated separately to the concerned parties by the Recovery Officer concerned.
5. In case of rejection of objection(s); aggrieved party /parties may approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court by way of an appropriate application in Civil Appeal No.13301/2015, referred to herein above.

Mumbai
November 25, 2024

Nodal Officer-cum-Secretary
CBC 15204/11/0181/2425

THE PIONEER
CLASSIFIEDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

In my father Army Record my name mistakenly recorded as SUMNA DEVI and whereas my correct name is SUMAN as mentioned in all other documents. SUMAN D/O LATE SHAKTI CHAND RAY No 2463146H RANK EX NK (T.S) Name LATE SHAKTI CHAND R/O JAMAN K H A T A . J A M N I P U R , VIKASNAGAR DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I want to changed my correct name in my father army record vide IN-UK59980889383421W Affidavit 02.12.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Army Record my daughter name mistakenly recorded as MANASVI and whereas her correct name is MANASVI GURUNG as mentioned in all other documents. I JC 550293P RANK EX SUB Name MADHUSUDHAN R/O PREMPUR MAFI IPE KAULAGARH DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I want to changed my daughter correct name in my army record vide IN UK60067741017459W Affidavit 02.12.2024 before Dehradun.

It is hereby informed to the general public that I have changed my name from Yogesh Kushvaha to Yogesh Kushwaha. In the future, I shall be known and recognized as Yogesh Kushwaha, son of Chandra Pal Singh. Address: 15 Loharwala, Sirmour Tea Estate, Post Office Saiyyad Mohalla, Dehradun, G.P. Chakrata, Uttarakhand, 248001.

It is informed to the general public that my name is recorded as Sumit Kumar in educational documents. Whereas in other documents my name is Sumit Uniyal. In future I should be known as Sumit Uniyal son of Bal Swaroop resident of village Rajauli, P.O. Horawala, Vikasnagar, Dehradun.

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम सीमा रानीक दर्ज है, सही नाम सीमा रानी आद्यार नं. 39885845951 M/o आर्मी नं. JC-339414F सूबेदार समीर, हाऊस नं. 289 कल्याण नगर जगाधरी, पोस्ट जगाधरी, तह. जगाधरी, जिला यमुनानगर, हरियाणा 135001 है।

Public Notice
Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after 15 days hereof but before expiry of 30 days to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) Plot no. 6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, Distt.- Gurgaon, Haryana-122050 th at "SINGH BATTERY INDUSTRIES" a Partnership Firm (delete) may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company are as follows: a) Trading of Batteries and related products

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at Dhakia Gulabo, Kashipur, Uttarakhand-244713.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registration at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) Plot No.6,7,8, Sector-5, IMT, Manesar, Distt.- Gurgaon, Haryana-122050, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. Dated this 3rd day of December 2024

Name(s) of Applicant
1. Gurpreet Kaur
2. Samarpreet Singh

NOTICE

It is informed to the public that the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, (SEIAA) constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has been granted environmental clearance to Karanveer Singh and Mrs. Sangesta Singh, Khata No.-230, 239, 235, 640, 1497, 1606, 1668 Khasra No-2739 Min, 2725 Min, 2727 Min, 2632 Min, 2633Min, 2705 Min, 2707 Min, 2708 Min, 2709Min, 2710Min, 2724 Min, 2638Min, 2709, 2723, 2643 Min, 2644 Min, 2739, 2641 Min, 2642 Min, 2640 Min, 2706 Min Majri Grant, Pargana-Parwadoon, Tehsil- Rishikesh, Dehradun, Uttarakhand for proposed commercial building & hotel facility vide File No. EC No.- 326 8(60)/2024 on Dated-26/11/2024 with identification No.- EC24C3802 UK65539207N and the aforesaid environmental clearance proposal file is available in office of Environmental Clearance State Environmental Impact Assessment of the Authority" (SEIAA) Uttarakhand.

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.



Two senior citizens & one PRD jawan run over by vehicles early morning in two separate incidents

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With fatal road accidents becoming a daily affair in the State, Dehradun witnessed two road accidents on the Monday morning leading to the deaths of three individuals including two senior citizens and a PRD personnel. Both incidents occurred within hours of each other, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He informed that in the first incident, a vehicle fatally hit two elderly men near Joty Grant in the Doiwala area. The victims, identified as 74-year-old Bir Singh Bisht and 65-year-old Dalpati Singh, both from Joty Grant area, were out for their morning walk when an unidentified vehicle struck them.

The impact was severe and both men sustained critical injuries. Despite timely medical attention after being rushed to a hospital by ambulance, doctors declared them dead upon arrival, Singh said.



He informed that the Doiwala police have begun an investigation and efforts are underway to trace the vehicle responsible for this hit and run. In another accident, a 35-year-old PRD personnel, Jang Bahadur, was killed while on duty near the Dat Kali temple tunnel in the Clement Town Police Station area. Singh said that Bahadur, stationed with the State mobile squad, was performing routine vehicle checks with his team when a speeding black car with a

Haryana registration swerved off the road and hit him. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene, making a U-turn and speeding back toward Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Bahadur was immediately rushed to Mahant Indresh Hospital but succumbed to his injuries shortly after. The Clement Town police have registered a case against the unidentified driver and are actively searching for the suspect, the SSP said.

Doon-Delhi expressway to increase trade & tourism: CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama conducted an inspection of the construction works of Delhi-Dehradun expressway at Daat Kali temple, Dehradun on Monday. He said that after the completion of this expressway, the journey

between Dehradun and Delhi will be completed in just two to two and a half hours. During his visit, the CM met the senior officers concerned and sought inputs about the modern technologies and environmental safety measures being used in

the construction of the expressway. He said that the construction of the expressway is in its final stage and soon it will be opened for the public. Dhama expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra



Modi and Union Road Transport minister Nitin Gadkari for the speedy construction of the expressway. He said that Asia's longest wildlife corridor has also been built in the expressway by coordinating ecology and economy. This corridor will ensure the protection of wildlife and make their movement free and completely safe, he said.

more convenient for the devotees visiting the State for the Char Dham Yatra. The CM added that the project will also prove to be helpful in increasing the economy of Uttarakhand, promoting tourism and business activities.

He said that the expressway will make the movement of people easier and it will be

Uttarakhand to host 38th National Games from January 28

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has officially announced the dates for the 38th National Games, confirming that Uttarakhand will host the event from January 28 to February 14, 2025. The announcement was made through an official letter, marking a significant milestone for the State. Expressing her delight over the decision, Uttarakhand's Sports minister Rekha Arya said the confirmation is a testament to the State's meticulous preparations.

that the event will be a golden opportunity for the State's athletes and will leave a lasting legacy for sports in Uttarakhand. The minister assured that all necessary arrangements for the games are on track and expressed confidence that the event will be historic in many ways. She stated that the games will not only showcase the athletic talent of the region but also place Uttarakhand on the national sports map like never before.

She highlighted that Uttarakhand had been gearing up for these dates well in advance with guidance and recommendations from chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama. Arya emphasised

the further stated that Uttarakhand is preparing to host the games with precision and grandeur, ensuring a memorable experience for participants and spectators alike.

Cong questions appointment of district Panchayat presidents as administrators

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Terminating appointment of the district Panchayat presidents as administrators in the district Panchayats as discriminatory and disappointing, the former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Ganesh Godiyal has asked the central leadership of BJP to keep a close watch on the activities of the State government. The Congress leader said that he had warned the State government about the implications of appointing district Panchayat presidents as administrators and ignoring the demands of other representatives of the three tier Panchayati Raj system. He said that the Congress party will support the agitation of the Panchayat representatives on the issue. Godiyal said that the BJP government is taking many such decisions in its own interests but they will have far reaching consequences. He said that the central leadership of BJP should constitute a panel of leaders in Delhi to monitor activities of its government in Uttarakhand and added that he will soon write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in this regard. Commenting on

the matter, the former MLA of Kedarnath Manoj Rawat said that the decision of the State government on appointing district Panchayat presidents as administrators in district Panchayats is against the spirit of the Panchayati Raj system envisioned and implemented by former PM Rajiv Gandhi. He said that all the representatives of the Panchayati Raj system were demanding extension of their tenure to cover up the time lost during the pandemic of Covid-19. Rawat said that resentment is brewing among the Panchayat representatives on the issue. He claimed that the decision of the government on district Panchayat presidents will be reversed if challenged in the court of law. It is pertinent to mention here that the term of the Panchayat bodies in the State ended recently after which the State government appointed administrators in these bodies. The government appointed the outgoing district Panchayat presidents as administrators in the district Panchayats while government officers will administer the block and village Panchayats.

BJP defends appointment of district Panchayat administrators, accuses Congress of hypocrisy

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has refuted allegations of discrimination and disappointment raised by the Congress over the appointment of district Panchayat presidents as administrators in the district Panchayats of Uttarakhand. According to the BJP, the process adheres to established rules and is not unprecedented. The BJP State media in-charge, Manveer Singh Chauhan told The Pioneer that the Congress itself amended the Panchayati Raj Act in 2016 to enable such appointments and is now shedding crocodile tears under the guise of showing concern for panchayat representatives.

He said that the amendment made during the Congress-led government's tenure allowed for the appointment of administrators under the Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj Act. He further stated that the decision

to appoint administrators in district Panchayats is constitutionally sound and aimed at preventing disruptions in development work across the districts. Chauhan said that rather than politicising the matter, the Congress should review the facts thoroughly, as their earlier policy framework is now being upheld. Chauhan said,

"The Panchayati Raj Act does not permit an extension of the tenure of village heads or block chiefs. The High Court dismissed a petition regarding this in 2021 and has already provided clear guidelines on the issue. While administrators have been appointed, they have not been granted financial powers or the authority to make policy decisions, which remain under the jurisdiction of the government." Taking a dig at the Congress' functioning, Chauhan described

the party as being controlled by its central leadership rather than being State-driven. He criticised the remarks made by former Congress State president Ganesh Godiyal, who suggested central leaders' intervention in State matters. Chauhan called such suggestions hypocritical, claiming they reflect Congress's dependence on the high command.

He also referenced the recent Kedarnath by-election, where, according to Chauhan, the Congress's State leadership was sidelined when the central leadership decided the candidate and conducted surveys in a single day. This, he asserted, demonstrated how Congress lacks a state-centric approach. Chauhan lauded the BJP as a cadre-based party that takes decisions locally, ensuring that state issues are addressed within the state.

Health Dept appoints 40 newly recruited nursing officers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat handed over appointment letters to 40 newly recruited nursing officers on Monday in Dehradun. The minister said that the Uttarakhand medical services recruitment board had recently initiated a recruitment drive on 1,564 posts of nursing officers in the State and it had selected 1,411 candidates for these posts. The health department gave appointment letters to 1,394 nursing officers out of whom 1,354 had assumed charge. The minister said that the Health department cancelled the selection of the candidates who failed to assume their charge and selected 40 new candidates from the waiting list. These candidates will be appointed in the health centres located in remote areas. He said that eight nursing officers were appointed in

Pithoragarh, six in Pauri, five in Almora, four each in Tehri, Haridwar, Rudrapur and Nainital and two in Dehradun district. One nursing officer has

been appointed in Uttarkashi, Bageshwar and Champawat district each.



The minister said that the appointment of new nursing officers will help in strengthening

and improving the health services in health centres located in remote and mountainous areas of the State.

Public divided over ban on late night food delivery in Doon

PURNIMA BISHT ■ DEHRADUN

The Police have introduced a new rule prohibiting food delivery after midnight in Dehradun, eliciting mixed reactions from locals. Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh stated that the measure aims to reduce road accidents, prevent the misuse of delivery services for illegal activities and ensure the safety of delivery workers. While some residents have welcomed the move as necessary for public safety, others argue it is impractical and will disrupt lives. A senior citizen and retired army officer Kishan Singh expressed his support for the ban. "It is good that the police are thinking about safety. Delivery boys often speed at night, risking

accidents. Those who are hungry can order food before midnight. It is not a big deal but this decision will make the roads safer for everyone," he said. A homemaker Ranjana Rawat also agreed with the police's initiative. "I have heard of delivery boys getting into accidents or being harassed during late-night shifts. This ban ensures their safety and helps prevent unwanted incidents. Less number of people on roads will



reduce accident chances as well," she stated. However, not everyone shares this senti-

ment. Balawala resident Anshul Bhatt who works late nights, expressed his frustration. "I return home at about 12:30 AM on most days and I rely on food delivery because I am too tired to cook. This decision does not consider people like us who work odd hours," he said. A work from home professional Meeta Kathait who lives with her elderly sick mother in Sahastradhara area, shared a similar concern. "I work at night to meet international deadlines and I cannot disturb my mother for cooking. We already have a handful of restaurants in Dehradun that actually used to deliver late at night. Late night delivery is a lifeline for us," she said. College student Shobhit Bhandari who lives alone in a rented room in Karanpur area also opposed the decision. "Sometimes I study late into the night and order food because I am too exhausted to cook. This ban on late food deliveries makes life even harder for students like

me," he said. However, he added that though he will learn to plan his meal accordingly, this ban is not going to make any significant difference in preventing crime. "This ban will just cause fear mongering among people in my opinion, especially among tourists," he added. Some delivery workers are also apprehensive about the financial hit. A 23-year-old delivery boy Sunil said, "Late night orders make up a big part of my earnings during festival and tourist season. If deliveries stop after midnight, I lose considerable income. This decision does not consider how it affects people like me." While the police argue that the move is necessary to curb illegal activities, some residents believe alternative solutions could have been considered. "Why not conduct more night checks instead of banning deliveries altogether?" asked a local Vaibhav Verma. "This blanket rule affects everyone, not just the wrongdoers," he added. The debate over the midnight food delivery ban highlights the challenge of balancing safety with practicality. While the police's intentions are rooted in public welfare, the decision has exposed the complexities of urban life in Dehradun, where late-night food delivery is more than a convenience, it is a necessity for many.

Ensure participation of women in social audit of drinking water schemes: CS

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief secretary Radha Raturi said that participation of locals, especially women is necessary in the social audit of drinking water schemes in the State. The CS said this while chairing 11th meeting of the 11th high power committee (HPC) of Uttarakhand water supply programme at the State secretariat on Monday. The programme is financed by the World Bank for providing drinking water in peri-urban

department and other officials concerned to immediately send a letter to the Government of India for the extension of the time limit of Jal Jeevan Mission.

She said that special attention should be on maintaining the quality of drinking water and its uninterrupted supply to the public. Raturi directed that all the performance indicators should be entered in the MIS on the

also gave approval for the hiring of consultancy services for implementation completion and result (CR) report for the Uttarakhand water supply programme.

It was informed in the meeting that under the Uttarakhand water supply programme assisted by World Bank at a cost of Rs 975 crore, water supply is being provided for 16 hours in a day with 100 percent volume metering



Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal addresses grievances of citizens at a public hearing held on Monday. Pioneer photo



areas of the State. She said that top priority should be given to the satisfaction of common citizens on drinking water related matters and instructed the officers to adopt best practices in this field and strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism. In the HPC, the CS directed the drinking water

user friendly dashboard under best practices.

In the meeting the CS gave administrative and financial approval on the extension of the time limit of the project management consultancy firm for the Uttarakhand water supply programme and its environmental audit. She

in 22 peri-urban areas of Dehradun, Tehri, Haridwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts.

Secretaries Dilip Jawalkar, Shailesh Bagauli and senior officers of the departments concerned attended the meeting.

SC seeks EC's response on PIL against decision to increase number of voters per polling station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Election Commission's response on a PIL challenging its decision to increase the maximum number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 at every polling station, saying no elector should be excluded.

While asking the poll panel to clarify its stand, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said, "We are concerned. No voter should be excluded."

The bench therefore directed senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing the poll

panel, to file a short affidavit explaining the rationale behind the decision to increase the number of voters per polling station.

"Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the Election Commission, says on instruction that they will explain the position by way of a short affidavit. Let the affidavit be filed within a period of three weeks," said the bench.

Singh said the bench knew about the consistent allegations on EVMs, adding, "They will keep on coming. The polling has been happening like this since 2019 and political parties are being consulted before this in every con-



stituency." The senior lawyer said polling stations could have multiple polling booths and political parties were consulted in each constituency when the total number of voters was raised per EVM.

Singh further said voters were always permitted to cast their votes, even beyond the prescribed time. The bench, which will hear the matter on January 27, 2025, asked the EC to provide a copy of its affidavit to the petitioner before the next date of hearing.

The PIL, filed by Indu Prakash Singh, challenged two communications issued by the EC in August, increasing the number of voters per

polling station in each constituency across India.

The plea said the decision to increase the number of voters per polling booth was arbitrary and not based on any data. On October 24, the top court refused to issue any notice to the poll panel but allowed the petitioner to serve the copy to the standing counsel of the poll panel so that its stand on the issue is known.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, contended that increasing the number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 would lead to the exclusion of underprivileged groups from the electoral process as an individual would take longer to

cast their franchise. He submitted longer queues and waiting time at the polling stations would dissuade voters from going to cast their votes.

The bench, however, said the poll panel wanted more participation and with the use of EVMs, it took a shorter time compared to ballot papers as the poll panel intended to considerably reduce the time taken to cast votes by increasing the number of EVMs at booths. The petitioner, however, said the poll panel's decision would impact voters during the assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand (since concluded) and Bihar and Delhi to be held in 2025.

VHP holds protest against attack on Hindus in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday held a demonstration here against alleged attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh and demanded that the United Nations intervene to stop the atrocities.

The protest at Jantar Mantar witnessed the participation of several people, who raised slogans demanding the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh.

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) also warned Bangladesh's interim government that if the atrocities against Hindus did not stop, the country could be divided into two.

VHP Delhi unit chief Kapil Khanna said the situation in Bangladesh was worrying. There is anger among the Hindus and they have come here to express their anger, he claimed.

"Atrocities are being committed against Hindus in Bangladesh and lakhs of Hindus have been displaced. Our sisters and daughters are being tortured," he said.

Mahant Naval Kishore Das, who also joined the protest, said, "Our sisters and daughters are being tortured, reli-



gious places are being demolished, and saints are being put in jail."

"Our message to everyone that the Hindus will not accept this," Das said.

VHP state secretary Surendra Gupta demanded the United Nations and international human rights organisations intervene and stop the atrocities.

He warned the government of Bangladesh that if the atrocities did not stop, Bangladesh could be divided into two.

The Hindus in Bangladesh constitute about eight per cent of the 170 million population.

There has been allegations of over 200 attacks on Hindus in 50-odd districts of Bangladesh since the fall of

Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5.

The ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) also held protest 'kirtans' at its Albert Road centre in Kolkata on Thursday and Friday, demanding the release of jailed Hindu spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das.

The religious body expressed concern over the plight of religious minorities in Bangladesh.

Das was arrested in a sedition case and was later denied bail by a court, triggering protests by community members in various locations, including the capital Dhaka and the port city of Chattogram.

India set to experience milder winter with fewer coldwave days, says IMD



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India is set to experience a milder winter with fewer coldwave days, the weather office said on Monday and forecast above-normal minimum temperatures during the season.

The forecast of a relatively warmer winter came after the country experienced the second warmest November since 1901, with the average maximum temperature clocking 29.37 degrees Celsius -- 0.623 degree above the normal of 28.75 degrees for the season.

"During the upcoming winter season (December 2024 to February 2025), above-normal minimum temperatures

are likely over most parts of the country," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), told reporters here.

According to the forecast, the winter season was expected to witness fewer coldwave days than the normal of five to six. During the season, above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except most areas over south Peninsular India, where normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely, he said.

"Normally, we see five to six coldwave days during December to February over the cold core zone, which

includes the northwest, central, east and northeast India. This year, we can expect two to four fewer coldwave days compared to average," Mohapatra said.

According to the IMD, a cold wave is considered if the minimum temperature (T-min) is less than the 10th percentile of the daily climatological value and the climatological daily T-min is less than 15 degrees Celsius. These conditions should be observed for three consecutive days for it to qualify as one coldwave event.

Mohapatra said the absence of western disturbances was the reason for a warmer November.

Over 88 lakh houses delivered under PMAY-U: Govt tells RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than 88 lakh houses have been delivered to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday.

In a written reply to a question, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said that over 1.18 crore houses have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) till November 18.

The ministry has been supplementing the efforts of states and Union territories by providing central assistance under PMAY-U since June 25, 2015 to provide pucca houses in urban areas across the country, he said.

"Based on project proposals submitted by the State/UT Governments under PMAY-U, as on 18.11.2024, a total of 118.64 lakh houses have been sanctioned by the Ministry... and more than 88.02 lakh are completed/delivered to the beneficiaries. "The remaining houses are at different stages of construction," the



minister said in the written reply.

He said that learning from the experiences of PMAY-U, MoHUA has launched PMAY-U 2.0 'Housing for All' Mission with effect from September 1, 2024 for implementation in urban areas across the country to construct, purchase and rent 10 million houses by eligible beneficiaries at affordable cost through four verticals of the scheme.

These four verticals are Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) and Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS). As on date, 29 states and UTs have signed Memorandum of Agreement to implement PMAY-U 2.0.

CPA can turn lethal for one in three people with lung diseases: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) -- a common fungal infection that claims 340,000 lives every year worldwide, can turn lethal for about 1 in three people with lung diseases, according to a study by researchers including from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi.

CPA, caused by exposure to airborne spores of the mould Aspergillus, causes gradual scarring of the lungs for months and years. It is a debilitating condition that causes severe tiredness, weight loss, breathlessness, and coughing up blood.

While exposure to



Aspergillus is harmless to most people, it may affect those with lung damage.

The international study of CPA is led by Professor David Denning from The University of Manchester and

published in the leading journal Lancet Infectious Diseases showed that around 32 per cent of people who have had prior damage from lung diseases will die after five years if they also get

infected by CPA. Nearly 15 per cent of people with CPA will die in the first year following other lung diseases.

Co-authors Dr Abinav Sengupta and Dr Animesh Ray from Delhi-based AIIMS examined the death rates in 8,778 patients described in the literature from all continents except Antarctica.

The international study including researchers from the University of Manchester, showed that CPA patients with prior tuberculosis (TB) had a lower overall 5-year mortality of 25 per cent.

However, they also found that patients with CPA end up being misdiagnosed as having TB, and then not treated with antifungal agents.

Treatment with antifungal

drugs or surgery is key to improving symptoms and also reducing the risk of death, the researchers said.

Though patients with TB tend to be younger, a multi-variable analysis showed prior TB was 24% less lethal than other lung conditions, even accounting for age, though the reason for the difference in outcome was not identified.

Being older than 60, having interstitial lung disease, current cancer and smoking-related lung disease carried worse outcomes, said the team.

Caused by exposure to airborne spores of the mould Aspergillus, it is harmless to most people, but not to those with lung damage, maintained the researchers.

India's PRAGATI platform helped accelerate 340 infra projects across country, finds Oxford study



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A unique digital governance platform in India, PRAGATI, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has transformed the delivery of the country's infrastructure projects, a study by Said Business School, University of Oxford, and the Gates Foundation has found.

Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) has driven accountability at the most senior level, and supported unprecedented federal and regional collaboration, accelerating 340 projects worth USD 205 billion across the country and cutting through decades of delays, the study noted.

The findings were released on Monday at a symposium hosted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bengaluru, which brought together leaders from academia and the public and private sectors to discuss how digital governance can transform infrastructure development.

Titled 'From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress', the case study noted that many of the 340 projects were anywhere from three to 20 years overdue.

This new model not only does away with layers of obfuscation, but introduces

an element of "naming and shaming" that compels officials to be directly answerable, the study has found.

"PRAGATI shows us it is essential for nations to cultivate an environment where top leadership is using technology to drive cross-collaboration and regular accountability reviews. This is particularly valuable for countries aiming to make infrastructure development a pillar of economic growth," said Soumitra Dutta, Peter Moores Dean and Professor of Management at University of Oxford.

"The transition towards such systems may require initial investment and cultural shifts, but the long-term benefits of more reliable infrastructure and public trust are immeasurable, delivering a ripple effect of efficiency and success in their development agenda," he added.

The case study has found that the ministries and departments are now more responsive to citizen grievances, knowing that their performance will be reviewed at the highest level and subjected to a data-driven analysis.

"In India's complex federal structure, fostering cooperation between the central government and states -- regardless of which political party is in power at the Centre or the states -- is crucial for effective governance. The relationship

Coupling happens without human intervention in more advanced LHB coaches: Vaishnav to RS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has informed the Rajya Sabha that more advanced LHB coaches, introduced by the railways in 1999-2000, are provided with centre buffer couplers in which coupling takes place without any manual intervention. He said this while providing information about various safety measures taken to prevent untoward incidents during coupling and decoupling of trains coaches.

Vaishnav responded to questions raised by MPs Priyanka Chaturvedi and Derek O'Brien regarding a recent case in which a railway employee lost his life after getting sandwiched between an engine and a coach while decoupling them.

They wanted to know if the government maintains any state-wise data of accidents and deaths caused during manual coupling of train coaches since 2019 and the measures taken by the government to prevent such acci-



dents.

"ICF coaches, designed and developed during the 1960s, were provided with screw coupling and side buffers, which require manual coupling of coaches. More advanced LHB coaches were introduced by Indian Railways (IR) in 1999-2000," Vaishnav said.

He added, "These LHB coaches are provided with Centre buffer couplers in which coupling takes place without any manual intervention. IR (Indian Railways) have taken up the replacement of ICF coaches by LHB coaches in a phased manner."

According to Vaishnav, from

2014 to 2024, 36,933 LHB coaches were manufactured as compared to 2337 from 2004 to 2014.

He further informed that advanced semi-automatic couplers have also been developed for use in Amrit Bharat and Vande Bharat trains. "These couplers also enable automatic coupling between coaches without any manual intervention. Induction training and refresher training at regular intervals is imparted to concerned field staff to avoid the possibility of any unfortunate incidences during coupling/decoupling/shunting etc," he said.

CPI submits breach of privilege motion against Vaishnav to Rajya Sabha

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

CPI floor leader in Rajya Sabha P Sandosh Kumar on Monday submitted a breach of privilege motion against Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, accusing him of misleading the House by providing figures contradictory to the ministry's own data submitted earlier to the House.

According to a statement issued by the CPI, the ministry, in response to a question raised by CPI MP P P Suneer on safety of railway workers, provided the number of 65 deaths and 569 injuries from 2014-15 to 2023-24, a period of 10 years.

However, in an earlier reply in Rajya Sabha on December 8, 2023, the ministry said that 361 railway workers died due to train accidents during maintenance work on rail tracks in the last five years (from 2019-20 to 27.11.2023), the statement said. The CPI said the ministry's reply on Monday sharply contradict the figures

provided by it earlier in the Rajya Sabha.

The party said in a sub-question of the raised question, Suneer had asked for the zone-wise details of the "number of deaths and injuries involving railway personnel, including regular employees, contractual workers and outsourced workforce, during construction, maintenance, inspection or coupling of trains in the last three years."

"The ministry's reply of 65 deaths is in sharp contradiction to their own admission in the Rajya Sabha made in December 2023," the CPI said. It said according to the railway ministry's own data provided in the Rajya Sabha in response to unstarred question number 764 by A A Rahim, answered on December 8, 2023, the ministry gave the number of railway workers who died due to train accidents during maintenance work on railway tracks in the last five years (from 2019-20 to 27.11.2023) as 361.

between the central government and states has historically been marked by political tensions and competing priorities," the study noted.

"Different political parties often control different states, and partisan differences can easily derail important initiatives. Yet PRAGATI has emerged as a powerful demonstration of cooperative federalism in action -- showing how central and state governments can work together effectively regardless of political affiliations when focused on shared development goals," it added.

The case study has recommended that potential exists to further enhance the Team India approach through PRAGATI.

"This could be done by incorporating more state-specific issues in PRAGATI reviews, facilitating direct state-to-state cooperation through the platform, and leveraging data analytics to identify and promote successful state-level governance models nationally," it said.

"Additionally, it will be critical to ensure that state officials have the skills and resources they need to advance their infrastructure and social development goals. Ensuring equitable participation of all states, regardless of political affiliations, will also be an important focus," the study noted.

Hearing on Gyanvapi ASI survey petition deferred to December 10

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On Monday, the Allahabad High Court deferred the hearing on a petition seeking an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) survey of the alleged wuzukhana area in the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal's court, scheduled to hear the matter post-lunch, did not convene. The next hearing is now set for December 10 at 2 PM.

The petition requests an ASI survey of the wuzukhana (ablution) area of the Gyanvapi mosque to determine the religious character of the disputed site. During the previous hearing, Hindu side counsel Saurabh Tiwari argued that only an ASI survey could confirm the religious nature of the site. The Muslim side countered, pointing out the Supreme Court's directive to maintain the status quo. In response,



the Hindu side clarified that the Supreme Court's order only restricts the survey of the alleged Shivaling and not the entire wuzukhana area. On October 22, the High Court directed the Hindu side to specify the exact portion and area they sought to survey. Following this, the Hindu side submitted critical documents, photographs, and affidavits via e-filing. Copies of the affidavits were also

provided to all involved parties. The case remains a focal point of contention, with both sides presenting legal and historical arguments. The next hearing will determine whether an ASI survey of the disputed area can proceed amidst the ongoing legal tussle.

The legal tussle dates back to a 1991 petition filed in Varanasi, seeking the restoration of Gyanvapi land to the Kashi Vishwanath temple. The claim was that the mosque was constructed under the orders of Aurangzeb, who allegedly tore down a part of the temple in the 16th century.

The ASI initiated the survey in August 2023, with several extensions granted for the final report.

Opposition, BJP MPs debate over Bhagwat's population remarks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat expressed concern over declining population growth, BJP leaders welcomed his remarks while the Opposition asked where will additional resources come from in case of an increase. Food prices are high and the government has "failed" to create employment opportunities for people, they said.

Speaking at an event in Nagpur on Sunday, Bhagwat highlighted the vital role of families and warned that according to population science, if a society's total fertility rate dips below 2.1, it could face extinction. BJP leader Manoj Tiwari said they are in national interest. "The RSS is a patriotic organisation. If Mohan Bhagwat ji has said something, then it would certainly be in the national interest. So it should be analysed positively," Tiwari told PTI outside Parliament. BJP MP from Meerut Arun Govil spoke on similar lines. "His ideas are in the national



interest. He is a mature person, if he has given this statement, it is for the good of the country and it must be right," he told PTI.

Opposition leaders, however, questioned Bhagwat and the BJP over his remarks. Congress Lok Sabha MP from Katihar Tariq Anwar said Bhagwat's remarks were in contrast to what BJP leaders have been saying on the issue of population. "What he (Bhagwat) is saying

is contradictory because BJP leaders are saying the population should be controlled. They should clear these contradictions and the government should come out with a policy on population," he said.

Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) MP Chandra Shekhar asked where will the additional resources to support an increased population come from. If managed properly, India's population is a useful resource, he said. "If we start

manufacturing, people will get employment. But the government has failed in this," he added.

Congress Rajya Sabha MP Renuka Chowdhury said, "I respect Mohan Bhagwat ji, but what experience does he have of bringing up a child?" She further said, "Everything is adulterated, food prices are high and when they (children) grow up, they don't get employment. What do people need more children for?"

BJP flays Rahul over his remarks on GDP growth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP has flayed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on GDP growth rate decline and said his attempt to paint a picture of economic doom, with selective data and "half-truths", is not just misleading but reeks of a "childish" oversimplification of complex realities.

The Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha had on Sunday expressed concern over India's GDP growth rate declining to its lowest in two years and said the country's economy cannot progress as a handful of billionaires accrue its benefits. He stressed that new thinking is required for India's economy and a new deal for businesses should be an important part of it.

Reacting sharply, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya wrote on X, "Your attempt to paint a picture of economic doom, with selective data and half-truths is not just misleading but reeks of 'Balak Buddha' -- a childish



oversimplification of complex realities".

He said crying foul over a 5.4 per cent GDP growth rate by the Congress leader is "laughable when it is one of the highest globally".

"Compare it to China (4.6%), the USA (2.8%) and the Euro Area (0.9%). Even in a challenging global environment, marked by geopolitical conflicts and supply chain disruptions, India's economy stands resilient, while others falter," Malviya said. "Is it too hard for you to grasp

that this isn't a local issue but a global economic phenomenon? Everyone has seen your track record, when India was counted amongst 'Fragile Five', inflation was in double digits," he added.

The BJP leader said retail inflation increased a bit in October 2024, primarily due to weather-driven disruptions in vegetable supply. "But let us not forget, the average inflation rate has been 5 per cent since Modi government came to power in 2014, and never touched double digits," he

said. It is significantly lower than the 8.1 per cent annual average during the UPA era (2004-14) and was frequently in double digits between 2010-14, he added. "Perhaps you'd like to explain why inflation was in double-digits during those years, if you truly care about rising prices," Malviya asked Gandhi.

The BJP leader said that Gandhi harps on a supposed unemployment crisis, but India has added 47 million jobs in the past few years, and the worker-population ratio (WPR) has improved to 58.2 per cent in FY 2024 from 56 per cent in FY 2023, driven by rising opportunities in both rural and urban India.

The same WPR in 2013-14 was 49.9 per cent, he added. "Declining demand? Really? Domestic auto sales grew by 13.1% Y-o-Y during Apr-Oct 2024, FMCG sales show robust rural demand, and tractor sales have hit record highs. Affordable housing demand, as you point out, is part of an evolving market, but overall consumption trends remain strong. How

does this align with your alarmist rhetoric?" Malviya said.

The BJP leader said the Indian rupee has remained one of the least volatile currencies globally and India's forex reserves stand tall at USD 684.8 billion, covering 11.8 months of imports "something your fear-mongering narrative conveniently ignores".

India's economy isn't just growing, it is ascending, he said. The IMF projects that India will overtake Japan in 2025 to become the 4th largest economy globally, with a GDP of USD 4.34 trillion, he added.

"But of course, why would you mention this when fear-mongering serves your agenda better?" Malviya asked Gandhi. "Your persistent doom-mongering is not just baseless but reflects an inability to acknowledge progress. You don't have to flaunt your ignorance at every opportunity. If you're so keen on playing Economist, at least do the basic homework, instead of recycling outdated talking points," he added.

BJP serves party MLA Yatnal with show cause notice

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

Days after he launched a month-long anti-Waqf march that apparently did not have the state unit's sanction, Karnataka BJP MLA and known Yediyurappa critic Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has been served with a show cause notice by the party for his "continuing tirade against the state level party leadership." BJP's Central Disciplinary Committee (CDC) has served the notice to the Vijayapura MLA and asked him to reply within 10 ten days. Calling the notice "fake", a defiant Yatnal said his commitment to the fight for Hindutva and against 'dynastic politics' will continue.

"Your tirade against the state-level party leadership and your defiance of party directives and making public pronouncements and stance in contravention to party's official stand on all matters of political and public importance has been reported in media as well as by different



party forums," Om Pathak, CDC member secretary said in his show cause notice on December 1, which was shared with media on Monday. The party said it would proceed to take a final view on the matter if Yatnal fails to give a reply within the stipulated time. Yatnal is known as a strong critic of BJP veteran and former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and his family, especially his son and the party's Karnataka chief B Y Vijayendra. He has often targeted them and demanded that the BJP central leadership check Yediyurappa's 'dynastic politics' for effective fight against the 'dynastic politics' of

Congress.

"It is a matter of great concern that despite having been issued showcause notice several times in the past and your assurances of good conduct, the acts of indiscipline continue unabated," said Pathak. Noting his seniority and longstanding in the party, Pathak said the CDC took a lenient view on the explanations submitted by him in the past.

Yatnal along with, few senior BJP leaders, including MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi, Arvind Limbavali, Mahesh Kuntahalli, Madhu Bangarappa had taken out a month-long anti-Waqf march from Bidar to Chamarajanagar. The march started on November 25 and will conclude on December 25. The march is widely perceived as a show of strength by the anti-Vijayendra faction within the BJP. Yatnal has said the march was not directed against any individual but aimed at "protecting farmers, Sanatana Dharma, and Hindus from eviction notices issued by the state Waqf Board."

Ajay Rai stopped from visiting Sambhal, Congress workers protest

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Congress President Ajay Rai, along with dozens of party leaders, attempted to visit Sambhal on Monday but was stopped by the police at the gate of the Congress office. Party workers, protesting against the police and administration, raised slogans and created a commotion. Two companies of the Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) were also deployed to manage the situation.

Tensions escalated as a minor scuffle broke out between Congress workers and the police. Ajay Rai sat on a dharna at the spot, demanding the lifting of restrictions. Addressing the media, Rai said, "Whenever the restrictions are removed, a Congress delegation will definitely visit Sambhal. We will investigate the situation independently and expose how the police and administration are presenting false investigation reports."

The Uttar Pradesh Police issued a notice to Rai, citing a district magistrate order under Section 163 BNS, which restricts entry to the area until December 10 to maintain public order. The notice urged Rai to "cooperate in the public interest" and postpone his visit to prevent any violation of the restriction. The Congress leadership had meticulously planned the visit. Senior party leaders spent Sunday night at the Congress office, and leaders from various parts of the state had arrived in Lucknow by Sunday evening to join the Monday morning convoy. Before setting out, Ajay Rai paid tribute at the Gandhi statue at the



Congress office. However, the police intervened as soon as they attempted to leave.

The administration has imposed restrictions on visiting Sambhal until December 10 following recent violence during the survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid on November 24. Earlier, Samajwadi Party leaders, including the Leader of the Legislative Assembly and State President, were also barred from entering Sambhal. Even MPs like Iqra Hasan were denied entry. Congress planned the visit to meet the families of those affected by the violence. However, police had cordoned off the roads leading to the Congress office early Monday morning to prevent any movement.

Congress leader Sachin Chaudhary also voiced his frustration, alleging police intimidation. "They are stopping us from visiting Sambhal. Is not it shameful that we cannot even check on the well-being of victims? We demand a CBI inquiry into the matter," Chaudhary said adding that police had been stationed outside his residence since morning.

Meanwhile, a three-member judicial commission investigating the November 24 violence has started its probe. The commission, led by retired High Court judge Devendra Kumar Arora, visited Sambhal on Sunday, along with member and former DGP AK Jain. Another member, retired Additional Chief Secretary Amit Mohan, could not join the visit.

The team inspected areas around the Shahi Jama Masjid and interacted with members of the mosque committee. Moradabad Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar Singh stated that evidence is being collected against those responsible for the violence, and 400 individuals have been identified so far. Police Superintendent KK Vishnoi briefed the commission on the sequence of events and took them to key locations, including Nakhasa Tiraha and Hindupara Kheda. Officials demonstrated the routes taken by the crowd during the unrest. The inquiry team has pledged to ensure accountability for the violence and to address the grievances of the affected families.

Haryana Govt transfers 44 IAS officers in major bureaucratic reshuffle

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the Haryana government has transferred 44 IAS officers with immediate effect. According to a government order dated December 1, 1990-batch officer Sumita Misra will be the new Home Secretary.

Sumita Misra, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Medical Education and Research Department, has been posted as ACS, Home, Jails, Criminal Investigation and Administration of Justice Departments, relieving Anurag Rastogi of the charge. Rastogi will continue to hold the charge of ACS, Finance and Planning departments. He will hold additional charge of Financial Commissioner of Revenue and Disaster Management and Consolidation Department.

Ashok Khemka, a 1991-batch officer who was ACS, Printing and Stationery Department, has been posted as ACS, Transport Department, relieving 1994-batch IPS officer Navdeep Virk of the charge. Khemka served as transport commissioner and secretary in the first term of the BJP government which was led by Manohar Lal Khattar. Last week, the Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini-led state government made some key appointments to his office and effected a major bureaucratic reshuffle, the order for which was issued on Sunday. The reshuffle had been on the cards since the Saini dispensation was sworn in on October 17. According to the order, Apoorva K Singh has been posted as ACS, Town and Country Planning and Urban Estates Department, and will



also hold the charge as ACS, Energy Department. Sudhir Rajpal, ACS, Health and Family Welfare Department, has also been given charge of Medical Education and Research, and Ayush departments. Anand Mohan Sharan has been given charge of Food and Civil Supplies Department in addition to the other departments he holds.

Vineet Garg has been posted as ACS, Higher Education Department and Chairman of Haryana State Pollution Control Board. D Suresh, Resident Commissioner, Haryana Bhawan, New Delhi, will now also be Principal Secretary of Industries and Commerce Department. Rajeev Ranjan has been given the additional charge of Principal Secretary, Labour while Shyamal Mishra will be the new CEO of Faridabad Metropolitan Development Authority and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority as well as Principal Secretary of Civil Aviation Department. Vijay Dahiya has been posted as Commissioner and Secretary of Printing and Stationery and Animal Husbandry departments. Ashima Brar, Secretary, Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare of Scheduled Castes

and Backward Classes and Antyodaya (SEWA) Department, has been posted as Excise and Taxation Commissioner and Secretary, and Managing Director of Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Ltd.

Amit Kumar Agrawal, Commissioner and Secretary, Development and Panchayats Department will also be the Commissioner and Secretary of departments of Information, Public Relations, Languages and Culture, and Foreign Cooperation. Yashendra Singh has been posted as Director and Special Secretary of Medical Education and Research Department.

Among other IAS officers, G Rajini Kaanthan will be the new Transport Commissioner while Phool Chand Meena will be the new Commissioner of Ambala division. A Sreenivas has been posted as Commissioner of Hisar division and Anshaj Singh has been posted as Commissioner of Rohtak division, and Director General of Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management.

Yash Garg will be Commissioner of Food and Drugs Administration. Monica Malik has been given the additional charge of Managing Director of Haryana Women Development Corporation Ltd. Rajesh Joggal, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Haryana, has been posted as Director and Special Secretary of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department in addition to his current duties. Haryana Human Rights Commission Secretary Narhari Singh Bangar has been posted as Advisor and Special Secretary of Civil Aviation Department.

Bihar Govt cancels community health officer recruitment exam



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

Bihar government on Monday cancelled community health officer recruitment examinations after the Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of the state police detected widespread "irregularities and malpractices" during the online test at three centres here, an official said. The Bihar State Health Society, which conducted the test, said that new exam dates would be announced later. The examination was conducted at 12 online centres in Patna on Sunday.

Police also arrested 37 people, including aspirants, owners and employees of the examination centres and IT managers, in connection with the case, Deputy Inspector General (EOU) Manavjit Singh Dhillon told reporters. Several electronic and digital devices, laptops, mobile phones, ATM and credit cards, and Aadhaar cards were recovered from the possession of the arrested people, the officer said. Acting on a tip-off, officials of EOU and Patna police jointly conduct-

ed raids at the three examination centres in Patna on Sunday, an official statement said.

The online recruitment exam for community health officers, which started on Sunday, was also supposed to be held on Monday.

"Officials found that employees of the examination centres provided unauthorised access to the computer system to a solver gang through proxy server and remote viewing applications. Evidence collected from the spot revealed that the accused were solving the questions papers through online Computer Based Test (CBT) on a real-time basis," the statement issued by EOU said. Officials also found that owners of the examination centres, employees and private IT managers were involved in the irregularities during the exam, it said. A Pune-based IT firm was engaged in conducting the exam. "The examination has been cancelled and a special team has been formed to investigate the case and also arrest others who are part of the 'solver gang', the DIG said.



FIRST COLUMN

WORKPLACE GOSSIP: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

It thrives in organisational environments as a form of informal communication



SAKSHI SETHI

Workplace gossip is an enduring phenomenon in organisational environments, involving informal communication with others, often without their knowledge. While it is frequently dismissed as harmless chatter, workplace gossip can have profound implications for individuals, teams and organisational culture. It is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it can serve as a bonding tool and provide informal channels of communication while on the other hand, it can breed mistrust, damage reputations and create a toxic work environment. Determining whether workplace gossip is harmless, or harmful depends on the nature, intent and consequences of the gossip.

The term stems from various psychological and organisational factors. Human curiosity and the desire for social connection often drive employees to share information, even if it is speculative. In many cases, gossip becomes a way to establish or strengthen bonds within a team. Another cause is ambiguity or lack of transparency in communication. Employees feel uncertain about organisational changes, leadership decisions, or colleagues' actions, and may resort to gossip to fill information gaps.

Moreover, competitive workplaces can foster gossip to gain leverage or influence perceptions. Though often vilified, gossip is not inherently negative. Looking at the positive perspective, it can foster social cohesion by creating shared narratives and providing an outlet for



employees to express concerns informally. It can also act as an informal feedback loop, alerting leadership to potential issues like toxic behaviours or dissatisfaction that may remain hidden. However, the negative consequences of workplace gossip often outweigh the positives. Gossip can damage reputations, lower morale and lead to feelings of mistrust and resentment.

Employees who are the targets of gossip may experience stress, anxiety and a decline in productivity. Additionally, pervasive gossip can erode an organisation's culture creating a hostile work environment where collaboration and trust are undermined. It is very often that stressful work environments, complaining about coworkers, personality clashes, or misunderstandings stem from unmet expectations and a lack of effective communication channels. It can exacerbate the urge to vent frustrations informally.

While airing grievances may feel like a release or an attempt to bond with others, it rarely resolves underlying issues. Instead, it creates a cycle of negativity. Organisations and leaders can adopt proactive strategies such as promoting open communication, fostering a positive work culture, leading by example and moreover empowering employees can be a few steps to mitigate the harmful effects of gossiping. Today the term gossiping isn't limited to celebrities and family reunions. When discussing the workplace, it has become a way not to take responsibility for any actions or reactions they create. By focusing on someone else, an individual can shift the focus from the circumstances. Complaining about colleagues behind their backs is a detrimental habit that harms relationships, morale, and workplace culture. By choosing direct, empathetic communication and focusing on solutions, employees can foster a more positive and productive environment. Eliminating backdoor complaints is not just about professionalism rather it is about creating a culture of mutual respect where everyone feels valued and heard.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Reimagining governance in Punjab



A S MITTAL

Punjab must address longstanding bottlenecks and embrace digital transformation and foster public-private partnerships to create a model of excellence for the nation

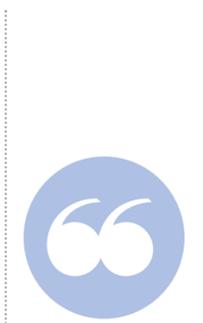
In a rapidly evolving world, governance demands agility, transparency, and citizen-centric solutions. Governments worldwide face the complex challenge of balancing bureaucratic structures with the need for efficiency and innovation. A case in point is the ambitious Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the United States, a high-profile initiative spearheaded by incoming President Donald Trump and the project led by entrepreneur leaders Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. This bold move aims to revolutionise public administration through structural reforms and entrepreneurial strategies to enhance government efficacy and improve the delivery of citizen services. With its rich legacy and robust potential, Punjab stands at a similar crossroads, where embracing transformative models could redefine governance.

The Governance Landscape: Punjab, with its educated workforce, vibrant agricultural economy, and dynamic MSMEs, has made commendable strides in governance reforms. However, bottlenecks in service delivery, resource misallocation, and policy execution often impede progress. Despite notable efforts, the state lags in efficiency metrics compared to leaders like Kerala, which excels in health, education, and welfare schemes, and Tamil Nadu, which is highly efficient in infrastructure, industry, and public welfare, as highlighted by the NITI Aayog's Good Governance Index 2024. Punjab's governance challenges are compounded by the sheer scale of its administrative machinery—50 parent departments, 163 affiliated organisations, and over 75 administrative secretaries.

This labyrinthine structure creates hurdles for citizens seeking essential services. Introducing the Punjab Efficiency Commission (PEC): Punjab can adopt a model akin to DOGE by establishing a Punjab Efficiency Commission (PEC) to address these challenges. Headed by an apex officer, ideally, of Chief Secretary rank, the PEC would operate as a centralised authority reporting directly to the Chief Minister. Its mandate would be to synchronise key departmental goals, oversee human resource operations, ensure seamless policy execution, and implement data-driven governance frameworks. This institution would embody accountability, transparency, and innovation—hallmarks of good governance. Key Pillars of Reform:

Accountability and Transparency: In the US, agencies like the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ensure effective resource utilisation and transparency. Punjab could establish its own state-level accountability office under the PEC. This body would audit departmental performance, monitor public expenditure, and publish actionable reports to foster trust and combat inefficiency.

Digital Transformation: Punjab has made progress in digital governance, but much more can be achieved by studying global benchmarks. For instance, USA.gov serves as a one-stop portal for citizens that revolutionises



THE JOURNEY TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE ISN'T MERELY ABOUT ADDRESSING INEFFICIENCIES—IT'S ABOUT SETTING BENCHMARKS FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. WITH BOLD REFORMS, PUNJAB HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRANSITION FROM A RESOURCE-RICH STATE TO A GOVERNANCE POWERHOUSE

how people interact with their government, showcasing the vast potential of technology to improve efficiency. Punjab could develop a unified digital platform for licensing, tax filing, and grievance redressal services. A dedicated state-run mobile application could provide real-time updates on service requests, enhance accessibility, reduce delays, and track the progress of their cases in real time.

Performance Metrics and Dashboards: An essential aspect of U.S. government efficiency is using performance metrics to inform decision-making. For instance, The Obama-era Performance.gov tracked federal projects and outcomes, creating a culture of accountability. Punjab could develop a similar dashboard to monitor critical sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, industry and infrastructure. By leveraging big data and analytics, policy decisions can be based on measurable outcomes, driving impactful governance rather than guesswork.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): PPPs have proven transformative in infrastructure and service delivery. These partnerships, from highways to healthcare and education, allow the government to use private sector expertise and funding to improve services and reduce costs. A case study from the USA illustrates the success in Tennessee. The government implemented a data-driven budgeting model, saving millions of taxpayer dollars while improving service quality in education and healthcare.

Similarly, New York City's innovation office streamlined procurement processes, cutting costs by 30 per cent. However,

Punjab has over 147 PPP projects worth Rs 60,000 crore in critical sectors like healthcare, education and infrastructure, leveraging private expertise for better resource management and infrastructure, accelerating projects through collaborative funding models. This model could be the key to unlocking sustained growth in the agriculture sector, partnering with tech companies for innovative farming solutions to monitor soil health, weather patterns, and crop performance can promote more sustainable practices and increase productivity.

Investing in Human Capital: A critical factor in the success of any government's efficiency efforts is its investment in human capital. Punjab must recognise that an empowered civil service is essential for good governance. The state can cultivate a workforce skilled in the latest management techniques, data analysis, and digital tools by establishing training academies or partnering with top institutions. This approach will enable the government to respond to the evolving challenges of governance and ensure that its public servants are accountable and well-equipped with the knowledge needed to drive meaningful change to perform their responsibilities effectively.

Citizen Participation: Finally, the US model of citizen participation in governance through public hearings and feedback mechanisms can be a valuable tool for Punjab. US citizens are encouraged to engage with the government, provide policy input, and hold officials accountable.

This fosters a sense of ownership and civic responsibility. However, the Punjab government has ini-

tiated 'Sarkar Tuhade Dwar' and 'Sarkar Vyapar Milni'. It must create more avenues for regular engagement with citizens to understand pain points and incorporate real-world insights into governance reforms. Punjab can bridge the gap between policymakers and citizens by making governance more inclusive and participatory, ensuring reforms resonate with public aspirations.

The way forward for a resurgent Punjab: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's vision for a dynamic Punjab can materialise by embracing these transformative practices.

The Punjab Efficiency Commission, supported by robust technology, accountability frameworks, and participatory governance, can usher in a new era of efficiency and transparency. The journey towards good governance isn't merely about addressing inefficiencies—it's about setting benchmarks for others to follow. With bold reforms, Punjab has the potential to transition from a resource-rich state to a governance powerhouse, leading India's states in delivering citizen-centric solutions. The time to act is now. Punjab's future lies in its ability to reimagine governance, ensuring every citizen experiences the transformative power of efficient and inclusive administration.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA); Views expressed are personal)

Breaking the stigma: Prioritising mental health for a happier, resilient future

Depression, anxiety and other mental health challenges must be taken seriously. They affect one in five people worldwide

Depression in mental health is a feeling of low, sad and unhappy. Which can lead to loss of appetite, loss of sleep, loss of interest, and negative thoughts. Mental health is about how we think, feel and cope with life's challenges. Just like we take care of our physical health, looking after our mental health is equally important. Parents play a key role in creating a happy, supportive, and understanding environment at home.

Mental health issues such as anxiety, fear and depression are common, and they can arise due to bullying, family conflicts, changes in school or life, academic stress, or even harsh punishments. These challenges can make children feel isolated, angry, or lose



RESHMA A SANGODKAR

focus on their studies. It's crucial to understand that seeking help from counsellors, therapists, or trusted adults like parents or teachers is a sign of strength, not weakness. Today, one in five people faces mental health challenges. Professional support, such as therapy, can significantly improve emotional wellbeing. Activities like yoga, sports,

and meditation are also effective for calming the mind and reducing stress. Additionally, practising mindfulness—focusing on the present moment—can help children feel more peaceful and focused. Good habits, such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy food, and staying hydrated, support both mental and physical health. Engaging in enjoyable hobbies can boost happiness and reduce stress.

Schools and families need to work together to provide children with positive environments, where they feel safe and supported. In our society, mental health issues are often overlooked, and stigma prevents many from seeking help. Depression in mental health is a feeling of low, sad and

unhappy. Which can lead to loss of appetite, loss of sleep, loss of interest and negative thoughts. World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10 every year. Many people are affected by depression in the world. Very common in today's world. Campaigns like World Mental Health Day aim to break these barriers and encourage open conversations. And encourages those affected to seek help from a Psychiatrist. Teachers should be trained to identify early signs of mental health problems in children and provide guidance. Parenting is also a key factor in shaping a child's mental health. Parents should avoid unhealthy comparisons and ensure their children feel emotionally secure. Building a



strong, friendly relationship with children helps them share their feelings without fear. Simple practices like mindful-

ness, meditation and breathing exercises can also help children and adults stay calm and focused. As Lord Buddha said,

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."

This profound phrase highlights the essence of mindfulness—focusing fully on the present and giving your complete attention to whatever you are doing. Mindfulness means being fully present in the moment, whether eating, studying, or walking. Meditation, on the other hand, is about dedicating time to relax the mind and focus on breathing. Both practices help reduce stress and improve sleep, allowing children to perform better in school and other activities. Engaging in activities like participating in marathons, running 5 kilometres, or setting personal fitness goals can help reduce depres-

sion and improve mental wellbeing. Yogic exercises like Surya namaskars help in boosting our prana level to stave off depression.

Welcoming an idol of Lord Buddha into your home or workplace, reading positive affirmations each morning, and offering gratitude to those around you and God are wonderful practices to keep the mind happy and at peace. By creating supportive environments and normalising mental health discussions, we can ensure that children grow up to be emotionally strong, happy, and resilient individuals. The key is to break the stigma and make mental health a priority for everyone.

(The writer is an author and freelance writer; views are personal)

56 people killed in stampede following clashes at a Guinea soccer match

AP ■ CONARKY (GUINEA)

Fifty-six people were killed and several injured in a stampede at a soccer stadium in southern Guinea, following clashes between fans, Guinea's government said on Monday. Authorities are conducting an investigation to establish those responsible for the stampede on Sunday, Communications Minister Fana Soumah said in a statement read on national television. Among the victims are several children according to local media and a coalition of political parties. The stampede broke out on Sunday afternoon at the stadium in the city of Nzerekore

during the final of a local tournament between the Labe and Nzerekore teams in honour of Guinea's military leader, Mamadi Doumbouya, Guinea's Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah said on the X platform. "During the stampede, victims were recorded," Bah said, without giving details. The regional authorities are working to restore calm in the area, he added. Local media reported that security forces tried to use tear gas (two words) to restore calm after the chaos that followed a disputed penalty. "This (the disputed penalty) angered supporters who threw stones. This is how the security services used tear gas," Media Guinea, a local news website,

reported. It said several of those killed were children while some of the injured being treated at a regional hospital are in critical condition. Videos that appeared to be from the scene showed fans in a section of the stadium shouting and protesting the refereeing before clashes broke out as people poured onto the field. People were running as they tried to escape from the stadium, many of them jumping the high fence. Videos also showed many people lying on the floor in what looked like a hospital as a crowd gathered nearby, some assisting the wounded. The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy opposition coalition called for

an investigation. It said the tournament was organised to drum up support for the "illegal and inappropriate" political ambitions of the military leader. Guinea has been led by the military since soldiers ousted President Alpha Conde in 2021. It is one of a growing number of West African countries, including Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, where the military has taken power and delayed a return to civilian rule. Doumbouya, who ousted the president three years ago, said he was preventing the country from slipping into chaos and chastised the previous government for broken promises. He has, however, been criticized for not meeting the expectations that he raised.

ISLAND NATIONS FEAR RISING SEAS

Landmark climate change case opens at top UN court

AP ■ THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS)

The top United Nations court took up the largest case in its history on Monday, when it opened two weeks of hearings into what countries worldwide are legally required to do to combat climate change and help vulnerable nations fight its devastating impact. After years of lobbying by island nations who fear they could simply disappear under rising sea waters, the UN General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice last year for an opinion on "the obligations of States in respect of climate change." Any decision by the court would be non-binding advice and couldn't directly force wealthy nations into action to help struggling countries. Yet it would be more than just a powerful symbol since it could be the basis for other legal actions,

including domestic lawsuits. "We want the court to confirm that the conduct that has wrecked the climate is unlawful," Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, who is leading the legal team for the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, told The Associated Press. In the decade up to 2023, sea levels have risen by a global average of around 4.3 centimeters (1.7 inches), with parts of the Pacific rising higher still. The world has also warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times because of the burning of fossil fuels. Vanuatu is one of a group of small states pushing for international legal intervention in the climate crisis. "We live on the front lines of climate change impact. We are witnesses to the destruction of our lands, our livelihoods, our culture and our human rights," Vanuatu's climate change envoy Ralph Regenvanu told

reporters ahead of the hearing. The Hague-based court will hear from 99 countries and more than a dozen intergovernmental organizations over two weeks. It's the largest lineup in the institution's nearly 80-year history. Last month at the United Nations' annual climate meeting, countries cobbled together an agreement on how rich countries can support poor countries in the face of climate disasters. Wealthy countries have agreed to pool together at least \$300 billion a year by 2035 but the total is short of the \$1.3 trillion that experts, and threatened nations, said is needed. "For our generation and for the Pacific Islands, the climate crisis is an existential threat. It is a matter of survival, and the world's biggest economies are not taking this crisis seriously. We need the ICJ to protect the rights of people at the front lines," said Vishal Prasad, of

Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change. Fifteen judges from around the world will seek to answer two questions: What are countries obliged to do under international law to protect the climate and environment from human-caused greenhouse gas emissions? And what are the legal consequences for governments where their acts, or lack of action, have significantly harmed the climate and environment? The second question makes particular reference to "small island developing States" likely to be hardest hit by climate change and to "members of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change." The judges were even briefed on the science behind rising global temperatures by the UN's climate change body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ahead of the hearings.

Taiwan's president visits East-West think tank as China criticises his Hawaii visit

AP ■ HONOLULU

Taiwan's president visited a US State Department-funded think tank and educational institution Sunday on the second day of a two-day visit to Hawaii that's part of a Pacific island tour that has already triggered criticism from Beijing. Lai Ching-te met and exchanged gifts with the president of the East-West Center, which is on the University of Hawaii's flagship Manoa campus. He spoke to an audience at the center but journalists were escorted out of a conference hall before he began speaking. China's Foreign Ministry said it "strongly condemned" US support for Lai's visit and had lodged a complaint with the US. It also denounced a newly announced US weapons sale to Taiwan, a self-governing island that China claims as its own territory. "China will closely monitor the situation's development, and take resolute and forceful measures to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," said the statement.



Hawaii was Lai's first stop on a weeklong voyage that will later take him to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau. They account for three of the 12 countries that Taipei has formal diplomatic relations with. Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, president of the East-West Center, said her institution is the perfect place for Lai to visit because it promotes relations among the United States, Asia and the Pacific. She said it's not unusual for leaders from around the world to come to Hawaii given the state's location and what makes it special.

"There is something about Hawaii that allows us to really take home to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau. They account for three of the 12 countries that Taipei has formal diplomatic relations with. Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, president of the East-West Center, said her institution is the perfect place for Lai to visit because it promotes relations among the United States, Asia and the Pacific. She said it's not unusual for leaders from around the world to come to Hawaii given the state's location and what makes it special.

nance. Lai is also a physician by training and obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University. "Together, we extended a warm aloha to Lai and his delegation, highlighting Hawaii's shared values of resilience and collaboration with Taiwan," Green said in an Instagram post. Lai also posed for photos with Hawaii congressional representatives and state lawmakers at a dinner banquet with the Taiwanese American community. US Rep. Ed Case, a Democrat who represents Honolulu in Congress, said on social media that he told the audience that "our ties endured on shared values and interests to advance mutual goals and meet shared challenges." It is unclear whether Lai will meet with any senior officials from the Biden administration or anyone from the incoming Trump administration during his Hawaii stay. President-elect Donald Trump said in an interview with Bloomberg in July that Taiwan should pay for its defense. The island has purchased billions of dollars of defense weaponry from the US.

Indians stranded at Kuwait airport depart for Manchester

PTI ■ KUWAIT CITY

Several Indian passengers of a Manchester-bound Gulf Air flight were stranded at the Kuwait airport for nearly 20 hours and flown out of the city to their destination on Monday morning. The Gulf Air flight from Bahrain to Manchester was diverted to Kuwait due to a technical glitch. Gulf Air GF5 took off from Bahrain at 2.05 am local time on December 1 but a snag forced the plane to land in Kuwait at 4.01 am, as per reports. With several passengers complaining that they had been stranded at the airport for many hours, the Indian embassy in Kuwait took up the matter with Gulf Air, according to social media posts. In a series of posts on X, the embassy said its team reached the airport to assist the passengers and coordinate with the airline. Passengers were accommodated in two airport lounges. Food and water were made available for the stranded passengers at the lounges, as per the embassy. "Gulf Air flight to Manchester finally departed at 0434 hours today carrying stranded Indian passengers among others. The embassy team was on the ground till the flight departed," the embassy said in a post. A stranded passenger, on Sunday, took to X, alleging that Indian passengers were left without help.

Nepal govt accepts US\$ 20m grant assistance from China

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Nepal government has accepted projects worth USD 20 million as grant assistance from China ahead of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's first official visit to the country after assuming office for the fourth time. Minister for Information and Communication Prithvi Subba Gurung talking to media persons on Sunday said the Council of Ministers meeting wished for the success of the prime minister's China visit and also decided to accept projects worth USD 20 million equivalent to Nepalese Rs 2.70 billion as grant assistance from China. Besides, the Cabinet also decided to accept 300 million Chinese Yuan (USD 4.13 million approximately) equivalent to Nepalese Rs 5.60 billion worth projects proposed by the government of China, according to government spokesperson Gurung. During Oli's China visit, various projects including Tokha-Khahare Tunnel Road, Special Economic Zone

construction at Corala border point of Mustang, road construction at Kimathanka of Shankhuwasabha, feasibility study of railway line in Rasuwagadhi, expansion of Kathmandu Ring Road second phase, starting bone marrow service at Chitawan Cancel Hospital will be discussed, Gurung said. Oli on Monday embarked on a four-day official visit to China, his maiden trip to any neighbouring country in this term, during which he is scheduled to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on various issues of mutual interest. Oli is visiting Beijing at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said. With the visit, Oli broke with the usual practice by Nepali prime ministers making India their first destination in the neighbourhood after assuming charge, except former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who visited China ahead of India in 2008.

Biden pardons son Hunter despite previous pledges not to do so

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden pardoned son Hunter Sunday night, sparing him a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family members. The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after his convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House. It caps a long-running legal saga for the president's son, who publicly disclosed he was under federal investigation in December 2020 — a month after Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

In June, Biden categorically ruled out a pardon or commutation for his son, telling reporters as his son faced trial in the Delaware gun case, "I abide by the jury decision. I will do that and I will not pardon him." As recently as Nov 8, days after Trump's victory, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre ruled out a pardon or clemency for the younger Biden, saying, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no." In a statement released Sunday evening, Biden said, "Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter, alleging that the prosecution of his son was politically motivated and a miscarriage of justice." "The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said. "No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any

other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son." "I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision," Biden added, claiming he made the decision this weekend. The president had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts with Hunter and his family. Hunter was convicted in June in Delaware federal court of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. He was set to stand trial in September in the California case accusing him of failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes. But he agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor and felony charges in a surprise move hours after jury selection was set to begin. Hunter said he was pleading guilty in that case to spare his family more pain and embarrassment after the gun trial

aired salacious details about his struggles with a crack cocaine addiction. The tax charges carry up to 17 years behind bars and the gun charges are punishable by up to 25 years in prison, though federal sentencing guidelines were expected to call for far less time and it was possible he would avoid prison time entirely. Hunter Biden said in an emailed statement that he will never take for granted the relief granted to him and vowed to devote the life he has rebuilt "to helping those who are still sick and suffering." "I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction — mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," the younger Biden said. A spokesperson for special counsel David Weiss, who brought the cases, did not respond to messages seeking comment Sunday night.



President Joe Biden accompanied by his son Hunter Biden and his grandson Beau leave a book store as they walk in downtown Nantucket Mass., recently.

AP/PTI

Scroll less, connect more: New study shows how to make social media work for you

THE CONVERSATION ■ VANCOUVER

We all know using social media is considered bad for you. A high social media diet is linked to anxiety, depression and FOMO (the fear of missing out). Even internal research data from Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, agrees. However, over the last decade, social media has become woven into the fabric of our daily lives. It's hard to imagine life without it. Young adults are especially vulnerable: 80 per cent of young adults use social media daily, spending close to three hours per day on it. For many, scrolling social media is the first thing they do when they wake up and the last thing before they go to bed. On the plus side, social media can also help people connect with

friends and family. This is especially true for people with minoritized or stigmatized identities: social media can help them find a community of similar others, who may live far away. So what should we do? Is the only answer for us to quit social media altogether? Or is it possible for us to learn how to use social media in smarter ways? A new study from our lab, the Promoting Equitable, Affirming Relationships Lab at the University of British Columbia, suggests that not only is it possible, but also, that using social media intentionally can actually improve well-being. The study's findings highlight the potential for social media to be a tool for good, rather than a source of stress. Multiple digital self-control tools like lockout mechanisms and timers exist to help us cut back on social

media, but we asked the question: what if simply using social media differently could maximise its positives and minimise its negatives in our lives? Using social media for maximum benefit: In our six-week study, 393 Canadian young adults with some mental health symptoms and concerns about social media's impact on their lives were split into three groups: A control group that continued their usual routines. An abstinence group asked to take a break from social media entirely. An educational programme group that was coached in intentional usage. The educational programme showed people how to avoid the downsides — like feeling pressured to look or act a certain way online — and instead focus on the good stuff.

To do this, we emphasised quality over quantity in social media interactions. Participants built a healthier online environment by muting or unfollowing accounts that triggered envy or negative self-comparisons, and by prioritizing close friendships. Rather than passively scrolling, they were encouraged to actively engage with friends by commenting or sending direct messages — a behaviour that tends to deepen meaningful connections while helping users feel more socially supported. We also asked all participants to track their screen time and tell us about their well-being. The study found that participants who took a break from social media or participated in an educational program on intentional social media use experienced

improvements in their mental health. **Feeling less lonely:** Our results are promising. Those who took a break felt fewer depression and anxiety symptoms, while those in the educational program felt less lonely and experienced less FOMO. Our educational programme also inadvertently impacted social media habits. Although participants in this program didn't cut back on their social media use as much as those in the abstinence group, they still reduced their screen time relative to the control group. We suspect that as they started to use social media more intentionally, they cut out the type of use that made them feel bad but increased or maintained the type of use that made them feel good. **Stopping social comparisons:** Both groups — those who took a

break and those who completed the educational program — showed a decrease in the tendency to compare themselves to others online. This is a big step since social comparison is often touted as the root of all evil stemming from social media use. Overall, both approaches reduced unhealthy social media habits and improved well-being. Using social media in an intentional, connected way might be just as beneficial, and potentially more sustainable for some, than quitting altogether. Our results suggest that with the right guidance, young adults can curate a more positive experience, using social media to support their mental health instead of detracting from it. **Looking for genuine connections:** At the Promoting Equitable, Affirming, Relationships Lab, we

research how young people form supportive and lasting relationships — both online and in-person. Part of what we do is to find out and understand how social media can be harnessed to help people find community. Conversely, we are looking at ways to avoid the potential negatives of the online sphere. While our study offers some solutions, the bigger question remains: How can we continue to foster supportive and authentic connections in an increasingly digital world? Bottom line? Social media is here to stay and we need to find the healthiest ways to live with it. Through our research, we hope to start a conversation about how we can make social media a tool for genuine connection, rather than a source of stress, for a healthier online experience.

Romania's pro-Western parties win polls

AP ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

Pro-Western parties won the most votes in Romania's parliamentary election, data on Monday shows, and will look to form a coalition government as the European Union country sees a surge of support for far-right nationalists who made huge gains in the country's legislature.

The leftist Social Democratic Party topped the polls in Sunday's vote and the far-right nationalist Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR, came in second ahead of the National Liberal Party. The reformist Save Romania Union party, or USR, came in fourth place. Two smaller far-right nationalist parties also got enough votes to enter parliament.

The election revealed widespread anti-establishment sentiment in the EU and NATO member country, which is due to hold a presidential runoff on December 8 between far-right populist Cluj Georgescu, and Elena Lasconi of USR.

The first round plunged Romania into political turmoil and led to allegations of electoral violations and Russian interference.

George Simion, the controversial 38-year-old leader of the AUR who is a vocal supporter of US President-elect Donald Trump, told the media that the anti-establishment gains on Sunday amounted to a "watershed moment" for Romania.

"It is a moment when,

through our common will, Romania is reborn," he said. "We are here ... generation after generation, proving that nothing can defeat a united nation."

In 2020, the AUR party went from relative obscurity to gaining 9 per cent in a parliamentary vote, allowing it to enter parliament. The party — which proclaims to stand for "family, nation, faith, and freedom" — doubled its support in Sunday's vote to 18.2 per cent.

Cristian Andrei, a political consultant based in Bucharest, says the increased parliamentary seats for the far-right will make forming a majority government difficult for the pro-Western parties because they are historically opposition parties and could struggle to reach agreements. "It's not a unified majority, it's a very fragmented one and full of hatred among the parties," he said. "The European side won a majority ... but a majority is very difficult to build, because all those pro-European parties are not enemies, but they fought a lot in the past."

In 2021, despite historically being Romania's two main opposition parties that have dominated post-communist politics, the Social Democratic Party and the National Liberal Party formed an unlikely but increasingly strained coalition together with a small ethnic Hungarian party, which exited the Cabinet last year after a power-sharing dispute.



Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, of the Social Democratic Party or PSD, speaks after exit polls in the country's parliamentary elections, in Bucharest, Romania. AP/PTI

"The real kingmaker will be the next president, that person ... will have a very strong position in negotiating the coalition," Andrei said.

The presidential role in Romania has significant decision-making powers in areas such as national security and foreign policy. They also nominate prime ministerial appointments and can dis-

solve parliament if it is twice rejected. However, the prime minister is the head of the nation's government.

Observers say that Georgescu's surprise win in the first round of Romania's presidential election indicates a sharp shift from Romania's mainstream parties to more populist anti-establishment parties, whose voices have found fertile ground amid high inflation, high cost of living and a sluggish economy. He polled at less than 10 per cent before the race.

Andrei, the consultant, added that the next government will have to make "unpopular decisions about taxes and budget cuts and stuff like that," which could further bolster the far-right over the next four years.

The success of Georgescu — who has praised Romanian fascist leaders and Russian President Vladimir Putin — has triggered nightly protests throughout Romania by those who oppose his past remarks and view him as a threat to democracy.

Many have attributed to his rapid rise in popularity on the

social media platform TikTok. According to a report by Expert Forum, a Bucharest-based think tank, Georgescu's account has had an explosion which it said "appears sudden and artificial, similar to his polling results".

Without naming Georgescu, who declared zero campaign spending, Romania's top defense body said last week that "a presidential candidate benefited from massive exposure due to preferential treatment" granted by TikTok. Romania has become a "priority target for hostile actions" by Russia, it added.

The Kremlin has denied meddling in the election. The Constitutional Court on November 28 requested a recount of all 9.4 million votes after a former presidential candidate who obtained 1 per cent, lodged a complaint alleging the reformist USR had violated electoral laws against campaign activities on polling day.

The court also postponed on November 29 a decision until Monday on whether to annul the vote.

Iraqi militias deployed in Syria to back gov't counteroffensive

AP ■ BEIRUT

Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have deployed in Syria to back the government's counteroffensive against a surprise advance by insurgents who seized the largest city of Aleppo last week, a militia official and a war monitor said on Monday.

Insurgents led by jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham launched a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and moved into the countryside around Idlib and neighbouring Hama province.

The push is among the rebels' strongest in years and raised the prospect of another violent front

reopening in the Middle East, at a time when US-backed Israel is fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both Iranian-allied groups.

It also risks drawing Russia and Turkey — each with its own interests to protect in Syria — into direct confrontation.

Government troops built a fortified defensive line in northern

Hama in an attempt to stall the insurgents' momentum while jets on Sunday pounded rebel-held lines. On Monday, Syria's military said that their airstrikes alongside Russia's killed 400 insurgents over the past 24 hours. It said that government forces were mobilising to encircle the rebels in the Aleppo, Hama, and Idlib countryside.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://tenders.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to use these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

A) Fresh-Tender Work:

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1	18/DGM/SM (WC-7)/ET/2024-25	D/o Village (C/o C.C. Road, drain and fixing of M.S. Jaal at different location in Agar Basti, Sector-81), Noida.	95.34
2	15/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/2024-25	D/o Village (Beautification of Pond in Village Asgarpur in Sector-128), Noida.	56.81
3	17/DGM/SM (WC-6)/2024-25	Development and Maintenance of Village (C/o CC road and drain in Bbhisam Pradhan Gali, Golu Yadav Gali Suresh Yadav Gali and Gym Gali in Village Sorikha Jahidabad), Noida.	67.40

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 16.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 17.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re-Tender Work:

S. No.	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
4	14/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2024-25	D/o & M/o Village (R/o C.C. Roads, drain & M.S. Jaal at different location in Village Jhatta, Sector-159), Noida.	45.23
5	20/DGM/SM (WC-8)/ET/2023-24	M/o Village (C/o Boundary wall GI Chain link of Open Gym & C.C. Parking in front of Village Hazipur, Sector-104), Noida.	61.21

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 09.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 10.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, BARIPADA, MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BARIPADA
e-Mail ID: acemircb@gmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. 1961 Dated 29.11.2024
BID IDENTIFICATION NO.-ADD. C.E MIRC No.-02/BMIC/2024-25

The Additional Chief Engineer, Baripada Minor Irrigation Circle, Baripada on behalf of Governor of Orissa invites percentage rate bids in Double cover only in ONLINE mode for the Construction of works detailed in the table from "B" & "A" Class & above class Contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent Grade/ Class registered with Central Government/M.E.S./Railways for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the following works.

No.	Name of the works	Repair & Improvement of MIPs under Improvement to Tanks & MIPs Scheme.
1	Name of the works	Repair & Improvement of MIPs under Improvement to Tanks & MIPs Scheme.
2	Total No. of works	1 (One) no
3	Estimated Cost	Rs 128.68 Lakh Approximately (Detail list of work Annexed)
4	Class of Contractor	Class "B" & "A"
5	Period of completion	As Mentioned against Work.
6	Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in the portal for online bidding.	03.12.2024 at 10:00 AM 17.12.2024 up to 5:00 P.M.
7	Last date/Time for receipt of Bid only in ONLINE.	17.12.2024 up to 5:00 P.M.
8	Date/Time of Opening of Technical Bid.	18.12.2024 at 11.00 A.M. at Office of the Addl. C.E Baripada M.I Circle, Baripada through Web site
9	Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be intimated online after offline evaluation of Technical Bids.
10	Date of Transparent Lottery (If cases arises)	At 11.00 A.M onwards of dated 27.12.2024
11	Name & Address of the Officer inviting the Bid.	Additional Chief Engineer, Baripada M.I. Circle, Baripada At/PO-Baripada Dist. Mayurbhanj PIN-757001 E-Mail: acemircb@gmail.com
12	Mode of Payment of Bid Cost	Online

Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

Additional Chief Engineer, Baripada M.I. Circle, Baripada
OIPR-32490/110005/2425

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Asha Rani and Mr. Nalin Sachdeva had acquired Property Bearing No. 2292, built on Plot No. 104, area 264 sq. yds. (except 2 Shop) Kharsa No. 243, Kharat No. 1, at Ganesh Pura-A, Tri Nagar, Village Chakuli mubarakabad, Delhi vide Sale Deed Dt. 13.08.2002 executed by Mrs. Shama Rani. Sale Deed dated 02.11.1995 executed by Mr. Hari Kishan in favour of Mrs. Shama Rani and Mrs. Karmawati and Reg. Will dt. 16.05.1981 executed by Mrs. Karmawati in favour of Mrs. Shama Rani are lost in Original.

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, mortgage, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance however or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Advocate N. K. Singh (Advocate) I. No. 28/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that any General Power of Attorney (GPA) purportedly signed by my client Ms. Surbhi Gupta, in respect of the property situated at C-138, Upper Ground Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, shall be treated as null and void. It is hereby clarified that my client has not executed or authorized any valid GPA in favour of any individual or entity concerning the said property. Any such document being presented or relied upon is unauthorized, invalid, and illegal. The public is cautioned against entering into any transactions or dealings based on any such GPA. Any person dealing in this regard does so entirely at their own risk and shall be solely responsible for any losses, liabilities, or legal consequences arising therefrom.

Advocate Sushil Sharma (+91-981008010)

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Clix Housing Finance Limited, a Housing Finance Bank Company under the National Housing Bank Act under the provision of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "SARAFESI Act, 2002") having its Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008 (hereinafter referred to as "CLIX"), and is engaged in the business of providing financial assistance to meet the needs of over millions of its customers all over India, hereby issues to you the following notice:

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. MANISH BERA S/O PRASENIT A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. ALSO AT:- PMS ENTERPRISES 9/4668 1ST FLOOR GULI NO-02, AJIT NAGAR, KALI MATA MANDIR GANDHI NAGAR, EAST DELHI-110031. 2. PRASHANT KUMAR W/O DALIP BERA A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. ALSO AT:- S/739, VAISHALI SECTOR -5, SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-201010. 3. SANDHYA W/O DILIP KUMAR BERA A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. 4. DILIP BERA A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051.

Loan A/c/Numbers/Date: AC2021010475249 AND HDNHN000000633 / 29-01-2021, Loan Amount Available: Rs. 51,50,000.00/- & Rs. 15,45,000/-, Date of 13/2/2024, NPA Date - 02-Aug-2024 & 10-Aug-2024 Demand Date and Amount as Per Sec. 13(2) Act. Notice: Rs. 69,06,799.06/- as on 13-Aug-2024

Mortgage Properties: ALL PACE AND PARCEL OF BUILT-UP PROPERTY NO.14-A-1, MEASURING AREA 166 SQ. YDS, MEASUREMENT 30FT. X 50FT. 1.E. 138.79 SQ. MTRS., PLINTH/COVERED AREA 111.03 SQ. MTRS., CONSISTING OF ONE DRAWING ROOM DINNING ROOM, THREE BED ROOMS, ONE KITCHEN, TWO TOILETS/BATHS ON SECOND FLOOR, LIFT TO CELLING LEVEL, FITTED WITH ELECTRICITY, TAP WATER, WITH SEPARATE METERS, ALONGWITH RIGHTS, TO USE COMMON STAIRS, MANGATE, ONE CAR AND ONE TWO WHEELER PARKING, PASSAGE WITH UNDIVIDED, INDIVISIBLE, IMPARTIBLE, PROPORTIONATE OWNERSHIP RIGHT IN THE SAID PLOT OF LAND, WITH ALL ITS FITTINGS AND FIXTURES FITTED THERON, WATER METER, WATER TANKY ON ROOF OF THE SAID BUILDING, OUT OF KHARSA NO.1047/824/1, SITUATED AT ABADI EAST KRISHNA NAGAR EXIN., IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE CHANDRAWALI ALIAS SHAHDARA, ILAGA SHAHDARA, DELHI-110051.

Further with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of demand notice, hence this publication of demand notice. You are hereby called upon to pay CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED with in a period of 60 days of date of publication of this demand notice the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental expenses, charges etc., failing which CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED will take necessary action under all or any of the provision of Sec. 13(4) of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of this secured assets of the borrower's. Further you are prohibited U/S 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by way of sale/lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets. Please note that no further demand notice will be issued.

Date:- 03.12.2024, Place - DELHI Authorized officer, CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Anamika Pandey W/o Rajnish Kumar Pandey R/o 614, Ground Floor, Shakti Khand-3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Anamika A Dubey.

PD(1001)A

I, Pawan Kumar Gupta S/o Om Prakash Gupta Rio E-210, Shakurpur, Near Samrat Enclave, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 hereby declare that Dravyansh and Dravyansh Gupta both are one and the same person.

PD(1002)A

I, No.15583406Y SPR Nikure A. P. R/o- At Post- Shankarpur, Teh- Chimur, Dist- Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442903, have changed my daughter's name from Vedika to Vedika Arun Nikure, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1005)C

I, Pandurang, Father of No.15583406Y SPR Nikure A. P. R/o- At Post- Shankarpur, Teh- Chimur, Dist- Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442903, have changed my name from Pandurang to Pandurang Khatuji Nikure, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1006)C

I, Rikhma Pandurang, Mother of No.15583406Y SPR Nikure A. P. R/o- At Post- Shankarpur, Teh- Chimur, Dist- Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442903, have changed my name from Rikhma Pandurang to Sundar Pandurang Nikure, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1007)C

I, Sudeshna Mukherjee W/o- No.14849403F HAV Saurav Kumar, R/o- 6/1/2, Jogin Mukherjee Lane, Kadamtala, Howrah, W.B.-711101, have changed my name from Sudeshna Mukherjee to Sudeshna Kumar, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1008)C

I, Dinesh S/o Shri Yaad Ram R/o A-87/2 Bhalswa Dairy Delhi 42, that I have changed my name from Dinesh to Dinesh Kumar for all purposes.

PD(1009)C

I, Khalid Nawaz S/o Shah Nawaz Ahmed R/o H.No.-M/63/B, Street No.-14, Brahmपुरi, Delhi-110053, declare that my son's name has been mentioned in his birth certificate as Arhaan Siddiqui alias Kabeer Siddiqui. In future his correct/changed name is Kabeer Siddiqui for all purposes. Hence my son's name Kabeer Siddiqui and Arhaan Siddiqui alias Kabeer Siddiqui belong to same and one person.

PD(1010)C

Indian Overseas Bank
NHPC BRANCH
(Address, NHPC, Complex - Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)
Phone No. 0129-2254012 & Email Id: io1501@ioib.in

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, NHPC Branch, Faridabad, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 11/06/2024 calling upon the borrowers Mrs. Prem Machine Tools Plot No-101, Road No. 5(w), Saroopur Industrial Area, Faridabad and its Proprietor Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma and guarantor (Mortgagor) Mrs. Kusum Sharma & Mr. Chandar Prakash Sharma having to residential address at Jeewan Nagar, Gaunchi, Saroopur, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana, 121004 (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 29,22,314.46 (Twenty Nine Lakh Twenty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Fourteen and Forty Six Paise) as on 27-11-2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 30th Day of November 2024.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 29,22,314.46 (Twenty Nine Lakh Twenty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Fourteen and Forty Six Paise) as on 30.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 29,22,314.46 (Twenty Nine Lakh Twenty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Fourteen and Forty Six Paise) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential land & building on plot MCF No-285, (Old MCF No- 456 & Earlier plot No. 51 & 52), Jeevan Nagar, Teshsil Ballabgarh, District - Faridabad, Haryana, owned by Mrs. Kusum Sharma who Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma admeasuring 100 sq yds.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of plot MCF No- 285, (Old MCF No.456 & earlier plot no 51 & 52), Kharsa No-61/1/1 (6-19), Jeevan Nagar, Teshsil- Ballabgarh, District-Faridabad, Muzar- Gaunchi, Haryana Owned by Mrs. Kusum Sharma who Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma. Land and building area measuring 100 Sq yards.

Bounded:
On the North by - Plot No. 286
On the South by - Plot No. 284
On the East by - Road
On the West by - Gali

Dated: 30.11.2024
Place: Faridabad

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

Indian Overseas Bank
NHPC BRANCH
(Address, NHPC, Complex - Sec-33, Faridabad (Haryana) Pincode - 121003)
Phone No. 0129-2254012 & Email Id: io1501@ioib.in

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(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 30' Day of November 2024.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 29,22,314.46 (Twenty Nine Lakh Twenty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Fourteen and Forty Six Paise) as on 30.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 29,22,314.46 (Twenty Nine Lakh Twenty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Fourteen and Forty Six Paise) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential land & building on plot MCF No-285, presently MCF No. 384 Old MCF No- 456 & Earlier plot No. 51 & 52), Jeevan Nagar, Teshsil Ballabgarh, District - Faridabad, Haryana, owned by Shri Chandar Prakash Sharma S/o Shri (L) Rakesh Kumar Sharma admeasuring 50 sq yds.

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of plot MCF No- 285, now known as MCF No-384 (Old MCF No-456 & earlier plot no 51 & 52), Kharsa No-61/1/1, Jeevan Nagar, Teshsil-Ballabgarh, District-Faridabad, Mauza Gaunchi, Haryana Owned by Shri Chandar Prakash Sharma S/o Mr. Rakesh Kumar Sharma. Land and building area measuring 50 Sq yards

Bounded:
On the North by - H. No. 285 of Smt. Kusum Sharma
On the South by - H. No. 283 of Sh. Omkar Sharma
On the East by - Road 15' wide
On the West by - Road 15' wide

Dated: 30.11.2024
Place: Faridabad

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE Date: 03.12.2024

Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/24-25/ FK/PR/RJ/1229	SURVEY, DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, COMMISSIONING & INTEGRATION WITH SCADA OF FAULT PASSAGE INDICATORS AT SUBSTATIONS IN BRPL, NEW DELHI	2.88 Crores	5.76,000/-	23.12.2024 15:30 Hrs	23.12.2024 15:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-
For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submitson of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC11627
Telephone No.: +91 11 4910 7235 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

verka Suppliers Invited

Inviting e Auction for the purchase of following items through NCDFI Portal.

The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd, Chandigarh procuring Tracle Minerals for Cattle Feed Plants Khanna & GKB on annual basis for Bypass fat through e-Auctions at NCDFI e-Market across Punjab on 05.12.2024 at 12:30 PM. Interested suppliers/vendors are invited to register and participate in above said e-auction through www.ncdfimarket.com portal.

For registration:
Contact: +91 9998019608; +91 9978601585
Help Desk: +91-2692-288388
E-Mail: contracts_pack@ncdfimarket.com, virender.choudhary@nemli.in, divakar.juneja@nemli.in.

NA/12/26782/2023/39713 Dated CHD :- 12/2/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

That my client Harjit Singh S/o Ratan Singh aged about 64-year, R/o Flat no. 3, 1st Floor, Kharsa no. 14/4/1, Gali no. 1, D-Block, Hari Vihar, Burari, Dist: North, Burari, Delhi-110084, has severed all connections and relations with his son and declared also his Son Namy Gurnam Singh and his wife Kamna from my all movable and immovable properties due to their bad behaviour and habits. They are out of the control of my client and are misbehaving with my client. My client is not responsible/liable for any act, dealing, deeds and things done by above named persons since today and if any person doing any act, dealing, deeds, things done with them, they are doing on his/ her their own responsibility. They shall not inherit any right/ title in the movable and/ or immovable properties of my client in any manner.

BRAJESH KUMAR (Advocate) Ch. No. 717, Lawyers Chamber Building, Rohini Centre, Delhi-110085

verka Suppliers Invited

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66

Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop

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

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Mohali Dairy a) Outsourcing the activities related to :- i. City supply demand, dispatch, milk supply helpers, BCC & Accounts personnels. ii. Security personnels for loading of fresh milk & milk products. b) Hiring of insulated road milk tankers for transportation of milk from BMC/ MCCs etc. (Capacity minimum 10000 kg).	Annual 30 No's
2.	For Verka Bathinda Dairy Hiring of Mahindra pickup/ Maxi pickup/ Tata Ache/ etc. to lift the milk from various societies/farms to Milk Chilling Centre, Bhikhi and Talwandi Sabo.	Annual/ 02 No's
3.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy a) Outsourcing activities i.e. packing of products, loading/ unloading etc. b) Ruck Husek.	Annual Jan 2025- 500 MT Feb 2025- 500 MT
4.	For Verka Ludhiana Dairy Pest control service, DIET(GADVASU) and MCCs which include control of flies, mosquitoes, lizards, rodent etc.	One job
5.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy Hiring of car (Swift dzire or its equivalent) for marketing section.	01 No.
6.	For Cattle Feed Plant, Bhatiana, Khanna a) Labour job contract for different activities of production section. b) Housekeeping/Sanitation and Horticulture work.	Annual
7.	For Cattle Feed Plant Ghanaia-ke Banger Hiring of double cabin pickup ac vehicle (Bolero camper, Tata xenon or equivalent) for purchase, marketing and engineering section etc. for all india area)	Annual 01 No.

NOTE:
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/26788/2023/39726 Dated CHD :- 12/2/2024

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Government scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil, export of fuels

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Monday scrapped 30-month old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol following a decline in international oil prices.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled a notification in Rajya Sabha scrapping the levy on crude oil produced by firms like state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and exports of fuels done by companies like Reliance Industries Ltd.

The notification rescinded June 30, 2022 order and withdrew levy of special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude oil (which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel) and on export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol, he said.

Alongside, the road and infrastructure cess (RIC) levied on export of petrol and



diesel has also been withdrawn. India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on diesel. A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD

40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied. The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.

While the levy on export of petrol became nil in the very first fortnightly review that happened in mid-July 2022, the tax on diesel and ATF exports became nil in mid April 2023 but were back in

August that year. There has been no levy on export of ATF and diesel since March this year.

As far as crude oil is concerned, the levy fluctuated every fortnight. It was Rs 1,850 per tonne in August 31, 2024 and became nil in the next fortnightly review.

Now, the levies on both domestically produced crude oil and fuel exports have been

scrapped.

The government had garnered about Rs 25,000 crore from the levy in the first year of its implementation, Rs 13,000 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 6,000 crore this year.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates India's largest only-for-export oil refinery at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country.

The government levied tax on windfall profits made by oil producers on any price they get above a threshold of USD 75 per barrel.

The levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference between the international oil price realised and the cost.

The decision to scrap the levy follows softening in international oil prices. The basket of crude oil that India imports averaged USD 73.02 per barrel in November, down from USD 75.12 a

barrel in the previous month.

The import price was about USD 90 per barrel in April this year but has continued to slide in subsequent months. It fell to USD 73.69 per barrel in September but rose marginally in the following month.

Since its levy, the windfall profit tax has been a subject of controversy. While it initially sought to balance government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices, industry players argued that it negatively impacted profitability and disincentive production. For private and foreign players, it brought in an element of uncertainty in the fiscal regime.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas too had been lobbying for its removal for some time now.

While doing away with tax on domestically-produced crude oil will benefit ONGC and Oil India Ltd, the scrapping of levy on fuel exports would help Reliance and Nayara.



SpiceJet to operate 100 Haj flights in 2025

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Monday said it has secured the rights to operate Haj flights in 2025 from four key cities in the country - Kolkata, Guwahati, Srinagar, and Gaya. As part of its mandate, SpiceJet will operate over 100 special flights for Haj 2025, using a mix of narrow-body and wide-body aircraft, and is

expected to fly 18 per cent additional pilgrims (around 15,500) compared to this year, the airline said.

Haj has been a significant revenue generator for SpiceJet, and the airline expects to generate Rs 185 crore from these operations in 2025, it said.

During the previous Haj season, SpiceJet deployed two wide-body Airbus A340 aircraft, each with a seating capacity of 324 passengers, SpiceJet said.

India's power consumption up five per cent to 125.44 Billion units in November



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's power consumption rose 5.14 per cent to 125.44 billion units (BU) in November as compared to the year-ago month. In November 2023, power consumption was 119.30 GW, as per the government data. The highest supply in a day (peak power demand met) also rose marginally to 207.42 GW in November 2024 from 204.56 GW in the year-ago period.

The peak power demand touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May this year. The previous all-time high peak power demand of 243.27 GW was recorded in September 2023. Earlier this year, the power ministry projected a peak power demand of 235 GW during the day and 225 GW during evening hours for May while 240 GW during daytime and 235 GW in the evening hours for June. The ministry had also

estimated that peak power demand may hit 260 GW this summer.

Noting that November 2024 was the warmest in last four to five years as per official data, the experts opined that power demand as well as consumption showed subdued growth mainly due to slow onset of winters.

They further said that marginal rise in peak power demand in November also shows the effect of warmer-than-normal month, especially in Northern India where consumption of electricity rises due to use of heaters and geysers in winter due to dip in mercury. However, they said that the demand for power and consumption will continue to be steady in the coming days due to good commercial and industrial activities as well as dip in the temperature.

Commerce ministry reviewing India-US trade relations amid Trump statements



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry is reviewing various aspects of India-US trade relations focusing on implications of statements made by US President-elect Donald Trump during his election campaign and after the results, an official said. The official added that there are no irritants in the relations between the two countries that can lead to

discriminatory tariffs against India.

Trump, during his election campaign, has called India an "abuser" of import tariffs, a claim that echoed his October 2020 statement labelling India the "Tariff King". Trump on Saturday also warned BRICS countries against any move to replace the US dollar and has sought a commitment from the nine-member group that includes India, Russia, China, and

Brazil.

In the wake of such statements, brainstorming is fundamental to discuss the trade relations as the US is the largest trading partner of India.

Trade experts have time and again stated that Trump's claim that India is an "abuser" of import tariffs is unfair as many nations including America protect their domestic industries by imposing high customs duties on certain products.

According to WTO's World Tariff Profiles 2023, the US also imposes high duties on items like dairy products (188 per cent), fruits and vegetables (132 per cent), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (53 per cent), cereals and food preparations (193 per cent), oilseeds, fats and oils (164 per cent), beverages and tobacco (150 per cent), fish and fish products (35 per cent), minerals and metals (187 per

cent), and chemicals (56 per cent).

An expert said that if the US would seek a cut in customs duties for some of their products, India should also demand a similar reduction to get greater market access for domestic items.

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.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has recently stated that the US President is a "friend of India" and India-US friendship will only continue to blossom and grow further.

India's trade relations with the US will continue to grow irrespective of the change in regime in America and according to the commerce ministry data, India's exports to the US jumped to USD 39.2 billion in October against

USD 21.46 billion in October 2015.

During 2001-23, at a Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR), India's exports to America rose by 10.48 per cent. In this period, the US imports from the world have grown by 4.76 per cent.

"The India-US economic integration is growing over the period of time and that is a good thing for us and I trust that it will continue to grow," the official said.

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 26 billion.

Experts have also stated that Indian exporters may face high customs duties for goods like automobiles, textiles and pharmaceuticals, if the new US administration decides to pursue the 'America First' agenda.

Coal production from captive, commercial mines rises 35 per cent to 112.65 MT

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The coal production from captive and commercial mines rose 34.7 per cent to 112.65 million tonne in the April-November period of the ongoing fiscal. The output of coal from captive and commercial mines was 83.60 MT in the year-ago period, the coal ministry said in a statement. The total dispatch of coal from captive and commercial mines between April and November rose to 119.62 MT from 89.32 MT in the same period last financial year. "In November 2024 alone, the total coal dispatch from these mines was 16.109 MT,

with a daily average dispatch of 0.537 MT, which is an increase of 27.6 per cent compared to the daily average of 0.421 MT in November 2023," the statement said.

The surge in coal production and dispatch reflects the government's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047.

By prioritising domestic energy capabilities and reducing import dependencies, the government is strategically advancing India's economic self-reliance, infrastructure development, and global competitiveness through transparent and innovative governance.

Gold falls ₹200 to ₹79,200 per 10 grams

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell Rs 200 to Rs 79,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 79,400 per 10 grams on Friday. Silver also plummeted Rs 2,200 to Rs 90,000 per kg due to reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers. It had closed at Rs 92,200 per kg in the previous trading session. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity slipped Rs 200 to Rs 78,800 per 10 grams. The precious metal ended at Rs 79,000 per 10 grams on Friday. Meanwhile, in futures

trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery fell Rs 478, or 0.63 per cent, to trade at Rs 75,896 per 10 grams.

Silver contracts for December delivery slumped Rs 574, or 0.65 per cent, to Rs 88,307 per kg. During the day, the white metal declined Rs 1,081, or 1.22 per cent, to hit an intraday low of Rs 87,800 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Globally, Comex gold futures fell USD 23.50 per ounce, or 0.88 per cent, to USD 2,657.50 per ounce.

"Gold continued its downward trajectory, after hitting an intra-day low of USD 2,621 during the Asian session. The decline was driven by a

recovery seen in US dollar, fuelled by rising US Treasury bond yields and inflationary concerns tied to President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs," Maneesh Sharma, AVP - Commodities & Currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said.

According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, last week comex gold closed on a weaker note as safe-haven demand faded, following a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Also, concerns about persistent inflation have raised doubts about the pace of rate cuts next year, Chainwala said.

India's potential GDP growth is in range of 6.5-7 per cent, says CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's potential GDP growth is in the range of 6.5-7 per cent and the country should be able to achieve it on the back of things that we have done already in the last 10 years—whether it is in terms of augmenting the physical infrastructure or achieving financial inclusion."

Emphasising the investment areas, he said, "We all know about the issue of intermittency. The investment shouldn't focus on setting up solar power plants or wind energy plants as we need to take into consideration the increasing cost of recycling solar panel waste and wind turbine waste. That is an area to

invest in." The other areas to invest in is the area of grid capabilities and technologies which will be able to withstand the intermittency of supplies from these renewable energy sources, he said. With 45 years remaining for India to meet its commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, he said about the complex challenge of balancing robust economic growth with the urgent need for environmental sustainability.

He also shared the current strategies and steps and urged for a collaborative approach.

Rupee drops 13 paise to all-time low of 84.73 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 13 paise to close at an all-time low of 84.73 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, on disappointing macroeconomic data and broad strength of the American currency in the overseas markets. Forex traders said Asian currencies were down after Trump Rhetoric on BRICS currency, as the move may further strengthen the greenback. President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday threatened a 100 per cent tariff on the BRIC bloc of nations if they act to undermine the US dollar. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.59 and touched the lowest level of 84.73 against the greenback during intraday trade. The unit ended the session at an all-time low of 84.73

(provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 13 paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee plunged 13 paise to settle at a fresh all-time low of 84.60 against the US dollar. Traders said disappointing macroeconomic data and persistent foreign fund outflows also dented investor sentiments.

India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a joint 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory orders, a monthly survey said on Monday. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on strong dollar and FII outflows. A recovery in crude oil prices may also weigh on the rupee. Donald Trump's tariff threat may further strengthen the greenback," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Mira

Asset Sharekhan.

However, positive domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels.

Traders may take cues from US ISM manufacturing PMI data, Choudhary said, adding that USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 84.50 to Rs 84.95.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of five currencies, was trading higher by 0.51 per cent at 106.27.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged 0.99 per cent to USD 72.59 per barrel in futures trade.

India's forex reserves dropped USD 1.31 billion to USD 656.582 billion for the week ended November 22, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday. The reserves had dropped a record USD 17.761 billion to USD 657.892 billion in the previous reporting week ending November 15.

Sensex, Nifty settle higher on buying in blue-chip stocks



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Monday amid buying in blue-chip stocks. Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank along with a firm trend in the US markets. Recovering the early lost ground, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 445.29 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 80,248.08. During the day, it hit a high of 80,337.82 and a low of 79,308.95.

The NSE Nifty surged 144.95 points or 0.60 per cent to 24,276.05.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel and Reliance Industries were the biggest gainers.

NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Kotak Mahindra Bank, IndusInd Bank and Larsen & Toubro were among the laggards.

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

European markets were trading mostly lower. US markets ended in the positive territory on Friday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,383.55 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,723.34 crore.

India's economic growth slowed to a near two-year low of 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors as well as weak consumption, but the country continued to remain the fastest-growing large economy, data showed on Friday.

India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory orders, a monthly survey said on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.85 per cent to USD 72.45 a barrel. The BSE benchmark jumped 759.05 points or 0.96 per cent to settle at 79,802.79 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 216.95 points or 0.91 per cent to 24,131.10.

INBRIEF

TCS HIRED 106 GNDU STUDENTS

AMARAVATI: Directorate of Placement & Career Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University organized Campus Placement drive by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company for B.Tech. and MCA students of GNDU - Batch 2025. The company selected 106 students from these courses.



GNDU STUDENTS EXCELLED IN INTER-UNIVERSITY YOUTH FAIRS



AMRITSAR: - In the Inter-University Youth Competitions being held at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, students of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts of Guru Nanak Dev University participated in the Var, Kavishri and Kali competitions.

PSPCL RECEIVES 92 LAKH METRIC TONNES OF COAL

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Power and Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO announced on Saturday that the Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL) has achieved substantial savings of approximately Rs 1,000 crore due to the procurement of cheaper coal from the Pachwara coal mine.



Max Verstappen wins Qatar Grand Prix

AP ■ LUSAIL

From a smashed mirror and crashes to unusually severe penalties, there were plenty of hazards at the Qatar Grand Prix. Max Verstappen steered clear of them all to follow up his Formula 1 drivers' title with his ninth win of the year on Sunday.

Lando Norris, Verstappen's closest title rival until he secured the championship last week in Las Vegas, was trying to overtake the Dutch driver for the lead until he was dropped to the back of the field by a penalty for failing to slow for yellow warning flags.

Verstappen, who secured his fourth consecutive title in Las Vegas last week, has won two of the last three races but hadn't won in dry conditions since June.

"It was a lot of fun out there," Verstappen said.

"Very happy. It's been a while in the dry to be this competitive. Very proud of everyone within the team."

Verstappen disposed of another

rival off the line, beating George Russell into the first corner. The Mercedes driver had been elevated to pole position in Verstappen's place after a contentious dispute in qualifying that got Verstappen a one-place penalty for driving too slowly.

Charles Leclerc finished second for Ferrari and Norris' McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri was third. Penalties spark debate

In a season of controversy over the rules and upheaval at the governing body, the stewards again played a crucial role. Norris had been chasing down Verstappen for the lead before his penalty. McLaren team principal Andrea Stella said Norris hadn't slowed down but argued the penalty was disproportionately harsh.

"It's definitely material that the FIA should consider very seriously if we want fairness to be part of going racing in Formula 1," Stella said.

"To me, it looks like somewhere there must be a book with a lot of



dust on the cover that was taken out. Let me see what it says, I apply this. Seems a little too simplistic." The stewards were busy, issuing a

wide range of penalties for offenses like causing collisions, but also two for Lewis Hamilton for a false start and pit-lane speeding,

and one for Russell, who was judged to have dropped too far back in a safety car period. Russell said later he didn't know "when or

how or why" he'd been penalized. The safety car came out three times, first for crashes at the back of the pack on the opening lap, then for debris from a smashed mirror, and again when Nico Hulkenberg's Haas ended up in the gravel.

Constructors' title fight

At one stage, it looked like McLaren could seal its first constructors' title since 1998 in Qatar as Norris and Piastri both eyed podium places.

After Norris' penalty, Ferrari cut McLaren's lead from 30 points to 21 with Leclerc's second place and a solid sixth for Carlos Sainz Jr. After a puncture seemed to have wrecked his race. The constructors' title will now be decided at the final race of the season in Abu Dhabi next week.

That's a boost to Ferrari's morale. "We knew it was going to be a very difficult weekend compared to the McLaren but we even managed to take some points away from them, so the fight will be all the way to the last race in Abu Dhabi next

week," Leclerc said.

"It's going to be an exciting end to the year. Hopefully we can be strong but it's going to take everything we've got to seal the deal," Piastri said.

Russell was fourth, ahead of Pierre Gasly continuing Alpine's recent good form, with Sainz sixth and Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso seventh.

Zhou Guanyu picked up his and Sauber's first points in eighth, ahead of Kevin Magnussen for Haas in ninth and Norris 10th after having been dropped to 15th by the penalty.

Hamilton and Sainz both picked up punctures shortly after a discarded wing mirror on the track was shattered by Valtteri Bottas' Sauber. Carbon fiber and glass were spread across the circuit, bringing out the safety car again, though it wasn't immediately clear if that or tire failure caused the punctures. It was a long, hard race for seven-time champion Hamilton, who finished 12th.



Mbappé and Bellingham respond to unhappy fans with goals in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Getafe

AP ■ MADRID

Kylian Mbappé made some peace with Real Madrid's fans.

Mbappé scored in Madrid's 2-0 win over Getafe in the Spanish league on Sunday to help ease the pressure on the France star.

Mbappé, who has been criticized by some supporters because of his disappointing performances since joining the Spanish powerhouse this season, found the net in the 38th minute to seal Madrid's victory at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

Mbappé was coming off a lackluster outing — which included a missed penalty kick — against Liverpool in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Jude Bellingham, also the target of some fans' criticism for recent poor play, had put Madrid ahead at the Bernabeu by converting a 30th-minute penalty. He also assisted in Mbappé's goal — a well-placed low shot from outside the area.

Mbappé had scored only once in the team's last six matches across all competitions, and twice in the last nine games.

"He played very well, was active and was as dangerous as always," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

"He scored and created opportunities. He was very active, it's what we want from him."

Mbappé was still far from his best, and he did not take the penalty kick which was converted by Bellingham.

Another penalty — which was overturned by VAR — was also set to be taken by Rodrygo.

"The order for the penalties is Mbappé and Vinicius Júnior, but without Vinicius, it was up to Bellingham and Mbappé to choose," Ancelotti said.

The win moved Madrid within a point of league leader Barcelona, which lost 2-1 to Las Palmas on Saturday. Madrid, the defending champion, has a game in hand.

Madrid was one point ahead of city rival Atletico Madrid, which won 5-0 at Valladolid on Saturday.

Madrid has lost three of its five Champions League matches but has won three straight in the league to cut into Barcelona's lead. The Catalan club is winless in three consecutive league games.

"Things have been going well in La Liga since the last defeat, but we can't get sidetracked because this is what Real Madrid demands," Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger said.

"We must continue and do better in the Champions League."

Also Sunday, Villarreal drew 2-2 with visiting Girona after leading 2-0 and eventually conceding an equalizer seven minutes into stoppage time.

Athletic Bilbao rallied to win 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano with a pair of second-half goals by Oihane Sancet, while Athletic's Basque rival Real Sociedad defeated Real Betis 2-0 at home.

Edoardo Bove in medically induced coma after collapsing in Italian soccer game

AP ■ FLORENCE

Fiorentina midfielder Edoardo Bove is in a medically induced coma after collapsing on the field during his team's Serie A match at home to Inter Milan, with the game abandoned shortly afterward.

Bove's teammates immediately called for medical help and both sets of players surrounded the 22-year-old while he was being treated before he was swiftly stretchered off to an ambulance near the pitch and taken to Careggi Hospital in Florence on Sunday.

"Fiorentina and the Careggi University Hospital announce that the footballer Edoardo Bove ... is currently under pharmacological sedation and hospitalized in intensive care," Fiorentina said in a statement.

"The first cardiological and neurological tests performed have ruled out acute damage to the central nervous system and the cardio-respiratory system. Edoardo Bove will be re-evaluated in the next 24 hours."



Sky Italia reported that the player regained consciousness while he was in the ambulance and was managing to breathe on his own.

Bove's parents and his girlfriend have arrived at the hospital along with Fiorentina coach Raffaele Palladino and most of his teammates, as well as club directors and the city's mayor.

Fiorentina fans have also gathered outside the hospital and displayed a banner with the words: "Forza Edoardo, Florence is with you."

Fiorentina president Rocco

Comisso echoed that sentiment and the club said he and his family are in constant contact from the United States to support Bove and his family.

"Forza Edoardo, we're with you," Comisso said.

"You're a strong boy with a great character."

More messages of support flooded in on social media from players and clubs. Inter midfielder Federico Dimarco, who was on the field at the time, wrote "Forza Edo, we are all with you and your family."

The incident happened in the

16th minute of the match, with play stopped following a VAR check. Bove apparently bent down to tie the laces on his boot before he suddenly dropped to the ground.

Fiorentina players were distraught on the field and were comforted by staff members as well as Inter players. Several were openly sobbing before the teams filed off the field.

The Italian league match was immediately halted, before being abandoned. The score at the time of Bove's collapse was 0-0.

Many at Fiorentina — as well as the fans — remember former captain Davide Astori, who was found dead in his hotel room in March 2018 before a match in Udine.

It is the second incident this year of a player collapsing during a Serie A match. It happened to Roma defender Evan Ndicka during his team's match at Udinese in April.

Bove is a product of the Roma youth academy and joined Fiorentina on loan in the off-season with the option to make the move permanent.



World Chess Championship: Gukesh, Liren eye breakthrough after hat-trick of draws

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh and defending champion Ding Liren will be aiming to break the deadlock after three consecutive draws when they square off in the seventh round of the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday, having stayed on equal footing for most part of the interesting showdown.

Hailed as the favourite to win by many chess pundits, the 18-year-old Gukesh, who is the youngest ever challenger to the title, has not been able to really show his class and has often depended on the Chinese to play safe or make mistakes in decent positions. The two are currently locked at three points each.

If game one was a wake up call for Gukesh after a loss with white pieces, the second game was a confidence-booster for the Indian as Liren barely did anything and allowed an easy draw.

Gukesh won the third game but only after Liren miscalculated from what may have been a promising position.

In the fourth game Gukesh played solidly again when Liren gave nothing away out of an irregular opening and it was again a draw.

At this point, it was clear that Liren was banking on Gukesh to make mistakes.

Game five saw Gukesh fighting for the initiative yet again and went too far as he came under threat in the resulting endgame. Liren yet again failed to spot them and it was another draw.

The sixth game of many world championship matches have massive history and this time too, it was not disappointing for the fans.

In the last World championship, Liren had beaten Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia in the sixth game and back in 1972, Bobby Fischer had beaten Boris Spassky in what is a favourite of many chess fans across the world even today.

Gukesh turned down an early draw wide repetition and was worse.

However, the nature of the position remained complicated and Liren did not risk things in the queen and rook endgame that was the fourth draw of the match out of six games.

As far as the openings go, Liren has chosen three different moves with his white pieces to start the game while Gukesh has stuck to a Classical approach using only King and Queen's pawn in the beginning.

"I think so far it has been good I still can improve my play, there are lot more games, considering I was trailing after the first game I am happy to be here, it is too early," Gukesh remarked when asked if he was satisfied with his play thus far at the end of the sixth game.

On Tuesday, the Indian will play with white.

Going by the proceedings so far, things are not particularly clear and as of now, there are no favourites.

Gukesh has been his general ambitious self while Liren has shown aggression only when necessary, often missing out on key moments.

The next three games wherein Gukesh will play with two whites and a solo black is perhaps the best opportunity for the Indian to go ahead in the match and put pressure.

Liren, so far, has been better in defending the opening positions and might like the trend to continue.

Guardiola hits 'reset' with Manchester City floundering in Premier League

Manchester (England), Dec 2 (AP)

For Pep Guardiola, the season starts now. Chastened. Relieved. Defiant.

The Manchester City manager displayed a whole range of emotions after his latest ordeal at Anfield that plunged the out-of-sorts English champions to an unlikely low.

Make that seven matches without a win for a team which, not so long ago, never lost. That's all in the past for Guardiola, though.

"Reset," he said after a 2-0 loss to Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday. "There's a feeling we start from here this season."

How he intends to move on from the worst run of results in his managerial career remains to be seen. But, it all starts Wednesday with a home game against Nottingham Forest.

"We are not used to this," Guardiola said. "Many, many things are happening. The teams are good and we can't handle it right now. I have to find the solution to be stable and solid."



"These players gave me a chance to lead maybe the best years of my life. All I can do is find a solution — in the right moment, the club will make the decision what is needed for this club to continue to be there."

Was he referring to making signings in the January transfer window? City's fatigued and injury-ravaged squad sure needs some, especially in midfield.

Or was he referring to his future? It's not the first time in recent days that Guardiola brought up how fragile his position could quickly become if City

keeps losing.

Moments before walking down the tunnel after the final whistle at Anfield, Guardiola held up an outstretched hand and an extra finger as a retort to taunts by Liverpool fans. It was a nod to six Premier League titles he has won in eight full seasons at City.

No. 7 doesn't look likely this season. Not with City already 11 points behind Liverpool.

"Call me delusional or something like that," Guardiola said, "but I have the feeling we will try to build back our confidence to win games."

Indeed, Guardiola said he was taking some belief from recent training sessions. From the return to fitness of some players, such as Ruben Dias, Nathan Ake, Jack Grealish and Jeremy Doku.

Maybe, from a second-half display against Liverpool that, while hardly vintage City, at least showed some spirit and resolve, even if Liverpool appeared happy to play on the break and never looked troubled.

Greenwood's late penalty helps Marseille beat Monaco 2-1 and move into second place

AP ■ PARIS

Mason Greenwood's late penalty gave Marseille a 2-1 home win over Monaco and lifted the team over its rival into second place in the French league.

Greenwood placed the ball into the bottom left corner in the 89th minute for his ninth league goal of the season on Sunday — level with Lille's Jonathan David and one behind Paris Saint-Germain's Bradley Barcola in the scoring charts.

Marseille moved above Monaco on goal difference, with both sides seven points behind leader PSG.

Monaco's defeat exposed shortcomings in coach Adi Hütter's young and talented yet error-prone team.

Monaco lost 3-2 at home to Benfica in the Champions League

on Wednesday after leading that game 2-1 before conceding twice in the last six minutes.

After going unbeaten in its first 11 games in all competitions this season, Hütter's erratic side has had four defeats in the past seven matches — including at home to strugglers Angers and away to Nice after again taking the lead.

This time, Monaco scored first at Stade Velodrome when midfielder Aleksandr Golovin beat Gerónimo Rulli in the 41st minute with a slightly deflected strike after being set up by Brazilian winger Luis Henrique equalized for Marseille in the 53rd with a header from forward Neal Maupay's cross.

Earlier Sunday, Arnaud Nordin grabbed the equalizer in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time as rock-bottom Montpellier



earned a 2-2 home draw with Lille in an ill-tempered contest.

Moments after Nordin's goal, a player from each side was sent off. The incident happened when

Montpellier forward Tanguy in a foul against the ball against Lille coach Bruno Genesio when it had already gone out for a throw in, prompting pushing and

shoving from both sides. Coulibaly and Lille defender Mitchel Bakker were red carded.

Montpellier coach Jean-Louis Gasset had been sent off near the end of the second half and former Montpellier player Rémy Cabella — who plays for Lille — was involved in heated incidents.

Canada striker Jonathan David scored a penalty in each half for Lille, which is unbeaten in 13 games in all competitions and remained in fourth place.

David's second penalty in the 54th was awarded following a long video replay after Cabella tumbled.

David slotted it into the top right corner to move to nine league goals and 99 in 205 matches overall since joining Lille four years ago.

While the penalty review was taking place, Cabella argued with

Montpellier midfielder Téji Savanier and TV images showed Cabella shoving his forearm into Savanier's face. Both players received a yellow card.

A clumsy challenge from Jordan Ferri on Matias Fernandez-Pardo led to the first penalty, and David tucked it calmly into the left corner.

Savanier's well-flighted corner from the right allowed defender Issiaga Sylla the chance to head the equalizer in the second minute of first-half stoppage time.

Cabella argued with some home fans after being substituted midway through the second half and was asked to stop remonstrating by the fourth official.

LACAZETTE HAT TRICK

Veteran striker Alexandre Lacazette scored a hat trick as Lyon beat Nice 4-1 to move into

fifth place.

Lacazette gave Lyon the lead and restored it later in the first half after midfielder Sofiane Diop had equalized for sixth-place Nice.

Midfielder Jordan Veretout put Lyon 3-1 up before the break and Lacazette's penalty in the 70th put Lyon in total control.

The 33-year-old Lacazette is in his second spell with Lyon, having spent five seasons in the Premier League with Arsenal, and now totals 190 goals for the club.

Norway striker Joshua King and Vincent Sierro scored in midtable Toulouse's 2-0 home win against Auxerre, and midfielder Himad Abdelli netted as Angers won 1-0 at Le Havre to move out of the relegation zone.

PSG followed up its defeat against Bayern Munich with a tame 1-1 draw at home to struggling Nantes on Saturday.

Bumrah will go down as one of the greatest pacers: Head

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australia batter Travis Head feels Jasprit Bumrah will go down as "one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game" and said he'll proudly tell his grandchildren about the formidable challenge of facing the Indian pace maestro. Bumrah reinforced his status as the best bowler in the world with a stunning performance in the opening Test in Perth which India won by 295 runs. "Jasprit will go down as probably one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game. I think we're finding that at the moment -- how challenging he can be, and it's nice to play against that," Head told reporters on Monday. "It's gonna be nice to go back and look at your career and go tell the grandkids that you faced him. So not a bad series of playing with him. Hopefully I'll face a few more times, but he has been challenging," he added. Bumrah, who was captaining the visiting side, led from the front with a match-haul of 8/72, including several pivotal wickets, showcasing his exceptional form. His stellar performance was a

testament to his remarkable consistency this year. Earlier this year, he was named Player-of-the-Series in the T20 World Cup, where he played a key role in India's title-winning campaign. Head was the sole Australian batter to get a fifty in Perth as the top order comprising the likes of Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne struggled but the explosive middle-order batter is certain his teammates won't be approaching him for tips. "They are not coming to me for batting tips, that's for sure. Everyone goes about it in different ways. We'll have a chat over the next three or four days. "(Bumrah) is so unique, and that's with any of the bowlers, really. Every (batter) picks up different cues and goes about it in a different way." The Australian squad reconvened on Monday after a short break. The two sides will now play a pink ball Test in Adelaide from Friday at the same venue where India were all out for 36 in their previous visit in 2020. Recalling that match, Head said, "I remember that it was a quick test, so it was good. We got to enjoy all



of the bits of Adelaide afterwards. "It'll be nice to do that again. Don't know if we can revisit. It wouldn't take very long to watch it. I don't think that will happen this week." While India played a day-night pink-ball game against the Prime Ministers XI over the weekend, Australia last played a pink ball Test in January. "It's been a long time since we played one (pink ball), India got another look at it last night. Everyone's well experienced enough, especially that team as well, that in your international level. "I think you can accustomed to things pretty quickly. I don't think it'll take them long to be prepared for it, and same as us." No divide in the team Head asserted that there is no "divide" between Australia's struggling batting and the bowling unit. A possible rift within the team was suggested following a comment from Josh Hazlewood during the first Test. "We hold high expectations for both sides (batting and bowling) and it's a very individualised sport," Head said. "So batters, we want to hold our

own - we know how good our bowlers have been for us in the past and they've got us out of trouble a lot. As a batting group, we know that if we get enough runs on the board, we put ourselves in a great position. "As a batter myself, I try to take a whole lot of pride in what I do, and knowing that if I can set it up for the big boys, that they can knock it down for us, so definitely no divide," Head said. Australia have dealt with adversity well Head backed the Australians to bounce back from their horror show in Perth. "This team has dealt with adversity well. The small amount that we have had in the last three or four years, we have played well. "We've had some challenging times and a couple of challenging Tests last year. We didn't have a very good week. That's fine. But we have got four more opportunities to do it, we will crack on as we do, as we have done for the last few years. "Over the last couple of years, there's a lot of teams that lost the first Test or gone down in the series and brought it back and played really well."



We have found the right mix: Hardik Pandya

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has expressed his delight at the way things panned out for them in the IPL mega auction in Jeddah and said the franchise has "found the right mix" of players. The star all-rounder said they had a clear plan of having a blend of youth and experienced players. "I was in touch with the table as well, exactly who we are going for, and I think we came out pretty well from the auction and how the team is looking," he said in an MI video posted on social media. "We have found the right mix, which is experienced players, like Boult (Trent Boult) is back, Deepak Chahar, who has been around, and at the same time, young guns like Will Jacks, Robin Minz and Rickelton, who are fresh. "So, I think we have done pretty well. We have covered all the bases." Explaining the auction dynamics, Pandya admitted that while the entire process is thrilling, it is important to keep the emotions in check, especially while going for a particular player the team desperately needs. "The auction dynamics are always tricky. When you are watching it live, it is very

exciting, and the emotions are always up and down because you want this player," he explained. "But sometimes, you just lose. (So), it's very important to not be very so emotional, and in the end, we have to create a whole team." 'Mumbai Indians has the facility to make them flourish' MI bought quite a few uncapped young players -- Naman Dhir, Robin Minz, Vignesh Puthur, Arjun Tendulkar, Bevan John Jacobs, Venkata Satyanarayana Penmetsa, Raj Angad Bawa, Shrijith Krishnan and Ashwani Kumar. Referring to these youngsters, Pandya urged them to work hard and said that MI possesses the best facilities to help them develop into top cricketers. "My message to all the young guns who are joining Mumbai Indians this year is that if you are here, you have that spark, you have that talent, which the scouts have seen," he stated. "They found me, they found Jasprit, they found Krunal, they found Tilak. They all eventually played for the country. "All you have to do is show up, train, work hard, and the best part is that Mumbai Indians has the facility to make them flourish."

Rohit will either open or bat at No. 3, reckons Harbhajan

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Captain Rohit Sharma will either open or bat at number three in the Adelaide Test against Australia, reckoned former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh on Monday while ruling out the possibility of a senior star coming in at number five or six. KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal added a record 201 runs for the opening stand during the second innings of the Perth Test, which the visitors won by 295 runs with plenty of time left in the match. "I don't see Rohit coming in at number five or six. Either Rohit will open with Yashasvi Jaiswal, with KL Rahul coming in at number three, or he will bat no later than number three," Harbhajan told PTI on the sidelines of the inauguration of the World Tennis League here. "Number six for Rohit wouldn't be in best interest of the team. Your top four in batting order should be the four pillars and someone like Rohit at the top would only



add greater fillip." The second Test, a day/night affair to be played with the pink ball, will begin at Adelaide Oval on Friday. Harbhajan described the move to play Washington Sundar over R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the series opener as a massive step. "Washington had showed during the New Zealand series that he is ready to take over the mantle from Ashwin in coming days," the "Turbanator" said. When asked if Ashwin's age is a factor, he said: "I don't think 38 is old. He is not a 58-year-old. But yes, after so many years, the shoulders do experience fatigue and wear and tear, so the zip can just be a bit less."




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