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INSIDE

WORLD 9
IMRAN'S PARTY SUSPENDS PROTEST, AT LEAST FOUR DEAD IN CRACKDOWN

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Ekhnath Shinde surrenders to BJP

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

After three days of resistance to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's government formation plans in the state, a reconciled caretaker Chief Minister Ekhnath Shinde on Wednesday extended his full support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to take all decisions required for the formation of a new government in Maharashtra, thus paving for the anointment of Devendra Fadnis as the new CM. In what is being seen as a meek surrender before the Bharatiya Janata Party's central leadership, Shinde, at a hurriedly called news conference at his Thane residence "Shub-Deep", that he had made it clear to the BJP's top leaders that they could choose the Chief Minister and take decisions in all matters relating to the formation of a new government in Maharashtra. "I have spoken to both Modi ji and Amit bhai over phone. I have told them that there is not going to be any obstacle from my party's side. They can decide on the choice of Chief Minister, and take decisions necessary for the formation of a new government in Maharashtra... I will back them completely," Shinde said, seeking to put to rest all the speculation that he had serious reservations about Devendra Fadnis being appointed as the new Chief Minister of the state. Denying the speculation in the media that he was upset with the turn of events after the



Photo: PTI

Maharashtra Assembly polls that saw the BJP-led MahaYuti post a landslide victory, Shinde said: "I am not the one to get upset... 'Amhi radnare nahi, ladnare ahe' (we are not the ones who cry but we fight) For me CM means a common man... I work for the common people... I will continue to do so till the last drop of my blood." While evading a direct reply on whether he would accept the post of deputy Chief Minister under Fadnis or move to the Centre and accept a berth in the Union Cabinet, Shinde said: "Tomorrow... there is a meeting with Shah where all decisions will be taken." Expressing his satisfaction over two and a half years' tenure as the Chief Minister of the state, Shinde said: "I am satisfied with my tenure as the Chief Minister. For me no post is bigger than being a 'Ladki Bahu' (elder brother)

to all the Ladki Bahin (favourite sisters) in the state. I did not sit at home... I went to the homes of people. I worked for the people from the bottom of my heart." Acknowledging the feelings of his party activists who wanted to see him return as the Chief Minister, Shinde said: "There is nothing wrong in their feelings. I have worked hard, and they are simply expressing their support." Shinde's surrender came after his party workers came out with a slogan "Ekhnath hai toh safe hai" (If Ekhnath is there, then we are safe) even as Shiv Sena workers performed pujas across temples of the state praying for one more term for him. However, the BJP's central leadership was in no mood to oblige Shinde. Having delayed his decision to let the BJP leadership have its way, Shinde not just blinked but he surrendered to Modi and

Shah, thus giving a free hand to the latter to decide on what they deemed fit in matters relating to the new government formation in the state. Meanwhile, Maharashtra BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule and senior party leader Sudhir Mungantiwar have welcomed Shinde's decision to give a free-hand to the BJP's central leadership to form a new government in the state. "Shinde's stand is to make the NDA stronger and strengthen the MahaYuti... I thank him for the stand he has taken... Shinde played a crucial role in strengthening the MahaYuti alliance as he was instrumental in reviving a slew of projects that were stalled by the Maha Vikas Aghadi government," Bawankule said. "I express gratitude to Shinde... today, he has cleared all issues... he has made it clear that all decisions relating to the government including the choice of Chief Minister will be taken by Modi and Shah... Shinde, Fadnis and Ajit Pawar will sit with them (Modi and Shah) and discuss various issues relating to the nature of the government, distribution of portfolios and appointment of district guardian ministers," Bawankule said. "In the BJP, every one of us wants Fadnis to become the Chief Minister. Even all those in the MahaYuti want to see Fadnis as the Chief Minister. On this, the leaders of all three constituents of MahaYuti will sit across and take a formal decision," he added.

India welcomes Israel-Lebanon ceasefire



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India, on Wednesday, welcomed the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon and said it hoped that these developments will lead to "peace and stability" in the wider region. The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon-based Hezbollah began early Wednesday morning. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah reached a ceasefire late Tuesday evening after months of deadly clashes that stemmed from the Israel-Gaza conflict but escalated in September this year, after several leaders of the Lebanese militant group were killed. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked outgoing United States' President Joe Biden for his "involvement in securing the ceasefire agreement". He told Biden in a call that he appreciated the US leader's "understanding that Israel will maintain its freedom of action in enforcing it", according to Netanyahu's office. Ahead of Israel's approval of the deal, Netanyahu said the "length of the ceasefire depends on what happens in Lebanon" and the truce would allow Israel to "intensify" pressure on Hamas and focus on the "Iranian threat". The Ministry of External

Affairs (MEA) said in a statement "We welcome the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon that has been announced. We have always called for de-escalation, restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy. We hope these developments will lead to peace and stability in the wider region." In early October, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had termed the conflict in West Asia as a cause of "great concern" and "deep worry", even as he had said that in a globalised world, a conflict anywhere actually creates problems everywhere. "Honestly today, whether it is the conflict in Ukraine or the conflict in the Middle East (West Asia), these are big factors of instability, big factors of concern", Jaishankar had said during an event here. Long-displaced residents of south Lebanon have begun to return to their homes amid celebrations hours after the ceasefire, the reports in international media said. Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah reached a ceasefire after months of deadly clashes that stemmed from the Israel-Gaza conflict but escalated in September this year, after several leaders of the Lebanese militant group were killed.



PHOTO: PTI

Delhi AQI likely to go back to be 'severe'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A cold wind blew away the thick layer of haze that has covered the National Capital for over a week, and a bright sun shone through, on Wednesday. The Air Quality Index (AQI) has also dropped to 303 in the NCR, placing it in the "very poor" category for the fourth consecutive day, while Delhi recorded its second-coldest night of the season. The minimum temperature dipped to 10.4 degrees Celsius, 0.1 notch above normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which has also forecast a further drop to nine degrees Celsius at night. The coldest night of the season so far was recorded on November 21, when the temperature settled at 10.2 degrees Celsius. However, the overall AQI of Delhi improved compared to the previous 24-hour average of 396, data showed. Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS), however, has forecast the air quality to be 'severe' by Thursday due to a drop in wind speed and a western disturbance influencing the meteorological conditions of the region. Two days after the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issued an order asking schools in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) to conduct classes in hybrid mode, schools in Gurgaon have been devising ways to ensure classes are not disrupted ahead of board exams. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Air Quality Index (AQI) was 302 at 11 am. IQ Air real time data showed, PM2.5 concentration was stood currently 38.2 times the World Health Organization annual PM2.5 guideline value at the same time.



NSG to set up an independent hub in Jammu

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

To cut down the response time in any adverse situation, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has accorded its formal approval to the proposal of permanently locating a component of the elite National Security Guards (NSG) in Jammu to counter any future terror threat emanating from across the border with Pakistan. At present NSG is setting up its units in Ayodhya, Pathankot and Kerala and they are expected to be operational soon by the end of this year. In addition, there are five regional hubs of NSG in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai and Gandhinagar. These hubs were created after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

Indian MPs condemn attack on minorities in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Members of Parliament (MP), cutting across party lines, on Wednesday, condemned attacks on Hindus and other minorities and arrest of Hindu Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh. Union minister Giriraj Singh said the attack on Hindus in Bangladesh reflects that the interim government of that country is in the "clutches of fundamentalists" and sought the intervention of the United Nations in the matter. Condemning the arrest of a Hindu leader in Bangladesh, he said such attacks are against humanity. "The caretaker 'Prime Minister' of Bangladesh is in the clutches of fundamentalists. The way Hindus are being attacked is against humanity. The United Nations should intervene in this matter," Singh told reporters in the Parliament complex. Bangladesh's interim government is headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. Singh said the targeting of Hindus and arrest of religious leaders shows that



PHOTO: PTI

fundamentalists are dominating the Bangladesh interim government like in the case of Pakistan. The minister was asked about the arrest of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari in Bangladesh and the prevailing situation there. Bangladesh police had on Monday, arrested the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) monk from the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area in Dhaka while travelling to Chattogram. India on Tuesday noted with "deep concern" the arrest and denial of bail to the Hindu leader, and urged authorities in the neighbouring country to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all other minority groups. Several other MPs also condemned the attack on minorities in Bangladesh and sought the government's intervention. TMC MP Saugata Roy also condemned the incident and said it is a matter of concern that Hindus are being subjected to atrocities. "It should not happen. I condemn it. The government should actively intervene in the matter," he said. Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi said his party was worried over the situation in Bangladesh. BJP leader Samik Bhattacharya said it is unfortunate that the country is silent over atrocities being committed against minorities in Bangladesh.

Delighted to receive investment proposals worth Rs 60,000 crores in UK: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Concluding the UK leg of his two-nation visit to seek investment proposals for Madhya Pradesh, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday said he was delighted to have secured significant investment offers in healthcare, industry, mining, the service sector, and agriculture. During his visit to the Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), Chief Minister Yadav emphasised that research and academic studies are truly meaningful when they benefit society. He noted that the state is also making strides in this direction under the new education policy. "Empowering students to tackle future challenges is a fundamental requirement of today's education system," he remarked. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Yadav visited Warwick University in London and interacted with subject matter experts. He noted that the WMG campus, established by Baron Sushanta Kumar Bhattacharyya, houses over 30,000 students. The essence



PHOTO: PTI

of research here lies in integrating innovation, benefiting both industries and society. "Through such efforts, we can progress while serving humanity," he added. CM Yadav underlined that Madhya Pradesh has immense potential for growth in the automotive sector. He announced plans to explore opportunities for youth from the state to gain expertise at WMG. He invited experts to train professionals in the state. Efforts will be made to affiliate universities and technical institutions in Madhya Pradesh with WMG to foster a collaborative

exchange of ideas and practices. Sharing insights from his interaction with students from India, the Chief Minister said that the diversity at Warwick University is a model worth replicating in Madhya Pradesh. "We aim to foster MoUs between universities here and those in Madhya Pradesh to implement similar models and set up research centres within industrial campuses for the greater benefit of all," he said. He underscored the importance of collaborative research between universities and industrial groups, stating that universities should partner with suitable organisations to establish self-sufficient research centres on their campuses. The Chief Minister further discussed the implementation of global best practices in skill development and education in Madhya Pradesh, fostering exchange programmes for experts and students. "I have come here as a flag-bearer of Sanatan culture. Universities and colleges are akin to Goddess Saraswati, and their benefits must reach humanity at large. While technology holds significance in this mechanised age, it must be guided by principles of righteousness. Sharing goodness globally ensures collective progress and welfare," he said. Upon his arrival at WMG, the Dean greeted the Chief Minister with a bouquet. In return, Yadav honoured Prof Robin Clark with a Chandri stole as a token of respect for his outstanding contributions. During his visit, Yadav also visited the Swaminarayan Temple in London and met members of the Swaminarayan and ISKCON communities.

UP govt to recover damages from Sambhal accused

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government announced on Wednesday that individuals involved in the recent violence in Sambhal will be held accountable for damages to public property, with their posters prominently displayed in public areas. "This measure aims to identify and apprehend those responsible for the unrest, which claimed four lives and left several, including police personnel, injured," a senior official said. The violence erupted on Sunday in Sambhal's Kot Garvi area during a court-mandated survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid. The survey was initiated following a petition alleging that a Harihar temple once existed at the site. The situation escalated when a large crowd gathered near the mosque, chanting slogans and clashing with security personnel. Protesters set vehicles on fire and pelted stones, leading to widespread chaos. "The UP government is adopting a



firm stance against individuals involved in the Sambhal violence. Posters of stone pelters and miscreants will be displayed publicly, and recovery of damages will be sought. A reward may also be announced for information leading to their arrest," said an official spokesperson. The crackdown mirrors a similar initiative during the 2020 Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests, where posters of alleged vandals were displayed across various cities, including Lucknow. However, the move had drawn criticism and was

later withdrawn following a court directive. In the aftermath of the Sambhal violence, police have arrested 25 individuals and filed seven FIRs, including one against Samajwadi Party (SP) Member Parliament (MP) Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and Sohail Iqbal, son of local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood. Charges have also been filed against over 2,750 unidentified individuals. Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Vishnoi confirmed that the situation is now under control. "A magisterial inquiry is underway.

Strict action will be taken against those responsible for the unrest," he stated. Meanwhile, a copy of the FIR registered in connection with the Sambhal violence has revealed explosive details, naming Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq as the main accused and SP MLA's son Suhail Iqbal as the second accused. In addition, a case has been lodged against 2,750 people, highlighting the scale of the unrest. The FIR alleges that SP MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq incited the crowd to vitiate the communal atmosphere and gain political advantage. It also notes that Barq visited the Jama Masjid two days before the violence without administrative permission, which reportedly added fuel to the brewing tensions. The unrest began when a large crowd gathered at the Jama Masjid during the survey. Despite police efforts to pacify the situation, the mob refused to disperse and allegedly sought to disrupt the process.

Eklingnathji puts a divine pause in royal Mewar drama

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Vishvaraj Singh Mewar, the newly anointed titular head of the Mewar royal family, visited the Eklingnathji temple on Wednesday to complete mourning rites for his late father, Mahendra Singh Mewar, amid an ongoing dispute over access to Udaipur's City Palace for performing rituals. Vishvaraj Singh, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, performed the rituals at the temple on Nathdwara Road to mark the end of the mourning period, which began after his father's death on November 10. To ensure a smooth visit, additional security arrangements were in place. A grand temple of Lord Bholenath is located at Kailashpuri, 22 kilometres away from the city. Eklingnathji is worshipped as the family deity of the Maharajas of Mewar. The City Palace area remains under prohibitory orders, imposed under Section 163 of the BNSS (formerly Section 144 of CrPC) and order. Tensions escalated earlier this week when Vishvaraj Singh was denied entry to the palace, where he had planned to offer prayers at a 'dhuni' (sacred fire) before heading to the temple.



Reacting to the violent clash that broke out between his supporters and representatives of the Udaipur City Palace on Monday after he was blocked from entering the palace, Vishvaraj Singh said that the entire controversy was unnecessary. He said that it is a normal ritual for any royal family member to visit the Dhuni temple after the coronation. He added that it got unwanted attention because of the ban imposed on his visit.

CM holds round-table talks, invites UK investors

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, during his UK visit, held a one-on-one meeting with leading industrialists of London and discussed the investment possibilities to increase investment in Madhya Pradesh. He had sector-focused round-table meetings and held detailed discussions regarding investment.

Yadav carefully listened to the projects and requirements of each investor in the one-on-one meetings and assured better opportunities and policy support for investment in Madhya Pradesh. The round-table discussions included detailed discussions with experts and government officials on key areas such as electric vehicles, renewable energy, education and food processing.



The Chief Minister met representatives of companies like the Indorama Group, SRAM & MRAM Group, Cyanconnode, Hybrid Air Vehicles Limited, Clinisupplies, Aurora Energy Research, Elsevier, WeDeliver, Capro, Wavesight, The Montcalm Luxury Hotels, Phyla Earth, Ampergia Limited, Ayana Consulting, Pangaea Data Ltd., Invergy, BEM Group Ltd., DAX FIRST, Ransat Group, Cogo Ecotech Solutions, Empathy AI,

Money for Business Limited, DAM Healthcare Limited and Helion. In the meeting, detailed discussions were held on accelerating industrial development and opportunities for possible cooperation.

Yadav informed the investors about the favourable business environment in Madhya Pradesh and the facilities available for investment.

Yadav participated in round-table discussions focused on various

sectors. Important areas like electric vehicles (EVs), automobiles and renewable energy, education and food processing were discussed in these discussions.

Yadav's initiative will prove to be result-oriented in making the state a global investment destination and developing strong partnerships with industrialists. Also, these meetings with industrial experts and investors will prove to be important steps towards shaping new possibilities for the development of Madhya Pradesh.

CM's one-on-one meetings with investors

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav held one-on-one meetings with leading investors and industry leaders in London to discuss the vast investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh. During these meetings, CM Dr. Yadav elaborated on partnership prospects in various sectors such as renewable energy,

agribusiness, infrastructure, healthcare, and IT.

Dr. Yadav introduced the investors to the state's business-friendly policies and incentives, emphasizing the government's unwavering commitment to creating an environment conducive to industries and innovation. He also shared his visionary approach to promoting sustainable development and innovation through the state's industrial potential, which was highly appreciated by the investors.

Speaking during the meetings, CM Yadav remarked, "Madhya Pradesh is not just a hub of opportunities for investors but also a trusted partner that will help take their businesses to new heights." He highlighted the infrastructure, skilled workforce, and other resources made available by the government to facilitate the seamless establishment and operation of industries in the state.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visits Swaminarayan Temple in London UK on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Man booked for posting pic with female psychiatrist on social media

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

State cyber cell has booked a man for posting obscene post of a 34-year-old female psychiatrist of the state capital; accused posted his photo with the psychiatrist on a social media platform and called her a call girl.

The victim is depressed due to her friend's actions. The accused posted his photo with the psychiatrist on a social media platform and called her a call girl.

He wrote abusive words for her in the post. Since then, she has been getting calls from unknown numbers.

The callers are talking obscenely to her. On the other hand, the accused is also threatening her by messaging her continuously. She said that she complained to the CM helpline, but they failed to

The accused took her contact number and started calling her later. For some time, there was a normal conversation, and thereafter the accused started talking filthy under the influence of alcohol

accept her complaint. Now she has complained to the State Cyber Police. The police have started the investigation.

According to the psychiatrist is engaged in private practice. The accused Rajat Tiwari is a resident of Ganjbasoda who claims to be a landlord of his area. The accused studied with her in college from 2011 to 2014. Two months ago, he started following her on a social media platform and started talking to her.

The accused took her contact number and started calling

her later. For some time, there was a normal conversation, and thereafter the accused started talking filthy under the influence of alcohol. When she stopped talking, he started threatening her by sending messages. When she did not talk even then, he threatened to defame her. After this, he posted wrong things about her on his social media account.

The accused has also written wrong things about the psychiatrist in his post. The psychiatrist claimed that she pleaded with the accused to remove the post. He threat-

ened her through a message that now only the crime branch can delete the post and complain there.

She had also complained to the cyber crime branch, but did not get any help from there either. The accused has also uploaded obscene photos and videos of other girls on his profile. He has even shared videos of drinking alcohol in a moving train on his social media account. In this video, policemen are also seen sitting with him.

The victim said that she complained to the CM helpline on Tuesday. There, the complaint was refused to be registered. I was kept on hold and told to connect the call to the women police station Bhopal. The call was not picked up at the women police station. Then I was told to go to the women's police station and register the complaint.

Intense cold conditions prevail in the State, Bhopal records 9.2 degrees

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Intense cold conditions have prevailed across the state. A homeless man sleeping in the veranda of a shopping complex in Betul is suspected to have died due to cold on Tuesday night.

Last night, a temperature of 10.7 degrees was recorded in Betul.

The CCTV camera installed in the shopping complex has captured the picture of the young man, in which he is seen shivering.

The deceased has been identified as Babu Dhurve Chhatrapal (55) of Chunni Dhana.

Police said that he used to work as a porter when it felt very cold at night, he tried to save himself by covering himself with plastic, but did not wake up in the morning.

Cities of Madhya Pradesh are shivering due to snowfall on the mountains. Bhopal and Jabalpur cities are colder than Jammu-Katra and Dehradun.

According to the Meteorological Department, the night temperature in Bhopal and Jabalpur will remain 10 degrees for the next 3 to 4 days.

This November, the cold has also broken the record of many years and it is the coldest in Bhopal in 25 years.

Temperatures are below normal in all cities including Indore, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Ujjain.

Meteorologists said that the effect of cold will remain even in the last days of November. There is no possibility of rain in Gwalior-Chambal due to the end of the effect of Western Disturbance.

According to the Meteorological Department, on Monday-Tuesday night, the temperature was 10.6 degrees in

Jammu City of Jammu and Kashmir, 10.2 degrees in Katra, 7.4 degrees in Shimla of Himachal Pradesh, 6.9 degrees in Chamba and 10.2 degrees in Dehradun of Uttarakhand, 7.8 degrees in Mussoorie. In this way, Bhopal, Jabalpur cities remained colder than Jammu, Katra-Dehradun. Pachmarhi was also recorded colder than other cities.

Cold winds increased the chill even during the day.

Snowfall is occurring in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. Due to this, the speed of the jet stream i.e. cold winds is high. It is blowing at a speed of 260 km per hour at an altitude of 12.6 km above West-North India. Due to this, there is an effect of cold winds in the state. Due to this, the chill has increased even during the day.

On Tuesday, a drop in day temperature was also recorded. A

drop in maximum temperature was seen in many cities including Bhopal, Indore, Pachmarhi, Narmadapuram, Gwalior, Guna, Satna, Jabalpur. The mercury in Pachmarhi was 23.4 degrees, the temperature in Malajkhand of Balaghat was 24.2 degrees. Bhopal-Indore recorded 27.5 degrees, Gwalior 28.4 degrees, Ujjain 28.8 degrees and Jabalpur 27.8 degrees Celsius.

Earlier, on Monday-Tuesday night, the lowest mercury was recorded at 5.6 degrees in Pachmarhi, 7.3 degrees in Kalyanpur of Shahdol. At the same time, the mercury remained below 10 degrees in Bhopal, Jabalpur, Mandla, Umaria, Nagaon and Rajgarh. At the same time, the temperature remained below 12 degrees in Malajkhand, Chhindwara, Narsinghpur, Betul, Khandwa, Khargone, Tikamgarh, Raisen, Guna and Satna.



An aerial view of the preparations for the upcoming Aalmi Tablighi Ijima, an annual muslim congregation, scheduled from Nov 29 to Dec 2, at Eintkhedi, Ghasipura near Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Local residents break open the lock of Meera Temple

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Meera temple in Arera Colony area was unlocked after 10 days by breaking the lock by women of the area, Muslim women also helped in breaking the lock. Women allege that the lock was put here with the intention of occupying the temple.

The incident was reported from the temple in Tekri in Meera Nagar of E/6 Arera Colony where the idols of Lord Lakshmi Narayan, Bholenath, Hanuman are installed in the ancient Meera temple.

A man named Uday Raj, who claimed himself to be the caretaker of the temple, had locked the temple about 10 days ago. Since then, devotees were performing aarti and worship from outside the temple gate.

'The matter of 'locking out' of the temple has now

reached the police. Both the parties have complained, on which the police have started an investigation.

After breaking the lock of the temple, the women went inside and prayed.

Devotee Kaushalya said that for the last 2 years I used come to the temple regularly to worship, but for some days the gate was locked, so I was worshipping in the temple in front. Today the lock opened so I have come to worship.

Women allege that the temple was locked for 10 days, so it was broken. Allegation of occupation of temple, complaint reached the police station.

Devotee Vikas Nath said, earlier elderly Meera Bai used to come to take care of the temple. She died in February this year.

After this, her nephew Uday occupied it. This is a temple of the trust, people of the locality used to come here to

worship. Uday locked the temple to occupy it, and a complaint was also made in the police station.

After getting information about locking the deity and opening the temple by devotees, policemen from Habibganj police station reached the spot, they investigated. However, police did not find Uday.

This temple also has temples of Lord Laxminarayan, Bholenath, Hanuman. Mahant Gulab Puri of Dasnam Shri Panchjuni Akhara said that the temple is related to Tarawali Mandir Trust. Meera Bai was looking after the entire management of the temple for many years. After her death, the temple was handed over to the residents so that it can be taken care properly. Information was received that some people are occupying the temple. Today, women have broken the lock of the gate. Proper arrangements will be made in

the temple.

Uday Singh said " I am responsible for taking care of the temple. The Uday Singh who was accused by the people of the locality has also come forward. Uday Singh said that all the allegations made against me are false. The dispute started after installing a private meter in the temple. The people of the locality want stolen electricity. People who live near the temple were using electricity illegally. The people of the locality themselves had locked the temple, information about this has been given to the police station." Uday said that my aunt Meera Bai had appointed me to take care of the temple. She made the will in my name, I also have all the documents. If the government wants, it can take over the temple. I have no objection but I will not give the temple to those who create controversy.

25-year-old youth commits suicide by hanging from tree at Ratibad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 25-year-old mentally disturbed youth committed suicide on Tuesday in Badjhiri of Ratibad police station area, his body was found hanging from a tree behind the house.

On the information of the family, the police have started an investigation by registering a case. After the post-mortem, the body has been handed over to the family. Initial investigation by the police revealed that the young man was mentally ill.

According to the police, Jagdish Singh a resident of Badjhiri village, lived with his mother and younger sister in his elder father's house. On Monday morning, Jagdish left the house for some work and did not reach home late at night. On Tuesday, the family found Jagdish's body hanging from a mango tree behind the house. Jagdish had committed suicide by hanging.

According to the police, Jagdish did not do any work. His father had sold all the property before his death due to which he lived with his mother and younger sister at his uncle's house. His mental

condition was not good and he was under stress while his mother's mental condition was also not stable. The family told the police that due to his mother's mental condition and other reasons, he committed suicide.

Meanwhile, the body of a man found near Holy Cross School has been identified as Rakesh Ladia, a resident of Kajlikhera.

There are injury marks on the body, which at first glance seem to be due to an attack. Nothing could be ascertained and only after the autopsy report details could be revealed.

On Tuesday, Kolar police station got the postmortem done and handed over the body to the family.

Kolar police said that on Monday, an employee of Holy Cross School was informed about a body in the bushes. On which the body was taken into custody after reaching the spot. After which, on investigation, the deceased has been identified.

Rakesh was originally a resident of Maharajpur Tehsil Deori and lived with his wife and child in Kajlikhera, Bhopal. He also has a daughter who lives with her maternal uncle.

Epilepsy awareness programme organised

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Department of Neurology, AIIMS Bhopal observed National Epilepsy Day. In this program, AIIMS Bhopal ED Prof. Singh said that it is very important to recognize the signs that occur before an epilepsy attack. If someone feels strange, senses some unusual smell or taste, feels tingling or electric shock in any part of the body, feels strange confusion, feels weakness, has weak memory or has headache, if such symptoms are there then one should get tested immediately.

Prof Singh praised the Department of Neurology for their commendable efforts in organizing the event. He highlighted the importance of such initiatives in dispelling myths and stigmas surrounding epilepsy and urged everyone to take these lessons forward and be better equipped to assist those in need.

The event featured two impactful skit performances designed to educate patients and the public about epilepsy, its symptoms, and the importance of timely treatment. In addition, a poster-making competition was held to encourage creativity in spreading awareness about epilepsy.

Free C-Y TB test available at dozen govt hospitals in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Advising patients against hiding tuberculosis due to stigma, the district health department on Wednesday announced that the C-Y TB test, which checks for TB, is available for free at a dozen government hospitals in the state capital.

The C-Y TB skin test has been launched in Bhopal to detect tuberculosis (TB) infection. It accurately confirms the presence of TB bacteria in the body.

However, individuals who test positive do not spread TB to others but are at a higher risk of developing it in the future.

The Government of India aims to eliminate TB by 2025. Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, family members of TB patients and other high-risk groups are recommended to receive Tuberculosis Preventive Treatment (TPT).

The C-Y TB test has been introduced for this purpose, as it provides precise information about TB infection. For results, individuals must return to the health facility within 48 to 72 hours, where a doctor or health

The C-Y TB skin test has been launched in Bhopal to detect tuberculosis (TB) infection. It accurately confirms the presence of TB bacteria in the body

worker will examine the area of skin where the test solution was applied.

If the result is positive, TPT will be given to reduce the risk of developing TB. Chief Medical and Health Officer Dr Prabhakar Tiwari stated that family members living with TB patients, healthcare workers, and those with immune-suppressing diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, or who are on dialysis, are at higher risk of developing TB. Therefore, the test is particularly useful for these individuals.

The test is conducted for those aged 18 years and above. After the test, the area of skin should not be rubbed or scratched.



Muslim devotees arrive to participate in Aalmi Tablighi Ijima, an annual muslim congregation, scheduled from Nov 29 to Dec 2, at Eintkhedi, Ghasipura near Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

RBI celebrates 90th anniversary with nationwide quiz

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is commemorating the 90th year of its operations this year. As part of the series of events being held throughout the year to mark this milestone, the Bank has launched the RBI90Quiz, a nationwide general knowledge-based quiz

competition aimed at undergraduate students.

The RBI90Quiz is a team-based contest, being held in multiple stages. The online phase was conducted from September 19-21, 2024. Based on the performance in the online phase, college teams were selected for participation in State-level rounds. The State-level round of the RBI90Quiz for Madhya Pradesh was conducted at Bhopal, where 168 students (84

teams) competed.

The team from National Law Institute University, Bhopal comprising Harshul Mittal & Khushan Nehra emerged as the winner, followed by those from Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal in second and third places, respectively. Prizes for the top three teams are of Rs 2 lakh, Rs 1.5 lakh, and Rs 1 lakh, respectively.

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Work for timely achievement of set goals: Comm to officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Reviewing progress of ongoing initiatives across all districts in Bhopal, Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Singh on Wednesday instructed that all departments must work towards the timely achievement of set goals. He said that proposals for additional targets should be forwarded to the office within a week, and underlined the need to prepare work schedules for the remainder of the financial year to ensure that targets are met by each of the departments. Singh was holding a monthly review of the work across all districts of the division through video conferencing. Collectors, CEO District Panchayats, and other relevant officials were present. The Joint Commissioner of

Development, Vinod Yadav, and divisional officers of all departments were also in attendance. The Commissioner directed the Department of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Welfare to expedite the implementation of the PM Jan Man scheme and the Dharali Aaba Tribal Utkarsh Abhiyan. The Ayushman Scheme has shown good progress across the division, with Bhopal district at 96%, Sehore 93%, Raisen 87%, Vidisha 86%, and Rajgarh 82% card distribution. Remaining tasks should be completed through a campaign. During the review of scholarship distribution, instructions were given to complete the remaining profile updates promptly. In the Department of Farmer Welfare and Agriculture, the Commissioner emphasized the

timely availability of fertilizers and seeds, prompt payment for soybean procurement, and swift transportation of procured crops. Burning of crop residue should be strictly prevented, with legal action taken against offenders. Farmers should also be encouraged to use Happy Seeders. In the credit card distribution review, the Animal Husbandry Department has distributed 6,962 Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) against a target of 9,450. The Fisheries Department's progress was slow and was advised to increase the pace. In the review of the Urban Bodies and Housing Department, the Commissioner instructed that benefits of the Prime Minister's Street Vendor Scheme and other schemes should reach as many beneficiaries as possible during

the ongoing "Swaniidhi Bhi, Swabhimaan Bhi" fortnight. Considering the cold season, the Commissioner emphasized the provision of bonfires, hot water, quilts, and blankets at shelters for homeless people. Cleanliness, electricity, water, access roads, and lighting around the shelters should be ensured. All districts should verify the shelters. Non-governmental organizations should assist in running these shelters. During the review of the Women and Child Development Department, continuous efforts to prevent gender-based violence were stressed, with reports to be submitted regularly until December 10. Instructions were also given for the proper operation of the After Care Scheme. The Commissioner instructed the Public Health Engineering

Department to promptly hand over completed tap water schemes to concerned panchayats. In the Panchayat and Rural Development Department review, it was informed that 420 gaushalas (cow shelters) have been sanctioned in the division, with 370 completed, 48 under progress, and 2 yet to begin. Work on incomplete gaushalas should be completed promptly, with arrangements for electricity and water. Under the Vrindavan Gram Scheme, one village per development block should be selected with a minimum population of 2,000, at least 500 cattle, and adequate arrangements for water and fodder. The Commissioner also directed that notices be issued to five officers in Rajgarh district for failing to resolve complaints on time.



BJP State In-charge Mahendra Singh addresses party workers Pradesh Sangathan Parv workshop at BJP state headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



Students from Maharashtra perform during west zone inter-school band competition at Subhash excellence school in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

510 boxes of illicit liquor seized in Ratlam

PNS ■ RATLAM

The Bilpalk police in Ratlam district seized 510 boxes of illicit liquor, valued at nearly Rs 1.23 crore. District Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar has directed station in-charges to take strict action against illegal liquor activities. Under the guidance of SP Amit Kumar, Additional SP Rakesh Kumar Khakha, and SDO P Abhilash Bhalavi, Bilpalk Police, led by Inspector Ayub Khan, activated its informant network. A tip-off led to the interception of a truck carrying illegal liquor on the Mhow-Neemuch Highway. The truck (number NL 07 AA 3565) was stopped, and 510

boxes of illegal liquor were found. The driver, Sunil Kumar, from Haryana, could not provide valid transport documents. Police seized the liquor and truck, registering a case under section 34(2) of the Excise Act. The truck driver is in custody, and further investigation is ongoing to determine the destination of the illegal liquor, with initial reports suggesting it was being transported from Haryana to Akola, Maharashtra. The operation was supported by Bilpalk Police Station staff, including Inspector Ayub Khan and Head Constables R Ishwarsingh, R Makansingh, R Amit Yadav, R Hemant Yadav, and R Sanjay Soni.

Gas survivors organisations condemn Justicemakers

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Leaders of four organizations of survivors of the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal on Wednesday jointly condemned the "Justicemakers Mela" to be held from November 29 for being sponsored by Trilegal, a law company that represents Union Carbide's accomplice DuPont, as well as several corporations involved with the ongoing Genocide in Palestine. Rashida Bee, President of the Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmchari Sangh said, "On its website, Trilegal, that is sponsoring this event, lists DuPont as one of its corporate clients. As we well know, DuPont merged with Union Carbide's owner Dow Chemical in 2017 and now owns substantial Union Carbide property. DuPont is very much part of

We are shocked by the audacity of this NGO called Agami that is organizing this event around the 40th anniversary of the gas tragedy, says Rachna Dhingra

the corporate conspiracy to create legal hurdles for Bhopal survivors to receive any legal remedies. "Trilegal represents not just criminal corporations like DuPont but also Israel Aerospace Industries, Lockheed Martin, Augusta Westland, Boeing and other corporations that are profiting from the ongoing Genocide in Palestine," said Balkrishna Namdeo, President

of the Bhopal Gas Peedit Nirashrit Pensionbhogee Sangharsh Morcha. Rachna Dhingra of Bhopal Group for Information & Action said, "We are shocked by the audacity of this NGO called Agami that is organizing this event around the 40th anniversary of the worst corporate crime in Bhopal. It is also shocking to find that hardly any of the 600 "justice maker" invites to this Mela have cared to check the abominable client list of Trilegal that is funding their participation." "What kind of justice makers ignore the fact that their event is financed with moneys from an accomplice of Killer Carbide and those responsible for the death of 40 thousand children in Gaza" wondered, Nareen Khan of Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Purush Sangharsh Morcha.

Industrialists have shown interest in various sectors for investment: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that we have come here to invite foreign investment in the land of Madhya Pradesh. Many industrialists have shown interest in investing in various sectors. Industrialists have come forward to invest in the IT sector, education, renewable energy, industry, mining, food processing, health and semiconductors. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the main basis of growth of any country is its industries. Prosperity from the industrial point of view is clear from the industrial growth of any state. The more industries there are the more employment opportunities. Yadav said that the double engine government in Madhya Pradesh is making rapid

progress. He invited investors to the state. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that whether it is America or Germany, industry lays the foundation for development. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was interacting with local media in London. Yadav said that it was good to meet many of our Indian friends, who had settled in England from India many years ago and are doing very good work here in various fields. Investment-related possibilities were also discussed with them. On the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indians settled abroad are now connecting to their roots. Yadav said that our UK visit has been very fruitful from the investment point of view. We will see its results in the Global Investors Summit to be held in February 2025.

Tina Yadav inspects Rain Basera

Bhopal: The Additional Commissioner of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC), Tina Yadav, on Wednesday conducted a surprise inspection of the Rain Basera at Yadgar-e-Shahjahan Park. She reviewed the facilities being provided to the overnight residents and gathered information about their needs. Yadav, who is in charge of the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and responsible for the night shelters, expressed satisfaction and issued directives for comprehensive measures to be initiated in view of the looming cold wave. She spoke to people staying at the facility and quizzed them about their experiences at the shelter. She also went through the register of people staying at the shelter. The residents appreciated the arrangements made by the Corporation.

Anubhuti Yadav to receive PRSI award

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Professor Anubhuti Yadav of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) will receive the prestigious Pushpendra Pal Singh Mass Communication and PR Teacher Award 2024. The award will be presented at the 46th All India Public Relations Conference, which will be held in Raipur from December 20 to 22, 2024. Members of the Bhopal Chapter of the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI), including the President Manoj Dwivedi, Secretary Pankaj Mishra, and Treasurer KK Shukla, along with the entire executive committee of the Bhopal Chapter, have extended their congratulations to Prof Yadav on her achievement. The Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) is a 68-year-



old national organization that represents professionals working in various public relations and communication organizations. The society has 23 active chapters across the country, including Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Dehradun, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Ranchi, Singrauli, Shimla, Tirupati, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam, Jammu, and Wardha.

MP created history by forming 55,559 booth panels out of 65,015

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Co-Organization General Secretary Shivprakash Ji, State President Vishnudutt Sharma, State In-charge Mahendra Singh and State Organization al General Secretary Hitanand addressed the Sangathan Parv workshop at the state office on Wednesday. BJP's National Co-Organizational General Secretary Shivprakash, while addressing the workshop, said that bring capable and thoughtful people into the organization. Build the organization by celebrating Mandal and District Organization Parv with mutual dialogue and consultation. Madhya Pradesh workers have a very important role in the his-

toric victory of the party in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The party workers of the state have performed excellently in the areas of Maharashtra where they were given responsibility. BJP's State President and Khajuraho MP Vishnudutt Sharma, addressing the workshop, said that Madhya Pradesh created history in the country by forming complete booth committees in 55,559 booths out of 65,015 booths with the tireless hard work of the workers. The 10 percent booth committees which could not be formed due to the workers going to the Assembly by-elections and Maharashtra, Jharkhand elections, will be formed soon. To bring forward women empow-

erment in the state, women have got representation at every booth, this is a record in the country. State in-charge Mahendra Singh said that we are fortunate to be born in India and even more fortunate that we have got the opportunity to work as workers of Bharatiya Janata Party. We all have to build an ideal organization together. BJP's State Organizational General Secretary Hitanand said that our senior leaders made BJP all-touching, omnipresent and all-inclusive, in the same way we have to strengthen the organization. Regional Organizational General Secretary Ajay Jamwal, National Vice President Ms. Saroj Pandey, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla,

Maharashtra Co-in-charge Mr. Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya, State Government Minister Prahlad Patel, senior leader Mr. Gopal Bhargava and Narottam Mishra were present on the stage in the workshop. The organization has expanded extensively in Madhya Pradesh, it has to be made more beautiful - Shivprakash jiBharatiya Janata Party's National Co-Organization General Secretary Shivprakash said that the organization has expanded extensively in Madhya Pradesh, now its beauty has to be increased further. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has made a law to provide 33 percent reservation to women in Parliament and state assemblies. BJP is continuously working for the empowerment of women.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ABDUL KADEER RAMPURAWALA holder of Indian Passport No: P0362332 issued at DUBAI on 15/05/2016 and Permanent Resident of 3/1228 GOLMANDI BAKHAL ORAPURA KHUZEMA MANZIL QAMBI MARG UJJAIN M P and presently residing at AL QUOZ INDS AREA 2 DUBAI UAE do hereby change the name of my minor child BATUL holding Indian Passport No: U0607054 issued at DUBAI on 16/03/2020 from BATULUO BATUL (Given name) RAMPURAWALA (Surname) with immediate effect.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME
I MUKUL KATARE S/O D K KATARE R/O-28B MR-4 Road Vivekanand Ward Shambhu Shri-Apartment Ektanagar Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh-482002 changed my name to JAY. PD(985)A

BJP's victory with thin margin in Budhni raises questions

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

An electoral loss in the tribal-dominated Vijaypur and a hair's breadth victory in its backyard of Budhni, results from the recently concluded by-polls, have come as severe jolts for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party in Madhya Pradesh. The Budhni Vidhan Sabha seat is the traditional stronghold of former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. He was elected from here in the last assembly elections in 2023 with a margin of over one lakh votes. In 2024, he won the Vidisha Lok Sabha election; Budhni is also a part of the Vidisha Lok Sabha constituency. Ramakant Bhargava, who won from Budhni in the by-election, is considered to be close to Shivraj

Singh Chouhan. BJP circles are trying to determine the reason behind Bhargava's victory with a thin margin, despite the fact that Chouhan had campaigned extensively in the constituency. Chouhan has been elected from this constituency for decades, since he became Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. The results of the by-election in Budhni suggest that he is losing his base in this assembly segment. Political observers feel that in this election, when a Brahmin candidate was fielded by the BJP, the saffron party was required to make more efforts to garner the votes of the Kirar community, but it failed. At the time of candidate selection for the Budhni seat, the name of Chouhan's son, Kartikeya, was also in the panel. The name of Bhargava was approved by the

high command, but Shivraj also had approval for his name. Party insiders opine that, by the next assembly elections, instead of Bhargava, Kartikeya might be fielded from Budhni.

high command, but Shivraj also had approval for his name. Party insiders opine that, by the next assembly elections, instead of Bhargava, Kartikeya might be fielded from Budhni.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
Jyendraganj Branch, Lashkar, Gwalior (M.P.) - 474001 Mob. 7247716428
Email id: vjgwal@bankofbaroda.co.in | Web: www.bankofbaroda.com

"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower /s/Guarantor /s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below.

Name & Address of Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Date & Time of E-Auction	Demand Notice Date Possession Date Outstanding Amount
Borrower : Mr. Arun Pathak S/o Bhagavati Pathak. Mrs. Neelu Pathak W/o Mr. Arun Pathak Add. : 1. Flat No. 302, Gajanan Apartment, B-52 Govindpur, Gird Gwalior-474001. Add. : 2. House No. 1067 Udagawan, Datia. Guarantor : Mr. Dinesh Kumar Pathak S/o Bhagavati Prasad Pathak Add. : 001, City Center, Site No. 1, Ganga Apartment, Gwalior-474006	Property Owner : Mr. Arun Pathak S/o Bhagavati Prasad Pathak- At flat No. 302, Gajanan Apartment, Ward No. 29, Govindpur/Gwalior addressing 86.71 SqMtr. Boundaries : North : Property Other, South : Road Colony, East : Property Other, West : Lobby then Flat No. 301.	Rs. 26,82,000/- 2,68,200/- 10,000/-	01.01.2025 Time : 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	01.09.2023 25.01.2024 Rs. 20,58,240.24/- + Interest & Charges

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> or <https://bapi.in>. Prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile- 7247716428

Place: Gwalior Date: 26.11.2024 Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069
Shujalpur Branch : House No.17, Ward No.15, Panjab Mohalla, Digambar Jain Mandir Road Shujalpur, Shujalpur Mandi, Dist. Shujalpur -465333 (Madhya Pradesh)
Narmadapuram Branch : Kharsa No. 72/10, Mouza Kishanpur Ward No. 16, R.K Shri Tower, 2nd Floor, Itarsi Road, Near Meenakshi Square, Opp Gala Mandi, Narmadapuram -461001 (Madhya Pradesh)
Sagar Branch : 1st Floor, Sakhi Baba Matrix, Makronia Road, Sagar -470004 (Madhya Pradesh)

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. (AHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured assets (immovable property)
1	(Loan Code No. 09110000122 / Shujalpur Branch) Late Babul Verma (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Borrower) Nitin Kumar, Akash Verma & Sapna Verma (Co-Borrowers)	18-11-2024 ₹ 9,14,379/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Ground Floor House No.120 Village Gehukhedhi Ward No.06 Gehukhedhi Rajgarh Madhya Pradesh -465680
2	(Loan Code No. 05610000360 / Narmadapuram Branch) Late Ganeshram Solanki (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Borrower) Meena Solanki (Co-Borrower)	15-11-2024 ₹ 17,22,798/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Village Barakhand Khurd, Patwari Halka No. 30, Tehsil Seoni Malwa, Dist Hoshangabad (MP) Boundaries:- East-Rest Land of Seller, West-Way left by Seller, North- Plot of Bhojraj, South- Govt Land
3	(Loan Code No. 02310000246, 02310000391, 02300001371 & 02300001519 / Sagar Branch) Saksham Khare (Borrower) Anuradha Khare & Late Saharsh Khare (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Co-Borrowers)	15-11-2024 ₹ 9,20,844/- ₹ 16,28,238/- & ₹ 5,63,605/- & ₹ 3,56,640/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, GF Anand Nagar Colony Shiram Ward No. 03 Rehli Sagar Madhya Pradesh 470227.

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place : Madhya Pradesh
Date : 28-11-2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer
For : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-W-66-24 Date: 26.11.2024

E-Tender Notice
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works.

Description of work : Provision of S&T work in connection with Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No S-1 at Km 1310/5 at Ch.203.009 of NH-76 in between Ichauli - Khairat station of Khairi - Bharnest section.

Approx Cost : ₹ 2037661.81 Earnest Money : ₹ 48000/-
Cost of Tender Form : Nil Opening of tender: 19.12.2024 Time 15.00

Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 06 Months

Tender on line can be submitted upto 1500 hrs. on 19.12.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.ireps.gov.in. (NORTH CENTRAL RLY./JHANSI DIVISION-SAND T) 2043/24(DG)

North central railways @CPDRNCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

Parliament Winter Session: Both Houses adjourned amid protests over Adani, Sambhal violence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Proceedings in both houses of Parliament were adjourned for the day on Wednesday amid opposition protests over the Adani controversy and violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh. Opposition members trooped to the Well of the House in Lok Sabha raising slogans as soon as the House met again at 12 noon.

BJP member Dilip Saikia, who was in the chair, adjourned the proceedings for the day after parliamentary papers were laid on the table.

Earlier, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had taken up the Question Hour when the House proceedings for the day commenced at 11 am.

However, he adjourned the proceedings amid sloganeering by the opposition members.

The Opposition members wanted to discuss the Adani controversy and the recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal.

The Adani Group said on Wednesday that Gautam Adani, and his nephew Sagar have not been charged with any violation of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in the indictment that authorities filed in the New York court in an alleged bribery case.

In the Rajya Sabha, protests by opposition members led to adjournment for the day without transacting any substantial business.

The uproar started after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar



rejected 18 notices under a rule of the House to suspend scheduled business to take up issues including the demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the Adani issue.

The proceedings were briefly adjourned due to opposition protest and when the House re-assembled at 11.30 AM, there were identical scenes. This prompted Chairman Dhankhar to adjourn the proceedings for the day, saying the "House is not in order".

The notices related to the demand for the "constitution of a JPC to investigate the alleged misconduct, including corruption, bribery, financial irregularities of the Adani Group in connivance with other authorities", violence in Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh and "rising" incidents of crime

in the national capital.

"Upper House needs to reflect and follow well-established traditions that ruling of the Chair requires reference and not cause differences. I have, in detail, given reasons why, in these situations, notices are not being accepted," Dhankhar said while rejecting the notices under Rule 267 of the House.

The Chairman also said for the last 30 years, the House has reflected a consensual approach with reference to Rule 267 every time.

"As I have reiterated on several occasions, I thought it wise to bestow focused attention given the situation that we are entering the last quarter of the century of adoption of the Constitution of India," he said.

He emphasised that the

House needs to reflect and follow well-established traditions that a ruling of the Chair requires "deference and not (be a) cause of differences." While rejecting the notices, Dhankhar also stressed that there will be occasions to raise these issues in accordance with rules.

Earlier, the Chairman extended birthday greetings to Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya, Wanweiroy Khariukhi and Dharmshila Gupta, all Members of Rajya Sabha.

On Monday also, the first day of the Winter Session, the Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day during the morning session itself as the opposition insisted on raising the issues related to the Adani Group. There was no sitting of the House on Tuesday.

Defence Secretary to inaugurate 11th edition of ICG's SAREX-24 in Kochi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh will inaugurate the two-day 11th edition of Indian Coast Guard's National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (SAREX-24) under the aegis of National Maritime Search and Rescue Board in Kochi starting Thursday, defence ministry said here on Wednesday.

Giving details, officials said Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director General S Paramesh, who is also the National Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinating Authority, will be among the dignitaries attending the event.

The theme will be 'Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities through Regional Collaboration'. It signifies ICG's commitment to provide succor during large-scale contingencies regardless of location, nationality or circumstances in the Indian Search and Rescue Region and beyond.

The first day of the event will feature various programmes, including table-top exercise, workshop & seminars involving participation of senior officials from government agencies, Ministries and Armed Forces, various stakeholders and foreign delegates.



On the second day, the sea exercise involving two large scale contingencies will be carried out off the Kochi coast with participation of ships and aircraft of ICG, Navy, Indian Air Force, Passenger Vessel and Tug from Cochin Port Authority and boats from the Customs.

The first contingency will simulate distress onboard a passenger vessel having 500 passengers onboard, while the second scenario will depict ditching of civil aircraft with 200 passengers.

The response matrix in the sea exercise will involve various methods to evacuate distressed passengers, wherein the advent of new-age technology using satellite-aided distress beacons,

drones to deploy a life buoy, air droppable life rafts, operation of remote controlled life buoy will be demonstrated.

The exercise is designed not only to evaluate efficiency of operations and coordination with national stakeholders, but also to aptly focus on cooperative engagements with the littorals and friendly countries.

Over the years, ICG has evolved as a premier maritime agency rightfully steering the government's efforts towards a stable and effective Maritime Search and Rescue construct.

An MoU was signed with Indian Ocean Rim Association member states for coordinating SAR in the Indian Ocean Region and ICG is the implementing agency.

Viksit Bharat dream hinges on quality education in schools: UN's Sharp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Highlighting the immense potential of India's students as catalysts for change, United Nations (UN) resident coordinator in the country Shombi Sharp has said the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' hinges on ensuring that children in school receive not only quality education but are also sensitised to becoming "responsible model citizens of tomorrow".

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on Wednesday released a statement on its 'RiseUp4Peace' educational initiative that is focused on engaging and empowering young people to "resist negative influences, emerging vulnerabilities and risky behaviours".

The UN Resident Coordinator for India highlighted the immense potential of "India's 265.2 million students as catalysts for change", emphasising the importance of quality and values-driven education in shaping inclusive and peaceful societies, it said.

"The dream of 'Viksit Bharat', as articulated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, hinges on ensuring that children in school receive not only quality education but are also sensitised to become responsible model citizens of



tomorrow," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023 both recognise the need to nurture responsible citizens who can contribute to peace and harmony in an increasingly complex world. But this ambition goes beyond the traditional scope of education -- it requires "reimagining educational interventions in classrooms, schools and communities", the UNODC said.

In several bustling classrooms

across India, there is a "powerful movement" quietly taking shape -- one that champions peace, lawfulness and inclusion through education. At the heart of this movement are not just the policy-makers, educators or institutions, but young people who stand as the most crucial catalysts of change, the statement said.

Emphasising the initiative's relevance and impact, over 70 policy-makers, educators and young champions ideated and charted a roadmap for fostering peace, inclusion and lawfulness in education -- as envi-

sioned in NEP 2020 and NCF 2023 -- at a 'RiseUp4Peace' policy consultation convened by India's apex curriculum body, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and UNODC South Asia in New Delhi.

Working in mixed groups, policy-makers, educators and students exchanged practical insights on curriculum integration, good practices and new ideas as well as the way forward. Key insights shared by educators emphasised the importance of a holistic

approach to education. Launched this year, the cross-cutting collaborative initiative has engaged over 30,000 stakeholders across 14 states and Union Territories (UTs) through participatory capacity building of educators, co-creation of school-led initiatives and activity-based learning of students.

'RiseUp4Peace' has spurred innovative interventions blending arts, technology and sports to empower students with the support of a diverse set of partners -- public, private and rural schools, NCERT, DERT Meghalaya, Raipur Police and educator and youth groups, the statement said.

NCERT Joint Director Amarendra Prasad Behera urged educators to actively build capacities and develop values-driven modules to transform education.

"NEP 2020 and NCF 2023 envision education as a bridge to a more just and peaceful society. Such collaborations transform vision into action," he said.

The consultation reinforced the call for a whole-of-society approach to education, with policy-makers, educators and students as equal partners in creating a roadmap to promote transformative education for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

Govt launches Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday launched the Bal-Vivah Mukht Bharat campaign, urging states and Union territories to create specific action plans with the goal of reducing child marriage rates to below 5% by 2029. This initiative comes in response to the ongoing concern that, despite successfully preventing nearly 2 lakh child marriages in the past year, one in five girls in India is still married before the legal age of 18. Such practices are not only a serious human rights violation but are also a criminal offense under Indian law.

Launched by Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, the Bal-Vivah Mukht Bharat Abhiyan will focus on the seven high-burden states -- West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Tripura, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh -- and nearly 300 high-burden districts where child marriage rates are high



as compared to the national average. A key feature of the initiative is the launch of the Child Marriage Free Bharat portal, a platform to raise awareness, report cases, and monitor progress.

"Child marriage is a significant challenge before us and is a practice that limits the potential of millions of girls. In our country today, one in every five girls is married

before the age of 18. Child marriage is one of the most severe forms of human rights violations and is also a criminal offense under the law," Devi said.

She added that while laws like the Prevention of Child Marriage Act are instrumental, "we must also focus on raising awareness because legislation alone cannot eradicate this issue".

multiple stakeholders in a collective effort to eliminate child marriage. The minister credited schemes like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, Samagra Shiksha, and the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana for improving girls' access to education and ensuring their financial future.

"With the introduction of the National Education Policy, 2020, and scholarships for disadvantaged groups, we are creating opportunities for girls to realize their potential," she said.

"Patriarchal norms continue to pose challenges, but interventions like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao have proven effective in shifting societal mindsets. With consistent efforts, we can create an enabling environment for our girls," she said.

Despite the progress, the minister cautioned that there is no room for complacency.

"We cannot stop until India is completely free of child marriages," she said, calling for active participation from citizens.

ICF manufacturing high-speed train sets having 280 Kmph speed: Vaishnav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, in collaboration with BEML, is designing and manufacturing high-speed train sets that will have a design speed of 280 kmph, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav told Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Vaishnav said following the success of Vande Bharat trains under the "Make in India" initiative, the Indian Railways (IR) has now taken up designing and manufacturing of high-speed train sets.

"The manufacturing cost is approximately Rs 28 crore per car (excluding taxes), which is highly competitive compared with other train sets," he said, replying to questions raised by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MPs Sudhir Gupta and Ananta Nayak. "The design and manufacturing of high-speed train sets is a complex and technology-intensive process," the

minister added.

He also highlighted the major technical aspects, such as the design and manufacturing of the aerodynamic, airtight car body, design and manufacturing of electrics including propulsion for high-speed application, weight optimisation of the train sets and heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) of the trains.

"The train sets will have chair cars with best-in-class features, such as aerodynamic exteriors, sealed gangways, automatic doors, optimum climatic conditions inside compartments for passenger comfort, CCTV,



mobile-charging facilities, optimum lighting, fire safety equipment etc.," Vaishnav said.

He added that the completion of the project can be reasonably ascertained after the finalisation of the detailed design.

The minister also provided an update on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, under execution with technical and financial assistance from Japan, and said so far, 336 km of pier construction, 331 km of pier construction, 260 km of girder casting and 225 km of girder launching have been completed.

"The work of the undersea tunnel (approximately 21 km) has also started," he added.

The 508-km-long MAHSR project will have 12 stations planned at Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati and the entire land (1,389.5 Ha) required for it has been acquired, the railway minister said.

Terror-gangster syndicate case: NIA raids nine locations across multiple States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted searches at nine locations in multiple states as part of a probe into a conspiracy by terror outfits to smuggle arms and ammunition into the country, according to an official statement.

NIA teams searched the premises of suspects in the "terror-gangster syndicate case" in Palwal, Faridabad and Gurugram districts of Haryana, Jalandhar district of Punjab, and Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh, it said.

A host of incriminating materials, including mobiles/digital devices, banking transactions and property-related documents, were seized during the searches, the statement issued by the probe agency said.

"In a massive crackdown in the terror-gangster nexus case, the NIA on Wednesday conducted extensive searches at premises linked with associates of Davinder Bamba syndicate at nine locations in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh," it said.

Bamba, a notorious gangster, was killed in a police encounter in 2016, officials said. The Bamba gang members are

considered rivals of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and his associates, they said.

Wednesday's searches were part of the NIA's continuous crackdown on terror outfits engaged in criminal conspiracies to smuggle terrorist hardware, such as arms, ammunition, narcotics, explosives, etc into India, the probe agency said.

NIA investigations in the case, registered on the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, further show large-scale attempts by these organisations and terrorists to raise funds for carrying out terror acts on Indian soil, it said.

Need to make existing laws more stringent to curb vulgar content on social media: Vaishnav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Wednesday said there is a need to make existing laws more stringent to curb vulgar content on social media platforms.

Speaking in Lok Sabha, the Information and Broadcasting Minister said the Parliamentary Standing Committee should take up the issue and also called for a consensus to frame more strict laws in this regard.

Earlier, there were editorial checks and it was decided whether something was right or wrong, but those checks have ended. Today, social media is a platform for the freedom of press but it is uncon-



trolled and there is vulgar content, the minister said during the Question Hour.

There is a need to make existing laws more stringent to curb vulgar content on social media platforms, Vaishnav

said amid din in the House.

He was responding to questions by BJP member Arun Govil about existing mechanisms to check the illegal telecast of vulgar and sex-related content through social media

platforms and whether the government proposes to make the existing laws more stringent keeping in view the fact that the said laws are "not much effective to stop misuse of these platforms".

The government has notified Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 (IT Rules, 2021) under the Information Technology Act, 2000. It provides for a code of ethics for publishers of online curated content (OTT platforms) and that OTT platforms put in place adequate safeguards for restricting age-inappropriate content for children.

In a written reply, Vaishnav said the ministry blocked 18

OTT platforms for publishing obscene and vulgar content. So far as the content on intermediary platforms like YouTube and Facebook is concerned, IT Rules, 2021 cast certain obligations on such platforms.

These platforms need to make reasonable efforts by themselves and to cause the user of their computer resource to not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, etc. Knowingly and intentionally any information which is obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, including bodily privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, racially or ethnically objectionable, or that is harmful to child, he said.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

A glimmer of hope

While the ceasefire offers a reprieve from conflict, its durability is not guaranteed, a lasting resolution still remains elusive

In a significant development for West Asia, Israel and Hezbollah, the Iran-backed militant group operating in Lebanon, have agreed to a ceasefire after months of intense conflict. The agreement, brokered with the intervention of the United States and France, comes into effect at midnight Israeli time on November 27. It is being hailed as a potential step toward de-escalation in the region, but its success and long-term implications remain uncertain. The ceasefire agreement aims to restore calm along the volatile Israel-Lebanon border. It mandates that Hezbollah and other armed groups in Lebanon halt all offensive operations against Israel. In return, Israel will refrain from military actions targeting Lebanon. A key aspect of the deal is the acknowledgement of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which calls for the disarmament of militias and the exclusive authority of Lebanese state forces in the southern region. Israel has also agreed to withdraw its forces from positions south of the Blue Line within 60 days, provided the terms are upheld.



This ceasefire does not mean that Israeli forces are back to barracks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has emphasised the need to focus on Iran. Israel agreed to truce as there were logistical challenges, including delays in weapons and munitions deliveries, which necessitated a pause to replenish stocks and prepare for future operations. The ceasefire comes amid a broader context of regional instability. The war between Israel and Hamas, which erupted in October 2023 after a brutal terrorist attack on Israeli civilians, has already claimed tens of thousands of lives. There is no let up in Israel's attacks on Gaza where the human crisis is getting worse. The fighting extended to Israel's northern border when Hezbollah escalated its attacks, prompting Israel to retaliate. While the ceasefire offers a glimmer of hope, challenges loom large. The success of the agreement depends on its strict implementation, particularly the disarmament of militias in Lebanon. The Lebanese government, already struggling with economic and political crises, will face immense pressure to assert its authority over Hezbollah, a deeply entrenched and well-armed organisation. Whatever the reasons for this truce but it definitely gives peace a chance. The agreement's implications for regional peace are profound. If upheld, it could reduce tensions along Israel's northern border, allowing displaced civilians to return home and facilitating humanitarian relief in affected areas. For Lebanon, the deal could bolster its sovereignty by curbing the influence of armed non-state actors, potentially paving the way for greater stability. However, unresolved issues, including the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict and tensions with Iran, continue to pose risks to lasting peace. The role of the US, France, and UNIFIL will be critical to ensuring compliance and rebuilding trust.

PICTALK



A flock of whistling ducks fly at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, in Morigaon

Why band-aid solutions fail to fix Delhi pollution



KALYANI SHANKAR

Despite court orders, government promises, and short-term measures like vehicle restrictions and artificial rain, Delhi's air quality remains perilously poor

Why do the residents of Delhi experience pollution every year while the ruling class blames it on stubble burning in the neighbouring states of Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh? Can't they find a permanent solution instead of debating who will pay for the burning machines and other related expenses? The air pollution levels in Delhi are eight times higher than the WHO's prescribed limits. It has reached a level where the judiciary, executive, and parliament blame each other, and the severe pollution level continues. Returning from a month-long holiday in the US, I was immediately struck by the urgency of the pollution crisis as I landed in Delhi, past midnight this week.

The dark skies, sheets of dust, heat, and difficulty in breathing welcomed me as a stark reminder and a pressing call to action. The pollution levels in Delhi have soared to their highest this week. It has reached hazardous levels, causing state officials to limit movement and revive plans to stimulate artificial rain to clear toxins. This forced the schools and offices to close due to cloaking the city in thick brown smog and demanded immediate action. The number of respiratory diseases in children and older adults is rising, along with other health issues. In cold winters in the north, smog covers the area every year and traps harmful pollutants from fires, construction, and factories. This issue worsens when farmers burn their fields after harvesting rice to prepare for new crops. The same or even worse scenario unfolds yearly, reaching alarming levels over time. Citizens feel helpless while politicians engage in a blame game. As a result, the public endures poor air quality, which seriously threatens their health. Affluent individuals often escape to warmer destinations during winter, but children and older people suffer the most. Many schools have closed, and residents have been advised to



stay indoors. Construction work has been halted, and the government is considering implementing an odd-even vehicle use policy to control pollution. While this is a step in the right direction, the severity of the crisis requires effective solutions without further delays. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the World Health Organization, and other monitoring agencies, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) ranges between 1,200 and 1,500. India's AQI is classified as poor when it exceeds 200, very poor when it exceeds 300, and severe or hazardous when it exceeds 400. The recommended AQI limit is between 0 and 100. This alarming situation discourages international travellers and members of the Indian diaspora from planning their annual visits. The government and politicians are well aware of the root cause of the problem but play the blame game. The Supreme Court has ordered the government to address pollution. In the past, it has even led efforts to improve air quality in Delhi. It has set rules about which vehicles can operate in the city, ordered the relocation of many factories that pollute the air, and closed businesses to reduce emissions. The court also



IN COLD WINTERS IN THE NORTH, SMOG COVERS THE AREA EVERY YEAR AND TRAPS HARMFUL POLLUTANTS FROM FIRES, CONSTRUCTION, AND FACTORIES. THIS ISSUE WORSENS WHEN FARMERS BURN THEIR FIELDS AFTER HARVESTING RICE TO PREPARE FOR NEW CROPS

pushed the government to take action. The fault lies in the implementation. Last month, the Supreme Court ruled that clean air is a fundamental human right. It ordered both the central government and state authorities to take immediate action. However, most measures, such as vehicle restrictions, industrial regulations, and public awareness campaigns, must be more effective in preventing deteriorating air quality. Critics question how effective the court's decisions are and accuse the judiciary of interfering in executive matters. In its 2024 manifesto, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi did not include promises to reduce pollution, unlike previous ones. Instead, the manifesto focused on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and ways to cut pollution. APP highlighted the need for citizen involvement and plans to use electric buses to control pollution. Now that it has reached an alarming stage, the Centre and the state governments must take a balanced approach concerning Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, which are the real culprits. Every winter, smoke from farm fires engulfs Delhi and covers the Delhi skies.

Farmers resort to burning as it is the cheapest method of clearing their fields. The state governments demand that the Centre provide funds to assist farmers in reducing smoke emissions, but the issue persists yearly. Meanwhile, politics also plays its role. The BJP governs the Centre, while AAP rules Delhi and Punjab. The Congress remains an onlooker. This attitude does not help implement an effective plan. The experts say it's high time half-measures were shunned, and comprehensive solutions are implemented. For instance, GRAP-III must be upgraded to GRAP-IV, facilitating the enforcement of the odd-even rule. The election to the Delhi Assembly is around the corner. People must make it an election issue. In the meantime, residents of Delhi should consider quick solutions to combat pollution, such as wearing masks, indoor air-purifying plants, and the affluent using air purifiers, taking steam baths, eating healthy foods, and ensuring proper ventilation in their homes. The citizens must also assist authorities in any efforts to help control pollution. (The writer is a popular columnist; views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNITY OVER DIVISION

Madam — Some political parties that do not have any people oriented policies or programmes in their agenda are using the communal platform to whip the religious sentiments to gain votes and capture power. The campaign during the last general election has seen an open spread of communal hate, which was not the predominant issue in the minds of the people. Nowhere were the people's issues, like employment, livelihood plights, or healthcare concerns, discussed or debated. That is why the people also had reacted vehemently by not giving a brutal majority to any party. The message that people are not interested in communal concerns is given repeatedly and still some forces are bent upon thriving in politics only with the help of programmes of spreading hate among communities and keeping the flame of communal hate alive. Leaving issues like employment, inflation, declining real wages, and growing costs of healthcare and education made the privilege of the affluent to be attended to with priority and more sincerity. Divisive agendas and programmes may shine in the initial stage and then lose their tempo, as witnessed all over. Such clashes help the rulers to divert the attention of the people from their mistakes and misdeeds. Even in countries ruled under theocratic principles, clashes among groups of the same religion are seen to be the perennial ones rather than giving peace to the people. In a country like India, even if one religion is allowed to dominate, the groups thriving on promoting the cause of their caste will gain further momentum to plunge the nation into a lasting socio-economic crisis. As available laws are not efficient enough to deal with such anti-people political parties and social outfits, it is the responsibility of the people to keep them at a distance. A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

SAVE FORESTS

Madam—Planting a tree and protecting it till it grows has been considered a

EVM: Allegations are baseless



The Supreme Court decisively rejected a petition calling for the reintroduction of ballot papers in elections, highlighting the baseless nature of opposition allegations against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The court's remarks came after the petitioner argued that EVMs were vulnerable to manipulation, citing claims by various politicians, including Andhra Pradesh leaders Chandrababu Naidu and Jagan Mohan Reddy, as well as Elon Musk. The court pointed out that

these same politicians never raised concerns about EVMs when they won elections. "When you win, EVMs are fine; when you lose, EVMs are tampered." Meanwhile, opposition parties, led by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, continued to push for the return of ballot papers, with Kharge criticising the use of EVMs and demanding a campaign similar to the Bharat Jodo Yatra for their abolition. Kharge's repeated attacks on EVMs reflect the ongoing narrative within opposition circles, where EVM tampering is blamed for electoral losses. The SC's firm stance serves as a rebuke to the opposition's recurring narrative of EVM tampering, emphasising that such claims are opportunistic and lack substantiation. The opposition's continued attack on EVMs seems more like an excuse for poor performance than a genuine concern for electoral fairness. N Sathasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

OLI CHOOSES BEIJING

Madam — Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli broke the usual ritual of visiting New Delhi first by choosing Beijing. Like the Maldives' President, Nepal's Prime Minister appears to be a pro-Chinese supporter. We all know how notorious China is for pushing countries like Nepal into debt. After Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Maldives, seeing Nepal follow the same path makes India worried. If Nepal signs the BRI execution treaty, it would pose a significant threat to India. Though our relations with China are improving, we all know it is merely a diplomatic friendship that could turn into animosity at any time. In the diplomatic world, no one is a genuine friend or ally to any country—everyone prioritises their own benefit. India needs to remain cautious, especially as it is being surrounded by countries drowning in China's debts. Priya Thakur | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Aruna Vasudev: A tribute to the mother figure of Asian cinema

She leaves behind a profound legacy, having nurtured and inspired many. Though she is no longer among us, her influence continues to guide and motivate



SANTANU GANGULY

In 1999, I first discovered the Cinefan Asian Film Festival. Excited, I headed to the India Habitat Centre (IHC) to collect a pass, only to learn that the festival was open to all. I couldn't believe my ears. Being new to Delhi, I had assumed that everything came at a price, but this experience proved me wrong. During the festival, I came to know Aruna Vasudev, the Festival Director. I also met filmmakers and critics from around the world, making it an unforgettable experience. The following year, I eagerly awaited the festival and even took seven days of leave from work to immerse myself in films. My journalist friends noticed my dedication and shared it with Aruna Vasudev. They told her about a boy from West Delhi who traveled daily, spending mornings to midnight watching films out of sheer love for cinema. That year, I managed to watch 37 out of the 42 films screened, missing a few only because I attended seminars. Aruna di, as I later called her, was impressed but quizzed me about the films to ensure I had truly seen them. I passed her test.



At the closing ceremony, in the presence of luminaries like Sharmila Tagore, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Rituparno Ghosh, and Nandita Das, she mentioned my name on stage. She highlighted my passion and dedication, asking me to stand so the audience could see me. Afterward, she invited me to the closing dinner. During our conversation, she asked what I did for a living. When I replied, she told me, "Forget footwear; you are meant for film." I expressed my willingness to leave my job if she could offer me an opportunity. She laughed and said, "Stay in touch; I'll let you know." I took her words to heart and kept reminding her of her promise whenever we met. Finally, in 2003, she asked me to join her team. Although she initially wanted me to start in January, I requested a

delay due to my sister's wedding. From February 1, 2003, until the end of her life, Aruna Vasudev became much more than a mentor. She was my friend, philosopher, guide, guru, and godmother. When I joined her team, I initially addressed her as "Madam." One day, she suggested I call her "Aruna di," as others did. From then on, she was Aruna di not only to me but also to my family. My work involved assisting her with the prestigious Cinefan Quarterly and the Cinefan Film Festival. During this time, she taught me much more than cinema-etiquette, communication skills, and the importance of being a good human being. One memorable instance was when she was busy on a call, and another call came through. Indicating she wasn't available, I conveyed that she was out of the country. Later, she gently corrected me, teaching that honesty in such situations was essential. Transforming a shy, lower-middle-class boy from a Bengali-medium school into someone comfortable in

Delhi's elite circles wasn't easy. Yet, she patiently guided me every step of the way. Aruna di's support was unwavering. When I asked if I was meeting her expectations, she replied that being able to pursue one's dream and earn a living from it was a rare blessing. Once, after just three months on the job, I noticed an unexpected salary increase. The accountant revealed that Aruna di was so pleased with my work that she had decided to raise it. This generosity stood in stark contrast to my earlier job in a footwear company, where long hours of grueling work brought only meager raises. Her faith in me was a source of strength. Despite occasional resentment from colleagues about the trust she placed in me, she always defended her decisions. She was my rock in both professional and personal challenges. When my mother met her, she said, "Though I gave birth to him, you have raised him." Touched by those words, Aruna di was moved to tears. (The writer is a Delhi based Film Festival curator; views expressed are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

A MINDFUL HEART FOR A MINDFUL LIFE

By integrating modern science with spiritual wisdom, it is essential for holistic healing



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJJI

To be kind is more important than to be right. Many times what people need is not a brilliant mind that speaks but a special heart that listens... F. Scott Fitzgerald

We humans are blessed with only one heart which lasts us as long as we live. Alternatively, we live till the heart lasts. In that sense, the heart is the lifeline of the human body. Anatomically, it is a vital organ that supplies blood to the whole body. Symbolically, it is equated with the most powerful emotions of the human soul i.e. love as well as with instinct, interest and deep feelings. Hence it won't be wrong to say that the heart rules our life. But, today the same very heart has indeed become a matter of great concern as alarming statistics tell us how vulnerable it is to the onset of countless disorders, thanks to our modern lifestyle and polluted environment. Concerns over the health of the heart have led to an explosion of research to find ways to boost its longevity and smooth functionality. However, when all efforts to preserve the heart fail we even have an option to replace it. Isn't it great? But still, the figures in health reports don't seem to tell a happy story about the effectiveness of these developments because today we have an ever-growing number of people who are suffering or facing the risk of heart disease.

According to the eternal law of spirituality, everything in this material world grows old, decays and gets assimilated into its original elemental form. Similarly, everything in nature is getting recycled as energy is in constant flux. So, as souls, we all get a new body at every birth. However, the elements that constitute a body are the same old matter.



In that sense, everything in the world is old material packaged as new. Hence, with every consecutive birth, we as souls get a recycled body and hence a recycled heart. We get a new body only when we first come down from the soul world because we are pure and are entitled to get the best of the available resources at the time when we enter this world. Having said the above, we must not forget the fact that there was indeed a time when we all had a brand-new heart.

Yeah! Time was indeed called the 'Golden Age' when all the human souls and the elements of nature were pristine and pure. Everyone is perfect and purest there and so everything they had, including their body, was also perfect. There was no need for them to take care of their heart. The heart was so robust and healthy that it supported the body for a long and healthy life. However, today we all live in total contrast to the golden age i.e. Iron Age and there is hardly any human being in this world today who is free from any physical ailment, be it wealthy or poor, all are suffering from some or the other disease that is linked to unhealthy lifestyle and ecological degradation. In the present age, everyone's mind is beset with weak and negative thoughts which are the biggest hindrance to living a healthy & happy life. Throughout our lives, we never understand that the root cause of all diseases is our wrong actions. It's a proven fact that we get punished for our wrong deeds. Therefore it is very important to realize that all diseases have their origin in wrong thoughts and actions.

Today, medical science has accepted that along with a healthy lifestyle, meditation too can promote a healthy heart, as it helps regulate the heart's functioning by controlling negative thoughts that induce stress-related hormones in the body leading to harmful effects. By purifying the soul of bad 'sanskaras' (personality traits) like anger, fear, hatred and ego, it cures the root cause of disease and leads to holistic healing. Therefore to have a healthy heart, apart from a healthy lifestyle, it is essential to be a good-hearted person and to feed the mind with a healthy diet of pure thoughts and feelings.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Bridging the gender gap in skills and opportunities



DINESH SOOD

The beauty and wellness sector is emerging as a transformative force, equipping women with essential skills and providing financial sustainability



Despite various initiatives, a significant gender gap persists in learning and earning opportunities between men and women. Skill development can be a transformative force, enhancing women's professional growth and economic independence. By acquiring skills, women can access broader job opportunities, empowering them socially and economically.

A survey titled "Women's Economic Empowerment," conducted in 2023-24 by the Indian Statistical Institute Delhi, explores women's skill development and employment landscape. It reveals that 7 out of 10 women lack economic independence. India ranks 142nd out of 146 countries in the Global Women's Economic Participation and Opportunities Index. Women in India contribute only 17 per cent to the GDP, which is less than half the global average. Their economic participation is essential for sustainable development, gender equality, and poverty reduction.

According to the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI), integrating 68 million more women into the workforce by 2025 could potentially increase India's GDP by USD 0.7 trillion. The World Bank also reports that including 50 per cent of women in the workforce could boost India's GDP growth by 1.5 percentage points.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) states that India's Women's Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) was about 32.8 per cent in 2023, while it was 67.2 per cent for men. Women are primarily found in specific sectors such as agriculture (73.2 per cent), education (44.1 per cent), and health-care and beauty-wellness (31.4 per cent). An estimated 7.5 crore women are expected to join the workforce in the coming decade. To ensure that this vital human resource—nearly half of the country's workforce—is effectively utilised and contributes at least 25 per cent to national economic growth, the government must prioritise skill development for women's empowerment. In addition to these gaps, prevalent gender stereotypes affect skill acquisition. Women generally pursue skills in beauty and wellness, textiles, clerical work, and healthcare. The DP-WEW study indicates that 30.2 per cent of skilled women aged 18 to 35 primar-



TO ENSURE THAT THIS VITAL HUMAN RESOURCE—NEARLY HALF OF THE COUNTRY'S WORKFORCE—IS EFFECTIVELY UTILISED AND CONTRIBUTES AT LEAST 25 PER CENT TO NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE GOVERNMENT MUST PRIORITISE SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

ily acquire skills in the beauty and wellness sector, followed by 21.5 per cent in tailoring. The beauty and wellness sector is one of the most significant forces driving women's empowerment in India today.

The industry's rapid growth, the accessibility of skill development, the increasing number of women entering the workforce and entrepreneurship, and the rise of women in leadership roles all contribute to fostering a more equitable society. In India, the beauty and wellness sector is rapidly advancing women's empowerment by providing substantial employment to approximately 12.3 million people, of whom 66 per cent are women.

This workforce includes individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds and educated families. According to a 2023 report by Technavio, the beauty and personal care industry in India is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.5 per cent from 2021, reaching a market value of over \$20 billion and creating employment opportunities for around 20.3 million people. Promoting female entrepreneurship in India is crucial, as participation is low, with only one in five entrepreneurs being women.

The beauty and wellness sector offers women significant employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to actively promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and self-employment in this sector through targeted training initiatives, entrepreneurship education, and financial support, enabling women to enhance their professional growth. India's beauty and wellness industry has low entry barriers for women looking to become entrepreneurs.

Many women have capitalised on this sector to establish their businesses, empowering them to take control of their financial futures and

influence the industry's direction. Over 30 per cent of beauty and wellness businesses in India are now owned by women, ranging from small beauty parlours to large spa chains and wellness centres. By building businesses in this sector, women create financial independence and contribute to economic growth. Entrepreneurship fosters leadership skills, self-reliance, and resilience, making women more visible and influential economically.

Government initiatives and private institutions have been instrumental in equipping women with the necessary tools for success in the industry. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has played a vital role in training women for careers in beauty and wellness. Initiatives like The Beauty and Wellness Sector Skill Council (BWSSC) provide certifications and skill development courses to millions of women nationwide.

According to the BWSSC, nearly 2 million women have been trained through skill development programs in beauty and wellness in India, significantly enhancing women's employability and career growth.

Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), has spent over two decades empowering 250,000 women in tier 2 cities and suburban areas with valuable skills in beauty and wellness. This initiative has helped bridge geographical disparities and enhanced their career prospects, enabling them to pursue diverse roles in the industry. The hybrid mode of training also boosts their chances for professional advancement, addressing various challenges and reducing the gender employment gap.

Beyond financial and professional empowerment, the beauty and well-

ness sector boosts women's self-esteem and confidence. In a society where women's appearances have often been scrutinised, the beauty industry allows women to express themselves, feel more self-assured, and engage actively in both social and professional spheres. Women are increasingly taking on leadership roles within this industry, driving trends and shaping its future. According to FICCI's 2021 report on the beauty and wellness sector, women hold significant leadership positions in major beauty brands and represent 50-60 per cent of senior management in several top companies.

As women advance to leadership roles, they influence industry trends, promote diversity and inclusivity, and help break down gender norms. Their leadership inspires the next generation of women to pursue prominent roles, further advancing gender equality in the workforce. With a growing focus on sustainability in the beauty and wellness sector, women have opportunities to lead initiatives that promote environmental awareness and social responsibility.

Many women in this field are focused on business growth and actively cultivating sustainable and ethical practices that positively impact society. By offering women financial independence, career advancement opportunities, and self-expression platforms, the beauty and wellness sector is reshaping the future for women in India. This sector's economic, social, and psychological benefits pave the way for a new generation of women contributing to India's growth trajectory.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of Gol; the views expressed are personal)

Reviving the spirit of peace: A call to action for a divided world

As the voices of peacemakers grow faint and their initiatives struggle for survival, the urgency to reignite hope and unity has never been greater

This is my story. As a child, I often heard harrowing tales of emotional and physical trauma, turmoil, displacement, and violence from my family elders—stories of what they endured during Partition. They spoke of their flight from Rawalpindi and how, as refugees, they rebuilt their lives and made Delhi their home.



APS MALHOTRA

Listening to these sagas of resilience, courage, and the indomitable human spirit, I was reminded of the philosopher George Santayana's warning: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Tragically, we have done just that—forgetting the lessons of the past and repeating the same mistakes,

over and over again. Thirty-seven years after Partition, another tragedy unfolded. A so-called "big tree" fell, and the reverberations shook Delhi to its core. What followed was a horrific bloodbath: gross attempts at ethnic cleansing, as thousands of innocent people were butchered in the nation's capital within hours. Law enforcement turned a

blind eye. Places of worship were desecrated. Homes were looted, ransacked, and burned. Women were violated, and men were hunted like wild animals.

In those dark and desperate times, when it seemed as though humanity had been consumed by madness, there were still beacons of hope. Veterans like the late Kuldeep Nayar stood steadfast, risking their safety to uphold the ideals of peace. Stories of individuals and groups lighting candles, distributing sweets and roses at the Attari-Wagah border, and praying for harmony between two estranged nations filled me with admiration and hope. I longed to join them—to move from being a passive

observer to an active participant in this peace movement.

But it remained a dream for decades. Finally, some years ago, the opportunity came during a visit to Amritsar for a seminar. By sheer luck, I was given a VIP pass to witness the Beating Retreat Ceremony at the Attari-Wagah border. I was thrilled beyond words. That day, under a gentle winter sun, I took my seat near the massive gate where the ceremony unfolds. It was a spectacle to behold—smartly dressed soldiers marching in perfect sync on both sides of the border. The crowd was electric, brimming with patriotic fervor, singing Bollywood songs, and soaking in the



festive 'pind da mela' atmosphere. But as dusk fell and the ceremony ended, a sense of disappointment crept in. The cold wind seemed to mirror

my mood. None of the scenes I had dreamed of since childhood were there. There were no doves soaring freely across the man-made divide, no warm embraces or

gestures of reconciliation—only the stark reality of a deeply entrenched divide.

That day, I walked away with nothing but the wistful reveries of a peacenik. Now, as I approach the close of my 56th year, my concern for the future has grown. The peacemakers—the dreamers who championed harmony and understanding—are fading, their initiatives struggling to survive. A way forward must be found, and urgently. The solution lies within each of us, but it will take collective effort to revive the peace offensive.

If we fail to act, we risk losing this fight entirely. And history, as well as future generations, will not forgive us.

The path to peace is fraught with challenges, but it is one we must tread with urgency and determination. The fading voices of peacemakers must be reignited, their efforts revitalised, for the sake of a shared future. If we fail to come together now—to heal divisions, foster understanding, and embrace humanity's collective strength—the dream of harmony will wither away. The responsibility lies with each of us to ensure this does not happen. Let us act before it is too late, for history will not absolve us, and future generations will inherit the consequences of our inaction. Peace cannot wait.

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

Peace deal designed for permanent cessation of hostilities: Biden

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden has announced that Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah have accepted a US-brokered peace deal that is designed to be a "permanent cessation" of hostilities between the two sides. As part of the ceasefire, Israel will gradually withdraw its troops from Lebanon over the next 60 days, Biden said in his address to the nation from the White House on Tuesday, shortly after Israel's Security Cabinet approved the accord. According to reports, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented to the Security Cabinet the agreement aimed at ending months-long fighting between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah which was ignited by the Gaza conflict and has killed and displaced thousands. Biden said he spoke with Netanyahu and Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati. "I'm pleased to announce that their governments have accepted the United States' proposal to end the devastating conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. I want to thank President Macron of France for his part-

nership in reaching this moment," he said. "I've directed my team to work with the governments of Israel and Lebanon to forge a ceasefire to bring the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah to a close. "Under the deal reached today, effective at 4:00 a.m. tomorrow local time, the fighting across the Lebanese-Israeli border will end. This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities," he said. Biden said what is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organisations will not be allowed to threaten the security of Israel again. "Over the next 60 days, the Lebanese Army and the State Security Forces will deploy and take control of their own territory once again. Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure in southern Lebanon will not be allowed to be rebuilt," he said. "Over the next 60 days, Israel will gradually withdraw its remaining forces and civilians on both sides will soon be able to safely return to their communities and begin to rebuild their homes, their schools, their farms, their businesses,

and their very lives," he added. Describing the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah as the deadliest in decades, Biden said lasting security for the people of the two countries cannot be achieved only on the battlefield. "Israel must be bold in turning tactical gains against Iran and its proxies into a coherent strategy that secures Israel's long-term safety and advances a broader peace and prosperity in the region," he said. In New York, UN Secretary-General António Guterres welcomed the ceasefire announcement and hoped that this would put an end to the violence, destruction and suffering the people of Israel and Lebanon have been experiencing. UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert echoed similar sentiments. "This agreement marks the starting point of a critical process, anchored in the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), to restore the safety and security that civilians on both sides of the Blue Line deserve," she said. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer described the accord

as a good deal for Israel and the region. It shows that when terrorists are beaten back both militarily and through dogged diplomacy, the likelihood of peace increases, he said. "Hezbollah said they would never give up as long as there was fighting in Gaza, but today's ceasefire agreement should show Hamas they are as isolated as ever. "Now, Hamas must release all the remaining hostages and come to a negotiated ceasefire. Carrying on their failed strategy will lead only to further suffering and SENSELESS bloodshed in Gaza. Hamas must recognise that there's no future without a strong and secure state of Israel," Schumer said. "The Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire agreement also provides an enforcement mechanism to help ensure Hezbollah remains weakened and allows displaced Lebanese and Israeli civilians to return to their homes," he said. "I applaud the Biden administration for this agreement and for continuing to work to negotiate a ceasefire and the return of all the hostages in Gaza," he said.

Trump team claims credit for truce deal brokered by Biden govt

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration kept President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration closely apprised of its efforts to broker the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hezbollah that is slated to go into effect early Wednesday, according to the outgoing Democratic administration. Trump's team, meanwhile, was quick to spike the football and claim credit for the rare spot of good news for a Democratic administration that's been dragged down by the grinding Mideast conflict. "Everyone is coming to the table because of President Trump," Florida Rep. Mike Waltz, Trump's choice for his national security adviser, said in a post on X on Tuesday, shortly before the Israel Cabinet signed off on the agreement. "His resounding victory sent a clear message to the rest of the world that chaos won't be tolerated. I'm glad to see concrete steps towards deescalation in the Middle East." The Biden administration's reported coordination with Trump's team on its efforts to forge the ceasefire in Lebanon is

perhaps the highest-profile example of cooperation in what's been a sometimes choppy transition period. Trump's transition team just on Tuesday reached a required agreement with President Joe Biden's White House that will allow transition staff to coordinate with the existing federal workforce before Trump takes office on Jan. 20. There has been some coordination on high levels between the outgoing Biden and incoming Trump teams, including talks between Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan and Waltz. Biden in Rose Garden remarks on Tuesday cheered the ceasefire agreement as a critical step that he hoped could be the catalyst for a broader peace in the Mideast, which has been shaken by nearly 14 months of war following Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. "This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities," Biden said. "What is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations will not be allowed — I emphasise, will not be allowed — to threaten the security of Israel again." White House officials are now

hopeful that a calm in Lebanon will reinvalidate a multi-country effort at finding an endgame to the devastating war in Gaza, where Hamas is still holding dozens of hostages and the conflict is more intractable. Biden said the US, as well as Israel, will engage in talks in the coming days with officials from Egypt, Qatar and Turkey to try to get Gaza talks back on track. But during Biden's moment of success in a conflict that has roiled his reputation at home and abroad, the specter of the incoming Trump administration loomed large. Trump's senior national security team was briefed by the Biden administration as negotiations unfolded and finally came to a conclusion on Tuesday, according to a senior Biden administration official. The official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity on a call organised by the White House, added that the incoming Trump administration officials were not directly involved in the talks, but that it was important that they knew "what we were negotiating and what the commitments were". Trump's team and allies, mean-

while, said there was no doubt that the prospect of the Republican president returning to power pushed both sides to get the agreement done. Waltz, in addition to giving Trump credit for the ceasefire deal coming together, added a warning to Iran, Hezbollah's chief financial backer. "But let's be clear: The Iran Regime is the root cause of the chaos; terror that has been unleashed across the region. We will not tolerate the status quo of their support for terrorism," Waltz said in his post. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Trump ally, also gave a shoutout to the incoming administration, while giving a nod to Biden's team. "I appreciate the hard work of the Biden Administration, supported by President Trump, to make this ceasefire a reality," Graham said in a statement. Richard Goldberg, a senior adviser at the Washington group Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, said the moment magnifies that Iran — which he said would have needed to approve of Hezbollah agreeing to the ceasefire — is carefully weighing what lays ahead with Trump.

As peace holds, Lebanese begin streaming south to their homes

AP ■ BEIRUT

A ceasefire between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah appeared to be holding Wednesday, as residents in cars heaped with belongings streamed back toward southern Lebanon despite warnings from the Israeli and Lebanese military that they stay away from certain areas. If it holds, the ceasefire would bring an end to nearly 14 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which escalated in mid-September into all-out war and threatened to pull Hezbollah's patron Iran and Israel into a broader conflagration. It could give some reprieve to the 1.2 million Lebanese displaced by the fighting and the tens of thousands of Israelis who fled their homes along the border with Lebanon. The US- and France-brokered deal, approved by Israel late Tuesday, calls for an initial two-month halt to fighting and requires Hezbollah to end its armed presence in southern

Lebanon, while Israeli troops are to return to their side of the border. Thousands of additional Lebanese troops and UN peacekeepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor compliance. Hours before the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon took effect, Israel launched broad strikes that shook the Lebanese capital Beirut and a volley of rockets from Hezbollah set off air raid sirens across a large swath of northern Israel. But after the ceasefire took effect early Wednesday, quiet appeared to take hold, prompting waves of Lebanese to head home. Israel's Arabic military spokesperson Avichay Adraee warned displaced Lebanese not to return to their villages in southern Lebanon. The Lebanese military asked displaced returning to southern Lebanon to avoid frontline villages and towns near the border where Israeli troops are still present until they withdraw.



But some videos circulating on social media show displaced Lebanese defying these calls and returning to villages in the south near the coastal city of Tyre. Israeli troops were still present in parts of

southern Lebanon after Israel launched a ground invasion in October. On the highway linking Beirut with south Lebanon, thousands of people drove south with their belongings and mattresses tied on top of their cars. Traffic was gridlocked at the northern entrance of the port city of Sidon. Residents will return to vast destruction wrought by the Israeli military during its campaign, which flattened villages where the military said it found vast weapons caches and infrastructure it says was meant to launch an Oct 7-style attack on northern Israel. More than 3,760 people have been killed by Israeli fire in Lebanon the past 13 months, many of them civilians, according to Lebanese health officials. Hezbollah emerges from the war battered and bloodied, with the reputation it built by fighting Israel to a stalemate in the 2006 war tarnished. Yet its fighters still managed to put up heavy resistance on the ground, slowing Israel's advance while continuing to fire scores of rockets, missiles and drones across the border each day. "This is a moment of victory, pride and honor for us, the Shia sect, and for all of Lebanon," said Hussein

Swaidan, a resident returning to Tyre in southern Lebanon, who said he saw the ceasefire as a victory for Hezbollah. Sporadic celebratory gunfire was heard at a main roundabout in the city, as people returning honked the horns of cars and residents cheered. Some Israelis are concerned the deal doesn't go far enough. In Israel, the mood was far more subdued, with displaced Israelis concerned that the deal did not go far enough to rein in Hezbollah and that it did not address Gaza and the hostages still held there. "I think it is still not safe to return to our homes because Hezbollah is still close to us," said Eliyahu Maman, an Israeli displaced from the northern Israeli city of Kyriat Shmona, which is not far from the border with Lebanon and was hit hard by the months of fighting. The fighting killed more than 70 people in Israel, more than half civilians, as well as dozens of Israeli soldiers fighting in southern

Lebanon. A significant return of the displaced to their communities, many of which have suffered extensive damage from rocket fire, could take months. But Israel can claim major victories in the war, including the killing of Hezbollah's top leader Hassan Nasrallah and most of its senior commanders, as well as the destruction of extensive militant infrastructure. A complex attack involving exploding papers and walkie-talkies, widely attributed to Israel, appeared to show a remarkable degree of penetration of the secretive militant group. The kinds of massive, long-range rocket barrages that many Israelis had feared before the war never fully materialised, either because they were destroyed by Israeli strikes or Hezbollah held them in reserve. Hezbollah also failed to launch any ground attacks across the border, despite evidence presented by the Israeli military that it had invested heavily in preparing for such operations.

Philippine police file complaints against V-P Sara Duterte, aides

AP ■ MANILA

Philippine police officials on Wednesday filed criminal complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte and her security staff for allegedly assaulting and disobeying orders from authorities in a recent altercation in Congress. The criminal complaints filed by the Quezon City police were separate from any legal action may arise after she publicly threatened to have President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., his wife and the House of Representatives speaker assassinated if she were killed herself in an unspecified plot. She has not provided details of that plot. The Marcos administration's legal offensive against Duterte, her father and their allies is a critical juncture in a conflict that has seethed in the last two years between the two most powerful families in the Philippines. The Department of Justice said it was also looking into potentially seditious remarks by Marcos's successor and the

vice president's father, Rodrigo Duterte, who said in a news conference that the civilian government would only listen if the military would voice concerns about corruption and irregularities under the Marcos administration. "There is a fractured governance... It is only the military who can correct it," the former president told a news conference Monday night. He said he was not agitating the military to rise against Marcos but only reaffirming the real situation in the Philippines. Still, justice officials said an investigation into the former president's remarks would proceed. The criminal complaints for assaulting, disobeying and grave coercion against police authorities were filed against the vice president and her security and other aides before state prosecutors, a police statement said. Such crimes are punishable by a jail term and a fine. The complaints were set off by a chaotic squabble over the weekend in the House of

Representatives where the vice president's chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, has been temporarily detained. Lopez has been accused by legislators of obstructing and not cooperating with a congressional inquiry into alleged misuse of confidential and intelligence funds by the offices of the vice president and education secretary when Sara Duterte headed it under the Marcos administration. At one point, authorities were ordered to transfer Lopez to a women's prison outside Congress, causing her to become agitated. The vice president and her staff intervened to oppose the order and Lopez was eventually moved to a government hospital, where she remains confined. "The rule of law is fundamental to our democratic system. No one, regardless of his position, should be above accountability," national police chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil said of the criminal complaints against the vice president and her aides.

Trump signs MoU with WH for next phase of transition

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President-elect Donald Trump has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with President Joe Biden's White House on the next phase of his transition so that the new administration and its team are ready from day one, the incoming chief of staff Susie Wiles has said. Unlike in the past, the transition team will not use government buildings or technology provided by the General Services Administration (GSA) and will operate as a self-sufficient organisation. It will also raise funds for the transition expenses, Wiles said on Tuesday. Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, 2025. "After completing the selection process of his incoming Cabinet, President-elect Trump is entering the next phase of his administration's transition by executing a Memorandum of Understanding with

President Joe Biden's White House," Wiles said. "This engagement allows our intended Cabinet nominees to begin critical preparations, including the deployment of landing teams to every department and agency, and complete the orderly transition of power," she said. According to the MoU, the transition will not utilise taxpayers' funding for costs related to it, which is consistent with Trump's commitment to save taxpayers' hard-earned money. It will not use government buildings or technology provided by the GSA and will operate as a self-sufficient organisation. This organisational autonomy means a streamlined process that guarantees the Trump administration is ready from day one. The transition already has existing security and information protections built in, which means it will not require additional government and bureaucratic oversight, the MoU stated.

"The transition has an existing Ethics Plan for those involved, which will meet the requirements for personnel to seamlessly move into the Trump Administration. Pursuant to the Transition Enhancement Act, that Ethics Plan will be posted to the website of the General Services Administration website. "The Transition landing teams will quickly integrate directly into federal agencies and departments with access to documents and policy sharing. Per the agreement, the Transition will discontinue the landing team members to the Biden Administration," it added. "The agreement dictates that the Trump-Vance Transition will utilise private funding, again, providing cost savings to American taxpayers. Donors to the Transition will be disclosed to the public. Consistent with Transition policy already in place, the Transition will not accept foreign donations," the Trump team said.

Malaysian court drops one of the graft cases against Najib Razak

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR

A Malaysian court on Wednesday dropped charges against jailed former Prime Minister Najib Razak over criminal breach of trust linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of a state fund. Najib had already been convicted in his first graft case tied to the 1Malaysia Development Berhad state fund, or 1MDB, scandal and began serving time in 2022 after losing his final appeal in his first graft case. But he faces other graft trials including Wednesday's case in which he was jointly charged with ex-treasurer chief Irwan Serigar Abdullah with six counts of misappropriating 6.6 billion ringgit (\$1.5 billion) in public funds. The money was intended as 1MDB's settlement payment to Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company. The Kuala Lumpur High Court discharged the pair after ruling

that procedural delays and prosecutors' failure to hand over key documents were unfair to the defence, said Najib's lawyer, Muhammad Farhan. A discharge doesn't mean an acquittal as prosecutors reserve the right to revive charges against them, he said. "The decision today was based on the non-disclosure of critical documents, six years after the initial charges were brought up, which are relevant to our client's defence preparation. Therefore the court correctly exercised its jurisdiction to discharge our client of the charges," Farhan said. Najib set up 1MDB shortly after taking power in 2009. Investigators allege more than \$4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by his associates to finance Hollywood films and extravagant purchases. The scandal upended Najib's government and he was defeated in the 2018 election.

ISKCON Bangladesh urges Yunus-led govt to promote 'peaceful coexistence' for Hindus

PTI ■ DHAKA

The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has urged the Bangladesh authorities to promote "peaceful coexistence" for Hindus in the country as it "strongly" denounced the recent arrest of the prominent community leader Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari. Das, the spokesperson for Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Monday as he was about to fly to Chattogram to join a rally. He was denied bail and sent to

jail by the Chattogram's Sixth Metropolitan Magistrate court in a sedition case on Tuesday. In a statement on Tuesday, ISKCON Bangladesh General Secretary Charu Chandra Das Brahmachari said, "We express our serious concern and strongly denounce the recent arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das... We also condemn the subsequent violence and attacks against Sanatanis in various regions of Bangladesh." "We urge the government authorities to promote peaceful coexistence for the Sanatani community," he said. Underlining that Bangladesh is "our birthplace and ancestral

home," the statement urged the interim government of Bangladesh led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus "to ensure justice for all and to allow every citizen to practice their religion freely in accordance with their beliefs and conscience." The statement said Das has been a vocal advocate for the protection of minority groups in Bangladesh and it is essential to uphold his right to free speech and to support his efforts to encourage others to defend this right. "Ensuring justice and fair treatment for him is crucial," it said, adding that Das and the

Sanatam community deserve justice as citizens of Bangladesh and any form of discrimination against them must not be tolerated. Das was also a member of the ISKCON, which recently expelled him. ISKCON Bangladesh demanded that the Bangladesh government must identify and hold accountable those responsible for the attacks on the Sanatani community; protect the civil rights of Das and other Hindu members; and implement immediate and effective measures to maintain peace and harmony among all communities in the country.

Bill passed in Australia to ban young children from social media

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Australia's House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill that would ban children younger than 16 years old from social media, leaving it to the Senate to finalise the world-first law. The major parties backed the bill that would make platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram liable for fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (USD 33 million) for systemic failures to prevent young children from holding accounts. The legislation was passed with 102 votes in favour to 13

against. If the bill becomes law this week, the platforms would have one year to work out how to implement the age restrictions before the penalties are enforced. Opposition lawmaker Dan Tehan told Parliament the government had agreed to accept amendments in the Senate that would bolster privacy protections. Platforms would not be allowed to compel users to provide government-issued identity documents including passports or driver's licenses. The platforms also could not demand digital identification through a government system.

"Will it be perfect? No. But is any law perfect? No, it's not. But if it helps, even if it helps in just the smallest of ways, it will make a huge difference to people's lives," Tehan told Parliament. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said the Senate would debate the bill later Wednesday. The major parties' support all but guarantees the legislation will be passed by the Senate where no party holds a majority of seats. Lawmakers who were not aligned with either the government or the opposition were most critical of the legislation during debate on Tuesday and

Wednesday. Criticisms include that the legislation had been rushed through Parliament without adequate scrutiny, would not work, would create privacy risks for users of all ages and would take away parents' authority to decide what's best for their children. Critics also argue the ban would isolate children, deprive them of positive aspects of social media, drive children to the dark web, make children too young for social media reluctant to report harms they encountered and take away incentives for platforms to make online spaces safer.

Imran's party suspends protest, at least four dead in crackdown

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Failed former prime minister Imran Khan's party on Wednesday formally suspended for the time being its protest here blaming the midnight crackdown by the authorities that left at least four dead and over 50 injured even as the PTI earlier claimed "hundreds" were killed in the violent clashes with security personnel.

adjacent main business district of the capital ending their protest, which his party described as a "massacre" under the "fascist military regime" even as police sources said about 450 protesters were arrested in the crackdown. "In view of the government's brutality and the government's plan to turn the capital into a slaughterhouse for unarmed citizens, (we) announce the suspension of the peaceful protest for the time being," Khan's PTI said in a press release shared on its official X account.

alleged "brutal murder of martyred (party) workers" and order legal action against the prime minister, interior minister and police chiefs of Islamabad and Punjab for "attempt to murder." Earlier on Tuesday evening, PTI supporters battled law enforcing agencies and succeeded in reaching the D-Chowk for a sit-in as part of their protest march that started on Sunday. The supporters' clash with police killed at least six security personnel and injured dozens since Monday night.

Four dead, several missing as Sri Lanka faces massive rains, floods

PTI ■ COLOMBO
Four persons, including two children, have died and several others remained missing while over 2.30 lakh individuals were affected across Sri Lanka due to inclement weather following a massive rain system over the south-west Bay of Bengal.

8:00 am - and high winds experienced in most parts of the island due to the Deep Depression (heavy rain bearing system) over the south-west Bay of Bengal. The Deep Depression is likely to move north-northwest ways closer to the east coast of Sri Lanka and intensify further into a cyclonic storm later in the day, the meteorological department said.

provide food and other essentials to those affected. News portal NewsFirst.lk said six flights scheduled to arrive at the Bandaranaika International Airport (BIA) here were diverted to other airports, including to Indian airports. Sri Lankan Airlines flight from Tokyo, Emirates flights arriving from Male, and IndiGo flight from Chennai, all destined for Colombo, were diverted to the Thiruvananthapuram

International Airport while Air Arabia flight from Sharjah was diverted to Kozhikode International Airport. Sri Lankan Airlines flight from Male and Etihad Airways flight from Abu Dhabi to Colombo, both were diverted to Mattala International Airport, NewsFirst.lk said.

found while efforts were on to trace others continued on Wednesday. The six students, between 12-16 years, and the tractor operator were on their way back from school at Sammanthurai in the Ampara district when the farm tractor trolley they were travelling on was swept by the massive floods following the heavy rains in the area. Five other children and the tractor driver were rescued, police added.

ICC prosecutor requests arrest warrants for head of Myanmar's military regime

AP ■ THE HAGUE
The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor asked judges on Wednesday to issue an arrest warrant for the head of Myanmar's military regime for crimes committed against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority.

From a refugee camp in Bangladesh, the court's top prosecutor, Karim Khan, said in a statement that he intends to request more warrants for Myanmar's leaders soon. "In doing so, we will be demonstrating, together with all of our partners, that the Rohingya have not been forgotten. That they, like all people around the world, are entitled to the protection of the law," the British barrister said.

police to attack Rohingya civilians. Khan was in Bangladesh where he met with members of the displaced Rohingya population. About 1 million of the predominantly Muslim Rohingya live in Bangladesh as refugees from Myanmar, including about 740,000 who fled in 2017. Rohingyas face widespread discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, with most denied citizenship. Myanmar's government refuses to recognise the Rohingya as one of the country's 135 lawful ethnic minorities, instead calling them Bengalis, with the implication that their native land is in Bangladesh and they are illegally settled in Myanmar.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sarla Devi, W/o, late Harpal Singh, C-62, Keshav Nagar Mukti Ashram Delhi-39, I have debarred my sons Rohit Kumar, his wife Jagriti Chauhan Vikal Kumar his wife Ianya Sehra my daughter Aruna Kumari from my movable and immovable properties if anyone contact them, will be their own risk, (Sarla Devi, Not Responsible).

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Premalata Nanda W/o Late Brij Mohan Nanda R/O 52/52, Kharsa No. 94/76, Block-52, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, I have lost original documents of my property bearing No. 52/52, Kharsa No. 94/76, Block-52, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, documents issued by DDA such as allotment letter, perpetual lease deed & possession letter on the way from above said address to DDA office, LR No.2322886/2024 dated 21.11.2024, F.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Please if you find my documents please take necessary action on this.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client Mr. Anil Kumar claiming to be the owner of Plot No. B-276/2, area measuring 80 sq. yds, out of total area 118 sq. yds, Kharsa No. 20/6, situated at Village Khayala Delhi abadi known as Vishnu Garden, Block S Gali No. 4, New Delhi vide GA. Dt. 11.02.1998 along with ATS executed by Mr. Mohinder Singh and Nov. Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur is the undisputed owner of the said property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur had acquired Ground Floor & First Floor, Built up Property bearing No. S-221/132, area 88 Sq. yds out of total area 118 sq. yds, Kharsa No. 20/6, situated at Village Khayala Delhi abadi known as Vishnu Garden, Block S Gali No. 4, New Delhi vide GA. Dt. 11.02.1998 along with ATS executed by Mr. Mohinder Singh and Nov. Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur is the undisputed owner of the said property.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
HARBOR WORKS DIVISION NO.1
E-TENDER CALL NO. J
E-TENOR CALL NO. J
E-TENOR CALL NO. J
E-TENOR CALL NO. J
E-TENOR CALL NO. J

ICC prosecutor requests arrest warrants for head of Myanmar's military regime

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, Pragna Maheshwari W/o Mr. Nikhil Srulka am the absolute owner of Flat No. 207 on Ground Floor, Under A Category (EHS), Situated at Pocket-1, Sector-25, Rohini, Delhi-110085 vide DDA's File No. A/353(11356)/2015/DDA/14/R. My original (1) Demand Letter and (2) Site Possession Slip of the said flat have been misplaced. An Information Report of this effect has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No.2328345/2024 on 22.11.2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the public at large that my client, Ms. Surbhi Gupta, is the co-owner of the property situated at C-138, Upper Ground Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015 (hereinafter referred to as "the Property"). It has come to her notice that certain individuals may attempt to deal with, sell, or purchase the said property without her written consent. All members of the public are hereby cautioned against entering into any agreement, transaction, or dealing concerning the above-mentioned property without obtaining prior written approval from Ms. Surbhi Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that my client Prakash Chand Jain and his wife Deva Jain both are the owners as well as Managing Directors of M/s Silicon Electronic Private Limited are in process to avail the working capital against their entire Ground Floor, built up Property bearing No. A-21, area measuring 248.50 sq.mt., situated in the layout plan of Jhansi Tanager residential Scheme, colony known as Veda, Vihar Phase II, Delhi-110025 pursuant to my claim against the said property. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, lease, tenancy, possession, etc., are requested to produce their documents before me on or before 14.09.2021 (i.e. No. 7974) executed by Meera Jain, Shilpa Bansal and Shweta Bansal through SPA holder.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Reg. Built-up Property bearing No. C-121, area measuring 100 sq. yds, out of Kharsa No. 757, situated at Village Ghonda Gujjar Khadar, in the abadi of Gali No. 2, Jagji Nagar, Khajala, Shehadra, Delhi-110053, (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Praveen Kumar and Ms. Savitri Devi (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said property from Mr. Kishan Pal (hereinafter called the "Attorney-holder"). In this connection, the Attorney-holder has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute Attorney-holder in respect of the said property.

Ex-Bangladesh PM Zia acquitted in graft case

PTI ■ DHAKA
Bangladesh High Court on Wednesday acquitted former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a corruption case in which she was sentenced to seven years in jail by a lower court, according to media reports. Zia, 79, was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case in 2018 by a Dhaka court. It also sentenced her to seven years imprisonment under the former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government and fined her Tk 1 million. A bench of Justices AKM Asaduzzaman and Syed Enayet Hossain overturned the decision based on an appeal by Zia, the bdnews24.com news portal reported. Two others accused in the case were also acquitted by the court.

reported. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson was lodged in the Old Dhaka Central Jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. On October 30, 2018, the High Court raised her punishment to 10 years. Later, she was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case. Amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the government temporarily released Zia from jail after 776 days through an executive order, suspending her sentence on March 25, 2020, with conditions that she would stay in her Gulshan house and not leave the country. On August 6, after the regime change in Dhaka, Zia was completely freed by an order of Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin. Zia served as the prime minister of Bangladesh from March 1991 to March 1996, and again from June 2001 to October 2006.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Parinaidu Father of No. 15809418X L/Nk Guntreddi Suresh, R/o- 9-38, Vill- Puthikavalasa, Post & Teh- Kurnipam, Dist- Vizianagaram, A.P.- 535524, have changed my name from Parinaidu to Guntreddi Pari Naidu, vide affidavit dated 27/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(979)C
I, Gainba Bai, Mother of No.8036187A Hav Girase Ajayshing Bharatsing, R/O-MU Kampur, Dist- Dhule, Maharashtra- 425408, declare that in my son's service records, my name is wrongly written as Gainba Bai whereas my correct name is Gnyanbai Bharatsing Girase. PD(980)C
I, Papayamma, Mother of No. 15791624W HAV (OFC) Yerram Naidu Butu, R/o-Vijayaramaraju Colony, Vill-Post- Kondavelagada, Teh-Nellimarla, Dist- Vizianagaram, A.P.- 535217, have changed my name from Papayamma to Buti Papayamma, vide affidavit dated 27/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(981)C

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/50/Sr.DMM/KIR/PUB/E-Tender /2024-25/05 Dated: 26-11-2024 for Supply of Materials. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
Tender No. KT235819B
Closing/Opening date: 20-12-2024 (14.30 Hrs.)
Brief Description: Supply, Installation and commissioning of EOT Crane, Cap-10T, COFMOV Spec. No-COFMOV/IR/EOT/C/20, Rev-0. Consignee:- SSE/IC&CW/New Jalpaiguri, NFR (West Bengal) Qty: 2 Nos.
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 tender are required to log on 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 tenders.
Divisional Materials Manager, Kathiar

TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
A Tata Power and Delhi Distribution Joint Venture
Address: Internal Consumer Grievance Redressal Cell, Tata Power-DL Office, Keshav Puram, Lawrence Road, New Delhi-110035
Website: tatapower-dtl.com; Tel: 011-66382301
An Internal Consumer Grievance Redressal Cell (ICGRC) has been set up as per DERC (Guidelines for establishment of the Forum and the Ombudsman for redressal of grievances of Electricity Consumers) Regulations, 2024, for registration of Consumers Grievances as per details below:
The Internal Consumer Grievance Redressal is headed by Ms. Dipanwita Ray (Deputy General Manager) & Sh. Gaurav Kalra (Senior Executive)
The Helpline Number of the ICGRC is 011-66382301
For registering the complaint consumer can log on to the Link : https://www.tatapower-dtl.com/Internal-Grievance-Redressal-Cell/
In case, ICGRC fails to redress the grievance within 15 days it shall forward the grievance up to the next level tier of grievance redressal hierarchy i.e. Consumers Grievance Redressal Forum (CGRF)
Alternately, the Consumer has an option to seek redressal from the Electricity Consumers Grievances Redressal of his grievance if the same is not redressed within 15 days or the action/reply of the ICGRC is not up to the satisfaction of the Consumer using the same web portals.
A user-friendly manual both in Hindi and English versions for guidance of the Electricity Consumers is available on the link: https://www.tatapower-dtl.com/Internal-Grievance-Redressal-Cell.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that the proposal submitted by M/s Sarvotam Industrial Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. to become a co-promoter of the Ansal Megapolis project has been rejected by the Government of Uttar Pradesh (letter no. File No. 8-3099/506/2023 - 3 /i516760/2024 b dated: 12th March 2024) and Bulandshahar Development Authority (letter no. -1717 dated: 15th March 2024).
In light of this development, M/s Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Pvt. Ltd. assumes sole responsibility for all transactions, management, and bookings related to the Ansal Megapolis project. Any dealings with unauthorized individuals, groups, or companies regarding this project will not be recognized or entertained by M/s Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Pvt. Ltd. and may result in potential risks or losses for the parties involved. M/s Uttam Steel and Associates (Consortium) and M/s Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Pvt. Ltd. (SPV) will not be held liable for any damages or claims arising from unauthorized transactions or dealings related to the Ansal Megapolis project.
This serves as a formal notification to the general public and current customers. Please refrain from engaging in any transactions or bookings with Sarvotam Group (M/s Sarvotam Industrial Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. Address - Plot-22, sector-3 Maharaja Agarsain Marg, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India - 201012, corporate office - 10th Floor, Tower 2, Corporate Ansal Park, Sector 142, Noida - 203005) or any of its subsidiaries concerning the "Ansal Megapolis" project. The project, located in Greater Noida, Tehsil Dadri, District GautamBuddh Nagar, is solely developed, managed, and controlled by M/s Uttam Steel and Associates (Consortium) through its Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), M/s Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Pvt. Ltd. (SPV).
For any inquiries or clarifications, please contact AUA LEGAL LLP (Advocates and Consultants) engaged by Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Pvt. Ltd. directly.
Contact Information
By order of
AUA LEGAL LLP
Utam Steel & Associates (Consortium) &
M/s Ansal Hi-Tech Townships Pvt. Ltd.
Reg. Add. D-5, Defence Colony, 2nd Floor, Delhi-110024
Email id - crm@ansalhiotech.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client Mr. Anil Kumar claiming to be the owner of Plot No. B-276/2, area measuring 80 sq. yds, out of total area 118 sq. yds, Kharsa No. 20/6, situated at Village Khayala Delhi abadi known as Vishnu Garden, Block S Gali No. 4, New Delhi vide GA. Dt. 11.02.1998 along with ATS executed by Mr. Mohinder Singh and Nov. Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur is the undisputed owner of the said property.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
For kind attention of allottees of the real estate project "INDIABULLS ONE 09" developed by M/s Citra Properties Ltd.
1. The above project was registered with HRERA under Registration No. 298/2017 dated 13-10-2017 covering 1.11 acres of land which is part of 5.90 acres area registered by DTPC Haryana under License No. 43/2012 dated 05.05.2012.
2. Whereas M/s Citra Properties Limited is in the process of changing the bank account from IndusInd Bank to ICICI Bank, which is in process and pending approval from HRERA, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice the allottees/general public are hereby notified/informed that the following are the changes in the bank account:

Table with 3 columns: Particulars, Previous Bank Accounts, New Bank Accounts. Rows include Bank Name (IndusInd Bank to ICICI Bank), IFSC Code (INDB0000006 to ICIC0007722), Master Collection Account No. (258097592125 to 77770525070), RERA A/c No. (257021992192 to 77770525071), Promoter Free Cashflow A/c No. (259222318988 to 77770525073).

ORISSA SPONGE IRON & STEEL LIMITED
CIN: L27102OR1979PLC000819
Regd. Office: OSIL House, Gandagarh Meher Marg, Kili Bhubaneswar - 751024
Corporate Office: A-201, First Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi - 110 020
Site: P.O. Palaspanga, Dist. Keonjhar - 758 031, Odisha
E-Mail: corporate@orissasponge.com; Website: www.orissasponge.com; Tel: +91 11-43742000

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION
The members of "Orissa Sponge Iron and Steel Limited" (the "Company") are hereby informed that in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021 and 20/2021 dated October 08, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022, General Circulars No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and Regulation 44 and 47 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") and other applicable provisions including any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and as amended from time to time, a Postal Ballot Notice ("Notice"), seeking consent of the members on the resolution as set out in the said Notice has been sent electronically to the members whose e-mail address are registered with the Depository Participants/ Registrar & Share Transfer agent i.e. Skyline Financial Service Private Limited ("RTA"), as on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 (Cut-off Date). The dispatch of the said notice through e-mails has been completed on Wednesday, November 27, 2024.

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IT hiring expected to grow by 10-12 per cent in next six months: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

IT services hiring is expected to grow 10-12 per cent in the next six months following rapid evolution of technology which is reshaping industries and economies worldwide, a report said on Wednesday.

Emerging technologies such as Generative AI, Deep Tech, and Quantum Computing emerge are set to create over a million jobs by 2030, the report by business services provider Qness Corp said.

The report revealed that demand for talent across Global Capability Centres (GCCs) and Cybersecurity during the second quarter (July-September) sequentially surged across the country by 71 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, compared to the previous quarter. This report is based on data from the first two-quarters of FY25 from Qness IT Staffing's operations that analyses the evolving aggregate tech hiring demand and related insights to give leaders a clear understanding of what the talent market looks like.

"India, with its burgeoning tech talent pool and innovative spirit, is at the forefront of this digital revolution. Therefore, IT services



hiring will grow 10-12 per cent in the next 6 months," Qness IT Staffing CEO Kapil Joshi said.

According to the IT Staffing Quarterly Digital Skills Report Q2FY25 report, 79 per cent of the aggregate demand emerged from the top five skill suites, including Development, ERP, Testing, Networking and Data Science. In addition to these functional skill suites, there was a rapid increase in specialized roles and skills related to

Java (30 per cent), cybersecurity (20 per cent), and DevOps (25 per cent) between the first quarter and second quarter of FY25, it said.

Meanwhile, the report also found that in the second quarter of FY25, technology talent demand saw a distinct trend across various IT Services firms leading by 37 per cent, followed by Hi-Tech (11 per cent), Consulting (11 per cent), Manufacturing (9 per cent) and BFSI (8 per cent) firms.

The report revealed that GCCs have emerged as the powerhouse of tech hiring in India during the second quarter of FY25, driven by a robust demand for skills in roles such as AI/ML, Analytics, Cybersecurity, Cloud, and DevOps, which have applications across various sectors.

When it comes to geographies, the report found that the tech landscape in the country is experiencing a boom, with Bengaluru emerging as the undisputed leader. A staggering 62 per cent of hiring requests flow through this region, followed by the West (14 per cent), North (8 per cent), and East (0.4 per cent), said the report.

After Bengaluru, the city-wise landscape in demand sharing is followed by Hyderabad (43.5 per cent) and Pune (10 per cent), it added.

Further, the report revealed that there has been a surge in talent demand across various cities due to the expansion of GCCs in India. These companies focus on hiring skilled professionals from fields like e engineering, IT, finance, and analytics, which has led to firms looking for hiring from the talent pools of tier II and III cities, it added.

India has taken robust measures to regulate fintech industry: Finance ministry official

PTI ■ INDORE

Concrete steps have been taken to regulate the fintech industry in India as per the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing, a central government official said on Wednesday.

India is among the few countries that are working on FATF recommendations to regulate the fintech industry, said Vivek Agrawal, additional secretary (department of revenue), ministry of finance, during the ongoing 41st plenary meeting of the Eurasian Group in Indore.

FATF leads global action to tackle money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also issued separate guidelines to regulate payment aggregators and payment gateways, he said.

Agrawal is attending the five-day EAG meeting as the head of the India delegation. He is also the director of the financial intelligence unit (FIU) in India.

He said it is now mandatory for virtual asset service



providers (VASPs) in the country to register themselves with the FIU.

"The development of financial technology is crucial for the growth of digital payment systems, but especially in view of the threats of money laundering and terrorist financing, the development of this technology has its own challenges as misuse of technology can lead to criminals committing cybercrimes and financial frauds anonymously," he said.

The finance ministry official said India's fintech industry is currently leading the world. "We want regulation to be done in such a way that it does not hamper the growth

Chennai to see around 450 Global Capability Centres by 2030: CBRE



Chennai is estimated to have around 450 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) by 2030 as against 250 centres now because of supply of premium office space and availability of skilled talent, according to CBRE.

Real estate consultant CBRE on Wednesday released a report titled, 'Tamil Nadu: The Epicentre of Capability and Innovation Leadership', highlighting Chennai's rising prominence as a key destination for GCCs and its expanding commercial real estate landscape.

"Over the years, Chennai has solidified its position as a preferred hub for global corporates, which accounts for 11 per cent of India's current GCC talent. The city currently hosts 250+ GCC units, which is expected to reach around 450-460 units by 2030," CBRE said.

Chennai's robust infrastructure, proactive state government policies, and quality office development are aligned to meet the needs of global

corporates, it added.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said, "As the world embraces digital transformation, GCCs have emerged as strategic drivers of India's exponential growth."

Initially attracted by cost advantages, GCCs in India now leverage the country's deep pool of skilled talent and vibrant startup ecosystem, he added.

"Tamil Nadu presents a compelling proposition for businesses seeking to establish or expand their global operations. The state, with its attractive policy incentives, strong talent pool, robust corporate ecosystem, and abundant quality office space, has solidified its position as a preferred destination for these GCCs," Magazine said.

"Chennai is India's fifth-largest office market, with 90+ million square feet of office stock as of September 2024. Total office stock in the city is expected to surpass 100 million square feet by 2026.

Commenting on the report, Angad Bedi, CMD of construction and realty firm BCD Group, said, "India's position as a technology outsourcing hub has been further elevated with the rise of the GCC ecosystem in the country as enterprises aim to tap into the wide talent pool, robust technology developed and its use case globally."

This proliferation of GCCs has been primarily led by Chennai's proactive policies attracting enterprises from across the world along with the availability of a world-class commercial real estate infrastructure, Bedi added.

According to CBRE, the city houses about 250 GCCs that employ 150,000+ professionals, contributing about 11 per cent of India's total GCC talent pool.

Strategic policies like the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Policy 2023 and R&D Policy 2022 enhance its attractiveness, the consultant said.

Chennai is ranked third in GCC leasing activity in India after Bengaluru and Hyderabad during the period from January 2022-September 2024.

The city has witnessed GCC office absorption increasing from 1.4 million square feet in 2022 to 2.3 million square feet in the first nine months of 2024.

US firms accounted for 67 per cent of GCC setups between January 2022 and September 2024.

The consultant projected that GCCs would lease around 3-3.2 million sq ft of office space in 2025 in Chennai.

Pocket FM losses narrow 21 per cent to ₹165 Crore in FY24, says on track to achieve profitability

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Audio entertainment platform Pocket FM narrowed global losses by 21 per cent to Rs 165 crore in FY24 and said it is inching "closer to profitability".

The company had posted Rs 208 crore losses in the previous financial year.

The company's global revenue came in at Rs 1,052 crore in FY24, registering a multifold jump from Rs 176 crore in FY23, the company said in a statement.

The company has a strong foothold in the US and India and has recently forayed into Europe and Latin America. About 70 per cent of the Bengaluru-headquartered firm's revenue comes from

the US, about 20 per cent from India, and 10 per cent from the rest of the world.

"As Pocket FM inches closer to profitability and strengthens its global presence, its unwavering focus on innovation, disciplined growth, and operational efficiency continues to set new benchmarks in the entertainment industry. The company's vision of creating immersive, scalable, and profitable entertainment experiences remains on a clear upward trajectory," the statement said.

Pocket FM's microtransaction-led subscription revenue increased from Rs 160 crore in FY23 to Rs 935 crore in



FY24, it further said.

Pocket FM has a freemium and microtransaction model. In the microtransaction model, listeners can pay only for the episode/series to which they want to listen. The freemium model allows the consumer to explore and hear a few minutes of any series for free.

The company's advertising revenue grew from Rs 12.5

crore in FY23 to Rs 89.34 crore in FY24.

Offering more than 75,000 audio series, Pocket FM has a global community of over 200 million listeners.

"This growth reflects our relentless efforts to redefine the entertainment landscape. With a sharp focus on leveraging AI, we are not only enhancing operational efficiency but also creating smarter processes that optimise content delivery and monetisation. Our vision remains clear: to establish Pocket FM as a global entertainment platform that consistently pushes the boundaries of content experiences," Pocket FM CFO Anurag Sharma said.

Airfares have moderated in 2024 relative to 2023, says Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has said airfares have moderated in 2024 compared to 2023 and notably, a decline in air ticket prices was observed in various routes during festival seasons.

Amid concerns in certain quarters that air ticket prices are ruling high, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol told Rajya Sabha that airfares are not subject to regulation by the government and airlines have the flexibility to determine their airfares based on their operational needs while adhering to existing rules.

"The government generally refrains from regulating airfares to maintain market competitiveness, however, it remains vigilant, and the government intervenes to shift capacity from one sector to another to prevent exorbitant pricing to ensure passenger comfort and welfare," he said in a written reply on November 25.

Airfares are dynamic and is a function of demand and supply.

With continuous engagement with airlines & Online Ticketing Agents (OTAs) and keeping a watch on the movement of airfares by the government, Mohol said airfares have moderated in 2024 relative to 2023.

"The airlines have also been sensitised to ensure reasonability while fixing the airfares and to keep passengers' interest in mind," he added.

Icra revises down volume growth forecast for cement industry to 4-5 per cent for FY25

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rating agency Icra has revised down its volume growth forecast for the cement industry to 4-5 per cent at 445-450 million tonne for the current fiscal on account of sluggish construction activity.

In July this year, Icra had forecast a year-on-year volume growth of 7-8 per cent, expecting a better pick-up in demand in the second half.

However, Icra has now revised its projection "on account of slower-than-expected ramp-up in construction activity across the housing and infrastructure sectors, post the General Elections," a statement said.

Besides, on a YoY basis, the operating profit margins declined by 375 basis points to 12 per cent in Q2 FY2025 and by 192 bps to 14 per cent in H1 FY2025 as prices remained under pressure due to muted demand and oversupply.



In the first half of FY25 all-India cement volumes witnessed a muted rise of 2 per cent YoY to 212 million tonne on account of the slowdown in construction activity in Q1 during the elections, followed by the ample monsoon rainfall in Q2.

"The likely improvement in farm cash flows, backed by healthy monsoons, an upbeat kharif output and elevated replenishment levels of reservoirs supporting the rabi

crop sowings, are expected to boost the rural consumption in H2, which should aid the cement demand for the rural housing segment," it said.

Moreover, sustained healthy demand for urban housing should support the pick-up in cement volumes from the housing segment. The infrastructure segment is also likely to witness greater traction in H2, supported by an increase in government spending on infrastructure projects.

"The government gross capex spend in H1 FY2025 remained subdued at Rs 4 lakh crore, against the revised Budget Estimate of Rs 11.1 lakh crore for the full year FY2025. The substantial headroom for the GoI's capital spending in H2 FY2025 to meet the FY2025 revised BE, is likely to provide a fillip to construction activity and aid in supporting the allied input sectors like cement," it said.

Besides volume, the cement industry is also facing a decline in actual realisation due to lower prices prevalent in the sector.

"The cement prices remained under pressure, declining by 10 per cent YoY to Rs 330 per bag in H1 FY2025 due to muted demand and oversupply in the market. While the lower sales realisations were partially offset by moderation in costs of coal and pet coke, which eased by 38 per cent and 13 per cent YoY in H1 FY2025, respectively," it said.

Icra estimates the cement industry's capacity addition to be at 70-75 million tonne during FY25-26, of which 33-37 million MTPA is expected to be clinker capacity and remaining grinding capacity.

"Around 33-35 million MT capacity is likely to be added in FY2025 (FY2024: 32 million MT), while 37-39 million MT addition is expected in FY2026," it said.

The eastern and southern regions are projected to lead the expansion during FY2025-FY2026 with a combined addition of 38-40 million MT capacity, equally split between the two regions.

Icra estimated overcapacity utilisation to remain moderate at 71 per cent in FY25 on an expanded base, improving from 70 per cent in FY24.

According to the Cement Manufacturers' Association (CMA), the apex body of large cement plants in India, India's installed cement capacity is 690 MT.

India-Russia trade hits USD 66bn in 2024; target of USD 100bn by 2030 on track: Russian envoy

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A senior Russian diplomat on Wednesday said bilateral trade between the two countries has reached a record USD 66 billion in 2024, marking a fivefold increase over the past five years, with a 9 per cent rise in the first eight months of this year.

The envoy said Russia and India are on track to achieve the ambitious USD 100 billion trade target by 2030, bolstered by expanding collaborations and diversified trade opportunities.

"The recent dialogues between leaders of both countries on the possibilities of diversifying the trade basket and increasing the volume of investments in multiple sectors make the target of USD 100 billion by 2030 an achievable one," said Maxim V. Kozlov, Russian Consul General in Kolkata, at an interactive session with members of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC).

"India and Russia are more than strategic partners; we are



all-weather friends. Our bond is built on mutual trust and shared interests, making the growth of our economic ties both natural and enduring," Kozlov added.

Key sectors identified for enhanced cooperation include railways, pharmaceuticals, information technology, aviation, and cybersecurity.

Officials also highlighted emerging opportunities for Indian businesses in Russia, particularly after the withdrawal of Western brands following the Ukraine conflict.

BCC, in a statement, said Kozlov also emphasised the need to deepen collaboration in critical areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI),

robotics, urban development, and critical metals like lithium, cobalt, and nickel, which are essential for next-generation industries.

"The goal is to move beyond raw material trade and emerge as global leaders in technology-driven sectors," he added.

BCC senior vice-president Naresh Pachisia requested Kozlov to initiate the setting up of a trade desk at the Russian Federation in Kolkata, given the emerging trade and investment developments.

"This will play a pivotal role in facilitating business networks between Indian businesses and their Russian counterparts," he added.

Gavaskar credits Kohli's stance adjustment for success in Perth

PTI ■ PERTH

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar feels a subtle adjustment to his batting stance in the second innings of the Perth Test helped Virat Kohli neutralise the Australian attack and rediscover his vintage form. Kohli arrived in Australia after a lean run of form across formats in recent months. His struggles against spin on turning tracks raised doubts about his spot in the team. However, he silenced his detractors by scoring his 30th Test ton in the first Test at Perth. It was his first hundred after the 121 against the West Indies at Port of Spain in July 2023. "His body was completely relaxed when he came into bat in the second innings. In the first innings, because of the fact that India had lost two wickets early, he would have also been under pressure," Gavaskar said on Star Sports. "In that second innings, you could sense apart from chang-

ing that stance, I think he also got his legs, which were maybe just a little bit wider at the start. Just a little bit, maybe I'm thinking too much, but that little thing might have given him that height he wanted. Well, in Australia, on the bouncer pitches, you need that edge. "I liked that mid-wicket boundary that he hit off Hazlewood. That, to me, was not the easiest of shots. A straight drive is a little easier because your stance is like that, but just to open up a little bit and play that - that was all magic." Having gotten out on 5 in the first innings, Kohli brought all his technical expertise into play while dealing with the vagaries of variable bounce in the second essay as Australian bowlers desperately tried the off-stump line, short ball tactic and even attacking the line of stump to get the veteran batter out. Former Australian cricketer Matthew Hayden also commented on Kohli's stance



adjustments in the second innings, saying the move to be more upright on a pitch where variable bounce was present

worked for Kohli. "It's a very good point because the reverse can be said also to someone touring

to India and having to lower their stance. I know I certainly did that. But being able to be a little more upright

means that your head position has to stay on top of the bounce so that it starts to work in your favour.

"I said right from the start that I actually liked his move, batting in more line with the ball. I thought that was a good strategy. I think he loves to play like that, and we saw some classic cases where he just eased the ball through mid-wicket. But you can't do that from outside off stump, so getting into the line, I thought, was important." "The other little adjustment that you mentioned, being a little more upright, so he could stay on top of the bounce, was also really important. If you're getting closer to the ball like he was -- another thing, I think, was probably playing the ball later. "When he's not in his best form, he goes quite hard, feeling for the ball. He wants to feel the ball on the bat, particularly on the front foot. But he just seemed to give himself a little more time and be a little softer." Gavaskar compared Kohli's recent struggles to the time when tennis legends like Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal

and Novak Djokovic went without a title. "I said in commentary that Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, and Rafa Nadal, they are title winners. If they lose in the semi-finals, people say, 'Oh, they're not in form.' Anybody else getting into the semi-finals, you would say, 'Oh, what a wonderful performance.'" "Similarly, with Virat Kohli, because everybody is so used to him scoring so many hundreds quite regularly, when he doesn't score 100, even if he's getting 70-80 -- which a lot of guys will be very happy to get -- people say, 'Look, he's not scoring runs.' And that is the reason why there was that feeling. "But then again, Indian fans, they're greedy fans. They're not going to be happy with their idol scoring only 60-70s. They want their icons, their idols, to score hundreds, and that is the reason there was this little talk about, 'Oh, he hasn't got a hundred since July 2023.' July 2023 is just about a year ago," he added.

Syed Modi International: Sindhu, Lakshya storm into second round

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

Top seeds PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the second round of the women's and men's singles respectively at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament after registering straight-game victories here on Wednesday. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu defeated rising shuttler Anmol Kharb 21-17, 21-15, while Lakshya, 2021 world championships bronze medallist, powered past Malaysian qualifier Sholeh Aidil 21-12, 21-12 in another match. Sindhu, who is returning to the tournament after a two-year hiatus, will face compatriot Ira Sharma, who triumphed over Deepshikha Singh 21-13, 21-19 in her opening match. "I'm happy to be back here after two years. I couldn't play last year because of injury, but it feels great to be playing on home soil again," Sindhu said after her win. "I was playing against Anmol for the first time, and she did well. We've played together in the Asian Team Championships before, so I was confident. It was my first match, and I made some mistakes, but overall I'm happy



with my performance." Lakshya will next face either Ravi or Israel's Daniil Dubovenko. "It's always great to play in front of the home crowd. I've competed here in the past, but right now, I'm focusing on my next match. My goal is to do well in the BWF tournaments and at the World Championships," said Lakshya, the 2022 Commonwealth Games champion. In the men's singles, third seed Kiran George, eighth seed Ayush Shetty, and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam also progressed to the second round. In the women's singles, second seed Malvika Bansod,

fifth seed Anupama Upadhyaya, Isharani Baruah, Devika Sihag, Unnati Hooda, Tasnim Mir and Shriyashi Valishetty all advanced to the next stage. Malvika defeated Wiktorija Dabczynska 21-16, 21-7, while Anupama overcame Azerbaijan's Keisha Fatimah Azzahra 19-21, 22-20, 21-15. Hooda, meanwhile, beat Thailand's Thamonwan Nithiitkrai 21-12, 21-16. In the men's singles, Kiran George triumphed over Alap Mishra 21-12, 23-21; Ayush Shetty outlasted Raghu Puniswamy 21-18, 15-21, 21-16; and Meiraba Luwang Maisnam defeated Thailand's Saran Jamsri 14-21, 21-19, 21-10.

Cricket is religion in India but not roadblock for other sports: Coe

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World Athletics boss Sebastian Coe is quite aware that cricket is nothing short of "religion" in India but he feels it shouldn't be viewed as a "roadblock" for other sports, which can challenge its dominance by producing trailblazers like javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra to capture the public imagination. Coe, one of the candidates for next year's International Olympic Committee (IOC) presidential elections, has been in the country for the past two days, meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya among others to discuss the growth potential of Indian sports. Expressing faith in the country's potential to become a powerhouse, the four-time Olympic medal-winning former middle distance runner said, "When you have an Indian athlete winning Olympic titles and world championships, then you are in good shape. "When you have athletes of the calibre and high profile of Neeraj, then you can actually mount a very good challenge to other sports. And look, we know the national religion is cricket," he stated in a telephonic interview with PTI on Wednesday. "It's really important that India have athletes that capture the



imagination of the public, ultimately the broadcasters. And Neeraj does both," added Coe, who also headed the 2012 London Olympics bid. Chopra won an unprecedented track-and-field gold in the Tokyo Olympics before adding a silver to his kitty in Paris this year making him an all-time great in Indian sports at a mere 26 years of age. "Cricket not a roadblock for other sports" Cricket enjoys massive following in India but Coe said it is not a roadblock for others and they should find innovative and creative ways to gain popularity. "It (cricket) shouldn't be (a roadblock), because every country has sports that are dominant. It would be like saying in the UK, well, football is an inhibitor for track and field. We have one of the best

track and field teams in the UK that we've had for many years," the 68-year-old Coe said. "You have to live with what you have to live with. And you can't just sit there saying, well, India, the cricket or football or rugby or wherever these sports are really strong. You sort of give up, you don't. "You have to be more innovative, more creative. The sporting landscape is very competitive. Cricket is a very dominant sport in India. I watch it all the time," said the long-time administrator, whose grandfather was an Indian (hotlier Sardari Lal Malhotra). "Dialogue with PM a private conversation" India's Olympic performance at this year's Paris Games was underwhelming for a billion-strong country with six medals, none of them being gold.

The nation is now aiming to host the quadrennial showpiece in 2036 and has submitted a letter of intent to the IOC. The bid is being backed by PM Modi, whom Coe met on Monday. "I'm not going to divulge a private conversation. But we talked about the importance of big events in India. He was very clear that big events promote not just better competition, but have a broader societal impact, particularly on the health, mental and physical of young people" Coe said. "And he (PM) is obviously very keen for more events to come to India and was particularly encouraging of the Indian athletics federation (AFI) to bid for more of our events," he added. With World Athletics Ultimate Championship (WAUC) set to outshine all global athletics events in terms of star cast and record-setting prize money of USD 10 million starting 2026, Coe said India could joint the bidding process. Budapest has been chosen as the venue for the inaugural event. "I sincerely hope so (India can aspire to host the event). But look, we have a bidding process, which we actively encourage all our federations that love athletics and have the capacity to deliver those events, to want to bid for them. "So, World Athletics is open for business and India is a very

important market for us," he said. Coe said the idea of giving USD 50,000 to gold-winning track and field athletes at the Paris Olympics was driven by a desire to provide them financial security. "Look, there was nothing new in what we announced. And it's certainly been my philosophy for the best part of 45-50 years. I've always believed that the welfare of the athletes isn't just about mental and physical. "It's also about giving them some financial security. So look, the decision we made was a decision that is in line with our prize money policies in the sport. I have to say that it's been welcomed by our athletes. "Protecting women's sport is non-negotiable" The participation of transgender athletes in women's sports events has become an increasingly contentious issue with the IOC drawing flak for allowing this to happen. WA, under Coe, has maintained a strictly-women stance, a decision criticised by trans-rights advocates. "You know my position. It's very clear. It's very much in the public domain... For me, protecting the female category, protecting women's sport is non-negotiable. "And at World Athletics, we have very clear cut policies that make that declaration of intent very clear."

I want to prolong England career: Stokes' reason for skipping IPL mega auction

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

England Test captain Ben Stokes said he opted out of the recent IPL mega auction to prolong his international career, and focus on some important assignments such as the Ashes. The newly-framed IPL rule disallow a player to enter the mini auction if he was not registered for the mega auction. A total of 52 English players went under the hammer in the auction held at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia recently. "There's no hiding behind the fact that I'm at the back-end of my career. It's about looking at what I've got ahead and making the decision that is right for me to be able to prolong my career as long as possible," Stokes told BBC ahead of England's first Test against New Zealand, starting here from Thursday.



"There is just so much cricket. I want to be wearing this England shirt for as long as I can," he added. In the past, Stokes has played for Chennai Super Kings, Rajasthan Royals and Rising Pune Supergiant, for whom he was the most valuable player in 2017. Stokes was bought by the erstwhile Pune outfit for Rs 14.5 crore ahead of IPL 2027. "It is about prioritising games

and when I do play - obviously I'm in South Africa this year - so it's about looking at what I've got ahead," he said. "Looking after my body and looking after myself as much as I can is key to that," said the 32-year-old. The Durham man will head to South Africa for a series at the end of England's trip to New Zealand before starting preparations for next year's Ashes.

Bayern Munich fans protest against PSG president Al-Khelaifi

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich fans protested against Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi during the teams' Champions League match. The supporters in Bayern's stadium's Südkurve held up several banners making clear their opposition to the Qatari businessman during the first half of Bayern's 1-0 win. One banner showed Al-Khelaifi's face with a line over it, another accused him of being "plutocratic" with an expletive, and more banners read: "Minister, club owner, TV rights holder, UEFA ExCo member & ECA chairman all in one!" The 51-year-old Al-Khelaifi is unpopular among the Bayern fans for his influence on European soccer as chairman of the European Club Association, Qatar Sports Investments — the owner of PSG — and the



officials after losing in the Champions League. There were heated scenes involving Al-Khelaifi and then-PSG sporting director Leonardo after a defeat to Real Madrid. UEFA sanctioned Leonardo but did not cite Al-Khelaifi in its disciplinary statement, nor did it say why. Al-Khelaifi, a former tennis professional, is a longtime friend of Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, an International Olympic Committee member who is influential in global sports.

Qatari state-owned beIN media group. He also joined UEFA's executive committee in 2019. Al-Khelaifi has long drawn scrutiny for apparent conflicts of interest because of his various roles. The ECA has a big influence on shaping the Champions League's playing format and commercial strategy, while beIN is one of the competition's major broadcast partners. In 2022, UEFA left Al-Khelaifi unpunished despite finding PSG guilty of misconduct for confrontations with match

नाम परिवर्तन	नाम परिवर्तन
मैं अर्चना श्रीवास्तव (Archana Shrivastava) पति भानु श्रीवास्तव स्वसंसाधन को सूचित करती हूँ कि मेरा विवाह के पूर्व का नाम अर्चना शर्मा (Archana Sharma) पुत्री वनमाली शर्मा था जो मेरे शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्रों एवं अन्य शासकीय प्रमाण पत्रों में लिखा गया है जबकि विवाह उपरान्त मेरा नाम अर्चना श्रीवास्तव पति भानु श्रीवास्तव हो गया है वर्तमान एवं भविष्य में मैं अर्चना श्रीवास्तव पति भानु श्रीवास्तव के नाम से जानी पहचानी एवं पुकारे जाती हूँ एवं जाऊँगी। अतः जो मेरे आधार कार्ड, पैन कार्ड, अनुभव प्रमाण पत्र एवं अन्य प्रमाणों में लिखा गया है। अतः मेरे शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्रों एवं अन्य शासकीय प्रमाण पत्रों में मेरा नाम अर्चना शर्मा पुत्री वनमाली शर्मा के स्थान पर अर्चना श्रीवास्तव पति भानु श्रीवास्तव लिखा एवं पढ़ा जावे। आमजन एवं सर्वजन सूचित हो।	मैं सीमा गाँधी (Seema Gandhi) पत्नी स्व. श्री जगदीश चंद्र गाँधी सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करती हूँ कि मेरे सभी शासकीय/अर्धशासकीय/ अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम सीमा गाँधी (Seema Gandhi) पत्नी स्व. श्री जगदीश चंद्र गाँधी है। मेरे शैक्षणिक प्रमाण पत्रों में तथा आधार कार्ड में मेरा नाम बिमला गाँधी (Bimla Gandhi) पत्नी श्री जगदीश चंद्र गाँधी अंकित हो गया है जो कि मेरे पूर्व का नाम था। सीमा गाँधी (Seema Gandhi) और बिमला गाँधी (Bimla Gandhi) ये नाम एक ही व्यक्ति के हैं याने को मेरे इस प्रकाशन के उपरान्त मुझे शासकीय/ अर्धशासकीय/ अन्य दस्तावेजों सीमा गाँधी (Seema Gandhi) पत्नी स्व. श्री जगदीश चंद्र गाँधी के नाम से ही जाना, पहचाना, लिखा, पढ़ा एवं पुकारा जाए। पूर्व नाम: बिमला गाँधी (Bimla Gandhi) पत्नी श्री जगदीश चंद्र गाँधी वर्तमान नाम: सीमा गाँधी (Seema Gandhi) पत्नी स्व. श्री जगदीश चंद्र गाँधी पता: A-322 JK Road near Minal Residency Huzur Govindpura Bhopal M.P.)
विवाह पूर्व नाम: अर्चना शर्मा पुत्री वनमाली शर्मा	विवाह उपरान्त नाम: अर्चना श्रीवास्तव पति भानु श्रीवास्तव
पता- 304, न.ए. गगल अपार्टमेंट सिटी सेंटर ग्वालियर म.प्र.	

Phillip Hughes remembered on 10th death anniversary as Abbott gets teary-eyed

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Sean Abbott was seen wiping away tears as family and friends paid tribute to the late Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes on Wednesday to mark the 10-year anniversary of his tragic death after being struck on the neck while batting. Abbott bowed the fatal delivery that struck Hughes during a Sheffield Shield match between New South Wales and South Australia in 2014 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. NSW players consoled Abbott as they stood for an emotional tribute, including observing a minute's silence, before



the start of play on day four of their Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania at the SCG. Hughes, who played 26 Tests, 25 ODIs

and one T20I for Australia, lost his life three days before his 26th birthday. Players in the Sheffield Shield have been wearing black armbands in matches since Saturday as a tribute to Hughes. "Today marks the 10-year anniversary of the passing of our treasured son and brother, Phillip Joel Hughes," the family said in its message. "Phillip was a loving, humorous and an infectious person to be around." According to reports in local media, Abbott was consulted in advance about whether he would be comfortable with a match being scheduled on the anniversary of one of the most saddest moments in Australian sports.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower/s have defaulted in repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known address, but they have been returned unopened and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) & Branch Name	Loan Amount	Outstanding Amount As per Demand Notice NPA Date	Demand Notice Date	Details of Mortgage Properties
1	1. Shri Deepak Chouksey S/o Lt. Shri Ram Milan Chouksey, 2. Smt. Sushila Chouksey w/o Lt. Shri Ram Milan Chouksey 241, New Ram Nagar, Amkera Road, Jabalpur - 482001, Madhya Pradesh	1. TERM LOAN Rs.24.80 Lakhs	Rs.24,07,735/- (as on 08/11/2024) + Interest & other Charges 03/11/2024	08/11/2024	All that part and parcel of the Residential house situated at Village-Amkhera, N.B. No. 04, F.H. No. 22/26 (New 80), R.N.M. — Jabalpur 02, New Ward No. 74, part of Kh. No. 223 (New Kh. No. 223/1) Tehsil- Adhartal, Dist.- Jabalpur (M.P.) area 1215 Sq.ft. in the name of Smt. Sushila Chouksey and Shri Deepak Chouksey Boundaries: North: Road, South: House of Komal Prasad and Land, East: House of Chandan Singh, West: House of Ramesh Prasad Kushwaha

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. Your attention is invited to the provision of section 13(8) of the act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. This Notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the Bank.

Date - 28-11-2024 Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Lewandowski joins Ronaldo and Messi in Champions League 100-goal club

AP ■ ROME

Robert Lewandowski joined Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi as the only players in Champions League history with 100 or more goals. But Erling Haaland is on a faster pace than anyone by boosting his total to 46 goals at age 24 on Tuesday. Still, Haaland's brace wasn't enough for Manchester City in a 3-3 draw with Feyenoord that extended the Premier League champion's winless streak to six matches. Lewandowski's early penalty kick started Barcelona off to a 3-0 win over previously unbeaten Brest to move into second place in the new single-league format. The Poland striker added goal No. 101 in second-half stoppage time. Ronaldo leads the all-time scoring list with 140 goals and Messi is next with 129. But neither Ronaldo nor Messi play in the Champions League anymore following moves to Saudi Arabia and the United States, respectively. "It's a nice number,"

Lewandowski said. "In the past I didn't think I could score more than 100 goals in the Champions League. I'm in good company alongside Cristiano and Messi."

The 36-year-old Lewandowski required 125 matches to reach the century mark, two more than Messi (123) and 12 fewer than Ronaldo (137).

Barcelona also got a second-half score from Dani Olmo. The top eight finishers in the standings advance directly to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into a knockout playoffs round in February, while the bottom 12 teams are eliminated.

Haaland converted a first-half penalty to eclipse Messi as the youngest player to reach 45 goals and then scored City's third after the break to raise his total to 46 goals in 44 games. Ilkay Gundogan had City's second.

But then Feyenoord struck back with goals from Anis



Hadj Moussa, Santiago Gimenez and David Hancko. Inter Milan beat Leipzig 1-0 with an own goal to move atop the standings with 13 points, one more than

Barcelona and Liverpool, which faces Real Madrid on Wednesday. The Serie A champion is the only club that hasn't conceded a goal. Bayern Munich beat Paris

Saint-Germain 1-0 — the same score from the 2020 final between the two teams. PSG ended with 10 men and remained in the elimination zone. The French powerhouse

has struggled in Europe after Kylian Mbappe's move to Real Madrid. Kim Min-jae's first-half header was enough for Bayern, especially after

Ousmane Dembelé was sent off in the 56th with his second yellow.

Atalanta moved within two points of the lead with a 6-1 win at Young Boys. Charles De Ketelaere scored two and assisted on three other goals for Atalanta.

Also, Arsenal kept red-hot striker Viktor Gyokeres quiet in a 5-1 win over Sporting Lisbon; and Germany star Florian Wirtz scored two goals and was involved in two more as Bayer Leverkusen boosted its chances of finishing in the top eight with a 5-0 rout of Salzburg.

AC Milan followed up its win at Real Madrid with a 3-2 victory at last-place Slovan Bratislava in an early match.

Christian Pulisic put the seven-time champion ahead midway through the first half by finishing off a counterattack.

Then Rafael Leao restored the Rossoneri's advantage after Tigran Barseghyan had equalized for Bratislava and Tammy Abraham quickly

added another. Nino Marcelli scored with a long-range strike in the 88th for Bratislava, which ended with 10 men.

Bratislava has lost all five of its matches. Argentina World Cup winner Julian Alvarez scored twice and Atletico Madrid routed Sparta Prague 6-0 in the other early game.

Alvarez scored with a free kick 15 minutes in and Marcos Llorente added a long-range strike before the break.

Alvarez finished off a counterattack early in the second half after being set up by substitute Antoine Griezmann, who then marked his 100th Champions League game by getting on the scoresheet himself.

Angel Correa added a late brace for Atletico, which earned its biggest away win in Europe.

Atletico beat Paris Saint-Germain in the previous round and extended its winning streak across all competitions to six matches.

Aus selectors reject call to include out-of-form batters in PM's XI

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian selectors have decided against sending any out-of-form national team batters to play for the Prime Minister's XI against India in Canberra, following the hammering in the Perth Test.

Hosts Australia were handed a 295-run bashing by India in the series opener of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this week and following the disappointing performance, the pressure is intensifying on the top order ahead of the second Test against India in Adelaide on December 6.

The likes of Marnus Labuschagne (2, 3) and Steve Smith (0, 17) struggled against India and many, including former captain Michael Clarke, feel the duo,



along with reserve batter Josh Inglis, could benefit from the two-day pink-ball warm-up game.

However, the Australian think tank has denied thinking on those lines.

"This was partly because time at home was considered important for the players, and also because the

Australian camp do not want to give the Indian brains trust another look at any of their Test batters before the five-match series resumes," according to a report in the 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

Head coach Andrew McDonald has also insisted that sending any player for the match in Canberra hasn't

"crossed their minds".

"No, that hasn't crossed our minds. We feel that with the long summer ahead, the prep we've got in place — albeit we've extended that by a day in Adelaide — we'll be well prepared, as we were leading into the first Test," McDonald said. "No, we were thinking about Test one. You always look to get a positive start to the summer — it's not like you're focusing on Test match five in terms of where you want to be then. Banking wins is critical, and we've got our work cut out as to how we turn that around."

"Match one was our primary focus, and you saw that in the way that we prepared players. We gave up on some international games for certain players, we went through Shield, so we felt the prepara-

tion this summer was probably more extensive than previous summers.

"We were comfortable, and the preparation is not an excuse for the performance."

The PM's XI usually comprises youngsters. The two-day pink-ball fixture will feature the likes of batters Sam Konstas and Matt Renshaw and pacer Scott Boland.

"The PM's XI match is a great opportunity for up-and-coming players to play alongside some older heads against a super-strong Indian side," Albanese said.

"I'm confident Jack Edwards' PM's XI team will show how to best play these incredibly impressive Indian bowlers, and I'm equally confident that Pat Cummins' Australian team will turn things around in Adelaide," he added.

West Indies end 2-year losing streak at home with 201-run win over Bangladesh

AP ■ NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Azharri Joseph took two wickets in the first session on the fifth day as West Indies wrapped up a 201-run win over Bangladesh in Antigua in the first match of the two-Test series.

Bangladesh lasted less than seven overs on Tuesday as the West Indies sealed their first home Test win in over two years.

Joseph (2-32) dismissed Hasan Mahmud (0), before ending Jaker Ali's stand on 31.

That left Bangladesh on 129-9, and Joseph then sent a fierce bouncer into the shoulder of Shoriful Islam.



Shoriful attempted to continue, but lasted just eight balls before he was forced to retire hurt, ensuring Bangladesh's innings came to an end and giving the home side victory. It was the first time the West Indies Indies have won a test at home since they beat Bangladesh in June 2022, ending a four-match winless streak.

The West Indies scored 450-9 declared in their first

innings and 152 in the second. Bangladesh had 269-9 declared in its first innings and finished with 132.

Justin Greaves was named player of the match for his test-defining 115 not out, his maiden test century. His innings helped the Caribbean team recover from 253 for six in the first innings.

"Helping the team succeed and winning a test match is something I take pride in," Greaves said.

"I'm happy with my performance, but winning the match means even more to me."

West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said Greaves' rescue mission changed the course of the contest.



Government of Madhya Pradesh

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Dr. Mohan Yadav
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Accelerating Industrial Development through Global Investment

Interactive Session with Dr. Mohan Yadav
Chief Minister

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