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Sensex sinks below 80k



PTI ■ MUMBAI

quity benchmark Sensex on Thursday plunged about 965 points to crash below the 80,000 level due to heavy quity benchmark Sensex on selling in global equities after the US Federal Reserve signalled fewer rate cuts next year.

Besides, deep losses in consumer durables, banking and IT stocks amid foreign fund outflows added to the gloom, analysts said. Falling for the fourth day running, the 30-share BSÉ benchmark Sensex tanked 964.15 points or 1.20 per cent to settle at 79,218.05. During the day, the blue-chip index cracked 1,162.12 points or 1.44 per cent to 79,020.08.

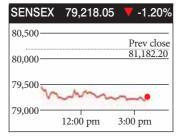
As many as 2,315 stocks declined while 1,680 advanced and 100 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty tumbled 247.15 points or 1.02 per cent to sink

below the 24,000 mark at 23,951.70. In the past four days, the BSE benchmark tanked 2,915.07 points or 3.54 per cent and the Nifty declined 816.6 points or 3.29 per cent.

"The Indian market saw a widespread decline following a global sell-off driven by the US Fed's hawkish stance on interest rates. Sectors sensitive to interest rates, such as banking and real estate, significantly bore the

"However, the BoJ's decision to keep its interest rate steady, which surprised economists, aided in reducing the selling pressure. Despite this, investor caution persisted amid ongoing FII selling, with a strategic shift towards defensive sectors like pharma as evidenced by their outperformance," Vinod Nair, Geojit Head of Research, Financial Services, said.

MARKETS



From the 30 blue-chip pack, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, JSW Steel, Finance, Asian Paints, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors and Infosys, Mahindra & Mahindra were the biggest laggards.On the other hand, Sun Pharma, Power Grid and Hindustan Unilever were the gainers. "Markets

were plundered,

tracking negative global cues as benchmark indices slipped below their psychological levels on broad-based selling after the US Fed's hawkish stance raised concerns over further rate cuts next year. Rising US bond yields have pushed global currencies, including the rupee to new lows, while renewed foreign fund outflows from domestic equities could prompt investors to turn risk averse," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd,

The rupee dropped 14 paise and breached the crucial 85 level to close at an all-time low of 85.08 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday. The BSE midcap gauge declined 0.30 per cent and smallcap index dipped 0.28 per cent 0.28 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, BSE Focused IT tanked 1.20 per cent, consumer durables (1.15 per cent), IT (1.13 per cent), capital goods (1.07 per cent), teck (1.05 per cent) and financial services (1.05 per cent). BSE Healthcare emerged as the only gainer.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.European markets were trading in the negative territory. Wall Street ended sharply lower Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,316.81 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data. Global oil benchmark Brent

crude dipped 0.08 per cent to USD 73.33 a barrel. The BSE benchmark Sensex tumbled 502.25 points or 0.62 per cent to settle at 80,182.20, taking its downtrend to the third day on Wednesday. The Nifty declined 137.15 points or 0.56 per cent to



Uttar Pradesh, Haryana Govts must impose complete ban on firecrackers: SC

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Governments to impose a complete ban on firecrackers until furtĥer orders. The Delhi Government has also imposed a round-the-year ban on firecrackers in the National Capital.

The SC has also ordered the states falling in the National Capital Region (NCR) to constitute teams of various officials to ensure strict compliance with the anti-pollution measures under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

the hearing, Senior Shadaan Farasat, During Shadaan advocate appearing for the Government, conveyed this to a Bench of Justices AS Oka and AG Masih hearing the question of air pollution in the National Capital. He emphasised that for this measure to be effective, neighbouring NCR states must adopt similar bans, as firecrackers could still be brought into Delhi from those states.

'We are of the view that this ban will be effective only when other states forming part of the NCR region impose similar measures. Even the state of Rajasthan has WEATHER



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23°C (+1)

imposed a similar ban in that part of State of Rajasthan which falls in NCR regions. For the time being we direct the states of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to impose a similar ban which is imposed by the state of Delhi", the Bench said. The Bench was informed that while

Haryana had permitted the use of green crackers, Rajasthan had imposed a complete ban on firecrackers in the areas falling within the NCR. The Bench further stated that such a ban would be effective only if other NCR states imposed similar restrictions. The matter has been listed for further hearing on January 15, 2025, to consider additional directions on the firecracker ban.

The Supreme Court had earlier expressed concerns over inadequate enforcement of firecracker bans in Delhi-NCR. On December 12, the Supreme Court directed the Delhi Government and immediate effect." NCR states to decide on a complete

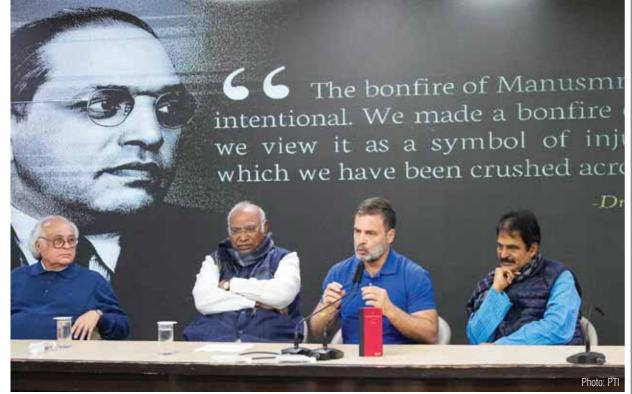
year-round ban on firecrackers, including their manufacture, storage, sale, distribution, and use. 'We direct NCR states to constitute the teams of members of police, revenue officials to monitor the implementation of GRAP IV measures. We say this that the members so created in this team will work as officers of this court. They will regularly submit reports of compliance and breaches to CAQM [Commission for Air Quality Management] so that immediate action be taken by all concerned," it directed.

The Bench was hearing the case concerning the Delhi air pollution crisis. The Court has been monitoring action taken by authorities in the adjoining States to curb stubble-burning incidents, among other things.

Meanwhile, in a notification issued by the Delhi government's environment department on Thursday,"There shall be a complete ban on manufacturing, storage, selling (including delivery through online platforms) and bursting of all kinds of fire crackers in NCT of Delhi throughout the

Continued on page 2

"Will run a nationwide movement on Ambedkar issue"



Congress on Thursday accused the BJP of diverting attention from the issue of Home Minister Amit Shah's "insult" to BR Ambedkar and said Shah must resign and apologise for his remarks. Addressing a joint Press conference at the AICC headquarters, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi condemned Shah's remarks on Ambedkar and said they would continue to protest across the country.

"The BJP wants to divert attention from on Ambedkar. Kharge said they will run Shah's remarks on Ambedkar and that is why they are raising other issues," Kharge stated. He said they (Congress leaders) were only demanding the resignation of Home Minister Shah and were protesting "in support of our demands, but the BJP MPs blocked us from entering

Parliament". "They pushed me, I lost my balance and sat down," the Congress chief said, adding that he condemns Shah's remarks

a nationwide movement on Ambedkar

Rahul said the Bharatiya Janata Party-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh thinking is "anti-Constitution" and "anti-Ambedkar". "The BJP is indulging in distraction. We want the apology and resignation of home minister over his remarks on Ambedkar," Gandhi said, adding that they would continue to raise their demand and the Adani issue.

"Will physical strength be used in Parliament?"



Accusing Rahul Gandhi of "pushing and shoving" its Members of Parliament at the Parliament premises, Bharatiya Janata Party said he does not deserve to be the Leader of Opposition after an "indecent and shameful" conduct.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters hours after fracas unfolded during protests by the ruling, and Opposition parties, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan put the blame on

Rahul for bedlam which left two MPs injured. "Rahul Gandhi does not deserve to hold the post of the Leader of Opposition," he said.
Chouhan said that the party was also pained at the treatment meted out to its pained at MD from Needland S. Phenguage.

tribal MP from Nagaland, S Phangnon Konya, who alleged in the Rajya Sabha that Rahul shouted at her after coming in "close proximity" that made her feel uncomfortable during a demonstration outside the Parliament's Makar Dwar.

"Will physical strength be used in Parliament? Will musclemen and goondas come to Parliament? In which direction is the Congress taking the country's democracy?" said the BJP leader, who was flanked by Union Minister Piyush Goyal and party MPs

Anurag Thakur and Anil Baluni. The Agriculture Minister said people elect their leaders to Parliament hoping they will put forth issues "with facts and logic. But the Congress is changing it."

Pradesh,

Traffic alert: Avoid Kalindi Kunj, congestion due to Delhi-Mumbai Expressway construction

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

ommuters have been Ureeling under massive disruptions at the busy Kalindi Kunj junction, due to the construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. The Delhi Police, in an advisory on Thursday, urged commuters to avoid the area the ongoing construction of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, including that of a bridge at Agra Canal Road, which is expected to continue for the

next couple of months. "The ongoing construction of the delhi-mumbai expressway, including the construction of a bridge at agra canal road, is

significant traffic congestion has been observed at Kalindi Kunj junction, especially as commuters from adjoining states pass through the area," it said.

The police instructed the commuters that in light of the ongoing construction and resulting traffic disruptions, the general public is advised to plan their journeys in advance and seek alternate routes to avoid delays.

They asked people travelling to avoid the area around Kalindi Kunj junction during peak hours to prevent inconvenience. Commuters travelling from Faridabad to Noida are advised to take

travelling from Noida to Delhi have been advised to use the DND flyover. Public transport is highly recommended to reduce congestion on the roads and avoid roadside parking to ensure smooth traffic flow, the advisory added.

A commuter took to X to express his frustration over the persistent jams in the area, stating that while the Kalindi Kunj stretch is hardly 2 km long and should not take more than five minutes to cross the bridge with moderate traffic, it takes 30 to 40 minutes to cross this tiny stretch.

Another one asked others to avoid Kalindi Kunj from Noida to Delhi at all cost. Sharing the ordeal he faced to cross the Mathura Road and Road expected to continue for the number-13 to bypass the stretch, he said, "It took me an next couple of months. Due to congested area. Those hour just to cover a distance of



just 250 meters recently. They keep constructing new things to cut short duration from one place to another, however they completely forget that in that process we, the ordinary commuters, have to suffer on a daily basis," he said, adding that authorities should first plan the whole thing in a way that it doesn't hamper the day to day lives of the people.

Constructed with a budget of

Rs 5,500 crore, the expressway offers a new route for travel to Faridabad, Palwal, and Sohna. It is India's longest expressway project, connecting Delhi and Mumbai. The project aims to directly link the national capital Delhi with Mumbai, linking multiple economic centres across five states: Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya

Maharashtra. The eight-lane greenfield expressway spans a total length of 1,386 km, designed to reduce travel time between Delhi and Mumbai by 50 per cent, aiming for a travel duration of just 12 hours.

Gujarat,

Beyond connecting the two major cities, it is intended to improve accessibility to economic hubs such as Jaipur, Kishangarh, Ajmer, Kota, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Bhopal, Ujjain, Indore, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Surat. The project commenced operations with the inauguration of its first segment between Sohna (Haryana) and Dausa (Rajasthan) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 February 2023.

Accused in Sambhal case SP MP Barq now charged with power theft

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Ateam from the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Department, accompanied by security forces, conducted a surprise inspection at the residence of Samajwadi Party MP Zia Ur Rehman Barq on Thursday, leading to the registration of an electricity theft case against him. Officials alleged irregularities in

power usage after finding tampered electricity meters at his

According to officials, two electricity meters installed at Barq's house were found tampered with during the inspection. An FIR has been lodged under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, which deals with electricity theft and unauthorized power consumption. On Thursday morning, a team from the state electricity department visited Mr. Barq's two-storey residence to inspect electricity meter readings and evaluate the load from various electrical appliances, including air condition-

ered that the sanctioned electricity connection was just 2 kilowatts (kW), while the actual load exceeded 16.5 kW over eight times the permitted limit. Following the findings, the electricity department disconnected the power supply. The inspection also revealed that for the past six months, Mr. Barq's residence had accrued zero electricity bills. Newly installed smart meters recorded a power load of 5.5 kW, despite the sanctioned limit being only 2 kW.



Shrish Chandra, Additional Superintendent of Police

(Sambhal), said: "The State Electricity Department has reg-

Barq. During the inspection, the MP's father allegedly threatened one of the officials conducting the raid. We are gathering evidence, and another FIR related to the threat will be filed soon.'

The police added that legal action would be initiated based on the findings of the investigation. "For now, the power theft case has been registered. The second FIR related to the alleged threat by the MP's father will be filed

after further verification," Chandra added.

Meanwhile, sources close to Barq dismissed the allegations, claiming that the residence primarily relies on solar energy and a generator, making the power theft accusation baseless.

This is a politically motivated action intended to malign the MP's image," a party representative said.

Barq has been embroiled in legal troubles before. He is the prime accused in the November 24 violence that broke out during a court-

Sambhal, which resulted in four deaths. Authorities have accused him of instigating the clashes through provocative speeches — a charge Barq has denied.

The Uttar Pradesh Police claim Barq orchestrated the violence for political gains, but the MP has countered, alleging that the BIP is behind the conspiracy. He has approached the Allahabad High Court seeking

legal protection and the quashing of FIRs related to the inci-

BJP MLAs stage protest demanding tabling of pending CAG reports

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP MLAs on Thursday ■ staged a protest in the Delhi Assembly premises and demanded the ruling AAP to summon a special session of the House and table the pending CAG reports. Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta claimed the AAP government has not tabled 14 reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in the Delhi Assembly despite an "assurance" to the High Court.

The opposition MLAs also submitted a memorandum to Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, demanding him to convene a special Assembly session.

The protesting MLAs held placards with slogans like "Vidhan Sabha ka satra bulao, CAG Report sadan me lao" (convene the Assembly session, bring the CAG reports to the floor) and "CAG Report mat dabao, Vidhan Sabha ka satra bulao" (don't suppress CAG

reports, convene assembly ses-

The outgoing Assembly has seven BJP MLAs. The elections to the 70-member Assembly is due to be held in February next

Gupta accused the AAP government of "deliberately with-holding" the CAG reports to hide "corruption and financial irregularities"

He said that the government was "evading" its constitutional responsibilities. The BJP MLAs earlier approached the High Court seeking its order to the Delhi government for tabling the CAG reports on its

DOTS Plus supervisor terminated within 24 hours of negligence compliant



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As part of its ongoing 100 Days TB Campaign, aimed at screening and treating TB patients with unwavering commitment, the Delhi government's health department has taken swift and decisive action against negligence. Acting on a complaint of a school-going girl in the North District was deprived of essential TB medicines due to the carelessness of a DOTS Plus Supervisor, the Delhi government's health department has terminated the

supervisor within 24 hours, sending a strong message that such lapses will not be tolerated. Also the girl was provided with all the prescribed medi-

The department reiterates its dedication to ensuring the wellbeing of TB patients and has implemented additional measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. This proactive approach underscores its resolve to make the 100 Days TB Campaign a success and ensure 100% intolerance regarding neg-

DDA to convert many of its under-utilised community centres into libraries, reading rooms

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will be converting many of its hitherto under-utilized community centres and halls as libraries and reading rooms in a move that will benefit thousands of students in particular, apart from senior citizens and residents of national Capital at

A senior DDA official, on Thursday, said that five such community centres including one in Rajendra Nagar have already been identified and works for these community centres to be converted into modern library / reading room facilities replete with all necessary means is progressing

'The move comes after Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena asked DDA to provide library / reading room facilities to students, in the wake of the tragic incident of loss of three young lives due to drowning in the basement reading room of a private



who had visited the site immediately in the aftermath of the tragedy, had met the protesting students there and assured them that he will do everything possible to address the issue of exploitative reading room facilities and charges being faced by them, at the earliest," he said.

In a statement, the DDA said, The LG had thereafter convened a meeting with the officers of DDA and asked them to identify community centres inside or close to the stuinto libraries / reading rooms for use by students.

It added that works had started in full swing at the Rajendra Nagar Centre and were supposed to be completed by December 20. "However, due to GRAP restrictions, it was delayed and is now expected to be completed by the end of this month," it said.

These upcoming facilities at Rajendra Nagar, Adhchini, Vikaspuri, Sector-16B Dwarka and Rohiniwill consist of a library, reading rooms with

cafeteria and a small gym. While the centre at Rajendra Nagar will serve thousands of students in the Rajendra Nagar-Patel Nagar-Karol Bagh coaching hub, the one at Adhchini will cater to the needs of students in the JNU, Katawaria Sarai, Ber Sarai and IIT Delhi area. The Centres at Rohini, closer to North Campus, Vikaspuri and Dwarka will cater to the needs of not only the students in the vicinity, but also senior citizens, who often find space constraints deterring their basic

needs.

"As per directions of the LG, DDA will undertake the responsibility of civil infra-structural and furnishing of these libraries and reading rooms, Universities will be asked to run them. Books will be sourced through various sources including CSR and philanthropy while the cafeteria and gymnasium will meet the other necessary requirements of students visiting these facilities," the statement added.

BJP accuses AAP Govt of disgraceful fraud regarding DUSIB shelters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Thursday accused the AAP Kejriwal government of a dis-graceful fraud amounting to nearly Rs 250 crores regarding providing shelter homes to the poor through Delhi Urban

Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB). It is a department of the Delhi government responsible for assisting the poor

and helpless by providing them with shelter homes.

service, but a major scam is being perpetrated through the collusion of government officials and their associated

According to DUSIB's regulations, each shelter home is allocated salaries for five to six caretaking staff, depending on capacity, which is paid to contractor NGOs. However, a BJP team investigation uncovered significant fraud in this system, he said.

this is a noble humanitarian while only two are actually present. The BJP team's investigation found three-four ghost employees in every shelter.

Delhi BJP President stated that no work occurs in Arvind Kejriwal's government without brokerage, bribery, or commission.

The BJP's legal team discovered that eight major NGOs are contracted for shelter home maintenance in Delhi. Most shelters employ only In each shelter, payments are two-three workers, yet salaries



Further investigation revealed that the same staff names are registered across different shelter homes, with identical Aadhaar numbers and bank accounts.

Whether it's the shelter at Delhi Gate, Lahori Gate, Turkman Gate, or Mangolpuri, a single Aadhaar card is being used to draw three-five salaries.

This entire matter involves an alleged scam of approximately Rs 250 crore. We have requested an investigation by (ACB) and have also filed a complaint with Lokayukta, he said.

into the roles of former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the concerned ministers, MLAs, DUSIB officials, and all others involved. Sachdeva mentioned that the NGOs entrusted with this responsibility are selected by the Delhi

corruption in every department of the Delhi governexposed the issue of fake caste certificates, and today, such scams have come to light, he said.

missions to leaders of the

We demand an investigation He cited an example of an employee, Vijay Kumar, associated with Jyoti Samaj Seva Sansthan, who is listed as working at five different locations simultaneously, all linked to the same Aadhaar card. Five salaries are being government. Currently, there is rampant deposited into a single account, which are then allegedly returned as com-

Newly commissioned INS Tushil sets sail for India from Russia's Kaliningrad

M ore than a week after it was commissioned, INS Tushil, the latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, has set sail from Kaliningrad, Russia for India, marking the beginning of her maiden operational deployment.

INS Tushil (F 70), which com-

menced its journey from Kaliningrad, Russia for India on Tuesday, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia on December 9.

A 125 metre, 3900 ton INS Tushil is a blend of Russian and Indian cutting edge technologies and best practices in warship construction

The ship is an upgraded Krivak III class frigates of the Project 1135.6 of which, six are already



in service – three Talwar class ships, built at Baltiysky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad. INS Tushil, the seventh in the series, is the first of the two upgraded additional followon ships, the contract for which was signed in October 2016 between JSC Rosoboronexport, Indian Navy and the Government of India. INS Tushil is designed for blue

water operations across the

spectrum of naval warfare in all four dimensions air, surface, underwater and electromag-

It is armed with a range of advanced weapons, including thejointly-developed Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles, vertically-launched Shtil Surfaceto-Air Missiles with enhanced ranges, upgraded mediumrange anti-air and surface gun with advanced stealth features, optically-controlled close-range rapid fire gun system, anti-submarine torpedoes and rockets and advanced electronic warfare and communication suite. INS Tushil will traverse the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, and finally, the Indian Ocean, making port calls at several friendly foreign countries along the way.

The maiden deployment of INS Tushil would involve key charter of Indian Navy, namely, Diplomatic, military, and constabulary activities.

The ship will carry out joint patrolling and maritime partnership exercises with a number of navies en route, including piracy hotspots in the

During her port calls, the ship will undertake capability-building activities with host Navies and hold interactions with senior military and government leadership. The port calls will also serve to engage with the Indian diaspora spread across the region.

25-year-old arrested from Gujarat for raping co-worker after chase of 1,500 km

said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

25-year-old man has been A 25-year-old Ilian has been arrested from Gujarat's for allegedly raping his co-worker after a chase of 1500 kilometer. According to the police on Thursday, Kuldeep, who works as a welder in Bawana, befriended the victim and earned her trust on September 21. "Taking advantage of this, he allegedly gave her some intoxicating substance and raped her," the police said in a statement, adding that he also captured explicit photos and

videos of the woman. "The complainant, an employee in Bagwan Pura, had been befriended by the accused while working together. Under the pretext of trust, he administered an intoxicating substance and committed sexual assault while capturing explicit photos and videos. He used these recordings to blackmail the victim, coercing her into further physical relations," the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Satish Kumar

The police said an FIR was registered later and a team was formed to nab the accused. "On December 16, team identified Kuldeep's hideout in Gujarat's Surat. They conducted a raid and apprehended him. During the arrest, police recovered a mobile phone containing incriminating photos and videos used for blackmail and sextortion," the statement read. The accused hails from District Deoria in Uttar Pradesh, and completed his education up to the eight standards. "He has been residing in Bawana, Delhi, for the past five to six years and is currently employed as a welder in a factory in the area,"

Man kills co-worker at Preet Vihar eatery after hitting victim's head with dumbbell

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A man killed his co-worker at a food outlet in east Delhi's Preet Vihar after they had a fight resulting in the accused hitting the victim's head with a dumbbell.

According to the police on Thursday, the incident occurred at a food corner, namely 'Didi Food Corner', owned by one Tripta Rastogi. According to police, they received a PCR call at Preet Vihar police station from Rastogi that two of her employees, Suraj and Prakash around 2 am got into a scuffle during which Suraj reportedly struck Prakash on the head with a dumbbell and fled.

Rastogi got the call at 2:30 am about the incident and rushed to the restaurant where she found Prakash bleeding profusely. She bandaged his head with a cloth and told everyone



to a nearby clinic and from there to Hedgewar Hospital at 10:00 am where he was declared dead. "We have registered a case of culpable homicide not amount-

ing to murder against the accused and further investigation has been launched. A crime team inspected the scene, recovering the alleged weapon used in the attack," a senior police officer said.

Police said some employees stayed overnight at the eatery, and the fight broke out over a

Uttar Pradesh, Haryana Govts must impose complete ban on firecrackers...

"The Delhi Police and Department, Revenue **GNCTD** shall ensure implementation of the directions under their respective jurisdiction in letter and spirit. The violation of the directions issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 shall be punishable under Section 15 of the said Act," the

notification read. Meanwhile, Delhi and its dense fog on Thursday morning, adding to the chill of an already cold day. The fog reduced visibility significantly, while the region's air quality remained perilously high in the 'severe' to 'severe-plus' category, prompting health concerns. Calm winds and high humidity contributed to shallow fog in various parts of Delhi-NCR, further worsening pollution levels.

The air quality index (AQI) stood at 451, crossing over the neighboring areas like Noida, severe plus threshold while Ghaziabad, and Gurugram the AQICN.Org's real time The India Meteorological

Shahdara Jhilmil in east Delhi. With 13.182 per cent, the Transport sector is the key contributor to air pollution in Delhi, followed by Industry (6.418 per cent), Residential (3.422 per cent), Waste (1.238 per cent), Constructions (1.723 per cent), and Dust (0.916 per cent). The PM2.5 particles measuring 2.5 particles, measuring 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs when inhaled.

Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert for the next five days for Delhi, forecasting the persistently low visibility to continue until December 23. The IMD also indicated that the cold and fog conditions would likely worsen due to northern winds. Out of the 36 air quality

monitoring stations across Delhi, 32 reported AQI levels in the 'severe plus' category, with several locations recording values exceeding 480, posing extreme health risks to residents. Alarming figures have been reported

from Anand Vihar (478), Ashok Vihar (472), Bawana (454), Burari Crossing (473), Mathura Road (467), Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range (451), Dwarka Sector 8 (460), ITO (475), Jahangirpuri (478), and Punjabi Bagh (476). Other notable locations

include Nehru Nagar (485), Rohini (470), Vikas Marg (466), and Vivek Vihar (475) while the remaining stations reported 'severe' levels. The situation in the National

Capital Region (NCR) cities

also remains critical, with

Haryana's Faridabad at 289,

Gurugram at 370 and Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad at 386, Greater Noida at 351, and Noida at 366. The conditions are a result of

the ongoing influence of western disturbances, which are also responsible for a drop in minimum temperatures. As per IMD, the minimum temperature in Delhi had dipped to 5°C on Thursday morning, while earlier this week, the city recorded a low of 7.4°C.Early morning visuals from areas such as Ashoka Road, Kushak Road, and Maulana Azad Road on

Thursday showed thick fog enveloping the National Capital.

Moderate fog reported at Safdarjung airport. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility 250m between 7 am to 7.30 am which improved thereafter becoming 300m at 8 am. Palam airport recorded lowest visibility 600 m during 7.30 am to 9 am which improved thereafter becoming 700m at 9.30 am. The ventilation index lower than 6000 m2/s with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of

Delhi

considering the situation, issued a passenger advisory in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Thursday, requesting the passengers to contact their concerned airlines for updated flight information before travelling. "Low visibility procedures are still in progress at Delhi Airport. However, there has been no impact on flight operations. Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned updated information," the post read.

Congress charges civilian deaths in anti-Naxalite operations

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Leader of Opposition Charan Das Mahant on Thursday raised the issue of civilian deaths in anti-Naxalite operations in the Chhattisgarh Assembly. Home Minister Vijay

Sharma admitted that a total of 24 civilians were killed in Naxalite incidents from July 1 to November 24, 2024.

Asked about details, the Minister said there was no problem in sharing the information but some secrecy had to be maintained by the department.

However, details had personally been supplied to answering the question, he

During the Monsoon session, Mahant had raised the issue and said that it was suspected that innocent people were killed in the name of Naxalites and 'Bharmar' (a muzzle-loading rifle) was put on their body. the Minister said.

The killed person is thus branded a Naxalite. This was an allegation against the security forces, Sharma said. Amid chaos in the House,

Speaker Raman Singh interrupted and told the Minister to concentrate answering specifically to the question raised and not to



during recent operations.

"I am not charging that these rifles are supplied by the

Home Ministry but they are

put on the bodies of innocent

tribals after being killed,"

Mahant added.

STAFF REPORTER

Taking a big leap under the Centre's regional connectivity scheme, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister

Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday

inaugurated flight services

connecting Raipur with

services at the Swami

Vivekananda Airport in Raipur. Regional carrier

FlyBig will operate 19-seater

Twin Otter aircraft for these

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

el: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Property

secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited

Loan Against 1. Uttam Kumar Dhruw 2. Mahesh Dhruv

3. Mamta Dhruw Syam Dhruw

and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.

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

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank

Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as

IDFC First Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by

the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the

respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated

with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also

Property Address: All That Piece And Parcel Of Diverted Residential Plot Bearing Part Of Khasra No. 778/2. Plot Area 1640 Sq. Ft. Situated At Mouja Gudhiyari, Vikas Nagar, Ramkrishna Paramhans Ward, Ward No.02

P.H.No. 107/37 R.I.C. Rainur, Tahsil & District Rainur, Chhattisgarh, 492001, And Bounded As Under : Fast

Gali , West : Government Road, North : House Of Dhanna Onkar Mochi, South : House Of Bondar Balai You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First

Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per

the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and

other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be

constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the

mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

rstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC

First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said

be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Name of borrowers and

co-borrowers

He flagged off the air

Ambikapur and Bilaspur.

repeat whatever has happened in earlier proceedings.

Mahant further said that as per information from the Minister, a total of 21 muzzleloading rifles were seized from the slain Naxalites

audit echoes in Assly STAFF REPORTER

The issue of fire audit of government and private hospitals across Chhattisgarh echoed in Assembly on Thursday.

Health Minister Shyam Bihari Jaiswal apprised the House that the process was on in the state. District level committees have been formed for this.

The question was raised by BJP legislator

Dharamjeet Singh during Question Hour.

Issue of hospitals' fire

In reply, the Minister said 1,129 private hospitals are registered in the state and that there was no provision to register government hospitals.

As per rules, hospitals with more than 30 beds or having critical care units have to take fire safety certificate from the government mandatorily, he said. There is a provision of cancellation of registration in absence of fire safety certificate, he added.

Reservation for Raipur civic body announced



STAFF REPORTER

The reservation process for the 70 wards of the Raipur Municipal Corporation (RMC) in Chhattisgarh was announced on Thursday for civic body polls. A total of 24 wards were declared unreserved.

Of the 70 wards, 11 wards have been reserved for unreserved (women) and another 15 for OBC category.

Six wards have been reserved for Scheduled Caste and three for SC (women), eight wards for OBC (women) and two wards for the Scheduled Tribes and one for ST woman. During the reservation process, Raipur Collector Gaurav Singh and public representatives were

Nursing intern among CM flags off air services from two held for cheating Raipur to Ambikapur, Bilaspur

STAFF REPORTER **RAIPUR**

Chhattisgarh Police on Thursday arrested two persons including a nursing intern for cheating six people of Rs 12 lakhs on the pretext of providing government jobs.

Kusum Yadav (25) and Harish Patel (22) have been taken into custody, Additional Superintendent of Police Lakhan Pawar Patle said.



Yadav, who hailed from Mahasamund district,

works as a nursing intern in the state-run Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Hospital in Raipur. Patel hailed from

Sarangarh district and was residing in Tikrapara locality in Raipur.

Yadav impersonated as a staff nurse in the hospital and they cheated Monika Mirdha, Pinky Patel, Sunita Patel, Manish Sinha, Shraddhanjali Prajapati and Girija Sahu by giving them fake joining letters.

A water cannon salute was given to the aircraft as it moved for the take-off.

Surguja MP Chintamani Maharaj and his wife boarded the flight as the first passengers. The Chief Minister gave them the

boarding pass. MLAs Rajesh Agarwal, Prabodh Minj and Ramkumar Toppo, Secretary to Chief Minister Basavaraju, Director Aviation Department Sanjeev Jha, CMD of FlyBig Sanjay



dignitaries were present. Mandaviya and Sai said this was another the development of Chhattisgarh.
The launch of the

Raipur-Ambikapur-Bilaspur air service is a symbol of the expansion of regional connectivity. The starting fare of this service is only Rs 999, which ensures that the general public can also avail the benefit of air travel, he

Sai said air connectivity to areas like Surguja and Bastar will not only provide facilities to citizens but will also increase tourism and economic activities in these

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Regional Office, Jeevan Prakash.L.I.C. Building, Pandri, Raipur (C.G.) Bank of Baroda PH.:0771-4222635, Mail:operations.raipur@bankofbaroda.com

Information For Customers Having Lockers

This is for the information of valued patrons who have taken lockers on rent at Bank of Baroda Branch and not paid rent timely, the notices sent as per the Bank's guidelines to the Renters at their recorded addresses but no response received. Now this final notice is given to all the persons named below for contacting the respective branch and to clear the dues of the bank within a period of 15 days, failing which the bank will proceed to break open the locker on 10.01.2024 at 01:00 P.M.at their cost, risk and responsibility and the bank will exercise its right of lien on inventory for recovery of outstanding rent, costs and other charges.

1000000	Name of Branch & Phone	Locker Holder's Name & Address	Locker No.	Due Amount	Due Date
100,000	Branch, Raipur	MR. VIJAY WADHWANI ADDRESS - H NO 19, VASANT VIHAR,RANI DURGA VATI WARD, RAIPUR. C.G 492001	8038AXXXX5	Rs. +Break Open + Other Charges	01.04.2020
2.70			8406AX0051 Old No. 51	Rs. 16,107/- +Break Open + Other Charges	07.06.2021
Da	te:20.12.2024, Pla	ace: Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Authori	sed Officer, Bank	of Baroda

Date:20.12.2024, Place: Raipur, Chhattisgarh

AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020



POSSESSION NOTICE The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED under the Securitisation and incition of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred upon me under section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 90 fithe said uses on the dates mentioned as below.

		the AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED for an am
Name of the Borrower	Date & Amount of Demand Notice	Description of Property
OM PRAKASH SAHU, MR. KISHAN LAL SAHU,MR. KILESHWAR PRASAD,MRS. BEDIN BAI SAHU (A/C NO.) LNBHI00721-220218096	7 APR 23 Rs. 1689598/- 5 APR 23	PART OF KHASRA NO 177/02, P H NO 42, VILLAGE-CHETUVA, RNMAHIWARA, TAHSI DHAMDHA, DIST-DURG, CHHATTISGARH ADMEASURING 9000 SQ.FT.

of Possess PHYSICAL

POSSESSION

17 DEC 24

Date: 20.12.2024 Place : Chhattisgarh

Loan Sr Loan No. Account No.

25435480

Authorized Office IDFC First Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)

Section 13 (2) Outstanding amount as per

30.11.2024

Section 13 (2) Notice

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

IDFC FIRST Bank

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031 Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank mited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the espective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also

	bbuores and		a anna gaa aa par aarmaataan ar		mien reopeanie
Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	12937674		Ankit Tiwari Jitesh Tiwari	30.11.2024	INR 5,90,573.58/-

e applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates

Property Address: All That Piece And Parcel Of Plot No. 7, Measuring 1623.11 Sq. Ft., Part Of Khasra No. 342/57, Situated At Panchseel Nagar West, Wake Mouza Charoda, Ph.No. 02/57, R.I.C-Bhilai-03, Tehsil: Patan, District: Durg (c.g), And Bounded As: East: Land Of Dyalu Ram Sahu, West: House Of Babla, North: Rasta 25 Ft., South: Land Of Shyam Lal

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way o

Sd/- Authorized Office

Date: 20.12.2024 Place: Chhattisgarh (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited

Date: 20.12.2024

Place: Jaipur

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

Date: 20-12-2024

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on 23.12.2024 from 10 AM at following district Centre Bilaspur-Bus Stand Road - IIFL Gold Loan , Shop No. Od 1,2,3 , 1St Floor Chattisgarh Complex, Telephone Exchange Road, Opp. Hotel The Emerald, Bus Stand Road, Bilaspur Pin -495001 (Chattisgarh). Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal heir. It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in Gold Loan A/C No.: GL24356303, GL25875125, GL26990075, GL27516335 GL28711223, GL28915002, GL28963333, GL29090399, GL29221564, GL29336012. GL29857882, GL29865647, GL30080730, GL30107169, GL30438004, GL30446674, GL31001781, GL31165384, GL31503505, GL31530670, GL31897587, GL31953207 GL32205867, GL32213820, GL32326245, GL32380469, GL32417801, GL32437679, GL32437886, GL32596762, GL32641765, GL32674845, GL32679905, GL32700130

GL33632323.

The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any. For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY IIFL FINANCE LIMITED



Authorised Officer Aavas Financiers Limited

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Regd. Office: IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park. Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604

Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com · Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

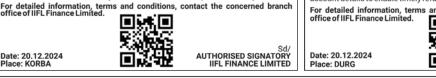
It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, i It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on 23.12.2024 from 10 AM at following district Centre Korba-Power House Road - IIFL Gold Loan, Ground Floor, Narmada Tower, Power House Road, Near Sonaliya Jwellers, Korba Pin -495677 (Chattisgarh). Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction deed not got got gold and the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be

Gold Loan A/C No.: GL23250727, GL23255719, GL23447615, GL23892821 GL25274550, GL26712752, GL26713655, GL26750445, GL27057201, GL27388524, GL27752496 GL27786470 GL27884353 GL28132410 GL28754779 GL29339408 GL29887271, GL30184061, GL30184603, GL30306182, GL30306928, GL30501197 GL30705878.GL31137872.GL31163542.GL31238467.GL31361639.GL31384185 GL31463345, GL31954926, GL31961238, GL32379254, GL32449944, GL32459592 GL32471850, GL32495032, GL32704013.

GL32471850, GL32495032, GL32704013.

The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

圆线圈



PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797

Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604

Read, Office: IJFL House, Sun Infotech Park,

Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area

Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments piedged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on 23.12.2024 from 10 AM at following district Centre Bhilai-Risali GL - IIFL Gold Loan, Krishna Talkies Road, In Front Of Raja Steels, Risali, Bhilai, Durg 490006. Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining the auction will be amplicable to nomine? Jenat heir. conditions pertaining to auction will be applicable to nominee/legal hei

Gold Loan A/C No.: GL22815569, GL23337458, GL25145121, GL25754915 GL26014592, GL26028506, GL27066279, GL27103529, GL27143721, GL27149899 GL27305892, GL27308556, GL27358857, GL27656555, GL27663291, GL27733667 GL27734156, GL27852954, GL27939026, GL28227831, GL28289423, GL28347969 GL28568994, GL28605347, GL28652333, GL28699487, GL28783122, GL28800566 GL28948130, GL28958182, GL28987395, GL29167774, GL29192295, GL29211453 GL29344357, GL29436518, GL29446373, GL29532987, GL29551832, GL29558283 GL29865663, GL29912334, GL29923948, GL29965689, GL30071653, GL30126460 GL30239996, GL30467337, GL30508220, GL30936731, GL30955752, GL31030418 GL31059177, GL31153733, GL31173181, GL31241145, GL31248497, GL31365457 GL31596679, GL31682584, GL31715610, GL31747782, GL31827189, GL31837480 GL31984308, GL31989845, GL32331752, GL32338644, GL32346325, GL32397913 GL32400304, GL32404241, GL32461949, GL32536807, GL32538952, GL32547796 GL32579307, GL32601670, GL32602552, GL32645792, GL32647536, GL32648021 GL32655013, GL32672209, GL32679299, GL32679963, GL32708963, GL32712372 The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and withou assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any.

AUTHORISED SIGNATORY **IIFL FINANCE LIMITED** Date: 20.12.2024

FINANCE

CIN: L67100MH1995PLC093797 Read, Office: IJFL House, Sun Infotech Park Road No. 16V, Plot No.B-23, Thane Industrial Area Wagle Estate, Thane - 400604 Tel: (91-22) 41035000 • Fax: (91-22) 25806654 E-mail: reach@iifl.com • Website: www.iifl.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION OF GOLD ORNAMENTS

It is hereby notified to all concerned borrower(s) in specific and the public, in general, that we, IIFL Finance Limited ("IIFL") are auctioning gold ornaments of defaulted customers who neither regularized their loans nor paid the outstanding amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated amount despite being informed through registered auction notices and repeated reminders. Public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the following loan accounts will be conducted on 23.12.2024 from 10 AM at following district Centre Raipur-Pandri - IIFL Gold Loan, 1st Floor, Usha Tower, Above Andhra Bank, Near Mandi Gate Pandri, Vidhan Sabha Road, Raipur Pin - 492004 (Chattisgarh) Any change in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at the auction center. If for any reason the auction cannot be held on the date mentioned herein or the auction does not get completed on the same day, IIFL reserves the right to conduct or proceed with the action and the processor of the same day. with the said auction on any subsequent date with same terms and conditions. If the customer is deceased, then all the conditions pertaining to auction will be

Gold Loan A/C No.: GL23070752, GL23176868, GL23310548, GL23337963 GL23886165, GL24831049, GL25004255, GL25484231, GL25738206, GL25832710, GL25864831, GL26017013, GL26238922, GL26330584, GL26354648, GL27604567 GL27660332. GL27687050. GL27738593. GL27759436. GL27900582. GL27903973. GL28019547, GL28081982, GL28132831, GL28252398, GL28305505, GL28400020, $\mathsf{GL28483619}, \mathsf{GL28745458}, \mathsf{GL28749468}, \mathsf{GL28753264}, \mathsf{GL28802858}, \mathsf{GL28804382}, \mathsf{GL$ GL28816071. GL28824418. GL29652504. GL29971835. GL30082725. GL30097707. GL30217266, GL30221973, GL30410857, GL30692898, GL30715123, GL30775396, GL30894199, GL31039416, GL31720672, GL31774356, GL31996535, GL32028599, GL32305255 GL32363573 GL32392890 GL32402920 GL32447718 GL32575235 GL32605768, GL32606586, GL32667910, GL32700880, GL32703092, GL32712240,

The Auction shall be conducted on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"basis and IIFL does not make any representation or warranties regards quality, purity, caratage, weight or valuation of the said gold ornaments. IIFL, at its absolute sole discretion, may either postpone or remove, any of accounts from auction list and any proceedings without prior notice and without assigning any reason therefor and to reject any or all the bids or offers without assigning any reason for the same. Details of defaulting borrower(s) pledged ornaments and other details have been displayed at the respective branch. The defaulter borrower(s) have an option to repay the entire dues including up to date interest and all applicable charges and close or regularize their loan account even after publication of this notice but in any case, till the date of auction, failing which the pledged gold ornaments will be sold and balance dues (if any) will be recovered with interest and costs. However, the defaulter loans which are closed or regularized on or after this publication, will have to bear the proportionate publication charge. Borrowers are requested to submit/update their latest bank account details to enable timely refund of excess auction proceeds, if any

For detailed information, terms and conditions, contact the concerned branch office of IIFL Finance Limited.



AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

SC questions WB on creating excess posts in teachers recruitment scam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the West Bengal Government why it had created supernumerary posts of teachers and nonteaching staffs instead of weeding out persons who were allegedly appointed illegally. "Why did you create supernumerary posts? What was the purpose of creating that?" a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar asked the West

Bengal counsel. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the West Bengal Government, informed the bench about a report by committee appointed for a thorough investigation into the selection process. The bench observed the committee's report and noted some irregularities. Dwivedi argued the committee found some irregularities but not as extensive as the CBI's report.

irregularities committed. So, in order to deal with that situation, instead of weeding out the persons who have been appointed illegally, you say,

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national

L convenor and former Delhi Chief

Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday

wrote to key allies of the BJP, Bihar Chief

Minister Nitish Kumar and Andhra Chief

Minister Chandrababu Naidu, questioning

their stance on home minister Amit

Shah's recent remarks about architect of

In a post on X in Hindi, Kejriwal said,

The people of the country want to ask Honorable Nitish Ji and Chandrababu

Naidu Ji - "Do you support the insult of

Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar.

Plate cutting

ceremony for

vessels held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Plate Cutting Ceremony for the first of the 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) and first of the six

(NGOPV) being constructed by

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd

(MDL) for the Indian Coast

Guard (ICG) took place in

Mumbai on Thursday, defence

Giving details, officials said MDL

was awarded a Rs 2,684 crore

contract under the 'Buy (Indian-

IDDM)' category to build these

vessels which will feature

advanced technologies like

drones for surveillance, AI for

decision-making, an Integrated

Bridge System for maneuver-

ability, and an Integrated

Machinery Control System for

These state-of-the-art vessels are

being indigenously designed,

developed and constructed and

will be delivered over the next few

Government's vision of

'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and

enhancing the nation's defence

production capabilities.

reinforcing the

efficient operations.

vears,

ministry said here.

in Mumbai

new ICG

"So, they found there were

okay create supernumerary posts?" asked the bench. "Mr Dwivedi, tell me one thing, if you find the irregularity committed, will you not throw them out first?" the CJI asked

Dwivedi said the order had specifically mentioned it was for the appointment from the wait-listed candidates. "Correct. The reason is this, that you don't want to throw out the tainted candidates, the CII said.

The top court was hearing arguments on a batch of pleas challenging the Calcutta High Court's April 22 decision invalidating the appointment of 25,753 teachers and non-teaching staff in state-run and stateaided schools of West Bengal. On May 7, the apex court stayed the high court's order over the appointments made by the state's School Service Commission (SSC). The top court, however, permitted the CBI to continue with its probe in the matter.

In its May 7 order, the apex court noted that on May 19, 2022, the state government issued an order creating 6,861 supernumerary posts of teachers and non-teaching staff for

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday met with Union Home Minister Amit Shah

here and discussed various key

issues, including an early

restoration of statehood and

involving the elected govern-

ment in the fight against ter-

Meeting Shah for the second

time after taking over as the

chief minister of the Union territory on October 16, Abdullah

said the talks took place in a

"cordial manner". "Ŵe hope to

always work in a better envi-

ronment so that the people of

Jammu and Kashmir are ben-

After the meeting that lasted 30

minutes, the chief minister

told reporters that he briefed

the Union home minister about

the situation in the Union ter-

ritory and the experience of his

government in the last two

"Yes, I raised the issue of early

restoration of statehood with

the home minister," Abdullah

said, adding that "we hope

that Jammu and Kashmir gets

On whether the talks included

the militancy situation in the

its statehood restored soon".

months.

efited from this," he added.

NEW DELHI

Kejriwal Questions Nitish, Naidu on Amit Shah's Ambedkar Remarks

Baba Saheb done by Amit Shah Ji?" In his letter to Naidu and Kumar, Kejriwal

voiced his concern over Shah's statement

in Parliament over Ambedkar. "Recently

in Parliament, a statement made by the

home minister of the country, Amit Shah

Ji, regarding Babasaheb has left the entire

AAP supremo referred to Shah's remark,

which claimed that "chanting Ambedkar-

Ambedkar has become a fashion these

days," as deeply disrespectful. He said that

it is "not only disrespectful but also

reveals the BJP's perspective towards

Omar Abdullah meets Amit Shah, discusses

restoration of Statehood, anti-terrorism efforts

rity and law and order are the

responsibility of the lieutenant

have always said and I told

the home minister that 'you

cannot fight militancy and ter-

rorism in a vacuum, you will

have to take the public of

Jammu and Kashmir in confi-

dence....They will also have to

be brought into this battle,

and for that, you will have to

take into confidence their elect-

ed representatives and their elected government'," Abdullah

The chief minister said the talks

did not include the framing of

business rules for the division

of powers between the elected

Babasaheb and our Constitution.

nation stunned," he wrote.



absorbing the wait-listed candidates. The top court further noted it was directed that appointment letters to such wait-listed candidates should be issued in terms of the recommendation of the SSC subject to the outcome of the pending litigation before the igh court.

During the hearing on Thursday, the bench asked, "Is the state of West Bengal supporting the proposition that it is not possible to segregate the tainted from the untainted?" Dwivedi however said the state was supporting the segregation. He argued the division bench of the high court "went too far ahead" and passed a "blanket direction" that the CBI should investigate everybody and undertake custodial interroga-

The bench also wondered why the original OMR sheets were not available. "The original paper is the OMR sheet. That is the primary evidence. If any manipulation is done on the main evidence or the main paper, it will be only visible in the OMR sheets," it said. "The issue would be, because the originals are not available, so there is no way we can authenticate whether the original OMR sheets were identical to the scanned OMR sheets which are available on the server," the

tion, if necessary.

He further added, "Babasaheb Ambedkar was honoured with a 'Doctor of Laws'

degree by Columbia University, he

authored the Indian Constitution, and he

championed equal rights for the most mar-

ginalised sections of society—how did the

BJP have the audacity to make such a com-

This has hurt the sentiments of millions

of people across the country. Instead of

apologising for his statement, Amit Shah

Ji justified it. The Prime Minister publicly

supported Amit Shah Ji's remark, which

added insult to injury," former Delhi CM

governor's office and made it

clear that the Centre had no

Business rules have nothing to

do with the government of

India. We have to decide it and

the Cabinet has to approve it.

The Cabinet sub-committee

will finalise it and then, we will

send it to the LG for approval,"

Abdullah will be attending the

GST meeting in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on December 20. To

a question about the proposed

hike of 28 per cent on hand-

loom products, he said, "I have

not seen such a proposal. If it

comes, we will contest it. Not

only us, other states will be

role in it.

he said.

affected too.

ment about him?"

J&K CM Omar Abdullah arrives to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Supreme Court asked the CBI's counsel whether the probe agency was able to ascertain the date on which the OMR data was captured. "One thing is very strange that people who are not even recommended and who have not qualified... They were issued letters," the bench observed, "it was a very

said the CBI's investigation, which was ordered by the High Court, would continue but no coercive steps would be taken. The top court, however, had made it clear that the teachers and non-teaching staff of the state, whose appointments were cancelled by the high court, will have to refund the salaries and other emoluments if their recruitment was found illegal. Over 23 lakh candidates had appeared for the state level selection test-2016 for 24,640 vacant posts. A total of 25,753 appointment letters were issued against 24,640 vacancies.

bench observed, "it was a very serious thing". During the daylong hearing, the bench heard submissions from senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Shyam Divan, Jaideep Gupta, Sanjay Hegde and others. The hearing would continue in January 2025. continue in January, 2025. On May 7, the apex court had

MHA reimposed **Protected** Area Permit in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has reimposed the Protected Area Permit in Manipur in view of security concerns arising out of influx from neighbouring countries, a state government statement

The statement issued late on Wednesday night said, "With this reimposition, the movement of foreigners visiting Manipur will be closely monitored, and they are required to obtain the necessary Protected Area Permit (PAP) in accordance with the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. It said the Centre has reimposed the Protected Area Permit in Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.The statement also said that the state government issued by an organisation which asked Chief Minister N Biren Singh not to travel to Senapati district to attend a cultural programme by passing through Kangpokpi district by road.

It stated "Upon investigation, it has been found that no such organization (Kuki Zo Council) exists in Manipur. The origin and authenticity of this group are highly questionable.

The statement said that police are actively looking into this matter and an FIR will be lodged to ascertain the true nature and intent behind such misleading activities.

The government also advised the people "to exercise caution and not to pay heed to statements or claims from organisations of dubious origins, which have been surfacing recently with the apparent intention of creating confusion and unrest.

democracy. Worrisomely for the prestige of Parliament and its members, the notice is replete with assertions only to malign the incumbent Vice President, the deputy chairman ruled, the sources

The deputy chairman in his ruling said the notice invoked Article 67(b) peremptorily mandates 'at least 14 days' prior notice for any resolution con-templating the Vice President's

Thus the December 10, 2024 notice of intention could permit such a resolution only after December 24, 2024, he noted, session of the Council of States, as notified on November 6, commenced on November 25 and is scheduled to conclude on December 20,

In full know of the situation that the resolution cannot be brought during this session, this was initiated only to set a narrative against second highest constitutional office and the Vice President, the deputy chairman said in his ruling.

Harivansh also said the notice's "lack of bona fides", and subsequent events unfolding revealed "it being a calculated unwholesome attempt to garnish publicity; run down the constitutional institution; insinuate the the personal image of the incumbent Vice Presidentnotably, the first from the agricultural community to hold

Aspirants also choose dummy schools keeping in mind the quota in medical and engineering institutes available for the students from certain states. For example, the candidates

Bilaspur, and Chhattisgarh. Scores of students preparing for engineering and medical entrance exams prefer to take

admission to dummy schools

so that they can focus solely on

their preparations for the com-

petitive exams. They do not attend classes and straight-away appear in the board

examinations.

who have completed classes 11 and 12 in Delhi are considered for admission to the medical colleges of the national capital under the Delhi State Quota.



CBSE busts 29 dummy

dents beyond their actual atten-

dance records, effectively cre-

ating 'non-attending' enrol-

ments. Additionally, schools were found to be flouting infra-structural norms of the board,"

"CBSE has taken these violations seriously and is in the

process of issuing show-cause notices to the schools found in

breach of regulations. The

Board is also considering legal

action against the defaulting

institutions," he added. The

inspections were conducted

on Wednesday and Thursday.

Eighteen of the violating

schools are in the national

capital, while there are three in

Varanasi, two each in

Bengaluru, Patna, Ahmedabad,

schools enrolling non-

attending students

Gupta said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $\begin{array}{cccc} T^{he & Central & Board & of \\ Secondary & Education \\ (CBSE) & conducted & a series & of \\ \end{array}$

surprise inspections at 29 schools in Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi, Bihar, Gujarat and

Chhattisgarh to check enrolment of 'dummy' students, officials said on Thursday.

According to CBSE Secretary

Himanshu Gupta, a total of 29

teams, comprising a CBSE offi-

cer and a principal from an

affiliated school, conducted

"Majority of the inspected

schools were found to have vio-

lated the Board's Affiliation

Bye-Laws by enrolling stu-

the inspections.

Impeachment notice against Dhankhar rejected by RS deputy chair Harivansh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Thursday dismissed the impeachment notice given by the Opposition seeking the removal of Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar while ruling it as an act of impropriety, being severely flawed and drawn in haste to mar his reputation.

In his ruling, which was tabled in the House by Rajya Sabha secretary general P C Mody, the deputy chairman said the impeachment notice is part of a design to denigrate the nation's constitutional institu-Vice President, the sources Deputy chairman Harivansh was entrusted to deal with the notice after Chairman Dhankhar recused himself from it.

At least 60 opposition members had signed the notice for removal of Dhankhar from his post on December 10, alleging that they did not have trust in him and that he was "biased". The notice was moved by the opposition members under Article 67(b) of the Constitution as intention of a no-confidence motion against the Vice President of India. The deputy chairman ruled that the gravity of this "personally targeted" notice which is bereft of facts and aimed at

securing publicity. He also held that the notice was a "misadventure" in "deliberate trivialising and demeaning" of the high constitutional office of

the Vice President of the largest

added.

removal

2024, as known to all signato-

this office in the history of inde-

Sources said the deputy chairman has also ruled that the prejudicial intent manifested through orchestration of a coordinated media campaign, including a televised press conference initiated by the LoP and Chief whip of the Indian National Congress, main opposition party, on December 12,

They added that the impeachment notice was "an attempt to set afloat a narrative as if the authority was sitting over the notice of intention and thereby not discharging expectedly". The deputy chairman ruled

that constitutionally after the a resolution seeking removal of Vice President has been initiated, those taking such step had to move the resolution after 14 days, with no step called for from any quarter.

Sources said Harvivansh also ruled that this coupled with the Leader of Opposition's subsequent 10-point social media input on December 12, 2024, apart from being distanced from institutional decorum, "forces a conclusion to be part of a design to denigrate nation's constitutional institutions and malign the incumbent Vice

President". He also cited past precedent when on September 21, 2020, then then-Chairman Venkaiah Naidu rejected a similar removal notice against the Deputy Chairman, citing procedural impropriety under a provision pari materia to Article

Union territory, he said secugovernment and the lieutenant India reiterates concerns over violence against minorities in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said it is concerned Lover incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities in B angladesh and asserted that the primary responsibility to protect their life and liberty rests with the interim government in Dhaka.

These remarks by Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh in Rajya Sabha came days after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri travelled to Dhaka and conveved New Delhi's concerns on the matter to the top political brass of Bangladesh's interim government.

India continues to monitor the situation related to the minorities in Bangladesh closely, he said, adding, the government in that country has reportedly arrested 70 people and filed 88 cases in connection with violence involving minorities.

"India's concerns regarding the need to ensure safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities in Bangladesh have been conveyed and reiterated to the authorities of the Interim government of Bangladesh on various occasions, including at the highest level,"

The minister made the remarks responding to separate questions on the situation in Bangladesh.

"The high commission of India in Dhaka also continues to be in regular touch with the authorities of Bangladesh with regard to the welfare of minorities," he said. "The primary responsibility for the pro-

tection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the government of Bangladesh," he

Singh also cited instances of attacks on Hindus and other minorities, and at their homes, businesses, and temples across Bangladesh.

"Reports of attacks on temples and puja mandaps also came to light during the recent Durga Puja festival in Bangladesh,'

The government had expressed its serious concerns regarding the attack on a Puja mandap in Tantibazar, Dhaka and theft at

the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple at Satkhira during Durga Puja," Singh said.

Following these attacks, the Bangladesh government issued instructions for providing special security, including deployment of army and Border Guards, to ensure peaceful celebrations of Durga Puja, he

The minister said Bangladesh is expected to take all necessary measures to ensure safety and welfare of Hindus and other minorities. "The same has also been reiterated during the visit of the foreign secretary to Bangladesh on December 9, Singh said.

Ties between India and Bangladesh came under strain after deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to leave the country in the face of a massive anti-government protest in August. Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus came to power days after Hasina took shelter in India. The relations deteriorated further in recent weeks over attacks on the Hindus and the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna

Nadda drags ruckus over Ambedkar in Lok Sabha after Opposition corners Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday launched a fresh attack on the Congress over its treatment of Dr BR Ambedkar as the ruling party's president JP Nadda asked the opposition party to 'stop lying".

Nadda reiterated his party's accusations against the Congress for insulting and ignoring Ambedkar and his legacy, and cited the work undertaken by the Narendra Modi government to honour his legacy. His social media posts came amid the Opposition's attack on home minister Amit Shah for allegedly insulting Ambedkar during his Rajya Śabha speech. He told the Congress and its "rotten ecosystem" that they lost Lok Sabha polls for a third consecutive time in June and performed badly in a number of assembly

In November, you lost badly in Maharashtra. At least now stop lying. Because your lies will not go unchecked. The truth will always win. Jai Bhim," he

Shah has in turn accused the Congress of distorting his remarks and has received strong support from the ruling party, including Prime Minister Modi.

Nadda claimed the Congress and its rotten ecosystem have been exposed since Wednesday by all those who believe in truth, democracy and social justice.

He said, "So, I thought of sharing some facts to illustrate the deep Congress hate towards Dr Ambedkar. Pandit Nehru hated Dr Ambedkar. Yes, it was unfiltered hate. That is why Pandit Nehru got Dr. Ambedkar defeated twice." Nehru, he alleged, was proudly writing to people overseas, expressing joy that Ambedkar was no longer in the Cabinet.

Referring to the house in Alipur Road in the national Capital where he breathed his last, Nadda said it should have been converted into a grand memorial that would

inspire people long back. But "Ambedkar-hating Congress" did nothing and it was the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government which developed it into an "iconic place" The "self-proclaimed custodians" of social justice in the Congress made empty promises of making a grand memorial at Chaitya Bhoomi", where he was cremated, in Mumbai, but it was the Modi government which ensured in 2015 that the land transfer was done. Modi prayed there twice in recent years, Nadda added.

The BJP president also shared a post, now deleted, allegedly of Congress leader Sam Pitroda in which he had rated Nehru's contribution to the Constitution bigger than Ambedkar.

Nadda said, "The most loval courtier of the Dynasty spelt out what the Congress really thinks of Dr. Ambedkar - ?that he had no role in the making of our Constitution. Some screenshots indeed speak a thousand words." The post can be deleted but their real feelings will never go,

he added. He also highlighted the Modi government's development of the Ambedkar International Centre against the Congress' alleged neglect to make his point.

Mahayuti pays tributes to Hegdewar amidst internal disquite over RSS legacy



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde during a group photo session in Nagpur on Thursday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI

BIP leader Chitra Wagh on Thursday said there should not be any objection if Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar visits the RSS founder's memorial as the Sangh had contributed to the victory of all Mahayuti allies.

The Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP, secured a landslide victory in the Maharashtra assembly elections last month by securing 230 of the 288

On Thursday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Shinde, several other BJP and Shiv Sena leaders as well as some NCP legislators visited the memorial of RSS founder Dr K B Hedgewar at Reshimbagh in Nagpur during the legislature session underway

After visiting the memorial, Shinde said no one can ignore the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) contribution to nation-building and that the ideologies of the Sangh Parivar and Shiv

Ajit Pawar did not visit the memorial, though two legislators of his party went

there.
Speaking to reporters during her visit to Hedgewar's memorial, BJP MLC Chitra Wagh said there should not be any problem with NCP leaders, including Ajit Pawar, visiting Reshimbagh.
"They (RSS) indeed have played a crucial role. Nobody can deny the contribution of the RSS in winning so many seats. The

of the RSS in winning so many seats. The RSS not only helped the BJP candidates to win but even worked in support of its allies during the assembly polls," she said. Wagh also said it was important to embrace positive ideologies.

"It is a good thing to embrace a good school of thought. Hence, I feel they (NCP leaders) will visit the RSS headquarters. The RSS worked for the

Mahayuti and made a significant contribution. Neither the NCP nor Shiv Sena can ever deny the contribution of the RSS," she added.

When Shiv Sena leader Dada Bhuse was asked about Pawar skipping the visit, he said, "I am a junior party worker; l cannot comment on his decision."

Everybody has the right to decide whether to visit such places or not, he

"But it is true that the RSS definitely played a key role and helped the Mahayuti in the state polls," Bhuse NCP MLA Raju Karemore, who visited Hedgewar's memorial, said he went there

on his own and not on the instruction of "The chief whip of the BJP in the legislative assembly had circulated messages encouraging visits to the place, which prompted me to go there,"

Shinde claims RSS teaches selfless service and unity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde paid tributes at the memorial of RSS founder Dr KB Hedgewar here on Thursday and said no one can ignore the Sangh's contribution to nation-

building.
The ideologies of the Sangh
Parivar and Shiv Sena are same,
Shinde told reporters after
visiting the Dr Hedgewar
Smruti Mandir at Reshimbagh
in Nagpur, where Chief
Minister Devendra Fadnavis
and other leaders of the ruling

and other leaders of the ruling allies BJP and Shiv Sena also paid respects. NCP leader and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who outfit is also a constituent of the ruling

visited the memorial. The winter session of the state legislature currently underway in Nagpur.

Mahayuti, was not present, while two of his party legislators

As an organisation, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) works selflessly, Shinde said. The Shiv Sena head further said that he earlier also visited Hedgewar's memorial and had a relation with the Sangh Parivar since childhood.
"I started with a Sangh shakha and then with a Shiv Sena shakha, Shiv Sena chief Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology and Anand Dighe sahab's

Police bust call center in Gurugram for cheating US nationals, 18 arrested

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

Cyber crime team of the Gurugram police busted an illegal call centre operating at Plot No 270 Udyog Vihar Phase-2 in Gurugram on Wednesday.

The call centre mostly used to cheat US nationals on the pretext of technical support by creating a fake website of an accounting company, police said on Thursday.

According to the police, a team of the cyber crime police station led by ACP (cybercrime) Priyanshu Diwan raided the call centre following a tip-off.

During the raid, the police arrested 18 people,

During the raid, the police arrested 18 people, including 8 women and the call centre operator, in connection with the matter and seized 17 CPUs along with other electronic gadgets.

The arrested accused have been identified as Gaurav Bakshi, Debashish Chatterjee, Anmol, Kanishk, Ajeesh Mathew, Kunal, Devender Devgan, Hitesh Malik, Rohit Singh, Aryaman Thakur, Nidhi, Sita, Muskan Rajput, Bhavana, Shivani, Lahinganhat Haikip Sharon and Nagmathingcho.

The police team registered a case against the accused under sections 318 (4), 319 BNS and IT Act in Police Station Cyber Crime South, Gurugram and arrested the accused as per the rules in the case.

During interrogation, it was found that the accused, Gaurav Bakshi, is the operator of this call centre, and he runs this call centre along with his companions at the behest of his other

Bakshi used to get a salary of about Rs 1.5 lakh and his other employees used to get a salary of about Rs 30,000 per month.

"We received specific inputs that a fake call centre had cheated several US nationals on the pretext of technical support. The youths were employed at the call centre, which was being operated without a license issued by the Department of Telecommunications (DOT)," said Priyanshu Diwan, ACP (Cyber Crime). The accused was allegedly running this illegal

call centre with his fellow accused since February 2024. The accused were cheating foreign nationals in the name of providing customer care service of Software Support/Accounting Support. The accused used to run ads on Google from the customer care helpline number of a famous company. When foreign nationals call on the toll-free number, the call comes to their call centre through VCL Dialer, 3CX Dialer.

"The accused introduced themselves as representatives of a famous company and got remote access to the computer system of foreign nationals by getting them to download screen-sharing applications in their system. In the name of solving their problem, they used to get 200-1000 dollars from them through a payment gateway. The accused used to commit the fraud by creating a phishing website of an accounting company named Quick Books," Diwan added.

"The matter is under investigation. How the accused was operating the fake call centre is part of an investigation. The involvement of other people cannot be ruled out. The culprits

other people cannot be ruled out. The culprits are on police remand for further questioning,

the officer said.

An FIR under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the IT Act has been registered at the Cyber Crime South police



SP MLAs holding portraits of BR Ambedkar arrive to attend the Winter Session of UP Assembly on Thursday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

CM Himanta

stronger ties

with Bhutan

during visit

calls for

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday reiterated the the northeastern state plays a pivotal role in strengthening the bond between India and Bhutan. Sarma made the remarks as he concluded his four-day trip to neighbouring country on Thursday. "As Riniki and I conclude our unforgettable visit to Bhutan, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the wonderful people of Bhutan for their warmth and generosity," Sarma wrote on X. "We return home with cherished memories, invaluable learnings and a renewed commitment to ensuring that Assam plays a pivotal role in strengthening the deep bond between Bharat and Bhutan," he added. Sarma, who was accompanied by his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, was bid farewell at the airport by Bhutan's Foreign Minister DN Dhungyel.

Longest surviving Hizbul Mujahideen commander killed in Kashmir encounter

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Ajoint team of security forces
Thursday killed one of the longest surviving terrorist commanders belonging to the Pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist outfit along with four others during a six-hour-long fierce gunfight in the Kadder village of Behibagh area in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Two army jawans also received injuries during the successful operation as no collateral damas from the ground zero of the encounter site. To prevent any civilian from getting trapped during the gunfight the security forces had safely evacuated local villagers to safety before killing the group of terrorists holed up inside a safe hideout. Five AK-47 rifles, 20 magazines, two grenades and other arms and ammunition have been recovered from the encounter site.

Confirming the killing of a top Hizbul Mujahideen Commander Inspector General of Police, Kashmir range, VK Birdi said Hizbul Commander Farooq Ahmed Bhat, also known as Farooq Nali, a resident of Yaripora in Kulgam, was among those killed in the encounter in the Kadder area of the district.

According to police records, Farooq Nali had been active since 2015 and was one of the longest-surviving terrorists. He was categorised as "A++". He played a key role in radicalizing local youth and reviving terrorist activities in South Kashmir. Addressing a press briefing after the encounter was called off Brigadier

Anirudh Chauhan, Commander of 2

Sector RR said, "Five top active terrorists

of Hizbul Mujahideen were neutralized in the Kadder area of Kulgam. All five terrorists were involved in many criminal

and terrorist activities. The Army officer claimed Hizbul Muiahideen commander Farooq Bhat played a big role in reviving terrorism in South Kashmir. With the neutralization of these 5 terrorists, we will gain speed in eliminating terrorism in J&K.

The army officer said during this operation, our two security personnel suffered bullet injuries. They are being treated at 92 Base Hospital. The army officer also acknowledged the role of the

Different identity documents siezed from terrorists killed duiring the encounter on Thursday people of Kulgam for the success of this

According to police records, Farooq Bhat took control of the HM outfit after the death of Hizbul Mujahideen operational commander Saifullah in a 2020 gunbattle in Srinagar.

Four other slain terrorists have been identified as Mushtaq Itoo, active since March 2020, from Mohamad Pora, Kulgam, Adil Hussain, active since August 2023, from Khandipora, Mohd Irfan, active since June 2022 from Hawoorah and Yassir Javaid Bhat from

Opposition protests force abrupt end to UP Assembly Winter Session

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

 $F^{\text{or the first time since the}}_{\text{formation of the Yogi}}$ Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government, the winter session of the state assembly was adjourned without the Chief Minister's customary address. The abrupt conclusion came continuous disruptions led by Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress MLAs.

The five-day session, which began with high expectations, was marked by persistent protests from the opposition. On the first two days, CM Yogi Adityanath addressed the House despite the commotion. However, on the third day, as he was scheduled to speak again, opposition legislators intensified their protests, forcing Assembly Speaker

Satish Mahana to adjourn proceedings till 11 a.m. on Γhursday.

The session resumed on Thursday morning but soon descended into chaos as SP MLAs staged a sit-in, raising slogans and holding placards. Despite the protests, Finance Minister Suresh Khanna presented the supplementary budget proposal. With the opposition refusing to engage in discussions, the budget was passed unanimously without

"The opposition came with the sole intention of disrupting the House," Khanna remarked, accusing the SP and Congress of stalling crucial discussions, including those on upcoming Maha Kumbh. Adding fuel to the fire,

opposition members protested against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks in the

Rajya Sabha, which they termed disrespectful toward Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Shah had stated, "It has become a fashion to repeatedly invoke Ambedkar's name... Had you taken God's name as often, you would have attained heaven for seven lives." This comment triggered demands from the opposition for

resignation. During the protests, Speaker Mahana admonished SP legislators for holding an inverted portrait of Ambedkar, questioning their sincerity toward respecting the Dalit icon. "If you cannot even hold Baba Saheb's photo straight, what respect will you show him?" he asked.

With no end to the disruptions in sight, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna urged the Speaker to adjourn the session indefinitely.

Navy and Coast Guard continue search and rescue efforts in Mumbai boat collision, two still missing

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

day after the boat disaster off the AGateway of India that claimed 13 lives, the ships and aircraft of the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard on Thursday continued their search for two persons - an adult male and a male child who went missing after a Navy speed boat collided with a passenger ferry in the Arabian Sea.

Within hours after the boat tragedy, the Indian Navy set up a Board of Inquiry into the mishap to establish the circumstances leading to the mid-sea

collision and to fix the responsibility.
Of the 113 persons on board both the vessels, 13 persons drowned while 98 others, including two injured, were rescued, after a Navy speed boat undergoing engine trials lost control and collided with a passenger ferry Neel Kamal off Karanja, Mumbai at 4 pm on Thursday. The ferry was carrying passengers from Gateway of India to Elephanta Island at the time of mishap.

The two missing passengers have been identified as 43-year-old Hansraj Bhati and seven-year-old Johan Mohammad Nisar Ahmed Pathan.

A defence official said that Indian Navy nd the Coast Guard deployed their vessels and their helicopters to search the two persons who were thrown into the waters after the mid-sea collision between a naval speed boat and a ferry in the water channel near the tiny Butcher Island oil terminal, 5 km from the Gateway of India

Search and rescue efforts have continued throughout the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday in the vicinity of the accident. Search and rescue operations are in progress by eight Navy craft, a naval helicopter and a Coast Guard vessel to search for the two missing persons," a defence spokesperson said.

The rescued persons are still in different hospitals of Mumbai and Raigad district. While the condition of 100 is now stable. Official sources said that 57 survivors are currently in JNPA Hospital, 24 in Naval

Dockyard medical facility, 13 in INHS Sanghani (Karanja), 10 in St. George Hospital, 12 in a hospital on the mainland at Karanja and one in INHS Ashvini Hospital. Eight survivors who recovered have been discharged from different hospitals.

All the persons killed in the boat disaster have been identified. Of those 13 killed in the boat tragedy, there were two minors Nidhish Rakesh Ahire (8 year-old boy from Nashik), Mahi Sairam Pavra (3vear-old girl from Dhule), five women --Harshada Rakesh Ahire (31 years, Nashik), Shafina Ashraf Pathan (34 years from Goa), Rama Ratidevi Gupta (50 years from Palghar) and Pragnya Vinod Kamble (39 years from Navi Mumbai). Meanwhile, acting on a complaint lodged by survivor Natharam Chaudhary, the Colaba police have registered an FIR under sections 106(1), 125 (a) (b), 282, 324 (3)(5) of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita has been registered in Colaba police station against people responsible for the

Sawant defends self, government of graft charges in Goa Liberation Day address PIONEER NEWS SERVICE every year to mark the success

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant greeted people on Goa's Liberation Day on Thursday and said his government was progressing while overcoming personal criticism, prejudices and "tool kit of jealousy"

Sawant's remarks come in the wake of a personal attack on him and his wife by the opposition leaders connection with a cash-forjobs scam in the state.

Addressing the Liberation Day function in Panaji, Sawant also said his government was working towards making the dream of the freedom fighters a reality through an all-inclusive growth.

The Goa Liberation Day is celebrated on December 19

'Operation Vijay undertaken by the armed forces to liberate the state from the Portuguese in 1961. We are providing a positive governance surpassing personal criticism, preconceived notions, and tool kit of jealousy," Sawant said. Notably, Pramod said. Notably, Pramod Sawant's wife Sulakshana

Sawant filed a defamation suit against AAP leader Sanjay Singh on Tuesday in a court in North Goa. She has sought Rs 100 crore in damages from the AAP politician for allegedly naming her in the cash-for-

jobs scam. The CM said, "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas and sabka prayas" are the hallmark of the Bharatiya Janata Party's rule in the coastal state, as he addressed a gathering comprising state ministers, people from various sections of the society and students. Sawant further said his

government was working proactively so that the state gets justice on the issue of the Mhadei river diversion river through the central government authority PRAWAH.

The Centre constituted the Progressive River Authority for Water and Harmony (PRAWAH) last year to enable compliance implementation of the award and decisions of the Mahadayi

Water Disputes Tribunal. The Mhadei River originates in Karnataka and runs through Maharashtra into Goa, meeting the Arabian Sea near Panaji.

of the river water.

Goa and Karnataka are locked in a dispute over the diversion

resumption of the iron ore mining in Goa through sustainable and environmentfriendly way, which will provide employment opportunities to thousands of youth living in the mineral rich belt of the state, he said. "We have also focussed on the ease of doing business, encouraging the new encouraging the new businesses and existing industries," the chief minister said. He said the state government was working towards women

Sawant said steps have also

been taken

empowerment undertaking initiatives under the Centre's Goa State Rural Livelihood

Mission and Deen Dayal Antodaya Yojana, under which the self-help groups are provided assistance for selfemployment.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Clamour for caste census

While the exercise is fraught with challenges, its potential to uplift marginalised communities cannot be ignored

The demand for a caste census in India has been a recurring topic of debate, reflecting the country's complex socio-political fabric. While proponents emphasise its importance for targeted development and policy-making, critics raise concerns about its potential to exacerbate social divisions. The nuanced arguments surrounding this issue highlight both its necessity and its challenges. The caste census refers to the systematic collection of data on the caste composition of the population. India has not conducted such a comprehensive exercise since 1931, even though caste remains a significant determinant of socio-economic status in the country. Proponents of the caste census argue that it is essential for ensuring equitable development, especially for historically marginalised communities. As Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan points out, specific data on caste populations is critical for designing and allocating funds for community-based development



schemes. Paswan's endorsement of the caste census is pragmatic. However, he also issues a cautionary note: while the government should collect such data, making it public might deepen societal divisions by reinforcing caste identities.

A caste census would provide granular data on the socio-economic conditions of various communities. This information is crucial for crafting effective affirmative action policies and welfare programmes. Historical injustices and systemic exclusion of certain communities require targeted interventions. A caste census would help identify the actual beneficiaries of reservation policies and assess whether

they are achieving the intended outcomes. The Opposition, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, has emphasised that a caste census is a step toward realising the promise of social justice. By understanding the precise demographic composition, governments can ensure proportional representation and resource allocation. But having said that, making caste census data public could lead to heightened caste consciousness and further fragment society. India's socio-political landscape is already fraught with identity-based divisions, and the misuse of such data could deepen these fault lines. There is a legitimate fear that caste census findings might be weaponised for political gain. Instead of addressing inequities, the data could fuel caste-based mobilisations, electoral strategies and even conflicts. This aspect must be looked into and safeguarded before taking up this mammoth exercise. Besides, Conducting a caste census is a massive logistical challenge. The accuracy of data collection and classification would be critical, as any errors could lead to disputes and undermine the credibility of the exercise. The caste census is essential and must be conducted, but it requires careful attention to ensure its accuracy and to address potential repercussions.



A person dressed as Santa Claus rows a boat as seagulls fly past, near Causeway of Tapi River in Surat

Victory Day: Bangladesh's legacy of liberation



Victory Day serves as both a celebration of freedom and a reminder of the challenges ahead in safeguarding its democratic and inclusive aspirations

ictory Day holds profound significance for Bangladesh, marking its liberation and the triumph over the Pakistan Armed Forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971. Celebrated annually on December 16, the day symbolises the birth of a sovereign state and the culmination of a long struggle for self-determination, where India played the pivotal role of midwife in the creation of the newest state in South Asia. The Bangladesh Liberation War was not merely a conflict confined to its borders but a defining moment in the geopolitics of the region. The roots of this war were entrenched in the systemic neglect and exploitation of East Pakistan by the ruling elite of West Pakistan.

Decades of economic disparity, cultural suppression, and political disenfranchisement laid the foundation for a movement demanding autonomy, which was catalyzed by the brutal military crackdown on March 25, 1971. Operation Searchlight unleashed a reign of terror that sought to silence the aspirations of millions but instead ignited a people's resistance. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the towering leader of the Awami League, became the symbol of this resistance. His leadership united the Bengali population, and his call for independence resonated with millions who yearned for freedom. As the conflict escalated, millions of refugees poured into India, creating a humanitarian crisis of unparalleled magnitude.

India's intervention under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was both a strategic and moral decision. The Indian Armed Forces, working in coordination with the Mukti Bahini, mounted a joint operation that decisively defeated the Pakistani forces within a mere 13 days. The surrender of the Pakistani military on December 16, 1971, in Dhaka is one of the most iconic moments in modern history. The image of General AAK Niazi signing the instrument of Surrender in the presence of Lieutenant General lagjit Singh Aurora remains etched in the collective memory of both nations. This marked not larly in areas such as gender



Yet, Bangladesh defied the odds and began its journey toward self-reliance and growth. Over the past five decades, Bangladesh has transformed remarkably, earning the moniker "the garment factory of the world.

viewed.

Despite initial challenges, including political instability, natural disasters, and infrastructural deficits, Bangladesh has managed to sustain an impressive growth trajectory. Today, Bangladesh stands as a significant player in South Asia, with a GDP growth rate that often outpaces its neighbours. The country's success in achieving many of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particu-



BANGLADESH DEFIED THE ODDS AND **BEGAN ITS JOURNEY** TOWARD SELF-**RELIANCE AND** GROWTH. OVER THE PAST FIVE DECADES. **BANGLADESH HAS TRANSFORMED** REMARKABLY, **EARNING THE** MONIKER "THE **GARMENT FACTORY**

OF THE WORLD"

equality, education and healthcare, is commendable.

It has become a model for other developing nations, showcasing how strategic planning and a focus on human development can lead to sustained progress. Victory Day is not just a celebration of past triumphs but also a moment to reflect on the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The geopolitical landscape of South Asia has evolved significantly since 1971. While the ties with India remain strong, underpinned by historical bonds and mutual interests, Bangladesh has also embraced China's Belt and Road Initiative, balancing its foreign policy to maximise economic benefits.

Victory Day also underscores the importance of remembering the sacrifices that led to Bangladesh's independence. The war claimed the lives of countless freedom fighters and civilians, whose bravery and resilience paved the way for a new nation. The liberation struggle also left deep scars, including the atrocities committed by the Pakistani military, which continue to evoke strong emotions.

Efforts to bring justice through war crimes tribunals and to preserve the memory of the Liberation War are vital in Bangladesh celebrates another Victory Day, it does so as a nation that has defied expectations and charted its path to

R Ashwin retires from international cricket

progress. The dreams of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Mukti Bahini have been realised in many ways, with a vibrant democracy, a thriving economy, and a resilient population. However, recent political instability has cast a shadow over Bangladesh's progress. The fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, after years of dominance, has left a power vacuum, fueling uncertainty and unrest. Political polarisation has deepened, and concerns over democratic backsliding have surfaced. The status of minorities, particularly Hindus and indigenous groups, remains precarious, with reports of rising communal tensions and targeted violence. Ensuring minority rights and fostering inclusivity will be critical for Bangladesh to maintain its social fabric and democratic principles. The anniversary of Victory Day is a reminder of the enduring spirit of a people who fought for their right to self-determination and emerged victorious against overwhelming odds. It is a celebration of freedom, a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and a pledge to build a future worthy of their dreams. Bangladesh's story, from a war-torn newborn state to a thriving economy, stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, not just for South Asia but for the world.

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

Vipul Nautiyal: Chandan Mitra's calamity reporter



Whether it was crafting flawless editorial pages or recounting tales of his newsroom days, Vipul Nautiyal's legacy is one of dedication, warmth and passion for his craft

flaunted the title "calamity reporter" with pride as he vividly narrated the story behind how Dr Chandan Mitra, editor-in-chief of The Pioneer. gave him the name. Known to friends as Nauty (that's how he spelled it) and to juniors as Vipul Sir, or Nauty Sir, I was introduced to him in August 2021, while writing a test for an editorial role at The Pioneer. I hadn't met him before, but had heard things about him — his co-workers respected him, but they feared him even more. It was my first stint in the media and I was nervous.

I was supposed to join his team and work on the Edit and Oped pages. By the time I was almost done with the test, I was looking around wondering who Mr Nautiyal could be. That was when an old-looking fellow, who was humbly dressed and had uncombed hair and a grey beard, looked at me and said: "Cheating kara du"? I laughed it off. This couldn't have been the Vipul Nautiyal I had been told about. But then an HR executive arrived and my paper was handed over to

ended up addressing this

"old-looking, humbly dressed" fellow as "Vipul Sir" ever since. I learned an important lesson that day. Nevertheless, I was hired. A few weeks of working with him I realised that he was extremely honest towards his job, so much so that he made me question myself. He would reach the office sharp at 2 pm, retouch his already super-organised desk and begin the thinking work often with a glass in his hand. He was proud of the work he did, he knew he was good. He had an impeccable eye for detail — if it was Vipul Nautiyal's page then it had to be error-free, even if nobody was going to read it, even if he hadn't been paid in months. him. I was interviewed and Headlines were paid even there for his colleagues —

more attention, they had to be perfectly symmetric — a habit that I picked involuntarily. This was the Vipul effect. He once recounted an incident from his days at The Times of India, when Dr Mitra had asked him to return to The Pioneer. Later, during the exit interview at TOI, when Mr Nautiyal was asked "TOI chhod kar Pioneer kaun iata hai?" (Who leaves TOI to join Pioneer) he replied with lit-up eyes: "Jisko Chandan Mitra bulaata hai." He knew how to efficiently run a desk and bring the team up to speed with some flair.

A senior editor at TOI says, 'Vipul Sir could beat you in a game of table tennis singlehandedly, with his favourite drink in his other hand." Mr Nautiyal often mentioned that he received job offers from almost all leading media houses, except for The Indian Express, for which, he said, he waited for quite some time. In my five months of working with him, I never saw him snap at anybody — unless somebody caught him on the phone during work hours. He was known to be unpredictable at times. But he was

those who worked with him will agree. His way of getting his point across was his own. When I had to negotiate my salary while joining TOI where he had referred me he told me to ask for a massive raise, saying: "Purse bhaley hi HR ke paas hai, but tu journalist hai, boli tu lagayega" (Even though the purse is with HR, you are a journalist, so you will call the shots). He had more confidence in me than I had in myself. Those who teamed up with him absorbed a great deal of wisdom in all walks of

That's how Vipul Nautiyal was. Besides being an exceptional storyteller, he had a song, a sher or an anecdote for almost every occasion. He was a fanboy when it came to Dev Anand. He often wrote an editorial piece on Dev Sahab's birth anniversary. He was proud of the fact that he had seen Guide several times. He would often play Mohammed Rafi songs or Mehdi Hassan ghazals, lower the volume, and write the edit columns.

(The writer is a former staffer of The Pioneer; views are personal)

G7 FACES CRISES

Madam — The 'Group of Seven' or G7 countries are considered to be the group of the richest countries in the world. But after the Covid pandemic, their economic condition also seems to be almost in shambles. Especially three of those countries can be named here, in which political turmoil has been seen within the last 10 days. Those countries are Germany, the biggest economic power in Europe. France, the third biggest economy there, and the North American country Canada. In France, four prime ministers have been sworn in within the last one year. Emmanuel Macron's government can fall at any time. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz had announced the dismissal of Finance Minister Christian Lindner, citing breach of trust and economic policy differences. Now he himself has lost the vote of confidence.

Due to which elections will be held again there in the coming February. On the other hand, Canada's Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, has resigned from her post, citing disagreement with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. She has expressed disagreement on how to respond to the tariff threat of incoming President Donald Trump. Meaning, here too the main reason for instability is 'economic and financial' problems. France has been affected by Europe's energy crisis and high interest rates, which have weakened the country. In 2024, Europe's largest economy will be stuck in recession for the second consecutive year. More and more businesses are under pressure and are suffering from falling sales, high energy costs and taxes, and Germany's overly cumbersome bureaucracy. Starting from 2022, per capita production in Canada has declined in six of the last seven quarters. Unemployment has also increased by a full percentage point compared to last year. Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

TRUMP DEMANDS EQUAL TARIFFS Madam — Donald Trump, the newly

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

avichandran Ashwin, India's second-highest Test wicket-taker (only behind Anil Kumble's 619 wickets), announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 38. He expressed gratitude to his teammates and the BCCI, highlighting his fulfilling career. While he feels he still has more to offer, he'll focus on club-level cricket. Ashwin concluded his international career with 537 Test wickets,

156 ODI wickets and 72 T20I wickets. His crick-

has proposed a "Reciprocal Tariff" policy, signalling a new direction in global trade. Criticising the high tariff policies of countries, including India, he highlighted them as a source of inequity. Trump stated that if any country imposes tariffs on American products, the US will respond with equivalent tariffs. He specifically pointed to developing countries like Índia, which levy high tariffs to protect domestic industries. Using bicycles as an example, he alleged that India imposes over 100 per cent duty on American bicycles, while the US does not charge such high tariffs on Indian

This policy, claimed to be based on reciprocity and fairness, is likely to promote protectionism, potentially destabilising the global trade system. It raises concerns about increasing trade tensions between India and the US Higher product prices could add economic burdens on consumers and strain bilateral relations. For India, it is crucial to engage in dialogue with the US administration elected President of the United States, to maintain trade balance. This tariff

et journey, from a fringe player in the 2011 World Cup to one of India's greatest match-winners. has been marked by trials, triumphs, and unwavering dedication. Despite overseas challenges and controversies, his innovative approach and analytical mind have solidified his place in crick-

etina history. The 38-year-old Ashwin, with 537 Test wickets and six centuries, will continue playing franchise cricket, notably for Chennai Super Kings in the next edition of the IPL in 2025. We should not forget that Ashwin is the man who played his cricket all through with cleverness and dignity and decided to retire cleverly and in a dignified manner too. We should not be ungrateful and miss recognising and saluting him for his immense contribution to Indian cricket after Anil Kumble hung up his boots. Love you, champion! Cricket lovers will miss you for sure!

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

conflict will not be limited to economic impacts; it will also have far-reaching diplomatic and social consequences. R K Jain | Barwani

TABLA MAESTRO'S LEGACY

Madam — Zakir Hussain's music was intertwined with his all-encompassing love for everyone without an iota of bias or prejudice. In fact, it reminds one of a popular Kishore Kumar number, "Pyaar Baantte Chalo" (Keep spreading love), from the 1965 Hindi movie "Hum sab ustaad hain.'

Apart from his divine renditions on the tabla, what endeared him most to his audiences was the halo of love and humility that surrounded him. In an interview with the BBC, he once said that all his shows were sold out well in advance, not because of him, but because of the power and attraction of

Avinash Godboley | Dewas

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FIRST COLUMN

SRI LANKA-INDIA: ON THE SAME PAGE

Both nations reiterate commitment to defence collaboration and regional stability



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

■ ndia strengthened its ties with its closest maritime neighbor, Sri Lanka, this week, countering the growing influence of China in the island nation. Sri Lanka's President, H.E. Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayaka, made his first bilateral visit to New Delhi following the recent presidential and parliamentary elections. Earlier this year, President Dissanayaka had also visited Delhi at a time when Sri Lanka's political future, including the timing of its elections, was still uncertain. The new President came to power riding on the left-leaning party, which is known to have harboured some Anti-Indian sentiments in the past. However, New Delhi chose to bet on the relatively young Marxist leader, hoping for a sense of prudence in future. Disnayaka in the past, has managed to maintain a fine balance in Sri Lanka's bilateral relations with India and China, not trying to get caught in any crossfire.

Meanwhile, while India's military tensions with China have de-escalated in the recent past, it still chooses to be cautious. Special Representatives from India and China also met this week in Beijing, to discuss their mutual bilateral relations. It seems that with the Trump administration back in the Oval Office in January, China wants to de-escalate military tensions with countries it considers as rivals. China is aware that Trump is likely to impose tariffs on many of its exports to the US, and perhaps further tighten the transfer of high-end technology from America. It is acutely aware that, India would not join an economic dialogue unless the overarching military issues are sorted. It is against this background, that Sri Lankan President's visit to India assumes significance. It may be recalled that China had in the past, sent spy ships



(which it calls maritime research vehicles) to Sri Lankan waters, which have raised many red flags for the Indian security agencies

China also controls critical ports in Sri Lanka, which during any military conflict could be used for strategic purposes. Sri Lanka's President is aware of his country's dependence on China to keep its economy afloat, while, also not trying to disturb the deep bilateral partnership with India. It was heartening for policy watchers in India to note that the Sri Lankan President chose Delhi to be his port of call after getting elected and came out with some emphatic statements, regarding not allowing, their national territory to be used for any anti-India activities. The joint statement released after the President and Indian PM"s meeting read "Recognising shared security interests of India and Sri Lanka, both leaders acknowledged the importance of regular dialogue based on mutual trust and transparency and giving primacy to each other's security concerns. India is Sri Lanka's closest maritime neighbour, President Disanayaka reiterated Sri Lanka's stated position of not permitting its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India and towards regional sta-

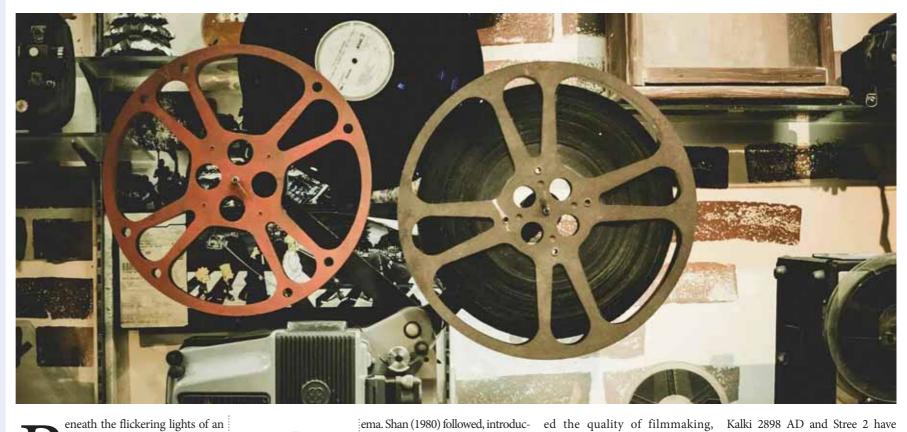
Taking cognisance of India's security concerns the two nations further reiterated to "Explore the possibility of concluding a framework Agreement on Defence Cooperation: Foster cooperation in hydrography: Provision of defence platforms and assets to augment Sri Lanka's defence capabilities; Intensify collaboration through joint exercises, maritime surveillance, and defence dialogue and exchanges; Extend assistance to strengthen capabilities of Sri Lanka on disaster mitigation, relief and rehabilitation, including through training, joint exercises and sharing of best practices; and Enhance capacity building and training for Sri Lankan defence forces and conduct tailor-made training programmes, wherever required." The bedrock of this relationship is India's generous economic support to Sri Lanka without putting it through non-transparent, selfserving infrastructure loans, which has led to the loss of strategic ports for the island nation

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

The evolution of cinema through technology



Whether through sound, colour, digital effects, or immersive technology, filmmakers have always sought to expand the boundaries of what is possible



eneath the flickering lights of an old projector, cinema was borna dance of shadows and light, whispering stories into the dark. From silent dreams projected on silver screens to the roaring worlds of colour and sound, cinema has always been a magician, conjuring entire universes with the stroke of a reel. As technology sprinkled its magic dust over time, the cinematic world transformed, evolving from simple moving pictures into immersive journeys that now wrap us in their digital embrace, where imagination knows no bounds.In the late 19th century, cinema was a purely visual experience. Films like Raja Harishchandra (1913), India's first feature film, relied entirely on visuals, as sound was not yet a part of cinematic storytelling. Globally, the Lumière brothers' early works, such as L'Arrivée d'un train en gare de La Ciotat (1895), left audiences mesmerised.

The technology was simple—manual cameras, mechanical projectors, and natural light. But this early era laid the foundation for the visual storytelling techniques that filmmakers would continue to refine for decades to come. The advent of sound in cinema was a game-changer. Alam Ara (1931) became India's first talkie, marking the beginning of an era where dialogue and music played a crucial role in storytelling. Globally, The Jazz Singer (1927) made similar waves, showcasing the transformative power of synchronized sound. Colour, too, began to seep into cinema's world. While Kisan Kanya (1937) was India's first colour film, it wasn't until Mughal-e-Azam (1960) and Hum Dono (1961) that colour became a truly artistic element, bringing emotional depth and grandeur to the screen

The partially colourised Mughal-e-Azam in particular stunned audiences, giving the larger-than-life historical drama a visual vibrancy that was previously unimaginable.Ramesh Sippy's Sholay (1975) was a groundbreaking film, being the first Indian movie shot on a 70mm screen. Indian theatres were not initially equipped to accommodate this scale, but the format gave Sholay's action sequences a larger-than-life feel, adding to its epic narrative. The film also introduced enhanced stereophonic sound, a novelty in Indian cin-



ing impressive special effects such as explosions, action choreography, and stunt sequences, drawing comparisons to Western films like James Bond, with a blend of spectacle and style that had rarely been seen in India. The onset of digital technology and CGI changed the landscape of Indian cinema in the 2000s. Films like Krrish (2006) and Ra. One THE TECHNOLOGY (2011) ushered in a new era of superhero films and futuristic themes, WAS SIMPLE—using advanced CGI and motion MANUAL capture. Robot (2010), featuring a humanoid robot protagonist, com-CAMERAS, bined impressive VFX with engaging storytelling, marking a turning MECHANICAL point in Indian cinema's relationship PROJECTORS, with technology. As CGI became increasingly prevalent, Hollywood AND NATURAL and Indian cinema both embraced digital effects as a core component

LIGHT. BUT THIS of storytelling.

EARLY ERA LAID Hollywood's Jurassic Park (1993) and The Matrix (1999) showcased the THE FOUNDATION immense potential of CGI. Indian FOR THE VISUAL new standards with their breathtak-STORYTELLING ing visual effects, making Indian cinema a global player in the visual TECHNIQUES effects arena. R (2022) followed suit, pushing the envelope with dynamic CGI-enhanced action FILMMAKERS scenes. Cinema is now becoming more immersive than ever. James WOULD Cameron's Avatar (2009) brought 3D to the forefront of mainstream cin-CONTINUE TO ema, while Indian cinema explored REFINE FOR like Kaala (2018), which offered a DECADES TO 360-degree VR experience. Technologies like VR and AI are now COME beginning to merge with traditional filmmaking, pushing the bound-aries of storytelling even further. Technological advancements

have transformed both the creative and commercial aspects of cinema, allowing films to evolve into multifaceted brands. Innovations like high-definition cameras, VFX, and animation have significantly elevated the quality of filmmaking, enabling large-scale productions such as RRR and Baahubali to create immersive experiences that attract global audiences. These technological tools have

expanded the branding potential of films, positioning them as not just stories, but as global entertainment products. Furthermore, the media and entertainment sector's growth, particularly in India, reflects this shift, with theatrical revenues reaching an all-time high of INR 120 billion in 2023? The business model of cinema has expanded beyond traditional box-office revenue, thanks to digital platforms like OTT services, which offer new avenues for distribution and monetisation. These platforms provide filmmakers with the opportunity to market their films globally, turning local content into international brands. Films now capitalise on multiple revenue streams, including merchandising, digital rights, and exclusive streaming deals. Additionally, high-end multiplexes have begun focusing on premium cinematic experiences, creating "experience zones" that cater to affluent audiences and further enhance the brand identity of films?

Cinema has also become a significant platform for advertising and brand collaborations. FMCG, e-commerce, and tech companies increasingly use films for product placements and promotions, contributing to the industry's revenue.

Meanwhile, Indian films are reaching wider audiences across 160 countries, thanks to advancements in content production and global distribu-tion. This expanded global reach is turning Indian cinema into a formidable international brand, with films frequently topping global streaming charts, further proving that technological advancements are integral to both the branding and business of cinema? Recently released films like

Kalki 2898 AD and Stree 2 have pushed the envelope for Indian cinema by leveraging advanced CGI and innovative storytelling techniques. Kalki 2898 AD embraced futuristic narratives, with its visually rich depiction of a dystopian future made possible through cutting-edge visual effects, similar to global sci-fi films. Stree 2 blended horror, comedy, and CGI to craft a unique, immersive experience, further proving that Indian filmmakers are increasingly adept at balancing narrative depth with technological prowess, placing them on the global stage. From the early days of silent films to today's CGI-driven spectacles, cinema has continuously evolved with technological advancements.

Whether through sound, colour, digital effects, or immersive technology, filmmakers have always sought to expand the boundaries of what's possible. The future of cinema technology promises exciting advancements. Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AK) are set to provide even more immersive storytelling experiences, allowing audiences to interact with cinematic worlds in unprecedented ways. Artificial intelligence (AI) is also emerging in post-production, helping streamline visual effects and editing processes. Additionally, innovations in 3D and holographic projections could redefine how we experience films in theatres and at home. Advances in sound technology, like spatial audio, will make the viewing experience more immersive, ensuring cinema continues to evolve. The cinematic journey, it seems, is far from over—technology is pushing the boundaries further, transforming both the art of storytelling and the (The writer is a former additional

DG, DFF and Festival Director, IFFI; views are personal. Inputs by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi

Rajasthan's Golden Horizon: From cultural marvel to investment powerhouse

With the success of 'Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit 2024,' the state is poised for an economic transformation

Sone ri dharti jathe-ar chandi ro aasman -translates to "Where the earth is made of gold and the sky is built with silver." This cherished folk song beautifully captures the essence of Rajasthan's Thar Desert. Today, these words remain as relevant as ever, reflecting the state's unique charm and its emergence as a hub of global investment opportunities. Rajasthan, India's largest state, is rich in minerals, endowed with vast solar and wind energy resources, and brimming with potential for investors

worldwide. The Rajasthan Government has successfully hosted the 'Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit 2024' in Jaipur this week. Throughout the event, Combined with excellent law administration is fostering a



memorandums of understanding (MOUs) totalling over Rs 35 lakh crore were signed, highlighting the immense investment potential of the state. Actually, very few places can match

Rajasthan's allure. It boasts nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, iconic palaces and forts, 320 sunny days a year, powerful winds, and expansive land.

and order and robust rail connectivity, these factors place Rajasthan in a league of its own as a destination for investment. Currently, the state is undergoing an economic transformation. The government aims to propel Rajasthan's economy from \$180 billion to \$350 billion by enhancing the Ease of Doing Business and creating employment opportunities for the youth.

Over the next five years, the administration seeks to generate one million jobs across private and public sectors, with a focus on attracting significant investments. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma envisions Rajasthan as a pivotal player in India's economic growth. His

pro-business environment across industries, recognising that Rajasthan's development is integral to achieving the vision of a "Developed India" by 2047. Rajasthan's rich natural resources, skilled workforce, and outstanding connectivity make it a magnet for investments. Over 58 per cent of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial

Corridor (DMIC) and 39 per cent of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) pass through the state. This infrastructure connects Rajasthan to domestic and export markets, while its proximity to northern states and western ports ensures seamless trade access. With the third-largest national highway network and second-largest rail network in India, along with



nine inland container depots, seven airports, and an air cargo complex, Rajasthan is

a logistical powerhouse. Rajasthan's investment prospects span diverse sectors: petroleum infrastructure, food processing, education, chemicals, electronic systems, automotive, elecenergy. Traditional industries like tourism, and emerging fields like startups, also offer immense

potential. For instance, in agriculture agro-processing, Rajasthan is a top producer of mustard, millet, guar gum, fenugreek, isabgol, and medicinal crops. The sector contributed 29 per cent to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2022-23. The state also ranks second in livestock population and milk production and is a leader in spices, organic farming, and coarse wool. With these advantages, the agriculture sector presents vast opportunities in agrifood parks, warehousing, and cold chain facilities. tric vehicles, and renewable Rajasthan's journey from a strengths, the "Rising

sure to a thriving investment hub reflects its unparalleled potential and forward-looking vision. The state's abundant natural resources, excellent infrastructure, and strategic location make it an ideal destination for investors across various sectors, from renewable energy

cultural and historical trea-

turing and technology. With an ambitious economic transformation underway, Rajasthan's government is committed to creating a probusiness environment that will not only attract global investments but also create

and agriculture to manufac-

employment opportunities for its youth. As the state continues to capitalise on its diverse

Rajasthan" initiative stands as a testament to its growing prominence on the global

The government's efforts, backed by strategic partnerships and forward-thinking policies, position Rajasthan as a key player in India's economic future, driving growth, prosperity, and development.

The initiative seeks to bolster Rajasthan's industries, create jobs, and amplify its economic potential, ensuring the timeless folk song "Sone ri dharti jathe-ar chandi ro aasman" resonates on a glob-

(The writer is Executive Member, National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities, Kolkata. Views expressed

Israeli airstrikes hit Yemen's 'Israel's restriction of water supply in capital and port city

series of intense Israeli Aairstrikes shook Yemen's rebel-held capital and a port city early Thursday and killed at least nine people, officials said, shortly after a Houthi missile targeted central Israel. Thursday's strikes risk further escalating conflict with the Iranian-backed Houthis, whose attacks on the Red Sea corridor have drastically impacted global shipping. The rebels have so far avoided the same level of intense military strikes that have targeted Palestinian militant group Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah, fellow members of Tehran's selfdescribed "Axis of Resistance." Israel's military said that it conducted two waves of strikes in a preplanned operation that began early Thursday and involved 14 fighter jets. The military said the first wave of

Hodeida, Salif and the Ras Isa oil terminal on the Red Sea. Then, in a second wave of strikes, the military said its fighter jets targeted Houthi energy infrastructure in Sanaa. The Houthi-controlled satellite channel al-Masirah said that some of the strikes targeted power stations in the capital, posting videos of flames engulfing one structure, as civil defense workers doused it in water, trying to extinguish the fire. The channel, citing its correspondent in the port city of Hodeida, said that at least seven people had been killed at Salif, while another two had been killed at the Ras Isa oil terminal. Others suffered wounds at the Hodeida port as well, it said. An Israeli military statement offered no damage assessment.

Rear Adm Daniel Hagari, an

Israeli military spokesman, said

the strikes hit energy and port infrastructure, which he alleged

ways that effectively contributed to their military action."

"I suggest the leaders of the Houthis to see, to understand and remember: Whoever raises a hand against the state of Israel, his hand will be cut off, whoever harms us — will be harmed sevenfold," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said. Rebel-held Hodeida, about 145 kilometres southwest of Sanaa, has been key for food shipments into Yemen as its decade-long war has gone on. There's also longstanding suspicion that weapons from Iran have been transferred through the port. The strikes happened just after Israel's military said that its air force intercepted a missile launched from Yemen before it entered the country's territory. The waves of strikes on Yemen early Thursday weren't a direct response to the missile hit, said a military official, but rather a preplanned response to

months of Houthi aggression Israel's fighter jets were already in the air when the missile was launched

"Rocket and missile sirens were sounded following the possibility of falling debris from the interception," the Israeli military said. Sirens sounded near Tel Aviv and the surrounding areas and a large explosion was heard overhead at the time. In Ramat Gan, a suburb of Tel Aviv, a large piece of shrapnel

from the missile collapsed a

school building there, without causing any injuries. The military official said that the Houthis have fired more than 200 missiles and UAVs, or unmanned aerial vehicles, at Israel since October 7, 2023. Brig Gen Yahya Saree, a Houthi military spokesman, claimed the attack hours later in a prerecorded video statement, saying the rebels fired two of its "Palestine" ballistic missiles at

Gaza amounts to acts of genocide'

AP NEW YORK

Human Rights Watch on Thursday accused Israel of causing the deaths of thousands of Palestinians by systematically restricting and targeting Gaza's water supply in a campaign that amounted to "acts of genocide".

The rights group was the latest among a growing number of critics to accuse Israel of genocidal acts in its war in Gaza. Israel vehemently denies the allegations, saying its war is directed at Hamas militants, not Gaza's civilians.

In Thursday's report, HRW alleged that countless infants, children and adults have died from malnutrition, dehydration and illness as a result of actions by Israeli authorities over more than a year of war to deliberately cut the flow of water and electricity to Gaza, destroy infrastructure and prevent the distribution of critical supplies.

"As a state policy, these acts constitute a widespread or sys-

tematic attack directed against a civilian population. Israeli its blood libels in order to promote its anti-Israel propaganofficials are therefore committing the crime against humanity of extermination," the New York-based group

The rights group said that the "pattern of conduct" outlined in its report and statements from Israeli officials "may indicate" genocidal intent, but it did not come down definitively on one side. Under international law, proving intent is key in concluding whether the crime of genocide has been committed. Israel, founded as a refuge for Jews in the wake of the Nazi Holocaust, strenuously denies such allegations. It says Hamas is responsible for the destruction in Gaza because the group hides and operates in schools, hospitals and residential areas. It says the October 2023 Hamas attack that triggered the war — the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust — amounts to genocide. "Human Rights Watch is once more spreading

da," Israel's Foreign Ministry said. It claimed Israel has worked to facilitate the flow of water and humanitarian aid into Gaza throughout the war. 'Israel will continue to ensure humanitarian aid enters Gaza, in full compliance with inter-national law," the statement

The new report by Human Rights Watch outlined what the organisation described as an extended, methodical campaign by Israeli officials to deprive Palestinians in Gaza of

That has drastically reduced the water supply in Gaza, from about 83 litres per person each day before the war began to between two and nine litres in the months since, the human rights group says. The World Health Organisation says people require 50 to 100 litres per day to meet basic needs and keep sickness in check.

Human Rights Watch said Israeli forces deliberately razed

four of Gaza's six wastewater treatment plants and destroyed a key reservoir. The group alleged Israel also cut off electricity required to run desalination plants and other infrastructure and restricted fuel for backup generators.

When the International Court of Justice issued orders in January that Israel provide Palestinians with basic services and assistance, officials ignored them, the group alleged.

Human Rights Watch said its findings were based on interviews with more than 60 Palestinians, accounts from utility employees, doctors and other healthcare workers and aid workers, and analysis of satellite images, photos and

"Doctors and nurses told Human Rights Watch that they had seen numerous infants children, and adults die from a combination of malnutrition. dehydration, and disease," the

Wisconsin school shooter had two guns, got texts from attack plot suspect

strikes targeted Houthi infra-

Madison (AP): The shooter who killed a student and teacher at a religious school in Wisconsin brought two guns to the school and was in contact with a man in California who authorities say was planning to attack a government building, according to authorities and court documents that became public Wednesday.

Police were still investigating why the 15-year-old student at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison shot and killed a fellow student and teacher on Monday before shooting herself, Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes said Two other students who were shot remained in critical condition on Wednesday.

"We may never know what she was thinking that day, but we'll do our best to try to add or give as much information to our public as possible," Barnes said A California judge, meanwhile issued a restraining order Tuesday under California's gun red flag law against a 20-yearold Carlsbad man. The order requires the man to turn his guns and ammunition into police within 48 hours unless er because he poses an immediate danger to himself and

others. According to the order, the man told FBI agents that he had been messaging Natalie Rupnow, the Wisconsin shooter, about attacking a government building with a gun and explosives. The order doesn't say what building he had targeted or when he planned to launch his attack. It also doesn't detail his interactions with Rupnow except to state that the man was plotting a mass shoot ing with her.

The student who was killed in Monday's school shooting was identified in an obituary released Wednesday as Rubi Patricia Vergara, 14, of Madison. She was a freshman at the school and "an avid reader, loved art, singing and playing keyboard in the family worship band," according to the obituary.

Gisele Pelicot speaks after ex-husband found guilty of rapes, sentenced to 20 yrs in France

AP AVIGNON

Gisele Pelicot said after 51 men were all found guilty Thursday in the druggingand-rape trial that turned her into a feminist hero that the ordeal had been "very difficult' and expressed support for other victims of sexual violence. "We share the same fight," Gisele Pelicot, 72, said in her first words after the court in the southern French city of Avignon handed down prison sentences ranging from three to 20 years in the shocking case that stunned France and spurred a national reckoning about the blight of rape culture. Gisele Pelicot — whose courage and stoicism have turned her into an internationally recognised figure and an icon for many women — said she was thinking of her grandchildren after enduring more than three months of court hearings that dealt with the nearly decade of rapes and

other abuse inflicted on her by her now ex-husband and his accomplices. "It's also for them that I led this

fight," she said of her grandchildren.

The court sentenced her exhusband, Dominique Pelicot, to 20 years in prison for drugging and raping her and allowing other men to rape her while she was unconscious.

The sentence was the maximum possible under French law. He was declared guilty of all charges against him. At age 72, it could mean that he spends the rest of his life in prison. He won't be eligible to ask for early release until at least two-thirds of the sentence has been served. Roger Arata, the lead judge of

the court in the southern French city Avignon, told Pelicot to stand for the sentencing. After it was delivered, he sat back down and cried. Arata read out verdicts one after the other against Pelicot

and the 50 other men tried in You are therefore declared

guilty of aggravated rape on the person of Gisele Pelicot," the udge said as he worked his way through names on the long list of defendants. Gisele Pelicot was seated on

one side of the courtroom, fac-

ing the defendants and sometimes nodding her head as verdicts were announced. Delivering the guilty verdicts and sentences took Arata just over an hour. Dominique Pelicot's lawyer, Beatrice Zavarro, said that she would weigh a possible appeal, but also expressed hope that Gisele Pelicot would find solace in the court's rulings. "I wanted Mrs Pelicot to be able to emerge from these hearings in peace, and I think that the verdicts will contribute to this relief for Mrs Pelicot," she said. Of the 50 accused of rape, just one was acquitted but was found guilty of aggravated sexual assault.

Another man was also found guilty on the sexual assault charge that he was tried for – meaning all 51 of the defendants were found guilty in one way or another.

In a side room where defendants' family members watched the proceedings on television screens, some burst into tears and gasped as the sentences were revealed.

Protesters gathered outside the courthouse followed the proceedings on their phones. Some read out the verdicts and applauded as they were announced inside.

Some were carrying oranges as symbolic gifts for the defendants heading to prison. Prosecutors had asked that Dominique Pelicot get the maximum penalty of 20 years and for sentences of 10 to 18 years for the others tried for rape. But the court was more lenient than prosecutors had hoped, with many sentenced to less than a decade in prison.

Macron in Mayotte to survey Cyclone Chido damage

Mamoudzou (AP): France's President Emmanuel Macron arrived Thursday to the Indian Ocean archipelago of Mayotte to survey the devastation that Cyclone Chido wrought across the French territory as thousands of people tried cope without the bare essentials such as water or electricity. 'Mayotte is demolished," an airport security agent told Macron as soon as he stepped of the plane.

The security agent, Assane Haloi, said small children are without water or electricity and have nowhere to go because "everything is demolished." "There's no roof, there's nothing. No water, no food, no electricity. We can't even shelter, we are all wet with our children covering ourselves with whatever we have so that we can sleep," she said, asking for emergency aid. Macron went on an helicopter for an aerial appraisal of the damage. He then headed to the hospital in Mamoudzou, Mayotte's



the French Indian Ocean island of Mayotte, Thursday, after Cyclone Chido. AP/PTI

capital, to meet with medical staff and patients. He will then visit a destroyed neighbourhood.

French authorities said at least 31 people have died and more than 1,500 people were injured, more than 200 critiBut it's feared hundreds or even thousands of people have died after the strongest cyclone in nearly a century ripped through the French territory of Mayotte off the coast of Africa

Trump's demands derail govt funding plan ahead of shutdown

P Trump abruptly rejected a bipartisan plan on Wednesday to prevent a Christmastime government shutdown, instead telling House Speaker Mike Johnson and Republicans to essentially renegotiate — days before a deadline when federal funding runs out.

Trump's sudden entrance into the debate and new demands sent Congress spiralling as lawmakers are trying to wrap up work and head home for the holidays. It leaves Johnson scrambling to engineer a new plan before Friday's deadline to keep government open.

"Republicans must GET SMART and TOUGH," Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance said in a statement.

The president-elect made an almost unrealistic proposal that combined some continuation of government funds along with a much more controversial provision to raise

the nation's debt limit — something his own party routinely betrayal of our country," they wrote.

Democrats decried the GOP revolt over the stopgap measure, which would have also provided some USD 100.4 billion in disaster aid to states hammered by Hurricanes Helene and Milton and other natural disasters.

"House Republicans have been ordered to shut down the government and hurt everyday Americans all across this country," said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Jeffries said "an agreement is an agreement", and by backing out of it, "the House Republicans "will now own any harm that is visited upon the American people".

Already, the massive 1,500page bill was on the verge of collapse, as hard right conservatives rejected the increased spending, egged on by Trump's billionaire ally Elon Musk who

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and space



rejected the plan almost as soon as it was released late on Tuesday night.

Rank-and-file lawmakers complained about the extras, which included their first pay-raises in more than a decade — a shock after one of the most unproductive chaotic sessions in modern times

Even the addition of muchneeded disaster aid, some USD 100.4 billion in the aftermath It all shows just how hard it will Senators from both parties will fight till the end." of hurricanes and other naturbe for Republicans next year, as were watching from across the The nation's debt limit expires this year, plus USD 10 billion in economic assistance for farmers failed to win over the budget-slashing GOP. A number of Republicans had been waiting for Trump to signal whether they should vote yes or

no.
"This should not pass," Musk posted on his social media site in the wee hours of Wednesday.

One lawmaker said office phone lines were flooded with calls from constituents.

"My phone was ringing off the hook," said Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky. "The people who elected us are listening to Elon Musk."

The outcome comes as no surprise for Johnson, who like other Republican House speakers before him, has been unable to convince his majority to go along with the routine needs of federal government operations, which they would prefer to

Senate and White House, to unify and lead the nation. And it underscores how much Johnson and the GOP leaders must depend on Trump's blessing to see any legislative package over the finish line.

Musk, who is heading Trump's Department Government Efficiency, warned that "Any member of the House or Senate who votes for this outrageous spending bill deserves to be voted out in

2 vears! It is not an idle threat coming from Musk, the world's richest man, who helped bankroll Trump's victory and can easily use his America PAC to make or break political careers.

Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland said this is the problem with "an oligarchy, a handful of wealthy people run everything and everyone is supposed to live in fear of

UK PM hosts Indian business chiefs to boost investments

"Is this going to be the norm?

Is this going to be how we operate?" said Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., putting the blame on Johnson. Democrats, who negotiated

the final product with Johnson and Senate GOP leadership, will be expected to provide enough support to help ensure passage, as is often the case on big, bipartisan bills.

"Republicans need to stop playing politics," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-

Pierre.

However, Trump's new demands on the debt limit pose a daunting test for Johnson, who has worked hard to stay close to the presidentelect — even texting with Musk and DOGE co-chair Vivek Ramaswamy — only to have him turn against his hardfought plan. Trump posted later that he was

insisting on the debt ceiling: "I

want the issue off the table before he returns to the White House, a reasonable idea but one that typically is tough to negotiate.

The last House speaker, Kevin McCarthy, worked for months with President Joe Biden to raise the debt limit. Even though they struck a bipartisan deal that cut spending in exchange for additional borrowing capacity, House Republicans said it did not go far enough, and it ended up costing McCarthy his job.

Now, Trump is looking for Johnson to pass a debt ceiling extension some 48 hours before a partial government shutdown.

Meanwhile, the bipartisan package that Trump rejected extended existing government programmes and services at their current operating levels for a few more months, through March 14, 2025.

Indian, US officials meet to chart next steps in space collaboration

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Officials from India and the United States have charted next steps in space collaboration, including human spaceflight, joint space exploration and a commitment to facilitating commercial partnerships between space companies to advance the shared interests in the growing space economy, the White House said on Wednesday.

A meeting in this regard was held in Houston on December 17. The participants in the meeting were US Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer, Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Indian Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra. "Following President (Joe)

Biden and Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi's June 2023 commitment to work together to 'reach new frontiers across all sectors of space cooperation' and India's signing of the Artemis Accords, our two nations reached an inflection point on collaboration across civil, security and commercial space sectors," the White House said in a fact-sheet. "This includes human spaceflight, joint space exploration

and a commitment to facilitating commercial partnerships between US and Indian space companies to advance our shared interests in the growing space economy," it said. As part of their visit to Houston, Finer and Campbell

industry leaders to identify new opportunities to further strengthen the two countries' burgeoning space partnership. They also reflected on the accomplishments of the past few months and charted next steps to take the India-US partnership to the next level, including selecting two ISRO astronauts to train at the NASA's Johnson Space Centre for the first-ever joint effort between American and Indian astronauts at the International Space Station, with Axiom Space serving as the provider of the mission. The launch of the Axiom-4 mission as soon as spring 2025 will mark a significant milestone in the USmet with representatives from India space partnership and space exploration. the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),

Prime Minister Keir Starmer hosted a delegation of 13

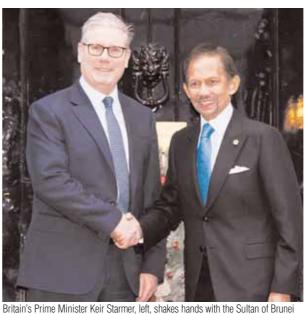
Indian companies at 10 Downing Street in London on what the British government described as a "curated visit" to enhance the bilateral partner-

ship and boost investment

The visit on Wednesday follows

Starmer's meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit last month, when the leaders committed to take forward an "ambitious" UK-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with collaboration opportunities on economic growth, security and defence, technology, climate, health,

and education. According to a readout from the British High Commission in New Delhi, the Indian investors and CEOs also met



Haji Hassanal Bolkiah ahead of a meeting at 10 Downing Street, London, Thursday

senior Cabinet ministers to discuss job creation and growth opportunities under a proposed India-UK trade deal after Starmer had confirmed the relaunch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations early in the new year. "India is a vital partner for the

UK and we have huge ambition to unlock more opportunities together, building on our already strong relationship," said Starmer, with reference to the business meeting. "I'm delighted to welcome some of India's most senior business leaders to Downing Street and to outline the UK's ambitious focus on economic growth and innovation," he said.

The delegation, supported by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), discussed deepening ties with Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Revest and Foreign Secretary David Lammy. Meanwhile, Business

policy Douglas Alexander discussed bilateral trade, worth GBP 42 billion a year and supporting over 600,000 jobs across both economies as per UK government statistics. "As one of the most globally connected economies in the G20, the UK provides

and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds and minister for trade

unmatched opportunities for Indian businesses to thrive. India already accounts for the second highest number of FDI projects into the UK, and this government is committed to deepening our trade and investment links with India even further," said Reynolds. 'Boosting investment is a mission at the heart of this government. It was great to hear firsthand from Indian business leaders on why so many of them have given us a vote of confidence and chosen to invest here," he said.

Putin boasts of gains in Ukraine at annual news conference

 $P^{\rm resident\ Vladimir\ Putin}_{\rm boasted\ that\ his\ military}$ operation in Ukraine has strengthened Russia and denied that the downfall of a key ally in Syria had dented Moscow's prestige, as he sought to project strength and ease at his annual news conference and call-in show Thursday. As is typical, the Russian leader used the tightly choreographed event, which usually lasts hours, to reinforce his authority and demonstrate a sweeping command of everything from consumer prices to military hardware.

He claimed that nearly three years of fighting in Ukraine has hardened the Russian economy and the country's military and hailed his troops'

gains there.
"Russia has become much stronger over the past two or three years because it has become a truly sovereign country," he said. "We are standing firm in terms of economy, we are strengthening our defence potential and our military capability now is the strongest in the world."

Putin, who has held power for nearly a quarter-century, said the military was "advancing toward achieving our goals" in what he calls the special military operation in Ukraine. In response to a question about a new hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile that Russia used for the first

Brussels (AP): European Union leaders

insisted on Thursday that no decisions can be

taken about the future of war-ravaged Ukraine

without its consent or behind the backs of its

partners in Europe, barely a month before US

President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

Ukraine's position is precarious more than

1,000 days into the war. Russia continues to

make gains on the battlefield, pushing the

front line gradually westward despite suffer-

ing heavy casualties. Ukraine's energy network

is in tatters and military recruits are hard to

In a show of solidarity at a summit in

Brussels with Ukrainian President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy, many EU leaders repeated a vari-

ation of what has become a common mantra

— nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine,

nothing about security in Europe without

Trump returns to the White House on Jan. 20

having promised to end the war in Ukraine

quickly and talked up his relationship with

Russian President Vladimir Putin. Many

Europeans are concerned that it might result

The other big worry is that Putin will just use

any interregnum to rearm and cause more

possible peace talks in early 2025, and

whether European peacekeepers might be

needed to enforce any settlement, but the lead-

ers are trying to keep a lid on speculation

about what they are prepared to do, so as not

The priority now, they say, must be to

strengthen Úkraine's hand, should Zelenskyy

German Chancellor Ŏlaf Scholz said that it's

rs are swirling in Europe about

in a poor deal for Ukraine.

to tip their hand to Russia.

decide it's time to negotiate.

find.

Europeans.

Men hold a replica of the banner of the 155th Marine Brigade of the Pacific Fleet, participating in a special military operation in Ukraine during Russian President Vladimir Putin's annual news conference and call-in show at Gostinny Dvor in Moscow, Russia, Thursday al was killed by a bomb out-

time last month to strike Ukraine, Putin scoffed at claims by some Western experts that it could be intercepted by NATO's air defences.

He mockingly challenged Ukraine's Western allies to a "high-tech duel," suggesting that Moscow could give advance notice of a strike on Kviv with the Oreshnik mis-— and see if the West could protect the city. "Let them select a target, possibly in Kyiv, put their air defense assets there and we shall strike it with Oreshnik," he said with a dry smile. "Let's see what happens."

Russian troops are making steady, if slow, advances in Ukraine — but the Kremlin has also suffered some embarrassing setbacks. Just this week, a senior Russian gener-

EU leaders insist no decisions can be

taken about Ukraine without Ukraine

fighting in Kursk as he answered questions about Ukraine.

side his apartment building in

Moscow. The brazen killing of

Lt Gen Igor Kirillov, claimed

by Ukraine, brought the con-

flict once again to the streets

of the Russian capital.

Moscow's troops are also bat-

tling Ukrainian forces in the

Russian region of Kursk,

where they have launched an

incursion. Asked when they

would drive the Ukrainians

out, Putin responded that

"we will certainly kick them

out" but wouldn't say how

In past years, the show, which

is broadcast live by state-con-

trolled TV stations across

Russia's 11 time zones, has

been heavily dominated by

domestic issues, with journal-

ists and ordinary people call-

ing in to ask about road

repairs, utility prices and gov-

long it will take.

important to "ensure long-term aid to Ukraine

defence, artillery and ammunition are high on

the list, he told reporters. Asked about

Trump, Scholz said that his impression from

talking to the president-elect "is that good

cooperation between Europe and the US is possible." He said that "the principle is

always: no decisions over Ukrainians' heads.

and that of course means over those of the

Luxembourg Prime Minister Luc Frieden had

We need to stand with Ukraine, and every

step... needs to be taken with Ukraine and in

the presence of the European Union. The

future of Ukraine is decided in Europe and not

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof underlined

that Ukraine must be the country that "deter-

mines under what conditions talks can pos-

sibly take place. And it is not for us to talk

about that. At the moment, Ukraine has not

vet indicated that they are prepared to do so".

and whether history might be a reliable guide.

Under his previous presidency, in 2020, the

drawal from Afghanistan directly with the

The chaotic exit in 2021, finally ordered by

US President Joe Biden, humiliated

Washington and its allies in NATO as the

Afghan security forces they had trained for

years and invested billions in collapsed and

strongest player — the Taliban insurgents – mostly playing down the concerns of the

Afghan government and president.

deal on a military with

Ít's difficult to predict what Trump might do,

European states.

a similar message.

elsewhere," he said.

United States inked a

it must be clear that we are prepared to enable support as long as it is needed". Air

Putin said that he was open to possible talks with US President-elect Donald Trump, who has pledged to negotiate a deal to end the hostilities in Ukraine. "If we meet with Mr Trump, we will have things to discuss," he said, without offer-

ernment subsidies. But the

Russian leader is particulalry

watched for his answers on for-

eign affairs. In a flourish typi-

cal of the marathon news con-

ferences, he asked people in the

audience to unfurl a banner

presented to him by marines

Putin has previously demanded that Ukraine renounce its bid to join NATO and recog-

nize Russia's gains. Ukraine and the West have rejected those demands. In his first comments on

Assad's demise, Putin said that he hadn't yet met the former Syrian ruler, whom he has given asylum in Moscow. He said that he plans to and will ask him about Austin Tice, an American journalist who went missing in Syria 12 years ago. "We also can pose the question to people who control the situation on the ground in Syria,"

SUDESH KUMARI Wife of Shri

RANBIR SINGH Resident of 18,

Goodwill Apartment, Sector-13,

Rohini, North West Delhi-110085,

hereby declare that name of mine

and my husband has been wrongly

vritten as Sudesh Kumari and Shri

Ranbir Singh in driving licence.

The actual name of mine and my

nusband Sudesh and Shri Ranvir

Singh respectively which may be

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client SH. RAJ KUMAF owner of the FIRST FLOOR FLAT NO.136 PROPERTY BEARING NO. 136 AND 137, AREA 75 SQ. YDS., KHASRA NO. 816, VILLAGE NAW DA, OM VIHAR PHASE-1, UTTAN NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059 and SH. RA

NAGAR,NEW DELHI-110059 and SH. RA KUMAR purchase property from Smr. Sangitz vide Notarized GPA,ATS and will date 11.08.2024 Now SH.RAI KUMAR wants to sel aforesaid property. And it is informed that am deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null an void. If any person having any claim, right ir said property then he may contact an handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this Publication.

SH. ASHOK KUMAR R/O LIG FLAT NO.22-E

110027 purchaser/owner of DDA LIG FLA' NO.22-B, FIRST FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN

locuments i.e.POSSESSION LETTER of th

above said flat have been lost. An LR No. 2386. 92/2024 dated 10/12/2024 to this effect ha

een lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi.Ar person(s)claiming any right, interest, havin any objection or found in possession of origina

ocuments,may write/contact with above amed person at above Address/Phone No

7011328780 within 15 days from the date of

publication of this notice. The person clain publication of this notice. The person canning any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director(Housing)), Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadar

Public in General is hereby notified that m

Mohan Lal Aggarwal R/o House No. 56 Akashneem Marg DLF Phase 2 Gurgaon,

has agreed to purchase house no. 56 Akashneem Marg DLF Phase 2 Gurgaon.

rom its Owner Šhri Mohan Lal Aggarwa

S/o Ram Bilas Aggarwal R/o House No. 56

Akashneem Marg DLF Phase 2 Gurgaon.

f claim, if any within 3 days from

otherwise claim will be entertained

Narender Singh, Advocate

New Delhi- 110023.

Putin said, in response to a question from NBC's Keir Simmons, who cited a letter he said Tice's mother wrote to the Russian leader seeking assistance. Moscow has quickly sought to establish contacts with the rebels who ousted Assad to secure its diplomatic and military personnel in the country and try to extend the lease on its air and naval bases in the country. But it's unclear how much influence Russia will have in Syria going forward. Assad's demise has dealt it a painful blow since Russia has fought for nine years to prop up the Syrian leader in the

country's civil war. Still, Putin denied that the events had weakened Moscow, arguing that it has achieved the goal of destroying "terrorist" groups in the country set when it launched an air campaign in support of Assad in 2015. He claimed that rebel groups that were fighting against Assad have changed and the West is now ready to establish ties with them. "That means that our goals have been achieved," Putin said. Putin added that Russia may keep its military outposts, saying that Moscow has offered the new rulers use of the air and naval bases for

humanitarian aid deliveries Putin began the session by saying that Russia's economy is on track to grow by nearly 4% this year. He acknowledged that consumer prices are high, with inflation at 9.3%, but insisted that the economic situation remains "stable." The annual show is as much spectacle as news conference. Journalists in the hall near the Kremlin wave colourful signs and placards as they try desperately to attract Putin's attention.Russian state media reported that ordinary citizens submitted more than 2 million questions ahead of the show.

Loss of Allotment Letter (original) issued by Unitech Ltd for Flat No.501 Block No. 44 Heritage City MG Road Gurgaon Haryana 122002 India. Founder May Inform Suchindra Misra on above address within 7 days.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all, AIT KUMAR S/O SH. RADH RAMAN DINESH R/O MIG FLAT NO. 442,SECO D FLOOR,POCKET-C-8,SECTOR-8,ROHINI, DEL purchaser/owner of DDA MIG FLAT NO.44 SECOND FLOOR,POCKET-C-8,SECTOR-8,ROHII purchaser/owner of DDA MIG FLAT NO.45 SECOND FLOOR, POCKET-C-8, SECTOR-8, ROHIN , DELHI, have applied for certified copies & fre hold in DDA. The original documents is DEMAND-CUM-ALLOTMENT LETTER POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER AN ELECTRICITY CONNECTION, SITE POSSESSIO SLIP & OTHER DOCUMENTS of the above sai flat has been lost. An LR NO.237202 5/202 dated 05/12/2004 to this effect has bee lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any perso (s)claiming any right, interest, aboving an objection or found in possession of origin documents, may write/contact with abov named person at above Address/Phone N 9873233014 within 15 days from the date c publication of this notice. The person claimin any right, interest, objection with respect this property, can personally inform or write the Deputy Director (Housing) or Director(Housing, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadar New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that my client (CICI Bank is advancing a loan to Mvs. Tirsha Laminades Private Ltd. for purchasing the Flat / Owelling Unit bearing the address Thrif Floor with roof inglits of Property No. G-19, (138.1/2 Sq. Yds.), D. LTC. Colony, Krishna Nagar, Village Ghondil, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi ("Subject Property") from Mr. Navneet Kumar Gupta and Mr. Vincet Kumar Gupta and Kr. Vincet Kumar Gupta engresented by the Sellers that they acquired the rights over the Subject Property vide Gift Deed dated 26.05.2017, executed by Mrs. Krishna Gupta, who inheritate the Subject Property ty from Mrs. Ram Pyari Goel vide Will dated 30.10.2012. It anybody has any claim or objection upon the said property by way claim or objection upon the said property by way claim or objection upon the said property by way of themselves or otherwise is required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice with supporting documents. After the expiration of notice period, the cuments. After the expiration of notice period, th

uuvuniemis. Arier ine expiration of notice period, fi jalmi(s), if any of such person shall be treated null and void and be treated as waved. IAPAN RACHAV (Advocate) 6-220, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032. Email: rajhavkl.tega(@gmail.com Ph. No. +91 88000 96522

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

ATHE PIONEER O

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Priyanka, D/o- JC-734254W Sub Rati Bhan, R/o- Vill-Ratanapur, PO- Pali, Distt-Hardoi, U.P.- 241123, have my name Priyanka to Priyanka Singh, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1109)C

No.16017748A Hav Dharmender, R/o- Vill+Po-Sulkha, Teh- Bawal, Dist-Rewari, Haryana – 123401, have changed my son's name from Punit Katariya to Punit Kataria, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1110)C Raj Pati Devi Mother of No.16020466M Hav Somvir Singh, R/o- VTC- Shaharwa(3), Dist- Hisar, Haryana- 125001, have changed my name from Raj Pati Devi to Rajpati, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

PD(1111)C I, Khusbu Kumari W/o- JC-733883F Sub Kunal Kumar, R/o- Usha Kunj, Ayodhya Nagar, Church Road, PO+PS-Barh, Dist- Patna, Bihar-803213, have changed my name from Khusbu Kumari to Khushbu Singh, vide affidavit dated 19/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

VPO ROHNA, Teh.Kharkhoda, district Sonipat (Haryana)-131402, have changed my Name to DAKSH DAHIYA.

PD(1114)C I, NATASHA D/o PARDEEP R/o VPO ROHNA, Teh.Kharkhoda, district Sonipat (Haryana)-131402, have changed my Name to NATASHA DAHIYA. PD(1115)C

LOST & FOUND

I, Ankur Mahalwala S/o. late Finder please 9810110087.

PUBLIC NOTICE

aghunandan Kumar Gupta is the owner of Property No.31-A, land measuring area 80 sq. yds., Size 24 feet x 30 feet, alongwith its whole of structures therein, fitted with electricity and water connections, built on Plot No.31-32, out of (hasra No.45/8, situated at the abadi of Masia No.4576, Situated at the abadi of least Guru Angad Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, in ne area of Village Khureji Khas, illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110092. It is to inform the Seneral Public that I am selling the aforesaid property to Mr. Chirayu Garg S/o Shri Vipan Kumar. If anyone have objection in this regard then contact to the indersigned within 10 days of this Notice. hereafter no body have any right on the Raj Kumar Gupta

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed and put to notice that the scheduled property is owned jointly by Kumud Vaid, Sunit Vaid, Neha Vaid and Samir Vaid, and they are the legal and absolute owner and in physical possession of the scheduled property. General Public and all concerned are hereby cautious not to deal with concerned are hereby cautious not to deal with the said property and enter in to any kind of agreement, deed, understanding or contract with any third party and/or any person, entity in any manner whatsoever in regard to scheduled property without the consent of the owners named above as the same may be in nullity. Any person dealing with or undertaking any transaction with respect to the above scheduled property shall be doing so at his/her/their own risks, costs, and consequences.

Schedule of Property immovable property bearing Plot no. 104 measuring 98 sq yards, out of Khasra no. 458 situated at Village Nasirpur, Delhi colony knowr as Mahavir Enclave, Part II, New Delhi.

Shanker Chhabr

Distinctive No

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES

Notice is hereby given that the Certificates for the under mentioned 1000 Equity shares (Physical) of the Company Name: Fluidomat Limited 2.ISIN No.INE459001016 in the name of Vanita Kumari Kukreja, R/o 1044 First Floor, Subhash Nagar New Delhi 110027 have been reported as lost / misplaced. Any person who has claim in respect of said Equity Shares should lodge the same with the company at its Registered office within 21 days from the date else the company will proceed to issue duplicate share certificates to the foresaid applicants without any further intimation.

Name of Share Holder (s)
VANITA KUMARI KUKREJA/VANITA RANDHAWA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. E-593357/5

Certificates No.

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for 6 group of building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website https://www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The last date of submission of tender is 02-01-2025

upto 2:00 PM.

🚞 समग्र विभव

Sd/-Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 20.12.2024 Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders. CMC/BR/24-25/ CIVIL RETROFITTING WORKS OF OFFICE 10.01.2025 10.01.2025 FK/CR/SS/1232 BUILDINGS & GRID BUILDINGS IN BRPL

Janasanyog/CF/2862/24/20-Dec-24

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/-(Including GST)

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials

And an agreement has also been arrived at in this behalf. The parties to this transaction I, GEORGE KUTTY S/O THOMAS R/O 60D, B-10A, UDAIGIRI-1, SECTOR-34 NOIDA are in process of execution & registration of the sale deed. If any person, financial institution or Govt. authority have any claim 201301, which is the Power of attorney or interest or right over house no. 56 registered in my name from the above Akashneem Marg DLF 2 Gurgaon. lat/house/M/s NAVNEET ENGINEERING (P) ne/she/it, may file objections/claim in LTD Now I want to transfer this writing with my clint at his address house flat/house/Power of attorney/authority in the no. 56 Akashneem Marg DLF 2 Gurgaon. name of my wife Mrs. LEELAMMA GEORGE. And also to contact him in person with proof No other legal criminal case of the above sons is pending in any state/state. Now publication of this notice between 10.00 want to declare to the general public that any a.m. to 7.00 p.m. Any person, having person who has any right, ownership of interest in the property must submit interest against the said property/shares of is/her/it claim with my client as above, documents. So he can come to our Noida office with valid documentary evidence vithin 15th davs and submit his claim. invone does not do so, then he will be considered non-owner and unrestricted. And

Public Notice of Bank of Baroda

This is to inform the general public tha Bank of Baroda, SMS, East Delhi Branch

Delhi, intends to accept the unde

mentioned property standing in the nam of Smt. Anita Mittal W/O Sh. Neeraj Mitta

(Present owner), and intending purchase

.e., Sh. Puneet Kumar Arora S/O St

Suresh Chand Arora, as a security for

oan/credit facility requested by one of i

In case anyone has got any right/title

nterest/claims over the under mentioner

property, they are advised to approach the Bank/Advocate within Seven days along

with necessary proof to substantiate the

If no response is received within Sever

days, it is presumed that the property in free of any charge/claim/encumbrance

and Bank shall proceed with the

mortgage.
Details of Property: A Leasehold
Residential Plot, bearing Plot No. 63, area
measuring 1000 Sq. Meters, Pocket-E,

Situated at Yamuna Expresswa

ndustrial Development Authorit YEIDA), Sector-20, Distt. Gautam Bud

Sanjeev Gupta

Vihar Extr

(Advocate) Office No.813, 8th Floor, The Nextra

District Centre, Mayur

Delhi-110091, Ph

Nagar (U.P.).

Branch, Delhi

Phone No:

Branch Details/

PUBLIC NOTICE t will be taken forward accordingly.

Kashvan and Mr. Shubham Sharma, who ar urchasing the Northern side entire Second floo vithout roof rights, part of Property No.A-20/ situated at Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007 from Shri Akhilesh Kumar Sharma S/o Shr Suresh Kumar Sharma and Mrs. Nutan Sharma W/o Shri Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, are hereby declaring that the Original Sale Deed executer on 16.01.2019 by Smt. Sushma Jain in favou of Shri Padam Chand Jain, towards the said property, regd. as Registration No.853 in Book No.1 Vol. no.8096 on page 60 to 67 dated 18.01.2019 with Sub Registrar VIA Model bwn,has been misplaced. Loss of the property ocument has already been informed to the Delhi Police, which is registered as LR No.1884639/2019 dated 15.11.2019 P.S. Crime anch, Delhi. Shri Subhash Kashyap and Mi Shubham Sharma intends to mortgage the said property against the financial assistance from DBI Bank Ltd. To comply with the requirements of BANK/NBFC, all the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing sale deed dated 16/18.01.2019. If any person having any type of claim/ right/ title/ interest, creating mortgage over the said property, may nform in writing, at the address mentioned elow, about his objections within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type o cumbrances, lien etc

Anil Kumar, Adv. M. No.9968549099 E-mail: anilprem2004@yahoo.co.in Vasundhara Enclave, New Delhi-110096

Founded 1932 Bombay House, Homi Mody Street Mumbai 400 001 LTMT Research Grant 2025-26 And And Teacher's Training Program 2025-26

Young Researcher Award is instituted by the Lady Tata Memorial 1 (LTMT) to annually recognize and reward Young Indian scientists utstanding track record in biological sciences and potential for high uality research with a deep commitment to find innovative solutions to ajor problems related to human diseases, blood disorder with specia major problems related to human diseases, blood disorder with special references to leukaemia and for scientific research towards alleviation of human suffering from disease. Applications are also invited for Junior Research Fellowship, LTMT Research Grant and Teacher's Training Program for the year 2025-2026. For Detailed Information and online application process, please access

our website www.ladvtatatrust.tatatrusts.org

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/50/Sr.DMM/KIR/PUB/e-Tender/2024-25/06. Dtd: 16-12-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the

SI.No.:1; Tender No. : KT245605; Closing/Opening Date: 06-01-2025 (14:30 Hrs.), Qty: 58 Nos.

Brief Description: Supply and Testing of VHF 25 Watt Radio with plain MIC Standard Accessories. Power Supply Unit Cum Battery Charger (13.5V/15A) 12V/100Ah VRLA Battery with I-Lead Connectors LMR 400 Co-axial Cable with end connectors (30 Meter) High Gain base antenna with Clamps 1.25 inch pipe pole mast with clamping and stay wire arrangements base station units as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/TC/107/2018 Rev. 2.1 or latest. Consignee: SSE/Tele/Katihar, NFR (Bihar).

Note: - For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above

Divisional Materials Manager, Katiha





Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdalm@rediffmail.com Letter No.: 3734(i)/ Nivida-01/2024-25

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)

E-TENDER NOTICE The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on

21/12/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in SI. Name of Work Cost of **Earnest Validity** Time of Contractor's Money No Tender Completion Category of (Rupee in Registration Form Tender lakh) for tendering **CD PWD Kapkot** Class "B" & Higher Rs ₹ 3.62 120 09 Month in Road work in Improvement and Strengthening work of 5000.00 (Including Lakh Days Central Govt./Any Mahrudi Pathkyuda Motor Road in Km. 1 + 18% Rainy **GST** state Govt./Any to 3 in Kapkot Constituency of district Season and Govt. Undertaking. Bageshwar under State Sector Winter Season)

behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated

Five Pakistanis killed, 35 missing in Greece boat sinking

Islamabad (PTI): Five Pakistani nationals have been killed and 35 others presumed dead after a boat carrying migrants sank off of Greece's Gavdos island over the weekend, according to a media report on Thursday.

While at least seven people died and over 150 were rescued from the sinking overcrowded vessel carrying over 200 migrants, dozens remain missing. The Greek authorities on Wednesday called off the rescue operation to find the survivors, including 35 missing Pakistanis, the Dawn newspaper reported. Pakistani authorities on Tuesday confirmed the death of five people belonging to the Punjab province. The 35 other missing citizens were presumed dead on Wednesday, the report said.

Of the five dead, two belonged to Pasrur, a tehsil of Sialkot: while one each hailed from the Guirat, Narowal, and Mandi Bahauddin districts.

Meanwhile, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has registered cases against suspects allegedly involved in transporting the victims from Punjab to Libva from where they were sent off on boats to

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(3)

the Taliban swept to power.

eas the Authorized officer of ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd., a (hereinafter referre). MBHF, which has duly been Authorised by the Central Government to be treated as a Financial Institution, for the purposes of the 7.06.2021, to be treated as a Financial Institution, office at:- 2nd Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi- 110049, under the pro-Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 C (Inerinather referred to as "Art") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 (sused a Demand Notice to the owing borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days fro the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, no hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession properly described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioner Date. The borrower 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 "MBHF" and interest other charge. iereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, i espect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

ame & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. ADESH S/O GYANCHAND, 2. ARTI W/O ADESH, 3 **sumantra w/o gyan chand, 4. anil s/o pyarelal, all r/o** - house no.76, new vika nagar, near santosh inter colleg, loni dehat, ghaziabad, uttar pradesh-201102, **sr no**. ALSO AT: AKPUR RIYANA, BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-245411

emand Notice Dated: 29.May. 2023, Date of Possession: 14.12.2024 ount of Demand Notice: Rs. 5,41,801.26/- as on 17.May.2024

etails of Property: "ALL THAT PIECES AND PARCEL FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PLOT NO. 83/1 ARE/ ieasuring 50°sq. yds. Out of Khasra no. 2503/1 situated at Adesh Nagar in Block-e Villag oni pragna loni tehsil & distt. Ghaziabad up. Boundaries east-plot no. 80 west-road 18 f ORTH-PLOT NO. 82 SOUTH PLOT NO. 83/2".

Date: 14.12.2024. Place: Loni Authorised Officer, ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd



Government of Odisha Directorate of Town Planning, Housing & Urban Development Department. Power House Square, Unit-V, Keshari Nagar Bhubaneswar, Dist.: Khurda, Odisha. PIN -751001.

Notice Inviting RFP

RFP No.: 02/DTP - HUDD / Bhubaneswar, Date.18-12-2024 ncy Services for Sub-Scheme on ion of GIS based CDP/ Master Plan for Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) From 10.00 Hrs. of 20.12.2024

ubsequent corrigendum, if required shall appear in the e-procurement website only

OIPR-13038/11/0001/2425

6. Last Date / Time for Receipt of Bids in the Port

Shri Sushanta Kumar Mishra, OAS (SAG).

Director, Town Planning & Addl. Secretary to Govt. Housing & Urban Development Deptt.

to 17.00 Hrs. of 20.01.2025.

Goyt, of Odisha

Director, Directorate of Town Plann Housing & Urban Development Deptt Govt. of Odisha

PD(1112)C I, DAKSH S/o PARDEEP R/o

Shri Virendra Kumar have lost the original papers (Agreement to sell, GPA Etc.) of flat 200/7, Garhi East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065 while traveling for personal work. Anybody contact

PD(1113)C

India's EV market to reach ₹20 Lakh Crore, to create five Crore jobs by 2030

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the Indian electric vehicle market potential is likely to touch Rs 20 lakh crore and will create around 5 crore jobs across the entire EV ecosystem by 2030.

Addressing the '8th Catalyst Conference on Sustainability of E-Vehicle Industry -Evexpo 2024, Gadkari said estimated electric vehicles finance market size will be around Rs 4 lakh crore by

"The Indian electric vehicles market potential is of Rs 20 lakh crore by 2030, creating five crore jobs across the entire EV ecosystem," he said. The road transport and highways minister said 40 per cent of air pollution in India is



because of the transport

sector.
"We import fossil fuels worth Rs 22 lakh crore, that is a big economic challenge. And this import of fossil fuels is creating a lot of problems in our country," Gadkari said. According to Gadkari, the government is concentrating on green energy as 44 per cent of India's power basket is solar power. "We are giving highest

priority for development of

our hydro power, then solar power, green power, particularly from biomass. And now solar power is one of the important sources for

all of us," he said. The minister pointed out that India is facing shortages of electric buses.

'Our country requires one lakh electric buses but our capacity is 50,000 buses. I request all of you that this is

I request all of you that this is the appropriate time that you can expand your factory," he said. Gadkari asked electric vehicle manufacturers not to compromise with the quality. He said the size of India's automobile industry was Rs 7 lakh crore when he took charge as transport minister

"Today it (the size of the automobile sector) is Rs 22 lakh crore. Our number is third in the world. We just surpassed Japan," he said. The size of the USA's automobile industry is Rs 78 lakh crore, followed by China (Rs 47 lakh crore) and India (Rs 22 lakh crore).

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari urges sugar industry to diversify into ethanol, green hydrogen

exporting

PTI NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{c} R^{\text{oad}, \quad \text{Transport} \quad \text{and} \\ \text{Highways} \quad \text{Minister} \quad \text{Nitin} \\ \text{Gadkari} \quad \text{on} \quad \text{Thursday} \quad \text{called} \end{array}$ upon the sugar industry to explore multiple avenues for diversification, including ethanol-diesel blending and green hydrogen production. Addressing the annual general

meeting of the Indian Sugar Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) virtually, the minister emphasised the need for setting up ethanol and CNG pumps, including through private sector participation.

There is a huge potential for flex engines, ethanol-based engines, and bioCNG as alternatives to fossil fuels. Five automakers including

Tatas, Suzuki, and Toyota are set to launch flex engine fuel cars in the market, he said and urged the tractor makers to start manufacturing tractors on alternative fuels. minister suggested



examining possibilities of produce green hydrogen. 'I know that making sugar is ethanol neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal not an attractive job, but at the same time, because of ethanol, and Sri Lanka to expand CNG, hydrogen and other bymarket opportunities. Bioproducts, we can increase the bitumen production using lignin and biomass sources, productivity and profitability in the industry," he said. along with green hydrogen generation from sugar The industry must focus on increasing industry infrastructure, were highlighted as potential areas for expansion. He emphasised the potential of green

productivity through modern techniques like nano-fertilizers and drone spraying," the minister said. The government will also consider the industry's request for sugar exports and minimum selling price (MSP), the minister said

Sebi introduces timelines for NFO fund deployment, eases AMC employee interest alignment rules

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi introduce timelines for deploying funds raised through New Fund Offers (NFOs) by asset management companies (AMCs) and relaxed companies framework regulatory regarding the alignment of AMC employees' interests with those of unitholders. Additionally, the regulator has mandated disclosure of stress testing for all mutual fund schemes to provide greater transparency to



These proposals, approved Wednesday,

enhancing

aimed operational

flexibility for mutual funds AMCs from collecting exit the scheme without exit while ensuring greater excess funds during NFOs, load in case the fund while ensuring greater accountability and trust accountaum, among investors.

Description deployment that

Regarding deployment timelines, Sebi said that fund managers must deploy funds collected during an NFO as per the specified asset allocation of the scheme, typically within 30

If funds are not deployed within the specified timeline, investors will have the option to exit the scheme without paying an exit load, through regulator said in a statement. The framework discourages

as investors can invest in manager is unable to deploy open-ended schemes later the fund within the at the prevailing Net Asset specified timeline," it Value (NAV).

aimed at encouraging AMCs to collect only as many funds in NFOs as can be deployed in a reasonable period of time (i.E. Ordinarily 30 days) since in the open-ended funds investors always have the investors always have the option to enter the scheme at a later date at the prevailing NAV," Sebi said. The framework provides employees, Sebi has decided an option to investors to to relax the regulatory

manager is unable to deploy

"The new framework is To address the issue of transaction, Sebi said. To facilitate ease of doing

business asset management companies'

framework pertaining to the 'Alignment of interest of AMC employees' unitholders.

hydrogen as an alternative fuel

source and suggested using

existing infrastructure in the sugar and ethanol industries to

Under this, the regulator has decided to reduce the minimum investment amount required for designated employees, reduce the frequency of disclosures related to compliance relaxed requirements for employees managing liquid funds and simplified redemption

Additionally, Sebi said that employees who resign will now have a reduced lock-in

norms.

regulator empowered the committee to oversee compliance by designated employees. Sandeep Bagla, CEO, TRUST MF, said that Sebi having a relook at the 'Skin in the Game' regulation is a welcome step in the right direction.

The MF expanding fast and needs to retain quality professionals to serve and safeguard the interests of unit holders. One needs to examine the relevance, context and effectiveness of regulations

regularly," he added

Flyzy partners with Adani Digital Labs to enhance dutyfree, **Pranaam Service**

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Flyzy on Wednesday partnership with Adani Digital Labs, a subsidiary of the Adani Group. This strategic strategic collaboration will enable Flyzy customers to conveniently purchase duty-free items and avail Adani Pranaam services directly through the dashboard. The integration is now live, offering Flyzy users the ease of accessing these premium Adani services from their devices.

The signature Pranaam meet and greet services by Adani Digital Labs are designed to ensure a seamless experience, addressing key pain points for modern travellers.

"We at Flyzy are always thinking of solutions that will streamline travel experience for our users. This partnership with Adani

Digital Labs is also a step in that direction. Airport travel is all about convenience today and not many companies address the pain points of the travellers. By integrating Adani services

to make airport travel smoother for millions of our users." said Deepak Meena, Co-founder& CEO, Flyzy. Flyzy has disrupted the traditional B2B travel industry

with Flyzy dashboard we aim

redefining travel operations for its clients by ensuring transparency, profitability, and scalability.

Rupee falls 14 paise to close at all-time low of 85.08 against US dollar | Air India places order



PTI ■ MUMBAI

all-time low of 85.08 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as a hawkish stance from the US

Federal Reserve sparked a broad dollar rally. Forex traders said the Indian rupee breached the 85-mark for the first time and fell to a record low on Thursday, as the US Federal adjusted 2025, projections for signalling a more cautious monetary policy stance, pressuring emerging market currencies, including the Indian rupee.

The US Federal Reserve cut The rupee dropped 14 interest rates by 25-bps to 4.5 per cent, in line with signalled only two rate cuts in 2025 from its previous expectations of four rate

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a weak note and breached the crucial 85.00 level against the greenback. It fell further to an all-time

low of 85.08 against the American currency, registering a fall of 14 paise over its previous close, as dollar demand from demand importers, foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities further dented investor sentiments. On Wednesday, the rupee dropped 3 paise to close at against the US dollar. a ran "We expect the rupee to said.

global equities following a which

dollar. Concerns over slowdown in the economy may further weigh on the rupee," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan

may also support the rupee. 'Traders may take cues from GDP, weekly unemployment claims, and or 1.02 per cent to 23,951.70 existing home sales data from the US. USD-INR spot a range of 84.9 to 85.25," he

gauges

hawkish Fed and a strong greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.13 per cent at 107.88. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.05 per cent to USD 73.35 per barrel

in futures trade. Choudhary further noted that any intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

The domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 964.15 points. or 1.20 per cent, down at 79,218.05 points, while Nifty settled down 247.15 points,

Institutional Foreign 1,316.81 crore in the capital markets on net basis on trade with a negative bias on Meanwhile, the dollar index, Wednesday, according to exchange data.

for 34 trainer aircraft

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Air India has placed an order for 34 trainer aircraft, including 31 single engine planes, for its flying training organisation in Maharashtra that is expected to come up by the second half

The order includes 31 singleengine aircraft from piper aircraft in the US and three twin-engine planes from Diamond Aircraft, the airline said in a Aircran, unc uncurrent release on Thursday.

Training

Organisation (FTO) is being

set up at Belora airport in Amravati, Maharashtra. It is expected to be operational by the second half of next post-regulatory

approvals. Sunil Bhaskaran, Director of Air India's Aviation Academy, said the FTO will help in building a self-reliant ecosystem of qualified pilots for both Air India and the

country's aviation industry. The Tata Group-owned airline has onened Aviation Training Academy in Gurugram, Haryana. Air India group is expanding its fleet and network

Indian Oil Corporation to invest over ₹21,000 Crore in Bihar refinery expansion

 $I^{\text{ndian Oil Corporation}}_{(\text{IOC}) \text{ - the nation's top oil}}$ firm - will invest over Rs 21,000 crore to expand the Barauni refinery in Bihar as well as in setting up a city gas distribution network across the state, a senior executive said on Thursday. IOC is expanding its Barauni refinery to 9 million tonnes per annum from current 6 million tonnes together with a petrochemical plant at a cost of about Rs 16,000 crore and invest another Rs 5,600 crore in setting up network to retail CNG to automobiles and piped cooking gas to households and industries in 27 cities of



Bihar, company Executive Director Suman Kumar said while speaking at the Bihar Business Connect 2024 investor summit here.

"IOC is the oldest investor in Bihar, setting up the Barauni refinery in 1964. The initial capacity was 3 million tonnes per annum which was later expanded to 6 million tonnes.

Now we are expanding the capacity from 6 million tonnes to 9 million tonnes per annum.

polypropylene is also being set up," he said.

Polypropylene will be the raw material for the plastic industry.

The expansion and PP plant scheduled to be commissioned by 2025-end. Besides, IOC is also investing Rs 5,600 crore in setting up city gas distribution (CGD) network in 27 districts of Bihar, he

Previously, the company, along with partners, had spent Rs 9,512 crore in rise, the energy needs of the revival of the Barauni country are growing fertiliser plant, starting urea production in October 2022. The plant was part of a government initiative to revive closed urea units and

Alongside, a 200,000 tonnes increase the availability of (1/8th) of India's energy polypropylene is also being domestically produced urea. needs by 2050, he said. domestically produced urea. The investments are part of the IOC's aim to become a USD 1 trillion company by 2047, he said.

The USD 110 billion oil major has drawn up an aggressive capital expansion plan, proposing to invest more than Rs 2 lakh crore through the decade to expand refining capacity, petrochemical integration, allied infrastructure and renewable energy assets.

With India's economy on the country are exponentially. growing As 'The Energy of India', the

firm aims to become the nation's lead energiser, fulfilling 12.5 per cent

Besides Barauni, the staterun refiner is expanding the Panipat Refinery from 15 million tonnes to 25 million tonnes a year and the Gujarat refinery from 13.7 million tonnes to 18 million tonnes, along with its integration to lube and petrochemical production

While the first phase of petchem expansions at Panipat in Haryana and Paradip in Odisha is complete, the one at Gujarat refinery is scheduled for commissioning in 2024-25. Alongside, it is pursuing green initiatives, including hydrogen mobility, hydrogen transportation,

cooktops, minimising water footprint. Oil demand in India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, is projected to rise from 5.4 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2023 to 9.3 million bpd by 2040. Fulfilling this rising demand will augmenting the country's refining progressively, from the current 256.8 million tonnes per annum to 450 million

In addition, the country is set to add 50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually, aiming to achieve 500 gigawatts (GW) of installed renewable capacity

tonnes.

Nearly half of Indian international travellers made last-minute flight bookings in 2024: report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The year 2024 witnessed a rise in spontaneous among international travellers, with nearly half of them making last-minute plans, barely less than a week before their departure, reveals a new report.

The The travel conducted b travelbanking fintech platform highlights evolving mindset of Indian travellers, who flexibility, embracing prioritising experiences benefiting from streamlined travel processes.

Forty eight percent of international



year were made just 0-7 days before travel. This trend was supported by flight easier travel access, with 58

or visa-on-arrival options to Indian passport holders," reads the report findings. While many travellers

at short notice, the report said "30 per cent of visa applications" submitted 16-30 days before travel, implying a certain degree of preparation. Dubai, which according to the report was by far the

most preferred destination Indian travellers, attracted "45 per cent" of holidaymakers with its luxurious shopping and entertainment. The list was followed by

Vietnam, known for its culture and natural beauty, which drew 15 per cent travellers. Smaller number of travellers, accounting for one per cent each, chose Oman and Japan. Pop culture also played a

travel choices of Indians this year. For instance, web series like "Emily in Paris" inspired many Indian women to visit France, with 30 per cent Indians choosing France as their destination, followed by the UK (29 per cent) and Singapore (26 per cent). The preferred travel destinations for Indian males were different.

'Male travellers leaned towards Thailand, with 80 per cent preferring its beaches and vibrant beaches and vibrant nightlife, followed by the UAE (77 per cent) and the USA (76 per cent)," it added. Additionally, short holidays were the most popular in Indian 2024, with "66 per cent" of travellers.

booked international flights significant influence on the trips lasting less than seven The number of travellers

choosing extended vacations lasting 15 days or more was recorded "17 per With the increase in travel,

more people also focused on safety as the report witnessed a record sale of 7,395 travel insurance policies in 2024, worth a total of Rs 43.2 crore. travellers 'Younger

especially prioritised protection, often choosing insurance plans ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs from Rs 50,000 1,00,000," it added. The findings were based on

the sample size of 1 million

international

ORGATEC India for workspace design and technology

Koelnmesse India launches

PNS NEW DELHI

oelnmesse India has Nannounced the launch of ORGATEC India, the premier event for workspace design, furniture and technology, aimed as bringing global expertise to country's evolving workspace ecosystem. Slated to debut from

November 4 to 6 next year, at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai, ORGATEC India will bring together global and local leaders to explore business opportunities, foster connections, and showcase

innovations shaping the future of workspaces. The event will showcase transformative innovations in workplace design, including sustainable building technologies, adaptive workspaces, and advanced design solutions. With Global Capability Centers reshaping the office landscape, it is projected that GCCs will lease 40-45 percent of of total office space in India this year, expanding to over 1,900 centers supporting 2 million professionals

Koelnmesse India said.

UNITING ART AND PHILANTHROPY COMING SOCI

KHUSHII NGO launched the Art **Design Culture** (ADC) Collective, a unique event combining Indian art and design with a mission to uplift communities in need. The evening also featured the launch of Rajan Kapoor's book The Serengeti: Wild Wonders of Africa. adding a thoughtful dimension to the celebration, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**

n a world where art and culture come together, it's refreshing to see an event that not only celebrates creativity but also serves a greater purpose. The unveiling of the Art Design Culture (ADC) Collective, hosted by KHUSHII NGO at Bikaner House, was a perfect example of such an initiative. This special event seamlessly combined India's rich artistic traditions with the mission of supporting underprivileged communities through KHUSHII's educational and community development programs.

The evening began with a gathering of art lovers, patrons and philanthropists who were eager to engage in thoughtful discussions about the role of art in society. Among the highlights of the event were the insightful conversations with celebrated personalities such as Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar. Their reflections on their contributions to Indian art and culture provided valuable perspectives, sparking a meaningful dialogue about the future of Indian creativity.

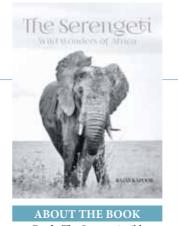
One of the key moments of the evening was the launch of Rajan Kapoor's The Serengeti: Wild Wonders of Africa, a





stunning visual exploration of Africa's natural beauty. The launch was accompanied by a discussion on wildlife conservation led by Dr. Rajiv Bhartari, which highlighted the importance of preserving nature and the role that art can play in raising awareness about such

Design also took centre stage, with renowned designer Sussanne Khan sharing her journey in the world of design. Her inspiring words about perseverance, creativity, and pushing boundaries resonated with everyone present. The evening also featured a lively art dialogue moderated by Rahul Kumar, where Padma

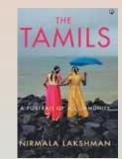


Book: The Serengeti wild wonders of Africa by Rajan Kapoor Publisher: Niyogi Books Price: ₹4,500

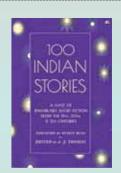
Shri awardee Paresh Maity and textile revivalist Karishma Swali discussed the evolution of Indian art over the last decade. Their conversation underscored the importance of innovation and tradition in shaping the future of Indian art.

The ADC Collective isn't just a celebration of creativity; it's an opportunity to connect with the vibrant world of Indian culture while supporting a meaningful cause. The event will give the public a chance to explore a stunning collection of artworks and interact with talented Indian artisans. All proceeds from the event will go directly towards supporting KHUSHII's philanthropic work, making it an impactful experience for both art enthusiasts and those eager to contribute to a greater cause. This initiative highlights how art can be a powerful tool for social change.By combining the beauty of Indian craftsmanship with the mission of uplifting communities, the ADC Collective offers a perfect example of how culture and philanthropy can work hand in hand to create positive change.





Book: The Tamils A Portrait of a Community Author: Nirmala Lakshman **Publisher:** Aleph book



Book: 100 Indian Stories A Feast of Remarkable Short Fiction from the 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries Author: Edited by A. J. Thomas Foreword by Ruskin Bond Publisher: Aleph book



Author: Annie Zaidi Publisher: Aleph book Compnay

SHATTERED SYRIA: CHAOS AFTER ASSAD

By GYANESHWAR DAYAL

ur Regular columnist, Nilantha Ilangamuwa's After Assad: Is Syria the New Libya in the Mediterranean? is a compelling exploration of the geopolitical chaos unleashed by the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime. Independently published in 2024 and available on Amazon, the book offers a stark analysis of a nation fractured by war, foreign interference, and sectarian tensions, drawing thought-provoking parallels with Libya's disintegration post-Gaddafi.

Ilangamuwa delves into the complex aftermath of Assad's collapse, illustrating how the removal of a dictator does not necessarily lead to stability or democracy. Instead, the power vacuum has given rise to militias, territorial struggles, and foreign interventions. The narrative paints a grim picture of a nation torn apart by competing agendas, with Turkey, Iran, Israel, Russia, and Western powers vying for influence, often at the expense of

Syria's sovereignty and its people's welfare. This multi-layered analysis is not just a critique of these powers but a searing indictment of how global ambitions exploit fractured

The book contextualises the Syrian conflict within a broader historical framework, tracing the roots of sectarian manipulation authoritarian rule under the Assad dynasty. Ilangamuwa connects these factors to the current fragmentation, showing how decades of repression and inequality laid the groundwork for the present turmoil. His parallels with Libya highlight the recurring failures of external interventions, where short-term strategic goals leave behind a legacy of chaos and

The human cost of this conflict is at the heart of Ilangamuwa's narrative. He vividly describes the destruction of key Syrian cities, the displacement

of millions, and the rise of extremist factions like Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham. He challenges the ethical basis of foreign powers' involvement, arguing that their actions often prioritise geopolitical objectives over humanitarian considerations. The looting of Damascus following Assad's downfall is capturing the collapse of state authority and the pervasive violence engulfing the capital.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Ilangamuwa'sAfter Assad:

Is Syria the New Libya in the

Mediterranean?

by Nilantha Ilangamuwa

The author's critique extends to the duplicity of international media and foreign policy actors. By juxtaposing Syria's fate with Western portrayals of regime change, Ilangamuwa exposes the contradictions and hypocrisies in global narratives about intervention and democracy. His insights into how powers such as the United States and Turkey manipulate proxy wars underscore the cynical exploitation of regional instability.

This is not merely a political or historical study; it is also a distressing reflection on the enduring suffering of the Syrian people. Ilangamuwa's writing is enriched by his encounters with Syrian activists, journalists, and intellectuals, lending authenticity to his analysis. These voices, often overshadowed by dominant geopolitical discourses, remind readers of the resilience and hope that persist amidst devastation.

By KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

he game of cricket remains a mystery to me even in the autumn of life. My first encounter with it occurred in the 1960s when I witnessed this strange game being played at a maidan in Fort Kochi, where our teachers had taken us for a daylong excursion. The picturesque maidan had two screens made of white cloth stretched across the ends, while 'gentlemen' in white trousers and shirts played the game with bats and a ball. Sreedharan Pillai, the teacher who accompanied us, told me that it was 'cricket', a game played by royalty.

Months later, I came across this game again at my school in Perumbavoor, where the royalty had assembled to play cricket. They arrived in cars such as Herald, Fiat, Vanguards, Chevrolet, and the occasional Ambassadors. One of the spectators told me that the players were from Kannan Devan Tea Estates in Munnar and shipping agents based in Kochi. Since I couldn't grasp the nuances of the game, I asked my classmate Sundararajan, son of a senior manager at Travancore Rayons, who often spoke of Pataudi, Sarbadhikari, and others. "You will not understand this game because it's played by educated and wealthy people," Sundararajan told me.

In every place, there are those who are considered masters of all topics. We had Gopalakrishnan, the local tailor, who was an encyclopedia of knowledge. There was nothing he didn't know. "Arrey, you will not understand it. It's a game played by officials like engineers, adhikaris, contractors, sarvadhikaris, and vakeels," Gopal Ji ticked me off. It was years later that I heard names like Farook Engineer, Nari Contractor, Hemu Adhikari, Berry Sarvadhikari, and the occasional Smiths and Tailors who toured India!

Cricket got a major boost in 1983 when India won the World Cup in England under the captaincy of Kapil Dev, the Haryana Hurricane. Alongside him, another player emerged as the darling of the masses: the unassuming Mohinder

Amarnath, whose stellar performance approached the Indian team with an offer with both bat and ball led India to from Kerry Packer, the founder of World had already earned a reputation as a 1977-1978 series in Australia, which is often remembered as the 'Mohinder Amarnath series.'

It's shocking that such a brilliant cricketer had to spend many years in the wilderness due to the callous attitude of Indian selectors, who overlooked him despite his exceptional performances. Though he played against the touring Australian side in 1969, he was sidelined for years. The reason for this remains a mystery.

After three decades of first-class cricket, Mohinder penned his memoirs, FEARLESS, with his younger sibling Rajinder. The three sons of legendary Lala Amarnath-Surinder, Mohinder, and Rajinder—had made their father proud with their performances, though Rajinder never made it to the national side. Despite being born to a legendary father, Mohinder had no godfathers in the game. His memoirs detail the trials he faced. He doesn't blame anyone in particular but does highlight how the Delhi District Cricket Association's actions kept him from the national team. Mohinder attributes this to the authorities' potential frustration with his outspoken father, Lala Amarnath, who didn't hesitate to speak his

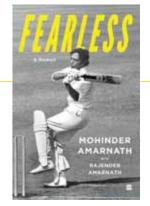
FEARLESS is more than just a memoir; it offers valuable lessons for aspiring cricketers. Life wasn't easy for Mohinder, despite having a father who was a flamboyant cricketer. Critics consider Mohinder the best Indian batsman against fast bowling. Indian players, barring a few like Farook Engineer and Viswanath, often collapsed against pace bowlers. Had Mohinder been included in the team, the outcomes would likely have been different. An interesting anecdote from Mohinder's memoir involves the 1978 Pakistan tour. In the midst of a contentious series, Asif the Pakistani all-rounder,

triumph. Before the World Cup, Mohinder Series Cricket. Iqbal, eager to distract the Indians, sent a WSC representative with a fantastic all-rounder, particularly in the lucrative offer, but despite Mohinder's signed contract, nothing came of it. Mohinder describes it as a strategic move to disrupt their focus before a crucial Test

The chapter on the 1983 World Cup transports readers back in time, immersing them in the spirit of the game. There are many cricketer memoirs, but FEARLESS stands out as monumental. The book captures the sweat and blood of Mohinder and Surinder (who was also dropped despite impressive performances).

The discrimination faced by northern players at the hands of the western zone selectors is another compelling aspect of FEARLESS. Indian sportsmen, unlike their cricketer counterparts, have

largely avoided writing memoirs. Footballers like Inder Singh and Magan Singh should follow suit, inspiring the next generation to take up the game. Cricket fans will find FEARLESS a mustread. The book is as simple straightforward as its protagonist, Mohinder Amarnath.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: FEARLESS - A Memoir Mohinder Amarnath with Rajinder Amarnath Publisher: Harper Collins **Price**: ₹799

> **WELL DONE, JIMMY! YOU SHOULD WRITE MORE ABOUT THE GAME BECAUSE THERE'S A WEALTH OF MATERIAL CRICKET FANS WOULD LOVE TO READ**

India to play its Champions Trophy matches at neutral venue

he deadlock over the hosting of next year's hosting of next years Champions Trophy finally ended on Thursday when the ICC announced that India will play their matches of the 50-over event at a state years instead of host neutral venue instead of host country Pakistan, which will get a similar arrangement for tournaments to be held in India till 2027.

The agreement will also extend to the 2028 women's T20 World Cup, which will be held in Pakistan. Although no formal announcement has been made, but India's Champions Trophy matches are likely to be held in the

"The ICC Board has approved that all matches between India and Pakistan played at ICC Events during the current rights cycle from 2024 to 2027 (which are to be hosted in India or Pakistan)

venue proposed by the tournament host," said the ICC in a statement, confirming what PTI reported on December 5.

The arrangement will also cover next year's women's World Cup in India and the T20 World Cup in 2026, to be jointly hosted by India and Sri

"India's Champions Trophy games will most likely be played in the UAE. As far as the Women's ODI World Cup in India is concerned, the India-Pakistan game could be held in Sri Lanka," said a

India had refused to travel to Pakistan for the event scheduled in February-March due to security concerns. The Indians have not played in Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks in which 150 people were killed. The two countries' last bilateral engagement was



Travelling to Pakistan also requires Indian government's clearance which has remained

"The schedule for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is set to be confirmed soon," the ICC added.

The decision, that came after a series of back-channel talks, was on expected lines after the sport's governing body maintained prolonged silence on the contentious matter during the previous set-up led by chairman Greg Barclay.
His successor Jay Shah took

charge on December 1 and all stakeholders, including the Pakistan Cricket Board, the BCCI and the broadcasters, were running out of time to organise the 50-over event that was last played in the UK in 2017.

Thursday's announcement meant it was the first major decision taken in Shah's always clear, the matter got stretched because of PCB's refusal to allow a "one-sided" arrangement of neutral venues. Led by Pakistan interior minister Mohsin Naqvi, the PCB was determined not to lose face in front of the local public. PCB, which had sent its team

to India for the ODI World Cup last year, had categorically opposed the hybrid model but eventually agreed to it on reciprocal

grounds. The PCB had earlier indicated that it wanted a greater share in the annual revenue cycle to accommodate the Indian demand for a hybrid model but there is no word yet on whether that has been discussed or accepted.

The tournament will feature eight teams, divided into two groups. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinals.



Ashwin deserved a fitting farewell: Kapil Dev

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Unable to comprehend R Ashwin's sudden decision to retire from international cricket, a shocked World Cupwinning skipper Kapil Dev says the premier off-spinner deserved a fitting farewell, ideally on home soil.

Ashwin stunned one and all by calling it quits on Wednesday, right after the Brisbane Test against Australia ended in a draw. Kapil felt Ashwin seemed

unhappy with something. India's greatest cricketers chose to leave the game. The disappointment among the fans was widespread, but I also saw a tinge of hurt on his face. He looked unhappy, and that was sad. He deserved much better, a fitting farewell," Kapil

As has been his wont, Ashwin chose to walk his own way while retiring in the middle of an important series. Kapil said he would like to hear the Tamil Nadu man's side of

said in a statement to PTI.

"He' could have waited and announced his retirement on Indian soil, but I don't know why Ashwin called it a day. I would want to hear his side of the story. Give him that respect. He has played 106 Tests for the country. I don't think anyone can match his humongous contribution to Indian cricket?

Kapil hoped that the Board of Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) would arrange a "grand farewell" to Ashwin. "I'm sure the parent body of cricket in India, BCCI, shall plan a grand farewell for this giant match-winner of Team India," he said.

Kapil, 65, said Ashwin was a stalwart, a versatile and unorthodox bowler, who constantly hustled the batters with his change of pace and cleverly disguised line and

"He was ready to experiment, and that is what set him apart. In a game where the batters get the most accolades, Ashwin stood out with his prowess. "Ashwin was brave. He could bowl at any stage of the contest. Do you find bowlers with such tremendous tactical

sense who can adapt quickly? He was his captain's go-to man," he said. Praising both his cricketing brain and offfield character, Kapil said Ashwin was a match-winner with no parallel in modern

"He has won India's highest number of Man of the Series awards. That is a tremendous compliment that puts his game and consistency perspective. He was not a "yes" man and came across as a gritty fighter.

Hazlewood, who had also missed the second Test (pink-ball) in Adelaide – which Australia won by 10 wickets - due to a side strain, described the latest injury as "random". "Just frustrating really. Ticked every box heading into the (third) Test,

ustralia fast bowler Josh

Australia tast dowler josh Hazlewood is "frustrated" by the timing of

his injury after he was ruled out of the remaining two

Tests against India due to a

right calf strain sustained

during the drawn third match at the Gabba.

end Mohun Bagan's unbeaten streak

ISL: FC Goa aim to

PTI ■ MARGAO

FC Goa will seek to snap a rampaging Mohun Bagan Super Giant's eight-match unbeaten streak in the Indian Super League (ISL) when the two sides square off in a 12th round match here on Friday. FC Goa, under India head coach Manolo Marquez, will also aim to improve their record against the Mariners, having lost five of their eight meetings in the ISL, including recent fixture in February. Super Giant's unbeaten run has seen them win seven and draw one of their last eight ISL games, and that has put them on top of the league leaderboard with 26 points from 11 matches, winning eight, drawing twice and losing once. On the other hand, the Gaurs are placed fourth with 19 points from the same number of games. Both these teams have been in

equally efficient form upfront, with the Kolkata-based side netting 22 times in the competition thus far, as compared to the 21 of the Goan club.

However, the visitors have been comparatively better organised at the back, as they have conceded 10 goals as opposed to the 15 of FC Goa.

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And LTMT Research Grant 2025-26 Teacher's Training Program 2025-26
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Young Researcher Award is instituted by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust (LTMT) to annually recognize and reward Young Indian scientists with outstanding track record in biological sciences and potential for high quality research with a deep commitment to find innovative solutions to major problems related to human diseases, blood disorder with special references to leukaemia and for scientific research towards alleviation of human sufferion from diseases.

human suffering from disease.

Applications are also invited for Junior Research Fellowship, LTMT Research Grant and Teacher's Training Program for the year 2025-2026. For Detailed Information and online application process, please access our website www.ladytatatrust.tatatrusts.org

प्रगत संगणन विकास केंद्र CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ADVANCED COMPUTING Vellayambalam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, PIN-695 033, Phone: 0471-2723333

विज्ञापन सं. सीडैकित/आरसीटी/07/2024 तारीख 20/12/2024 Advt. No: CDACT/RCT/07/2024 dated 20/12/2024

सीडैक तिरुवनंतपुरम में समेकित वेतन पर विभिन्न अनुबंध पदों के लिए वॉक इन इंटरव्यू

WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR VARIOUS CONTRACT POSITIONS ON CONSOLIDATED PAY FOR CDAC, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

अधिक जानकारी के लिए कुपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें/ For more details, please visit our website www.cdac.in

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (एच आर) / Sr. Admin. Officer (HR)

HDFC BANK

Registered Office: HDFC Bank House Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West) We understand your world | Mumbai - 400 013 and having one of its office as Retail Portfolio Management at HDFC Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, I-Think Techno Campus,

Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai – 400042. SALE INTIMATION AND PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF SECURITIES PLEDGED TO HDFC BANK LTD.

The below mentioned Borrowers of HDFC Bank Ltd. (the "Bank") are hereby notified regarding the sale of securities pledged to the Bank, for availing credit facilities in the nature of Loan/Overdraft Against Securities. Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as

per agreed loan terms, the below loan accounts are in delinquent status. The Bank has issued multiple notices to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the below-mentioned date whereby, Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which, Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further notice in this regard The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell / dispose off the Securities on or after 26th December, 2024 for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank, The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any time, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create furthe deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledge security within one (1) calendar day, without any further notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding mount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of pledged securities.

No.	Account Number	Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 17 Dec 2024	
1	XXXX6110	MIRZA KAISER BAEG	3,63,801.82	17-Dec-24
2	XXXX3232	GOPI VIJAY	16,689.48	18-Dec-24
3	XXXX8456	NILU SINGH SENGAR	1,07,818.82	18-Dec-24
4	XXXX6652	RAMKUMAR VAISHNAV	2,39,424.04	18-Dec-24
5	XXXX1847	VIBHA TIWARI	4,50,985.86	18-Dec-24
6	XXXX0060	GAURAV SINHA	2,24,415.02	18-Dec-24
7	XXXX3086	RAGHWENDRA RAI	1,79,159.33	18-Dec-24
8	XXXX7870	M MAITRA	6,05,000.00	18-Dec-24
9	XXXX9677	GOPAL SINGH SANDHU	12,558.13	18-Dec-24
10	XXXX2079	POOJA SURYAWANSHI	4,25,701.56	18-Dec-24
11	XXXX6455	YASH KUMAR SHARMA	8,03,479.97	25-Nov-24
12	XXXX7720	SUDHA AGRAWAL	20,16,934.00	18-Dec-24
13	XXXX6051	SARSWATI RATHORE	2,03,579.82	18-Dec-24
14	XXXX9491	RAJA KHETAN	4,71,215.82	18-Dec-24
15	XXXX7604	ASHOK SETH	5,96,955.82	18-Dec-24
16	XXXX7695	RAMA SETH	6,46,656.38	18-Dec-24
17	XXXX8429	URVASHI SETH	5,50,880.13	18-Dec-24
18	XXXX1133	HARISH CHANDEL	2,12,099.20	25-Nov-24
19	XXXX5628	PUSHPA SINGH	2,68,119.82	18-Dec-24

HDFC BANK LTD.

my side again, but it was just a random calf strain," he told

I could understand if it was

Hazlewood 'frustrated' at missing remainder of India series due to 'random' injury

"It's just the timing again, they are only little 2-3 week injuries, it's just the timing of it and missing big games is the frustrating thing."
The 33-year-old Hazlewood

was sent for scans after just one over of bowling on the fourth day after hurting his right calf in the warm-up before play. The injury only turned out to be a strain, but it's expected to be serious

enough to end his home Test summer early. "Obviously, do a deep dive

into it and see what we can come up with ... Feels pretty random," he said.
"I've had a history of sides

and calves, they're probably the two things that have kept me out for the majority over the last four years.

"But yeah I sort of just keep adding another layer to the defence hopefully, get back into the gym, I've ticked a lot of boxes over the last 12

Hazlewood said he does not want to rush back to action before regaining full fitness, which he is hoping to achieve by the two-match Test tour of Sri Lanka in late January and February.

That's probably the goal, just take it as it comes over the next few weeks," he said. 'No rush to get anything in a hurry, it's just getting everything right. Probably take a few extra days here and there. Ticking things off and getting everything right."

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A, AJC Bose Road, Kolkata-700020 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

No.	Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Date of Symbolic Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Branch
	Abhishek Agrawal/ Nitesh Agrawal/ Priyanka Agrawal/ Pooja Agrawal/ Raj Kumar Sultania/ Sashikala Devi Sultania/ House No.14/1253, Sultania Gali Vinoba Nagar, Near Gayatri Mandir, Ward No.12 Opposite Of Sai Mandir Chhattishgarh Bilash Pur- 495001/ LBBSR00002222995/ LBBSR00003357443/ LBBSR00004420694	Survey Khata No.723/75, P.H. No.22, Mouza Juna Bilaspur, R.N.M. And Municipalits Bilaspur, Tehsil And District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh Admeasuring An Area Of 26 Decimals./ 105 Hectore/ Date Of Symbolic 17.12.2024	August 31, 2024 Rs. 82,27,568.12/-	Bilashpur

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: December 20, 2024

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

PICICI Home Finance Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Office: Crescent Plaza, Unit-H4, 2nd Floor, Near Swaroop, Talkies, Station Road, Durg, Chhattisgarh-491001

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that As the bollowing the falled to pay the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower

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 ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time

vailable, to redeem the secured assets

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Pradeep Kumar (Borrower), Anita. (Co-Borrower),	Na Khasra No. 541/3, Mouja Khedamara, Ph No. 11, area admeasuring 1500 sq ft, Tehsil And Durg, C.G. Ganj NA Durg Chhattisgarh 491001. Bounded By- North: House of S Naresh, South: 20 Ft Road, East: Land of Shushila Devi, West: 20 Ft Road./ Date of Possession- 17-Dec-2024	18-09-2024 Rs. 10,98,151.32/-	Durg

nortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Date: December 20, 2024, Place: Durg

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued

demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower 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 ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time ailable, to redeem the secured assets. Sr. Name of the Borrower/ Description of property/

No.	Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Date of Possession	Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	of Branch
1.		Na Khasra No.1029/2, P.H. No.19A, R.N.M. Kohaka, Ward No.16, Village Kurud, Tehsil and District Durg, C.G. Bhilai Supela Na Bhilai Chhattisgarh- 490023. Bounded By- North: 10 Ft Road, South: Land of Bartiya, East: Land of Bartiya, West: Land of Agrwal./ Date of Possession-17-12-2024	18-09-2024 Rs. 3,13,127.16/-	Durg
2.		Na Khasra No.1029/2, P.H. No.19A, R.N.M. Kohaka, Ward No.16, Village Kurud, Tehsil and District Durg, C.G. Bhilai Supela Na Bhilai Chhattisgarh- 490023. Bounded By- North: 10 Ft Road, South: Land of Bartiya, East: Land of Bartiya, West: Land of Agrwal./ Date of Possession-17-12-2024	18-09-2024 Rs. 62,70,292.84/-	Durg
3.	Nasim Mohammad (Borrower), Sahnaj Parvin (Co-Borrower), LHBSR00001354000.	Na Open Land Part of Khasra No. 809/5, Staar No. 5, Plot No. 30/2, Area Admeasuring 2537 Sq Ft At Mouja Sirgitti Bannak Chowk Ph.No 37/41, Ward No 15 Budhadev Ward, Bilaspur Na Bilaspur Chhattisgarh- 495001. Bounded By- North: Road, South: Seller Plot, East: Pandey Plot, West: Bhineshwari Plot./ Date of Possession-16-12-2024	18-09-2024 Rs. 10,60,916.24/-	Bilaspur
4.	Nasim Mohammad (Borrower), Sahnaj Parvin (Co-Borrower), LHBSR00001354002.	Na Open Land Part of Khasra No. 809/5, Staar No. 5, Plot No. 30/2, Area Admeasuring 2537 Sq Ft At Mouja Sirgitti Bannak Chowk Ph. No. 37/41, Ward No 15 Budhadev Ward, Bilaspur Na Bilaspur Chhattisgarh- 495001. Bounded By- North: Road, South: Seller Plot, East: Pandey Plot, West: Bhineshwari Plot/, Date Of Possession-16-12-2024	18-09-2024 Rs. 93,348.74/-	Bilaspur

lse the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: December 20, 2024, Place: Bhilai, Bilaspur Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

Australian top-three seriously out of form, should go back to basics: Ian Healy PTI ■ MELBOURNE made, and 'what

Ahead of the crucial Boxing Day Test against India from December 26, legendary wicketkeeper Ian Healy has pointed out the serious lack of form of the top-three Australian batters and advised them to go to the basics and perform if they want to continue in the team. Australia made 445 in the first innings of the rain truncated third Test at Brisbane with Travis Head and Steve Smith smashing centuries but the home team did miserably in the second innings before declaring at 89 for 7

The match ended in a draw with the five-match Test series level at 1-1.

"I don't see them (Australia) regressing going Melbourne, but they are out of form, they're seriously out of form," Healy told SEN



Openers Usman Khawaja, Nathan McSweeney and one-Marnus batter Labuschagne performed below expectations at the Gabba before Smith and Head halted the slide with centuries

in the first innings. The second innings was even worse with the top three managing just 13 runs.

"Questions have got to be asked of George Bailey: 'Can we get this form back? Are you confident that form will reemerge in our top three?"

suggestions might you have for us, George?' That type of thing. Healy opined that the

Melbourne Test should be Khawaja, McSweeney and Labuschagne's best chance to redeem themselves and asked the trio to get back to the

"The Melbourne Test is probably the least volatile wicket they'll play on and that's their best chance. But form takes a little longer than a week to turn around, and it's just not coming for them. They've got to get right back

to basics and strip it right back. See the ball and hit it, don't care where your feet go. That's the first step, just get some clarity in your head," said Healy.

Australia must avoid defeat in Melbourne to keep their hopes alive of taking back the "Otherwise changes have to Border-Gavaskar .Trophy.