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FORGIVE ME IF I EVER HURT ANYONE OF YOU: CJI



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With folded hands and teary eyes, Chief Justice Chandrachud, on his last working day as the 50th head of the Indian judiciary on Friday, sought forgiveness if he had hurt anyone. "If I ever hurt anyone of you, I would like to just say please forgive me for something which I didn't intend to ever say or do which may have hurt you," he said. Heading a four-judge ceremonial Bench, also comprising CJI-designate Sanjiv Khanna, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, which assembled to bid him farewell, the CJI expressed a deep sense of fulfilment, not only for the work accomplished but for the opportunity to serve the country. Justice Chandrachud stepped into the shoes of his illustrious father YV

LANDMARK JUDGEMENTS

- Right to Privacy declared a Fundamental Right
- Homosexuality decriminalised
- Ayodhya Judgment, paved the way for Ram Mandir construction
- Gave Abortion Rights to unmarried women
- Cancelled Electoral Bond Scheme
- Upheld the scrapping of Article 370

Rich tributes were paid to him by CJI-designate Khanna and Bar leaders, including the Attorney General, the Solicitor General, SCBA president Kapil Sibal and others to mark the pivotal moment in India's judicial history. "You asked me what keeps me going. It is this court which has kept me going, because there is not a single day when you feel that you have not learned something, that you have not had an opportunity to serve the society. "And there is no greater feeling than being able to serve those in need and the people you would never meet, people you possibly do not even know, people whose lives you have the ability to affect without ever having seen them," a visibly emotional CJI said. In his address, CJI Chandrachud recounted his journey, from sitting in the last row of the court as a young law student to his time on the revered

corridors of the SC. He reflected on the immense privilege of serving the country, emphasising that each day spent in the court was an opportunity to learn and grow in both legal knowledge and personal insight. "I was always aware of the overpowering presence of the greats of this court and the responsibility that came with sitting in this chair. But at the end of the day, it is not about the individual, it is about the institution and the cause of justice we uphold here," the CJI said. He spoke with admiration for his colleagues, particularly highlighting his time on the bench with Justices Pardiwala and Misra, noting the camaraderie and diversity of perspectives that enriched their collective work. The CJI also expressed his confidence in the future of the court, reassuring the legal community that his successor, Justice Khanna, whom he described as "dignified, stable and deeply committed to justice", would lead the court with equal dedication and vision. In a heartfelt conclusion, CJI Chandrachud expressed his gratitude to everyone who contributed to his journey, senior advocates, juniors, officers and staff, acknowledging that each one of them played a role in shaping his understanding of the law and life. Justice Khanna wished good luck to the CJI, saying, "He has made my task easy and tough. Easy because of the revolutions ushered in and tough because I cannot walk up to him. He will be sorely missed. His youthfulness is not known here only but also abroad. In Australia, there were so many who came to me and asked what his age was."



Representational Image

NSCN (IM) threatens to break ceasefire agreement

PTI ■ DIMAPUR

Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) NSCN (IM) has threatened to break its 27-year-old ceasefire agreement with the government and return to its "armed struggle" if its demands for a separate "national flag and constitution" are not met. The group, which carried out a violent insurgency in Nagaland soon after India's independence in 1947, entered into a ceasefire pact in 1997 before starting prolonged peace talks with the government's interlocutors. On August 3, 2015, the NSCN(IM) signed a framework agreement with the government in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to find a permanent solution. In a statement released on Friday, general secretary of the group and chief political negotiator Thuingaleng Muivah said he and former chairman, late Isak Chishi Swu, went to the negotiating table for the resolution of the conflict through peaceful negotiation and also honouring the commitment of former prime ministers PV Narasimha Rao, HD Deve Gowda, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and others to resolve the issue through peaceful

political negotiation, leaving aside armed movement. Accordingly, the political negotiations began on August 1, 1997 and since then more than 600 rounds of talks had been held without any pre-conditions both in India and abroad, leading to the signing of the framework agreement of August 3, 2015, he said. Muivah alleged that authorities and the leadership in the government have "deliberately betrayed" the letter and spirit of the framework agreement by refusing to recognise and acknowledge the Naga "sovereignty national flag and sovereign national constitution". He said the benchmark for a political agreement between the government and the NSCN must be according to the letter and spirit of the framework agreement wherein among others, the Naga "sovereign national flag and Naga sovereign national constitution" must be an integral part of the political agreement. Muivah said today or tomorrow, Naga's "unique history, sovereignty and freedom, sovereign territory, sovereign national flag and sovereign national constitution are non-negotiable".

In Cuttack Six including BF held for raping college girl

DCP urges blackmail victims to approach cops
PNS ■ CUTTACK
The Commissionerate police have arrested six persons, including a minor, for allegedly gang-raping a college student repeatedly for several days in Cuttack city. As per reports, the victim girl had celebrated her birthday with her boyfriend in a café in Purighat during last Dussehra. Her boyfriend secretly shot some private moments. In this, the café owner, a resident of the Bharatpur

area, helped him. Later, the café owner, her boyfriend and his friends called her to a house in the Barang area. She was gang-raped there. Then, she was blackmailed with the video and raped repeatedly by the accused. Later, the victim somehow mustered courage and lodged a complaint at the Badambadi police station, following which police launched a probe and arrested the accused. The accused, three from Jhanjarimangala in Cuttack and one each from Barang, Bharatpur and Nayagarh, have been forwarded to court.

Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena on Friday appealed to any victim woman, who is being blackmailed, to come forward and lodge an FIR without any fear and hesitation. "I appeal to all women if they are being blackmailed, to not be trapped or get scared. Instead, we have a dedicated women's desk to help victims. So, I request you all to report without any hesitation. The law will take its course," the DCP said. Social activist Namrata Chadha said, "The heinous crime is highly shameful and condemnable. The girl was being blackmailed and pres-

sured by the six accused. We should salute the girl because she finally mustered courage. But most victims fear to go to police. They need confidentiality and assurance that their identity will not be revealed and they would be safe both from the accused and the societal shame," said Chadha. "If the identity of the girl is revealed, then no one will have the courage to go to police and lodge an FIR. First and foremost, police should maintain confidentiality. They are doing a great job, but they should focus on gaining the trust of the victim," she added.

'Ensure uninterrupted, reliable power supply'

CM asks officials
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday, reviewing the electricity supply situation, stressed on uninterrupted and reliable power supply for the one crore consumers in the State. Due to industrial and financial development, the demand for power in the State has increased substantially. Keeping the demand by 2029 to 2030 for 10,000 megawatts, a roadmap for power production and distribution should be prepared, Majhi said.

For this, new primary substations, 33-KV and 11-KV lines are needed. Besides, it was decided that the 33-KV and 11-KV feeders would be strengthened and new high-power transformers would be set up. The Chief Minister directed the officials to make adequate sanction of funds in the Budget. He also stressed on power-related complaints to be addressed in a time-bound manner and development and use of solar power. He also stressed on developing power infrastructure, which would withstand natural calamities.



In Keonjhar Woman RI faints after Tehsildar's phone call

Kin lodge case alleging harassment
PNS ■ KEONJHAR
A woman Revenue Inspector (RI) fainted after the Ghasipura Tehsildar in Keonjhar district allegedly shouted and verbally abused her over phone. In a complaint lodged with police, the RI's husband alleged that the Tehsildar has been harassing his wife mentally for the last several months. Stating that the Tehsildar had asked his wife, who is the RI of Kesadurapala, to reach his office with some file, he said that as the RI failed to



comply with the instruction, the official got furious and telephoned her and scolded her. He also threatened to suspend her. After being subjected to mental torture and harassment, the RI fainted, her husband claimed. The RI's colleagues and family members rushed her to the Anandpur hospital, where her condition was stated to be stable. The Tehsildar was yet to comment on the issue.

Most wanted ATM looter held in BBSR

Involvement in over 20 theft cases
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a major breakthrough, the Khandagiri police on Friday arrested the most wanted ATM looter Sambhav Acharya, who is involved in over 20 theft cases in the State capital. Acting on a tipoff, the police nabbed Sambhav and his aide Jiten Bose. The wanted robbers were held by police in an ATM fraud case, it was learnt. Earlier, Sambhav had been arrested umpteen times by the Commissionerate police in many other theft cases. As per reports, a man identified as Bhikari Mahakuda was withdrawing money through his ATM in a bank

outlet under the Khandagiri police station when Sambhav and his associate tactfully changed his ATM. By the time Mahakuda came to know about it and blocked his ATM, the accused had withdrawn Rs 40,000 from his account. Following this, the victim lodged a case at the Khandagiri PS. The police started an investigation into the incident and arrested both the accused. A bike and net cash worth Rs 40,000 were seized from their possession. As per police sources, the accused are involved in many ATM loot and theft cases in Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Nimapara. Sambhav has constructed huge buildings in many places with the looted money.

Security breach After beer bottle, now condom found in Baladevjew temple

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA
Strong resentment is brewing among the devotees as the sanctity of the 400-year-old Baladevjew temple is now at stake. During cleaning of the shrine, a condom was unearthed from its premises recently. Earlier, a beer bottle was unearthed from the temple premises. The members of Baladev Sena, while engaged in routine cleanliness drive, found the condom lying near the Jhulan Ghar inside the premises of the temple. It seems the unearthed condom was used one, stated, president of Baladev Sena Papuni Barik. Meanwhile, the devotees have demanded an inquiry into how the condom came inside the temple premises and whether any illegal work was going on inside the temple due to lack of strict security. Devotees alleged the callousness and negligence of the



Baladevjew temple Endowment Trust Board, local police and the Sub Collector, who is in charge of working president, for the growing sacrilegious activities in the temple. When asked, Temple Endowment Trust Board Executive Officer, Balabhadra Patri described the incident as purely unfortunate. He blamed the mekap servitors for not carrying out their duty properly. Besides, he also stated that though a police beat house was opened for the temple security with 6 police personnel

engaged earlier, but now only four police personnel are posted there which is the reason behind lapses in the monitoring of the anti-social activities in the temple. "Though 40 CCTVs were installed in the temple to keep a vigil, but due to sub standard supply of CCTV, only 12 CCTVs are now operational whereas others are not working. Besides this, we have 32 employees but among them 30 employees have cross 60 years old. So they can't properly carry out their work. I have given proposal to the Temple

Endowment Commission and the working president of Baladevjew Temple Endowment Trust Board to take steps for engaging private security personnel for maintaining security of the temple," stated Patri. Sub collector-cum-the working president of Baladevjew Temple Endowment Trust Board, Rabindra Kumar Pradhan said let a written complaint be filed. District Collector, Smruti Ranjan Pradhan stated he will direct the Sub Collector to conduct an inquiry.

Love Jihad in BBSR Kashmiri youth held for blackmailing woman

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Mahila police in Bhubaneswar on Friday detained a Kashmiri youth, Samir Mansoor, for allegedly blackmailing a Hindu woman of Jagtsinghpur using an obscene video. Mansoor was taken into custody by police after he arrived here from Kashmir. According to reports, the woman came in contact with a person, who identified himself as Samir, on a gaming site about two years ago and then they exchanged phone numbers. The Kashmiri then visited Odisha and took her to Puri, where she got to know that he is a Muslim. "When she tried to end the relationship, the accused forced her into a physical relationship and also shot those intimate moments. He then persuaded her to change her



religion and marry him, threatening to make the obscene videos viral," said the victim's lawyer. He allegedly extorted Rs 5 lakh from her parents threatening to upload those videos on a porn site and wanted to forcibly take her to Kashmir, following which she lodged a complaint with police. The victim said the youth is a native of Bihar and working in Kashmir. "I got to know that he is a Muslim about six months after coming in contact with him. He has been mentally torturing me and my family since then," she said.

Doc, pharmacist caught taking Rs 40K bribe

Were trying to exploit nurse to release arrear salary

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Vigilance police on Friday apprehended medical officer in-charge of Boipariguda Community Health Centre (CHC) in Koraput district Dr Biswajit Bhuyan and Pharmacist of Mobile Health Unit of National Health Mission (NHM) Uttam Mahankuda while allegedly accepting a



bribe of Rs 40,000. They were caught while accepting the bribe money from a CHC staffer in the hospital premises to release her arrear salary. "The complainant was

working as a contractual nursing officer. Her service was later regularised; and in July, the government ordered for release of differential financial benefits from October 2022

onwards as arrear. The complainant repeatedly requested Dr Bhuyan to release her arrears amounting to Rs 4,83,572. However, Dr Bhuyan demanded 10% of arrears as bribe. He also threatened to transfer her to an interior area if the demand was not met," a Vigilance release stated. Simultaneous searches were on at three locations linked to Bhuyan and one to Mahankuda to ascertain whether they have accumulated assets disproportionate to their known sources of income, it added.

For govt employees, secondary teachers Documents for house building advances revised

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government on Friday revised the documents required for the sanction of House Building Advances (HBA) in favour of Secondary Education Teachers and other employees.

In a letter to the District Education Officers, the Directorate of Secondary Education directed everyone to adhere to the guidelines formulated by the Finance Department.

"It is stated that several House Building Advance proposals of Secondary Teachers and other employees (Group C & D) are being received from different District Education Officers without adhering to guidelines formulated by the Finance Department," the letter read.

A copy of the following documents should be submitted along with the proposals. In case of purchase of land, details of the land and its cost and agreement with the seller are to be submitted.

Application for the release of the 2nd installment of 40% of the homestead land, approved plan by Rural/Urban authority, estimates duly counter-

signed by Executive Engineer R&B/RD/BDA/Housing Board and registered mortgage deed.

Construction of house on existing land:

For 1st installment, copy of ROR of homestead land, approved plan by Rural/Urban Authority and detailed estimate duly countersigned by Executive Engineer R&B/RD/BDA Housing Board.

For 2nd installment, utilisation certificate duly countersigned by the Executive Engineer R&B/RD/BDA/Housing Board in respect of 1st installment.

Purchase of ready-built house:

For the first installment, the allotment letter from BDA/Housing Board/builder or consent letter of private seller draft agreement deed, surety bond, undertaking to mortgage the house.

For the second installment, payment receipt from the seller in respect of the first installment of advance.

The government has hiked the House Building Advance from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 40 lakh for its employees. The loan will be disbursed to the employees in two phases in 60:40 ratio.

Shree Anna millet symposium from Nov 10

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government will organise an international symposium on Shree Anna (millet) and forgotten foods on November 10 and 11 here.

The event with the theme 'Celebrating Shree Anna and Agricultural Heritage of Odisha' will be hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will inaugurate the two-day symposium, which aims to highlight the vital role of millets and forgotten foods in promoting food security and sustainable agriculture.

Addressing the media on Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo said, "We need to incorporate millets and other forgotten foods into our diet. By doing so, we can safeguard Odisha's agricultural heritage, support tribal communities and smallholder farmers with livelihoods, and lead healthier lives."

The event will bring together various stakeholders, including Women's Self-Help Groups, Farmer Producer Organisations, policymakers, MSMEs, research organisations, health institutions, hotel associations, chefs, bloggers, students, and others, he said.

Cong members hurl eggs at min's house



Irregularities admission in Utkal University alleged

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Members of the Pradesh Student Congress on Friday staged a demonstration in front of the residence of Higher Education Minister Suryabansi Suraj here alleging irregularities in the ad-

mission process in the Utkal University.

A large number of activists gathered outside the residence of the minister and raised slogans in support of their contentions. They also hurled eggs at the minister's house.

The agitators alleged that irregularities took place in the admission process in the Utkal University because of pressure put by the minister.

Odisha needs to switch over to green energy

Invest DMF funds, coal cess for 'Just Energy Transition Policy'

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST), in partnership with the Government of Odisha's Department of Energy, organised a multi-stakeholder meeting on 'Just Energy Transition to support Green Growth and Green Jobs in Odisha.'

During the event, iFOREST released a report which was the first comprehensive assessment on the opportunities in Odisha to shift to a low carbon economy while boosting economic growth and jobs. The report also highlights key policies and sets a target for the State Government to implement it in the next 10 years.

In his inaugural address, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, stated, "We have to be progressive.

We will move with the times, with the thought process of our honourable Prime Minister and meet our net zero targets. We must move towards a greener, more sustainable Odisha and it won't be possible without everybody's collective effort."

Principal Secretary, Energy, Hemant Sharma, emphasised that the foundation of a low-carbon economy in Odisha rests on three pillars: renewable

energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable industrial practices. Energy transition is imminent. It is a necessity and an imperative. If it doesn't happen the civilization will not survive, he stated.

iFOREST's report reveals that Odisha is one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the country, accounting for 9.7% of India's total GHG emissions. The coal-based power plants and the steel sectors contribute to 84% of the State's total emissions. Its per capita emission of 6.9 tonnes is more than double the country's average

IT engineer held for raping co-worker

Was giving false promise of marriage

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Friday arrested an IT engineer here on the charge of sexually assaulting his co-worker on the false promise of marriage. The accused was identified as Subhash Nayak.

Nayak had been on the run for the last six months. He surrendered on Friday, following which he was arrested.

According to sources, Nayak, who worked with the victim in the same IT com-

pny, lured her into a relationship with the false promise of marriage and developed a physical relationship with her. However, after repeatedly sexually assaulting her, he ditched her when she started talking to him about marriage.

Left with no option, the victim approached the Badagada police and lodged a written complaint in connection with the incident in the month of June. However, the accused had been on the run since then and tried to get anticipatory bail from court.

After the court rejected his bail applications, Nayak finally surrendered.

IN BRIEF

Parhi appointed HC Addl Standing Counsel

Bhubaneswar: Advocate Suryakanta Parhi has been appointed as Additional Standing Counsel in the Orissa High Court by the State Law Department. Parhi is practising in the Orissa High Court, Delhi High Court and Supreme Court in various fields of law for last one decade. He thanked Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, State Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Advocate General Pitambar Acharya and BJP State president Manmohan Samal and general secretary (organisation) Manas Mohanty for his appointment.



Engineer Pradhan bags 3rd Rohini Nayyar Prize

Bhubaneswar: Anil Pradhan, a 28-year-old engineer from Odisha, was awarded the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development for his work



in promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education among students in rural areas. Pradhan, co-founder of the Young Tinker Foundation, came up with the idea of 'Tinker-on-Wheels', a mobile learning lab that offered hands-on experiences in areas like robotics and 3D printing to school students in rural regions of Odisha, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. His work in STEM education and innovation has impacted over 2.5 lakh students to date.

In Balangir Rs 7.3L looted from SBI staff

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Miscreants allegedly looted Rs 7.3 lakh from an employee of the Grahak Seva Kendra of the State Bank of India (SBI) at Haldi village under the Muribahal police station in Balangir district in broad daylight on Friday.

The victim was identified as Lalit Gahir of Patamara village.

As per reports, three mis-

creants intercepted Lalit near Haldi village when he was travelling by his bike with the cash. They threatened to kill him by brandishing sharp weapons and snatched the cash bag from him.

After taking the cash, they sped away from the spot.

Getting information, the Muribahal police reached the spot and started an investigation to identify and trace the accused.

NIFT BBSR Convocation fest today

40 local students visit institute in outreach prog

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of its innovative outreach programme 2025, the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Bhubaneswar, recently conducted an activity-based event on November 5, where over 40 students from local schools participated in an immersive experience of life at NIFT.

The event featured presentations on NIFT's offerings, followed by guided campus tours, where students explored the diverse depart-



ments, including Fashion Design, Textile Design, Fashion Management, Fashion Communication, Fashion and Lifestyle and Fashion Technology. The participants also

had the opportunity to engage with faculty and current students, who shared their experiences and insights into the practical aspects of a career in fashion. The outreach

programme provides an invaluable opportunity for students to explore their creativity and determine their career path in fashion. The aim is to inspire a new generation of

designers, managers, communicators, and technologists who will shape the future of the fashion industry in India and beyond," said Director NIFT Bhubaneswar,

Rajesh Jha. He further informed that on November 9, NIFT Bhubaneswar will celebrate its Convocation Ceremony 2024. A total of 196 students will receive their degrees, including 168 undergraduate and 28 postgraduate students, who will join the growing family of NIFT alumni. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, along with Tanu Kashyap, Director General of NIFT, will present the degrees to the graduating students. Several well-known dignitaries from various sectors will also be present to bless the graduates on the special day.

A pair of eyes that spoke a lot

This true story of my life seems like a dream. It is also very special and personal to me. However, I would like to share this unforgettable episode as many of us often get mired by the negativity around us.

In 1998, I was working as Sub-Collector in Baliguda Sub-Division of Kandhamal, a tribals-dominated and backward district of Odisha. As a young public servant, I used to tour a lot to the hinterland and interact with locals. One day in a village, I met a poor old man who was almost blind due to cataract in his eyes. I explained him about the free facilities extended by the government for the eye operation. He expressed his inability to reach the district head-



USHA PADHEE

quarters, which was around 80 kilometers away; maybe, he had no money or relative to accompany. As a routine gesture, I informed him that when I go for the meeting at district headquarters next week, I can take him along to drop at the district hospital. The old man agreed to my suggestion. Sub-

sequent week, I dropped him at the district hospital with an instruction that after operation, he should be sent back to the village.

After three months or so, during one of my grievance-redressal hearings on a week day, my personal staff informed me about a man standing near my office door, refusing to come in for any grievance but wanting only to see me when I leave my office!

He stayed on till I was ready to leave my office. I noticed that outside my office, the man standing was that old man whom I had taken for cataract operation. A pair of eyes just watched me as I came out of the office. He raised both his hands, blessing me and said that when I took him to the

hospital, he was not able to see me. He had come just to see the person who had helped as he could see me now.

At that point of time, it may have been just an insignificant incident, though, I was amazed by the thankfulness of the old man. I felt the impact of the incident later. Whenever I remember this, invariably I feel so humbled by the gratitude expressed by the old man. It was part of my duty and I received so much of warmth for something I felt was so routine a task. A small act, bringing happiness to other person, creates immense satisfaction and a sense of fulfilling. I always feel I have received the love in leaps and bounds compared to the action of mine. It reaffirms my belief

that all good you do come back to you exponentially. When I feel any unfairness or selfishness around me, I remember those pair of eyes which gave me the assurance that trivial things do not matter when you are doing something good as it will bring happiness to someone, somewhere.

All of us have stories to share, which reaffirm the goodness in human beings. Many great souls could recognise that and brought immense happiness to this world. I am sure all of us can do our bit to make this world a better place, more so by the people in power. After all, we have a purpose to live on this earth.

(The writer is a senior IAS officer)

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Mango kernel deaths Demand for Southern Odisha Dev Council revived

Also, Gajapati-Kandhamal Dev Council sought
PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

The Congress demanded the establishment of a "Gajapati-Kandhamal Development Council" and the creation of an administrative block at Bamunigaon before the Governor of Odisha on Tuesday.

Notably, an incident in Kandhamal, where individuals succumbed to starvation and were compelled to consume mango kernels due to extreme poverty and food scarcity, underscores the urgent need for an autonomous Southern Odisha Development Council. The incident not

only highlights the dire economic situation in the region but also exposes the prolonged neglect, regional disparity, and lack of concern that have left many communities struggling to survive. As a result, the Milita Kriyanasthan Committee is preparing to approach the Orissa High Court to demand the establishment of such a council.

"In the year 2024, we are still far from creating a society that genuinely cares for its marginalized populations. Despite various development plans and mega-projects, the underlying economic disparities continue to worsen in the State's southern regions, where a large number of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled

Tribes and Minority communities reside. Even with significant government funds allocated over the years, these resources have not yielded substantial improvements, drawing attention to issues of misallocation and ineffective implementation," Committee president Sanjay Kumar Pattnaik said.

While the government has already established task forces and development councils in other parts of the State, such as in north and west Odisha, the demands for a dedicated and autonomous development council for Southern Odisha remain unaddressed. An empowered council, with a significant portion of members elected directly from the region and

the remaining experts nominated by the government, would provide the level of regional control needed to effectively tackle specific issues in southern Odisha. Additionally, appointing a high-ranking, experienced officer to oversee the council's administration is essential to ensure accountability and results, he added.

If the government is genuinely committed to eliminating regional disparities and addressing the economic and social challenges faced by southern communities, the creation of an independent, self-governed council for the development of southern Odisha, with its headquarters in Brahmampur, is imperative, said Pattnaik further.

BJP betrayed general public: BJD



Holds Janasampark Padayatra in Gopalpur

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR
Giving many false promises during the election, the BJP came to power in Odisha and did just the opposite to its assurances in the last 5 months. The party betrayed

the general public, alleged many BJD leaders here.

A Janasampark Padayatra was conducted by the BJD in Gopalpur constituency, starting from old Kanisi Tehsil, passing through many areas and ending at Tulu Road. The rally was organised under the leadership of BJD candidate for Gopalpur Assembly seat Bikram Kumar Panda and

former MP Chandra Sekhar Sahu. Former Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak attended as chief guest on the occasion, while district BJD president Dr Ramesh Chandra Chayupatnaik, Mayer Sanghamitra Dalai, Bhruhu Baxipatra, Subash Moharana and Dr Sonali Gantayat, among others joined.

In the name of Subhadra

Yojana, they are misleading the general public. They assured old age persons of giving allowance at the rate of Rs 3,000 per month, alongwith free electricity. But the Energy Minister is now speaking differently. The government is yet to release Rs 3,500 as old age pension to the senior citizens above age 80 years as was promised, the leaders said.

Chemists protest fast mode of medicine delivery

Target act of Swiggy, Pharm Easy
PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Recently, Swiggy Instamart in partnership with Pharm Easy has declared to deliver medicine in 10 minutes through dark stores. However, the chemists have protested such rapid mode of medicine delivery on several counts.

Ganjam and Phulbani Chemist and Druggist Association (GPCDA), secretary P Satyanarayan said the All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD), New Delhi has written letter to the Drugs Controller General of India in this context, expressing concern over the delivery of medicine by Swiggy in partnership with Pharm Easy as it may cause serious health and safety related problems.

Urging the government for a review of the issue, the AIOCD stated that the ultrafast delivery of medicine



may increase the possibility of expired or counterfeit medicines, which are quite harmful for patients.

AIOCD president JS Shinde and general secretary Rajiv Singhal listed the key issues by the model of delivery. They emphasized that the distribution of medicine in India involves strict protocols like prescription, verification, patients identification, etc. to prevent harm to patients.

The association also pointed to the broader implications for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) a growing health concern in our country. Another concern, AIOCD raised is compromise on medicine quality under the rapid delivery model.

After theft incident Maha Snana of Tara Tarini performed

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR

Maha Snana' (bathing rituals) of Maa Tara Tarini in Ganjam was performed on Friday as per the tradition after miscreants defiled the idol of the goddess during a theft in the temple a couple of days back when miscreants had broken into the shrine and decamped with ornaments worth lakhs of rupees.

Goddess Tara Tarini was bathed with 108 pitchers of water as part of the 'Maha Snana' ritual amid chanting of mantras by the servitors.

Earlier, women members of the servitors' families gathered on the bank of Rushikulya



river, following which certain rituals were performed. Subsequently, 108 pitchers of water were brought from the river to the temple to perform the 'Maha Snana'.

After the completion of the rituals, devotees were allowed to have darshan of the goddess.

FM Univ awarded with Prakruti Mitra

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Fakir Mohan University, Baleswar, has recently been awarded with "Prakruti Mitra" for the year 2024 by the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Government of Odisha in recognition to its consistent efforts to conserve local environment.

Earlier, the university was also awarded with the "Green Champion Award-2021-22" by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

The university has taken various steps to conserve and enhance the quality of the local environment. These include declaration of the university campuses as fossil fuel driven vehicle free zone, introduction of e-richshaws for public transportation in the university campus, landscaping of university free spaces in to green zones, establishment of Dr Gopinath Panigrahi Botanic Garden for conservation of rare, endemic and endangered plant species, establishment of Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) Museum, Zoological Museum, development of

rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge and water conservation measures in the campus, establishment of vermicomposting unit and organic Slurry composting Unit, establishment of solar panels as alternate sources of energy and energy conservation measures etc. The university also undertakes regular coastal cleaning activities, Plantation drives, environmental awareness campaigns, lightning safety awareness drive, Organic Holi celebration campaign, etc. in and around Balasore. The university has also taken initiatives for the conservation and protection of the animals and birds present in the campus. Artificial nests, animal feeding and drinking points, butterfly gardens have also been established.

The green initiatives taken by the university not only preserve the local environment but also inspire the students of the university to act for the cause of the environment.

This achievement has been visualized and carried out by Vice-Chancellor Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathy. He appreciated the efforts and congratulated all students and staff members for the unique achievement.

Complaints by KZVP Dy Com of Endowment visits Baladevjew for probe

RAJESH BEHERA ■
KENDRAPADA

Deputy Commissioner of Endowment Dillip Kumar Satapathy visited the Baladevjew temple to conduct an inquiry over a few problems at the 400-year-old shrine.

The Kendrapada Zilla Vikash Parishad (KZVP) had alleged before the Temple Endowment Commission that the Jhulan Mandap turned into storage place of wooden boxes (sinduka) of the servitors whereas the Snana Mandap has become the storage place of firewood depot, which created an unhygienic atmosphere. It has created a bad impression for the tourists and devotees towards the temple, the parishad complained.

Deputy Commissioner of Endowment Satapathy queried three servitors, who have stored wooden boxes (sinduka) at the Jhulan Mandap. Later, he conducted one-to-one inquiry at Jatri



Niwas and recorded the statements of five servitors, Baladevjew Endowment Trust Board members, including the Executive Officer. He took the view of the working president-cum-Sub Collector, on the alleged matter.

The inquiry report is going to be submitted before the Temple Endowment Commission and necessary steps would be taken as per the direction of the Endowment Commission, stated

Satapathy. Notably, the members of KZVP, led by Dr Madhusudan Mishra, (president), Ambika Prasad Das, (vice president) and Amiya Kumar Mohanty (co-ordinator) on October 5 had met Temple Endowment Commission Lalatendu Jena and submitted a memorandum by bringing to his notice about the existing problems of the Baladevjew temple.

They alleged that though lord Baladevjew is the symbol

of trust and belief of lakhs of devotees but the temple remains neglected. The Baladevjew temple is the second largest endowment Trust Board next to Puri's Jagannath temple, but it is ironic that the temple developmental work has been lagging behind, though the State Government has made several temples renovation, modernisation and beautification works, the KZVP said in its petition.

In Kendrapada Woman, 2 sons held for murder over property

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Rajkanika police in Kendrapada district on Thursday arrested three persons, including an elderly woman and her two sons, for their alleged involvement in a murder case at Chalanua village.

Rajkanika police station IIC Dillip Dhal said the arrested were . Kujalata Pradhan (62), Manoj (23), and Judhistir (36).

According to Dhal, the mother and her two sons were involved in the murder of a middle-aged woman Sumati Nayak over a longstanding property feud.

Earlier, the police had arrested four persons in connection with the case.

The arrested woman and her two sons were produced in court and they were remanded into jail custody after their bail plea was rejected.

In Nayagarh Driver dead, 30 injured as bus overturns



PNS ■ NAYAGARH

A person died and over 30 passengers sustained injuries when a private bus carrying them overturned midway at Surada Square near Nuagaon in Nayagarh district on Friday. The driver of the vehicle reportedly died on the spot.

The conditions of over eight injured passengers were stated to be critical. Local residents rescued the injured passengers and rushed them to the Daspalla Community Health Centre (CHC) and

other hospitals. Later, they were shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital.

Police and Fire Service personnel reached the spot and carried out the rescue operation along with local people.

The bus was on its way from Raikia to Bhubaneswar when it overturned after hitting the road divider. There were more than 40 passengers in the vehicle.

Road communication on both sides of the road was affected due to the accident and crowding at the spot.

DAV School, Paradip holds Lit Conclave 3.0

PNS ■ PARADIP

The DAV Public School, PPL Township, hosted the third edition of its esteemed "Literature Conclave 3.0" on November 2.

The theme, "The Power of Words: Exploring the Impact of Language on Society and Culture," sparked engaging discussions and a vibrant display of literary activities.

Chief Marketing Officer and Unit Head of PPLPalanisamy Velusamy as chief guest inaugurated the event, accompanied by dignitaries including Principal of DAV, IFFCO Sambit Sukumar Chinara; Principal of DAV, PPT Bindushree Mohanty; and SMC member Panchanan Patel.

The programme began with a ceremonial lighting of the Holy Lamp, a soulful DAV



anthem, and a delightful welcome song by the school choir, setting a warm tone for the gathering.

Principal Sanjeeb Kumar Sahu welcomed attendees,

poetry in English, and Odia poem recitations that celebrated the beauty and influence of language on society. Adding to the excitement was the launch of "The Depths Within", a poetry collection by Class XI student Lipsa Pradhan, unveiled by the chief guest.

The highlight of the event was a panel discussion featuring esteemed speakers like Dr Nikunja Kishore Sa, Assistant Professor (English) at RNIASE, Cuttack; Sahadev Sahoo, retired Additional Commissioner (GST) and renowned writer; and Latika Sarangi, a retired DAV Hindi teacher. Their insights on language's role in shaping culture resonated with the students, who participated enthusiastically in a question-answer session that followed.

Literary performances captivated the audience, with a Kavya Natak in Hindi, slam

TPCODL

TP CENTRAL ODISHA DISTRIBUTION LIMITED
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Notice: Upgradation of IT System in TPCODL

In our continued effort to enhance service reliability and performance, TPCODL will upgrade its IT systems in phases starting 10th November 2024.

During this upgrade, consumer services such as the Call Centre, online payments, counter payments, new connection requests, the website and the Mitra app, will experience temporary downtime or delayed response. We are working diligently to minimize disruption and full services will be restored in phases by 16th November 2024.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to improve our infrastructure for a more seamless service experience.

AMU minority status: SC defers question to new bench, overturns earlier judgment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday in 4:3 majority judgment deferred the question of Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) minority status to a new three bench and overruled the 1967 judgment that said the university cannot be considered a minority institution since it was created by a Central law. The majority judgment authored by CJI DY Chandrachud, also on behalf of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said, "The view taken in Azeez Basha (1967 verdict) that an educational institution is not established by minority if it derives its legal character through a statute, is overruled." Before pronouncing the judgment by bench, CJI Chandrachud said there were four separate opinions, including three dissenting verdicts. The majority verdict headed by the CJI laid down tests for considering the issue of AMU's minority status. The outgoing CJI asked the case's judicial records to be placed before the regular bench, after receiving instructions from the new CJI on the administrative side, for



deciding the issue on the minority status besides adjudicating appeals against a 2006 verdict of the Allahabad High Court. In his dissent, Justice Surya Kant opined the reference of the matter to a seven-judge bench by a division bench of the SC was incorrect. Justice Dipankar Datta too echoed a similar sentiment saying it might set a "dangerous precedent". "A two-judge bench tomorrow may say I doubt the basic structure (Kesavananda Bharati verdict). I refer it to a 15-judge bench. This is what would happen if we accept the majority opinion. Can it be done?" asked Justice Datta. Justice Datta in the concluding part of his verdict

wrote, "In terms of clause 5 of Article 145, it is my firm opinion that not only do the references do not require an answer, it is also declared that AMU is not a minority educational institution and that the appeals seeking minority status for it should fail." Pronouncing a separate opinion on the matter, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma agreed with the two other dissenting judges on the point of reference. "The establishment of an institution by the minority is necessary for the said minority to claim right of administration under Article 30 (of the Constitution)," he opined. Article 30 of the Constitution deals with right of minorities to establish and

administer educational institutions. "I would like to make it very clear that my judgement is neither an assenting nor a dissenting judgement. It is my personal opinion based upon the law, the judgements cited and the arguments and the facts on the subject," clarified Justice Sharma. The issue of AMU's minority status has been caught in a legal maze for the last several decades. The SC had on February 12, 2019, referred to a seven-judge bench the contentious issue. A similar reference was made in 1981. The fabled institution, however, got back its minority status when the Parliament passed the AMU (Amendment) Act in 1981.

The Congress-led UPA government at the Centre had moved in appeal against the Allahabad High Court's 2006 verdict. The university filed a separate petition against it. The BJP-led NDA government informed the SC in 2016 that it would withdraw the appeal filed by the erstwhile UPA government. It had cited the apex court's 1967 judgment in the Basha case to claim that AMU was not a minority institution since it was a central university funded by the government. In 1967, a five-judge Constitution Bench in the S Azeez Basha Vs. Union of India said AMU was a Central university and couldn't be considered a minority institution.

President Murmu bats for prompt legal action against corrupt



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Asserting that delay or weak action encourages unethical people, President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said prompt legal action against corrupt is extremely important. Addressing the vigilance awareness week function of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC), she said properties worth over USD 12 billion have been seized in the last ten years under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). President Murmu said trust is the foundation of social life and the source of unity. "Public trust in the government's work and welfare schemes is the source of power for governance. Corruption is not only an obstacle to economic progress, it also reduces trust in society. It adversely affects the feelings of fraternity among people. It also has a widespread impact on the country's unity and integrity," the president said. She said every year on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary on October 31, "we take a pledge to keep the country's unity and integrity intact." "This is not just a ritual. It is a pledge to be taken seriously. We all have a collective responsibility to fulfill it," the president said. Murmu said prompt legal action against the corrupt is extremely important. "Delay in action or weak action encourages unethical persons. But it is also necessary that every action and person should not be viewed with suspicion. We should avoid this. Keeping in mind the dignity of the person, no

action should be motivated by malice. The objective of any action should be to establish justice and equality in the society," she said. President Murmu said a comprehensive approach will have to be adopted to eradicate corruption. "We will have to go to the root of this disease. It will not be effective to cure it only through symptoms. The eternal values of the Indian society like integrity, ethics, compassion and transparency have to be strengthened. There is a need for strengthening of these life values," she said. Citing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and e-tendering, she said the Centre has taken several measures to check corruption. President Murmu said if any work is done with the right spirit and determination, success is certain. "Some people considered uncleanness to be the destiny of our country. But strong leadership, political will and contribution of citizens have brought good results in the field of cleanliness. Similarly, to consider the elimination of corruption as impossible is a pessimistic attitude of some people, which is not right," the president said. She expressed confidence that the government of India's policy of 'zero tolerance against corruption' will eradicate the roots of this malice. President Murmu said that morality is the ideal of Indian society. "When some people start considering accumulation of things, money or property the standard of a good life, then they deviate from this ideal

and resort to corrupt activities. Happiness lies in living life with self-respect by fulfilling the basic needs," she said. The president said in "our society, integrity and discipline are considered the ideals of life". About 2,300 years ago, Megasthenes (ancient Greek historian) wrote about Indian people that they dislike indiscipline and follow the law, she said. "There is simplicity and austerity in their lives. Similar mentions have been made by Fa-Hien about our ancestors. In this context, this year's theme of CVC 'Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity' is very apt," President Murmu said. Probity watchdog CVC observed the vigilance awareness week from October 28 to November three, this year. Along with the vigilance awareness week, the commission organises a three-month campaign on preventive vigilance which has been undertaken by the ministries, departments, organisations of the Central government from August 16 and will continue till November 15. The five focus areas of the campaign are capacity building, identification and implementation of systemic improvement, up-dation of circulars, guidelines, manuals, disposal of complaints received before June 30, 2024 and dynamic digital presence. Central Vigilance Commissioner Praveen Kumar Srivastava and Vigilance Commissioner A S Rajeev, among others, were present at the event.

Rahul congratulates Trump



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to US President-elect Donald Trump, congratulating him on his victory and expressed confidence that under his leadership, the two nations will further deepen cooperation in areas of mutual interest. "I would like to congratulate you on your election as the 47th President of the United States of America. The people have placed their trust in your vision for the future," Rahul Gandhi wrote. India and the USA share a "historic friendship" rooted in our commitment to democratic values, his letter mentions. "Under your leadership, we are confident that our nations will further deepen cooperation in areas of

mutual interest. I also hope that we will continue to work towards expanding avenues and opportunities for both Indians and Americans," the former Congress chief wrote in his letter to Trump, dated November 7. "I wish you the very best during your second term as President of the United States of America," Rahul Gandhi wrote. Trump, 78, won the race to the White House, trouncing his Democratic rival Kamala Harris. The Republican leader has also served as the 45th President of the US after his first victory in 2016. Rahul Gandhi has also written to outgoing US vice president Kamala Harris congratulating her on her spirited presidential campaign and said her unifying message of hope will continue to inspire many.

LK Advani turns 97, PM Modi extends greetings



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Veteran BJP leader LK Advani, who as the party president crafted its rise to become a central force in national politics, turned 97 on Friday, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauding him as one of India's most admired

statesmen who devoted himself to furthering the country's development. Modi said this year is even more special because Advani was conferred the Bharat Ratna for his outstanding service to the nation. "Among India's most admired statesmen, he has devoted himself to furthering India's development. He has always

been respected for his intellect and rich insights. I am fortunate to have received his guidance for many years. I pray for his long and healthy life," the prime minister said in a social media post. Former president Ram Nath Kovind, also greeted Advani at the latter's residence and described him as a statesman.

Manipur violence: Fresh arson, attacks in Jiribam

PTI ■ IMPHAL

At least six houses were torched and residents of a tribal village were attacked by a group of armed militants in ethnic strife-torn Manipur's Jiribam district, police said on Friday. The incident occurred on Thursday evening in Zairon Hmar village after the group of militants set the houses on fire, a senior officer said. "Preliminary reports suggested that several villagers managed to flee during the attack and took shelter in nearby forest. At least six houses were severely damaged due to the arson. An investigation is underway," he said. Kuki-Zo organisations claimed that a woman, a resident of the village, was killed during the attack but the report of death has not been confirmed by the district police. Manipur has been rocked by ethnic violence since May last year and over 200 people were killed. The violence erupted on May 3 after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

India, Australia hold military exercise Austrahind in Pune



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The third edition of joint military exercise between India and Australia named Austrahind commenced at Foreign Training Node, Pune on Friday, defence ministry said here. The exercise will end on November 21. Giving details, officials said the exercise is an annual event conducted alternatively in India and Australia. Last edition of the same exercise was conducted in Australia in December 2023. The Indian contingent comprising 140 personnel will be represented mainly by a battalion of the Dogra Regiment and 14 personnel from the Indian Air Force. The Australian Army contingent comprising 120 personnel will be represented by the 13th Light Horse Regiment of the 10th Brigade of 2nd Division. Aim of the is to promote

military cooperation between India and Australia through enhancement of interoperability in conduct of joint sub conventional operations in semi-urban environment and semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the UN mandate. The exercise will focus on physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills. The exercise will be conducted in two phases - combat conditioning and tactical training phase, and validation phase. Drills aspects to be rehearsed during the exercise will include response to a terrorist action of capturing a defined territory; establishment of a Joint Operations Centre; conduct of joint counter terrorism operations like Raid and Search and Destroy Missions; securing of a helipad; employment of drones and counter drone measures and Special Heli Borne Operations.

Military museums to be digitally linked soon: CDS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday said work is underway to virtually link the various military museums to one e-platform under a project that aims to spread awareness about India's glorious military heritage. In his keynote address at the inaugural ceremony of the second edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival here, the CDS also pitched for creating military fiction work that combines literary fiction with military events of the past to make them more accessible to the masses. "We, in the armed forces, with an intent to spread awareness of our glorious history and heritage, have initiated a project of e-linking of our military museums. We already e-linked about eighteen of these military museums, and shortly we are going to e-link all 47-48 military museums. So, they will be available at one site, you need not have to go there," General Chauhan said. The CDS said, "We are also thinking of e-linking all the war museums" to a national platform, so that it would be available to people, who wish to visit these sites virtually. Similarly, to familiarise people with military valour, a hybrid model has been adopted for "battlefield



tourism", he added. "This includes online links of various battlefields where the armed forces have fought, and actual field tours of those battlefields will also be organised for those wanting further information on the exploits of the Indians armed forces in these theatres of war," the CDS said. The event also witnessed the launch of Project Shaurya Gatha which is an initiative of the Department of Military Affairs and think-tank USI. The project aims to conserve and promote India's military heritage through education and tourism, it said. The festival aims to engage

global and Indian think-tanks, corporations, public and private sector undertakings, non-profit organisations, academicians, and research scholars focusing on India's national security, foreign policy, military history and military heritage. The CDS, underscoring the importance of art in war said, the British not only practised the art of war but also patronised art works related to war. Sir Stanley Spencer served as an official war artist in World War 1 and World War 2. His works depicted daily lives of soldiers and emotional toils of

the war," he said. The British in India had also developed a company school of painting that depicted daily and military lives. The CDS also recalled the contribution made by Colonel Arul Raj, whose paintings adorn the walls of military establishments from the South Block to Manekshaw Centre. Perhaps, there is a need to create a catalogue or organise a retrospective exhibition of his art works, he said. The CDS further emphasised that military literature plays a significant role in preserving and interpreting experiences, values and ethos of the

military. Poetry and prose, each offer a unique insight into the military experience, he said. "What I think is missing is the military fiction or the art fiction part of it. When I was very young, I remember authors like Manohar Malgaonkar and his books like 'Distant Drum', 'A Combat of Shadows', 'Spy in Amber', where he combines military historical events along with fiction to make it easily readable for the ordinary audience, or the citizens. That I think is missing in the Indian context and we need to do more about it," the CDS said.

Haryana minister refutes Opposition parties' claims of shortage of DAP fertiliser supply

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Refuting opposition parties' claims that there was a shortage of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertiliser in the state, Haryana minister Shyam Singh Rana said the government has taken proactive steps to ensure adequate supply to farmers. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Rana accused opposition leaders of spreading misinformation on the supply of DAP fertilisers in the state to "mislead the farming community".

The Haryana government is committed to maintaining an uninterrupted DAP supply to support a successful Rabi season, he said. On Thursday, senior Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala blamed the BJP for the shortage of DAP fertilisers, saying the crisis was caused by a reduction in the fertilisers' import and stock, as well as slashing subsidies on it. In a statement, Rana said contrary to Surjewala's assertions, the Haryana government has already released 2.38 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of DAP,



meeting a significant portion of the total 3.48 lakh MT required for the ongoing Rabi season, which runs from September 24 to March 25. The minister said wheat and mustard crops, covering approximately 24 lakh hectares and 10 lakh hectares respectively across the state, have been well-supported with fertiliser stocks so far. The agriculture minister referred to departmental data, emphasising that the state's DAP supply is on track with last year's requirements.

superphosphate (SSP). Haryana has received 65,200 MT of NPK and currently holds a stock of 26,041 MT. SSP supplies are also abundant, with a current stock of 71,380 MT across districts, the minister said. He also denied Surjewala's allegations that there was any police action against farmers in Uchana and rubbished claims of unrest among farmers in Narwana, Guhla Cheeka and Kaithal. No such incidents occurred as per ground reports and no police involvement against farmers was reported, Rana claimed. Rana also dismissed baseless accusations that DAP was being distributed through police stations in Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri and Narnaul. He emphasised that local officials in these areas have reassured farmers of sufficient DAP stock while efforts were underway to address any concerns. "For example, between October 1 and November 7, Sirsa district received 15,794 MT of DAP, with 1,573 MT still in stock. An additional 2,419 MT is expected to arrive shortly to meet local demand," he added.

Six people arrested for allegedly raping college student in Odisha

PTI ■ CUTTACK/BHUBANESWAR

Six people, including a minor, were arrested for allegedly raping a 19-year-old college student several times and video-graphing the act in Odisha's Cuttack district, police said on Friday.

The woman lodged a complaint with the Badambadi police station in Cuttack, alleging that the accused people, including her boyfriend, raped her. The college student claimed that she had gone to a cafe within Purihat Police Station limits in Cuttack during the Dussehra festival to celebrate her birthday, and her boyfriend, allegedly with help of the cafe owner, captured in his phone some of their intimate moments there. They blackmailed the woman by showing her those intimate videos and raped her several times, Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena told reporters. Based on the complaint lodged on November 4, the boyfriend of the woman, the



cafe owner, a boy and three others were arrested during the next two days, he said. They have been booked under various sections of the BNS, IT Act and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The police also recovered the videos from their mobile phones which were sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory in Bhubaneswar for examination, the officer added. Meena said in a press conference that the accused persons have sexually assaulted the victim twice. The DCP appealed to any woman, who is being

blackmailed, to come forward and lodge a complaint without any fear and hesitation. Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan in Bhubaneswar said that the government will ensure that the culprits are punished. "The government will take very strong action in Cuttack gang rape case. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on various occasions directed the police to take stringent action against people involved in crimes against women," the minister said. Efforts are on to declare Odisha a crime free state for women by 2036, the minister said.

Palakkad by-election: Tension rises amid party conflict and allegation

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ PALAKKAD

Resentment in the Indian National Congress over the selection of party candidate, ire among the CPI(M) cadres against the decision of party leadership to field a political turncoat who was abusing Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, party state secretary MV Govindan and other leaders and the intra party turf war between leaders in the BJP have made the November 20 by-poll for the Assembly constituency in Palakkadu a keenly contested fight.

Assembly constituency since 2011, polled 54,079 votes (38.06 per cent). Sreedharan, a first timer sprang a surprise by polling 50,220 votes (35.34 per cent). The CPI(M) candidate was relegated to the third place, polling 36,433 votes (25.64 per cent). Parambil who had won the 2016 election with a majority of 17,483 votes, had to content with just 3,859 votes. What is of interesting is that the Hindutva party's vote percentage had shown gradual increase over the last three elections. In 2011, the BJP candidate polled 19.86 per cent while the 2016 election saw the Hindutva brigade's share increasing to 29.08 per cent. Nothing surprising in CPI(M) deciding to field P Sarin, who crossed over to the Marxist camp because the party high command denied him the candidature to contest the by-poll. Sarin, a medical doctor-turned-civil servant-turned Congressman was firmly of the view that he

should have been given the party ticket from Palakkad and he alleges that Shafi Parambil "manipulated" the selection process of candidate. The CPI(M) leadership's decision to field Sarin, a suave and civilized face in the hustings has caused a lot of heart burning among the cadres. Then there is the corruption charges against Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his daughter Veena Mohammed Riyaz, who is under robe by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in connection with charges of kick back linked to a black sand mining company. The alleged suicide of Naveen Babu, additional district magistrate of Kannur because of the public humiliation meted out to him by the CPI(M) belle PP Diya has turned many fellow travelers against the party. If these votes are cast on the lotus symbol, the BJP is likely to make its

presence felt in the Legislative Assembly. But fir that to happen, the Hindutva party has to show some semblance of unity and cohesion. "as on today, the BJP resembles a rudderless ship," said P Sujathan, author and veteran editor of Kerala Kaumudi. What has upset the Congress workers is the party leadership opting for Rahul Mamkoottathil hailing from Aloor in Southern Kerala as the candidate from Palakkad overlooking the interests of local talents. Moreover, Rahul using derogatory terms against Kalyanikutty Amma, spouse of late Congress leader K Karunakaran has antagonised party faithful for whom the latter was an obsession. The Palakkad by-election is poised for a keen finish as the three main contenders viz the Congress, the CPI(M) and the BJP facing handicaps of similar nature. Every day brings in reports of Congress workers leaving the party to join the CPI(M) and vice versa.

New kind of 'Jihad' in Karnataka through Waqf Board, alleges Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

PTI ■ BALLARI (KARNATAKA)

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday alleged that a new kind of "Jihad" is taking place across Karnataka with the Waqf Board claiming ownership of lands belonging to farmers, temples and others. Hitting out at the Congress government headed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, he said the ruling party has reached "height of appeasement politics," and alleged that it has in a way made appeasement of minorities its "goal." "Across the state a new kind of Jihad is happening through Waqf. Looking at the conduct of the Congress party and Siddaramaiah, they come across as hypocrites," Joshi told reporters here. Congress leaders are claiming that BJP had promised in its manifesto that it will protect the Waqf properties, he said. "Yes. We had said. It is on record...What we have said is existing Waqf properties that have been encroached upon



and looted by senior Congress leaders will be saved." "They (Congress leaders) have taken illegal gratification worth thousands of crores (of rupees) from these lands, in the form of lease and rent," Joshi alleged. The Anwar Maniappady report says that Waqf properties have been misused by senior Congress leaders, Joshi said. "We had said that we will protect those lands. What are you (Congress govt) doing now? lands of Mutts and temples are being claimed by Waqf. I'm asking Siddaramaiah, what are you trying to do?" Joshi asked. "This is a big conspiracy. For the Congress party, the state

and country don't matter. They have a soft corner for terrorists...What is happening? What has happened to the Congress party, have they lost their mind?" he asked. Maniappady, as the then chairman of the Karnataka State Minority Commission, had prepared the report and submitted it to the government in March 2012 when the BJP was in power. It was later tabled in the legislature. "What is now happening (now), is using Waqf, lands belonging to farmers, individuals, temples, Mutts, and in some cases entire villages, are being claimed," Joshi alleged. There were allegations by a section of farmers from Vijayapura district that their lands were marked as Waqf properties. Similar charges have surfaced from a few other places subsequently, and also by some organisations and religious institutions like Mutts.

With the row escalating, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, directed officials that all notices issued to farmers be immediately revoked, and any unauthorised amendments in land records without due notice must also be nullified. Joshi also claimed that the Congress government in the state is now preparing to withdraw cases booked in KG Halli and DJ Halli riots cases, in which a Congress Dalit MLA's house was burned. "I have credible information that they are withdrawing those cases also." He pointed out that in spite of the ban on Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and the court upholding it, 125 cases against them were withdrawn by the Congress government earlier. Also, criminal cases filed in Hubballi riot incidents involving a mob attack on the police in 2022, including those booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), were withdrawn recently.

Tourism Department says Goa attracting travellers from new international destinations through charter flights

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Goa Tourism Department has said that the state is increasingly attracting international travellers from a growing number of countries. The department in a media statement issued here has said that new charter flights from key markets, including Russian cities Moscow and Ekaterinburg, London, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan, support international arrivals. A Polish charter flight is set to arrive in the coastal state on November 8. These flights signify Goa's appeal beyond beach tourism, drawing visitors to the state's scenic hinterlands and popular sites like Dudhsagar falls, it said. To enhance international accessibility, Goa is focused on

securing better direct connectivity with key overseas markets and collaborations with major airlines and international travel platforms are underway, the tourism department spokesman said. "However, establishing robust direct international connectivity requires further support from the government of India, which we are actively seeking to make Goa an even more attractive, accessible, and globally connected destination," he added. The spokesman said that while global travel faced unprecedented disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting foreign tourist numbers worldwide, Goa's international tourism is on a steady path to recovery. "In 2023, foreign tourist

arrivals rose to over 4,50,000, a significant increase from pandemic lows, as travel restrictions eased and global mobility improved," he said. According to the department, Goa saw over 8 million domestic visitors in 2023. The spokesperson also downplayed comparisons between destinations in Goa and countries like Sri Lanka. Such comparisons may yield an inaccurate perspective, he said. "Goa does face some challenges. For example, limited scheduled international air connectivity. The state government is working closely with the Centre to relook at point of call and additional seat entitlement for Goa, to establish more robust international connections," he said.

J and K Assembly session ends, BJP legislators hold mock session after staging a walkout

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The five-day-long maiden session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly ended on a stormy note on Friday. The main opposition, Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) staged a walkout from the House in the first half of the session after some of its members were marshaled out of the house again while they were protesting against the passage of a resolution over the special status. As the house reconvened on Friday it witnessed acrimonious scenes for the third day in succession. A few

members from the PDP and Peoples Conference attempted to display a banner in the house while BJP MLAs raised slogans like 'Pakistani agenda nahi chalega'. As chaos prevailed some of the BJP MLAs jumped into the well of the House following which Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather directed that they be marshaled out. Soon after they were evicted, other BJP MLAs walked out of the House in protest. The house proceedings went on smoothly as other members participated in the discussion on the Lieutenant Governor's address. Later, BJP legislators held a mock session on the lawns of the Jammu and



Kashmir Assembly. Speaking one by one the BJP legislators described the House resolution on the restoration of special status as "illegal" and "unconstitutional." BJP leaders said the mock assembly was to protest against the National Conference which had "hijacked the House." "The House is hijacked by the NC. We won't allow this to happen. A constitutional crisis

has been brought about by the NC. They have violated the rules," BJP MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia said. In the second half of the day, NC president Farooq Abdullah attended the Assembly proceedings from the Speaker's gallery. "I see a very prominent personality Dr Farooq Abdullah in the Speaker's gallery. I request all members to join me in welcoming him," Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather said. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday expressed disappointment over the recent criticism of his party's resolution in the Legislative Assembly, stating that those who had previously

congratulated and supported him for bringing Article 370 resolution had now started accusing the NC of compromising. In an address to the assembly, Abdullah said that bringing any resolution that would never be accepted in Parliament was foolish. He stated that such resolutions should instead force Parliament to reconsider the issue. Referring to the growing controversy surrounding the resolution, Abdullah urged young political leaders to be cautious of the influence of social media platforms, especially WhatsApp and Facebook.

CM Pema Khandu urges police to help government in ending 'bandh' culture

PTI ■ ITANAGAR

Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday exhorted police personnel to help the state government in ending the bandh culture by implementing the existing laws. Addressing the 52nd Raising Day of the Arunachal Pradesh Police at Indira Gandhi Park here, the CM said his government will never tolerate bandh culture in the state which has adverse effects on the society and the people. "The state police should strictly implement all the existing laws to curb the menace. Bandh is not the ultimate solution to place grievances. Organisations should adopt other means to place their grievances before the government.



Bandh has a negative effect on the society and the state incurs heavy loss due to a strike," Khandu said. Appreciating the state police for its glorious journey despite various challenges, Khandu said his government had invested a lot in the past nine years to strengthen the force. Referring to drug abuse as a curse to the state, the chief minister called upon the police to deal with the problem strictly.

"In the last nine years, 1,678 vehicles were provided to the department, besides implementing the comprehensive surrender policy. The government has also installed CCTVs in all the police stations and established a battalion of National Disaster Response Force at Hollongi where as many as 1,100 volunteers were trained to help the government during disaster," the chief minister said. He added that seven women police stations are already functional in the state and more are in the pipeline. As many as 2,993 posts under various categories were created and the recruitment process was completed to strengthen the state police, Khandu said. The government had

instituted the Arunachal Ratna award to honour police officials, who made supreme sacrifice on duty, by providing ex gratia of Rs 50 lakh. The chief minister appreciated the state police for peaceful conduct of the recently concluded Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the state and for maintaining law and order. Khandu added that the state cabinet recently approved changing the nomenclature of the Special Investigation Cell (Vigilance) to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to curb and check all sorts of corruption in the state. The cabinet also gave its nod for granting special grades to police constables and assistant sub-inspectors to ensure timely career progression, he said.

BJP targets Mamata's women voter base with Annapurna Yojna promise

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In an apparent bid to dent the woman vote bank of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, much of which hinges on her women-centric schemes, the Bengal BJP too has gone to town (red villages) peddling its patent Annapurna Yojna plan so as to lure the better half of the Bengali society to its fold ahead of 2026 Assembly elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 27 inaugurated the party's membership drive in the state. Christened "Amar Poribar, BJP Poribar (My Family, BJP family)," the special drive aims at netting one crore members by the year end. In fact party state president and Union Minister Sukanto Majumdar in an organisational meeting in Burdwan asked the

cadres to explain to the homemakers the Rs 3,000 scheme under Annapurna Yojna prompting the TMC leaders to ask if he had already forgotten the oath of office administered by the President when he became a Union minister. Majumdar asked the workers to "go to people and ask them to be BJP members... if they ask why... Tell them that bringing BJP means bringing Narendra Modi to office... and if that happens in Bengal then women would be able to get the benefit of Annapurna Yojna." He also asked the workers to fill up the BJP's membership form so as to become the beneficiaries of the Annapurna Yojna that entailed a monthly receipt of Rs 3,000. Accordingly, the subaltern BJP

leaders have instructed their foot soldiers to go house-to-house promising Rs 3,000 under Annapurna Yojna should they join the saffron party, insiders said. Incidentally a similar campaign was made by State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari in 2023 Panchayat elections - albeit with a limited success - when he said that if BJP came to office, they would implement Annapurna Yojna in Bengal, providing Rs 3,000 per month to each beneficiary. To feed a cash and industry-starved state Mamata Banerjee had quite successfully introduced a "dole politics" in Bengal through what she called "janomukhi" (pro-people) schemes - like Kanyashree, Rupashree and not least Laxmir Bhandar - reaping rich

electoral harvests in successive years, said political analyst BN Chakraborty. The BJP expects that its proposal to offer thrice the amount paid by the TMC government via Laxmir Bhandar could be its trump card. TMC government directly transfers Rs 1,000 - which was earlier Rs 500 - to the bank accounts of eligible women. Apart from Laxmir Bhandar, Mamata Banerjee runs a highly popular scheme called Kanyashree aimed at disincentivising marriage till at least the age of 18 by offering scholarships to the girls. To match Kanyashree the Chief Minister has also devised Rupashree for women who have come of age by providing them a one-time grant of Rs 25,000 during marriage.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Rape capital

Despite countless promises and policies, the capital continues to fall short on women's safety

In yet another harrowing incident that highlights Delhi's persistent reputation as the "rape capital" of India, a young woman was allegedly gang-raped by three men near the busy ITO chowk. On October 10, 2024, the survivor, a community leader and researcher from Puri, Odisha, was assaulted and then abandoned near the Sarai Kale Khan area. It would take more than three weeks for Delhi Police to apprehend the suspects in what was an elaborate and challenging investigation. This case, though one among many, casts an intense spotlight on Delhi's persistent challenges with women's safety. Despite widespread public outrage, nationwide protests, and even legislative reforms spurred by the 2012 Nirbhaya case, the city remains one of the most dangerous places for women. This incident underscores the gaps in ensuring safety, accountability, and justice for women, despite heightened scrutiny and the promises made over the years. In the wake of the Nirbhaya gang rape, public demands for justice led to significant legal reforms, including amendments to the Criminal Law in 2013. These included harsher punishments for sexual offenders and the establishment of fast-track courts. The Delhi Police increased surveillance, deployed women patrol teams, and set up additional helplines. However, cases like this illustrate that systemic changes alone haven't proven sufficient to curb these crimes. Although police presence has increased, patrols are often sparse in secluded areas where many such crimes occur.



There are also challenges with delayed response times and gaps in the training and sensitivity of law enforcement officials towards victims of sexual violence. Crimes against women are frequently dismissed or downplayed, especially in cases where victims are perceived as "easy targets." The perpetrators in this case allegedly targeted the survivor believing she was mentally unwell. Many survivors face severe trauma, which impacts their ability to recount details of the assault or pursue legal recourse effectively. While authorities in this case took extraordinary steps to support the survivor, such efforts are still rare. Establishing accessible and widespread trauma-informed support systems is crucial for the safety and wellbeing of survivors. This horrific incident should prompt a critical examination of the measures that have failed Delhi's women. Reforms need to extend beyond legal frameworks and involve deeper societal and systemic changes. Expanding surveillance to cover secluded areas, introducing real-time monitoring could enhance response times and deter potential offenders. Law enforcement must receive adequate training in trauma-informed approaches, victim sensitivity, and rigorous investigative procedures. Transforming societal attitudes towards women and sexual violence is critical. Public campaigns and educational programmes that challenge stereotypes and promote empathy can help change the culture that enables such violence.

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PICTALK



A Rajasthani nomad vendor waits for customers, in Pushkar

PTI

India 2047: Towards a unified developed nation



J S RAJPUT

Achieving 'Viksit Bharat' will demand a collective effort to foster religious harmony, address environmental threats and navigate global tensions

India awaits 2047 as it aspires to become one of the developed nations, and obviously, that would mean striving, sincerely and collectively for the welfare of each of its citizens. Hopefully, in the Viksit Bharat, none would need a free ration, and freebies doled out as allurements for votes would become history. It would also unhindered availability of potable water, clean air, an all-weather roof over their heads, and freedom from a 'no-work-to-do' situation. Hunger, ill health and malnutrition would become history! India would have a system of education that would ensure equality of access and success at the same level for the children of the Lutyens zone and those in the Jhabua Village!

Education shall no longer remain a 'necessary utopia!' Moving in this direction necessitates getting rid of communal disharmony and socio-cultural exclusion of every kind. We expect a nation that no longer suffers the minority-majority concerns! Having seriously studied various aspects of social cohesion and religious amity - or social and religious cohesion and amity - in India, there is no escape from acknowledging that it is a very complex conundrum of communal curvatures that are resistant to various well-intentioned initiatives to smoothen it out.

There are human values that are common to every religion, and these could become the ground for cementing comradeship without in any way interfering with the ways of faith and religious practices. The global rise of fundamentalism, terrorism, and fanaticism, and the consequent expansion of distrust, oppression and seclusion are certainly not conducive to a better life for the people, no matter how many more gadgets are made available in their homes.

Sadly enough, it was very clear at the turn of the millennium that in days ahead, things would get tougher for leadership to handle, and the very survival of the human race would be at stake. In the third decade of the 21st century, humanity and the planet Earth confront the challenges



posed by climate change, a sharp deterioration of man-nature relationships, and ever-increasing violence in various forms and formats. The futility of the peace-making efforts by those whose economic interests require greater production of lethal weapons, and their sale and consumption is no longer a hidden secret.

The tensions, turmoil and anxiety that all of this creates are now being experienced everywhere, particularly in the West, which accepted the refugees and intruders with open arms, many of them are now repenting their policies of the past! The rise of distrust and apprehension constitutes greater danger than sporadic violence the instances of which are increasing in European nations.

These examples give some indications of the world before the young of today, and those who would wield power tomorrow!

India is a major Asian nation that suffers from a huge influx of illegal migrants, and most of them get support from several political parties. It is clear that this support is based purely on communal considerations, and is certainly not in the national interest. It adds to the fragile relationship that has existed all along, was fuelled during the freedom struggle and led to the partition of



THERE ARE HUMAN VALUES THAT ARE COMMON TO EVERY RELIGION, AND THESE COULD BECOME THE GROUND FOR CEMENTING COMRADERY WITHOUT IN ANY WAY INTERFERING WITH THE WAYS OF FAITH AND RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

India, the possibility of achieving social cohesion and religious amity remained elusive. The two-nation theory was elaborated in an oft-quoted speech of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in his Meerut speech delivered in March 1888, his view of the scenario that may emerge after the British leave: "Is it possible that under these circumstances two nations - the Mohammadans and the Hindus - could sit on the same throne and remain equal in power? Most certainly not!"

Sir Syed was one of the most respected and admired of the leaders of the Muslim community who had opened the doors of modern education for them, and hence, the enlightened Muslim youth adored him. The essence of the above represented the prevailing sentiments of the Muslim community, and these were perpetuated by those who opposed the views of Sir Syed on modern education.

They, however, grabbed the idea of two nations! Subsequently, in the same lecture, Sir Syed elaborates his views further: the principle of a representative government is 'that it is government by a nation, and that the nation in question rules over its own people and own land.' It is as simple as that: there could be no possibility of any representative government elected by

Hindus and Muslims together ever ruling over India consisting not only of the nations of Hindus and Muslims but others who should also constitute nations of their own. Indian democracy establishes that communal harmony is possible, and the two communities are equally enlightened to work together.

While Sir Syed deserves and gets praise for his futuristic outlook on modern education and its dire need to uplift the Muslims, it would certainly remain a matter of serious debate whether his definition of two nations did create a lasting impact on the psyche of the community that persists even today.

The doctrine of the two-nation theory finally got buried with the formation of Bangladesh, and emerging multi-religious societies in Europe. If there is one nation that could present a functional model of religious unity it is India, the Hindus and the Muslims of India. Nowhere else, the equality of all religions is so deep-rooted in thought and deed as in the ancient Indian culture. It could be revived by the hereditary dialogical tradition which has excelled historically.

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

India's AI dilemma: Balancing innovation with job security



ABHAYA AGRAWAL

As AI transforms industries globally, it also raises concerns about job displacement in India, especially within sectors like IT, management and creative fields

Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries across the globe and India is no exception. The introduction of AI promises growth opportunities, new business models, and enhanced competitiveness in the global market. However, it also raises significant concerns, especially around job security. This is particularly true for workers in sectors perceived as more susceptible to automation, such as IT, management, writing, and entertainment. The duality of optimism for AI's potential and anxieties over job displacement is a pressing issue for India as it seeks to balance these perspectives.



and efficiency, but at the potential cost of middle-management jobs. Similarly, the creative industries are feeling the impact of AI. Fields such as modeling, advertising, voice acting, and content creation face increasing competition from AI-generated graphics, voices, and written content. AI models are now advanced enough to produce realistic images, draft coherent articles, and even mimic human voices, reducing the need for human involvement in creative tasks. This shift leaves specialists in these areas concerned about future employment prospects. The challenge lies in adapting to these changes, harnessing the benefits of AI while mitigating job loss. The Indian government recognises the implications of

AI on job creation and is actively working to address these challenges. One of its main strategies is to focus on human capital development and workforce preparedness. Initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY) aim to upskill a significant portion of the population, emphasising AI, machine learning, and robotics. These initiatives intend to create new job opportunities in AI while managing its impact on the workforce. The private sector is also contributing to this effort. Major Indian IT firms, such as Infosys, Wipro, and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), have launched extensive upskilling programmes to prepare their employees for the digital future. Infosys, for instance, has developed a global training initiative to help its workforce keep pace with advancements in AI and other emerging technologies. These transformation-focused programs prioritise skills in AI, cloud computing, and data science, equipping workers to stay relevant in a rapidly evolving job market. Some companies are also

finding ways to integrate AI that enhance, rather than replace, human productivity. Transitioning to an AI-driven economy has its benefits and challenges. On one hand, AI is expected to spur economic growth and innovation, creating new opportunities. On the other hand, it raises concerns about job security and the redistribution of work. Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative effort among workers, businesses, and the government. For workers, adaptability is key, requiring a willingness to acquire new skills and embrace evolving work environments. For businesses and policymakers, there is a shared responsibility to invest in reskilling initiatives and create jobs that align with AI-driven changes. By prioritising human capital and fostering a proactive approach to workforce development, India can position itself to benefit from AI while minimising the risk of widespread job displacement.

(The writer is faculty-emerging technologies, Wadhvani Centre for Government Digital Transformation; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SC UPHOLDS MADARSA ACT

Madam — Recently, the Supreme Court, in its landmark judgement has upheld the constitutional validity of Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act 2004, reversing an Allahabad High Court ruling that "it was unconstitutional." The Madarsa Act provides a legal framework for these institutions in UP. The Allahabad High Court had said in its judgement that the Act made it compulsory for students to study Islam and more modern subjects were made optional, which is a violation of the right to free compulsory education under Article 21A of the Constitution.

By upholding the educational rights of minority communities in Uttar Pradesh, the Supreme Court has now confirmed the state can regulate the madarsa education board to ensure standards of excellence. Also, SC observed that though minorities have a right under Article 30 of the Constitution to establish and administer madarsa to impart religious or secular education, the right is not absolute. SC has also said that so long as the regulation is reasonable and rational, states can regulate aspects of education in minority institutions without violating their rights to handle the administration. At the same time, in a significant move, SC has struck down a part of the Madarsa Act's section 9 which allows the Board to grant degrees as it is against UGC norms. In general, the SC verdict not only safeguards the right of madarsa students to pursue education but also affirms the constitutional principles that protect religious minorities and their educational institutions.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

TRUMP'S HISTORIC WIN

Madam — Apropos to "Trump wins hands down" published on November 7. Someone who has so many serious cases against him that even his candidature was not confirmed, and from that situation to secure candidature, surviving two

Gambling's global impact



Gambling, casinos, and betting, once limited and far less accessible, have now become available 24 hours a day through social media, mobile phones, and gambling apps. In the past, individuals had to travel and stand in queues to participate in such activi-

ties. This easy access has significantly accelerated the harmful impact of gambling. To date, an estimated 450 million people worldwide have faced negative consequences, including severe financial losses, deteriorating physical and mental health, broken family relationships, and, tragically, suicide. These alarming trends paint a grim and toxic picture of our global future. The issue doesn't spare any age group. Research shows that 15.8 per cent of adults are addicted to gambling, with an even higher rate of 26.4 per cent among adolescents. Given the severity of the situation, it is imperative for the world to introduce and implement comprehensive strategies to address this crisis. Learning from the past, it must act decisively to safeguard future generations and build a healthier, safer society.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

assassination attempts and becoming President again is a massive turnaround and achievement, and it would be an understatement to call Trump a proverbial phoenix. He is now the oldest person in US history to be elected president. He may have been out of power from 2020 to 2024, but he was never away from America's psyche. Either you love him or hate him, but he is here to stay. His main poll planks were reviving the US economy, vanishing inflation, and illegal immigration, and all these seem to have resonated with US voters. Moreover, this verdict cannot be construed against Kamala Harris, it is more against the Joe Biden administration. She hardly had 100 days to prepare, campaign, and fight. The world would hope that Trump walks the talk and plays a big role in ending the war in Ukraine-Russia.

Trump's policies would be keenly watched because if he follows America's first policy, then Indian exporters in textiles, pharma and automobiles may feel the pinch and H1-B rules could further

be tightened, which could mean Indian IT professionals and companies will be adversely impacted.

Bal Govind | Noida

DELHI CONGRESS NYAY YATRA

Madam — The Delhi Congress commenced a month-long 'Nyay Yatra' on November 8, with the goal of tending to residents' concerns and advocating for governmental action. Senior leaders such as Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, and K C Venugopal have been invited to spearhead the troop, which will traverse all 70 Vidhan Sabha constituencies. This was disclosed by state unit chief Devender Yadav. Congress workers will engage with locals to listen to their concerns and collect suggestions. Running until December 4, the campaign will showcase a variety of community members and act as a precursor to the upcoming Assembly elections.

Neha Tomar | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

TRUMP 2.0: IMPACT ON INDIA

Trump's return could offer India a pivotal role in global tech and manufacturing



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

The third time is a charm, as the saying goes and we are not talking about PM Modi coming back to power for three consecutive terms, but his close friend, the 47th President of the US, Donald Trump. Having successfully dodged a couple of bullets (quite literally), impeachments, and felony charges, President Trump, triumphed over the collective choice of the most powerful economy in the world the United States of America. While the right-wingers across the globe, including in India celebrated his victory, as a literal victory for the "RIGHT" and what they saw as the tyranny of the so-called "left" liberals, President Trump 2.0 is most likely to be more nuanced than his version one. What it means for India is a mixed box of chocolates which can be bitter or boldly sweet depending on the pick.

President-elect Trump is known to be a hard negotiator, particularly on trade topics and he has famously described India as one of the highest offenders on this front. He is a businessman with decades of experience and has a transactional approach to trade, something not alien to Indian politicians particularly, from the Western regions. Trump's presidency 1.0 and the humongous growth in India-US bilateral commercial relations, plus a business-oriented Indian government at the centre, for now over a decade, has also served as a training ground for several tough negotiators to emerge from the bureaucratic class in India. Therefore, while officials in the government are aware of the tough negotiations ahead with the US on trade-related matters or import tariffs or say restrictions, they are hopeful, of finding a middle path given their familiarity with the President's style of functioning.



The dragon in the room would be cagey, as President-elect Trump in the run-up to the elections has vowed to impose stiff tariffs on imports from China. This may be great news for India, especially with the current government's focus being on making Bharat the manufacturing hub for electronics hardware, at least for the region.

Indian bureaucrats pushing the manufacturing envelope are deeply aware, that developing India into a hub, is a long-term game that may outlive the current regimes in DC and Delhi. They are also acutely aware that, by allowing friendshoring to India, by large US companies in the China plus one model, Trump will have an advantage. He could negotiate this card by pressuring India to buy perhaps more hydrocarbons or defence technology from the US. While the technology partnership was not primarily the centrepiece of India US bilateral relationship under Trump 1.0, his successor Joe Biden created a delectable topping with cooperation on critical and emerging technologies as an important element of the partnership. Initiatives such as iCET (initiative for critical and emerging technologies) which are directly monitored by the heads of both countries have put an unwavering sanctity to the tech partnership between the two democracies.

President Trump could either encourage US tech to keep fulfilling India's avowed target of being the next global electronics manufacturing hub while holding it as a bargaining chip, or, he may find a creative solution to persuade some of these companies to shift back some of their factories to domestic shores. The latter possibility seems unlikely as Donald Trump has, traditionally been a huge supporter of creating more jobs for Americans in the old manufacturing sectors. Much of President Trump's technology policy is likely to be curated by his biggest donor and tech czar Elon Musk. Elon Musk has business interests in China where he has some of his largest Tesla factories, besides, he has been trying to enter the Indian automobile market with little success. His other business interests including satellite-based telecommunication services, have struggled to start bearing in India. Many of these factors would determine the crucial next four years of the Modi-Trump era.

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

Trump's return: A radical shift in US foreign policy

As Donald Trump returns to the White House, he may redefine the boundaries of American leadership and influence in an increasingly multipolar world



K S TOMAR

Trump's return to the White House in 2024 sparks a torrent of questions about the future of NATO, the American economy, relationships with allies, and the trajectory of the Ukraine war. Trump's previous tenure exhibited a strong tilt toward "America First" policies, frequently challenging long-standing global alliances and multilateral commitments. A Trump-led presidency, therefore, could dramatically shift the geopolitical landscape, leaving allies like NATO in uncertainty, reorienting America's economic policies, testing India's balancing act, and redefining China relations.

The Future of NATO: Endurance or Erosion? NATO, the cornerstone of Western defence since 1949, stands as a central topic of speculation with Trump's return. During his presidency, Trump questioned the alliance's relevance, particularly its financial obligations, going as far as to imply a possible US withdrawal if members didn't contribute "their fair share." This stance generated unease among NATO allies, who rely on the US for critical defence resources, particularly amid heightened Russian aggression. As Trump resumes office, his approach to NATO could undergo even bolder recalibration. The European defence structure, largely dependent on the US, might face significant strategic and funding shifts, possibly prompting European powers to take on more defence responsibilities. A reduction in US military and financial support for NATO might embolden adversarial actors, especially Russia. A scaled-back US commitment could mean vulnerabilities for Eastern European countries like Poland and the Baltic states, which depend on NATO's security umbrella to counter Russian expansionism. The impact on NATO, therefore, hinges heavily on Trump's strategic decisions regarding alliance burden-sharing and his capacity to persuade European allies to increase their defence expenditures.

The Global Stakes: A Pivotal Crossroads The implications of Trump's return extend far beyond America's borders. With China's rise and Russia's ambitions continuing to shape global security dynamics, Trump's foreign policy choices will carry weighty consequences. His transactional approach to alliances, "America First" economics, and unpredictable stance on defence alliances could reshape international relationships, with traditional allies rethinking their reliance on US support. His handling of NATO's commitments, the Ukraine war, and relations with global powers like India and China will determine the future stability of Western influence and the global balance of power.

China and India: Competing powers: Under Trump, the US-China relationship could revert to one defined by rivalry, as he has consistently advocated a tough stance on China's trade practices and global ambitions. Trump may reassert his strict tariffs on Chinese goods and impose even tighter restrictions on Chinese companies operating in the US, aiming to curb China's influence in areas like technology and manufacturing. For India, Trump's return poses a mix of opportunities and challenges. His administration was notably warm toward India, fostering stronger economic and defence ties through agreements such as the "2+2" Dialogue. A renewed focus on countering China could make India a key strategic partner, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. Trump might offer India more defence cooperation or



technology transfers, potentially strengthening India's military and economic positioning in Asia. However, India's balancing act between the US and Russia—given India's defence ties with Moscow—could be complicated if Trump takes a firm stance against the Ukraine conflict. India's careful neutrality on the Russia-Ukraine issue might attract scrutiny, with Trump possibly expecting more alignment with US strategic priorities.

Economic Fallout-America's Financial Future: Trump's economic approach has traditionally leaned toward protectionism, focusing on restoring jobs, renegotiating trade deals, and limiting dependence on foreign supply chains. This economic philosophy could be reinvigorated if he returns to the Oval Office, with potential implications for trade, inflation, and employment in the US. One possible outcome is the continuation or even intensification of tariffs on China, aimed at reducing the US trade deficit. However, these tariffs historically contributed to increased costs for American consumers and businesses, raising prices on imported goods and creating inflationary pressures. Another protectionist push could have similar consequences, forcing Americans to pay more for everyday products as companies pass on tariff costs. Trump's "America First" approach could also mean tax reforms or incentives for companies to manufacture domestically. This reshoring could create jobs but would also drive up production costs due to higher wages, potentially making US goods less competitive internationally. Furthermore, a rigid stance on trade could strain relations with economically integrated allies,

with Trump demanding trade terms perceived as fair to the US, which could disrupt existing agreements and introduce new economic tensions globally.

Allies under Pressure: A Reshaped Global Order?

The Trump administration's approach to alliances was often unpredictable, blending close relationships with some leaders while alienating others. His "transactional" foreign policy style prioritised immediate gains over long-standing partnerships, which led to fractures with allies. Now Trump's return could mean intensified pressure on allies to prioritise bilateral deals over multilateral cooperation, transforming relationships with the EU, Japan, South Korea, and other allies. Trump's policies toward Europe might manifest in demands for favourable trade deals or concessions on defence spending. For Japan and South Korea, his re-emergence could signal heightened pressure to contribute more to their defence arrangements, potentially testing their security alliances with the US. Even Middle Eastern allies, like Saudi Arabia, could face new expectations under a Trump administration more interested in specific, tangible returns on US support rather than abstract commitments.

The Ukraine War: A Fractured Consensus?

Trump's return to the White House could introduce an alternative perspective on the Ukraine conflict, deviating from the largely unified Western support for Ukraine. Trump has openly criticised high US financial aid to Ukraine, signalling his belief that European countries should shoulder more of the burden.

With the conflict consuming billions of dollars in American aid, he

may choose to reduce US involvement, putting pressure on European allies to increase their support and potentially compelling Ukraine to consider negotiations. A Trump-led administration might seek to avoid confrontation with Russia, which could weaken Ukraine's position on the battlefield. Trump's emphasis on diplomacy over confrontation with Moscow could affect NATO's cohesion, with some members potentially favouring a stronger stance against Russia while the US takes a more hands-off approach. This scenario could embolden Russia, who might see a shift in US leadership as a chance to pursue more aggressive tactics in Ukraine or even attempt to influence other former Soviet territories.

The fate of the Ukraine war, therefore, would depend largely on Trump's approach—whether he chooses to maintain US support for Kyiv or pivot toward encouraging negotiations, potentially shifting the course of the conflict and signalling a new era of US-Russia dynamics. In many ways, Trump's presidency would signify a recalibration of American foreign policy, returning to his brand of nationalism mixed with pragmatism.

However, this approach could generate friction with allies, alter the global economy, and challenge existing diplomatic norms. Whether this path will foster a stronger, more self-reliant US or an isolated and fragmented world order remains to be seen. As Trump is poised to start second term, his return promises to redefine the boundaries of American leadership and influence in an increasingly multipolar world.

(The writer is strategic affairs analyst and political analyst based in Shimla; views are personal)



A RENEWED FOCUS ON COUNTERING CHINA COULD MAKE INDIA A KEY STRATEGIC PARTNER, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC. TRUMP MIGHT OFFER INDIA MORE DEFENCE COOPERATION OR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, POTENTIALLY STRENGTHENING INDIA'S MILITARY AND ECONOMIC POSITIONING IN ASIA

Expanding healthcare for India's elderly: A new phase for PM-JAY

Comprehensive healthcare needs of India's rapidly growing elderly population require further policy evolution, aiming for a holistic, sustainable healthcare system for the aging citizens

India is home to a significant elderly population, with approximately 138 million people aged 60 and above, including more than 10 crore individuals over the age of 70. This segment of the population has unique and pressing healthcare needs. As people age, they are increasingly susceptible to multiple chronic conditions that require specialised care and consistent medical attention. According to the Longitudinal Ageing Study of India (LASI), every fourth Indian over 60 years and every fifth Indian over 45 years reports poor health. Additionally, 75 per cent of the elderly have one or more chronic diseases, and 40 per cent experience disabilities. 1 in 4 elderly individuals has



ASHISH PANGHAL

multi-morbidity, with diabetes and cancer rates rising, particularly in urban areas. As per the Global Health Estimates data of 2019, non-communicable diseases such as ischemic heart diseases, stroke, and diabetes are leading causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost among individuals over 60. This highlights the growing need for specialised treatments and consistent

medical attention for age-related disorders. The rising prevalence of hypertension, heart disease, and respiratory issues among the elderly increases the need for hospitalisation and specialised care, placing immense pressure on healthcare providers and overwhelming the elderly and their families. The financial burden associated with recurrent hospital visits and treatments is a significant challenge. Also, India's current medical inflation rate, standing at approximately 14 per cent which worsens the healthcare difficulties confronting the elderly. Escalating medical costs, including those for hospitalisation, doctor consultations, and medications, make it increasingly chal-

lenging for this vulnerable population to access necessary care. Inflation, coupled with the high cost of living, leaves many elderly individuals struggling to afford even basic healthcare services. Additionally, as medical inflation continues to rise, insurance companies are compelled to cover higher expenses for medical procedures and treatments. This, in turn, results in increased premiums for policyholders. For many elderly individuals, these higher insurance costs compound the financial burden, deepening the overall healthcare affordability crisis. While the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana



(AB PM-JAY) is a significant step towards improving healthcare access, covering an additional 6 crore individuals from 4.5 crore families, and focusing on seniors aged 70 and above, several challenges persist in the insurance market. Current insurance products are limited, particularly for individuals over the age of 70. Pre-existing diseases (PED) such

as diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, and cancer often result in waiting periods or outright denial of coverage. Furthermore, insurance premiums for senior citizens are substantially higher due to the associated health risks, making insurance unaffordable for many. Denial of insurance based on PED, combined with exorbitant premiums, often forces elderly individuals to rely on personal savings or government schemes, leaving them without adequate financial protection against serious illnesses. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), India's elderly population is projected to nearly triple by 2050, reaching 320 million. This demo-

graphic shift will necessitate more comprehensive solutions to safeguard the well-being of the nation's senior citizens. While the expansion of PM-JAY is a welcome development, it does not fully address the broader geriatric needs of India's aging population. AB PM-JAY is largely limited to inpatient care. The scheme does not cover outpatient services, which make up a considerable portion of healthcare costs. Research published in the International Journal of Preventive Medicine shows that outpatient care accounts for 40-80 per cent of health expenditures in India. Consequently, even with the enhanced insurance coverage, many individuals may

continue to face out-of-pocket expenses for treatments that do not require hospitalisation. There is an urgent need to expand coverage to include services such as long-term care, outpatient services, mental health support, palliative care, and rehabilitation, which are essential for ensuring the well-being of the elderly. Additionally, the government must focus on reducing financial barriers to healthcare, such as high insurance premiums, and ensuring the inclusion of PED coverage without long waiting periods. *(The writer is senior consultant at Enira Consulting; views are personal)*

New law allows Israel to deport kin of attackers

Experts expect it to be struck down

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel's parliament passed a law early Thursday that would allow it to deport family members of Palestinian attackers, including the country's own citizens, to the war-ravaged Gaza Strip or other locations. The law, which was championed by members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and his far-right allies, passed with a 61-41 vote. However, legal experts said that any attempt to implement the legislation would likely lead to it being struck down by Israeli courts. The law would apply to Palestinian citizens of Israel and residents of annexed east Jerusalem who knew about their family members' attacks beforehand or who "express support or identification with the act of terrorism." They would be deported, either to the Gaza Strip or another location, for a period of seven to 20 years. The Israel-Hamas

war is still raging in Gaza, where tens of thousands have been killed and most of the population has been internally displaced, often multiple times. It was unclear if the law would apply in the occupied West Bank, where Israel already has a long-standing policy of demolishing family homes of attackers, which critics decry as collective punishment. Palestinians have carried out scores of stabbing, shooting and car-ramping attacks against Israelis in recent years. Oded Feller, a legal adviser to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, dismissed the law as "populist nonsense." He said it was unlikely to be applied, because there is no legal way for the Interior Ministry to send an Israeli citizen to another country or to Gaza. His organisation doesn't plan to challenge the law unless authorities try to enforce it, in which case he expects any court challenge to succeed. Eran Shamir-Borer, a senior

researcher at the Israel Democracy Institute and a former international law expert for the Israeli military, agreed that the law was likely to be struck down by the Supreme Court. He said that if a resident of east Jerusalem was deported under the law, it could be seen by many in the international community as a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, because they view the area as occupied territory, although Israel does not. The deportation of an Israeli citizen could be seen not only as a violation of their constitutional rights under Israeli law, but also as a breach of their human rights under international law, he said. The law could also be seen as a form of collective punishment and as discriminatory, because it appears to only apply to Arab citizens and residents, and not to family members of Jews convicted under terrorism laws. "The bottom line is this is completely nonconstitutional and a

clear conflict to Israel's core values," Shamir-Borer said. Israel's national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, a Jewish West Bank settler leader who was himself convicted of terrorism crimes as a political activist years ago, praised the new law, noting that a member of his Jewish Power party was among the sponsors. "Jewish Power is making history!" he wrote on X. Israel captured Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war — territories the Palestinians want for their future state. It withdrew settlers and soldiers from Gaza in 2005, but has reoccupied parts of the territory since Hamas' attack on October 7, 2023 triggered the war. Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognised by most of the international community. Palestinians there have permanent residency and are allowed to apply for citizenship, but most choose not to, and those who do face a series of obstacles.

Palestinians living in Israel make up around 20 per cent of the country's population. They have citizenship and the right to vote but face widespread discrimination. Many also have close family ties to those in the territories and most sympathize with the Palestinian cause. A second law that was passed Thursday allows minors between the ages of 12 and 14 to be sentenced to prison for murder or attempted murder under terrorism laws, though they must be held in a secure facility before being transferred to prison at age 14. Previously, minors of those ages were not allowed to be sentenced to prison, according to Adalah, a legal advocacy group. It claimed the law was motivated by "revenge" and said it would affect Palestinian citizens of Israel and residents of east Jerusalem. Palestinians in the occupied West Bank can already be sentenced from age 12 under Israeli military laws in the territory, Adalah said.

Israeli police, French consulate staff clash at Jerusalem church

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Armed Israeli police forced their way into a French-owned church compound in the contested city of Jerusalem on Thursday, the French foreign ministry said, briefly detaining two consulate employees and prompting the top French diplomat to abandon his planned visit to the site. The unusual incident threatened to further strain relations between Israel and France weeks after French President Emmanuel Macron's call for an arms embargo on Israel prompted a backlash from right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The French Foreign Ministry said it would summon the Israeli ambassador in protest in the coming days. A strongly worded statement from France said Israeli security forces had intruded on the courtyard of the Church of the Pater Noster, angering French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot and prompting him to abandon his scheduled visit there. The ministry said Israeli police detained two staff members of the French Consulate in Jerusalem despite their diplomatic status, adding that the employees were released only after Barrot intervened. "This attack on the integrity of a domain placed under the responsibility of France is likely to weaken the bonds I have, in fact, come to cultivate with Israel at a time when we all need to make progress in the region on the road to peace," Barrot told reporters in Jerusalem. Barrot was meeting with Israeli officials Thursday in the city, where he pleaded for a cease-fire

to stop the Israeli bombardment of Gaza and called for a diplomatic solution in Lebanon — a former French protectorate that Israel invaded last month in its broadening military campaign against the Iran-backed Hezbollah militant group. "These actions are unacceptable," the French Foreign Ministry statement said of Thursday's fracas between Israeli security forces and French diplomatic staffers. "France condemns (these actions) all the more vigorously as they come at a time when it is doing everything it can to work towards de-escalating the violence in the region." Israeli police portrayed the controversy as a misunderstanding, saying that two church workers who declined to identify themselves had refused entry to Israeli security guards accompanying Minister Barrot on his church visit. Israeli police said they held the men for some 20 minutes and released them once they were identified as employees of the French Consulate in Jerusalem, which is the protector of French religious communities and four holy sites in the city. The Israeli police said all foreign ministers on official visits to Israel are assigned Israeli security guards for their trips. It said the logistics of Barrot's visit were worked out beforehand with the French Embassy in Israel, warning the public against contributing to "misleading narratives" about the altercation. The compound that Barrot had planned to visit — on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem — holds a church originally built by Crusaders that believed the site to be where Jesus taught the Pater

Noster, or Lord's Prayer. It was later acquired by Princess Héloïse de la Tour d'Auvergne, who had the prayer written in calligraphy in numerous languages on the walls of the cloisters and courtyard, also home to the ruins of the Byzantine Eleona Church. The site was entrusted to French Carmelite nuns in 1874. "This domain is not only one that has belonged to France for over 150 years," Barrot said. "It's one where France has ensured security and maintenance with enormous care." Thursday's incident was reminiscent of several others skirmishes over the years between irritated French officials and assertive Israeli bodyguards. In 2020, President Macron lost his temper at Israeli security officers who had insisted on accompanying him inside another French church in Jerusalem. In 1996, then-French President Jacques Chirac accused Israeli security forces of pushing and shoving his entourage in a spat that even drew an apology from a young Prime Minister Netanyahu during his first year in office. Such stand-offs take on symbolic significance in Jerusalem, among the most fiercely contested swaths of real estate on earth. Israel has viewed Jerusalem as its "unified, eternal" capital since capturing east Jerusalem, which includes the Old City, in the 1967 Mideast war, along with the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians want those territories for their future state, with east Jerusalem serving as their eventual capital. Israel annexed the eastern part of the city in a move not recognised internationally.

India deserves to be in list of global superpowers: Putin

PTI ■ MOSCOW

India deserves to be included in the list of global superpowers as its economy is currently growing faster than in any other country, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. Addressing the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi on Thursday, Putin also said Russia is developing relations with India in all directions and there is a great degree of trust in bilateral ties. "India should undoubtedly be added to the list of superpowers, with its billion-and-a-half population, the fastest

growth among all economies in the world, ancient culture and very good prospects for further growth," he said. Calling India a great country, Putin said: "We are developing relations with India in all directions. India is a great country, now the largest in terms of population: 1.5 billion people, plus 10 million every year." He said India is leading the world in economic growth. "Our vision of where and at what pace our relations will develop is based on today's realities. The volume of our cooperation is increasing many times over, every year," Putin was quoted by Russian

news agency Tass as saying. Putin added that the contacts between India and Russia in the security and defence sphere are developing. "Look at how many types of Russian military equipment are in service with the Indian armed forces. There is a great degree of trust in this relationship. We don't just sell our weapons to India; we design them jointly," he said. Putin named the BrahMos cruise missile project as an example. "In fact, we made it [the missile] fit for use in three environments - in air, in sea and on land. These projects, conducted for the benefit of

India's security, are ongoing," he said. "This is widely known and no one has issues with that, but these projects demonstrate a high level of mutual trust and cooperation. So this what we will keep doing in the near term, and, I hope, will continue to do in the more distant future," he said. Putin acknowledged certain difficulties on the border between India and China, the agency reported. However, he said wise and competent people who keep the future of their nations in mind, are searching for compromises and will eventually find them.

Putin greets Trump on poll victory

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday congratulated Donald Trump on his election victory in his first public comment on the US vote, and he praised the president-elect's courage during the July assassination attempt. "His behaviour at the moment of an attempt on his life left an impression on me. He turned out to be a brave man," Putin said at an international forum following a speech in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. "He manifested himself in the very correct way, bravely as a man," he added. Putin also said that what Trump has said "about the desire to restore relations with Russia, to help end the Ukrainian crisis, in my opinion, deserves attention at least."



A firefighter battling the Mountain Fire watches flames from a firing operation burn off vegetation around Swanhill Farms in Moorpark, Calif.

Israeli soccer fans attacked in Amsterdam; 5 hospitalised

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Amsterdam police said Friday that five people were hospitalised and 62 arrested after authorities said antisemitic rioters attacked Israeli supporters following a soccer match. The police said in a post on X that they have started a major investigation into multiple violent incidents. The post did not

provide further details about those injured or detained in Thursday night's violence. Earlier, a statement issued by the Dutch capital's municipality, police and prosecution office said that the night following the Europa League match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv "was very turbulent with several incidents of violence aimed at Maccabi supporters."

The violence was condemned by the leaders of both the Netherlands and Israel as antisemitic. Israel announced it was sending planes to the Dutch capital to fly fans home. It was not immediately clear when and where violence erupted after the match. "In several places in the city, supporters were attacked. The police had to intervene several times, protect Israeli supporters and escort them to hotels. Despite the massive police presence in the city, Israeli supporters have been injured," the Amsterdam statement said. "This outburst of violence toward Israeli supporters is unacceptable and cannot be defended in any way. There is no excuse for the antisemitic behaviour exhibited last night by rioters who actively sought out Israeli supporters to attack and assault them," it added. Authorities said extra police would patrol the city in coming days and security will be beefed up at Jewish institutions in the city that has a large Jewish community and was home to Jewish World War II diarist Anne Frank and her family as they hid from Nazi occupiers. The violence erupted despite a ban on a pro-Palestinian demonstration near the soccer stadium imposed by Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema, who had feared that clashes would break out between protesters and supporters of the Israeli soccer club.

There were also incidents involving fans ahead of the match. Dutch broadcaster NOS reported that a Palestinian flag was ripped off a building in the centre of the city and riot police blocked pro-Palestinian supporters trying to march toward the Johan Cruyff Arena stadium where the match was being played.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified for general public that my client Shri Chandan Mohan Goel S/o Late Shri RD Goel and Smt. Raj Gopal W/o Shri Chandan Mohan Goel, has severed all her relations with her son namely Anshul Goel and his wife Divisha Agarwal. All movable and immovable properties of my client, due to their misbehavior, unbecoming act and neglecting their duties owing towards my client. If anybody deals with them in any way, it shall be their own risk and my client shall not be responsible for any act of above named son and daughter-in-law in any manner whatsoever. **ALOK DEVI (ADVOCATE) Off-Plot No. 255, Pocket-9, Sector-23 Rohini, Delhi-110085 Mob:-9718090890**

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients Azad Singh Bhandariya S/o Sh. Kishan Pal Singh and Smt. Anita Devi W/o Sh. Azad Singh Bhandariya both R/o H.No.B-175, Gali No.4/1, Karawal Nagar Extension, Karawal Nagar, Delhi-110094, have severed all relation from their son Vivek Singh and his wife Smt. Soni Singh and had disowned them from their movable and immovable properties due to their misdeeds, misconduct and ill behaviour, anybody dealing with them shall be responsible themselves. **Mohit Bansal Advocate Ch.No. F-303, F-Block, Lawyers Chamber, Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi-110032**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. Mahendra Shishodia and Mr. Kamal Shishodia is the owner of FIRST FLOOR PORTION BUILT ON BUILDUP PROPERTY NO. A-1, AREA MEASURING 114532 SQ. METRS. I.E. 137 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 26, SITUATED AT GALI NO. 5, SHASHI GARDEN, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-I, VILLAGE KOTLA, LILLOA, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110091, by virtue of Gift Deed dated 19.07.2024, regd. as Doc. No. 2024/4/71740, executed by Mrs. Sushila Devi and same property to be sold to Intending Borrower i.e. Mrs. Kusum Bhardwaj, same to be finance by SMGF India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF IJK, Lotus Pool Plaza, Vaidhik Khaz, Indraprastha Chhabrabat UP, E-mail: sgassociates@gmail.com, Ph. 79117254, 0129444309**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. Jagdish Sharma is the owner of PORTION OF PLOT NO. 128 AND 128A, LAND AREA MEASURING 65.64 SQ. YARDS. OUT OF TOTAL LAND AREA 200 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 159, SITUATED AT REVENUE STATE OF VILLAGE RAZPUR KHURD, DELHI STATE, DELHI, COLONY KNOWN AS SANIK ENCLAVE, SECTOR-V, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059, by virtue of GPA, ATS & Will dated 12.09.2018, and Mr. Jagdish Sharma is intending to sell the same to intending borrower i.e. Sourav Yadav and same property to be finance by SMGF India Home Finance Company Limited, General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SG Associates (Law Firm) FF IJK, Lotus Pool Plaza, Vaidhik Khaz, Indraprastha Chhabrabat UP, E-mail: sgassociates@gmail.com, Ph. 79117254, 0129444309**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, Mr. Jagannder Singh S/o Mr. Rajender Singh R/o House No. D-1384, Block - Nehruia, Alexander (E2), Palwal, Haryana-221102 ("Owner"), Mr. Jagannder Singh was the owner of schedule property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 29.01.2024 which was duly registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar-Palwal on Document No. 1156, in Add. Book No. 1, on 29.01.2024 and a Sale Deed dated 28.12.2005 executed by Mr. Devi Charan in favour of Mr. Kamal Kumar & Mr. Prem Chand D/o. No. 8764, Book No. 1380, Palwal stated to have been lost, as per FIR Haryana Police Officer Services bearing registration No. 13260102400705 was also lodged. (UOI) SUIE (2) (2) (2) (2) (2) (2). Public are warned not to deal with the Document and any person receiving or dealing with the said Document would do so at their own risk and responsibility (including criminal liability) and our client shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person (s) on account of any such unauthorized dealing, our client will proceed to take such action including applying to concerned authorities for issue of duplicate Certified Copies / Certified True Copies/Duplicate Copies of the Document. **Schedule Property** (Property ID No. 3PRND053) Land area measuring 66 sq. yds, part of Musti No. 62 Khasa No. 22(10)-0, Musti No. 75, Khasa No. 22-0 3/(14-15) & Khasa No. 1969/1, (1-0), 1962(0-12) 1967(0-11), 1968(3-15) & Musti No. 62(Khasa No. 212-6), 202(6-2) & Khasa No. 1962(11-1), situated at Vite Nagar, Ahmednagar, Sub-Div. Parshad, known as Prakash Vihar Colony, Tehsil Palwal, District Faridabad-121102 (Haryana). **Sachin Maheshwari & Associates (SMA) Law Offices,** Sachin Maheshwari Advocate Badarpur Border, New Delhi, Mob. 9911380328 / Ph. 011-49633588

CAPRI GLOBAL CAPITAL LIMITED
CIN : L65921MH1994PLC173469

GENERAL NOTICE FOR RELOCATION OF BRANCH

This is to notify the General Public and Customers of the Company Capri Global Capital Limited (Capri Loans), that one of our branch located at Najafgarh, Roshan Pura - DL, Plot No. 4B, Ground Floor, Old Roshan Pura, Najafgarh, Delhi - 110043 will be relocated to Najafgarh, Roshan Pura - 1, Plot No. 2, Out of Khasra No. 279, 281 Roshanpura Najafgarh, New Delhi - 110043 after 90 days of this Public Notice. All existing services can be availed at new location. Finally, go through the official website of Capri Loans www.capri Loans.in or dial Toll Free number (toll free) 1800 102 1021 or visit your nearest branch for any further assistance.

DATE: 9 November 2024. **Authorized Signatory For Capri Global Capital Limited**

EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Sanctoria, PO, Dishergarh, Dist. Paschim Bardhaman, Pin. 713333 (W.B.)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works & Services are available on i) Website of Coal India Limited: www.coalindia.in, ii) Website of ECL: www.easterncoal.nic.in, iii) CIL e-Procurement Portal: <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>, iv) Central Public Procurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal: <https://gem.gov.in>."

(By Order), **ECL**
VISIT US AT www.easterncoal.nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of ABHISHEK SHARMA who is purchasing the Upper Ground Floor, front side with common roof rights, area measuring 82.5 sq. yds., out of total area measuring 125 sq. Yards., Plot No. 98, out of Khasra No.586, situated at Village Bindapur Colony, Jankipuri, Block-B, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, by virtue of a deed wherein he had purchased the same by virtue of valid Notarized General Power of Attorney, Notarized Agreement to Sell and Will dated 31.05.2022 in Mrs. Sunaina Rai and intend to mortgage the said financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. **Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-4046316**

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited
(CIN: LS1101HR2007PLC077999)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024 (Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24		Quarter ended 30-Sep-23		Year to date 30-Sep-24		Year to date 31-Mar-24	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
Total Income from Operations	-	0.50	0.06	0.50	0.30	3.15		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(5.59)	(5.28)	(5.74)	(10.87)	(11.24)	(21.61)		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items))	(5.59)	(5.28)	(5.74)	(10.87)	(11.24)	(21.61)		
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items)	(5.60)	(5.28)	(5.74)	(10.88)	(11.24)	(21.61)		
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) of the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(3.75)	4.34	1.35	0.59	1.16	(12.31)		
Equity Share Capital	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74		
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						(253.50)		
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items								
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)		
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)		
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items								
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)		
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.56)	(0.53)	(0.57)	(1.08)	(1.12)	(2.15)		

Notes: 1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 08 November 2024. 2) Key Standalone Financial Information:

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24		Quarter ended 30-Jun-24		Quarter ended 30-Sep-23		Year to date 30-Sep-24		Year to date 31-Mar-24	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited		
Total Income	0.09	0.59	0.15	0.68	0.33	3.57				
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(10.69)	(11.22)	(10.64)	(21.91)	(20.96)	(43.37)				
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(10.69)	(11.22)	(10.64)	(21.91)	(20.96)	(43.37)				

3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Half Yearly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Half Yearly Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.yaari.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).
Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udoy Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016 For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Kubeir Khara
Executive Director & CEO

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of ATUL PANDEY who is purchasing the PLOT AREA MEASURING 25 SQ. YARDS PART OF KHASRA NO. 150M1N, SITUATED AT MUKHIYA GARDEN, VILLAGE ILAICHIPUR, PARGANA & TEHSIL LONI, DISTRICT-GHAZIABAD, U.P., from Mr. Kishan Kumar had owned the same by virtue of Gift Deed dated 04.07.2023 bearing Document No.3891, Book no.1, Volume no.1096, on pages 385-404, dated 04.07.2023 SRO-I LON, Ghaziabad from Mr. Gaurav Deeba, intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Ummeed Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. that the Original Sale Deed dated 29.12.2020 executed by Mr. Denmark to Mr. Gaurav Deeba, Verma & Mr. Ram Niwas Verma, Document No. 12190, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2199, on Page No. 137-156, on 29.12.2020. SR-Loani Ghaziabad is/are lost/misplaced. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. **Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-4046316**

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

S. No	Job Number	Name of Work	Amount (Lac)	Publishing Time
(1)	16/GM/PE (PH-II)/ET/2024-25	Catching Work of unruly monkeys and releasing them in protected forest areas in various sectors and villages in Public Health Department Div-II.	Rs. 30.04	1 st Time
(2)	17/GM/PE (PH-II)/ET/2024-25	P/F of Bamboo Net before covered on open drain in PH-II area, Noida.	Rs. 31.06	1 st Time

The above tenders can be uploaded from dated 11/11/2024 to 25/11/2024 upto 5:00 PM. The Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 26/11/2024 at 11:00 AM

महत्त्वपूर्ण सूचना-
नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विधिवत प्लानिंग या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अवैध है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अवैध कॉलोनिनों एवं अवैध निर्मित भवनों में मूखण्डों, अपार्टमेंट, दुकान / गोडाउन / फार्माहाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनॉइजर के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचे। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिंडून एवं यमुना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनधिकृत/अवैध प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में सलियत मुआफियाओं के चंगुल में न फसे।

General Manager (Public Health), Noida
Office Sector-94
CLEAR, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Philippine President signs new laws to secure sea territory

AP ■ MANILA (PHILIPPINES)

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr signed two laws on Friday reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, where the new laws clash with Beijing's extensive territorial claims.

The move angered Beijing, and China's foreign ministry said it summoned the Philippines ambassador to China to lodge a "stern protest." The ministry condemned the move as an attempt to "solidify the illegal ruling of the South China Sea arbitration case through domestic legislation."

Confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces in the disputed sea passage have spiked alarmingly since last year. That has sparked fears that the United States — Manila's longtime treaty ally — may get drawn in a major conflict.

The laws, called the Philippine Maritime Zones Act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, were signed by Marcos in a nationally televised ceremony attended by top military and national security officials.

They further cement Manila's rejection of China's claims to virtually the entire sea pas-

age, and stipulate jail terms and stiff fines for violators. "These signal our resolve to protect our maritime resources, preserve our rich biodiversity and ensure that our waters remain a source of life and livelihood for all Filipinos," Marcos said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the move "seriously infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea." "China strongly condemns and firmly opposes it," she said.

In a new national map it released last year, the Chinese government demarcated its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea with vague dash lines that drew protests and rejections from rival coastal states and government, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The maritime zones act demarcates key parts of the Philippine archipelago's territory and outlying waters where it has full sovereignty and sovereign rights under international law and the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Philippine officials said. Those zones include the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, a 200-nautical-mile

(370-kilometer) stretch of water, where a coastal state like the Philippines has exclusive rights to tap energy and other resources.

Foreign ships and aircraft have an internationally recognized right known as "innocent passage" to pass through such a zone, as long as the coastal state's security would not come under threat. The archipelagic sea lanes act allows the Philippines to designate sea lanes and air routes in the archipelago where foreign ships and aircraft could transit under its regulation and in compliance with international law. "These legal instruments solidify our territory and enhances our ability to protect our country against any infringement," National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said.

Marcos said the laws comply with international law and the UNCLOS, but many of their provisions stand in stark contrast to Beijing's claims in the South China Sea and would likely be rejected and defied by China.

It's unclear how the Philippines could enforce the laws, which take effect 15 days after their publication in the government's official gazette or in a newspaper, given China's increasingly aggressive actions to push its claims.

Copies of the laws signed by Marcos were not immediately available but a final version of the maritime zones bill stated that "all artificial islands constructed within the Philippine EEZ belong to the Philippine government." China has transformed seven disputed reefs into what are now missile-protected island bases, including the Mischief Reef, which lies within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The law based the Philippines' maritime rights on UNCLOS, Philippine laws and a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated China's extensive territorial claims based on historical grounds.

China refused to participate in that arbitration, rejected the ruling and continues to defy it.

Its massive coast guard, navy, air force and suspected militia fleets have used water cannons, military grade lasers and dangerous sea and air maneuvers to intimidate rival forces it accuses of straying into what Beijing calls its territory.

Washington has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, aircraft or ships come under an armed attack in the disputed waters.

China approves \$840b plan to boost slowing economy

AP ■ BEIJING

China on Friday approved a 6 trillion yuan (\$839 billion) plan to help local governments refinance their mountains of debt, in the latest push to rev up growth in the world's second largest economy.

The plan will be implemented over the next three years, Xu Hongcai, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress's financial and economic committee, said at a news conference Friday.

Finance minister Lan Fo'an estimated that the hidden debt of local governments was 14.3 trillion yuan (\$2 trillion) at the end of 2023. Hidden debt refers to debt that has not been disclosed publicly.

Lan said 2 trillion yuan would be allocated each year from 2024 to 2026 to help local governments resolve their debts. He estimated that the amount of hidden debt will drop to 2.3 trillion yuan (\$320.9 billion) by the end of 2028. Officials also said Friday that the ceiling to issue special bonds will be raised to 35.52 trillion yuan (\$4.96 billion) from 29.52 trillion yuan (\$4.12 billion) for local governments.

Lan said that the implementation of such a large-scale replacement measure indicates a "fundamental shift" in China's approach to debt restructuring and said that China's government debt risk was "controllable."

Analysts have called for bold, multi-trillion-yuan measures to reinvigorate the world's second largest economy, which has yet to bounce back fully from the COVID-19 pandemic. Local government debts have ballooned partly due to high spending and low tax revenues during the pandemic, but also due to a downturn in the property industry, since sales of land use rights, a key source of local government revenue, have sagged.

The central bank loosened restrictions on borrowing in late September, sparking a stock market rally, but economists say the government needs to do more to ignite a sustained recovery.

Government officials have indicated that could come at this week's meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, which must give official approval to any new spending.

The economy has shown signs of life in the past two months. Purchase subsidies offered to people who trade in old cars or appliances for new ones helped auto sales rebound in September. A survey of manufacturers turned positive in October after five straight months of decline, and exports surged 12.7% last month, the largest increase in more than two years.

For most of the year, the ruling Communist Party appeared more focused on addressing long-term structural issues with the economy rather than short-term ones. Previous steps to boost the economy were piecemeal, seemingly aimed at keeping the economy afloat rather than sparking a robust recovery.

In recent weeks, the party has signaled a growing concern about the economy's sluggishness as it tries to meet its goal of achieving growth of around 5% this year. The central bank's monetary easing was followed by government pronouncements that it still has ample funds to pump into the economy.

Still, the longer-term goals of transforming China into a high-tech and green energy economy seem likely to remain the chief aims of the Communist Party, which doesn't face election pressures like the ones that toppled the Democrats and swept Donald Trump's Republicans to power in America this week.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Ravindra Kumar S/o Dharmveer Singh R/o Villa No. 12, Orchid Villa-2, Vardura Sector-10, Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.) have disowned from all relations and Debar my Son Nikhil Chaudhary & his wife Kajal Bidhuri from my entire moveable / immovable property due to their arrogant & cruel behaviour. I and my family shall not be responsible for their any acts, debts and deeds in future.



CHANGE OF NAME

I, Deepika Rathi W/o Upendra Kumar Rathi R/o House No.-1022, Sector-5, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P) 201012 have changed my name to Deepika for all future purposes.

PD(890)A

LOST & FOUND

I, KM. Pooja D/o Rajendra Prasad, R/o Room No-9, Third Floor, Phoolwati Niwas, Munirka, New Delhi have lost my original M.A. Migration Certificate of Enr No. 18/54/HH/011, issued by JNU, New Delhi for year 2018-2020. Finder please contact above the address. Mobile no - 8882002233.

PD(893)A

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

नगर निगम, देहरादून द्वारा शहरी क्षेत्रान्तर्गत 184 युनिपॉल/होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन एवं 35000 विद्युत पोलों पर पोल क्योरक के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने हेतु दिनांक 09.11.2024 को आमंत्रित ई-निविदा सम्बन्धी शिद्धि पत्र हेतु सार्वजनिक सूचना।

नगर निगम, देहरादून में युनिपॉल/होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन कार्य में सम्मिलित होने वाले समस्त विज्ञापन निविदादाताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर निगम देहरादून 184 युनिपॉल/होर्डिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने हेतु कार्यालय पत्र सं-158/मुनि-2024-25 दिनांक 26.10.2024 तथा 35000 पोल क्योरक के माध्यम से विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित किये जाने हेतु कार्यालय पत्र सं-157/मुनि-2024-25 दिनांक 26.10.2024 द्वारा समाचार पत्र दैनिक जागरण हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स एवं पॉइन्टिपर के अंक दिनांक 27.10.2024 में प्रकाशित सार्वजनिक निविदा सूचना में दिनांक 09.11.2024 को विज्ञापन सम्बन्धी दफ्तों ई-निविदाये आमंत्रित की गयी है।

उक्त के क्रम में समस्त विज्ञापन निविदादाताओं को सूचित किया जाता है कि उपरोक्त निविदाओं में दिनांक 13.11.2024 को साय 4:00 बजे नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम देहरादून के कार्यालय कक्ष में प्री-बिड सत्रक आहूत की गयी है। इच्छुक निविदादाता दिनांक 13.11.2024 को साय 4:00 बजे बैठक में प्रतिभाग कर सकते हैं जिस हेतु उपरोक्त दफ्तों निविदाओं में दिनांक 08.11.2024 को साय 4:00 तक मूल रूप में उपलब्ध कराये जाने वाली निर्धारित धनराशि की सीलडी/अवर/एफडी/आर एवं तक्रानी की दस्तावेजों को अग्रिम तिथि दिनांक 18.11.2024 को साय 4:00 बजे तक नगर निगम कार्यालय में उपलब्ध कराये तथा निविदा करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 09.11.2024 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे के स्थान पर ई-निविदा की वित्तीय निविदा करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 19.11.2024 को अपरान्ह 2:00 बजे तक निर्धारित की जाती है।

नगर आयुक्त, नगर निगम, देहरादून।
पत्रांक-234/मुनि-2024-25 दिनांक 08.11.2024

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/66/013/24-25 Dated: 06-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Tender No. KT245503
Closing/Opening date: 02-12-2024

Brief Description: PVC insulated Armoured Unscreened, under ground Railway Signaling cable 12 core 1.5 sq mm copper to Spec. no. IRS-S-63/2014 (Rev-4.0) with latest. **Signe:- SSE/SIG/ New Jalpaiguri, NFR Qty: 18 KM.**

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.

Dy. CMM/New Jalpaiguri



E-Tender Notice
GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE FOR SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENTS

Short Term E-Tenders are invited for the purchase of Calendering Machines, Computer Color Matching System, Single Color Roto Flat Printing Machine, Garment Design Software, Lab Coating Machine, Pad Thermo Fixation Range, Universal Testing Machine, High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), Archery Equipments, Fencing Equipments and Sports Training Facility be submitted online latest by 23/11/2024 upto 4:00 p.m. Detailed information can be obtained from website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. Any corrigendum/Addendum related to these e-tender will be uploaded, if required, on Punjab Govt. website: eproc.punjab.gov.in

Director of Research
NA/12/2618/1/2023/38844 Dated CHD :- 11/8/2024

Office of the Managing Director
Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Federation Ltd.
Mangal Parao, Haldwani - 263139 (Nainital) Uttarakhand.
पत्रांक :- सी-3384 / पंजीयन/पुनर्विनिर्देश/बंकी/बाबाद/दिए-27/2024-25 दिनांक: 08.11.2024
E-Tender Notice No.: 16(1-12)/UCDF/2024-25, Date-08.11.2024

Following E-tenders are invited by the undersigned, from experienced, reputed and financially sound Manufacturers/Firms/Authorized Dealers for the following works so as to reach this office on or before 25.11.2024 up to 5.00 PM, which will be opened on 26.11.2024 at 11.00 AM.

S. No.	Name of Work
1.	SIT&C of Prefabricated cold room/freezer room, Milk Chiller, cream Pasteurizer, Triple jacketed Cream Storage tank, Crate conveyor, S.S. pipe line/ Valves & fittings/CIP pump, Electric panel & cables at Dehradun Dairy Plant
2.	SIT&C of Prefabricated cold room/Blast freezer room, Multi Purpose Milk Pasteurizer, Ghee Cattle and Ghee Clarifier at Khatima dairy plant
3.	SIT&C of On line Cream separator at Almora dairy plant

On line tender - E-Tender documents may be seen and downloaded/uploaded from E-tender portal <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> Managing Director

Indiabulls Enterprises Limited

(CIN: U71290HR2019PLC077579)

Extract of Consolidated Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30 September 2024

(Rs. in Crores)

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-23	Year to date 30-Sep-24	Year to date 30-Sep-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from operations	13.87	15.55	13.82	29.42	30.12	58.76
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period (before Tax, minority interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of associates, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(13.36)	(2.97)	(2.94)	(16.33)	(2.94)	(25.20)
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period (before Tax, minority interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of associates (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(13.36)	(2.97)	(2.94)	(16.33)	(2.94)	(25.20)
Net (Loss)/Profit for the period (after Tax, minority interest and Share of Profit / (Loss) of associates (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(11.97)	(3.39)	(3.92)	(15.36)	(5.04)	(25.24)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(311.94)	(3.39)	(3.45)	(315.33)	(4.57)	(25.33)
Equity share capital	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67	39.67
Reserves (excluding revaluation reserve) as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						206.07
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each from continuing operations						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.64)	(0.17)	(0.18)	(0.81)	(0.22)	(1.37)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.64)	(0.17)	(0.18)	(0.81)	(0.22)	(1.37)
Earnings per share (EPS) of Rs.2 each from discontinued operations						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	0.04	(0.00)	(0.02)	0.04	(0.03)	0.10
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	0.04	(0.00)	(0.02)	0.04	(0.03)	0.10

Notes:
1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 08 November 2024.
2. **Key Standalone Financial Information:**

Particulars	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 30-Jun-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-23	Year to date 30-Sep-24	Year to date 30-Sep-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	18.56	13.50	10.52	32.06	22.61	48.43
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	0.30	(5.17)	(6.23)	(4.87)	(10.73)	(33.00)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	1.03	(5.18)	(6.55)	(4.15)	(11.41)	(33.39)

3. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/half yearly financial results filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/half yearly Financial Results are available on the Company's website (<https://www.indiabullsentprises.com>) and on the website of BSE (<https://www.bseindia.com>) and NSE (<https://www.nseindia.com>).

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016

By order of the Board of Directors
Sargam Kataria
Director

Place : Gurugram
Date : 08 November 2024

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/25/2024-25; Dated: 05-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
SN. 1: Tender No. 30/24/1121A/OT/207/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 14-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Set of Flex Ball Cable with end connector for LHB Bogie consisting of Flexible Remote Control G-2333mm & G-4024mm to Knorr bremsse Part No. I.P.1605 & I.P.1606 or FTRTIP/L Part No. 0267.05.00.00, 0267.05.00.00 or M/s Escorts 3EB8066 & 3EB8065. Quantity - 01 no each per Set in one Power Car. Mat. Spec.- RDSO/2011/CG-04 Rev-03. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 34 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty- 20 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 169 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). iv) Qty- 03 Nos New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). v) Qty - 12 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L. No. - 33502638.

SN. 2: Tender No. ML245110A/OT/208/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 09-12-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, erection, installation, testing and commissioning of 3 tons Pillar mounted JIB Crane with Electric Hoist as per MLDT Spec No.-DLS/MLDT/EL/JIB Crane/004/2024. Qty :- 2 Nos for Dy. CMM/Malda Town/e-Tender/03.

SN. 3: Tender No. 30/24/1091/OT/209/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 18-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Secondary spring (OUTER) for AC-Chair Car (LWFCZAC & LWSCZAC) hot buffet (LWCBAC), AC 2nd Class Sleeper/EOG (LWACCW), AC 1st Class Sleeper/EOG (LWFAC) as per Drg. No. 1269514 Ver. 2R1 Mat Spec.: RDSO/2017/CG-01 (Rev-2). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 108 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty- 20 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 61 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). iv) Qty- 11 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). v) Qty - 06 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). P.L. No. - 33503060.

SN. 4: Tender No. 40/24/0584/OT/210/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 22-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Set of Return & Fresh Air filter for LHB type AC coaches, conf. to RDSO Spec. no. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0055-2003 (Rev.2) with drg no. RDSO/PE/SK/AC/0073-2004 (Rev-1) and RDSO/PE/SK/AC/0074-2004 (Rev-1) or latest, as per Drg.No. RDSO Spec. no. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0055-2003 (Rev.2) w specn: RDSO Spec. no. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0055-2003 (Rev.2) with drg no. RDSO/PE/SK/AC/0073-2004 (Rev-1) and RD [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 528 Set for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty- 480 Set for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty- 10 Set for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No. - 45210639.

SN. 5: Tender No. 40/24/0555B/OT/211/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 25-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLER FOR ROOF MOUNTED AC PACKAGE UNIT FOR LHB COACHES AS PER RDSO SPECIFICATION NO. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0139 2009 (REV-1) as per Drg No., Nil specn: RDSO SPECIFICATION NO. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0139 2009 (REV-1) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 15 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty- 25 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 45212119.

SN. 6: Tender No. 50/24/0696A/OT/212/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 28-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Shunt LED Signal Lighting unit retrofittable in existing CLS housing Specification: RDSO/SPN/153/2023 Rev. 5.0. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 137 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty- 117 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). iii) Qty - 172 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). iv) Qty- 70 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 56468015.

SN. 7: Tender No. 61/24/5453/OT/213/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 29-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: 10mm thick Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plate for Wider Base PSC Sleepers conforming to RDSO Drg No. T-8747 for use with Wider PSC Sleepers suitable for 52kg and 60kg (UIC) Rails with latest alterations if any as on date of closing of the tender. Specification IRS Specification No. RDSO/M&CR-200/2007 (Provisional) with Amendment No. 1 of 2018 and latest amendment if any as on date of closing of the E-tender. This is a safety item. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty: 1349988 Nos for SSE/P-WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 60110831.

SN. 8: Tender No. 61/24/5416/OT/214/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 28-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Manufacture and supply of PSC Monoblock Concrete sleeper (pretension type) for wider base Bridge Approach sleepers as per RDSO/2019s Drawing No. RT-8971 to 8978 along with latest alteration to suit 60kg UIC Rail and IRS Specification No. T-39 (Sixth revision-March 21) if any [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: CONSG Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0]. i) Qty: 132 Set for SR. DEN/C/Katihar, NFR (Bihar). ii) Qty: 160 Set for DRM/W/Alipurdur Jn., NFR (West Bengal). iii) Qty: 50 Set for Sr. DEN/C/Lumding, NFR (Assam). iv) Qty: 28 Set for CH. OS/G/Engg/Rangiya, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.: 600301610016.

SN. 9: Tender No. 30/24/1471A/OT/215/24-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 28-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Glass unit for emergency window to RCF's drg no. LW-54138, item No-2, Alt-d, or latest. Mat. Spec.-AS PER DRG. RCF's drg.no LW-54138, item No-2, Alt-d. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 1040 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). ii) 1510 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). iii) Qty- 34 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). iv) Qty- 494 Nos for New Bongaigaon Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam). v) Qty- 89 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No.: 33566756

SN. 10: Tender No. 50/24/0696A/OT/216/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 28-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Shunt LED Signal Lighting unit retrofittable in existing CLS housing Specification: RDSO/SPN/153/2023 Rev. 5.0. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. i) Qty- 137 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). ii) Qty- 117 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). iii) 172 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar). iv) Qty- 70 Nos for Dibrugarh Town Workshop Depot, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.: 56468015.

SN. 11: Tender No. 61/24/5454/OT/217/2024-25;
Closing/ Opening Date: 28-11-2024

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Manufacture and supply of 60kg Metal Liners conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T-8748 (Alt1) with latest alterations. Specification IRS T-562020 with latest alterations. The term latest alterations wherever used will mean the alteration up to the actual date of opening of tender. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. Qty- 2312683 Nos for SSE/P-WAY/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. - 60010241.

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

PCMM/ Maligaon



Sensex, Nifty fall for second day amid foreign fund exodus, muted corporate earnings

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Stock markets closed lower for the second straight day on Friday amid relentless foreign fund outflows and losses in blue-chip stocks such as Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India. Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 55.47 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,486.32. During the day, it tanked 424.42 points or 0.53 per cent to 79,117.37. The NSE Nifty dipped 51.15 points or 0.21 per cent to 24,148.20. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank and



IndusInd Bank were the biggest laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Nestle and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional

and the flight of FIIs. The US Fed continued its rate-cutting cycle to stimulate the economy," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo ended in the positive territory. European markets were trading lower. Wall Street ended mostly higher on Thursday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 1.28 per cent to USD 74.66 a barrel. The BSE benchmark tanked 836.34 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 79,541.79 on Thursday. The Nifty dropped 284.70 points or 1.16 per cent to finish at 24,199.35. Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,888.77 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. "Consolidation continued in the market as investors stayed cautious due to disappointment in earnings

Comptroller and Auditor General inaugurates sports complex in Ranchi

PTI ■ RANCHI

Comptroller and Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu on Friday inaugurated a sports complex here and dedicated it to the people of the country. The complex has been constructed for CAG's cricket, football and hockey teams. The CAG has a pool of talented sports persons and its teams play in tournaments against the best teams in the country like that of railways. "Therefore, a dedicated centralised sports facility, where the teams can practice on a regular basis, has been created at Ranchi," a CAG official said. The facility will be solely dedicated to sports promotion where



competitive sports, not recreational, can be held. It will work as a hub for all the outdoor sports disciplines where local players can also practice. Facilities for indoor disciplines like badminton and table tennis are proposed to be taken up in the near future. The recruitment of sports persons under sports quota was resumed in the Indian Audit and

Accounts Department in 2010 with a goal to bring laurels to the Indian Audit & Accounts Department (IA&A) in five disciplines - hockey, cricket, football, badminton and table tennis. Since 2010, the IA&A has recruited 1,493 meritorious sports persons in these five disciplines. As many as 211 sports persons were recruited in 2023.

Swiggy IPO fully subscribed



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer (IPO) of food delivery and quick-commerce major Swiggy got fully subscribed on the third day of the share sale on Friday. The Rs 11,327-crore initial share sale received bids for 40,59,18,888 shares against 16,01,09,703 shares on offer, translating into 2.54 times subscription, as per NSE data till 14:18 hrs on Friday. The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers got subscribed 4.16 times while Retail Individual Investors received 1.03 times subscription. The quota for non-institutional investors fetched 30 per cent subscription. Swiggy on Tuesday said it has collected Rs 5,085 crore from anchor investors. The Bengaluru-based company's IPO has a price range of Rs 371-390 a share. The company's IPO (Initial Public Offer) has a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,499 crore along with an offer for sale of Rs 6,828 crore. The valuation of Swiggy has been pegged at about USD 11.3 billion (about Rs 95,000 crore) at the upper end of the price band. Going by the draft papers, the company plans to utilise proceeds from the fresh issue for investing in technology and cloud infrastructure; brand marketing and business promotion; and debt payment; and funds will also be allocated for inorganic growth and general corporate purposes. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Ltd, JP Morgan India Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd, BofA Securities India Ltd, Jefferies India Pvt Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, and Avendus Capital Pvt Ltd are the book-running lead managers to the offer.

Tata Group-owned IHCL to manage iconic hotel 'The Claridges' in Delhi



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Group-owned Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), the country's largest hospitality firm, has signed a management contract for the landmark hotel 'The Claridges' commencing April 2025, aiming to enhance its presence in key metro cities with iconic assets. The Claridges, an epitome of timeless elegance and contemporary luxury, was built over six decades ago in 1955. This iconic hotel

blends old-world charm with modern sophistication with 119 rooms and suites. "This signing aligns with our growth strategy to enhance IHCL's presence in key metro cities with iconic assets. The Claridges, a distinguished landmark in Lutyens' Delhi, provides a unique opportunity to expand our footprint at the nation's most prestigious address, while also paving the way for potential expansion of our brand-scape by growing The Claridges brand," Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director & CEO, IHCL said. IHCL will manage The Claridges, New Delhi in April 2025 under a hotel operating agreement. Suresh Nanda, Claridges Hotels Pvt Ltd, said, "We are honored to extend our partnership with IHCL, globally renowned and celebrated for its world-class hospitality to jointly grow The Claridges brand. Under IHCL's management, we believe that The Claridges will build on its prestigious legacy."

Rupee falls five paise to hit new all-time low of 84.37 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Declining for the third straight session, the rupee dropped 5 paise to hit a new lifetime low of 84.37 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said the US Federal Reserve's recent decision to cut interest rates signals a shift in the global financial landscape. Moreover, with Donald Trump's tax and trade policies influencing global markets, volatility could re-enter the rupee's trajectory. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.32 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.31 and a low of 84.38. It finally settled at 84.37 (provisional), a loss of 5 paise against its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee slipped 1 paise to close at a fresh lifetime low of 84.32 against the US dollar. In the last three sessions, the local unit has lost 28 paise against the greenback. The rupee hit a record low on account of extending sell-off in the domestic markets and



continuous foreign fund outflows. Overnight gains in crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee, said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. However, the softening of the US Dollar Index cushioned the downside. The dollar softened as the US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by 25 bps in line with street estimates. The Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in his presser that the US economy was strong and some downside risks seemed to have diminished. In its latest monetary policy announcement, the US Fed reduced its benchmark rate by 0.25 basis points to a target range of 4.5 per cent - 4.75 per cent.

In its accompanying statement, the Fed adopted a neutral-to-dovish tone, acknowledging balanced risks in inflation and employment. "We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on overall strength in the US dollar and weak domestic markets. FII outflows may also weigh on the rupee. However, any intervention by the Reserve Bank may support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the Dollar Index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent lower at 104.50. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.10 per cent to USD 74.80 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 55.47 points, or 0.07 per cent, to close at 79,486.32 points, while Nifty declined 51.15 points, or 0.21 per cent, to settle at 24,148.20 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,888.77 crore, according to exchange data.

Reliance Power shares drop 5 pc, hit lower circuit limit

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Reliance Power Ltd fell by 5 per cent on Friday as the company and Reliance NU BESS Ltd have been debarred from participating in Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) tenders for three years for allegedly submitting fake documents. The stock tanked 4.99 per cent to Rs 41.47 - its lower circuit limit - on the BSE. On the NSE, shares of the firm dropped 5 per cent to hit the lowest trading permissible limit for the day at Rs 41.58. In a note, SECI said, "Based on the examination of documents submitted by Maharashtra Energy Generation, now known as Reliance NU BESS (for a project), it was discovered that as per the tender requirements, the endorsement of the Bank Guarantee against EMD (issued by a foreign Bank), as submitted by the Bidder, was fake." The issue is related to the RfS issued by SECI for setting up



1000 MW/2000 MWh Standalone BESS Projects under tariff-based competitive bidding. Since the above discrepancy was discovered subsequent to the e-reverse auction, SECI was constrained to annul the tendering process. SECI said it has debarred Reliance Power and Reliance NU BESS from participating in tenders issued for a period of three years. As per the tender conditions, the above submission of a fake document as part of its response to RfS rendered the bidder eligible for debarment from future tenders issued by SECI.

Ultra-Luxury Projects coming up in Noida

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Noida has emerged as a prime destination for real estate investments in India, driven by rapid development and strategic planning. The city, which is part of the National Capital Region (NCR), has seen significant infrastructural advancements, making it highly attractive for developers and investors alike. Key factors contributing to this growth include improved connectivity, robust urban planning, and government-backed incentives. One of Noida's biggest draws is its connectivity. With easy access to Delhi, Gurgaon, and other NCR cities, along with expanding metro services and proximity to the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar, the city offers unmatched access for businesses and residents. Major highways, such as the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway and the Yamuna Expressway, further enhance its logistical appeal. CRC Group, a prominent real estate developer in India, has unveiled its latest project, CRC Maesta, a high-end residential development in Central Noida with an investment of Rs. 525 crore. Designed by renowned architect Hafeez Contractor, CRC Maesta blends luxury with eco-conscious design, aiming to redefine upscale living in the NCR region.

Chandigarh University emerges as top Indian University, secures 11th position in QS Asia University Rankings 2025

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Shining bright in the firmament of academics, Chandigarh University (CU) has emerged as one of the top universities in Asia, by rising 29 places to achieve the 120th rank among all Asian universities in the coveted QS Asia University Rankings 2025, published by the London-based university ranking organization QS, on Wednesday. Delivering a stellar performance, Chandigarh University has been ranked 1st among all Indian private universities and took a giant leap to secure the 11th position among all public and private universities in India. Chandigarh University has been ranked India's top university based on its remarkable performance in 11 indicators, including employer reputation, international faculty ratio, international research network, international student ratio, academic reputation, faculty student ratio, outbound exchange students, inbound exchange students, papers per faculty, citations per paper and staff with PhD. In academic reputation, CU has jumped 1st place from last year's ranking and secured 13th rank in 2025 (with a score 54.2) as compared to 14th rank in 2024 (with score of 28.6) among all Indian HEIs. CU was accredited with an A+ rating by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), placing it among the top 5 percent universities in India to get NAAC A+ Accreditation. CU also holds accreditation



from the US-based Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), placing it among the top 0.1 percent of Indian universities with accredited engineering programs and accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA). CU offers academic programs in emerging areas such as AI, Blockchain, big data, analytics and fintech, machine learning, virtual reality, IoT, bioinformatics, information & network security, grid computing, structural engineering, geo-technical engineering, transportation engineering, construction technology, environmental engineering, and GIS. Water Resource Engineering, among others, is specially designed by industry giants themselves. In the international faculty ratio, climbing 2 places from 4th rank in 2024 (with a score of 60.4) to secure 2nd rank in 2025 (with a score of 72.4), CU has made a significant improvement in international student ratio

from 3rd place in 2024 to 2nd place in 2025. Similarly, marking a significant improvement in the International Research Network parameter, CU has climbed 21 places from 52nd rank in 2024 (score of 8.7) to 31st rank in 2025 (score of 55.9). Research-intensive and innovation-driven, CU has more than 14,700 research publications to its credit and more than 4,300 patents have been filed in varied domains by the students and faculty members of the varsity. CU has more than 1300 visiting international faculty members, which includes 560 international research network scholars. CU houses 60 centres of research, and more than 3,000 international students from 65 countries study at the varsity. The vast research network of CU is not only restricted to India but also transcends beyond borders; the varsity has established 550 international collaborations with

Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Satnam Singh Sandhu said, "Research and Innovation are the two major cornerstones of academic ethos nurtured here at Chandigarh University. The significant improvement in various performance indicators in QS Asia University Rankings 2025 have placed Chandigarh University among the elite league of higher education institutions in the world. Securing 2nd rank both in International Faculty Ratio and International Students' Ratio speaks volume about CU's resolute commitment to nurture academic ethos that provides international exposure to its students." "Chandigarh University allocates Rs 15 Crores for research projects on an annual basis. The research projects at CU get strengthened by additional 52 Crore of funded research by the government bodies and corporates. The research is conceded at both in the department itself and at University Centre for Research & Development and at the 60 Research centres within the campus," added Sandhu. "Chandigarh University is dedicated to cultivating a culture of innovation and discovery through its research-driven academic approach. With collaborations with renowned universities worldwide, CU offers students unparalleled research internships opportunities in leading brands both in India and abroad.

FICCI HEAL 2024 conference wrapped up subscribed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The 'FICCI HEAL 2024' conference wrapped up after two days of impactful discussions focusing on transforming India's healthcare sector under the theme 'Swasth Bharat, Viksit Bharat'. Attendees included healthcare leaders, policymakers, and innovators, all aiming to enhance the nation's health systems. One of the Sessions highlighted primary healthcare, cancer care for women, and cross-disciplinary healthcare education. A plenary session by (Hony) Brig Dr. Arvind Lal, Chair of FICCI's Swasth Bharat Task Force, emphasised scaling primary healthcare and digitalisation, showcasing a 300 per cent increase in testing capacity at the Sarojini Nagar CHC hub lab since 2021. Key speakers, such as former

Health Secretary Mr. Rajesh Bhushan, addressed infrastructure gaps, while Mr. Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma, Principal Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Health, discussed advances in rural healthcare. NITI Aayog Senior Adviser Mr. Rajib Kumar Sen emphasized quality in healthcare, advocating for private sector collaboration and innovations like AI and telemedicine. The conference spotlighted medical education reforms led by Dr. Vijay Oza of the National Medical Commission and digital health solutions, with Dr. Suchita Markan from ICMR underscoring partnerships for accessible healthcare. Supported by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, FICCI HEAL reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable healthcare reforms, continuing its legacy as India's premier healthcare forum.

LIC to finalise stake buy in health insurance firm in FY25

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Life Insurance Corporation LMD and CEO Siddhartha Mohanty on Friday said the state-owned company will take a call on buying a stake in a standalone health insurer in the current financial year. "The ground work is going on search for suitable health insurance company is going on we will finalise stake within this financial year," he said during post result media conference. Asked about the quantum of stake LIC will have in health insurance company, he said it

would depend on various factors, including valuation. Once all the groundworks are done, he said, LIC would approach the board for its approval to foray into the health insurance segment. In February 2024, a parliamentary committee recommended the implementation of composite insurance licenses to reduce expenses and regulatory burdens for insurance providers. At present, life insurance companies are restricted to offering extended health insurance benefits.

Marking 50 Years of Artistic Expression

Geeta Chandran is a true icon of Bharatanatyam, celebrating fifty years of remarkable contributions to this classical dance. At a recent festival in New Delhi, her legacy shone brightly, showcasing her innovative spirit and deep passion for the art, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**



Photos: Pankaj Kumar

In the world of Indian classical dance, few names resonate with the passion and innovation of Geeta Chandran. As she marks her 50th year of performing Bharatanatyam, her influence goes beyond the mastery of movement, it's a legacy of reimagining and rejuvenating an ancient art form for the contemporary stage. Celebrated with a two-day festival at New Delhi's Kamani Auditorium, Chandran's golden jubilee was a journey that began with her Arangetram at age 12 and has flourished through decades of performance, teaching and cultural advocacy. Organised by Natya Vriksha, her beloved dance institution, the event became a dynamic expression of Bharatanatyam's enduring power, where tradition met innovation and art met life.

DAY ONE: PRAVAHATI — THE FORWARD FORCE

The first day's performance, titled Pravahati, was both meditative and exhilarating. Having seen Geeta Chandran perform numerous times, Pravahati offered something deeply personal and expansive - it was as though the dance itself became a vessel of her mastery and message. The programme began with an evocative Mallari in praise of Shiva, drawing the audience into a space of contemplation as Chandran and her collective invoked the deity through precise footwork, graceful arms and powerful expressions. The performance felt timeless, a moment where past and present intertwined. The journey continued with Varsha

Ritu, where Chandran brought to life Kalidasa's monsoon verses from Ritusamhara. It was a celebration of Bharatanatyam's storytelling power, capturing both the gentleness and force of nature. Watching her, it was as though each movement held a mirror to nature's dance, immersing us fully in its changing rhythms.

Then came Vahati, a piece that celebrated tradition as a dynamic, flowing stream, one that carries the past forward while moving into the future. Chandran's steps seemed to reimagine Bharatanatyam, presenting it as a continuously evolving art. This piece struck a powerful chord, a reminder that Bharatanatyam is not static but ever relevant. Finally, the evening closed with an exuberant Tillana, which radiated pure joy and the applause stayed long after she took her bow.

Throughout, Pravahati felt like more than a dance performance. It was a powerful statement on the evolving nature of art and the artist's role in pushing the boundaries of tradition. Chandran's words echoed through the performance: "Dance, much like life, should not be limited by tradition; it must evolve and be reinterpreted through the artist's unique perspective."

DAY TWO: A SOLO PERFORMANCE BY VIDUSHI GEETA CHANDRAN

The second day offered a more intimate experience with a solo performance by Chandran herself. Accompanied by an ensemble of musicians, Varun Rajasekharan on Nattuvangam, Smt. Sudha Raghuraman on vocals, Manohar Balachandirane



on mridangam, G. Raghavendra Prasath on violin and G. Raghuraman on flute, she brought Bharatanatyam's most intricate expressions to life. Each musician's skill beautifully complemented her dance, amplifying the emotion and story she conveyed.

In these solo pieces, Chandran laid bare the depth of her devotion to Bharatanatyam. The abhinaya or expressive storytelling, was stunning, transforming familiar narratives into powerful, moving moments. In one piece, she portrayed a waiting heroine and her portrayal struck a delicate balance between anticipation and longing, vividly capturing the subtle tension between presence and absence. Her gestures and expressions spoke of a deep connection to the emotions within the dance, giving the audience an experience that went beyond mere observation.

After the performance, Chandran spoke about her journey, saying, "As I approach this milestone of completing five decades of dancing since my Arangetram, I pay tribute to my Gurus who shared this invaluable art with me, and also gave me the freedom to question and reinterpret it." These words reflected her approach to Bharatanatyam: a constant, respectful re-exploration of tradition that brings new life into ancient forms.

GEETA CHANDRAN'S IMPACT ON BHARATANATYAM GOES WELL BEYOND HER DAZZLING PERFORMANCES. AS THE FOUNDER-PRESIDENT OF NATYA VRIKSHA, SHE HAS CREATED A STRONG CONNECTION BETWEEN DANCE AND SOCIAL CAUSES, EDUCATION, AND CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS

GEETA CHANDRAN'S LEGACY: MORE THAN JUST DANCE

Geeta Chandran's impact on Bharatanatyam goes well beyond her dazzling performances.

As the Founder-President of Natya Vriksha, she has created a strong connection between dance and social causes, education, and cultural conversations. Her commitment to nurturing young talent and engaging with diverse communities is evident in her outreach programmes. Chandran's numerous accolades, such as the Padma Shri and the Central Sangeet Natak Akademi Award speak volumes about her standing in the classical dance community.

Yet, for those fortunate enough to witness her anniversary celebration, her most significant achievement lies in her ability to breathe life into Bharatanatyam, ensuring it remains not just relevant but profoundly impactful. Her performances are not just technical showcases; they are deeply immersive experiences that offer insights into the human condition.

As the curtains fell on her 50th-anniversary celebration, the audience erupted in applause, many visibly moved by her lifelong dedication to this art form. This event was not just a milestone; it was a tribute to a life defined by resilience, passion and grace. Geeta Chandran is more than a dancer or teacher; she is a torchbearer, lighting the way forward while remaining deeply connected to the essence of Bharatanatyam. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future generations to explore, honour and expand the possibilities of this beautiful, enduring art.



The Four: The Legacy of Innovation and Expression

The art exhibition, 'The Four' is the living tribute to the legacy of the masters of modern Indian art, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

The art galleries escalate your thoughts when you see artists painting their thoughts in the liveliest way possible. All the canvases depict a different story, a different world of emotions, and a different language. The same canvases are interpreted by the viewers in their own way, their own thoughts and that's the beauty of art. The art communicates without words, leading people to find words in patterns and strokes. 'The Four' exhibition presented by the Progressive Art Gallery in collaboration with The Raza Foundation celebrated the birth centenary of four icons of modern Indian art.

The Four exhibitions was the celebration of all the four legendary artists namely, Francis Newton Souza, K. G. Subramanyan, Ram Kumar, and Vasudev S. Gaitonde. The guests explored the historic and remarkable legacy of the four artists. The common ground of all the celebrated artists is that they were all born in 1924. The exhibition is opened at Triveni Kala Sangam, New Delhi commemorating the 100 years since the birth of these modern masters. The Goan artist, Francis Newton Souza oil on canvas paintings Still Life, Profile of a Man are an exemplary notion that



drew people to his distinctive style evolved into a more expressive and abstract approach, using vibrant colours and bold

brushstrokes. Being in name for exploration of human figures, often depicted in a raw and unfiltered manner, F.N. Souza's painting Profile of a Man is an example of the same. Souza's style was characterised by strong lines, distorted forms and a dark

palette, which he used to explore human emotion, social hypocrisy and religious paradoxes. K.G. Subramanyan known for his polymorphic works made in diverse media ranging from paintings, water colours and reverse painting on glass to murals

is showcased in his work of Ragini Vibhas and Peacock Throne displayed at the Progressive Art Gallery. Inspired through his travels from Varanasi, Ram Kumar depicts human figures to capture the inner essence and spirituality

of landscapes. The untitled paintings of Kumar are an example of the same. The fourth but not the least V.S. Gaitonde's

paintings assume no shape and form and evoke nothing other than themselves and beautiful patterns. He represents a dynamic force in modern Indian painting, capturing the essence of an independent nation and its cultural awakening. The show is curated by art historian Yashodhara Dalmia, and was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. Philipp Ackermann, Ambassador of Germany to India. It is on public view till November 10, 2024. Together the birth centenary of these four artistry icons is all about diverse thoughts and mindful thinking. 'The Four' exhibition honours these artists but also celebrates the strength and originality of Indian art over the past century.

Ageing Kohli, Rohit must rekindle youthful mindset to rediscover lost glory: Greg Chappell

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

As Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma prepare for one of their career's defining challenges in Australia in the upcoming Test series, former India head coach Greg Chappell believes the two stalwarts can "rekindle" the energy and focus of their youth to rediscover their lost glory.

Wounded by an unprecedented 0-3 home series defeat to New Zealand, India will look to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the marquee five-match Test series in Australia beginning on November 22.

According to Chappell, the ageing Sharma and Kohli must summon the same drive and focus that once marked their prime years if India hopes to reclaim its form on foreign soil.

Reflecting on a conversation with Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar in 2005, Chappell shared insights into the hurdles players face as they age.

Tendulkar had sought Chappell's perspective and asked "Greg, why does batting become harder as you get older? Surely it should get easier?"

"I explained to him that the mental demands of batting intensify with age," Chappell wrote in a column for 'Sydney Morning Herald'.

"Batting gets harder because you realise how hard it is to make runs at this level and how difficult it is to maintain the mental focus that is



required to be successful," the Australian batting legend wrote.

He said "it's not the eyesight or the reflexes that drop off" when a players starts ageing but "it's the intense focus that is required that becomes harder to sustain."

"When one is younger, the mind is focused on making runs.

As you age, the opposition has put work into finding your weaknesses, and you are more aware of the conditions and the situation of the game.

"As a young player, you don't worry about the conditions or the situation of the game, you only see the ball and how to make runs," Chappell wrote, describing Rohit, Kohli and Australian batting stalwart Steve Smith as the "giants" of current times.

"If you want to play like you did as a younger player, you have to rekindle the attitude and the thought processes that you had as a younger player. That is the greatest challenge for the ageing player," Chappell had explained to Tendulkar.

Chappell said the upcoming five-match Test series in Australia "will be as much a battle of wits and endurance as it will be of skill, with each player needing to summon the drive and adaptability of their younger selves."

"This sentiment captures what Sharma, Kohli and (Steve) Smith will confront this series. They know that opposition teams have scrutinised their techniques, studied their weaknesses and developed strategies specifically to exploit even minor chinks." Against New Zealand, Kohli endured his lowest-ever aggregate in a home Test series where he batted at least six times, scoring only 93 runs at an average of 15.50, with one half-century.

This poor run has lowered his Test average to 47.83 from a peak of 55.10 in October 2019 -- the first time it has dipped below 48 since November 2016.

He has dropped out of top-20 batters in ICC Test rankings

for the first time in a decade. Kohli dropped eight spots to 22nd in the rankings while Rohit slipped to 26th.

"For Kohli, the task is one of rejuvenation. Known for his unmatched intensity, passion and high standards, Kohli's recent travails will have annoyed him," Chappell wrote.

"The aggressive mindset that propelled him to greatness must now coexist with patience and focus.

He enters this series hungry to reiterate his authority as India's most formidable batsman of his generation."

For Rohit, according to Chappell, the challenge lies in balancing his aggressive instincts with the calculated caution that Test cricket demands.

"As captain, he must maintain his own form while shouldering the pressure of leadership -- a delicate balance he'll need to master if India is to thrive."

"This Test series, then, is more than just another chapter in cricket; it is a testament to the challenges that father time presents to even the most skilled players.

"Each player is more than a celebrated cricketer; they are icons of the determination and skill that defines our game. This series will be a defining chapter in their legacies."

"For Sharma, Kohli, and (Steve) Smith, the true battle is not against their opponents but against time itself," Chappell wrote.

KL Rahul's horror run continues as India A suffer another top-order collapse



PTI ■ MELBOURNE

KL Rahul's horror run continued as he got out in a bizarre fashion to leave India A at a shaky 73 for five on the second day of the second unofficial Test against Australia A here on Friday.

Seeking to open the batting for India in case skipper Rohit Sharma skips the first Test against Australia in Perth, Rahul endured a disastrous outing in the tune-up to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and managed just 14 runs across two innings, having got out for 10 in India A's second innings.

Abhimanyu Easwaran's struggles against the moving ball also did not help India A's cause as they led by only 11 runs with half the side back in the dressing room in their second innings.

After bowling out India A for 161 on the opening day, Australia A managed 223, not a total the home team had hoped for, but it still gave them a substantial first-innings lead of 62 runs.

Coming out to bat for the second time in the game, the Indian top-order disappointed again as the Australian bowlers struck some vital blows to help their team inch closer to a series sweep.

Australia A won the opening match by seven wickets. Looking completely out of sorts, Rahul was bowled in a bizarre fashion after facing 44 balls at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Rahul misjudged a tossed up delivery and offered no shot as the ball ricocheted off his pads to hit the stumps, leaving the batter embarrassed while he walked back to the dressing room.

Getting bowled between the legs has compounded his woes ahead of the blockbuster series.

Abhimanyu, who was picked as a backup opener for the upcoming five-match rubber

Down Under, also failed to deliver, following his first-innings duck with a 17 from 31 balls.

The Indian top-order struggled against quality spin and pace, leaving them at 56/5 early in the second innings.

Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel (19 batting) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (9 batting) ensured there was no further setback by negotiating the remaining overs before the stumps were drawn for the day.

Earlier, India A's pace attack, spearheaded by Prasidh Krishna's four-wicket burst and Mukesh Kumar's three-wicket haul, dominated the Australian batting, dismissing them for 223 in 62.1 overs.

Marcus Harris was the standout batter for Australia A, scoring a gritty 74 off 138 balls, while lower-order batter Rochchiccoli provided late fireworks, hitting 35 off 28 balls, including two sixes and three fours.

In response, India A lost openers Abhimanyu and Sai Sudharsan cheaply to disciplined bowling from Nathan McAndrew and Beau Webster.

Abhimanyu's misreading of McAndrew's pace led to his dismissal at gully, adding to the team's concerns.

Devdutt Padikkal (1) also fell cheaply, as both Webster (2/14) and McAndrew (2/22) tore through India's batting lineup.

However, Jurel and Reddy then held firm.

Resuming the day on 53/2, Harris translated his overnight score of 26 into a well-constructed innings, showing resilience against a sharp Indian pace attack.

Brief Scores: India A 161 and 73/5 in 31 overs (Dhruv Jurel 19 batting; Nathan McAndrew 2/22, Beau Webster 2/14). Australia A 1st innings: 223 all out in 62.1 (Marcus Harris 74; Prasidh Krishna 4/50, Mukesh Kumar 3/41, Khaleel Ahmed 2/56).

Kiran George enters semifinals of Korea Masters



PTI ■ IKSAN CITY (KOREA)

India's Kiran George continued his spectacular run in the Korea Masters badminton tournament as he stormed into the men's singles semifinals with a straight-game win over fifth seed Takuma Obayashi of Japan here on Friday.

The 24-year-old, ranked 41st, beat world number 34 Obayashi 21-14 21-16 in just 39 minutes to register yet another upset win in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event.

George runs into Thailand's top seed and world number five Kunlavut Vitidsarn -- who won 21-15 21-11 against Liu Liang of China -- in the semifinals on Saturday.

The Indian had beaten third seed Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals.

George, the lone Indian shuttler competing in the tournament, was in control of the match throughout. After 1-1 scoreline, he was always in the lead in the first game.

When George zoomed to 15-6 lead, Obayashi made a brief resistance, closing down the gap to 12-16. But that was all the Japanese could do as George notched four straight points to take the first game.

The second game was a much closer affair as the duo breathed down each other's neck.

George was initially 7-3 ahead but Obayashi fought back to make it 8-8. After that, it was a neck-and-neck contest. But from 17-16, George grabbed four straight points to seal the second game and the match.

Rauf and Ayub star in Pakistan's resounding nine wicket win over Australia

AP ■ ADELAIDE (AUSTRALIA)

Fast bowler Haris Rauf took 5-29 and Saim Ayub scored 82 runs as Pakistan defeated Australia by nine wickets in the second one-day international on Friday.

Australia was 163 all out in 35 overs against Rauf's relentless pace and left-hander Ayub smashed six sixes and five fours as Pakistan cruised to 169-1 in 26.3 overs to level the three-match series.

Former captain Babar Azam (15 not out) clinched the victory with a pulled six off Adam Zampa with Abdullah Shafique staying unbeaten on better than run-a-ball 64 which featured four boundaries and three sixes.

The series decider will be played at Perth on Sunday with Australia resting five frontline players to prepare for the five-match home test series against India, starting from Nov. 22 at Perth.

The opening pair of Ayub and Shafique had been criticized for run of low scores in test matches, but both blunted the Australian pace with a match-winning stand of 137 runs after Pakistan kept faith on the duo in the white-ball format.

Ayub took his time against Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc before he grew in confidence and flicked Pat Cummins, Starc and Aaron Hardie for sixes and also smashed



Zampa for two big hits.

The left-hander, who made his ODI debut at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Monday, got a reprieve just before reaching a half century when Zampa dropped a sitter at third man, but he offered a tame catch at short third man just when he looked set for a century.

Earlier, Rauf, who nearly pulled off a victory for Pakistan in the first game, found the outside edges of the bats consistently by hitting the right lengths.

Captain Mohammad Rizwan took five catches -- four off Rauf's bowling -- and could have had a sixth had he not dropped a top-edge off Zampa (18) before Australia was dismissed after Pakistan won the toss and elected to field on a lively Adelaide wicket.

Shaheen Shah Afridi (3-26) provided the breakthrough inside the first power play.

Jake Fraser-McGurk hit three crisp boundaries on the off side in Naseem Shah's first over to get Australia rolling before Afridi's twin strike pushed back Australia.

Afridi dropped Matt Short at deep fine leg when the ball burst through his hands to the boundary but the left-arm fast bowler made amends when he had Short caught at covers after trapping Fraser-McGurk plumb leg before wicket.

Afridi ended Australia's below-par innings when Zampa played a full ball back onto his stumps. Zampa flicked Naseem Shah for a six and a four in an over which enabled the home team to cross the 150-run mark.

Rauf sliced through the middle-order with only Steve Smith scoring 35 off 48 balls before he too chased a wide short ball of Mohammad Hasnain and edged behind the wicket.

Man United ends winless run in Europe and Osimhen scores two as Galatasaray beats Tottenham

AP ■ MANCHESTER (ENGLAND)

Manchester United secured its first win in Europe for more than a year by beating PAOK 2-0 in the Europa League. Two second-half goals from Amad Diallo sealed the victory at Old Trafford on Thursday and boosted United's hopes of progressing in the competition, while Tottenham's 100% start was ended by a 3-2 loss at Galatasaray.

United's last win in Europe was against Copenhagen in the Champions League on Oct. 24 last year.

"We addressed that in the dressing room and it was time to change that, so we did," United interim head coach Ruud van Nistelrooy said.

Diallo's looping header beat PAOK goalkeeper Dominik Kotarski in the 50th minute and he followed that up with a deflected shot from outside the area that nestled into the bottom corner in the 77th.

Earlier, Victor Osimhen scored twice in eight minutes to help Galatasaray beat Tottenham 3-2 in Turkey.

Osimhen scored his first goal in Europe for Galatasaray after his transfer from Napoli with a precise low shot inside the right post to give the host a 2-1 lead in the 31st minute and added his second eight minutes later by heading home a curled cross from the right by Dries Mertens. It was Tottenham's first loss in the competition after three wins. Galatasaray remains unbeaten with three wins and a draw.

Every game on Thursday was preceded by a moment of silence to honor the victims of the devastating flooding in Spain. In Istanbul, Yunus Akgün put Galatasaray ahead in the sixth minute when Spurs failed to properly clear a free kick by Mertens and the midfielder volleyed home from outside the area past goalkeeper Fraser Forster.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-I, MALKANGIRI
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-Procurement
2nd Corrigendum to
Online Tender 02/RWD-LMKG/2024-25 dt.09.10.2024
In Partial modification to this office tender call notice Online Tender 02/RWD-LMKG/2024-25 dt.09.10.2024 availability of Tender on-line for bidding have been rescheduled as follows

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No of Works	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of tender
			From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	30.11.2024 upto 5.00P.M.	Tech Bid opening: - 03.12.2024 at 11.00 AM
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division-I, Malkangiri	Online Tender-01/ RWD-LMKG /2024-25	Total 54 nos (single cover)	20.11.2024 from 11.00 AM	02.12.2024 up to 5.00PM		

All other terms and conditions are remained unchanged.
Superintending Engineer R.W.Division-I, Malkangiri
OIPR-2658/11/0002/2425

Government of Odisha
Office of the Panchayat Samiti, Tileibani
Dist-Deogarh. E-Mail: ori-tileibani@nic.in
Identification No :- BDOTileibani/ 02 /2024-25

- Type of works : Construction of Additional classroom at Govt Upper primary school , Kurad
- Total No. of Work : (01) No.
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 11,73,495.00
- Class Contractor : "C & D" Class
- Period of Completion : 6(Six) calendar months
- Date of Bidding : 08.11.2024 at 10.00 a.m to 18.11.2024 at 1.00 p.m
- Last Date of receipt Bid Documents : 18.11.2024 upto 1.00 PM
- Date & Time of opening of tender : 19.11.2024 at 11.00 AM

Bid documents consisting of specification & schedule of quantities (BOQ) and the set of terms and conditions of contract (DTCN) along with other necessary documents can be obtained/download from district NIC website <https://deogarh.odisha.gov.in/> and Sealed Bids must be enclosed with appropriate cost in shape of a non-refundable Demand Draft of Rs.6000/- (Six thousand only) for the work, separately issued from any scheduled bank payable at Tileibani in favour of Block Development Officer, Tileibani. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

Block Development Officer
Tileibani

OIPR-19114/11/0002/2425

OFFICE OF THE PURI MUNICIPALITY, PURI
Letter No. 9230 Dated. 07.11.24 Mail ID: Purim.hud@nic.in
Purim.hud@gmail.com

Tender Call Notice For "Supply of 35 nos of Door to Door Waste Collection
Compartmentalized LCV Vehicles including Drivers & Loaders on Hiring
Basis For Puri Municipality"

Puri Municipality invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for "Supply of 35 nos of Door to Door Waste Collection Compartmentalized LCV Vehicles including Drivers & Loaders on Hiring Basis For Puri Municipality". The details terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website www.purimunicipality.nic.in & www.puri.odisha.gov.in. The detail Technical & Financial proposal in conformity with the terms and conditions of the RFP documents shall be submitted to the office of the Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri on or before **28.11.2024 at 05.00 PM** through speed post/Regd. Post only. The Technical bids will be opened on dt: **29.11.2024 at 12 PM** in the office chamber of the Executive Officer, Puri Municipality, Puri.

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Executive Officer,
Puri Municipality, Puri

OIPR-13158/11/0029/2425

Email:- rw_dhiamagarh@yahoo.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, DHARMAGARH
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. DMGH/Online-06 of 2024-25 Dates: 07.11.2024
"e" **PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimate Cost, Cost of tender Paper, Bid Security, Time of Completion, Class of Contractor and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e www.tendersorissa.gov.in

- Name of the Work : Road works in the District of Kalahandi as mentioned in DTCN
- Total No of Works : 20 Nos.
- Estimated Cost: : Rs.8.40 lakhs to 42.01 lakhs
- Period of Completion: : 01 Calendar Month

5. Other Details:

Availability of Tender online for bidding	Last date & time seeking tender clarification	Date & time of Opening of tender
From 13.11.2024 At 10.00 AM To 21.11.2024 Up to 5.00 PM	20.11.2024 Up to 5.00 PM	22.11.2024 At 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division
Dharmagarh

OIPR-25100/11/0009/2425