

Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth

RAHUL DATTA ■ PTI/NEW DELHI/PERTH

India, on Monday, created history when it trounced Australia in the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy cricket Test match in Perth's Optus Stadium, and became the first country to beat the hosts at this Test centre. This is India's biggest ever Test win in Australia, as it lost by 295 runs. This emphatic victory came close on the heels of a three-nil drubbing in as many Test matches at home at the hands of New Zealand a few weeks ago. Moreover, India was bowled out by Australia in the first innings for a meagre 150 runs raising doubts of its prowess to tame the mighty hosts. After setting a mammoth 534-run target, India bowled Australia out

for 238 to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series under stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah.

In another achievement, India washed away its New Zealand defeat by this victory and stormed back to the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) standings with 61.11 percentage points. This victory is India's biggest ever, surpassing their previous record of 222 runs, set back in 1978 in Sydney when Australia fielded a weakened side amidst the mass exodus for the Kerry Packer World Series.

The stand-in skipper led from the front with a match-haul of 8/72 as India bowled out the hosts for 238 in 58.4 overs on the fourth afternoon of the opening Test. India are now 1-0 up in the five-Test



series with regular skipper Rohit Sharma ready to take over during the Day/Night game starting December 6 in Adelaide. "We were put under pressure in the

first innings, but the way we responded was great," a smiling Bumrah, who was deservedly adjudged man of the match, said after the game. "I played here in

2018 - I remember the wicket started soft. This one was less spicy, we were really well prepared. I told everyone to keep faith... If you have faith in your abilities, then you can do something special," he added. While Yashvir Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will be among the heroes with their solid second innings batting performances, it was Bumrah's unbelievable skill-set and self belief during Australia's first innings rout that formed the cornerstone of India's win. Not many teams have come back after being 150 all-out on the first day but this Indian team has time and again shown that it is built differently. Prior to the Test, Bumrah spoke about embracing challenges and he did walk the talk during all four days.



Musical chairs in Maharashtra CMO?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

While the incumbent Chief Minister Eknath Shinde from Shiv Sena and his Deputy Ajit Pawar from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are leaving no stone unturned to retain their positions, after the just concluded Maharashtra polls, another deputy CM, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnis has emerged as front runner to be the next chief CM of Maharashtra, for the second time.

As per the 'musical chair option' for the MahaYuti faction Shinde could be deputy CM with Pawar, and then they may take turns later to be CM, as party insiders said that they will not back down from their claims since they supported the BJP to come in National Democratic Alliance (NDA) fold by breaking their parent parties. Sources said that the BJP's top leadership has reportedly cleared the names of Fadnis

as CM, and the other two as Dy CMs, and have approved of the arrangement for the next government, Shinde will get 12 ministers and the NCP is likely to get 10 berths, sources said.

Fadnis will serve as CM for the first two-and-a-half years, after which Eknath Shinde will assume the role for the remainder of the term and once Fadnis steps down as CM, he is expected to be appointed the BJP's national president.

Party sources said Shinde, Fadnis and Ajit Pawar are scheduled to meet Home Minister Amit Shah, and a formal announcement about the new government will be made after the meeting. MahaYuti alliance scripted a historic victory in Maharashtra assembly elections by winning 235 seats in the 288-member House. The BJP led the Mahayuti's victory by winning 132 seats - the highest among all allies. Shinde Sena won 57 seats and Ajit Pawar-led NCP won 41 seats in the election.

Modi to attend DGPs' meet in BBSR

To be on 3-day Odisha visit from Nov 29

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to participate in a three-day conference of the Directors General of Police (DGPs) from different States to be held in Bhubaneswar from November 29, Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan informed on Monday.

The conference will be held at the Lok Seva Bhawan.



Modi is scheduled to stay in Odisha till December 1.

The others to be present at the conference include Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the National Security Advisor and chiefs of security agencies from various States and Union Territories. The agenda will primarily focus on national security concerns and the diverse challenges confronting police forces nationwide.

"It is a matter of pride for us that for the first time, the conference of DGs and IGs will be held in Odisha. This implies how much importance the Central Government, especially the Honourable Prime Minister and Home Minister have been attaching to the State," said Harichandan.

Expedite Biraja dev work: CM

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Biraja Shakti Peeth is a well-known Shakti Peeth of the country. The people of Odisha have deep devotion for Maa Biraja. The State Government is strongly committed for the development and beautification of the Biraja Khetra, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday.



All the projects for the development of the Shakti Peeth are ongoing. If required, more projects would be taken up for development of the Biraja Temple, said Majhi. The Chief Minister directed officials to expedite the developmental and beautification work and complete the projects on time.

SC tells CAQM to relax restrictions on educational institutions

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, on Monday, directed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to consider relaxing the restrictions on physical classes of schools, colleges and educational institutions in Delhi-National Capital Region, noting students were being deprived of mid-day meals and lacked wherewithal to attend virtual classes. The restrictions on physical classes of schools and colleges were imposed recently due to severe air pollution.

The SC, meanwhile, ordered the CAQM to initiate action against the officials of Delhi government and Delhi Police under Section 14 of

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act for deploying police personnel admittedly only in 23 checkpoints, instead of all, on November 18 when GRAP IV kicked in. The SC also observed that a large number of students did not have air purifiers, suggesting that there may be little difference in conditions for children studying at home versus those attending school.

A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, however, refused to relax the anti-pollution GRAP-IV restrictions in Delhi-NCR and said unless it was satisfied that there was consistent decrease in AQI levels, it cannot order curbs below GRAP-III or GRAP-II.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Conduct classes in hybrid mode: CAQM

Following the SC directions, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), late on Monday, directed Delhi and state governments of the NCR to consider conducting classes in hybrid mode. The CAQM allowed institutions to conduct classes both in

"physical" and also "online" modes, wherever feasible, in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Naga. "The option to exercise online mode of education, wherever available, shall vest with the students and their guardians," it said.

Meanwhile, residents in the National Capital woke up to a sunny morning on Monday. Still, a thin layer of smog covered major areas in the city and the air quality in the national capital witnessed a slight improvement in comparison to last week, as the AQI dipped to 289 in the morning from hazardous to an unhealthy level. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded an average AQI at 349 while IQ Air also recorded air pollution 374 at 4.30 pm which showed 706 in the afternoon. PM2.5 concentration is 52.4 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value.

Parliament adjourns early, on day one of Winter Session



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijju and Ministers of State Jitendra Singh, Arjun Ram Meghwal and L. Murugan are also seen. Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the massive success in recent Assembly polls, after a tepid Lok Sabha performance that had dampened the ruling party's stature, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday came with regained confidence and attacked the Opposition saying "those rejected by people 80-90 times" were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for their own political gains.

Addressing the media ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, PM Modi said such a handful of people did not succeed in their intentions but people of the country observed their actions and punished them at an appropriate time. However, minutes after the PM urged the Members to allow the Parliament to function smoothly, and give opportunity to the new MPs, both the Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, were adjourned due to the ruckus by the Opposition, over the latest Adani Group controversy. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked political

parties to avoid ruckus in the House in the name of protests.

In view of the Constitution Day celebrations in Samvidhan Sadan on Tuesday, Birla urged the members of various political parties to engage in a meaningful dialogue. President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to start the year-long celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution at a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan.

PM Modi's remarks came days after the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition won the Maharashtra Assembly elections by a landslide, bagging 235 seats and relegating the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi to a distant 49 seats in the 288-member House. Earlier, the BJP had registered a surprise third consecutive victory in the Haryana polls, trouncing the Congress, which was billed as a pre-poll favourite.

"There should be a healthy debate in the Parliament but, unfortunately, certain individuals are trying to control

Parliament for their own political gains, resorting to disruptions and chaos. Though their tactics ultimately fail, the people watch their behaviour closely and deliver justice when the time comes," he added.

The PM said he had been repeatedly urging opposition colleagues, and some also agreed that Parliament should function smoothly. The Winter Session of Parliament began on Monday and is scheduled to continue till December 20. "The most troubling aspect, however, is that such behaviour (disruptions) stifles the rights of new MPs, those who bring fresh ideas and energy from all parties," the PM said. He also said the new members were often denied opportunities to speak in the House.

"We, as their representatives, must live up to these sentiments. It is time to reflect on the time we have lost so far and resolve to compensate by thoroughly debating various issues in the House," he said, adding, "Future generations will read and draw inspiration from these discussions. I hope this session will be highly productive, enhance the prestige of the Constitution's 75th year, strengthen Bharat's global stature, provide opportunities to new MPs, and welcome new ideas," he said. "With this spirit, I once again invite and welcome all esteemed members of Parliament to approach this session with enthusiasm and vigour," the PM said. He added that the current session of Parliament was special in many ways, with the most significant aspect being the 75-year journey of the Constitution.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed dismay over the Chair in both Houses of Parliament disallowing the opposition to raise under Rule 267 the issue of corruption allegations against the Adani Group and said the government should "let the truth come out" as the matter is affecting the country's image.



People protesting against a proposed ropeway project along the trek route to the Vaishno Devi shrine clash with police personnel, at Katra in Reasi district, PTI

Local tradesman wary of Vaishno Devi ropeway project

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Katra township, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine located in the Trikuta hills Monday witnessed violent protests against the proposed ropeway project cleared by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities last week. The 250-crore ropeway project between Tarakote Marg to Sanjhi Chhat along the 13-kilometer track is expected to be a game changer for millions of devotees paying obeisance inside the sanctum sanctorum.

A large number of devotees welcomed the ropeway project and claimed it would make the spiritual journey more inclusive and accessible while maintaining the sanctity of the pilgrimage.

In contrast, local shopkeepers, pony wallahs,

and palanquin owners have been protesting peacefully for the last three days demanding immediate withdrawal of the proposal or proper rehabilitation of all families likely to be affected by the project. Carrying banners and placards, they raised slogans against the Shrine Board and the ropeway project, which they claim, would render them jobless.

However, peaceful demonstrations on Monday abruptly turned unruly after hundreds of protesters, assembled in the main chowk of Katra town went berserk. The agitators attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) vehicle and broke its windshield forcing law enforcement agencies to launch a crackdown to disperse the large crowd. Chaos prevailed in the area as agitators ran helter-skelter.

Cabinet approves One Nation One Subscription

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Monday approved One Nation One Subscription scheme to provide country-wide access to international high impact scholarly research articles and journal publications to students, faculty and researchers of all Higher Education Institutions managed by the Central government and State governments and Research & Development Institutions of the Central government.

The initiative will open a goldmine of knowledge available in top quality scholarly journals to nearly 1.8 crore students, faculty, researchers and scientists of all disciplines, including those in tier-two and tier-three cities, thereby encouraging core as well as interdisciplinary research in the country.

A total of 30 major international journal publishers have been included in One Nation One Subscription. All of the nearly 13,000 e-journals published by these publishers will now be accessible to more than 6,300 government Higher Education Institutions and central government R&D institutions.

BJD govt tried to kill me by bomb attack: CM

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR

The previous BJD government tried to eliminate me by hurling bombs," alleged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi while launching a scathing attack on the Naveen Patnaik-led party during a Subhadra Yojana financial assistance programme in Sundargarh district on Sunday.

Majhi said, "The BJD government tried to kill me by a bomb attack as I always fought against them in and outside the Assembly."

"The former BJD govern-



ment hatched a plan to eliminate me and hurled two bombs at me. But by God's grace, I escaped unhurt. I think it is God's will that I am holding the CM position now and entrusted with the responsibility for the overall development of the State," Majhi said. Earlier in June this year, Majhi had also levelled such

allegations against the BJD. Addressing a public meeting at Jhumpura in his home district Keonjhar, he alleged that the BJD attempted to assassinate him by hurling bombs.

"There was an attempt to kill me in a bomb blast in Keonjhar's Mandua. However, I was saved due to God's blessings. I have nothing to fear when Maa Tarini, Maa Durga, Lord Baladev and Lord Jagannath are with me," Majhi had said then.

Meanwhile, no response could be obtained from the BJD over the allegations of Majhi.

Green Clean Mission

3,500 kg of ganja seized; 80 held in State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a bid to curb drug peddling, the Odisha Government has undertaken a 'Green Clean Mission' to destroy and subsequently stop ganja cultivation in the State.

An enforcement team landed and destroyed ganja cultivation on more than 10 acres of land in the Digapahandi area of Ganjam district on Monday. Additionally, 62 acres of forestland in Subarnapur district were cleared of cannabis cultiva-



tion.

The joint taskforce, which has been formed, comprises officials from the police, Excise and Revenue Departments.

The drive comes after the State Government set a target

to completely eliminate cannabis cultivation by 2026. The taskforce would undertake several mission-driven operations such as the one that is currently underway.

Every day, acres of cannabis crops are being destroyed. Moreover, new technologies are being utilised in the campaign. Notable examples include taking the help of drones and satellites to identify cannabis cultivation locations and hotspots.

Statistically, cannabis cultivation is most prevalent in

nine districts of the State — Malkangiri, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh, Ganjam, Nabarangpur and Mayurbhanj. DGP YB Khurania said a total of 54 cases related to cannabis trafficking and cultivation have been registered so far.

Over 3,500 kilograms of cannabis have been seized and 80 individuals have been arrested. Additionally, Rs cash of 15 lakh and 20 vehicles used in the illegal trade have been confiscated, he said.

In Cuttack Couple held for forcing minor girl into sex trade

PNS ■ CUTTACK
The Commissionerate police on Sunday arrested a married couple in Cuttack in connection with the sex trafficking case of a minor girl from Bangladesh.

The couple was detained at the Madhupatna police station following the rescue of the minor who was forced into sex work in a massage parlour.

Subsequently, the duo was arrested and forwarded to court. The arrested couple was interrogated by the police, following which they admitted to the crime. As per their revelations, the girl was forced into prostitution by them to earn money.

Further inquiries revealed that the couple conducted these activities from a rented house, prompting authorities to in-

vestigate the potential complicity of the house owner. Questioning was in progress to determine the same.

Cuttack DCP Jagmohan Meena said the police are exploring possible links to other individuals within the network. "We have recorded the statement of the victim. Since she is a minor, her statement is strong evidence, and based on it, the couple was forwarded to

court," the DCP said. Meanwhile, in Bhubaneswar, police are particularly concerned about the circulation of photographs depicting Bangladeshi women, distributed by agents, which suggests further illicit occurrences at other places.

The Bhubaneswar DCP has directed a comprehensive search to locate and investigate the suspected areas.

Science & Env Cong jubilee from Nov 29

Eminent scientists, professors to be feted

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The 25th Science and Environment Congress (Silver Jubilee) will be organised jointly by the Orissa Environmental Society (OES) and Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT), Bhubaneswar, for two days on November 29-30 here.

The focal theme of the event is 'Fostering Science for Holis-



tic Development'. Detailed discussions on the topic will be held in various sessions of the Congress. A large number of scientists, researchers, educationists and students from the State and outside will participate in it.

Besides, the organizing committee will honour some eminent scientists and profes-

sors of the State in the inaugural ceremony. The names include Prof Omkar Nath Mohanty, (former Vice Chancellor, Biju Patnaik University of Technology), Prof Lala Behari Sukla, (Director, SOA University), Prof Kulamani Parida, (Director, SOA University), Prof CBK Mohanty, (former DMET and Pro-VC,

KIMS, KIIT University) and Prof Rama Chandra Mohanty, (former Emetitus Prof of Botany and environmental scientist, Utkal University). Prizes will also be given to the best research paper presenters in the valedictory function, informed conveners Dr Jayakrushna Panigrahi and Dr Nabin Kumar Dhal.

In Khordha 4 hurt as MLA's car hits auto

PNS ■ KHORDHA
Four persons, including an auto-rickshaw driver, sustained injuries when the car of Khallikote MLA Purnachandra Sethi hit the three-wheeler from the rear near Badapokharia Chhak under the Jankia police station in Khordha district on Monday.

According to sources, the accident occurred when the MLA was on his way to Bhubaneswar from Khallikote.

The injured were initially rushed to the Badapokharia Community Health Centre and later shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHH).

While the driver was still admitted to the DHH, all the passengers were discharged



from the hospital, sources added. Though both the car and auto-rickshaw were badly damaged in the mishap, the MLA escaped unhurt and made necessary arrangements to provide immediate treatment to the injured.

On being informed about the incident, the Jankia police rushed to the spot and rescued the accident victims. Further investigation into the matter was on.

'Odisha poised to become defence manufacturing hub'

Experts join brainstorming session of Propack Odisha, Odisha Plast

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The future of defence manufacturing hinges on advanced materials and cutting-edge technologies. Odisha's MSME sector is already making strides in the development of innovative materials such as advanced composites, specialized alloys, and high-performance plastics, all of which are essential for defence applications, said experts at a seminar entitled 'Unlocking Odisha's Defence Manufacturing Potential' organised by OASME and FUTUREX here.

With a strong foundation in sectors like steel, metalworking, and engineering, Odisha's small and medium enterprises can further enhance their ca-



capabilities in the production of lightweight, durable, and efficient defence products, including armoured vehicles, communication systems, and aerospace components, they said.

The potential of Odisha's defence manufacturing sector is attracting attention from both domestic and international investors, making it an exciting time for the State as it

looks to expand its role in the national and global defence supply chain, they added.

Notably, Odisha is also home to several defence and aerospace companies, as well as research and development centres, contributing to innovation and technological advancements in defence equipment. The State's focus on fostering public-private partner-

ships and attracting foreign investment is expected to drive further growth in the defence manufacturing landscape, they hoped.

The seminar was attended by chief guest Director General (ECS), DRDO, Dr BK Das and dignitaries and industry exports like Vice Admiral Ramakant Pattanaik (retired) among others.

Jatra artist Rani's scooter seized for helmetless ride

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The State Transport Authority (STA) has seized the scooter of Jatra actress Rani Priyadarshini after a reel of her driving the vehicle without a helmet on National Highway went viral on social media platforms.

The actress shared the video on her social media handle which later sparked widespread public criticism over road safety concerns. Critics accused her of setting a wrong example by flouting traffic rules. Besides, the STA authorities have said she could face legal consequences, including a potential fine, for the breach of traffic regulations.

Taking to the X, the STA said, "The STA has directed Bhubaneswar RTO-2 to take necessary action as per the MV Act. The RTO team with the help of Badagada police has seized the two-wheeler."

Besides, the STA has advised people not to make any videos or reels on public roads, underscoring the importance of road safety and legal compliance.



Notably, the Motor Vehicles Act (MV Act) of India mandates that all two-wheeler riders and pillion riders wear helmets while riding in public. The law aims to reduce the severity of head injuries, which are a leading cause of road accident fatalities and long-term disabilities.

The fine for driving a motorcycle without a helmet under the Motor Vehicles Act (MV Act) is Rs 1,000. The rider's licence may also be suspended for three months.

Zeenat released into Similipal Tiger Reserve

NALINI SAHU ■ BHUBANESWAR
Zeenat, a tigress relocated from Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), was released into the core area of Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) on Sunday evening.

The tigress, under continuous 24-hour monitoring, has been observed roaming around five meters from her soft enclosure within the forest, according to Director of the Similipal Tiger Project (STR) Prakash Chandra Gogineni.

Zeenat arrived at Similipal on November 15 as part of an inter-State tiger translocation programme aimed at boosting genetic diversity in the reserve. She was kept in the soft enclosure for 10 days to acclimatise to her new envi-



ronment. Though initially agitated during her first two days, Zeenat adapted quickly, exhibiting normal behaviour, including hunting and maintaining good health.

Following a health inspection by the STR veterinary team, Zeenat was

deemed fit for release into the reserve's Northern Division core area.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Susanta Nanda tweeted, "Tigress Zeenat, the newest addition to Similipal, will infuse much-needed genetic diversity into

the reserve as part of the inter-State translocation programme from TATR, Maharashtra."

STR Director Gogineni explained, "We opened her enclosure gates at around 4 pm on Sunday, but being a shy tigress, she ventured out only around 9:30 pm. Three teams, working in shifts, have been deployed to monitor her movements."

Zeenat has been equipped with a radio collar with satellite-sensing technology to facilitate her tracking and ensure her safety.

The three-year-old tigress' relocation is part of Similipal's broader tiger conservation efforts. This marks the second such relocation from Tadoba-Andhari following the transfer of another tigress, Yamuna, on October 27.

CP offers tips to avoid ATM fraud

Urges users to exercise caution.

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Despite the tremendous rise in online payments, there are still a lot of people across the country who still depend on the physical mode of transactions for which they need cash. They usually depend on banks or ATMs to meet their daily cash requirements.

But do you know that there are chances of falling into the trap of fraudsters at these ATMs?

Don't worry as the Commissionerate Police (CP) has listed out multiple steps that can protect the users from getting trapped at ATM counters in different parts of the State.

While taking to its official X handle, the Commissionerate Police has advised people to follow simple yet effective steps to avoid getting trapped and losing their hard-earned money to fraudsters.

Beware of shoulder surfing: When you next visit any ATM, maintain a safe distance from others while entering your



PIN or operating the ATM.

Keep the screen private: One should stand close to the ATM screen to ensure no one sees your transactions. Many modern ATMs also have privacy filters, so use them effectively.

Shield your PIN: When you insert your card, check the card slot and keypad for any loose or any unusual attachments. This is because skimming devices can be used to steal your card details.

Avoid Public Wi-Fi: While using your phone near an ATM for checking balances or receiving OTPs, avoid connecting to unsecured public wi-fi as it can expose you to hackers.

Enable transaction alerts: Register your mobile number to receive instant SMS alerts for all ATM transactions.

Use ATMs in safe locations: Prefer ATMs located inside bank premises, malls or other secure well-lit areas.

In city Tension as Omfed truck hits auto, 3 hurt



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Tension prevailed after a pickup truck collided with an auto-rickshaw at Omfed Square on the Nandankanan-Jayadev Vihar Road on Monday afternoon causing critical injuries to the driver and a passenger of the auto-rickshaw and a passerby.

As per reports, the truck, belonging to the Omfed crashed into the rickshaw, following which it overturned.

Reports said the auto-rickshaw suddenly veered in front of it. Unable to apply the brakes, the truck rammed into

the auto-rickshaw from the rear.

The severely-injured auto driver was rushed to a hospital.

Following the mishap, tensions flared up as locals blocked oncoming traffic and demanded the truck driver to step outside his vehicle. Police arrived at the scene and pacified the agitators.

The mishap led to a heavy traffic jam for some time. Several protestors tried to break open the truck's door to drag its driver out. With police intervention, the situation was brought under control.

Quasi-judicial system facing stagnation in Odisha!

No Chairpersons of SEC, OSCW, OERC, Lokayukta, SIC yet

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
Odisha is experiencing a kind of stagnation in its quasi-judicial system. For a considerable period, positions such as chairperson and members in bodies like Lokayukta, OERC, State Election Commission (SEC), Odisha State Commission for Women (OSCW) and Information Commission have remained vacant. This has resulted in the general public facing delays in accessing justice.

While the Odisha Human Rights Commission (OHRC) Chairperson post is filled, four other significant chairperson positions remain vacant.

Since August, after the expiry of Lokayukta Chairperson's term, the successor's name recommended by the previous government's search committee is yet to be approved.

Similarly, Aditya Padhi, the SEC's term expired in August, and no permanent appointment has been made, resulting in him working in an interim capacity. Following the government's recent removal of Minati Behera, the OSCW chair also stands vacant.

After senior bureaucrat

Suresh Mohapatra became an advisor to the former Chief Minister, the top position in the Odisha Electricity Regulatory Commission (OERC) also remains unfilled.

The Lokayukta system was established to curb corruption in the State. It was intended to include a chairperson and five members. However, since its inception, the system has never functioned with its full members. Following the tenure completion of Lokayukta Chairman Dr Rajendra Prasad Sharma in August this year, the position has remained vacant. As a result, the organisation's activities have come to a halt.

State Information Commission-Odisha requires a

Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and five permanent members. However, following the recent completion of the tenure of the State's Chief Information Commissioner in the first week of this month, an advertisement has been issued for a new CIC. No notice has been released for three vacant member positions.

"Discussions are underway regarding appointments across all commissions. Officials were being selected during the previous government, who were giving protection to the government. At least the same thing would not happen during our government," Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said.

NHRC issues notice to Union Secys on misuse of AI

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) put the Union Secretaries of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and Ministry of Science and Technology on notice pertaining to the issue of digital safety and security and misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the country.

Considering a petition filed by lawyer-cum-rights activist Radhakanta Tripathy, the NHRC passed the order on November 20.

The petitioner requested the Commission to consider the pain and plight of the vic-

tims of misuse of AI which is leading to violation of Rights to the Health, Life and Liberty etc.

Tripathy quoted examples of sexual exploitation of many girls/ women in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh where seven tribals girls were allegedly subjected to gang rape by the accused as they called the victims by cloning of voice with the help of AI. One of the accused used voice changing app, posing himself as a woman professor, and thereafter, three males raped the seven tribal girls.

Citing several instances of digital fraud whereby several persons lost their hard earned

money and the ongoing threat to the critical database of the nation, Tripathy sought for the intervention of the NHRC to recommend the Centre and State Governments to formulate policies regarding the digital platforms including policies for the AI. He requested the Commission to take the issues of misuse of AI urgently to save basic human rights of the people.

"The issues raised by the human rights activist are a matter of serious concern, as the innocent people are being cheated and exploited by the criminal minded persons with the help of the modern technologies, including the Artifi-

cial Intelligence (AI). From the official website of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, it can be seen that the Ministry, vide publication dated 11.11.2024 has invited 'Call for project proposals in Cyber Security' by 12.12.2024. However, the issues raised in the complaint require a broader consideration and appropriate legislations," the NHRC said in its order.

The NHRC also asked the DGP, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal to submit their action taken report, within eight weeks, regarding the alleged gang rape case mentioned in the complaint.

In Jajpur 3 new cases lodged against Pranab's brother

PNS ■ JAJPUR
Trouble is mounting for Bhaba Prakash Das alias Lala, the brother of BJD organisational secretary Pranab Prakash Das, as three more cases were filed against him by the Jajpur Town police on Monday.

These charges involve violent protests such as gheraoing the Town police station and staging road-blocks near the Biraja Haat. Additionally, a complaint concerning an assault on another vendor was filed in the Sub-Divisional Judicial Magistrate (SDJM) Court.

Police also submitted a formal request to the SDJM Court to incorporate these



three charges into the ongoing legal proceedings against the accused.

Notably, allegations of assault on vegetable vendor Madan Nayak in Biraja Haat of Jajpur district led to the arrest of Bhaba Prakash. However, the complainant Nayak took a U-turn on Saturday.

Initially, Madan claimed

that Bhaba aka Lala, had assaulted him, threatened him and extorted money from him. However, Madan subsequently retracted these claims, stating that Lala did not commit any such acts and that his original police report was a slip-up from his side. He had mistakenly lodged the FIR with police.

In a significant development, the Crime Branch was directed on Sunday to probe the alleged attack on Dharmasala BJP MLA Himanshu Sahoo.

Police have formed a special team comprising six members, led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID) Saroj Kanta Mohanta, to probe the incident.

The probe would cover three main issues: the alleged attack on the MLA, the staging of road blockade and the gherao of the Town police station relating to the attack.

Allegedly, the attack on MLA Sahoo took place near Budhapola of Jajpur district, on November 20 by several supporters of Pranab Prakash Das.

Propack Odisha, Odisha Plast a huge draw

Event attended by industry leaders, innovators, entrepreneurs
PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Propack Odisha and Odisha Plast exhibition concluded on a highly successful note, drawing attention to the vast potential that Odisha holds in the packaging, plastics, and printing industries, here.

The event attracted an impressive footfall of about 1 lakh visitors and proved to be a major business catalyst for the sector.

The closing ceremony was graced by MD and chairman Futurex Swami Prem Anveshi, Director and HOO, Ministry

of MSME DGO, Govt of India, PK Gupta, Chairman, OASME, Gouri Shankar Das, secretary general OASME Satwik Swain, Chairwoman, Woman wing OASME, Jyotrimayee Mohanty, vice chairman, OASME Ranjit Kumar Sahu and secretary, finance, OASME Adikanda Rout. Besides, all the members of OASME were present.

The event was a key platform for industry leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs to showcase the latest trends, explore new technologies, and forge strategic business partnerships. It saw an encouraging response from the youth of Odisha, with 6,800 educated young individuals expressing their willingness to venture into entrepreneurship within the packaging, plastic, and printing sectors.

IN BRIEF

Baleswar: Looter dies in mishap while snatching mobile

Baleswar: A miscreant died in a road accident while fleeing after snatching a mobile phone from a woman in the Soro area in Baleswar district on Monday. He was identified as Kahnei Malik of Madanpur in the district. The incident occurred when the victim Anita Nayak was going by her bike along with her son. Kahnei was trying speed away after snatching her mobile phone. While the mother-son duo chased him, Kahnei lost control over the wheels and fell off the two-wheeler, resulting in his death at the spot. It was learnt that Kahnei was involved in several other loots occurred earlier.

15-ft injured shark spotted at Ganjam beach

Brahmapur: An injured Blue Whale Shark, measuring around 15 feet, was spotted on the Sunapur beach in Ganjam district



on Monday, attracting locals and tourists alike. The cause behind the shark's injuries was not known immediately. Locals wondered about the circumstances that led to its unexpected appearance. On being informed, the Forest Department launched an operation to rescue it.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Bhubaneswar: Humara Bachpan Trust (HBT), a Bhubaneswar-based pan-India NGO, has kick-started a global 16 'Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' campaign from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day).



These activities aim to address pressing issues like intimate partner violence, child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence.

Manashi Patra gets Kalinga Book Fair Award

Kendrapada: Manashi Patra, who is now officiating as the DSP in Special Branch at Bhubaneswar, was felicitated with 27th Kalinga Book Fair Award for her short story 'Manisha Haat'.



Notably, Patra is the recipient of many awards for her literary creativity and her unending dedication towards writing short stories and poems. One can see the scenario of present-day society in her writings. She picks up her characters from the ordinary people and tries to reflect their challenges and struggles.

Mission to cover 150 km to meet Puri Lord



K'pada man embarks on journey by lying prostrate on road
PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

A middle-aged man has embarked on a Danda Yatra from Kendrapada to Puri in which he moves by lying prostrate on the road. The purpose behind his difficult journey is to meet Lord Jagannath and pray for prevalence of peace, harmony and brotherhood in the world.

Gangadhar Samal of Mahala village started the Yatra from Mahala-based Hariharkhetra to Shreekheta on Saturday. He aims to cover a distance of 150 km to reach

Puri Jagannath temple by moving on road in prostrate position. He took the names of Lord Jagannath to help him cover the distance.

"I have decided to cover a 2 km road in prostrate position in a day to reach Puri via Jagatsinghpur. My aim is to complete the pilgrimage in two and a half months," stated Samal. He worshiped and did aarati of the deities at Hariharkhetra before starting his Yatra. Villagers uttered Haribol and gave hulahuli during the auspicious moment.

Notably, Samal earlier came in prostrate position from Mahala to the Baladev temple via main road after the fulfilment of his wish.

Paddy procurement in JSpur to begin in Jan

13,93,279 quintals to be collected
PNS ■ JAGATSinghpur

The Kharif paddy procurement drive in Jagatsinghpur district will start on January 8 in Raghunathpur, Tirtol and Kujanga blocks in the first phase.

Later, in the second phase, a similar paddy collection in Jagatsinghpur, Balikuda, Naugaon, Biridi and Erasama will begin on January 15.

The district administration has taken several measures to ensure a smooth paddy procurement process. A supervisor will be appointed to oversee every 4-5 Mandis, while police patrolling will be set up to prevent middlemen from interfering with the process.

A meeting on paddy procurement revealed this, which was held in the Collector's office here on Friday under the chairmanship of district Collector J Sonal.

State Minister of Steel and Skill Development Sampad

Chandra Swain attended the event as chief guest, accompanied by legislators Amarendra Das and Sarada Jena, the ZP president, Civil Supply Officer Sujata Mishra, and other officials.

Speaking on the occasion CSO Mishra informed that about 47,736 farmers across the district have registered to supply paddy in the current fiscal. As many as 114 Mandis have been proposed to be opened in several blocks and about 13,93,279 quintals of paddy will be collected from the farmers.

Additionally, farmers will receive an Rs 800 input subsidy per quintal. In a bid to facilitate timely payment, farmers will receive direct payments within 48 hours of procurement. "We solicit farmers' support to make the procurement drive transparent and hassle-free," said the CSO, cautioning the middlemen against interfering with this year's paddy procurement process.

In Keonjhar Cyber fraudsters target Subhadra beneficiaries

Victims lose money from A/C without their knowledge
PNS ■ KEONJHAR

In an alarming case, multiple incidents came to light recently where funds meant for housing schemes were siphoned off after luring victims with the promise of linking Aadhaar for monetary benefits under the Subhadra Yojana.

Incidentally, a majority of such complaints have surfaced from Banspal Block in Keonjhar district, leaving sev-

eral beneficiaries in the lurch.

One such victim, Gelty Sanangi from Benidihi village under Tana Panchayat had received Rs 50,000 under the housing scheme to construct the roof of her house. However, when she visited the bank to withdraw the funds, she discovered her account had been emptied.

According to her complaint, on October 2, Sanangi visited a Jana Seva digital service center to apply for the Subhadra scheme and provided her biometrics. However, her mobile number had not been linked. It was now discovered that between Octo-

ber 7 and October 11, Rs 10,000 was withdrawn daily from her account, amounting to Rs 50,000.

"They told me that your Aadhaar and mobile number are not linked and asked me to do the same by visiting a digital service center at either Telkoi or Katarapali. Since there was no attendant at Katarapali, I visited the center at Telkoi and registered my four or five fingerprints. I am not an educated person; so I did not know what they were actually doing," stated Sanangi.

Another victim, Ranjita Pradhan from Tentulikhunti village in Karangadihi

Panchayat, reported a similar incident. She alleged that Rs 50,000 was siphoned off from her account after linking her mobile number and Aadhaar at a Jana Seva Kendra for the Subhadra Yojana.

"I updated my Aadhaar on the 1st of the month and the beneficiary amount was credited the very next day. However, since the 4th of the month, money started getting debited automatically from my account," Pradhan narrated her ordeal.

As of now, it remains unclear how such fraudulent activities were carried out, and investigations are underway.

Rally held for awareness on diabetes in B'pur



By Swasthya Sadan, Roland Institute
PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

On the occasion of World Diabetes Awareness Month and National Pharmacy Week, Swasthya Sadan, Brahmapur, led by Dr Sunil Kumar Kota, Consultant Endocrinologist and Diabetes Specialist in association with Roland Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences organised a rally here. Around 200 participants registered for the event, where MLA, Brahmapur K Anil Kumar

was the chief guest.

CDMO, Ganjam Dr Bijay Panda, secretary, IMA, Brahmapur Branch Dr KK Panigrahy, Director, Roland Group of Institutes Dr Sruti Jammula, Cardiologist Dr Badri Dandapani and Principal, Roland institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences Dr BVV Ravi Kumar were present as guests of honour.

MLA Anil Kumar asked everyone in the family and society as a whole to wake up to the increasing prevalence of these lifestyle disorders and stressed upon diet control and a regulated life style.

Dr Bijay Panda highlighted

the importance of regular exercise and proper lifestyle in maintaining healthy life both in diabetics and nondiabetics.

Dr KK Panigrahy laid emphasis upon diabetes as a significant non communicable comorbidity giving rise to increased occurrences of complications.

Dr Sruti Jammula highlighted the importance of routine screening for detection of diabetes related complications at an earlier stage. Dr B V V Ravi Kumar stressed upon the fact that because of strong familial inheritance associated with diabetes, it is imperative upon the young

generation to adopt healthy life from now onwards.

Dr Kota emphasized upon adherence to lifestyle modification and medications along with regular testing and specialist consultation to avoid any untoward situation arising out of diabetes. The rally started from Swasthya Sadan premises near petrol pump in the New Bus stand area and proceeded through Gokarneswar Temple, Radio Station, Lochapada to end at Danda Kali temple, Lochapada. Around 4,000 educational pamphlets were distributed amongst the passers-by during the rally.

YRC unit unveiled; blood camp held at CUO

To mark 150th birth anniv of Birsa Munda
PNS ■ KORAPUT

As part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, the Central University of Odisha inaugurated its Youth Red Cross (YRC) Unit and organised a Blood Donation Camp at its Sunabeda campus on November 19. The event was held in collaboration with the Blood Bank Centre of Sahid Laxman Nayak Medical College and Hospital (SLNMCH), Koraput.

Vice-Chancellor (In-charge) and Registrar (In-charge) of the university Prof Narasingha Charan Panda in-



augurated the programme as the chief guest. YRC District Coordinator for Koraput Dr Naresh Chandra Sahoo served as the keynote speaker, while Assistant Professor of Economics and the Nodal Officer of CUO's YRC Unit Dr Prasant Kumar Behera delivered the welcome address.

In his speech, Prof Panda

praised the initiatives, urging students to actively engage in humanitarian activities. He emphasized the significance of blood donation as a noble act, particularly in tribal-dominated areas like Koraput, where healthcare resources are limited. He also highlighted how such events foster humanitarian

values and a sense of social responsibility among the youth.

Dr Sahoo conducted an engaging session for the newly inducted YRC volunteers, shedding light on the history and principles of the Red Cross. He underlined the importance of youth-led humanitarian efforts, particularly in organising blood donation camps to address the region's vulnerability to diseases like dengue.

The blood donation camp saw an impressive response, with 123 individuals, including numerous first-time donors, participated. Faculty members, staff, research scholars, and students, especially female participants, actively contributed to the event.

Saheed Laxman's birth anniv held in Rayagada

Tributes paid, his bravery recalled
BADAL TAH ■ RAYAGADA

On the 126th birth anniversary of freedom fighter martyr Laxman Nayak, a district level programme was held near the statue of Nayak at Shastri Nagar here under the patronage of Rayagada District Administration and District Information and Public Relations Department.

Chairperson of Rayagada Zilla Parishad Saraswati Majhi attended the event as the chief guest and paid tribute to Laxman Nayak by offering floral wreaths. MLA Appalawami Kadraka opened the Mini Marathon organised by the Laxman



Nayak Youth Association.

Among others, Additional District Magistrate Bhaskar Raita, Chief Development Officer Zilla Parishad, Nihar Ranjan Kahanr, Project Director, Watershed Mission, Dr Dayanidhi Bagh, District Sports Officer Sheikh Alenur, District Social Security Officer Srikant Panigrahi, senior journalist Bommali Kanta

Rao, Additional District Education Officer, Bhajan Lal Majhi and Block Education Officer, Sudipta Das participated.

Senior journalist Dr Badal Kumar Tah, Chief Speaker, suggested the district administration to supply Laxmana Nayak's photos to each and every school in the district, conduct exposure trips and

excursions to Nayak's birth place Tentuligumma and Mathili, where police fired incessantly on innocent freedom fighters, who tried to establish Triranga flag, killing more than forty people and injuring more than 200.

Deputy Director and District Information and Public Relations Officer Basant Kumar Pradhan moderated the entire event and thanked everyone present. The guests distributed prizes to the talented contestants in the essay competition. Similarly, the birth anniversary of Nayak was also celebrated on behalf of Sahid Laxman Nayak Youth Association through a marathon and distribution of seals and financial incentives to winners.

President Murmu to lead celebrations marking 75 years of the Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will lead the celebrations at the Central Hall of the old Parliament complex on November 26 to mark 75 years of India's Constitution, the government announced on Monday.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will take part in Tuesday's function in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to mark the 75th anniversary of the Constituent Assembly's adoption of the Constitution.

Leaders of various opposition parties of the INDIA bloc have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, urging him to allow leaders of the opposition in both Houses to speak during the Constitution Day celebration function.

Union minister Kiren Rijju said Prime Minister Narendra

Modi will not be addressing the event and accused "some of the Opposition parties" of giving reactions without knowing the actual arrangement.

The Union minister of parliamentary affairs made the remarks during a pre-event briefing here, in response to a query on leaders of various INDIA bloc parties having written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to allow opposition leaders of both Houses to speak during the Constitution Day function.

After a presentation by Union Culture Secretary Arunish Chawla, Rijju and Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat interacted with media persons at the National Media Centre.

"The problem with some of the Opposition parties is that without knowing the actual arrangement. They started giving reactions. The prime minister is not even speaking



tomorrow in the function. The Speaker, the vice president and the President of India will speak," he said.

"Secondly, we have made sit-

ting arrangements for the Leader of Opposition of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the dais. Without knowing anything, this kind of reaction

on a very solemn occasion is condemnable," Rijju said. The Union minister also said that the Constitution Day celebration was above politics

and is a celebration of the country.

"On the occasion of the 75 years of India's Constitution, we are getting an opportunity to take part in the celebrations at Parliament (complex).

Tomorrow, will be the address of the President. There will be a joint sitting of the members of both Houses. It will be a celebration of 75 years of the adoption of India's Constitution in Delhi. And, many other events will be held in various parts of the country too," he said.

"We will sit in the very same chamber where the Constituent Assembly sittings happened and the Constitution was adopted," Rijju added. He termed the event a "historic occasion".

"I believe that it is not just an event of the judiciary, executive and legislative wings. Entire country has to take part in these celebrations, in full spirit and read the

Preamble," Rijju said.

The minister extolled the Constitution and said it gave rise to a "successful and vibrant democracy". And the credit goes to the founding father, the makers of the Indian Constitution, he added.

The letter written to the Lok Sabha Speaker which had been signed by leaders of various parties reads, "We are writing in the context of the function being held tomorrow (Tuesday) in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. We understand that the function will be addressed by the president, vice-president and the prime minister of India."

"We believe that in the best traditions and interests of Parliamentary democracy, the Leaders of Opposition (LoPs) in both Houses should also be given an opportunity to speak

on this historic occasion," it added.

The signatories to the letter include TR Baalu, Tiruchi Siva, Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, Raghav Chadha, P Sandosh Kumar, ET Mohammed Bashir, K Radhakrishnan, Ramji Lal Suman, and NK Premachandran.

As regards celebrations, a special website has also been created to mark the year-long celebrations, Union Culture Secretary Arunish Chawla told reporters during a briefing at the National Media Centre here.

The commemorative portal urges people to read the Preamble of the Constitution, record a video and upload it on the website to get a certificate.

Mass readings of the Preamble will also be held at schools across the country. To mark the occasion, the government will release a commemorative coin and stamp.

BJP slams Opposition for stalling Parliament



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday slammed the opposition parties and said it was not right on their part to stall Parliament proceedings in "retaliation" to their defeat in Maharashtra assembly polls and bypolls in various states, will you retaliate by not letting Parliament function? This is not right," senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters in Parliament complex.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others

various issues, including indictment of Adani group chairman Gautam Adani and others in a US court on bribery charges.

"If you are frustrated over your defeat (in just concluded Maharashtra assembly polls and bypolls in various states), will you retaliate by not letting Parliament function? This is not right," senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters in Parliament complex.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others

from the government had asserted that discussions will be held on every issue in Parliament. "You could have discussed the Sambhal issue also," the former Union minister said.

Union minister Giriraj Singh also flayed the opposition parties over adjournment of the House proceedings, alleging that they "deliberately" create disturbance as they do not want Parliament to function. "This is in a way an attack on the people," he told reporters in Parliament complex.

LS Speaker asks political parties to avoid ruckus in House

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday asked political parties to avoid ruckus in the House in the name of protests as the Winter Session of Parliament got off to a stormy start.

Parliamentary sources said the Lok Sabha speaker flagged the issue of disruptions during a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and urged the floor leaders of political parties to convey their dissent in a constructive manner.

The Speaker's remarks came on a day when opposition members raised slogans and trooped to the Well of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha demanding discussion on the issue of indictment of industrialist Gautam Adani in a US court on bribery charges.

The sources said that the speaker urged members to follow the highest traditions of debate and dialogue in the House.



Birla referred to 75 years of adoption of the Constitution and recalled the glorious traditions of "high quality debates by our founding fathers in the constituent assembly", they said.

In view of the Constitution Day celebrations in Samvidhan Sadan on Tuesday, Birla urged the members of various political parties to engage in a meaningful dialogue.

President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to start the year-long celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution at a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan.

Sanganer open air camp: Rajasthan Government opposes contempt plea in SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan government on Monday opposed in the Supreme Court a plea accusing it of taking the area allotted to Sanganer open-air jail campus at Jaipur for the construction of a 300-bed hospital and termed it "sponsored litigation".

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan directed the registrar of the apex court to act as a court commissioner and submit a report after inspecting the site.

It was hearing a contempt plea alleging wilful disobedience by the Rajasthan authorities of the apex court's May 17 order which directed that there shall be no attempt to reduce the area of open-air camps/prisons functioning in the country.

Semi-open or open prisons allow convicts to work outside the premises during the day to earn a livelihood and return in the evening.

The concept was introduced to assimilate the convicts with society and reduce psychological pressure as they faced difficulties in leading normal lives outside.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for



Rajasthan, said the state has neither reduced nor there is any attempt to reduce the area of Sanganer open-air camp.

"This is the constituency of the chief minister (of Rajasthan) where there are interested people who do not want a hospital to come up," the top law officer said.

He said the plea had been filed by a "public-spirited man" from Assam.

Mehta said as per the government revenue records, the area allotted to the Sanganer open-air jail campus is around 1.78 hectares and neither the allotted area has been reduced nor there is any proposal or decision to reduce it.

He said the area allotted for the construction of a 300-bed government hospital was totally

outside the actual allotted area for the open-air prison.

When Mehta said it appeared to be a "sponsored litigation", the bench asked, "Who can be behind this? It is not as if that somebody has any commercial interest."

"I know the reason, I do not wish to say. Let us not go into it. The purpose is that direction of the court must be complied with," the solicitor general said.

"The hospital construction should not be stayed. That is the intended purpose," he said. Senior advocate S Muralidhar, appearing for the petitioner, said the open-air prison should be allowed to function as it is and nobody was objecting to the construction of the hospital.

Air quality improved in 97 out of 130 cities under NCAP since 2017-18: Environment Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Ninety-seven of the 130 cities targeted under the National Clean Air Programme have shown improvement in air quality as compared to 2017-18, with 55 recording more than 20 per cent reduction, the Environment Ministry said on Monday.

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Environment Minister Bhubendra Yadav said the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aims to reduce particulate matter (PM10) pollution by up to 40 per cent or achieving national air quality standards by 2025-26.

As of 2023-24, 97 of the 130 cities targeted have shown improvement in air quality as compared to 2017-18, with 55 recording reduction exceeding 20 per cent, the minister said.

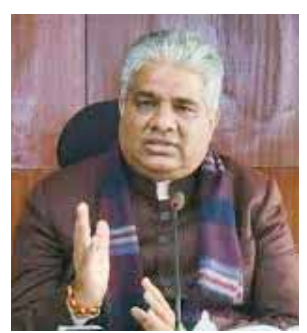
However, concerns about pollution remain in the coal mining regions, particularly in Jharkhand, he added.

Launched in January 2019 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, NCAP covers 130 cities across 24 states and Union Territories.

The programme has seen notable successes, with cities like Varanasi and Dhanbad achieving PM10 reductions of 68 per cent and 56 per cent, respectively, the ministry said.

These improvements have been supported by city-specific action plans targeting the sources of pollution such as vehicular emissions, road dust, and industrial pollution.

Financial backing under the 15th Finance Commission's Air Quality Performance Grants has been instrumen-



tal, with Rs 11,211.13 crore allocated between 2019-20 and 2023-24.

This funding has been complemented by resources from Central and state government initiatives, including the Smart City Mission and the Swachh Bharat Mission. In Jharkhand, the government has undertaken specific measures to combat pollution caused by coal mining operations.

These include constructing greenbelt-protected coal transport roads, installing mechanised transportation systems, and implementing continuous air quality monitoring.

However, despite these efforts, the challenges persist. For example, the key mining hubs of Dhanbad, Ranchi and Jamshedpur continue to struggle with pollution levels despite the allocation of Rs 279.44 crore under the NCAP for targeted interventions.

Steps like intensified regulatory oversight, installation of fog cannons, and dissemination of weekly air quality bulletins aim to enhance public awareness and accountability among the mining players.

However, more rigorous implementation of environmental compliance measures and public engagement will be critical to sustaining these gains.

VHP demands NSA against Sambhal violence perpetrators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday condemned the violence in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh and demanded those involved in the case be booked under the National Security Act.

VHP joint general secretary Surendra Jain also demanded that the culprits and their supporters be also booked under NSA and all of them should be made to compensate for the damage caused in the violence.

Three people were killed and scores of others, including around 20 security personnel and four personnel of the

administration, were injured as protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here clashed with police on Sunday. One injured person died on Monday.

"The way Muslim fundamentalists pelted stones on police, fired bullets and committed arson in Sambhal is highly condemnable. The way Muslim leaders, maulanas and many leaders of the Samajwadi party and the Congress, including Rahul Gandhi, have supported this violence is also worrisome," Jain said.

He alleged that the violence was carried out "at the behest of maulanas" and accused the Congress and Samajwadi



Party leaders of making "provocative statements." Jain added, "Rioters and their supporters should be booked under the NSA and arrested immediately.

All the losses caused by them should also be recovered from them."

Police on Monday said they have lodged seven FIRs in connection with the violence, naming Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal as accused.

Addressing a press conference, Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar said six people, including Barq and Iqbal, were named in these FIRs and 2,750 others have

been mentioned as unidentified.

"Due to Barq's statement earlier, the situation became worse here," he added.

The district administration has already imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders into Sambhal till November 30. Internet services are suspended in Sambhal tehsil and the district administration declared Monday a school holiday.

Tension has been brewing in Sambhal since November 19 when the local Jama Masjid was first surveyed on the court's orders following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple had stood at the site.

BIS in process of developing standards for 214 critical medical devices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

In line with the National Medical Device Policy, 2023 and aiming to address the growing need for reliable and affordable medical assistive technology, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is in the process of developing standards for 214 critical medical devices.

The national standards body is expected to develop standards for innovative products such as "therapeutic footwear, portable ramps, braille displays, and fall detectors". The standardisation will be developed by December 2025, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said on Monday.

The 214 critical medical devices, identified in consultation with the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), also "includes septal closure devices, plasma sterilisers, and phototherapy machines".



"BIS standards in this sector ensure that Indian medical devices are safe, effective, and globally competitive. These efforts build trust among healthcare providers, consumers, and international stakeholders while solidifying India's reputation as a leader in healthcare innovation," said the Ministry.

"By aligning with the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, and the National Medical Device Policy, 2023, BIS is proving to be instrumental in establishing a robust regulatory framework that prioritizes public safety while fostering innovation," it added.

Currently, there are over 1,700 standards for the medical sector, covering specialties such as cardiology, neurology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and more.

Of these, around 1,200 standards specifically focus on medical devices critical to healthcare.

This includes life-saving devices like cardiac pacemakers, heart valves, ventilators, and haemodialysis machines; advanced diagnostic tools like X-ray machines, CT scanners, MRI systems, and blood glucose monitors; and assistive technology tools like hearing aids, wheelchairs, Jaipur Foot, and tactile pathways for visually impaired individuals.

The ministry pointed out that dentistry has the maximum number of standards (249), followed by surgical disposables (205), orthopaedics (155), and assistive products (152). ENT (70), gynaecology (70), and cardiology (69) have the lowest number of standards.

The Teacher App
Elevating Teachers. Elevating India.

Chief Guest
Union Minister for Education

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday launched "The Teacher App" which has been developed by Bharti Airtel Foundation and is dedicated to the capacity building of teachers. Pradhan said Centre is leveraging innovation and technology for continuous capacity building of teachers in the spirit of new National Education Policy (NEP). Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Rakesh Bharti Mittal, top ministry officials amongst other stakeholders from education field were present on the occasion.

Kerala BJP finds no one responsible for poll loss



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It turned out to be a black Monday for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kerala as leaders came out in the open blaming each other for the crushing defeat suffered by the party candidate in the by-election held for the Palakkad Assembly constituency. While Prameela Sasidharan, the municipal chairperson of the BJP ruled Palakkad Municipality, blamed the state leadership for fielding C Krishnakumar as the party candidate, K Surendran, the Hindutva party's state chief, claimed that all the party candidates did exceptionally well in the hustings, even though the votes polled by them did not show any increase. "The candidates are selected and approved by the BJP high command and the state leaders have no role in the process," Surendran said, while speaking to reporters on Monday. He said there was no need for him to quit as the party chief though the party failed to poll even close to what E Sreedharan could

manage in the 2021 Assembly election from Palakkad. Former union minister V Muraliedharan washed off his hands from the Palakkad drubbing by claiming that he was busy with Maharashtra Assembly Election which the BJP-led alliance won with ease. "You may have to ask Kerala BJP chief about the reasons for the poor performance of the party candidates in the by elections held at Wayanad (Lok Sabha), Palakkad and Chelakkara (Assembly constituencies)," said Muraliedharan. There is widespread discontentment among the party's second rung leadership towards Surendran and Muraliedharan, according to Sasidharan. She said that despite their reservation over the fielding of Krishnakumar as a candidate from Palakkad, the entire party mechanism functioned like a well-oiled machine for his victory. But Krishnakumar failed miserably to reach the 35.34 per cent votes, which was what Sreedharan bagged in 2021 Assembly election

against Shafi Parambil of the Congress. Krishnakumar could poll just 28.63 per cent of the popular votes despite the high voltage campaign. Adding insult to injury was Prakash Javadekar, the in-charge of the Kerala affairs of the party. "The BJP will win many more seats in the 2026 Assembly election including Palakkad. We have done good work in the poll," said Javadekar. Interestingly, Javadekar had claimed during the run up to the Parliament election that he would see to it that the BJP wins a minimum of six seats from Kerala. Kerala's political chronicler, P Sujathan, says that since the present leaders have proved their all round incompetence, the BJP high command should launch a mission to find out and appoint new leadership. "The BJP leadership in the state is a blot on the people who are badly in need of a change from the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF). Both Surendran and Muraliedharan should be removed at the earliest to save the BJP," said Sujathan.

Rahul, Mamata, Tejashwi may attend Soren swearing in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ RANCHI

Top leaders of the INDIA bloc, including Congress's Rahul Gandhi and RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, may attend the swearing-in ceremony of the Hemant Soren government here on November 28, a senior leader of the party said on Monday. In a stunning comeback, Hemant Soren's JMM-led alliance on Saturday stormed to power in Jharkhand for a second consecutive term, winning 56 seats in the 81-member assembly, despite an all-out blitz by the BJP-led NDA, which managed only 24 seats. Soren retained Barhait seat by defeating BJP's Gamliyel Hembrom by a margin of 39,791 votes. "All top leaders of the INDIA bloc are being invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony at Morabadi Ground here on November

28. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress supreme Mamata Banerjee and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav are likely to attend the event," the Congress leader told PTI. As far as ministerial berths are concerned, in all likelihood, there may be four ministers from the grand old party as per the initial plans of one ministerial berth for every four seats won. JMM contested 43 seats and won 34, the highest-ever tally of the party in its history. The Congress got 16 seats, RJD four and the CPI (ML) secured two seats in the INDIA bloc. As per the arrangement, RJD may get one ministerial berth. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the oath-taking ceremony. Soren on Sunday met Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and staked claim to form the government, soon

after leaders of the INDIA bloc in the state unanimously elected him as the legislature party leader. He resigned as the chief minister, before staking claim to form the government. He will officiate as the acting chief minister till oath is administered to him on November 28. "I met the governor. We staked claim to form the government, and handed over support letter of alliance partners to him. He invited us to form the government. The swearing in ceremony will be held on November 28," Soren had told reporters after meeting Gangwar. Soren will be sworn in as the 14th chief minister of Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar on November 15, 2000. He will be sworn in as the chief minister for the fourth term. The majority mark in the state assembly is 41 seats.

India lauded for FATF ratings

PTI ■ INDORE

India was lauded for its efforts to implement measures against money laundering and terror financing on the first day of the 41st plenary meeting of Eurasian Group (EAG), which began in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Monday, an official said. During the five-day meeting, nine member countries, including India, will deliberate and chart out a road map to deal with the growing challenges of cybercrimes, money laundering and financing of terrorism, the official said. "In the first session of the meeting, representatives from member countries hailed India for getting the highest rating of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," said Vivek Agrawal, additional secretary, revenue department of the Ministry of Finance, who is representing India at the meet. He said the FATF placed India in the category of regular follow-up, the highest

rating given by the independent inter-governmental body after assessing India's efforts to implement measures to combat illegal activities such as money laundering and terror financing. Talking to reporters, Agrawal said that in the upcoming meetings, member countries will discuss issues such as money laundering, illegal transactions, terror financing, cybercrimes and their solutions. He said representatives of the fintech industry will also discuss the financial products that can trigger crime. Agrawal said that based on the discussions held for three days, member countries will adopt a resolution during the plenary session of the meeting. Public representatives, including Indore MP Shankar Lalwani, state urban development minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava and district magistrate Ashish Singh participated in the welcome session of the meet.

PM Modi to attend police chiefs conference in Bhubaneswar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to undertake a three-day visit to Odisha from November 29 to attend an all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar. He will arrive in Bhubaneswar on the night of November 29 and stay in Odisha till the afternoon of December 1, state Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan told reporters here on Monday. During his visit, the Prime Minister will attend the all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar.

TMC to break ranks with INDIA in order to corner BJP in Lok Sabha

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After sweeping the by-elections six-nil the Trinamool Congress (TMC) plans to steal a tactical march over the Congress by ensuring an atmosphere free of commotion in the Lok Sabha so that some issues can be debated and the government can be compelled to reply them. Taking part in a TMC National Working Committee (TMCNWC) meeting West Bengal (WB) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday spelt out a clear policy line for the elected representatives in Delhi, where "the honourable members will raise questions on a number of burning issues such as price rise, unemployment, national fertilizer policy, central deprivation of WB in rural housing scheme, non-payment of funds despite collecting GST from the

state," Chandrima Bhattacharya, the state finance minister said. Besides the party would also raise the "Manipur issue in Parliament as the ongoing violence has impacted the entire North East while the government has failed to contain it," the minister said. He added that instead of contributing to fireworks inside the House that was "expected in the Winter Session," the TMC would "try to ensure a situation where the burning questions can be raised and discussed so that the government can be forced to come out with comprehensive answers on these issues." When a related question was asked as to why TMC would not join the Monday's meeting attended by the of Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) constituents or whether her party would join the future

meetings the minister said such things had not been discussed in the TMCWC meeting. Bhattacharya also said that issues such as Adani or Waqf Bill were not discussed in the TMCNWC meeting. "No such issues were discussed in the meeting today because it was a national working committee meeting," she said. Apparently the TMC leader's statement airing Mamata Banerjee's policy line tended to indicate a new tactic to be adopted by the party inside the House, which is different from the one that could be adopted by INDIA partners. The new tactical stand point comes close on the heels of senior party MP Kalyan Banerjee advising the Congress to accept Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the INDIA alliance. "All the Opposition parties nationally should accept Mamata Banerjee as their

leader. Some parties should set aside their ego and accept Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the Opposition against the BJP," Kalyan Banerjee said. On whether the TMC's decision to walk a different path from the Congress was the result of the same outlook of projecting Mamata Banerjee as a more effective leader against the BJP, a senior leader and an MP said, "It has been repeatedly proved that she is the only person who can handle the BJP and none else. So it is time she should assume the centre stage." Back to the decisions taken in the TMCNWC, Bhattacharya also said that it has been decided that three senior MPs in Delhi Sudip Bandopadhyay, Derek O'Brien and Kakoli Ghoshastidar would constitute the disciplinary committee in Parliament.

Stalin inaugurates centre to provide rehab services to differently-abled persons

PNS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the 'Vizhuthugal-Integrated Service Centre' to provide health related rehabilitation services for differently-abled persons here on Monday. An initiative of the Department for the Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons under the World Bank assisted TN Rights project, Stalin inaugurated the one-stop centre at Kannagi Nagar in Sozhinganalur, the first facility out of the proposed 273 centres across the state. The TN Rights project aims delivering, "integrated and accessible services tailored to the individual needs of differently-abled persons either in their homes or in specialised vehicles for rehabilitation or in dedicated one stop centres," a statement said here. According to the government, this is the first time in the country that rehabilitation professionals of special education, optometry, audiology and speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational



therapy and psychological counselling are brought under a single roof to meet the chronic health-related rehabilitation service requirements exclusively for differently-abled persons. The services in the centre are only available in pre-assigned

time slots to the differently-abled persons identified in a field survey held during 2023-24. Those who wish to access the services will have to approach the community rehabilitation workers of TN Rights project. "This centre has been empanelled under

the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme." The centre has strategically placed surveillance cameras that ensure safety while protecting privacy and has all its restrooms equipped with panic buzzers.

Body of fisherman dead in Pak brought to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR

The body of a 31-year-old fisherman, who died in a Pakistani jail last month, was handed over to his family in his native village of Nanavada in Gujarat's Junagadh district, officials said on Monday. Haribhai Sosa, a resident of Porbandar, had been imprisoned in Karachi for over three years after he was apprehended by Pakistani security forces in early 2021. He was arrested near the international maritime border while fishing in the Arabian Sea. According to officials, Sosa died of heart failure on October 25 while in the jail in Karachi on October 25. The body was handed over to Indian authorities at the Attari border in Punjab and flown to Ahmedabad from where it was transported to Nanavada village by road on Sunday night.

Fewer Crorepati MLAs make it to Jharkhand Assembly

PTI ■ RANCHI

Eighty-nine per cent of the newly elected MLAs in Jharkhand are crorepatis, and Rameshwar Oraon of the Congress is the richest legislator with total assets worth Rs 42.20 crore, according to a report released on Monday. The Jharkhand Election Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysed the affidavits of 80, out of 81 winning candidates, and found that 71 newly elected MLAs in 2024 are crorepatis, which is 20 per cent higher than the number of such legislators elected in 2019. Of the 81 MLAs elected five years ago, 56 were crorepatis, and there were 41 in 2014, according to the report. Of the 71 'crorepati' MLAs this year, 28 are from JMM, 20 from BJP, 14 from Congress, four from RJD, two from CPI(ML) Liberation and one each from LJP (Ram Vilas), JD(U) and AJSU Party. The JMM won 34 assembly seats, and its allies Congress 16, RJD four and CPI(ML) Liberation two constituencies.



On the other hand, the BJP won 21 assembly segments, and its partners LJP (Ram Vilas), JD(U) and AJSU Party secured one each. The average of assets per winning candidate in the Jharkhand assembly elections in 2024 is Rs 6.90 crore and the same was Rs 3.87 crore in the 2019 elections. Among the winning candidates, Congress Lohardaga MLA Rameshwar Oraon is the richest with total assets of Rs 42.20 crore, the report said. BJP's Kushwaha Shashi Bhushan Mehta, who secured the Panki constituency, is the

second richest winning candidate with total assets of Rs 32.15 crore, while RJD's Sanjay Prasad Yadav, who bagged the Godda seat, is the third on the list with total assets of Rs 29.59 crore, according to it. Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha's (JLKM) Jai Ram Kumar Mahato, who won from Dumri seat, has the lowest assets worth around Rs 2.55 lakh. As many as 14 winning candidates have declared liabilities of Rs 1 crore and above, the report said. Altogether 42 MLAs have been re-elected and their average asset growth is Rs 2.71 crore in the last five years, it stated. As many as 28 winning candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between Class 8 and 12 pass, while 50 have an educational qualification of graduate and above, and one winner is a diploma holder, and another has declared himself just literate. The number of winning women candidates in the state assembly increased to 12 from 10.

Kerala POSCO report highlights lack of child safety in homes, schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOCHI

Instances of sexual abuse of children in Kerala are on an upward spiral, leaving them unsafe even in schools and homes. According to a report released by the Kerala State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights recently, 21 per cent of such cases were reported at children's homes, and four per cent in schools. The alarming revelations have prompted the state's child rights panel to raise awareness about child abuse among parents, teachers and police officers. "Out of 4,663 cases under Protection of

Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act analysed, 988 (21 per cent) incidents occurred in the children's homes, 725 (15 per cent) in the accused's homes, and 935 (20 per cent) in public places," it said. In the report, it was noted that in 173 cases, the crime took place in schools, 139 in vehicles, 146 at various other locations, and 166 incidents in isolated areas. Additionally, 60 cases were reported in hotels, 72 in friends' homes, 73 in religious institutions, 16 in hospitals, and eight per cent in childcare institutions. However, in 791 (17 per cent) cases, information about the

crime was not available, the report added. In 2023, a total of 4,663 POCSO cases were reported across Kerala. According to police data, Thiruvananthapuram district recorded the highest number of cases, while Pathanamthitta district had the lowest, the report said. Of the 4,663 POCSO cases reported in the year, 4,701 ere survivors, indicating that many cases involved more than one victim. "This highlights the need to educate children about the POCSO Act and child-friendly procedures, along with providing them self-defense training," the report stated. As per the figures, the cases

are on the rise as 3,322 cases were reported in 2021 and 4,583 in 2022. It was 3,616 cases in 2019 and 3,030 in 2020. The Commission found that, out of 4,582 cases analysed during the specified period, involving 5,002 accused individuals, the relationship between the child victims and the accused was categorised as follows: 873 were known to the children, 631 were neighbours, 439 were family members, 435 were relatives, 477 were friends, 692 were romantic partners, 210 were teachers, 305 were strangers, 896 were undocumented or unidentified, and 36 were van, bus, or auto drivers. This

data underscores that the safety, protection, and well-being of children can only be effectively ensured if parents, relatives, society, police, and the government diligently fulfill their responsibilities without failure, the report added. Of the 4,701 victims reported during the year, 3,972 (85 per cent) were girls, while 659 (14 per cent) were boys. Gender information was unavailable for 70 children (one per cent), as it was not included in the report submitted to the Commission by the police. The data highlights that girls are disproportionately vulnerable to sexual assault. Raising concerns of the

children who survived sexual abuse, 73 (two per cent) were aged four to six, 423 (nine per cent) were aged five to nine, 1,574 (39 per cent) were aged 10 to 14, and 1,929 (48 per cent) were aged 15 to 18. Besides, two (0.03 per cent) children with unclear or undocumented ages were also victims. This highlights the need for parents and guardians to focus on enhancing children's ability to respond to uncomfortable situations and providing age-appropriate safety awareness. KV Manoj Kumar, Chairperson of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said the commission is now

focused on raising awareness about child abuse as part of the recommendations outlined in the report. "As children are being abused in their homes and public places, society has the responsibility to prevent this. To address this, we have provided training for Kudumbashree workers on the Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO Act, child rights, and good parenting in seven districts of the state, and it will continue in the remaining districts," Kumar told PTI. Besides, we provided awareness for child protection committee members in block panchayats, teachers, parents

and police officials, he said. Nazeer Chaliyem, former member of the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said the government should intervene and initiate the necessary measures to address the issues highlighted by the commission in the report. "As per Section 16 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the report should be laid before the state Assembly along with the recommendations and the action taken by the commission, so that the government can initiate the required measures for the redressal of the matters raised in it," he told



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Celebrating Constitution Day

The Indian Constitution is not just a legal document; it is the soul of the nation, guiding India through its complexities

Every year, on November 26, India celebrates Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1949, a landmark event that laid the foundation for India's democratic ethos. As we reflect on this momentous occasion, it is imperative to understand the making, functioning and future challenges of this legal document that has been the guiding force for the world's largest democracy, India. The drafting of the Indian Constitution was an extraordinary achievement, considering the diversity and complexities of India. Following independence in 1947, the Constituent Assembly, comprising 299 members, undertook the monumental task of framing a constitution for a newly liberated yet diverse nation. Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, chaired the drafting committee, ensuring that the document reflected justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity. The Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete the drafting process, during which it conducted exhaustive debates and deliberations. Drawing inspiration from the constitutions of various nations, such as the United States, Ireland and Canada, the Indian Constitution incorporated the best practices while tailoring them to Indian realities.



On January 26, 1950, the Constitution came into effect, marking the birth of the Republic of India. The Indian Constitution, with its 448 articles, 12 schedules and numerous amendments, is one of the most detailed constitutions in the world. Its core strength lies in its 'flexibility' and 'adaptability.' While being rigid in its foundational principles, it allows amend-

ments to address evolving socio-political challenges. Since its adoption, the Constitution has guided the nation through numerous challenges, including partition, economic crises, and social upheavals, ensuring continuity and stability. Despite its success, the Indian Constitution faces several challenges. India faces growing tensions between the Centre and states over resource allocation, legislative powers and administrative autonomy, while concerns about judicial activism and transparency persist despite the judiciary's role as a constitutional custodian. Issues such as money power, criminalisation of politics and declining voter turnout demand urgent reforms. At the same time, caste-based discrimination, gender inequality and regional disparities continue to undermine the nation's progress, despite constitutional safeguards. Balancing individual freedoms with national security has become increasingly challenging in the digital age. As India approaches its centenary as a Republic, there is a pressing need to reaffirm commitment to the Constitution's ideals by strengthening institutions for accountability and transparency, fostering participatory democracy, upholding the secular and pluralistic ethos and ensuring that constitutional amendments preserve its core principles.

PICTALK



Visitors at a stall at the International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi

Samvidhan Divas: A tribute to India's democratic vision



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Rooted in the Gandhian principles the Indian Constitution continues to guide the world's largest democracy in fostering a harmonious and equitable society

Constitution Day, known as 'Samvidhan Divas' in Hindi, is celebrated annually on November 26 in India. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution, which was formally approved by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. It later came into effect on January 26, 1950, marking the birth of India as a sovereign democratic republic.

In 2015, the Government of India officially recognised November 26 as Constitution Day through a gazette notification issued on November 19. This followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement during the foundation-laying ceremony of the 'B R Ambedkar Statue of Equality' memorial in Mumbai on October 11, 2015.

As India marks the 75th anniversary of the Constitution in 2024, it is a moment to reflect on this transformative document, which serves as the bedrock of the nation's democracy and inclusivity.

The Vision Behind the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution is more than a legal charter; it is a visionary framework that upholds the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It reflects the collective aspirations of a diverse population, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of truth, non-violence, and grassroots empowerment. Gandhi's ideals of swaraj (self-rule) emphasised moral values, social equity and the welfare of all, which deeply influenced the Constitution's framers. Although Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar had differences on certain issues, they shared a commitment to social justice and local self-governance. This shared vision is evident in foundational aspects of the Constitution, such as the Preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties.

The Preamble: Soul of the Constitution

The Preamble encapsulates the essence of the Constitution, emphasising ideals like justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. These values resonate with Gandhi's



lifelong struggle against colonial oppression and social inequality. Historian Judith Brown aptly stated, "Gandhi's struggle was not just for legal justice but for ethical and humanistic justice that transcends caste, creed and gender." The Preamble remains a guiding light for India's pursuit of a just and inclusive society.

Directive Principles: A Vision for Social Equity

Part IV of the Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy, articulates a vision of economic equity, social justice, and upliftment of marginalised communities. Gandhi's influence is evident in provisions like Article 40, which advocates for the Panchayati Raj system, and Article 43, promoting cottage industries. Historian Anthony Parel observed that these principles are "the most visible articulation of Gandhi's socio-economic vision aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring dignity."

Fundamental Duties: Rights and Responsibilities

Mahatma Gandhi emphasised the interconnectedness of rights and duties, asserting that rights derive their meaning from duties well-performed. Reflecting this philosophy, the 42nd Amendment introduced Fundamental Duties in 1976. These duties, such as fostering harmony, protecting the environment, and upholding the dignity of women, align closely with Gandhian principles of non-



AS INDIA MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION IN 2024, IT IS A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THIS TRANSFORMATIVE DOCUMENT, WHICH SERVES AS THE BEDROCK OF THE NATION'S DEMOCRACY AND INCLUSIVITY

violence, ecological stewardship, and gender equality. Gandhi's timeless reminder, "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed," underlines the importance of responsible citizenship.

Gandhian Values in a Modern Context

As India navigates contemporary challenges, the values rooted in Gandhian philosophy remain profoundly relevant. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, in "The Idea of Justice," highlights that justice involves removing barriers that prevent marginalised communities from realizing their potential. Gandhi's vision of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) aligns with this principle, urging inclusive growth and equitable resource distribution.

In geopolitics, Gandhi's commitment to peace and Ahimsa (non-violence) resonates globally. His campaigns, from the Salt March to the Quit India Movement, demonstrated how unity and empowerment can coexist in a diverse society. Historian Ramachandra Guha remarked, "Gandhi's idea of fraternity, rooted in empathy and non-violence, offers a moral compass for modern democracy."

Decentralized Governance

A cornerstone of Gandhi's political thought was decentralised governance. He believed true democracy could only be achieved by empowering local communi-

ties. The Panchayati Raj system, enshrined in the Constitution, embodies this vision. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi's initiatives, such as 'Vocal for Local' and 'Viksit Bharat 2047,' echo Gandhi's principle of 'Gram Swaraj'. These programmes aim to promote local entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and self-reliance, elevating India's global stature while empowering its citizens.

The Role of Citizens and Media

Democracy thrives on active citizen participation. Voting, engaging in public discourse, and addressing civic issues are essential for robust democratic institutions. Equally crucial is the media's role as the fourth estate, providing checks and balances while safeguarding the freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution. Exercising this freedom responsibly ensures accountability and transparency in governance.

A Living Document for a Dynamic Nation

The Indian Constitution, inspired by Gandhian principles, remains a living document that harmonizes individual aspirations with collective well-being. Its relevance extends beyond legal frameworks, addressing issues such as social justice, environmental conservation, and global leadership.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Smriti; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP'S STRONG COMEBACK

Madam — In just five months, the momentum in Indian politics has shifted dramatically. Following the BJP's underwhelming performance in the last Parliament elections, questions were raised about its durability and PM Modi's pan-national acceptability. Now, it's the opposition INDIA bloc that is looking fragile. The reason for the shift is a series of unexpected electoral reverses suffered by the INDIA bloc. The most significant of these setbacks occurred in Maharashtra, the second most consequential state in the Indian union. By handing the NDA a mammoth victory, Maharashtra voters have given the alliance a pretext to dismiss the Lok Sabha election jolt as an aberration. A reversal triggered more by a "fake narrative" spun by a desperate Opposition than any discernible anti-incumbency. In Maharashtra, the BJP with allies not only smashed a five-decade-old electoral record, but it has also come astonishingly close to winning the election on its own steam. The party has been able to reunite its coalition of disparate castes. Add to this, the BJP has been better able to present itself as the emissary of "political nationalism and economic welfarism." Meanwhile, this victory is a stepping stone to the validation it needs to push ahead with its governance agenda.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

GENDER BIAS IN THE US POLITICS

Madam — The United States is not ready for a woman president, as was evident in the just-concluded elections. There is little doubt that American voters have gendered biases that factored into their votes, both in the 2016 and 2024 elections. Both Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris faced off against Trump under different circumstances and with different strategies. But the result was the same for both candidates. Another way of looking at the impact of gender is to compare how Harris did among women voters in comparison with Hillary Clinton, whose lead over Trump among women voters was 13 points in 2016. Eight years later now, Kamala Harris'

Kohli breaks Tendulkar's record



Team India's superstar King Kohli back in form after he reached his 30th century at the Opus Stadium, Perth. The Border-Gavaskar Trophy seems to be the redemption of pride for India after the worst loss in the home series. The year 2024 in Virat Kohli's career has been low while Kohli scored only one fifty in his 13 innings so far. By reaching this milestone of his 30th ton in

his 203rd innings across 119 tests, it was his seventh in Australia, breaking the record of six hundreds by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar in the format of this game. By this century, Kohli has equalled his record with Wally Hammond for the most test hundreds in Australia by a visiting batter, and Jack Hobbs holds the highest record of nine test centuries down under which one can be sure is in the mind of Virat to cross the figure during this series.

While India is in the driver's seat in the first test and assured of a win at the moment for the fans' delight, one hopes that Kohli may come out with many more flying kisses at different venues to cheer Anushka and his fans with his inimitable style of batting prowess.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

lead over Trump was only eight points. In other words, Harris lost support among women voters who had previously voted for a woman candidate. Neither Hillary Clinton nor Harris succeeded in winning a majority of American men. In fact, out of the nine nuclear powers in the world, only Britain, Israel, India and Pakistan have elected women to the top job. Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto were daughters of powerful political fathers in dynastic democracies. Sexism and racism, inextricably woven into the culture of American politics, played a central role in 2016 and 2024 against women candidates getting elected as presidents. Under the Trump regime 2.0, this scenario could also reflect in the next election in the US.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urapakkam

ADDRESS FARMERS' DISTRESS

Madam — It is indeed a matter of concern that the distress of the farmers is not attended to with the amount of seriousness it requires. The agri sector that was contributing to the tune of more than 50 per cent to the GDP of the nation at the time the

nation attained independence is now reduced to a deplorable level of contribution, hardly 14 per cent.

The Green Revolution has helped in increasing the yield but the other aspects of the farmers, like input cost, subsidies and MSP, in spite of being vital, are not considered favourably but changes are made hostile to the farmers' needs and benefits. The policies of the successive governments are focusing on the industrial sector. A lot of incentives, like concessions, exemptions, and extending huge loans to write off or waive off, and PLI are extended to the industrial sector, though the desired results, like a substantial increase in employment and exports, are not forthcoming. Such apathy in the approach of the government towards agriculture has resulted in millions of farmers resorting to suicide, getting plunged in unbearable debt and small farmers deserting their fields and seeking livelihood in cities.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Lessons from childhood, family and experiences

The past shapes our present. The present is past the next moment, to make way for the future. We are left with memories which also teach us invaluable lessons

I was also a mischievous child like any other young boy my age. I was assured of a haven, hiding behind my grandmother, whenever my parents were inclined to scold me. She would then counsel my parents to be more indulgent, simultaneously telling us to be particular about our behaviour.

I recall another memory from childhood. Our return home from school coincided with my mother's siesta. We would tiptoe into the house, careful not to disturb her. One afternoon I was excited enough to wake her to tell her about my outstanding results in the examinations. Still groggy, she hugged and blessed me, before continuing with her sleep. I still cannot forget her spontaneous reaction, even though I had interrupted her much needed rest.

My father was short-tempered in his younger days. He usually rested and slept on Sunday afternoons. We tried to be as quiet as children could be. One day, we might have been noisier than usual, and ended up soundly thrashed by him. Later in the evening, I witnessed a different facet of my father's per-



sonality. He gruffly apologized for having hurt me. I learnt an important lesson. There is no shame in accepting your mistake. I remember the day I met the young girl who became my wife and life partner in the next few months. I also remember I had eyes only for her during the wedding reception. Those were the heady days before we buckled up to the serious business of making a life together. We have been married for 40 years. These have not been easy decades, faced with the harsh realities of life. We never give up, whatever the setbacks. We work towards the common goal of leading a happy and contented life together. There is respect, and a recognition of the need

for space for each to evolve as an individual.

Another nostalgic memory is from a long-ago holiday to Puri. Our guest house was a couple of hundred meters from the seashore. Our daughters were much younger. I was, and continue to be, a protective father, worrying about their safety. That one day, I sat on the veranda, fondly looking at the two children playing on the beach. I was proud of their happiness as they shrieked with joy creating something with sand.

My mother kept a copy of Ramcharitmanas in her prayer corner. I read somewhere that you could find a solution to any problem from the epic. All you had to do was open any page, and the

top line would help you find ways to tackle your most pressing issue. I also tried it sometimes. I learnt that I could not always tackle situations through conventional thinking while navigating the complex labyrinths of life. Fair play, guiding the team members, impartiality, giving undivided time to team members however busy you might be, empathy, working for the team, pride in the performance of the team members, and out-of-box thinking, were only a few of the invaluable lessons that my experiences taught me. They have stood me in good stead through the rough and tumble of life.

The words of psychiatrist, Abraham Twerski would resonate with many, "Ruminating about the past will get you nowhere. So go ahead and learn from the past whatever you can, and then put it behind you. Remember, there is nothing you can do to change it, but you can use its lessons to improve your future."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA



FIRST COLUMN

CORPORATE CAREWASHING

Many organisations falsely present themselves as socially responsible



SAKSHI SETHI

Nowadays we often see that companies are engaged towards launching mental health awareness campaigns while maintaining toxic work environments or failing to provide meaningful employee support; at times companies celebrate diversity during cultural moments without addressing systemic inequities, such as unequal pay or a lack of diverse leadership. But the question arises are the employees getting benefitted or are still victims?

In an age where ethical responsibility and social consciousness are increasingly demanded of corporations, governments and individuals, a troubling phenomenon termed carewashing has emerged. The term refers to the practice of falsely presenting an organisation, business or individual as socially or ethically responsible, particularly in areas of caregiving or support, to improve their reputation or deflect criticism. Much like its environmental counterpart greenwashing, carewashing also exploits emotional appeals to mask the absence of genuine commitment to caregiving causes.

Several factors such as modern consumers increasingly seeking brands that align with their values, create pressure for organisations to appear socially conscious or social platforms that provide both positive as well as failures, thereby encouraging companies to capitalise on social causes for visibility and if that not enough then such organisations outshine its competitors by attracting customers and talent with minimal invest-



ment in genuine reform contribute to the rising of carewashing. While these pressures reflect positive shifts in societal values, they also incentivise performative actions over authentic efforts. It is believed that when carewashing is exposed, it damages trust between organisations and their stakeholders as it is often when the dissonance between claims and actions becomes apparent. Employees who witness discrepancies between an organisation's statements and its actions often feel disillusioned.

This alienation leads to reduced morale, engagement and retention, especially among those drawn to the organisation by its purported values. Quiet often we hear once the trust is lost, rebuilding it is a slow and costly process. Exposure to carewashing through whistleblowers, investigative journalism, or public criticism can lead to significant reputational harm. By co-opting social causes for profit, carewashing trivializes important issues, potentially reducing the urgency of addressing them authentically. To counteract carewashing, organisations must prioritise authenticity and accountability. This involves providing measurable, verifiable data on social and environmental efforts rather than vague claims; including employees in shaping policies and initiatives to ensure alignment with internal realities; conducting regular audits and feedback loops that will help organisations stay true to their commitments and correct shortcomings and public statements should be backed by tangible actions, such as policy changes or resource allocation.

There is no denying that carewashing is a symptom of the growing demand for ethical behaviour in business and society, but it represents a shortcut that sacrifices trust and authenticity for superficial gains. While it may offer short-term visibility, its long-term consequences are overwhelmingly negative, eroding credibility and alienating stakeholders. Organisations must recognise that true social responsibility requires meaningful actions, transparency and a commitment to sustained progress. Only by moving beyond carwashing can businesses and institutions genuinely contribute to a better world while earning the loyalty and respect of their communities.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Food subsidy: Go for direct transfer to curb leakages



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite extensive measures implemented by the government, including digitisation, pilferage persists, revealing systemic flaws in how food subsidies are administered

According to a Study titled 'Rationalising Public Distribution System in India' done by the Indian Council For Research On International Economic Relations (ICRIER), there was grain leakage under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) of 20 million tons (17 million ton of rice and 3 million ton of wheat) which is 28 per cent of the 71 million ton of grain off-take by states (that included 52 million ton of rice and 19 million ton wheat) during August 2022 - July 2023. The Study estimates the annual fiscal cost of this leakage to be around Rs 70,000 crore. Under the PMGKAY, the Union Government asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organise its distribution to around 820 million people for free. The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farmers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kilograms of cereals per person per month to the remaining 700 million) at a heavily subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In addition, since April 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PMGKAY to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From January 1, 2023, it merged the free part of PMGKAY with the regular food security schemes under NFSA. Now, food is available to all 820 million beneficiaries for free under the new incarnation of NFSA, the PMGKAY. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in November 2023, this arrangement will continue for five years until the end of CY 2028. During the financial year (FY) 2022-23, the Centre's expenditure on food subsidy was Rs 272,000 crore. Apart from expenses under PMGKAY for the whole of that FY, this amount also included the subsidy on food grain given under NFSA at the subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals from April to December 2022. Within this total expenditure, how much money was lost due to pilferage? How does the Study reach Rs 70,000 crore? The authors look at the 'economic cost' (EC) of rice and wheat. This is the MSP paid to farmers plus HDC. During 2022-23, this was Rs 36.7 per kg or Rs 36,700 per ton for rice and Rs 25.9 per kg or Rs 25,900 per ton for wheat. Multiply the pilfered quantity of rice 17 million tons by its EC, we get the cost of its pilferage Rs 62,390 crore. Likewise, multiply 3 million tons of pilfered wheat by its EC, and the cost comes to Rs 7770 crore. Thus, the total cost was around Rs 70,000 crore. This



Representational Image: Pradeep Gaur/ANI

is around 26 per cent of the food subsidy expenditure of Rs 272,000 crore for 2022-23. Taken as a percentage of the subsidy given under PMGKAY alone (the budget doesn't provide this figure; a back-of-the-envelope calculation using annual off-take of 55 million tons, EC for rice and wheat given above and their use in 75:25 ratio, yields Rs 187,000 crore), this is much higher at 37 per cent.

How has the Study arrived at the quantum of leakage?

The Study picked up monthly off-take (albeit "reported") data from the FCI from August 2022 to July 2023 and saw this in juxtaposition with "actual household consumption levels" taken from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23. While the former was taken as an approximation for the quantity of food grain sent for distribution amongst the PMGKAY beneficiaries, the latter was taken as a proxy of the quantity received.

Based on the above comparison, it was concluded that as against 52.4 million tons of rice that were sent, 35.7 million tons were received suggesting a shortfall of 16.7 million tons. Likewise, against 19 million tons of wheat that was sent, 16 million tons were received pointing toward a shortfall of 3 million tons. Thus, a total of 19.7 million tons or close to 20 million tons was pilfered from the public distribution system (PDS). But, there is a flaw in such a comparison.

At the Off-take level, it can't be surmised that the quantities that

left the FCI warehouses and were picked up by states were 'entirely' meant for PDS stocks to be used for distribution (actual consumption) by the PMGKAY beneficiaries.

Off-take figures also include food stocks in transit, buffer stock, operational reserves and cereals set aside for social welfare schemes and commercial sales by the government. Each of these serves a specific purpose. For instance, 'buffer stock' refers to a strategic stock for smoothening out price fluctuations —buying a commodity when the price is low and releasing it in the market when the price is high. Likewise, 'operational reserves' are kept as a backstop which can be used quickly in the case of an unplanned event/emergency. Similarly, stock in transit can't be considered as part of food grain meant for PDS consumption within a given time frame.

The quantities meant for all such purposes need to be excluded from the grains that left FCI warehouses and only the net figure available for PDS consumption should be compared with actual household consumption levels as read from the Consumption surveys. It seems, the Study hasn't done it. This is also corroborated by the fact that the annual distribution of free food for PMGKAY beneficiaries is normally 55 million tons; against this, the Study uses 71 million tons.

At the beneficiary's end also, the actual household consumption level includes cereal consumed from multiple sources, such as

private purchases or state-specific schemes and not just the quantities available under PMGKAY etc. Therefore, it won't be on all fours to directly correlate with PDS off-take.

To conclude, there are leakages from the PDS though not on a scale indicated by the Study. Its root cause has to do with how food subsidy is administered. Under the extant system, the subsidy is built into the price which under this Scheme is Zero. Herein lies the rub.

The availability of a mammoth of around 55 million tons (the quantity distributed under the PMGKAY) in the supply chain with zero price tag is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah. However, foolproof one may make the system (Modi - government has done an exemplary job getting PoS (point of sale machines) installed at 530,000 fair price shops across the country; digitisation of supply chain from procurement to distribution; authentication of beneficiaries with their Aadhaar numbers and so on), as long as subsidy is routed through the State agencies, unscrupulous characters will always find ways to circumvent even the best of technology interventions aimed at curbing pilferage. Pilferage can be eliminated only when the government gives subsidies directly to the beneficiaries and allows the food markets to function competitively and efficiently.

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



'BUFFER STOCK' REFERS TO A STRATEGIC STOCK FOR SMOOTHENING OUT PRICE FLUCTUATIONS—BUYING A COMMODITY WHEN THE PRICE IS LOW AND RELEASING IT IN THE MARKET WHEN THE PRICE IS HIGH

Addressing rural housing challenges in India: A case study of PMAY-G

PMAY-G has transformed rural housing in India, delivering not just shelter but also dignity and opportunity to millions

Housing is a fundamental challenge for rural India, where a significant portion of households live in kutcha structures made of non-durable materials such as mud and bamboo. These homes are highly vulnerable to harsh weather conditions, exposing residents to risks and uncertainties. Recognising this, the Indian government launched the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) as part of its commitment to achieving "Housing for All".



JEEVANT RAMPAL

or dilapidated structures. As of October 2024, PMAY-G has facilitated the construction of 2.67 crore houses, marking a significant milestone in its progress. However, this raises critical questions: Will this initiative truly ensure housing for all? How effectively does it address rural India's housing challenges? Leveraging Technology for Quality and Oversight

A cornerstone of PMAY-G's success lies in its use of technology to enhance construction quality and ensure transparency in disbursement. One notable component is the 'Rural Mason Training (RMT) Program', developed in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation. The programme has trained 2.81 lakh masons, equipping them with the skills to deliver high-quality construction while fostering local expertise. This initiative not only improves housing quality but also accelerates construction. For instance, over 40 lakh houses were built in 2021-22, with the number surpassing 50 lakh in 2022-23, breaking all previous records. Further, the program prioritises disaster-resilient designs, supported

by tools like the 'Pahal Compendium'. This resource offers diverse, region-specific house designs incorporating disaster-resilient features. Complementing the compendium is an app that provides 3D visualisations of recommended house designs, ensuring practicality and accessibility.

Transformative Impact on Beneficiaries PMAY-G's impact extends beyond physical housing. Recent research highlights its role in improving living conditions, access to infrastructure, and overall wellbeing. Beneficiaries have reported enhanced social status, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging—factors that potentially reduce distress migration. A key feature of the programme



is its focus on marginalised groups, promoting transparency and ensuring female co-ownership, thereby empowering women. The initiative has also significantly contributed to rural employment. Each house constructed under PMAY-G generates approximately 314 person-days of work, distributed among skilled (81 days), semi-skilled (71 days), and unskilled (164 days) labour. This

employment impact is further amplified by integration with the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-REGS)'. The quality of training under the RMT programme is evident, with certified masons even securing overseas employment opportunities. Such achievements underscore PMAY-G's dual focus on immediate housing needs and long-term skill development.

Comprehensive Programme Integration

One of PMAY-G's standout features is its integration with other government schemes to improve beneficiaries' overall quality of life. This includes: - Toilets through 'Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)' - LPG connections via 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala

Yojana (PMUY)' **Ensuring Transparency and Fairness**

Transparency in beneficiary selection is another critical strength of PMAY-G. Beneficiaries are identified using the 'Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011' and 'Awaas+ 2018' lists, verified through Gram Sabhas and an appellate process. The program also uses the 'Awaas+2024 Mobile App', which enables households to self-survey and update their housing status. Recently, facial recognition systems were introduced to further improve oversight, ensuring fairness and reducing fraudulent claims.

Global Scale and Ambitions: PMAY-G Despite its notable success, PMAY-G faces sever-

al challenges that need attention. A significant issue is the lack of awareness among many eligible beneficiaries, particularly in remote areas, about the programme's eligibility criteria, highlighting the need for better information dissemination. Additionally, the program would benefit from stronger feedback mechanisms to address potential blind spots and improve implementation efficiency. Another concern is the uneven progress across states, with some exceeding their targets while others fall behind. Achieving balanced implementation will require greater political consensus and more equitable resource allocation.

(The writer is faculty, IIM Ahmedabad; views are personal)

Hezbollah ceasefire deal could come 'within days'

AP ■ JERUSALEM/DUBAI

The Israeli ambassador to Washington says that a cease-fire deal to end fighting between Israel and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah could be reached "within days."



Residents gather in front of a destroyed building that was hit Sunday night in an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon

Among the issues that remain is an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations under the emerging deal. The deal seeks to push Hezbollah and Israeli troops out of southern Lebanon.

'NETANYAHU SHOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH'

Iran's supreme leader has suggested that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should be "sentenced to death" for his role in the ongoing wars in the Gaza Strip against Hamas and in Lebanon.

"What the Zionist regime did in Gaza and Lebanon is not a victory, it is a war crime. Now they have issued a warrant for their arrest. This is not enough!" Khamenei said, according to remarks published by the state-run IRNA news agency.

'Israeli strike that killed 3 Lebanese journalists most likely deliberate'

AP ■ BEIRUT

An Israeli airstrike that killed three journalists and wounded others in Lebanon last month was most likely a deliberate attack on civilians and an apparent war crime, an international human rights group said on Monday.

The group said the US government should suspend weapons transfers to Israel because of the military's repeated "unlawful attacks on civilians, for which US officials may be complicit in war crimes."

well as Israel," said Richard Weir, the senior crisis, conflict and arms researcher at Human Rights Watch. Weir added that "the Israeli military's previous deadly attacks on journalists without any consequences give little hope for accountability in this or future violations against the media."

UAE arrests three Uzbek nationals for killing of rabbi

AP ■ DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates said on Monday police arrested three Uzbek nationals for the killing of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi.

It wasn't immediately clear if the three men had lawyers in the UAE, an autocratically ruled nation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula. The Uzbek Consulate in Dubai did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding the arrests.

Iraq's population grew to 45.4 million according to first survey in decades

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Preliminary results from an Iraqi national census, the first in nearly 40 years, show that the population has grown to 45.4 million, the prime minister said on Monday.

also fear that a documented decline in their numbers will bring decreased political influence and fewer economic benefits in the country's sectarian power-sharing system.

Imran supporters march towards Islamabad amid crackdown

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Thousands of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers, led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, were moving towards Islamabad on Monday as the top party leaders met

ing with Imran Khan on Monday in Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala Jail, where the former premier is lodged since last year.



Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, burn bushes to reduce the impact of tear gas shells fired by police officers to disperse them during a rally demanding Khan's release, at a motorway in Ghazi in Attock district, Pakistan

Chief Minister Gandapur urged party members to move forward, declaring, "We must advance and not turn back until Khan is released."

husband's release. "We will not end this march till Imran is not with us," she said while addressing supporters at a stop near the Hazara Interchange.

voxy's location in a post on X at 1:33 pm, saying they had reached Hassanabdal.

ing equipment and other heavy machines worked their way by removing hurdles, but it skittled their speed and plans.

Cargo plane crashes, killing Spanish crew member

AP ■ VILNIUS

A DHL cargo plane crashed on approach to an airport in Lithuania's capital and skidded into a house Monday morning, killing a Spanish crew member but not harming anyone on the ground.

is under investigation. A surveillance video showed the plane descending normally as it approached the airport before sunrise, and then exploding into a huge ball of fire behind a building.

Western security officials suspect that Russian intelligence is carrying out sabotage against their nations in retaliation for their support for Ukraine — including arson attacks, disinformation and by putting incendiary devices in packages on cargo planes.

other cases of sabotage — although they stressed that there is no evidence pointing to that yet.

Aircraft Accident Investigation would be sent to Lithuania to help with the investigation. Officials there also cautioned against trying to draw conclusions before all the evidence has been examined.

Court acquits S Korean opp leader on charges of instigating perjury

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung was acquitted on Monday on charges that he persuaded a witness to lie in court to undermine Lee's past criminal conviction, in a rare moment of relief from broad legal troubles that threaten to derail his political career.

month sentenced Lee to a suspended prison term for violating election law by making false public statements while running for president in the 2022 election, which he narrowly lost to conservative rival Yoon Suk Yeol.

whether the Supreme Court would decide on any of the cases before the vote in March 2027. The ruling Monday at the Seoul court was about whether Lee pressured a former employee of Seongnam city into giving false testimony in court in 2019.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

- 01/OSD(DP)/PG CELL/2024-25 Rs. 37.23 Lacs
- 02/OSD(DP)/RECEPTION/2024-25 Rs. 42.84 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 02-12-2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 03-12-2024 at 11.00 AM.

"महत्वपूर्ण सूचना-
नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विधीन प्रॉविजंस या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्ध निर्माण पूरी तरह अद्वेष है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अद्वेष कॉलोनिओ एवं अद्वेष निर्माण बवनों में भूखण्डों/अपार्टमेंट/दुकान/गोडाऊन/फार्महाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाईजर् के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचे। साथ ही नौराजा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिण्डन एवं यमुना नदियों के सूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनधिकृत/अद्वेष प्रॉक्ट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में सलियन भूमकियाओं के चंगुल में न फसे।"

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sakshi Arora W/o Sh. Anil Arora R/o WZ-554A third floor, Street No. 20, Shiv Nagar, B-2 Janakpuri New Delhi-110058, solemnly affirm that I have changed my name from Neelam Puri to Sakshi Arora and my father name Stands changed from Sh. Subhash Chander Puri to Subhash Puri Which is reflected in my school certificate.

PD(972)C

Education, opportunities pull Indian students to US univs

Washington (PTI): Globalisation, enormous opportunities in the US and a large Indian diaspora are the main attractions for students from India coming to America for higher education, especially in STEM, according to educationists.

University, told PTI in an interview. A recent report by the International Educational Exchange revealed that last year, India surpassed China as the top place of origin for international students, with a record 3,31,602 Indian students in the US in 2023-2024.

many Indians have come here and gotten their education. Some of them have stayed at least for a while and have had enormous success," Krislov said.

are two fundamental reasons for this. "One, from a US educational perspective, the quality of the Indian students is extraordinarily high. Close to about 60 per cent of them, about 2,00,000 of them are in the graduate programmes in the US out of the 3,30,000 (Indian students in the US)."

interview. "The second broader reason is from the US perspective. When you think about the two major countries, it has been China and India. Roughly about 60 per cent of the student base in the US international student base comes from these two countries. Obviously, over the last few years, there has been a very strong relationship between the Indian government and the US government and it has not been the same (with China). That is actually what is accounting for this disparity, if you will," he added.

Leftist opp candidate Orsi becomes new president of Uruguay

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

Uruguay's leftist opposition candidate, Yamandu Orsi, became the country's new president in a tight runoff Sunday, ousting the conservative governing coalition and making the South American nation the latest to rebuke the incumbent party in a year of landmark elections worldwide.

Even as the vote count continued, Alvaro Delgado, the presidential candidate for the center-right ruling coalition, conceded defeat to his challenger while surrounded by sullen-looking family members and colleagues. "The country of liberty, equality and fraternity has triumphed once again," Orsi said to sprawling crowds of supporters that waved flags and shouted their support. "I will be the president who calls for national dialogue again and again, who builds a more integrated society and country."

As initial exit polls began showing Orsi, 57, a working-class former history teacher and two-time mayor from Uruguay's Broad Front coalition, holding a lead over Delgado, cheers rang out across Montevideo's beaches.

Delgado told supporters gathered at his own party's headquarters in the capital of Montevideo that he had lost. The crowd was hushed.

"With sadness, but without guilt, we can congratulate the winner," he told them. "But it's one thing to lose the elections and another to be defeated. We are not defeated," he added, generating a burst of applause.

A political heir to former President Jose "Pepe" Mujica, an ex-Marxist guerrilla who became a global icon for transforming Uruguay into one of the most liberal and environmentally sustainable nations in the region, Orsi rode to power on promises of safe change and nostalgia for his left-wing party's redistributive social policies. He struck a conciliatory tone, vowing to unite the nation of 3.4 million people after such a tight vote.

"Let's understand that there is another part of our country who have different feelings today," he said, as fireworks erupted over his stage overlooking the city's waterfront. "These people will also have to help build a better country. We need them too."

With nearly all the votes counted, electoral officials reported that Orsi won 49.8% of the vote, ahead of Delgado's 45.9%, a clear call after weeks in which the opponents appeared tied in polls. The rest cast blank votes or abstained in defiance of Uruguay's enforced compulsory voting. Turnout in the nation with 2.7 million eligible voters reached almost 90%.

Foreign ministers meet in Italy for last G7 of Biden administration

Rome (AP): Foreign ministers from the world's leading industrialized nations are meeting Monday, with the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East entering decisive phases and a certain pressure to advance diplomatic efforts ahead of the new US administration taking over.

Hopes for brokering a cease-fire in Gaza and Lebanon are foremost on the agenda of the Group of Seven meeting outside Rome that is gathering ministers from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

On the first day of the two-day gathering Monday, the G7 will be joined by ministers from

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, as well as the Secretary General of the Arab League.

"With partners will be discussed ways to support efforts to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, initiatives to support the population and the promotion of a credible political horizon for stability in the region," the Italian foreign ministry said.

The so-called "Quint" grouping of the US, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and the UAE has been working to finalise a "day after" plan for Gaza, and there is some urgency to make progress before the Trump administration takes over in January.

President-elect Donald Trump

is expected to pursue a policy that strongly favours Israel over the Palestinians. Host Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani added another item to the G7 agenda last week after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defense minister and Hamas' military chief.

Italy is a founding member of the court and hosted the 1998 Rome conference that gave birth to it. But Italy's right-wing government has been a strong supporter of Israel after the October 7 Hamas attacks, while also providing humanitarian aid for Palestinians in Gaza.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Pratikha Sharma W/o Anand Sharma, R/o H.No.22, Ram Nagar, Near Punjabi Jutti, Chander Nagar, Delhi-110051, has debarred and disowned his son namely Vishal Sharma & daughter-in-law namely Vishali Arora & their daughter Evanishi Sharma from her movable and immovable properties and broken all her ties and relations from all of them due to misbehavior, cruel some nature, misconduct and bad habits and my client has no any kind of responsibility for the same if they deal with anyone and all of them solely responsible for their illegal acts and deeds. **NIDHI KAUJ SETHI (ADVOCATE)**, Seat No. F-04, Lawyers Chamber Block, Karkardoomi Court Complex, Delhi-110032, Mob: 8383911470

CORRIGENDUM NO. SDEE/LMG/CORRIGENDUM/03 OF 2024-25
DATE : 22-11-2024
The following changes have been made in following Tenders published vide E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/25 of 2024-25; dated: 14-11-2024. **SN.1; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/24. Name of work: At Guwahati: Provision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, LC gates in Guwahati area. Brief of corrigendum: Tender Documents, NIT schedule, Special condition. SN.2; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/25; Name of work: At New Guwahati: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various staff quarters and LC gates in New Guwahati area. Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Allowed, Tender Documents, NIT schedule, Special condition. SN.3; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/26; Name of work: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in New Guwahati and Narangi area. Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Allowed, Tender Documents, NIT schedule, Special condition. SN.4; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/27; Name of work: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, Railway Station, parking area etc. in Amingaon area. Brief of corrigendum: Tender Documents, NIT schedule. SN.5; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/28; Name of work: At Pandu: Provision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of Various Staff quarters in Pandu area. Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Allowed, Tender Documents, NIT schedule. SN.6; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/29; Name of work: At Pandu: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in Pandu area. Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Allowed, Tender Documents, NIT schedule.**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RushikulyaBahuda Basin, Berhampur - 760004
e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com
e-Procurement Notice No. ACE/RBB - 07/2024-25

1. Type of Work	- Building Work.
2. Total No of Works	- 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to tender	- Rs.136.06 Lakh
4. Period of completion	- 11 (Eleven) calendar months
5. Class of Contractor	- 'B' & 'A'

CORRIGENDUM NO. SDEE/LMG/CORRIGENDUM/04 OF 2024-25
DATE : 22-11-2024
"Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/22. Name of work: Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Residential building over Lumding Division and Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/23. Name of work: Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Station buildings over Lumding Division" published vide Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/24 of 2024-25; dated: 13-11-2024 is hereby cancelled. All other terms & conditions are remain unchanged. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Sr. DEE/G&Ch/Lumding

SETTING UP OF WATER RECYCLING PLANT AND ALONG WITH PROVISION OF WATER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT
Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/PS/MLG/36/24-25; Date: 21-11-2024. E-tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Tender No. DYCEE-PS-MLS-HQ-36-24-25; Name of Work: At Maligaon- Setting up of water recycling plant and along with provision of water supply arrangement in NFR stadium complex and Central Gotanagar. **Advertised Value: ₹47,93,288.22; Earnest Money: ₹95,900.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in www.ireps.gov.in. Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ

ENGINEERING WORKS IN KATI HAR DIVISION
Tender Notice No. : KIR/Engg./48 of 2024; Dated: 21-11-2024; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No. 1; Brief Description of Work: At Purnia Jn. - Construction of Transit Accommodation for ADEN/PRNA at Purnia station. Tender Value: ₹23,68,468.64/-; Bid Security: ₹47,400/-; Tender No. 2; Brief Description of Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under the jurisdiction of DEN/Line/Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹38,05,453.89/-; Bid Security: ₹76,100/-; Tender No. 3; Brief Description of Work: At Kathiar yard-Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc. under the jurisdiction of SR/DEN/VI/Kathiar. Tender Value: ₹32,07,990.49/-; Bid Security: ₹64,200/-; Tender No. 4; Brief Description of Work: At Kathiar-Construction of 35 M length Covered Shed and service building and allied works for 140 T Crane. Tender Value: ₹2,33,81,422.29/-; Bid Security: ₹46,762,900/-; Date & time of closing above tenders at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 20-12-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 20-12-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in.**

FORM NO. INC-26
[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for the change of registered office of the company from one state to another. **Before the Central Government (Regional Director, Northern Region, New Delhi)**
In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014. **AND**
In the matter of Varanium Capital Advisors Private Limited having its registered office at "Plot No. A-3, 4 & 5 Sector-125, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, 201301".
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General meeting held on dated October 17, 2024, to enable the company to change its Registered Office from "State of Uttar Pradesh" to "State of Maharashtra".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing an investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address "B-2 Wing, 2nd floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 2nd floor, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003" within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company's registered office at the address mentioned below: "Plot No. A-3, 4 & 5 Sector-125, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, 201301".
For and on behalf of the Varanium Capital Advisors Private Limited
Mr. Aparajit Bhalchandra Bhandarkar
Whole-time Director
DIN: 0775422
Date: 25.11.2024
Place: Noida

Procurement officer Bid Identification No. Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh) Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, RushikulyaBahuda Basin, Berhampur
ACE/RBB(BND)-08/2024-25 136.06 28.11.2024, 10.00 A.M. to 13.12.2024, 5.00 P.M.
Date of opening of the Technical Bid:-16.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
OIPR-32411/11001/12425

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp).)
Phone No: & E-mail : lob2367@lob.in
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 03/11/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shri Bablu S/o Devaki, 7 Sant Nagar, Chandravar Gate Ferozabad, Uttar Pradesh 283203, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 23,80,227.82 (Twenty Three Lakh, Eighty Thousand Two hundred and Twenty Seven point Eighty Two) as on 01.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21st Day of November of the year (2024).
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 23,80,227.82 (Twenty Three Lakh, Eighty Thousand Two hundred and Twenty Seven point Eighty Two) as on 01.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 23,80,227.82 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp).)
Phone No: & E-mail : lob2367@lob.in
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16/12/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shri Dinesh Singh S/o Bhup Singh Rana D-23, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201301, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 32,39,585.21 (Thirty Two Lakh, Thirty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Five point Two One) as on 01.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21st Day of November of the year (2024).
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 32,39,585.21 (Thirty Two Lakh, Thirty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Five point Two One) as on 01.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 32,18,426.21 (Thirty-Two Lakh, Eighteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six point Two One) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Flat No. 1002, Tower -B2, 10th Floor, Avalon homes Village Masit, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar-201019, Rajasthan
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. 1002, Tower -B2, 10th Floor, Avalon homes Village Masit, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar-201019, Rajasthan in Survey No. City of Town Survey No. Bhiwadi, Kharsa No. within the registration sub-district Bhiwadi and District-Alwar, Rajasthan Bounded:
On the North by - Flat No. B-2, 1003
On the South by - Flat No. B-2, 1003
On the East by - Main Entry to Flat
On the West by - Open to Sky
Dated: 21.11.2024
Place: Gurugram
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
8047010-804 AVALON BHIWADI - SECTOR 57
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No - 804 on 8th Floor, Tower - A-1, Avalon Regal Court, Mouja- Banripur, Alwar Bye Pass Road, Tehsil-Bhiwadi, District- Alwar (Rajasthan) Pin - 301019 owned by M/s. Avalon Projects (Unit of M/s. GRJ Distributions & Developers Pvt Ltd in survey No. City of Town Survey No. / Kharsa No- within the registration sub-district-Bhiwadi and District-Alwar (Rajasthan) Bounded:
On the North by - Main Entry of Flat
On the South by - Open to Sky
On the East by - Open to Sky and Stair Case
On the West by - Flat No A-1/803 & Open Duct
Dated: 21.11.2024
Place: Gurugram
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Flat No. 1002, Tower -B2, 10th Floor, Avalon homes Village Masit, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar-201019, Rajasthan
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. 1002, Tower -B2, 10th Floor, Avalon homes Village Masit, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar-201019, Rajasthan in Survey No. City of Town Survey No. Bhiwadi, Kharsa No. within the registration sub-district Bhiwadi and District-Alwar, Rajasthan Bounded:
On the North by - Flat No. B-2, 1003
On the South by - Flat No. B-2, 1003
On the East by - Main Entry to Flat
On the West by - Open to Sky
Dated: 21.11.2024
Place: Gurugram
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp).)
Phone No: & E-mail : lob2367@lob.in
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16/12/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shri Mahesh S/o Kishan Chand, Mohalia Ghahre, Chandhat, Palwal, Palwal, Haryana, 121102, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 25,44,988.22 (Twenty-Five Lakh, Forty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two point Two) as on 04.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21st Day of November of the year (2024).
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 25,44,988.22 (Twenty-Five Lakh, Forty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two point Two) as on 04.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 25,49,981.81 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
1406 B1 - Flat No 1406 B1 14th Floor- Avalon Homes
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No - 1406, 14th Floor, Tower -B-1, Avalon Homes situated within the revenue state of Village - Masit, Sector-24, Alwar Bypass Road, Tehsil- Tijara, Bhiwadi dist-Alwar, Rajasthan Pin - 301019
..... in survey No. / City of Town Survey No. / Kharsa No. within the registration sub-district..... and District..... Bounded:
On the North by
On the South by
On the East by
On the West by
Dated: 21.11.2024
Place: Gurgaon
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp).)
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CHELMSFORD CLUB LIMITED
CIN: U91990DL1956PLC001601
A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered Office:
1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001 | Tel: 9311628891/92/93
Email: info@chelfordsclub.in Website: www.chelfordsclub.in
NOTICE OF THE 102nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOTICE is hereby given that:
1. The 102nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Chelmsford Club Limited ("Club") is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 21st December, 2024 at 11.30 AM at the Club premises 1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001 to transact the matters as stated in the Notice convening the meeting.
2. Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024 have been sent to all members whose email IDs are registered with the Club. The same are also available on the website of the Club: www.chelfordsclub.in and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited e-voting website: <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com>. Notice of AGM, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024 have been sent to all the members at their registered address in the permitted mode. The electronic dispatch and dispatch by post has been completed by 26th November, 2024. Green Initiative in the Corporate Governance.
Due to high price of paper and printing, additional copies of the Notice will not be available at the AGM. Members are therefore, requested to bring their copy to the AGM venue.
3. In compliance with provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as substituted by the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 as amended, the Club is pleased to provide e-voting facility to its members, to vote from a place other than venue of the AGM (remote e-voting). The Club has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide e-voting facilities enabling the members to cast their vote in a secure manner.
4. All the Members are informed that:
(a) The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means.
(b) The e-voting facility will be available at the link <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com> during the voting period from Wednesday, 18th December, 2024 (9 AM) to Friday, 20th December, 2024 (5 PM). The remote e-voting shall be disabled thereafter, by NSDL.
(c) The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Thursday, 14th November, 2024. A person whose name is entered in the Register of Members as on the Cut Off Date only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting in the AGM.
(d) Any person, who has become a member of the Club, after the dispatch of the Notice of AGM may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to the Club Secretary & CEO at info@chelfordsclub.in and request for their login ID and Password. After verifying their membership details, the Club will forward the request to NSDL and NSDL will forward the login id and password to their respective email id.
(e) Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to AGM may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.
(f) The facility for voting through ballot shall be made available at the AGM and the members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting or by ballot shall be able to exercise their right to vote at the AGM through Ballot.
(g) The Club has appointed Mr. Ishant Arora (CS) of Ishant & Associates, alongwith Sh. Sunil Sareen and Sh. Sushil Kumar Dwivedi, Members of the Club, as scrutineers to scrutinize the entire Ballot and Voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
(h) In case of any query/grievance in relation to e-voting, they may be addressed to Mr. Puneet Bhasin, the Club Secretary & CEO, at info@chelfordsclub.in or members can visit "Help/FAQ" section (under download section) available at NSDL's website <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com> or write an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or call NSDL at toll free number 1800 1020 990/1800 224 430.
(i) The result of election/voting at the AGM shall be declared on Saturday, 21st December, 2024. The result declared, alongwith the Scrutineers' Report shall be displayed at the registered office of the Club and also be placed on the Club's website (www.chelfordsclub.in) and on the website of e-voting agency National Securities Depository Limited (website: <https://www.evoting.nsdl.com>).

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp).)
Phone No: & E-mail : lob2367@lob.in
SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1))]
Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16/12/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shri Mahesh S/o Kishan Chand, Mohalia Ghahre, Chandhat, Palwal, Palwal, Haryana, 121102, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 25,44,988.22 (Twenty-Five Lakh, Forty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two point Two) as on 04.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21st Day of November of the year (2024).
(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 25,44,988.22 (Twenty-Five Lakh, Forty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two point Two) as on 04.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 25,49,981.81 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment.
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DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
1406 B1 - Flat No 1406 B1 14th Floor- Avalon Homes
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No - 1406, 14th Floor, Tower -B-1, Avalon Homes situated within the revenue state of Village - Masit, Sector-24, Alwar Bypass Road, Tehsil- Tijara, Bhiwadi dist-Alwar, Rajasthan Pin - 301019
..... in survey No. / City of Town Survey No. / Kharsa No. within the registration sub-district..... and District..... Bounded:
On the North by
On the South by
On the East by
On the West by
Dated: 21.11.2024
Place: Gurgaon
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp).)
Phone No: & E-mail : lob2367@lob.in
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..... in survey No. / City of Town Survey No. / Kharsa No. within the registration sub-district..... and District..... Bounded:
On the North by
On the South by
On the East by
On the West by
Dated: 21.11.2024
Place: Gurgaon
Sd/- Authorised Officer
Indian Overseas Bank

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH
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Phone No: & E-mail : lob2367@lob.in
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India's economic outlook for coming months 'cautiously optimistic': Finmin Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic outlook for the coming months is 'cautiously optimistic', with agriculture likely to benefit from favourable monsoon conditions, increased minimum support prices and adequate supply of inputs, the finance ministry said in a report.

"Bright agricultural production prospects make the inflation outlook benign, despite existing price pressures in select food items," the October edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday said. Early November trends signalled moderation in key food prices, though geopolitical factors may continue to impact domestic inflation and supply chains, it said. A bumper kharif harvest is expected to lower food inflation in the coming months, it said, adding that a favourable monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are likely to boost rabi sowing and production. Amidst a clouded global background, and after a brief period of softening momentum over the monsoon



months, the report said, many high-frequency indicators of economic activity in India have shown a rebound in October. These include indicators of rural and urban demand and supply side variables like Purchasing Managers' Index and E-way bill generation, it said. On the employment front, it said, the formal workforce is expanding, with

notable increases in manufacturing jobs and a strong inflow of youth into organised sectors. With regard to the external front, it said, India's export recovery may encounter challenges due to softening demand in developed markets. However, it said, trade in the services sector is sustaining momentum. Net foreign direct investment inflows registered remarkable growth in the

first five months of FY25, it said. Supported by stable capital inflows, India's forex reserves increased by USD 64.8 billion so far during 2024, the second-largest increase after China amongst major forex reserve-holding countries, it said. Apart from the emerging indications of domestic growth and stability, the dynamics of global interest rates, earning growth and valuation, geopolitical developments and policy decisions of the next administration in the United States will determine the course of trade and capital flows, the report said. Recent developments in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine have caused some concern in financial markets with safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold finding a bid, it said, adding, that geopolitical conditions remain fragile. The report said the global economy reveals a mixed outlook as 2024 draws to a close. Structural weaknesses in parts of Europe and China's slowdown continued to weigh on growth. In contrast, the US economy has surpassed earlier expectations, maintaining steady expansion.

Sensex reclaims 80k mark; Nifty surges over one per cent

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged more than 1 per cent on Monday, helped by a rally in blue-chip stocks and the BJP pulling off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory. Extending its previous day's sharp rally, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85. During the day, it soared 1,355.97 points or 1.71 per cent to 80,473.08. The NSE Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers. On the other hand, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra,



Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints and HCL Tech were the laggards. Online food delivery giant Zomato will become a part of the benchmark BSE Sensex, replacing JSW Steel from December 23. This is part of the latest reconstitution announced by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE. "The ability of the market to surprise was evident in the 557 points spurt in the Nifty on Friday. This sharp upswing will continue today assisted by the super NDA performance in Maharashtra. The political message from this election is huge and highly positive from the market perspective," VK

Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. The BJP on Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory, while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the red. European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended in positive territory on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.40 per cent to USD 74.87 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,278.37 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. The BSE benchmark jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11 on Friday. The Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25.



About seven per cent workforce growth expected in H2 driven by logistics, e-comm: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With 59 per cent of employers planning to increase headcount in October-March FY25, 7.1 per cent workforce growth is expected during the period, driven by logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing sectors, a report said. According to TeamLease Services 'Employment Outlook Report for October 2024 to March 2025', an additional 22 per cent will maintain their current staffing levels. The report is based on primary and secondary research, taking inputs from 1,307 employers across 23 industries in 20 cities. These findings reveal a dynamic hiring landscape where industry-specific demands and macroeconomic factors are significantly shaping employment trends, the report added. This growth will mainly be driven by sectors including logistics, EV & EV infrastructure, agriculture and agrochemicals, and e-commerce, which are heavily investing in infrastructure and technological advancements, it said. Logistics, for instance, stands out with a 14.2 per cent net employment change, as 69 per cent of companies in the sector look to increase headcount. This growth is attributed to the sector's adoption of 5G logistics, green supply chain initiatives, and benefits from National Logistics Policy implementations, it noted. Logistics is followed by EV and EV Infrastructure (12.1 per cent), agriculture and agrochemicals (10.5 per cent), and e-commerce and tech startups (8.9 per cent), where startups are capitalising on AI-enabled customer insights, Web 3.0 applications, and seasonal demand from the festive period, it said. As technology continues to evolve, the automotive industry is also seeing 8.5 per cent growth, spurred by integrated smart technologies, while the retail sector's 8.2 per cent growth reflects the popularity of

hyperlocal deliveries and smart-store concepts. The report further said that cities like Coimbatore (24.6 per cent) and Gurugram (22.6 per cent) are becoming job hubs, representing a decentralisation of employment opportunities beyond traditional metros. While Bengaluru (53.1 per cent), Mumbai (50.2 per cent), and Hyderabad (48.2 per cent) remained central employment anchors with high workforce demand, demand in cities like Coimbatore, Gurugram, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Nagpur signals a broader spread of job growth across India, reinforcing the appeal of smaller cities as viable alternatives for job seekers and companies alike, it added. According to the report, major economic initiatives are also shaping workforce expansion. Policies such as the Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which are projected to add USD 60 billion to India's economy by 2025, are creating high-skill roles in technology and R&D. Meanwhile, National Industrial Corridors aim to generate 1 million direct jobs and 3 million indirect jobs in manufacturing and logistics. The semiconductor mission seeks to add 80,000 jobs by 2025 through an investment of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, underscoring India's drive toward high-tech manufacturing. "The employment landscape is increasingly shaped by technology and policy-driven shifts. Our latest findings underscore the diversity in job growth across India, from established urban hubs to emerging cities, and reveal a workforce that is evolving rapidly to meet demands in sectors like logistics, EV, and tech startups," TeamLease Staffing CEO Kartik Narayan said. As companies embrace flexible staffing models, digital skill sets such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and cloud technology are not only in demand but essential for maintaining a competitive edge in today's economy, he noted.

S&P cuts India's GDP growth forecast for FY26, FY27

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday revised down its estimate for India's economic growth in the next two financial years as high interest rate and lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand. In an update to its economic forecast for Asia-Pacific economies after US election results, the rating agency projected a 6.7 per cent GDP growth rate in 2025-26 financial year (April 2025 to March 2026) and 6.8 per cent in the following fiscal year, down from 6.9 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively in previous projections. For FY25, S&P Global pegged GDP growth rate at 6.8 per cent. "In India we see GDP growth easing to 6.8 per cent this fiscal year as high interest rates and a lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand. While purchasing manager indices (PMIs) remain convincingly in the expansion zone, other high-frequency indicators indicate some transitory softening of growth momentum due to the hit to the construction sector in the September quarter," it said.



The agency expects India's GDP to grow at 7 per cent in FY28. S&P retained its growth projection for China at 4.8 per cent in 2024 but cut next year's forecast to 4.1 per cent from 4.3 per cent earlier and to 3.8 per cent in 2026 from the previous estimate of 4.5 per cent. "The impending change in the US administration will be challenging for China and the rest of Asia-Pacific. US tariff increases have become more likely, especially on China, and possible changes in the US macro picture are leading to different interest rate expectations," said the report titled 'Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q1 2025: US Trade Shift Blurs The

Horizon'. Louis Kuijs, S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific Chief Economist, said rising risks are blurring the economic outlook for Asia-Pacific in the first quarter of 2025. "While much of the region should be able to continue to grow solidly, central banks will probably remain cautious by not reducing their policy rates too fast." China's stimulus measures should support growth, but S&P expected its economy to be hit by US trade tariffs on its exports. The Asia-Pacific growth will be impeded by slower global demand and US trade policy. But lower interest rates and inflation should ease their drag on spending power.

Edible oil body SEA urges Govt to lift ban on commodity futures trading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Edible oil industry SEA on Monday called on the government to lift a ban on futures trading in key agricultural commodities, including crude palm oil and soyabean, citing significant financial impact on its members. The ban, first implemented in December 2021 on seven agricultural commodities, has been extended multiple times with the current extension running through December 20, 2024. The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) has appealed to five ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, arguing that the absence of futures trading has hindered price risk management and market development. "The industry was hopeful that the suspension would be lifted to enable smoother operations, but the continuation of this restriction has further weakened an essential risk mitigation tool," SEA



President Sanjeev Asthana said in a representation made to the ministers. SEA emphasised that studies have shown futures trading does not significantly drive inflation, a key concern when the ban was implemented. Current soyabean prices are trading below the government-set minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 4,892 per quintal, while rapeseed prices are slightly above its MSP of Rs 5,950, the industry body said. The association particularly stressed the need to resume futures trading in internationally traded commodities like crude palm oil and crude soybean oil, arguing that the ban has left businesses exposed to greater price volatility.

Coal India floats tender seeking bids from pvt players for e-auction

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Despite having switched to its internal e-auction platform in January this year, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has floated a tender seeking bids from private service providers to conduct e-auctions of the dry fuel for its subsidiaries over the next two years, officials said on Monday. This move has left external e-auction service providers, such as MSTC and mjunction, who have managed CIL's auctions through electronic platforms for nearly two decades, confused and they were seeking more clarity before deciding whether to participate in the tender, stakeholders said. The deadline for submission of bids is November 27.

CIL had engaged its subsidiary CMPDI to develop an internal coal e-auction system in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the officials said. The internal platform was successfully transitioned in January 2024 after conducting successful trials in 2023. "However, there have been complaints about the system's performance, prompting Coal India to seek external platforms for its e-auctions," an official told PTI. CIL's coal volume through the e-auction platform was estimated to reach around 60 million tonnes by September 2024. "Engaging service providers to conduct e-auction is aimed at having more options at hand. CIL should



be in a position to respond to changing market and consumer requirements," another Coal India official said. The new engagement with external service providers is expected to begin in April next year after the current contracts with service providers expire in March, he

said. There is speculation within the industry regarding the future role of CIL's internal e-auction platform. "We want to engage more firms to conduct coal auctions alongside our own platform to ensure smooth sales. The CMPDI platform will also continue to

function," the senior CIL official said. External service providers have expressed concerns about the new tender and are seeking clarity on the scope of work, especially given the CIL's reliance on its internal system. "We've sought greater clarity on the expected business in the tender, as our revenue depends on the number of auctions we conduct. Currently, most e-auctions are being handled internally by CIL. It remains unclear whether external providers will serve merely as a backup or whether there will be an assured revenue model. We have not yet decided whether to participate or not," said a top official from one of the two main service providers, requesting anonymity.

India's GenAI ecosystem soars with 6 times growth in Q2FY25 amid global slump: Nasscom report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Generative AI ecosystem has grown remarkably amid a global downturn, recording an impressive 6 times growth in quarterly investments driven by B2B and productivity solutions, according to a report by IT industry body nasscom. Nasscom on Monday released the "Generative AI Tracker: Tech Industry Activity in Q2FY2025" report that revealed a robust rebound in funding and innovation within India's Generative AI landscape. "Indian GenAI startup funding, at about USD 51 million in

Q2FY2025, saw over 6 times rise quarter-on-quarter, led by B2B and agentic AI startups. Funding rounds continued to rise, with Q2FY2025 registering a record 20 rounds, after a tepid Q1. "GenAI applications garnered most funding, however, per-stage funding got capped lower due to no model funding in Q2," the report said. On the contrary, global GenAI startup funding, at about USD 4 billion in Q2FY2025, hit the lower circuit with a 2.3 times quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) drop from Q1, the report revealed. Most major and mid-sized Indian tech companies have been

releasing GenAI platforms since early 2023. These platforms are gradually being offered with multimodal, multi-model data, AI, and cloud integration ecosystems. With more and more tech providers prioritising partnerships and advanced skilling, partnerships in the industry surged by 25 per cent sequentially, focusing on product enhancements, joint go-to-market strategies, and government-led skilling initiatives. This strategic pivot has led to improved revenue pipelines and stronger realizations from active Proofs of Concept (PoCs), the



study said. Companies are moving beyond basic AI literacy to focus on advanced and thematic upskilling that integrates platform capabilities and agentic AI functionalities. The evolution of the Indian GenAI ecosystem from experimental use cases to scalable, production-ready solutions is reflected in its growing maturity, nasscom said, adding that improved finance inflows, more revenue realisations, and growing applications in customer interaction and enterprise productivity are the main drivers

of this expansion. "The generative AI landscape is evolving rapidly, reshaping technology service providers and unlocking new capabilities. Providers are re-evaluating strategies and increasing investments in technology and talent. Q2FY2025 marked a key shift in India's GenAI space, with funding focused on impactful applications that enhance productivity. Future success will rely on strategic innovations, pilot project results, and lessons learned along the way," Sangeeta Gupta, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at nasscom, said.

Emma McKeon retires from swimming

AP ■ SYDNEY
Emma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, announced her retirement from competitive swimming on Monday. McKeon holds the Australian record of 14 Olympic medals — six of them gold — won over three Summer Olympics, while her seven-medal haul at Tokyo 2020 is the most ever by a female swimmer at a single Games and equal most for any female athlete from any sport at a single Olympics. The 30-year-old McKeon had previously hinted that the 2024 Paris Games — where she won gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay — would be her final Olympics, but she had not said whether she would continue to swim competitively. "I am proud of myself for giving my swimming career absolutely everything, both physically and mentally. I wanted to see what I was capable of, and I did," McKeon said on social media. "Swimming has given me so much.



From the dream igniting at 5 years old, right through to my third Olympic games - I have so many lessons, experiences, friendships and memories that I am so thankful for." McKeon's 14 medals came across the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Games, with six Olympic gold, three silver and five bronze. She's second only to Katie Ledecky in terms of Olympic swimming gold medals won. The American has won nine across four Olympics in her tally of 14. "Emma has added her own incredible chapter to Australia's history at the Olympic Games," Australian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman said in a written statement. "Emma has been an extraordinary athlete who has etched herself a special place in Australian sporting landscape, particularly through her success at the Olympics. "Her performances during Tokyo were particularly stunning. Emma is recognised not just in Australia, but around the world, as one of the greatest Olympians ever.



Sindhu, Lakshya eye titles at Syed Modi International

PTI ■ LUCKNOW
PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will aim to end their title droughts when they spearhead India's challenge at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday. Fresh off a semifinal finish in their comeback tournament post the Paris Olympics, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the former world No. 1 doubles pair, enter as favourites in the men's doubles category. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medalist, last clinched a title at the Singapore Open in 2022, while Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, won the Canada Open in 2023. The 29-year-old Sindhu reached the final of the Malaysia Masters earlier this year but has struggled to find her peak form. Lakshya, 23, showed promise with semifinal finishes at the All England Championship, French Open, and Paris Olympics, where he lost the bronze playoff from a strong position to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia. Both shuttlers have endured mixed fortunes since their Olympic outings. Lakshya faced early exits at the Arctic Open, Denmark Open, and Kumamoto Masters before recovering to an extent with a quarterfinal finish at the China Masters, avenging his Olympic loss to Lee in the process. Lakshya starts his campaign here against a qualifier, hoping to reclaim his spot on the podium. Sindhu, meanwhile, has battled inconsistency, with a shock first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland and subsequent defeats at the Denmark Open and Kumamoto Masters. She opens her campaign against compatriot Anmol Kharb, a 17-year-old rising star who has impressed with titles at the Belgium and Poland International Challenge events this year. The clash between the seasoned Sindhu and the prodigious Kharb promises to be an intriguing one, symbolising the generational shift in Indian badminton. In men's singles, second seed Priyanshu Rajawat is a strong contender alongside Lakshya. The 22-year-old from Dhar has shown promise on the international circuit, including a fighting performance at the China Masters. Other Indian hopefuls include third seed Kiran George, 2023 World Junior Championships bronze-medallist Ayush Shetty, Odisha Masters winner Sathish Karunakaran, and national champion Chirag Sen. The women's singles draw also looks competitive, with second seed Malvika Bansod aiming to better her runner-up finish in the 2022 edition. Third seed Aakarshi Kashyap, sixth seed Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, and fifth seed Anupama Upadhyaya are among others eyeing glory. Isharani Baruah, who has clinched titles at the Sri Lanka International, Dutch International, and India International, along with Devika Sihag, will also hope for a good outing. Unnati Hooda, a winner at the 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters, is another player to watch out for. In women's doubles, the top-seeded duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, along with second seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly, are strong title contenders, with a potential all-Indian final on the cards.



Hockey great Ashok Kumar suffers heart attack; to undergo angioplasty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Former India hockey player and son of legendary Major Dhyan Chand, Ashok Kumar suffered a heart attack after being hospitalised here for discomfort in chest but is now stable and out of danger, sources in his family said on Monday. The 74-year-old will undergo an angioplasty later on Monday. "He (Ashok Kumar) felt discomfort in chest yesterday (Sunday) evening. He was then taken to Escorts Hospital where angiography was performed. The angiography results showed there were a few blockages. The doctors will implant stents today," family sources told PTI. "He is out of danger and in a stable condition."

Davis Cup: Jannik Sinner leads Italy past the Netherlands for its second consecutive title

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)
Italy went nearly a quarter-century without winning the Davis Cup. Then along came Jannik Sinner, and now the country is celebrating its second consecutive title. The No. 1-ranked Sinner clinched the championship in the annual team event and capped his breakthrough season by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Sunday for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final of the Davis Cup. "Coming back as defending champions and winning again — it's one of the best feelings I think for all of us," Sinner said. "We are very happy to lift this trophy and, of course, also to go into the pre-season with a bunch of confidence boosts." Matteo Berrettini put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp — the last man to beat Rafael Nadal — in the opening singles match on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in southern Spain. The Italians, backed by a loud contingent of singing fans playing drums and armed with megaphones in the crowd of 9,200, became the first team to win the Davis Cup twice in a row since the Czech Republic in 2012 and 2013. After Sinner finished off his win, Berrettini and other teammates rushed onto the court to begin the party, wrapping their arms around one another and bouncing in unison. Volandri grabbed Sinner and lifted him off the ground. It was clear who was key to this success. Sinner went 4-0 in Malaga, including a victory in doubles with Berrettini against Argentina in the quarterfinals. Berrettini played a vital role,



in four-level singles competition to 14 matches and 26 sets, including a title at the ATP Finals a week ago. Sinner's ascension is one of the year's biggest stories in tennis. He went 73-6 with eight singles titles in 2024, with his first two Grand Slam trophies at the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. The latter came shortly after he was cleared of wrongdoing in a doping case connected to two positive tests for steroids in March; the World Anti-Doping Agency's appeal of that ruling is still pending. The Netherlands reached the Davis Cup final for the first time. "We believed," Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis said about the Italians, "we could beat them." Until last year, Italy's only Davis Cup triumph came in 1976. So Volandri said he told his players to think of their goal this way: "We want to make history." Griekspoor, who fell to 0-6 against Sinner, held his own until the first-set tiebreaker, which was preceded by dueling chants of "Italia! Italia!" and "Let's go, Tallon! Let's go!" Sinner was steadier, more ready for the moment, and he built a substantial lead before ending it with an ace.

Mumbai City FC eye third straight win against Punjab FC

PTI ■ MUMBAI
Mumbai City FC will face Punjab FC as the Islanders aim to go above the visitors in this crucial fixture of the Indian Super League here on Tuesday. Punjab FC have cruised to four victories from seven games to accumulate 12 points and be at the fifth spot in the standings, whereas Mumbai City FC are ninth in the table with 10 points to their name. The gap among teams is so narrow at this point that a victory here can propel the Petr Kratky-coached team above Punjab FC and bring them straight back into the reckoning for the top-six. While it's also too early into the campaign to discuss point table scenarios, it also serves as a reminder to put the focus on the process. At this moment, both Punjab FC and Mumbai City FC have taken ample learning from their outings thus far and would want to fix that to get their units functioning both cohesively and consistently moving forward. The overall playing strategy of Mumbai City FC has been consistent of late and that involves building pressure onto the opponents through their passing sequences.

They average 329.9 successful passes this season, which is the highest amongst all teams, and their completion rate of 81.2 per cent is also the highest in the league. The Islanders won both their matches against Punjab FC last season, which was also the first campaign in the competition for the latter. Among all teams, Punjab FC have allowed the fewest touches (102) inside their box. They have also permitted only 36 shot attempts from within their 18-yard area. Punjab FC have been at the receiving end of defeats in each of their last two matches in the ISL.

Lasha Shavdatuashvili urges more competitions to develop judo in India

PTI ■ CHENNAI
Legendary Georgian judoka and Olympic gold medalist Lasha Shavdatuashvili believes the lack of a strong judo ecosystem in India is hindering the sport's growth as he urged the need for increased exposure. India have achieved notable milestones, including a bronze medal by Poonam Chopra way back at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, as well as four podium finishes at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games with Sushila Likmabam and Navjot Chana each winning a silver. At the Olympics, Indian judokas have consistently qualified since London 2012, yet progress has remained limited as the 32-year-old two-time former world champion urged for an overall development of the sport in the country. "In my opinion, the approach had to be changed, so that the sportsman had to participate in as many competitions as possible, in order to progress, in order to achieve some trend," the Georgian, who had won gold at the London 2012 Olympics in men's 66kg category, told PTI in an interview. "Once you have four-five world champions every year, that means there is competition inside the country. So, in this case, there will be good progress inside the country. "But before that, participating in different competitions is essential," added



Shavdatuashvili, who is also a silver and bronze medalist at Tokyo and Rio Olympics respectively. "It's like a plant. If you don't water a plant, no matter how strong it is, soon or later it will die. That's why it is the same for the sportsman, the competition is as water for plants." Emulate Japan Describing Japan as the mother land of judo, the Georgian said he frequently trains in Japan to gain experience. "You know, it's possible to achieve very serious success. I myself, as I said, I'm going

to different competitions, to different countries, and I would make this name in Japan. "You know that Japan is the mother of Judo, and I even stay sometimes a couple of months over there, and it gives me a huge experience... You can create great achievement and achieve great success." The star judoka visited India to conduct a Masterclass on the sport at the Inspire Institute of Sport, Bellary in Karnataka. "Judo can match wrestling success" Bullish on the prospect of judo in India, IIS president Manisha Malhotra hopes things will improve by 2028. Los Angeles Olympics and judokas can replicate the success of wrestlers.

Champions League returns with Liverpool-Real Madrid and Bayern-PSG rematches of recent finals

AP ■ GENEVA
Real Madrid playing Liverpool in the Champions League has twice in recent years been a final between arguably the two best teams in the competition. Their next meeting, however, finds two storied powers in starkly different positions at the midway point of the 36-team single league standings format. One is in first place and the other a lowly 18th. It is not defending champion Madrid on top despite adding Kylian Mbappé to the roster that won a record-extending 15th European title in May. Madrid has lost two of four games in the eight-round opening phase — and against teams that are far from challenging for domestic league titles: Lille and AC Milan. Liverpool, which will host Wednesday's game, is eight

points clear atop the Premier League under new coach Arne Slot and the only team to win all four Champions League games so far. Still, the six-time European champion cannot completely forget losing the 2018 and 2022 finals when Madrid lifted its 13th and 14th titles. Madrid also won 5-2 at Anfield, despite trailing by two goals after 14 minutes, on its last visit to Anfield in February 2023. The 2020 finalists also will be reunited this week, when Bayern Munich hosts Paris Saint-Germain in the stadium that will stage the next final on May 31. Bayern's home will rock to a 75,000-capacity crowd Tuesday, even though it is surprisingly a clash of 17th vs. 25th in the standings. Only the top 24 at the end of January advance to the knockout round. No fans were allowed in the



Lisbon stadium in August 2020 when Kingsley Coman scored against his former club PSG to settle the post-lockdown final in the COVID-19 pandemic season. **MAN CITY IN CRISIS** Manchester City at home to Feyenoord had looked like a

routine win when fixtures were drawn in August, but it arrives with the 2023 champion on a stunning five-game losing run. Such a streak was previously unthinkable for any team coached by Pep Guardiola, but it ensures extra attention Tuesday on Manchester. City went unbeaten through its Champions League title season, and did not lose any of 10 games last season when it was dethroned by Real Madrid on a penalty shootout after two tied games in the quarterfinals. City's unbeaten run was stopped at 26 games three weeks ago in a 4-1 loss to Sporting Lisbon. **SPORTING REBUILDS** That rout was a farewell to Sporting in the Champions League for coach Ruben Amorim after he finalized his move to Manchester United. Second to Liverpool in the Champions League standings,

Sporting will be coached by João Pereira taking charge of just his second top-tier game when Arsenal visits on Tuesday. Sporting still has European soccer's hottest striker Viktor Gyökeres, who is being pursued by a slew of clubs reportedly including Arsenal. Gyökeres has four hat tricks this season for Sporting and Sweden including against Man City. **TOUGH TESTS FOR OVERACHIEVERS** Brest is in its first-ever UEFA competition and Aston Villa last played with the elite in the 1982-83 European Cup as the defending champion. Remarkably, fourth-place Brest is two spots above Barcelona in the standings — having beaten opponents from Austria and the Czech Republic — before going to the five-time European champion on Tuesday. Villa in eighth place is looking down on

Juventus in 11th. Juventus plays at Villa Park on Wednesday for the first time since March 1983 when a team with the storied Platini-Boniek-Rossi attack eliminated the title holder in the quarterfinals. Villa has beaten Bayern and Bologna at home with shutout wins. **ZEROES TO HEROES?** Five teams are still on zero points and might need to go unbeaten to stay in the competition beyond January. Eight points is the projected tally to finish 24th. They include Leipzig, whose tough fixture program continues with a trip to Inter Milan, the champion of Italy. Inter and Atalanta are yet to concede a goal after four rounds, and Bologna is the only team yet to score. Atalanta plays at Young Boys, one of the teams without a point, on Tuesday and Bologna hosts Lille on Wednesday.

I automatically want to put myself in tough scenarios: Jasprit Bumrah

PTI ■ PERTH
Jasprit Bumrah said on Monday that he relishes absorbing the pressure in tight situations as captain and bowler which can make the job of his less experienced colleagues much easier. The ace pacer was India's standout bowler with an eight-wicket haul in the Perth Test, shaping India's humongous 295-run drubbing of Australia. "Whenever the tough scenarios come, I look at myself to see how I can contribute, even when I'm not the captain. So, whenever tough scenarios are there, I look at answers — if I'm going to bowl at this moment, what can I do? I automatically want to put myself in tough scenarios," said Bumrah in the post-match press conference here. His fighting spirit found resonance in young bowlers like Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy as all contributed at crucial junctures at the Optus Stadium. "I was trying to put myself in

that tough scenario to make the job a little bit easier for the new guys coming in. Because, you know, it's not very easy in the first tour to take a lot of responsibility. "So, I was trying to do that and very happy to be on the positive side," he added. Despite the historic win, Bumrah will have to vacate the top seat when Rohit Sharma returns for the Adelaide Test to lead India. So, how will he tackle a rather personal tough spot? Bumrah offered a cheeky reply. "I'm not going to tell him that I'm going to leave (captaincy)," he said. Going more matter of fact, the 30-year-old said: "I said that in the previous press conference as well, he's the captain and he's done a phenomenal job. I was filling in for him. "I had discussions when he was in India, you know, discussing how we are shaping up. But, yeah, But, yeah, I'm going to help him in whatever capacity I can," he noted. However, Bumrah was quite chuffed to see his side



responding to a marshy situation after getting bundled out for 150 in the first innings. The Indian bowlers struck back to skittle the Aussies for 104 in their first essay. "I am very proud of the team. We were put under pressure in the first innings when we were bowled out for 150. But then, you know, the team showed character and didn't lose belief. So, that is something that will be really special for us. "Obviously, in this game, there are a lot of positives for us. You know, we scored a lot of runs in the second innings.

New guys coming in, also chipping in with a lot of runs. Of course, Virat scoring a 100 as well is a great sign for us," he added. So, what was the plan of the Indian bowling unit to be successful on the Perth pitch? "There was some health on the wicket. So, I want to make the batters play as much as I can because the new ball is crucial over here. So, with the wicket having dents in it, the ball would seam around." Bumrah said the key for his bowlers was not to get desperate to bag wickets even in helpful conditions. "Sometimes when you are bowled out for a lower score, you can be a little too desperate and try too much to get wickets. When you try too much here, it doesn't really help and the run scoring goes high. So, we had to be nice and disciplined." The 30-year-old pacer was delighted to see his colleagues adjusting to the Perth length very quickly to make an impact. "Usually in Perth, there could be a scenario when we come from India, you tend to bowl a little short because you can get excited by the bounce and you can't find the length. It looks good when you bowl a back of length delivery and the batsman gets beaten, but the batsman is still there. "So, you have to find the right length. We were focusing on our strength. We as a bowling unit got a lot of dismissals through LBW and caught behind. So, yeah, we realised that, you have to stick to your strengths and find the right length and we were able to do that," he explained. However, Bumrah reminded the team that they needed to start afresh in the second Test since it would be the Pink Ball Test, starting from December 6 at Adelaide. "Adelaide might be totally different. It's a pink ball. So, yes, you can take the confidence from here. But, again, you have to start from zero. You have to build on this confidence. "You have to take learnings from this game as well. So we're going to take it in our stride and, you know, put our best foot forward," he noted.



Getting Ishan Kishan a huge deal for us, nothing could offset Nattu's loss: Vettori

PTI ■ JEDDAH
Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori was most excited about securing Ishan Kishan on day one of the IPL mega auction here but admitted that losing T Natarajan to Delhi Capitals was a setback. Kishan, who made his name at the Mumbai Indians, was sold to SRH for Rs 11.25 crore on Sunday. The left-arm batter has had a tumultuous year, having lost his place in the Indian team as well as a BCCI central contract for defying the board's diktat to play domestic cricket. However, he is back playing Ranji Trophy. SRH bought as many as eight players on day one including pacers Mohammed Shami (Rs 10 crore) and Harshal Patel (Rs 8 crore). However, they were not able to buy back T Natarajan and Vettori said nobody could offset the loss of the left-arm pacer. SRH had retained five players ahead of the auction including skipper Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Heinrich

Klaasen and Nitish Reddy. "Nothing sets off Nattu's loss (smiles). Every team goes through it, whether you try and find the players early and...Pounce on opportunities or you try and wait for the back end," said Vettori in a media interaction. Natarajan was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 10.75 crore. "We decided today to try and sense an opportunity when they came along and Mohammad Shami was one and then Harshal Patel, they were two guys that we potentially didn't think would go for those prices (bargain buys). "And then Ishan Kishan was a huge deal for us. We really wanted to secure him and we thought he, once again, we thought he'd go for more. So extremely happy that we got those three players as well as the rest," said Vettori, who took time off from his coaching duties for Australia in the ongoing first Test against India. Vettori said skipper Cummins is in agreement with all the picks.

"Yes, yes there were (inputs from Cummins). A sad captain tonight (referring to Australia being behind in Perth), he had a hard day. I spoke to him earlier today (Sunday) and he understood the logic of the players that we'd gone for and then he had some ideas for obviously the rest of the squad building," said the former New Zealand spinner. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar was a steal at Rs 3.2 crore. Vettori said they factored both recent performance and pedigree before going for the players. "We identified players that we thought had performed in the IPL previously. So we put a premium on that experience. And we've seen that pay off time and time again. "So to get those players who maybe didn't have the season they wanted, in terms of Rahul Chahar last year (for Punjab Kings), we still see the skill set. We still see a bowler who's played for India, and hopefully in our conditions, he can be a real asset for us," Vettori added.

We are a really tight unit: Cummins scotches speculation on dressing room divide

PTI ■ PERTH
Australia captain Pat Cummins on Monday defended his struggling batting unit after former players including Adam Gilchrist raised the question of a potential batters and bowlers divide in the dressing room. Following one of their heaviest defeats at home, Cummins was asked if there were any divisions in the team with batters letting the team down in Perth. The chatter around possible tensions in the unit started when Josh Hazlewood was asked about Australia's approach going into day four, having been reduced to 12 for three on day three chasing an improbable 534. Australia were bundled out for 104 in their second innings after India put up 150 on day one. "You probably have to ask one of the batters that question. I'm sort of relaxing and trying to get a bit of physio and a bit of treatment, and I'm probably looking mostly towards the next Test and what plans we can do against these batters," Hazlewood said on Sunday. A day later, Cummins cleared the air. "I don't know what Joshy (Hazlewood) said, but no, not at all (division). There's plenty of times where the batters have dragged us bowlers out of tight situations, and we've done the same. So it's a really tight unit. It's probably one of the tightest teams I've ever played with," Cummins was quick to scotch the speculations following the loss. "We really enjoy playing cricket together. We've been through a lot over the last few years, the core group. So no problems there. Everyone gets along really well. So all good." On Fox Cricket, Gilchrist and Michael Vaughan were the experts who sensed a possible divide between batters and bowlers. "That to me tells me there is potentially a divided change room. I don't know if there is.



I might be reading too much into that," Gilchrist said referring to Hazlewood's comments. Vaughan added: "I must admit, I'm staggered by that. Josh Hazlewood is a great bowler, terrific team member. Publicly, I've never heard an Australian come out and kind of divide the camp into batters and bowlers." On the same Fox Cricket panel was Hazlewood's longtime teammate David Warner who came to the fast bowler's defence. "Those comments (from Hazlewood) probably weren't warranted, [but] I don't think there is a divide. "In the England team, Broady [Stuart Broad] or Jimmy [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but I don't think there is a divide," said Warner. Marnus has got a very good pink ball record Cummins was asked about the lean run of Marnus Labuschagne in the post match media interaction. The batters in general have been under the scanner for a while now and that includes the great Steve Smith. "Marnus, along with quite a few guys in the team didn't have the week that we would have wanted. It's no secret how hard the batters, particularly Marn, works in the nets, and he's always trying to find those small marginal gains. "So, this week, there'll be a lot of conversation with the coaches around, you know, maybe his approach and what he could be doing differently. We know he's a class player. "So, yeah, this week will be about those conversations. As I say, get to Adelaide a little bit earlier, maybe do an extra day or two prep leading to that second Test. But he's done it before over here. He's got a very good pink ball record. "So I always think it's, you know, looking back at past successes when you're at your

best is always a pretty good way to get yourself back on track," said the skipper. Cummins had no qualms in admitting that his team was thoroughly outplayed in the series opener but he promised to bounce back in Adelaide where India struggled on the previous tour with pink ball under lights. "You kind of sit in the change room after a loss like that and it hurts. You know when a team declares on you, it's never an amazing feeling. So we've all been in these situations before. It's the nature of being professional sport. "You're going to lose some games. The biggest challenge and the biggest, the most important thing is how do you bounce back? What's your next move? So that's what we've got to do this week," Cummins said. He also added that there won't be too many changes to the playing eleven despite the unexpected outcome in Perth.

Harshit Rana, Nitish Reddy prove detractors wrong

PTI ■ PERTH
Skipper Jasprit Bumrah was Shighly impressed by the fearless attitude and maturity of Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy, saying he never got the feeling that the two youngsters were playing in Australia for the first time. Their selection was viewed with raised eyebrows in the run-up to the first Test in Perth, but they silenced the doubters, chipping in their own way in India's massive 295-run win over the Aussies. "When they made their debut, the biggest positive sign was that they were not nervous at all. It didn't feel like they were playing for the first time in Australia or it was their first match," Bumrah said in the post-match press conference here on Monday. Rana took the prized wicket of Travis Head in the first innings with a gem of a

delivery and was even not hesitant to exchange a few words with veteran Mitchell Starc, despite them being team-mates at the Kolkata Knight Riders during the IPL 2024. Nitish made nerveless 41 and 38 across two innings here, knocks that belied his lack of sufficient exposure in First-Class cricket. "If you are scared, then your fear will not go away. So, that is a very positive sign for me that they are not afraid and have a lot of desire to learn. "They have started very well and hopefully, they will do well in the future as well," added Bumrah. The pace talisman said the two young players were more than happy to handle the responsibility once they were informed of their debut. "They themselves were looking for responsibility. When you talk to them...

they are more than ready. They were looking for responsibility. So, that is a very positive sign for our team. "All the youngsters who are coming (in), they are very hungry. They have a lot of faith in their ability. So, if that happens, then you can learn skills," he said. Similarly, Yashasvi Jaiswal was also playing his first Test Down Under but the left-hander left an indelible impression with a remarkable 161. Bumrah said it was the best Test innings in Jaiswal's fledgling career because the 22-year-old showed a lot of self-restraint. "If I had to choose a man of the match, I would choose Jaiswal. I think this was his best Test knock so far because, you know, he has an attacking nature. But in that second innings, he left certain balls, he took his time and

batted deep. That gives us a lot of confidence.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, RAYAGADA.
E-mail: eerwssrgd@gmail.com, Phone: 8280408061.
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT.
Tender Identification No.02/RWS/RGD/2024-25, Dt.: 22.11.2024

1) Name of Work:-
1) Laying of pipeline, supplying & laying and jointing of 25mm sq. Armed core cable with other ancillary works for water supply to Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya, Chandrapur at Chandrapur Block under Rayagada District.

2) Total Number of Works :- 1 Nos. (Detailed list available in the website)
3) Estimated Cost :- Rs. 14.05 Lakhs
4) Class of Contractor :- "D & C" Class
5) Period of completion :- 03 months

Procurement Officer.	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	
		From	To
Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Division Rayagada.	Online Tender/02/RWS/RGD/2024-25, Dt.:22.11.2024	11:00 Hrs of 30.11.2024	17:00 Hrs of 09.12.2024

NB:- Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Rayagada
OIPR-25007/11/0002/2425

WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION, UDDITNAGAR, ROURKELA
E-Mail Id - eepwrdrki@gmail.com
B-688 Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.: 66 / 2024-25 Dated:20.11.2024

- Number of works: 03 (Three) number of Work
- Estimated cost: RS. 5.96 Lakhs to Rs.20.38 lakhs
- Period of completion: 1(One) calendar months
- Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt:27.11.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
- Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt: 09.12.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Bid: Dt. 10.12.2024 at 11.00A.M.
- Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Superintending Engineer, (R & B) Division, Rourkela, UditNagar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tendersorissa.gov.in>
Additional Chief Engineer (Civil), Rourkela (R&B) Division
OIPR-34068/11/0021/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SONEPUR, e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
E-mail: emino@yaho.com Ph.No. 9694-22616
A-606 BID IDENTIFICATION No: SNPM/ 03/2024-25
No- 1282 Date- 21.11.2024

The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Sonepur on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

Name of work	Civil Construction Work
No. of works	07 (EVEN) Nos Minor Irrigation Projects.
Estimated cost:	From Rs. 8.48 lakh to Rs. 29.66 lakh
Tender paper cost	Rs 4000.00 to 6000.00
Period of completion	3 (Three) Calendar months.
Class of Contractor	"D", "C" & "B"
Availability of bid documents	From 28.11.2024 (10.00 AM) to 07.12.2024 up to (5.00 PM) through On- Line in website (www.tendersorissa.gov.in)
Period of Receipt of bid through on Line	From 28.11.2024 (10.00 AM) to 07.12.2024 up to (5.00 PM) through On- Line.
Mode of Payment	Online.
Date of opening of Bid documents/ Technical Bid	09.12.2024 (11.00 AM Onwards) in the Office of the S.E, M.I. Division, Sonepur.
Date of Lottery (If required)	13.12.2024 (11.00 AM)
Digital signature certificate of Bidder	The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website	http://dowr.orissa.gov.in
Name & Address of the OIT	O/o The Superintending Engineer, MI Division Sonepur In front of civil court Dist- Sonepur PIN-767017
Further details can be seen from the E-Procurement website.	E-mail: emino@yaho.com https://tendersorissa.gov.in

Note: Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Modifications/ Additions if any can be seen through on-line only.
OIPR-32280/11/0006/2425
Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Sonepur

GOVT. OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES O/O THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PRACHI DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR-12
E-mail: prachi.division@yahoo.co.in, eprachidivision@gmail.com No. 7351 Dt. 19.11.2024
e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO - SEPRD - 11/2024-25
Bid Documents consisting of work, estimate cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in complete online process only

01. Nature of work	civil works (canal / river bank restoration / building / bridges)
02. No. of Works	37 Nos.
03. Bid Identification No.	SEPRD - 11/2024-25
04. Estimated Cost	7.00 Lakhs to 45.00 Lakhs (₹ in Rs.)
05. Earnest Money Deposit	Referred to DTCN
06. Cost of Tender Paper	Referred to DTCN
07. Period of Completion	Referred to DTCN
08. Date & time of availability of bid documents in the Portal	From 26.11.2024 (10.00 AM) to 06.12.2024 (5.30 PM)
09. Date and time of Opening of Tender Documents & online bids	07.12.2024 at 11.30 AM
10. Date of Lottery (In case of situation arises)	17.12.2024 at 4.30 PM
11. Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	Superintending Engineer, Prachi Division, Bhubaneswar-12, E-mail: prachi.division@yahoo.co.in, eprachidivision@gmail.com

Further details (corrigendum, addendum, cancellation) can be seen from the State Govt. Portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in
OIPR-32096/11/0004/2425
Superintending Engineer Prachi Division, Bhubaneswar