



the pioneer

Established 1865



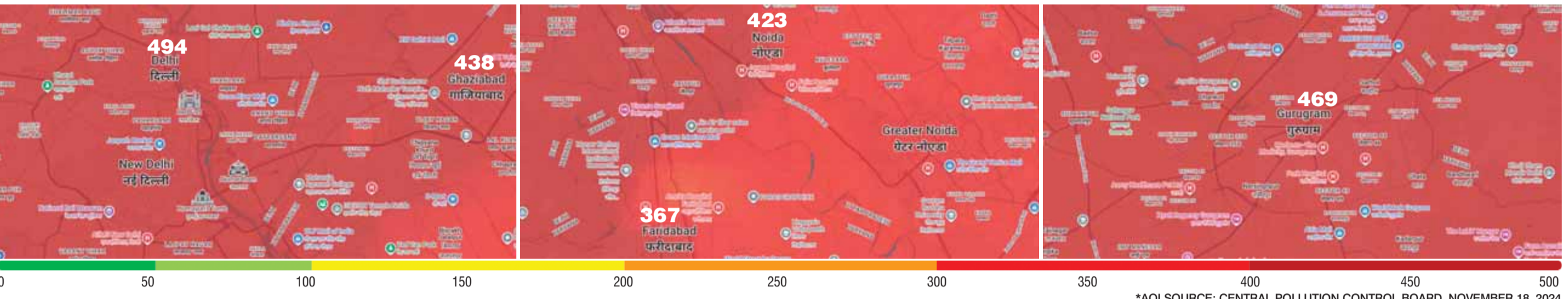
InSIDE

WORLD 8
BIDEN AUTHORISES UKRAINE TO
USE US MISSILES FOR STRIKES
INSIDE RUSSIA

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA



*AQI SOURCE: CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

What is the real AQI?

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI
Confusion prevails over the accuracy of the Air Quality Index (AQI) as Delhiites gasp for breath. While the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on Monday recorded the Delhi AQI at 486 at 6 am marking the worst of the season, another platform, IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company, showed Delhi's AQI around 1,697 at 12.30 pm. It recorded 2,314 AQI at Vivek Vihar C block station, which is beyond severe, in the National Capital. An official statement issued by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) which comes under the Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena also cited the AQI at 1000. According to IQAir, the National Capital ranked at the top of the list of most polluted cities in the world. The PM2.5 concentration is recorded at 907.5 µg/m that is 182.5 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value. Another platform, AQICN.Org, shared real time data that showed AQI at 874 in the hazardous category. The India Meteorological Department has issued an Orange Alert due to dense fog in the city. With the city shrouded in dense fog and visibility severely reduced, flight and train operations have been disrupted, leading to delays. As several platforms showing AQI at

hazardous levels beyond the severe, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issued a communiqué urging to refer only to the SAMEER App or the CPCB Official Website for accurate and reliable data. "These are the authorised platforms for relaying the air quality index. Please avoid relying on unofficial or unreliable sources to ensure that correct information is alone disseminated to the public," it added. The Air Quality Index, is a numerical scale that measures certain pollutants and their concentration to communicate the quality of air in a specific area. It also provides information on how these numbers can affect human health and the environment. When asked officials say some platforms, like IQAir, provide real-time data, while others, like the CPCB, provide a single reading for a day. One of the reasons why the data collected by different platforms is varied is due to access to air quality monitoring stations. Since IQAir is an aggregator, it uses information from government-run sensors, which are also used by the CPCB. It also uses privately operated sensors, which may provide more localised readings. Platforms such as IQAir update the AQI of a city and its different regions much faster with real-time data, while the CPCB gives one reading which applies to the region for a day.

Enforce GRAP IV strictly: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Noting the alarming rise in population and delays in implementation of stricter measures, the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday asked the Delhi-NCR States to immediately set up teams to enforce GRAP 4 restrictions, and said it will remain in effect even if the AQI is below 450. The SC also ordered that physical classes for all school students up to Class 12 be suspended in Delhi NCR for the time being. A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said it is the constitutional duty of all States to ensure all citizens live in a pollution-free environment. "We direct restrictions under stage 4 of GRAP to continue even if AQI level falls below 450," the Bench said. The Supreme Court asked all National Capital Region States to immediately take a call on conducting physical classes up to Class 12 and directed the setting up of a mechanism where complaints can be made for violation of restrictions under stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The Bench questioned the Delhi Government and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) over the delay in invoking pollution preventive measures under GRAP stages. "GRAP stages should be implemented



immediately the moment the AQI level touches alarming levels. Some sense of urgency needs to be there," the Bench said, after the counsel for the Delhi Government informed the Bench that stage 4 of GRAP has been implemented from Monday and heavy vehicles have been banned from entering the national Capital. "The moment the AQI reaches between 300 and 400, stage 4 has to be invoked. How can you take risk in these matters by delaying applicability of stage 4 of GRAP," the Bench told the counsel. The Judges said that the CAQM waited for improvement in weather conditions instead of implementing different stages of GRAP over alarming rising pollution levels. Asking the Delhi Government and neighbouring NCR States - Uttar Pradesh and Haryana - to file their compliance affidavit by November 22 on the implementation of preventive measures to check pollution, the Bench said steps may be taken besides those suggested under GRAP.

Delhi facing medical emergency: CM Atishi

RAJESH KUMAR/SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Monday raised an alarm over the severe air pollution engulfing a large swathe of North India, describing the situation as a "medical emergency" caused by rampant stubble burning in several "Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled" states. Experts have advised citizens to reduce outdoor activities, minimise exposure, wear N95 masks when outside, and decrease vehicular emissions, to minimise the impact of pollution in their day-to-day lives. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning for dense to very dense fog, saying road, train and flight services may get affected. Fifteen flights were diverted, and around 200 were delayed at the Delhi airport on Monday as visibility reduces to 150 metres due to unfavourable weather conditions in the National Capital. Flight operations in Delhi faced disruptions on Monday as thick smog reduced visibility significantly at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA). According to Flightradar24, over 200 flights, 118 departures and 43 arrivals, at Delhi Airport experienced delays due to the low visibility till 8.30 am. More than 100 flights have been rescheduled. Out of the 15 flights, 13 were diverted to Jaipur and 1 to Dehradun, the official



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

said and added that the diversions happened between 8.30 am and 3 pm. Some of the pilots were not trained for CAT III operations due to which flights had to be diverted. Complying with the measures enforced under GRAP Stage IV, the Delhi traffic police imposed a total of 4,852 challans and 4,472 challans on the non-possession of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificates on November 15 and 17 respectively. It also imposed 138 and 155 challans on End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) on November 15 and 17 respectively. The police also diverted 423 non-destined trucks on November 15 while the numbers were higher for November 17 as 545 such trucks were diverted in Delhi. In adherence to the measures, the police also imposed challans on 514 Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) (BS III petrol and BS IV diesel) on November 15. The numbers rose about 100 per cent on November 17 as 1,130 such LMVs were issued challans.

OPHWC DGM Panda under Vig scanner

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Vigilance police on Monday conducted raids at four places associated with Subhash Chandra Panda, Deputy General Manager (DGM) of the Odisha Police Housing & Welfare Corporation's (OPHWC) Brahmapur Division, on the charge of amassing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income and unearthed properties to the tune of crores of rupees.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The locations of raids included his residences in Bhubaneswar, specifically in Aiginia and Mancheswar. Additionally, a rented property in Kharavela Nagar, Brahmapur, came also under scrutiny along with his office, also in Brahmapur. Vigilance teams consisting of five DSPs, seven Inspectors and other supporting staffs raided the following four locations simultaneously in Bhubaneswar and Brahmapur: Panda's residential house at Mahadev Vihar, Shankarpur, Aiginia, under Bharatpur PS, Bhubaneswar His paternal house at village Barimunda, Ramagarh Sahi, PS: Mancheswar, Bhubaneswar Rented house at Kharavela Nagar, Brahmapur His office at Medical Bank Colony, Brahmapur.



MHA rushes 5,000 paramilitary troops to Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI / IMPHAL
Union Home Ministry on Monday rushed 5,000 paramilitary troops to Manipur to assist the State Government in handling the current volatile situation. While 35 units will be drawn from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the rest will be from the Border Security Force (BSF). Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the prevailing security situation and deployment of troops for the second consecutive day and directed top officials to focus on restoring peace and order there as early as possible. A total of 218 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies are now present in the State, which has been reeling from ethnic strife since May last year. The Home Minister took stock of the deployment of central forces there and directed the officials to restore peace and order there as early as possible, said officials. The situation in the Northeastern state, which has been reeling from ethnic strife since May last year, has been volatile following protests and violence after the recovery of bodies of women and



Assam Rifles officers at Laliohphai in Churachandpur district, Manipur PTI

children. Meanwhile, in Imphal, defying curfew orders, a group of people led by members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) on Monday locked the front doors of several government offices in Imphal West district to protest the recent killing of three women and three children in Jiribam, officials said. The COCOMI is an influential organisation of the Meitei community, the majority ethnic group in the Imphal Valley region that comprises five districts including Imphal West.

Kamakhyanager Sub-Collector in Vig net

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Vigilance police on Monday conducted simultaneous raids at 10 places linked to Narayan Chandra Nayak, Sub-Collector of Kamakhyanager, Dhenkanal district, on the charge of amassing properties disproportionate to his known sources of income. Several teams of the anti-corruption agency carried out simultaneous raids on the properties of Nayak on the strength of search warrants issued by Special Judge, Vigi-

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Kuansa, Bhadrak A double-storied building under construction at Gelpur, Bhadrak Office chamber of Nayak Government quarter at Kamakhyanager Paternal house at village Kapagaria, Basudevpur, dist-Bhadrak House of a relative located at village Barunai, dist-Bhadrak House of his associate at Joragadia, Bhandaripokhari, Bhadrak House of another associate at village Dhalpur, Rairangpur, dist-Mayurbhanj.



Med science and empathy AIIMS docs save youth from verge of death

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Heart starts beating after 120 minutes
In a ground-breaking display of medical excellence and compassion, the team at AIIMS Bhubaneswar has achieved a miraculous feat by saving the life of a 24-year-old man through the advanced Extracorporeal Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (eCPR) procedure. The eCPR procedure brought back the life of the young man even after his heart stopped beating for nearly 1.5 hours. This initiative in Odisha exemplifies the power of innovation in medicine and the commitment of healthcare professionals. AIIMS Bhubaneswar Executive Director Dr Ashutosh Biswas commended the team's exceptional efforts. The young patient had been referred to the AIIMS on October 1, 2024. Shortly after arrival, he suffered a cardiac arrest. Despite 40 minutes of conventional CPR, there was no cardiac activity, leading to a decision point: to declare death or attempt the cutting-edge eCPR procedure. Led by Dr Srikanth Behera, Intensivist and Adult ECMO specialist, the team initiated Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) after 80 minutes of cardiac arrest. Through 40 minutes of eCPR, the patient's heart finally resumed beating, albeit with an irregular rhythm. Over the next 30 hours, the heart function improved significantly, and the patient was successfully weaned off ECMO after 96 hours.



'One Earth One Family One Future' theme still relevant: PM Modi

PTI ■ RIO DE JANEIRO
The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts and G20 must focus on addressing it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday. In an address at a session at the G20 summit, Modi said India's G20 theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" is as relevant at the ongoing summit as it was last year. "I would like to say that countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts," he said. "So our discussions can only be successful when we keep in mind the challenges and priorities of the Global South," he added. The PM made the remarks at the G20 session on 'Social Inclusion and the Fight Against Hunger and Poverty'. Modi also called for reform of the institutions of global governance. "And just as we amplified the voice of the Global South by granting permanent membership of G20 to the African Union during the New Delhi summit, we will reform institutions of global governance," he said. The PM said India supports Brazil's initiative for a global alliance against hunger and poverty. "The people-centric decisions taken at the G20



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva upon his arrival to attend the G20 Summit, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil PTI

CM Majhi meets Singapore Deputy PM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday met Singapore's senior Minister of State, Foreign Affairs Ms Sim Ann. During the discussion, both the leaders expressed their intent to boost ties in trade, culture and strategy between

Odisha and Singapore. They focussed on heritage, tourism and people-to-people partnerships. Majhi was keen on Odisha to adopt Singapore's green and smart city solutions. It was decided to make joint efforts in green energy, technology and industries. Both the leaders converged on the need to collaborate on climate, digital growth and sustainable futures. Earlier in the day, a delega-



tion led by the Chief Minister toured the Surbana Jurong Petrochemicals Complex in Singapore, where the delegation saw the world-class infrastructure that has made Surbana Jurong, a global leader in petrochemicals processing. This visit is particularly significant as Odisha is fast emerging as a key investment

destination in the Bay of Bengal region for petrochemicals and chemicals. By leveraging insights from Singapore's petrochemicals ecosystem, Odisha aims to further enhance its own Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Paradip. Following their visit to Jurong, the delegation attended the first G2G meeting with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim

Yong. During the meeting, the CM extended an invitation to Singaporean companies through the Deputy Prime Minister's Office to explore opportunities in Odisha and assured him a smooth and supportive investment experience. Majhi also invited the Deputy Prime Minister to visit to Odisha for the Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025.

Summit in New Delhi have been taken forward during Brazil's Presidency," he said. "It is a matter of great satisfaction that we prioritised SDG (sustainable development goals). We focused on Inclusive development, women-led development, and youth power," he said. "And gave wings to the hopes and aspirations of the Global South. It is clear that One Earth One Family One Future is as relevant at this summit as it was last year," he added. The theme of India's G20 presidency is drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text of Maha Upanishad.

Ex-Prof faces ostracism for son's inter-caste marriage

PNS ■ BALANGIR
A retired professor has been allegedly socially ostracised because his son married someone from a different caste in Puintala of Balangir district.
Prof Manmohan Sai, who was the Principal at Patnagarh Jawaharlal College, now finds himself leading a solitary life as the villagers distance themselves from him due to his son Soumyaranjan's marriage to a Marathi woman.
Soumyaranjan is an engineer and currently working in Bengaluru.
"A meeting was held in the village and I was questioned regarding my son's marriage. I was told that there was pressure from the village central

committee to boycott my family. I had met the president of the committee and he set some conditions before me to include my family in society," stated Manmohan.
It is alleged that Manmohan has been restricted from participating in social functions such as purification rituals and weddings as per the diktat of the caste elders.
Despite appealing to the district president of the 84-house Agharia community, Manmohan was told that to be reintegrated, he would have to symbolically disown his living son by performing a ritual akin to a funeral and pay a penalty. As Manmohan did not agree to such illegal conditions, his family has been isolated.



Committee president Subhranshu Patel, despite having issued a notice earlier, now claims ignorance of the situation. Manmohan's neighbours, fearful of social

repercussions, are also ignoring his family in any community activities.
"I am hearing such things from media. Anyone can make a writing pad and write anything on it. Our organisation is engaged in purely social work. What can we do if anyone is making such allegations? It is their family issue," said Patel.
The Balangir SDPO assured that there would be an investigation into this practice of social ostracism, which is described as a regressive tradition.
"We have not received any complaint in connection with the incident. We will conduct an investigation and take action as per law," said SDPO Pradip Kumar Sahu.

Kalki Avatar row Ashram found to be located in govt land

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In the wake of a row triggered by reports about a boy being projected as Kalki Avatar of Lord Vishnu at the Shree Baikuntha Dham in Khandagiri here, the authorities conducted a probe on Monday and found that the ashram is located in government land.
Officials from the General Administration Department and the local tehsil visited the spot for an inspection to ascertain whether there has been any encroachment of government land by the ashram.
A team from the Bhubaneswar Development

Authority also joined the probe. The enforcement squad of the BDA visited the ashram and conducted a preliminary assessment. Measurement of the area occupied by the ashram was also conducted.
Notably, a voluntary organisation had lodged a complaint at the Bharatpur police station that a man, identified as Kashinath Mishra, has been claiming that his son is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu in Kalki Avatar.
The controversy erupted after photographs of Mishra's son surfaced, showing him sitting in a chair with sacred Tulsi (basil) placed at his feet. Police said necessary steps

were being taken after receiving the complaint against the father-son duo. The man has been accused of trying to hurt religious sentiments by projecting the son as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
The Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPR) has also registered a case over the incident. It has registered the case suo motu after it came across reports about the boy being worshipped.
Besides, the OSCPCR has asked police to submit a report on the issue within 15 days. Locals are also up in arms against the ashram authorities.

BJP leader Samir Dey passes away



PNS ■ CUTTACK
Senior BJP leader and former minister Samir Dey passed away while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack on Monday. He was 67.
Dey had been admitted to the hospital on November 1 after his health condition de-

teriorated due to pneumonia and other diseases.
Dey had served as Minister of Higher Education in the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD-BJP coalition Cabinet from 2004-09. He had also served as the Minister of Urban Development from 2000-04.
Dey had represented Cuttack City thrice in a row in 1995, 2000 and 2004 in the State Assembly.
Expressing grief over Dey's demise, CM Mohan Majhi said, "I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the death of senior politician and former minister Samir Dey. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved family. His last rites will be conducted with full state honours."

Odisha scribes may get pension by 2025: Guv



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
All efforts would be made to implement pension scheme in Odisha for the journalists before the 2025 National Press Day, Governor Raghubar Das said.
Addressing a function jointly organised by the National Journalist Welfare Board (NJWB), Door Darshan Kendra, AIR, Regional Outreach Board, Field Outreach Board and Academy of Management and Information Technology to observe the National Press Day here on Saturday, the Governor said the Odisha government will see that in line with Jharkhand, Press Clubs would be constructed in each district of the State in the next five years.
Like the previous years, also the NJWB provided pensions to 33 senior journalists and honoured seven journalism students from various universities and colleges who have topped their exams in 2023 in memory of seven journalists.
The Governor said in this age of digitisation, the profession of journalists has changed but the basic objective of the profession remained the same.
He said media strengthens the society, creates public opinion and forces the administration to respond. But today, the status of society has changed and the responsibility of the media has increased. Under such a situation, it is very difficult for a journalist to remain impartial and discharge his duties. Despite this, mediapersons should be restrained from circulating misleading news, he said.
Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy described how the journalists fearlessly circulated news during the freedom struggle and the emergency. She said she would approve a proposal for the construction of a Sambadika Bhawan at Bhubaneswar.
While NJWB president

Film fest on disability issues to be held in Jan

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
With an aim to create awareness for integration of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) with the mainstream, the State Government has decided to conduct the first 'National-level Short Film Festival on Disability Issues' here in January next year.
The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) Department has decided to organise such an innovative festival in the State in line with the short road safety festival, officials said.
The department would invite film creators and producers to screen their short films on disability issues and the top three films will be awarded at a special event to be organised here in the second fortnight of January.
Five short films will be shortlisted by a panel of jury members and the films will be screened at Bhubaneswar, Puri, Rourkela, Sambalpur



and Brahamapur in presence of about 250 to 300 disabled children.
Prior to holding the festival, the department will hold a launching ceremony in Bhubaneswar for announcement of the film festival and release of a teaser/short video in presence of SSEPD Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi and notable persons from the disability sector, social service and film industry.

CM unveils financial literacy booklets in Santali



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In the Bali Yatra festival, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Manjhi released the Financial Literacy booklets in Santali language by Reserve Bank, Bhubaneswar.
The RBI has created these useful volumes of literature for school children, farmers, entrepreneurs, SHGs and senior citizens with the aim to create awareness about financial products and services, good financial practices, going

digital and consumer protection.
The initiative will further deepen the financial inclusion in the remote parts of Odisha where a population of 8.6 lakh speak Santali language which is recognised as a regional language as per the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
Further, the booklets will also be distributed in other States like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura where sizeable Santali-speaking people live.

Ratna Bhandar repair work soon: Minister

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Inventory process to be completed by Jan
Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Monday informed that the repair work of the Puri Jagannath Temple's Ratna Bhandar would be undertaken by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) soon. Besides, the inventory process of all the valuables, including gold and other ornaments of Lord Jagannath, would be completed by January 2025-end, he said.
Only after the repair works are completed, the process of counting of valuables would start, the minister told reporters.
As per tradition and provision, the inventory process of Lord Jagannath's valuables cannot be taken out outside

the Ratna Bhandar. At present, all the valuables have been kept in safe custody in the temporary strong room after the Ratna Bhandar was opened in the month of July.
"We are waiting for the ASI to complete the repair works. We are hoping to complete the inventory work by January 2025-end," said Harichandan.
As per the preliminary discussions with experts involved in the Ground Pen-

etrating Radar (GPR) survey, there are no secret chambers or tunnels in either the Bahar (outer) or the Bhitir (inner) Bhandar. "Already, the GPS survey has ruled out the presence of any secret tunnel. Once we get the complete report, we can say more about it in a firm manner," the minister added.
Speaking about the cracks on the Mehghanand Pacheri, he informed that a review would be held on Wednesday.

etrating Radar (GPR) survey, there are no secret chambers or tunnels in either the Bahar (outer) or the Bhitir (inner) Bhandar. "Already, the GPS survey has ruled out the presence of any secret tunnel. Once we get the complete report, we can say more about it in a firm manner," the minister added.
Speaking about the cracks on the Mehghanand Pacheri, he informed that a review would be held on Wednesday.

In BBSR Gold price drops by Rs 3K

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
In a much relief for buyers ahead of the wedding season, the price of 24-carat gold has dropped significantly across the country including Bhubaneswar in the last 10 days.
According to Good Returns, the price of 24-carat yellow metal has come down by Rs 3,050 per 10 grams in the State capital city.
The 24-carat gold, which used to cost Rs 79,360 per 10 grams on November 9, is now



being sold at Rs 76,310 in Bhubaneswar.
Similarly, the price of 22-carat gold stands at Rs 69,950 per 10 grams and that of 18-carat gold at Rs 57,230.
The price of gold in Cuttack remains the same as in Bhubaneswar.

Elina marries Anurag in Bali



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Oollywood actress Elina Samantray, who rose to fame with her debut film 'Ishq Tu Hi Tu', has finally tied the knot with her long-time businessman boyfriend Anurag Panda. The duo got married in a lavish ceremony at Bali, Indonesia on Sunday.
The lovey-dovey couple tied the knot in the presence of close friends. Families of both

Elina and Anurag were present.
For many years, Elina and Anurag were close friends. Despite several reports of their marriage, the couple remained tightlipped about their relationship and finally surprised fans with the marriage announcement.
Elina took to her Instagram handle to make the big announcement and wrote, "17.11.2024...Anurag??Elina"

Heritage tree being felled for rly station expansion

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Intach expresses concern
A heritage tree outside the Lingaraj Road railway station is slated for uprooting for expansion and modernisation of the railway station. A major portion of the canopy has already been cropped for the construction of a two-storied building under the Amrit Bharat Stations scheme. Ironically, the project board on the site says it is a "Eco-Friendly Green Building Structure".
The banyan tree is at least 200 years old and in good condition. The building could have been easily designed to



accommodate the tree with its canopy extending to the platform; however, they have chosen to cut off a major portion.
According to Anil Dhir, Convener of Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter, what is alarming is that a demarcation line touching the base was found during a recent visit. The officials at the spot in-

formed that the station boundary wall would be made. There are chances that the entire tree will be cut down, or the roots damaged to a great extent. The wall can be easily made around the tree keeping it intact.
The Intach's Bhubaneswar Chapter has undertaken a project to document and list

the heritage trees of Ekamrakhstra. The entire Old Town area has been mapped and every heritage tree is being listed. Assistance from experts of the OUAT and the Botany Department of Utkal University is being taken to identify and determine the present condition of the trees. The Intach has already identified 250 trees that are more than 100 years old in Ekamrakhstra. Most of these are banyan and peepal trees. Intach Heritage Club members from different institutions including the Centurion University are assisting in the survey.
According to Dr Biswajit Mohanty, the Maharashtra Government has put in place

an action plan to protect trees older than 50 years in urban areas, dubbing them as 'historic trees'. The plan that was passed in June 2021 included the concept of heritage trees and conservation, a process to define the age of the tree, guidelines to be followed before cutting down trees, forming a Maharashtra Tree Authority, tree census, selecting a tree plantation land and fines imposition for cutting trees. According to the notification of September 2021, any tree, regardless of the species, is categorised as a heritage tree if it is over 50 years old.
Dhir has written to the railway authorities for stopping all constructions which will harm the tree. He said that

during the Ekamrakhstra Beautification plan undertaken by the last regime, more than 150 trees in and around the Lingaraj Temple had been chopped down indiscriminately. He said that on July 15, 2023, 14 temples in the old town were struck by lightning during the afternoon. The Dadhineuti of the Rameswar Temple was totally damaged, and even the Lingaraj Temple had suffered two lightning strikes. This was a result of the trees around the temples having been cut.
The Intach has written to the government to frame an Act on the lines of Maharashtra for declaring all old trees as heritage and give them the protected status.

In Baleswar Man gets 25-yr RI for abuse of minor daughter

SIBDAS KUNDU ■ BALESWAR
Executing a speedy trial, Special Judge POCSO Ranjan Kumar Sutar on Monday sentenced a 40-year-old father to 25 years of rigorous imprisonment along with Rs 5,000 fine for sexually assaulting his 13-year-old minor daughter. The court further ordered 2 years more jail term for the convict in case he failed to pay the fine amount. According to reports, the mother of the victim girl had

lodged a complaint on August 6 in Singla police station against her husband, Fagu Marandi of Jamsuli village levelling the charge against him. On the basis of the complaint, the accused was arrested by police and a charge sheet was submitted by them on October 1. "The accused, the biological father of the victim, had committed the heinous offence. Charges were framed against the accused on Octo-

ber 8, 2024 following the charge sheet on October 1. He was tried under 65(1) BNS and 6 of POCSO Act and the court after examining 12 witnesses and 28 exhibits pronounced the verdict today close to 3 months of the incident," said Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda adding the court also directed compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the victim to be paid through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Kharagpur-Vizag expressway via Odisha soon

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
A greenfield highway connecting Kharagpur in West Bengal and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh via Odisha will be constructed soon. Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Monday said preparatory works for the proposed project have already been initiated. The expressway would serve as a significant logistics corridor aimed at facilitating seamless high-speed transportation. Noting that the project would form a vital part of the Gati Shakti Framework of the Central government, the minister said it would be a revolu-

tionary step in road construction in Odisha. Greenfield roads generally pass through new areas, wherein the per-unit cost of land acquisition is generally less considering less development in these areas. The construction of greenfield roads generates new areas for development besides several other advantages. Sources said the 783-km long expressway project is presently progressing steadily with 10 firms having submitted bids to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) opened the technical bids for

the project on November 5. The deadline of for completion of the project is 1.5 years. The next step involves a detailed technical evaluation of the bids, which may take a couple of months. Afterwards, the financial bids of the technically qualified consultants will be opened, determining the lowest bidder for each package. If contracts are awarded in the first half of 2025, the MoRTH expects the DPRs to be completed by the end of 2026. Following the approval process, land acquisition and necessary clearances, construction is expected to begin no sooner than 2028.

Press Day in JSpur 'Media is watchdog of democracy'



PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR
The National Press Day was celebrated in a function here on Saturday, where Collector J Sonal chaired. Jagatsinghpur MLA Amarendra Das attended the event as chief guest, while Jagatsinghpur SP Bhabani Shankar Udgata, Sub-collector Prasant Kumar Tarai, municipality chairperson Archana Singh, DIPRO Pratichi Tanaya Mohanty and educationist Subash Chandra Rout were present as honourable guests. Chief guest legislator Das reiterated the role of media in democracy and the changes journalism has been undergoing across the globe over the past two decades. The constitution gives freedom of speech to every citizen under Article 19 [1]. Media can do wonders

by exposing wrongdoings of government and working as a watchdog of democracy, he said. Collector Sonal discussed the changing pattern of journalism in recent times and said newspapers have increasingly embraced digital platforms providing online editions and engaging with social media. Meanwhile, newspaper houses have opted to use Artificial Intelligence [AI], which offers new tools for news gathering, data analysis, and content generation, the Collector said. Senior journalists raised several demands pending at the government level. MLA Das assured the journalists that he would take up the matter with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and raise the issue in the coming Assembly Session.

Misconduct Amin axed, show-cause to Tehsildar in S'pur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR
The Sambalpur district Collector has suspended Kulamani Naik, an Amin under Rairakhol Tehsil, and issued a show-cause notice to Tehsildar Debasish Patra following allegations of misbehaviour against a Zilla Parishad (ZP) Member. The suspension order was issued by Collector Siddheswar Baliram Bondar. During his suspension, Naik has been instructed not to leave the headquarters without prior permission from the competent authority. The action followed a police complaint filed by Sharat Pradhan, BJP ZP Member from Rairakhol Zone-2. Pradhan alleged that the Tehsildar assaulted and misbehaved with him during a visit to the Tehsil office to raise concerns over a land sale deed.



The discussion reportedly escalated into a verbal altercation, during which the Tehsildar allegedly beat him with shoes. Such behaviour is unacceptable, Pradhan stated in his complaint. The incident has sparked outrage, with demands for strict action against the accused officials. A senior government official said, "Misconduct by public servants will not be tolerated." Further investigations are underway, and the government is expected to take additional disciplinary action based on the findings.

'Emulate Bisra for his bravery, resilience'

**CUO holds
4th Janjatiya
Gaurav Diwas**
PNS ■ KORAPUT
The Central University of Odisha, Koraput, celebrated the 4th Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas (JJGD) on November 15 at its Sunabeda campus, marking the beginning of the celebrations for the 150th birth anniversary of Birsra Munda. The event, which will continue until November 26th, coincides with the nation's Constitution Day. The programme was inaugurated and presided over by Prof CUO VC Chakradhar Tripathi. Other dignitaries present included Registrar I/c Prof NC Panda; Prof VC Jha, Advisor - Academic and Ad-



ministration and Dr Kapila Khemundu, Head of the Department of Sociology. The event began with the lighting of the lamp and a floral tribute to Birsra Munda, offered by the Vice-Chancellor and other dignitaries present. In his address, Prof Tripathi emphasized that Birsra Munda Jayanti is not merely a day of remembrance but a celebration of the identity, culture,

and heritage of the tribal community. He reflected on the pivotal role played by tribal communities in shaping India's history and lauded Birsra's bravery and resistance during his Ulgulan movement. Prof Tripathi urged the youth of today to channel their courage into fields like science, technology, agriculture, and innovation to help India emerge as a developed nation.

He noted that despite Birsra's life being tragically cut short at the age of 24, his legacy as a symbol of strength and resilience continues to inspire generations. Prof Panda spoke about the life and struggle of Birsra against British colonial rule and encouraged students to emulate his ideals for the development of society. Prof. Jha highlighted the rich and harmonious culture of India's tribal communities and emphasized that the collective spirit of "we" rather than "I" is the cornerstone of Indian society. Dr Khemundu, in her welcome address, underscored Birsra's significant contributions to both the freedom struggle and the socio-cultural development of the nation.

Birsra Jayanti observed across Boudh

PNS ■ BOUDH
The 'Birsra Munda Jayanti' or 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' was celebrated in many parts of Harbhanga, Boudh and Kantamal blocks in Boudh district on November 15. The event was celebrated to honour the contributions of the tribal communities, especially in India's freedom struggle. The day marks the birth anniversary of 'Birsra Munda', a tribal leader and freedom fighter, whose legacy continues to inspire the youth and the upcoming generations. The legend is well known for his bravery. His ability in 'Dhanush-Teer' (archery) was outstanding. Though British



were strong with gun and other weapons, still they were afraid of 'Birsra Munda'. The tribal leaders and their associates to paid tributes to the 'unsung hero.' meanwhile, the intellectual mass in Boudh suggested to include Birsra Munda's life journey in history book so that the students would be inspired.

In Sambalpur 3 elephants die after falling into electric trap

PCCF blames forest officials' negligence
NIMAI CHARAN SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR
Carcasses of three elephants were found in the forest near Buramal under the Naktideul Forest Range in Sambalpur district on Monday. The deceased elephants included two adults and a calf. While no exact reason for the elephants' death was known immediately, it was suspected that the pachyderms died due to electrocution. The matter came to light after locals spotted the carcasses and informed forest officials. On being informed, Forest Department officials rushed to the scene to investigate the matter. Expressing outrage, locals attributed the elephant deaths to the negligent atti-



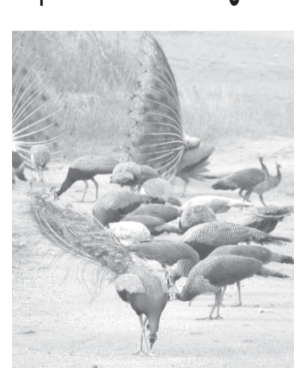
tude of forest officials. Despite the movement of elephants in the area, officials were least bothered to increase the height of the electric poles and wires in the region. Meanwhile, many claimed the elephants were electrocuted after coming in contact with live wires laid by poachers to trap boars. PCCF (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda said, "As per the preliminary report from DFO and field staffs, the elephants were electrocuted after coming

in contact with electric wires to trap wild boars. I admit that there was negligence on the part of the patrolling team and officials of the area." "I have directed the RCCF to conduct a thorough probe and strict action will be taken against those found guilty. This is the third such incident in Rairakhol area. Officials because of whose negligence this incident happened will not be spared," Nanda said. "Recently, we had conducted an elephant census there. They

should have done patrolling and removed such electric wires. So, I admit both electricity officials and forest officials negligence led to the death of the pachyderms," he added. Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo said, "Both the Energy and Forest Departments are responsible to keep an eye on electric wires laid by poachers. Stringent punishment will be given to those found guilty; that will be exemplary for others so that no one dares to repeat it."

Tata Steel staffers provide peacock feeding aid

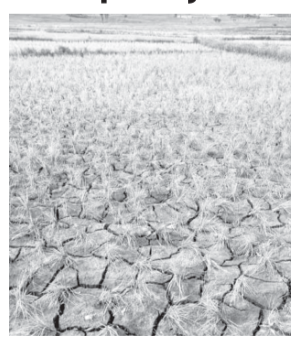
To Naraj villager
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Continuing with their environmental stewardship, employees of Tata Steel's Ferro Alloys and Minerals Division (FAMD) donated grains, durable grain storage cans and other essentials at the peacock valley near village Naraj at the outskirts of the capital city on Wednesday.



The employees - as part of their employee volunteerism programme - reached out to Kanhu Charan Behera of the village who has been feeding the national birds in the valley for the past couple of years and donated the supplies required to feed the peacocks. Volunteering to provide vital food support to the peacocks that inhabit the valley, the employees came together to collect and deliver essential supplies, ensuring the majestic birds receive adequate nourishment and care in their natural habitat. They visited the village and handed over the essentials to Behera and spent time with the magnifi-

Boudh farmers want large irrigation project

As this yr paddy output to decline owing to drought
PNS ■ BOUDH
The district's rice farmers are facing the challenges of drought and decline in production this year. Insufficient irrigation, crop diseases and pests have added to their woes. Boudh boasts of an enviable reputation for its sustainable farming practices. Notably, the district's farmers are known for their judicious use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, striking a delicate balance between productivity and environmental stewardship. However, over the last few years, the farmers in Harbhanga, Boudh and Kantamal blocks have been facing a severe water crisis issue, which is a major concern. The problem is not unique to these areas, as water scarcity



has affected many parts. The intellectual community and the affected farmers have placed their trust in the new government to promptly implement vital measures ensuring their survival. There is a pressing need for additional large-scale irrigation projects in Boudh to address the district's water scarcity. Besides, the affected farmers hope to get insurance benefits hassle-free. They also have urged the administration to maintain the 'Mandi' in proper ways.

'Scribes ought to remain as watchdog of society'

Demand of pension for journalists genuine: Pujari
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The 59th National Press Day was observed here being inaugurated by State Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy, who lauded the role of journalists in the task of nation building. Dwelling on this year's theme "Changing Nature of Press", she cautioned the media fraternity to remain alert on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is both a boon and a bane. The use of AI has influenced the digital media, the social media and podcast and in a way is going to open floodgates of both information and misinformation, she warned. Minister of Revenue Suresh Pujari observed that journalists are exposed to both the centripetal and centrifugal forces of both economic haz-



ards and political intimidation, as a result of which they are unable to maintain their integrity while upholding the cause of the freedom of press. Pujari said the demand for pension for journalists by the Odisha Union of Working Journalists is genuine and it would be addressed very soon. Special guest BJP State vice-president Golak Mohapatra advised the media community to keep themselves aloof from yellow journalism. Guest of

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR
The district level National Press Day was celebrated at Brahmapur on Saturday. The programme was organised by the district administration under the guidance of Deputy Director I and PR Southern Division Rabi Narayan Behera with support of Brahmapur Press Club, where Press Club president Ashok Kumar Brahma presided. Brahmapur SP Dr M Saravana Vivek M attended as chief guest, while Sub-Collector Brahmapur Deena Dastagir attended as guest of honour and eminent educationist Amar Prasad Bisoyi attended as chief speaker. Among others, Brahmapur Press Club secretary Prahalad Sahu, joint secretary Gopal Reddy, treasurer Siba Narayan Panda and Chhatrapur Press Club presi-

dent Rabindra Panda were present on the dais. Eminent social activist Mahan Sangh, Susanta Sabata and senior lawyer Nirmal Sahu in their speech highlighted the important role of media in bringing problems of the general public before all authorities. Senior journalist Saktidhar Rajaguru and HoD of Journalism and Mass Communication Department of Berhampur University, Bandita Panda emphasized on presentation of short news on digital platforms. While Press Club president Brahma coordinated the programme, Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations Behera delivered the welcome speech. On the occasion, senior journalist Narasingha Sahu, A Raja Rao, Sunil Mohan Patanaik and Hrushikesh Mohanty were felicitated. The second session of seminar entitled "Freedom of press and maintaining its standard" was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who eulogised the media for their remarkable contribution of news during the cyclone which alerted the administration. Chief guest on the occasion Advocate General Pitambar Acharya, in his hour-long illuminating speech, defended the independence of the press by citing various judgement of the apex court.

BJP's 'chota popat' jibe at Rahul after he mocks PM Modi's slogan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After Rahul Gandhi's swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Ek hai toh safe hai' slogan, the BJP hit back at the Congress leader on Monday, calling him "chota popat" which it claimed was coined by Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray to mock him. The party also slammed Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his "poisonous snakes should be killed" barb, saying it shows the party's Emergency mindset which likens rivals to snakes and incites violence against them. Earlier in the day, claiming a link between the BJP's slogan and the Dharavi redevelopment project being given to the Adani Group, Rahul Gandhi pulled out two posters from a safe he had brought to his press conference in Mumbai -- one featuring a picture of industrialist Gautam Adani and



Prime Minister Modi along with the caption "Ek hai toh Safe hai" and another showing a map of the project. "It was a very low-level press conference. Bringing a safe and creating drama around it, holding of this kind of press conference by the so-called top leader of the so-called national party does not suit Rahul Gandhi and the Congress," BJP MP and national spokesperson Sambit Patra said reacting to Rahul Gandhi's jibe.

"Today I say this from this platform and in Rahul Gandhi's language that 'Chota popat ne kiya hei Congress ko chauhat' (he has ruined the Congress). His name is Rahul Gandhi," the BJP leader said. "I saw an interview of Bal Thackeray where he referred to Rahul Gandhi as chota popat. From today onwards, Rahul Gandhi's name is going to be 'chota popat'. This name will now be there on every child's lips in Maharashtra," he said.

The BJP also criticised Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. Addressing a rally in Sangli on the penultimate day before the campaigning for the Maharashtra assembly polls concluded, Kharge used the "killing the poisonous snake" analogy in his speech. "If there is anything which is politically the most dangerous in India is the BJP and RSS. They are like poison. If a snake bites, the person (who is bitten) dies. Such a poisonous snake should be killed," said Kharge. Flaying Kharge over his remarks, Patra said, "The BJP condemns it." "It is the mindset of Emergency because of which you liken your rivals with snakes and incite violence by calling for killing them," he said, asserting that Rahul Gandhi and the Congress will get a befitting reply from people on November 23, when election results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly polls will be declared.

Farmers' bodies announce Delhi march on December six to press Centre to accept their demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha on Monday announced that farmers will march towards Delhi on December six to press the Centre to accept their various demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP for crops. The decision was taken at a meeting of farmer leaders in Chandigarh. The protesting farmers have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13, when their 'Delhi Chalo' march, spearheaded by the SKM (Non-Political) and the KMM, was stopped by security forces. Addressing the media in Chandigarh, KMM leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said after a long wait, they have decided to head towards Delhi. "We will move towards Delhi on December 6," he said. Pandher charged the Centre with not holding any talks with the farmers to discuss



their demands. "We have been left with no option. We waited peacefully for the government (to reach out) for nine months. But now we will head towards Delhi," he added. The farmers will move towards the national capital in batches from the Shambhu border. Tejveer Singh of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) said they have been camping at the two border

points for 280 days and the Centre has not held any talks with them since February 18. Last week, the farmers announced that they would intensify their agitation and start a fast unto death from November 26. Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallowal will observe the fast. Besides a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops, the farmers

are demanding a farm debt waiver, pension for farmers and farm labourers, no hike in electricity tariff, withdrawal of police cases and "justice" for the victims of the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of the farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.

UK is committed to foster deeper cooperation with India: British Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The UK is committed to foster deeper cooperation with India as it is a "vital" partner and one of the fastest growing economies in the world, British Minister for Indo-Pacific Catherine West said on Monday as she embarked on a two-day visit to the country. West will continue to unlock the full potential of the UK-India partnership and drive forward greater growth for both countries building upon the ambitions set out by Foreign Secretary David Lammy during his visit to New Delhi in July, a British government readout said. She will also reiterate that the UK remains committed to negotiating a mutually beneficial free trade agreement and bilateral investment treaty, it added. "I am delighted to be visiting India for the first time as Minister for the Indo-Pacific," West said. "As one of the fastest growing economies in the



world, India is a vital partner," she said. Minister West's visit will include a meeting at the Ministry of External Affairs where she will reinforce the UK's commitment to a stronger partnership and the importance of the enduring links between people of the two nations, the readout noted. The two sides are expected to review the overall situation in the Indo-Pacific and explore ways to bolster cooperation in the region during West's visit to India. During an education roundtable at the British Council, the Minister will learn more about the unique "living bridge" between the UK and India, rep-

resenting the 1.7 million people in the UK with Indian heritage and connecting our two countries, it said. The British minister is also scheduled to visit the Jama Masjid where she will learn about its history and architecture, it said. West's visit to New Delhi comes nearly four months after India and the UK firmed up a mega technology security initiative that sets out a bold new approach for collaboration in a range of "priority" sectors including telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors and artificial intelligence. The initiative was firmed up during Lammy's trip in July. In 2021, India and the UK adopted the 10-year roadmap to expand ties in the key areas of trade and economy, defence and security, climate change and people-to-people connections among others. West's visit to India follows a two-day trip to Bangladesh, where she reaffirmed UK support for the interim government's work to build a more prosperous and democratic future for the country.

BJP, Congress seek seven days from EC to respond to poll code violation complaints

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress and the BJP have sought seven days from the Election Commission (EC) to respond to poll code violation complaints filed by them against each other in Jharkhand and Maharashtra, sources said Monday. In the wake of the BJP and the Congress lodging complaints against each other with the EC for poll code violations, the election panel on Saturday had asked the presidents of the two parties to comment on the charges levelled against their leaders. The EC wrote separate letters to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J P Nadra and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, asking them to comment on the complaint of the other. The Commission exchanged the complaints between the two parties while seeking their responses. The EC has sought formal responses from both the party



presidents by 1 pm on Monday (November 18). Now the two parties have sought from the EC seven more days to send their respective responses. While the Congress had accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of violating the poll code, the BJP had lodged complaint against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. While seeking their com-

ments, the poll panel had reminded them of the Commission's earlier advisory to them during the Lok Sabha election to keep star campaigners and leaders under check so that public decorum is not flouted and the model code is followed in its letter and spirit during campaigning. Top leaders of the two parties are campaigning in Jharkhand and Maharashtra for the ongoing Assembly polls.

SC hold order to President's Secretary on Rajoana mercy plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday put on hold its order directing President Droupadi Murmu's Secretary to place before her the mercy petition of death row convict Balwant Singh Rajoana, convicted in the 1995 assassination case of then Punjab chief minister Beant Singh, for consideration. After the order was passed in the morning, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta argued that it should not be given effect as there are "sensitivities" involved in the issue and that it be heard on Friday. Mehta told the bench that the file is with the Home Ministry and not the President. The bench agreed to the SG's request and posted the matter for hearing on Monday. Earlier in the day, a bench of Justices BR Gavai, PK Mishra and KV Viswanathan requested the President to consider the plea within two weeks. "In spite of the matter being specifically kept today none appeared for Union



of India. The bench assembled only for this case," the bench said, by holding the earlier order directing Secretary to take a decision by President in two weeks. The then Punjab Chief Minister and 16 others were killed in a blast at the entrance of the Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh on August 31, 1995. A special court sentenced Rajoana to death in July 2007. Rajoana has said that a mercy petition under Article 72 of the Constitution was moved by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on his behalf in March 2012. On May 3 last year, the SC had refused to commute his death sentence and said the competent authority could deal with his mercy plea.

RSS urges Govt to resolve Manipur conflict 'sincerely'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has condemned the latest violence in Manipur and demanded the government, both at the Centre and the state, that they "sincerely" resolve the conflict. "It is unfortunate that 19 months old violence in Manipur starting from May 3, 2023 has remained unresolved. Due to the ongoing violence, innocent people have immensely suffered," the Manipur unit of the RSS said in a statement on Sunday. "The RSS Manipur prant' strongly condemns the 'inhuman, brutal and merciless acts of killing of women and children,' the statement said. "The act is cowardly and is against the principles of humanity and co-existence," it said, adding, "The central and state government should sincerely resolve the ongoing conflict at the earliest." The English version of the statement, originally issued in Manipuri, was released by the Manipur unit of the Vishva Samvad Kendra, the RSS' media wing, on Facebook. The Manipur unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the RSS' youth wing, also condemned the violence and said both the Centre and the state government have "failed to ensure the safety and normalcy" in the state. "The ongoing violence in Manipur since May 3, 2023 has plummeted to unprecedented depths with the heinous abduction and murder of six innocent civilians, including three women and three children, among them a seven-months-



old infant," it said in a statement on Monday. "The ABVP Manipur vehemently condemns the brutal killings of the six abducted individuals, the burning of houses by armed militants, attacks on police and CRPF personnel in Ziribam," it added. The RSS youth wing further said the destruction of properties belonging to democratically elected leaders by "enraged mobs" was deeply disturbing. "We believe timely intervention could have saved the six lives lost. The concerned authorities have failed in their duties, and both state and central governments have failed to ensure the safety and normalcy in Manipur," it said. "The ABVP Manipur demands immediate action for restoration of peace and order, protection for innocent civilians and accountability for the failed response," it added. The RSS affiliate called for "patience and peace" as it appealed to the people to stand together against violence and work towards building "a harmonious Manipur." "The ABVP Manipur stands in solidarity with the affected families and demands swift action to prevent further unrest," it added.

Delhi HC seeks CBI's stand on Chidambaram's plea in INX media case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the stand of the CBI on pleas by former Union Minister P Chidambaram and his son Karti Chidambaram seeking to defer arguments on framing of charges in the INX media case. Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri issued notice to the investigating agency on the petitions and said "let response be filed". The Congress leaders argued that the arguments on framing of charges ought not to commence before the trial court as the investigation was still pending. CBI's counsel said there was sufficient material to show

"demand of bribe" and framing of charges should not be stopped on account of any pending investigation. The CBI had registered its case on May 15, 2017, alleging irregularities in a Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance granted to the INX Media group for receiving overseas funds of Rs 305 crore in 2007 during P Chidambaram's tenure as Finance Minister. The accused and bribe give Indrani Mukerjea had already confessed that she had paid bribe to Karti to save from Income Tax notice for illegally bringing FDI in the TV channel. She is already turned as Approver in the case. In the pleas before the high court, Chidambaram and Karti,



who were represented by senior advocate Sidharth Luthra and advocate Akshat Gupta, have asked a trial court order refusing to defer the arguments of charge. Luthra said the chargesheet filed by the CBI in the case was incomplete and the accused persons were

yet to be given access to all the material collected by the agency as probe on certain aspects was going on. "You have been doing investigation since 2017. If you choose to be lackadaisical, should I proceed to argue on charge? It can't be an unfair battle," he

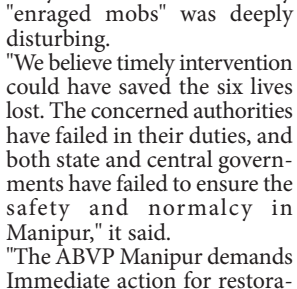
said. Karti, in his plea, said the necessity of further investigation being concluded before consideration of charge impacts his right to fair trial under Article 21 of the Constitution. "The Ld. Special Judge failed to appreciate that the alleged offence pertains to a period of 2007-08, for which, the said FIR was registered by the CBI on 15.05.2017. Thereafter, the chargesheet in relation to the said FIR was filed on 17.10.2019, after investigation for over 2.5 years," the plea stated. It said more than 17 years have lapsed since the period of the alleged offence and about seven years have lapsed since the commencement of investigation. Yet further investigation remains pending even as on

date, it said. "The Ld. Special Judge failed to appreciate that further investigation cannot be a never ending or an endless exercise as it has the effect of delaying the proceedings and, thereby, violating the right to fair and speedy trial, which includes the right to fair and speedy investigation, under Article 21 of the Constitution," added the plea. Chidambaram was arrested by the CBI in the INX Media corruption case on August 21, 2019. On October 16 that year, the ED also arrested him in a related money laundering case. Karti was arrested by the CBI in February 2018 and he was granted bail in March 2018 in the INX Media corruption case.

CJI Khanna recuses himself from hearing pleas in case related to illegal felling of trees in Delhi Ridge area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna on Monday recused himself from hearing pleas related to the case on illegal felling of several hundred trees in the Delhi Ridge area. Earlier, a bench headed by the then CJI DY Chandrachud, since retired, had sought a personal affidavit of Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena in the case which had also sought initiation of contempt proceedings against certain DDA officials. The CJI, who was sitting on the bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, said, "One thing I would like to point out that when I was the NALSA chairman, I had gone to Patna and with Delhi LG had toured jails there. So, it will not be appro-



priate for me to hear the plea...". The bench ordered the listing of the pleas before a bench of which the CJI is not part in the week commencing November 27. A lawyer pointed out that there were orders passed by two other benches. "We know," the CJI responded. On November 7, the top court had asked the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) about the measures undertaken to restore the



Delhi Ridge area, where several hundred trees were allegedly felled illegally, and sought the extent of plantation done by the authorities. The bench had said it would introduce a monitoring system to ensure planted trees were surviving. It had wondered if any independent mechanism was in place to ascertain the number of trees planted. The bench had asked the DDA counsel and the petitioner to inform it about the status of trees felled, consequential actions and the monitoring mechanism. However, the then CJI-led bench did not pass any order on November 8, the last working day of Justice Chandrachud. The ridge is an extension of Aravalli Hill range in Delhi and is a rocky, hilly and forested area.

ICG to host largest National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise at Kochi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will host the largest National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-24) ever held alongside the 22nd National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board Meeting at Kochi, Kerala for two days starting November 28, ICG said here on Monday. Giving details, officials said here this prestigious event themed "Enhancing SAR Capabilities Through Regional Collaboration," is set to redefine maritime safety standard across the region and beyond. The two-day event will feature largest ever real-time simulations aimed at honing the skills required for effective Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, collaborative efforts among regional and international mar-



itime stakeholders. This gathering of maritime expertise will not only enhance SAR capabilities but also strengthen SAR linkages with the participation of more than 40 international observers from partner nations, the event will underscore the essentials of global cooperation in safeguarding lives at sea and advancing maritime security standards. The exercise highlights India's proactive stance in fostering

stronger regional coordination for maritime safety. This initiative demonstrates India's commitment to not only bolstering its own SAR capabilities but also contributing to global maritime safety standards. The event will showcase India's leadership in enhancing operational readiness and establishing stronger regional coordination in maritime safety. The workshop will serve as a crucial platform for sharing best practices and strengthening ties with friendly nations. This increased engagement in international cooperation is pivotal for addressing the complexities of modern maritime challenges. The event's emphasis on regional collaboration reflects India's strategic approach to ensuring comprehensive maritime security and operational excellence.

Yogi repeats Bangladeshi infiltrators script in poll bound Jharkhand

PTI ■ RAJMAHAL (SAHIBGANJ)

Yogi Adityanath, chief minister (CM) of Uttar Pradesh (UP), on Monday launched a strong attack on the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-led coalition in Jharkhand, alleging that under the latter's patronage pockets of the state were converted into hubs of illegal activities by Rohingyas and Bangladeshi infiltrators.

"After the election results on November 23, these infiltrators will be kicked out of Jharkhand, and the JMM-led coalition leaders who looted funds meant for the people will be held accountable," Adityanath said.

He added, "Areas like Rajmahal and Sahibganj have become centres for illegal activities run by Bangladeshi infiltrators and Rohingyas. The JMM-led coalition leaders, who are their rahnuma ('protectors'), will not be spared. Infiltrators will be expelled as soon as the NDA government is formed



in Jharkhand." Addressing a poll rally at Rajmahal in Sahibganj, Adityanath urged the people to be wary of politicians who divide society along caste lines, calling them the enemies of society and the country.

The Uttar UP CM also criticised the JMM-RJD-Congress alliance for undermining the vision of

former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who dreamed of a prosperous Jharkhand.

Despite the state's rich natural resources, he pointed out that the people remain poor. Adityanath promised that, under an NDA government, at least 1.5 lakh youth would be provided jobs.

Referring to India's historical divisions, Adityanath said, "When Hindus were divided, they faced slavery and humiliation in Ayodhya, Kashi, and Mathura. Now, it's time for ek rahenge, safe rahenge, na batenge, na katenge (Safe when united, we will not be wiped out if united)."

He asserted that trends indicated the NDA would form the government in Jharkhand with over a two-thirds majority.

"Only a double-engine government, like in Uttar Pradesh, is the solution to issues like infiltration, cow slaughter, and atrocities against women in Jharkhand," Adityanath added.



Punjab reports 1,251 farm fires in a day

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab on Monday reported 1,251 fresh farm fire cases, the single-day highest this season, taking the state's total count of such cases to 9,655, according to Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data.

On November 8, Punjab reported 730 farm fire incidents, which was the

highest in a day this season till Monday. Muktsar district on Monday reported 247 stubble burning incidents, the most in the state, followed by Moga (149), Ferozepur (130), Bathinda (129), Fazilka (94) and Faridkot (88).

On the same day in 2022 and 2023, the state reported 701 and 637 active farm fire cases, respectively, as per data.

From September 15 till November 18, Punjab witnessed 9,655 stubble burning incidents, registering around 71 per cent dip in burnings in comparison to the figures reported in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Punjab saw 48,489 and 33,719 farm fire cases during the same period in 2022 and 2023,

respectively. Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for the rise in air pollution in Delhi-NCR after the harvesting of paddy in October-November. As the window for the Rabi crop -- wheat -- is very short after paddy harvest, some farmers set their fields on fire to quickly clear the crop residue for sowing new crop.

15 booked for ragging, death of student in Gujarat college

PTI ■ PATAN

Police have registered an FIR against 15 students of a medical college in Gujarat's Patan district following the death of an 18-year-old student who was allegedly ragged by them, officials said on Monday. The accused, all second-year MBBS students, allegedly made some juniors, including the victim, stand in a hostel room for more than three hours on Saturday night and subjected them to mental and physical torture, as per the FIR. They were booked for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and other offences. The accused have been suspended from their hostel and college until further orders, said officials from the GMERS Medical College and Hospital in Patan. The victim, Anil Methaniya, a first-year MBBS student, fell unconscious and died allegedly after being made to stand for three hours while being ragged by his seniors in college hostel on Saturday night.

Telangana to acquire 280 acres for Warangal airport

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has issued orders sanctioning Rs 205 crore for acquiring over 280 acres of land for the development of Mamnoon Airport at Warangal, after GMR Group which manages Hyderabad Airport issued No Objection certificate for operation of the aerodrome. According to the GO issued on Sunday, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in July 2022, informed the state government that it is ready to develop Warangal Airport for A-320 type of aircraft for IFR (instrument flight rules) operations and is ready to bear the infrastructure cost, operational and maintenance of the proposed airport. A master plan has been prepared for the operation of A-320 type of aircraft for which an additional land measuring 253 acres is required from the state of Telangana, free of cost and free from all encumbrances.

The AAI also wanted the state government to expedite handing over of the required land to the airports body and no objection certificate from Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. As per the concession agreement between GMR Group, which manages Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation no new or existing airport shall be permitted by the GoI to be developed as, improved or upgraded into, a domestic or international airport within an aerial distance of 150 km of the Hyderabad Airport before the 25th anniversary of the opening date. Mamnoon is located about 175 km from Hyderabad Airport by road. Telangana Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy held at least half a dozen meetings with GMR officials.

Three elephants electrocuted



PTI ■ SAMBALPUR

Three elephants, including a calf, were electrocuted to death after coming in contact with a power line in Odisha's Sambalpur district, a forest official said on Monday. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Rairakhol division, Aurobinda Mohanty told PTI that two female adult elephants and a calf died in the incident that took place on Sunday night in Naktideul area of Sambalpur district.

Prima facie, it seems that the elephants came in contact with a live power line laid by poachers to trap wild boars to protect crops, he said. A special team of forest officials rushed to the spot for an inquiry. Further details about the incident can be known after completion of the probe, the DFO said. The carcasses have been seized. A team of veterinarians would conduct the post-mortem, he added.

UNESCO honour for Indian agricultural scientist

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Professor Kailash Chander Bansal, a Haryana-born plant biotechnologist and former director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, has been honored by the UNESCO by elevating him as a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences. Prof Bansal is the eighth Indian agricultural scientist who has been accorded this position during the last 45 years.

The fellowship, effective from January 2025, is in recognition of the path breaking work by Prof Bansal in plant biotechnology, including developing genetically modified crops for drought and salt stress tolerance. He has been credited with developing salt resistant paddy variety, which can be grown in arid regions as well as places vulnerable to drought.

Prof Bansal, is expected to advise countries in Africa and

Asia in the promotion of multi-disciplinary sciences for agricultural development and creating policy related issues for sustainable agriculture.

As a plant genetic scientist, Prof Bansal spearheaded the evaluation of 22,000 wheat germplasm accessions at the Indian National Genebank, identifying critical trait-specific reference sets. He also led the National Transgenic Crop Network, advancing India's capabilities in crop improvement.

Prof Bansal earned his doctorate with a gold medal from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and conducted advanced research at the Harvard University under Prof Lawrence Bogorad. He has published over 150 papers in high-impact journals, including Nature Biotechnology and PNAS. One of his unique achievements was the development of genetically modified tomato breed with almost three fold shelf life period.

Campaign ends for high stakes UP Assembly by-poll



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The campaign for the nine Assembly by-elections in Uttar Pradesh (UP) concluded on Monday. The election, scheduled for November 20 from 7 am to 6 pm, are regarded as a precursor to the 2027 state Assembly election. Results will be declared on November 23. For Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the by polls have turned into a matter of prestige following the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) lackluster performance in the recent Lok Sabha Election in the state.

These elections are seen as an opportunity for the BJP to demonstrate its resilience and rebuild its image ahead of the next Assembly election. The BJP is focusing on countering the narrative propagated by the Opposition regarding the abrogation of constitutional provisions and reservations. The Samajwadi Party (SP) also faces significant pressure in these elections. Having achieved a remarkable performance in the Lok Sabha Election, where it secured 37 seats compared to just five in 2019, the SP now faces the challenge of retaining its momentum. The by-polls are

a crucial test of the party's strategy and its claims of forming the next government in UP. A poor performance could dent the party's credibility and weaken its position in the run-up to the 2027 state elections. While the INDIA alliance remains intact, its key constituent, the Congress has chosen not to field candidates in the by-polls, instead extending its support to the SP. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has opted to contest all nine seats, despite its recent poor performance in the Lok Sabha Election. The BSP's participation is expected to influence the results by attracting a section of Dalit voters, potentially affecting the prospects of both the BJP and the SP.

Yogi Adityanath has been at the forefront of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign, visiting each constituency at least twice, holding road shows to galvanise voter support. The BJP has intensified its efforts to wrest key SP-held seats such as Karhal and Katehari while also focusing on retaining its strongholds such as Ghaziabad, Khair, and Phulpur. The saffron party is leaving no stone unturned in its bid to reclaim the

Meerapur seat, which was earlier with the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) before the party switched its alliance to the BJP. Similarly, the BJP has fielded a candidate in Majhwan, previously held by its ally Nishad Party, and is aggressively targeting SP-dominated constituencies such as Kundarki in Moradabad and Sisamau in Kanpur. The SP led by Akhilesh Yadav, has concentrated its campaign efforts on retaining its hold over key constituencies while countering the BJP's push. Of the nine seats, four were held by the SP, three by the BJP, one by the BJP's ally Nishad Party, and one by the RLD. Eight seats fell vacant after their MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha earlier this year. The Sisamau seat is the exception, where a bypoll is being held following the disqualification of SP MLA Irfan Solanki after his conviction in a criminal case. The by-elections have become a crucial test for both major parties. For the BJP, a strong performance would reaffirm its dominance and help it recover from recent electoral setbacks. For the SP, retaining its seats would strengthen its position as a formidable opposition force.

Fertilizer shortage causes Farmer unrest in MP

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

A severe fertilizer shortage in Madhya Pradesh (MP) has led to the harassment of farmers across the state. Farmers are coming on the streets protesting against the growing shortage of fertilizers, while there have been reports of farmers committing suicide in want for fertilizers.

One such incident was reported in Guna district on Sunday, the deceased Bhagwati Kirar from Jhagar village, before taking this extreme step, made a video narrating his ordeal he faced with the shortage of fertilizers

and blackmarketing of fertilizers in the market. Even in this situation, the state government is a mute spectator, instead of taking action towards solving the problem, the government has been busy in the by-polls. At present, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is busy in electioneering in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. The farmers are facing problems due to blackmarketing of fertilizers as sowing has started for wheat, chana, masoor and other crops of Rabi season. The MP Congress has been raising this problems. Leader of the Opposition in the state

Assembly Umang Singh wrote a letter to the CM requesting to solve the problem but to no avail. Last month, former CM Digvijay Singh and PCC Chief Jitu Patwari had in a press conference alleged that the state government is doing nothing on the shortage of fertilizers in the State. In a ridiculous statement, MP Agriculture Minister Endal Singh Kansana said that Russia-Ukraine war is the reason behind shortage of fertilizers in the State. However, he had assured that the State government would bit let this problem continue for long.

Kerala replaces school marks with emojis



PTI ■ KOCHI

Gone are the days when progress cards and grades measured student performance. Instead, emojis and stars will now be used to assess students in their early education stages. Emojis and stars have already replaced marks or grades for Pre-KG to Class 2 students in many CBSE schools in Kochi, according to school authorities. Starting this academic year, many schools in Kochi have introduced a system of awarding emojis and stars to students from kindergarten to Class 2. This new programme focuses on evaluating children based on their activities, moving away from the written exams. Traditionally, students receive

marks or grades for their performance. "Imagine the added excitement if these were replaced with emojis like clapping hands, a star, or even a trophy. Such visual cues can have a strong impact, making the feedback more memorable and motivating for students," said a teacher with a CBSE school in Kochi. She added that the new evaluation system has received positive feedback. "Early intervention can help develop social skills in students while also alleviating the pressure of grades. This is the highlight of the new system," she said. TP Ibrahim Khan, president of the CBSE Management Association, also stated, "This will enhance the students'

skills." According to him, the new system focuses on developing skills such as communication, active learning, and overall health and well-being. "This is part of the New Education Policy (NEP)," Khan claimed. The pre-kindergarten and two kindergartens, Class 1 and Class 2, have been included in the foundation stage in the policy, he added. Hence, a pattern has been stipulated for these classes, he said. According to Khan, the CBSE has not been officially directed to implement the system in all schools so far. To facilitate a smooth transition, schools held meetings for teachers and developed integrated assessments, said school authorities.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

G20: Delhi to Rio

It is yet another crucial opportunity for world leaders to bridge divides and collaborate on creating a better future

Prime Minister is in Rio de Janeiro to attend the G20 Summit, which is one of the biggest platforms for the world leaders to make collective decisions for the betterment of the world and address the issues confronting the humanity. The 19th G20 Summit brings together world leaders to address some of the most pressing global challenges. Hosted by Brazil, this year's Summit builds on India's successful presidency, which left a lasting impact by inducting the African Union as a permanent member and fostering consensus on divisive issues such as the Ukraine conflict. The summit will feature prominent leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. In Brazil, Modi attends the summit as a member of the G20 Troika, alongside Brazil and South Africa, reflecting India's continued influence in shaping global discourse. The summit's agenda is wide-ranging, reflecting the multifaceted challenges the world faces today. Economic recovery remains a critical priority as nations grapple with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions. Issues such as inflation, debt crises and financing for sustainable development are likely to dominate discussions. Simultaneously, climate action will take centre stage, with a focus on enhancing climate financing, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and achieving the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The geopolitical landscape, particularly the ongoing Ukraine conflict is another focal point. While the issue remains divisive, leaders will seek to find common ground on mitigating its impacts on global food and energy security. The summit is also likely to explore the role of technology in bridging development gaps, emphasising responsible use of artificial intelligence and fostering digital cooperation. For India, the summit is an opportunity to reinforce its leadership on the global stage. As part of the G20 Troika, Modi brings India's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" to the table, advocating for greater inclusivity and collaboration. His interactions with leaders such as Joe Biden and Xi Jinping on sidelines are expected to address key issues like trade, defence partnerships and technology sharing, furthering India's bilateral and multilateral engagements. India's presidency last year emphasised the importance of representing the Global South, a theme that Brazil is expected to continue. This focus on equitable development resonates with nations across Africa, Asia and Latin America, underscoring the need for a more balanced global governance system. For India and Prime Minister Modi, it is a moment to showcase the nation's growing influence and commitment to global solutions, setting the tone for the future of multilateral cooperation. This is one of the big opportunity to bring about meaningful change, hope it is not wasted.



Prime Minister is in Rio de Janeiro to attend the G20 Summit, which is one of the biggest platforms for the world leaders to make collective decisions for the betterment of the world and address the issues confronting the humanity. The 19th G20 Summit brings together world leaders to address some of the most pressing global challenges. Hosted by Brazil, this year's Summit builds on India's successful presidency, which left a lasting impact by inducting the African Union as a permanent member and fostering consensus on divisive issues such as the Ukraine conflict. The summit will feature prominent leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping. In Brazil, Modi attends the summit as a member of the G20 Troika, alongside Brazil and South Africa, reflecting India's continued influence in shaping global discourse. The summit's agenda is wide-ranging, reflecting the multifaceted challenges the world faces today. Economic recovery remains a critical priority as nations grapple with the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and global geopolitical tensions. Issues such as inflation, debt crises and financing for sustainable development are likely to dominate discussions. Simultaneously, climate action will take centre stage, with a focus on enhancing climate financing, accelerating the transition to renewable energy, and achieving the commitments of the Paris Agreement. The geopolitical landscape, particularly the ongoing Ukraine conflict is another focal point. While the issue remains divisive, leaders will seek to find common ground on mitigating its impacts on global food and energy security. The summit is also likely to explore the role of technology in bridging development gaps, emphasising responsible use of artificial intelligence and fostering digital cooperation. For India, the summit is an opportunity to reinforce its leadership on the global stage. As part of the G20 Troika, Modi brings India's vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" to the table, advocating for greater inclusivity and collaboration. His interactions with leaders such as Joe Biden and Xi Jinping on sidelines are expected to address key issues like trade, defence partnerships and technology sharing, furthering India's bilateral and multilateral engagements. India's presidency last year emphasised the importance of representing the Global South, a theme that Brazil is expected to continue. This focus on equitable development resonates with nations across Africa, Asia and Latin America, underscoring the need for a more balanced global governance system. For India and Prime Minister Modi, it is a moment to showcase the nation's growing influence and commitment to global solutions, setting the tone for the future of multilateral cooperation. This is one of the big opportunity to bring about meaningful change, hope it is not wasted.

PICTALK



Riders take part in the MRF MOGRIP Supercross Championship 2024, in Bengaluru

New tentacles of international terrorism



SUDHIR HINDWAN

Proactive leadership is crucial for implementing strategic plans, while swift judicial reforms are needed to handle terrorism cases more effectively

The recent wave of terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, following the formation of a new state government, has reignited concerns over transnational terrorism. These incidents, marked by escalating violence in vulnerable areas, highlight a disturbing evolution in militant strategies. This resurgence is rooted in multiple factors, each revealing the complexities of the situation.

Firstly, the attacks aim to signal that despite the abrogation of Article 370 and the central government's efforts to stabilise the region, Jammu and Kashmir remain unstable. Secondly, Jammu's expansive forested terrains have become a haven for militants, offering natural cover for guerrilla warfare and hindering security forces. Thirdly, the improved law and order in Kashmir has shifted insurgent focus to Jammu, where vulnerabilities are being exploited. Fourthly, while terrorist activities were temporarily subdued, the resurgence of militancy underscores the persistence of deep-rooted threats.

Lastly, despite the successful Assembly elections and the formation of Omar Abdullah's government, the region continues to grapple with relentless attacks. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir resonates with broader developments in the West Asia. Recent events, such as the targeting of an Israeli ship by Iran-backed Houthi groups in the Red Sea and subsequent retaliatory strikes by Israel, the UK and the US on Houthi positions in Yemen, have heightened regional tensions. The involvement of Hamas and Hezbollah in supporting the Houthis underscores a dangerous convergence of terrorist alliances. The killing of prominent figures like IRGC General Sayyed Razi Mousavi and Hamas Deputy Leader Saleh-al-Arouri has added to the volatility, while Houthi leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi's aggressive strategies have intensified attacks.

Adding to these concerns are the January 3, 2024, twin blasts in Karman, southern Iran, which left over 85 dead and hundreds injured. This violence has spread



to Lebanon and Syria, where terror networks have previously used locations like Sana, Yemen, as bases for planting explosives in international airports. These incidents reveal two critical trends: the increasing potential for transnational terrorism and the extension of terror operations into global trade routes and economies. Modern terrorist networks demonstrate an unsettling capacity for precision in choosing targets and timings. The persistence of global terrorism is not new. Tragic events, from the Oklahoma City bombing that claimed over 200 lives to the Tokyo subway gas attack, which killed 12 and hospitalised thousands, reveal its devastating history. Other instances, such as the long-running insurgency of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, have inflicted severe casualties and losses. Nations worldwide-be it Russia, Spain, the UK, Italy, Israel, or China-face the unrelenting specter of terrorist violence.

Social inequities, global economic disparities and historical grievances contribute to the conditions that foster extremism. The post-Cold War global order, shaped by power dynamics of major nations, has exacerbated these tensions. For instance, the power network established by the US and its allies in West Asia has sparked resistance in



THE PERSISTENCE OF GLOBAL TERRORISM IS NOT NEW. TRAGIC EVENTS, FROM THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING THAT CLAIMED OVER 200 LIVES TO THE TOKYO SUBWAY GAS ATTACK, WHICH KILLED 12 AND HOSPITALISED THOUSANDS, REVEAL ITS DEVASTATING HISTORY

many regions, deepening conflicts and animosities. In an interconnected world, socio-economic conditions in one region influence those in another, creating a fertile ground for transnational grievances. The rapid dissemination of advanced weaponry and transportation networks has further facilitated the expansion of terrorist activities. Suicide squads and other modern militant tactics have left security apparatuses reeling. It is imperative to reject narratives that romanticise terrorists as freedom fighters and foster cooperation between local communities and law enforcement to dismantle these networks.

A diversified approach, integrating technical expertise and on-the-ground insights, is essential. Specialised training programmes for security personnel to anticipate and respond to emerging threats are crucial. Countering terrorism requires a multifaceted approach, beginning with detailed analysis of major incidents to formulate actionable strategies. Advanced communication networks must be established to intercept terrorist communications effectively, while enhanced intelligence gathering, supported by strengthened local sources, is essential for generating actionable insights. Investment in cutting-edge technology for maintaining secrecy and secu-

ity, along with training specialists in counter-terrorism tactics, is vital to address evolving threats. Dedicated think tanks should be created to develop innovative solutions, and comprehensive training programs for police, intelligence, and military personnel must be prioritised. Proactive leadership among security officials is crucial for implementing strategic plans, while swift judicial reforms are needed to handle terrorism cases more effectively.

These measures must be accompanied by the political will to enforce them effectively. Public awareness and grassroots support play pivotal roles in countering terrorism. Localised insights should inform security measures to ensure they are contextually appropriate and effective. Ultimately, combating terrorism requires a coordinated global effort.

Nations must share intelligence, align strategies, and foster international cooperation to address this pervasive menace. Time is of the essence, as modern terrorists continuously adapt their tactics. Without addressing the underlying socio-political and economic factors that nurture terrorism, efforts will only provide superficial relief.

(Author, a Bharat Gaurav Award recipient, is a professor, HOD, and expert on strategic affairs; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CLOUDS OF WAR

Madam — Apropos of the article 'US-Iran tensions: War clouds over West Asia' (November 16), the analysis of the geopolitics, particularly in the West Asian context, shows warmongering in West Asia in a long-distant future. Beyond doubt, US-Iran tensions are extremely deep-rooted, and no solutions are visible in the near future. The advent of Donald Trump in his second tenure may be seen as intolerant of any terrorism-oriented politics of West Asian countries where Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, etc., with hundreds of militia, deep state forces, and terrorist organisations, who have no obligations of following or adhering to any international, UNO, or multilateral treaties, conventions, agreements, norms and regulations. Bangladesh is the new entrant of the explosive block.

Such organisations have tacit financial, army and logistic support from these nations while their regular armies execute and control their plans, attacks, hijacks and other disruptive, destabilising and assassination activities. The USA is not solely to blame for West Asian problems and war-ridden Islamic governments rattling guns and bombs as their mainstream administration and geopolitical politics. Obviously, all these countries are devastated and ruined by the compelling influx of illegal immigration from these countries in all European countries, the US, and also India. While Hamas carried out the most sinister attacks on Israel on Oct 7, 2023, the self-annihilation of Hamas and its supportive Hezbollah was on the cards. But the truth is that such organisations supported by their sponsoring governments will never be extinct. These are the façades of the regular armies. It may be seen in European countries that unrest over illegal immigrants is growing. US-Iran enmity is only one of the factors. The world is smarting under the threats of terrorism

Chaos in Imphal



Manipur's Imphal Valley relapsed into chaos after unconfirmed reports that the bodies of all six persons, believed to be women and children missing since November 11, had been recovered from a river along the State's boundary with Assam. As protesters took to the streets, setting vehicles ablaze and attacking the residences of several MLAs in the State capital, Imphal, the

government suspended Internet and mobile data services in seven affected districts of the valley, which is dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis and the surrounding hills, where the tribal Kuki-Zos are in a majority. A curfew was clamped in the three valley districts of Imphal East, Imphal West and Bishnupur. Among the houses of the MLAs targeted was that of Rajkumar Imo Singh, the son-in-law of Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh, whose personal residence on the outskirts of Imphal was also reportedly attacked by a mob on Saturday night. Large groups of people went about asking MLAs to quit if the government was unable to ensure peace and punish killers of women and children.

Dorai Ramani Suresh | Ghaziabad

and fighting against it tooth and nail. Vinod Johri | Delhi

BLAME GAME

Madam — Farmers' issues continue to haunt the Government and the fallout from the UPA government's time continues. Blame games are played just to find an escape route for decades. Instead of punishing farmers, the government should find ways of empowering them so that they can explore alternative ways of destroying stubble. High pollution levels affect the locals. Stubble burning is environmentally hazardous, and it should be prevented. The Supreme Court seems to think that if stubble-burning is halted, the air quality in Delhi would improve dramatically. It has asked the neighbouring states to take appropriate action to prevent it. True, there are safer ways of disposing of stubble, but they are costly. The farmers do not have the financial capacity to pluck out the stubble and bury it in the fields where it will become part of the soil. Yet, the sad fact is that the poor

farmers of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan are blamed for the poor air quality in Delhi. C K Subramaniam | Chennai

SANJU'S CENTURY STREAK

Madam — Sanju Samson has etched his name in the record books by becoming the first player to score three T20I centuries in a calendar year. This remarkable achievement cements his status as one of the most explosive batters in the shortest format of the game. Samson's stellar run began with his maiden T20I hundred against Bangladesh in Hyderabad on October 12. He reached the century mark in just 40 balls, the second-fastest hundred by an Indian in T20I cricket. His innings was a masterclass in power-hitting, as he smashed 111 off 47 balls, including 11 boundaries and 8 sixes, dismantling the Bangladeshi bowlers.

Jayanthy S Manaiam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Turning missteps and misjudgments into growth

Our capacity for introspection determines the kind of individuals we become. Our personal blunders and societal faux pas can shape us



SANJAY CHANDRA

I believe that we are a sum total of experiences. While most are pleasant, a few leave us red-faced at the very best. It is for us to make the choice to introspect and evolve into a better person. My wife and I gingerly stepped out of the confines of our home after the restrictions imposed during the difficult COVID times had been relatively relaxed.

We thought we had crossed the hurdle. Our optimism was misplaced. We observed many vigilantes hanging out on their balconies to catch the hapless walkers at any time of the day or night and call the PCR. The police would necessarily have to come since a complaint had been raised and then go back, irritated at the complainant. We were still terrified enough to wear a mask. However, a few had to be nudged. My wife would good-naturedly point at her mask as a request to those not wearing one. We encountered a young lady walking with no mask, not even one dangling around her ears. The sensibilities of my wife aroused, she stopped the lady and requested her to comply with the regulations.



My wife was rudely brushed aside. The lady stopped us during the next round, to let us know that she was a doctor who spent long hours in the hospital with a mask on, and her lungs needed fresh air, uninterrupted by a mask. Unaware of a different set of rules for medical professionals, I inquired from a few doctor friends. They were unequivocal in their judgement, the lady in question is an idiot. We have all been guilty of an occasional faux pas at some time or the other. I attended a literature festival at a university, a few days before the lockdown, to speak about my book. I made a point that communication amongst people should never stop, even if it means communicating on

social media, be it Facebook, Instagram or Tinder. The audience erupted in loud laughter and I preened with pride at my oratory skills. My jubilation was short-lived. I found out over the net during the train back that Tinder was a dating platform. I may choose to call this a blunder, but the simple fact is that it was stupid of me to speak of something about which I did not know. This foot-in-the-mouth syndrome is nothing new, particularly amongst a certain section of society, who are supposed to be beacons of the good and should be upholding values. A minister in one of the states defended the decision of a medical college to ask the female candidates to declare their virginity in the

admission form because, "Virgin, as per the dictionary, means an unmarried and pure girl. So, all these words are not objectionable." A senior leader observed that electricity must be provided in all villages so that people spend more time watching television than procreating. Another leader mentioned that crimes against women are happening in urban India and not in the villages since we are losing our culture in the cities. The anecdotes narrated above may appear disjointed at a cursory glance. The common thread I detect is the misplaced value system of authority: "My word is supreme."

Nothing gives one the right to dispense half-baked wisdom, not follow the rules, or make discriminatory statements. Our experiences should evolve us. Brazilian educator and philosopher, Paulo Freire, has said aptly, "No one is born fully-formed; it is through self-experience in the world that we become what we are." (The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

SEPHORA KIDS SYNDROME

By promoting safe practices, the parents and society can ensure that this trend benefits rather than exploits



SHAINY SHARMA

The beauty industry is continuously evolving, with brands adapting to trends, demographics and consumer behaviour. A notable trend is the rising interest in skincare and beauty among younger audiences, including children and pre-teens, popularly referred to as 'Sephora Kids'. While Sephora does not have a specific kids line, the term reflects a cultural shift as children become active participants in the beauty and skincare market.

The idea of 'Sephora Kids' is tied to the increasing exposure of children to social media, beauty tutorials and influencers. Platforms like TikTok and YouTube have normalised beauty routines for younger audiences, making skincare and makeup accessible and aspirational. Pre-teens, often labelled as "Generation Alpha," are drawn to the beauty industry as a way of self-expression and social connection.

Parents too play a role in this trend, with some encouraging early skincare habits to prevent future issues like acne. Additionally, brands targeting this demographic such as Bubble and Florence by Mills, offer gentle, age-appropriate skincare, further validating the interest of young consumers? Beauty brands have now recognised the buying power of younger audiences and their families.

Marketing campaigns often focus on inclusivity, fun packaging and social media visibility to attract children and pre-teens. For instance, kid influencers and beauty creators promote skincare routines and products, dri-



ving trends among their peers while brands like Bubble and BTWN emphasise safe, dermatologist-approved products for younger skin. Moreover, platforms like TikTok and Instagram amplify the trend by showcasing beauty routines and promoting luxury brands. This has contributed to an increase in spending among tweens and teens on beauty products, with estimates showing annual expenditures ranging from \$119 to \$140 per child for skincare and makeup.

Not only this, but many parents also express concerns about the safety of children using advanced skincare products with potent ingredients like retinol and acids, which may not be suitable for young skin. Dermatologists report an increase in skin issues, such as irritations and allergic reactions, linked to these products. Parents too worry about the psychological impact, such as the pressure to conform to unrealistic beauty standards and premature exposure to consumer culture?

They note that participating in beauty routines can boost their children's confidence and serve as a creative outlet. However, the same comes with the risk of adopting harmful skincare habits, overspending and feeling pressured by societal beauty ideals? The rise of Sephora Kids raises ethical questions about how much influence the beauty industry should exert over children. On one hand, critics argue that marketing beauty products to young audiences exploits their impressionability and perpetuates consumerism while on the other hand, advocates believe that when managed responsibly, it can foster creativity and self-care. Brands and regulators must emphasise transparency, safety and age-appropriate messaging.

Parents, too at times must guide their children in understanding the importance of moderation and self-acceptance. There is no denying that the concept of 'Sephora Kids' symbolises a cultural and generational shift in the beauty industry. While it opens doors to creativity and self-expression for younger audiences, it also demands careful navigation of ethical and developmental implications. By promoting safe practices and fostering positive self-images, the beauty industry, parents and society can ensure that this trend benefits rather than exploits young consumers.

(The write is an educator; views expressed are personal)

Redesigning education for real-world skills



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

By integrating practical lessons on earning, saving and managing money, education can better prepare students for real-world challenges



It is a truism to state that the world is becoming an increasingly complex proposition to deal with and the methods of coping with it need to be structured and understood. This alone will avoid increasing grief and bewilderment on the way matters are working in the world one is surrounded by. An illustration from the area of finance may illustrate the situation. It is an obvious matter to point out that everyone needs finance to survive and finance has to be obtained if not earned from somewhere. This business of understanding finance or earning requires the ability to understand what finance is and how it can be earned.

Finance comes in many shapes and colours. A common factor in all finance is that it is putting a monetary value to one's effort and it is compensation for what one does to keep a system going. Finance sets the equation between effort and its compensation and finance in turn becomes a tool for both purchasing and obtaining the needs of life beyond purchase. To do so, one needs to understand currency, its equivalence and how currency is measured in effort.

It is one of the enigmas of our prevailing school and college system that these matters are rarely explained through a curriculum or, for that matter, in a formal situation. Much is learned about finance through observation and the domestic environment in which one has grown, that is converted into transactions in operational life and early enough in one's life one learns that one needs to have capabilities to earn money and therefore deal with finance. Each system has its methods of equivalence between efforts and compensation and the forces that determine it are very often referred to as market forces. This by itself is an art that life teaches



FINANCE COMES IN MANY SHAPES AND COLOURS. A COMMON FACTOR IN ALL FINANCE IS THAT IT IS PUTTING A MONETARY VALUE TO ONE'S EFFORT AND IT IS COMPENSATION FOR WHAT ONE DOES TO KEEP A SYSTEM GOING

sometimes simply and frequently through trial and error. Thus, it is that finance is not only tricky, but it leads to comprehend and yet it remains one of the cornerstones of anyone's life. Taking the conversation further, it needs to be realised that finance has some basic constituents like earning, saving, investing, converting into tangible assets and more. Each area has over time become a specialised field of learning and indeed happiness or otherwise of one's existence.

There are forces in finance in the higher classes of the school where certain basic concepts are explained and certain essential foundational ideas on finance are shared. What is needed is giving it a practical orientation and teaching people through fieldwork, the value of finance and its central role in human life. Most classrooms have not graduated to that stage of thinking, or in that way of thinking which means very simply that most people pass through the completion of their schooling without getting the correlation between the essentials of finance and the foundation of living.

A situation becomes more complex when one graduate from the college or university level and then unless one is doing a specific course in finance, one may never learn anything beyond what one has learned in school about finance.

This is a loss because, as enumerated above, what is taught in school about finance does not go very far in the practice of finance. What everyone needs to know is the correlation between one's

worth in handling skills and information and how this is compensated in financial terms by the environment.

This by itself is a tricky proposition and, as suggested earlier, needs fieldwork. Then there are final areas of finance that cannot be learned unless exposed to the practical world and that is not a matter that can be brought into the classroom. Also, in a normal education system, there are again gaps where this learning goes by default and people are left to pay for themselves through trial and error.

This causes not only immense problems but complications of one variety or another. One can be shortchanged or one may not know that services cannot, in many cases, be provided without some type of compensation and that compensation very often has to be in terms of money. It will be a worthwhile approach to explain to people the relationship between money, finance and effort.

Such a perspective will help make the curriculum of not only the schools but also the colleges worthwhile and more practical in one's own life. As matters stand, if one specialises in physics, chemistry, history, psychology, geography, or whatever else, one hardly realises that beyond the so-called specialisation, there is a general education one needs.

This general education can be in behaviour concerning others, management of self, understanding income, understanding expenditure, understanding savings, and so on. Putting it simply, there is a need

to also focus on the range of learning before one crosses into adulthood and becomes a financially viable entity. As indicated earlier, much of this is happening through trial and error, embracing a method; that works in certain cases but not in others. There is a clear need to reduce the treasury for adjustment to actual life through formal inputs before one graduates into adulthood and is thrown into the open sea - as it were to take care of oneself.

The time has come to establish a philosophy of education, self-formation, and teaching that can stand on its feet and be related to the requirements of life.

The time is right for some fundamental thinking on such matters, and the sooner it's done, the better. Similarly, similar reflections are needed in making him a person through his childhood, teenage, and other phases of his life about the nature and content of what is technology.

This is so because technology touches every aspect of our lives, from not just the glasses that one may have to wear to correct one's sight but to everything else that has become such an essential part of one's livelihood and existence. Including and understanding the basic nature of technology in the curriculum of schools and colleges also needs attention. However, that may be a subject matter that needs to be treated separately and independently.

(The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

Cloud seeding, urbanisation, global warming: Where is the world headed?

Amid the climate challenges plaguing urban life, innovative approaches like cloud seeding offer promising solutions for a better future

The impact of global warming and pollution is transforming urban life, turning once vibrant towns into places that are becoming less and less livable.

Across the globe, urban landscapes, particularly in India, are evolving into concrete jungles, where the struggle for survival frequently resembles an arduous challenge. Once viewed as a shining example of culture and a centre for economic pursuits, Delhi and Mumbai now display AQI scores that seem almost staggering.

Heavy with contaminants, the noxious air has transformed into an environmental concern, leaving inhabitants struggling to breathe



RACHNA LAKHPATRI

while suffering from respiratory conditions. Have these cities become uninhabitable? In Delhi, pollution levels frequently fall into the "severe" category, with AQI readings often exceeding 400.

The outcomes are dire: children attending school only part-time; elderly individuals confined indoors; and hospitals inundated with

cases of asthma, bronchitis and various other respiratory ailments. In Mumbai, the oppressive humidity intensifies the situation, transforming the already polluted air into a dangerous mix for its 20-million-strong populace. Economic growth challenges the conventional use of various facilities and personal vehicles: although development fosters prosperity, it comes with significant expenses. Alongside factories and vehicles, construction sites contribute to the GDP; however, they also transform cities into perilous environments. The alarming rise in disease cases compels us to confront a difficult reality: does the cost of progress come at the expense of the health and

wellbeing of the populace? Now, comes cloud seeding, a game changer in this catastrophic scenario. The practice of introducing particles like silver iodide or salt into the atmosphere to encourage rainfall can be celebrated for its potential to cleanse the air and replenish water resources through cloud seeding.

Thus, it could indeed be the virtue that aids in easing the challenges faced by cities: pollution and water scarcity. Countries such as China and the United Arab Emirates have been exploring this technology, while India has intermittently implemented it during severe droughts. Nonetheless, its use as a means to reduce pollution



remains largely uncharted. Is cloud seeding the answer to the escalating air quality crisis in India? Some argue that cloud seeding is not an extraordinary solution. It comes with a hefty price tag, and the long-term effects on the environ-

ment remain uncertain. What truly matters is that addressing pollution at its source—minimising industrial emissions, promoting sustainable urban growth, and shifting to clean energy—continues to be the primary goal. As cities like

Delhi struggle and suffocate under the weight of toxic air, these short-term measures, like cloud seeding, may provide a fleeting but vital relief. The entire conversation regarding urban development requires a complete transformation.

Advancement must not jeopardise the wellbeing of the local population. It is essential for those in positions of authority to champion sustainable practices and enforce rigorous pollution controls to achieve a harmonious relationship between advancement and environmental stewardship. The stakes have never been higher.

The choice before us is stark: continue on a path that suffocates our cities or embrace

innovation and sustainability to breathe life back into urban spaces. The future of millions depends on the decisions we make today.

Conclusion: The intersection of urbanisation, global warming, and pollution demands urgent action. Short-term fixes like cloud seeding can offer relief, but true progress requires systemic change—curbing emissions, adopting clean energy, and prioritising sustainable urban growth. The future of our cities and the well-being of millions depend on decisive, forward-thinking measures taken today.

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views expressed are personal)

Biden authorises Ukraine to use US missiles for strikes inside Russia

AP ■ MANAUS (BRAZIL)

President Joe Biden has authorised Ukraine to use US-supplied missiles to strike deeper inside Russia, easing limitations on the longer range weapons as Russia deploys thousands of North Korean troops to reinforce its war, according to a US official and three other people familiar with the matter.

The decision allowing Kyiv to use the Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, for attacks farther inside Russia comes as President Vladimir Putin positions North Korean troops along Ukraine's northern border to try to reclaim hundreds of miles of territory seized by Ukrainian forces.

Biden's move also follows the presidential election victory of Donald Trump, who has said he would bring about a swift end to the war and raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine.

The official and the others knowledgeable about the matter were not authorized to discuss the US decision publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's reaction Sunday was notably restrained.

"Strikes are not made with words," he said during his

nightly video address. "Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves."

Zelenskyy and many of his Western supporters have been pressing Biden for months to allow Ukraine to strike military targets deeper inside Russia with Western-supplied missiles, saying the US ban had made it impossible for Ukraine to try to stop Russian attacks on its cities and electrical grids.

Zelenskyy's statement came shortly after he posted a message of condolence on Telegram following a Russian attack on a nine-story building that killed at least eight people in the northern city of Sumy, 40 kilometers (24 miles) from the border with Russia.

Russia also launched a massive drone and missile attack, described by officials as the largest in recent months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians. The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity before the winter.

"And this is the answer to everyone who tried to achieve something with Putin through talks, phone calls, hugs and appeasement," Zelenskyy said. The comment appeared to be a dig at German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who spoke Friday with Putin in the first such call with a sitting head of a major

Western power in nearly two years.

Some supporters have argued that the limitation and other U.S. constraints could cost Ukraine the war. The debate has become a source of disagreement among Ukraine's NATO allies.

Biden had remained opposed, determined to hold the line against any escalation that he felt could draw the US and other NATO members into direct conflict with nuclear-armed Russia.

Putin has warned that Moscow could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets if NATO allies allow Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory.

News of Biden's decision followed meetings over the last two days with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China. The addition of North Korean troops was central to the talks, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru.

Biden did not mention the decision during a speech at a stop in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil on his way to the Group of 20 summit.

Asked about the decision, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters that the UN position is "to avoid a permanent deterioration of the war in Ukraine."

"We want peace, we want fair peace," Guterres said Sunday before the summit in Rio de Janeiro. He didn't elaborate.

The longer-range missiles are likely to be used in response to North Korea's decision to support Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to one of the people familiar with the development.

The overall supply of ATACMS missiles is short, so US officials in the past have questioned whether they could give Ukraine enough to make a difference. Some supporters of Ukraine say that even a few strikes deeper inside Russia would force its military to change deployments and expend more of its resources.

North Korea has provided thousands of troops to Russia to help Moscow try to claw back land in the Kursk border region that Ukraine seized this year. The introduction of North Korean troops to the conflict comes as Moscow has seen a favorable shift in momentum.

Trump has signaled that he could push Ukraine to agree to give up some land seized by Russia to find an end to the conflict.

As many as 12,000 North Korean troops have been sent to Russia, according to US, South Korean and Ukrainian assessments. US and South Korean intelligence officials say North Korea also has provided Russia with significant

amounts of munitions to replenish its dwindling weapons stockpiles.

Trump, who takes office in January, spoke for months as a candidate about wanting Russia's war in Ukraine to be over, but he mostly ducked questions about whether he wanted U.S. ally Ukraine to win.

He also repeatedly slammed the Biden administration for giving Kyiv tens of billions of dollars in aid. His victory has Ukraine's international backers worrying that any rushed settlement would mostly benefit Putin.

America is Ukraine's most valuable ally in the war, providing more than \$56.2 billion in security assistance since Russian forces invaded in February 2022.

Worried about Russia's response, however, the Biden administration repeatedly has delayed providing some specific advanced weapons sought by Ukraine, agreeing only under pressure from Kyiv, its supporters and in consultation with allies.

That includes initially refusing Zelenskyy's pleas for advanced tanks, Patriot air defense systems and F-16 fighter jets, among other systems.

The White House agreed in May to allow Ukraine to use US-provided weaponry for limited strikes just across the border with Russia.

Russia chides US over nod to hit its soil with long-range weapons

AP ■ MANAUS (BRAZIL)

President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied long-range missiles was met with ominous warnings from Moscow, a hint of menace from Kyiv and nods of approval from some Western allies.

Biden's shift in policy added an uncertain and potentially crucial new factor to the war on the eve of its 1,000-day milestone. News of Biden's change came on the day a Russian ballistic missile with cluster munitions struck a residential area of Sumy, a city in northern Ukraine, killing 11 people, including two children, and injuring 84 others.

On Monday, another Russian missile attack started fires in two apartment blocks in Odesa, in southern Ukraine. At least eight people were killed and many more were injured, Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksii Honcharenko said in a video he posted on Telegram from the site of the attack.

Washington is easing limits on what Ukraine can strike with US-made weaponry, US officials told The Associated Press on Sunday, after months of ruling out such a move over fears of escalating the conflict and bringing about a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.

The scope of the new firing guidelines isn't clear. But the

change came after the US, South Korea and NATO said recently that North Korean troops are in Russia and apparently are being deployed to help the Russian army drive Ukrainian troops out of Russia's Kursk border region.

Russia is also slowly pushing Ukraine's outnumbered army backward in the eastern Donetsk region. It has also conducted a devastating and deadly aerial campaign against civilian areas in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday referred journalists to a statement made by Russian President Vladimir Putin in September, in which he said allowing Ukraine to target Russia would significantly raise the stakes in the conflict.

It would change "the very nature of the conflict dramatically," Putin said at the time. "This will mean that NATO countries - the United States and European countries - are at war with Russia."

Peskov claimed that Western countries supplying long-range weapons also provide targeting services to Kyiv. "This fundamentally changes the modality of their involvement in the conflict," Peskov said.

Last June, Putin warned that Russia could provide long-range weapons to others to strike Western targets in response to NATO allies allowing Ukraine to use their arms to attack Russian territory. He also reaffirmed Moscow's

readiness to use nuclear weapons if it sees a threat to its sovereignty.

President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office in about two months' time, has raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the United States' vital military support for Ukraine. He has also vowed to quickly end the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy gave a muted response to the approval that he and his government have been requesting of Biden for more than a year. "Today, much is being said in the media about us receiving permission for the relevant actions," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Sunday.

"But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves," he said. The foreign minister of NATO member Lithuania, Gabrielius Landsbergis, said he's not "opening the champagne" yet as it remains unclear exactly what restrictions have been lifted and whether Ukraine has enough of the US weapons to make a difference.

Margus Tsahkna, the foreign minister of Estonia which is another Baltic country that fears a military threat from Russia, said easing restrictions on Ukraine was "a good thing."

Children, parents among 8 killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza, officials say

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip killed eight people, including two children aged 7 and 9 and their parents, Palestinian officials said Monday.

A third child, 10 years old, was wounded in an overnight strike on a tent where displaced people were sheltering in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to the Civil Defence, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. An Associated Press reporter saw the children's bodies at nearby Nasser Hospital.

A separate strike early Monday killed four people, including a woman and a child, in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp, according to nearby Al-Aqsa

Martyrs Hospital.

The Israeli military blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing militants of hiding among civilians and fighting from residential areas. It rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

The war began when Hamas stormed into Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 43,800 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. They do not distinguish between militants and civilians but say most of those killed are women and children.

The fighting has left some 76 people dead in Israel, including 31 soldiers.

Meanwhile, a government minister close to Hezbollah says Lebanon will convey its "positive position" on a United States-backed cease-fire proposal this week.

The Biden administration is trying to halt the war between Israel and the militant group after months of sputtering cease-fire efforts.

Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally who is mediating for the militants, is expected to meet with US envoy Amos Hochstein in the Lebanese capital on Tuesday.

Labour Minister Mostafa Bayram, who met with Berri on Monday, said Hezbollah's func-

tion "is to make sure the (Israeli) aggression fails to achieve its goals, while negotiation is for the state and the government".

A Western diplomat familiar with the talks told The Associated Press there is a sense of "cautious optimism".

"Diplomatic efforts are converging towards a cease-fire, but it's still in the hands and heads of key players to decide if it's in their interest or not to stop things right now," said the diplomat, who was not authorized to brief media and so spoke on condition of anonymity.

The efforts are aimed at reestablishing a UN buffer zone in southern Lebanon established after the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war.



Lebanese policemen stand in front of destroyed shops that were hit Sunday evening in an Israeli airstrike in central Beirut, Lebanon on Monday. AP/PTI

N Korean leader calls for expanding N-forces in face of alleged US threats

AP ■ SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un renewed his call for a "limitless" expansion of his military nuclear program to counter US-led threats in comments reported Monday that were his first direct criticism toward Washington since Donald Trump's win in the US presidential election.

At a conference with army officials on Friday, Kim condemned the United States for updating its nuclear deterrence strategies with South Korea and solidifying three-way military cooperation involving Japan, which he portrayed as an "Asian NATO" that was escalating tensions and instability in the region.

Kim also criticized the

United States over its support of Ukraine against a prolonged Russian invasion. He insisted that Washington and its Western allies were using Ukraine as their "shock troops" to wage a war against Moscow and expand the scope of US military influence, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Kim has prioritized his country's ties to Russia in recent months, embracing the idea of a "new Cold War" and displaying a united front in Russian President Vladimir Putin's broader conflicts with the West.

He has used Russia's war on Ukraine as a distraction to accelerate the development of his nuclear-armed military, which now has various nuclear-

capable systems targeting South Korea and intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially reach the US mainland.

Kim has yet to directly acknowledge that he has been providing military equipment and troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine and the KCNA's report didn't mention whether Kim made any comments toward Trump, whose election win has yet to be reported in the North's state media.

Kim met Trump three times in 2018 and 2019 in Trump's first presidency, but their diplomacy quickly collapsed over disagreements in exchanging the release of US-led sanctions and North Korean steps to wind down its nuclear and missile program.

North Korea has since suspended any meaningful talks with Washington and Seoul as Kim ramped up his testing activity and military demonstrations in the face of what he portrayed as "gangster-like US threats." There's concern in Seoul that Kim in exchange for his military support of Russia would receive Russian technology in return to further develop his arsenal.

Trump's election win has touched off speculation about a resumption of a summit-driven diplomacy with Kim, which was described by critics as a "bromance." But some experts say a quick return to 2018 is highly unlikely, as too much has changed about the regional security situation and broader geopolitics since then.

Trial to begin in human smuggling case after deaths of Indian family at Canada-US border

AP ■ FERGUS FALLS (US)

A criminal network stretching from India to Canada made money smuggling families seeking better lives in the United States, including a man who died holding his 3-year-old son in gusting snow and bone-chilling temperatures two years ago, federal prosecutors plan to argue at a trial starting Monday in Minnesota.

Prosecutors have accused Indian national Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel, 29, of running the scheme and Steve Shand, 50, of Florida of waiting in a truck for 11 migrants, including the couple and two children who died after they tried to walk across the border to the US. Prosecutors say Patel

recruited Shand at a casino near their homes in Deltona, Florida, just north of Orlando. Jagdish Patel, 39, died along with his wife, Vaishaliben, who was in her mid-30s, and with their 11-year-old daughter, Vihangi and their 3-year-old son Dharmik. Patel is a common Indian surname and the victims were not related to Harshkumar Patel, who has pleaded not guilty, as has Shand.

The family, from the village of Dingucha in Gujarat state, is believed to have spent hours wandering fields in blizzard conditions as the wind chill reached minus 36 Fahrenheit (minus 38 Celsius). Canadian authorities found the Patels' frozen bodies on the morning of Jan. 19, 2022. Jagdish Patel

was holding Dharmik, who was wrapped in a blanket. Federal prosecutors say Patel and Shand were part of an operation that scouted clients in India, got them Canadian student visas, arranged transportation and smuggled them into the US, mostly through Washington state or Minnesota.

The US Border Patrol arrested more than 14,000 Indians on the Canadian border in the year ending Sept. 30. By 2022, the Pew Research Center estimates there were more than 725,000 Indians living illegally in the US, behind only Mexicans and El Salvadorans. Harshkumar Patel's attorney, Thomas Leinenweber, told The Associated Press that his client came to America to escape

poverty and build a better life for himself and now "stands unjustly accused of participating in this horrible crime. He has faith in the justice system of his adopted country and believes that the truth will come out at the trial." Attorneys for Shand did not return messages. Court documents filed by prosecutors show Patel was in the US illegally after being refused a US visa at least five times. Over a five-week period, court documents say, Patel and Shand often communicated about the bitter cold as they smuggled five groups of Indians over a quiet stretch of border. One night in December 2021, Shand messaged Patel that it was "cold as hell" while waiting to pick up one group, the documents say.

Canadian PM admits his govt made 'mistakes' in immigration policy

PTI ■ OTTAWA

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has admitted that his government made "mistakes" in its immigration policy which led to "bad actors" like "fake colleges" and big corporations exploiting the system for their vested interests.

Trudeau's statement on Sunday came amidst his Liberal Party's denting popularity ahead of the 2025 general election in Canada. The prime minister is facing intense public criticism due to his policies leading to housing shortage, inflation, and deteriorating health and transport systems in the country.

The opposition Conservative Party has also been accusing his government of mismanagement and failure to prioritise Canadian citizens'

needs. In a video message posted on his YouTube channel, Trudeau said, "In the last two years, our population has grown really fast, like a baby boom...Increasingly bad actors like fake colleges and big chain corporations have been exploiting our immigration system for their own interests."

To combat this, "we are reducing the number of immigrants who are coming to Canada for the next three years," he said. "We made some mistakes and that's why we are taking this big turn," he said, justifying his government's action.

Outlining the government's latest immigration strategy, Immigration Minister Marc Miller said last month that Canada will admit approximately 3,95,000 permanent res-

idents in 2025, marking a drop of nearly 20 per cent from the 4,85,000 expected this year.

The plan also sets a target for temporary immigrants, including international students and foreign workers. Their numbers are expected to drop to about 4,46,000 in 2025 and 2026, down from roughly 8,00,000 this year.

By 2027, Canada will accept just 17,400 new non-permanent residents, the new policy suggested.

Canada also ended the popular fast track study visa programme, SDS, a major policy decision that is likely to impact scores of international students, including from India.

According to the Indian High Commission here, India is the largest source country of for-

eign students with an estimated 4,27,000 Indian students studying in Canada.

Trudeau said for years, Canada's immigration system only focussed on Permanent Immigration where people come with family to settle in Canada and the government decides the number of permanent residents that it wants to admit each year. However, in doing so, it missed "the other pathway — the temporary immigration", which involves international students, temporary workers and so on.

"After the (coronavirus) pandemic, our economy came roaring back quickly. We wanted more workers fast. We were in the midst of a huge labour shortage. Temporary foreign workers became such a signif-

icant part of our workforce...So, we brought in more workers," he said. And it was the right choice and it worked, Trudeau emphasised.

"Our economy grew. Restaurants and stores reopened, businesses kept running, but most importantly, in spite of lots of economists' predictions, we avoided the worst-case scenario — a recession," he said.

However, the prime minister said, some saw that as an opportunity to profit, to game the system.

"We have seen way too many large corporations doing this. Far too many colleges and universities used international students to raise their bottom line, because they could charge these students tens of thou-

sands of dollars more for the same degree.

"And then there are really bad actors who outright exploit people who target vulnerable immigrants with promises of jobs, diplomas and easy pathways to citizenship promises that would never come true," he said. "Looking back when the post pandemic boom cooled and the businesses no longer needed the additional workforce, as a federal team, we could have acted quicker and turned off the taps faster," Trudeau admitted.

Canada's new immigration plan is "straightforward — lower the number of immigrants — both permanent and temporary," he said, adding that the government is prioritising permanent residents with the skills it

needs like healthcare and construction workers.

Trudeau said the cut on the cap on immigrants coming to Canada was necessary to address its housing crisis and cost-of-living issues.

"The goal is to help stabilise population growth while housing stocks catch up, and then to consider gradually increasing immigration rates once again," he said, adding that this pause is going to "give our economy and our communities the chance to catch up with things like our plan to build more homes."

"Some temporary residents may turn to our asylum system when their visa expires...Those claims will be analysed and processed, and if their claim fails, they'll be sent home,"

Trudeau said.

India-Canada ties remain deeply troubled over the North American country's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen who has been designated a terrorist by India.

India rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd" and expelled six Canadian diplomats. India also withdrew its High Commissioner in Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma after dismissing Ottawa's allegations.

India has been maintaining that the main issue between the two countries is that of Canada giving space to pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil with impunity.

Finish probe against Sheikh Hasina by next month, investigators told

AP ■ DHAKA

A special tribunal in Bangladesh on Monday told investigators they have one month to complete their work on ousted former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her close aides who face charges of crimes against humanity after hundreds of people were killed in a mass uprising this summer. Golam Mortuza Majumdar, the head judge of the three-member International Crimes Tribunal, set Dec 17 for investigators to finish their work, as the tribunal heard updates Monday from police about what the country's security agencies have done to arrest Hasina and her close aides.

The decision came after prosecutors sought more time for the investigation. Hasina has been living in exile in India since Aug 5 when she fled the country amid the student-led protests. The Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal on Oct 17 issued arrest warrants for Hasina and 45 others including former



Bangladesh's former social welfare minister Dipu Moni is taken to the International Crimes Tribunal in Dhaka, Bangladesh on Monday.

Cabinet ministers, advisors and military and civil officials. The country is now being run by an interim government headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus. At least 13 people, including a former law minister and a businessman who was Hasina's private-sector advisor, appeared before the tribunal on Monday, said BM Sultan Mahmud, a prosecutor at the tribunal. One former Cabinet minister

was not brought to the tribunal as he was in custody for police interrogation in a separate case. Another six people will appear on Wednesday, tribunal officials said. At least 20 suspects have been arrested in the case. The tribunal will also seek updates from police on their progress in arresting the other suspects, including Hasina. The chief prosecutor of the tribunal has already sought help from Interpol through the country's police chief to arrest Hasina. On Sunday, Yunus said in an address to the nation that his administration would seek Hasina's extradition from India. Authorities say hundreds of people were killed during the uprising in July and August mainly by security agents seeking to quell the initial protests over government jobs. The violence intensified as the protests morphed into an anti-government movement with more bloodshed, ending Hasina's 15-year rule. Hasina had also earlier sought an investigation into the killings.

US, Philippines sign pact to secure shared military intelligence, weapons technology

AP ■ MANILA

The United States and the Philippines signed an agreement on Monday to secure the exchange of highly confidential military intelligence and technology in key weapons the US would provide to Manila.

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and his Philippine counterpart, Gilberto Teodoro, signed the legally binding General Security of Military Information Agreement in Manila at a time when the longtime treaty allies have boosted their defense and military engagements, including large-scale joint combat drills, largely in response to China's increasingly aggressive actions in Asia.

The outgoing Biden administration has taken steps to strengthen an arc of military alliances across the Indo-Pacific region to better counter China, including in any future confrontation over Taiwan or at the disputed South China Sea, which Beijing has claimed

almost in its entirety. That has dovetailed with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's thrust to strengthen his country's external defenses given an alarming escalation of territorial confrontations between Chinese and Filipino forces in the South China Sea.

The Department of National Defense in Manila said the agreement aims to ensure the security of classified military information that would be exchanged between the US and the Philippines. It will "allow the Philippines access to higher capabilities and big-ticket items from the United States," the Philippine defense department said.

Neither side provided more details or released a copy of the agreement.

Two Philippine security officials, however, have told The Associated Press that such an agreement, similar to ones Washington has signed with other allied countries, would allow the U.S. to provide the Philippines with higher-level

intelligence and more sophisticated weapons, including missile systems.

It would also provide the Philippine military access to US satellite and drone surveillance systems with an assurance that such intelligence and details about sophisticated weapons would be kept highly secure to prevent possible leaks, the two Philippine officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the sensitive issue publicly.

Philippine efforts to obtain sophisticated weapons from the US military in the past have been hampered by a lack of such an intelligence deal, including when Filipino forces were scrambling to fight a 2017 siege by Filipino and foreign militants aligned with the Islamic State group in southern Marawi city, Philippine forces, backed by US and Australian spy planes, quelled the uprising after five months.

Austin and Teodoro also attended a groundbreaking ceremony for a center where the

US and Philippine militaries would coordinate future joint operations, including the exchange of information. Austin said the center "will be a place where our forces can work side-by-side to respond to regional challenges."

Austin renewed the US commitment to the Philippines as an ally and told Teodoro that "we are more than allies. We are family."

The coordinating center, Teodoro said, would provide "a unified picture of the shared areas of responsibility and common approaches to threats against both our securities."

"I'm sure it will benefit future generations of both our peoples to come because although we may change people, the values don't change," Teodoro said.

The Philippine defense chief reiterated the crucial need for the US security presence in the region, citing Marcos's repeated statements that such a presence "is essential for maintaining peace and stability in this region."

Sri Lanka President opts for smaller Cabinet with fresh faces

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Monday appointed a 21-member Cabinet in the new NPP government, keeping with his pre-election promise to streamline the governance system and ease the burden on taxpayers.

The National People's Power (NPP) has been advocating a smaller government to reduce costs for the public. Since the NPP won the presidential election in September, the government functioned with just 3 ministers, including the President.

As per the island nation's Constitution, there is a provision for appointing a 30-member Cabinet.

Dissanayake retained the

finance and defence portfolios, while appointing 12 new parliament members to key positions and entrusting eight veteran members, who have served since 2000, with significant responsibilities.

Among the fresh faces in the Cabinet are five academic professors. Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya who holds the education portfolio and Saroja Savithri Paulraj who has the women's and child affairs portfolio are the two women members in the Cabinet. Paulraj, a minority Tamil from the Sinhala majority south, was involved in the party's long struggle.

A significant feature of the swearing-in ceremony was the fisheries minister Ramalingam Chandrasekaran, who took his

oath in Tamil, highlighting the representation of the minority community in the new government.

The new parliament will convene on Thursday. The NPP led by Dissanayake swept the parliamentary elections held on Thursday by winning a two-thirds majority. It also dominated the Jaffna electoral district - the heartland of the nation's Tamil minority. The NPP won a near 62 per cent of the vote 2/3rd majority of 159 seats in the 225-member assembly, a feat which has no parallels since 1989.

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow 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 websites for any changes/amendments/corrigendum etc.

(A)

- 32/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/s W/s (Two Year Annual Cleaning and Repairing of OHT and UGR of Network-55, 56, 66, 67, 68, 74, 112, 113, 115, 118, 121 and 122) Noida. Cost Rs. 82.65 Lacs
- 31/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (P/L Sewer Line, Making Sewerage Connection for Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE) in Sector-62) Noida. Cost Rs. 32.71 Lacs
- 43/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (P/F Manhole cover frame, sewer cleaning and sewer line repair work in sector-52, 53, 61 and Village- Gijher) Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 38.36 Lacs
- 45/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, Vill. Dev. (Repair of P.V.C. Water line and other allied work in Village-Nithari), Noida. (For Two Year). Cost Rs. 34.25 Lacs
- 46/S.M.(Jal)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Repairing and Rewinding of Submersible motor, Starter, Sluice Valve, Reflex valve and allied electrical work at SPS-22) Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs. 40.98 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 02.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 03.12.2024 at 11.00 AM.

(B)

- 27/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, Water Chlorination (Two Year Operation, Running and Maintenance of Chlorination Plant at UGR-20/62, 22/62, UGR-63, UGR-119, UGR-151 and UGR Baholpur), Noida. Cost Rs. 96.05 Lacs
- 29/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o W/s (Two Year Repairing V.T. Motor, Transformer, Starter, TPOM and Other allied Electrical Work in Sector-1 to 7 and Village Harola) Noida. Cost Rs. 41.89 Lacs
- 20/S.M.(JAL)-I/E.T./2024-25, M/o Sewerage (Two Years Maintenance and R/o 50, 75 and 90 HP Submersible Motor, Starter and R/o Transformer in Networks Sector-106 and 110 Sumpwell and SPS), Noida Rs. 41.29 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 25.11.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 26.11.2024 at 11.00 AM.

CORRIGENDUM-1 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. CON/2024/OCT/02 DATED: 22-10-2024

Corrigendum-1 has been issued against Tender No. CE/CON/MP/ROB/2024/02. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Engineer/Con/4
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
Serving Customers With A Smile

CORRIGENDUM NO. 02 AGAINST TENDER NOTICE NO. : CPM-MLG-HQ-GC-2024-01

The following changes have been made in Tender Notice No. CPM-MLG-HQ-GC-2024-01; Date: 14-11-2024:
Name of work: Request for Proposal (RFP) for appointment of General Consultant for N.F. Railway, Gati Shakti Unit. Approx. value: ₹14,88,08,535.16/-
E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and will be opened at 15:30 hrs. on 09-12-2024. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in. All other terms & conditions of above tender will remain unchanged.

CPM/GSU/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With a smile

CHANGE OF NAME

I hitherto known as SARITA alias RAJNI AWASTHI D/o Ramnaresh Chaturvedi W/o Brijesh Kumar Awasthi R/o H.No.-59, Uttam Vihar, Kherha Dharampura, Chhapraula, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJNI AWASTHI.

PD(942)C I, Ram Lal, S/o, Shri Ram Chandar Yadav, R/o. E - 865, E - Block, Jahangirpuri Delhi 33 have changed my name to Ram Lal Yadav for all purposes.

PD(943)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Since Mrs. Suman Devi seeking a Home Loan from Can Fin Homes Ltd. for the property i.e. Property area measuring 80 sq yds part of Khata No. 12/1122 situated at Village Farukhnagar Tehsil Farukhnagar & District Gurgaon Haryana; That, Mrs. Suman Devi has made us to understand that previous owners Mr. Mukesh has lost of misplaced earlier Sale Deed no 1440 dated 08/09/2016 in favour of Mr. Lalit having LR no: 132270412401204 somewhere, which are not traceable or cannot be found. Now, I would like to announce to general public that any person who is having any right, title or interest against that property/share or documents may come to our Delhi office within seven days and render their claim with documentary valid evidence. If any, else the same would be treated as unclaimed and unrebutted and moved forth accordingly.

M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLP
B-132, L.G.P. Malviya Nagar
New Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991116608

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that Sh. Bhoop Singh son of Sh. Nawra, R/o Village-Allahabas, Dabri, Sector-86, Phase-II, Noida, had executed a WILL on Dt.13.02.2024 in respect of Residential Plot No. SU-11, Sector-145, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar-U.P. area measuring 127.0 Sq.Mtrs., duly allotted by the Noida Authority against 5% Village Quota against Khet No.193 & 310, Village-Suthiana, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar-U.P., in our favour which is legit.

Whereas Sh. Bhoop Singh died on 26.05.2024 and after his death We, Manvir S/o Sh. Ramu, R/o 158, Vill. Beholpur, Sector-65, Noida & Kirti Bhati S/o Sh. Dinesh Bhati, R/o 7118, Vill. Shahdara, Sector-141, Noida, want to get mutation of the said property on the basis of WILL in our favour. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Residential (Plot) Deptt. of Noida Authority within 30 days of the publication of this notice. MANVIR & KIRTI BHATI

PROVISION OF ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER PLANT

E-Tender Notice No.: AP/EL/22/24-25. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SI. No. 1; Tender No.: AP/EL/22/24-25; Name of work: Provision of 1300 KwP grid connected rooftop solar power plant at Dhurguri, Jalpaiguri Road, Falakata, Dinhatra & New Mal. Jn. station. Advertisment Tender Value: ₹6,84,90,106.60; Earnest Money: ₹4,92,500.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and will be opened on 06-12-2024 at 15:30 hrs. at DRMElect. (G)/Alipurduar Jn.'s office. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.

DRM/ Elect.(G)/Alipurduar Jn.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PROVISION OF 1733 KWP GRID CONNECTED ROOFTOP SOLAR POWER PLANT

E-Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/PS/MLG/HQ/35/24 Dated: 14-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: At Maligaon (HQ) Division - (Part A) Provision of 1733 KwP Grid connected rooftop Solar Power plant including 5 years AMC/ CAMC at rooftop of Service buildings & residential buildings in Goshala & Nambari Area. Tender Value: ₹9,21,77,460.92/- Earnest Money: ₹6,10,900/- Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender: 15:00 hrs. of 06-12-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the Bank of Baroda, Opposite RICO Office, ZEZ Building, RICO Industrial Area, Boranada, Rajasthan intends to accept the undermentioned property standing in the name of Sh. Ram Kishan Purohit S/o A.R. Purohit, as a security for loan/credit facility requested by M/s Marucol World Pvt Ltd. If anyone has any right/title/interest/claims over the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate the claim. If no response is received within 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free from any charge/claim/encumbrance, and the Bank shall proceed with the mortgage. Details of the Property: Leasehold Industrial Property No. 458, an area measuring 1000 Sq. Mtrs., Block-F, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, (U.P.). Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. Lease Deed dated 10/02/2006, executed by New Okhla Industrial Development Authority in favour of Sh. Ram Kishan Purohit S/o A.R. Purohit R/o C-34, Sec-11, Noida, in respect of said property, duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-II, Noida, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 1352, Page No. 301 to 330, as Document No. 1128, Musanna No. 1129, dated 10/02/2006. Boundaries: East: Plot No. 457/63, West: Plot No. 459/63, North: 12 Mtrs. wide Road, South: Plot No. 457/63 Branch Details/Contact No.: Mr. Devendra Gehlot, Branch Head Contact: +91-94617 60093, Bank of Baroda, Opposite RICO Office, ZEZ Building, RICO Industrial Area, Boranada, Rajasthan.

Advocate Details/Contact: Deepak Singh, Delhi High Court, Contact: 9999170066

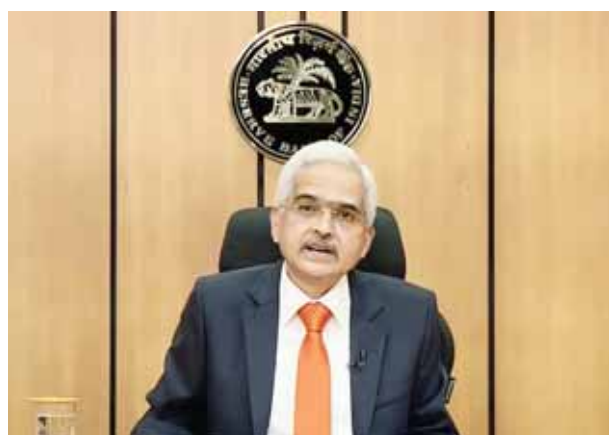
PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the Bank of Baroda, S.S.I. Noida Branch, Sector-18, Noida, (U.P.), intends to accept the undermentioned properties standing in the name of M/s Roots Cooling System Pvt. Ltd., Leasehold Industrial Property No. 53 at Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP hereinafter referred to as Details of Property-1, and Sh. Anoop Kumar Saxena and Sh. Rajeev Kumar Saxena, having freehold property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, hereinafter referred to as Details of Property-2, as a security for loan/credit facility requested by M/s Roots Cooling System Pvt. Ltd., has its office at S-164, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi. If anyone has any right/title/interest/claims over the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate their claim. If no response is received within 10 days, it is presumed that the property is free from any charge/claim/encumbrance, and the Bank shall proceed with the mortgage. Details of Property-1: Leasehold Industrial Property No. 53, area 1950 square meters, Block B, Sector Phase II Extension, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. Lease Deed duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar, Ghazabad, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the land underneath. Boundary/Survey No./Reg./No./Extent: Regd. registered as Document No. 10657, Book No. 1, Volume No. 2178, on Pages 71 to 82 Dated 15.11.2000 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar V, New Delhi. Boundaries: East: EAST Plot No. B-19, West: Plot No. B-20A, South: Plot No. 24 meter road, Details of Property-2: Entire Second Floor, along with Terrace over and above the Second Floor, along with One Servant Quarter, having a common bath/W.C. on the top terrace (except the area of three servant quarters and common bath/W.C.), with car parking space in the driveway on the Ground Floor, with structure standing therein, of Property bearing No. B-20, Kailash Colony, New Delhi, measuring 596.7 Sq. Yds., along with the proportionate share of rights in the

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das urges banks to strengthen governance to curb unethical practices

PTI ■ MUMBAI

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday asked bank boards to strengthen internal governance framework to curb unethical practices, such as mis-selling of products or opening of accounts without proper KYC verification. Das also said that the incentives for bank staff should be carefully structured so as not to encourage them to indulge in unethical practices. "While such practices may yield short-term gains, they ultimately expose the bank to significant long-term risks, including reputational damage, supervisory scrutiny



and financial penalties," he said in a keynote address at the Conference of Directors of

Private Sector Banks here. Das further said that the Indian banking sector is

transitioning through a time which is replete with opportunities as well as risks and challenges. "The banking sector remains strong and stable. All the financial indicators have improved since we met in May last year, reflecting the efforts of the various participants of the banking sector, including their management and boards," he said. To keep the resilience of the banking system intact, the governor emphasised that strong fundamentals ought to be leveraged to reinforce and fortify the defences. "Good times, after all, are the best times to reinforce

resilience and grow sustainably," he added. Das also said that in the rapidly evolving and technology-driven environment, organisations face significant challenges and risks. Factors like technological advancements, the rise of new-age fintech entities, third-party dependencies and climate change are reshaping the economic landscape, he added. Amid these shifting tides, bank boards should serve as a lighthouse for lenders and provide steady guidance to help navigate these challenges and steer towards safe and prosperous shores, he said.

SC issues notice to Centre over vacancies in 11 Debt Recovery Tribunals

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Ministry of Finance on a PIL highlighting critical vacancies in 11 Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) across India. The DRTs are set up under the Recovery of Dues to Banks and Financial Institutions Act of 1993 to enable banks and financial institutions recover bad debts from borrowers. "Eleven DRTs remain unmanned which is creating issues. In view of the grant of additional charges and also the complications, notice be served including 'dasti', counter affidavits (reply) be filed in five weeks and the rejoinder to be filed within three weeks after the response," said a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar. The PIL, filed by Ghaziabad resident Nischay Chaudhary, was argued by senior advocate K B Sounder Rajan along with lawyer Sudarshan Rajan. According to the PIL, as of September 30, 2024, 11 DRTs are without presiding officers, severely impacting their ability to resolve cases efficiently. The PIL raised concerns that nearly one-third of the 39 DRTs in the country are currently non-functional due to the absence of presiding officers, undermining their core objective of expediting debt recovery for banks and financial institutions. The petitioner argues that



this inaction frustrates the purpose of the 1993 law, which was enacted to ensure timely adjudication and recovery of debts. The plea said various DRTs at Jaipur, Chennai, Mumbai, Aurangabad, Ahmedabad, Coimbatore, Ranchi, Bengaluru and Lucknow have vacancies. The PIL also emphasises that speedy justice is a fundamental right under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, as recognised by the Supreme Court in the case of District Bar Association Dehradun vs Ishwar Shandilya in 2020. The PIL sought a direction to the Ministry of Finance to produce records relating to the selection and appointment of presiding officers in DRTs to evaluate the government's seriousness in addressing these vacancies. It also sought a direction to the Centre to mandate the timely filling up of existing vacancies and establish mechanisms to prevent delays in future appointments. As interim measures, it sought a direction that the powers of non-functional DRTs are vested in other tribunals to prevent

disruption of services. "Issue any further orders to safeguard the efficient functioning of DRTs in the interest of justice," the PIL said. "For instance, the Presiding Officer, DRT Patna has been given additional charge of the Ranchi DRT (22.07.2024) and Lucknow DRT (17.09.2024). The charge of DRT Jaipur has now been with DRT Delhi for almost a year. "This stopgap arrangement is no respite; rather causes practical difficulties to the concerned lawyers practising in the particular DRTs and further decelerates the disposal of the other DRT as we," the plea said. In view of the additional charge given to such DRTs, only urgent matters are taken up and normal matters are not considered, it said. "The pendency is on the increase in such DRTs. The irony is that a specific time schedule ranging from 60 to 180 days has been stipulated in the Act whereas the DRTs remain non-functional due to non-appointment of Presiding Officers beyond the above time range," the PIL said.

Rupee recovers from all-time low to settle six paise higher at 84.40 against US Dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered from its all-time low level and settled with a gain of 6 paise at 84.40 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, backed by a retreating American currency. Forex traders said, the recovery in the local unit was capped by the unabated withdrawal of foreign funds amid lacklustre sentiment in the domestic equity markets as well as an upward movement in crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.42 and touched the intra-day high of 84.37 against the greenback during the session. It finally settled at 84.40 (provisional) against the dollar, up 6 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee fell 7 paise to settle at its all-time low of 84.46 against the US dollar. The Forex market was closed on Friday on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. "This minor support for the rupee was further aided by a reduction in FII selling activity in recent days, with expectations that sell-off pressure will remain limited

due to the upcoming state elections in Maharashtra. "The rupee is expected to find support in the 84.45-84.52 range, while resistance is projected around 84.25-84.30," said Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.06 per cent at 106.55. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose by 0.79 per cent to USD 71.60 per barrel in futures trade. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined 241.30 points, or 0.31 per cent, to close at 77,339.01 points, while Nifty fell 78.90 points, or 0.34 per cent, to settle at 23,453.80 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Thursday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 1,849.87 crore, according to exchange data. On the domestic macroeconomic front, India's merchandise exports in October rose by an impressive 17.25 per cent year-on-year, highest in over two years, to USD 39.2 billion, while the trade deficit widened to USD 27.14 billion on a sequential basis, according to the latest government data released on Thursday. Meanwhile, the country's forex reserves dropped by USD 6.477 billion to USD 675.653 billion for the week ended November 8, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

SBI to open 500 more branches in FY25, take overall network to 23,000: Finance Minister

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said SBI will open another 500 branches to take its overall network to 23,000 by the end of FY25. Speaking at an event to mark the 100th anniversary of the state-owned lender's main branch in Mumbai, Sitharaman recalled that the size of the bank has increased substantially since 1921 when three presidency banks merged to form the Imperial Bank of India (IBI). The government passed an Act of Parliament to form SBI in 1955 out of what used to be

IBI, and what was a network of 250 branches in 1921 has grown to 22,500 now, she said. "SBI today has grown to become 22,500 branches, and I understand that another 500 branches are going to be opened in FY25. So, 23,000 branches," Sitharaman said. The finance minister said this growth of SBI should be a 'global record', particularly in the context of India being repeatedly 'taunted' for income disparities. She said SBI commands a 22.4 per cent share in the overall deposits in the country, nearly one-fifth in advance and serves over 50 crore

customers. Sitharaman said the digital investments are "robust" at the bank, and it can handle up to 20 crore UPI transactions a day. This is a long way from the objective of the merger of three presidency banks in 1921, Sitharaman said, pointing out that one of the stated aims of the century-old consolidation move was to extend banking services to people. The Mumbai main branch is housed in a heritage building inaugurated in 1924 and currently handles nearly a fourth of all the deposits in the country.

Gold and silver prices rebound because of ongoing wedding season buying, global cues

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold and silver prices rebounded on Monday in the national capital mainly on the back of ongoing wedding season buying by jewellers and retailers as well as strong global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Snapping a four-day losing streak, gold of 99.9 per cent purity rose by Rs 400 to Rs 77,450 per 10 grams in the local markets. The precious metal had closed at Rs 77,050 per 10 grams on Thursday. Silver also climbed Rs 1,810 to reclaim the Rs 92,000 per kg-mark against the previous close of Rs 90,190 per kg on Thursday. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent



purity jumped Rs 400 to Rs 77,050 per 10 grams. The yellow metal had settled at Rs 76,650 per 10 grams. Traders said besides wedding season demand from jewellers and retailers, a strong global trend for

gold influenced the precious metal prices. On Friday, the local bullion markets were closed on account of Guru Nanak Jayanti. In futures trade on the MCX, gold contracts for

December delivery jumped Rs 621 or 0.84 per cent to trade at Rs 74,567 per 10 grams. During the day, the precious metal had climbed Rs 732 or 0.99 per cent to Rs 74,678 per 10 grams on the exchange. "Gold traded strongly positive due to heightened geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine. This geopolitical risk bolstered gold prices as investors turned to safe-haven assets," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said. Silver contracts for December delivery also bounced by Rs 879 or 0.99 per cent to Rs 89,300 per kg

on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX). In the Asian trading hours, Comex gold futures rose USD 25.20 per ounce or 0.98 per cent to USD 2,595.30 per ounce. "Geopolitical developments over the weekend fuelled some haven flows, allowing the precious metal to start trading on a positive note," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities, HDFC Securities, said. Meanwhile, retail demand in India is likely to improve due to the ongoing wedding season, Gandhi said. According to Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, last week, gold and silver prices extended their decline, reaching two-month lows in international markets.

This sharp drop was primarily driven by the strong performance of Bitcoin and the US dollar following Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election, reducing the safe-haven appeal of precious metals, Kalantri said. Silver traded 1.23 per cent higher at USD 30.81 per ounce in the international markets. "Focus this week will be on the preliminary Manufacturing and Services PMI data from major economies along with Fed officials comments," Manav Modi, analyst, Commodity Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said. The commentary from the officials will chart a path for the policy interest rates.

Sensex down 241 points, Nifty falls for seventh day as FPI selling spree



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty continued their decline on Monday owing to unabated foreign fund outflows, selling in IT stocks and weak leads from the US markets. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 241.30 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,339.01 and registering its fourth day of decline. During the day, it fell 615.25 points or 0.79 per cent to 76,965.06. Falling for the seventh day in a row, the NSE Nifty dipped 78.90 points or 0.34 per cent to 23,453.80. From the 30-share Sensex pack, the Tata Consultancy

Services, Infosys, NTPC, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finserv, Sun Pharma, IndusInd Bank and Reliance Industries were the major laggards. Tata Steel, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Nestle and State Bank of India were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,849.87 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 22,420 crore from the Indian equity markets so far this month, owing to high domestic stock valuations, increasing allocations to China, and

the rising US dollar as well as Treasury yields. With this sell-off, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have recorded a total outflow of Rs 15,827 crore in 2024 so far. Equity markets were closed on Friday for Guru Nanak Jayanti. "Consolidation continued in the market, a slowdown in earnings growth and a weak rupee due to inflation impacted the sentiment. IT stocks reacted negatively today due to a reduced expectation of a Fed rate cut in December, which may pose a delay in spending in the BFSI segment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. In Asian markets, Seoul and Hong Kong settled higher while Tokyo and Shanghai ended lower. European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.49 per cent to USD 71.39 a barrel. The BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 110.64 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 77,580.31 on Thursday. The Nifty declined by 26.35 points or 0.11 per cent to 23,532.70.

Bajaj Finance FD book rises 21 per cent to ₹ 66,131 Crore

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Bajaj Finance Ltd (BFL), part of Bajaj Finserv Ltd, has reported a growth of 21 per cent in its Fixed Deposit (FD) book to Rs 66,131 crore as on September 30, 2024, a senior company official has said. The company's total customer franchise stood at 92.09 million as of September 30, 2024 and net users on its App platform stood at 61.67 million. "The Bajaj Group's century-old legacy of trust resonates across generations of Indian



families. Bajaj Finserv is founded on the business philosophy of the Bajaj Group, which has encouraged people across

demographics to choose its FDs," Sachin Sikka, Executive Vice President Deposits, Investments, Rewards and EMI Cards, Bajaj Finance,

said. Senior citizens can avail FD rates of up to 8.85 per cent and non-senior citizens can take benefit of rates of up to 8.65 per cent, by booking digitally in the 42 months tenure, Sikka said. Bajaj Finance has seen deposits growing in Punjab and Haryana, where senior citizens constitute nearly two-thirds of its deposits base. The company's FDs also highlight equal participation by male and female investors, Sikka added. "This multi-generational trust

is driving us to continuously transform savers' experience through digital journeys, competitive interest rates and a safe investing platform," Sikka said. Bajaj Finance has emerged as India's largest deposit-taking NBFC. It presents an opportunity for savers to secure stable and better returns in prevailing market conditions. Bajaj Finance Ltd maintains the highest domestic credit rating of AAA/Stable from CRISIL and ICRA for its Fixed Deposit program.

Emerging India Focus Funds settles FPIs violation case with Sebi, pays ₹ 64.35 Lakh

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Emerging India Focus Funds on Monday settled a case concerning the alleged violations of Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) rules with markets regulator Sebi on payment of Rs 64.35 lakh towards settlement charges. This came after the applicant filed an application with Sebi proposing to settle the proceedings initiated against it, "without admitting or denying the findings of facts and conclusions of law" through a settlement order. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a



showcause notice in February for the alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries Regulations. Pending adjudication proceedings, Emerging India Focus Funds filed an application with Sebi and shelled out Rs 64.35 lakh on November 13 to settle the

alleged violations. "In view of the acceptance of the settlement terms and the receipt of settlement amount by Sebi, the instant adjudication proceedings initiated against applicant vide SCN (showcause notice) dated February 29, 2024, is disposed of," Sebi said in its order.

INBRIEF

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY POSTPONES EXAMS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 20

GURUGRAM: Guru Nanak Dev University has announced the postponement of all annual and semester (theory) examinations initially set to take place on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Prof. Shalini Bahel, Professor Incharge (Examinations) said that the exams will now be rescheduled for Sunday, December 1, 2024, at their originally designated times and examination centers.

SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CELEBRATES 20TH (SPECIAL) CONVOCATION.

KATTANKULATHUR: The 20th (special) Convocation of SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) was held on 15th November 2024 at the Kattankulathur campus. A total of 10,848 students including undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG), and doctoral (PhD) programs in Science and Humanities, Medicine and Health Sciences, Management, Law, and Agricultural Sciences, were awarded their degrees.



India look to play to their strength, start as favourites against Japan

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Confident and unbeaten India will back their strategy of attack and defense at appropriate times when they take on Japan in the semifinal of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here Tuesday. Hosts and defending champions India will undoubtedly enter the semifinal as clear favourites against a side which they trounced 3-0 in their final league game. World number nine India have registered five wins from as many games, including 3-0 victory over Olympic silver medallist and world number six China. India's chief coach Harendra Singh also emphasised on the need to continue in the same vein in the tournament. "We know what are their strengths and weaknesses. For us, this tournament is about working on our strengths and build a formidable style of play for Indian women's hockey team. It's a mixture of attacking and defensive," Harendra said. "So far the girls have executed really well. I am satisfied with their decision making but semifinal will be a different ball game." The Indians must guard against complacency, as a single mistake could shatter their dreams of retaining the crown. The top four sides qualified for the semifinals of the six-team continental tournament. In the other



semifinal China will be up against Malaysia. The Indians might have defeated Japan hands down in the league stage, but Harendra is in no mood to take their opponents lightly in the knock-out match. "Of course we are expecting a tough fight from Japan because the training game and pool matches are different. It's a semifinal and every team prepares according to their

plans. "We are going to face some resistance from Japan for sure. They have a good side but we have to do our homework. We need to focus on how we want to play rather than focussing on the opponent," he said. After a cagey start, India quickly found their rhythm, elevating their performance dramatically and excelling in every aspect of the game.

One of the most encouraging aspects of India's success here has been the stellar performance of their backbone, led brilliantly by Udit, Sushila Chanu, and Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke. The Indian defense has been so solid that goalkeepers Savita Punia and Bichu Devi Karibam have hardly been tested in the tournament thus far. In the first part of the tournament,

the Indians were guilty of rushing the play and failing to identify the right options inside the opposition circle, a shortcoming acknowledged by Harendra. But it seems the hosts have gotten over that bad habit in the last few matches. Not only have they managed to play full press hockey, but they've also displayed improved decision-making inside the circle, resulting in some fine field goals. Penalty corner conversion was also an area of concern but over the last few games, the likes of Deepika and Manisha Chauhan have risen to the occasion on that front. India have got a fine striker and a fierce dragflicker in young Deepika. Her exploits in the tournament can be gauged from the fact that she is leading the goal scorers chart with 10 strike which includes four field goals, five penalty corner conversions and one from the spot. Other Indian forwards like Sharmila Devi, Sangita Kumari Preeti Dubey and Lalaremsiami have also contributed immensely in the home team's campaign so far. Skipper Salima Tete has been the centre point of the Indian midfield in the company of Neha Goyal, vice-captain Navneet Kaur and Beauty Dung Dung. The only concern going into the business end of the tournament for chief coach Harendra would be the lack of action of his goalkeepers Savita and Bichu as they hardly were seen in action, given the performance of the defenders.



Nelly Korda rallies in Florida for her seventh LPGA win of the year

AP ■ BELLEAIR (US)

Nelly Korda was back to competition for the first time in nearly two months and didn't miss a beat. She ran off five straight birdies on the back nine to stage another comeback, closing with a 3-under 67 to win The Annika for her seventh LPGA Tour title this year. Korda had a rough start and said she didn't have many happy thoughts when she made the turn at 2 over for the day, two shots behind Charley Hull. Starting with a birdie on No. 11, she made five in a row on her way to a three-shot victory. The only big surprise was seeing her younger brother, Sebastian, who has been charting his own career in tennis that kept him from seeing his sister win until Sunday at Pelican Golf Club. Korda, who earlier this year tied an LPGA record with five straight victories, became the first player to win seven times in a season since Yani Tseng in 2011. No other American had won seven times in a season since Beth Daniel in 1990. Korda now has won four times this year when trailing going into the final round. Hull, going for a wire-to-wire win, simply couldn't keep up with Korda's birdie blitz. Coming off her first

win worldwide two weeks ago in Saudi Arabia, Hull closed with a 1-over 71 and tied for second with LPGA rookie Jin Hee Im (68) and Weiwei Zhang (70). Zhang moved up 24 spots to No. 82 in the Race to CME Globe to keep her card for next year. The top 60 advance to the CME Group Tour Championship next week in Naples, where the winner gets \$4 million. Carlotta Ciganda moved up three places to secure the final spot. Korda last played Sept. 22 in Ohio. She was planning to play twice during the Asian swing until a minor neck injury kept her at home. She was eager to get back in time to play Pelican, where she had won two of the previous three years. "After taking some time off with an injury, it feels great to be back out here," Korda said. "Nothing like being in the hunt, the adrenaline feeling on the back nine, and being in contention. I love it so much." The victory puts her over \$4 million for the year, and she can nearly match that with a win next week at Tiburon Golf Club. The ranking does not matter for the season finale — all 60 players have the same shot at one of the biggest prizes in women's sports.



Omkar Salvi named RCB's bowling coach

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday announced the appointment of Omkar Salvi as the IPL franchise's bowling coach, a reward for guiding Mumbai to Ranji Trophy and Irani Trophy titles last season. A well-known name on the domestic circuit, Omkar has in the past worked as assistant coach with Kolkata Knight Riders. "Omkar Salvi, current Head Coach of Mumbai, has been

appointed as RCB's Bowling Coach," the franchise tweeted. "Omkar, who has won the Ranji Trophy, Irani Trophy and the IPL in the last 8 months, is excited to join us in time for #IPL2025, after completion of his Indian domestic season duties." He is expected to join RCB after the end of the ongoing Ranji season, which will resume on January 23. In between, he will also oversee Mumbai's campaign in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20

tournament. Omkar, who is the younger brother of former India player Avishkar Salvi, has played just one List-A game for Railways in 2005. He is contracted with the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) until March 2025. This will be Salvi's second IPL stint after his tenure at KKR. RCB have never won an IPL title despite participating in it since the tournament's inaugural edition way back in 2008.

Britain knocks out defending champion Canada to advance to Billie Jean King Cup semifinals against Slovakia

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

Britain kept alive its hopes of winning the Billie Jean King Cup for the first time by defeating defending champion Canada in the quarterfinals in Malaga. Katie Boulter clinched the 2-0 victory with a 6-2, 6-4 win over Leylah Fernandez after Emma Raducanu defeated Rebecca Marino 6-0, 7-5 in the first singles match of the tie. "I think we have got a great team. We've always got a great chance," Boulter said. "I think every single day anything can happen. We're just going to keep believing, keep trusting it, and just keep enjoying it. I think that's really important. It's worked so well for us so far." Four-time finalist Britain is yet to win the title, though it's the second time in three years that it has made it to the last four. Canada clinched its first title last year. "You know what? We can't win them all, and I think credit to Team Great Britain, because I

think both girls played complete matches today," Canada captain Heidi El Tabakh said. Britain next faces Slovakia in the semifinals. "It's fantastic. It really is a brilliant achievement for the team," Britain captain Anne Keothavong said. "But like I said on court, you know, the job is far from over." SLOVAKIA KEEPS MOMENTUM Slovakia followed up its win over the United States with a 2-0 victory against Australia to reach the last four. Rebecca Sramkova cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Ajla Tomljanovic to clinch Slovakia the victory after Viktorija Hrucakova rallied to defeat Kimberly Birrell 7-5, 6-7 (4), 6-3 for her sixth straight BJK Cup win counting singles and doubles. Slovakia had beaten the U.S. — the competition's most successful nation — in the first round of the finals in Malaga. Iga Swiatek's Poland, seeking its first title, will face Italy in the other semifinal.

China Masters: Satwik-Chirag return to action in BWF World Tour

PTI ■ SHENZHEN (CHINA)

India's premier men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will make a highly-anticipated return to action at the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament, starting here on Tuesday, following a disappointing Paris Olympics campaign. The former world number one duo had been sidelined from competitive action post the Paris Olympics due to Satwik's shoulder injury. Their absence from the circuit led them to miss several high-profile tournaments, including the Arctic Open, Denmark Open, and China Open. Fresh off a lengthy recovery, Satwik and his Asian Games gold medal-winning partner Chirag will aim to regain their momentum, despite having



been without a coach since Mathias Boe's departure in August. Satwik and Chirag, who finished runner-up in the last editions, will start their campaign against Chinese Taipei's Yang Po-Hsuan and Lee Jhe-Huei in the opening round. Elsewhere, P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will look to overcome their recent

struggles and aim for improved performances as they continue their quest for consistency and form. Both the players, who took a long break after their campaign at the Paris Games ended in early August without a medal, have struggled to regain their best form since the Olympics. Since his semifinal loss in Paris, Lakshya has endured

early exits at the Arctic Open Super 500 and Denmark Open, and the trend continued last week, with the young shuttler making another first-round exit from the Kumamoto Masters Japan. He will kick off his campaign against seventh-seeded Malaysian Lee Zii Jia. The 23-year-old possesses the ability to beat any opponent, but his mental toughness has been questioned following his agonising near-miss at the Tokyo Olympics, where he slipped from a medal position in a heartbreaking loss. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu bounced back from her shock opening-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland, reaching the quarterfinals in Odense. However, Li proved to be a hurdle once again, defeating Sindhu in the round of 16 last week.

The unseeded Indian begins her campaign against Thailand's Supanida Katethong, whom she leads 5-4 on head-to-head record. Also competing in the women's singles event will be promising young talents Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod. Aakarsi will face Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan in her opener while Malvika will take on Line Højmark Kjaersfeldt in the first round. The women's doubles team of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, that made a first round exit from the Kumamoto Masters Japan, will also be in action. The Indian duo will square up against the second seeded Chinese combination of Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning. B Sumeeth Reddy will partner Sikki Reddy in the mixed doubles event.

Sinner opens up about his doping case after winning ATP Finals trophy before his home fans

AP ■ TURIN (ITALY)

Sleepless nights. Constant thoughts of what went wrong — and how it could have been prevented. Jannik Sinner opened up about his ongoing doping case after beating U.S. Open runner-up Taylor Fritz 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday for the ATP Finals trophy before his home fans. Sinner tested positive in two separate drug tests in March and a decision to clear him of wrongdoing was appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency in September. A final ruling is expected from the Court of Arbitration for Sport early next year. Sinner's explanation was that the banned performance-enhancer entered his system unintentionally through a massage from his physiotherapist, who had used a spray containing the steroid to treat his own cut finger. "I've kept on thinking about where we went wrong and what we could have done

better," Sinner said in Italian. "I had days where I wasn't feeling great; nights when I didn't sleep well. "But when I put my hat on, I don't think about what's going on beyond the court," Sinner added. "I'm fortunate to have people around me who keep me stable. Thanks to them we've continued to work hard every day like there's no tomorrow and we've even improved in this period." SINNER'S PERFORMANCE HAS APPROACHED DOMINATION LATELY Sinner's victory in Turin was the latest big achievement in a year full of them following his first two Grand Slam titles at the Australian Open and U.S. Open and clinching the year-end No. 1 ranking. Sinner has won 26 of his last 27 matches and ends the ATP season with eight titles and an overall record of 70-6. "The work will never stop. We know we still have room for improvement," Sinner said. "But it's been an incredible season and there's

no better place to finish the season than here." SINNER ALSO BEAT FRITZ IN THE US OPEN FINAL AND THE GROUP STAGE Sinner maintained his recent mastery over Fritz, having also beaten the American in the U.S. Open final in September and in the group stage this week at the elite event for the year's top eight players. By sweeping all five of his matches en route to the trophy, Sinner earned \$4.8 million — the largest winner's prize on the men's tour. Sinner became the first Italian to win the finals and he went one step further than last year, when he lost the championship match to Novak Djokovic, who withdrew this time. And he did so without dropping a set — which was last accomplished by Ivan Lendl in 1986. "I just tried to understand whatever works best for each opponent," Sinner said. "It was a very high-level tournament from my side. At



times, I couldn't play better." THE CROWD WAS DECKED OUT IN ORANGE — SINNER'S THEME COLOR The crowd inside Inalpi Arena included multiple clusters of fans wearing orange — a tribute to Sinner's red- and orange-colored hair,

and how he once ate carrots during a match. There were orange carrot costumes, orange wigs, orange hats, jackets and plenty of other orange items, too. Some fans even had carrots in their mouths. The crowd broke into its customary chant of "Ole, Ole,

Ole; Sin-ner, Sin-ner" when Sinner produced a drop-shot winner to break for a 4-3 lead in the first set. Sinner faced a break point while serving for the first set but saved it with a big serve out wide that Fritz couldn't return. Then he served an ace — his 10th of the set — to

close it out. Another break by Sinner early in the second and the match was virtually over. SINNER LED 14-8 IN ACES AND GAVE FRITZ HARDLY ANY CHANCES Sinner served better than he had all week, leading 14-8 in aces without any double-faults. "He served absolutely lights out. So many lines," Fritz said. "He placed the serve great. He took a lot of risk on the second serve as well. I think that was probably one of his main game plans, to not let me attack his second serve." FRITZ WILL STILL RISE TO A CAREER-HIGH NO. 4 Fritz was attempting to become the event's first American champion since Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi in the title match 25 years ago. Sinner will rise to a career-high No. 4 in the rankings on Monday after beating No. 2 Alexander Zverev in a third-set tiebreaker in the semifinals on Saturday. That

will make him the highest-ranked American man since Andy Roddick was No. 4 in August 2007. It's the latest in a series of achievements for Fritz, whose run in New York made him the first American man to reach a Grand Slam singles final since Roddick lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009. "I feel like I've gone up a level and I'm much more confident in my game," Fritz said. At the start of the week, Fritz told The Associated Press that his "career has always been a very steady progression and just improving a little bit each year." DAVIS CUP AND NADAL'S RETIREMENT ARE NEXT Both Sinner and Fritz will conclude their seasons representing defending champion Italy and the United States, respectively, in the Davis Cup finals, which start Tuesday in Malaga, Spain, and which will also mark Rafael Nadal's retirement.

'Hungry' Virat's record in Australia will give him confidence: Gavaskar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli will be "very, very hungry" for runs following his lean patch against New Zealand, according to former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar, who feels the veteran batter's strong track record Down Under will boost his confidence heading into the upcoming Test series against Australia.

Kohli has faced a challenging patch in all formats over the past few months. In his last 60 Test innings, he has managed just two centuries and 11 half-centuries.

This year, he has averaged only 22.72 across six Tests, and in the three games against New Zealand, he could manage only 93 runs. "Because he hasn't scored runs against New Zealand, he'll be very, very hungry," Gavaskar told Star Sports.

"Even in that Adelaide Test, where India was bowled out for 36 in the second innings, Kohli scored 70-plus runs in the first innings before being run out," he added.

Despite these recent struggles, Kohli has an outstanding record in Australia. The right-hander, who has been part of four tours Down Under, averages a stellar 54.08.



Gavaskar believes these stats will provide a significant confidence boost as Kohli prepares for the upcoming five-match series, starting with the first Test in Perth on Friday. "He has consistently performed in Adelaide, a ground he knows well. Before Adelaide, it's Perth, where Kohli played one of his finest Test centuries in the 2018-19 series — a terrific hundred."

"Having performed on these grounds, he'll feel an extra bit of confidence. Of course, you need a bit of luck at the start, but if he gets off to a good beginning, he will score big runs," Gavaskar added.

As the series approaches, all eyes will be on Kohli, who will look to bounce back with his trademark resilience and continue his fine record in Australia. Kohli knows what's coming: Manjrekar.

Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar also weighed in on how Australia might target Kohli. "I think Virat knows exactly what's coming," Manjrekar said. "They'll start with a line outside the off stump to assess his mindset. These days, he often leaves balls outside off and looks to drive anything pitched up. Australia may try to cramp him for room and attack his body, especially since he likes to get forward. New Zealand used this tactic effectively."

Manjrekar continued, "If he's focused on balls outside off stump, bowlers like Josh Hazlewood could target the middle-stump line, much like Vernon Philander used to do. Australia will experiment with different strategies, and Virat Kohli is well aware of that."



Sri Lanka beats New Zealand in 2nd ODI to win another home series

AP ■ PALLEKELE (SRI LANKA)

Kusal Mendis hit a patient 74 not out as Sri Lanka beat New Zealand by three wickets under the DLS method with six balls remaining in the rain-hit second ODI.

Sri Lanka took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series with the final game also at Pallekele on Tuesday. Sri Lanka won the first one-day international by 45 runs — also by DLS — after rain disrupted that game at Dambulla.

It was Sri Lanka's fifth ODI series win at home in 2024 after it had beaten Zimbabwe, Afghanistan, India and West Indies. Sri Lanka couldn't qualify for next year's Champions Trophy after finishing ninth at last year's 50-over World Cup in India, but has since then lost just one ODI series in Bangladesh while winning five at home.

"It is really tough for batters to score runs here," Sri Lanka captain Charith Asalanka said. "This is just another series. As a team, we are moving towards a big goal and we have to achieve that, this is a process."

Mendis followed his career-best 143 in the series opener with a determined 102-ball knock as Sri Lanka reached 210-7 in 46 overs.

The match was cut to 47 overs-a-side after two rain interruptions when New Zealand batted and was bowled out for 209 in 45.1 overs. Sri Lanka was set a target of 210.

Michael Bracewell's first four-wicket ODI haul (4-36) gave New Zealand a sniff when Sri Lanka slipped to 163-7 before Maheesh Theekshana (27 not out) shared a match-winning 47-run stand with Mendis and carried the team home.

Earlier, Sri Lanka grassed a few hard chances but Avishka Fernando took three spectacular catches after Asalanka won the toss and elected to field. Mark Chapman ended his struggling batting form with 76 off 81 balls, but his dismissal in the 37th over would see New Zealand lose its last six wickets for 36 runs. Mitchell Hay made a well composed 49 off 62 balls and shared a 75-run stand with Chapman. Hay was the last man to be dismissed.

New Zealand struggled against a four-pronged spin attack with Theekshana (3-31) and Jeffrey Vandersay (3-46) sharing six wickets. Left-arm spinner Dunith Wellalage, the only change Sri Lanka made from the team which won the first game, and Asalanka took one wicket each.

Bracewell mopped up the top order but Mendis stood firm as he completed his half century off 84 balls with four boundaries. He added 39 runs with Janith Liyanage and another 31 with Wellalage, who struck three successive boundaries in his 18-run knock against Nathan Smith before holing out at mid-on to give Bracewell his fourth wicket.

But Theekshana showed some aggression against pace, slicing fast bowler Jacob Duffy for the only six in the Sri Lanka chase and also struck two boundaries. "It is always a challenge when you are defending a low score," New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner said. "Kusal played the situation very well ... that partnership (between Kusal and Theekshana) at the end took it away, but we also left a few runs out there."



India name 20-member team for men's Junior Asia Cup

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Defender Amir Ali will lead a 20-member Indian squad in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament starting in Muscat from November 26.

India have won this tournament for a record four times, including 2004, 2008, 2015 and 2023. They beat nemesis Pakistan 2-1 in the final last year to lift the title. This year, the event will have 10 teams from the continent divided into two pools with India, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea and Thailand clubbed in pool A.

Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, Oman and Pakistan are in Pool B.

The tournament is also a qualifying event for next year's FIH Junior World Cup and India have automatically qualified for it by virtue of being hosts.

However under the guidance of coach PR Sreejesh, the team will be looking to build on its recent success at the Sultan of Johor Cup. Rohit will serve as Amir Ali's deputy.

"The Sultan of Johor Cup was a first-time experience for

Vaughan shocked by India's call to skip warm-up matches ahead of Australia series

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Baffled by India's decision to head into the high-profile Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia without a proper warm-up game, former England captain Michael Vaughan has raised concerns about how the tourists would get into a "competitive mindset" without match practice.

India decided against playing a match against an Australian domestic side in the run up to the five-match Test series, starting in Perth from November 22, marking a departure from their approach on the previous two tours of Australia. "I just can't see how you get yourself in that competitive mindset of consequence by playing an intra-squad game. Time will tell."

But India have also called off their scheduled three-day intra-squad match with their 'A' team. They have instead opted to focus on centre-wicket training at the WACA in Perth. The Indian think tank believed that the bounce of the WACA centre strip closely mirrors that of



the Perth Stadium pitch. As a result, they felt it would be beneficial for all top-order batters to spend more time in the middle. "I'm surprised that this Indian side didn't want at least one game of cricket, and the WACA's the perfect venue because it's a similar pitch to Optus (Stadium), so you get used to the bounce," Vaughan said.

Australia had also skipped warm-up matches before last year's Test tours of India and England, citing issues with scheduling and a lack of trust in local curators as contributing factors. "These players have a different kind of mindset to what we had, whereas we probably needed more games," Vaughan continued.

"They're playing 12 months of the year and get straight into it, but it'll be intriguing to see how both sets of players settle on that first day when they're playing the longer form."

"The modern player maybe believes that they don't need (tour matches). They think they get enough cricket throughout the year and they can crack and just adapt. I just like to see teams win and stick a marker down," he added.

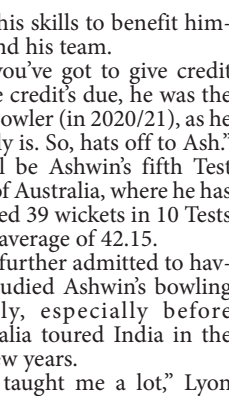
Ashwin, an incredibly smart bowler, has taught me a lot: Nathan Lyon

PTI ■ PERTH

Veteran Australian spinner Nathan Lyon believes that rival players often serve as the "best coaches", acknowledging that his Indian counterpart Ravichandran Ashwin has "taught" him a great deal through their faceoffs since 2011-12.

Having made their Test debuts in the same year, Lyon and Ashwin will face each other for the eighth time in the longest format during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy five-Test series beginning in Perth on November 22. "Ash (Ashwin) is an incredible bowler. I've gone head-to-head with him for basically my whole career, so I've learned a lot from Ash," Lyon told Fox Cricket.

"He's an incredibly smart bowler, and he's able to learn and adapt very quickly, and I think the best bowlers in the world are able to do that. He



used his skills to benefit himself and his team. "So, you've got to give credit where credit's due, he was the best bowler (in 2020/21), as he usually is. So, hats off to Ash." It will be Ashwin's fifth Test tour of Australia, where he has claimed 39 wickets in 10 Tests at an average of 42.15.

Lyon further admitted to having studied Ashwin's bowling closely, especially before Australia toured India in the last few years.

"He's taught me a lot," Lyon said. "I'm a big believer in the players that you play against are your best coaches that you eventually come across."

"I've watched a lot of his footage heading over to India, the way he goes about it here in Australia, see if I can pick up anything."

"The way I look at cricket is that I've never met anyone who has conquered the game, never played against or with



anyone who's conquered the game. "There's so much to learn in this great game, and there's so much for me to learn from Ash. He's a world-class bowler. He's taken over 500 Test match wickets, and he should be extremely proud of that."

Ashwin (21.76) outshines Lyon (30.81) in terms of having the best Test bowling average in Asia. However, the Australian

has better bowling figures outside Asia -- Lyon: 30.09, Ashwin: 33.14.

Asked if they could face again post this tour, Lyon reckoned, "Spin bowling is a craft that the older you get, the better you get with age."

"There's definitely no limit for me, and I don't think there should be a limit for us as well. He's absolutely world-class, and there's a series in a couple of

years' time. So, who knows?" Asked the secret of his success on non-spinning tracks, Lyon quipped: "I know Jadeja reads all of this stuff, so I can't really share all my secrets."

"My big thing is spinning up the back of the ball and getting bounce, but it's a hard craft to be able to do that in Australia. Your size for error is extremely small," he said. They may not have won a Test series against India in nearly a decade, but Lyon feels their World Test Championship final triumph last year would give them the edge.

"India's got the wood over us in the past few series, but if you're looking at the World Test Championship (final) in England, we were able to beat them there, and I know that should give us a bit of confidence heading into (this summer)," Lyon said.

"We understand that we're coming up against a world-

IOA gets involved as India host first Kho Kho World Cup from January 13-19

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Monday confirmed its partnership with the Kho Kho Federation of India as the country gets ready to host the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup, to be held here from January 13 to 19.

The IOA has pledged its "unwavering support" for the event to be organised at the at the IGI Stadium.

In a statement to KKFI chief Sudhanshu Mittal, IOA president PT Usha expressed the association's strong commitment to elevating indigenous



sports like Kho Kho. Usha said, "We recognise the significance of this event in celebrating our cultural heritage and promoting traditional sports, and we look forward to collaborating with Kho Kho Federation of India to ensure the success of the tournament. "Together, we aim to make this event memorable and impactful, encouraging the spirit of sportsmanship among participants and fostering a deeper appreciation for Kho Kho worldwide."

Mittal said the partnership between IOA and KKFI will be a "game-changer" for Kho Kho. "The support of the IOA, led by

with 25 countries from six continents set to compete. Teams from Asia, including hosts India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, will face off alongside competitors from Africa, Europe, North America, South America, and Oceania. Nations like Ghana, Kenya, England, Germany, Brazil and Australia will be among the participants.

MM-248

କମଳାଧର ଉତ୍କଳୀୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ରାଜରାଜପୁର ବିଭାଗ
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, RAIRANGPUR DIVISION
Tel. No. :- (06794) - 222008 (O) 222008 (R) FAX No. :- (06794) - 222836, e-mail-dforp@gmail.com

Tender Call Notice
Identification No. 156 /DFO, RRP-1F/2024-25 Dt.18.11.2024.

The DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, RAIRANGPUR FOREST DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids to be received in offline mode for the following works from the eligible experienced contractors in similar nature of work, registered with State Govt. & Contractor of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Govt. / Railways.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Nature of work | 1.R.O. Residence at Ichinda, 2.Forester Quarter at Ichinda & 3.Forest Guard Quarter at Ruansi |
| 2. No. of work | 03 (Three) |
| 3. Period of Completion | 03 (Three) Months |
| 4. Cost of tender | Rs.6000/- (Four Thousand) only for each work |
| 5. Estimated Cost | 1.Rs.28.85 Lakh, 2.Rs.24.66 Lakh & 3.Rs.19.53 Lakh including all charges |
| 6. Class of Contractor | "B" & "C" for R.O. Residence & Forester Quarter "C" & "D" Class for F.G. Quarter |
| 7. Date & time of availability of tender document | Tender Document will be available in the O/o the Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur on payment of cost of Tender Document each work in shape of non-refundable Bank Draft in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Division payable at Rairangpur from 11 hours of 20.11.2024 to 17.30 hours of 27.11.2024. |
| 8. Receipt of bid documents | Through direct deposit by hand / registered post / speed post to the Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Forest Division, Rairangpur, Mayurbhanj, PIN-757043 on or before 28.11.2024 by 11.00 AM. |
| 9. Receipt of EMD | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @1% of the value of the work shall be submitted along with Tender, EMD will be in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Rairangpur Division payable at Rairangpur. The EMD will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidder. The EMD for the successful bidder will be released only after completion and handover the work. |
| 10. Date & time of opening of technical bid | 01.29.11.2024 at 15.30 hours onwards |
| 11. Other Documents | (As mentioned in DTGN) |
| 12. Any addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be published if, required. | |
| 13. The undersigned reserves the right to accept / reject any or all Tender without assigning any reason therefor. | |

OIPR-08055/11/0002/2425

Division Forest Officer, Rairangpur Division