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IN SUPPORT OF MAORI RIGHTS



HAZE STAYS, IDEAS FLOAT

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the National Capital's air pollution crisis has reached an alarming level, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) consistently in the "severe plus" category on Tuesday, the Delhi government is now pressing for cloud seeding to artificially induce rain to dissipate the thick layer of smog, work from home facilities and considering bringing odd even scheme, that could help combat the worsening air quality. The Delhi government has also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in tackling the issue of air pollution.

Amid Delhi's worsening air quality, which has plunged into the "severe plus" category with an AQI consistently above 460, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai addressed a press conference accusing the Centre of not acting on their repeated request to allow artificial rain in the national capital. He said that he had written to Union government Bhupender Yadav for the fourth time seeking a joint meeting with stakeholders to get clearances for artificial rain to disperse Delhi's high pollution.

"Despite repeated requests through letters on August 30, October 10, and October 23, the Union Environment Minister has not taken cognisance of the situation or responded to the Delhi government's appeals," Rai said in his latest letter. He alleged that despite repeated reminders and requests, the Centre was yet to call a meeting to discuss the



option. Rai said while the GRAP-IV restrictions are being enforced to tackle the alarming levels of pollution, the thick smog layer engulfing the city can only be broken by wind or rain.

In his letter, Rai proposed that this meeting include the Delhi Government, experts from IIT Kanpur who have conducted research on artificial rain, and key Central Government ministries such as such as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Defence along with other relevant departments. Artificial rain is needed in Delhi as an emergency measure to reduce pollution and help citizens at this juncture. While the Delhi Government is willing to initiate the emergency measure, it needs a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Centre's Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and Defence Ministry among other agencies.

"After consulting several experts, we believe the time has come to use artificial rain to break this layer of smog in Delhi," he said. "Delhi cannot get relief from pollution unless we break the smog layer. Cloud seeding can help mitigate the crisis and provide immediate relief to citizens," Rai said. Emphasising the urgency of the current situation, Rai said in his letter, "I request the Union Environment Minister to convene an emergency meeting with all stakeholders, including IIT Kanpur and relevant central agencies, to fast-track the clearances required for artificial rain." This cloud seeding technique, which involves the aerial dispersion of salt particles like silver iodide or chloride into clouds to induce rain, is being

considered as a potential solution to the city's dire air quality issues. While the concept of cloud seeding is not new, its effectiveness in combating air pollution remains a subject of debate among experts. The method's success hinges on optimal atmospheric conditions, including adequate moisture and humidity in the clouds, and the presence of specific cloud types that grow vertically.

The high cost and uncertainty of outcomes also raise questions about the viability of this approach as a sustainable solution to air pollution. Additionally, concerns have been raised about the potential environmental impacts of altering natural processes through cloud seeding. Experts emphasise the need for more research to understand the long-term effects of this intervention and call for a multi-disciplinary

approach to policy formulation in this area. He also said that the government is in talks with experts to enforce emergency measures like odd-even and work-from-home options if the pollution levels in Delhi continue to remain in the severe-plus zone-above 450 in the coming days. Delhi is not new to the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme. First implemented in 2016, the AAP government's initiative aimed to control vehicular emissions in the city by only allowing private vehicles whose registration number ends with an odd number to ply on odd dates and even registration numbers to ply on even dates. Vehicles with registration numbers ending in even digits (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) are allowed on the roads on even dates, while those with registration numbers ending in odd digits (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) are permitted on odd dates.

"A decision on implementing work-from-home measures and the odd-even scheme will be taken soon to tackle the city's worsening air quality," Rai said. He said, "People, including children and senior citizens, are struggling to breathe and we deeply regret this situation." On the possibility of implementing work-from-home measures, Rai stated, "We will take a decision on this soon." The minister added that the government has already imposed significant restrictions on vehicles under GRAP-IV. "We are analysing the impact of these measures. If the analysis shows a positive outcome, we will take further decisions accordingly," he said.



CJI asks judges to allow virtual hearings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna on Tuesday said all judges have been asked to allow virtual hearings wherever possible in view of the severe pollution levels in the National Capital Region. As soon as the Bench comprising the CJI and Justice Sanjay Kumar assembled, lawyers, including Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Kapil Sibal, referred to the worsening pollution in Delhi and NCR and sought immediate measures to deal with it. "We have told all the judges to allow virtual hearings wherever possible," the CJI said.

The CJI, however, did not allow the submissions that the SC should go online and reiterated that the lawyers have the option to appear online. Sibal said a message is needed to be sent to other courts and tribunals in the national capital in this regard as the "pollution is getting out of control." He was supported by various lawyers that also included Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

On poll eve Vinod Tawde's 'cashgate'



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a major embarrassment for the ruling MahaYuti on the eve of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Vinod Tawde found himself in a fierce controversy over the alleged distribution of cash to some people, following the claims by Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) that it had caught him red-handed in the act.

The controversy erupted after BVA founder and six-time Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Vasai, Hitendra Thakur and his son Kshitij Thakur, a three-time MLA from Nalasopara, alleged that their party colleagues and workers had seen Tawde distributing money to people. They alleged that Tawde had arrived with Rs 5 Crore for giving it to BJP candidate Rajan Naik for distribution to people in Vasai-Virar area of Palghar district. Cashing in on the allegations, leader of the Opposition in

Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of the Congress singled out Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an attack "Modiji, from whose safe did these Rs 5 Crore come? Who looted the public's money and sent you in the tempo?" Rahul asked.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Ramesh Chennithala demanded the arrest of Tawde. A BJP general secretary, Tawde has been caught red-handed while distributing money in Vasai-Virar. The allegation against him is that Tawde distributed Rs 5 Crore among people on the eve of elections. That being the case, Tawde should be arrested immediately," Chennithala said.

The controversy broke out when BJP's Tawde had gone to the deluxe Le Vivanta Hotel at Virar (East). The BVA leaders alleged that he was carrying Rs 5 Crore cash, along with some 'diaries'. The drama that unfolded in the morning lasted for more than eight hours.



Russian President Vladimir Putin likely to visit India soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to visit India next year as part of a laid down structure between the two countries for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday. The two sides are looking at the possibility of the visit but nothing has been finalised yet, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Russian President to visit India when the two leaders held summit talks in Moscow in July. Prime Minister Modi visited Kazan in Russia last month to attend the BRICS summit.

Earlier on Tuesday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov in a video interaction with senior Indian Editors referred to the strong bilateral relationship between India and Russia, and added Putin's visit is on the cards. He did not give any specific dates or make a definitive announcement of the visit. The interaction was organised by the Russian state-owned Sputnik news agency.

"We are looking forward to the visit. The dates will be mutually worked out soon," Peskov said. "Specific dates of President Vladimir Putin's visit to India will soon be announced and Russia will begin preparing for it," he said.

"I hope soon we'll work out the precise dates of his visit... Of course, after two visits of Prime Minister Modi to Russia, now we have a visit of the President to India, so we're looking forward to it," he added.

Odisha road-show in Singapore a big success: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Tuesday said the visit of Odisha delegation to Singapore to attract global investors to the State was highly successful.

"Over the past three days, we engaged with industry leaders, visited advanced ports and industrial complexes and gained valuable insights to enhance Odisha's development," he said.

Majhi also invited the investors to the Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025.

The highlight of the third day of the Chief Minister's visit was the investor road-show, which was attended by over 300 delegates, including prominent industry leaders, investors, Odia diaspora and special invitees.



Another major event of the day was an 'Interactive Session on Business Opportunities in Odisha', attracting global investors and industry leaders from across the ASEAN region.

During the day, Chief Minister Majhi and Industries Minister Sampad Charan Swain were engaged in high-level G2G discussions with Chee Hong Tat, Minister of Transport, Government of Singapore. Following the meeting at the Ministry of Transport, the delegation visited the Institute of Technical Education and Education Services

(ITEES).

The delegation also participated in a roundtable meeting organised and supported by Enterprise Singapore and FICCI, where they delved into specific opportunities in key sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing and IT.

The delegation also visited the Port of Singapore Authority, a global leader in port operations, to study best practices in port management and logistics. The focus was on identifying strategies that can be implemented in Odisha to enhance the efficiency of its own ports.

Assembly Winter Session from Nov 26

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Winter Session of the Odisha Legislative Assembly is set to commence on November 26 and end on December 31.

Ahead of the session, an all-party meeting would be held on November 25 to ensure smooth conduct of daily proceedings. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling informed on Tuesday. During the session, numerous Bills will be tabled for discussion and adoption. A Supplementary Budget will be presented.

According to an official notification, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi will present the Supplementary Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal on the first day of the Assembly session. The Appropriation Bill is scheduled to be tabled on December 5.

Discussions on Demands for Grants will take place from December 2 to 4.

As per the provisional calendar, 20 days will be allocated for official business and five days for private members' business. The Assembly will remain closed on Sundays and December 25 (Christmas Day).

Death of jumbos: 3 forest officials suspended

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Three field officials were on Tuesday suspended by the Forest Department following the death of three elephants due to electrocution in the forest near Buramal in Sambalpur's Naktideul Range on Sunday.

Moreover, the Forest Department also recommended the government to take action against two senior officials of

the department.

The department intensified the probe into the incident after Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi expressed concern over the death of the elephants.

Meanwhile, three of the four accused involved in the incident have been arrested and another is on the run. The department is trying to nab the fourth accused with the help of police.

Notably, the elephants were electrocuted to death after

coming in contact with a live power line laid by poachers to trap wild boars to protect crops.

Divisional Forest Officer, Rairakhol, Aurobinda Mohanty said two female adult elephants and a calf died in the incident.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Wildlife Sussant Nanda termed the incident as 'unfortunate' and said, "There was negligence on the part of the patrolling team and field officials of the area."

Mom dog waits 26 hrs near dead puppy

PNS ■ KEONJHAR

Be it animals or humans, mother's compassion is the same in all cases. An example of this has been found on the streets of Patna block in Keonjhar district.

On Monday, a puppy of a stray dog died in a bike collision. After that, its mother



kept vigil near the dead puppy for about 26 hours with tears in her eyes till the Tuesday. The mother dog kept watch

over the dead cub all night in the freezing cold.

The mother dog barked at the sight of the people as if it was seeking the help of humans.

On Tuesday, a local retired Army officer took the carcass of the puppy from the road and buried it. And the mom dog went away.

"Put up a board, Ganga is not fit to bathe in," NGT to Varanasi DM

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) expressed strong displeasure over the administration's failure to maintain the cleanliness of the Ganga in Varanasi. In a scathing rebuke, the tribunal even suggested that a board be put up on the banks of the river, stating that Ganga water in the city is not safe for bathing.

The reprimand came during a hearing regarding the slow progress of the restoration of Asi and Varuna, two important tributaries of the Ganges. The NGT bench, led by Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Dr. A Santhil Vel, asked Varanasi District Magistrate

(DM) S Rajlingam whether the water of the Ganga in Varanasi was fit for drinking or bathing.

When the DM remained silent, the tribunal remarked sharply, "If this is the case, why not place boards along the riverbank stating that the Ganga water in Varanasi is not suitable for bathing or drinking?" In response, DM Rajlingam said, "It's not within my jurisdiction. The District Magistrate acts in accordance with government directives."

The NGT bench, unimpressed by the DM's reply, reminded him of the considerable power vested in his office, urging him not to appear "helpless" in the face of the situation. The tribunal

then directed the government's advocate to submit an affidavit detailing the current status of the restoration of Asi and Varuna and the condition of the Ganga by the next hearing, which is scheduled for December 13.

This marks the second time in recent months that the NGT has expressed its dissatisfaction with the Varanasi administration's efforts. Three months ago, the tribunal imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the DM for failing to comply with its orders concerning the Ganga's restoration.

During the hearing, petitioner Saurabh Tiwari highlighted that despite repeated meetings and official



discussions, no tangible progress had been made on the ground in terms of cleaning the Ganga and restoring the tributaries. The NGT was informed that the restoration of the Asi and Varuna rivers was moving at a slow pace, with 40 meetings

having taken place, but no visible work was evident. The bench questioned DM Rajlingam about his efforts since taking office in Varanasi in November 2022 and asked what measures had been implemented during his tenure. The tribunal also

noted that the renovation of the tributaries was meant to be completed within a 12-month deadline, set by the NGT in 2021. However, more than 33 months have passed, and the situation remains largely unchanged.

The government's lawyer, Bhanwar Pal Jadoun, presented the state's efforts, including the Pollution Control Board's initiatives to clean the Ganga. However, the bench found the explanations unsatisfactory, emphasizing the need for concrete actions.

The petition, filed on August 4, 2024, highlighted the slow progress of the restoration work for Asi and Varuna. The NGT had originally set a five-year deadline for the

completion of the restoration in 2021, but after over three years, little on-the-ground action has been seen.

The restoration process officially began after a meeting of the Supervisory and Execution Committees in November 2021, but as per the petitioner, the project remains confined to bureaucratic processes, with no substantial work visible in the river areas.

As the December 13 hearing approaches, all eyes are now on the state government and district administration to provide accountability for the lack of progress and to step up efforts to restore the Ganga and its tributaries, which are crucial for the ecological balance of the region.

Crorepati Babus OPHWC DGM, K'nagar Sub-Collector arrested

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
A day after unearthing his massive assets, the Vigilance police arrested Subhash Chandra Panda, Deputy General Manager, Eng. (Civil), Odisha State Police Housing Welfare Corporation (OPHWC), Brahmapur Division, on Tuesday. The development came after the Vigilance raids found that Panda was allegedly in possession of disproportionate assets. As per Vigilance, two multi-



storied buildings, including one triple-storied palatial building, were found in the name of Panda in Bhubaneswar. He had also paid Rs 66 lakh to a realtor to purchase a flat in Bhubaneswar. Besides, the Vigilance also

detected around 870 grams of gold, five high-value plots, deposits amounting to over Rs 1.84 crore and cash Rs 13.47 lakh, which Panda could not explain satisfactorily. Earlier in the day, the Vigilance had also arrested Dhenkanal district's Kamakhyanagar Sub-Collector Narayan Chandra Nayak on the charges of possessing disproportionate assets. Multiple raids had been conducted on the property linked to Nayak on Monday. During the raids, Vigilance

sleuths had found that Nayak was in possession of disproportionate assets like three multi-storied buildings, including a triple-storied house at Bhubaneswar. Apart from this, 14 high-value plots, including seven in Bhubaneswar, deposits amounting to over Rs 34.57 lakh, cash of Rs 1.48 lakh, gold of 366 grams were also detected during the raids. As Nayak could not give any satisfactory answer, he was booked under relevant sections as per law.

Modi to attend DGPs' meet in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Prime Minister Narendra Modi would attend the All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police 2024 which will be held in Bhubaneswar, informed BJP State vice-president Golak Mohapatra on Tuesday. The three-day conference will start from November 29 and a formal announcement in this regard will be made by the Odisha Government soon. Apart from Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also scheduled to attend the crucial conference. This will be



the first time that the conference will be held in Odisha. Sources said deliberations are likely to be held on futuristic themes in policing and security-related to the country apart from cybercrime, technology in policing, counter-terrorism challenges, Leftwing extremism, prison reforms, etc.

Fakirnama: A saga of Odia identity's iconic architect



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Fakirnama: Saga of Odia Identity's Iconic Architect, a bilingual book on Fakir Mohan Senapati, written by her great granddaughter Monica Das, was released here on Sunday. The coffee table book celebrates the life and literature of the Vyasakabi, who pioneered the Odia literature to acquire a global identity. Cauthored by Prof Monica Das, chairperson of the Fakir Mohan Foundation, and Rabindra Kumar Das, the book has many rare photographs. Monica Das, an academician based in Delhi, has a passion for rediscovering writers who have contributed immensely for awareness on girl child education and their socioeconomic status in pre-independent India. She said Fakir Mohan Senapati is among the sixteen most prominent authors who have created an identity across the nation. Speaking on the occasion, State Convener of INTACH AB Tripathy said Fakir Mohan was a sage and a re-

naissance man whose writings have a contemporary relevance. Even though Fakir Mohan did not have a good formal education, he successfully used the folk speech in his writings and established a connection with the readers. His daring adoption of the scorned common speech as a literary medium was a pioneering literary adventure. Eminent painter Jatin Das said Odias need to team up and prove their identity as even till date people are undermining the Odias despite their rich culture, art, tradition and literary legacies to boast of. Fakir Mohan, through his writings, mobilised public opinion and gave Odias the confidence to unify their homeland and create a single province of Odisha. Eminent writer and former Eastern Region Head of Central Sahitya Akademi Mihir Ranjan Sahoo, who is the executive director of the Fakir Mohan Foundation, and INTACH Bhubaneswar Chapter Convener Anil Dhir were present during the release of the book.

'Ban ostracism against lovers who defy caste'

AMOFI, FPI hold talk
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The AMOFI and the FPI jointly held a seminar on the topic, "Social ostracism on account of love marriage must stop in Odisha and in other parts of India. All caste organisations be banned. No parents should be harassed, fined because their sons/daughters have done anti-caste love marriage." It was chaired by AMOFI president Manas Jena. Speaking on the occasion, FPI general secretary B Ramchandra CST Voltaire pointed out that sadly all political parties for their vote bank politics are keeping mum on the cruel inhuman practice of social ostracism. All lovers should marry fearlessly and



they must raise their voice against the social malaise called "Samajika Banchhanda", he said. Dr Bidhuprava Rath decried the practice of social ostracism that has been going on in several parts of Odisha and India. Manas Jena opined that the government must outlaw social ostracism and award the culprits with exemplary punishment. Besides, a galaxy of social workers and reformers spoke. A love marriage was organised on the occasion between two employees of Odisha Dibyang Sevakendra, Digapahandi, Ganjam.

Old Odia movies' screening held at Bali Yatra

Visitors go nostalgic
PNS ■ CUTTACK
Cuttack Bali Yatra, Asia's largest open-air trade fair, and a rich part of Odisha's maritime legacy is taking a turn to cinemas to enthrall visitors in this current edition. In 2024, the annual event brought back Odisha's forgotten cinema through a unique exhibition of old Odia films. Each of the movies currently being played at the world-renowned fair showcased the significance of Odia culture and is a symbol of the State and its people's identities. Expectedly, with such historical and cultural significance, the exhibits have captivated audiences. Located inside the 'Cuttack in Cuttack' gallery of the fair, posters of forgotten movies



have been installed as exhibits to bring back lost memories, and untold stories. Additionally, unique displays showcase these posters through different mediums, including bioscopes and canvas presentations. Each poster tells a story hidden within its art, bringing Odia cinema back to life in the hearts of viewers. Several visitors reported experiencing nostalgia and pride as they looked through the journey of Odia cinema.

ematic heritage," said Kaveri Samal, a resident of Cuttack. Meanwhile, Rajashree Mahanti, another resident, reflected on the event's nostalgic charm. "The cameras here tell untold stories, capturing moments with precision. The exhibition is not just about movie posters as it also showcases the filmmaking process of yesteryears, including lighting, cameras, reflectors, dubbing machines, and editing equipment. This comprehensive display offers a glimpse into how films were made, bringing the past to life for visitors," she said. For the first time, Odia cinema and the broader Odia film industry are being showcased on such a grand scale. It appears that this year, the 'Cuttack in Cuttack' theme gallery has truly transformed into 'Cinema in Cinema,' drawing people from all over.

'Kalki Avatar' of boy Book with fictitious accounts about 'godchild' found

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Controversies around the Baikuntha Dham Ashram near Khandagiri in Bhubaneswar have been intensifying with each passing day. The ashram has recently landed in a row over projecting a boy as 'Kalki Avatar' and disrespecting the holy Tulsi (basil). In another recent development, a book titled 'Anubhuti re Satya Ananta Bhagaban' (God Satya Ananta in experience) has been found in which some devotees of the controversial 'Kalki Avatar' have written many 'fictitious' and 'ridiculous' incidents about the self-styled godchild. As per the descriptions, the child has performed many miracles that are testimonies to the fact



that he himself is God. Recollecting his experience with the 'Kalki Avatar', a devotee named Krishna has written that the self-styled godchild drove a Bolero when he was just three-year-old. "I just can't believe my experience on that day. The Lord was only three-year-old then. The Lord was travelling to Vyasanagar in my Bolero. After some time, the Lord told me that he would drive the vehicle which was running around 40-50-km speed at that

my lap so that he wouldn't have to walk. Immediately, the Lord fulfilled my wish and asked me to take him in my lap. However, the Lord suddenly became very heavy after I walked a few steps." "Once I had to travel from Brahmapur to Rourkela and it was raining heavily. However, with the Lord's blessings, a single drop of rain didn't fall on me," he wrote further. "I didn't have any child even three years after my marriage. However, with the Lord's blessings, I have been blessed with a son," he further wrote. Notably, acting on the allegation of encroachment of government land, the State General Administration Department has found that the Baikuntha Dham Ashram has been built on government land.

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Odisha Infra Conclave to be held today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The All-Odisha Contractors' Welfare Association (AOCWA) has announced that an Odisha Infrastructure Conclave 2024 will be held on November 20 here. The landmark event will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, contractors, academicians and experts to discuss the future of infrastructure development in Odisha. The event will be inaugurated by the chief guest Governor Raghubar Das in the presence of Minister of Housing and Urban Development



Krushna Chandra Mohapatra, Minister MSME, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development Gokulananda Mallik, Minister of Works, Law and Excise Prithviraj Harichandan, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Rabi Narayan Nayak, Ekamra MLA Babu Singh and former MLA and MP, Chairman, Sambad Group Soumya Ranjan Pattnaik among others. Addressing the Press, president, All Odisha Contractors Welfare Association

J Patra said, "Odisha Infrastructure Conclave 2024 aims to be a transformative platform that bridges the gap between policymakers and contractors while fostering innovation and sustainability in infrastructure. Together, we will shape the future of Odisha's development and make our dream of a \$1 trillion economy a reality. We welcome all the contractors of Odisha to join the conclave." The theme of the event for this year is "Building a Stronger Odisha: Empowering In-

rastructure for Sustainable Growth." The conclave will witness expert panel discussions featuring ministers, industry leaders, and technocrats on topics like infrastructure financing, contractor roles, and innovation and interactive open house with stakeholders to discuss challenges and solutions. Exemplary contributions to Odisha's infrastructure will be awarded. The valedictory session will envision the future of Odisha's infrastructure landscape.

Rights violations & its economic dimension in Odisha

There is an increasing trend in human rights violations at global, national, State and local levels. Likewise, concerns for the protection of human rights have also developed across the globe. However, violations of human rights cases are easy to understand but hard to define and realise. For a layman, human rights violation means the suffering of human beings due to the government's negligence and failure to extend its supportive hand to the victims. The relevance of the idea is debatable where the government and governance are absent, defunct, or paralysed. The status of human rights is considered a reflection of the State and its concern for the people. The number of registered cases in different human rights bodies, monetary compensation and relief granted to the victims, and the number of pending cases are parameters to judge the effectiveness of the human rights economy of a State. While the judicial system



SITAKANTA TRIPATHY mostly requires the appointment of advocates to fight legal battles, human rights bodies need only complaints; these may be self-written by the victim, written by somebody on behalf of the victim, filed by any human rights defender, or based on media coverage, which has made the complaint filing process pro-people and simple. Economics is considered the epicenter of human rights issues. As compensation, rehabilitation,

and resettlements are the focal points of human rights violation cases, it is important for decision-makers to utilize economics for a systematic method of human rights analysis and policy recommendation. This will develop a fundamental understanding of specific human rights issues, the decision-makers, the decision-making process involved, and the benefits and costs leading to these decisions. Odisha, one of the 28 States of the Indian Union, has a population of 4.19 crore, accounting for 3.58 percent of the total population of the country, according to the 2011 census. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute about 40 percent of the total population, making them vulnerable to human rights violations. There are 62 types of STs and 93 types of SCs, creating heterogeneity among them in their fight for rights. The overall literacy rate of Odisha is 72.87 percent, which varies by gender, caste, and tribe. In many cases, literacy is limited to the ability to sign one's name. So, it is

difficult for them to know their rights and duties, making them easy prey for privileged people. In comparison to the 2001 census, the 2011 census shows a decrease in the child sex ratio from 953 to 941, which is a matter of concern for society. In this context, the annual report of the National Human Rights Commission for the year 2021-22 is worth mentioning, as it shows the precarious condition of human rights violations in Odisha. According to the report, out of a total of 111,082 registered cases in the Commission during 2021-2022, Odisha recorded 5,473 cases, considered the fourth-highest number of cases in India. During this period, Rs 14,545,000 in compensation was recommended in 49 cases. This amount was the second highest in the country. The Commission disposed of 32,236 cases with directions to the appropriate authorities for remedial measures during 2021-2022, of which 591 cases belonged to Odisha. With regard to abuse and crime

against women in Odisha, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2022 report states that the State registered the fourth-highest cases of women abuse in the country. Not only molestation but all kinds of crimes against women increased in Odisha in 2022 compared to 2021. In 2022, there were 7,327 cases of molestation and 14 cases of rape and murder. Odisha also ranks seventh in the country in overall crimes against women. The report also says that crimes against children have increased in the State compared to the previous year. In 2021, there were 7,899 crimes against children, which increased to 8,240 in 2022. Ninety-seven percent of cases of atrocities against SCs in 2022 were reported from 13 States, and Odisha is one of those States. Out of 51,656 cases registered under the law for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in 2022, Odisha's share was 3,576 (6.93 percent); likewise, out of 9,735 cases registered under the law for STs, Odisha recorded 773 (7.94 percent).

There is a maxim in Sanskrit, 'Bubhukhitah kim na karoti papam' which means a hungry person can commit any type of crime. According to the 2024 Global Hunger Index, India's rank is 105 out of the 127 countries, with a score of 27.3. Using the Global Hunger Index methodology to rank India's States and Union Territories puts Odisha at 31.9, reporting scores above the national average of 29.7, but this score is not praiseworthy. According to a recent report tabled in the Odisha Legislative Assembly, the unemployment rate in Odisha was 3.9 percent, higher than the national average of 3.2 percent, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23 conducted by the National Sample Survey Office. Regarding the unemployment rate, Odisha was in the 21st position among all States and Union Territories in the country. The same is reflected in Odisha's case, where the unemployment rate in urban areas is 6.2 percent, whereas it is 3.6 percent in rural areas. A total of 386,699 fe-

males and 717,530 males registered in different employment exchanges in the State as of May 31, 2024. At this juncture, it is high time to think about and find the main reasons behind the increasing trend of human rights violation issues: whether it is due to more concerned citizens and human rights defenders or truly the negligence of government officials. It is also high time to categorize and compare human rights violation issues, such as rights of women and children, right to access basic civic facilities, freedom from police atrocities, rights of senior citizens, rights of marginalized communities, environmental rights, man-animal conflicts, both internal and external displacements, and rights to compensation, rehabilitation, and resettlement. By understanding the trends of different human rights issues, the State can undertake proper steps to resolve these issues by involving different stakeholders. (tripathysk1947@gmail.com (M) 9778764394)

Little done to check electrocution death of jumbos

153 elephants perish due to this since 2014-15

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Due to habitat loss, relentless conflict with humans and a host of unnatural reasons, Odisha has now turned into a graveyard of elephants.

Among the many unnatural reasons like poaching, electrocution, train and road kills and even falling into open well, electrocution death is one of the top two leading causes

for unnatural deaths.

The Forest Department's priority is now plantations and tourism. Hence, elephant protection has taken a backseat.

Since 2014-15, as many as 154 elephants have died due to electrocution out of which 103 died due to live poaching or fencing. Angul and Dhenkanal districts have emerged as a hotspot for electrocution which lost five elephants in September, 2017 in one horrifying incident near Meramundali when a sagging

11kv wire touched a herd.

From 2010 onwards, despite some preventive steps taken by the government, including allocation of adequate funds for strengthening of power lines, the electrocution death rates have not come down. From 1.4.2000 to 21.8.2018 (18 years) the State has lost 90 elephants to electrocution, averaging nearly 11 elephants in a year.

Live wire poaching traps, sagging overhead lines and electrified fences are the three methods of electrocution of

elephants in Odisha. In 2010 the MOEFCC had set up an inquiry committee of four members to investigate electrocution deaths of elephants and recommend steps to prevent them. Most of the recommendations of the committee are yet to be implemented over the last 14 years while elephants continued die in the State by electrocution.

"Tata Power's non adherence to CEA norms and Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 is largely responsible for mounting death toll of el-

ephants in the State. Not a single Discom official has been convicted and jailed under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 despite death of more than 154 elephants by electrocution in last ten years. No DFO or Range Officer has been dismissed for utter failure to save elephants from poaching by electrocution despite a clear circular by the government issued in 2011 which laid down process for inquiry in case of every unnatural elephant death," said Wildlife Society of Orissa (WSO) secretary Dr

Biswajit Mohanty. He further said that despite several demands, Tata Power is yet to insulate overhead wires across all elephant habitat and elephant movement zones. This would prevent poachers from hooking up their trap wires to the overhead naked 11Kv lines.

The WSO demanded that the Forest Minister of Odisha should monitor elephant protection on a monthly basis and fix responsibility for elephant deaths so that field officials take serious steps to protect elephants.

Press Day at Phulbani Various aspects of journalism discussed

PNS ■ PHULBANI
The National Press Day was organised at Phulbani under the joint arrangement of Kandhamal District Information Public Relations Department and District Press Club on Saturday.

ITDA Executive Officer Shambhunath Nandi attended the programme as the chief guest while Press Club president Sunil Kumar Patnaik and Kandhamal Media Forum president Surya Narayan Behera attended as the guests of honour.

Odisha Journalist Union president Radhamohan

Mohapatra and Kandhamal District Journalist Union president Dr Arup Kumar Jena attended as the speakers. On the occasion, a seminar was held on "Changes in Media."

Keynote speaker Jena discussed various aspects of journalism and how today's news is spread from corner to corner at lightning speed. Chief guest Shambhunath Nandi said that journalism and administration are two sides of the same coin.

On the occasion, the students of various schools who excelled in various competitions were awarded by the chief guests.

Children's Day Childhood cancer sensitisation held in B'pur



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

A colourful cultural and child cancer awareness programme, Red Rose Children's Festival 2024, was organised on the occasion of Children's Day by social outfit Kranti in Brahmapur.

On the occasion, former Union Minister Chandra Shekhar Sahu joined as the chief guest and advised the children not to eat junk food.

Kranti executive director Dr Debananda Dash presided over the programme while former MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, former Mayor Shiv Shankar Das, president of SMIT Dr Bhagwan Gantayat, Brahmapur State Pollution Control Board Regional Officer Deepak Kumar Sahu, Ganjam Chief District Veteri-

nary Officer Dr Manoj Kumar Sahu, Sub-Divisional Veterinary Officer Dr Arvind Behera, MKCG Medical College and Hospital paediatrician Dr Hemant Kumar Singh, Kalam Group of Institutes secretary Santosh Kumar Jena, social activist K Raj Kumar Pote joined as guests of honor.

Dr Singh made everyone aware about childhood cancer and its symptoms, causes and countermeasures. Dr Dash of Karanti organisation appealed to the audience to extend their cooperation for a cancer-free India by sensitizing people on childhood cancer.

Children from different schools along with child artistes from Kranti participated in a cultural programme.

Faulty construction plan 12 bridges on 9-km-long canal lie unused in Jajpur

Residents demand probe into irregularities by contractors, officials

PNS ■ JAJPUR

None of the 12 bridges constructed on the 9km-long canal from Mukeipur to Malahat in Jajpur district spending crores of rupees has been used even for a day, thanks to the alleged faulty designs.

In the locality, the word is doing the rounds that the bridges are constructed to rehabilitate contractors, resulting in huge financial losses to the government exchequer.

As per reports, the Works Department constructed the bridges on the Water Resources Department's canal from Mukeipur to Malahat to connect both roads on either side of the canal. The objective was to ease the difficulties faced by local residents in going to the other side of the canal.



But the people's problems still remain unsolved as the bridges are allegedly so designed and planned that they are of no use. Investigation revealed that these bridges are lying unused for two reasons. First, the bridges are six to seven feet high from the main road. Second, there are no human settlements at the places where the bridges have been constructed. The villagers alleged large-scale corruption in the construction of the bridges. "The bridges are at a height from the existing road. I am at a loss thinking about

how people will use them," said Nrusingha Jena, a local resident.

"The bridges are around eight feet high from the existing State highway. To make them useable, thousands of crores of rupees are to be spent to make them approachable. We demand a high-level inquiry so that the truth will come out," said Anil Kumar Sahoo, a Jajpur resident. Expressing his annoyance, Jajpur district Congress president Manoj Rout said, "The present government should register cases against

the concerned contractor and the government officers involved and make them cough up the embezzled money."

While no reactions were received from the Works department, Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Jajpur, Subhendu Samal said the road will be expanded after the completion of land acquisition.

"The road will be expanded into a double-lane. After the completion of the expansion of the road, the bridges will automatically become approachable," said Samal.

Research & Publication Ethics' workshop at FMU

Meant for PhD scholars

PNS ■ BALESWAR

A five-day workshop on 'Research and Publication Ethics' was inaugurated on Monday at the Human Resource Development Center of Fakir Mohan University.

The workshop was meant for research students undertaking coursework for research taken under FM University for the academic year 2023-24 PhD.

A total of 210 researchers from various departments of the university participated.

The inaugural meeting was held under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathy. He opined that since research needs high-level and honest



involvement in work, the participation of individuals is necessary who want to do genuine research.

Professor Sharat Kumar Palita of the Central University of Odisha, Koraput joined as a keynote speaker and said that it is necessary to give a collective understanding to all the research-

ers of the university about research methodology and 'research and publication methodology' in view of basic research.

Prof Bishnu Prasad Das, Prof Satchidananda Dehuri, Prof Pankaj Kumar Padhi, Dr Bharatbhushan Patnaik, Dr Manojit Bhattacharya from FMU, Prof Palita from CUO

Koraput, Dr Hemant Kumar Das, Dr Sameer Kumar Jalal from IIT Kharagpur, Prof Pratap Kumar Mohanty, DDU besides Prof Atanu Kumar Pati, Head of Odisha State Higher Education Council are scheduled to participate as subject-experts. The workshop will end on November 22.

In Jharsuguda Ex-MCL official held for firing over property

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

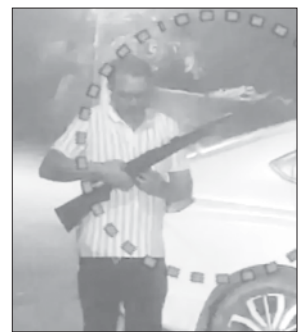
A former official of the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was detained by police on Tuesday for allegedly firing gunshots at labourers over some land dispute in Jharsuguda town on Monday night.

The accused was identified as RK Singh.

According to sources, Singh has a long-standing land dispute with his neighbour. The dispute took a violent turn following the demolition of a boundary wall.

Singh lost her cool over the demolition of a wall while some labourers were cleaning the road near Bombay Chowk in the town.

Subsequently, he brought a rifle and allegedly resorted to blank firing to scare the labourers. Then he also allegedly fired a shot targeting a labourer.



Getting information, the Jharsuguda police reached the spot and started an investigation into the incident.

Singh has been detained and he is currently being questioned over the matter.

As per police sources, Singh has a valid arms license. He was given the license for self-protection while he was working in Jharkhand.

"He first made a blank firing while we were working. Then he fired a gunshot by targeting me. Luckily, I escaped. I don't know whose rifle was that," said a labourer.

In Deogarh Woman killed by son over family feud

Cremation delayed as forensic team yet to arrive

PNS ■ DEOGARH

In an unusual incident, the body of a woman could not be cremated for two days at Badakankarkhola village under the Reamal police station in Deogarh district due to the delay in the arrival of the forensic team to carry out investigation.

As per reports, it was alleged that one Dushashan Badi allegedly killed his mother Bijuli in an inebriated condition over a family feud.

Dushashan and Bijuli had an argument over some family issue. Following the development, Dushashan lost his

cool and assaulted Bijuli with a stick. As a result, Bijuli died on the spot.

Subsequently, Bijuli's son-in-law lodged an FIR at the Reamal police station in connection with the case.

Following the development, Reamal police registered a case and reached the spot to carry out an investigation.

Accused Dushashan has been detained by the police and his interrogation is currently underway as part of the investigation.

However, the body of the deceased was to be cremated as the scientific team from Sambalpur was yet to arrive at the spot.

As per local residents, the body has started to decompose causing problem for the villagers.

Elephant census begins in B'pur Division



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

The Brahmapur Forest Division has initiated an elephant census covering the Khallikote, Digapahandi and Brahmapur Forest Ranges, where elephant activities have been observed.

To conduct the survey, eight teams have been formed across the three forest ranges, comprising a total of 30 staff, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Soni Khokhar on Monday. The census would con-

tinue for three days with the teams monitoring elephant movements, collecting photos and recording videos in areas where these animals are frequently sighted, the DFO said.

According to the 2024 elephant census, the Brahmapur Division had a total of 10 elephants, including two tuskers and eight female elephants.

Officials are optimistic that the current census would show an increase in the elephant population.

Smart meter row Kisan Morcha now backs stir against Tata Power

Urges PM Modi to directly hold talk with agitating farmers

PNS ■ BARGARH

Tata Power continues to face the heat as the smart metre boycott has become a widespread movement in Bargarh and surrounding districts of western Odisha. Electricity consumers continue to dump the prepaid smart meters outside the TPWODL offices in Odisha protesting against the 'unethical practices' of the discom.

Accusing the power company of inflated billing, farmers from various districts are hitting the streets against what they called the exploitation of the poor.



Kisan Morcha (SKM) also has extended support to the protesting farmers and members of Sanjukta Krushak Sangathan against the privatisation of electricity distribution that has been handed over to Tata Power.

The SKM claimed that Tata Power was installing prepaid smart meters against the agreement made by PM Narendra Modi government on December 9, 2020. The organisation claimed the

privatization of electricity has become another tool to exploit the farmers and the public in general.

"PM Modi must immediately initiate discussions with the agitating farmers instead of suppressing the peaceful struggles. An agreement was made by the Modi government under which a discussion was to be held with SKM before the enactment of the Electricity Privatisation Bill," the statement read.

"SKM had demanded 300 units of free electricity per month to the families engaged in farming," it further added.

Meanwhile, the SKM appealed to all protesting farmers to join the joint worker-farmer protest that is scheduled to be held on November 26. The SKM also called upon CM Mohan Majhi to immediately withdraw all the false cases filed against farmer leaders leading the protests in Odisha.

DBT Biotech-Kisan project Awareness, training, seed supply held in N'rangpur

By BRIC-ILS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Institute of Life Sciences (BRIC-ILS), Bhubaneswar conducted an awareness and training programme on Monday on the cultivation of biofortified maize in Nabarangpur.

The BRIC-ILS, along with ICAR-CIFA, ICAR-CTCRI, and ICAR-CHES, is implementing the Biotech-Kisan project, sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. The initiative aims to enhance the economy and nutritional status of people in Nabarangpur and Koraput districts through the cultivation of biofortified paddy, maize, millet and vegetables, as well as fisheries and animal



husbandry. During the Kharif season, BRIC-ILS initiated the cultivation of HQPM5 maize, which is rich in provitamin A and essential amino acids, across 30 acres. Due to high demand from the farmers in both districts, the area will be expanded to 100 acres in the current Rabi season as mentioned by BRIC-ILS.

Nabarangpur MP Balabhadra Majhi was the chief guest at the event. He underscored the need to bring

scientific innovations in agriculture to the grassroots level and assured to give all sorts of support for the implementation of the project.

Among other guests, Nabarangpur MLA Gouri Shankar Majhi and MLA Kotpad Rupa Bhadra spoke.

Senior Scientist at BRIC-ILS Dr Rajeeb K Swain noted the importance of long-term community engagement and support.

He also announced that

BRIC-ILS and ICAR-CHES will start vegetable seed production clusters in Koraput and Nabarangpur. DM and Collector Nabarangpur Dr Subhankar Mohapatra reiterated his support for the developmental projects being carried out by BRIC-ILS.

Drs Romen Sharma and Alok K Sahoo from ICAR-IIMR spoke about the cultivation methods of the biofortified maize varieties and conducted the training programme.

District agriculture and horticulture officials attended. Amitav Routray, information officer at BRIC-ILS, and LN Boxi, a consultant on the Biotech-Kisan project, conducted the programme attended by about 100 progressive farmers.

Modi pays tributes to former PM Indira Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary on Tuesday. Born on November 19, 1917, Indira Gandhi served as the prime minister from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 until her assassination on October 31, 1984.

"Tributes to our former Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi Ji on her birth anniversary," Modi said in a social media post.

The Congress paid rich tributes to the former prime minister with Rahul Gandhi saying that it is from his grandmother that he learnt that real strength is to fearlessly walk on the path of national interest.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and



Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at her memorial 'Shakti Sthal' here. Rahul Gandhi also paid floral tributes at the Indira Gandhi Memorial at 1, Safdarjung Road. Sharing a quote by Indira Gandhi in a social media post, Kharge said crores of Indians shall continue to draw inspiration from the life of the 'Iron Lady of India' for she was the epitome of lifelong

struggle, courage and dynamic leadership who selflessly contributed to nation building. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "My grandmother, Indira Gandhi ji always started her election campaign from Nandurbar in Maharashtra. She believed that the culture of the tribal society is the best and unique because it respects and protects nature."

Congress writes to President over deteriorating situation in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress on Tuesday wrote to President Droupadi Murmu over the deteriorating situation in Manipur and has urged her immediate intervention to ensure that people of the state live peacefully in their homes with dignity. In his two-page letter to the President, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge highlighted the "failure" of the Manipur government and the Centre in ensuring law and order and the safety of people in Manipur for the last 18 months.

Congress also took a swipe at the BJP over some MLAs of the ruling NDA skipping a meeting called by Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, saying the writing on the wall is clear and asked whether Home Minister Amit Shah is reading it. Congress general secretary incharge communications Jairam Ramesh also asked how long will the



"excruciating agony" of the people of Manipur continue like this.

Kharge said the violence in Manipur has taken more than 300 human lives, including women, children and even small babies. He said the "deteriorating law and order in Manipur has internally displaced nearly a lakh of human population rendering them homeless and forcing them to live in different relief camps". The agony of the people continues unabated, he said.

"I consider that it has become constitutionally imperative on the part of yourself, Hon'ble

Madam, as the President of the Republic of India and the custodian of our Constitution to uphold the constitutional propriety and immediately intervene to ensure the protection of lives and properties of our own citizens in Manipur, as enshrined in the Constitution. "I am confident that, through your intervention of your esteemed Office, the people of Manipur will again live peacefully in their homes in security with dignity," Kharge wrote to the President.

Later in the day Ramesh along with Manipur Congress chief K Meghachandra Singh, AICC in-charge of state Girish Chodankar, Inner Manipur MP A Bimol Akojam and former Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Nabam Tuki met Kharge, appraising him of the situation in the violence-hit state and deliberated on ways to bring peace in the state. Ramesh said INDIA bloc would raise the issue in Parliament and take up this matter collectively.

ICG conducts 136th meet of Offshore Security Coordination Committee

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, IAF, ONGC, DGH, and DG Shipping.

All aspects of offshore security were reviewed on Tuesday during the 136th meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) in Hyderabad, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) said here. Giving details, officials said ICG chief S Paramesh chaired the meeting which took stock of the preparedness and effectiveness of the security of India's offshore installations. The meeting was attended by members and participants from concerned ministries and agencies including

Addressing the committee, the ICG chief underlined the importance of energy security, and thus insisted on taking all possible measures to ensure security of the offshore assets.

The Offshore Security Coordination Committee was constituted in 1978 to ensure effective functioning of offshore security arrangements. The committee has since then contributed effectively in framing policies and providing guidance and resolution to related issues.

Indian Navy rescues woman who suffered grievous injury

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A woman, who suffered a grievous injury after a speedboat collision in Mahanadi river near the Bali Yatra maritime trade fair ground in Odisha, has been rescued from the waters, the Navy said here on Tuesday. The Yatra celebrates the rich maritime history of Odisha. "While conducting reconnaissance for Bali Yatra 2024 preparations, the diving team, deployed by the Eastern Naval Command, observed the accident and promptly intervened," a spokesperson of the Navy said.

The injured woman was rescued from the waters and carried over a kilometre to the nearest police help center using the 'buddy carry' technique. In armed forces parlance, a 'buddy carry' technique refers to a personnel carrying someone on his back in case of need. "With no ambulance available,

the team further transported her to SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, in an autorickshaw, ensuring she received timely medical care," the statement added.

This timely rescue and subsequent action towards ensuring timely medical attention reflects the dedication and unwavering commitment of the Indian Navy towards service and public welfare, the naval force said.

The week-long Bali Yatra festival started on November 15 and will continue till November 22 at Cuttack. "Bali Jatra (Voyage to Bali) celebrates the rich maritime history of Odisha and commemorates India's historical and civilisational links with Southeast Asia and wider Indo-Pacific that have evolved through the maritime journeys undertaken by the Indian seafarers over thousands of years," according to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on November 15.

Ceremony organised at Akashwani Rang Bhawan in remembrance of Debroy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A solemn ceremony was organised at Akashwani Rang Bhawan on Monday evening to remember the life and work of Padma Shri Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), who passed on the November 1. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P. K. Mishra remembered his old days while working with him on policies, discussing various issues of economy and how they could be addressed.

The ceremony, drew wide participation from eminent economists, Sanskrit scholars, colleagues and public policy theorists and practitioners alike. Speaking at the function, Mishra said that Debroy was a formidable personality whose intellectual pursuits ranged from economic to Sanskrit literature to history and so on. He also mentioned that Debroy was always polite and very



understanding during his interactions with him when the latter was a member of the DPIO and subsequently chairman of the PM's Economic Advisory Council. Speaking on the occasion, Member (EAC-PM), Dr. Shamika Ravi noted that Bibek Debroy was like a mentor and a guide who always encouraged exploring new dimensions of work. Sanjiv Sanyal, Member (EAC-PM) fondly recalled his long conversations with Debroy and how he always supported independent thinking.

Recalling his impressive body of work on English translations of various Sanskrit epics, Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University, informed that Debroy was the second person to translate the Ramayana and the Mahabharata from their original Sanskrit texts. Eminent economist, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, spoke about the rich and varied legacy that Debroy leaves behind - whether it is his policy work or his work on the epics.

Indian Army successfully conducts HADR Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Army successfully conducted the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' at Ahmedabad and Porbandar on November 18-19. Army chief General Uppendra Dwivedi attended this significant event which showcased India's disaster response readiness.

The inaugural event of the exercise at Ahmedabad on featured a Table Top Exercise, focusing on the theme of 'Cyclone in Coastal Region of Gujarat', army said here on Tuesday. Representatives from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), Meteorological Department and FICCI attended the event along with Indian Armed Forces officials.



The second day witnessed Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration held at Chowpatty Beach at Porbandar. The Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration featured various agencies practicing coordinated logistics, rapid response and effective disaster management strategies in a simulated cyclone scenario. This event highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force and other Central and

State Agencies in addressing natural disasters. The demonstration started with Requisition for the Armed Forces from civil administration. Multi Agency reconnaissance surveillance was carried out of the affected area, post which personnel were inserted for carrying out rescue operations. Casualty evacuation was demonstrated with assistance from the assets fielded during the exercise. The demonstration culminated with 'Resuscitation and Rehabilitation' of affected citizens.

NABH inks pact with RSSDI to advance diabetes care in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent body of Quality Council of India (QCI), on Tuesday inked a pact with the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), to advance quality and consistency of diabetes care in India through the use of robust clinical and digital health standards. RSSDI is India's largest professional body representing over 12,000 diabetes care providers across the country.

According to a statement from the Government, the MoU will leverage the distinctive capabilities of NABH to drive national quality certification and accreditation programs and RSSDI's expertise in developing best practice clinical guidelines for diabetes management and research. "Accredited diabetes clinics will maintain high standards of care for diabetes treatment which also involves education, research, and guideline-directed care programs. These clinics will blend modern technology with personal care delivered by trained teams ensuring patients meet their



recommended target goals," as per the statement here. Under the MoU, NABH and RSSDI will collaborate closely to enhance NABH's Accreditation Standards for Allopathic Clinics for specific needs of diabetes care, and develop digital health standards for Clinic Management Systems (CMS) for better management of diabetes care. The RSSDI will actively promote certification of NABH's Allopathic Clinic Accreditation Standards across its member base, resulting in better and standardised diabetes care across the country, and help in

decreasing morbidity and complications resulting from diabetes. Emphasizing the need for quality at the foundational level, Rizwan Koita, Chairperson of NABH said, "Diabetes impacts over 250 million people across India, and better management of diabetes is critical for the overall healthcare ecosystem. NABH can play a key role in driving standardised care and evidence-based guidelines for diabetes management. We are also excited to roll-out digital health standards for clinics, which will enable use of the latest technologies by both doctors and patients."

Study links maternal exposure to chemicals in lotions, shampoos with asthma in kids



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

If you're pregnant or know someone who will be a mom and uses personal care products or cleaning items, it's important to be cautious. A recent study from Kumamoto University suggests that exposure to chemicals commonly found in items like lotions and shampoos, such as butylparaben, may increase the risk of asthma in your child. Analysing data from over 3,500 mother-child pairs, the research revealed that high levels of butylparaben and 4-nonylphenol—chemicals found in personal care and cleaning products—were associated with higher odds of asthma development. The research, thus highlights the need for pregnant women to be aware of potential chemical exposures given their impact on both maternal and child health. Notably, the effect of 4-nonylphenol was gender-specific, significantly affecting boys but not girls. "Boys born to mothers exposed to this chemical had 2.09 times higher odds of developing asthma, while no such association were observed in girls," said the study.

for their preservative and antimicrobial properties, noted the study. While their use is considered safe in small amounts, their potential as endocrine disruptors raises concerns about long-term health effects, such as the recent increase in allergic diseases such as asthma, particularly during sensitive periods like pregnancy. Led by Dr Shohei Kuraoka and his team at Southern Kyushu and Okinawa Unit Center of Japan Environment and Children's Study, researchers measured 24 types of phenols in urine samples collected from pregnant women. They then tracked the health of their children until the age of four. The findings highlight the importance of understanding how everyday chemical exposures might contribute to respiratory and allergic conditions in children. The study has shown implications on the health. "These results emphasise the need for careful evaluation of chemical exposure during pregnancy," said Dr Kuraoka. "Understanding these risks allows us to develop better guidelines to protect maternal and child health." While the study provides groundbreaking insights, the researchers acknowledged limitations, such as not measuring phenol levels in children directly. They said that future studies will aim to explore these mechanisms further and establish safe exposure thresholds.

Health Ministry joins hands with John Hopkins University to end TB among children below 15 years of age in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As India aims to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target, the Union Health Ministry and Johns Hopkins University have joined hands, accelerating efforts to end the infectious disease particularly among kids below 15 years old in the country. Johns Hopkins researchers launched the TB-Free Schools Initiative to address the increasing number of TB cases reported among children younger than 15 years in the country.



among students. It will also provide linkage to care, education, and counselling. "Addressing childhood TB is critical for eliminating tuberculosis in India," said Dr. Urvasi B. Singh, Deputy Director General, Central Tuberculosis Division, Union Health Ministry. She noted that the initiatives will provide "cost-effective screening methods that can be deployed in schools nationwide". In addition, the JHU also launched an initiative to promote gender equality in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics,

and medicine in India. The initiative in partnership with the US Department of State will train and mentor 40 early-career women for senior roles in its pilot edition. "India is a place of tremendous talent and opportunity, and Johns Hopkins values its enduring collaborations in India and their impact. We are excited to launch these two initiatives that reflect our shared commitment to innovation and human flourishing," said Ronald J. Daniels, President, Johns Hopkins University. India has one of the largest populations of children under

15 in the world, and childhood TB accounts for an estimated 10% of all TB cases in the country. However, only 6% of reported TB cases are among children, according to the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP). According to the reports, children are particularly vulnerable to TB, with young children at higher risk of severe disease. It remains the leading cause of infectious disease death among children globally. In India, the case fatality rate for children under five with TB is 43%.

Many childhood TB cases go unreported, especially since a significant number are diagnosed and treated by private practitioners, who often do not report cases to the government program. This lack of data makes it difficult to accurately assess the true burden of childhood TB in India, say health experts. The widespread pollution in many Indian cities further exacerbates the risk, as TB is an airborne disease, and poor air quality can increase exposure to the bacteria.

Rajnath Singh addresses Air Force Commanders' conference



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday here and exhorted IAF Commanders and senior officials of the Ministry of Defence to look at means to make the process of capability and capacity building more efficient and effective, in keeping with our national aims and aspirations. He made these assertions in his address at the ongoing Air Force Commanders' conference. The defence minister also commended the force for its dedication and professionalism in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty. He expressed confidence in the IAF's ability to adapt to evolving challenges. The conference was attended by Chief of Defence Staff

(CDS), General Anil Chauhan, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (DDR&D) and Chairman DRDO Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjay Kumar and senior commanders of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The ongoing conference has witnessed in-depth discussions on key operational, administrative, and strategic issues. The apex leadership also interacted with the CDS, Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of the Naval Staff to foster synergy. This conference serves as a vital platform for the IAF's senior leadership to deliberate on current challenges and strategize future actions to maintain operational excellence and Atmanirbharta in defence capabilities.

70 per cent reduced violence in disturbed areas: HM Amit Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GANDHINAGAR

Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on Tuesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre has successfully brought down violence in Jammu and Kashmir (J and K), North-East and Naxal-hit areas by 70 per cent in the last 10 years. Making this assertion at the inaugural event of the 50th All India Police Science Conference (AIPSC) at the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, he expressed confidence that the coming decade will make the Indian criminal justice system the most scientific and fastest in the world. "For years, three regions were considered very disturbed-Kashmir, North-East, and Naxalite-affected areas. We have made significant improvements in the security of all these three regions. Comparing the data of the last 10 years with the period before that shows that we have been successful in reducing violence by 70 per cent," Shah said. "I believe this is a very big achievement. A large number of people have wholeheartedly supported the government's efforts to reduce this (violence)," he said. Even in terms of controlling the narcotics trade, the seizure of drugs has increased six times in the last 10 years as compared to what it was a decade ago, he said. Shah said that following the implementation of three new criminal laws this year, justice will be delivered to people from the Supreme Court (SC) level within three years from the date of registration of an

FIR. "The coming 10 years is the time to make India's criminal justice system the most modern, most scientific and fastest. Ever since I was born, I have heard taunts that one gets delayed justice from the court. I want to assure you that after the implementation of the three new criminal laws, one will get justice from the SC within three years of the FIR registration at any police station in the country," he said. The three new criminal laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- came into force from July 1, 2024, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. India became the fifth largest economy from the 11th a decade ago, Shah said, adding that he was confident of India becoming the third largest economy before April 1, 2028. According to him, in the last 10 years, India progressed to lead the world in every area, whether in terms of economy, technology, security, education, research and development, or infrastructure and trade, and the progress has only increased the country's challenges. He said that India conducted its elections smoothly and handled the COVID-19 pandemic well to the surprise of the world. "When the world recognises our strengths, our challenges grow. And we will have to prepare ourselves by keeping these challenges in mind," he said.



Space X launches ISRO satellite

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The country's latest communication satellite, GSAT-N2 was successfully launched by billionaire Elon Musk-founded SpaceX from Cape Canaveral in the US, ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has said. The communication satellite will enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region, NSIL said. As the satellite was heavier than ISRO's current launch capabilities, it had to opt for a

foreign launch vehicle, top space scientists and former chiefs of the country's space agency said. K Sivan, former ISRO chairperson said, "The satellite was a heavier one beyond the capability of ISRO launch vehicles. That is why it has gone outside." The 4,700kg GSAT-N2 High-Throughput Satellite (HTS) onboard a Falcon 9 rocket was injected into the desired orbit. "NSIL's GSAT-N2 HTS communication satellite successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, USA on 19th November 2024."

GSAT-N2 weighing 4700 kg has been injected into the desired Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) and ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) has taken control of the satellite. Preliminary data indicates satellite in good health," NSIL posted on X. The second Demand Driven satellite of NSIL, GSAT-N2 is a Ka-band HTS that will enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region, NSIL said. GSAT-24 was NSIL's first demand driven satellite and launched from

Kourou, French Guiana on June 23, 2022. "This satellite (GSAT-N2) featuring multiple spot beams and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support a large subscriber base with small user terminals, boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture which allows frequency reuse," NSIL said. The satellite has a mission life of 14 years and is equipped with 32 user beams, comprising eight narrow spot beams over the Northeast region and 24 wide spot beams over the rest of India.

Divisions lead to defeat: Rajnath Singh



PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Rajnath Singh, defence minister, stressed the importance of unity in the country, saying divisions have always led to defeat. He also asserted that securing the country's culture is as important as keeping the borders safe. "Whenever our unity has weakened, invaders have tried their best to destroy our civilisation and our culture," Singh said. Therefore, a pledge of unity should be taken by learning from history, he added. "Those who divide, they try to divide in many ways, including into different religions, castes and sects," the minister said. "But, you should not get divided. You should neither divide nor divide others, the whole country has to stay together. We have to stay united. If we avoid division, we will move towards development and build a developed and strong India," Singh said. He was speaking at 'Koti Deepotsavam', an event of mass lighting of 'Deepam' during the Hindu month of Kartik organised by a private TV channel here Monday night. Quoting from ancient scriptures, he said unity is the

strength of society. By ensuring unity, the light should be spread not just in the country but the whole world as India sees the entire world as one family, Singh said. "The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also focused on cultural revival. Cultural development is also important for a country along with political, economic and social development, he said. If a nation loses its culture, then that country suffers, Singh added. "As the defence minister, it is my responsibility to ensure that the country's borders remain safe under our leadership. But, in my view, keeping the country's culture safe is as important as ensuring the safety of the borders," he said. India is not just a political entity but it also has a cultural identity of thousands of years due to which we are known and accepted all over the world, the Defence Minister said. No country is made up of just a piece of land and its people, rather a nation is made up of its culture, he said. "If hatred is filled among the people of a country towards their culture, that country would get divided at some point in time," he said.

Bihar government seeks classical status for Maithili

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GANDHINAGAR

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has written to Union home minister Amit Shah seeking the grant of classical language status to Maithili. The letter by state education minister Sunil Kumar, dated November 18, was shared on X by Janara Dal (United) (JD(U)) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, a close aide of the Bihar chief minister. "I thank Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on behalf of residents of Mithila region for the formal request made by the Bihar education department, to the Centre, for grant of classical language (shastriya bhasha) status to Maithili," Jha wrote on the micro-blogging site. The Rajya Sabha MP disclosed that he had broached the issue last month, with officials of the Union Ministry for Culture.

Giriraj Singh echoes BJP dog whistles in poll bound Jharkhand



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Attacking the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress coalition in Jharkhand, Giriraj Singh, Union textiles minister, on Tuesday claimed that Chief Minister Hemant Soren wants to turn the state capital, Ranchi, into Karachi. Speaking to reporters in Patna, Singh urged the people of Jharkhand to vote for the safety of women. "Hemant Soren and Congress

want to turn Ranchi into Karachi, and Dumka, Deoigarh and Sahibganj districts into Bangladesh. The Congress and its allies want to divide us. I urge people, a day before the final phase of polling in Jharkhand, to vote for the safety of their bahu-beti," he said. Polling for 38 Assembly seats in the second phase will be held in Jharkhand on Wednesday. Accusing the Congress and its allies of dividing the people, Singh said, "They are talking

about vote-jihad. Their basic motive is to divide the votes of the majority community. People must not allow this to happen." Asked about Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge likening the BJP and RSS to poison, he said, "Although he is a puppet in the Congress, he should not use such unparliamentary and derogatory words. In fact, Congress leaders use poisonous words in their speeches with a motive to divide the voters into communal lines." Addressing a rally in Sangli in Maharashtra on Sunday, Kharge said, "If there is anything which is politically the most dangerous in India, it 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." On the allegations of religious conversions in Buxar, Motihari, Begusarai and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar, Singh said strict action must be taken against preachers indulging in such activities.

SP writes to ECI over burqa checks

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

A day before polling begins for nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP) has written to the Election Commission (EC), raising concerns over alleged misuse of power by police officials during past elections. The party has demanded that Muslim women voters not be subjected to burqa removal during the voting process. The letter, submitted by the SP on Monday, requested the EC to issue a written directive to Returning Officers, District Magistrates, General Observers, and police officials to ensure that police personnel refrain from verifying voter ID cards on polling day. According to the SP, this responsibility lies solely with polling officers. The SP alleged that during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, police officers at polling stations intimidated Muslim women voters by forcing them to remove their burqas for identification. The party claims this led to many voters leaving without casting their ballots, significantly reducing voter turnout in affected areas.



The by-election is being viewed as a battle of prestige for both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition SP. While the results will not impact the formation or collapse of the government, their political significance is immense. This is the first major electoral test for the BJP after the SP-Congress alliance inflicted a blow to the NDA in Uttar Pradesh during the general elections. Campaigning for the nine assembly seats ended at 5 p.m. on Monday. Voting will take place on Wednesday,

November 20, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. These by-elections were necessitated by various reasons, and the notification for them was issued on October 18. Despite the official announcement a month ago, all parties had been preparing for the contest for several months. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has actively overseen the BJP's campaign, delegating seat-wise responsibilities to ministers as early as July. The BJP has fielded candidates on eight of the nine seats, while its NDA ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)

is contesting the Meerapur seat. The BJP has anchored its campaign on development and Hindutva, projecting its governance track record and ideological commitments. In contrast, the SP has focused on consolidating its PDA alliance, which targets backward classes, Dalits, and minorities. As the state braces for polling day, political observers anticipate that the by-election results will carry significant implications for the BJP and SP ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Punjab by-poll a litmus test for sitting MPs, wives and AAP government

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) would like to register victories after its dismal performance in the Lok Sabha election while the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are also going all out for triumph in the by-elections to four assembly segments going to polls on Wednesday. By-polls to the four Assembly segments -- Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal and Barnala -- will take place on November 20 from 7 am to 6 pm and counting will be held on November 23. By-polls were necessitated after MLAs representing them were elected to the Lok Sabha. Of the four Assembly segments, Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbewal were earlier held by the Congress, and the Barnala seat by the AAP. 45 candidates, including three women, are in the fray for the by-polls and 6.96 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise at 831 polling

stations. More than 6,400 Punjab Police personnel and 17 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces have been deployed for peaceful elections, they said, adding that there will be 100 per cent webcasting of all polling stations. Campaigning for the by-polls to four Assembly segments ended on Monday evening. The bypolls will decide the fate of key contestants, including Manpreet Singh Badal, BJP nominee and former Punjab finance minister, Congress' Amrita Warring, Jatinder Kaur, AAP's Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbewal and BJP's Kewal Singh Dhillon, Sohan Singh Thandall and Ravikaran Singh Kahlon. Amrita Warring is the wife of Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Punjab Congress chief and Ludhiana MP while Jatinder Kaur is the spouse of Gurdasur MP and former Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa.



The Gidderbaha constituency in Muktsar district is set to see a fierce three-cornered fight. The seat fell vacant after Raja Warring, who was a Congress MLA, was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Ludhiana seat in the 2024 Parliamentary elections. Congress' Amrita Warring, who is contesting for the first time, BJP's

Manpreet Singh Badal and AAP's Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon are in the fray. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) (SAD) has also fielded Sukhraj Singh, son of one of the 2015 Behbal Kalan police firing victims. Raja Warring was elected Gidderbaha MLA in 2012, 2017 and 2022.

Manpreet Singh, who earlier represented this seat four times on SAD tickets, is looking to wrest this Assembly segment for BJP this time, after 12 years. His uncle and five-time Punjab chief minister late Parkash Singh Badal had represented Gidderbaha five times. Similarly, Hardeep Dhillon,

who lost this seat twice to Warring in 2017 and 2022, would also want to register victory. He had joined the AAP after quitting the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in August. The Barnala seat will see a multi-cornered contest with the AAP fielding Harinder Singh Dhaliwal, Congress nominating Kuldeep Singh Dhillon and BJP Kewal Singh Dhillon. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) has fielded Govind Singh Mann, who is the maternal grandson of former MP and party chief Simranjit Singh Mann, while AAP rebel Gurdeep Singh Bath is fighting as an independent candidate. This seat fell vacant after Gurmeet Singh Hayer, who was an AAP MLA, was elected from the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat. He had won the Barnala seat in 2017 and 2022 assembly polls. In the Chabbewal reserve Assembly segment, the AAP has fielded Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbewal, the son of AAP's Hoshiarpur MP Raj Kumar

Chabbewal. The BJP has fielded former Akali MLA and former minister Sohan Singh Thandall, who quit the SAD last month, while the Congress named Ranjit Kumar, who had unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Hoshiarpur as a Bahujan Samaj Party candidate. The Chabbewal by-election was necessitated after Raj Kumar Chabbewal, who was a Congress MLA but later joined the AAP, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur. The Dera Baba Nanak seat will witness a three-cornered fight with Congress' Jatinder Kaur, the wife of Gurdasur MP Sukhjinder Randhawa, AAP nominee Gurdeep Singh Randhawa and BJP's Ravikaran Singh Kahlon, who switched over from the SAD, in the fray. The Dera Baba Nanak is considered a Congress bastion as Sukhjinder Randhawa represented this seat in 2002, 2012, 2017 and 2022. The seat fell vacant

after Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who was the Congress MLA from here, was elected from the Gurdasur parliamentary seat. The SAD has opted to stay away from the by-polls. The party took the decision not to participate in the by-polls after Sukhbir Singh Badal, who has now resigned as the SAD president, failed to get any temporary relief from the Akal Takht, which declared him 'tankhaiya' (person guilty of religious misconduct), for the "mistakes" committed by his party and government from 2007 to 2017. The by-polls are being seen as a litmus test for Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann whose government has completed a two-and-half-year term. The victory will be important for Mann given his party's dismal performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in which it could win just three of 13 Parliamentary constituencies.



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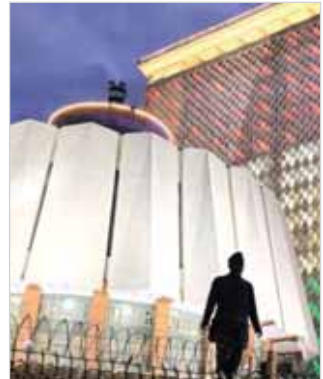
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Time for reckoning

Today Maharashtra will vote to decide its future leadership and political trajectory

Ma-harashtra, one of India's most politically significant states, votes for all 288 Assembly seats today. This election comes at a time of heightened political fragmentation and social unrest, making its outcome crucial for both state and national politics. A key issue in this election is the split within the Shiv Sena, a party long associated with Maharashtra's regional pride. The party is now divided into two factions: one led by Uddhav Thackeray, aligned with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress, and the other by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, supported by the BJP. This division has significantly eroded the party's traditional voter base, creating uncertainty about its performance in this election. Adding to the complexity is the Maratha reservation demand. The Maratha community, constituting about 30 per cent of the state's population, is pushing for inclusion in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category to access job and educational quotas. Protests, led by figures like Manoj Jarange Patil, have brought this issue to the forefront, with the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance attempting to address it through policy measures. However, the unresolved tensions could influence voter sentiment, especially in rural areas.



The BJP-led alliance faces further challenges from agrarian distress in regions like Vidarbha and Marathwada. Falling crop prices for key produce such as cotton and onions have caused financial strain on farmers, traditionally a significant voting bloc. The MVA has capitalised on this dissatisfaction,

highlighting the BJP's failure to protect Maharashtra's economic interests, including the recent relocation of major industrial projects to Gujarat. This election also reflects national-level dynamics. The results will test the BJP's ability to maintain its dominance amid growing opposition unity and could signal the strength of the Congress and its allies. A victory for the MVA might energise the national opposition, while a BJP win could consolidate its position. With a fragmented political landscape, Maharashtra's election promises to be closely contested. Its outcome will likely shape not only the state's future but also set the tone for national politics in the coming years. The political landscape of the state stands at a crossroads today. With a deeply fragmented Shiv Sena, intense debates over Maratha reservations, and agrarian distress weighing on rural voters, this election carries stakes far beyond the state's borders. The outcome would indeed be a pointer to the prowess of the BJP at the national level and the resilience of the INDI alliance. Besides the state is an economic powerhouse and whosoever rules the state also enjoys the support of corporate world to keep its momentum going.

PICTALK



Folk dancers perform during the celebration of the 297th foundation day of 'Pink City', Jaipur

West Bengal's lost opportunity

Tata Nano factory's relocation from West Bengal to Gujarat is a poignant reminder of how political myopia derailed a golden opportunity for Bengal's industrial revival



ANIRBAN GANGULY

In a moving tribute to late Ratan Tata, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the many dimensions of the industrial icon's personality that endeared him to the people. Pursuit of excellence and empathy were among the most dominant traits in late Ratan Tata leading him to pilot the Tata conglomerate towards greater heights of success and expansion. Under his two decades of stewardship, the Tata group witnessed a phenomenal spread of its global footprints and established itself as a vibrant brand.

Perhaps like many others from West Bengal, Ratan Tata's passing brought to my mind the Singur - Tata Nano factory episode. Those dark days of lost opportunities, signified a major recul, for the hope of an industrial regeneration in the state. A party and government which had, for over three decades patronised, militant trade unionism had suddenly decided to reverse that trend. It was ironic to see it clamber for investment in a feverish pitch after having presided over the de-industrialisation of the state.

The destruction of Bengal's once formidable industrial might is a map of the CPI(M) rise in the state. Howrah, once famed as the 'Sheffield of the east', turned into West Bengal's principal industrial graveyard under the communists. As early as the 1920s Dr Ambedkar had seen through and realised the often-duplicious approach of the communist-led trade-unionism. In the pages of his Bahishkrut Bharat he wrote how communists were 'trying to capture the labour movement in the country' and that 'the main aim behind the strike' was 'not to improve the economic conditions of workers but to train them for revolution.' He could foresee the cancer that was trying to claw into India's industrial entrails.

Let us recall how then West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu had sanctioned protests against the Metro Rail project. The communist-driven frenzied trade-unionism destroyed several iconic public undertakings such as the Haringhata Milk



Dairy, set up by Dr BC Roy had created a milk supply chain across the state while generating thousands of jobs. Much like Mamata Banerjee who has refused to enlist West Bengal in the Centre's 'Aspirational District Project' and remains lukewarm to the 'Ekalavya Vidyalaya' scheme, Basu in 1986, had forbade the setting up of Navodaya Schools in the state. In 1974, three years before he came to power as Chief Minister, Basu had organised a relay protest in front of the Hongkong Bank regional office in Kolkata to stall the installation of computers. Yet ironically the same Jyoti Basu in 1994, commissioned Arthur Anderson, a multinational business consultant, to carry out a study of the chances of West Bengal's industrial revival based on foreign investment. But progress was halting, it lacked a roadmap.

Thus, when Ratan Tata decided to invest in the state it was a whiff of more than fresh air, it was a long-needed gush of wind for breathing fresh life into a dying industrial ethos. A hopeful Tata had then said that he had 'scanned the country and looked at various locations before deciding to locate this rather revolution-



MUCH LIKE MAMATA BANERJEE WHO HAS REFUSED TO ENLIST WEST BENGAL IN THE CENTRE'S FLAGSHIP 'ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROJECT' AND REMAINS LUKEWARM TO THE 'EKALAVYA VIDYALAYA' SCHEME, BASU IN 1986, HAD FORBADE THE SETTING UP OF NAVODAYA SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

ary project which will give India's truly people's car here in Bengal. It announced a new chapter, a historic opportunity for Bengal's industrial rejuvenation. But that did not happen. Political selfishness, and one-upmanship between the ruling CPI(M) and the opposition Trinamool Congress, leading a blind political opposition to the proposal led to its grounding. In trying to bolster her flagging political prospects, Mamata Banerjee, desperately and deliberately jettisoned the project. Her political arrogance and self-centeredness led to its sinking. In her last fifteen years at the helm, the state has failed to recover from that mindless assault and pushback. An epic opportunity was lost, with a beleaguered Tata announcing his exit from the state due to political reasons. The people of West Bengal lost out. Their hopes of a possibilities-filled future receded in a mist of uncertainty. Both the ruling dispensation then and the opposition were responsible for pushing the state into a dark alley. The alley remains dark even to this day. Ratan Tata announced that he was shifting the car plant to Gujarat's Sanand. It was a plant that would eventually

grow into a mega 1100-acre unit. Narendra Modi was then Chief Minister of Gujarat. As Tata was announcing his exit from West Bengal, Modi texted him 'Welcome', leading to the proposed Nano factory shifting to Gujarat. Modi told Tata that the project was not only his, but ours. Later he had observed, in a lighter vein, that his one-rupee SMS had brought about a major boost to Gujarat's industrial prospects. Ratan Tata later said that he would forever remain grateful to Modi for placing faith in him and inviting him to Gujarat during those difficult days. The saga of the Singur-Tata Nano factory's shift to Gujarat is a saga of petty political squabbles, acute selfishness, arrogance and lack of true commitment to West Bengal's future and progress. That mindset and outlook among the ruling dispensation in the state still dominate. It has to be thrown overboard. Only then will West Bengal's industrial rejuvenation appear to be a possibility.

(The writer is chairman Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and member National Executive Committee, BJP; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India tests hypersonic missile



India's hypersonic missile technology has received a shot in the arm after a long-range hypersonic missile was tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). With a range exceeding 1500 km, the missile is intended to carry wide-ranging payloads for all three services of the Indian armed forces. These indigenously developed missiles are special because they travel with a speed five

times that of sound at sea level, at approximately 6200 km per hour, and at a mile per second. Hypersonic missiles are extremely difficult to detect, making enemy radars nigh impossible to spot them before they are too close for comfort. Their maneuverability and ability to fly at lower altitudes separate them from the ballistic missiles that follow a set path. Hypersonic missiles can also be partially projected into orbit via a glide vehicle through the fractional orbital bombardment system (FOBS) unlike the ballistic missiles, though the latter can travel faster. Till now, Russia, China and the United States possess full-fledged hypersonic capabilities, while Germany, France, Japan, Australia, Iran and Israel are on course to follow suit. India has, thus, joined the elite 'hypersonic group.' Kudos to ISRO for another feather in the cap.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

mobs. Education, health, development and civic administration are in peril. The elected government has turned dysfunctional and there are threats and possibilities of destabilising the state government. It is quite apparent that the efforts of peace in the first phase of violence have failed despite the newly elected state government post-violence. Earlier, there were reports of missionaries inciting violence in the state. The Manipur violence has affected neighbouring states of Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. In fact, the Manipur violence has a secessionist motive and the disruptive and separatist forces behind the Manipur violence are based across the borders. It is, therefore, imperative that President Rule may be imposed in the state and the assembly may be suspended till normalcy returns and the political atmosphere is congenial for restoration of the assembly and the government. The Manipur mayhem should not be taken as political mileage by the opposition parties. The India-Myanmar border should be sealed with immediate effect,

though this is practically very difficult. Vinod Johri | Delhi

KAILASH GAHLOT QUITS AAP

Madam — Gahlot resigned from AAP, citing the party's shift from focusing on public welfare to prioritising political ambitions. In his resignation letter to AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Gahlot stated that instead of fighting for people's rights, the party had increasingly been focused on its own agenda. He also expressed dissatisfaction with controversies like the 'Sheeshmahal' row, questioning whether AAP still upheld its core identity as the party of the common man. AAP responded by alleging that Gahlot's resignation was influenced by pressure from central agencies investigating him, a claim Gahlot dismissed. The BJP believes that Gahlot's entry strengthens its position as it prepares to challenge AAP in the upcoming elections. Akhilesh Krishnan | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Buddhas in the boardroom: How meditation can counter burnout



ISHAN SHIVANAND

Meditation, once reserved for monks, is emerging as a transformative practice for professionals, helping them fight burnout

With increased screen time, back-to-back meetings and the constant scramble of the hustle culture, we need to consider — whether are we running the show, or just running. Workplace burnout is the price often paid for juggling high expectations, tight deadlines and the need to be available for work all the time - while disregarding personal health and well-being.



Understanding workplace burnout: Burnout is beyond the feeling of tiredness at the end of a busy day. It's a state of chronic physical and emotional exhaustion, coupled with detachment, cynicism and reduced performance. The WHO officially recognised burnout as an occupational phenomenon, signifying its critical impact on modern work-life. It affects mental clarity and emotional resilience and can even have physiological repercussions on heart health and sleep patterns.

Why meditation: Amid the workday, meditation offers an oasis — a moment to pause, reflect, and realign. The practice, often associated with monks and mountain retreats, is now being rediscovered in the boardroom. The reason is simple: meditation fosters the ability to be present, grounded and conscious of one's thoughts and actions. Research has shown that regular meditation can alter brain activity, shifting it from the limbic system (responsible for our fight-or-flight responses) to the prefrontal cortex (the centre for rational thinking and calmness). This neurological shift translates to a greater sense of control over stress, enabling clearer decision-making and enhancing focus. Yoga emphasises how yogic, breathing and meditation techniques can lead to transformative wellbeing. Studies on Yoga have reported a positive impact on holistic wellbeing, with participants reporting reductions in anx-

ety, stress, and burnout by 72-82 per cent. This makes it an effective, research-backed solution for integrating meditation into workplace wellness. Transforming work culture through yogic practices: The tangible benefits of meditation go beyond stress relief. In practice, this means a more focused team, resilient in the face of challenges, and more open to collaboration. Some organisations are already creating environments where wellness isn't a perk but a pillar of their work culture. We need Buddhas in the boardroom. How meditation rewrites your life script: Meditation is more than sitting in silence; it's about training the mind to be resilient. Techniques such as deep breathing, guided protocols and visualisation help individuals develop a heightened state of non-judgemental awareness, balance emotions, and build a strong mental framework to manage stress effectively. One standout programme is YOI, which has garnered attention for its multifaceted approach to wellbeing. Imagine being able to handle feedback with-

out feeling criticised or meeting a deadline without feeling panic — meditation offers a gateway to equanimity. As game-changers in the corporate world, meditative practices build the mental stamina to bounce back from setbacks, maintain composure under pressure, and approach situations with a growth mindset.

Meditation at work: Meditation in the workplace doesn't require a meditation mat or a designated room; it just requires an integration of intention, emotion and awareness. Here are some strategies to help you get started: A few minutes of breathing or focusing on your senses can help reset your mental state. Begin your meetings with a minute of silence or guided breathing. It helps everyone clear their minds and be more present. As the world continues to spin, meditation serves as a reminder — that the power to pause and find a balance lies within.

(The writer is, mental health researcher and the founder of Yoga of Immortals; views are personal)

UKRAINE TO USE LONG-RANGE MISSILES

Madam — If this news is true that finally, US President Joe Biden has given the green signal to Ukraine to use long-range American missiles against Russia, then it is very good news for Ukraine. Because for the last one and a half years, Ukrainian President Zelensky was asking for permission to use these long-range weapons. Otherwise, this weapon will remain just a showpiece and one day Russia will capture it and then it will start using it to capture some third country.

This decision is also necessary because the Biden administration is now a guest for only two months. The president who will come after him, Trump, has already announced that he will stop giving any kind of help to Ukraine. The second big reason for Biden's change of heart seems to be that with the support of Russia, about 10 thousand combat soldiers of North Korea have taken up the front against Ukraine. In such a situation, Ukraine should have gotten this permission at all costs. The news of Biden's decision came after meetings with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China in the last two days. The inclusion of North Korean troops was the main topic of the talks, which took place during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru. Europe was already ready to give permission. But America was not ready. It is said that American missiles will be able to hit up to 300 kilometers inside Russia at three times the speed of sound, which even Russia's anti-missile equipment will not be able to intercept.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN MANIPUR

Madam — Apropos of the headlines on Manipur violence (November 18), the resurgence of violence in Manipur goes unabated. The violence and sabotage look beyond control. The MLAs and ministers of different political parties are being attacked and their houses are ransacked. The democratic fabric in Manipur has been destroyed by the extremists and irate



FIRST COLUMN

A DIET FOR PEACE: KINDNESS OVER CRUELTY

The food we consume shapes not just our physical health but also our thoughts, actions and the world



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

It has been rightly said that we are what we eat because the kind of food that we eat has a direct impact on how we think and therefore it's crucial to what we become finally. Recent studies made by modern medical science have suggested that the human body is not naturally designed to digest and assimilate non-vegetarian food. That is why today most medical practitioners recommend a healthy vegetarian diet to their patients who are suffering from lifestyle disorders. Along with scientific studies, individual researchers made all over the world have also clearly pointed out that when an animal is killed for meat, it experiences fear, anxiety and pain. Its hormonal secretions are then passed on to its consumers.

Such a diet is therefore unhealthy both for the body and the mind. In many religions, a non-vegetarian diet is strictly forbidden not just because it causes pain and suffering to other living creatures but also because it is the source of vicious thoughts and attitudes to its consumers. In other words, non-vegetarian food is a gateway to a non-vegetarian lifestyle, a way of living where vices dwell comfortably. One must understand that human cruelty towards animals is nothing but a way of inviting cruelty onto the self. Also, the current trend of mass consumption of flesh by human beings highlights the way we look at other living beings and our desire to subjugate them.



From a broader perspective, the mass consumption of non-vegetarian food is a way of heaping sin upon the human community. No peace marches, diplomatic dialogues and conferences can bring peace to the planet when we are burdening it with the desperate cries of hapless creatures. For what we sow, so shall we reap. It is so ironic that the largely meat-eating developed countries of the world have stringent laws when it comes to treating a pet and it is ensured that if the pet is hurt, the owner can even be imprisoned. However, in these very countries, millions of animals are killed every day for food and yet no one goes to jail. Isn't it surprising that so many animal lovers continue to be non-vegetarians because they are unable to connect with the cruelty that goes behind, in the making of such food? Even more surprising was a weird recommendation to find humane methods of animal slaughter made by some so-called animal sympathisers. But the contention here is what can be more inhuman than nourishing an animal to kill it one day. It is a breach of morality by all standards. What is more cruel than subjecting generations of animals to a life of stifling captivity that only leads them to a merciless end? And what is more cruel than killing animals in front of each other? While one is bleeding to death, the other watches in horror and waits for its turn. It is a great pity that even sympathetic humans are left with such little kindness that all they can think of is designing a better way to kill. It's high time that all of us should ask ourselves a question: why does our conscience need a rational argument, sanctioned by a research institute in the West, to realise that killing other living creatures is a form of cruelty?

Why do we need facts and figures to understand that cruelty can never be a bringer of any form of health - be it mind, body or the environment & bring peace and harmony to the world? Can't we realise that a heart that heaves no sigh at the sight of violence cannot be a source of compassion for other fellow men? So how do we expect people who do not nurture the feeling of kindness for other living beings to nurture feelings of brotherhood and forgiveness for their community? Aren't we just walking on one path while seeking another's destination? Just give it a thought and then decide whether to Kill or Heal. Learn to live above self when life is precious to all. Let there be the right to live for all & not just Human Rights, then only world peace will descend.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Delhi discoms in crisis: Debt and regulatory gaps



UTTAM GUPTA

A convoluted tariff regime, under-recoveries, power theft, and unpaid subsidies are threatening the sustainability of the Delhi discoms



Delhi Government is looking at various options to address twin problems facing its three power distribution companies (discoms) namely BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), discom for South & West Delhi; BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) — discom for Central & East Delhi; and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited or TPDDL - discom for North Delhi. These are (i) "Regulatory Assets" or RAs of Rs 27,200 crore lying in the books of these discoms; (ii) an equally staggering amount of Rs 26,500 crore they owe to power generation and transmission companies viz. Indraprastha Power Generation Co. Ltd (IPGCL), Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL) and Delhi Transco Limited or DTL at the end of September 2024. The discoms are expected to sell electricity to the consumers at tariffs — duly approved by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) — that are set in a manner such that the revenue generated from sale at these tariffs fully cover the power purchase cost plus the cost of wheeling and distribution. The requirement is mandatory under the Electricity Act, of 2003. But, this is rarely complied with.

Under a highly convoluted regime, the tariff charged from households (HHs) consuming up to 200 units a month is Rs 3 per unit which is just about half of the average cost leading to an under-recovery of Rs 3 per unit. Including levies adding to 44.6 per cent, the shortfall comes to Rs 4.3 per unit (3x1.446). For HHs consuming between 201 and 400 units, the tariff is Rs 4.5 per unit implying an under-recovery of Rs 1.5 per unit. Including the levies, this comes to Rs 2.2 per unit. These under-recoveries are cross-subsidised by charging more from industries and businesses for which the tariff can go up to a high of Rs 16 per unit.

The irony is that despite charging exorbitant rates from industries and businesses, a good slice of under-recoveries from HHs consuming less than 400 units a month remains uncovered. Additionally, the Delhi government doesn't want the latter to even pay the small tariff of Rs



THE IRONY IS THAT DESPITE CHARGING EXORBITANT RATES FROM INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, A GOOD SLICE OF UNDER-RECOVERIES FROM HHS CONSUMING LESS THAN 400 UNITS A MONTH REMAINS UNCOVERED

3 per unit (courtesy, of Kejriwal's freebies). Thus, discoms are told not to raise any bill on HHs consuming up to 200 units even as HHs consuming up to 400 units get a flat deduction of Rs 800 per month from the bill amount. Though the government promises to reimburse them for these subsidies from the state budget, this promise is held more in breach. This increases discoms' losses which are compounded by large-scale power theft.

Where do RAs fit in? RAs are created when state electricity regulatory commissions (in this case, DERC) accept that the tariffs don't cover discounts' purchase costs but don't raise rates. The gap between the cost and revenue generated from sales at tariffs (albeit unrevised) for supplied power, is booked by discom as receivable and classified as RA. This is contrary to the Electricity Act (2003) and the National Power Tariff Policy (NPTP) which says that "tariffs must reflect costs and regulatory assets should not be created". In December 2022, the Ministry of Power (MoP) even warned against creating a pile of RAs. But, all these regulations/warnings have fallen on deaf ears.

All losses incurred by discoms in Delhi during the last 11 years or so have been shown in their books as RAs. Regrettably, the RAs persist despite subsisting mechanisms to enable discoms to offset cost escalation by suitable increases in tariff. As per the order issued by MoP on November 9, 2021, discoms are allowed to impose a surcharge known as PPAC (Power Purchase Agreement Cost). Levied as a percentage of the 'total energy cost and fixed charge component' of the electricity bill, the surcharge is meant to compensate them for variations in the fuel and power procurement cost. Effective from July 2023, the DERC had last increased PPAC vide its order

dated June 22, 2023, by 9.42 per cent for BYPL, 6.39 per cent for BRPL and 2 per cent for TPDDL. The current PPACs for these discoms are 31.6 per cent, 27.08 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. Moreover, DERC has allowed discoms to levy a surcharge of eight per cent.

This is intended to plug any shortfall in revenue vis-à-vis the cost still left unplugged after collection of PPAC. Despite these two impositions, the discoms continue to report a substantial shortfall in their revenue from the sale of electricity which is manifest in cumulative monumental RAs of Rs 27,200 crore. It is a manifestation of several glaring pitfalls: (i) the Delhi government isn't reimbursing discoms for the subsidies they give to target consumers on its behalf; (ii) large-scale power theft continues unabated; (iii) discoms have been submitting inflated bills/claims and other financial wrongs; (iv) inefficiencies get full protection. Hesitant to sanction tariff hikes against these extra/unjustified costs, DERC chooses the easy option of putting all these under RAs.

The idea of creating RAs is flawed. When a discom petitions DERC to allow any cost increase in tariff, the latter can either reject or accept. In case of acceptance, it should take the process to its logical conclusion by sanctioning the requisite tariff hike and notifying it. It can't leave things hanging in the air by accepting but not 'approving' and 'notifying' the tariff hike. Unfortunately, this is what the DERC has been doing for over a decade. This has dangerous consequences.

First, once recorded in their books as RAs, discoms will leave no stone unturned in recovering the money say by getting sanction of a steep hike in tariff to make up for the entire cumulative deficit in revenue. Indeed, the matter had gone right up to the Supreme Court

(SC) which in an order given in early 2023 had directed the DERC to let discoms recover their RAs. This could lead to a 100 per cent hike in tariff.

So, the regulator decided to contest that order. Second, until such time the requisite tariff hike is actually sanctioned by the DERC, the RAs can't be treated as an asset. Hence, there remains every possibility of the loans taken from banks and financial institutions (FIs) for funding them becoming non-performing assets (NPAs). Moreover, the banks/FIs may not give more to discoms and their suppliers namely IPGCL/PPCL/DTL more loans. Third, the discoms can leverage the ambiguous classification (neither outright rejection of a claim for tariff hike nor approval) to present claims to the DERC which the latter may not be willing to accept.

This leads to substantial claims getting bogged down in legal disputes at the appeal level or in higher courts. To conclude, providing for RAs in the books of discoms is a bad practice. Apart from discoms, it also puts the power generators and transmission companies at serious risk. It can impair the balance sheet of banks and FIs who have given loans to them.

It could mean a steep hike in tariffs on supplies to industries/businesses besides HHs consuming more than 400 units a month. To cap it all, it provides a 'cover up' for financial irregularities and corruption. The practice must be shunned. As for the RAs already piled up, a thorough enquiry should be ordered to look into irregularities followed by recovery of money from those found guilty. The discoms should be 'unshackled' from the controls of the State government. If the latter wants to subsidize or provide free power to certain consumers, the money should be given to them directly.

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

Delhi's air quality crisis: Action taken for now, but long-term solutions are crucial

The city faces an urgent need for sustainable, long-term strategies to tackle pollution at its root

The air quality in Delhi has recently deteriorated to dangerously high levels. To address this issue swiftly and effectively, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

This stage involves measures such as restricting bus services, pausing construction work and mining activities, and transitioning primary school classes to online learning. Although these steps are crucial in addressing the current pollution issue promptly, they alone cannot effectively address the underlying factors contributing to air pollution in the long term. It is crucial to prioritise short-term solutions for relief; however, we must not



EILIA JAFAR

overlook the factors that contribute to pollution in the long term as well. One significant factor is the dust produced during construction activities. While the temporary suspension of construction operations following GRAP guidelines is a move in the right direction, it also underscores the urgency of implementing more environmentally friendly building

methods. Germany and Sweden serve as examples of nations that have successfully implemented construction practices.

For instance, Germany prioritises the use of low-carbon concrete, whereas Sweden focuses on promoting energy-efficient structures with improved insulation and solar innovations. India has the opportunity to implement strategies to minimise dust and emissions from construction activities and promote sustainable development.

The need for transformation in transportation is crucial to address the issue of pollution in Delhi caused by road dust and vehicle emissions. Although the metro system has advanced to some extent in Delhi, there are still areas

with connectivity that need attention.

Expanding the metro network and integrating buses can lead to a decrease in private car usage. Moreover, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) could play a role in reducing emissions. Providing benefits such as tax incentives, toll discounts, and even offering parking for EVs could potentially increase their attractiveness to commuters. Biking is becoming more popular as an eco-friendly option in Delhi; however, the city's infrastructure doesn't fully support it yet.

Although smart bikes are being introduced in some areas, which is a move forward, the absence of marked biking lanes and safety precautions deters many people from bik-



ing. Cities such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam serve as models for incorporating biking into urban environments. Delhi could take inspiration from its approach by investing in infrastructure for cyclists, such as bike lanes and bike-sharing services, to enhance the safety and convenience of cycling for its residents. Encouraging the use of sustainable building methods is crucial too!

Providing incentives for individuals who build energy-efficient houses or utilise eco-friendly materials could greatly support sustainability efforts in communities worldwide. Numerous nations offer tax advantages or financial aid to developers who embrace green building strategies. India could introduce perks like discounts on energy-saving devices, offers on solar panel setups, or financial assistance for homeowners undertaking eco-conscious improvements. These initiatives would not only lessen the burden on energy reserves but also encourage environmentally responsible construction practices.

Another helpful way to decrease the number of cars on the road is through carpooling initiatives, such as carpool

lanes and discounts for vehicles with passengers, which have proven effective in countries around the world. Introducing strategies in Delhi, such as designated carpool lanes or toll reductions for cars carrying two or more passengers, could play a role in alleviating traffic congestion and decreasing harmful emissions levels.

By implementing these measures, not only would pollution be reduced, but it would also enhance the daily commute experience for numerous residents in the area. The call for action is critical now.

The air pollution crisis in NCR intensified on November 17, 2024, as Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) climbed to a hazardous 441 by 4 PM, classified as 'severe,' up from

419 the previous day. The harmful pollutants are linked to health concerns, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.

The Stage 4 actions outlined in the GRAP are crucial for providing relief; however, it is evident that a comprehensive long-term plan is essential to enhance the air quality in Delhi. By emphasising the enhancement of public transportation services, implementing infrastructure for cyclists, advocating for eco-friendly construction methods and encouraging carpooling, Delhi can strive to diminish pollution levels and establish a healthier and more sustainable environment for all residents.

(The writer is humanitarian and development professional; views are personal)

45 pro-democracy activists sentenced in Hong Kong's biggest national security case

Forty-five ex-lawmakers and activists were sentenced to four to 10 years in prison Tuesday in Hong Kong's biggest national security case under a Beijing-imposed law that crushed a once-thriving pro-democracy movement. They were prosecuted under the 2020 national security law for their roles in an unofficial primary election. Prosecutors said their aim was to paralyse Hong Kong's government and force the city's leader to resign by aiming to win a legislative majority and using it to block government budgets indiscriminately. The unofficial primary

held in July 2020 drew 610,000 voters, and its winners had been expected to advance to the official election. Authorities postponed the official legislative election, however, citing public health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Legal scholar Benny Tai, whom the judges called the mastermind, received the longest sentence of 10 years. The judges said the sentences had been reduced for defendants who said they were unaware the plan was unlawful. However, the court said the penalties were not reduced for Tai and former lawmaker Alvin Yeung because they are lawyers who were "absolutely adamant

in pushing for the implementation of the scheme". In the judgment posted online, the judges wrote that Tai essentially "advocated for a revolution" by publishing a series of articles over a period of months that traced his thinking, even though in a letter seeking a shorter sentence Tai said the steps were "never intended to be used as blueprint for any political action". Two of the 47 original defendants were acquitted earlier this year. The rest either pleaded guilty or were found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion. The judges said in their verdict that the activists' plans to effect change through the

unofficial primary would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis. The judges rejected the reasoning from some defendants that the scheme would never have materialised, stating that "all the participants had put in every endeavour to make it a success". The judges highlighted that a great deal of time, resources and money were devoted to the organisation of the primary election. "When the Primary Election took place on the 10 and 11 July, no one had remotely mentioned the fact that Primary Election was no more than an

academic exercise and that the Scheme was absolutely unattainable," the judgment read. "In order to succeed, the organisers and participants might have hurdles to overcome, that however was expected in every subversion case where efforts were made to overthrow or paralyse a government." Some of the defendants waved at their relatives in the courtroom after they were sentenced. Gwyneth Ho, a journalist-turned-activist who was jailed for seven years, said "our true crime for Beijing is that we were not content with playing along in manipulated elections" on her Facebook page.



Police officers stand guard outside the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts in Hong Kong on Tuesday. AP/PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that My Clients Anil Yadav S/o Bhadur Singh R/o B1/275 UG Floor Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110063 have debarred & disowned their Daughter Priyanka Yadav from their movable and immovable properties. My Clients have also severed all their relation with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk and responsibility. Ramesh Chander (Adv) Ch-48, Western Wings, Tia Hazari

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, AMREEN ALI D/O ASLAM R/O H.NO-332 B. GALI NO-16, BLOCK-H, GOPAL DAIRY, SANGAM VIHAR, TALIMABAD, PO PUSHPA BHAWAN, DISTT. SOUTH DELHI-110062 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MD ASLAM in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is ASLAM which may be amended accordingly. AMREEN ALI

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to the public at large that my client Shakuntla Devi, W/o Ramphal, both permanent residents of R/O S-83/T-238, Indira Camp Begumpur, Malviya Nagar S.o. South Delhi, Delhi 110017, have disowned, debar and disinherited his son namely Rohit S/o Ramphal and her wife Ruchika from all their movable and immovable properties and my client shall not be responsible for any immoral or moral activities from him and her wife, present or future from today. Anybody dealing with Sh. Rohit and his wife will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh. Rohit. (JYOTI & VIVEK KUMAR SINGH) ADVOCATE CH NO. 274, SAKET COURT, LAWYERS BLOCK-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to declare that the legal heirs of Lt. Smt. Raj Dulari are her sons i.e. Sh. Manmohan Mehta and Sh. Anil Mehta only. Further Sh. Manmohan Mehta is the sole owner of the freehold property bearing no A-12, Pundrik Vihar Pitampura Delhi 110034 having absolute right vide registered Conveyance Deed dated 22.10.2024

Putin signs doctrine that lowers threshold for using N-weapons

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday signed a revised nuclear doctrine declaring that a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack on his country. Putin's endorsement of the new nuclear deterrent policy comes on the 1,000th day after he sent troops into Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. It follows US President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied longer-range missiles. The signing of the doctrine,

which says that any massive aerial attack on Russia could trigger a nuclear response, reflects Putin's readiness to threaten use of the country's nuclear arsenal to force the West to back down as Moscow presses a slow-moving offensive in Ukraine. Asked about whether the updated doctrine was deliberately issued on the heels of the US' decision to ease restrictions on Ukraine using its longer-range missiles to strike Russia, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the document was published "in a timely manner" and that Putin instructed the government to update it earlier this year

so that it is "in line with the current situation". Putin first announced changes in the nuclear doctrine in September, when he chaired a meeting discussing the proposed revisions. The new version of the document states that an attack against his country by a nonnuclear power with the "participation or support of a nuclear power" will be seen as their "joint attack on the Russian Federation". It doesn't specify whether such an attack would necessarily trigger a nuclear response. It mentions the "uncertainty of scale, time and place of possible use of nuclear deterrent" among the key prin-

ciples of the nuclear deterrence. It spells out conditions for using nuclear weapons in greater detail compared to the previous version of the doctrine, noting they could be used in case of a massive air attack involving ballistic and cruise missiles, aircraft, drones and other flying vehicles. The wide formulation appears to broaden the triggers for possible nuclear weapons use compared with the previous version of the document, which stated that Russia could tap its atomic arsenal if "reliable information is received about the launch of ballistic missiles targeting the territory of Russia or its allies".

'e' Procurement NOTICE.
No. 2394 / NAC Dt. 11.2024
Bid Identification No. RDL NAC -2/2024-25
Tender ID- 2024_ORULB_107063
The Municipal Executive Officer on behalf of NAC Redhakhol invites tenders in Single Cover System. Bid documents consisting of specification the Schedule of Quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen the Govt. Website i.e. <https://tendersopdsaha.gov.in>

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for public information that QRG Medicare Limited (Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad), Plot No. 1, Sector 16, Faridabad-121002 is destroying patient medical records (excluding MLC, Death, ongoing court cases and KTP, LTP patients and New born baby IPD files) from April 2018 to September 2018 as per the hospital policy and other regulatory norms.
Any patient/relative of the patients or any other person related to the patient who desires to preserve the indoor patient Medical Record for future references are requested to contact the medical record department of the hospital for the same at Basement, Block-C, QRG Medicare Limited (Marengo Asia Hospital, Faridabad), or on 9467816025, 0129-4330000 or email to mrd@marengoasia.com on or before 20th Dec 2024.
By Order: Medical Director
Dr. Navneet Singh Chhabra
QRG Medicare Limited
(Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad)
Plot No. 1, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana 121002

Canara Bank DELHI TAGORE GARDEN BRANCH (0391)
B 8, 9, 10 Tagore Garden Delhi-110027
E-mail: cb0391@canarabank.com
DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
Ref: CB 0391/SM/SARFAESI/02/2024 Date: 18.09.2024
To: SUMIT C/O DEVENDER SINGH, B1-432 GROUND FLOOR JANAKPURI, WEST DELHI-110058 & TO: GAURAV ARORA S/O JAGDISH PRASAD ARORA, WZ-K-66 G FLOOR KRISHNA PARK EXTN, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018
Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Tagore Garden (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:
That Mr. Sumit (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.
That GAURAV ARORA (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of Rs. 1475000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac seventy five thousand Only) with interest thereon.
You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.
However, From DEC-2023 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs. 1311443.53 (Rupees: Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty three and paise Fifty three only), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues.
The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 29-12-2023 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of as applicable, monthly compounded together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.
Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs.1311443.53 (Rupees: Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty three and paise Fifty three only) together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:
13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely:
(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;
(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;
Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;
Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization/ income.
This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.
This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.
Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Brazilian police arrest five officers over alleged coup plot, plans to kill President Lula, others

Brazilian police arrested five officers accused of a coup plot that included plans to overthrow the government following the 2022 elections and kill President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, authorities said. According to the investigation, the coup plotters also planned to kill Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. Brazilian media said the five arrested included four military and one police officer. The police said that five arrest warrants have been carried out, as well as three search and seizure warrants along with other measures, including seizing the suspects' passports and preventing them from contacting others. Judge Alexandre de Moraes, who authorized the arrests, said a police investigation revealed the coup plot involved military personnel trained in the Army's Special Forces and a retired high-ranking official. "The objective was to prevent the inauguration of the legitimately elected government and undermine the free exercise of democracy and the authority of Brazil's judiciary," de Moraes said in the order. "These actions, peaking between November and December 2022, were part of a broader plan to carry out a coup d'état," he added.

ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED
REGD. OFF. : 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
CIN: U45400DL2007PTC168922; Ph. No. 0120-7111500
Email: compliances@atsgreens.com
ANNEXURE I
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

S. No.	Particulars	(Amounts in INR Lacs except per share data and ratios)		
		For the Quarter ended	For the Year ended	
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024
1	Total Income from Operations	1,158.94	3,469.24	13,407.51
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.28	(260.27)	(420.21)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.28	(260.27)	(420.21)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.10	(260.47)	(771.48)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	79.10	(260.47)	(775.08)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(4,147.96)	(3,868.93)	(4,200.57)
8	Net worth	(4,146.96)	(3,867.93)	(4,199.57)
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	20,787.05	16,270.32	16,425.32
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio *	(0.59)	(0.59)	(0.58)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic: (in Rs)	791.05	(2,604.68)	(7,714.76)
	2. Diluted: (in Rs)	791.05	(2,604.68)	(7,714.76)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	0.03	(0.10)	(0.17)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio *	-	(0.70)	(5.42)
17	Current Ratio	0.78	0.84	0.80
18	Long Term Debt to Working Capital Ratio	-	-	-
19	Bad Debt to Accounts Receivable Ratio	-	-	-
20	Current Liability Ratio	0.99	1.00	0.99
21	Total Debt to Total Asset Ratio	0.08	0.06	0.07
22	Debtor Turnover Ratio	11.23	69.94	178.29
23	Inventory Turnover Ratio	0.03	0.10	0.41
24	Operating Margin	6.62%	-8.85%	-4.19%
25	Net Profit Margin	6.83%	-7.51%	-5.75%

Note:
a)The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.
b)For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).
c)# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.
d)* - The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
e)Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
ATS Infrabuild Private Limited
sd/- Kashinath Jha Director DIN:09834435
sd/- Santosh Kumar Director DIN:09835334
Place: Noida
Date: 14.11.2024

SCHEDULE - A (DETAILS OF THE CREDIT FACILITY/IES AVAILABLE BY THE BORROWER)

Sl No	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1.	161001049082	VEHICLE LOAN	30-09-2022	Rs.1475000/-
				Total: Rs.1475000/-

SCHEDULE - B (DETAILS OF SECURITY ASSETS)

MOVABLE ASSETS

Sl No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	Name of Title holder
1	REGI. No. DL 10 CU2504, MAHINDRA THAR LX D MT 4 WD 4S HT CHASSIS NO.MATUJ4YK2N2H41600, ENGINE NO.YKN4H79745	SUMIT

IMMOVABLE

Sl No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	Name of Title holder
1	NIL	

SCHEDULE - C (DETAILS OF LIABILITY AS ON DATE)

Sl No	Loan No	Nature Of Loan/limit	Liability With Interest As On Date 21-02-2024	Rate Of Interest
1.	161001049082	VEHICLE LOAN	Rs.1311443.53	9.55%
			Total	Rs.1311443.53

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Several students hurt by vehicle outside school in China

Numerous children were injured by a vehicle outside an elementary school in central China's Hunan province on Tuesday, reports said. Hours after the incident, the casualty count was unclear and authorities had yet to clarify if it was an accident or a deliberate attack. The incident follows a series of recent killings or attacks in China by people in vehicles or wielding knives. Students were arriving for classes around 8 am at Yong'an Elementary School in the city of Changde when a small white SUV drove into a crowd of children and adults, according to state media. Few details were released, reflecting China's reflexive inclination to suppress news about crime, protests and major accidents that could erode public confidence in the ruling Communist Party's self-declared ability to maintain social order. Several adults were also injured, the official Xinhua News Agency said, adding that the driver was subdued by parents and security guards and some of the injured were immediately sent to the hospital. Police in the city's Dingcheng district, where the school is located, issued a statement saying no one had life-threatening injuries and identifying the driver as a 39-year-old man surnamed Huang, who was under detention. It said the incident was under investigation but gave no word on the cause or other details. Footage posted on Chinese social media showed the injured lying on the road while terrified students ran past the gate and inside the schoolhouse. Comments on Chinese internet sites reflected anger and frustration with recurring incidents of violence against citizens by those venting anger at society. While China has much lower rates of violence than many countries — personal gun ownership there is illegal — knifings and the use of homemade explosives still occur. Chinese schools have been subject to numerous attacks by people armed with knives or using vehicles as weapons.

Thousands crowd New Zealand's Parliament grounds in support of Maori rights

AP ■ WELLINGTON
As tens of thousands crowded the streets in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, on Tuesday, the throng of people, flags aloft, had the air of a festival or a parade rather than a protest. They were marching to oppose a law that would reshape the country's founding treaty between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown. But for many, it was also a celebration of a resurging Indigenous language and identity that colonisation had once almost destroyed. "Just fighting for the rights that our tupuna, our ancestors, fought for," Shanell Bob said as she waited for the march to begin. "We're fighting for our tamariki, for our mokopuna, so they can have what we haven't been able to have," she added, using the Maori words for children and grandchildren. What was likely the country's largest

ever protest in support of Maori rights — a subject that has preoccupied modern New Zealand for much of its young history — followed a long tradition of peaceful cross-country marches that have marked turning points in the nation's story. "We're going for a walk!" one organiser proclaimed from the stage as crowds gathered at the opposite end of the city from the nation's Parliament. People had travelled from across the nation over the past nine days. For many, the turnout reflected growing solidarity on Indigenous rights from non-Maori. At bus stops during the usual morning commute, people of all ages and races waited with Maori sovereignty flags. Some local schools said they would not register students as absent. The city's mayor joined the protest. The bill that marchers are opposing is unpopular and unlikely to become law. But opposition to it has been wide-

spread, which marchers said indicated rising knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi's promises to Maori among New Zealanders — and a small but vocal backlash from those who are angered by the attempts of courts and lawmakers to keep them. Maori marching for their rights is not new. But the crowds were larger than at treaty marches before and the mood was changed, Indigenous people said. "It's different to when I was a child," Bob said. "We're stronger now, our tamariki are stronger now, they know who they are, they're proud of who they are." As the marchers moved through the streets of Wellington with ringing Maori haka — rhythmic chants — and waiata, or songs, thousands more holding signs lined the pavement in support. Some placards bore jokes or insults about the lawmakers responsible for the bill, which would change the meaning of the principles of the 1840 Treaty

of Waitangi and prevent them from applying only to Maori — whose chiefs signed the document when New Zealand was colonised. But others read "proud to be Maori" or acknowledged the bearer's heritage as a non-Maori person endorsing the protest. Some denounced the widespread expropriation of Maori land during colonisation, one of the main grievances arising from the treaty. "The treaty is a document that lets us be here in Aotearoa so holding it up and respecting it is really important," said Ben Ogilvie, who is of Pakeha or New Zealand European descent, using the Maori name for the country. "I hate what this government is doing to tear it down." Police estimated that 42,000 people tried to crowd into Parliament's grounds, with some spilling into the surrounding streets. People crammed themselves onto the children's slide

on the lawn for a vantage point; others perched in trees. The tone was almost joyful; as people waited to leave the cramped area, some struck up Maori songs that most New Zealanders learn at school. A sea of Maori sovereignty flags in red, black and white stretched down the lawn and into the streets. But marchers bore Samoan, Tongan, Indigenous Australian, U.S., Palestinian and Israeli flags, too. At Parliament, speeches from political leaders drew attention to the reason for the protest — a proposed law that would change the meaning of words in the country's founding treaty, cement them in law and extend them to everyone. Its author, libertarian lawmaker David Seymour — who is Maori — says the process of redress for decades of Crown breaches of its treaty with Maori has created special treatment for Indigenous people, which he opposes.

Pakistan bans public gatherings ahead of protest by Imran's party

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD
Pakistan federal authorities have outlawed all sorts of public gatherings in the capital region for two months ahead of a planned protest by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) last week announced to protest in Islamabad on November 24 to force the government to release its jailed founding leader, incarcerated for more than a year. The federal government retaliated by imposing Section 144 in Islamabad, a colonial era law that prohibits public assemblies. According to different notifications issued by the office of Islamabad District Magistrate Usman Ashraf on Monday, Section 144 has been implemented due to "certain segments of society" planning "unlawful assemblies... which can disrupt public peace and

tranquility." Public gatherings of five or more people were banned, as they might "threaten public peace and tranquillity, cause public annoyance or injury, endanger human life and safety, pose a threat to public property, and... lead to a riot or an affray including sectarian riot within the revenue/territorial limits of district Islamabad." The notifications banned sound systems to play "all kinds of objectionable/sectarian related speeches and sermons" and has also been prohibited under the order. Similarly, the use of loudspeakers to antagonise "political/social groups/religious sects." The district magistrate also banned firecrackers, the display of firearms as well as the distribution of hand-bills, pamphlets and affixing of posters. The ban would be in place for two months, "unless revoked or extended," the order said.

However, the banning of rallies may hardly have any impact on the PTI which in the past flouted Section 144 several times, political observers said, adding, the protesters usually invoke a constitutional provision that provides the right of peaceful assembly and protest to all citizens. Earlier Khan's sister Aleema Khan, after meeting him in the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi on November 13, told the journalists that everyone from the PTI, including workers, members of parliament, and party supporters should join the protest on November 24. Khan, 72, has been incarcerated in multiple cases since August last year. He has been convicted in a few and got bail in some but continues to be in jail on account of other cases. "This is the moment when you will have to decide (whether) you want to live under martial law or live with freedom," she quoted Khan as saying.

US envoy pushes for truce in Lebanon

AP ■ BEIRUT
A United States envoy returned to Beirut on Tuesday, where Lebanese officials have tentatively welcomed a proposal for an Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire. There was no such optimism in the Gaza Strip, where the mass looting of aid trucks by armed men worsened an already severe food crisis. Amos Hochstein, the Biden administration's pointman on Israel and Lebanon, arrived as Hezbollah's allies in the Lebanese government said it had responded positively to the proposal, which would entail both the militants and Israeli ground forces withdrawing from a UN buffer zone in southern Lebanon. It's unclear how close they are to clinching an agreement. The buffer zone would be policed by thousands of additional UN peacekeepers and Lebanese troops. Israel has called for a stronger enforcement mechanism, potentially including the ability to operate against any Hezbollah threats, something Lebanon is likely to oppose. In Gaza, meanwhile, the theft of nearly 100 trucks loaded with food and other humani-

tarian aid over the weekend sent prices soaring and caused shortages in central Gaza, where most of the population of 2.3 million people have fled and where hundreds of thousands are crammed into squalid tent camps. An even more severe hunger crisis is underway in the north, where Israel has been waging a week-long offensive that has killed hundreds of people and driven tens of thousands from their homes. Experts say a famine might already have set in there. **Food prices soar in central Gaza after looting:** On Monday, a crowd of people waited outside a shuttered bakery in the central city of Deir al-Balah. A woman who had been displaced from Gaza City, identifying herself as Umm Shadi, said the price of flour had climbed to 400 shekels (over \$100) a bag, if it can even be found. Nora Muhanna, another woman displaced from Gaza City, said she was leaving empty-handed after waiting five hours for a bag of bread for her children. "From the beginning, there are no goods, and even if they are available, there is no money," she said. The United Nations said armed

men stole food and other aid from 98 trucks over the weekend, the largest single incident of its kind since the start of the war. It did not say who was behind the theft. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the convoy of 109 trucks was instructed by the Israeli military to take an "alternative, unfamiliar route" after the aid was brought in through the Kerem Shalom crossing, and that the trucks were stolen near the crossing itself. Israel has long accused Hamas of stealing aid, allegations denied by the militant group. Al-Aqsa TV, a media outlet operated by the militants, said Hamas-run security forces in Gaza had launched an operation against looters, killing 20 of them. The report implied that members of tribal groups near Rafah were behind the theft. The Hamas-run government had a police force of tens of thousands that maintained a high degree of public security before the war, but they have vanished from the streets in many areas after being targeted by Israeli strikes. Hamas says it has taken measures to prevent both looting and price-gouging in local markets.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is publicly notified that the Flat No. Z-376B, Sector-12, Noida, has been allotted in the name of Shri Vijendra Thapa S/o Shri Kharakwari R/o G-114, Sector-20, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:- A. GPA was executed in favour of Shri Vipin Bhatia S/o Shri Vijay Bhatia R/o 1777, Geeta Colony East Delhi, Delhi-110031, at Noida Vide Book No IV Volume No 320 on pages 199 to 212 at Document No 336 dated 16.02.2010 and the Agreement to Sell was not registered. So with the help of the notice it is informed the transfer of the above flat goes in favour of Nitesh Chauhan S/o Shri Gopal Singh Chauhan R/o Y-11, Sector-12, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh if any one has have any objection he/she may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Department of Noida Authority along with sufficient proofs within 15 days of the publication on this notice.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME
I, No.2897658P Hav Jasvir Singh, R/o- Vill- Bad, Post-Kakua, Distt-Agra, U.P-282009, declare that in my Army records, my daughter's name is wrongly written as Kumari Prity Chahar whereas her correct name is Preeti Chahar. It should be amended in Army Record.
PD(944)C

PROVISION OF TRACK MACHINE & RENOVATION OF STAFF QUARTER
E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/46 of 2024 Dated: 13-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:
Tender No. 1. Brief Description of work: Hatwar-Kumedpur-Provision of Track Machine siding- 5 Stations. (P Way Works and formation works). **Tender Value:** ₹3,26,73,884.01/- **Earnest Money:** ₹3,13,400/-
Tender No. 2. Brief Description of work: Kumedpur-Malda Town & Ekalkhi-Balughat-Provision of track machine siding- 2 & 3 stations respectively. (P Way Works and formation works). **Tender Value:** ₹3,26,73,884.01/- **Earnest Money:** ₹3,13,400/-
Tender No. 3. Brief Description of work: Repair/Renovatio of 16 unit staff quarter, Special repair of toilets, Construction of boundary wall & Provision of cycle stand along with both side approach road 1.2 m wide inside the campus of Central School. **Tender Value:** ₹2,25,96,244.83/- **Earnest Money:** ₹2,63,000/- **Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender:** 15.00 hrs. of 12-12-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 12-12-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 12-12-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in.
DRM (W), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PROVISION OF GRID CONNECTED ROOF TOP SOLAR POWER PLANTS
E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/24 of 2024-25, Dated: 13-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/21; Name of work:** Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Service buildings over Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹2,09,23,049.50; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,54,600.00. **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024.** **SN.2; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/22; Name of work:** Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Residential building over Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹14,24,85,280.00; **Earnest Money:** ₹8,62,400.00. **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024.** **SN.3; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/23; Name of work:** Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Station buildings over Lumding Division. **Tender Value:** ₹17,30,18,848.02; **Earnest Money:** ₹10,15,100.00. **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
Sr. DEE/G&OP, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With a Smile

PROVISION OF ROOF TOP SOLAR PLANTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNDER LUMDING DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/25 of 2024-25, Dated: 14-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **SN.1; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/24; Name of work:** At Guwahati: Provision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, LG gates in Guwahati area. **Tender Value:** ₹9,37,42,306/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹8,16,700/- **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** **SN.2; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/25; Name of work:** At New Guwahati: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various staff quarters and LG gates in New Guwahati area. **Tender Value:** ₹10,13,22,757.20; **Earnest Money:** ₹6,56,600.00. **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** **SN.3; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/26; Name of work:** Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in New Guwahati and Narangi area. **Tender Value:** ₹13,90,800/-; **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** **SN.4; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/27; Name of work:** Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, Railway Station, parking area etc. in Amingaon area. **Tender Value:** ₹7,71,68,959/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹5,35,900/- **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** **SN.5; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/28; Name of work:** At Pandu: Provision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, Railway Station, parking area etc. in Amingaon area. **Tender Value:** ₹10,69,88,865/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹8,05,000/- **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** **SN.6; Tender No: EL/UM/24-25/29; Name of work:** At Pandu: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in Pandu area. **Tender Value:** ₹14,18,48,756/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹8,59,300/- **E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tenders will be available upto 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.
Sr. DEE/G&OP, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With a Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is informed that Shri Dayanand Mishra S/O Late Shri L.N. Mishra R/o Village Gijhor Sector-53, Noida District-Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP (Aadhar No. 9954 0594 9773 and Mobile No. 9131107898), who died on 22.04.2018 (Death certificate issued date 15.05.2018). A residential lease hold vacant Plot No. 240, which has an area of 112.50 Sq. Mts. Which is located in Block-A, Sector 47 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, The said property is owned by Shri Manish Gupta S/O Late Shri Bal Kishan Gupta R/o House No. 4/1884 Street No. 4, Rama Block, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 on the basis of will. If anyone has any objection, he can register his objection with all the evidence in Noida Development Authority within 30 days from the publication.

PROVISION OF CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
Tender Notice No.: 09 of 2024-25. Open E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **E-Tender No. N-2024-25-09-Dy.CSTE-NW; Name of work:** Provision of CCTV Surveillance system at STTC/PNO Training Centre, S&T Workshop/PNO and Microwave office/Maligaon. **Tender Value:** ₹10,34,440/-; **Bid Security:** ₹20,700/- **E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 09-12-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Network, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With a Smile

ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER KATI HAR DIVISION
E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/18_2024/K/948; dated: 14-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No: 18_2024; Name of work:** Installation of "Grid Connected" (On Grid) Solar Photo Voltaic Modules at Katihar Division (Phase-II). **Tender Value:** ₹9,03,84,163.63; **Earnest Money:** ₹6,02,000.00. **E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and Opened at 15:30 hrs. on 09-12-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in.
Sr. DEE/G & Chg./Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With a Smile

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No.: S/26/2024-25, Dtd: 14-11-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : 50/24/0662A/OT/117/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 29-11-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty : Electronic LC gate Telephone system (Master) as per RDSO Spec.No RDSO/SPN/TC/51/2021(Rev.1.0) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty- 19 Nos Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty- 54 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), (iii) Qty- 46 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD NFR (West Bengal), (iv) Qty-69 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR(Assam). P.L.No- 50232368.
Sl.No.:2; Tender No. : 30/24/5110/OT/118/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 02-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Stiffener Plate Part of Front Support plate for Balance Draft Gear as per RDSO Drawing No RDSO/CG/DRG/24034(With hardware items HT Hex Head Bolt M16x45, Hexagonal Castle Nut M 16 & Split Pin 4x40) and confirming to RDSO Specification as per Drawing No RDSO/CG/DRG/24034 and RDSO/2011/CG-03 (Rev.03) or Latest (To be procured from RDSO source for CBC). [Warranty Period: 84 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty: 4678 Nos. for SSE/CLS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L.No-336703190012.
Sl.No.:3; Tender No. : 10/24/4253A/OT/119/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 11-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Brake Rigging Kit Consisting of 16 items as per DLW Drg. No K-1702009, Alt-g or latest and to DLW Pt.No-17021182 as per Annexure-A and Annexure-B. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty-5 Nos for New Guwahati DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty-15 Nos for Siliguri Jn. DIESEL DEPOT, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No-16021186.
Sl.No.:4; Tender No. : 60/24/5100/OT/120/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 09-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, installation & commissioning of Multi Track Surface Type Traverser, Capacity 80 Ton, along with DSL and support masts, concomitant accessories required for making the machine fully functional, additional spares as per Schedule I, and spares for two years normal operation and maintenance as per Clause 5 of Section -V. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage insp: No, Stages :0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-659018400010. (2) Cost of comprehensive AMC for five year after the warranty as per clause 17. [Warranty Period: years, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10% Start After Year:2] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages:0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L. No-65901845. (3) Consumables as per clause 6 of section-V with breakup of individual items as applicable. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages:0]. Qty-1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L.: - 65901845.
Sl.No.:5; Tender No. : 30/24/5111/OT/121/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 06-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: SET OF TPU RING CONSISTING OF 02 ITEMS for LHB AC Coaches & LHB Non-AC coaches (With Air Springs in Secondary suspension) AS PER ANNEXURE-1, Make/Brand : Approved Vendors for BLW item ID 2201253 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency :TPI, Stage insp: No, Stages :0]. Qty: 441 Set for SSE/BR/S/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-331003400015.
Sl.No.:6; Tender No. : 30/24/5106/OT/122/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 16-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: [S-VEL Speed Sensor FTR TIL No FT0053670-101 for LHB Coaches [Warranty Period : 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty- 60 Nos for SSE/ABS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L. -33503618.
Sl.No.:7; Tender No. : 30/24/5112/OT/123/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 12-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: SET OF TPU RING CONSISTING OF 04 ITEMS LHB Non-AC Coaches (With Coil Springs in Secondary suspension) AS PER ANNEXURE-1. Make/Brand : Approved vendors for BLW item ID.2201253 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. (i)Qty-126 Set for SSE/BR/S/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-331007010013.
Sl.No.:8; Tender No. : 77/24/5012/OT/124/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 12-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply and Apply of Anti Graffiti Clear Coating for Exterior of Coaches (LHB and ICF type), conforming to RDSO Specification No. M & C/PCN/127-2020 (Rev.2.0) or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty-400 Nos for SEE/CPS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-779005280021.
Sl.No.:9; Tender No. : 30/24/5107/OT/125/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 31-12-2024.
Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Primary Spring(OUTER) for Power car (LWLRRM), AC Three Tier Steeper/EOG (LWACCN) to RCF Drg. No. 1277142 Ver.01R Mat Spec. -RDSO/2017/CG-01(Rev-2) corr-01 [Warranty Period: 60 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty- 728 Nos for SSE/BSS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No- 33500368.
Note :- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.
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UK farmers descend on Parliament to protest tax

AP ■ LONDON
With banners, bullhorns, toy tractors and an angry message, thousands of British farmers descended on Parliament on Tuesday to protest a tax hike they say will deal a "hammer blow" to struggling family farms. UK farmers are rarely as militant as their European neighbours, and Britain has not seen large-scale protests like those that have snarled cities in France and other European countries. Now, though, farmers say they will step up their action if the government doesn't listen. The flashpoint is the government's decision in its budget last month to scrap a tax break dating from the 1990s that exempts agricultural property from inheritance tax. From April 2026, farms worth more than 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) face a 20% tax when the owner dies and they are passed on to the next generation. "Everyone's mad," said Olly Harrison, co-organizer of a protest that flooded the streets around Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Downing Street office with angry farmers. He said many "want to take to the streets and block roads and go full French". Organisers urged protesters not to bring farm machinery into central London, though a handful of tractors drove past Downing Street festooned with signs saying "the final straw" and "no farmers, no food". They were cheered by a tightly packed crowd — many in the countryside uniform of Barbour jackets. Some held signs proclaiming "Stand with a farmer, not Starmer". Children on toy tractors were due to lead a march around

Parliament Square after a rally addressed by speakers including former "Top Gear" TV host and celebrity farmer Jeremy Clarkson. Another 1,800 farmers were invited into Parliament for a "mass lobby" of lawmakers nearby organised by the National Farmers' Union. "The human impact of this policy is simply not acceptable, it's wrong," NFU President Tom Bradshaw told farmers gathered for the mass lobby. "It's kicking the legs out from under British food security." Volatile weather exacerbated by climate change, global instability and the upheaval caused by Britain's 2020 departure from the European Union have all added to the burden on UK farmers. Many feel the Labour Party government's tax change, part of an effort to raise billions of pounds to fund public services, is the last straw. "Four out of the last five years, we've lost money," said Harrison, a fifth-generation farmer who grows cereal crops on his family farm near Liverpool in northwest England. "The only thing that's kept me going is doing it for my kids. And maybe a little bit of appreciation on the land allows you to keep borrowing, to keep going. But now that's just disappeared overnight." Starmer's centre-left government says the "vast majority" of farms — about 75% — will not have to pay inheritance tax, and various loopholes mean that a farming couple can pass on an estate worth up to 3 million pounds (\$3.9 million) to their children tax-free. The 20% levy is half the 40% inheritance tax paid on other land and property in the UK. Supporters of the tax say it will recoup money from wealthy

people who have bought up agricultural land as an investment, driving up the cost of farmland in the process. "It's become the most effective way for the super rich to avoid paying their inheritance tax," Environment Secretary Steve Reed wrote in the Daily Telegraph, adding that high land prices were "robbing young farmers of the dream of owning their own farm." But the farmers' union says more than 60% of working farms could face a tax hit. And while farms may be worth a lot on paper, profits are often small.

Aro granite Industries Ltd.
CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510
Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi 110025
Phone: 011-41686169; Fax: 011-26941984
Email: investorgrievance@arogilite.com, Website: www.arogilite.com
NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY
Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPPA)
This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended (the "Rules"). The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more in the name of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPPF) Authority. The Company has uploaded full details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPPF Authority on its website at www.arogilite.com/Investor_Relations. Shareholders are requested to refer to our website www.arogilite.com/Investor_Relations to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred to IEPPF Authority.
Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules. The Company has also sent individual letters to the shareholders in this regard.
In case the shares which are required to be transferred to IEPPF are held in physical form, the Company would be issuing duplicate shares certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s) held by them for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPPF Authority as per the Rules and upon such issue, the original certificate(s) which stands registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. In case of the shares are held in demat form, the Company shall inform the depository by way of Corporate Action, where the shareholders have their demat accounts, for transfer of shares to IEPPF. The shareholders may further note that the details uploaded by the Company on its website should be regarded as and shall be deemed to be adequate notice in respect of issue of duplicate certificate(s) by the Company for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPPF Authority pursuant to the Rules.
In case the Company does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholders by 18th December 2024, and the Company shall, with a view to complying with the requirements set out in the Rules, dematerialize and transfer the shares to IEPPF Authority by way of corporate action by the due date as per the procedure stipulated in the Rules.
For any clarification in this regard, the shareholders may write to the Company Unit: Aro granite industries Ltd. and its Registrar & Transfer Agent M/s Alankit Assignments Limited, Alankit House, 4E/2, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi - 110065, Phone: 011-42541965, 42541960. Email: info@alankit.com.
For Aro granite industries Ltd.
Ayush Goel
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
Place: New Delhi
Date 19.11.2024

Agriculture Minister sounds alarm on soil degradation, calls for urgent action

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Shri Singh Chouhan on Tuesday expressed concern over soil degradation affecting 30 per cent of India's land and stressed the need for urgent measures to maintain soil quality for sustainable farming.

Addressing a global conference on soil through video conferencing, Chouhan said improving soil health is crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to zero hunger, climate action and life on land.

"We are producing more than 330 million tonnes of foodgrains annually and exporting worth USD 50 billion.



This success however comes with concerns, especially regarding soil health," the minister said. According to Chouhan,

about 30 per cent of India's land is experiencing degradation due to rising fertiliser consumption, imbalanced use of fertilisers,

exploitation of natural resources and wrong soil management practices. The minister highlighted various government initiatives, including the distribution of more than 220 million soil health cards to farmers and the promotion of micro irrigation, organic and natural farming methods.

However, he emphasised that more focused efforts are needed, particularly in view of rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and climate change challenges.

A new programme on modern agriculture will soon be launched to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers, Chouhan added.

Speaking at the event, Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand questioned the

limited adoption of conservation agriculture and zero tillage methods in India and South Asia, despite their successful implementation in South American countries like Brazil and Argentina.

While some NGOs and private companies are promoting regenerative agriculture and natural farming, these initiatives remain limited in scope, Chand told the conference, calling on the Indian Soil Scientists Society (ISSS) to spearhead larger-scale solutions.

The conference was attended by ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority Chairperson Trilochan Mohapatra, and ISSS President H Pathak.

FICCI reduces GST on EV batteries, charging services to boost affordability

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In order to keep EVs competitive there is a need to reduce GST on batteries and charging services, FICCI Electric Vehicle Committee Chair Sulajja Firodia Motwani said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the sidelines of FICCI National Conference on EVs here, she also exhorted the need to enhance PM E-Drive corpus to support enhanced sales of EVs.

"We would be making a recommendation to the GST council to rationalise the GST taxation on EV-related areas," Motwani said.

Elaborating on the demands, she noted, "Currently the GST on charging services is still 18 per cent which we would request to bring down to 5 per cent so that charging becomes more affordable to the consumers."

Secondly, the GST on batteries should also come down to 5 per cent, she added.

"While EVs attract a GST of 5 per cent, GST on batteries is



18 per cent.

The request is to reduce it to 5 per cent so that when consumers buy replacement batteries, it is more affordable," Motwani said.

Meeting that these two reforms on GST will help a lot in making EVs more competitive for the consumers, she stated.

While welcoming the PM E-Drive scheme, Motwani said that with rising demand there is a need to review the incentive amounts.

"We believe that because the demand is growing, perhaps the incentive amounts have to be reviewed so that the budget under the PM E-Drive scheme

overall is enhanced to ensure that the total number of vehicles sold in the next two years are eligible for the incentive," she stated.

She further said, "We do believe that PM E-Drive has great potential, and it will go a long way in further accelerating electric mobility." Motwani also emphasised that EVs should be part of priority sector lending.

"We do believe there's a strong case to allow and to help having affordable financing for EVs that can make it more cost competitive for not just the classes, but for the masses," she said.

FICCI President and Mahindra Group MD and CEO Anish Shah said electric four-wheelers currently have a 1.5 per cent penetration in India which indicates that "much work is needed".

India has a history of leapfrogging other countries and the discussion shifts to the requirements for achieving this with EVs, he said.

Government addresses steel import issues amid rising concerns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is working to address the issues related to steel imports, Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy said on Tuesday.

The industry has apprised the ministry and it is aware of the issue, Kumaraswamy told PTI on the sidelines of FICCI's Conference - Accelerating E-mobility: Enablers and Imperative.

"Some issues are there. They (steel players) are telling some substandard material is getting imported from some countries.

For that we are working," he said. Domestic steel players have been consistently raising their concerns over rising cheap steel imports from select nations, affecting their competitiveness.

Steel imports have risen by nearly 50 per cent in the first six months of FY25

compared to the same period last year, with China being the largest contributor, BigMint CEO Dhruv Goel said.

"This surge is primarily driven by increased Chinese steel exports due to slowing domestic demand there. China's exports are projected to surpass 100 million tonnes in 2024, the highest in eight years," he said.

Additionally, Vietnam has contributed significant incremental volumes to India. Exports from Vietnam benefit from the free trade agreement, which exempts them from import duties, Goel noted.

According to BigMint data, India's steel imports were at 5.51 million tonnes (MnT) in April-September 2024-25, higher from 3.66 MnT in the year-ago period. Imports from China have surged to 1.85 MnT during that period from 1.02 MnT in April-September period of financial year 2023-24.

CCPA to bring regulatory framework for diamond industry to protect consumers interest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will soon release guidelines on diamond sector to ensure explicit labelling and certification of all diamonds and prohibit the use of misleading terms in trade. The CCPA has organised a stakeholder consultation on consumer protection in the diamond sector to deliberate on the use of appropriate terminology for diamonds, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The consultation, chaired by Nidhi Khare, Chief Commissioner, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), brought together key industry stakeholders and experts.

"The CCPA will soon release a robust framework to ensure transparency, accountability, and consumer protection across the diamond industry," the statement said. The meeting addressed critical concerns regarding



the lack of standardised terminology and inadequate disclosure practices in the diamond sector.

"These gaps have resulted in consumer confusion and misleading practices, especially concerning the differentiation between natural diamonds and lab-grown diamonds," it pointed out.

Industry consensus emphasised the need for ethical marketing practices and consistent terminology to enhance consumer protection.

"Comprehensive guidelines were proposed to mandate: Explicit labelling and certification of all diamonds, specifying their origin and production method; prohibition of misleading terms like 'natural' or 'genuine' for lab-grown products; accreditation systems to regulate and standardise diamond testing laboratories, curbing the rise of unregulated entities," the statement said.

The consultation was a significant step toward building a transparent and

consumer-centric diamond market. During the consultation, the broad key aspects and prevailing Legal and Regulatory frameworks were discussed in detail.

Citing an example, the CCPA said that The Legal Metrology Act, 2009, under Section 12, provides the unit of mass for diamonds, pearls, and precious stones as the carat (symbol: c), equivalent to 200 milligrams or one five-thousandth of a kilogram, ensuring

standardised measurements for consistency in commercial transactions across the diamond industry. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Standard IS 15766:2007 mandates that the term "diamond" alone must exclusively refer to natural diamonds.

Synthetic diamonds cannot be labelled as "diamond" without qualification and must be explicitly referred to as "synthetic diamonds," irrespective of the production method or

material used. To maintain market clarity, synthetic diamonds are also prohibited from being graded alongside natural diamonds.

Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, a robust legal framework to safeguard consumer interests by preventing unfair trade practices and ensuring transparent labelling in the diamond industry is provided.

This prohibits misleading descriptions or omissions that may confuse consumers. Further, Central Board in Direct Taxes and Custom (CBIC) reinforced these measures, mandating the explicit declaration of whether a diamond is natural or lab-grown, and if lab-grown, the production method—Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD), High Pressure High Temperature (HPHT), or others—must be specified to ensure transparency and accountability in the diamond sector.

'Her Comfort' campaign to promote menstrual health awareness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GURUGRAM

Artemis Health Sciences Foundation (AHSF), in partnership with Pinkish Foundation, launched the 'Her Comfort' campaign to promote menstrual health awareness among adolescent girls in underserved areas of Gurugram.

The initiative, launched at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Basai, aims to benefit 1,500 girls by providing hygiene kits and education to combat stigma and promote menstrual health.

The kits include sanitary pads, undergarments, and educational materials for six months. Workshops will dispel myths and empower girls to manage their health confidently.

Coal India Ltd receives Green World Awards 2024



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Vinay Ranjan, Director, Coal India Limited (CIL), on Monday received the Green World Awards 2024 during much-awaited presentation ceremony at The Orangery, Kensington Palace, London today.

The award was given by The Green Organisation, which began in 1994 and is an independent, non-political, non-profit environment group.

Vinay Ranjan said that let's this moment inspire us all to take action, protect our environment, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come."

He thanked everyone who supported me on this incredible journey. The Certificate of Achievement was presented to Coal India Coal India Ltd in recognition of winning a Green World Award for their commitment to environment best practice.

CIL, living up to its Corporate Citizen role is one of the largest spenders in the country under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Coal India as a corporate entity, it contributes to the country's economically and socially apart from its core role as energy provider.

Foreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds settles case with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds has settled a case pertaining to the alleged violations of FPI rules with capital markets watchdog Sebi after paying Rs 64.35 lakh as settlement charges.

In a corollendum to its settlement order, Sebi on Tuesday said that the case concerns to non-compliance with the 'fit and proper' criteria for the period from October 13, 2022, to April 11, 2023.

The latest order 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 show cause 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 paid 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 (show cause notice) dated



February 29, 2024, is disposed of," Sebi said in its order passed on Monday.

The SCN was issued to the applicant on account of revocation

of license of its controlling shareholder - Emerging India Fund Management Ltd - by the Mauritius financial regulator

(FSC) after which the applicant was not in compliance with the 'fit and proper' criteria for the period from October 13, 2022 to April 11, 2023.

Further, the applicant failed to forthwith inform Sebi and the Designated Depository Participant about the change in its eligibility status.

EIFF replaced the controlling shareholder with a new fit and proper entity only in April 2023, sources said.

Between April 2022 and April 2023, therefore, EIFF was in breach of Sebi regulations, and a show cause notice was duly served on them. This has now been duly settled.

EIFF has only invested in mutual

funds in India since November 2021.

Emerging India Focus Funds was named in the Hindenburg Research report, which alleged that the fund was used to inflate the volume as well as price of the Adani Group companies.

Sources close to the development said that the case that has been settled with Emerging India Focus Funds (EIFF) has nothing to do with the Adani or Hindenburg report related to enforcement actions undertaken by Sebi.

Specifically, this case does not form a part of the 24 cases that were reported to the expert committee set up by the Supreme Court after the Hindenburg Report of January 2023.

IBL and BFIL sign MoU with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) and Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) on Monday announced a collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW), Government of India, to launch the Bharat Sanjeevani Krishi Utthan initiative.

This initiative aims to support the government's flagship program, "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) providing a robust framework to empower FPOs across the country. This collaboration has been driven through BFIL and IBL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote

sustainable farming practices, and improve farmers' income consistently, across 11 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Commenting on this significant partnership, Mr. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary, MoA & FW, GoI, said, "BFIL and IBL's commitment to leveraging technology in agriculture is commendable. By utilizing IT solutions, providing project management support, and extending their expertise, BFIL& IBL are empowering farmers to make data-driven decisions and enhance their production practices, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector."

Indic Wisdom raises funds to boost wood-pressed oil production

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indic Wisdom, a Mumbai-based manufacturer of high-quality wood-pressed oils on Tuesday raised funds in a Pre-series A round primarily led by Rockstud Capital along with other investors.

A significant rise in consumer awareness about their health and a shift in preference towards natural, nutrient-dense food products is driving the demand for cold-pressed oils.

These oils, renowned for their high nutritional content, including essential vitamins, antioxidants, and fatty acids, offer a superior alternative to refined oils, which often undergo processing that can strip them of valuable nutrients.

Indic Wisdom Pvt. Limited traces its inspiration to India's egalitarian culinary traditions. Growing up with the belief that food should be natural and shared, Prajakta Khare & Kaustubh Khare founded Indic Wisdom to contemporise that



civilisational wisdom and invested in manufacturing to produce goodness at scale. It is strategically positioned to capitalize on the burgeoning market for premium cold-pressed oils.

Their comprehensive product range, encompassing cooking oils, multipurpose oils, and specialty oils, caters to the diverse needs and preferences of health-conscious consumers. The founders bring over two decades of combined experience in digital transformation, artificial Intelligence, and onshore/offshore sales. Their expertise, honed through previous roles, is now

dedicated to a singular mission: to modernize India's ancient culinary traditions through continuous innovation and knowledge expansion. By doing so, they aim to create products that promote global well-being. Prajakta Khare, co-founder of Indic Wisdom, says, "With Indic Wisdom, we want to take India's timeless tradition of prasad - food that is pure, sustainable, and meant for everyone - to the world. We are doing this by incorporating modern production best practices and quality standards in traditional food production practices."

INBRIEF

POWERGRID ACQUIRES FOUR MAJOR ISTS PROJECTS

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has successfully acquired four Project Special Purpose Vehicles to execute Inter-State Transmission Projects related to transmission of renewable energy.



55TH FOUNDATION DAY OF GNDU



Guru Nanak Dev University has taken new steps in the field of higher education. On the occasion of the 500th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

HITS OPENS ADMISSIONS FOR 2025-26

CHENNAI: Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, a NAAC A+ accredited institution renowned for academic and research excellence, has announced admissions for the academic year 2025-26. Alongside, the institution has unveiled a Rs. 5 crore merit-based scholarship initiative to support deserving students.



GNDU'S MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN SCIENCE FESTIVAL



AMRITSAR: The Department of Mechanical Engineering of Guru Nanak Dev University, participated in the Khalsa Science Festival, organized by the Society for Promotion of Science and Technology in India in collaboration with Khalsa College, Amritsar.

India beat Japan 2-0, to face China in final of women's ACT hockey

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Defending champions India continued their unbeaten run and defeated Japan 2-0 to enter the final of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

Vice-captain Navneet Kaur converted a penalty stroke in the 48th minute while Lalaremsiami struck from field play in the 56th minute for India, who had plenty of scoring chances including 13 penalty corners.

India will face China, whom they defeated in the league stages, in the final on Wednesday. Earlier, China beat Malaysia 3-1 in the first semifinal.

Malaysia will take on Japan in the third-fourth place match, while Korea finished fifth after beating Thailand



3-0 in the fifth-sixth place classification match.

The Indians continued their attacking game and put on early pressure on the Japanese defence, just like the last league game. The play was mostly inside the Japanese half as the Indian defence was hardly tested.

India had the first shot at the goal inside the initial five minutes. Skipper Salima Tete's attempt was thwarted by Japanese goalkeeper Yu Kudo.

The Indians repeatedly penetrated the Japanese citadel and in the process secured two penalty corners in a span of two minutes but Kudo was alert under the bar to deny Navneet Kaur and Deepika.

Three minutes into the second quarter, India secured three back-to-back penalty corners but failed to find the back of the net. It was raining penalty corners for the hosts as they got back-to-back set pieces in the 21st minute but Kudo produced a brilliant save with her fully-stretched right leg to deny Deepika again.

In the 24th minute, India earned a penalty corner followed by another in the next minute but failed to get past Japanese goalkeeper Kudo, as they also lacked in execution.

A minute after the change of ends, India secured two penalty corners but wasted both. In the 35th minute, Kudo again denied Deepika from a set piece.

In the 41st minute, Deepika stole the ball just outside the Japanese circle, but shot wide from a one-on-one situation with Kudo.

Seconds from the end of third quarter, Kudo once again pulled off a brilliant save to deny Uditra from another penalty corner.

In the 47th minute, India secured their 12th penalty corner but failed to breach Kudo.

But a minute later, India broke the deadlock through a penalty stroke earned by Deepika and Navneet made no mistake.

The goal seemed to have rejuvenated the Indians as they scored a fine field goal in the 56th minute.

Lalaremsiami slammed into the back of the Japanese goal after she was brilliantly set up by Sunelita Toppo's terrific run from the right flank.

Japan got a penalty corner in the dying moments, but failed to get past a rock solid Indian defence.

Pulisic scores twice, US beats Jamaica 4-2 for 5-2 aggregate win in CONCACAF Nations League QF

AP ■ ST. LOUIS (US)

Christian Pulisic scored twice in the first half, Tim Weah got a goal in his return to the U.S. National team from a red card and the Americans beat Jamaica 4-2 for a 5-2 aggregate win in their CONCACAF Nations League quarterfinal.

Playing their first competitive matches under coach Mauricio Pochettino, the United States advanced to a semifinal on March 20 at Inglewood, California. The Americans won the first three editions of the tournament.

The U.S. Also qualified for next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, while Jamaica will have to play a qualifier.

Pulisic put the U.S. Ahead in the 13th minute when he ran onto a long looping pass from Weston McKennie and kicked the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Andre Blake. Pulisic doubled the lead off a pass from McKennie that Tanner Tessmann dummied in the 33rd minute.



Yunus Musah and sent a shot just under the crossbar for his seventh goal.

Gray got his second goal in the 68th. Costa Rica took a 1-0 lead into its home match against Panama on Monday night. On Tuesday, Mexico is at home trying to overturn a 2-0 first-leg loss at Honduras and Canada is home with a 1-0 lead against Suriname.

Weah started in place of injured Johnny Cardoso after completing a two-game suspension for a red card against Panama in the Copa America last summer. That was the only change made by Pochettino from the first leg.

Defender Tim Ream, at 37 the oldest player on the roster, captained the Americans in his hometown of St. Louis.

Jamaica coach Steve McLaren, a former England manager, told the media that star Michail Antonio wasn't available because he lost his passport and couldn't get a U.

Croatia, Denmark qualify for Nations League quarterfinals with draws

AP ■ MADRID

Denmark and Croatia completed the Nations League quarterfinals lineup after both sides secured draws.

Denmark went 0-0 in Serbia, and Croatia came from behind to share 1-1 with visiting Portugal.

They joined France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands in the last eight.

The quarterfinals will be held from March 20-23.

In Warsaw, Liverpool fullback Andy Robertson scored an injury time header to give Scotland a 2-1 win over Poland and send the host down into League B. Scotland has a playoff to secure its League A status.

Northern Ireland will step up to League B after topping its group. Northern Ireland let slip a two-goal lead but drew in Luxembourg 2-2. Romania hammered Cyprus 4-1.

San Marino will jump into Group C after beating Lichtenstein 3-1.

Scotland wins again

After going nine matches without a win, Scotland appeared rejuvenated as it condemned a Robert Lewandowski-less Poland to League B.

Scotland took just one point from its first four games in Group A1 but beat Croatia at home on Friday and was 1-0 up after three minutes in Warsaw.

Billy Gilmour's threaded pass found Ben Doak, who rolled the ball to John McGinn to score his second goal in four days.

Scotland hit the woodwork twice in the first half and its inability to open a greater lead almost cost it when Kamil Piattowski lashed a stunning strike into the top corner of the net to equalize 14 minutes into the second period.

However, Scotland pushed forward for a winner and Robertson headed the decider in the third minute of stoppage time.

Croatia struggle

Croatia needed only a draw to secure qualification but it made the home fans in Split sweat before getting the point it needed against group winner Portugal.



With 32 minutes gone, João Felix brought down a superb 45-yard pass from Vitinha and slipped the ball under the advancing keeper to give the visitors the lead. When Andrej Kramaric hit the post and Josko Gvardiol had a 62nd minute goal ruled out for offside it looked like it might not be Croatia's night.

But Manchester City's Gvardiol got the equalizer just a few minutes later and Croatia held on to take the second quarterfinal spot from Group A1.

Spain beats Switzerland

There was little to play for in Tenerife, where Spain, top of Group A4, took on the already relegated Switzerland.

Coach Luis de la Fuente offered a first start to Barcelona midfielder Marc Casadó and gave debuts to Samu and Aitor Paredes in a much-changed Spain side.

But it was the two Bryans, Gil and Zaragoza, who got the goals that mattered for the European champions.

Pedri's first half penalty was saved but Yeremi Pino converted to put Spain ahead.

Joel Monteiro equalized for Switzerland after 63 minutes but Bryan Gil got Spain back in front five minutes later. Andi Zeqiri equalized again from the penalty spot with five minutes remaining but a stoppage time penalty from Bryan Zaragoza at the other end gave Spain all three points.

Denmark draws in Serbia

In Leskovac, Serbia controlled most of the game against Denmark but could not get the goal it needed to progress from Group A4. Dušan Vlahovic was in fine form for the home side but the Danes held out to take second spot, eight points

Mike Tyson-Jake Paul fight draws record betting for a combat sports event



AP ■ LAS VEGAS

Caesars Sportsbook, said the fight was on par with an NFL Monday night game.

"We knew there would be tremendous interest in the fight, as the betting suggested it was a generational matchup in customer demographics," Mucklow said. "Those old enough to remember a prime Mike Tyson got to live the nostalgia one last time, while those not old enough to know Iron Mike were firmly on the Jake Paul side of the counter."

DraftKings sports operations director Johnny Avello said the fight also was its most-bet boxing match.

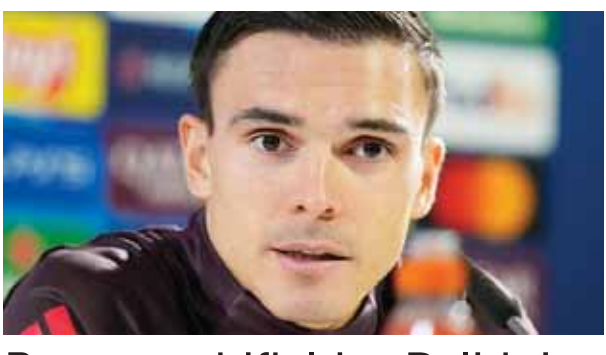
"The bettors were yearning

for Tyson to return to the ring even at 58 years old, and wanted to be a part of this moment with one of the icons of the sport," Avello said. "We'll see who Jake Paul fights next, but his matches have proven to create immense buzz and unprecedented action on our platforms."

The amount of betting can't necessarily be used to draw a direct comparison with betting on big fights in the past since so many major bouts, including Tyson's biggest fights, occurred before sports betting was legalized beyond Nevada in 2018. It's still not legal in 38 states. But the fight at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, still drew an enormous handle.

Most of the wagers at BetMGM Sportsbook were on proposition bets, with the most popular being on Tyson to prevail either by knockout, decision or a first-round KO. Though Paul was a -175 favorite, 67% of the tickets and 53% of the money at BetMGM was on Tyson.

"Paul winning was a good outcome for the sportsbook," BetMGM senior trader Alex Rella said.



Bayern midfielder Palhinha faces weeks out after injury while with Portugal

AP ■ MUNICH

João Palhinha's year could be over early after the Bayern Munich midfielder was injured on Portugal duty.

Palhinha will "be sidelined for the coming weeks" after he tore a muscle in his right adductor, part of the hip and thigh area, Bayern said on Tuesday.

That kept Palhinha out of Portugal's 5-1 win over Poland in the Nations League on Friday and its 1-1 draw with Croatia on Monday.

He is set to miss tough games for Bayern including hosting Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League next week, facing Borussia Dortmund in the German Klassiker on Nov. 30, and taking on defending champion Bayer Leverkusen in the German Cup on Dec. 3.

German media reported Palhinha was not expected to return until after the winter break. Bayern's last game before the break is Dec. 20.

Bayern could have to rely on Leon Goretzka, who has been a fringe player this season, because coach Vincent Kompany's other preferred defensive midfielder, Aleksandar Pavlovic, has yet to return following surgery on a broken collarbone last month.

Pavlovic has managed "some elements" of training with the rest of the team, Bayern said on Monday.

PGA Tour approves reduction to 100 players keeping cards off FedEx Cup list

AP ■ NEW YORK

The PGA Tour policy board have approved eligibility changes that eliminate 25 cards through the FedEx Cup in the first reduction of jobs since the all-exempt tour began in 1983.

Starting in 2026, only the top 100 in the FedEx Cup are assured full status the following year.

The board voted on proposals from the 16-member Player Advisory Council aimed at giving everyone who earns a full PGA Tour card a chance to get into enough tournaments to have a fair chance at keeping their cards.

It also approved smaller field sizes — a maximum of 144 players, down from 156 —

for tournaments on one course with ample daylight hours. Another change was eliminating the four restricted sponsor exemptions, allocating them to what amounts to the alternate list.

Open tournaments still get unrestricted sponsor exemptions (typically four) they can give to whomever they want. With changes not taking effect until 2026, that makes next year even more cutthroat with more than 170 players who have cards trying to finish in the top 100.

"The PAC discussions were based on a number of guiding principles, including our belief that PGA Tour membership is the pinnacle of achievement in men's professional golf," said Adam Scott, a player



director on the policy board who also serve on the competitions subcommittee of the PAC.

"The changes approved today will provide equitable playing opportunities for new young talent to be showcased, and positively refine the playing experience for our members."

It will be tougher than ever to get a PGA Tour card. Along with players having to finish in the top 100 — tournament winners still get a two-year exemption — the tour will award only 20 cards to the Korn Ferry Tour, along with cards for the leading 10 players not already exempt on the European tour and five from Q-school.

Players who came through the Korn Ferry and Europe

number ever since.

It's the latest significant adjustment to the tour since the disruption of Saudi-backed LIV Golf, which began in June 2022. In the last two years, the tour has created \$20 million signature events with limited fields and a postseason for only the top 70 players.

"The reality is that we're all playing under different circumstances than we were four years ago," PAC Chairman Camilo Villegas said in three weeks ago when the changes were proposed. "We had no competition. We were the best. All of a sudden we have competition and there are little shifts. The changes we're proposing make a better product. What does having a PGA Tour card mean?"

The tour also announced changes to the FedEx Cup points distribution that start in 2025, awarding more points to second place and decreasing points from 11th place and down. For signature events, the decrease starts after seventh place.

Monday qualifying will offer four spots only to 144-man fields, reducing the number to two spots for 132-man fields and none when only 120 players are in the field.

There also was the ongoing pace-of-play problem, which rules officials for years have argued was due primarily to too many players on the course. The field sizes would be 120 players before Daylight Savings Time, then up to 132 players and a maximum of 144 in the summer.

Australia have to leave Kohli alone, hope he doesn't bring the intensity: Shane Watson

PTI ■ PERTH
Former all-rounder Shane Watson has advised the Australian team to avoid getting into confrontations with Virat Kohli in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as he feels the intensity the celebrated Indian batter derives from provocations brings the best out of him. Going through a lean run of form, Kohli has enjoyed great success in Australia in the past and will look to regain his touch in the five-match Test series, which gets underway on Friday at the Optus Stadium here. Provoking the Indian batting mainstay has often proved to be counterproductive for the Australians, and Watson has experienced it himself. "The one thing that I know of Virat is... Because the fire burns so brightly and deep inside him, the intensity he brings to every ball that he is engaged in a game has

been superhuman," Watson was quoted as saying on the Willow Talk podcast. "But, there have been in recent times where moments in this career that fire has started to go out because it is just so hard to maintain that intensity in every moment he is involved in a game. "And, that is where Australia have to leave him alone and hope he doesn't bring the intensity -- nine out of 10 intensity -- to every ball." Kohli has played 13 Tests in Australia since 2011, amassing 1,352 runs at an average of 54.08, including six centuries and four fifties, with a top score of 169. While this would be his fifth tour Down Under in the longest format, Kohli's best outing came during the 2014-15 series when he aggregated 692 runs in four Tests at an average of 86.50, including four hundreds and a half-century. These remarkable numbers are not



lost on Watson. "We have seen that when he has had success in Australia, he is up and above for everything in the middle. Every ball he is up for every single moment. "You can see the fierce intensity that he brings, and if he gets that, then it shuts everything else out. That is when he is at his absolute best. "If there is stuff happening around and that intensity is not there, that is when you will see the not-so-best version of Virat. So from an Australian perspective, let's hope we get to see that version of him," Watson said. Kohli's performance in the red-ball format this year has been below par, managing just 250 runs in six Tests at an average of 22.72. "Smith wasn't actually batting at his best as an opener. When the discussion turned to Australian batting, Watson backed Steve Smith to bring the very best of him against the formidable Indian bowling attack. Smith will be back at his usual number four slot after struggling as opener following the retirement of David Warner. "Steve wanted to open. He was super keen to take up a new challenge. But, one thing with that opportunity he had was he wasn't actually batting at his best at that time," Watson noted. "So, he got an opportunity to open, and Steve Smith at his very best would have made the most out of it because he just loves scoring runs, whether it is opening or at No. 4. You could see it a few times he got out when he was opening -- his game and his technique was a little bit off." For the marquee series against fierce rivals India, the Australian selectors have picked 25-year-old uncapped Nathan McSweeney to open the innings alongside Usman Khawaja.

Pant rejects Gavaskar's assessment, says did not leave DC due to disagreement over retention fee

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Rishabh Pant on Tuesday rejected the legendary Sunil Gavaskar's assessment that the India wicketkeeper-batter left Delhi Capitals due to disagreement over his retention fee ahead of the mega auction of the Indian Premier League. Pant, who captained Delhi Capitals last year after making a comeback from a horrific car accident, is among the marquee players who were not retained by their franchises. He is expected to be one of the most sought-after players when the auction takes place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25. "My retention wasn't about the money for sure that I can say," Pant wrote on X, responding to a broadcaster video showing Gavaskar talking about the auction dynamics. Gavaskar said while he expects Delhi



Capitals to rope in Pant once again, he also wondered if there was a disagreement over the fee between the franchise and the player. "The auction dynamics are completely different; we don't really know how it will go. But what I feel is that Delhi

have been retained by the franchise, they've gone for more than say, what the No 1 retention fee deduction would be. Clearly I think, maybe there was some disagreement over there," he said. Gavaskar said Delhi Capitals will have to look for a new captain as well if Pant is not there in the roster. "My feeling is that Delhi would definitely want Pant back because they need a captain as well. If Rishabh Pant is not in their squad then they have to look for a new captain. My feeling is (that) Delhi would definitely go for Rishabh Pant," he said. Pant, along with other former captains Shreyas Iyer (Kolkata Knight Riders) and KL Rahul (Lucknow Super Giants), is listed at a base price of Rs 2 crore each among marquee Indian players. Pant has always been a part of the Delhi franchise since his IPL debut in 2016, scoring 3,284 runs at 35.31 with one century and 18 fifties in 111 matches.

India's confidence 'damaged' but Australia won't underestimate visitors: Labuschagne

PTI ■ PERTH
A shattering defeat to New Zealand on home soil would have caused a "little bit of damage" to India's confidence but Australia will not make the mistake of underestimating the visitors, said charismatic batter Marnus Labuschagne here on Tuesday. The world No. 2 India are heading into the five-Test Border-Gavaskar series, starting here on Friday, following their whitewash at home, which ended their 12-year unbeaten run in their own backyard. Australia's middle-order mainstay Labuschagne believes the loss to the Kiwis would have dented India's confidence.

"It's really hard to judge. They played in completely different conditions -- spinning conditions -- but having India come here off the back of a loss at home is something that's never happened before (in my career)," Labuschagne told the media. "I think that is a good thing in terms of... They are probably a little bit lower on confidence, not coming off a Test victory, losing to New Zealand 3-0. I think that's going to do a little bit of damage to their confidence." However, Labuschagne insisted that Australia, who have lost each of their last four series to India both home and away, will have to guard against complacency. "They're a quality line-up and they're one of the best teams



in the world. So you can never underestimate a team like that," he said. India staged an incredible comeback on their last Australia tour in 2020-21 to win 2-1, despite the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli and injuries to several other frontline players along the

way. "That's what happened in 2021 -- the likes of (T) Natarajan played, (Mohammad) Siraj got his first crack in Australia, Washington Sundar played," Labuschagne recalled. "They had all these guys that were probably a little bit new -- Shubman (Gill) played those couple of games (in the 2020-21 series) -- so there were new faces around," he added. With India set to take the field without regular captain Rohit Sharma and No. 3 batter Gill in the first Test at the Optus Stadium here, Labuschagne said India have enough talent in their ranks to meet all challenges. "They're a quality line-up and they've showed that over a

period of time. You can't ever underestimate the depth of Indian cricket," he said. "Anyone that gets the opportunity to play for India have had to do a lot of hard work and find their way into that side... To actually play for a team like that, you have to be a very good player," Labuschagne added.

Shastri confident 'world class' Jaiswal will return from Australia as a better batter

PTI ■ PERTH
Former India head coach Ravi Shastri is confident that the "already world class" Yashasvi Jaiswal will return from the Australian tour a significantly improved batter, no matter the challenges he encounters along the way. Shastri said if Jaiswal can adapt to the challenging Perth pitch, known for its lively bounce, the young opener will play with freedom later on in the series. "I think he'll be a better player when he leaves Australian shores. Already he's world class," Shastri said at a Fox Cricket event. "You saw what he did against England (and) just the freedom with which he plays. "I think once he adapts to these conditions -- it's not going to be easy to adjust in Perth with that bounce, no matter how talented you are. You have got to be prepared to do the hard yards. "But if he can see that phase through, I think he'll entertain. He will love these pitches. He's someone who score pretty freely as well." Hailed as one of Indian cricket's brightest young talents, the 21-year-old made



a dazzling start to his Test career. He cemented his spot in the team with a stunning series performance against England earlier this year. "He's come up the hard way, so you can see that hunger and passion, not just in his eyes, but when he's out there in the middle, fielding in the slips. He wants to be involved in the game." Having led India to two series victories in Australia, Shastri knows firsthand that defeating the Aussies on their home turf is no easy feat. "It's going to be tough," Shastri said. "As I found out on my three tours here as a coach, you have to be at your best. Your A game has to come to the park very early if you want to catch Australia on the wrong foot. "You don't want to give an inch. I think that is the only way. There is no other way you can play. You've got to, or you're not going to get an inch. "You have got to understand very early what to expect

from the media as well, because they'll be behind the Australian team. But if you can get your boys to get out there and play as hard as it gets be ready for some tough cricket and perform, the media will respect you." "You will see Kohli firing in the start of the series" Virat Kohli has been enduring a lean patch across all formats in recent months, with just two centuries and 11 half-centuries in his last 60 Test innings. However, despite these struggles, Kohli boasts a remarkable record in Australia. Having toured Down Under four times, the right-hander averages an impressive 54.0, and Shastri has once again backed the veteran batter to excel in the upcoming series. "You mellow with age, don't you? But I think at the start of the Test series, you might just see (Kohli) firing again. He needs to be, I'd like to see him (like that) again," Shastri was quoted as saying by news.Com.Au. "In the face, that's Kohli. Come Australia, he'll get his juices going. It's (about) how he starts off, and for Australia, it's with Steve Smith."

LOST
By virtue of an affidavit sworn before The Notary Public, Chatrapur on 14.11.2024, I Sri N Dharma Rao S/o N Rama Rao At-Shanti Nagar, Po/PS-Chatrapur, Dist-Ganjam declare that my late mother is house owner vide khata no.1108/1181, Plot No.3353/5804 Mouza Chikalakhandi through sale deed 361/2002 has misplaced chatrapur main road near Nilakantheshwar Temple Chatrapur on 11.11.2024. Any one who find the above document please contact above address.
S/d
Sri N Dharma Rao

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LTD
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR-751002.
Tel-MD 0674-2340573, E-Mail-mdosscitd456@gmail.com.

TENDER No. OSSC/ ENGG- 102/ 2024

Managing Director, Odisha State Seeds Corporation Ltd. invites item wise rate Tender in double cover system through **ONLINE MODE ONLY** for purchase of producer labels as below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Purchase of producer labels for the year 2024-25
1	Name of Work	Purchase of producer labels for the year 2024-25
2	No. of work	One
3	Bid cost	Rs. 6,720,000/-
4	EMD	Rs. 46,400/-
5	Availability of Bid Documents in Portal	11.00 hours on dt. 21.11.2024 to 17.00 hours on dt.27.11.2024
6	Last date of receipt of tender in portal	17.00 hours on dt.27.11.2024
7	Date/Time of opening of Bid	10.30 hours on dt. 28.11.2024

Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/Corrigendum/ Cancellation can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-011061100552425 Sd/-
Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, RAIRANGPUR DIVISION
Tel. No. - (06794) - 222036 (O) - 222008 (R) FAX No. - (06794) - 222836, e-mail-dforrp@gmail.com

Letter No. 157 /DFO, RRP-1F/2024-25 Dt.19.11.2024.

CORRIGENDUM

The following changes are made in this Office Tender Call Notice vide Identification No.156/DFO, RRP-1F/2024-25 Dt.18.11.2024.

1. The amount in words in Sl. No.4 of the above tender may be read as **Rs.6000/- (Six Thousand) only for each work instead of Rs.6000/- (Four Thousand) only for each work.**

The other content of this Tender Call Notice vide Identification No.156/DFO, RRP-1F/2024-25 Dt.18.11.2024 are remain unaltered.

Divisional Forest Officer,
Rairangpur Division

OIPR-08055/11/0032/2425

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KODALA
C-1044 Odisha, Pin -761032, e-Mail- nackodala@gmail.com

Sl. No. 4102 / Dev / 2024 Dated:- 18 /11/2024

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the e-Procurement notice no.4092 dated 12.11.2024 and BID IDENTIFICATION No-KOD-NAC-02/2024-25 that appeared on website www.tendersodisha.gov.in on 16 November 2024 and published in the newspaper 14 November 2024 the date of opening tender has been changed in given as:

Sl. No.	DETAILS	Changes date & time
01	Last Date for tender opening	30.11.2024 at 11.00AM

N.B : All other terms & Conditions remains un changes as thereof in the original notice.

Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Executive Officer,
Kodala NAC

13203/11/0014/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION KARANJIA (MAYURBHANJ)
E-mail ID - ceerwkaranjia@yahoo.com

Letter No. 4906 /WE // Date:- 14.11.2024

"e" Procurement Notice for Const. of bridge-cum-weir for year 2024-25
Bid Identification No - RWDKNJ - 05 / 2024-25

- Name of the work : Road Works (As per Annexure)
- Estimated Cost : Rs. 5.04 Lakh to Rs. 26.05 Lakh Approximately (As per Annexure)
- Class of Contractor : 'D' & 'C', 'C' & 'B' Class, (As per Annexure)
- Period of Completion : 1 Calendar Month
- Tender Paper Cost : Rs. 4,000/- to Rs. 6000 /- towards cost of bid through a process as mentioned in the DT.CN.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of sealing Tender	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/S.E., R.W. Division, Karanjia.
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division Karanjia	Road Online NCB No. 05/24-25	DL20.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	DL27.11.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	DL26.11.2024 at 5.00 P.M.	DL28.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

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

Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Karanjia

OIPR-25088/11/0005/2425

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, Balangir
Phone No-06652-232962/Off-e-mail-mid_balangir@yahoo.co.in

"e" Procurement Notice
Bid Reference No- SE-MID-BLGR- 04/2024-25
No-2745/MID // Date- 16.11.2024

Bid documents consisting of Work, Estimated cost, Cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractor, the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>.

- Name of the works :- Improvement / Repair of Civil works.
- No of Works :- 4(Four)Nos.
- Estimated cost :- Varies from Rs.34.65lakh to Rs.83.90 lakh Only (Approx)
- Period of completion :- 02(Two) to 03(Three) Calendar months.
- Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal :- From Dt-22.11.2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt-03.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM.
- Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal :- Dt-03.12.2024 up to 5.00 PM.
- Date of opening of Technical Bid :- Dt-04.12.2024 at 10.00 AM. Onwards.
- Date of opening of Financial Bid :- To be intimated later on
- Date of lottery scheduled to be held (if required) :- Dt- 13.12.2024 at 11.00 a.m in the OIO S.E.M.I. Division, Balangir
- Name and address of the OIT :- OIO The Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Balangir, Near Sub-Collector Office Balangir, Dist-Balangir
- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place :- <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>

OIPR-32063/11/0004/2425

Superintending Engineer
M.I. Division, Balangir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA.
At : Jekhampur, Post : Shree Baladevjevi, Email: ceerwskendrapara@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) (e-Procurement)
Bid Identification No. RWS/ 33/2024-25
Letter No. 5340 / Dated. 14.11.2024

- The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage bid in SINGLE cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for execution of different drinking water supply works in Kendrapara District.
- Name of the work : Different drinking water supply works in Kendrapara district.
- No. of Work : 02 Nos. (Two) only
- Value of the Work : ₹ 6.77 Lakhs to 26.46 lakhs
- Concerned tender inviting : Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara authority
- Cost of Bid documents (Rs.) : ₹ 4000/- to 6000/- (Online)
- Cost of Security deposit (Online) : ₹ 6800 to 27000 /-
- Class of Bidder : "D", "C" & "B" as applicable
- Period of Completion : 60 days
- Availability of bid documents in : From date. 25.11.2024 at 10.00 A.M to the website date. 05.12.2024 till 5.30 P.M
- Last Date & Time of seeking : Up to 26.11.2024 till 5.30 P.M
- tender clarification
- Date of opening of Bid : 06.12.2024 at 11.00 A.M onwards

The bidders have to participate in the tender through ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be had from the website <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The bid shall be accompanied with valid Contractor Registration Certificate, PAN, GST, No relation certificate in Schedule-A, Affidavit in support of authenticity of documents in Schedule-F and information regarding current litigation in Schedule-E.

Subsequent corrigendum / addendum if required shall only be appeared in the above website.

Executive Engineer,
RWS&S Division, Kendrapara

OIPR-25004/11/0014/2425