InSiDE

MONEY 10 MARKETS MAY REACT TO ASSEMBLY POLLS

of Parliamentary business

with the consent of the

Speaker of the Lok Sabha and

the Chairperson of the Rajya

Raising the matter at the

meeting, Congress' deputy leader in the Lok Sabha,

Gaurav Gogoi, dubbed the

Adani issue as a scam, saying

the government should not

reject or ignore their demand

on any technicality as it

concerns Indian institutions

Gautam Adani, whose

conglomerate includes a host

of companies covering power

to ports sectors, has been

charged by US prosecutors

crore) bribe to Indian

officials in exchange of

favourable terms for solar

power contracts in four

Congress leader Pramod

Tiwari also said the

government should set aside

other businesses to take up a

discussion on the issue on

industrialist

and investors.

Îndian states.

Billionaire

Sabha.

OUTCOME: ANALYSTS

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Violence erupts at Sambhal mosque survey, three dead



Police and security personnel stand guard amid protest by locals during a second survey of the Jama Masjid, claimed to be originally the site of an ancient Hindu temple, in Sambhal, Sunday, November 24, 2024. Police used tear gas and "minor force" in the face of stone pelting by locals on Sunday as tension escalated during the survey of the Mughal-era mosque PTI

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

Tensions flared into violence on Sunday as a court-mandated survey of the Mughal-era Jama Masjid triggered clashes between locals and police resulting in the deaths of three individuals. Over 40 people including policemen were reported injured in the violence.

Evewitnesses say that during a second survey of the mosque, a mob attacked police personnel with stones and set vehicles ablaze. The police responded with tear gas and a baton charge to control the situation. Over 20 police

officers and more than two dozen civilians were injured in the clashes, with reports of three deaths adding to the unrest. According to police, violence erupted when a crowd of

nearly a thousand gathered Pesia outside the mosque to prevent a survey team, led by a courtcirculating on social media show scenes of stone-pelting appointed advocate commissioner, from entering. As tensions escalated, some individuals in the crowd reportedly began pelting stones at the police, leading to retaliation with tear gas. Amid the chaos, over ten vehicles were set ablaze. "Some miscreants in the crowd resorted to violence.

policemen including the gunner of the superintendent of police have also been injured." Moradabad Commissioner The police used minor force Divisional

were

flames.

and tear gas to bring the situation under control. Those

involved will be identified and

strict action will be taken," said

Krishna Kumar Vishnoi,

District Magistrate Rajendra

approximately ten individuals

and vehicles engulfed in

"Three people identified as

Naeem, Bilal and Nauman

have been killed. Some

detained.

confirmed

that

Videos

superintendent of police.

Aunjaneva Kumar Singh said. Despite the unrest, the survey, which commenced at 7:30 am, was completed as planned. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the petitioners, stated that the survey team conducted a detailed examination of the supported by site. videography and photography in compliance with court directives. The report is set to be submitted by November

The controversy stems from a court case filed by a Hindu group claiming that the Jama Masjid was originally the Harihar temple. Following a directive, court commissioner was appointed to survey the site. Last Tuesday, the court-appointed team conducted an initial survey, including videography and photography, lasting about two hours. However, the second survey attempt on Sunday sparked protests. The violent court commissioner is expected to submit a detailed report to the court by November 29. Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav criticised the Pradesh (UP)Uttar government and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BIP). accusing them of deliberately orchestrating the violence. "The mosque was already surveyed earlier. Sending the team again, unprepared, was a deliberate attempt to provoke

unrest and divert attention

pressing

issues," he alleged

from

electoral



IED FROM: DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

All party meeting ahead of Winter session of the Parliament

BJP win dampens Opposition plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Established 1865

BHUBANESWAR, MONDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

Winter session of Parliament anticipated to begin on a stormy note on Monday at the backdrop of latest controversy around Adani Group with the Opposition ready to flex it muscles, is now likely to be dampened after BJP's morale booster Assembly results in Maharashtra, by-polls of Uttar Pradesh and last month's Harayana success to its kitty.

The Ópposition on Sunday asked the Centre to allow discussions in the Parliament on the US prosecutors' bribery charges against the Adani Group even as Union minister Kiren Rijiju made it clear that the matters to be taken up in the two houses will be decided their by authorised committees with the consent of the respective chair. Following the customary allparty meeting on the eve of the Parliament's Winter Session commencing Monday, Rijiju told reporters that the government has

appealed to all the parties to

ensure smooth conduct of

business in the Lok Sabha and committees of the two houses the Rajya Sabha. will take a call on the subjects

Forty-two leaders from 30 parties attended the meeting, which was chaired by senior BJP leader and Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The meeting was attended by BJP President JP leader Nadda, Congress DMK's Ramesh, Iairam Tiruchi Siva, Akali Dal's Harsimrat Kaur Badal and LJP (Ram Vilas) MP Arun Bharti, among others.

The government has listed 16 bills for consideration in the Winter Session. The bills pending in the Lok Sabha Waqf include the (Amendment) Bill, which has been listed for consideration and passage after a Joint for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 Parliamentary Committee (IPC) of the two houses submits its report on it to the lower house. The panel is mandated to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the winter session. On the Congress party's demand to hold discussions on the Adani issue on priority, apart from a host of other matters, including the Manipur unrest, Rijiju said the business advisory priority

murder killed in encounter SAUMYA SHUKLA

Accused in

policeman

Aday after a Delhi Police constable was killed while on duty, the main accused in the case was shot dead in an encounter by police personnel in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar area early Sunday morning.

The encounter comes a day after Kiran Pal, 28-year-old constable in the Delhi Police, was stabbed to death by three people on Saturday while on night patrolling duty in Delhi's

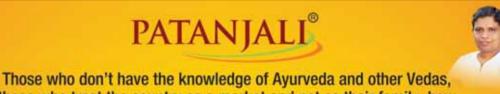
Govindpuri area. Two of the three accused, Deepak Max (21) and Krish Gupta (18), were

arrested later that day. According to a senior official of the Delhi Police's Special Cell, the third and the main accused in the murder of constable Kiranpal lost his life in an armed encounter with a joint team of local police and special cell.

A senior police officer of special cell said that the third accused, Raghav, who stabbed Pal with a knife was hiding in Sangam Vihar.

"Late evening on Saturday, information was received regarding the whereabouts of the prime suspect, identified as Raghav alias Rocky, a resident of D-Block, Sangam Vihar.





those who treat the country as a market and not as their family, how can they make Authentic Chyawanprash in the tradition of sages like Maharshi Charak, Sushrut, Dhanvantari, and Chyawan?

Adhering to the heritage and science of sages, we use 51, not 40, valuable herbs and saffron in making Patanjali Special Chyawanprash.



Quotes Bhima Bhoi's poem Odisha Parba concludes in Delhi

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attending the grand finale of the 7th Edition of the Odisha Parba in New Delhi on Sunday, lauded the Parba, calling it "a beacon of India's cultural depth, uniting the nation through its roots and creativity".

Modi praised Odisha's rich

heritage, highlighting its devotion, wisdom, and creativity as epitomised by figures like Dasia Bauri, Salabega and Jagannath Das.

Quoting Santha Kabi Bhima Bhoi's poem "Mo Jivana Pachhe Narke Padithau, Jagata Uddhara Heu", the PM highly praised the State's legacy of selflessness and resilience.

from ancient trade to modern progress in ports, mining, metals and agriculture. He noted Odisha's world-renowned Sambalpuri, Kotpad and Bomkai textiles, Odishi dance and seafood as symbols of its cultural richness.

Odisha's maritime heritage,

Minister of Railways and Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted Odisha's unique essence, stating, "Our Odia language, gifted by Lord Jagannath, embodies sweetness and richness un-

paralleled. Odisha's strides in semiconductor programmes and technological development are paving the way to remarkable heights."

Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan reflected on the State's dynamic contributions. saying, "Odisha embodies the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' with its youths spearheading startup initiatives and preserving the profound legacy of Odia culture and heritage through the disciplined efforts of the Odisha Samaj."

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Ayurvedic Superfood that boosts immunity, keeps diseases at bay, and keeps you young forever.



त्यवनप्राश

pecial

In Gajapati Man 'tortured, confined' by wife for days

PARALAKHEMUNDI

 ${
m A}$ woman allegedly brutally assaulted, tortured, and kept her husband locked up for eight days under dire conditions before he was rescued by police.

The shocking incident was reported from Bijepur village in the Birikot area of Adaba police station in <u>Gajapati</u> district.

According to reports, a longstanding marital dispute existed between Kastantin Parichha and his wife Pran Ranjani Parichha. The discord reportedly took an untoward turn after Ranjani began sub-



jecting her husband to torture, alleged the man's family.

The man was given primary Kastantin's family reported it to police, following which treatment in Birikot, but his

the latter rescued Kastantin

from the locked room.

condition was found to be critical, following which he was shifted to the Mohana Community Health Centre.

narrated the man's ordeal afbut rather only once about every four days. The patient is currently stable but in a very monitored after giving injections and IV fluids and further steps will be decided accordingly." No statement from the man's wife or police has been obtained yet in connection with the incident.

Doctor Sameer Tripathy

ter learning it from him. "He was not provided regular food weak state and is unable to walk. His condition will be

For the first time in the world, a research paper published in highly reputed journal 'Frontiers in Pharmacology' establishes Patanjali Special Chyawanprash as the best Chyawanprash that heals inflammation and gives power to fight diseases. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8633414/

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Huge sex racket unearthed in BBSR network. They have been ac-

23 Bangladeshi girls lured, forced into prostitution PNS BHUBANESWAR

An alleged large sex racket involving Bangladeshi girls has come to the fore in State capital Bhubaneswar. At least 23 women from Bangladesh are entangled in the sex racket.

The women are believed to be victims of a larger human trafficking operation. They were allegedly lured to Bhubaneswar with promises of lucrative employment, offering daily wages of Rs 2,000.

However, upon arrival, they were exploited and abused.

The modus operandi is the agents contact customers through WhatsApp and other social media platforms. The agents then send pictures of the girls from which the customer has to choose one. Later, the customer is made to pay an advance payment before he goes to the hotel where the girl is waiting.

The matter came to light after a minor girl was rescued near Link Road in Cuttack, leading authorities to scrutinise how these young women recruited from were Bangladesh and brought to Odisha.

Similarly, another sex racket. "We are victims," she worker, apprehended during a lamented, shedding light on



police raid, confessed to being the persistent torment they trapped against her will. She endured.

described the situation as be-This revelation has ing part of an organised sex prompted questions regarding the involvement of some masterminds operating the

In Cuttack Bangladeshi girl forced to work in massage parlour

Rescued by police PNS CUTTACK

Police have rescued a minor girl of Bangladesh who was allegedly trafficked to Odisha on the pretext of employment and later forced to work in a massage parlour in Cuttack.

Deprived of her salary after working for months, the victim fled the parlour and was wandering around Link Road when the Madhupatna police rescued her.

The girl alleged that she was brought from Bangladesh to India by an acquaintance she met on Facebook who promised her a job. The individual initially took her to Kolkata

before shifting her to Bhubaneswar and subsequently to Cuttack, where she was forced to work in the massage parlour without any payment.

Police found her alone near Link Road in Cuttack and placed her under the care of the Child Welfare Committe, which is investigating the matter in coordination with the local authorities. Efforts are being made to confirm her nationality through communication with the Bangladesh High Commission, given her lack of identity documents.

Additional efforts are underway to identify and appre-

Jagannath Temple's Ratna

Bhandar would commence in

a day or two and be completed

by January 31, informed Law

He said, "We are hopeful

that the Archaeological Sur-

vey of India (ASI) will start the

repair and restoration work in

a day or two. As per the

planned schedule, the repair,

inventory and audit of the

gold and other valuable

jewellery will be completed by

Harichandan on Sunday.

Minister

hend those responsible for the alleged trafficking. CWC Chairman Pramod

capital 02

Acharva said, "The Madhupatna police had rescued the girl on November 10. She was produced before us and we learnt that she is a Bangladeshi. But she does not have an identity proof or any travel documents."

Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena said, "She was rescued from Link Road and handed over to the CWC. Prima facie, it is a case of illegal migration as she doesn't have any documents with her. We have informed the Bangaldesh High Commis-

sion. Further probe is on."

Prithviraj

Subhadra Yojana AIBOC State unit holds EC meet Ratna Bhandar repair to end by Jan 31 PNS BHUBANESWAR January 31." 20L women get aid in 3rd phase PNS BHUBANESWAR Repair work of the

 $\mathbf{M}_{\mathrm{ore\,than\,20\,lakh\,women}}$ received financial assistance of Rs 5,000 as the Odisha Government released the first instalment of the third phase of the ambitious Subhadra Yojana in a special programme held at Sundargarh on Sunday.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi released more than Rs 1,000 crore in the third

BBSR rly station work completion likely by Aug completion.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he redevelopment work of the Bhubaneswar railway station is progressing at a fast pace with the target completion date set for August 2025. The ambitious project, aimed at transforming Bhubaneswar into a major rail hub, promises to deliver a host of advanced amenities synonymous with modern global travel.

The new station aims to enhance passenger experience with state-of-the-art facilities. It will feature modern waiting lounges, premium passenger services and improved platforms to accommodate increased capacity and ensure passenger comfort.

East Coast Railway Chief expected to serve as a blueprint Engineer Akshay Saxena has modernisation reportedly expressed confiacross India. dence for the project's timely

phase of the first instalment in the presence of Deputy CM Pravati Parida. With the release of the third phase, as many as 80 lakh women in the State have been covered under the new BJP government's ambitious scheme which aims at em-

powering women of the State. Notably, Subhadra Yojana was one of the major promises made by the BJP for women in its election manifesto.

"The station is a significant

leap forward, aiming to meet

the standards expected by

today's discerning travellers.

It is very passenger-friendly

with all modern equipments.

This is a green building and is

100% disabled-friendly. It is

seamlessly integrated into all

the vehicles including taxis

and autos so that passengers

can board the train easily," ex-

"With the best of facilities,

the feeling of an airport with

The redevelopment is seen

Bhubaneswar's connectivity.

Once completed, the station is

railway

projects

for

plained Saxena.

spaces," he added.

In wake of decision of assn for campaign over various issues PNS BHUBANESWAR

The All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) State Unit convened a meeting of its executive committee on Friday to discuss the action plan for State committees.

Odisha State secretary of AIBOC Amitava Das and State unit president Bailochan Sahu chalked out the action plan in alignment with AIBOC Working Committee decisions. On the occasion, vice-

president of the Central Committee of AIBOC Arun Kumar

BJD Minority Cell decries Waqf Bil **BJP** defends

Centre's move PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Biju Janata Dal (BJD) the railway station will give Minority Cell staged a demonstration in front of the Raj food courts and recreational Bhavan here on Sunday opposing the proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill by the Cenas a pivotal step in enhancing tral Government.

The party demanded withdrawal of the Bill and urged a reconsideration of the measure of mandating other community members into the



Bishoyi addressed the members to stand united and remain in a state of readiness for the sustained movement to secure their rightful demands.

Notably, the working committee of AIBOC had organised a meeting on November 12 at Mumbai and resolved to launch a vigorous campaign to address several concerns affecting bank offic-

In the current banking scenario, public sector banks

(PSBs) are facing acute shortage of man power, which impacts service quality and heightens staff stress. PSB employees are increasingly facing verbal and physical assaults while performing their duties. PSBs also execute most of the government flagship schemes but their officers remain under relentless pressure. Absence of work life balance ad-

protection and governance of

Waqf properties which are

considered sacred and integral

fare of the Muslim community.

BJD Minority Cell presi-

cused of keeping these women

in captivity for years. Investi-

gations are underway with

authorities striving to dis-

mantle this oppressive frame-

work and bring those respon-

Police are actively tracing

the operations of local agents

who may have facilitated this

City DCP Pinak Mishra

said, "We are keeping a close

tab on such illegal activities in

the twin city. We have enough

intelligence about such activi-

ties. Strict action will be taken

as per law against anyone

found engaged in such illegal

sible to justice.

activity.

activities."

versely affects their physical and mental health, the members said.

DFS has also issued new directive for premature retirement. Social security post retirement has become a nightmare for bankers as NPS, being a market driven scheme, has shown inconsistent returns due to market fluctuation. The AIBOC is demanding the immediate implementation of 5- day banking which is a standard practice in many organizations such as Central Government, RBI and LIC etc.

The union has also demanded the appointment of Employee Directors and Non-Workmen Directors to bank boards as mandated by law, to ensure employee representation in decision making process

Once the repair work of the treasure trove of the termple is complete, the jewellery would be shifted from the temporary storage to its original place. Subsequently, an inventory and audit would be conducted, the minister informed.

Meanwhile, the ground penetrating radar (GPR)-GPS survey report clearly shows that there are no hidden chambers in the Ratna Bhandar. So, the main focus now lies on the structural repair, said ASI Superintendent DB Gadnayak.



Nabakrushna Choudhury birth

A function was organised by the Milita Odisha Abhiyan Nishanibaran (MONA) here on Saturday to observe the 123rd birth anniversary of Odisha's late Chief Minister Nabakrushna Choudhury.

In the meeting, many eminent people opined that total prohibition should be enforced in the State. For this, sincerity is required at the government level. It was de- the honorary guests.

cided that a signature campaign would be carried out in the State and 10 lakh signatures would be collected to demand a liquor-free Odisha.

The campaign would end on January 30, 2025 and a memorandum regarding this would be submitted to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The function was presided over by MONA president, freedom foghter and former MLA Padmacharan Nayak. Sambad founder Soumva Ranian Patnaik was the chief guest and former minister Padmanabha Behera and Prajapita Brahmakumari Odisha chief sister Leena were



dum addressed to the Presications" on the autonomy, dent of India was also submitted to the Sub-Collector of Khordha to the religious and social wel-

In the memorandum, the BJD Minority Cell said the proposed changes in the Waqf

Munna Khan stated, "The Central Government is trying to take over Waqf properties and, hence, trying to introduce several amendments and bills.'

In response, BJP State presi-Manmohan Samal dent criticised the BJD's act. He said the Union Government is committed to ensuring justice for all without appeasement of any particular group.

"99.9% of the country is already supporting the Bill in its entirety. Justice will be done and injustice will be repealed,"



Bill have far-reaching impli-

CONTEMPORARIES Why air pollution fails to breathe life into poll agendas?

s one ambles through the hazy avenues of Delhi or surveys the smog-blanketed skies of numerous Indian cities, a grim reality settles in: the air we breathe is slowly becoming unbreathable. However, paradoxically, this existential crisis fails to galvanise political discourse or electoral agendas. While political parties jostle for votes, promising free electricity, subsidised food or transformative infrastructure, the menace of air pollution remains conspicuously absent from their manifestos. Why, one wonders, does this silent killer responsible for an estimated 1.7 million deaths annually in India fail to muster the political will to combat it?

India's air pollution woes are emblematic of its unbridled urbanisation and industrial expansion. According to the World Air Quality Report 2023, 22 of the world's 30 most-polluted cities are in India with Delhi steadfastly retaining its ignominious distinction as the most-polluted capital. The Air Quality Index (AQI) routinely plunges into the "hazardous" category, particularly during the winter when the trifecta of stubble burning, vehicular emissions and industrial discharges coalesce with meteorological fac-



S JYOTIRANJAN

tors to form a dense, noxious smog

The implications are staggering: children grow up with stunted lung capacity, respiratory illnesses proliferate, and the elderly face increased cardiovascular risks. The economic cost, as per a 2020 study by the Lung Care Foundation, amounts to a jaw-dropping 1.4% of India's GDP annually.

To its credit, the Indian govern-

ment has taken strides, albeit incremental, towards addressing air quality. The establishment of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in 2021 was a laudable step, designed as a multistate, statutory body to coordinate air quality improvement across Delhi-NCR and adjoining States. The CAQM has deployed measures such as bans on certain industrial activities, restrictions on construction during high-pollution periods and promotion of electric vehicles (EVs).

Additionally, the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20-30% by 2024, compared to 2017 levels. States like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have initiated regionspecific action plans to curb industrial emissions while Delhi's "Odd-Even" vehicular policy and smog tower installations represent more localised efforts.

However, these initiatives often fall prey to the Sisyphean challenge of enforcement. Take, for instance, the much-touted Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR. While GRAP delineates actions based on AQI levels, ranging from closing schools to halting industrial operations, its efficacy is undermined by sporadic implementation and the absence of a long-term, systemic strategy. The Indian judiciary, in its capacity as a sentinel of Constitutional rights, has periodically stepped in to address air pollution. The Supreme Court's ban on firecrackers during Diwali, its directions to curb stubble burning and

its monitoring of vehicular emis-

sions standards (e.g., the Bharat test bans on stubble burning; and Stage VI norms) are noteworthy. Similarly, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued orders to regulate construction activities, vehicular movements and industrial pollutants.

Despite such interventions, the judiciary's episodic activism often fails to address the systemic nature of air pollution. A case in point is the 2019 Supreme Court order on stubble burning, which, while well-intentioned, did little to address the economic plight of farmers who lack viable alternatives to crop residue disposal. Judicial decrees, though imperative, cannot substitute for coherent policy frameworks and sustained political commitment.

Addressing air pollution is a Sisyphean task, compounded by a multitude of challenges. Firstly, air pollution transcends State boundaries, necessitating a unified, federal approach. However, the turf wars between Central and State agencies as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms, often stymie progress.

Secondly, measures to curb pollution frequently pit environmental imperatives against economic interests. Industries resist stringent emission norms; farmers prothe automobile sector grapples with the transition to EVs, all of which reflect the difficulty of balancing growth with sustainability.

Thirdly, perhaps the most insidious challenge is the inertia of the populace. While pollution impacts every citizen, its effects are insidious, slow and often invisible. Unlike floods or earthquakes, air pollution lacks the immediacy of a headline-grabbing calamity, allowing it to evade collective outrage

Fourthly, reliable, real-time data is critical for informed policymaking. However, India's air quality monitoring infrastructure is woefully inadequate with just 300 monitoring stations for a population exceeding 1.4 billion.

The conspicuous absence of air pollution from electoral agendas is symptomatic of deeper sociopolitical dynamics. Unlike caste, religion or economic inequities, air pollution does not align neatly with India's vote-bank politics. It impacts all demographics, albeit with greater severity for vulnerable groups, making it a less potent mobiliser of electoral sentiment.

Further, politicians, driven by the exigencies of five-year election cycles, often prioritise short-term gains over long-term objectives like clean air. Planting trees, for instance, lacks the immediate optics of inaugurating a flyover.

Another important reason why it's a non-issue in elections is public apathy. As despite its ubiquity, air pollution remains a "silent killer" that fails to generate sustained public pressure.

To extricate ourselves from this asphyxiating quagmire, India must embrace a multi-pronged, systemic approach:

1. The CAQM and NCAP must be empowered with greater enforcement capabilities, adequate funding and clear accountability mechanisms. Collaborative platforms that bring together states, industry stakeholders, and civil society are imperative.

2. Subsidies for EVs, bio-decomposers for stubble management and renewable energy adoption can catalyse change while minimising economic disruptions.

3. Public awareness campaigns, akin to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, can foster a culture of individual responsibility. Initiatives such as "Green Credits" for pollution-reducing activities could incentivise citizen participation. 4. Courts must avoid overstepping into policymaking, leaving the formulation of air quality strategies to democratically-accountable institutions. Simultaneously, lawmakers must craft robust, sciencebacked legislation to combat pollution.

5. India can draw inspiration from countries like China, which, despite its massive industrial base, has achieved remarkable reductions in air pollution through stringent enforcement, technological innovation and public participation.

It is high time that clean air transcends the realm of environmentalists and becomes a cornerstone of political discourse. In the words of the Upanishads, "Yat Bhavati Tat Bhavati" (what we experience is shaped by what we do). India must summon the political will, public awareness and institutional resolve to combat this scourge.

(The writer is an advocate, Orissa High Court, Addl. Central Government Standing Counsel, CAT, Cuttack Bench, Consulting Editor-Legal Affairs and Public Policy, The Pioneer and a Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Law and Media Studies, School of Mass Communication, KIIT University. *Views are personal)*

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CB to probe attack on MLA Himanshu Sahoo

Police hold flag march in Jajpur; 40 platoons deployed PNS BHUBANESWAR/JAJPUR

The State Government on Saturday ordered a Crime Branch (CB) inquiry into the recent attack on Dharmasala BJP MLA Himanshu Sahoo.

Anticipating a law and order situation, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) have been enforced in the Jajpur police station area and the Biraja Haat area after tension gripped



Jajpur district

Tension has been sparked following the attack MLA Sahoo, coupled with disputes at Biraja Haat and the arrest of Bhaba Prakash Das, the brother BJD leader Pranab Prakash Das. Given the escalating ten-

sions, police conducted a flag march in Jajpur city. Highranking officials, including Eastern Range DIG Satyajit Naik and Jajpur District Collector P Anvesha Reddy, along with Superintendent of Police

Yashpratap Shrimal, have appealed for peace to the

reisdents

BNSS 163 has been enforced within Jajpur and the Biraja Haat area to ensure peace, aiming to maintain public order. Furthermore, 40 platoons of police have been strategically deployed across the city to deter further disturbances.

We will call for a meeting with the farmers' representatives of Biraja Haat. We must reach an amicable solution so that everything goes smoothly without affecting the Biraja Project," the Collector said.

Likewise, the DIG said, "We just conducted a flag march. Efforts are on to maintain peace and tranquility in the district."

Balangir child sale Forged documents prepared for deal; 3 held

PNS BALANGIR

Chilling details have unfolded in a child sale case that took place in Balangir district a few weeks ago. The newborn was sold off on November 2 with the deal struck soon after its birth.

A set of documents have revealed two separate birth certificates were created for the same baby. While one certificate listed the parents as Rajkumar Mittal and Abha Mittal, the other mentioned Aruna Nag and Amrut Nag.

Surprisingly, both certificates were signed by Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) Mamata Bhoi, leading authorities to suspect her involvement in the selling of the child.

The incident occurred in Sana Gurjibhata village under the Lathor police station. As per the details revealed, Aruna Nag gave birth to the baby girl, her sixth child, on November 2 at the Sunamudi sub-center under Khaprakhol block.

Due to extreme poverty,

Aruna was reluctant to take her baby home. Taking advantage of her helplessness, a local pharmacist, identified as Alok Agarwal, crafted the deal. One Rajkumar Mittal and

his wife from Madanpur-Rampur in Kalahandi district arrived at Aruna's residence and took custody of the newborn.

Later, the District Child Welfare Committee investigated and subsequently filed a police complaint on November 13.

Additionally, during

Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo's visit to the village on November 19, Aruna admitted that poverty forced her to sell the baby, The Deputy CM ordered an immediate investigation and action.

capital 03

Within three days, police arrested three key accused, Mamata Bhoi (ANM), Rajkumar Mittal and Alok Agrawal. The three have been remanded to judicial custody. District Collector Gaurav Shivaji Isalwar confirmed that further investigations are underway.

64-year-old UTP dies in Bonai

Old age ailment suspected behind his demise PNS SUNDARGARH

 ${
m A}$ 64- year- old under-trial prisoner (UTP) died in Bonai special jail in Sundargarh dis-

trict on Thursday. Johan Minz, a resident of Mahinsichapal under K Balang police station in Bonai sub division alongwith his younger son Adam Minz (35) had been imprisoned in the Special Jail, Bonai in the year 2021 on the charges of killing his elder son. Murder accused Johan and Adam, had been under trial prisoners since then and both had been kept

in one cell with some other inmates in the jail. According to jail official,

Johan was weak due to his old age and his son Adam was taking care of him in the cell.

On Thursday, after daily routine, around 10 am, Johan slept on the floor in his cell but when his son Adam called him, he did not get up. Soon, Adam called the jail officials and they reached there. Bonai jailer SS Beura also reached there. Johan was taken to Bonai sub divisional hospital where the doctors declared him brought dead. The body of deceased Johan has been kept in the morgue house. The daughter and wife of deceased Johan were informed about death of Johan.

Gambling racket busted in Nuapada 80 held; Rs 29

lakh seized PNS 🔳 NUAPADA

In a crackdown on Saturday night, police busted a large gambling den operating in an building in the Janka area of Nuapada district.

At least 80 people involved were arrested while authorities seized Rs 29 lakh cash and 74 mobile phones from the spot.

According to police, the gambling den was operating

Protecting tribal rights: Nayak's legacy recalled



As 125th Birth Anniv of martyr celebrated in B'pur **PNS** BRAHMAPUR

he 125th birth anniversary of Veer Saheed Lakshman Navak was celebrated with great reverence by the Pujya Puja Samiti at the Lakshman Nayak Smruti High School premises on Friday in

in the area for a long time. The gambling den attracted a huge number of players, including local businessmen, who arrived with cash to play the

card game. The DGP received a tip-off about the illegal gambling den operating in the area. The information was verified and a raid was subsequently con-

ducted. A case has been registered in this connection and further investigation was ongoing to ascertain the involvement of others in the gambling racket.



Singer Sonu Nigam makes spellbinding performance PRASANTA ROUT PARADIP

The 32nd Kalinga Baliyatra Festival, held in Paradip, concluded on Thursday, November 21 with a grand celebration that showcased Odisha's ancient maritime heritage and its progress towards development.

Addressing the gathering on

the festival's final evening, Governor Raghubar Das remarked, "This festival not only revives the glorious trade traditions of Utkal but also highlights Paradip as a center of growth and development. I am proud to be part of such a vibrant event." The festival, organised un-

der the chairmanship of Kalinga Baliyatra Committee chairman and District Magistrate J Sonal, featured several distinguished speakers, including Steel, Mines and

Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhushan Jena and Industries and Skill Development, and Technical Education Minister Sampad Chandra Swain. Other prominent attendees included SP Jagatsinghpur Bhavani Shankar Udgata, MP Bibhu Prasad Tarai, District Council Chairman Manoj Kumar Bhoi, Paradip Port Vice Chairman Nilambar Dasgupta, and Paradip Municipality Chairman Basant Kumar Biswal. Each dignitary

for the festival's celebration of Odisha's rich maritime traditions

Bollywood singer Sonu Nigam stole the show with a spellbinding performance feafestival a memorable event.





PNS BRAHMAPUR

he Biju Janata Dal (BJD) organised a massive membership drive here on Friday, witnessing an overwhelming participation of leaders, supporters, and party enthusiasts from across Ganjam, Gajapati, Boudh, and to Maharashtra where she Kandhamal districts.

Sanghamitra Dalai and Deputy Mayor E Vivek Reddy were among the dignitaries present. Leaders from Youth BJD and Student BJD also actively participated, highlighting the significant role of youth in strengthening the party's outreach.

Speaking at the event, the leaders stressed the impor-

fought for until his last breath. Speakers at the event emphasized Nayak's legacy as a source of inspiration for protecting natural resources and demanded tribal rights. In today's con-**PNS** ■ NABARANGPUR text, the fight to safeguard Odisha's forests, rivers, mountains and mines resonates

Nabarangpur 🛛 Married woman trafficked to Maharashtra, abused Arrest of culprits husband and inform him However, she managed to esabout her whereabouts who cape from his captivity and

then rescued her with the help of a team of NGO members

A married woman from the According to sources, the Jharigao area in Nabarangpur district was allegedly traf

turing a mix of Odia and Hindi songs, leaving the audience captivated. His presence drew lakhs of attendees, making the closing ceremony a spectacular success. SP Udgata delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the contributions of all involved in making the

expressed their admiration

"We have seen or heard of a young girl being trafficked, but shockingly a married woman had to go through viously reported her missing unbearable trauma as she was to the Umerkote police, has trafficked from Nabarangpur

Brahmapur.

The event commenced with a floral tribute at the statue of the freedom fighter, followed by a memorial meeting chaired by Samiti secretary S Sambasiba Rao

Saheed Lakshman, remembered for his relentless fight against the oppression of poor farmers, labourers, Dalits and tribal communities during British rule, sacrificed his life for justice and equality. His

justice. Notable attendees included president of the Human **Rights Protection Forum** Gagan Chandra Mallick, along with Surendra Nath Panda, Subanshu Samantaray, Alak Nath Mishra, Kedarnath

deeply with Nayak's vision of

life's mission extended beyond ending colonial rule to eradi-

cating injustice, exploitation,

and superstition, which he

Choudhury, Ranjit Kumar Samantaray, Pramod Kumar Panda, and Gauri Shankar Mohanty, who shared their perspectives on Nayak's enduring impact.

ficked to Maharashtra where she was held captive and sexually abused for 14 days. The victim had to endure physical and mental abuse over a period of 14 days as she was forced to 'sleep' with several men

The victim alleged that she was kidnapped and trafficked to Maharashtra with the intention of being sold. She finally managed to call her

woman was first kidnapped by the accused identified as Basudev Kalar, also hailing from the victim's area. He then first took her to Raipur in Chhattisgarh before trafficking her to Nagpur in Maharashtra where he held her captive in a house and allegedly forced her into prostitution.

The accused raped her during the captivity and forced the woman to sleep with other men in the area.

now lodged a formal complaint of kidnapping, trafficking, and sexual assault. As of now, there has been no official response from the police over these allegations.

Her husband, having pre-

call her husband.

A local team from 'Matru Ashram' in Nabarangpur was instrumental in the rescue of the victim. The case has prompted a public uproar, with calls for authorities to pursue the suspects vigorously and bolster efforts against human trafficking.

was locked inside a room and sexually abused for 14 days, said social activist Kadambini Tripathy.

"A well-organised racket is behind such atrocious activities. So, I request the police administration to immediately arrest the accused behind the trafficking and bust the racket. We will hit the streets if the accused is not arrested immediately," Tripathy added.

The event was graced by prominent leaders and former Ministers Debi Prasad Mishra, Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak, and Pradeep Amat as chief guests. Their presence added fervour to the occasion, as they addressed the gathering, emphasizing the need for unity and grassroots mobilization ahead of the upcoming elections

BJD MLAs, MP candidates, Brahmapur Mayor

tance of expanding the party's membership base and bringing more individuals under BJD's umbrella of progressive governance and developmentoriented policies. The membership drive, part of the BJD's ongoing Statewide campaign, was hailed as a grand success, with hundreds of new members enrolling and pledging their support for Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik's vision for

Odisha.

Funds crunch Ramathirtha croc breeding centre on verge of closure

he Ramathirtha Crocodile Breeding Centre in Mayurbhanj is nearing closure due to alleged lack of funding

Once a hub for mugger crocodile conservation, the centre now faces a decline. The breeding center had been a major attraction, drawing tourists and wildlife enthusiasts equally

Even the pond, where the crocodiles once used to swim, has nearly dried up. Lack of employees and adequate funding has allegedly led to the current condition.

Moreover, tourists who were once able to witness the massive populations of crocodiles here are now disheartened to see the present state of the facility.

"I couldn't get to see many crocodiles now. Earlier when I had visited, there used to be a huge population of crocodiles. The enclosures had both tiny and bigger crocodiles," a



to the alleged neglect.

tends beyond its role in crocodile breeding. A 1975 survey success of the project, the rivhad indicated a drastic reducers in Similipal Wildlife Sanction in the crocodile population in the State, leading to the tuary thrived with the presestablishment of the breeding ence of these mugger crococenter in 1979. diles. However, over the years,

Experts from Tamil Nadu were brought along with the mugger crocodiles. With assistance from the experts,

sure the successful revival of the center and its programmes, with a focus on breeding and protection of the mugger crocodile.' "After a few crocodiles es-

caped the enclosure, the things have changed now due project was halted keeping the Minister of State for Forest, safety of people into consid-Environment & Climate eration," he added.

Ram Odisha currently has 46 NBSUs spread across 30 districts, established under the Directorate of Family Welfare

and the National Health Mission (NHM). These units are critical in stabilizing sick and low-birth-weight newborns. Highlighting the success of

the Khariar NBSU, Superin-

Khariar hospital's NBSU best unit in State

ters.

Honoured at Nat'l Newborn Week fest AJIT PANDA 🔳 NUAPADA

 $T_{\rm he\,New\,Born\,Stabilisation}$ Unit (NBSU) at Khariar Sub-Divisional Hospital in Nuapada district has been recognized as the best-performing unit in Odisha. The NBSUs in Patnagarh, Balangir, and Padmapur, Bargarh, secured the second and third positions, respectively. These top-performing units were felicitated during a State-level ceremony in Bhubaneswar on Thursday, coinciding with National Newborn Week 2024.

comprehensive care, including thermal care, nutritional support, infection prevention, management of complications, and follow-up treatment. Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is also offered, significantly enhancing newborn health outcomes."

tendent of Khariar Sub-Divi-

sional Hospital Dr Ranjit

Rout said, "NBSUs provide

Operational for over a decade, the Khariar NBSU has achieved remarkable results, with 70-80% of admitted newborns successfully discharged each month. In 2024 alone, 563 children were admitted, out of

which 392 were discharged and performance. successfully, while 27% re-Dr Mahendra Majhi, a

quired referrals to higher cen-According to government report, Statewide, the proportion of successfully discharged newborns from NBSUs has improved from 68% in 2017-18 to 71% in 2022-23. The referral rate to higher centers newborns in need ranges between 24% and 26.5%. To address challenges in underperforming units, the Odisha government partnered with the Norway India Part-

nership Initiative (NIPI) in

2020 to provide technical sup-

port for improving quality

child specialist at Khariar SDH, leads the medical care at the unit, supported by a fulltime nurse trained in Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI). The team ensures round-the-clock service for

Periodic reviews by the Family Welfare Directorate and NHM have played a crucial role in enhancing the performance of NBSUs across Odisha, addressing gaps and ensuring the consistent delivery of quality care.



Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue to be held in Delhi on January 11-12: PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{ccc} P_{Modi}^{rime \ Minister \ Narendra} \\ announced \ that \ a \ "Viksit \end{array}$ Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue" will be held on January 11-12 here and said the initiative was part of efforts to connect youngsters having no political back-ground with politics. He said Swami Vivekananda's

162nd jayanti on January 12 would be celebrated in a very special way next year. On this occasion, a "Maha Kumbh" of young minds will be held at Delhi's Bharat Mandapam on January 11-12 and the initiative will be called the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue.

"Crores of youths from all over India will participate in it. Two thousand such youths selected from villages, blocks, districts and states will gather at Bharat Mandapam for the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue," Modi said. In the 116th episode of his monthly "Mann Ki Baat"

radio broadcast, Modi also cadet, so I can say with full called on people to celebrate confidence that the experiinspiring stories of the Indian ence I got from it is invaluable diaspora who made their for me. The NCC instils a spirit of discipline, leadership and service in the youth," he mark globally, contributed to freedom struggles and preserved "our heritage". said.

"You might remember that The compassion and energy of India's "Yuva Shakti" in from the ramparts of the Red helping senior citizens is com-Fort, I urged such youths to join politics, none of whose mendable, Modi said and cited the example of a young family members or even the entire family have had a politperson from Lucknow helping the elderly submit digital life ical background. To connect one lakh such youths, new certificates. He also talked about a person vouths, to politics, many spefrom Ahmedabad who is cial campaigns will be run in

the country. The Viksit Bharat warning and making the Young Leaders Dialogue is elderly aware about cyberone such effort," he said. crimes, including digital Noting that experts from the arrests. "I had discussed digcountry and abroad would be ital arrest in the last episode present for it, Modi said many of 'Mann Ki Baat'. The eldernational and international ly are the most common vicpersonalities would also be tims of such crimes. In such there and he would be present a situation, it is our responsibility to make them aware and for as much time as possible. The prime minister also help them stay safe from hailed the National Cadet cyber fraud," he said. Corps (NCC) and noted that the NCC name reminded one

days.

We have to explain to people again and again that there is of their school and college no provision of digital arrest in the government; this is a "I myself have been an NCC blatant lie, a conspiracy to



trap people. I am happy that our young friends are partic-

ipating in this work with full sensitivity and motivating others as well," Modi said. said. Talking about his recent visit to Guyana, Modi said thousands of kilometres away from India, a 'mini India 'Around 180 years ago, peo-

ple from India were taken to Guyana to work in the fields and for other tasks. Today, people of Indian origin in Guyana are leading the country in every field -- be it politics, business, education or culture. The President of

dwelled there.

Guyana, Dr Irfan Ali, is also of Indian origin and is proud of his Indian heritage," he "When I was in Guyana, a

thought struck my mind that am sharing with you. Just like Guyana, there are lakhs of Indians in dozens of countries across the world. Their ancestors have their own stories of decades; even those over 200-300 years ago. Can you be on the lookout for such stories of how Indian immigrants made their mark in different countries?" he said.

"How they took part in their freedom struggle! How they

unique tradition underscores

kept their Indian heritage alive! I want you to find out such true stories, and share them with me. You can also share these stories on the NaMo app or on MyGov with #IndianDiasporaStories," the prime minister said.

Modi also highlighted an extraordinary project under-way in Oman and said numerous Indian families had been living in the country for many centuries, with most of them who settled there being from Kutch in Gujarat. These people created important trade links and, even today, they have Omani citizenship but Indianness is ingrained in

their personae, he said. 'With the support of the Indian Embassy in Oman and the National Archives of India, a team has started the work of preserving the history of these families. Thousands of documents have been collected under this campaign so far. These include diaries, account books, ledgers, letters and telegrams. Some of these documents even date back to the

year 1838. These documents are full of sentiments," he said.

The "Oral History Project" is also an important basis of this mission and, in this mission, senior people from there have shared their experiences, he said. A similar "Oral History Project" is being carried out in India as well, he added.

have witnessed the horrors of

Partition. In such a situa-

tion, this effort has become

even more significant. The

country that preserves its his-

tory, its future is also secure.

With this very thought in

mind, an effort has been

made in which a directory has

been created to preserve the

history of villages," Modi said.

Talking about the Ek Ped

Maa Ke Naam campaign,

Modi said people from all

over the country participated

in it with great enthusiasm.

'You must have noticed that Under this project, history enthusiasts are collating the experiences of the victims as soon as someone mentions a 'government office', a picture of a pile of files emerges during the country's Partition, in your mind. You must have the prime minister said. seen something similar in 'Now, there are very few peofilms, too," he said. ple left in the country who

as well.

'So many jokes are made on these piles of files in government offices; so many stories have been written. These files used to gather dust after lying in offices for years and years, and would start accumulating dirt," he added.

nation 04

"I am very happy to tell you

that this campaign has

crossed the important mile-

stone of planting 100 crore

trees. Hundred crore trees,

that too, in just five months,"

he said. Modi pointed out

that the campaign was now spreading to other countries

A special Swachhata Abhiyan was launched to remove such decades-old files and scrap and this campaign brought amazing results in government departments, he said, adding that the cleanliness drive freed up a lot of space in offices.

Army Chief's Nepal visit culminates in stronger defence, bilateral ties CRPF sets up three new forward bases in Chhattisgarh's hardcore naxal areas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi's five-day official visit to Nepal has culminated in stronger defence and bilateral ties. He returned to New Delhi on Sunday after a resoundingly successful visit, army said here.

The visit, which exceeded all stated objectives, further solidified the robust defence cooperation, cultural ties, and mutual respect between the two nations. It underscored the shared commitment of the Indian and Nepali Armies to fostering peace, security, and partnership in the region.

During his visit, the Army chief engaged extensively with Nepal's political and military leadership. He held high-level meetings with President of Nepal Ram Chandra Paudel, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and Defence Minister Manbir Rai.

He also engaged in meaningful discussions with General Ashok Raj Sigdel, chief of Nepal Army along with other senior military officers. These interactions were charac-



terised by exceptional openeral defence cooperation. ness and mutual respect, General Dwivedi was briefed reflecting the shared comby the Director General of mitment to strengthening Military Operations (DGMO) bilateral relations. of the Nepali Army and Strengthening India-Nepal engaged in high-level discusties was a central theme of the sions with other senior milivisit. General Upendra tary leaders. These discus-Dwivedi and his Nepalese sions focused on enhancing counterpart discussed aspects military bonds, joint exercis-

forcing the shared commitment to global peace and security. As a gesture of friendship between the two armies, the Indian Army presented Valour Mount horses and Sentinel dogs to the Nepali Army. General Dwivedi was con-

ferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Paudel. This es, training cooperation, and

the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between the PIONEER NEWS SERVICE and cultural ties between the Indian and Nepali Armies. Enlightening the future leaders at the Nepal Army Command and Staff College in Shivapuri, the visiting Army chief deliv-ered a lecture on "The Changing Character of War". He emphasised on strength-RAIPUR He emphasised on strengthening and deepening the engagements for mutually building the competencies & capabilities of both Armies. He attended an Ex-Servicemen Rally at the Pension Paying Óffice in Pokhara, interacting with Gorkha veterans and Veer Naris of the Indian Army. The have been made operational bond between the veterans over the last week or so, offiand the Indian Army was very visible and thriving, reflecting their strong ties. This visit, marked by comprehensive discussions and mutual respect, has reinforced the strong partnership between the Indian and Nepali Armies. The outcomes of the visit are expected to usher in a new era of collaboration, with a greater focus on defence cooperation, cul-

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has opened three new forward bases in the "hardcore" Maoist violence districts of affected Chhattisgarh's Bastar region to provide security forces with "strategic" hubs for launching intensified anti-Naxal operations. The forward operating bases (FOB) have come up in Tumpalpad and Rayagudem in Sukma district and Kondapalli in the adjoining Bijapur district. These bases

cials told PTI. The central force is working on a strategy to make inroads into "hardcore" Naxalite areas of the state where the final battle against Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is concentrated.

The FOBs act as launching pads for all security forces, including the CRPF and state police units, to launch specific and intelligence-based anti-Naxal operations in core areas, they said.

All these three villages in the two districts of Bastar region have served as the logistical centres for the Maoists for decades. Kondapalli, as per LWE theatre experts, used to be an important recruitment centre for the "most vital" PLGA battalion no. 1 of the Maoists. The village located on the banks of river Talperu also served as a training area for the Maoists, Similarly, Tumalpad, on the banks of the Chintavagu river, served as a halt area and

corridor for the Naxals, the experts said. The Tumpalpad FOB was operationalised by the 74th battalion of the force while the Kondapalli base has been created by the 170th CRPF unit. aid.

These FOBs will act as physical barriers and curb the free movement of Naxals in these areas called as 'no go' territories for government authorities and security forces till now, they said.

The CRPF has created more than 40 such FOBs in Chhattisgarh over the last three-four years as the toughest anti-Naxal operations combat remains concentrated in Bastar that borders Odisha and Telangana.

of mutual interest and es, training cooperation, and avenues to strengthen bilat- capability development, reinsecurity. Centre issues guidelines for disability | Ex-CJI Chandrachud removed fear of law from political defectors: Raut

tural exchange, and regional

The specialised jungle warfare unit of the CRPF, Command Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA), provided active security to the teams which created these FOBs, the officials

reservation to ensure uniformity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre has issued L comprehensive guidelines to streamline reservation and identification of posts for persons with at least 40 per cent disabilities, mandating periodic identification of such posts and formation of committees to assess them. The guidelines also state that if a post is deemed suitable for them, all subsequent pro-motional posts will also be reserved for persons with

disabilities. The guidelines are in line with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016.

The move comes after the Delhi High Court flagged inconsistencies in implementation of the the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 and criticised entities like the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for unauthorised actions in identifying posts.

The high court earlier this month observed that KVS had overstepped its authority by independently identi-fying posts for PwBDs and highlighted inconsistencies in the understanding of the Act among various departments.

The court mandated the Department of

Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) to establish uniform guidelines

The updated guidelines aim to ensure inclusivity, fairness, and uniformity in the employment of persons with disabilities across central government establishments.

The new guidelines also ask ministries and departments to form committees, including representatives with dis-



said identifying posts suitable for persons with benchmark

disabilities is not just about

fulfilling reservation man-

dates; it's a stepping stone to

ensures that persons with

disabilities are not confined

to entry-level roles but have

"It's important to emphasise

that the one per cent reser-

vation for different categories

of disabilities does not imply

any hierarchy or chronology. While these measures need-

ed to be enforced more effec-

tively in the past I welcome

"I see the two most crucial

to," he said.

table," he said.

advance in their careers.

enabling career growth.

abilities, to assess all posts for Promotion of Employment of their suitability. Disabled People (NCPEDP),

A comprehensive review of identified posts is required every three years to incorporate technological advancements and evolving job requirements.

The guidelines also mandate a four per cent reservation in direct recruitment and promotions across categories, including blindness, loco-motor disability, hearing equal opportunities to impairment, and intellectual disabilities. Additionally, they emphasise timely filling of backlog vacancies, wide publicity to ensure accessibility, and a three-year validity peri-od for exemptions from reservation policies. The government has also

clarified that exemptions this step as a positive move towards inclusivity. The for-mation of expert commitfrom reservation are valid for a maximum of three years tees and their regular meetand must be periodically reviewed. The move aims to ings must be strictly adhered ensure fairness while leveraging advancements in assistive technology.

Effective immediately, these guidelines supersede all previous instructions on the matter, except notifications issued in 2021 and 2022. Arman Ali, Executive Director, National Centre for

PNS MUMBAI

Chiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Sunday slammed former Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, alleging that he had removed the fear of the law from politicians who defected from parties in Maharashtra. Raut claimed that by not

deciding on the disqualification petitions, Chandrachud kept doors and windows open for defections.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader's statement comes after his party faced a severe drubbing in the state assembly elecin the state assembly elec-tions, as it managed to clinch only 20 out of 95 seats it con-tested as part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The performance of the



party's alliance partners was tested

no better, with the Congress winning only 16 out of 101 seats and NCP (SP) getting only 10 out of 86 seats it con-

Talking to reporters, Raut alleged, "He (Chandrachud) has removed the fear of the law from defectors. His name

will be written in black letters in history.

Following the split in the undivided Shiv Sena in 2022, the party's faction headed by Uddhav Thackeray filed petitions in the Supreme Court on the disqualification of party MLAs who defected along with Eknath Shinde. The apex court put the onus on the assembly Speaker to decide on the disqualification petitions, which he did earlier this year, declaring the Sena bloc led by Shinde as the "real political party". Raut alleged that the results of

the assembly election were pre-decided. If the then CJI had decided on the disqualification petitions on time, the outcome would have been different.

"We are sad but not disappointed. We will not leave the fight incomplete. Division of votes was also a factor, and the RSS played an important role in the election. The poisonous campaign impacted us negatively," he said.

He said the swearing-in ceremony for the new government should be held in neighbouring Gujarat.

Meanwhile, in his weekly col-umn "Rokhthok" in the party mouthpiece "Saamana", the Shiv Sena (UBT) leader claimed that it was time to offer condolences to the Election Commission, which turned a blind eye to the use

of money power. "The courts have been in the ICU for a long time," he alleged.

Cong's performance shocking, worstever in Maharashtra polls, says Chavan

Extending this process to PNS MUMBAI promotional positions

 $S_{\rm former}^{\rm enior\ Congress\ leader\ and}$ minister Prithviraj Chavan on Sunday said his party's defeat was "shocking" and dubbed it as the "worst-ever" loss in the

state assembly polls. Talking to PTI, Chavan said the Mahayuti government's Ladki Bahin Yojana, for providing financial assistance to women, clicked with voters in rural areas while polarisation hit the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi's (MVA) prospects in urban parts of the state.

"It is difficult to say whether there was a wave or tampering," said Chavan, who lost from his Karad South seat.

The results of the November 20 tasks of the committee are to ensure the inclusion of peopolls to the 288-member state ple with intellectual and assembly were announced on developmental disabilities Saturday.

Several bigwigs from the MVA, which is the most important part and to have people with including Chavan, were defeat disability have a seat on the

The Congress, which contest-



ership

ed 101 seats as part of the MVA, posted its worst-ever defeat by managing to win only 16 seats.

Chavan said he was expecting ever. to win his Karad South seat in Satara district by 5,000 to 6,000 votes. But, all MVA nominees in the district lost by nearly a margin of 40,000 votes, he tions. noted.

BJP's Atul Bhosale defeated the former CM in Karad South by a margin of 39,355 votes, as per the results announced by the Election Commission on Saturday

Puri Jagannath temple administration urges ASI to start repair work of Ratna Bhandar

Ratna Bhandar (treasury) in the 12th century shine in Puri. SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee on Saturday said the temple administration will extend all its cooperation to ASI in the repair and maintenance of the Ratna Bhandar. is the worst-ever in the assem-"We have received the report of the Ratna Bhandar's GPR-GPS bly polls," he said, referring to the just concluded state elecsurvey conducted by the ASI", Padhee said.

Chavan said he had spoken to All India Congress Committee He said the SJTA has all along in-charge for Maharashtra been careful about the stabili-Ramesh Chennithala, who has ty and security of the temple. Earlier, the ASI had conducted left for Delhi to discuss the state results with the Congress leadthe GPR-GPS survey of the 12th-century shrine's Ratna



assistance of Hyderabad-based NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute)

Padhee said the ASI has given a 45-page report on the survey. "There has been indication of damage done to the floor and wall of the Ratna Bhandar. However, the technical report needs to the studied further by

our team", he said. Ratna Bhandar was reopened in July this year after 46 years for an inventory of valuables and the repair of its structure, officials said.

PTI BHUBANESWAR ¬he Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) has requested the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) authorities to immediately take up the repair, maintenance and conservation work of the entire

Lok Sabha polls, Congress' tally of 20 out of 48 seats in Maharashtra was the lowest This is a shocking defeat and



Yogi Adityanath's by-election win paves way for 2027 dominance

BISWAJEET BANERJEE 📕 LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emerged stronger after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) clinched a decisive 7-2 victory in the state's by-elections. This triumph not only revives the BJP's morale following its disappointing performance in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year but also cements Yogi's leadership ahead of the

2027 assembly polls. "This is a booster dose for our workers," said Vijay Bahadur Pathak, a senior BJP leader. "The results show that when we work unitedly under Yogi

ji's guidance, the BJP is unstoppable." The BJP's campaign focused

on unity, encapsulated in Yogi Adityanath's rallying cry, "Batenge to katenge" (If we divide, we will be cut). The slogan resonated deeply, underscoring the party's col-lective strength. Prime Minister Narendra Modi rein-forced this message during a campaign in Maharashtra, campaign in Manarashtra, stating, "Ek hain to safe hain" (If we are united, we are safe). Political analyst Rajesh N. Bajpayee highlighted the impact of this messaging. "The BJP's narrative of unity struck a chord with voters and played



lesson in disciplined, cohesive campaigning.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), often the BJP's ideology backbone, amplified its support for Yogi Adityanath during the by-polls. Unlike its limited involvement in the Lok Sabha elections, the RSS fully backed Yogi's leadership in these by-elections, emphasizing societal cohesion.

"Yogi ji's vision aligns with our principles," said a senior RSS functionary during a high-level meeting in Mathura. "His leadership is crucial for the BJP's continued success in Uttar Pradesh."

Opposition in Turmoil While the BJP celebrated, the

opposition struggled. The Samajwadi Party (SP), touted as the BJP's primary rival, secured just two seats. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav's reliance on caste-based vote banks failed to counter the BJP's development narrative. "The SP's inability to tap into

anti-incumbency sentiments is glaring," Bajpayee noted. "Akhilesh Yadav must rethink his strategy if he hopes to remain relevant."

The Congress performed dismally, opting to contest only a handful of seats. In Phulpur, Congress district president Suresh Yadav rebelled and contested independently, managing just 1,365 votes.

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) fared no better, with over 60% of its traditional vote bank shifting to other parties. The by-election results provide a glimpse into Uttar Pradesh's political future. While the BJP has regained its footing, the opposition faces an uphill battle to recalibrate and mobilize effectively before 2027.

nation 05

As the dust settles, the bypolls have reaffirmed Yogi Adityanath's stature as a for-midable leader. Whether the BJP can sustain this momentum will depend on its ability to address voter aspirations and maintain its narrative of unity and progress.

Shinde's party defeats Uddhav's outfit in 36 seats, loses in 14 Will collectively introspect 'shocking' drubbing in Maharashtra polls: Congress

PNS MUMBA

The Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has trounced rival Shiv Sena (UBT) of Uddhav Thackeray in 36 assembly seats in Maharashtra, putting to rest the debate over which is the real party founded by late Bal Thackeray.

Shinde's Sena, a constituent of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, won 57 of the 81 seats it contested in the state polls, the results of which were announced on Saturday. The Sena (UBT), a partner in the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), managed to bag only 20 despite fielding 95 candidates. In 14 seats, it defeated Shiv Sena candidates.

In one of his biggest political gambles, Shinde rebelled against Uddhav Thackeray's leadership in June 2022 and aligned with the BJP along with his backers to become the chief minister. The move split the Sena, led to the collapse of the Thackeray-led MVA government and sparked almost daily bickerings between the two factions.

Subsequently, Shinde got the party name and its 'bowand-arrow' symbol from the Election Commission. Shinde had retained most of

the sitting MLAs, who chose to be with him when he led



the rebellion two years ago. They delivered for him on Saturday when votes for the state polls were counted. Minister Abdul Sattar defeated Suresh Bankar in Sillod. Pradeep Jaiswal, who fought against Balasaheb Thorat, was the winner in Aurangabad Central.

Sanjay Shirsat beat Raju Shinde in Aurangabad West seat, while Vilas Bhumre came on top in his fight against Dattatrey Gorde in Paithan. Chandrakant Sonawane, who

replaced his wife and sitting MLA Lata Sonawane, defeated Prabhakar Sonawane of Sena (UBT) in Chopda. Sanjana Jadhav trounced

Udaysing Rajput in Kannad, while Sanjay Bangar emerged victorious against Santosh Tarfe in Kalamnuri. Ganesh Dhatrak was bested

by Suhas Kande in Nandgaon. Dada Bhuse defeated

Prashant Hiray in Malegaon outer. In the tribal-dominated

Palghar constituency, Rajendra Gavit beat Jayendra Dubla.

In Bhiwandi rural of Thane district, where CM Shinde holds sway, Shantaram More of his party defeated Uddhav's man Mahadev Ghatal.

Vishwas Bhoir vanquished Sachin Basare in Kalyan West, while Pratap Sarnaik defeated Naresh Manera in Ovla Majiwada in Thane city. Shinde himself registered a massive victory in his Kopri-Pachpakhadi seat, defeating Kedar Dighe by a margin of 1.2 lakh votes. Prakash Surve trounced

Udesh Patekar In Magathane, while Ashok Patil vanquished

Ramesh Korgaonkar in Bhandup West. Murji Patel, who had earlier

lost to Rutuja Latke in Andheri East, bounced back as the winner. Tukaram Kate defeated Prakash Phaterpekar in Chembur. Both Latke and Phatarpekar were sitting MLAs who had stayed with Uddhav.

Bharat Gogawale got more votes than Snehal Jagtap to bag the Mahad seat, while Shambhuraj Desai trounced Bhanupratap Kadam in Patan.

In coastal Dapoli, Yogesh Kadam defeated Sanjay Kadam.

Minister Uday Samant won against Bal Mane in Ratnagiri, while Kiran Samant beat sitting MLA

Rajan Salvi in Rajapur. Nilesh Rane, who switched from BJP to Shiv Sena before the polls, defeated sitting MLA Vaibhav Naik in Kudal. In Sawantwadi near Goa, Deepak Kesarkar got the best of Rajan Teli. Prakash Abitkar defeated KP Patil in

Radhanagari. The Sena (UBT) won against the Shiv Sena in 14 seats. In Mehkar, Rambhau Kharat defeated Shiv Sena's Sanjay Bhaskar Raymulkar, while Nitin Bhikanrao Deshmukh was the winner in Balapur. Shiv Sena's Bhagwan Siraskar

came third. Sunil Raut defeated Suvarna

Karanje in Vikhroli and his Sena (UBT) colleague Anant Nar was the winner in Jogeshwari West after a faceoff with Manisha Waikar.

Sunil Prabhu defeated Sanjay Nirupam in Dindoshi Mahesh Sawant beat Sada Sarvankar in Mahim.

Uddhav Thackeray's son and former state 'minister Aaditya Thackeray retained his Worli seat by defeating Milind Deora, who recently joined the Shiv Sena from

Manoj Jamsutkar defeated Yamini Jadhav in Byculla. The vote share of the Sena (UBT) was 9.96 per cent compared to Shiv Sena's

12.38 per cent. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance on Saturday retained power in Maharashtra, pocketing a whopping 230 of the 288 assembly seats, as the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi's dream of wresting power fizzled, with the opposition combine managing to garner just 46 seats.

The Election Commission announced that the BJP has won 132 seats, the Shiv Sena won 57, while the NCP got 41 seats.

In the MVA, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidates won 10 seats, Congress won 16, while Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) won 20 seats.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM/ NEW DELHI

day after BJP-led A Mahayuti retained power in Maharashtra, the Congress on Sunday said that the party and other partners of the Maha Vikas Aghadi will collectively introspect the reasons of their 'shocking' drubbing in the crucial polls.

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance on Saturday won 230 of the 288 assembly seats in Maharashtra and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi managed to garner just 46 seats.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said that the assembly poll results in Maharashtra was 'shocking' and 'unbelievable'.

"We don't understand what happened. It was not just the debacle of the Congress party but that of the entire Maha Vikas Aghadi. Let us first get a clear picture of what has happened," he told a TV chan-

Venugopal said they felt surprised about the entire election procedure after the Maharashtra and Haryana drubbings.

When asked whether the grand-old-party suspected any sabotage in the Maharashtra election results, the leader



ers and workers.

"The party expected this huge majority in Wayanad. Soon

after the polling, there was a

huge concern about the

majority. But, after the inter-

nal assessment of the party, we

were sure that the low poll

percentage would not impact

Priyanka's majority," he said.

He also made it clear that the

Wayanad landslide tragedy

and the subsequent issues

would be one of the issues that

would be raised by Priyanka

Rejecting the opposition cam-

paign that she would not visit

frequently,

in the Lok Sabha.

Wayanad

said they were not raising any such allegation soon after the debacle.

"We suffered huge setbacks in the strongholds of Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and that of the Congress. It is the failure of not just the Congress party but that of the entire alliance," he said.

So, we will sit together and collectively introspect (its reasons), Venugopal added. The Election Commission announced that the BJP had won 132 seats, the Shiv Sena

57, while the NCP 41 seats. In the MVA, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidates won 10 seats, Congress

16, while Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) 20 seats. When asked about Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's huge majority win in Wayanad, the AICC general secretary said it was the result of collective

Venugopal said she would prove them wrong through her actions. He also said that Priyanka would continue her interventions in north Indian politics as well, along with being the MP of Wayanad.



sive. "May be the EVMs in

were rigged, alleges Congress PNS LUCKNOW/MORADABAD

T ike all politicians, BJP's singn are ending the losing streak of his party, but little did he know his victory would be so stylised, featuring a rout by 1.44 lakh votes of his nearest rival Singh won the Kundarki assembly constituency, a seat BJP had been losing since 1993, defeating Samajwadi Party's Mohammad Rizwan, who bagged 25,580. His victory assumed more significance as it came against an all-Muslim lineup in a constituency where around 60 per cent of the electorate comes from the community. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath termed it a victory of nationalism. "What was once a dream has become a reality today," he said on Saturday after the results were announced. Singh claimed that when the seat became vacant, he was approached by hundreds of Muslims, who urged him to contest the bypoll.

Congress.

The Indian National Congress which was mauled by the BJP-led alliance in the election held to the Maharashtra assembly said on Sunday that the poll results were rigged and do not reflect the real feeling of the electorate. "This is shocking and myste-

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI

rious as we had scored a fantastic victory under my leadership in the Lok Sabha election held in June 2024. The results of the assembly election in Maharashtra is shocking and dubious. We have doubts about the authenticity of the electronic voting machines used in Maharashtra," said Ramesh Chennithala, veteran Congress leader who was in charge of the Maharashtra assembly polls.

Speaking to reporters at Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday, Chennithala said that he was entrusted the responsibility of Maharashtra elec-



Maharashtra poll results

tion by the High Command because it was confident that he could lead the party to impressive win, similar to the Lok Sabha win.

"A thorough probe should be held about the poll results in Maharashtra. The changes in the poll prospectus over the last four months is shocking, unbelievable and against the will of the people," said Chennithala. When asked about the results

of the Jharkhand assembly election which saw the INDI Alliance led by the Congress romping home and retaining power, Chennithala was eva-Kerala.

while those in Maharashtra were faulty," said the aging leader from Kerala who is a strong contender for the chief minister's chair after the 2026 assembly polls in the State. Chennithala said he was equally shocked over the poll

results of Haryana which was won by the BJP. "The communalist BJP had no chance of winning the Haryana elec-

tion and we were confident of returning to power in the State. But Haryana result too

was against the will of the people," said Chennithala. He also said that the Congress would take up the issue in the national level itself and investigate the factors behind the volte face in the will of the electorate. The Maharashtra poll result has come as a shocker to Chennithala because he fears that the outcome may damp-

en his chances as a strong contender for the top job in



Bypolls in Kundarki were necessitated following the election of its sitting MLA, SP's Ziaur Rehman, as the Lok Sabha MP from Sambhal parliamentary constituency earlier this year.

"I was expecting a victory margin of 50,000 to 60,000. But workers told me I would win by more than 1 lakh votes. People had a feeling of love towards me. They were disappointed by the SP, as

cases were framed against lakhs of people, and thou-sands of them were put behind bars during the SP rule from 2012 to 2017," Singh said.

When the seat got vacated, hundreds of Muslims came to me and asked me to seek a ticket. 'We will make you an MLA, we have made up our mind,' they said. Because they requested, I remained active, and the party leadership also The Muslim-dominated seat in west UP's Moradabad was a test of BJP's Hindu unity plank. The party's campaign in the bypolls largely revolved

oted," he told P

Rizwan served as Kundarki

MLA in 2002, 2012, and 2017.

around 'Ram aur Rashtra' against the opposition Samajwadi Party's bid to consolidate the OBC-Dalit-Muslim vote bank.

The win came as a salve for the BJP, which suffered a massive cut in seats in the Lok Sabha polls held earlier in the vear.

It won six of the nine Assembly seats in the state where bypolls were held on

November 20. Adding to BJP's emphatic performance, its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal clinched Meerapur, the lone seat it contested. The Samajwadi Party emerged victorious on the remaining two seats --

Karhal and Sishamau.

Veg diet, alcohol abstinence, behaviour training: UP cops prep for 'pleasant' Maha Kumbh

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ (UP)

Astrict vegetarian diet, alcohol abstinence and behavioural training are among the steps the Uttar Pradesh Police is taking to ensure its personnel act as "servants of faith" and create a pleasant experience for the devotees gathering in this holy city for the Maha Kumbh.

The Maha Kumbh will commence on January 13 on the occasion of Paush Purnima and conclude on February 26 on Mahashivratri.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Kumbh) Rajesh Dwivedi emphasised that the primary focus of the police, alongside maintaining security, would be to foster a welcoming environment for the pilgrims.

He said, "Our aim is to ensure that the devotees have a pleasant experience, and the police behave with warmth -- not just as enforcers of the law but as servants of faith."

Police personnel to be deployed for the Maha Kumbh are undergoing behaviour-focused training at a designated facility within the mela area. External trainers are also being invited to impart lessons in eti-

quette and public service. So far, 1,500 police personnel have completed the training. By the time the mela commences, 40,000 personnel will have completed the exercise. Atul Kumar Singh, the training programme in-charge, said 700 police personnel were receiving training at a time, following a 21-day mod-



The duration will gradually come down to 14 days as the mela draws closer, he added. Personnel such as Satish Kumar Yadav, a head constable from Mathura who will be deployed during the mela, expressed appreciation for the training.

"I have learned the importance of courteous behaviour and how to assist the devotees during times of distress. The training also covered topics such as cybercrime prevention," he said.

The force is also receiving expert instruction from the National Police Academy. Personnel trained there are now preparing trainers who, in turn, are equipping the larger police contingent for their role at the mela.

In addition to behavioural training, the police are also

being instructed to maintain the Maha Kumbh's sanctity. District police chief Dwivedi reaffirmed the Maha Kumbh's strict policies regarding food and drink and said non-veg-etarian food or alcohol would not be permitted in the mela ground.

listened to the voice of the

To Rizwan, who alleged that

the elections were rigged, Singh said he was hiding his

"He can get the election con-

ducted once again. He will

know what his worth is,

On Saturday, when the results

were announced, Rizwan con-

tested the mandate, alleging

booths were captured.

people," he said.

failure.

Singh said.

The food in the police mess is entirely vegetarian and we have instructed all personnel to act in a manner that respects the devotees' faith," he said. New technologies will also be deployed at the Maha Kumbh this time. An AI chatbot -- Kumbh

Sahayak -- is being developed to assist the devotees with information in more than 10 languages via the Bhashini app. This initiative is designed to bridge language barriers and provide instant support to the vast number of devotees.

The police will also deploy bilingual personnel and translators to assist non-Hindi speaking devotees. Mounted police on 160-170 horses will assist in crowd control, ensuring safety while maintaining a harmonious atmosphere.

With cybercrime on the rise, the personnel were also briefed by domain expert Pawan Kumar. Security measures, including the use of cutting-edge technologies, are being incorporated to ensure both safety and a positive experience for the devotees.

In preparing for the Maha Kumbh, the authorities are combining tradition with modern technology, ensuring that this once-in-a-lifetime gathering will be as safe, respectful and efficient as possible.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Mixed bag

Ruling JMM retains Jharkhand and the BJP-led Mahayuti, Maharashtra, indicating anti-incumbency is not at play right now

he Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), alongside its allies, achieved significant electoral victory in Maharashtra while the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) fought its way to victory in Jharkhand despite many handicaps proving once again that it is difficult to read the voters' mind. In Maharashtra, the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition, including factions of the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), secured a decisive majority, capitalising on effective consolidation of OBC votes and strategic welfare schemes like direct cash transfers for women. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and grassroots outreach programmes further bolstered their appeal. Meanwhile, in Jharkhand, the BJP failed to wrest power from the ruling alliance of JMM. It could not emphasise governance issues and leverage dissatisfaction with the Hemant Sorenled coalition. The JMM's success was amplified by strong voter mobilisation in tribal areas and development-focused messaging. In Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi



(MVA) alliance, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and the original NCP, struggled with internal divisions and a lack of clarity on critical issues such as reservations for the Maratha community.

In Jharkhand, the BJP's limited reach and failure to address rural distress effectively diminished its appeal. The electoral outcome in Maharashtra underlines the BJP's ability to adapt and dominate state politics. All this while the Opposition struggled to regain voter trust. The NDA led by the BJP, achieved notable success in Maharashtra due to a combination of strategic alliances, effective voter outreach and targeted welfare initiatives. In Maharashtra, the BJP presented itself

as a cohesive force with Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction and Ajit Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) group, ensuring a consolidated voter base. The party's focus on OBC consolidation, welfare schemes such as direct cash transfers for women, and the influence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership resonated strongly with voters. But it was different story in Jharkhand where the BJP could not harness dissatisfaction with the governance of the Hemant Soren-led coalition and failed to highlight local issues like unemployment and tribal welfare and banked more on its national agenda. The JMM also benefited from a grassroots campaign that addressed tribal and rural voter concerns, further solidifying its position. Similarly, in Maharashtra the opposition failed to effectively capitalise on the BJP's perceived shortcomings, such as economic challenges and allegations of governance lapses. In Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition, comprising the Congress, Shiv Sena (Uddhav), and Sharad Pawar's NCP, struggled with internal divisions and inconsistent messaging, particularly on sensitive issues like Maratha reservations. In Jharkhand, JMM and Congress were able to counter the BJP's narrative and present a compelling vision for change. These results indeed underscore the innate acumen of the voters to vote on the issues they deem important.



Emerging contours of artificial intelligence



VINAYSHIL GAUTAM

The interplay between AI and human intelligence offers both challenges and opportunities, heralding a future where adaptability and innovation are key

he foundation of understanding an organisation lies in understanding the role relationships within it. An individual may even, lose their identity in living up to the requirements of his organisational role. Illustratively, the President of an organisation is no longer just an individual who occupies that position. The person who occupies that position becomes the President of the organisation with the President's characteristics, the President's traits, and the President's attributes.

Being a true President may often require his acting in denial of his inclinations in favour of the role requirement. This issue has usually constituted the foundation of organisation analysis and operations. The theoretical basis of this thinking was laid out in 1952 by Elliott Jaques in his classical book "Changing Culture of a Factory." This was a report of 1948 and 1950 of a Glacier Metal Company, London. The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations was the sponsor.

The significance of the book lies, among other things, in the theoretical and operational implications of the research findings. The study went back to 1938. That is another story. Since then, few things have so fundamentally affected organisations understanding till the coming of artificial intelligence (AI). These are indeed seminal times in terms of understanding organisations. AI has affected how one looks at manufacturing, finance, logistics, and more. The expressions of job design have changed. If the basis of job design has changed, the understanding of organizational structure stands to change. The key issue is whether the fundamental changes through the new model of business products for increasing profit have impacted organisational operations. And how they have affected pricing, job market changes, and created or altered new revenue streams. Currently, the world of products and academia is dealing with a lot of jargonise. The popular refer-ences are two models, one is the platform-based model, other is the subscription model.

There may be several others but are yet to acquire significance. Many of them who would survive, would get modified, and much of them would evolve into something totally different. Time can tell. For the present, efforts are being made to understand business models and their impact on work conduct. An obvious outcome of AI is the redundancy of many tasks. As the character of tasks changes, the character of organizational models is open to change.

The whole approach of aggregation of organizational tasks into job designs has undergone a fundamental change. Many humanly rendered tasks have become redundant, and they have then been replaced either by machines or machine-led aggregation of skills. This whole process is akin to a major revolution in the understanding of the work. It needs to be realized that once such forces are generated, there is no reversal that can take place in its entirety. It also impacts job designs, which for whatever reason may not change. Put simply, the nature of the task itself has revolutionized organizations. Practically everyone needs to understand AI because there is nothing that can be quite untouched by that process. The overlapping jobs



ORGANISATIONAL TASKS INTO JOB CHANGE. MANY HUMANLY RENDERED whether the top management TASKS HAVE BECOME may not be necessary at the top REDUNDANT, AND but acquire primacy even while imbibed in the heart of THEY HAVE THEN an organization. This would

> EITHER BY MACHINES OR

BEEN REPLACED

rest, AI would be a second language, and everyone would need to understand a little bit of the nature of AI.

Put simply, the future of work will be a diligent factor in many ways, which might be an outcome of the revolution of AI. The fascinating thing is to observe how the character of AI affects other functions of the organization like finance, marketing, the functioning of ports, and more. The above is not to say that pathways are clear and the shift in organisational nature is irrevocable. The AI is a job in progress. It's a work in progress that is still taking shape and a character that remains in service of organization management, will only gradually become clear. How this will roll out is difficult to predict, but one thing

is clear: AI is here to stay. All in all, it will be interesting to observe how AI and human intelligence deal with each other and create an amalgam of human efforts for organizational growth. The future is here, and over time, it will take shape with better clarity and hopeful-

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

MACHINE-LED ing a character of its own. For some AI will be the first lan-guage, and they will affect the AGGREGATION OF running of the organization in SKILLS a very critical manner. For the

THE EDITOR ETTERS 110

Grey divorce: The new reality of modern relationships



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Far from a rash dissolution of vows, grey divorce is reshaping societal views on commitment, showcasing that it can lead to new beginnings

he entertainment media is abuzz with news of AR Rahman's separation from his wife of many years, Saira Banu. It is not the first time that famous couples, married for several years, have called it quits. What was once anathema in the old scheme of thingsnamely, a marriage breakuphas now become a lot more common, giving rise to a new term in the nuptial dictionary: grey divorce.

All cases of middle-aged separation have been wellthought-out decisions, taken after life has given the couples all their due during their togetherness. The best of relationships can fray, the pristine love that couples vouched for can gather moss, and what seemed like a lifetime's vow can wither after many winters of frozen emotions. What was once considered unthinkable becomes inevitable in the narrative of two people who once thought they would grow old together and be each other's crutch when their feet faltered. What had been held sacred and secure slowly gives way, and couples arrive at a decision



have now entered a new era of human relationships, where binding and breaking look like two sides of the same coin. While separation at a younger age is more common than parting at twilight or thereabouts, even long-standing unions are no longer immune to the reconfigurations of modern relationships. Grey divorce has come to symbolise not just the unravelling of a marriage but the assertion of individuality-a reclaiming of one's universe after years of compro-

mise and shared existence. For couples who part ways after decades together, it is not a rash decision taken in the heat of conflict but the culmination of deep reflection and an honest appraisal of their shared journey.

It is not about undoing the that is ironic, painful, and lib- years they spent together or

dismissing the love they once held; rather, it is about recognising that their paths have diverged, their goals have shifted, and their needs have evolved in ways that no longer align. Marriage, in its ideal form, is a partnership where

two people grow together while allowing each other room to flourish individually. But as life unfolds with its relentless demands and shifting priorities, it is not uncommon for this delicate balance to tilt. What once felt like a harmonious duet may start to sound discordant, not out of malice or neglect, but simply because human beings are not

Divorce in later years, though heart-wrenching, is often an act of self-preservation-a decision to honour the person each has become rather than clinging to a version of themselves that no longer exists. It is a painful shedding of skin that no longer fits, and like all transformations, it comes with its share of sorrow and scars. Yet, it is also an opportunity for renewal, a chance to readjust one's life with one's inner truth. Couples who

static.

choose to separate after years together are not betraying the

sanctity of marriage; they are embracing the courage to let go of something that no longer serves their mutual

wellbeing. It is a quiet revolution in the way society views commitment-not as an unyielding contract but as a partnership rooted in growth, love, and respect, even when that means stepping away. While the process is undeniably painful, it also holds the promise of freedom and selfdiscovery. It allows individuals to reclaim their lives, find joy in their own company, and pursue paths that were perhaps once abandoned for the sake of togetherness. Grey divorce is not the undoing of

a life lived together; it is the rewriting of two lives that are still unfolding. It reminds us that while love may not always last in its original form, the lessons it imparts and the growth it inspires are eternal. And in that, there is hope-a hope that even in endings, there can be beginnings. As Rahman said, they will eventually find meaning in the shattering. (The author is a columnist and

children's writing coach based in Dubai; Views are personal)

ADANI GROUP CONTROVERSY

Madam- Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and six others were indicted by US prosecutors in New York on Wednesday (November 20) in an alleged Rs 2,029 crore bribery case that could be a much bigger blow for business than the Hindenburg report. Side by side, it could upset the group's global expansion ambitions, hinder capital-raising and tarnish the fundraising abilities of other Indian firms by association. Though the White House expressed confidence in the resilience of India-US ties despite allegations against industrialist Gautam Adani and his associates of orchestrating a \$265 million bribery scheme to secure state energy contracts.

Even after all this, citizens of the country strongly believe that whether Adani paid the bribe or not is to be probed by the agencies.When Indian agencies failed, US court indicted him for the bribery. Let Adani & his companies defend themselves in the US courts. If Adani has invested in the non-BJP-ruled states, that is only for the minerals, forests, lands and other resources of those states. Where Indian compromised agencies failed, the US caught him on the wrong foot. Let him and his other conspirators face the music. Remember, the US laws are very strict in the cases of bribery or anti-competition laws. Let Adani face the music in the US courts and international financiers or hawala money suppliers. Whatsoever, for the clean image of the country, India must also set up a probe into this matter and be prepared to go by the evidence presented to the US regulators and courts to determine if there has been wrongdoing on our soil

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Delhi

MAHAYUTI WINS MAHARASHTRA

Madam — The Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra has won the Assembly elections 2024 is a double booster for BJP after its recent surprise win in Haryana. It's a cel-



¬he Indian women's hockey team has created history once again by retaining the Asian Champions Trophy title after beating China. It would always be a moment of pride seeing Indian women securing victory in India's national sport, hockey. The title is extremely prestigious for all of us, and our women players deserve this victo-

leader Eknath Shinde.

The magic wand of Sharad Pawar had lost its power while his breakaway factions of Sena and NCP led by Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar, had seen the downslide quite significantly. The Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray termed the victory as note-jihad by attacking the BJP leader Vinod Tawde and alleged that cash for votes marred the end results. While all parties facilitate cash for votes, it's not that how much one bribe matters and, at the end, how much of welfare the party extends to the people that brings such a huge victory need to be respected. The BJP has used their arm of RSS to campaign to target women, farmers and OBCs in the last six months and has gained momentum by a constructive approach to focus on this landmark victory. A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

LONG-TERM PLANNING NEEDED

Madam — This refers to the editorial, 'Cars the Main Culprit, wherein it was observed that the real culprit behind Delhi's toxic air ebration time for the CM and Shiv Sena is not stubble burning but the city's over-

Women's hockey team wins ACT ry due to their constant hard work of

happen because of the ability

of the AI specialist to affect the

nature of the work itself. The

chances are clear that AI as a

service is on the way to acquir-

holds the ACT (Asian Champion Trophy) crown once again, for the third time now, after securing the same in 2016 and 2023. The team under Harendra Kaur is collecting worldwide appreciation for their high-quality, victorious performance and hopefully, if Team India continues the same magic in the upcoming Los

managing seven victories in the seven

matches. India beat China with 3-0 and

Angeles session in 2028, we all back at home will be in the epitome of cheers for our girls. Meanwhile, it's time for Indian women's hockey to enjoy and dip into the victory celebration. The nation extends heartiest congratulations to them for their success.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

whelming vehicular emissions. The Supreme Court, concerned about the health of the residents of the capital and commuters, has taken a commendable initiative to close schools up to class 12 and implement all the necessary restrictions of the Graded Response Action Plan-Stage 4. A section of the society is praising the com-mendable effort of the judiciary wholeheartedly.

The Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi has come under fire over the deteriorating air quality in the national capital. But instead of controlling the worsening conditions, the Aam Aadmi Party is bent on criticising the Modi government at the Centre. Before the upcoming Assembly elections, the Atishi government will have to show its work on the ground in Delhi. The Central and State governments should together take practical steps on a concrete action plan to reduce pollution and improve the environment in

Yugal Kishore Sharma | Faridabad

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They exploit the anonymity and reach of digital platforms to target vulnerable individuals, particularly children



SHAINY SHARMA

he emergence of the internet has revolutionised the way an individual connects, communicates and accesses information. However, alongside its numerous benefits, this emergence has also given rise to various dangers, one of the most concerning being the presence of online predators - someone who uses the internet to exploit others for personal gain, often engaging in deceptive and manipulative behaviour. These individuals exploit digital platforms to manipulate, exploit and harm unsuspecting victims, often targeting vulnerable populations such as children and teenagers.

Social media platforms, online gaming environments, chat rooms and even educational forums provide predators with access to potential victims. The motives range from financial fraud and identity theft to emotional manipulation, sexual exploitation and many more. The anonymity of the internet emboldens these individuals, allowing them to craft fake personas and deceive others without immediate risk of detection.

Online predators employ various strategies to target and exploit their victims. One of the most common is grooming, a process in which predators build trust and emotional connections over time. This tactic often begins with flattery, attention or shared interests making the victim feel valued and understood. Once the trust is established, the predator isolates the victim by discouraging contact with family or friends, making the victim more dependent on them. Not only this, but these predators also exploit vulnerabilities, such as low self-esteem, loneliness or a desire for acceptance. They use threats, blackmail or promises of love or gifts to control their victims. In some cases, the



predators coerce victims into sharing sensitive information or explicit content, which can later be used as leverage. Victims falling prey to an online predator can be devastating. They may experience emotional trauma, anxiety, depression and a loss of trust in others and if it's a minor then the outcomes are even worse affecting their development and relationships. A combination of education, vigilance and robust digital safeguards and awareness campaigns can teach individuals, especially young people, about the risks of interacting with strangers online for they tend to put up in place as younger influencers who will share their lives on camera. And the importance of protecting personal information. Technological solutions, such as parental controls, advanced privacy settings and reporting mechanisms, can also help deter predators. There is no denying that the threat of online predators is a sobering reminder of the darker side of the digital age. While the internet offers incredible opportunities for connection and growth, it also demands vigilance and responsibility from all users.

Trump 2.0: Stark challenges for the climate and global stability



analys \$ 07

With promises to overhaul bureaucracy, impose steep tariffs and retreat from climate commitments, Trump's policies are set to reshape the US and the world

onald Trump will take over as US President on January, 20 2025 and his pre-election promises would have economic and environmental consequences. On the economic front, countries worldwide would face still stronger dollars sucking money out of emerging markets, high protectionist tariffs imposed and consequent trade war slowing the growth and increasing infla-tion globally. His regime is not only committed to sacking thousands of bureaucrats and replaced by his supporters but has also announced a new department named the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to be headed by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to slash the bureaucracy.

No doubt it would disrupt the continuity of the functioning of government, and it would also lead to job losses. Nationwide federal government employs nearly 3 million people. Trump says Musk and Ramaswamy would dismantle government bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditure and restructure federal agencies. While Musk has announced to cut \$2 trillion from the federal budget, Ramaswamy has proposed to eliminate the education department and FBI.

Internal Revenue Service as well as cutting the federal workforce by 75 per cent in a mass layoff. Trump has consistently maintained to levy a 10 per cent tariff on all imports in the US, 60 per cent on imports from China and 100 per cent on cars imported from China. This would mean cutting imports from many countries which may even result in trade wars. Capacities created in countries like China would be rendered unutilised. With limited domestic consumption in China, the country would face a backlash.

If all countries take action to cut on imports, it certainly boomerangs somewhere and exports would be adversely impacted in most cases. A 10 per cent tar-iff on imports would increase US prices of goods by at least 3 per cent and a continued trade war may even further raise the prices. While domestic producers in the US would welcome it, the consumers will have to pay more. Tariff is not the solution to all problems. Trump's idea to shift manufacturing back to the US may MANUFACTURING be hit by supply chain disruption on account of higher tariffs. The job creation in the US may be impacted. In his first term, Trump increased tariffs on Aluminum and Steel to bring its manufacturing back to the US, but the goal was not achieved. His acceptance of higher prices to be paid by consumers, while protecting producers had also made consumers pay 18 per cent extra on Washing machines in 2018. Later some of Trump's tariff was increased by Biden too. It went up to 100 per cent on electric vehicles, 50 per cent on solar cells and 25 per cent on batteries from China. It had its impact on climate action too the transition to cleaner energy was slowed down. Herbert Hoover, a Republican, US President nearly a centu-ry ago had similarly announced the imposition of tariffs, which ultimately culminated in the adoption of the Smoot-Hawley Act, of 1930 and increased tariffs by 40 to 60 per cent.



worst economic crisis humankind has ever experienced. Presently global economy is already facing considerable headwinds, any trade war can have disastrous consequences. US's technological advancement for decades has placed it as the leading powerhouse in the world.

Its investment in research and development has been quite IN HIS FIRST rewarding as evident from the TERM, TRUMP fact that there have been more Nobel laureates in the last five or INCREASED six years than the rest of the world put together have pro-duced. With its technological superiority, the rest of the world TARIFFS ON ALUMINUM is dependent on it economically AND STEEL TO too and the tariff policy would **BRING ITS** leave them behind in the trade war. So far China's growth has been manufacturing followed by exports. With the slowdown in there is nobody better in policing BACK TO exports, it is dealing with the problem of overcapacity of its industries and making efforts to THE US, BUT THE boost domestic consumption. There has been budget constraint GOAL WAS in Europe - money is spent on subsidies in several countries, NOT causing growth retardation. ACHIEVED Germany, to continue producing in the country has to match the US subsidy offering 900 million euros to Swedish battery makers Northvolt, which is experiencing sluggish growth of the economy. Subsidies continue to slow the growth globally. As the growth suffers, climate action also suffers. For instance, countries in the African subcontinent have vast potential for solar and wind energy, which has remained untapped so far. China's interest in Africa is going up through its belt and Road initiatives; it has an eye on the natural resources of the continent. It is between Trump and Modi, India

to be seen whether Trump 2.0 can counter China in Africa. In his election speeches, Trump has already sought to restore US manufacturing and has targeted to end the Chinese dominance in sectors like advanced information technology, high-end numerical control machinery, robotics, aviation equipment, maritime engineering technology, sophisticat-

ed rail equipment, energy-saving vehicles, electrical equipment, medical devices and agriculture machinery etc. European business finds it now difficult to continue investing in China and India should try to leverage the churn to its advantage. President-elect has already announced Immigration hardlin-

may not be spared of 10 per cent tariff, which may impact our imports. By 2028, when Trump's term ends, not only the US, but many other countries will be reeling under high inflation and poor growth. UN is also recon-ciled to accept a cut in US funding in Trump 2.0. A US retreat at the UN is likely to open the door for China, which has been building influence in global diplomacy. The best part of Trump's promises is that he would stop funding war. The end of war in West Asia and Ukraine is expected soon. The re-election of Trump has cast a shadow on the ongoing world climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. His withdrawal from the Paris Agreement in his first term and halting climate funding has slowed down the progress globally.

By understanding the tactics of online predators and implementing protective measures, individuals can work toward a safer online environment. Only when education, communication and technology unite to combat this pervasive issue, can society ensure that the Internet remains a tool for empowerment rather than exploitation.

If you suspect someone is being targeted by an online predator, report it to the authorities or an organisation like NCMEC (National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children) through their CyberTipline.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

It led to a trade war and the US faced retaliation from its trade partners too. It triggered the great depression and the

and controlling US borders and there is no doubt that Homan will do a fantastic job which has been long awaited.

er Tom Homan for the deposition

of illegal immigrants. He said that

Homan also spoke to the press supporting the deportation of even US-born children of undocumented immigrants. Another Immigration hardliner Stephen Miller has been announced to be deputy Chief of Policy in the new administration. Unprecedented deportation is around the corner, which is bound to impact the labour force. What will happen to manufacturing? Also, his tax cut promise would lead to a fiscal deficit; the US has one of the highest fiscal deficits 22 per cent of GDP, more than four times as high as India. The country is already under

heavy debt and indebtedness

would further increase the deficit.

Despite a good chemistry

Trump in his election campaign has vowed to ignore any climate emergency. He has been categorical in his election speeches abandon climate, drill, baby, drill. He has also joked in speeches that if the sea level rises, we will have more properties facing the sea. In some other speeches, he said that why should we be concerned if the sea level rises by a thousandth of an inch after thousands of years? Global leaders at Baku perceive the inaction and obstructions from the US and debate whether they can afford such inaction for four more years. They must work out the strategy and pursue advanced climate actions and goals. Barbados PM has invited Trump for a face-toface meeting on climate.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests -head of Forests Force- Karnataka; *views are personal)*

Goa's timeless allure: Ultimate destination despite misleading claims

Recent reports claiming a decline in its popularity seem at odds with the reality on the ground

oa has long been a dream destination for both domestic and international travelers. Its blend of scenic beauty and cultural richness has earned it a prominent place on the global tourism map. But is the charm of Goa fading? Is it losing its allure? Certainly not. In fact, anyone visiting Goa would find its flights fully booked well in advance, its hotels packed, and its beaches bustling with lively crowds. However, some media reports have suggested a decline in its popularity, which seems at odds with the reality and the figures. For decades, Goa has been

synonymous with sun-kissed beaches, lively shacks, and a carefree lifestyle that has charmed travellers from



DIVYA BHATIA

around the world. Beyond its picturesque coastlines lies a treasure trove of history, culture, and tradition waiting to be discovered. Ironically, a report from the

CEIC (China Economic Information Centre) claimed a drastic drop in foreign tourist arrivals to Goa, alleging a fall from 8.5 million in 2019 to just 1.5 million in 2023. This nar- Addressing these concerns,

losing its allure to international competitors like Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. Interestingly report is bereft of the details of the sources and how they were collected. Casting aspersions on the motive of the report in first place. These claims have been contested by Goa's Tourism Department, which points out

significant discrepancies in the data. Official figures indicated approximately 450,000 foreign arrivals in 2023-a notable recovery post-pandemic-while domestic tourism surged to 8.17 million in 2023, surpassing the 7.12 million recorded in 2019. Altogether, Goa welcomed 8.62 million tourists in 2023, exceeding pre-pandemic levels.

rative suggested that Goa was Tourism Minister Rohan A Khaunte has criticised the report, describing it as a deliberate attempt to misrepresent Goa's standing. "The numbers are manipulated to present a false narrative," he stated. "In 2023, we recorded 4.5 million international tourists and about 9 million domestic tourists. It's not just about quantity but the quality of tourism and the revenue it generates. Domestic tourists are now spending more, opting for premium accommodations." To further boost the international Khaunte stresses the importance of improving Goa's international connectivity, particularly with emerging markets in Southeast Asia, the West Asia and Europe. He revealed ongoing efforts to establish direct flight routes to



key destinations such as the UAE, Malaysia and South Korea. "These regions hold immense potential for quality tourism," he noted. In fact, Goa has gone notch up to promote tourism that is both sustainable and rejuvinating. In 2023, Goa launched a pio-

neering regenerative tourism campaign, emphasising sustainability across the pillars of economy, environment, and society. This initiative aims to go beyond sustainable prac- acknowledged these concerns,

tices, creating tourism models that leave a positive impact on local communities while offering unique, meaningful experiences for travelers. "Regenerative tourism is about ensuring that tourism not only sustains but enriches the local culture, economy, and environment," Khaunte explaines. Despite its many strengths, Goa faces ongoing challenges. The lack of app-based taxi ser-vices and disputes among taxi operators have been longstanding grievances for visitors, often resulting in com-plaints about high fares. Additionally, while Goa offers accommodations catering to all budgets, from luxury to backpacker-friendly, the state has been criticised for expensive lodging options. Khaunte

emphasising the need for improved public transporta-tion and better policies to enhance the tourist experience. Indeed the 'Unverified data without revealing the methodology employed and source makes the data suspect and report motivated.

What sets Goa apart is its versatility. Whether you're seeking beach parties, adventure sports, spiritual retreats, or cultural festivities, Goa caters to a wide range of interests. This adaptability has been the cornerstone of its enduring appeal. Goa's enchanting landscapes and vibrant culture have long served as a cinematic muse, making it a favored backdrop for filmmakers worldwide. From Bollywood blockbusters to Hollywood thrillers, Goa's charm has been

immortalised on screen. Iconic films like Ek Duje Ke Liye (1981) was all about love in the Goan air, while Dil Chahta Hai (2001) redefined the idea of weekend getaways, inspiring a generation to explore its idyllic beaches. Dear Zindagi (2016) captured its serene vibe, while the Golmaal series (2006-2010) added a playful twist to its allure as a honeymoon destination. Even international cinema embraced its beauty, with The Bourne Supremacy (2004) using Goa as a stunning backdrop for its high-stakes drama. Whether on screen or off, the magic of Goa continues to captivate and mesmerise, unaffected by reports or negative propagan-(The author is travel writer and *influencer; views are personal)*



Indian Overseas Bank RO : NHPC Complex, Sector-33, 1st & 2nd Floor, Faridabad-121003, Telephone: 0129-2259544-50

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC / Date & Time of & Mega Auction : 26.12.2024 (1st Time Auction) From 09.00 AM to 03:00PM.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE AND MOVABLE PROPERTIES Under Proviso to Rule 8(6) and Rule 6(2) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules E-Auction Sale for Sale of Immovable and Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso To Rule 8(6) and 6(2) of the Security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable Property/Movable Prope the Secured Creditor, the "Symbolic Possession" of which has taken by the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank (Secured Officer), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 26.12.2024 as per details mentioned hereunder

| Sr No. | NAME OF BORROWER | DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE AND DUES (WITH FURTHER INTEREST AT CONTRACTUAL RATES & REST, CHARGES ETC TILL DATE OF PAYMENT) | RESERVE PRICE (INCLUDING 1% INCOME TAX ON RESERVE PRICE OF PROPERTY ABOVE RS. 50.00 LAKH) EMD AMOUNT/ INCREMENTAL BID AMOUNT | E PRICE OF PROPERTY (OWNER OF THE PROPERTY) (SYMBOLIC / PHYSICAL POSSESSION) IS 50.00 LAKH) | | |
|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | M/s KSC Krishna Steel Private Limited | 01.03.2024 Rs.4,64,90,567.70 | Rs. 2,28,06,000.00 Rs. 22,80,600.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Factory land & Building Situated at Nagla Gujran, Sarurpur Industrial Area, behind Nagar Property, Nagar Chowk Sohna Road, Faridabad – 121005, Haryana. Admeasuring 504 Sq. Yards& 504 sq. yds. respectively in the Name of Smt. Kusum Singla vide sale deed no. 3290 dated 30.05.2007 & 20779 dted 01.01.2013 Sohhna Road Plot No. 8 (Kh No.31/13/2)-Symbolic Possession | Faridabad Branch Mr. Anil Kumar Chaudhar Contact No.8925950192 | |
| | | | Rs. 3,18,63,000.00 Rs. 31,86,300.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Factory Land Building situated at village Talegaon Dindori Taluka Dindori District Nashik Admeasuring 8000 sq mtrs. in name of KSC Krishna Steel Pvt Ltd Vide Sale Deed No 3351/2018 Nashik Survey No 07 Gat No 11BSymbolic Possession | 9650158453 | |
| 2. | Mr. Mithun Kumar | Date: 07.11.2023 Rs. 35.96,184.24 | Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 004, Ground Floor, Tower C2, Avalon Homes, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 106, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring 460 sq. ft. in the name of Mr. Mithun Kumar-Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 005, Ground Floor, Tower C2, Avalon Homes, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 106, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring 460 sq. ft., in the name of Mr. Mithun Kumar-Symbolic Possession | | |
| 3. | Mr. Shah Nawaz, Mrs. Nazish | tish Date: 30.12.2023 Rs. 73,18,855.00 | Rs. 32,15,000.00 Rs. 3,21,500.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 1202, 12th Floor, Tower C1, Avalon Regal Court, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 57, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan, floor area 1500 sq ft, Mr. Shahnawaj and Mrs. Nazish-Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 25,62,000.00 Rs. 2,56,200.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. Flat 1504, 15th Floor, Tower A 2, Avaion Regal Court, Village: Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 57, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan, superarea 1500 sq ft. The properties is in the name of Mr. Shahnawaj and Mrs. NazishSymbolic Possession | | |
| 4. | Mr. Jitender Malik, Mrs. Neetika Singhania | Date: 07,11,2023 Rs. 30,71,268.40 | Rs. 23,52,000.00 Rs. 2,35,200.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat/Unit No. 105, 1st Floor, Tower A-7, Avalon Rangoli, Villgae Karampur, Bhiwadi, Alwar Bypass Road, Sector 65, Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring 1000.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Jitendra Malik- Symbolic Possession | | |
| 5. | Krishnendu Kar | Date: 18.07.2023 Rs. 36,14,289.22 | Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 003, Ground Floor, Tower C-1, Avalon Homes, Villgae Karampur, Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 106 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 460.00 Sq. feet.The property is in the name of Mr. Krishnendu Kar- Symbolic Possession | Gurgaon Branch Mr. Pankay Kumar Mohant Contact No.9832796369 89259550403 | |
| | | | Rs. 12,33,000.00 Rs. 1,23,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 002, Ground Floor, Tower C-1, AvalonHomes, Villgae Karampur, Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 106 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 460.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Krishnendu Kar- Symbolic Possession | | |
| 6. | Mr. Bhavnish Kumar Suman, Mrs. Rani Kumari | Date: 14.08.2023 Rs. 30,86,551.40 | Rs. 18,67,000.00 Rs. 1,86,700.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 1504, 15th Floor, Tower A-6, Avaion Rangoli, Village Karampur, Bhiwadi Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 65 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 1000.00 Sq. feet. The property is in the name of Mr. Bhavnish Kumar | | |
| 7. | M/s Mittal Trading Corporation | | Rs. 1,81,21,000.00 Rs.18,12,100.00 .00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Suman-Symbolic Possession Industrial plot of 300 sq yards 60 ft * 45 ft. out of Killa no. 21//21/2 situated in the revenue estate of village-Kadipur, Kadipur, Industrial area, Gali No. 3 main Pataudi Road (Near Krishna Collection, G.A.V. International School and Opp. Rahul Steel & cement) Tehsil & Distract Gurgaon in the name of Mr. Tej Ram Aggarwal S/O Mr. Sant Ram Aggarwal-Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 1,40,38,000.00 Rs. 14,03,800.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Land and building out of Killa no. 32/1 situated in the revenue estate of village- Kadipur, Kadipur Industrial area, Gali No. 3 main Pataudi Road (Near Krishna Collection, G.A.V. International School and Opp. Rahul Steel & cement) Tehsil & Distract Gurgaon In the name of Mr. Parsotam Dass S/O Mr. Murari Lal-Symbolic Possession | | |
| | Mr. Ajit Sharma Mr. Ajit Sharma, Mikki Sharma | 04.11.2023 Rs. 46,08,352.00 | Rs. 15,48,000.00 Rs.1,54,800.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential 3BHK Flat Having-Unit No.502 at 5th Floor Tower B5-"Avaion Rangoli ", At Alwar bypass Road Mouja Karampura Tehsil Bhiwadi Rajasthan. Measuring 1300.00 Sq. feet. The property Allotment in the name of Mr. Ajit Sharma- Symbolic | | |
| 10. | Mr. Kamal Banoudhia | Date: 02.02.2024 Rs. 42,80,374.82 | Rs. 15,63,000.00 Rs. 1,56,300.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Possession Residential Flat No.802, Tower A7, "Avalon Rangoli" Residential Society, Village Grahi Alwalpur Sector 24 thesil Dharuera and District Rewari. Measuring 1300 Sq. ft. (super area) in the name of Kamal Banoudhia- Symbolic Possession | Retail Mart Gurgaon | |
| 11. | Mr. Dharmendra Singh | Date: 29.12.2023 Rs. 47,96,783.00 | Rs. 14,35,000.00 Rs. 1,43,500.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No.1103, 11th Floor, Tower PR 1, Krish City Phase-2 Alwar Bypass road, Mauja Tapukara within registration Tehsil Bhiwadi and District Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 818 Sq. ft. (super area) in the name of Dharmendra Singh- Symbolic Possession | Branch Mr. Saraweshwar Tiwary Contact No.7080321928 | |
| | | | Rs. 8,08,000.00 Rs. 80,800.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Flat No. 1410, 14th Floor, Tower C-3, AvalonHomes, Viligae Masit Alwar By Pass Road, Sector 106 Bhiwadi Tehsil: Tijara, District: Alwar, Rajasthan. Measuring 460.00 Sq. feet. In the name of Dharmendra Singh- Symbolic Possession | | |
| 12. | Mrs. Poonam W/O Sunil | III Date: 07.10.2023 Rs. 6,24,933.79 Rs. 17,04,000.00 Rs.1,70,400.00 Residential property- House measuring 258 sq yards on no. 12 block no. 16, report serial no. 292 situated in village district Panipat vide deed no. 2273 dated 25.02.2020 ar 21,11,2017. | | | | |
| 13. | Mr. Jagbir | Date: 31.12.2022 Rs. 2,98,466.68 | Rs. 13,92,000.00 Rs. 1,39,200.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential property situated at Plot No. 07 Block No. 9 HUDA Colony Village new Bohli, Tehsil Madlauda, Panipat situated at village New Bohali Post Kabri Tehsil Madlauda and District Panipat. Area: 119.84 sq. mtr. The property is in the name of Mrs. Nirmala W/O Mr. Jagbir-Symbolic Possession | Mr. Ranjit Kumar Jha Contact No.8925953636 | |
| 14. | Mr. Daynish Priya Singh | Date: 19.03.2024 Rs. 22,50,474.26 | Rs. 21,28,000.00 Rs. 2,12,800.00 Rs. 25,000.00 | Residential Property- Flat No. SF-1, 2nd Floor, Plot No. J-21 & J-22, Khasra No. 1455 & 1462 situated at the colony known as Balaji Enclave, Village – Raispur, Parga-na Dasna, Tehsil & District: Ghaziabad- 201002, Uttar Pradesh. Measuring 397.00 Sq. yards. The property is In the name of Mr. Daynish Priya Singh-Symbolic Possession | Nodia KRIBHCO Branch Mr. Amarjeet Sahoo Dr Contact No. 8925951725, 9883110703 | |
| 15. | M/s OSM Projects Private Limited | Date: 19.03.2024 Rs. 22,50,474.26 | Rs. 99,79,000.00 Rs. 9,97,900.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Residential property- Plot No. 1008, Urban Estate Sec-2, Palwal In the Name of Sh. Munesh Sharma S/O Shri Yogpal Sharma & Smt. Poonam Sharma W/O Mr. Munesh Sharma. Area of the property as per Title deed-84 Sq. Mtr -Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs.1,21,28,000.00 Rs.12,12,800.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Residential property- Plot No. 550-A, Omaxe City, Sector 11-14 Palwal in the name of Sh. Surender Sharma S/O Shri.Ramesh Chand Sharma Area of property as per title deed 264.25 sq. mtr. -Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 4,85,70,000.00 Rs.48,57,000.00 Rs. 5,00,000.00 | Industrial Land measuring 7 Acres, 1 Kanal& 1 Maria and building constructed there upon situated at Village Kot hathin Palwal in the name of M/s OSM Projects Private Limited-Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | | Rs. 1,10,92,000.00 Rs.11,09,200.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Residential Property- Flat no : 771/F-8, Sagar Presidency, 7th Floor, Sector 50, Noida in the name of Shri. A.V Singh S/O Shri. Janardhan Singh Area of the property as per title deed 146.87 sq. mtr. -Symbolic Possession | Sector 46 Faridabad Branch Ms. Shaivya Agrawal Contact No. 8925951836, 9811259720 |
| | | | Rs.2,10,90,000.00 Rs.21,09,000.00 Rs. 2,00,000.00 | Commercial property- office of OSM Projects Pvt. Ltd. At plot No. 53 Pragati Vihar Sector 59 Industrial Estate Faridabad in the name of M/s OSM Projects Pvt. Ltd. Area of the property as per title deed 285.85 sq. yds. -Symbolic Possession | A REAL PROPERTY OF A REAT | |
| | | | Rs. 87,19,000.00 Rs.8,71,900.00 Rs. 1,00,000.00 | Residential property- Flat No. 602, 6th Floor, Reliato Tower, Block No.8, Omaxe Height, Sec-86, Faridabad in the name Sh. Surender Sharma S/O Shri Ramesh Chand Sharma Area of property as per title deed 145.11 sq. mtr. Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 1,82,22,000.00 Rs.18,22,200.00 Rs. 2,00,000.00 | Industrial property- Plot No. 90, Sector-58, Urban Estate, sub district Ballabhgarh and District Faridabad Haryana in the name of Mr. Om Prakash Sharma S/O Mr. Ram JI Lal Sharma. Area of property as per deed 265 sq. mtrSymbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 7,95,58,000.00 Rs.79,65,800.00 Rs. 5,00,000.00 | Residential property situated at Plot No: 1487 P, Sector 14, Urban Estate, Faridabad, Haryana 121007 in the name of Mr.Surender Sharma & Mrs. Suman Sharma (This property is common security for credit facilities in form of housing loan & loan against property which are under default since 29.06.2024 and outstanding Rs. 2,08,46,992.30 (Rupees Two crore eight lakh forty six thousand nine hundred ninety two and paise thirty only) as on 31.08.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc. till date of payment.)-Symbolic Possession | | |
| | | | Rs. 3.41.57.000.00 | Residential property- House No.249, Sector-8, Faridabad in the name of Mr. Susheel | | |

Lebanese soldier killed, 18 wounded in Israeli strike

AP BEIRUT

A n Israeli strike on a Lebanese army centre on Sunday killed one soldier and wounded 18 others, the Lebanese military said. The Hezbollah militant group meanwhile fired barrages of rockets into northern and central Israel, wounding at least five people. Israeli strikes have killed over 40 Lebanese troops since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, even as Lebanon's military has largely kept to the sidelines.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which has said previous strikes on Lebanese troops were accidental and that they are not a target of its campaign against Hezbollah. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned it as an assault on US-led cease-fire efforts, calling it a "direct, bloody message rejecting all efforts and ongoing contacts" to end the war. "(Israel is) again writing in Lebanese blood a brazen rejection of the solution that is being dis-

cussed," a statement from his office read. The strike occurred in southwestern Lebanon on the coastal road between Tyre and Naqoura, where there has been heavy fighting between Israel and Hezbollah

Hezbollah fires rockets after strikes on Beirut Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel after Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack out of the Gaza Strip ignited the war there. Hezbollah has portrayed the attacks as an act of solidarity with the Palestinians and Hamas. Iran supports both armed groups.

Israel has launched retaliatory airstrikes since the rocket fire began, and in September the low-level conflict erupted into all-out war, as Israel launched waves of airstrikes across large parts of Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and several of his top commanders.

Hezbollah fired barrages of rockets into northern and central Israel on Sunday, some of which were intercepted.

Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said it was treating two people in the central city of Petah Tikva, a 23-year-old man who was lightly wounded by a blast and a 70-year-old woman suffering from smoke inhalation from a car that caught fire. The first responders said they treated three other people in northern Israel, including a 60-year-old man in serious condition

It was unclear whether the injuries and damage were caused by the rockets or interceptors.

Israeli airstrikes early Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 20 people and wounding 66, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,500 people

in Lebanon, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population. On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardments in northern Israel and in battle following Israel's ground invasion in early October. Around 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from the country's north.

EU envoy calls for pressure on both sides to reach a truce

The Biden administration has spent months trying to broker a cease-fire, and US envoy Amos Hochstein was back in the region last week.

The European Union's top diplomat called for more pressure on both Israel and Hezbollah to reach a deal, saying one was "pending with a final agreement from the Israeli government."

Musk, Ramaswamy

Outstanding Govt.Dues if any- Not Known, EMD Start Date: 09.12.2024, Date and Time of Inspection of Property- 09.12.2024 to 25.12.2024, 11.00 AM to 4:00 PM,

Last Date of Deposit of EMD up to - 25.12.2024, Date and Time of E-auction -26.12.2024 from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

Terms and conditions of e-auction

The properties will be sold by e-auction through the Bank's approved service provider portal https://ibapi.in under the supervision of the Authorized Officer of the Bank

E-auction bid document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, general terms and conditions of online auction sale are available in https://ibapl.in
 Intending bidders shall hold Valid email ID and Mobile No. to register their name / account by login to the website of the aforesaid service provider. They need to create log in with user id and password on the aforesaid service provider portal which should be used in the e-auction proceedings. For details please contact the service provider portal which should be used in the e-auction proceedings. For details please contact the service provider portal https://ibapl.in

Bids in the prescribed formats shall be submitted "enline" through the portal https://ibapi.in along with the detail of EMD & scanned copy of KYC documents including photo, PAN Card & address proof to the service provider and to the Authorised Officer before 05.00 P.M on 25.12.2024 otherwise shall not be eligible for consideration.
 The EMD and other deposits shall be remitted through EFT / NEFT / RTGS to the Bank account as specified above and the amount of EMD paid by the interested bidder shall carry no interest. The amount of EMD paid by the successful bidder shall be adjusted

wards the sale price

6. Bids without EMD shall be rejected summarily

6. Once without can't statute rejected summainy.
7. Online auction sale will start automatically on and at the time as mentioned above. Auction / bidding will initially be for a period of 120 minutes with auto extension time of 10 minutes each till the sale is concluded.
8. The property shall be sold to the successful bidder. The successful bidder (purchaser) as declared by the Authorised Officer shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of the EMD) immediately on the same day and not later than the next working day. The balance amount of sale price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of auction sale. Failure to remit the entire amount of sale price within the stipulated period will result in forfeiture of deposit of 25% of the bid price to the secured creditor and forfeiture of all claims over the property by the purchaser and the property will be resold.

The sale certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser only, after payment of the entire sale price amount and other taxes/charges, if any, 10. The purchaser shall bear the charges/ fee payable for conveyance such as registration fee, stamp duty, etc., as applicable as per law.

11. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or postpone or cancel the sale, as the case may be without assigning any reason whatsoever. 12. The property is being sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is "basis. The Bank has disclosed only the known encumbrances, statutory liabilities, if any, as above. However, the intending bidders should make their own indepe nquiries at their own costs with concerned co-operative housing societies/SRO as well as the Revenue Records regarding the title, nature, description, condition, encumbrance, lien, charge, statutory dues, etc of properties put on auction and claims/rights/dues affecting to the properties, prior to submitting their bid. The properties are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.

13. Sale is subject to confirmation by the secured creditor

14. EMD of unsuccessful of commander by the secured destat.
15. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on Indian Overseas Bank's website i.e. www.lob.in/TenderDetails.aspx?Tendertype=E_Auction] or https://lbapi.in

Date : 22.11.2024

Place : Delhi / NCR

Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

seen as biggest threat to Beijing

PTI BEIJING

 $U^{\text{S}\,\text{President-elect}}_{\text{haul}}$ the government with a new department headed by tech billionaire Elon Musk and Indianorigin entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy will be the biggest threat for China as it has to compete with far more efficient US political system, a policy advisor to the Chinese government said. China's biggest risk during Donald Trump's 2.0 would be US government overhauls driven by Musk and Ramaswamy, according to Zheng Yongnian, China's top academ-

ic and policy advisor to Beijing. "A more efficient US political system would put huge pressure on China's current system," Zheng, dean of the School of Public Policy at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Shenzhen campus, said while speaking at Baichuan Forum hosted by the Institute for International Affairs (IIA) on Saturday.

"Of course, the pressure is not exclusive to China but also others, especially Europe," he said. Trump named Musk and Ramaswamy to lead a new

Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

The duo has already planned to scrap "thousands of regulations" and reduce the size of the government workforce. Zhena said, "In the medium to long term, the greatest pressure on China may come from changes within the US."

If Trump succeeds in his efforts to overhaul the gov-ernment, the US would "develop a new, more competitive system", Zheng said, calling it a form of "state capitalism with American characteristics".

"I think we should not underestimate the institutional reforms prioritised by figures like Musk," he warned, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning

Post reported on Sunday. China is gearing up for Trump's second term, beginning on January 20 next year, on several fronts, including his threat to impose a 60 per cent increase of tariffs on its over USD 427 billion annual exports to the US.

Trump, who acted tough on China during his previous term, is expected to reinforce measures against Beijing on various global fronts, including Taiwan and the South China Sea. China asserts Taiwan as part of its mainland and claims ownership over most of the South China Sea.

The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims over the area.

To counter tough tariff increases by the incoming Trump administration in the US, China announced new policy measures on Thursday to back its export sector against "unreasonable foreign trade restrictions" and to create a "good environment" for its exports.



Islamabad locked down ahead of protest Absence of 'no vote' doesn't

PTI ISLAMABAD

Pakistan deployed heavy security forces in the national capital, sealed key roads and suspended mobile and internet services in certain areas as supporters of jailed former premier Imran Khan on Sunday geared up for a protest march towards Islamabad. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has called on the public to join the march to "break the shackles of slavery."

A convoy under the leadership of Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur left for Islamabad from Peshawar. Geo News reported that Bibi was part of the convoy that started from Peshawar, but the KP chief minister was leading the protest.

Earlier, it was said that Bibi would not attend the protest. KP government spokesperson Muhammad Ali Saif said all arrangements have been made to remove the obstacles. He also alleged that last night police opened fire on the anti-barricading machinery and tried to set it on fire, but the PTI supporters foiled the arson attempt. He also said that the govern-ment still has time to fulfil their demands, warning that there could be a situation like Bangladesh, where a mass protest led by students toppled longtime prime minister Sheikh Hasina's government in August. Khan's party shared pictures and videos of various groups leaving from different cities for Islamabad to take part in the protest. In the national capital, police were taking no chances to let anyone enter the city and

arrested about 16 protestors from the Faizabad area of Rawalpindi as they tried to enter Íslamabad. Meanwhile, internet tracking monitor Netblocks said WhatsApp backends have been restricted in Pakistan, accord-

ing to a post on X. Live metrics show WhatsApp backends have been restricted in Pakistan corroborating reports of media sharing issues; the measure comes as authorities tighten security ahead of protests planned by opposition party PTI calling for the release of former PM Imran Khan," Netblocks said.

The federal government has taken several steps to block the protest, including deploying heavy security forces, sealing key roads, and setting up barriers around the capital. The Interior Ministry has

emphasised that, in accordance with court orders, no protests or sit-ins will be allowed in Islamabad, and any attempts to disrupt public order will be met with legal action. Khan, in a statement, urged the

masses to unite for the protest, calling it a movement for freedom and justice.

The PTI leaders earlier held a high-level meeting at the KP Chief Minister's House to finalise the strategy for the planned protest, Geo News reported. Ignoring calls by the government to postpone the protest – the second one in as many months - Khan's party declared to go ahead with its planned march to Islamabad,



coinciding with the arrival of a large Belarusian delegation even as the authorities issued a warning of a potential threat during the protest. The PTI gave a call last week for

a long march to Islamabad to press for three demands: the release of the jailed party founder and other leaders, against the alleged "stolen mandate" during the February 8 elections and restoration of the judiciary by revoking the recent 26th amendment to the Constitution that granted legislators more power in appointing top judges.

Containers have been placed across Islamabad, including along the Srinagar Highway, GT Road, and the Expressway, limiting access to strategic areas like Islamabad Airport and D-Chowk, which is located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office,

the Parliament, and the Supreme Court.

Rangers, along with police and Frontier Constabulary (FC), have been deployed to monitor the area. The federal government has also warned against any unlawful protests, stating that no one will be permitted to hold a demonstration in violation of judicial orders, with legal action promised against any violators

Also, Pakistan Railways has suspended all train services between Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Peshawar in light of the ongoing PTI protest, according to the Express Tribune newspaper. According to railway authorities, services between Peshawar and Rawalpindi, Lahore and Rawalpindi as well as between Multan and Faisalabad to Rawalpindi, have been halted immediately.

Public transport, including metro bus services in Islamabad

and Rawalpindi, has been halted, and all bus terminals at Faizabad, linking the twin cities, have been barricaded. Section 144 – which prohibits gatherings of individuals - has been in effect in Islamabad since November 18. On the other hand, the Punjab government too has enforced Section 144 across the province from

banning protests, public gatherings, rallies, and sit-ins. Additionally, internet and mobile services have been partially suspended in Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and

November 23 to November 25.

Punjab as a precaution. Khan, 72, has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence motion in 2022. He has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since last year facing, according to his party, over 200 cases; got bail in some of them, convicted in some others, and hearings going on for

some more. Khan's party won the largest number of seats in the February general elections despite contesting as independents as the party was denied an election symbol and the PTI chief has already alleged that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its coalition partners, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had "stolen the mandate" to grab power at the federal level. Relations between the PTI and the PML-N-led coalition government -already tense since Khan's ouster in 2022 - have strained even more in recent times.

mean it's a win for everyone

world 09

The climate summit in Baku

package, saying the COP29 presidency and the UN climate

change office forced through the

deal before allowing it to voice

its objections. It termed the

adoption process "unfair" and

reflected the troubling lack of

Malawi, Nigeria, Cuba, and

Bolivia supported India. The

final text, released early Sunday with little time for analysis,

showed little progress compared to earlier drafts. While it plans

to triple current funds, it does-

n't add much in real terms. Due

to inflation, this fund in 2035

will be equivalent to what was

agreed in 2009, experts told PTI.

The agreement also avoids clear-

ly stating that developed coun-

tries are responsible for provid-

ing the necessary funds. Instead, it includes private

sources and "innovative" meth-

ods rather than ensuring the

trust in the UN system

PTI BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Although countries agreed on a new USD 300 billion climate finance package for the Global South at the UN climate conference here, reactions pouring in show that not everyone is happy. Evans Njewa, chair of the "Least Developed Countries" (LDCs) group, called it a disap-

pointing outcome. "We missed a chance to shield our most vulnerable from the climate crisis and heal our planet. Strong concerns remain over the adopted climate finance goal. Thanks to all who stood with us. We fight on," he said in a post on X.

The chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) said the deal was done "acrimoniously". "Developed countries taking a lead with USD 300 billion by 2035 is a joke," Nkiruka Maduekwe, a negotiator from Nigeria, said during the closing plenary on Saturday.

It is not something we should take lightly. I think we should rethink it... We have a right as countries to choose if we want to take this or not," she added. R R Rashmi, a fellow at Teri Energy Resources Institute of India, told PTI that technically, an agreement is adopted in the absence of a vote against it.

'This case is complex. Here countries were not satisfied with the decision, but they were pushed to adopt it," he said. On Saturday evening, negotia-tors from the LDC group and

economist and Co-Director of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) walked out of the the Potsdam Institute for meeting, throwing talks into turmoil. The LDCs said they Climate Impact Research, said: were not consulted on the draft was not a success, but at best the and that it did not include sepavoidance of a diplomatic disasarate funding allocation for ter. them. A statement by the AOSIS The final hours of COP29 ended said they felt insulted by being tense, with strong criticism of the texts and the presidency. left out. India strongly reacted to the USD 300 billion climate finance

The LDCs and the SIDS have been asking for at least USD 220 billion and USD 39 billion, respectively, from the total climate finance package.

High Former UN Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson said the

> CLIMATE FINANCE DEAL "stage-managed" and said it

UN climate talks almost failed and ended with a disappointing deal

Rachel Cleetus, policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, criticised the Azerbaijani COP29 Presidency's handling of the climate finance talks.

"Rich nations, including the United States and EU countries, have exercised brute power here at COP29 to force a deeply unfair and inadequate climate finance outcome that imperils the science-based goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Despite their starring role in causing the climate crisis, this wealthy coalition of the unwilling collectively offered a grossly insufficient USD 300 billion annually by 2035," she said. Ottmar Edenhofer, climate

funding is public, additional, sufficient, and predictable, as civil society groups have called for. Stolen shoe mystery

solved; weasel caught in act! Tokyo (AP): Police thought a

shoe thief was on the loose at a kindergarten in southwestern Japan, until a security camera caught a furry culprit in action. A weasel with a tiny shoe in its mouth was spotted on the video footage after police installed three cameras in the school in the prefecture of

'It's great it turned out not to be a human being," Deputy Police Chief Hiroaki Inada told The Associated Press Sunday. Teachers and parents had feared it could be a disturbed person with a shoe fetish. Japanese customarily take their shoes off before entering homes. The vanished shoes were all slip-ons the children wore indoors, stored es near the Weasels are known to stash items and people who keep weasels as pets give them toys so they can hide them.

Sado mines memorial held New poll panel sworn in Bangladesh despite S Korean boycott PTI DHAKA the names of two individuals committee appointed by the new commission on for each EC membership. interim government of Muhammad Yunus recom-November 21. Bed Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir The commission had been The interim government mended the names of the vacant since September 5 formed after the ouster of the

AP SADO (JAPAN)

Tapan held a memorial ceremony on Sunday near the Sado Island Gold Mines despite a last-minute boycott of the event by South Korea that highlighted tensions between the neighbors over the issue of Korean forced laborers at the site before and during World War II.

South Korea's absence at Sunday's memorial, to which Seoul government officials and Korean victims' families were invited, is a major setback in the rapidly improving ties between the two countries, which since last year have set aside their historical disputes to prioritise US-led security cooperation.

The Sado mines were listed in Iulv as Heritage site after Japan moved past years of disputes with South Korea and reluctantly acknowledged the mines' dark history, promising to hold an annual memorial service for all victims, including hundreds of Koreans who were mobilized to work in the mines On Saturday, South Korea announced it would not attend the event, saying it was impossible to settle unspecified disagreements between the two governments in time. Families of Korean victims of the mine accidents were expected to separately hold their own ceremony near the mine at a later date. Masashi Mizobuchi, an assistant press secretary in Japan's Foreign Ministry, said Japan has been in communication with Seoul the war. and called the South Korean

than 20 seats for Korean atten-

dees remained vacant. The 16th-century mines on the island of Sado, off Japan's north-central coast, operated for nearly 400 years before closing in 1989 and were once the world's largest gold producer. Historians say about 1,500 Koreans were mobilized to Sado as part of Japan's use of hundreds of thousands of Korean laborers, including those forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula, at Japanese mines and factories to make up for labor shortages because most working-age Japanese men had been sent to battlefronts across Asia and the Pacific Japan's government has main-

tained that all wartime comition issues between the two countries were resolved under a 1965 normalization treaty. South Korea had long opposed the listing of the site as World Heritage on the grounds that the Korean forced laborers, despite their key role in the wartime mine production, were missing from the exhibition. Seoul's backing for Sado came as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol prioritized improving relations with Japan. The Japanese government said Sunday's ceremony was to pay tribute to "all work-

ty near the mines, where more Japan's reluctance to face its wartime brutality.

> Japan's government said on Friday that Akiko Ikuina — a parliamentary vice minister who reportedly visited Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine in August 2022, weeks after she was elected as a lawmaker would attend the ceremony. Japan's neighbors view Yasukuni, which commemorates 2.5 million war dead including war criminals, as a symbol of Japan's past mili-tarism. Ikuina belonged to a Japanese ruling party faction of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who led the whitewashing of Japan's wartime atrocities in the 2010s during his leadership. B'desh to review major energy projects For instance, Japan says the terms "sex slavery" and "forced

labor" are inaccurate and insists on the use of highly

Uddin and four other commissioners were sworn in on Sunday nearly three months after the resignation of the previous commission as deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime was

toppled in a student-led mass upsurge. Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed administered the oath of office to the new commission at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge at a ceremony joined by the top court judges and concerned officials. The swearing-in ceremony was staged days after a search

new Election Commission chief and members who previously served as civil servants, military officers and

The new chief election commissioner (CEC) is a retired secretary to the government. The four election commissioners are retired district judges Mohammad Anwarul Islam Sarker and Abdur Rahmanel Masud, retired joint secretary to the government Begum Tahmida Ahmed and retired army brigadier general Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah. Mohammed President Shahabuddin appointed the

when members of the previous commission, led by Kazi Habibul Awal, resigned after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League

regime was toppled. Awal and other commission members had tendered their resignation letters on September 5 while officials said the EC had never been vacant for this long since it was founded in 1972.

The interim government on October 29 formed a sixmember search committee led by retired Supreme Court judge Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury to come up with

previous Awami League regime in August, has constituted six commissions to bring reforms to the election system

and other fields. The EC was installed as political parties, including ex-premier Khaleda Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), have been asking for weeks for staging elections in the quickest possible time after required reforms in the

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election system. Yunus on November 17 said his government would issue an election roadmap as soon as decisions on electoral reforms were made

Zia's Fukuoka.

lower judiciary judges.

decision "disappointing." The ceremony was held as planned on Sunday at a facili-

"comfort women" and "civilian workers" instead. South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul said Saturday that Ikuina's Yasukuni visit was an issue of contention between the countries' diplomats. That issue and various other

disagreements between diplomatic officials remain unresolved, and with only a few hours remaining until the event, we concluded that there wasn't sufficient time to resolve these differences," Cho said in ers" who died at the mines, but an interview with MBN televiwould not spell out inclusion of sion. Some South Koreans had Korean laborers - part of criticized Yoon's government what critics call a persistent for supporting the event withpolicy of whitewashing Japan's out securing a clear Japanese history of sexual and labor commitment to highlight the exploitation before and during plight of Korean laborers. There were also complaints Preparation for the event by over South Korea agreeing to

local organizers remained pay for the travel expenses of Korean victims' family memunclear until the last minute, which was seen as a sign of bers to Sado.

euphemistic terms such as PTI DHAKA

> review committee formed Aby Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday recommended engaging an investigation agency to examine power agreements signed by deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime with different business groups, including one with India's Adani Group.

'The National Review Committee on Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has recommended the appointment of a reputed legal and investigation agency to review the major power production agreements signed during the autocratic regime of Sheikh Hasina from 2009 to 2024," an official statement said. The statement, issued by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's office, said the committee was currently review-

ing seven major energy and power projects, including the Adani (Godda) BIFPCL 1234.4 MW coal-fired plant, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Power Limited.

The six other agreements include one with a Chinese company that built a 1320 MW coal-fired power plant, while the rest are with Bangladeshi business groups said to be close to the past regime. According to the statement, the committee gathered "enormous proof" warranting the agreements be "scrapped or reconsidered" in line with international arbitration laws and procedures. It said the committee needed additional time to further analyse other solicited and unsolicited contracts. "In doing so, we recommend immediate appointment of one or more top-level international legal and investigation

agency or agencies to assist the committee," the statement said quoting a letter of the committee, headed by retired High Court judge Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury.

India's External Affairs Ministry had earlier said that cooperation in the power and energy sector has become one of the crucial pillars of India-Bangladesh relations.

The Adani Group, however, recently sent a letter to the Bangladesh government over its unpaid USD 800 million power supply bill while Bangladesh's state-run Power Development Board said they had already paid USD 150 million despite its dollar crisis and was expecting to pay the full amount.

Adani's Godda thermal plant was set up exclusively to supply power to Bangladesh but India recently changed a law allowing the Indian company to sell the Godda power in the domestic market sparking speculation if Bangladesh would get dedicated power supply from the plant.

The interim government had earlier formed a committee to examine contracts made under

the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provisions) Act, 2010 (Amended 2021).

| BLIC NOTICE given to the General Public that Mr. Mr. SHAMSHAD KHAN is the owner D. RESIDENTIAL PLOT Area SQ. YDS. i.e 82.2 sq. meters, out of situated in the village Chondaus, distl. Aligarh UP. He lost his sale -01/10/2024 vide Registered Sale 24, Dated 01.07.2013 executed by SO ISHUKHA in favour of Mr. AKIL AKHTAR KHA in respect of said so done FIR No. 20246000919341 | IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER (J), AT SHILLONG MAT. Divorce Suit. No. 38 (T) of 2018 Between: Smti. Sunita Thangkhiew,Petitioner -Versus- Shri. Nitesh Awasthi,Respondent To. | |
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| rtgaging the said property with | Shri. Nitesh Awathi, | |
| ING FINANCE LTD, if anybody has | H/o Smti. Sunita Thangkhiew, | |
| est/title in the said property or any | R/o – Block – 3/701, Saviour Park Apts, | |
| kindly inform the undersigned in | Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh – 201007. | |
| ow mentioned address within 7 days | Take Notice that the Petitioner abovenamed as | |
| DEEPIKA MISHRA (ADVOCATE) K SOUTH CITY LUCKNOW UP- 226025 | per copy of Plaint/Petition has instituted a | |
| | | |

PUBLIC NOTICE Petition for dissolution of marriage unde Section 10 (1) IX of the Indian Divorce Act PUBLIC NOTICE: That, Mr. Neerai Singh Makhija is seeking a loan from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd, the property bearing Plot area measuring 300 sq, mtrs., Bearing No. 545°C, in Block No. H, in residential colony known as Palam Vihar, situated in and around village Chauma & Carterpuri, Tehsill and District Gurgaon Haryana; Herein after referred to as the "said property"; That, Mr. Jasbir Singh, Mrs. Manjit Kaur and Mr. Gurdeep Singh is the legal heirs of the Deceased Late Mrs. Surjit Kaur. That there is no other legal heirs of the said persons. Where Mrs. Surjit Kaur has made owner to Mr. Gurdeep Singh through Will 867, dated 19.01.2007 in respect to said property and there is no objections to remaining legal heirs. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, heshelthey may contact the undersigned with the 1869 as amended, you are hereby summone appear in this court in person or by a pleade duly instructed, and be able to answer a material questions relating the application (c who shall be accompanied by some person ab to answer all such questions) on the 2nd day o December, 2024 and has been fixed fo appearance. The petition will be heard as soo as the business of the Court may permit, but n notice of such further date shall be given excep the inclusion of the petition in the daily caus

list. If no appearance is made on your behalf, by ispute for the above interided sale transaction, ec/she/they may contact the undersigned with the locumentary proof substantiating his/her/their bipections/claims/details of dispute's within even (7) days from the date of his publication, alling which, we will proceed to complete the sale ransaction with the above owners as if there are to third party claims/objections/disputes in espect of the Sald Property and thereafter no taims/objections/disputes will be entertained. M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLP B-132, L.G.F, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991116006 yourself, your advocate, or by someon authorized to act for you in this suit on the date of appearance, above mentioned or before such ater date on which the suit may be heard, an decided ex-parte in your absence. Signed ar sealed by order on this the th November, 2024.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (J)

next 10 years, where honest in which candidates make it to

 $R^{\mathrm{omanians}}_{\mathrm{lots}}$ are casting ballots on Sunday in the first round of a presidential election that could pit a far-right nationalist against the incumbent leftist prime minister in the runoff.

Thirteen candidates are vying for the presidency in the European Union and NATO member country, and the vote is expected to go to a second round on December 8. Polls opened at 7 am local time (0500GMT) and will close at 9 pm (1900GMT). Romanians abroad have been able to vote since Friday

By 2 pm (1200GMT), 4.8 million people — about 27 per cent of eligible voters - had cast ballots, according to the Central Election Bureau.

The final vote could see George Simion, the leader of the far-right Alliance for the Unity of Romanians, or AUR,

face off against incumbent Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, backed by Romania's largest party, the Social Democratic Party or PSD. The presidential role carries a five-year term and has significant decision-making powers in areas such as national security, foreign policy, and judicial appointments.

Romania will also hold parliamentary elections on December 1 that will determine the country's next government and prime minister. Simion, 38, is a vocal supporter of US President-elect Donald Trump and has long been a controversial figure. He campaigned for reunification with Moldova, which this year renewed a five-year ban on him entering the country over security concerns, and he is banned for the same reason from entering neighbouring

Ukraine. "I would like that in

Romanians to be really proud to be Romanians, to promote Romanian culture, Romanian products," he told reporters on Wednesday in the capital, Bucharest. "As a Romanian president, I will promote Romanian interests. In most cases, Romanian interests coincide with partner interests."

Ecaterina Nawadia, a 20-yearold architecture student, said she voted for the first time in a national election on Sunday and hopes young people turn out in high numbers. "Since the (1989) revolution

we didn't have a really good president," she said. "I hope most of the people my age went to vote ... because the leading candidate is not the best option?

Cristian Andrei, a political consultant based in Bucharest, says Sunday's vote will be "a tight race" in which the diasthe next five to ten years, for pora will likely play a key role

the runoff. "We are at a point where Romania can easily divert or slip toward a populist regime because (voter) dissatisfaction is pretty large among a lot of people from all social strata," he told The Associated Press. "And the temptation for any regime, any leader – will be to go on a populist road. He added that Romania's large

budget deficit, high inflation, and an economic slowdown could push more mainstream candidates to shift toward populist stances amid widespread dissatisfaction. Ciolacu told the AP that if he

is elected, one of his biggest goals is "to convince Romanians that it is worth staying at home or returning' to Romania, which has a massive diaspora spread throughout EU countries. "Romania has a huge chance to become a developed economy in the

work is fairly rewarded and people have the security of a better life," he said. "But for this, we need balance and responsibility ... I am running for the Presidency of Romania because we need a change? Other key candidates include Elena Lasconi of the Save Romania Union party, or USR; former NATO deputy general secretary Mircea Geoana, who is running independently; and Nicolae Ciuca, a former army general and head of the centerright National Liberal Party, which is currently in a tense

coalition with the PSD. Geoana, a former foreign minister and ambassador to the United States, told the AP that he believes his international experience qualifies him above the other candidates. "I think I bring a lot of competence and experience and connections in this complicated world," he said

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| | NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 25.11.2024 | | | | | | |
| E-tenders under t | wo Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as | per the followi | ing details:- | | | | |
| NIT No. | Tender Description | Estimated Cost (₹) | Cost of EMD (₹) | Due Date & Time of Submission | Date & time of opening | | |
| CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/SS/43 | RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF PACKAGED DRINKING WATER (IN 20 LTR JARS) FOR 01 YEAR IN VARIOUS OFFICE LOCATIONS IN BYPL | ₹ 0.98 Crore | ₹ 1.96 Lakh | 16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs | 16.12.2024 15:30 Hrs | | |
| CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/APT/44 | SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING, CONFIGURATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFTWARE DEFINED WIDE AREA NETWORK (SD-WAN) CONNECTIONS ACROSS VARIOUS OFFICES OF BYPL | ₹ 3.40 Crore | ₹ 6.80 Lakh | 16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs | 16.12.2024 16:00 Hrs | | |
| CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/APT/45 | IMPLEMENTATION OF SERVICE DESK MANAGEMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IN BYPL | ₹ 2.97 Crore | ₹ 5.94 Lakh | 16.12.2024 15:00 Hrs | 16.12.2024 16:30 Hrs | | |
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Romanians cast ballots in presidential race

AP BUCHAREST

Markets may react to Assembly polls outcome: Analysts

PTI MUMBAI

Global factors and FII activity will dictate trends in domestic equity markets this week while assembly poll results of Maharashtra and Iharkhand may impact stocks on Monday, say analysts. Stock markets witnessed a

spirited recovery on Friday with benchmark Sensex and Nifty notching the best single-day gains in more than five months and offering relief after weeks of Correction.

On Friday, Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11 while Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23.907.25 "On the domestic front, the

outcomes of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand elections will

be crucial triggers. Especially Maharashtra where NDA witnessed a one-sided victory which is likely to boost bullish sentiment further. However, global factors continue to pose significant risks. Escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine, alongside rising crude oil prices, have added to inflationary concerns," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.

A strengthening US dollar index and elevated US bond yields are weighing on the rupee, leading to record foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows.

"The direction of FII flows will remain a key determinant for the markets following the recent correction," Meena added. The BJP on Saturday pulled



off a stunning performance in by the JMM.

Global oil benchmark Brent а record number of seats to crude and the rupee-dollar propel the party-led ruling trend would also influence Maĥayuti alliance to a trading in the stock market. Global triggers, including US economic data such as GDP landslide victory while the INDIA bloc stormed back to growth rate, and FOMC power in Jharkhand on the Open back of a spectacular showing (Federal Market

Committee) meeting minutes, will play critical roles in shaping investor sentiment, Meena added. the

political "Overall, outcomes, particularly in Maharashtra, suggest positive outlook for the market, Indian stock especially in sectors that benefit from infrastructure development and political stability," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Services Ltd, said. Capital "Macroeconomic indicators,

including GDP and infrastructure output, will garner significant attention. Participants remain focused on FII fund flows, given their ongoing selling spree," Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. BSE Last week, the benchmark zoomed 1.536.8 said

points or 1.98 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 374.55 points or 1.59 per cent. Most sectors, except energy, contributed to the rebound, with realty, auto, and FMCG leading the pack.

IT and banking played a pivotal role in capping losses and driving the recovery in the benchmark. Broader indices also edged higher, with gains ranging between 0.9 per cent and 1.8 per cent. "On Monday, the market will react to the outcome of state assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand along with other global triggers including triggers developments in the Russia-Ukraine war," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd,

FPI selling spree continues in November at ₹26,533 crore, intensity of outflow reduces

PTI NEW DELHI

Foreign investors have pulled out Rs 26,533 crore from the Indian equity market this month so far owing to increasing allocations to China, concerns over muted corporate earnings and elevated valuation of domestic stocks.

While the sell-off continues, the quantum of net outflows has significantly reduced compared to October, when Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) withdrew Rs 94,017 crore (USD 11.2 billion) on a net basis.

With the latest pull-out, FPI outflows on a net basis are Rs 19,940 crore in 2024 so far. Going ahead, the flows from foreign investors into the Indian equity markets would depend on the policies implemented under Donald Trump's presidency, prevailing inflation the prevailing and interest rate dynamics, the trajectory of the geopolitical landscape, and the thirdquarter earnings performance Indian companies, Himanshu Srivastava Associate Director - Manager Morningstar Research, Investment Research India,

said. According to the data, FPIs recorded a net outflow of Rs 26,533 crore so far this month (till November 22). This came following a net withdrawal of Rs 94,017 crore in October, which was the worst monthly outflow. However, in September, foreign investors made a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore. Concerns over the elevated valuations of Indian equities persist, prompting FPIs to redirect their attention toward



markets offering more attractive valuations Srivastava said

Additionally, China continues to draw significant foreign inflows at India's expense, bolstered by its compelling valuation levels and the recent announcement of stimulus measures aimed at revitalizing its slowing economy, he said. Furthermore, India's sub-par corporate earnings and elevated inflation figures have raised concerns about potential delays in domestic

interest rate cuts, he added. V K Vijavakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, flagged investors' concerns surrounding FY25 earnings. He added that while the 'Sell India, Buy China' trade is over, 'the Trump trade' also appears to be on its last leg since valuations have reached high levels in the US.

In terms of sectors, FPIs have been buying IT stocks while banking stocks have been resilient despite facing selling pressure, mainly due to domestic support from

institutional investors. On the other hand, FPIs withdrew Rs 1,110 crore from the debt general limit and invested Rs 872 crore in the debt Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) this month until November 22.

So far this year, FPIs invested Rs 1.05 lakh crore in the debt market.

Mobile industry seeks enhanced air cargo handling capacity

billion

Ъn

of

PTI NEW DELH

Mobile phone players want Indian airports to ramp up their existing cargo handling capacity to support a projected eight-fold increase in device exports to USD 180 billion by 2030, industry body ICEA said. India Cellular and Electronics

Association (ICEA) Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo told PTI that the turnaround time at customs is a major hurdle for the electronics delays industry which shipments' processing further. "In China, while the factory to export take-off from the cargo terminal is achieved on Day 1, in India, the export take off happens only by Day 2. This is a glaring chasm especially when seen in the context of the volume of exports which in the case of China is more than 30 times electronics output (USD 959 billion) compared to India (USD 29 billion) in 2023," Mohindroo said.

Electronics is already India's largest export in air cargo while it's ranked third overall behind engineering and petrol.

"To keep pace with the expected growth in exports, concerted efforts are needed at the Central and State level. The infrastructure at current airports has already reached saturation levels as they are operating at 80-100 per cent of their capacity which calls for



Maharashtra

winning

To achieve the USD 500 electronics production by 2030 requires airport capacities to increase parallelly to handle USD 180 of exports, the vast often majority on an annual basis which would be 6 times higher than the current delays exports. By 2030, electronics will not only be India's top 2 exports (at the rate of USD

180-200 billion per year), but also significantly larger in terms of air cargo as compared to any other export from India," Mohindroo said. At present 55 per cent of total mobile phone exports from India are handled by Delhi, 30 per cent by Madras Airport and 10 per cent at Bangalore airport.

said many Mohindroo airports lack adequate areas for essential cargo operations such as docking, unit load device (ULD) assembly, truck parking, and the smooth loading and unloading of goods. octro

for electronics," he said. Mohindroo said that the custom brokers, who are responsible for verifying packages before shipment, operate an in unstructured and ad-hoc manner which further adds to

The Indian government is aiming to set up 50 more airports in the next five years to develop the country's airport ecosystem and help boost job creation. Recently, India's commerce

ministry stated that the government is considering measures to provide tax incentives, rationalization of aviation turbine fuel prices, and infrastructure development for handling air

cargo Mohindroo said that the development of some of the airports including Noida International Airport, and greenfield airports in Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are expected to expedite exports. nle and

Mcap of 8 of top-10 most-valued domestic firms jumps ₹1.55 lakh crore; HDFC Bank, TCS sparkle

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Eight of the top-10 most domestic firms together added Rs 1,55,603.45 crore in market valuation last week, with HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services emerging as the biggest gainers, in tandem with firm trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark zoomed 1,536.8 points, or 1.98 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 374.55 points, or 1.59 per cent. The BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 1,961.32 points, or 2.54 per cent, to settle at 79,117.11 on Friday. The NSE Nifty soared 557.35 points or, 2.39 per cent, to 23,907.25. From the top-10 pack,

Reliance Industries and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the laggards.



The market valuation of HDFC Bank jumped Rs 40.392.91 crore to Rs 13,34,418.14 crore, the most among the top-10 firms. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) added Rs 36,036.15

PATANJALI

crore to Rs 15,36,149.51 crore in its valuation. The valuation of ICICI Bank soared Rs 16,266.54 crore to Rs 9,01,866.22 crore and that of Infosys surged Rs 16,189.33 crore to Rs 7,90,151.83 crore.

(mcap) of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 13,239.95 crore to Rs 5,74,569.05 crore and that of ITC zoomed Rs 11,508.91 crore to Rs 5,94,272.93 crore. Bharti Airtel's mcap went up Rs 11,260.11 crore to Rs 8.94,068.84 crore and that of State Bank of India rallied Rs 10,709.55 crore to Rs 7.28,293.62 crore.

However, the valuation of LIC declined Rs 11,954.24 crore to Rs 5,62,545.30 crore.

The mcap of Reliance Industries dipped Rs 2,368.16 Reliance crore to Rs 17,13,130.75 crore Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel Infosys, State Bank of India, ITC, Hindustan Unilever and LIC

> Patanjali Ayurved's advertising promotional expenses were also up 9.28 per cent to Rs

422.33 crore in FY24. Earlier this year in July, the Haridwar-based organisation Group announced the transfer of its entire home and personal care business from Pataniali Ayrurved to another entity Patanjali Food for a consideration of Rs 1,100

crore In July 2023 promoters of Patanjali Foods had launched to pare its total stake in the company by around 7 per cent to meet the minimum public shareholding requirement. This was oversubscribed more than two times. Patanjali Foods, a leading edible oil maker was acquired

Patanjali Ayurved's FY24 revenue up 23 per cent to ₹9,335.3 crore by Patanjali Group through an insolvency resolution process and Patanjali Ayurved is one of the promoters of it.

It posted a total revenue of Rs 31,961.62 crore in FY'24 as against Rs 31,821.45 crore in

the preceding year. Patanjali Ayurved mainly operates in the ayurvedic product & FMCG business comprising primarily hair care, skin care, dental care, home care, personal care, dairy products & bulk trading of food products etc.

and developing new ones," Mohindroo said.

According to ICEA, total electronics exports stood at USD 29.1 billion for the period from financial year 2023-24, out of which mobiles stood at USD 15 billion

highly sensitive to heat, water and other weather conditions. Also, they require to be sent with speed to ensure just-intime production schedules. Thus, dedicated space that takes care of safety, security

and ease of transport is critical

two mobile top exporters from India.

Majority of Apple's iPhones are made in Tamil Nadu while Samsung has one of the world's largest smartphone factories Noida

accessed through business phone intelligence platform Tofler. Its revenue from operations, which is mainly income from net sales, was down 14.25 per cent to Rs 6,460.03 crore for in the financial year ended on March 31, 2024. Revenue was

accor

PTI NEW DELHI

Baba Ramdev-led Patanjali Ayurved's total income has

risen by 23.15 per cent to Rs

9,335.32 crore in 2023-24, helped by other income which

includes OFS of Patanjali

Foods (earlier known as Ruchi

Sova) and income from other

group entities, according to

In FY24 Patanjali Ayurved's

other income was at Rs

2,875.29 crore against Rs 46.18

crore in the year-ago period,

ng to finan

RoC filing by the company.

acted as Pataniali Avurved Pataniali Avurv data transferred its food business to Patanjali Foods on July 1, 2022, which includes biscuits, ghee, cereals, and nutraceuticals.

It reported a five-fold jump in its total profit to Rs 2,901.10 crore in FY24.

total profit of Rs 578.44 crore on a revenue of Rs 7,533.88 crore for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2023. The total income of Patanjali's

Avurved, a non-listed entity, which includes other income as well was at Rs 7,580.06 crore

has manr facilities across the country and has other contract manufacturing facilities at Dehradun & Manesar.

Its sales are primarily in India through independent distributors, marketing federations exclusive stores etc

grievance filing process more

seamless, efficient, and inclusive," the Department of

Consumer Affairs said in a

The partnership programme, known as the Convergence

Programme, has expanded to

include major companies

across sectors such as e-

commerce, travel, education,

The number of participating

companies has grown nearly

fourfold from 263 in 2017 to

The department has identified

several major companies with

high grievance numbers, including Delhivery Ltd and Domino's Pizza, and plans to

meet with them next week to

discuss bringing them into the

Consumers can access the

helpline through multiple

partnership programme.

statement.

and banking.

1,009 currently.



Air India Express increases flight operations from NE destinations

PTI GUWAHATI

ow-cost airline Air India LExpress has announced increase in flight an operations from three major destinations in the northeast Guwahati, Agartala and Imphal - as part of its winter schedule. This is part of the airlines'

expansion of winter services across the country, it said in a statement here.

Air India Express has increased its operations to 106 weekly flights from 63 last winter, from Guwahati. provides direct connectivity to eight domestic destinations of Agartala, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Jaipur and Kolkata. The airline also provides one-stop connectivity to 18 domestic destinations and six international destinations from Guwahati. In Imphal, the airline hiked

its weekly flights to 34 this season, an addition of 20 over last over last winter, the statement said. Since adding Agartala as a station in September 2024, the airline has increased its flights from

14 to 21 weekly, and connects two destinations – Guwahati and Kolkata directly. It also offers one-stop connectivity from Agartala to 11 domestic destinations.

"The expansion not only facilitates easier travel for those wishing to explore but also North East, strengthens Guwahati's role as a vital link with the rest of the country," Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) Ankur Garg said. our fleet now 'With exceeding 90 aircraft and rapidly growing, we are wellpositioned to support the evolving needs of emerging Indian cities," he added.

India's 26 major listed realty firms sell ₹35,000 crore worth properties in Q2

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

ndia's 26 major listed real Lestate firms have sold properties worth nearly Rs 35,000 crore during the September quarter with Godrej Properties reporting highest sales bookings.

According to the data compiled from regulatory filings, the 26 major listed realty firms have reported a combined sales bookings of Rs 34,985 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal

vear. Bulk of pre-sales (sales bookings) came from residential segment.

In terms of sales bookings, Godrej Properties emerged as the largest listed player during July-September quarter with pre-sales of Rs 5,198 crore. Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers Ltd, which sells properties under the Lodha brand, reported sales bookings of Rs 4,290 crore during the quarter under

review Delhi-NCR-based Max Estates sold properties worth 4,100 crore, while galuru-based Prestige Rs Bengaluru-based Estates Projects Ltd clocked sales bookings of Rs 4,022.6 crore during the quarter. Delhi-NCR based Signature achieved Global sales bookings of Rs 2,780 crore in the September quarter, driven by strong demand for its

housing projects



Gurugram.

DLF Ltd, the country's largest realty firm in terms of market capitalisation, sales bookings declined sharply during the July-September period to Rs 692 crore as it did not launch any new housing project. Among other major listed

Bengaluru-based players, Enterprises Ltd Brigade reported a sales bookings of Rs 1,821 crore during July-September period of this fiscal year, while Mumbai-based Oberoi Realty did presales of Rs 1,442.46 crore.

Mumbai-based Aditya Birla Real Estate sold properties worth Rs 1,412 crore.

Bengaluru - based Puravankara Ltd and Sobha Ltd clocked sales bookings of Rs 1,331 crore and Rs 1,178.5 crore, respectively.

Delhi-based TARC Ltd also performed well and achieved pre-sales of Rs 1,012 crore during the September quarter. There were many players that at

reported sales between Rs 500 crore and Rs 1,000 crore during the second quarter of this fiscal year.

Kolte-Patil Pune-based Developers Ltd sold properties worth Rs 770 Developers crore, while Mumbai-based Keystone Realtors (Rustomjee brand) achieved pre-sales of Rs 700 crore

Delhi-based Ashiana Housing Ltd reported sales bookings of Rs 673 crore during the September quarter while Bengaluru-based Shriram Properties clocked pre-sales of Rs 568 crore.

Mumbai-based firms Raymond Ltd and Sunteck Realty Ltd sold properties worth Rs 562 crore and Rs 524 crore, respectively. Among listed firms that booked less than Rs 500 crore, Ahmedabad-based Arvind Smartspaces sold properties worth Rs 464 crore during the

July-September period. Mumbai-based Mahindra

Lifespace Developers Ltd achieved a sales bookings of Rs 397 crore.

Mumbai-based realtors Arihant SuperstructuresLtd, Ajmera Realty Infrastructure Ltd & and Arkade Developers Ltd reported sales bookings of Rs 270.8 crore, Rs 254 crore and Rs 215 crore, respectively. Suraj Estate Developers sold properties worth Rs 107 crore, while Lucknow-based Eldeco Housing & Industries Ltd clocked pre-sales of Rs 102.9 crore.

Mumbai-based Equinox India Developments Ltd (earlier Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd) achieved pre-sales of mere Rs 98 crore during the second quarter of this fiscal year. Sales bookings of many listed entities have declined in the second quarter of 2024-25 of inauspicious because Shraadh period, monsoon rain and also lack of regulatory approvals to launch their projects. For example, DLF Ltd's pre-sales plunged to Rs 692 crore

in the September quarter from Rs 6,404 crore in the first quarter of this fiscal. Sales bookings data of many

listed players was not available on the stock Post-Covid exchanges. pandemic, the residential real estate segment has revived strongly because of pent-up demand growing desire to are aimed at making the have homeownership.



National Consumer Helpline

to roll out AI-based features,

partners with 1,000 firms

PTI NEW DELHI

National Consumer Helpline (NCH) is set to introduce artificial intelligence-based features including speech recognition and multilingual chatbots as part of a major upgrade to its consumer grievance system.

The helpline has also announced partnerships with over 1,000 companies to expedite complaint resolution. The new AI capabilities, dubbed NCH 2.0, will allow consumers to file complaints through voice input in their local languages, marking a significant technological transformation of the consumer protection platform that currently operates in 17

languages. The helpline has seen dramatic growth in usage, with monthly calls surging to 141,817 in January 2024 from 14,795 in January 2015. Monthly complaint registrations have tripled to 112,468 in 2024 from 37,062 in 2017. "These technological upgrades

channels including a toll-free number (1915), WhatsApp, SMS, email, and a dedicated mobile app. Unresolved complaints can be escalated to the Consumer Commission under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

BHUBANESWAR | MONDAY | NOVEMBER 25, 2024

the pioneer



AVOCADO POWER BOWI

Recipe by Chef at World Avocado Organisation

A creamy and nutrient-packed dish to kickstart your day with a burst of energy. **SERVINGS:** 2

INGREDIENTS: 1 small ripe avocado □ 100g fresh or frozen mango □ 1 handful of spinach 🗋 1 small ripe banana 📮 2 tbsp ground almonds 🛄 125ml milk of your choice (or coconut water) **OPTIONAL:** 1 tsp honey (to taste)

TOPPINGS: Sliced kiwi Flaked almonds Berries

Pomegranate seeds Fresh mint leaves **EQUIPMENT:** Blender

METHOD:

Add avocado, mango, spinach, banana, ground almonds, and milk to a blender. Blend until smooth. Add honey if desired. Adjust the consistency by adding more milk

or water. Divide into two bowls and top with sliced fruits, nuts, and fresh mint leaves.

Store leftovers in the fridge or freeze with a squeeze of lemon or lime juice to preserve the color.

PRO TIP: Prepare in larger batches and freeze portions for quick meals during busy mornings!

HEALTHY WINTER RELIPES

Winter is the perfect season to cozy up with nourishing, homemade meals that not only warm you up but also keep you energised. From vibrant power bowls to indulgent yet healthy treats, these recipes are packed with nutrients and flavour. Here are some curated for you!



PRUNES AND VEGETABLE SOUP Recipe by Chef at Chilean Prunes

A comforting and fragrant blend of fruits, vegetables, and spices that's both unique and hearty. **INGREDIENTS FOR SYRUP:**

🖵 1L water 🖵 120g sugar 🖵 1 red apple peel 🖵 1 lemon and 1 orange (sliced) 1 star anise, 1 clove, 1 vanilla piece, 5cm cinnamon stick 🖵 1 dried prune, 1 dried fig, 1 dried apricot INGREDIENTS FOR COOKED VEGETABLES AND FRUITS:

□ 100g each of chopped carrots, celery, fennel, apples, pears, pineapple, and violet aubergines 100g each of fresh fruits: orange, banana, kiwi,

cherries, apricots, peach, raisins, blueberries, currants, strawberries

GARNISH: Mint, celery leaves, tarragon, rosemary flowers, and flaked white chocolate **PREPARATION:**

□ Prepare syrup by boiling water with sugar, spices,

and peels. Let it infuse for 10 minutes, then strain. Cook vegetables and fruits separately in the syrup until just tender.

Combine all ingredients in a bowl, garnish with red fruits and herbs, and serve warm or chilled. CHEF'S NOTE: The syrup doubles as a flavourful base for other desserts!

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE PECAN COOKIES

Recipe by Chef at American Pecans

A guilt-free indulgence that combines rich chocolate with the crunch of pecans. **INGREDIENTS:**

- □ 1/3 cup chopped American pecans
- □ 125g all-purpose flour
- □ 50g caster sugar
- 50g brown sugar

vivacity

- 75g soft salted butter
- ☐ ½ tsp vanilla essence
- 2 tbsp cold milk
- □ ¼ tsp baking soda (mixed with flour)
- □ 75g dark and milk chocolate (chopped)
- **METHOD:**
- Cream butter, sugars, and vanilla until fluffy. Add milk and mix well.
- Gradually fold in flour, then stir in pecans and chocolate chunks.
- □ Shape into cookies and bake at 180°C for 15 minutes.

□ Sprinkle with flaky sea salt (optional) and cool before serving.

TIP: These cookies pair perfectly with a warm cup of spiced tea or coffee!





WALNUT DALIYA HALWA (WITH JAGGERY) Recipe by Chef at Chile Walnut

A traditional dessert with a nutty twist, perfect for

winter nights. **INGREDIENTS:** 2-3 tbsp ghee 4 cup Chilean walnuts (roasted) 🖵 1 cup broken wheat (daliya) 🖵 1/2 cup jaggery 1 1/2 cups water 1 1 tsp cardamom

powder **METHOD:**

eness 11

Heat ghee in a pan and roast walnuts until fragrant. Set aside.

In the same pan, sauté daliya until golden. Add water and pressure cook for 2 whistles.

Transfer cooked daliya to a pan, add jaggery, and stir until dissolved.

Mix in cardamom powder and roasted walnuts. Simmer until the mixture thickens.

Serve hot, garnished with additional walnuts.

QUICK TIP: Adjust sweetness by altering the jaggery quantity as per your preference.

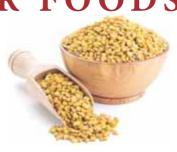
Enjoy a Winter of Warmth and Wellness! These recipes are designed to provide comfort while nourishing your body. Whether you're looking for a quick breakfast, a unique soup, or a sweet treat, these dishes are sure to brighten up your winter davs

PREVENTIVE POWER FOODS

By KAVITA DEVGAN

f you're aiming to keep your blood sugar levels steady and support heart health, these super foods offer powerful benefits. preventive Incorporate them into your diet consistently for best results.

CONTROL



ION-REL ATED





CINNAMON

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Early morning Cinnamon contains hydroxychalcone, which helps manage fasting glucose levels. Add a pinch daily to your tea or sprinkle it over your breakfast cereal. FOR TRYING: Brew cinnamon tea by steeping 1/4 tsp of powdered cinnamon in a cup of boiling water for 10-20 minutes. Drink it early in the day to maximise its benefits.

TURMERIC AND BLACK PEPPER

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Early morning or bedtime

in turmeric reduces Curcumin inflammation, helping to balance blood sugar, while black pepper's vanadium content keeps blood sugar stable. FOR TRYING: Combine them in curries or make a soothing bedtime haldi-pepper milk.



BITTER GOURD

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Anytime during the day

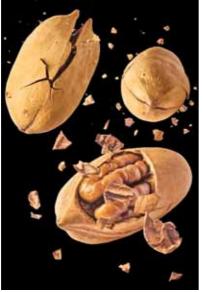
Bitter gourd (karela) has a compound similar to insulin that helps reduce blood sugar levels.

FOR TRYING: Include bitter gourd in your meals twice a week or drink karela juice 3-4 times weekly.

INDIAN GOOSEBERRY (AMLA)

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Anytime during the day

Amla, high in vitamin C, stimulates insulin-secreting cells in the pancreas. FOR TRYING: Enjoy an amla daily or try this chutney: Boil 2 deseeded amlas, grind with half a cucumber and 2 green chilies, and mix with 1 tsp mustard oil and salt.



AMERICAN PECANS

WHEN TO HAVE IT: As a mid-meal snack

Pecans are low in carbs, high in fiber, and rich in protein, helping regulate blood sugar and lower LDL cholesterol, which supports heart health.

FOR TRYING: Make a healthy dip: Blend 1/2 cup pecans, 1 cup hung curd, mint, coriander, garlic, salt, and pepper.

FEN EDS (METHI SEEDS)

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Early morning Fenugreek seeds help slow sugar absorption and stimulate insulin production.

FOR TRYING: Add them to dals or soak 1/2 tsp of seeds in water overnight and have in the morning.



BARLEY

WHEN TO HAVE IT: Lunch Rich in soluble fiber, barley slows down digestion, preventing blood glucose spikes.

FOR TRYING: Boil soaked barley and have it for breakfast with walnuts, honey, and a sprinkle of cinnamon.

PUMPKIN SEEDS

WHEN TO HAVE IT: As a mid-meal snack

Pumpkin seeds, high in lignans and magnesium, improve insulin efficiency. FOR TRYING: Make seedy bites by roasting 50g musk melon seeds in ghee, adding 50g jaggery, and shaping into small balls.

APPLES

WHEN TO HAVE IT: As a mid-meal snack

Apples are rich in quercetin, which enhances insulin secretion and helps reduce insulin resistance.

FOR TRYING: For a quick snack, chop an apple, add 30g pecans and 1 tbsp pumpkin seeds, and sprinkle with cheese.

The author is a Nutritionist and has used resources from American Pecan

By Dr P.N. ARORA

◄ he rising air pollution is taking a toll on people's health, influencing everything from respiratory function to cardiovascular well-being. In urban areas like Delhi-NCR, where rapid urbanisation and population growth have surged, air pollution has emerged as a crucial public health concern. Following Diwali celebrations, Delhi is facing a significant pollution crisis, with a recent survey indicating that 69% of families in the capital and the National Capital Region (NCR) report health issues stemming from deteriorating air quality. The Air Quality Index (AQI) surged to a staggering 999 on the night of Diwali, marking one of the highest levels recorded in the area. These conditions are particularly pronounced during winters when a combination of vehicular emissions, construction dust, and seasonal crop stubble burning create a toxic haze that blankets the city. This persistent state of poor air quality poses an urgent challenge, demanding immediate attention to mitigate its far-reaching health implications. A recent survey by LocalCircles highlighted the significant health impact of air pollution on residents in Delhi-NCR. The findings revealed that 31% of families reported members suffering from breathing difficulties or asthma, while another 31% experienced frequent headaches. Additionally, 23% of respondents noted symptoms of anxiety or difficulty concentrating, and 15% reported trouble sleeping due to poor air quality. On a



families stated that no one in their household had encountered pollutionrelated health issues, underscoring the varied effects of air pollution across different households.

Prolonged exposure to poor air quality has far-reaching consequences for public health, affecting multiple body systems and leading to a surge in pollutionrelated illnesses. One of the most immediate and visible impacts of poor air quality is on respiratory health. Long-term exposure can lead to reduced lung function and increased respiratory infection risk. Pollution caused due to poor air quality also leads to inflammation and oxidative stress, increasing the risk of heart attacks, hypertension, and other cardiovascular diseases.

Besides, certain groups are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of air pollution. Children, with their developing lungs and immune systems, somewhat optimistic note, 31% of are at a heightened risk, as prolonged

exposure can lead to stunted lung growth and a higher likelihood of respiratory diseases later in life. Older adults also face significant risks, with their age-related susceptibility making them more prone to respiratory and cardiovascular issues. Additionally, individuals with pre-existing asthma and heart diseases experience more severe health impacts, often requiring increased medical attention during high-pollution periods.

The government has also implemented several initiatives to combat poor air quality with a multifaceted approach. One of the initiatives is the imposition of GRAP, which outlines a series of measures to be enacted based on the severity of the air quality index. This plan includes a range of actions, such as controlling construction activities, enforcing vehicle restrictions, and promoting the use of public transport during periods of high pollution.

Therefore, improving air quality requires collective action from both communities and individuals. Community initiatives, such as tree plantation drives, are vital in enhancing air quality. Trees act as natural air filters, absorbing pollutants and releasing oxygen. Engaging in proper waste disposal practices, including segregating waste and avoiding open burning of garbage, helps prevent the release of harmful toxins into the air. Thus, collaboration and commitment across all sectors are vital for achieving lasting improvements in air quality and safeguarding public health.

The author is the Managing Director of Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals





Rishabh Pant becomes most

expensive IPL buy at ₹27 crore

PTI JEDDAH (SAUDI ARABIA)

ishabh Pant became the Remost expensive player in the history of IPL as Super Giants Lucknow splurged a humongous Rs 27 crore to buy the flamboyant India keeper-batter in the tournament's mega auction here on Sunday.

The amount LSG spent for Pant ensured Shreyas Iyer's record of being the tournament's costliest player lasted barely a few minutes after Punjab Kings broke the bank to buy the India batter for Rs 26.75 crore.

Moments before Pant emerged as the most expensive player, Iyer surpassed the record held by Australian pacer Mitchell Starc, who was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for Rs 24.75 crore in the last auction. Pant went to LSG after his former franchise Delhi Capitals did not use the Right to Match card to buy him back Starc got a much lower price this time and was sold to Delhi Capitals for Rs 11.75 crore,



while England's Jos Buttler went to Gujarat Titans for Rs 15.75 crore.

others, left-arm Among seamer Arshdeep Singh's consistency earned him a massive bid of Rs 18 crore, also from Punjab Kings via the Right to Match card, while South African speedster Kagiso Rabada was bought for Rs 10.75 crore by Gujarat Titans.

Iver, the former Kolkata Knight Riders captain, started with a base price of Rs two crore. Delhi Capitals had the bid at Rs 26 crore for him but PBKS raised the amount to get the player. Chennai Super Kings started with the first bid for Arshdeep, whose base price was also Rs two crore.

Eventually, after an intense bidding war, the seamer was bought back by Punjab, who exercised the right to match option to complete the deal, having released him earlier. This is the second time an IPL auction is being held outside the country after last year's event in Dubai.

they brush aside this concern

Odisha FC have recorded eight

sequences of 10+ open play passes per game in ISL 2024-

This is the highest such average

by any team and it clearly suggests that Hyderabad will

have to strategise through

which they can secure points

despite not having possession

keeping the ball.

to go on an upward surge?

DREAMI

I played with fearless mindset, took brave decisions: Yashasvi

PTI PERTH

Yashasvi Jaiswal termed his "fearless mindset" and ability to take "brave decisions" as the catalysts behind his exceptional hundred against Australia in the ongoing first Test, here on Sunday.

Jaiswal made a 161 in only his second innings on Australian soil and added 201 runs for the opening wicket with KL Rahul (77) to lay the foundation of India's imposing 533-run target.

"It was a very special moment for me. I always wanted to tour Australia and do well and this knock is very important for me," Jaiswal said in the postday press meet.

"I always wanted to play with a fearless mindset. I always believe in myself and take brave decisions. So, it was an amazing experience to play against such quality bowlers in their country, and it's special to score a hundred against the world's best," he added.

Jaiswal, who was dismissed for an eight-ball duck in the first innings, said the focus was on negating the new ball spell by Australian quicks.

"The wicket was seaming a bit more in the first innings. In the second innings we were discussing how to play the new ball better — which balls to leave and which to play. So, it was important for the team that I play the new ball better." Jaiswal said he had set small targets for himself in the

second essay. "I never thought I would get this big a hundred, as my goals were small, taking it session by session. Then I had a good partnership with (KL) Rahul bhai. He was guiding me during the partnership, so that was helpful."

between him and Rahul during the alliance?

sports 12

'We have been playing together for a while, we all know each other well and talk between ourselves in the dressing room.

"Whenever I felt nervous in the middle, Rahul bhai was telling me to remain focused and calm. It was helpful because you are going to get some good balls in these kinds of pitches," he said.

The left-hander said the team was prepared to tackle the bounce at Perth.

"We knew that the ball would bounce here. We were prepared for the bounce. We had a nice camp here ahead of this Test. We were practicing in similar conditions with the same kind of mindset as how we can score runs in these conditions. It's all about practicing hard and learning

what shots to play here," he explained. Jaiswal brought up his fourth Test hundred with a remarkable ramped six off pacer Josh Hazlewood. The

22-year-old said he was mentally prepared for it. "To be honest, I knew he was going to bowl a bouncer because the field was set like that and I was ready for the bounce, and I was ready to play that shot. Happy that I

pulled it off and carried on for some more time," he said. 'Virat paaji is incredible'

Virat Kohli brought up his 30th Test hundred a while after Jaiswal reached the landmark, and the youngster said it was a privilege to watch and play alongside the star

batter. "I have seen Virat paaji making runs at Perth (in 2018) on TV. Now, I have seen it live too. He has been doing it for a long, long time. So, he is just incredible

So, what was the conversation

Justin Greaves scores first century as West Indies lead Bangladesh by 410 runs



AP NORTH SOUND

Tustin Greaves scored a patient maiden century in only his third test before West Indies declared at 450av of the econd first test against Bangladesh. Greaves, who finished 115 not out, had a previous highest score in tests of 33 and only one century in 43 first-class matches before compiling a composed hundred from 181 balls, batting at No. 6. He completed the first century of West Indies' innings after Mikyle Louis was out for 97 and Alick Athanaze for 90 on the first day. Bangladesh was 40-2 at stumps, trailing by 410 runs when bad light stopped play with seven overs left in the day. Shahadat Hossain was 10 not out and Mominul Haque on 7.

Indies West resumed Saturday at 250-5 after being sent in when Bangladesh won the toss. They were 261the match closely 7. balanced, when Greaves was their partnership diligently, Roach ioined hv Kemar batting at nine. The pair put on 140 for the eighth wicket to fully turn the match in West Indies' favor.

brought up his century. Otherwise, he took 52 runs from singles, 38 from twos and nine from threes in an excellent example of running between wickets. His batting form had been hinted at by the fact he

scored four centuries in domestic one-day matches in West Indies. "It was a fantastic effort,"

Roach said. "He's one who wants to learn ... I've had big hopes for him from the time he started?

Roach also restrained his attacking instinct, hitting two boundaries and scoring at a strike rate of 32.6 as he played a vital support role to Greaves. When Roach came to the crease, Greaves was only 18 after resuming Saturday at 11 not out.

The pair came together in the 87th over after Alzarri Joseph (4) was brilliantly caught in the gully by Zakir Hasan from the bowling of Hasan Mahmud. They built ticki off mile

Greaves reached his half

Hyderabad FC host Odisha FC

PTI HYDERABAD

Hyderabad FC will play hosts to Odisha FC in the Indian Super League here on Monday as both sides seek to climb up the ladder to strengthen their positions in their respective first matches after the international break. After a tough campaign last year, Hyderabad FC have shown increasingly encouraging signs by securing two victories and a draw in their seven matches thus far. Their seven points place them at the 11th spot and with the sixth-placed Punjab FC merely five points ahead (12), the home team can begin thinking towards bridging the gap with the higher-ranked opponents. Odisha FC, positioned ninth in the table, have nine points from eight games. Head coach Sergio Lobera has

been amongst the most competitive tacticians in the competition regardless of the team that he has been at the helm of, and the Spaniard would hence want better



results performances from uggernauts. This away fixture gives them

the opportunity to begin maximising points in the matches coming their way. Hyderabad FC believe in making early inroads into the opposition's defence, ensuring that they set the tone for the

flow of the proceedings. This has resulted in them netting 43 per cent of their goals in the opening 15 minutes of the matches in ISL for a large chunk of the game, since Odisha FC prefer 2024-25, with three out of their seven strikes so far coming in this phase of the game.



In fact, their last win at the stadium came back in February 2023 against Mohun

with consistent Bagan Super Giant by a 1-0 the margin. Having worked on their impediments this year, can

The tourists lost Mahmadul Hasan Joy (5) and Zakir Hasan (15) in 20 overs before the close.

balls, following the example to disturb the batters' of Greaves whose innings of 206 deliveries included 128

dot balls "Me and Justin are from the was same country and he understands my batting ability so he just backed me in the situation and obviously it paid off," Roach said. "We're good mates, we have very good conversations at the cricket and outside cricket so that's what helped us in the middle.

The 30-year-old Greaves, playing his first test for 10 raising months, hit only four fours, including the boundary that the crowd.

century from 88 balls and by lunch the West Indies had recovered to 336-7, scoring at a steady three runs per favor. Roach made a at a steady three runs per painstaking 47 from 144 over. Brief rain breaks failed AP LAS VEGAS concentration.

Roach finally was out in the 134th over when the total 401-8. Mahmud delivered a ball outside off stump which beat Roach's shot as it curled back to hit

middle. Greaves was 98 when Roach was out but kept his concentration and avoided the fate of Louis and Athanaze who both fell just short of maiden centuries. He reached his personal milestone four balls later,

his bat acknowledge the applause of

Verstappen captures 4th F1 championship

Max Verstappen cruised to fourth consecutive Formula 1 championship by finishing fifth in the Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Verstappen needed only to finish ahead of Lando Norris of McLaren to give Red Bull a fourth straight driver championship. The Dutchman started fifth but was already up to second by the 10th lap around the street circuit that includes the famed Las Vegas Strip on Saturday night. to

Norris, who had to score at least three points more than

season

emotional on the radio.

Verstappen to extend the championship fight, finished sixth. Verstappen needed only to finish higher than Norris to win the title, which he did with two races remaining on the

"Max Verstappen you are a four-time world champion," team principal Christian Horner said on the radio. "That is a phenomenal, phenomenal achievement. You can be incredibly proud of yourself as we are." Verstappen, only the sixth driver in F1 history to win at least four titles, sounded unusually

| | GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Office of the Superintending Engineer Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar. (Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E -mail: <u>sembhar@yahoo.in</u>) B-664 Ltr. No.10981 // Did 21.11.2024 INVITATTIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) E-Procurement Bid Identification No. S.E. – BNJ-R&B- 20 / 2024-25. | | | | | |
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| 1. | Name of work | :- | Electrical Work | | | |
| 2. | No. of works | :- | 4 Nos. Electrical Work | | | |
| з. | No. of Covers | :- | Single Cover | | | |
| 4. | Estimated cost | :- | Rs. 21.49 to 34.54 lakhs | | | |
| 5. | Period of Completion | ;- | Three Calendar Month. | | | |
| 6. | Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal | ;- | From 12.00 Noon of dated 27.11.2024 to 5.00 PM. of dated 06.12.2024. | | | |
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| Further details can be seen form e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addenum/Conigendum if any will be hosted in the website only. Superintending Engineer orps.34015/11/0014/2425 Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division | | | | | | |

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| з. | Estimated cost | :: | 7.00 Lakh | ns to 37.38 Lakhs | |
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| Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in Additional Chief Engineer OIPR-25174/11/0010/2425 R.W.Division, Bhanjanagar | | | | | |

Virat Kohli doesn't have anything to prove, his contribution is unparalleled: Kapil Dev

PTI MUMBAI

egendary Kapil Dev said Virat Kohli L doesn't have anything to prove and his contribution is "unparalleled" after the Indian batting star made his 30th Test hundred against Australia in the ongoing first Test at Perth on Sunday. Kohli (100 not out) joined young gun Yashasvi Jaiswal (161) in rewriting record books as they put Australia to swords on the third day of the Test with their respective tons powering India to a huge 533-run lead.

Kohli also surpassed batting legend Sachin Tendulkar (6) for hitting most centuries by an Indian batter with his seventh ton Down Under

"People who have to criticise will criticise. If a big player takes a lot of time to bounce back, (the) media's job is (to do) that," Kapil told PTI at the Vishwa Samudra Golden Eagle Golf Championship.

"One has to see his ability and talent. He's a big, big player. He doesn't have said Indian cricket "is in the right place"

(it to the) media."

What he's done for cricket is amazing. We should all say, well done (to him). (Even) if he doesn't get too many runs, it's (also) okay. But what he's given to cricket is unparalleled," Kapil added. Kapil said he was happy to see the mix of young and senior Indian batters making their mark.

"I don't like to compare. I just want to see our youngsters coming out and playing well. The new records are (always) going to be made. (But) it's important (for) the youngsters to come out and take the responsibility, represent the country and perform better," he said.

Don't compare any player with anybody. It's unfair, (they play in) different conditions, different eras. Today's youth are far more intelligent. They are much more ruthless and they have much more confidence," he said, referring to Jaiswal.

The 1983 World Cup-winning captain to prove anybody, prove me or prove as new players like Harshit Rana and



Nitish Reddy have also made a good beginning.

"I just want to say it's great to see the youngsters coming out and expressing themselves. It's good, Indian cricket is (in) the right place," he said.

Kapil also praised Jasprit Bumrah for leading India's fight from the front in the Perth Test and said the visitors have so far performed beyond expectations. Bumrah, the stand-in captain for the Perth Test, led the team's charge towards a vital 46-run lead in the first innings returning 5 for 30, as Australia were bowled out for a mere 104.

Bumrah's 11th five-for in Test cricket was also his seventh in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia), which put him at par with Kapil for most five-wicket hauls in these nations

"Special congratulations must be given to Bumrah because it is very rare that bowlers are chosen as captains and it feels very good to see him lead the way he has done," Kapil told the media.

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Kapil lauded Bumrah for bringing fast bowling back into the discussions in the

country "I need not say anything — his records show (how good he is). He is the top bowler in the world, what else do we need?" he said.

"I hadn't thought before that a fast bowler would be discussed so much in India but that is happening today and I feel happy and proud about that," he added.

Kapil said India's performance was contrary to the exceptions given the team was recently trounced 0-3 by New Zealand at home.

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| ercentage rate bids through e-procurement to be received in online mode only for the works as detailed in the table below. | | | | | | | | | |
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| | Name of the works: | Civil Construction work | | | | | | | |
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