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Winter haze shrouds National Capital

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

bitter cold wave, and Adense fog gripped Delhi-National Capital Region on Tuesday, with air quality plunging back into the 'severe' category and drastically reducing visibility across the city. The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi stood at 433 while the minimum temperature was 5.9 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal while the maximum temperature settled at 24.4 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal. The AQI was expected to remain in the 'severe' category for the next two days. Of Delhi's 35 monitoring

stations, 28 recorded the air quality in the 'severe' category, with some breaching the 450 mark that is classified as 'severe plus'. Monitoring stations in Mandir Marg, Jahangirpuri, the season is over in Punjab and Haryana.PM2.5 remained

Patparganj, Punjabi Bagh, Rohini, ITO, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, DTU, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, Mandir Marg, Pusa, Shadipur recorded the AQI in the 'severe' category.

Nehru

Narela.

The AQI was in the 'severe plus' category in Alipur, Anand Vihar, Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Burari, CRRI Mathura Road, North Campus, Okhla Phase 2, Sirifort, Sonia Vihar and Vivek Vihar. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), meteorological conditions are likely to be unfavourable for effective dispersion of pollutants". The major source of Delhi's pollution was vehicular emission, contributing 18.8 per cent of PM2.5. There was no contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's pollution as

the primary pollutant, with levels recorded at 252 micrograms per cubic metre at 4 pm.

Meanwhile, haze and cold wave conditions have caused severe disruption across the region. Thick fog enveloped various parts of the district, severely reduced visibility and created challenges for commuters. According to the IMD the national capital registered a minimum temperature of 4.5 degrees Celsius at 5.30 am, which later settled at an average of 5.9 degree Celsius. The temperature in certain areas of Delhi went even below 4.5 Celsius. The degrees minimum temperature in Pusa was recorded at 3.5 degrees Celsius, while in Ayanagar, the minimum temperature was recorded at 4 degrees Celsius.At Najafgarh, the minimum temperature was

slightly higher, at 6.2 degrees Celsius.

As temperatures dropped further and fog reduced visibility, the Delhi airport administration implemented low visibility procedures on Tuesday. Moderate fog fog reported at Safdarjung airport. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility 350m at 8 am, which improved thereafter becoming 400m at 8.30 am. Palam airport recorded lowest visibility 600 m during 8 am hours to 9 am hours which improved thereafter becoming 700m at 9,30 am. However, the Indira Gandhi

International Airport (IGIA) authority clarified that flight operations were not affected by the current conditions. A passenger advisory was issued, urging travelers to check with their respective airlines for the latest flight updates. "Low visibility procedures are in

place at Delhi airport. Flight operations remain normal. Passengers are advised to contact their airline for updated flight details," the airport administration posted on X.

Delhi-NCR Meanwhile, schools on Tuesday switched to the hybrid mode of conducting classes following the re-imposition of antipollution measures under the Stage IV of the Graded Action Plan Response (GRAP). According to the revised GRAP schedule, classes for students in grades VI-IX and XI in Delhi, Faridabad, Gurugram, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar must operate in hybrid mode (physical and online) under Stage IV. However, students of class X and XII have to attend school in-person.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on The Delni right Com-Monday disposed off a 16year-old case relating the trademark of Delhi's iconic 'The Imperial' hotel after the members of Akoi family, who own and operate the hotel, reached a settlement. The settlement acknowledged that he trademark ʻImi

You are responsible for the mess: **SC tells Greater Noida Authority**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Considering the plight of the hassled homebuyers, the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) to submit a for proposal grievance redressal, and imposed Rs 5 lakh cost on it for failing to file a timely response.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar expressed dissatisfaction over the approach of GNIDA and said, "You are responsible for the mess. Of course, developers made money from the homebuyers. But that does not condone your acts." The Bench said it may order a CBI probe into the whole "mess" if the GNIDA did not come up with a plan to redress the grievances of the homebuyers. "You come up with a plan in 10 days. otherwise we will order a CBI investigation... You will have to ensure that interests of homebuyers are safeguarded. You are also part of the problem. You allowed this mess to be created," the CJI said.

The Bench suggested the GNIDA to take over the entire land, develop the projects and give the flats to the homebuyers. Seeking a detailed affidavit from GNIDA, the Bench asked it to provide information including the date of allotment of the land and the date of execution of the lease **Continued on page 2** | deeds in favour of the private



of creditor of the Earth

Infrastructure had voted in

favour of Alpha Corp with a

Due to the protracted legal

battle, five housing projects,

three in Greater Noida and

two in Gurugram, of the realty firm are stalled leaving

hundreds of homebuyers in

the lurch. Earlier, Alpha Corp

had said it would invest around Rs 900 crore to

complete the three stalled

of

Infrastructure that it acquired

through the insolvency

The housing projects were

launched between 2010 and

2012, but were not completed

in the stipulated time period.

Approximately 2,900 units

were to be developed in these

projects. Ananta by Alpha

Corp (erstwhile Earth Copia), Sector 112, Gurugram, is a

housing project launched in

Sapphire Court, Greater

Noida, is a commercial

project launched in July 2010

and Earth Techone, located

on Yamuna Expressway in

Greater Noida, is a mixed

2011;

process at Greater Noida.

Earth

Earth

projects

February

majority of 99 per cent.

company.

seeking Besides comprehensive proposal for the homebuyers, the Bench asked the GNIDA to give information on why the allotment of land was not cancelled when the developers violated the terms of the projects.

Senior advocate Shoeb Alam, appearing for over 800 homebuyers, said a PSU was willing to develop the stalled projects and pay up the dues to GNIDA and others, and moreover, no creditors or investors would have to suffer haircuts.

The top court was hearing about 12 appeals arising out of a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) judgment in relation to the insolvency proceedings of debt-ridden realty firm Earth Infrastructure.

The NCLAT had declined a plea of a batch of homebuyers who challenged the NCLT's approval of Alpha Corp Development's bid to acquire Earth Infrastructure. The NCLAT had on June 8, 2021, approved the resolution plan from Alpha Corp Development. The committee



30 schools get bomb threats "It is submitted on behalf of STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI the parties that during the pendency of the present proceedings, in order to maintain family peace, More than 30 schools in Delhi received bomb harmony and goodwill, all the threats through e-mails on have members Tuesday, marking the second mutually agreed to settle the such alarming incident this week and the fifth within just present suit amicably," read nine days leaving students, staff, and authorities on edge accepted the



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With controversies following the medical entrance exams every year, the Centre on Tuesday said the Education and Health Ministry is deliberating whether to conduct medical entrance exam NEET-UG offline, or in online mode, and a d



An Imperial legacy hospitals and about 52,000 are colleges. private Admissions to undergraduate courses in Dentistry, Ayurveda, Unani, and Siddha also utilise the results of the

NEET for admission The idea of switching to Computer Based Test (CBT) mode for NEET is not new and has been deliberated several times before. However, came following the paper leak controversy earlier this year. In the line of fire over alleged irregularities in NEET and PhD entrance NET, the Centre had in July set up the panel to ensure transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA. According to the high-level panel headed by former ISRO Chief R Radhakrishnan multi-stage testing for NEET-UG could be a viable possibility that needs to be followed up. "An acceptable framework with thresholds and test objectives of scoring and ranking at each stage, and number of attempts etc. May be evolved," the panel has recommended in its report. A DIGI-EXAM system to check impersonation, multistage and multi-session testing, test centre allocation policy, setting up secured test centres in each district and mobile testing centres in rural and remote areas are among the recommendations made by the high-level panel. Continued on page 2

Union expected soon. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has held two rounds of talks with the Union Health Minister IP Nadda in this regard.

NĚET-UG Currently, is conducted offline, wherein students have to solve multiple choice questions on an OMR sheet. The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) is the largest entrance exam in the country in terms of the number of candidates appearing for the test. In 2024, a record over 24 lakh candidates took the exam.

The

glitches.

While NEET was under the scanner over several irregularities, including alleged leaks, UGC-NET was cancelled as the ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam had been compromised. Both matters are being probed by the CBI. Two other exams, CSIR-UGC NET and NEET PG - were cancelled at the last moment as a pre-emptive step. Pradhan also said the



National Testing Agency with the Health Ministry led (NTA) will not conduct any by JP Nadda. Whatever recruitment exams from option will be considered best suited for conducting the exam, NTA is ready to 2025, instead focus only on higher education entrance undertake the exercise," tests. The agency will be Pradhan told a Special Press restructured next year and new posts are being created. briefing on the current state move is part of on primary, secondary, higher examination reforms based and technical education in the on the recommendations of a country The Minister said a decision high-level panel set up earlier

Photo: PIE

this year following alleged leaks in the National in this regard is expected soon and the reforms will be implemented in the 2025 edition of the exam. "What Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) medical entrance will be NEET's methodology, exam and a series of cancellations of others due to what will be the protocol...A decision is expected soon. We suspected leaks and other will notify it soon," he added. The administrative ministry The NTA conducts the NEET of NEET is the Health every year for admission into Ministry and hence we are in medical colleges. A total of talks with them about whether NEET should be 1,08,000 seats are available for the MBSS course. Of the seats conducted in pen and paper mode or online mode. We available for the MBBS course, approximately 56,000 have had two rounds of talks seats are in government

jointly owned by Hardev Singh Akoi (50 per cent) and his brother Jasdev Singh Akoi's children, Raidev Singh Akoi (25 per cent), and Gobind Singh Akoi (25 per cent). "In terms of the settlement,

the families of Hardev Singh Akoi and late Jasdev Singh Akoi admit/acknowledge that as on date, Hardev Singh Akoi [50%], Raidev Singh Akoi [25%] and Gobind Singh Akoi [25%] are the joint and exclusive owners of the trademark: Imperial and that no one will separately apply or have any rights in the trademark: Imperial or any other trade mark, trade name, copyright, whether registered or unregistered, identical or deceptively similar," said Justice Mini Pushkarna of Delhi High Court in the order. The Imperial, New Delhi, is a historic landmark that has witnessed significant events in India's history. Established in 1931, the hotel has been a favourite among dignitaries and celebrities alike. It was marks.



family

the order.

The HC

settlement, decreeing the suit

based on the agreed terms. It

directed that the application,

containing the original signatures of all parties, be

placed in the case file. The

Court also instructed that a

decree sheet be drawn up and

canceled all pending hearings.

The dispute concerns the

trademark "Imperial" and its

lion logo, which were

considered symbols of a

prestigious hotel's goodwill.

Brothers Hardev Singh Akoi

and Jasdev Singh Akoi, joint

owners of the hotel, disagreed

over certain alterations to the

trademark and its use.

founded by SBS Ranjit Singh, who passed it on to Rajdev Singh. Jasdev and Hardev were the children of Rajdev Singh. It was conceptualised in 1934 and officially opened in 1936 by Lord Willingdon, the Vicerov of India

During India's struggle for Independence, the hotel served as a meeting place for prominent leaders like Gandhi Mahatma and Jawaharlal Nehru. The Round Table Conferences, crucial discussions between British and Indian leaders, were held there. Post-independence, the hotel continued to be a hub for political and social

gatherings. The HC also found the settlement terms lawful and confirmed that no other disputes related to the trademark were pending. The parties agreed not to make individual applications for or claim rights in the trademark or any deceptively similar in the National Capital. According to police sources, more than 30 schools including The Indian School in South Delhi, Ambience Public School in Safdarjung Enclave, Dilshad Public School in Dilshad Garden and

Crescent School in outer Delhi, reported that bomb threats were received by police authorities.

On Monday, around 20 schools including DPS RK Puram, Gyan Bharati School in Saket and Ryan International School in Vasant Kunj among others had received threat emails. Continued on page 2

Continued on page 2

Omar Abdullah lays out a welcoming Wazwan



PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

The Gurugram Traffic police has issued a challan of Rs 15,500 against Bollywood rapper Badshah while en route to Punjabi singer Karan Aujla's concert in Gurugram for driving on the wrong side of the road. The singer was reportedly riding a Mahindra Thar to reach Karan Aujla's concert in Gurugram on December 15, of which he was a part.

It is being said that the singer's convoy, comprising three cars, was reportedly driving on the wrong side of the road and disobeyed traffic norms, this led to outrage on social media.

However, it is being said that the vehicle did not belong to the rapper and was registered in the name of a youth from Panipat. After the post went viral, Gurugram traffic police took notice and issued a challan.

"3 vehicles of Punjabi singer Karan Aujla's convoy are going on the wrong side towards Airia Mall, and the bouncers are also misbehaving with the people, but Gurugram police are sleeping," an X user wrote

To this, Gurugram police replied, "Challan has been generated on 16.12.2024 against wrong side driving according to MV Act." "A challan of Rs 15,500 has been issued against one vehicle remaining two of the convoy are being identified. Soon fines under the MV (Motor Vehicle) Act 2019 will be issued against them as well," said a traffic police officer on the condition of anonymity.

MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

hief Minister Omai →Abdullah's warm hospitality has become the talk of the town in the corridors of power in Jammu and Kashmir. Last week when the CM hosted members of civil society at his official residence in Jammu he not only threw open the gates of his residence for the common citizens, but also invited a team of Kashmiri Chefs (Wazas) to cook sumptuous Kashmiri Wazwan, a multicourse meal.

It was after a long gap the guests at the official residence of the Chief Minister were treated with non-vegetarian food in Jammu. In addition to Continued on page 2 | this, the newly elected CM



also hosted members of different delegations, resource persons heading different committees, and academicians, along with other prominent citizens at Sinha were commonly served

only vegetarian meals/snacks. A famous local caterer was also engaged by the Union Territory (UT)administration to organize lavish dinners and luncheon meetings to suit the taste buds of guests from different walks of life. The famous cuisines of different neighboring states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh were also given preference. The traditional meat Kebabs

attended the meeting were escorted by the Chief escorted by the Chief Minister himself inside the dining area where a lavish meal was served. Omar interacted with almost everyone present there and gave them a patient hearing. In the past, he remained occupied with his ministerial colleagues and other VVIP guests. But this time we met a different version of Omar Abdullah. He was more courteous, and

accommodating". Former Chief Ministers Dr Farooq Abdullah, Mufti Mohd Sayeed, Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Mehbooba Mufti were equally hospitable and frequently met guests at their residences to interact over lunch and dinner meetings.

his residence. regular menu. Post Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A, the gatherings at the Raj Bhawan hosted by Lieutenant Governor Manoj

and other non-vegetarian polite, delicacies were replaced with Veg kebabs and other

culinary delights on the Sharing his experience of breaking bread in the company of the CM, an eminent citizen told The Pioneer, "All those who

nation 02



Congress considered Constitution private fieldom Three arrested for vandalism, setting of one family, amended it to stay in power: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday attacked the Congress in the Rajya Sabha, saying the party treated the Constitution as the "private fiefdom" of one family and "played fraud" with Parliament. Concluding a two-day debate on the "Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India", Shah ripped into the Congress for its appeasement politics and claimed that the party wanted to breach the 50 per cent quota limit to provide reservation to Muslims.,

He also asked the Congress if it supported the Muslim personal law and alleged that the party never worked for the welfare of the backward class-

Shah asserted that the BJP has already brought in a common civil code, Uniform Civil Code, in Uttarakhand and will implement it in all states., He attacked the Congress for being a "sore loser" as it blamed



assembly polls in Maharashtra and Haryana, saying the party should give up its canard against EVMs and shed its appeasement and dynastic politics as well as corruption to return to power., "In the last 75 years, the Congress played fraud in the name of the

Constitution... They (Nehru-Gandhi family) considered not just the party as their private property, but also treated the Constitution as their 'private fiefdom'," Shah

EVMs for its defeat in the alleged, referring to the insertion of Article 35A without parliamentary assent. Criticising the Congress for bringing in reservation on the basis of religion in two states ruled by it, Shah termed it "unconstitutional"., "It is clearly stated in the Constitution that no reservation will be

based on religion... They (Congress) do not want any welfare of OBCs, they want to give reservations to Muslims by increasing the limit of 50 per cent

'But today, once again I say with responsibility in this House that as long as the BJP has even one MP, we will not allow reservation on the basis of religion, " the home minister asserted. He said that in 1955, the Kaka Kalelkar Commission was formed to provide reservations to OBCs but the report was nowhere to be found.

"Had the recommendations of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission been accepted, the Mandal Commission would not have been formed. In 1980, the recommendations of the Mandal Commission came out, but it was not implemented. It was implemented when the Congress was voted out in 1990, " Shah said.

He also alleged that the Congress amended the Constitution to remain in power and for its own benefit. The Union home minister accused the party of being anti-reservation and said it never worked for the benefit of the backward classes.

fire to vehicle at Sohna Chowk jail complex

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

The Gurugram police have arrested three people, including the Dhaba owner, and filed cross FIRs in connection with vandalism and setting fire to vehicles due to enmity of a fight near the Dhaba at the jail complex, Sohna Chowk, police said. The accused has been identified as Aniket a resident of village Khandsa, Gurugram, Hemant (Dhaba owner) and

Mohit, both residents of Islampur, Gurugram. According to the police, on December 15, information

was received at Police Station Shivaji Nagar, Gurugram, regarding a fight at 'Jail Ki Roti Boti Dhaba' near Sohna On receiving the informa-

tion, the police team reached the spot where it was found that the injured person had gone to the hospital. The police team reached the hospital for further action but the injured person was not found in the hospital.



a person filed a complaint at the Shivaji Nagar police sta-On this complaint, FIR numtion, he was eating food at Jail ber 441 was registered under Ki Roti Boti Dhaba with the relevant sections in Police Dhaba operator Hemant Station Shivaji Nagar, Sharma and his other friend Gurugram. on December 15. In relation to the incident, a

At the same time, some peo ple were having a birthday party near a parked car. When he ordered food, those people abused him and started beating him. When his friends came to rescue him, those people also beat them and

During this, the Dhaba owner and his associates beat him up and when he left from there, they vandalized his auto and car and set an Eco car on fire. On this complaint, another FIR number, 442, was registered in Police Station Shivaji Nagar, Gurugram.

During the investigation, police took action and arrest-ed Aniket in FIR number 441 from Shivaji Nagar, Gurugram, on Monday. Later police also nabbed Hemant and Mohit.

From the criminal record of the accused, it was found that 02 cases were registered against the accused, Aniket, under the Excise Act in Gurugram.

"Police teams have been formed to arrest other accused in the above cases. Every possible effort is being made by the formed teams to arrest the accused involved in committing the crimes of the above cases.

Investigation of the cases is going on," Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson of the Gurugram police said.

Chowk, Gurugram.

Thereafter, on December 16,

One Nation One Election Bill sent to Parliamentary panel for wider consideration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

T wo bills that lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections were introduced in the Lok Sabha was sent to Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for wider considerations and debates. The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by Meghwal after a nearly 90minute debate, followed by a division of votes. As many as 269 members voted in favour of the Bill and 198 against it. Home Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi favoured detailed discussion at every level on the 'one nation, one election' bill and wanted it to be referred to

Nation, One Election bills came up in Cabinet, PM Modi said these should be referred to the Joint Committee of Parliament. There should be a detailed discussion over it at every level," Shah said. Shah said the bill can be dis-

cussed in greater detail in the Joint Committee of Parliament. The report of the JPC will be approved by the Union Cabinet and the Bill can be discussed again in Parliament, he said. The Constitution (129th

Amendment) Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha following a division of votes. The Union Territories Amendment Bill seeks to align the elections to the union territories

a Joint Committee of Puducherry, Delhi and Parliament. "When One Jammu & Kashmir with the Lok Sabha polls. Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal also introduced The Union Territories Amendment Bill, which seeks to align elections in the Union territories of Puducherry, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir with the Lok Sabha polls. He said the proposed bills did not attack the "basic structure doctrine, as claimed by the opposition".

Principles such as judicial review, federal character of the Constitution, separation of powers, secular character, supremacy of the Constitution had not changed, Meghwal said, adding that the objections to the Bill were political in



Parliament. member Manish Tewari "One of the essential features opposed the introduction of is federalism and the structure the bills and termed the move of our democracy. The bills an assault on the basic strucassault the basic structure of ture doctrine that stipulates the Constitution and exceed certain features of the the legislative competence of Constitution are beyond the this House," Tewari, a former Union minister, said. of

Samajwadi Party member Dharmendra Yadav said the measure to introduce "one nation, one election" by the BJP was an attempt to bring dictatorship in the country. Meghwal said he would move a resolution referring the Bills to a joint committee of Parliament. Earlier, Trinamool Congress member Kalyan Banerjee said the bills linked the tenure of state assemblies to that of the Lok Sabha, thus undermining the mandate of the people. "The state government is not subordinate to the central government or Parliament. The bills take away the autonomy of the state assembly. It is not an election reform but just the fulfilment of one gentleman's desire and dream," he said.

DMK member TR Baalu said, "The electors have the right to elect the government for five years and this right cannot be curtailed with simultaneous elections." The opposition members also objected to Speaker Om Birla's move to call the treasury benches to speak on the bills, leading to

person from the other side

also told the police on

December 15 that he was

having a birthday party with

his friends near Sohna

During this, he picked up a

chair from near Jail Ki Roti

Chowk.

a heated debate. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the speaker had given a ruling to allow floor leaders of all parties to speak on the introduction of the bills. "You alone do not represent Parliament, every political party has a representation here," Rijiju said. BJP allies the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the Shiv Sena extended "unwavering support" to the election reform measure. TDP member and Union minister Chandra Shekhar Pemmasani said "one nation, one election" would reduce expenditure on polls and enhance logistical effi-

ciency. Shiv Sena member Shrikant Shinde hit out at the opposi-

tion, saying they were allergic to reforms. The DMK's Baalu and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) member Supriya Sule favoured referring the bills to a parliamentary committee, if they could not be withdrawn. "This Bill is aimed at maximising political gain and convenience. This Bill will finish off regional parties," All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leader Asaduddin Owaisi said.

An Imperial legacy

From page 1

Alleging unilateral changes by Jasdev Singh Akoi, Hardev Singh Akoi sought court intervention to maintain the trademark's integrity and prevent unauthorised use. The hotel was built by Sandhu Jat Jagirdar S.B.S. Ranjit

LG Saxena attends 'Mass Drug Destruction' organised by Delhi Police

amending power

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

In line with its mission to achieve a "Drug-Free Delhi by the Year 2027," the Delhi lice organised a Mega Drug Destruction in the presence of Lieutenant Governor (LG) Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday. According to the police, as of December 15, the Delhi Police has registered 1,714 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, leading to the arrest of 2,169 drug traffickers. Additionally, financial investigations have resulted in the seizure of assets worth Rs 3.13 crore, with another Rs 3 crore under final forfeiture. The police have initiated further action against 44 traffickers under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (PIT-NDPS) Act. The Mega Drug Destruction event, held at Biotic Waste Solutions Pvt. Ltd., also saw the presence of the Commissioner of Police



Panel says ABPS for making payments under MGNREGS should not be made compulsory

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Rural Development Ministry's Aadhaar Based Development Payment Bridge System while accepting the gains of under MGNREGS should not be made compulsory, a Parliamentary Panel has recommended in a report tabled in Lok Sabha on Tuesday even as it also sought hiking the rate of wages paid under MGNREGS which were at present inadequate and not in consonance with the rising cost of living. The Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj said alterna-Ranian Dimr tive mechanisms should The Delhi Police is rigorousalways operate to ensure that ly implementing the "Nasha the primary goal of the scheme to provide wages does not get defeated due to lack of proper implementation of technology. The Committee also pulled up the government on low wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and recommended a better infla-

and seek work in areas giving tion linked index for payment of wages to the workers. better remuneration," the

Noting that the APBS has panel said. It said the panel has time and been made mandatory since again urged the Department January 1, 2024, it said that of Rural Development (DoRD) to rates under MGNREGS by linking it to an index commensurate with national inflation, but the wage rates continue to remain stagnant on account.

on of R.B.S. Narain Singh, ho Raj, at the Coronation Durbar of 1911, when New Delhi was declared the new Capital of India.

The hotel was officially opened in 1936 by Lord Willingdon, the Viceroy of India. Also present was his wife, Lady Willingdon, who chose the hotel's name and conferred its lion insignia upon it.

Will NEET-UG exam be conducted online soon?

From page 1

The panel recommended the introduction of a DIGI-EXAM system on the lines of DIGI-YATRA to ensure that only the candidate writing the exam joined the

intended programme. The Education Minister also announced that NCERT textbooks for some classes will cost less from next year, and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), which currently prints five crore textbooks a year, is working to augment capacity to 15 crore from next year.

Pradhan also informed that 2024," he said.

in the wrong...

Under the MV 2019, driving

on the wrong side of the

road is a punishable offence

(dangerous driving) and

Section 194D (wrong side on

one-way roads). The penalty

for the first offence includes

a fine of Rs 500 to Rs 1,000

and/or imprisonment for up

to 6 months. For repeat

offences, the fine increases

to Rs 10,000, with possible

imprisonment of up to 2

suspension. Repeat violators

and

Section

From page 1

under

years

Rapper Badshah caught

184

license

the number of schools

affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) had more than doubled, rising from 14,974 in 2014 to 30,415 in 2024.

"Admissions, transfers and CBSE affiliation processes are now fully online. Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and the CBSE are operating on 100 per cent e-office platforms. Schools offering vocational courses have risen from 960 in 2014 to 29,342 in 2024. Student enrolment in skill education has surged from 58,720 in 2014 to over 30.8 lakh in

impoundment.

police said.

life

pedestrians

motorists.

the

From page 1

Delhi Traffic Police has ramped up vehicle checks in the national capital and the bordering areas after the may also face vehicle Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage IV was implemented here to curb the Meanwhile, the Gurugram Traffic police have imposed worsening air quality. According to a police source, 10 pickets will be installed at challans amounting to Rs 10.28 Crores against 1.46 every district. These checkpoints will be lakhs traffic offenders from January 2024 to November responsible for imposing fines on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles for plying in 2024 for wrong side driving,

> The IMD has issued a yellow alert forecasting moderate fog and cold wave conditions in isolated areas across Delhi for the next three days. The IMD said, "Mainly calm winds

the past 24 hours, bringing down visibility from 800 meters in shallow fog at Palam on Monday to 350 meters in moderate fog at Safdarjung on Tuesday morning." It added that moderate fog conditions (visibility between 200m and 500m) are likely to persist in Delhi over the next two days due to the expected prevalence of calm or easterly surface winds.

The Centre's air quality panel for Delhi-NCR on Monday imposed the strictest Stage-IV curbs under the winter air pollution control plan, including a ban on all construction activities, as the region's air quality deteriorated to 'severe' due to unfavourable weather

conditions. Stage IV curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for winters also include a ban on the entry of polluting trucks carrying non-essential goods into Delhi and mandatory shifting of school classes, except those for X and XII, to hybrid mode. While most of the Northern

states are expected to experience a cold wave and dense fog, southern states like Tamil Nadu are expected to receive rainfall amid the weather change. IMD has warned that the cold wave will persist and affect Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days. Similar conditions are expected in Rajasthan from December 17 to 20.

APBS, th minittee the view that it is too early to make it mandatory as the problems relating to Aadhar seeding still have not been resolved leading to exclusion of lakhs of workers."

"The Committee, therefore, reiterates their earlier recommendation that APBS should not be made mandatory and alternative mechanisms should always operate side by side to ensure that the primary goal of MGNREGA to provide wages does not get defeated due to lack of proper implementation of technology," it said.

"Taking up works under MGNREGA is a sort of last resort for many of the poor rural masses who do not have any other option of livelihood or job option to utilise but wages of such nominal nature sometime with delayed payment only discourage them and propel them to migrate

The panel also reiterated its recommendation for adoption of a much more economically viable method in identifying ways and means for the selection of an appropriate index commensurate with the inflationary trend.

On the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app, a mobile and internet based platform, the panel said non-availability of smart phones, irregular power supply and lack of proper internet connectivity in various areas, the attendance of many MGNREGS workers is not getting recorded by the app. The Committee said this is leading to a delay in the payment of the wages.

Over 30 Delhi schools get bomb...

From page 1

According to police sources, the contents of the letters are similar to the previous one and it is suspected to be sent by the same sender. The email threatens to blow up the school if they do not receive one Million Dollars.

According to an official from the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), a call regarding a bomb threat was received from Crescent Public School in Saraswati Vihar. The official said that personnel from the fire department, local police, bomb detection team and dog squad conducted a search, but nothing suspicious was found so far. Some more schools have also received similar threat emails and checks are ongoing, the official added.

However, schools in Delhi-NCR switched to hybrid

mode for conducting classes search of their premises. At on Tuesday, following the releast 44 schools had received imposition of anti-pollution similar emails on December measures under Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action

Faridabad,

Plan (GRAP). Under the

revised GRAP schedule,

classes for students in grades

6-9 and 11 in Delhi,

Ghaziabad and Gautam

Buddh Nagar must operate in

hybrid mode (physical and online) under Stage-IV but

students in classes 10 and 12

are required to attend school

On December 14, eight

schools, including the same

DPS RK Puram, had received

a similar email, in which the

sender threatened to carry out

an explosion using "bomb

Earlier, on December 13,

about 30 schools received

bomb threats via email,

prompting a multi-agency

Gurugram,

in person.

vests.

The Delhi Police Special Cell had registered an FIR in connection with the threat mail to 44 schools and initiated an investigation. Meanwhile, on December 14, the police said that they have identified a private school student as being responsible for sending a bomb threat email to a school in Paschim Vihar.

According to police, the student had sent the threat email to his own school, and after tracing the IP address, the police team traced his home. "Upon questioning, the child admitted to the act and was later counselled. He was let off with a warning to his parents to keep a watch on his behavior," a senior officer said.

Winter haze shrouds National. prevailed over Delhi during

Traffic police officials said that it is extremely worrying the city. that people are openly flouting the traffic norms as wrong side driving can cause of several and other other

Sanjay Arora. Over 10,601 kilograms of narcotics were including destroved. Cannabis, Heroin, Cocaine, and MDMA, valued at Rs 1,682 crore on the international market

This follows previous destruction events where 2,888 kilograms in December 2022, 15,700 kilograms in June 2023, and 10,631 kilograms in February 2024 were safely disposed of.

schools, colleges, and other public spaces. Public awareness and cooperation are crucial to this campaign, with cash rewards offered for information on

Mukt Bharat Abhiyan" and conducting raids on hostels,

drug trafficking. The department urges citizens to stay united in the fight for a drugfree city.



chhattisgarh 03

Din in House over culvert construction without tender

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Congress members on Tuesday grilled the treasury benches over the construction of culverts in the border areas of Sukma and Dantewada districts without floating tenders and walked out of the Assembly after not getting a satisfactory answer.

The issue was raised by Congress legislator Kawasi Lakhma, who demanded stern action against officials of Public Works the Department.

Lakhma wanted to know how many culverts were given administrative approval and the names of the construction agencies.

"We too want



infrastructure developed in Naxalite-affected regions but how can this be constructed without following the rules and without floating a tender?" Lakhma asked.

Replying to the query, PWD Minister Arun Sao admitted that two of the culverts were built in May in Pariya and Muler areas. He admitted that tenders were not floated.

"Keeping in view the urgency to build culverts in Naxalite-affected areas to facilitate the security forces, the district administration okayed the construction without floating the tenders," he said. But he said the government halted the construction after receiving complaints. He said fresh

work will be carried out after tenders are opened today

(December 17). Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said it was a serious matter and demanded action against the erring officers. Dissatisfied with the

answer, the opposition members staged a walkout. Meanwhile, the issue of

cheating innocent people in rural areas by micro finance companies was also raised by the opposition members during zero hour. The Speaker, however,

rejected the plea of opposition members to stall the proceedings and allow a discussion on the adjournment motion moved by them.

Reservation for 11 civic bodies to be announced on Dec 19



The reservation process for the wards of 11 civic bodies including the Raipur Municipal MAHASAMUND Corporation (RMC) in

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday Chhattisgarh will be announced on December 19 (Thursday), it was announced on Tuesday.

arrested a government employee in Mahasamund Raipur Collector Gaurav Singh will announce the district in Chhattisgarh for reservation for RMC, five accepting Rs 25,000 as bribe. municipalities and five Nagar Grade II-cum-incharge of Panchayats in Raipur district, an official statement said. Kanungo branch in Pithora

Govt employee held for alleged bribery charges



He sought **Rs 50,000 and** a goat as bribe to reinstate the complainant

tehsil office, was caught while accepting the money, ACB Additional Superintendent of Police Chandresh Thakur said. He sought Rs 50,000 and a

goat as bribe to reinstate the Michael Peter, an Assistant complainant. After a complaint was made to the ACB, a trap was laid and Peter was arrested

Suvarnaprashan camp to immunise children today



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Narayan Prasad Awasthi Government Ayurvedic College in Raipur will hold a camp on Wednesday to administer an immunity booster called Suvarnaprashan to children under the age of 16.

This will be the final camp of 2024. The college has given

the medicine to a total of 19,688 children this year. The medicine is highly beneficial for the overall

growth of children, and it also protects them from respiratory diseases and boosts their concentration and memory.

Under the National Ayush Mission, the college holds these camps on every Pushya Nakshatra date.

Along with this, Bal Raksha kits, made of five medicines, will be provided to prevent various diseases and increase immunity.

Nature tests will also be provided under the 'Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan' to provide health-related information based on people's nature to help prevent diseases and promote overall health.

Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited MOTILAL OSWAL CIN Number :- U65923MH2013PLC248741 Corporate Office : Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. Email : hfquery@motilaloaswal.com HOME LOANS PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE E-Auction Sale Notice of 15 Days for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation limited) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules & & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) through website motilaloswalhf.com"as per the details given below : Date and time of E-Auction Date: 09-01-2025 11:30 Am to 02:00 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 minute each)

Date and time of E-Addition Date. 03-01-2020 11.30 Ain to 02.00 Fin (with diminited extensions of 5 minute each)				
Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) / Loan Account	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price, EMD	
LAN: LXRAI00217- 180054125 BRANCH: RAIPUR BODED: DAVISHANKAP		224/13 Park Green Vista	Reserve Price: Rs.350000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)	

Elderly men with calcified blockage in heart veins get new life

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

¬wo elderly men suffering from calcified blockage in their heart arteries have received a fresh phase of life after being treated through the coronary orbital atherectomy procedure.

An official communique said on Tuesday that a team led by Dr. Smit Shrivastava performed the procedures at the Advanced Cardiac Institute in Raipur.

Dr. Shrivastava said the procedure involved a 1.25 mm diamond-coated drill device that crushes calcium

blockage into fine particles of about two microns in size. This creates a smooth arterial surface, allowing

placement while reducing the risk of complications.

easier angioplasty and stent flow and reduce the risk of heart attacks, he said.

severely reduced heart rate due to significant calcium deposits in the left main artery and three other arteries.

They removed the blockage using orbital atherectomy and then performed angioplasty to treat

In the second case, a 68year-old Bhilai resident had heavy calcium deposits in the left main artery. Orbital atherectomy was

used to clear the heavily calcified left main artery, followed by successful angioplasty. The patient In the first case, a 77-yearrecovered in a day and returned home.

HNLU hosts national essay competition



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Hidayatullah National Law University (HNLU), Raipur, on Tuesday announced a national IPR essay writing competition on

analyse, deliberate and propose innovative solutions to the challenges that AI and the Metaverse pose to the IPR regime.

The initiative aims to inspire critical thinking and foster academic discourse on This helps restore blood

Phoenix ARC Private Limited PhoenixARC Regd. Office:3rd Floor, Wallace Tower 139-140/B/1, Crossing of Sahar Road and Western Express Highway Vile Parle (East) Mumbai-400 057 Tel: 022- 6849 2450, Fax : 022- 6741 2313

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financia Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interes (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Date and time of E-Auction -Date: 20-01-2025 11:00 Am to 02:00 Pm (with unlimited extensions of 5 minute each)

Last date of EMD Deposit:19-01-2025				
Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) / Loan Account	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price, EMD	
LAN: LXDUR00417-180068181 Branch: DURG Borrower: KISHAN CHAITU YADAV Co-Borrower: GIYARSI KISHAN YADAV LAN: LXRAI00317-180058243 Branch: RAIPUR Borrower: PADMASHRI VIJAY	28-01-2021 For Rs: 459992/- (Rupees Four Lac Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Two Only) 07-12-2020 For Rs: 616472/- (Rupees Six Lac Sixteen	Kh No - 388 (P), Ph No - 7, Rnm Saja, Village Motesara, Saja, Bemetara, Durg, Chhattisgarh - 491993 Ews Flat No 8/1, Ground Floor, Housing Scheme, At Nardha,	Only)	
DAS VAISHNAV Co-Borrower: VIJAYDAS VISHRAM DAS VAISHNAV	Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Two Only)	Raipur, Chhattisgarh - 492001	EMD: Rs. 53006/- (Fifty Three Thousand &Six Only)	
LAN: LXDUR00417-180069421 Branch: DURG Borrower: DILIP KUMAR SEN Co-Borrower: SAROJ BAI SEN	29-11-2021 For Rs: 674056/- (Rupees Six Lakh Seventy Four Thousand Fifty Six Only)	Kh No - 98, Ph No - 01, Rnm - Kowwa, Village - Hasgaon, Near Shiv Mandiir, Berla, Bemetara, Chhattisgarh - 491332	Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two	

old Raipur resident had

CIN: U67190MH2007PTC168303 Email: info@phoenixarc.co.in, Website: ww **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular, that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Phoenix ARC Private Limited pursuant to assignment of debt by **Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited (Earlier Known as Aspire Home Finance Corporation limited -Assignor)** will be sold on "AS IS **WHERE IS, AS IS WHATEVER THERE IS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" by** way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues and further interest, charges and costs etc. as detailed below in terms of the provisions of SARFAESI Act read with Rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) through website : www.phoenixarc.co.in/ as per the details given below

BRANCH: RAIPUR BORROWER: RAVISHANKAR SEN CO-BORROWER: ANITA RAVISHANKAR SEN CO-BORROWER: ANITA RAVISHANKAR SEN LAN: LXDUR00417 -180065960 20-12-2021 KH NO 764 / 08, PH.	Three Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) essay writing competition on "Navigating IPR Challenges in the Era of AI and Metaverse". Five Thousand Only) Last date of EMD Deposit:08-01-2025 Reserve Price: Rs.650000/-(Rupees under the aegis of the DPIIT-IPR Chair and in	navigating the complexities of IPR in the face of rapid technological transformation, it added.	further Terms and Conditions of the Bid document and as per the procedure set out o Portal: https://www.auctionbazaar.com/ of our e-Auction Service Provider, M/s. or bidding information & support, the details of the secured asset put up for e-Auction nitted online. The interested buyers may go through the auction terms & conditions d may contact to YOMKESH SAHU-8097472030/BHUSHAN MORESHWARRAO
BRANCH: DURG BORROWER: JEETU RAM VISHWAKARMA CO-BORROWER: GANESHIYABAI JEETU RAM VISHVAKARMA GANESHIYABAI JEETU RAM	Six Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) EMD: Rs. 65000/-(Rupees Sixty Five Thousand Only) Last date of EMD Deposit:08-01-2025 The last date for	Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited Corporate Office : Molial Oswal Tower. 3. For participating in the e-auction, int	(28273231, details available in the above mentioned Web Portal and may contact 1709 69696, E-mail ID: contact@auctionbazaar.com. IS are required to register their name in the portal mentioned above as https://www. D and password free of cost to participate in the e-auction on the date and time as ending purchasers/ bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable
Terms and Conditions of E- Auction: 1. The Auction is conducted as per the further Te and as per the procedure set out therein. Bidders may visit to the Web Portal: https:// Service Provider, M/s. ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED for bidding information & supp for e-Auction and the Bid Form which will be submitted online. The interested buyers may and process on the same portal and may contact to Bhushan Moreshwarrao Pawar 865 details available in the above mentioned Web Portal and may contact their Centralised contact@auctionbazaar.com.	www.auctionbazaar.com/ of our e-Auction ort, the details of the secured asset put up go through the auction terms & conditions is January 28. A communiqué said the competition aims to provide	Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025. Email : hfquery@motilaloaswal.com. CIN :- U55923MH2013PLC248741 CORRIGENDUM Please refer to our "Public Notice For	he Reserve Price of the Secured asset along with copies of the PANCARD, Board ad Address Proof on or before the Last date for submission of EMD mentioned ders are required to submit separate EMDs for each of the Items/Properties orised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the auction of and without any prior notice. all bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, applicable GST on the purchase
(Earlier Known as Asp	Authorised Officer Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited ire Home Finance Corporation limited)	 published in this newspaper on 17.12.2024.In this notice the respect of Borrower JITENDRA ASHOK SEN (Loan Account No LXMORAIPUR721- 220622798 Reserve Price was wrondly The intending bidders should make on auction and claims/rights/dues af The auction divertisement does not 	on fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the secured asset conveyed/ the applicable law. their own independent enquiries regarding encumbrances, title of secured asset put fecting the secured assets, including statutory dues, etc prior to submitting their bid. constitute and will not constitute any commitment or any representation of Phoenix.
।। कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग ।। Email Id: durgmc2019@gmail.com मनुअल निविद्य आमंत्रण सूचन	IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office : KRM Towers, 8 th Floor, Harrington Road,	Reserve Price Rs. 1812107 instead of Rs.442458/-EMD Price Rs. 181210 /- instead of Rs.44245 /- Other details will remain the same. 7. The prospective/intending bidder sh (A) of Insolvency and Bankruptcy C shall automatically disqualify or he/s Place : Chhattisgarh	all not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/rights/due. all furnish an undertaking that he/she is not dis-qualified as per provisions of Sec.29 code,2016 and failure to furnish such undertaking along with the KYC documents, he bid will be rejected. Sd/- Authorized Officer Phoenix ARC Private Limited
क्रमांक /209/ लो. क. वि.अ./2024-25 दिलांक : 09.12.2024 एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से लोनिवि में प्रचलित भवन	Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 FAX: +91 44 4564 4022. APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]	Authorised Officer Date : 18.12.2024	
एस0ओ0आर्ट0 दिनांक 01.01.2015 एवं विद्युत एस0ओ0आर0 दिनांक 01.06.2020 में निविदा दिनांक तक संशोधित दर पर कम/अधिक प्रतिशत दर पर तीन लिफाफा पद्धति के माध्यम से स्पीड पोस्ट/पंजीकृत डाक से निम्नाकित निर्माण कार्य हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है- निविदा प्रपत्र कय हेतु आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि -16.12.2024 निविदा प्रपत्र जारी करने की अंतिम तिथि -19.12.2024 निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि -24.12.2024	POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) 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	EORM No. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)] By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication. OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR 797/2, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur- 482001 DEMAND NOTICE	Can Fin Homes Ltd Gondrive Anna Bank, Statistical Statistical St
निविदा खोलने की तिथि -24.12.2024 शाम 4.00 बजे क. कार्य का नाम लागत 1. वाई क. 31 में सरदार पटेल (इंग्लिश मीडियमे) स्कूल में मूत्रालय निर्माण कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद निधि 4.42 2023-24 एवं 2024-2025 की बचत राशि से)	14.09.2024 calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors 1. SUMIT KUMAR GHORMARE, 2. LAXMAN RAO GHORMARE, 3. RAMVATI BAI GHORMARE, 4. VAMAN RAO GHORMARE, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 7,86,554.42/- (Rupees Seven Lac Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four and Forty Two Paise Only) as on 14.09.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Demand notice.	NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961. RC/422/2024 CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA 28/11/2024 Versus	Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) To, 1) Borrower- Mr. KAMTA PRASAD VARMA S/O Mr. BAHADUR PRASAD VARMA, HOUSE NO. 2, KURMI PARA, WARD NO. 1, DARRIGHAT, BILASPUR (495551) 2) Co-Borrower- Mrs. RADHA VARMA W/O Mr. KAMTA PRASAD VARMA,
2023-24 02 2024-2025 को बचत शारा स) 2. वार्ड क. 25 माराजी मदिर चार्ड में नाली एवं सी०सी० रोड निर्माण कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद निधि 2024-25 3.00 को राशि से) 3. वार्ड क. 24 आमदी मदिर में सी०सी० रोड नाली एवं रिपेरिंग कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद निधि 2024-25 की 3.00 राष्ट्रि से)	The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub – section (4) of section 13 ofAct read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 13 th day of DEC 2024.	were the b - les, is so to fifty that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR in OA/225/2021 an amount of Rs.4890539 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Ninety Thousands Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 9.70% HOUSE NO. 2, KURMI PARA, WARD NO 1, DARRICHAI, BILASPUR (49: Serial No. 1 & 2 availed a Housing Loan from our branch against the s mortgage of the following asset/s belonging to Serial No. 2. The Total Amount of Rs.4890539 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Ninety Thousands Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 9.70% HOUSE NO. 2, KURMI PARA, WARD NO 1, DARRICHAI, BILASPUR (49: Serial No. 1 & 2 availed a Housing Loan from our branch against the s mortgage of the following asset/s belonging to Serial No. 2. The Total Amount of Rs.4890539 (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Ninety Thousands Five Hundred Thirty Nine Only) along with pendentellite and future interest @ 9.70% FIFC Simple Interest yearly w.e.f. 22/03/2021 till realization and costs of Rs. 51000 (Rupees Fifty One Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited). House No. 2, Kurmi Para ,Ward No 1, Kh No 6/4, P H No 25, RNM Seepa Masturi, Block -Masturi, Block -Masturi, Blaspur, Darrighat, Bilaspur (495551) Mr. Kamta Prasad Verma and Mrs. Radha Verma. Boudaries: North Janakram Kashyap, South -Road, East -Land of Pratap Kashyap, Weight Amount Proceed Section Protein Pro	
4. वार्ड क. 26 में सी०सी० रोड एवं नाली निर्माण कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद निधि 2024-25 की राशि से) 3.00 5. वार्ड क. 18 में मुक्तिधाम के पास सी०सी० रोड व यादव क्लीनिक के पास नाली पुलिया निर्माण कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद निधि 2023-24 की बचत राशि से) 2.00 6. वार्ड क. 06 ठेठवार पास, शीतला मदिर रोड एवं अन्य स्थानों पर चब्रुवरा निर्माण कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद 3.00	The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount of Rs. 7,86,554.42/- (Rupees Seven Lac Eighty Six		
. पांड क. ०० ठवरार पांड टार्सिंस नावट टार्ड ख जन्म द्यांना पर प्रबूशि निर्माण का पर सुर, (पांच 3.00 निधि 2024-25 की राशि) 7. वार्ड क्र. २२ में मंच निर्माण कार्य टाईल्स लगाने का कार्य हेतु। (पार्षद निधि 2022-23 की बचत राशि) 2.80	Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Four and Forty Two Paise Only) and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub – Section (8) Of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.	to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.	of Shri Ram Kashyap Registered demand notice was sent to you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, but the same was returned unserved. The undersigned has, therefore,
8. वार्ड क्र. 05 गोवर्धन चौक विभिन्न स्थानों पर नाली व पुलिया निर्माण कार्य हेतु। पार्षद निधि 2024- 25 की राशि से) 1.50 9 वार्ड क्र. 22 में बॉउपड्रीवाल, पेटिंग एवं अन्य संधारण संधारण (पार्षद निधि 2024-2025 की राशि से) 3.00	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES All That Piece And Parcel of Flat No. 12/M, Block No. 12, Third Floor, Admeasuring 350.99 Sq. Ft., EVS (Parijat) Apartment, Composite Housing Scheme at Twin City, Talpuri, Amdi, Ruabandha, Risali Bhilai, Tehsil & District: Durg, Chhattisgarh-49000, Bounded	 You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 20/01/2025 at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay: (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings. 	caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s as per the said Act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to ad here to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on 29/11/2024 as per the NHB Guidelines. You are here by called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon from
टीप:- यदि निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन / परिवर्तन किया जाता है, तो विभागीय वेबसाइड www.municipalcorporationdurg.in एव www.uad.cg.gov.in में अपलोड किया जावेगा। जिसका अवलोकन किया जा सकता है। समाचार पत्रों में इसकी सूचना प्रकाशित नहीं कराया जावेगा।	As: East: Flat No.12/N West: Road North: Being Flat South: Flat No.12/P Sd/- Authorised Officer	(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due. Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date : 28/11/2024	04/12/2024 within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to Initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to
कार्यपालन अभियंता नगर पालिक निगम, दुर्ग (छ.ग.)	Date : 13-12-2024 IDFC FIRST Bank Limited Place : CHHATTISGARH (erstwhile Capital First Limited and Loan Account No: 45159594 amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)	Ms Priti Desai, Recovery Officer-II Debts Recovery Tribunal, Govt. of India, Ministry of Finance, Jabalpur (M.P. & C.G. States)	redeem the secured assets. Date: 17.12.2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer Place: Bilaspur Can Fin Homes Ltd.

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Printed and Published by Vijay Budhia for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Limited, "The Pioneer Building", 11, Civil Lines, Near Raj Bhavan, Opp. Sanskriti Bhavan, Raipur-492007 Telephone(0771) 2223260/70 and Printed at Kavya Prakashan, Express Tower, Adarsh nagar, Mowa, Raipur-492005, Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor: Sujeet Kumar, Delhi Öffice: 100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Corporate Office: 201-205, 208-210, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500, Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow 226016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.



Nadda attacks Congress for amending Constitution for its own benefit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $R^{ajya} \ Sabha \ Leader \ of the House J P Nadda attacked the Congress on Tuesday for$ amending the Constitution for its own benefit and alleged that its past actions of "toppling governments" in states led to staggered polls, creat-ing the necessity for 'One Nation One Election' bill.

Participating in a debate in the Upper House on the "Glorious Journey of 75 Years of the Constitution of India", the BJP president accused the Congress of practising politics of appeasement and attempting to bring in religion-based reservations, a charge which was vociferously contested by the opposition party.

Former prime minister and JD(S) leader H D Deve Gowda called upon Parliament to contemplate whether reservation should continue to be given on the basis of caste or it should be changed to economic criteria. The BJP president, meanwhile, also spoke about the

Congress' claim of having apologised for it. Nadda said if the Congress regrets the step, it should join in observing 'Samvidhan Hatya Divas'

on June 25 next year, the 50th anniversary of the imposition of the Emergency. Nadda quoted B R Ambedkar to say "however good a Constitution may be, if those who are implementing it are not good, it will prove to be bad", and added that the "bad lot has interfered with the Constitution many times". On a day when two bills that lav down the mechanism to hold simultaneous elections were introduced in the Lok Sabha after a fiery debate, Nadda blamed the Congress for creating a situation that

forced the government to take this step. "We have to bring the One Nation One Election bill because you toppled elected government in states, and elections had to be held," Nadda said. He targeted the Congress over

issues ranging from Article 370 to triple talaq, and also accused it of not protecting the territorial integrity of the Emergency, rejecting the



of reservation given by the Nadda also accused the

Congress of trying to bring in reservation based on religion. The Leader of the House said Ambedkar had clearly said that reservation should not be structured in the name of reli-

gion. His remarks were objected to by Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, who raised the issue

Gujarat Government. Coming to Nadda's defence, Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "What Jairam Ramesh is saying now is wrong. What the Gujarat chief minister gave was on the basis of economic backwardness. Here it is mentioned religious minorities," she said, referring to a circular pur-

portedly issued by the DoPT under the then Congress-led

government. She added that Ramesh is conflicting the two (reservations given by the Gujarat government and the DoPT circular) and misleading the House. BJP MP K Laxman who heads the party's OBC Morcha backed Sitharaman's claim.

Countering Sitharaman, Ramesh said, "We (Congress) have never spoken about religion-based reservation", adding that wherever reservation has been given like in Karnataka it is on the basis of being socially and economically backward not on the basis of religion.

Sitharaman responded to Ramesh, saying that he may come up with any number of clarifications but he is misleading the House on this point.

Nadda also claimed that Ambedkar, during the debates of the Constituent Assembly, had said there was no need to include the words 'secular' and 'socialist' in the Preamble of the Constitution.

Speaking on reservation, Deve Gowda said "The House itself has to apply its mind on what all happened in the past and whether we should give reservation only on the basis of poverty in this country," he said.

People are suffering "even with the reservations that we have given in the past and it has not lifted the people who are still suffering for two-

square meals a day", he said. The former prime minister said the House should think over whether reservation should be continued to given on the same lines as in the past or "only who are suffering with most poverty" and whose living condition is bad should be given priority. "If the House thinks over and

the leaders think over, this can be thought over by the prime minister (Narendra Modi) before taking any decision on the reservation," Deve Gowda said.

He said the Constitution drafted by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar has withstood the test of time.

Meanwhile, Opposition mem-bers from TMC and CPI(M) on alleged that constitutional rights in Manipur had been suspended and slammed the BJP MPs for not raising the issue during the debate on the Constitution.

Ram Nath Thakur, JD(U) leader and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, said the government strives to implement the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Rs 22, 280 crore to victims, says FM

ED restored properties worth

giving Bharat Ratna to former prime ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh as well as former Bihar chief minister Karpoori Thakur, a champion of backward empowerment, among others, in 2023, asking who stopped the Congress-party from doing the same. Criticising the BJP for fre-quently taking jibes at the

He congratulated Prime

Minister Narendra Modi for

nation 04

country's first prime minister, RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha said Jawaharlal Nehru is a symbol of parliamentary democracy against authoritarianism.

In his speech, AAP's Ashok Kumar Mittal pointed out that at a time when Parliament is discussing the journey of the Constitution, a large number of people are not getting sufficient food, lakhs are searching for jobs and 40 per cent of the population do not own houses.

He also stressed that despite challenges, the all Constitution has shown the way to the country and will keep doing so even in the next 1,000 years.

67 per cent of SSWs belong to SC category: Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Exposing a significant dis-parity in the representation of Scheduled Castes (SCs) within the workforce engaged in sewer and septic tank maintenance across India, official data has revealed that a staggering 67 per cent of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) in India belong to the Scheduled Caste category.

These government data were made available in Parliament by Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

He said that out of 54,574 validated sewer and septic tank workers profiled under the 'National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem' (NAMASTE) scheme, 37,060 are from the SC category.

The statistics further show that 15.73 per cent of the workers belong to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs),

Concept of



8.31 per cent are from the Odisha and Tamil Nadu into Scheduled Tribes (STs), while the central NAMASTE dataonly 8.05 per cent come from base is currently underway. the General category. The NAMASTE scheme, launched in 2023-24 by the In total, 57,758 workers across 33 States and Union Ministry of Social Justice and Territories have been pro-Empowerment in collaborafiled, out of which 54,574 have been validated. Data

nize sewer maintenance and eliminate the dangerous practice of manual scavenging. A total of 16,791 PPE kits and 43 Safety Devices Kits for Response Emergency Sanitation Units (ERSUs) have been distributed. Ayushman cards for health insurance have been issued to 13,604 beneficiaries. Capital subsidies totalling Rs 13.96 crore have been pro-vided to 503 workers and their dependents for sanitation-related projects. An additional Rs 2.85 crore has been released to 226 beneficiaries from the manual scavenger

category for alternate selfemployment projects. To raise awareness on the hazards of unsafe cleaning practices, 837 workshops have been conducted since the scheme's launch. Efforts to mechanise sanitation work and reduce hazardous manual cleaning have also been prioritised. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0, MoHUA has sanctioned Rs. 371 crore to 26 states and UTs for the pro-curement of 2,585 desludging vehicles.Under the NAMASTE programme, the government profiled workers engaged in septic and sewer

tank cleaning comprehensively and aims to fully mechanise sewer maintenance and eliminate fatalities linked to dangerous cleaning practices. 17.47 crore worth properties were restored to the genuine eliminate fatalities linked to

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Enforcement Directorate has restored properties worth Rs 22,280 crore to the victims or rightful claimants and asserted that the fight against economic offenders will continue unabated. Replying to a debate on the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants in the Lok Sabha, she said Rs 14,131.6 crore worth properties belonging to fugitive Vijay Mallya have been restored to public sector banks.

As regards the Nirav Modi case, properties to the tune of Rs 1,052.58 crore have been restored to PSBs and private banks. In the Mehul Choksi case, properties worth Rs 2,565.90 crore have been attached and will be auc-tioned. In the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) case, Rs



investors who were defrauded, said the Finance Minister. "On the PMLA, ED has successfully restored properties valued at least Rs 22,280 crore from major cases... We have not left anyone, even if they fled the country, we've gone after them. ED has collected this money and given back to the banks.

....So it is important to recognize that we have not left anybody (committing) economic offences. We are after them. We will be making sure that money, which has got to go back to banks, will

go back," Sitharaman said. With regard to foreign black money, the Minister said the Black Money Act of 2015 is actually having a deterrent effect on a lot of taxpayers and they come forward on their own to disclose their foreign assets. She said the number of taxpayers disclosing foreign assets has gone up to 2 lakh in 2024-25, from 60,467 in 2021-22. Under the Act, as of June 2024, demand of more than Rs 17,520 crore has been raised in 697 cases. Total 163 prosecutions have been launched

'990 transgenders rehabilitated through shelter homes in last three years'

tion with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs integration for states like (MoHUA), aims to mecha-

simultaneous polls not new in India: Minister RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI country".

mid ruckus in Parliament $\mathbf A$ over the One Nation One Election (ONOE) bill on Tuesday, the Ministry of Law and Justice said the concept of simultaneous elections is not a new idea in India. Sharing the details of ONOE, the minister said elections to the Lok Sabha and all State Legislative Assemblies were conducted simultaneously from 1951 to 1967 following the adoption of the Constitution. The first general elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were held together in 1951-52, a practice that continued for three subsequent general elections in

1957, 1962, and 1967 The ministry said however, this cycle of synchronised elections was disrupted in 1968 and 1969 due to the premature dissolution of some State Legislative Assemblies. The Fourth Lok Sabha was also dissolved prematurely in 1970, with fresh elections held in 1971. Unlike the First, Second, and Third Lok Sabha, which completed their full five-year terms, the Fifth Lok Sabha's term was extended until 1977 under Article 352 because of the declaration of Emergency. Since then, only a few Lok Sabha terms have lasted the full five years, such as the Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth. Others, including the Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, and Thirteenth, were dissolved early.

"State Assemblies have faced similar disruptions over the years. Premature dissolutions and term extensions have become a recurring challenge. These developments have firmly disrupted the cycle of simultaneous elections, leading to the current pattern of staggered electoral schedules across the PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In last three years, 990 des-titute transgender persons 'The High-Level Committee have been rehabilitated on Simultaneous Elections, through garima grehs (Shelter homes) and as many as 725 were imparted skill developheaded by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was constituted by the Government of ment training. At the same time, 24,015 transgender per-India on 2nd September 2023, received over 21,500 responssons have been issued identity certificates through the National Portal for es, with 80% in favour of simultaneous elections. The respons-Transgender persons, the Government informed es came from all corners of the country, including Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar, Nagaland, Dadra, and Nagar Haveli. The highest responses were received from Parliament on Tuesday. Additionally, Transgender Welfare Boards and Protection Cells have been set up in multiple states and union territories to address the welfare and security of the community. These efforts are

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh", it said. According to the government, 47 political parties submitted their views. Of these, 32 parties supported simultaneous elections, citing benefits like resource optimization and social harmony. 15 parties raised concerns about potential anti-democratic effects and marginalization of regional parties. The Committee consulted Former Chief Justices of India, Former Election Commissioners, and legal experts. A majority supported the concept of simultaneous elections, emphasizing the waste of resources and socioeconomic disruptions caused by frequent elections. The Committee proposed amendments to Articles 82A and of the Indian 324A Constitution to enable simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies. The Committee recommended implementing simultaneous elections in two phases: Phase 1: Synchronizing Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies elections. Phase 2: Synchronizing elections for Municipalities and Panchayats with Lok Sabha and State

Legislative elections within 100

support through the Ayushman Bharat scheme, ensuring a more inclusive and supportive environment for transgender persons in India, said Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment BL Verma, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha. The Minister said that trans-

gender welfare boards and Transgender Protection Cells have been set up in 19 and 12 States/UTs respectively for the welfare and security of the individuals from the community. The protection cells under

complemented by healthcare

Director General of Police aims to monitor cases of offences against transgender persons and to ensure timely



registration, investigation and prosecution of such offences, said the Minister.

The TWBs have been set up in Rajasthan, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, Maharashtra, Kerala, Meghalaya, Manipur,

West Bengal, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar. The States where protection cell has been set up are Chhattisgarh, West Bengal,

Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar, Sikkim, Punjab, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. The Minister also informed that MoU with National Health Authority (NHA) for convergence with Ayushman Bharat scheme of NHA has been done for providing health facilities under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY) scheme to transgender persons.

Eighteen Garima Grehs, shelter homes for destitute transgender persons have been established in 15 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab,

Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal (2 shelters) and Maharashtra (3). The main aim of Garima Greh is to provide shelter to transgender persons with basic amenities like food, medical care, and recreation-

al facilities besides providing support for the capacitybuilding/skill development of the sector, added the Minister. The National Portal for Transgender Persons is an end-to-end online process where the applicant can apply for the TG certificate and also download the certificate after issue without any requirement to go to any office of issue. "This portal has more than 62 Lakh visitors and as of now, 24,015 certificates have been issued.

ED conducts fresh searches against operatives of betting website

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Enforcement

Directorate Tuesday said it has conducted fresh searches against the operatives of a betting website, owned by some Pakistani nationals, that also was involved in "illegal" broadcast of Men's T20 Cricket World Cup matches. The searches were undertaken by the federal agency between December 10-12 in Delhi, Mumbai and Pune in the case against the portal named 'Magicwin'.

The ED's case, filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), is based on an FIR registered by the cyber crime unit of the Ahmedabad Police in Gujarat. Bank deposits worth Rs 30 lakh were frozen during the raids apart from seizure of "incriminating" documents, the



ED said in a statement.

Magicwin, according to the agency, is a "betting" website "guised" as a gaming portal which is "actually owned" by Pakistani nationals. The operations of this website are mostly handled by Indian nationals working or settled in Dubai, it said. "The betting games being shown on the website are orig-inally played in the Philippines and other countries which allow betting activities," it said. However, as per the investigation, the same is "re-telecast" on Magicwin's website by copying

the APIs (application programming interface) of the original games. The agency said betting activities llike deposits, placing of betting and withdrawal are "controlled" by the "owners" of Magicwin. The ED claimed its probe found that that the money, deposited in the bank accounts by the players/betters, was "diverted" through layers of "shell and mule" bank accounts and further the profit part of the owners were invested in crypto assets, withdrawn in cash or sent to Dubai through Hawala channels. The win-ning amounts of the players/betters were transferred to their bank accounts through merchant accounts of various shell companies maintained with payment gateways. These amounts were also transferred to the player's bank account though domestic money transfer (DMT), it said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Singh on Tuesday here}}^{\text{efence Minister Rajnath}}$ said new Defence Public Sector Undertakings(DPSU) will carry forward modernisation, indigenisation and set new dimensions by incorporating world class technologies.

He made this assertion during a meeting of Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). The roles and functions of the new DPSUs, created post corporatisation of erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board, were deliberated upon during the meeting. The committee members were apprised on the financial figures, modernisation, capital expenditure, exports, new products developed and ongoing R&D projects, defence ministry said.

The defence minister appreci-





ated the efforts taken by the new DPSUs in indigenisation of critical products, modernisation of production facilities and promotion of MSMEs. He appreciated the fact that post corporatisation, the new DPSUs have shown improvement in productivity and quality. There has been good progress in the sales and profit of these DPSUs in a very short span of time, he added.

Rajnath exuded confidence that the new DPSUs will carry forward modernisation and indigenisation, and will set new

dimensions in quality, turnover, profitability and other financial parameters by incorporating world class technologies. "Our new DPSUs will make India 'Aatmanirbhar' in the field of defence production," he said. On the concerns and suggestions of some of the committee members on certain HR-related issues within the new DPSUs, the defence minister assured them that all issues emanating from the corporatisation of DPSUs are being addressed adequately in consultation with all the stakeholders. He appreciated the suggestions, and said that these would be examined for implementation.

Minisgter of State for defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Anil Chauhan, Secretary (Defence Production)Sanjeev Kumar and other senior officers of MoD were present in the meeting.



nation 05

PM slams Congress for water disputes Fundamentalist group

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{Narendra}}^{\text{rime} \ M}$ Minister (PM) **F** Narendra Modi on Tuesday hit out at the Congress, saying they talk big in the name of farmers but they neither do anything for them nor let others do anything.

He also alleged the party encourages water disputes among states rather than delay in the implementation of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is a direct proof of the Congress' intention intention

The ERCP envisages intrabasin transfer of water within the Chambal basin to provide water to 13 deficient districts of eastern Rajasthan.

"The Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) was delayed for so long by the Congress, this is also a direct proof of the Congress' intentions. They talk big in the name of farmers but they neither do anything themselves for the farmers nor let others do anything," Modi said.

He was addressing the 'Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh' Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh' event to mark the completion of the Rajasthan government's one year in office. He also inaugurated or laid the foundation stones for 24 projects related to energy, road, railways and water worth over Rs 46,300 crore. The PM said the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project will provide irrigation as well as drinking water facility to 21 districts of

Rajasthan and accelerate the development of both Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. On various water disputes between states, he said while

the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) policy is to promote dialogue, the Congress continues to fan water discords.

Indian labour

in Israel

LUCKNOW

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

"The BJP's policy is of

dialogue, not of conflict. We believe in cooperation, not opposition. We believe in solutions, not disruption. Therefore, our government has approved and also expanded the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project. As soon as the BJP government was formed in MP and Rajasthan, an agreement was reached on the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal project,"

he said. The PM noted that he had launched a big campaign to bring Narmada water to different parts of Gujarat when he was the chief minister, and charged the Congress and some NGOs adopted various tactics to stop

The Congress never wants to reduce water problems. The water of our rivers used to flow to across the borders, but our farmers did not get its benefits. Instead of finding a solution, the Congress continued to promote water disputes between states," he

said PM Modi also said that the BJP is getting huge public support in different states where elections were held. "The nation has given the BJP the opportunity to serve the country for the third consecutive time in Lok Sabha. This did not happen in India in the last 60 years," he said.

"Today, the BJP's double engine governments are becoming a symbol of good governance. Whatever governance. resolution the BJP takes, it makes honest efforts to fulfil it. Today, the people of the country are saying that BJP is the guarantee of good governance," he said, and lauded the work of Bhajanlal Sharma-led BJP government in the state. "In the last one year, Bhajanlal ji and his entire team have worked very hard to give new

momentum and direction to



PM Narendra Modi with Raiasthan CM Bhaianlal Sharma during the 'Ek Varsh-Parinaam Utkarsh' event.

Rajasthan.

Taĺking

about

the development of Rajasthan. This first year has, in a way, laid a strong foundation for the many years to come," he said.

Modi said people blessed the BJP with the responsibility to will be built and new job opportunities will be created," serve Rajasthan for multiple he said. terms and party did its best. "The BJP makes honest efforts to fulfil every promise it makes. The BJP has been 'Bhairon Singh Shekhawat laid a strong foundation of

getting huge support in states. The country has given the development in Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje took the party the opportunity to serve the country for the third time legacy forward and now Bhajanlal Sharma's government is engaged in in a row in Lok Sabha," he further enriching good said. governance. Its impact can be He also mentioned the victory of the party in Maharashtra and Haryana assembly seen in one year," he said. Modi said the Central elections, and bypolls in

government is constantly trying to improve the economic condition of villages and focusing on promoting every means of earning there. Rajasthan has ample potential for solar energy and it can become the leading state in the sector, he said. The PM said north India will

the Lakhpati Didi scheme. get direct connectivity to Namo Drone Didi Scheme Kandla from the Jamnagarand Bima Sakhi Scheme. Amritsar Economic Corridor. The PM encouraged party "Rajasthan's transport sector will benefit. Big warehouses

workers to work towards water conservation and make people aware about it, saying the BJP is not just the biggest political party but a huge social movement. CM Bhajanlal also addressed

the meeting and highlighted the achievements of his government. Union ministers C R Patil, Bhagirath Chaudhary, Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yaday, Rajasthan Deputy

Chief Minister Diya Kumari and Prem Chand Bairwa and other leaders were also present in the programme. Earlier, Modi reached the

women meeting venue in an open jeep, flanked on his left by the CM and BJP state president empowerment, he said 10 crore women, including lakhs from Rajasthan, joined Self-Help Groups in the last Madan Rathore on his right. decade. He also highlighted The vehicle was escorted by a group of women carrying 'Kalash' on head. the government's women-specific programmes such as

TMC leader highlights condition of Muslims in West Bengal, calls for qualitative development Yogi criticises Priyanka's bag contrasts with

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA and a former IPS officer Humayun Kabir has said that the condition of the Muslims particularly in West Bengal was worse than even the members of Scheduled Castes.

hief Minister of Uttar CPradesh Yogi Adityanath growth. Rather, I favour remarks. qualitative development of When asked to comment on took a swipe at Congress leader and Wayanad MP uslims I think the condition of the Muslims particularly those in Bengal is not as it visit their areas and look at the

former deputy inspector general of the West Bengal Police, who joined the TMC ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections. His statements come just amid

a raging controversy over senior TMC minister and Mayor Firhad Kolkata "I not a votary of quantitative Hakim's recent controversial

their plight," said Kabir, a

they have access to education and economic resources, Hakin whi s remarks Kahir said

impact on the party's Muslim can sustain in a better manner than a family with five vote base which has been children. But in any case the Mamata Minister Chief Banerjee's electoral mainstay, family has to have the wherewithal and the education to sustain itself. I don't worried insiders said. On Kabir's anguish over the dishonor what a rickshawalla

'below par' quality of life that the Muslims of West Bengal led senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh -- who had to clean a lot of mess left by Hakim a day before -- on Tuesday offered explanations comparing the condition of the life lea

finds temple in Muslim majority area of Varanasi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE 📕 VARANASI

has temple been Adiscovered in the Muslimmajority Madanpura area of Varanasi. The temple, reportedly locked for the past decade and filled with soil, came to light after a social media post highlighted its existence. Members of a Hindu fundamentalist organisation visited the site and have called visited the site and have called for the temple to be reopened. The group learned about the temple through a social media post that read: "Attention: A Shiva temple lies closed in the lanes of Kashi. This temple is near house number D-31 in Madanpura" Lipon visiting the Madanpura." Upon visiting the location, the leader of the group found the temple locked, with soil accumulated inside. Local residents were unable to provide clear information about the temple's history or the reasons for its closure.

The group has appealed to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister

Yogi Adityanath to intervene and facilitate the reopening of currently locked, no one has been able to confirm the temple. The organisation is also seeking clarification on who locked the temple and why. In response to the situation, police arrived at the scene to maintain order and persuaded the gathered members to disperse peacefully.

Members fundamentalist group, who discovered the existence of the temple via a social media post, now claim that it is mentioned in the Kashi Khand, an ancient text detailing the sacred geography of Varanasi. According to the group, the temple is identified as Siddheshwar, located south of Pushpadanteshwar, with a nearby Siddhiteerth well. However, members of the group are clueless about the historical and cultural significance of the temple.

Gaurav Banswal, deputy commissioner of police for the Kashi Zone, stated that while the temple is indeed old and

about its closure. The administration plans to conduct a site inspection to ascertain the facts and determine the appropriate course of action. In the meantime, police presence has been increased in the area as a the of precautionary measure. The

been

fundamentalist organisation which claims the temple is ancient, has been active in Varanasi, notably it been involved in has campaigns to remove statues of Sai Baba from temples in Varanasi, asserting that only traditional deities should be worshipped in the city's temples.

to confirm

ownership or provide details

The local administration is expected to conduct thorough inspection of the temple to verify its historical significance and assess the situation. Further actions will be based on the findings of this inspection and directives from higher authorities.

Opposition walks out of Maharashtra Assembly over custodial death

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

The Opposition staged a walk out from the State Assembly after Speaker Rahul Narwekar refused to allow an immediate discussion on the recent custodial death of Somnath Surevanshi at Parbhani and the alleged murder of sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh and slammed the Devendra Fadnavis government for human rights violations and police brutality.

On the second day of the ongoing winter session of State Legislature in Nagpur, several opposition leaders Nana Patole, Vijay Wadettiwar, Nitin Raut (all from Congress) and Sandeep Kshirsagar (Sharad Pawar-led NCP) expressed serious concern over the manner in which a Dalit youth died in police custody and the killing of a sarpanch in Beed district and demanded an immediate discussion on the issue.

Soon after the proceedings began in the House, Nana Patole raised the twin issues of custodial death of a Dalit youth in Parbhani and the killing of a sarpanch in Beed district, and asked the Speaker to suspend all the other work and hold discussion on the issue,

Opposition Members like Wadettiwar, Nitin Raut and Sandeep Kshirsagar joined Patole in his clamour for immediate discussion on the twin issues.

Speaker declined to all the However

happy with the Speaker's refused to allow immediate discussion on the issue. They walked out from the House in protest.

The gravity of the issue could be gauged from the fact even Namita Mundada, a ruling BJP MLA from Kej in Beed district also shared the Opposition's concern over the murder of a sarpanch from her Assembly constituency contending that the incident had caused considerable anger among the people of the village where the murder had taken place in broad day-light. She urged Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to take immediate action for the arrest of the accused behind the murder.

After walking out from the Assembly, the Opposition members staged a protest on the State Legislature premises.

Talking to media persons outside the House, Wadettiwar came down heavily on the Speaker for trying to silence the Opposition in the House. "Despite our repeated pleas for a discussion on the issue, the Speaker refused to let us speak. This is a clear-cut attempt to stifle the voice of dissent from the Opposition and help the government to forsake accountability for its failures," he said.

Condemning the custodial death in Parbhani and killing of a sarpanch in Beed district, Raut said: "No one who has true faith in the Constitution can allow such police brutality and a sarnanch During disturbances, innocent citizens, including children, were detained, beaten, and one of the arrested persons died in police custody. This exposes the government's failure to protect citizens"

Ganḋhi Priyanka Vadra during the Winter Session of the state Assembly, criticising her for carrying a bag with Palestine written on it. He contrasted her action with the State government's efforts to send skilled youth from Uttar Pradesh to Israel for work

"Yesterday, a Congress leader was seen roaming around with a Palestine bag, while we are sending the youth of Uttar Pradesh to Israel," CM Yogi remarked. He highlighted that over 5,600 youths from the state have gone to Israel for construction work earning a monthly salary of Rs 1.5 Lakh along with free accommodation and food. He added that the Israeli ambassador had praised the skills of UP's youth and expressed interest in hiring more workers from the state. The CM underscored the government's commitment to skill development, stating that more than 12 lakh youths in Uttar Pradesh have been trained under various programs.

The controversy erupted after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was seen in Parliament on Monday carrying the bag Responding to the criticism, she dismissed the remarks as patriarchal. "Who is going to decide what clothes I wear now? That's typical patriarchy. I will wear what I typical want," she told reporters. The Bharatiya Janata Party's criticism gained (BJP) traction as leaders such as Rajya Sabha MP Dinesh Sharma accused the Gandhi family of promoting foreign thinking. Union Minister of State Banwari Lal Verma added, "Priyanka Gandhi came with a Palestine bag; she should carry an India bag instead.

Meanwhile, opposition leaders have rallied behind Priyanka Gandhi, defending her against what they termed an unnecessary controversy fueled by political motives.

qualitative "It is the development and should have been. You have to quantitative growth that matters. A family comprising condition they live in to realise the parents and two children

present. So, I think the craving not should be for a qualitative development rather than quantitative growth." Kabir's statements could have

not

e case

or for that matter a vegetable vendor does but for me the

large majority of Muslims can

have better qualitative life if

Muslims in the past and the one they lead at present. Their lives had improved quite a bit from what it used to be even a decade ago, he said.

discussion on the issue on Tuesday on the ground that it had already been decided to have a discussion under rule 101 on Wednesday considering the seriousness of the incident. However, the Opposition members were not



President Droupadi Murmu with a recipient during the first convocation of AIIMS Mangalagiri.

President highlights women's role in medicine at AIIMS convocation

to avail healthcare services.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AMARAVAT

President said. President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said the rising participation of women in the The government has taken up several schemes, including Avushman Bharat health insurance scheme and made treatment accessible for those medical profession and their contributions significant demonstrate that India is becoming a truly developed society. Addressing the first convocation of AIIMS (All facing difficulties in accessing treatment, she said Along with the government, it is also the responsibility of a India Institute of Medical conscious society to ensure that Sciences) at Mangalagiri near here, she said relentless promotion of holistic health no one should be left out of medical services due to financial or other reasons, and ensuring health for all Murmu stressed. should be the guiding principle The President said Indian of every medical professional of doctors, based on their talent and hard work, are in the this institute. forefront in the developed

"The rising participation of women in the medical profession and their significant contributions demonstrate that we are becoming a truly developed society. This also highlighted the fact that given medical tourism on the world

opportunity, our daughters excel in every field," the map, she said, adding doctors of the country play an important role in this regard.

She called upon young doctors to give priority to providing medical care and services to people living in rural, tribal and remote areas. Yogasan and Pranayam have also been accepted from the modern point of view in the context of holistic health care, she noted. Andhra Pradesh Governor S Adbul Nazeer, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Union Minister of State for Ayush (Independent Charge) Prataprao Jadhav, Andhra Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav and other dignitaries were present. nations. She said people from

The foundation for AIIMS-Mangalagiri was laid in 2015 other countries come to India and the first batch of MBBS students were inducted on August 30, 2018, which passed out today.

Protests in Kerala over man's death in wild elephant attack, locals demand action

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Kuttampuzha, a forest-fringe village here, witnessed a protest by local people over the death of a man who was trampled to death by a wild elephant. The deceased man, Eldose (40), a native of Knachery here, met with the tragic end on Monday night while he was walking home after reaching the area by a KSRTC bus in Urulanthanni in Kuttampuzha panchayat. Kuttampuzha panchayat. His disfigured body was later

found by a local man. Local people said Eldose was a bachelor and the only

breadwinner of his family, comprising aged parents and a sister.

Angry villagers staged a protest in the area for hours on Monday night alleging the forest officials' lack of effective interventions to address the human-animal conflict.

They did not even allow the authorities to shift Eldose's body from the place till the wee hours of Tuesday, hours of demanding adequate compensation to his family and a permanent solution to the increasing human-animal conflict.

Collector NSK District people's Umesh and

representatives also had to face the heat of the villagers' protest. At one point, the Collector even had to request

the angry people with folded hands to allow the shifting of the body to the hospital. He

later assured compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the deceased man's family and announced a review meeting on December 27 to address various matters in this regard.

Meanwhile, forest officials began the digging of a trench to prevent wild animals from entering the village.

The post-mortem procedures of Eldose were completed on Tuesday morning, and the

incident. Both the state government and the opposition UDF described the death of the man as "unfortunate" While Kerala Forest Minister A K Saseendran said the protest staged by local people could not be considered as Leader of

body was kept at his house for

the public to pay their

A people's hartal was also

organised in Kothamangalam

and Kuttampuzha over the

unjustified, Opposition V D Satheesan the human-animal said conflict has been increasing in forest fringe areas of the

homage.

state.

BJP seeks clarity from BJD over MP's questions to President Murmu over Manipur, Sambhal, Odisha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's ruling BJP on Tuesday sought a reply from BJD president Naveen Patnaik on his party MP Sulata Deo's statement in Rajya Sabha "targeting" President Droupadi Murmu. Deo, while participating in the discussion on the 'Glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India' in the . Raiya Sabha on Monday had "targeted" Murmu, who hails from Odisha, BJP Odisha spokesperson Anil Biswal said. "Honourable President is a daughter of Odisha. She has expressed her anguish over the Kar rape case. But why is she silent on Manipur which is on boil for over the last one-and-a-half years? Why is she silent on Sambhal? There have

been 1,250 rapes in Odisha in the last six



BJD MP Sulata Deo questioned the President's silence over Manipur, Sambhal and rapes in Odisha.

months. Where is the President? When will she break her silence? Is this what our Constitution teaches us?" Deo had said.

Reacting to Deo's statement in the Upper House of the Parliament, Biswal in a post on X said: "The manner in which a BJD Rajya Sabha MP dragged President Droupadi Murmu into petty politics, is not acceptable. She is the pride of Odisha. But, the RS MP's statement has hurt the people of Odisha.

"The question arises whether this is the personal opinion of the concerned Rajya Sabha MP or does BJD chief Naveen Babu also agree with this opinion? If there is no consensus, then why is Naveen Babu silent?" Biswal asked.

Biswal also alleged that when the BJD was in power in the state, it had "insulted" the President by causing power cuts during her programmes. "Now, there is an attempt to insult her in the Rajya Sabha. This is not the ideal sign of a political party," the BJP spokesperson said.

RAIPUR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 18, 2024

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A timely assurance

Sri Lanka assures New Delhi that it will not permit anybody to use its territory to threaten India's security

n what must come as music to the ears of the Indian government, the Sri Lankan President has said that his country will not allow anyone to use its territory to threaten India's security. This assurance comes at a time when China is aggressively pursuing 'Mission Indian Ocean' - which targets India. In a joint statement issued Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake made Colombo's position clear during his dialogue with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. This assurance is seen as a critical development in India-Sri Lanka relations, especially given China's use of Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port for docking its naval surveillance and spy ships, including the ballistic missile tracking ship Yuan Wang 5. China's growing footprint in the Indian Ocean has raised red flags for New Delhi. The Hambantota Port, now under a 99-year lease to China following Sri Lanka's inability to service its debt, has become a hub for Chinese naval operations. Over the past two years, Beijing has stationed the Yuan Wang



5, a 25,000-tonne satellite and missile tracking ship, at Hambantota multiple times. This vessel, equipped with advanced tracking and communication systems, has been closely monitoring satellite and missile activities in the region, creating strategic challenges for India. In 2022, Sri Lanka briefly delayed the docking of Yuan Wang 5 following Indian concerns but eventually allowed the vessel to dock under the guise of 'replenishment.' Since then, Chinese surveillance ships have regularly patrolled the Indian Ocean, adding to India's apprehensions about Beijing's strategic intentions in the region. The agreement between India and Sri Lanka ensures that Sri Lankan territory, including its waters,

will not be used in any manner that could harm India's security or regional peace. This is a welcome relief for New Delhi, which views such commitments as crucial for maintaining stability in the Indian Ocean Region. This of course hasn't happened overnight. India's steadfast support for Sri Lanka during its economic crisis in 2022 has further solidified the bond between the two nations. President Dissanayake expressed gratitude for India's timely assistance, which was instrumental in stabilising Sri Lanka's economy during one of its most challenging periods. As far as China is concerned it has been courting Sri Lanka for the sole purpose of encircling India and getting a foothold in Indian Ocean. China's influence in Sri Lanka has grown significantly, particularly after Colombo defaulted on its \$1.7 billion loan for the Hambantota Port project. India has consistently raised concerns about the strategic implications of Chinese investments and activities in Sri Lanka. In this background the assurance of Sri Lankan president signals Sri Lanka's intent to balance its ties with both regional powers while safeguarding regional stability. The agreement also underscores Colombo's recognition of the importance of India's security and regional stability and paves the way for a stronger, more strategic India-Sri Lanka alliance in the years to come.



Nepal embraces China's BRI

Nepal's deepening ties with China through the Belt and Road Initiative

ndia has cause for extreme worry. In yet another indicator of China's growing sway over Nepal, the two are

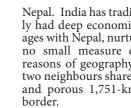
If 2017 marked Nepal's initial step to coming on board the BRI with an MoU, the year 2024 marks a giant leap for the Himalayan nation in that direction. A framework agreement for cooperation on the BRI was signed during Nepalese PM K P Sharma Oli's visit to China in early December, apart from nine other pacts. With the strategically located Himalayan nation having become a hub for Great Powers contestation, the US too would be uneasy with the latest Beijing-Kathmandu tango. While the US had managed to get Nepal on board its own Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact to fund Kathmandu's power and transport infrastructure, the BRI seems far broader. Kathmandu is trying to play down the framework as just a continuation of the 2017 MoU. The framework, however, underlines Kathmandu and Beijing's renewed push for the BRI, an initiative on which New Delhi harbours deep suspicions for what it perceives as China's hegemonic ambitions through debt-trap diplomacy. Sovereignty is another major concern, with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), another project under BRI, passing through Pakistanoccupied Kashmir.

India is certainly worried about PM Oli-led Nepal once again moving into China's sphere of influence. The CPN-UML leader is widely seen as being India's influence over Nepal. China, and bilateral ties The BRI framework agree with India were prickly during ment, incidentally, also his previous stints as the PM. India has yet to host Oli since branches of Chinese banks he took charge as PM in July and financial institutions in

this year for the fourth time, with him first heading for Beijing, in a break from the tradition of visiting New Delhi.Also, showing scant regard for New Delhi's sensitivities, the Oli government recently allowed 220 Buddhist monks from China to travel to Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha even as the Nanhai Buddhism Shenzhen roundtable was being held in

encouragement of Beijing's concerted moves to claim Buddhism as a shared heritage will not go down well with New Delhi, which has been making its efforts to build on its shared Buddhist heritage with Nepal.

Kathmandu's thrust on greater economic cooperation with Beijing - the BRI is part of this endeavour would also whittle down envisages the opening of



WITH THE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED HIMALAYAN NATION HAVING **BECOME A** HUB FOR GREAT POWERS CONTESTATION, THE US TOO WOULD **BE UNEASY** WITH THE LATEST BEIJINGtion".

PARUL CHANDRA

(BRI) have set alarm bells ringing in New Delhi

moving forward to implement Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Himalayan nation. India is not only opposed to this in principle on grounds of sovereignty but also fears it will enable China to increase its already considerable inroads into Nepal.

Kathmandu. Oli delivered the inaugural address at this roundtable. There were also reports the China-appointed Panchen Lama would travel to Lumbini, though it did not eventually happen. The Oli government's

KATHMANDU TANGO

Nepal. India has traditionally had deep economic linkages with Nepal, nurtured in no small measure due to reasons of geography - the two neighbours share a long and porous 1,751-km-long

This, along with the landlocked nature of Nepal, has helped India become its largest trading partner. During the 2022-23 fiscal, bilateral trade was pegged at \$8.85 billion. This included \$8 billion of exports from India to Nepal, with \$840 million of exports in the reverse direction. As per the Nepal Rastra Bank, India's share in Nepal's trade accounted for 64.1% in 2022-23.PM Oli sees cooperation on BRI as a means to forge closer economic ties with China, with the framework agreement resolving to deepen the economic partnership by "injecting new momentum to trade, infrastructure and connectivity coopera-

Not a single project under the BRI rubric has been executed in Nepal since the 2017 MoU. Nepal would be hoping that the 10 initial projects, including those meant to boost regional con-nectivity, will now see the light of day. India has its work cut out and should

ensure it does not come across as overbearing. India's approach in the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura border dispute, where New Delhi ignored Kathmandu's request for foreign secretary-level talks, is a case in

point. It led Oli, in his earlier stint as the PM, to cock a snook at New Delhi by changing his country's map showing the disputed territories as part of Nepal.

Neither did New Delhi show respect due to a close neighbour when it decided to give a quiet burial to the joint 2018 Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report, which suggested that the 1950 Treaty of Peace And Friendship be replaced with a new one?

Nepal has also been unhappy with India's refusal to give overflight rights for aircraft using the Chinese-built Gautam Buddha International Airport in Lumbini.

India would do well to remember that its domineering approach only serves to alienate a close neighbour further and push it into Chinas ever-willing embrace India should not lose sight of its strategic imperatives. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)

Tourists enjoy paragliding, in Manali

Why reading and writing matter more in the age of AI



DHARAMAPALAN

As AI grows increasingly sophisticated, our commitment to these skills will determine whether we remain active participants in innovation-or passive consumers

n an era increasingly defined by technological L innovation, reading and writing-cornerstones of human intellect—are facing a profound transformation. While artificial intelligence (AI) bots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google Bard redefine the boundaries of information generation, the necessity of cultivating human literacy has never been more crucial. The transition from Neanderthals to modern humans (Homo sapiens) involved significant cognitive and cultural advancements, but Neanderthals themselves did not read or write. Reading and writing developed after modern humans became the dominant hominin species. These are not merely communication tools but exercises that keep our cognitive faculties sharp and resilient. When we read, our brains

processing, and strengthens

the world. Writing, on the other hand, is an intellectual partner to reading. Crafting wordswhether in a journal, essay, or story-requires us to organise thoughts, synthesise ideas, and express them clearly. This process actidecode symbols, conjuring vates the prefrontal cortex, vivid images, emotions, and the brain's hub for decisionconcepts. This intricate making and problem-solvprocess activates the left ing. Writing is more than an temporal cortex, which is intellectual task; it is theraresponsible for language

neural connectivity. Studies viate stress, enhance mood, can diminish critical think-

immune system. The tactile act of writing also strengthens memory, embedding information deeply within our minds. Reading and writing foster neuroplasticity, enabling the brain to adapt and form new connections. They are antidotes to cognitive decline and shields against neurodegenerative diseases

like Alzheimer's. Regular underscore that reading engagement with these skills enhances memory, concentration, and analytical cultivates intellectual indethinking. Engaging with pendence, creativity, and diverse genres deepens emotional depth—uniquely empathy and broadens perhuman attributes. spectives, fostering a Yet, as AI bots revolutionise nuanced understanding of the way we consume and

produce information, there is an alarming decline in human literacy. Tools like Book AI, which transforms any book into a conversational chatbot, exemplify AI's capacity to digest and reproduce complex information effortlessly. AI lacks the intrinsic human qualities of creativity, empathy, and ethical judgment. As AI literacy surges, the stagnation of human literacy risks peutic. Research shows that creating a dangerous imbalexpressive writing can alleance. Over-reliance on AI

ing and communication and even bolster the skills, weakening the very attributes that distinguish humans from machines.

While the fear of displacement is understandable, the answer lies in shifting our perspective. AI is not an adversary but a powerful partner that can amplify human capabilities and drive innovation.Individuals can leverage their unique strengths to complement AI capabilities by prioritising the development of reading and writing skills. In an environment controlled by artificial intelligence, these abilities are necessary to navigate complicated concepts, understandably articulate them, and affirm human importance. The development of artificial intelligence highlights the significance of human expertise rather than diminishing it. By committing to studying throughout our lives, we can ensure that technology will not replace our humanity but rather

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA STRUGGLES IN BRISBANE TEST

Madam -- While Travis Head hits a century again in the Brisbane test, it was a surprising and grave omission of the crafty and successful off-spinner Washington Sundar for the third test at Gabba. While Sundar has been among the wickets in recent tests and also did well with the bat, the head coach and the out-of-form skipper Rohit Sharma couldn't realise the need for a quality off-spinner is a blunder at the moment. The need for the quality off-spinner is mandatory when the Aussies have two solid left-handers, Travis Head and Alex Carey. When Head is the consistent match winner for the Aussies, leaving Washington Sundar out will prove costly for India in this test.

Whenever there were solid left-hand batters, the formulae of the Indian team in the past from the era of Skipper Ajit Wadekar used to play Erapaali Prasanna and S Venkataraghavan proved to be of great success. After Rohit won the toss and put the Aussies to bat first, the Aussies had scored 445, and now the pressure will be on the Indian batters, who may succumb to pressure again, as proved by losing the 4 top order for a paltry 51. After having won the first test under the standby skipper Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit Sharma seems to have not yet learnt the lesson that the composition of the right combinations is important to be in the match. Missing a clever off-spinner can never be an easy task for the team to come back once they lose the grip in the first innings, which is what's happening at present in Brisbane. Bumrah alone can't take the match away from the opponents; this needs to be realised by head coach Gautam Gambhir. By dropping down in the order, Skipper Rohit is unbeaten on zero, and Rahul, with 33 against his name, has been the only consolation for the fans while rain stopped play. Rain God can be the only saviour as it looks for the team to have a sigh of relief. Rohit and Kohli must take a voluntary exit rather than bring the morale down of the team at this juncture.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Rural education needs reform



or a majority of Indian school children especially from rural pockets, a feeling of uneasiness sets in when they hear something in English. They find it difficult to listen to and understand the English language. In a country like India, classes of mixed-ability

HEALTHCARE REFORMS FOR PUBLIC

Madam- If the AAP government has done one good thing for society by making Mohalla clinics, the BJP has done another by making Jan Aushadi chemist shops. One can now get a free consultation from the AAP clinic and get medicines at nearly one-fifth the rate from a Jan Aushadi shop, thereby catering to the health aspect of a common man.

The prominent good work visible on the ground needs to be applauded for both. The belief that a drug in a normal chemist shop is better than the generic drug being sold by a Jan Aushadi shop (popularly known as 'Modi ki Dukaan' in Patiala) is a myth that can be best removed by the doctors to their patients depending on the degree of moral courage they have to refuse obligations of pharmaceutical companies and give priority to generic rather than tradenamed medicines to their patients. The fleecing private pharmacies need to be brought down to their knees in the interest of the public for their overinflated rates of medicines

R S Narula | Patiala

groups are a feature of every small village. While the teaching-learning process is done in the local language in rural villages, most of the competitive examinations are held in the English language. The rural atmosphere does-

n't provide these students the opportunity to speak and learn English.

In fact, in many northern villages, English becomes the third language, with the local language and Hindi as the first and second languages, respectively. The policymakers have to bridge the urban-rural divide when it comes to English teaching. An English teacher, teaching in rural schools, has to come up with innovative strategies in the classrooms. Skilled and committed teachers need to be appointed at the primary level, and they should be upgraded and trained to meet the problems faced by the learners.

R Sivakumar | Gandhi Nagar

PURCHASING POWER DECLINES

Madam — For the success of any economy, a vibrant market with sound and sustained demands is imperative, as production and market cannot flourish in a dry market. To vibrate the market, people's purchasing power should be increased by ensuring employment and a viable wage. The Indian economy is driven with an objective of enriching the rich, leaving the 81 crore poor in a lurch to manage sustaining life with 5 kgs of free rice per month. Even the small employed section is left without a reasonable increase in wage and faces the untamed inflation. The changes being pushed through in the name of labour reforms are going to pull down demands and create telling effects on the already volatile economy. Such a programme inevitably leads to dwindling demands.Course correction is inevitable to ensure bridging the gap between the poor and the affluent.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

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Happiness is a state of mind that transcends life's adversities



RAVI VALLURI

couple first met in an estimable business school in India where they were conferred reputable degrees in management. The cou-Ple soon migrated to the land of El Dorado in search of greener pastures, seeking professional and economic security. They were a happy couple as the angels showered gargantuan benediction. Soon, a new dimension to their lives arrived in the form of angelic twins. When the twins turned six months old, it was time to visit the hometown of their parents. They were received by sentimental and misty-eyed grandparents

The sojourn concluded the mother and twins were afloat on a flight back to their home. However, fate had other plans and a double whammy struck the family. The father never reached the airport as he was killed in a car crash on the way to the airport. The disconsolate woman became a mental wreck, her moments of happiness fastened only in her memory bank and the picture album. The alluring woman was transfigured into stone. A cousin empathised with her distraught mental state and robustly suggested that she undertake the Happiness Course of the Art of Living. After considerable blandishment and extensive persuasion, she enrolled for the course and deposited all her emotions and feelings while undergoing the unique rhythmic breathing technique of Sudarshan Kriya.Life need not be tragic if only we realise that happiness is a state of mind that can



be achieved independent of material success.

As per ancient Japanese mythology, the light from Tsukuyomi, the Shinto God of the moon could induce illusions and delusions. Hecate, the Greek Goddess of the dark moon bestowed visions, but also caused humans to be afflicted with insanity. The human body is made up of seventy per cent of water elements. Full moon water recharges the body, mind and spirit and bestows harmony on our thought processes. Therefore, practising the Full Moon Meditation has a consequential and noteworthy influence on the mind, whereby one is suffused with efficacious thoughts and purges nugatory ones. It was a cathartic experience for the young single mother to emerge from her traumatic experience by unflinchingly practising this technique. It is an established fact that the Sakyan prince, Siddhartha, upon attaining enlightenment on the full moon day metamorphosed into the Compassionate One, Gautama Buddha and made a prescient statement, "Thousands of candles can be lit from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared." How does one define an efficacious emotion called happiness? Happiness is a state of well-being, jollity, blitheness and primarily to be contented in life. The amphitheatre of the mind is a veritable nuclear reactor, where waves of thoughts and emotions arise and subside. These in turn determine our happiness quotient and consequentially the quality of our lives. There once lived a farmer, who grew apples. He perpetually grumbled that there was not adequate produce to sustain the family. Providentially, there was a spurt in production and apples grew in plenitude. Still dissatisfied, the farmer cavilled that he was now laden with gruelling work, apples were rotting and prices now plunged! Sage Patanjali in his Yoga Sutras has postulated certain cardinal principles to live harmoniously, encompassed in happiness. These are non-violence, truthfulness, no regrets, not accepting invectives or salutations hurled by people, physical cleanliness of the body, inner contentment, forbearance or penance, self-study or examination of the mind and development and finally love and surrender to the supreme cosmic force.

Pesticides are poisoning the Punjab soil



analysis

Punjab's agriculture is facing a harrowing reality-its lifeblood, the soil, is being contaminated by toxic pesticide residues at alarmingly high levels



t's time to face the disturbing truth about Punjab's agriculture—and it's a nightmare. In districts like Bathinda, Mansa, and Ludhiana, up to 60 per cent of farm soil samples are infested with toxic pesticide residues— including the deadly chemicals endosulfan and carbofuran—at levels far beyond what's even remotely safe. This isn't just a warning; it's a full-blown crisis, a ticking time bomb, the result of irresponsible, reckless pesticide and fertiliser abuse running rampant in our fields.

On World Soil Day-December 5thwe're forced to confront the cold reality of a rapidly disintegrating agriculture sys-tem, while the world's been talking about "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, and Manage"! The consequences of this madness are devastating. Our once fertile land is transforming into a barren wasteland, and that's only the beginning. These toxic chemicals aren't just staying in the soil. They're seeping into our food chaincontaminating every bite we take and slowly poisoning us all. But it doesn't stop there. These toxic residues are embedding themselves into our very DNA, passing down a legacy of genetic mutations to our

children and grandchildren. We are breeding a future full of compromised health and genetic decay. This is a catastrophe that will echo across generations. We're not just destroying our pre-sent health; we're condemning our chil-dren to inherit the consequences of our stupidity and greed. The survival of future generations is at risk, and the clock THE MODERN-DAY is ticking-every moment of inaction is a moment closer to irreversible genetic damage. It's time to wake up, stop burying our heads in the sand, and confront this crisis head-on before it's too late for the survival of future generations. The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020: India's regulatory framework for pesticides, established in 1968, is woefully outdated and incapable of addressing the modern-day challenges posed by the rampant overuse of agrochemicals. Although efforts to amend this framework have been ongoing since 2008, significant gaps remain in safeguarding farmers, consumers, and the environment. The legislation-still governed by the Insecticides Act of 1968 and the Insecticides Rules of 1971—requires comprehensive reforms to address the multifaceted risks associated with pesticide overuse. The Pesticide



PESTICIDES, ESTABLISHED IN 1968, IS WOEFULLY OUTDATED AND INCAPABLE

Management Bill (PMB) 2020 was introduced to replace outdated legislation, but critical concerns must be addressed. While the bill outlines pesticide registration and licensing procedures, it must pro-tect farmers more adequately from hazardous exposure. Statistics from Pesticide Action Network (PAN) International paint a grim picture: approximately 11,000 deaths glob-ally are attributed to accidental pesticide poisoning annually, with India accounting for a staggering 6,600 fatalities. These numbers highlight critical deficiencies in pesticide usage protocols and safety measures.

Farmers and rural communities often bear the brunt of chemical exposures, especially in agriculturally intensive regions. For instance, Punjab, which heavily depends on rice and wheat cultivation, reports alarming pesticide consumption rates. With an average usage of 77 kg/hectare, significantly above the national average of 62 kg/hectare, Punjab ranks third in India after UP and Maharashtra for pesticide consumption.

A study by the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) revealed that 6.74 million hectares of land in India are affected by salinity, a con-dition exacerbated by the overuse of agrochemicals. Persistent pesticide application has been found to reduce microbial biomass by 30-50 per cent, compromising soil fertility and diminishing the land's abil-ity to provide essential nutrients to crops. Call for Robust RegulationPesticides—insecticides, fungicides, or herbicides-play a vital role in modern agriculture. However, their toxic nature necessitates stringent oversight throughout their lifecycle, from production to disposal. The current regulatory framework lacks provisions for periodic review of registered pesticides based on emerging toxicological data. This oversight exposes the public to significant health risks, particularly in a country where improper handling of pesticides is widespread.

Training and Awareness: A Neglected Imperative Over the past three decades, the indiscriminate use of pesticides has surged, often driven by aggressive marketing strategies that portray chemical inputs as indispensable for high crop yields.

The limited scale of training initiatives highlights the need for more current efforts. Between 1994-95 and 2021-22, the Plant Protection Department of Agriculture and Farming Welfare Ministry trained only 585,000 farmers in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a dismal figure in a nation with over 150 million farmers. According to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, govern-ments and industry stakeholders must provide comprehensive training and information to farmers and retailers. Yet, the implementation of these guidelines still needs to be more robust. Retailers often serve as farmers' sole point of contact, and in many cases, they disseminate misleading or incomplete information. Data Collection: Bridging Critical GapsThe absence of robust data collection mechanisms further undermines India's regulatory ecosystem. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) documents pesticide poisoning deaths only if they are registered as medico-legal cases, excluding countless instances of non-institutional exposure and chronic health effects. This data void impedes effective policymaking and perpetuates a lack of accountability among stakeholders. Addressing Weak Grievance Mechanisms: One of the most glaring deficiencies in India's pesticide regulation is the lack of accessible grievance redressal systems. Farmers and agricultural workers exposed to pesticides face prohibitive costs and lengthy procedures when seeking justice. Meanwhile, state governments can impose only temporary bans on hazardous pesticides, typically lasting 60 days, exposing vulnerable communities to ongoing risks.

Personal Protective Equipment: A

Gender Inequality Index, high-

lighting significant strides in

bridging the gender gap. It also improved its position on the

Global Innovation Index, ris-

Forgotten NecessityThe Pesticide Management Bill 2020 neglects the safety of small-scale farmers, who often lack access to affordable, climate-appropriate personal pro-tective equipment (PPE). Farm workers face heightened health risks without mandatory provisions requiring them to supply adequate protective gear, especially in hot and humid agricultural regions. Labelling and Consumer ProtectionIndia's pesticide labelling standards fall short of both domestic and international norms. Safety information is frequently crammed into illegible leaflets, leaving farmers ill-informed about risks and proper usage.

Although the Consumer Protection Act theoretically covers farmers, legal recourse against manufacturers for misleading labels or substandard products is rarely pursued. The Way ForwardIndia can no longer afford to ignore the human and environmental toll of unsafe pesticide practices.

Establishing a robust, farmer-centric legal framework aligned with international standards is the only way forward to ensure safe and sustainable agriculture. A gradual snin towards agro-ecological farm ing methods that emphasise nonchemical pest management is imperative. The government must phase out hazardous pesticides and promote environmentally friendly alternatives to safeguard farmers' health and ensure consumer food safety. Addressing the gaps in the Pesticide Management Bill 2020 and adopting proactive measures, such as mandatory training and the provision of accurate information on pesticide usage and risks, are critical steps towards securing safe and healthier future generations. (The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association. Views expressed are personal)

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

OF ADDRESSING CHALLENGES POSED BY THE RAMPANT OVERUSE

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AGROCHEMICALS

India@2024: A resilient economy on the fast track to growth But challenges such as persistent inflation, a slowdown in the banking sector and environmental concerns continue to pose hurdles

ndia has firmly established itself as the fastest-growing Leconomy among the G20 nations, with a projected GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent-7 per cent for the fiscal year 2024-25. This remarkable trajectory underscores the nation's economic resilience and immense potential despite global challenges. The year 2024 presents a vivid picture of India's economic landscape, marked by notable achievements and emerging challenges

One of the most significant indicators of progress is the substantial improvement in employment. The unemployment rate has decreased from 6 per cent in 2017 to an impressive 3.2 per cent in 2024, reflecting robust job creation across sectors. Foreign



at \$65.7 billion.

KAJLEEN KAUR

direct investment (FDI) has also shown a dramatic surge, rising 45 per cent year-on-year to UŠD 29.79 billion in the first half of 2024-25, with key inflows in services, telecom, pharmaceuticals. and Complementing this momentum, India's foreign exchange reserves swelled to \$704.89 bil-

lion, driven by an \$87.6 billion UPI prowess on a global stage, introducing the system at the increase this year alone. This growth includes a \$10.468 bil-lion boost in foreign currency Eiffel Tower in Paris as part of a digital payments agreement assets and a \$2 billion rise in with France. gold reserves, which now stand

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection also reached unprecedented levels, hitting Rs 2.10 lakh crore—a India's fintech sector continues to shine on the global stage, ranking as the third-largest finsubstantial 12.4 per cent tech economy after the USA increase from the previous year. This growth was driven and the UK. The country also by a robust 13.4 per cent rise boasts the fourth-largest stock market in the world, with a in domestic transactions and market capitalisation of \$4.33 an 8.3 per cent increase in trillion, surpassing Hong Kong. A significant milestone imports, showcasing the strength of India's tax infrain digital payments was achieved with the Unified structure.

Amid these promising fig-Payments Interface (UPI), ures, certain challenges continwhich saw transaction values ue to loom. Inflation, as measoar to an astounding Rs 200 sured by the Consumer Price trillion in 2024, compared to Index (CPI), remains persistently high, exceeding 5 per Rs 139 trillion in the previous year. India even showcased its cent. The banking sector has



witnessed a slowdown, with credit growth declining to 11 per cent in November 2024 from 20.6 per cent the previous year. Deposit growth also moderated, with banks adding Rs 13.8 lakh crore in deposits between April and November, compared to Rs 16.1 lakh crore during the same period 14 ranks on the UNDP

ing from 40th to 39th among 133 global economies, driven by entrepreneurial activity, vibrant startups, and successful public-private partnerships. The Human Development Report 2023-24 placed India at 134th among 193 countries, reflecting gains in life expectancy, education, and last year. In response, the Gross National Income. However, no progress was seen in the Happiness Index, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4 where India remains at 126th, per cent in December to largely due to dissatisfaction improve liquidity and stimuamong older citizens, perceived discrimination, and poor health metrics. Moreover,

late credit growth. Qualitative indicators present a mixed picture. India climbed India continues to struggle in environmental performance,

ranking 176th out of 180 countries. Challenges such as air quality, biodiversity loss, and greenhouse gas emissions

demand urgent attention. As India navigates these complexities, it is also undergoing key transitions. The US economy has entered a new phase, and India sees a shift in RBI leadership, with Sanjay Malhotra taking over as the Governor after 26th Shaktikanta Das's tenure. While the final assessment of FY2024-25 remains pending, India's growth story offers optimism for a brighter future and a strong foundation for the vision of 'Viksit Bharat@2047'. (The writer is an assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi. Views

expressed are personal)



2022 car bombing that investigators suspected was aimed at

Vladlen Tatarsky, a popular military blogger, died in April

2023, when a statuette given to

who said that she presented the

figurine on orders of a contact

In December 2023, Illia Kiva,

to Russia, was shot and killed

near Moscow. The Ukrainian

military intelligence lauded the

killing, warning that other "traitors of Ukraine" would

On December 9, an explosive

the Olenivka Prison where

dozens of Ukrainian prisoners

of war died in a missile strike

in July 2022. One other was

injured in the blast. Russian

share the same fate.

her father.

sentence.



Russian general killed by bomb in Moscow

AP MOSCOW

senior Russian general was killed Tuesday by a **D**bomb hidden in a scooter outside his apartment building in Moscow, a day after Ukraine's security service levelled criminal charges against him. A Ukrainian official said the service carried out the attack.

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, the chief of the military's nuclear, biological and chemical protection forces, was killed as he left for his office. Kirillov's assistant also died in the attack.

Kirillov, 54, was under sanctions from several countries, including the UK and Canada, for his actions in Moscow's war in Ukraine. On Monday, Ukraine's Security Service, or SBU, opened a criminal investigation against him, accusing him of directing the use of banned chemical weapons. An official with the SBU said

the agency was behind the attack. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to release the information, described Kirillov as a "war

The SBU has said it recorded

more than 4,800 occasions when Russia used chemical weapons on the battlefield since its full-scale invasion in February 2022. In May, the US State Department said that it had recorded the use of chloropicrin, a poison gas first deployed in World War I, against Ukrainian troops.

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

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

criminal and an entirely legit-imate target." Russia's top state investigative agency said it's investigating Kirillov's death as a case of terrorism, and officials in Moscow vowed to punish Ukraine.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, described the attack as an attempt by Kyiv to distract public attention away from its military failures and vowed that its "senior military-political leadership will face inevitable retribution."

Over the past year, Russia has been on the front foot in the war in Ukraine, grinding deeper into the eastern region of Donetsk region despite heavy losses. Ukraine tried to change the dynamic with an incursion into Russia's Kursk region, but it has continued to slowly lose ground on its own territory. ince Russia invaded, several prominent figures have been killed in targeted attacks believed to have been carried out by Ukraine.

Darya Dugina, a commentator on Russian TV channels and the daughter of Kremlin-linked nationalist ideologue Alexander Dugin, died in a



authorities said they detained Investigators work at the place where Lt. General Igor Kirillov, the head of Russia's Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Defence Forces and his assistant were killed by an a suspect in the attack. explosive device planted close to a residential apartment's block in Moscow on Tuesday

Bangladesh official belittles India's role in 1971 Liberation War PTI 📕 DHAKA Dav. India was merely an ally 'Today, on Vijay Diwas, we League government.

tory

ing the 54th Victory Day, his

Bangladesh interim govern-ment's Law Adviser Asif Nazrul has criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's post on X commemorating Victory Day saying, "India was merely an ally in this victory, nothing more.

Victory Day or "Bijoy Dibosh" is commemorated every year on December 16 when the Pakistan military surrendered to Indian forces in 1971, bringing about the liberation of Bangladesh.

Nazrul's comment was repost-ed by the office of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. Attaching a screenshot of Modi's post that paid tribute to Indian soldiers for their role in the historic victory in 1971, Nazrul wrote on Facebook in Bengali on Monday, "I strong-ly protest. December 16, 1971, marks Bangladesh's Victory

in this victory, nothing more." Yunus' Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam shared Nazrul's post, The Daily Star newspaper reported on Tuesday. Anti-Discrimination Student Movement Convener Hasnat Abdullah also criticised Modi's

Abdullah wrote on Facebook that this was Bangladesh's Liberation War and it was for the country's independence against Pakistan. He said Modi has claimed it was solely India's war and their achievement, disregarding Bangladesh's exis-

speech making no mention of founding leader Mujibur tence in their narrative. When India claims this inde-Rahman while calling deposed pendence as their achievement, I see this as a threat to prime minister Sheikh Hasina's administration the "world's our independence, sovereignty and oneness. It's necessary worst autocratic government". for us to fight against this Rahman's daughter Hasina was threat by India. We need to carry on this fight," he wrote. Modi, in a post on X, had said, ousted from power on August 5 after massive student-led

There was also no mention of honour the courage and sacri-India's role in Yunus' address to fices of the brave soldiers who contributed to India's historic the Nation on Bijoy Dibosh. victory in 1971. Their selfless India commemorates December 16 as Vijay Diwas dedication and unwavering when over 90,000 Pakistani resolve safeguarded our nation soldiers surrendered before the and brought glory to us. "This day is a tribute to their Indian Army, leading to the

extraordinary valour and their creation of Bangladesh. unshakable spirit. Their sacri-India had also backed Bengali guerrillas in the fight against Pakistan Army after West fices will forever inspire generations and remain deeply Pakistan's leadership refused to embedded in our nation's hisacknowledge the 1970 elec-Chief Adviser Yunus led tion victory of Mujibur Bangladesh Monday in mark-

Rahman's Awami League. President Droupadi Murmu and several Indian political leaders too had paid homage Monday to the heroes of the 1971 war. "A grateful nation remembers

the ultimate sacrifice of our brave-hearts whose stories inspire every Indian and shall remain a source of national pride," Murmu said on 'X'. protests against her Awami

AP PALM BEACH

President-elect Donald Trump on Monday suggested that he may reverse President Joe Biden's recent decision to allow Ukrainian forces to use American longrange weapons to strike deeper into Russian territory.

Trump called the decision made by Biden last month "stupid." He also expressed anger that his incoming administration was not consulted before Biden made the move. With the loosening of the restrictions, Biden gave Ukraine long-sought permis-sion to use the Army Tactical

Missile System provided by the US to strike Russian positions hundreds miles from its border. "I don't think that should

have been allowed, not when there's a possibility — certain-ly not just weeks before I take over," Trump said during

at a wide-ranging news con-ference at his Mar-a-Lago resort. "Why would they do that without asking me what I thought? I wouldn't have had him do that. I think it was a big mistake.

Trump's withering criticism of the Biden administration's move comes as the Democratic administration aims to push every last dollar already designated for Ukraine out the door to help repel Russia's invasion before Trump takes office on Jan. 20, with future aid uncertain.

But even as Biden tries to surge weaponry and other aid to Ukraine in his final five weeks in office, the moment underscored that it's Trump who holds the most significant influence over how Ukraine can use its US-provided arsenal in the long run. It's a critical piece of leverage he could use to try to follow through on his campaign pledge to bring

about a swift end to the conflict.

Trump says it was 'stupid' for Biden to let Ukraine

use US weapons to strike deeper into Russia

Asked if he would consider reversing the Biden administration decision, Trump responded: "I might. I think it was a very stupid thing to do." The White House pushed back on Trump's criticism, noting that the decision was made after months of deliberations that started before last month's election.

"All I can assure you is that in the conversations we've had with them since the election, and we've had at various levels, we have articulated to them the logic behind it, the thinking behind it, why we were doing it," White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said of the current administration's coordination with the outgoing

administration. Trump's relationship with Russian leader Vladimir Putin has been scrutinised since his

2016 campaign for president, when he called on Russia to find and make public missing emails deleted by Hillary Clinton, his Democratic opponent. Trump publicly sided with Putin over US intelligence officials on whether Russia had interfered in the 2016 election to help him, and Trump has praised the Russian leader and even called him "pretty smart" for

invading Ukraine. Vice President-elect JD Vance has said that while the US has differences with Russia, it was counterproductive to approach Moscow as an

enemy. rump on Monday reiterated his call on both Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the war, calling the death and despair caused by the conflict "car-

Australian state proposes ban China executes official on protests at places of worship involved in country's

Pope reveals apparent bombing plot during his 2021 visit to Iraq

AP MELBOURNE

n Australian state govern-Ament on Tuesday proposed new restrictions on protesters in response to rising antisemitism, including a ban on demonstrations outside places of worship.

Victoria Premier Jacinta Allan proposed the new laws after arsonists damaged Melbourne synagogue this month and protestors kept fearful worshippers trapped inside a Sydney synagogue for three hours a week earlier.

"That's not peaceful protest. It's menacing behaviour," Allan said.

"Antisemitism is a cancer and we must leave no stone unturned to fight the evil of antisemitism, to fight the evil of this racism in all of its forms and also to continue to work to help heal our multicultural community, to help build on that social cohesion and continue to support our strong, united Victoria," she added. The new laws would protect the

and intimidation," her office said in a statement. The proposed laws, which will be voted on by the state legislature early next year, would establish safe access areas around places of worship and prohibit disturbances of reli-

gious gatherings The laws would also ban protesters flying flags and displaying symbols of groups listed by Australia as terrorist organisations. Face masks used by protesters to conceal their identi-

ties and protect against capsicum spray would also be banned. Anti-Defamation Commission

chair Dvir Abramovich, a leading opponent of antisemitism in Australia, welcomed the proposed law. 'Today, the Victorian govern-

ment has declared war on hate and antisemitism — and it's about time," Abramovich said in a statement.

'Victoria has drawn a line in the sand and sent a thunderous

right of people to "gather and message to the hate-mongers, the graffiti cowards, the firepray free from fear, harassment bombers, and the social media trolls: Your days of terrorising our communities are over," he added.

> The arson attack on Adass Israel Synagogue on December 6 marked an escalation in targeted assaults in Australia since the war between Israel and the militant Hamas group started over a year ago in the Gaza Strip. Authorities have declared it a terrorist act, which increases resources available to inves-

tigators A federal law passed in January banned the Nazi salute and the public display of Nazi symbols in response to growing antisemitism, and the government appointed special envoys this year to combat antisemitism and Islamophobia

Australia is an increasingly multicultural society. The latest census in 2021 found that Australians born overseas or with a parent born overseas formed a majority for the first

time.

largest corruption case

hina on Tuesday executed Li Jianping, a former official in Uthe north Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, who was convicted in the largest-ever corruption case in the country totalling to over USD 421 million.

The death sentence of Li, former secretary of the ruling Communist Party working committee of the Hohhot econom ic and technological development zone, was initially issued in September 2022 and upheld on appeal in August 2024.

Tuesday's execution followed the approval of the Supreme People's Court and was carried out by a court in Inner Mongolia, state run Xinhua news agency reported.

Li, 64 was found guilty by an intermediate court earlier of embezzling a staggering three billion yuan (over USD 421 million) in illegal gains — the largest sum involved in a single corruption case in China's history, according to earlier reports in the Chinese official media. Since he came to power in 2012, Chinese President Xi Jinping made the anti-corruption campaign the main plank of his governance model.

Official media accounts say over a million party officials, including two defence ministers and dozens of military officials, were punished and prosecuted in the campaign.

In his speech delivered at the plenary session of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) in January this year, contents of which were released for the first time on Sunday by party theoretical magazine Qiushi, 71-year-old Xi has called on cadres to confront corruption head-on so that interest groups cannot prey on the ruling Communist Party.

AP ROME

Pope Francis turned 88 on Tuesday and marked the occasion with revelations that he almost didn't make it. According to excerpts of his upcoming autobiography, suicide bombers had planned to attack him during his 2021 visit to Iraq, but were killed before striking.

Italian daily Corriere della Sera on Tuesday ran excerpts of "Hope: The Autobiography,"

written with Italian author Carlo Musso, which is being released in more than 80 countries next month. The New York Times ran other excerpts Tuesday, Francis' 88th birthday. In the Italian excerpts, Francis recalled his historic March 2021 trip to Iraq, the first ever by a pope. COVID-19 was still raging and security concerns were high, especially in Mosul. The devastated northern city had been the headquarters of Islamic State militants, whose horrific reign had largely emptied the region of its Christian

Francis urged Iraq's Christians to forgive the injustices against them by Muslim extremists and to rebuild.

In the book, Francis said he later asked his Vatican security detail what became of the suicide bombers.

The commander replied laconically They're no longer here," Francis writes. "Iraqi police had intercepted them and made them explode. This struck me as well: Even this is the poisonous fruit of war."

The book, originally planned to be published after Francis death, is coming out at the start of the Vatican's big Holy Year, which Francis will officially inaugurate on Christmas Eve. According to Italian publisher Mondadori, "Hope" is the first autobiography ever published by a pope. Francis, however, has published other first-person, memoir-style books or book-length interviews with biographers and journalists, including "Life: My Story Through History," published

earlier this year.

Grassroots funding for Ukraine's military declines as groups looks for creative ways to raise money

AP KYIV

The concert took place in an l old movie studio in Kyiv, the location kept secret until the final moment in case it was the target of a Russian attack. More than 1,000 soldiers and young people gathered to listen to the artists who joined forces with a military brigade in an innovative effort to raise funds for Ukraine's embattled troops This was the first and only live performance of the charity album "Epoch," a collaboration between the 3rd Assault Brigade and eight Ukrainian bands.

The project's ambitious target is to raise 50 million hryvnias (about USD 1.2 million) to buy an M113 armoured personnel carrier to help get infantry to

the front and evacuate the scanning a QR code, people wounded for medical treatment. Since it launched on streaming platforms a month ago, the initiative has raised 9 million hryvnias (around USD 214,000

Grassroots fundraising for Ukrainian fighters dates back to 2014, the year Russia first annexed the southern region of Crimea and Moscow-backed separatists launched an uprising in eastern Ukraine. At that time, Ukraine's defence was made up of a regular army supported by volunteer battalions who weren't financially supported by Kyiv's government.

Self-funding was critical. Now, advertisements pasted along the sidewalk in Kviv ask for donations to help fill financial gaps across the military. By

can help buy anything from body warmers and drones to armoured cars for soldiers defending the nearly 1,000kilometre front line.

But some charities are seeing a decline in individual donations in part because of the economic situation in the country. Oleksandr Borodyn, one of the project's organisers, says the idea for the collaboration came from the challenge of continuing to drum up funds to support troops as the war is on the cusp of marking a three-year milestone.

To raise the same amount of money as at the beginning of the war, you need much more effort. That's why we came up with the idea that a musician could donate his or her art, and

that art would earn money for the army," said Borodyn, a press officer for the 3rd Assault Brigade. The initiative comes as US President Joe Biden is rushing out billions of dollars more in military aid before Washington's support for Kyiv's defences is thrown into question when Donald Trump takes office next month

Monobank, one of the largest platforms to process donations, says that in the first 1,000 days of war, nearly 10.5 million unique users made donations totalling around 77 billion hryvnias (about USD 1.8 billion) to various fundraising organisations.

But some charity groups are finding that voluntary funding isn't what it was in the first year of the full-scale invasion. The

Come Back Alive foundation 2020 to about 9 million, or 29 supports troops with anything from military training to buying drones and electronic warfare to repel attacks. In the first year of the conflict, they raised more than 5.7 billion hryvnias (USD 184 million). So far in 2024, the figure is nearly 3.6 billion hryvnias (USD 89 million). "Many people report a worsening financial situation, which limits their ability to contribute to supporting the military," said Ôleh Karpenko, deputy director of the Come Back Alive Foundation. Three years of war has had a devastating impact on

Ukraine's economy. According to a World Bank report released in May, the number of Ukrainians living in poverty has grown by 1.8 million since ernment can't meet.

per cent of the population.

To help the most vulnerable, the government launched a winter support programme at the beginning of December and within days, around 6.5 million people had applied to receive the one off 1,000 hryvnia (USD 24) payment to help cover utilities, medical services and cellphone costs.

According to Karpenko, local initiatives and smaller-scale fundraising efforts mean many people direct their contributions toward helping specific soldiers or military units they know personally. That reduces the amount received by larger organisations, which he says can promptly address urgent battlefield needs that the gov-

"International support also plays a significant role in dona-tion levels," Karpenko said. "When aid from international partners decreases, it strongly demotivates Ukrainian society. People lose motivation to donate when they perceive a lack of willingness from partners to actively supply weapons." Staring up at the large monitors set up on either side of the stage in the form of the three diagonal line symbol of the 3rd Assault Brigade, 26vear-old Oksana Kalenchenko thinks that events like the concert are hugely important in continuing to generate support. "It's a reminder to somebody that there is a war going on in Ukraine, let's keep donating, let's keep doing everything we can," Kalenchenko said.

The collaboration album features young artists from Ukraine's rock, rap and alternative scene, and many of the lyrics reflect events and the reality of living through the conflict.

'We want to show the reflection of contemporary artists to the situation in Ukraine, and in general to Ukraine at war . That's why the project is called Epoch,' because it is a transmission of the era we are living in," Borodyn said.

What also unites all the songs is language. Since the start of the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, Ukrainian music has experienced somewhat of a revival with many artists shunning the traditional Russian pop scene that dom-inated the post-Soviet era.



According to the book, British

intelligence informed Iraqi

police as soon as Francis

arrived in Baghdad that a

woman wearing explosives was heading toward Mosul and

was planning to blow herself up

during the papal visit. "And that

a truck was heading there fast

with the same intention,

The visit went ahead as

planned, albeit under tight

security, and became one of the

most poignant of all of Francis'

foreign trips: Standing in the

wreckage of a Mosul church,

Francis says in the book.

he pioneer RAIPUR | WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 18, 2024

Political strife erupts over South Korean court as it is set to determine fate of impeached Yoon

AP SEOUL

South Korea's acting leader vowed Tuesday to convey to the world that things are back to normal following parliament's impeachment of conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, but rival parties began squabbling over the mechanics of a court ruling to determine whether to formally unseat or reinstate him.

The country's liberal opposition-controlled parliament voted to impeach Yoon last Saturday over his short-lived December 3 martial law imposition, suspending his presidential powers until the Constitutional Court determines whether to uphold or overturn the decision. If Yoon is dismissed, a national election must be held to pick his successor within two months

Prime Minister Han Ducksoo, who became acting leader, has taken steps to reassure the US and other countries and stabilise markets. Presiding over a Cabinet Council meeting on Tuesday, Han said he will "continuously do my utmost to inform the international society that Republic of Korea is fast regaining stability and maintain confidence with partners

But the country's intense political strife appears to be far from over, as the rival parties began bickering over whether to fill three vacant justices' seats at the Constitutional Court.

To formally end Yoon's presidency, the nine-member court panel needs support from at least six justices. But since three seats remain vacant following retirements, a unani-

mous decision in favour of chances to return to office, as Yoon's impeachment is required to throw him out of office for good. Three of the court's nine jus-

tices are directly appointed by the president. Three others are nominated by the Supreme Court head and another three by the National Assembly, and their formal appointments by the president has widely been a formality. The three seats that are currently open are to be nominated by the National

Assembly - two by the Democratic Party and the other by Yoon's ruling People Power Party. The court can rule on Yoon's case only with the current six justices. But the main liberal opposition Democratic Party,

which led the impeachment efforts against Yoon, has said it would speed up the process of restoring the court's nine-justice system to promote fairness and public confidence in its

ruling. But PPP floor leader Kweon Seong-dong, a Yoon loyalist, created a stir Tuesday as he voiced his objection to a Democratic Party push to fill the three vacancies. He said it would be inappropriate for Han, the acting leader, to appoint justices nominated by parliament, saying such authorities solely rest with the president.

"An acting president can appoint Constitutional Court justices when there is a presidential vacancy, but not when the president's duties are just suspended," Kweon said. Many observers say the court's

current six-member configuration is advantageous for Yoon's

it would only require a single justice rejecting the parliament impeachment. They note Cheong Hyungsik, one of the six justices, is a clear conservative who was directly appoint-

ed by Yoon. The Democratic Party quickly dismissed Kweon's argument as "absurd and utterly nonsensical" and urged PPP to abide by a November agreement between the rival parties to nominate the three Constitutional Court justices. Party lawmaker and spokesperson Jo Seoung-lae said PPP has "blatantly revealed their true

intention to obstruct the constitutional trial. There was no immediate response from Han, who during the Cabinet meeting stressed that the government will cooperate with the ruling and opposition parties to stabilize the economy.

There is no clear definition about what an acting president can and cannot do over the appointments of court justices. The Democratic party accuses PPP of trying to drag out the impeachment trial at the Constitutional Court, which has up to 180 days to determine Yoon's fate.

Time is a crucial issue for Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung, who is favored by polls to win a presidential byelection in the event of Yoon's ouster but grapples with his own legal troubles. Lee could possibly be prohibited from running for president if the appellate and Supreme courts uphold his lower court convic-

PUBLIC NOTICE

tion for election law violation in November.

Yoon faces allegations of rebellion and abuse of power over his martial law introduction. Investigative authorities want him to appear for questioning later this week, but officials at Yoon's office and residence on Monday refused to receive requests for his appearance.

The martial law declaration, the first of its kind in more than 40 years, drew hundreds of troops who tried to encircle parliament and prevent lawmakers from voting on the decree. Many lawmakers still man-aged to get inside a National Assembly chamber and voted to overturn Yoon's decree unanimously, forcing Yoon's Cabinet to lift it. Yoon's decree, which harkened back to an era of past military-backed dictatorships, has sparked massive street protests calling for his ouster and resulted in his approval rating plummeting. Yoon's defense minister, police chief and several other senior military commanders have been arrested over their roles in the martial

law enforcement. Supporters of Yoon worry that his early exit would severely hamper the country's conservatives and cause them to likely lose a presidential by-election to the liberals, like they did in 2017, when then-impeached conservative President Park Geun-hye was ousted and

ETP-02-24-25; d against the work ETP waste water debarred/disowned his son Sarabjot Singh Gulati and his daughter in law Lavisha Kaur Gulati from his all moveable and immoveable property(s) due to their euse of disc nechanized laur Coach Maintenand misconduct. Anybody dealing with them may be treated a Administrative re lease visit www.ir

Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan's decision eliminates

> case ahead of Trump's return to office next month. His lawyers have raised other arguments for dismissal, however. Prosecutors have said there

for his upcoming presidency, but they insist the conviction should stand.

of 34 counts of falsifying business

PUBLIC NOTICE We, Raghbir Singh Sandhu and Smt. Navpreet Singh both R/o DDA SFS Flat no. 1344, Third Floor, Sector-A, Pocket B&C, Vasant kunj, Delhi-110070, owner's of DDA SFS FLAT NO.1344, on 110070, owner's of DDA SFS FLAT NO.1324, on Third Floor, Pocket-B&C, Sector-A, situated at Vasant Kunj, Dehin, Vide DDA File No.37(106)1 987/SFS/KG/II. The original documents 1.e. Allocation and fifth and final Demand Letter and Possession Letter, Site Possession Silp, NOC Water and Electricity and other documents relation of the of the above said property have been lost or misplaced by us and not traceable insplite of his been lodged in the Police Station, Crime Branch, Delhi (LR No. 2407782/2024 dated 17.12.2024). Durn person(e) claiming any digth: Interest having Dehin (LR No. 2407782/2024 dated 17.12.2024) Any person(5) claiming any rights, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9368310038 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director LAB (Housing/SFS) or Director (Housing/SFS), D-Block, Third Floor, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.

CORRIG AGAINST E-TE NO.: KYQ-CD

DATED: E-TENDER NOT

will do so at his/her/their own risk, my

Email: cons.milan@mea.gov.in TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

(Advocate)

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Judge rejects Trump's bid to dismiss hush money conviction because of SC immunity AP NEW YORK

Ajudge Monday rejected President-elect Donald Trump's bid to have his hush money conviction dismissed because of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on presidential immunity. But the case's overall future remains unclear. one potential off-ramp from the

should be some accommodation

A jury convicted Trump in May

records related to a USD 130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels in 2016. Trump denies wrongdoing.

The allegations involved a scheme to hide the payout to Daniels during the final days of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign to keep her from publicising — and keep voters from hear-ing — her claim of a sexual encounter with the married thenbusinessman years earlier. He says nothing sexual happened between them.

A month after the verdict, the Supreme Court ruled that expresidents can't be prosecuted for official acts — things they did in the course of running the country - and that prosecutors can't cite those actions to bolster a case centred on purely personal, unof ficial conduct.

Supreme Court opinion to argue that the hush money jury got some improper evidence, such as Trump's presidential financial disclosure form, testimony from some White House aides and social media posts made while he was in office. In Monday's ruling, Merchan denied the bulk of Trump's claims that some of prosecutors' evidence related to official acts and implicated immunity protections.

The judge said that even if he found that some evidence related to official conduct, he'd still find that prosecutors' decision to use "these acts as evidence of the decidedly personal acts of falsifying business records poses no danger of intrusion on the authority and function of the Executive Branch."

office, which prosecuted the

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Jebul Nisha had acquired Built-up Plot bearing No. 40-43, area 50 sq. yrds., Khasra No. 18/22, situated in the area of Village Razapur Khurd Colony known as Nohan Garden, Block-A2, R-III, New Delhi vide GPA Dt. 17. 03.2004 along with ATS and regd. will executed by Mr. Sagir Ahmad and Mr. Naushad Ali and Now Mrs. Jebul Nisha is the undisputed uwger of the said property.

undisputed owner of the said property. OR OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license,

gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with al 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 ot binding on our client. e) H No. 26/161, Basement gar 4, New Delhi -110024

NDUM - 1 NDER NOTICE 0-ETP-02-24-25; 10-11-2024	@ N	DRM (S&T), Katihar ORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile	ons will be consi bandoned. Ka No. FF-2, First flo Sec-4, Vaishali, Gi	dered to have be mal Kant Gupta por, Mahaluxmi M zb., U.P., Mob. 98	en waived tr (Advocate) etro Tower Aj 10063351 Vi	eated as waived and no jay Kumar Giri (Advocat ikram Vihar, Lajpat Naj	eated null and void and als ot binding on our client. e) H No. 26/161, Basemen gar 4, New Delhi -11002
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AN Fax: (3902) 72002226;	SI. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (in Lac)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Validity of Tender (day)	Period of Completion (months)	Contractor's Category of Registration
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Particulars of BRIDE inay Salunkhe finay Salunkhe finay Salunkhe 11 Mumbai, htra uti Classic, Sant Ramdas Jund East, Mumbai 181 Maharashtra, India rnoldo Mondadori 3,	1	Improvement work of Shaheed Shiromani Chilkoti (Gaudi- Kimtoli) motor road in Champawat assembly constituency of Champawat district. Under Honorable Chief Minister's announcement no. 148/2024.	14.32	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'A' and above for Road works in State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking.
d NOTICE the general public at rs. Milan Devi w/o Mr. he owner of Plot No. 2A, yds. i.e., 41.80, Part of ed at Village Ilaychipur, District Ghaziabad, U.P., sed dated 17.04.2023	2	Improvement work of internal roads of Tanakpur in Champawat assembly constituency of Champawat district by hot mix DBM/BC Under Honorable Chief Minister's announcement no. 168/2024.	9.28	5000.00 +18% G.S.T.	120	12	Category 'A' and above for Road works in State Govt./ Govt. of India/Govt. undertaking.
n & Mr. Praveen Kumar al (Doc. No. 5513), Any having any claim and/or	3	Improvement work of motor road from Banbasa Canal	2.86	5000.00 +18%	120	09	Category 'B' and above for

to lessen confrontation between the sides.



The China-friendly mayor of Taiwan's capital, Taipei, on Tuesday called for less confrontation between the sides, even as Beijing continues to send warships and fighter jets to intimidate the selfgoverning island democracy. Chiang Wan-an was speaking Tuesday at the 15th Taipei-Shanghai Twin-City Forum, which is not sanctioned by Taiwan's government, whose official position is that Taiwan is already an independent country with no reason to unify with China.

Chiang put a somewhat romantic twist on his remarks, saying "I am a Taipei mayor by the peo have high expectations for whether there is peace, tension, or development across the strait. I think there should be more . lights on fishing boats at dawn and less noise of (war) ships and (war) planes." Between Monday and Tuesday, China sent 10 military aircraft and seven aircraft toward Taiwan, according to Taiwan's Defence Ministry. Four of the aircraft crossed the middle line of the Taiwan Strait that forms an unofficial border



Taiwan banned nine Chinese reporters from the gathering, saying they were superfluous along with a Shanghai official for Taiwan affairs, in response to new, harsh new penalties targeting "diehard Taiwan independence separatists."

China considers Taiwan part

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Sharma, Mrs. Archana Sharma & Mrs. Alka Sharma that they don't have any share in the above said property neither had objection regarding the same transaction. Now, I would like to announce to general public Now, I would like to announce to general public that any person who is having any right, title or interest against that property/share or documents may come to our Delhi office within seven days and render their claim with documentary valid evidence. If any, else the same would be treated as unclaimed and unrebutted and moved forth accordingly.

Inrebutted and moved forth accordingly. M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLP B-132, L.G.F, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991116006

ASSIFIED

CHANGE OF NAME

client will not be responsible for their any acts in the future PRAVEEN RASTOGI CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, MIL Pza Paolo Ferrari, 08-20121 Milan - Italy Tel. (3902) 8057691



ndicated above

Mother Name Date & Place

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the time of marriage

Public Notice

of Birth

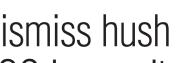
Trump's lawyers then cited the Even if prosecutors had error neously introduced evidence that could be challenged under an immunity claim, Merchan con-

tinued, "such error was harmless in light of the overwhelming evi-dence of guilt." Prosecutors had said the evidence in question was only "a sliver" of their case. Trump communications director

Steven Cheung on Monday called Merchan's decision a "direct violation of the Supreme Court's decision on immunity, and other longstanding jurispru-

dence? "This lawless case should have never been brought, and the Constitution demands that it be immediately dismissed," Cheung said in a statement. The Manhattan district attorney's

case, declined to comment.



world 09

SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS PUBLIC NOTICE IN KATIHAR DIVISION Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-27, Date: 13-12-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; Nam of the Work : S&T work in connectio with Upgradation of goods vard facilitie like CCTV, lighting arrangement circulating area development and drainage along with other ancillary works at Katiha & Ranipatra. **Tender Value**

60.08.577.48/-; Earnest Money ₹1,20,200/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 06-01-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. on 06-01-2025 in the website http://

Earthquake causes damage in Vanuatu

dated land defences

offline due to power outages.

Residents were urged to stay

out on social media and in inter-

views.

AP WELLINGTON (NEW ZEALAND)

Apowerful magnitude 7.3 Aearthquake struck just off the coast of Vanuatu on Tuesday, causing widespread destruction in the South Pacific island nation as the injured began arriving at a hospital and unconfirmed reports of casualties emerged.

A tsunami warning was called off less than two hours after the guake. With communications still down hours later and official information scarce, witness accounts of casualties began to surface on social media and through patchy phone calls. The earthquake happened at just before 1 pm at a depth of 57 kilometres and was centred 30

kilometres west of Port Vila, the largest city in Vanuatu — a group of 80 islands that is home to about 3,30,000 people. It was followed by a magnitude 5.5 aftershock near the same location, with tremors continuing throughout the afternoon and evening.

It was not immediately clear how much damage was caused as phone lines and government websites remained down. In the first official information published on social media, the Geohazards Department said its monitoring systems remained

Council said Beijing's move I, Nidhi Goyal, W/o Abhay had severely disrupted already meagre bilateral exchanges Pandey, resident of F-7/7, and put Taiwanese residents in China at risk. Faced with China's massive

Mainland Affairs

City Phase 1, Sector 26A, Gurugram, HR 122002, have military, Taiwan has been changed my name from upgrading its defences with "Nidhi Neogi" to "Nidhi latest version F-16 fighter jets, Goyal". Henceforth I would missiles, submarines and artillery. On Monday, Taiwan be known by the name of began unloading 38 US-made "Nidhi Goyal" for all future MIA2T tanks that represent a purposes. quantum leap in Taiwan's out

PD(1088)A I, Mem Baty, Mother of- JC-471486N Sub Maj Bhim Singh, R/o- Vill- Bahwalpur, PO- Fatehpur Billoch, PS+Teh- Ballabhgarh, Dist-Faridabad, Haryana-121004, have changed my name from Mem Baty to Mem Vati, vide affidavit dated 17/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1089)C

away from coastlines for at least 24 hours — and until tsunami I, Ashok Kumar S/o Late Sh. and earthquake monitoring sys-Raghunath R/o G-1552, Gaur tems were operational once Cascades, Rajnagar Extension, again. No confirmed reports of Ghaziabad- 201017 (U.P.) have damage or casualties were prochanged my name from vided, but accounts detailing Ashok Kumar to Ashok Kumar widespread destruction filtered Malik. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Ashok Crowds outside the hospital: Kumar Malik for all future

PD(1090)C

Colony

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PD(1091)A

Dan McGarry, a journalist based purposes. in Port Vila, told The Associated Press he heard of one death I, Malti Singh, W/o. Chhaviraj from a police officer outside Vila Singh, R/o 19-M-Block Central Hospital. McGarry saw Anandvas JJ three people on gurneys "in Shakurpur Delhi-34, have obvious distress," he said. Doctors were working "as fast as changed my name from they could" at a triage centre Rajkumari to Malti Singh.

outside the emergency ward, he added. But the nation is not equipped for a mass casualty LOST & FOUND event, McGarry said. Video shared by the Vanuatu I, HEMLATA W/o LATE SH. Broadcasting and Television Corporation showed crowds SURYA MOHAN THAKUR outside the hospital. Phone have lost my original Share

numbers for the police, the Certificate of FLAT NO.B-502, hospital and other public agen SWAMI DAYANAND CGHS cies did not connect. LTD., PLOT NO.5, SECTOR-6, A video posted on social media DWARKA, NEW DELHI, appeared to show crumpled finder please contact: buildings in Port Vila, including 9811558356 one that had collapsed onto its lower floors and cars parked on the street below

Public Notice It is hereby informed to the General Public that Tarum Sharma Son of my Client Sh. Satendra Sharma, S/o- Sh. Ram Gopal Sharma, R/o- Flat No-B2-102, Uninav Bliss, Opposite AVS City Palace, Raj Nagar Extension, PO-Raj Nagar Extension, Distl-Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201017 who is married and has left his Wife and son with my Client and is living Seprately from my Client, Client and is living Seprately from my Client and used to quarrel with him, due to which my client has broken all relations with his son Tarun Sharma and my client has evicted his son Tarun Sharma from all his Moveable & Immoveable Properties and ended all relations with him. In tuture if anyone will deal or do any kind of transaction with Tarun Sharma, then the person dealing with him will be responsible on his own, my client or his family will not have any responsibility for the same. Vikas Sharma Advocate third Floor, Arjun Marg, DLF Sector-12, Distt. Court Faridabad

REBUILDING BRIDGE WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. 110/W-2/ APDJ Dated: 13-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 35-AP-II-2024 Name of Work: Rebuilding of Br. No.- 12A (1x1.83 M Brick Arch) by 1x2.50 m RCC Box culvert at Km-20/7-8 between Fakiragram Jn.-Golakganj Jn." Tender Value: ₹2,25,27,199.76/-. Earnest Money: ₹2.62.600/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 13.00 hrs. on 08-01-2025 & will be opened at 15.00 hrs. on 08-01-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website www. ireps.gov.in

DRM(W), Alipurduar Jn Serving Custo NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY ers With A Smile

TRACK MAINTENANCE WORK AT KATIHAR DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/52 of 2024 Dated: 11-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 1. Brief Description of work: Track Maintenance work and other ancillary work for the period of 2 years under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Barsoi Jn. Tender Value: ₹5,64,49,141.37/-Earnest Money: ₹4,32,300/-Tender No. 2. Brief Description of work: Track Maintenance work and other ancillary work for the period of 2 years under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Malda Town. Tender Value: ₹9,99.01,736.89/-. Earnest Money: ₹6,49,500/-. Date & Time closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 09-01-2025 & opened at 15.30 hrs. of 09-01-2025. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 09-01-2025 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
 Serving Customers With A Smile

ons of Mr. Chander I person(s), institution(s) biection in respect of the said property sha our address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person(s)/institution(s) shall not be bindir pon the said property or purchaser, Mohd, K Hussain, (Advocate); Mob. 8810391672 an 9871308962; 2E/23, 3rd Floor, Jhandews Extn., New Delhi - 110055.

STATION DEVELOPMENT

WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. 113 /W-2/APDJ

Dated: 13-12-2024. E-Tenders are

invited by the undersigned for the

following works: Tender No. 29-AP

III-2024, Name of Work: At Dalgaor

(DLO) - Development of Goods Yard

Merchant Room, Goods office, Labour

Rest Room, CCTV, Toilets, Water

Dust Proof wall alternative entry

to Goods siding connecting road in

connection with station development

Tender Value: ₹10,46,91,339.56/-

Earnest Money: ₹6,73,500/-. Date

& Time of closing of Tender: 13.00

hrs, of 03-01-2025 & will be opened

at 15.00 hrs. of 03-01-2025 hrs

The complete information with the

tender documents of above e-tender

will be available in the website

Gate to Devipura [bridge under Banb of Champawat ass constituency of dis Champawat, Unde Honorable Chief M announcement no

Sidhi

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Barwani

Indore

Jabalpur

Mandla

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MADHYA PRADESH JAL NIGAM (A Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking) "8" Arera Hills, Bhopal-462004 Ph.: 0755-2579034, 2579874, Fax: 0755-2579873, www.mpjalnigam.mp.gov.in E-mail : mpjalnigam@mp.gov.in, CIN-U41000MP2012SGC028798 NIT No. 23-35/SQC/Proc./MPJNM/2024-25 Bhopal, Dated : 16.12.2024 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Madhya Pradesh Jal Nigam (MPJN) intends to engage Unified Agency for Supervision and Quality Control (SQC) & Third-Party Inspection (TPI) for Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Schemes (MVDWSS) under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Madhya Pradesh on man-month basis through Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method. Bids are invited online through Madhya Pradesh Government E-Procurement Portal. NIT Zone PIU Total Total Duration EMD PAC Document Villages No. (Rs. PAC (months) (Rs. Fee (Rs.) Cr.) (Rs. Lakh) Cr.) Singrauli 696 6.22 23 Rewa 11.37 24 11.37 30,000

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www.ireps.gov.in DRM(W), Alipurduar Jn

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Jabalpur

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY 0 ers With A Sm PUBLIC NOTICE

lotice is hereby given on behalf of Mirs. Archana ain wio late Naresh Chandra (Naresh Chand ain), Ms. Anshul Jain D/o late Naresh Chand ain, Ms. Unnati Jain D/o late Naresh Chand ain and Ms. Varnika Jain D/o late Naresh chand Jain stating/declaring that late Naresh chand Jain was the owner of RESIDENTIAL FLAT ICH-FF-1 FIRST FLOOR FRONT SIDE MIG WTHOUT ROOF RIGHTS PLOT NO. 132/41 AND 32/42, OUT OF KHASRA NO 844MI, SIROH 32/42, OUT OF KHASRA NO 844MI, SIROH 132/42, OUT OF KHASRA NO 844MI, SIROHI ENCLAVE VIRANDAVAN GARDEN VILLAGE PASONDA PARGANA LONI NEAR RAJBAGH METRO STATION TEHSIL & DISTT GHAZIABAD. U.P. vide Sale Deed dated 26.02.2018 bearing document no.1445, Book no.1, Volume no.13321 pages 171 to 214, regd. on 26.02.2018 SRO-Ghaziabad unfortunately Naresh Chand Jain was expired on 22.05.2021 (vide Death Certificate bearing regd. no.MCDOLIF-0221-140046 regd. or 26.05.2021)and during his lifetime he had availed a loan facility from Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited Loan accurn to.11190002682 pan facility from Piramai Capital and Housin finance Limited Loan account no.111900002862 ifter demise of late Naresh Chandra (Naresh Chan iain, Ms. Anshul Jain D/o late Naresh Chan lain, Ms. Unnati Jain D/o late Naresh Chan lain and Ms. Varnika Jain D/o late Naresh Chan lain and Ms. Varnika Jain D/o late Naresh Chand Jain are the only surviving members o tate Naresh Chand (vide Surviving members) tificate dated 09.09.2021 bearing certifica no.2966/2021) and there is no other survivir member of late Naresh Chand Jain. To comp nember of late Naresh Chand Jain. To comply he legal requirements of Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited, we give this public todice that if any Person having any type of latimiright/little/ interest/over the said property may inform in writing, at the address mentionec-ledw, about his objections, within 7 days from oday, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances,lien etc. Lucem Legal LLF Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049,Contact # 011-40046316

Indore Jhabua 539 3.10 6.62 35 24 Ujjain Ujjian 3.52 712 Interested bidders can view/download/purchase the bid document online from M.P Government E-Procurement Portal. Uploading of detailed bid documents of individual RFPs will be up to 24.12.2024. Bidding process dates mentioned as critical dates on M.P. Government E-Procurement Portal will be applicable. Corrigendum/Addendum in NIT, if any, would be published on portal only and not in newspapers. M.P. Government E-Procurement Portal - https://mptenders.gov.in M.P. Madhvam/117830/2024

MANAGING DIRECTOR



money 10

Tata Steel introduces India's first all-women shift at Jharkhand iron mine

PTI JAMSHEDPUR

has ∎ata Steel Vata Steel has operationalised an all-women shift at its Noamundi iron mine in Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, an initiative introduced in the country for the first time, a

company statement said. Women employees were engaged in all the mining activities of the shift, including heavy earth moving machinery, shovel, loader, drill and dozer operators, and shift supervision, it said. "This initiative, the first of its

kind in India, underscores the unwavering company's commitment to creating an equitable workplace and empowering women in traditionally male-dominated industries," the steelmaker said in a statement on Monday.

The all-women shift was flagged off by Mines Safety Deputy Director General (SE Region, Ranchi) Shyam Sundar Prasad on Monday,



marking a new beginning of support of the government in promoting an equitable workplace, it said. Prasad emphasised commitment of government to a progressive

workplace and mentioned that the decision by the Director General of Mines Safety to permit the deployment of women in all



key step in the right direction. He also appreciated Tata Steel's effort in taking the lead the as a responsible corporate house in promoting such a the cause. Tata Steel vice president (raw

material) D B Sundara Ramam said, "This allwomen shift represents a landmark achievement not

only for the company but also for the Indian mining industry. It is a testament to the resilience and capability of women breaking stereotypes. It is also a reflection of our belief that diversity and inclusion are essential for driving innovation and

operational excellence." He said the steelmaker will continue to create more opportunities for women, especially in the mining

'This initiative marks a significant addition to the 100 glorious years of mining at Noamundi," he said. The journey began in 2019

with the launch of Tata Steel's flagship diversity initiative, "Women@Mines", making it the first company in India to deploy women in all shifts at its mines, following the Centre's landmark relaxation of the Mines Act, 1952, the statement said.

The steelmaker had launched initiatives to recruit and train women from local

communities to operate heavy earth-moving machinery and participate in the mining ecosystem. The initiatives were met with

overwhelming enthusiasm and women were deployed across roles such as dumper, shovel, dozer, grader, and drill operators, the company statement said.

They underwent extensive training, including technical and operational skills, simulator sessions, safety protocols, and physical fitness, before joining the workforce in April 2022. Over 2,100 applications were

received by the company and 24 operators were selected, according to the statement. In a groundbreaking move earlier this year, the authorities of the Noamundi

Mine diversified its workforce by inducting nine transgender operators of heavy earth-moving machinery, reinforcing the steelmaker's commitment to inclusion and equality.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari hails food

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday said the food delivery economy is very important for India as it generates large-scale employment.

Addressing Zomato's 'Sustainability and Inclusivity: Role of the Platform Economy' conference, the road transport and highways Minister said that at present India has 77 lakh delivery workers and this number is likely to touch 2.5 crore by 2030. "Giving employment to 2.5 crore youths of this country is Gadkari said that in India, 45 really a big thing for the accidents and 20 deaths take place per hour.

to 45.

The most important priority for all of us is to create jobs," he said.

zomat

country.

The minister also appreciated online food delivery platform Zomato for providing employment to a lot of unemployed youth of the country.

He also expressed concerns about the number of road accidents and said the delivery boys have high chances of meeting accidents as they have to deliver the items in a limited time frame.

non-usage of helmet is 55,000," he said. He further said 10,000 deaths take place due to driving on the wrong side.

The Road accidents can be avoided by providing proper training, the minister said and congratulated Zomato for training 50,000 drivers.

The maximum lives lost are

between the age bracket of 18

'The two-wheeler deaths are

80,000...and deaths due to

Bharti Global's acquisition of 24.5 per cent CBDT launches campaign to intimate taxpayers on Sugar output mismatch in ITR filed and Annual Information Statement stake in BT approved by UK government down 17 per

PTI LONDON

The UK government has approved Bharti Global's acquisition of a 24.5 per cent stake in BT following a detailed national security assessment of the process since the Indian multinational and British telecom major announced the deal back in August.

The Cabinet Office said its decision comes into force on Monday after an assurance that BT would set up a National Security Committee to oversee strategic work.

The order noted that Bharti Televentures UK Limited acquired 24.5 per cent of the issued share capital of BT -9.99 per cent on August 12, 2024, and 14.51 per cent on November 18, 2024. "Following a detailed

national security assessment, the Chancellor of the Duchy supporting

of Lancaster has made a government's domestic and Final Order pursuant to international initiatives in section 26 of the National the Security and Investment Act sector; ensuring the UK's cyber security; and acting as 2021, which comes into force on 16 December 2024," the a strategic supplier of services to many parts of the Cabinet Office said in a statement. "The Acquisition UK government, including services which are in support is a trigger event under section 8(8) of the Act. The of UK national security. Chancellor of the Duchy of Back in August, Chairman Lancaster has approved the Acquisition, on the basis that Sunil Bharti Mittal had described his company's BT will establish a National investment in an "iconic" Security Committee within British company as a "significant milestone" for BT to oversee strategic work that BT performs which has Bharti Enterprises. The group said it hopes the an impact on or is in respect of the national security of investment will further help the United Kingdom," it said. create new synergies in the The Chancellor of the Duchy telecom sector between India and the UK in the of Lancaster, which refers to areas of artificial intelligence Cabinet Office Minister Pat (AI) and 5G R&D and core McFadden, stated that the final order is "necessary and engineering among others, proportionate" as it mitigates "offering great potential to the risk to national security collaborate on industry best practices and emerging technologies". in relation to BT's role in

the

UK

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The income tax department on Tuesday said it is telecommunications sending SMS and emails to taxpayers and non-filers where it has identified mismatch between transactions reported in Annual Information Statement (AIS) and income disclosed in ITRs for the financial years 2023-24 and 2021-22.

In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it has launched an electronic campaign to assist taxpayers in resolving mismatches between the income and transactions reported in the AIS and those disclosed in Income Tax Returns (ITRs) for the financial years 2023-24 and 2021-22.

This campaign also targets individuals who have taxable income or significant high-



value transactions reported in their AIS but have not filed ITRs for the respective years. The initiative is part of the implementation of the e-

Verification Scheme, 2021. As part of this campaign, informational messages have been sent via SMS and email to taxpayers and non-filers where mismatches have been

and ITRs filed. Information Annual Statement (AIS) is comprehensive view of information for a taxpayer.

Taxpayers can access AIS on the income tax department portal and provide feedback on information displayed in AIS. AIS shows both reported value and modified value (i.E. Value after considering

The CBDT said that the purpose of this campaign is to remind and guide individuals who may not have fully disclosed their income in their ITRs to take this opportunity to file revised or belated ITRs for FY 2023-24, the last date of which is

For cases pertaining to FY 2021-22, taxpayers can file updated ITRs by the limitation date of March 31, 2025.

Taxpayers can also provide their feedback, including disagreeing with the information reported in the AIS, through the AIS portal accessible via the e-filing website.

Last month, the CBDT launched a campaign under which messages were sent to taxpayers who have not disclosed high-value foreign income or assets in their ITRs for AY 2024-25.

These messages were intended for individuals identified through information received under bilateral and multilateral agreements, suggesting that they may hold foreign accounts or assets, or have received income from foreign

start of factories PTI 📕 NEW DELHI Cugar production declined 17 Oper cent to 61.39 lakh tonnes till December 15 of the current marketing year that

cent due to late

started in October, mainly due to fall in output in Maharashtra, according to industry body ISMA.

The production data excludes the diversion of sugar towards ethanol.

Sugar production December 15, 2024, in the current 2024-25 marketing vear (October-September) reached 61.39 lakh tonnes as against 74.05 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of the preceding year, Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) said in a statement. Notably, this year sugar factories in Karnataka started late by around 7-12 days while in another major state Maharashtra, mills started

Sebi mulls service platform for tracking inactive, unclaimed mutual fund folios

PTI NEW DELHI



folios and contribute redemption/transfer. towards building transparent

a Due to the non-availability The platform can be hosted Recovery (DR). cial of PAN, email ID or valid jointly by the two Qualified The regulator

folios at an industry level".

inactive folios as those folios where the investor might have remained invested in an open-ended scheme and has either chosen not to redeem or simply might have lost track of the investment. Although, there is no consequence for those folios appearing in the platform where the unitholder is aware of the investment and has chosen to remain invested.

(BCP) and

iurisdictions.

Disaster

identified between transactions reported in AIS

taxpayer feedback).

December 31.

IVIon Tuesday proposed developing a service platform for investors to trace inactive and unclaimed mutual fund (MF) folios.

The proposed service platform called Mutual Fund Investment Tracing Retrieval Assistant and (MITR)would be developed by the Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs), Sebi said in its consultation

paper. The proposed platform would encourage investors to search for forgotten MF investments, update KYC as per the current norms and



incorporate safeguards to Additionally, it would lead reduce the risk of Fraudulent to reduction redemptions. unclaimed mutual

ecosystem.

The regulator noted that over a number of years, mutual fund investors sometimes lose track of their investments considering investments might have been made in physical form with bare minimum KYC details. The investments in openended growth option mutual fund schemes may ended remain invested perpetually until and unless the investor/his nominee/legal approaches heir the concerned asset management (AMC) company for

address, it is also possible that these MF folios may not appear in the unitholder's Consolidated Account

Statement. Thus, inactivity in mutual fund folios could be on account of investors losing track of their investment, demise and such inactive folios may become susceptible to fraudulent redemptions. To address the concern, Sebi said, "The service platform is proposed to be developed by the RTAs to provide investors with a searchable database of inactive and/or unclaimed mutual fund

by the two Qualified RTAs ComputerAge Management Services Ltd (CAMS) and KFin Technologies Ltd as agents of AMCs - and can be available through a link on the website of MF Central, AMCs, AMFI, the two QRTAs and Sebi.

The QRTAs should be and severally jointly responsible for compliance with all the applicable regulations, including system audit and cyber security audit.

Further, they should ensure that the platform complies with the guidelines for Business Continuity Plan

Securities The and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has sought public comments on the proposal till January 7.

Parliamentary panel urges government to

recommends

enhance

security.

The

implement legally binding MSP for farmers

that

Department of Agriculture

and Farmers Welfare declare a

roadmap for implementing

MSP as a legal guarantee at

the earliest," the report stated.

Currently, the government fixes MSP for 23 commodities

based on the Commission for

Agricultural Costs and Prices

The panel argued that a legally binding MSP would

not only safeguard farmers'

livelihoods but also promote

rural economic growth and

committee's

recommendations include:

implementing a robust MSP

system to mitigate farmer

suicides, providing compensation to farmers for

national

(CACP) recommendations.

the

food

key

As per the data, sugar production in Uttar Pradesh increased to 23.04 lakh tonnes from 22.11 lakh tonnes. In Maharashtra, the output declined 16.78 lakh tonnes from 24.45 lakh

tonnes. Karnataka saw a decline in sugar production to 13.85 lakh tonnes from 17.56 lakh tonnes. ISMA said that "this year

late bv 15

compared to last year.

sugar diversion towards ethanol is estimated to be higher at around 40 lakh tonnes against around 21.5 lakh tonnes diverted last vear'

Gold jewellery consumption to grow 14-18 per cent in FY25 in value terms: Report

PTI MUMBAI

The domestic gold jewellery consumption in value terms is expected to continue its growth momentum in the current financial year and is likely to witness an on-year rise of 14-18 per cent, a report said on Tuesday. Rating agency Icra in a report said in FY25, gold jewellery consumption growth is pegged at 14-18 per cent in value terms, led

by favourable realisations. In 2023-24, gold jewellery consumption growth had witnessed a growth of 18 per cent in 2023-24, primarily driven by realisations even as volume growth was subdued. According to the report, while gold prices were improving volatile, consumer sentiments and festive-led demand aided consumption growth in the recent months

Moreover, a sharp 900 bps cut in import duty in the Union Budget in July 2024, and consequent correction in gold prices for a brief period led to some pre-buying of jewellery as well as

which is generally a seasonally weak quarter, it said.

This, coupled with higher number of auspicious and wedding days, and favourable monsoons aiding better rural output, is likely to help jewellery demand growth in H2 FY25, it added. 'The organised market is projected to record a healthy YoY expansion of 18-20 per cent in FY25. Planned store additions with focus on tier II and III cities, rising gold prices, shift in preferences towards branded jewellery and some likely pre-buying in the fourth quarter of FY25 on account of higher number of auspicious days in the first quarter of FY26 shall drive

growth. The customs duty cut is also expected to disincentive unofficial imports, thus supporting the growth in organised trade," Icra Vice President and Sector Head -Corporate Ratings, Sujoy Saha said. Revenue growth

bars and coins during the realisations with gold prices second quarter of FY25, rising by 14 per cent YoY, the rising by 14 per cent YoY, the report said, adding that the same trend is expected to

in

the

fund

continue this fiscal as well. So far in the current fiscal, the average gold price has risen by a sharp 25 per cent. There were occasional corrections in prices, once after the cut in customs duty in late July 2024 and then in November 2024, following the US elections and currency movements. The continuing uptick in the

gold prices for the last seven quarters has been stimulated by the evolving global economic and geopolitical scenario, and rising investment demand for gold, anď it said.

On the supply side, organised jewellers are expected to add 16-18 per On organised cent to their existing retail network in FY25, said the report. Most large jewellers are opting for the franchise model to expand into new markets given the twin benefits of low capital expenditure and knowledge for organised jewellery in of the local market with the FY24 had been supported by franchisee-partner, it stated.

Reliance NU Suntech wins 930 megawatt solar project, 465 megawatt battery storage deal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Reliance Power on Tuesday Said its arm Reliance NU Suntech has secured a solar project of 930 MW and 465 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) project from Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The project will see the second largest deployment of grid storage batteries at a single site in Asia, ofter China a company after China, a company statement said. According to the statement, Reliance Power subsidiary, Reliance NU Suntech Private Ltd (Reliance NU Suntech) received a Letter of Award from SECI for its proposed Solar 930 MW and 465 MW/1860 MWh BESS projects.

The competitive tariff with an assured supply of peak power for 4 hours daily will be a relief for DISCOMs that have had to consistently buy power from the power exchanges during peak hours at the cap of Rs 10 per unit. Reliance NU Suntech won the 930 MW solar energy contract in an e-reverse auction held on December 9,

2024. As per the terms of the tender, Reliance NU Suntech will also install a minimum

storage capacity of 465 MW/1,860 MWh charged by solar power. The company, among India's leading power generators, secured the largest individual allocation out of the five companies vying for a total quoted capacity of 2,000 MW of Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) connected solar power projects with 1,000 MW/4,000 connected MWh energy storage systems. SECI will enter into a power purchase agreement with Reliance NU Suntech for 25 years and the solar power procured will be sold to multiple discoms in India. Reliance NU Suntech will develop the project on a buildown-operate basis. Reliance Power Limited, part of the Reliance Group, is one of India's leading private sector power generation companies. The company has an operating portfolio of 5,300 MW, which includes 3,960 MW Sasan Power Ltd - the world's largest

integrated coal-based power

plant).



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Agriculture, Animal headed b Husbandry Processing, headed by Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi, submitted comprehensive report to Parliament highlighting the potential benefits of a legally

managing establishing crop residue National Commission for Minimum Living Wages for Farm Labourers, introducing a debt waiver scheme for farmers and farm labourers, and renaming the agriculture department to include farm labourers.

The committee emphasized that assured income through MSP would encourage farmers to invest in agricultural practices, potentially increasing productivity and sustainability

The panel also suggested the government provide statement in Parliament after each crop season, detailing the number of farmers selling produce at MSP and the gap between MSP and market prices.

It may be noted that a legal guarantee of MSP for agricultural produce was one of the key demands of protesting farmers in 2021 that forced the government to withdraw three farm laws and set up a committee on MSP to look into the matter.

Aparliamentary panel on Tuesday recommended the government implement a legally binding minimum support price (MSP) for agricultural produce, arguing that such a measure could significantly reduce farmer suicides and provide crucial financial stability. The Standing Committee on

guaranteed MSP. "The committee strongly



sports 11

Spain drawn with Italy, Belgium and Portugal in Euro 2025 group

AP LAUSANNE

women's soccer titles at the 2025 European Championship after drawing a group with Italy, Belgium and Portugal.

A European title would complete the set for Spain women after winning the inaugural UEFA Nations League in February for coach Montse Tomé, who took over when the team and federation was in turmoil after the 2023 world title win in Sydney. Tomé is the only female coach in Spain's Euro 2025

group. Euro 2025 host Switzerland will open the 16-nation tournament against Norway on July 2 in Basel. The group also includes Iceland and Finland.

The past two European champions, titleholder

England and Euro 2017 winner the Netherlands, landed in a strong group with top-seeded France and Wales. France and England reunite next July 5 in Zurich after coming through the same qualifying group, in which they traded away wins in a five-day spell and France finished on top of the

standings. "We had some beautiful matches in May and June. It's very good challenge, а coach France Laurent Bonadei said.

Germany, the record eighttime European champion, was drawn with Denmark, Poland and Sweden, the inaugural winner in 1984. Basel's St. Jakob Park stadium also will host the final on July

27. More than 700,000 tickets are publicly available for the 31 games being hosted in eight Swiss cities. has the Switzerland responsibility to continue the



momentum in European women's soccer after three successful major tournaments.

France hosted the 2019 Women's World Cup, won by the United States; host the United States; host England won the Euro 2022 final against Germany watched by more than 87,000 fans at Wembley Stadium; and Spain and England played for the 2023 world title at the first 32-team tournament, hosted by Australia and New Zealand. 'For me it is the perfect moment for this tournament to come here," said retired Swiss great Lara Dickenmann, a two-time Champions League winner with Lyon.

"It will be a game-changer for us," Dickenmann told The Associated Press. "It's going to be really important for the Swiss population but also for the Swiss media, Swiss politics, on any level that takes part in football." Switzerland will start against Norway - which lost the 2023 World Cup opening game against New Zealand one month after the same teams meet in a Nations League group that also includes Iceland.

Switzerland coach Pia Sundhage said she aimed to Pia field her best team in what will be a final competitive warmup for Euro 2025.

"Confidence can take any team anywhere," said Sundhage, the Swedish veteran who led the U.S. To back-to-back Olympic titles in 2008 and 2012.

England coach Sarina Wiegman has won the past two Euros titles, after leading her native Netherlands to the 2017 title, and suggested it will be an open and exciting tournament in Switzerland. "It's not just three or four countries" who can win, Wiegman said.

FIFA set to announce its top players in men's Americans now paid to play in Ryder Cup and women's soccer in 'The Best' awards The Presidents Cup changed from players choosing a charity to players and captains getting \$250,000 without

AP DOHA

Real Madrid star Vinícius Júnior is about to find out if he'll be finally getting his hands on a big global player award.

FIFA's "The Best" awards take place on Tuesday, when the top men's and women's soccer players of 2024 will be announced based on voting by fans, the current captains and coaches of all national teams, and media representatives. It is FIFA's version of the older and more prestigious Ballon d'Or prize. Vinícius is on an 11-player shortlist for the best men's player, having been so disappointed to lose out to Manchester City midfielder Rodri for the Ballon d'Or in October that he and his Madrid team snubbed the ceremony in Paris in protest. The FIFA ceremony starts at



1700 GMT in Doha, where Haaland. Barcelona playmaker Aitana Madrid and Vinicius traveled Bonmati won the best women's player for 2023 and Monday for the on Intercontinental Cup final against Pachuca. is seeking back-to-back FIFA Rodri is also on the shortlist, prizes as one of four Spain along with Kylian Mbappé players on the 16-woman and Lionel Messi — last year's shortlist. winner of the FIFA prize on a Bonmati has won the Ballon Erling tiebreaker over d'Or for two straight years,

and won the Spanish league, Spanish cup and Champions League with Barcelona in 2024

The contenders have been selected based on their performances from Aug. 21, 2023, to Aug. 10. 2024.

FIFA said the award winners have been decided by an "equally weighted voting system" between fans, the captains and coaches, and the media. The best men's and women's

coaches and the best men's and women's goalkeepers will also be announced, along with the best men's and women's 11s and the Marta and Puskás Awards for the best goals in women's and men's soccer, respectively.

Among those attending the gala dinner at the Aspire Academy in Doha will be FIFA President Gianni FIFA

AP WASHINGTON

A mericans will be paid to play in the Ryder Cup for the first time under a new PGA of America program that gives them a \$200,000 stipend and \$300,000 for them to distribute to charity.

The \$500,000 directed to each of the 12 players and the captain is an increase from the \$200,000 — strictly for charity - that began when the paywould be separate from what

for-play issue first arose in players get for expenses. The PGA of America board 1999 ahead of the Brookline matches.

said in a text he would be giving his entire allocation to charity.

have a say in where the money goes. It's recognition for all the players have done for the Ryder Cup over the years," President Don Rea said in a letter to past Ryder Cup

the Ryder Cup? captains, noting the stipend appreciation That

rescue a

the Premier League.



and present, are responsible for the Ryder Cup becoming the most special competition includes direct payment for in golf and one of the most intheir services, a change not demand events on the international sports scene," the only in the amount but 40% of it without stipulation where it

The original deal in 1999 was \$200,000 for each player, with half of that going to a college golf program and the other half to a charity of the player's choice. For the Rome matches in 2023, the entire \$200,000 went to whatever charity or foundation the players chose. Rea noted in his letter to past Ryder Cup captains that it was similar to what the PGA Tour players' choice. The balance is does for the Presidents Cup. a stipend.

PGA said. 'While no players asked to be compensated, the PGA of America Board of Directors has voted to increase the allocation to the members of the U.S. Ryder Cup team from \$200,000 to be directed to charities figure а unchanged since 1999 — to \$500,000, with \$300,000 of that to be directed to the charity or charities of the

"The players and captains, past

Rohan Jaitley re-elected as DDCA president



Ashok Sharma (893) became the secretary, while Harish Singla (1328) was elected for the treasurer's post and Amit Grover (1189) won the joint secretary position. All office-bearers are elected for a three-year term. Verma (985) Anand

Infantino

HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE

West Ham share points with Bournemouth after late drama on England's south coast

AP BOURNEMOUTH

 $E_{\mathrm{free}}^{\mathrm{nes}\ \mathrm{\ddot{U}nal}\ \mathrm{scored}\ \mathrm{a}\ \mathrm{superb}}$ in the last norm

Bournemouth in a 1-1 home draw against West Ham in

point

the

what the players are doing for

payment

now

for



met in person last week and U.S. Captain Keegan Bradley approved scheme. 'We've had so many meetings for a long time and it hasn't "We added the \$200,000 gone up since 1999. We're talking 25 years that it's been at \$200,000," Rea said in a telephone interview, adding stipend out of respect for the players ... So the players could

that \$500,000 "seemed like the right place to land." 'Everyone is appreciative of

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Incumbent Rohan Jaitley defeated **L**comfortably former India cricketer and Lok Sabha MP Kirti Azad to be elected as the President of the Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) for a third successive term. The 35-year-old Rohan, son of former Union Minister late Arun Jaitley, secured 1,577 votes compared to Azad's 777 in the race to the top position, which comes with a three-year term. His father had served as DDCA president for 14 years.

As many as 2,413 votes were cast from among the 3748 members, and 1,207 votes

In 2020, Rohan was elected unopposed after Rajat year run. Rohan had the backing of former BCCI acting

were required to win.

Sharma resigned midway during his term. A year later, he defeated advocate Vikas Singh to claim a full three-

president CK Khanna, who is considered an influential figure in Delhi cricket as he controls more than 1,000 votes. Khanna's daughter Shikha

(1,246 Rakesh Kumar votes), Kumar defeated Bansal (536) and Sudhir Kumar Agarwal (498) to claim the vice-president's post

Anand Verma (985), Manjit Singh (1050), Navdeep M (1034), Shyam Sharma (1165), Tushar Saigal (926), Vikas Katyal (1054), Vikram Kohli (939) claimed the directors' post, which goes to polls avery wear polls every year. A member of the 1983 World

Cup-winning team Azad, who represents Bardhaman-Durgapur constituency for the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress party, had alleged corruption in the DDCA in the run up to the polls.

He had alleged that the DDCA spent as much Rs 17.5 installing crore on floodlights when the much bigger Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad did the same for Rs 7.5 crore. He had also accused the incumbent DDCA administration of spending

only a fraction of the approximately Rs 140 crore it received from the BCCI in the last financial year.

Hockey India League announces free entry for matches in Rourkela and Ranchi

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Hockey India on Tuesday fans for both men's and women's matches of the Hockey India League to be played at Rourkela and Ranchi.

The eight-team men's HIL in a new format will start on December 28 at Rourkela's Birsa Munda Stadium and will conclude on February 1, 2025. The women's edition comprising four teams will be held at Ranchi's Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Astro Turf Stadium from January 12-26.

Additionally, HI said select

matches of both men's and women's categories will be held at alternate venues to "expand the league's reach".

"By foregoing revenue from ticket sales, Hockey India aims to build a stronger connection between the sport and its passionate supporters, encouraging more people to experience the thrill of live hockey," HI said in a media

release. HIL governing committee chairman Dilip Tirkey said, "By offering free tickets, we are ensuring that everyone, regardless of financial status, has the opportunity to experience live hockey at its best."

Both sides struggled to break down their opponent and goalkeepers made timely saves at each end. But in the 87th minute, just when it looked like a 0-0

draw was on the cards, West Ham took the lead thanks to a VAR-assisted penalty.

After a video review, referee Chris Kavanagh adjudged the ball to have struck Tyler Adams' hand and Lucas Paqueta made no mistake from 12 meters.

That would have been hard on Bournemouth, which enjoyed the better of the second half but came up against the man of the match in West Ham goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski. But in the 90th minute, Ünal curled a free kick into the top corner to give the Cherries a deserved share of the points.

"Credit to him, big moment, especially the reaction as well, I thought the boys were Bournemouth brilliant," forward Ryan Christie told broadcaster Sky. "And it was a moment of magic to get us level."

There will be debate over the penalty decision and Christie lamented what he said was inconsistent decisionmaking from officials.

"I thought it was harsh," Christie said. "I know his Bournemouth climbed into sixth place, just two points hand is high but he's so close behind Manchester City, to the ball. We didn't get one while West Ham was 14th.

A year of chaos and heartbreaks for Indian wrestling but not without hope for future

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

In an ideal world, politics and sport are not meant to be mixed. But then the world of Indian wrestling was far from ideal in 2024 with Vinesh Phogat's Olympic dejection and the neverending administrative chaos pulling down a once

flourishing sport. From the time when Wrestling Federation of India elections were held, exactly a year back, to the recent National Championships in Benglauru, Indian wrestling has seemed like a rudderless ship.

Not too long ago, wrestling had developed into a sport that promised unprecedented Olympic success but cut to Paris 2024, Aman Sehrawat's bronze medal was what saved the delegation the blushes

after Phogat's seemingly destined gold slipped through her grasp due to a cruel twist of fate.

She was, for better or for worse, the most intriguing story of Indian wrestling this vear.

She punished herself to fight in a lower weight category after her preferred class was already booked for the Olympics, downed the then unbeaten Japanese legend Yui Susaki in her opening round in Paris and then ended up disqualified for being 100gm overweight on the morning of the final.

A day later, she gave up on her sporting career, declaring that the fight had left her. She wasn't done though. Following an emotionally overwhelming homecoming which included a custom-made gold medal from that their fight against alleged

Haryana's khap panchayats, Phogat joined the Congress fought the state party, elections and assembly managed to become an MLA in her maiden electoral outing

from Julana constituency. She wasn't the only one in her fraternity who decided on politics as future.

Bajrang Punia too joined the Congress but he did not get the same returns as Phogat. His position was that of a Kisan morcha head and his wrestling career was left stalled after coping a fouryear ban for failure to submit dope samples during training camps. This was after he

failed to qualify for Paris, a new low in the career of the celebrated grappler, who fetched a bronze in the Tokyo



sexual harassment of women wrestlers by former WFI head Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh was an apolitical one. But their fellow protestor and Rio Olympics bronze-winner Sakshi Malik sought to dispute that soon after they

to allege in her book that the the duo's "greed" punctured their protest against Sharan Singh

Next generation affected by chaos The likes of Anshu Malik and

Antim Panghal, who were joined congress.She went on touted as the next big thing in September.

Indian wrestling, cut a sorry figure in Paris but Aman carried forward the rich legacy of the Chhatrasal stadium by winning the men's freestyle 57kg bronze.

It was a category which 2020 Tokyo Games silver-medallist Ravi Dahiya made his own. But Dahiya vanished from the scene due to spate of injuries that affected his form.

The Tokyo campaign, which yielded two medals in wrestling, should have been the catalyst for better infrastructure and coaching for Indian wrestler. However, the developments in the last 24 months have prevented growth.

The potential is still there and the biggest example was Indian U17 women team's world championship victory in Amman, Jordan in

The country had been aiming for a podium finish for long and the dream finally materialised this year. Out of 10 possible medals, India won eight medals, including five

gold medal and one silver. Finishing ahead 01 powerhouse Japan and impressive Kazakhstan is no mean feat.

the unending However, litigations have tied the hands of WFI which is now struggling to carry out day to day affairs of the body. The team led by Sanjay Singh, that won the elections, stands suspended by the Sports Ministry.

The ground of suspension is announcing Nationals without following a 15-day notice period in December 2023. But the fact remains that if WFI had followed the notice period, wrestlers would have lost a crucial year because by the time the 15day period would have completed, year 2024 would have started.

from a similar scenario.

to get a point in the end."

"It's a bit frustrating because

we dominated. But it's good

The comeback was another example of Bournemouth's

late resilience. The south

coast side has picked up nine

points from losing positions

this season, better than everyone bar Aston Villa and

Manchester City.

WFI was forced to withdraw the team from the senior World Championship owing to pending litigation by Sakshi and and her wrestler husband Satyawart Kadian.

Eventually after government's intervention a team was finally sent.

No proper coaching camp has been organised in the last two years, the efforts to revive the Pro Wrestling League are on hold, grants and sponsorships have stopped, no foreign/personal coaches have been engaged and there is no planning to take the sport forward. If the situation could be summed up in a line, Indian wrestling is stagnant for now.



Rahul, Jadeja fifties help India avoid follow-on in Brisbane Test

PTI BRISBANE

L Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja were determination personified as their fighting fifties helped India avoid the follow-on on the fourth day of the weather-hit third Test against a menacing Australia that seems meandering towards a draw.

Jadeja (77, 123b, 7x4, 1x6) and Rahul (84, 139, 8x4) were the heavy-lifters in India's 252 for nine when bad light forced a early close to the day.

Jasprit Bumrah (10) and Akash Deep (27), who showed appreciable gumption, are holding the fort for India.

The visitors trail Aussies by 193 runs. But they wouldn't mind that one bit as Australia will now have to bat again and forcing a result in three sessions looks an improbable target, considering the Brisbane weather pattern. The city is bracing up for rain and

a thunderstorm or two on Wednesday.

and No. 11 Akash Deep for knocking down the 33 runs required to go past the follow-on mark of 246.

The much-awaited moment came when Akash crunched Pat Cummins over gully for a boundary.

When these two joined forces, India were reeling at 213 for 9 after Jadeja was dismissed off a Cummins' snorter.

But while resuming from a waferthin overnight score of 51 for four, India needed someone to offer fight, and Rahul, India's standout batter in this series so far, did precisely that.

displayed admirable Rahul technical nous to withstand the stern test posed by the Australian bowlers to take the game deep into the day. A nine toes down Rahul and an

equally feisty Jadeja added 67 runs for the sixth wicket, and it was the first sign of India's fight. There was a moment of massive

fortune too for Rahul when Smith A quick word of appreciation is spilled a regulation catch at also required for No. 10 Bumrah second slip off the first ball of the



day from Cummins. Rahul was on 33 then. A quick

hilt, notching his 17th Test fifty.

reprieve, which he exploited to the class apart from the rest of his colleagues.

look upwards and a silent prayer Once he woke up from a bit of The Aussies employed three slips showed how much he valued that morning haziness, Rahul looked a and a gully, leaving the vast

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expanse of the ground to play his favourite shot -- drive through the cover or in front of the point.

It was a dangerous proposition as there was enough movement and bounce for the Aussie pacers. But Rahul was prudent enough to see through that ruse. He did not bring out that shot until the bowlers pitched the ball well up in his driving arc.

The Bengaluru man's sagacity shone in how he defended too --all soft hands and playing close to the body. Cummins tested him with that

fifth stump line outside off, but Rahul either left the ball wisely or merely tucked his bat behind his pads. However, remarkable

redemption catch by Smith at slip off Nathan Lyon ended his stay. But Jadeja carried on and he added 53 runs for the seventh wicket with Nitish Reddy to keep India afloat.

The 36-year-old scored a good chunk of runs either down the ground or square of the wicket, enabling him to collect runs

without the risk of getting caught behind or in the cordon.

sports 12

Jadeja brought up his 22nd fifty in Test cricket off 89 balls and the innings was also dotted with sweep shots that he effectively employed against off-spinner Lyon.

Nitish should also be patted for giving some solid company to Jadeja as batting for time was more important than the volume of runs considering the weather situation in this Test.

However, a slice of misfortune ended Nitish's stay as he dragged Cummins' climbing delivery back onto his stumps. Jadeja also soon departed while trying to farm the strike with Bumrah.

He looked to smash Cummins' rising delivery out of the ground but Mitchell Marsh settled nicely under the ball to give a heap of fraved nerves to Indian fans.

But Bumrah and Akash added 39 runs to put the smiles back on their faces, as Aussies dearly missed the metronomical Josh

Hazlewood, who was ruled out of the series with a calf injury.

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Mandhana moves to top three in both ODI and T20I rankings

PTI DUBAI

India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has surged three places to second in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings while climbing one spot to third among T20I batters, following her stellar displays against Australia and the West Indies.

The left-hander struck 105 in the final match of the series against Australia in Perth and 54 in the first game of the ongoing T20I rubber against the West Indies in Mumbai to headline the latest rankings update released here on Tuesday.

Mandhana is the lone Indian batter in the top 10 as her skipper Harmanpreet Kaur moved down two spots to 13th while Jemimah Rodrigues climbed six places to 15th and Harleen Deol moved up nine rungs to

64th Among bowlers, Deepti list. Sutherland is in the top 20 Others to move up in this list Marizanne Kapp, who has Sharma has slipped two spots of the bowling rankings.

to five. India seam bowler Arundhati Reddy has shot up 48 places to 51st after a haul of four for 26 while Renuka Thakur has moved up from 28th to joint 26th. England opener Tammy

Beaumont advanced two places to 11th after an unbeaten 65 helped clinch the South Africa series 2-1. Ashleigh Gardner has moved

up one place to 16th with a 50 in Perth, Tahlia McGrath has progressed from 32nd to 24th with an unbeaten 56, and Annabell Sutherland is up 15 places to 29th after a matchwinning 110.

Gardner is also up two places to a career-best-equalling third position in the bowling rankings with a haul of five for 30 and has moved up from fourth to second in the all-rounders'

include South Africa's gained two slots to reach fourth IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

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position after a haul of three for 24, and the England trio of seventh), Nat Sciver Brunt (up Bell (up four places to 21st)

	bate material photocol				
	Loan Account Number	Customer Name	Branch Name		
	123876054	ANITA DEVI BHASKAR	KHARSIA RURAL		

Auction will be conducted online through https://egold.auctiontiger.net on 27/12/2024 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm By way of this publication the concerned borrower are hereby given final notice and last opportunity to pay the facility recalled amount, with all interest and charges before the schedule auction date failing which the jewellery will be auctioned. Please note that, if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to time limit the bank will re auction the pledged gold ornaments within next 7 days on the same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to his legal heirs. Date:18.12.2024 Place:CHHATTISGARH







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