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THOUSANDS CROWD NEW ZEALAND'S PARLIAMENT GROUNDS IN SUPPORT OF MAORI RIGHTS

DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

HAZE STAYS, IDEAS FLOAT

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

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

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

Despite repeated requests through letters on August 30, October 10, and October 23, the Union Environment Minister has not taken cognisance of the situation or responded to the Delhi government's appeals," Rai said in his latest letter.

He alleged that despite repeated reminders and requests, the Centre was yet to call a meeting to discuss the



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

In his letter, Rai proposed that this meeting include the Delhi Government, experts from Kanpur who have conducted research artificial rain, and key Central Government ministries such as such as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Defence along other relevant departments.

Artificial rain is needed in Delhi as an emergency measure to reduce pollution and help citizens at this juncture. While the Delhi Government is willing to initiate the emergency measure, it needs a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Centre's Directorate

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

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

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

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

of outcomes also raise

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

"A decision on implementing work-from-home measures and the odd-even scheme will be taken soon to tackle the city's worsening air quality," Rai said. He said, "People, including children and senior citizens, are struggling to breathe and we deeply regret this situation." On the possibility of implementing work-from-home measures, Rai stated, "We will take a decision on this soon."

The minister added that the government has already imposed significant restrictions on vehicles under GRAP-IV. "We are analysing the impact of these measures. If the analysis shows a positive outcome, we will take further decisions accordingly," he



CJI asks judges to allow virtual hearings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

On poll eve Vinod Tawde's 'cashgate'



T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

Continued on page 2 | leader of the Opposition in

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

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

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

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Russian President Vladimir Putin likely to visit India soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi invited the Russian President to visit India when the two leaders held summit talks in Moscow in July. Prime Minister Modi visited Kazan in Russia last month to attend the BRICS summit. Earlier on Tuesday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov in a video interaction with senior Indian Editors referred to the strong bilateral relationship between India and Russia, and added Putin's visit is on the cards. He did not give any specific dates or make a definitive announcement of the visit. The interaction was organised by the Russian state-owned Sputnik news agency.

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

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

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EAM meets Chinese counterpart

dispersion of salt particles like

silver iodide or chloride into

clouds to induce rain, is being

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/RIO DE JANEIRO

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi deliberated on the next steps in India-China ties at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, in first high-level since engagement disengaged from Demchok and Depsang at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The two leaders held the delegationlevel talks on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro late on Monday.

The EAM said in a social media post both sides noted the progress in the recent disengagement of the border areas and exchanged views on the next steps in the bilateral ties. It is learnt that both sides are in the process of reviving various dialogue mechanisms including the special representatives talks on the boundary question as decided at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of Kazan

last month. Days after the two sides reached an agreement on October 21 on disengagement in Demchok and Depsang, Indian and Chinese militaries completed the process marking a virtual end to over four-year standoff in the two



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a meeting with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janerio

friction points.

The two sides also resumed patrolling activities in these areas after a gap of almost four-and-a-half years. "On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio, met CPC Politburo member and FM Wang Yi of China," Jaishankar said, adding, "We noted the progress in the recent disengagement in the India-China border areas. And exchanged views on the next steps in our bilateral ties. "Also discussed the global

situation." In his opening remarks at the talks, Jaishankar referred to meeting between PMModi and President Xi on October 23 on the sidelines of

the BRICS summit. Kazan, our leaders reached a consensus on taking the next steps in our relationship, bearing in mind the understanding of October 21. I am glad to note that on the ground, the implementation of that understanding has proceeded as planned," he

"Our leaders have directed that the Foreign Ministers and the Special Representatives should meet at an early date. Some progress, some discussions have happened in that direction," he said. Jaishankar and Wang discussed the next

steps in the meeting.

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End of the road for Himachal Bhawan?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE SHIMLA/NEW DELHI

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has ordered the attachment of Himachal Bhawan located in Delhi for the recovery of Rs 150 Crore owed by the state government to Seli Hydropower Electrical following an Company arbitration ruling in favour of the power firm.

Passing the order on Monday, a single-judge bench of Justice Ajay Mohan Goel said the company may take appropriate steps for the auction of Himachal Bhawan located in central Delhi's Mandi House area thereof.

Advocate General Anup Rattan said the Himachal Pradesh government has filed an appeal against the initial HC order and it is likely to come up for hearing this month. The case pertains to the 340 MW Seli Hydropower Electric Project on the Chenab River in Lahaul and Spiti district.

Amidst the crackdown on vehicles falling under scrap years, vintage car aficionados heaved a sigh of relief as Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Saxena came to their rescue, directing the Delhi Transport Department that there should be no coercive action on the However, this has come with a rider that they are not to be driven on roads or used for commercial purposes. There are around 10,000 registered

vintage cars in India.

LG Saxena has directed that bona fide vintage vehicles will no longer face coercive action by the Transport Department and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD. According to Raj Niwas, the LG has asked the Commissioner Transport and Commissioner (MCD) to ensure that their enforcement wings desist from coercive action in case of such bona fide vehicles.

Acting on a representation made by the Heritage Motoring Club of India, highlighting that their vehicles are being impounded by the authorities and requesting for clarificatory orders in this regard, the LG had asked his Secretariat to issue appropriate directions. The transport department's data shows there are Continued on page 2 | 60,14,493 such vehicles in



Former Union Minister Vijay Goel with one his coveted vintage cars which he used to take out as part of the exhibition he started to mark the birthday of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Photo courtesy: Vijay Goel

Delhi. The enforcement teams of the Transport Department and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) impound diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years for scrapping. The Supreme Court in its order in 2019, banned plying of such end-oflife vehicles in Delhi.

"The LG has taken note of harassment being faced by the vintage car owners and directed the Transport and MCD to desist from impounding bona vehicles vintage scrapping," said the note. The notification

MoRTH on July 15, 2021, has enabled provision for the registration of vehicles that are 50 years old or more as vintage vehicles, the LG

secretariat said. Based on the notification of MoRTH, the Transport Department of Delhi government on December 2, 2021, ordered for allotment of common series "DLVA" "DLVA" for vintage vehicles. In further orders, the department specified the procedure for application and issuance of a certificate of registration as a vintage motor vehicle.

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE VARANASI

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

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

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

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

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

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

recent months that the NGT expressed concerning the restoration.

dissatisfaction with the Varanasi administration's efforts. Three months ago, the tribunal imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the DM for failing to comply with its orders Ganga's During the hearing petitioner Saurabh Tiwari

highlighted that despite

repeated meetings and official

no tangible having taken place, but no discussions,

progress had been made on the ground in terms of cleaning the Ganga and restoring the tributaries. The NGT was informed that the restoration of the Asi and Varuna rivers was moving at a slow pace, with 40 meetings tenure. The tribunal also

visible work was evident.

The bench questioned DM Rajlingam about his efforts since taking office in Varanasi in November 2022 and asked what measures had been

the tributaries was meant to be completed within a 12month deadline, set by the NGT in 2021. However, more than 33 months have passed, and the situation remains largely unchanged. The government's lawyer,

noted that the renovation of

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

The petition, filed on August 4, 2024, highlighted the slow progress of the restoration work for Asi and Varuna. The NGT had originally set a fivein 2021, but after over three years, little on-the-ground action has been seen. The restoration process

completion of the restoration

officially began after a meeting of the Supervisory and Execution Committees in November 2021, but as per the petitioner, the project remains confined bureaucratic processes, with no substantial work visible in the river areas. As the December 13 hearing

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

Maharashtra goes to polls, 4,136 candidates in the fray

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

n a most crucial contest that has the potential to alter the power dynamics in the country, more than 9.50 crore voters will go to polls in Maharashtra on Wednesday to decide on whether to re-elect the Bharatiya Janata Party-led MahaYuti government or usher the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) dispensation into power in a state that is ruled from the country's commercial

Given the complexities of the polls that will witness a fierce battle between the two major political formations, it remains to be seen as to whether the ruling MahaYuti or the Opposition MVA will reach the magic figure of 145 (out of the total 288 seats), a simple majority required for staking a claim to form the next government in Maharashtra.

Both the ruling MahaYuti, comprising BJP, Eknath Shinde-MahaYuti, led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawarheaded Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Opposition MVA, comprising the Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar-headed

180 seats to form a government in

Fresh from the BJP's stunning victory in Haryana, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, during his campaigning, had pitched for the MahaYuti replicating the Haryana Assembly poll outcome in Maharashtra, a prospect that the Opposition MVA leaders have dismissed outright. In all, there are 4,136 candidates in

the fray for 288 Assembly seats. The main battle is going between the ruling MahaYuti and MVA in the polls. There are also candidates from several smaller and Independents - many of whom are rebels from the six major parties which constitute MahaYuti and

The BJP, which heads the ruling MahaYuti, is contesting 148 seats. Its allies, Eknath Shinde-Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, are contesting 80 seats and 53 seats respectively.

On the other hand, the Congress, which heads the MVA, is contesting 103 seats, while its allies, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) has fielded candidates in 89 constituencies and Sharad NCP (SP), have claimed that they Pawar's NCP (SP) is contesting 87

would win anywhere from 170 to seats. The MVA has allotted the remaining six seats to its smaller

> The Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) fielded the largest number of 237 candidates followed by Prakash Ambedkarled Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi from which 200 are in the race. The Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) is contesting 128 seats.

Significantly enough, the BJP, is involved in direct fights with the Congress in at least 75 constituencies across the state. In Vidarbha alone, the two major parties are slugging out against each in as many as 36 out of the total 62 constituencies in the

Given that the November 20 Assembly polls are being held in the backdrop of two major splits witnessed in the Shiv Sena and NCP in June 2022 and July 2023, there will be several direct fights between the feuding factions of the Shiv Sena and NCP Shiv Sena and NCP.

While the Shinde Shiv Sena will slug it out with the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena in as many as 39 seats. The feuding NCPs, one led by Ajit Pawar and another headed by Sharad Pawar himself,



election materials from a distribution center on the eve of voting for the Maharashtra Assembly

constituencies.

In Mumbai-Konkan belt where there are 75 seats, the fight is between the two Senas, with the Shiv Sena (ES) and Shiv Sena (UBT) locking horns in 27 of the 75 places, followed by BJP vs Shiv Sena (UBT) in 17 places, BJP vs Congress in 14 places and BJP vs NCP (SP) in five places and NCP (AP) vs NCP (SP) in five seats.

In western Maharashtra where there are 58 seats, the two NCPs, led by Sharad Pawar and Ajit

will take on each other in 36 Pawar are engaged in direct contests in 20 seats. On the other hand, BJP has engaged the NCP (SP) in 15 places followed by BJP vs Congress in 12 places, BJP vs Shiv Sena (UBT) in five places and Shiv Sena (ES) vs Shiv Sena (UBT) in five places.

In north Maharashtra where there are 47 seats, the BJP and Congress are fighting against each other in six seats, followed by BJP vs Shiv Sena (UBT) in five places, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shjnde) Vs Shiv Sena (ÙBT) in five places, BJP Vs

NCP (SP) in four places and NCP (AP) Vs NCP (SP) in three places. In Marathwada where there are 46 seats, the Shinde Sena is battling it out against the Uddhav Sena in 11 constituencies followed by BJP Vs Congress in 10 places, BJP Vs NCP (SP) in seven places, NCP (SP) Vs NCP (AP) in seven places and BJP Vs Shiv Sena (UBT) in three seats. Key contests are being witnessed in Kopri-Pachpakhadi, where chief minister Eknath Shinde is taking on late Anand Dighe's nephew Kedar Dighe (Shiv Sena-UBT), Nagpur South West where deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is pitted against Prafulla Gudadhe-Patil (Congress), Gudadhe-Patil (Congress), Baramati where deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar (NCP) is battling out against his nephew Yugendra Pawar (NCP-SP), Worli where Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aadtiya Thackeray is locked in a fierce fight with Milind Deora (Shinde Shiv Sena) and State BJP Chandrashekhar Bawankule (BJP) is involved in a direct fight against Suresh Bhoyar

(Congress). The other key constituencies are: Sakoli (Nana Patole) Karad South (former CM Prithviraj Chavan, Congress), Yevla (Chhagan critical locations.

Bhujbal, Ajit Pawar NCP), Vandre West (Ashish Shelar, BJP), Mahim Thackeray, (Amit Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar (Nawab Malik, Ajit Pawar NCP), Colaba (Speaker Rahul Narwekar, BJP), Kankavli (Nitesh Rane, BJP) and Kudal (NileshRane, Shinde Sena) Meanwhile, the election authorities have made tight security arrangements across the state for Wednesday's Assembly polls. In Mumbai alone, more than 30,000 police personnel have been

deployed on poll duty. In addition in Mumbai, five additional commissioners of police, 20 deputy commissioners of police, 83 assistant commissioners of police, more than 2,000 other police officers and 25,000 personnel have been deployed. Three Riot Control Platoons have been put on duty for the purpose of maintaining order. The traffic department has separately deployed 144 officers and more than 1,000 other personnel on security duty. More than 4,000 Home Guards have also been deployed and several personnel drawn from various central and state security forces have been assigned duties at

Pishi or Bhaipo: That is the question in TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In what is being viewed as a faint sign of a war-ofsuccession, a section of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) have tossed up the idea of elevating Abhishek Banerjee the party general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP as the Deputy Chief Minister with the charge of Police Ministry.

Former Minister and party MLA from Bharatpur in Murshidabad Humayun has courted controversy, demanding early coronation for Abhishek who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. "No one lives in power for

ever, Bidhan Roy too was a powerful politician ... many others were there but none lived for ever... in view of this some decisions have to be taken... I think it is the right time elevate Abhishek as the Deputy Chief Minister with additional charge of the

Police Ministry ... which will not only make Mamata Didi's work easier but also help the police provide a better service to the people," Kabir who has often been known for his controversial remarks said. Apart from being the party general secretary the junior Banerjee is a sitting MP from Harbour

constituency in South 24 Parganas district from where he won the parliamentary elections in 2024 by a record margin of about 7.5 lakh

Saying that the Bharatiya Party Government in the Centre might not continue for long in which case the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance would come to power Kabir said, "the BJP Government will not last long and as INDIA Bloc will come to power Mamata Didi will get preoccupied in

with Abhishek Banerjee to share her responsibility... so he must be made the Deputy Chief Minister," reminding how Marxist patriarch Jyoti Basu had left the Home Ministry for his successor Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.

When asked as to whether his statement would not once again whip up the "old versus new" debate early this year forcing the Chief Minister to intervene to issue a whip against making any off the cuff remarks, Kabir said he was not saying anything against the Chief Minister. "Rather I have always gone on record saying that Mamata

Banerjee is the best and most competent in the business in the entire country... there is no other politician to match her ability... which is why she will be busy in the Centre and for that the work in Bengal will be neglected... presently the Chief Minister works for the national politics... for 16-18 hours per day... for this the party should be ready that Abhishek who has

organiser administrator should be given share responsibility... also because this will give him an exposure," he said.

When asked as to whether he would offer his suggestion in writing to the Chief Minister he said, "that I will decide... whether I will write or whether I will directly talk to the Chief Minister when I meet her in the Assembly." Bengal minister

Firhad Hakim came back sharply against Kabir saying there was no one who could match Mamata Banerjee. Party spokesperson Kunal Ghosh too said such issues should not be discussed outside the party in public. 'There are certain issues which are not to be discussed

in the public... there is no doubt that Abhishek is a capable person but it is for Mamata Banerjee to take decisions," he said.



On poll eve Vinod Tawde's 'cashgate'

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At one stage, Tawde was 'gheraoed' and pushed around by BVA workers. However, the situation came under control after Kshitij Thakur rushed there to control the crowds. At that time, BIP workers also gathered outside, along with the Nallasopara BJP candidate Rajan Naik. Shiv Sena (UBT) head

Uddhav Thackeray said that while BJP was making" allegations of 'vote-jihad, what was actually happening is 'note-jihad'".

On their part, the BJP leadership and Tawde denied the allegations. "I was the allegations. conducting a meeting of party workers in Nalasopara (constituency) to discuss the model code of conduct on the day of polls like how EVMs are to be sealed, how to take

objection... misunderstood," Tawde said Offering to face allegations against him, Tawde said, "The Election Commission must carry out a free and fair probe...İ have been in politics for 40 years...Appa and Kshitij know me very well."

Defending Tawde, state BJP President Chandrashekhar Bawankule said: "Tawde is national general secretary and will persons in position distribute money in this way? It should considered. As the election has gone out of hand, the opposition is defaming the BJP and political the Tawde... opponents made a film, the opponents did media management. Tawde has would have on Wednesday's fallen prey to conspiracy."

Earlier, Hitendra Thakur,

while talking to media persons said, "Some BJP leaders informed me that party general secretary Tawde had come to Virar to disburse Rs 5 crore to influence voters...we have seen huge amounts of cash, diary entries, laptop". Sr Thakur, however, did not name the BJP leader who had tipped off Tawde's movement from Wada to Virar with the cash. "I thought a national leader like him would not stoop to such a trivial task. But I saw him here... you all saw what happened, how it happened and who all were there, Thakur said, as he demanded stern action against Tawde. It remains to be seen as to what impact that the controversy involving Tawde

Russian President Vladimir Putin likely...

Last month, Prime Minister for the annual summit of the leaders of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) group of nations. The two leaders held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the

summit. Asked to comment on United States President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with USsupplied longer-range missiles Peskov warned it will add fuel to the conflict and escalate the

Peskov's comments came on a day when President Putin signed a revised nuclear doctrine declaring that a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack on his country. Putin's endorsement of the new nuclear deterrent policy comes on the 1,000th day after he sent troops into Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. polls in Virar-Vasai area and

not to be...

Delhi hosts several vintage car rallies, including the Statesman Vintage & Classic Car Rally and the 21 Gun Salute International Vintage Car Rally and Concours d'Elegance. Last year, Delhi resident Kaleem Khan's 1948 Humber Hawk III was seized by the state government citing its scrapping policy. Khan moved the court and later the Delhi High Court stayed the seizure of the car. It asked the Delhi government to clarify its stance on vintage vehicles. Earlier this year, the Delhi government issued guidelines for the "end-of-life" vehicles stating that their owners can get the cars released by paying a fine of Rs 10,000 and giving an undertaking that these will not be driven on city roads The owners would also need to park the cars in a private space and not in public.

Vintage cars | All-party meeting to be held on Sunday PIONEER NEWS SERVICE party meeting is convened by complex during the session,

party meeting on Sunday ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the meet has been convened on November 24 morning "in view of the coming Winter session of Parliament" that begins on November 25 to conclude on December 20.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, an event will be held in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan or the old Parliament building. An all-

the government ahead of including Samvidhan Diwas sessions to inform the on November 26, death The Government has opposition of its legislative anniversary of Dr. B R agenda as well as to discuss issues which parties want to debate in Parliament.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, on Tuesday, reviewed arrangements and facilities in Parliament House complex ahead of the Winter session beginning November 25. Birla inspected the Lok Sabha chamber, corridors, lobbies, waiting rooms, media facilities and other key areas, the Lok Sabha

secretariat said. Birla noted that several significant events will be held in the Parliament House Ambedkar on Decen and the function to mark the anniversary of Parliament attack on December 13. The Speaker instructed all

concerned to ensure that necessary arrangements are in place to facilitate the smooth conduct of proceedings, the Lok Sabha secretariat said. Birla also reviewed the security arrangements at the complex and instructed officials to maintain a balance between ensuring unhindered access for MPs and upholding the highest standards of security, it added.

End of the road for Himachal Bhawan?

From page 1

state government awarded the project to Seli Hydro Electric Power Limited/Moser Company Baer and issued the Letter of (LOA) Allotment February 28, 2009, following which the firm deposited the upfront premium of Rs 64 Crore.

However, the project did not materialise. The state materialise. government cancelled the LOA and ordered forfeiture of the upfront premium. The company challenged the decision before an arbitrator which ruled in its favour and asked the government to deposit the upfront premium

deposit the upfront premium with interest with the Registry. Due to the delay in payment, the amount has increased to Rs 150 Crore with the accumulation of seven per cent interest from the date of filing of the petition. The high court, in its Monday order, also directed the Principal Secretary (Power) to order a factfinding inquiry to identify the officers responsible for the lapse and sought its report within 15 days before the next hearing on December 6.

The BJP said it is a clear failure of the Congress government.

The state government is unable to defend itself and our prestigious properties like Himachal Bhawan located in Mandi House in Delhi are being attached which is a clear failure government," said Leader of Opposition in the state assembly Jai Ram Thakur. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, however. dismissed criticism on the issue. "Depositing Rs 64 Crore is not a big thing for the state government but we are fighting a legal battle," he told media persons here.

CJI asks judges to allow virtual hearings

From page 1

The Solicitor General said the SC, as a matter of principle, should go virtual. "The way we are functioning today, if anybody wants to be online, they can go online," the CJI said. Sankaranarayanan said around 10,000 lawyers come to the Supreme Court Court daily using their own vehicles. He added lawyers' clerks also use personal vehicles often. 'We will leave it to the lawyers concerned. We have given them that facility, whenever you want to appear virtually, you can," the CJI said. Sankaranarayanan

GRAP-IV restrictions are implemented in Delhi-NCR and there are no such specific instructions for courts in the city. "You have the option, you exercise that option. We have already said so. We will accommodate everyone," the CJI reiterated. On Monday, the SC took note of the fact that the Air Quality Index (AQI) entered into the 'severe plus' category and directed all Delhi-NCR states to immediately set up teams to strictly enforce anti-pollution GRAP IV restrictions, making it clear that the curbs will continue till further

EAM meets Chinese counterpart is headed at the talks by From page 1 Foreign Minister Wang Yi. A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) The EAM also noted the importance of India-China ties in his remarks. "First of said the two ministers

all let me say it is very good to meet on the sidelines of the G20. We saw each other recently on the sidelines of the BRICS as you noted. "And our contribution to both platforms was notable in shaping the outcomes," he said. eventual

"But it was a reminder to us of the importance of our two countries in international politics. It was also an equally significant testimony of why our bilateral relations are so important," he added.

The Special Representative dialogue will be the next significant forward movement, sources said. India's Special Representative for the dialogue is National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval while the Chinese side

recognised that disengagement in our border areas had contributed to the maintenance of peace and tranquillity. The discussions focused on the next steps in India-China relations. It was agreed that a meeting of the Special Representatives and of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism will take

place soon. Among the steps discussed were the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra pilgrimage, data sharing on trans-border rivers, direct flights between India and China and media exchanges. Foreign Minister Wang Yi concurred with EAM Jaishankar that India-China

noted that our leaders had agreed in Kazan on the way forward. The two Ministers felt that it was imperative that the focus should be on stabilising ties, managing differences and taking the next steps. after Meanwhile,

elsewhere in Maharashtra.

completion disengagement, Indian and the Chinese militaries are carrying out one round of patrolling each in Depsang and Demchok, sources said. two sides

At the same time, they said maintained their deployment of troops along the LAC and the focus now will be on deescalation of the overall situation. Each side currently has around 50,000 to 60,000 troops along the LAC in the region. Talks at multiple levels are underway towards de-escalation, the people said. After India and China relations have particular After India and China salience in world politics. He reached the agreement on

October disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said the Indian military is trying to restore "trust" and both sides will have to "reassure each other" to achieve this objective.

Two days after the pact was sealed, PM Modi and President Xi held talks in the Russian city of Kazan. The two leaders endorsed the agreement on patrolling and disengagement and issued directions to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms, signalling attempts to normalise ties.

In the nearly 50-minute meeting held on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Modi underscored the importance ĥandling properly differences and disputes and not allowing them to disturb peace and tranquillity in border areas. The PM said mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual sensitivity should remain the basis of the relations. India has been maintaining that its ties with China cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border areas.

In an address at an event on Saturday in New Delhi, Jaishankar said disengagement part of the "problem" with China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh has been put to rest and the focus should now be on deescalation.

It is "reasonable" to expect some improvement in the relations following the final round of disengagement, he said but hesitated to say that there could be a reset of ties. The eastern Ladakh border standoff erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake

with interest. After the state government did not comply with the order, the company filed a petition before the high court under Article 226. The court found merit in the petitioner's contention that the project had become technically and financially unviable and its prayer for withdrawing from it deserved to be allowed.

The HC also upheld the decision of the arbitrator on January 13, 2023, and directed the government to

the pioneer NEW DELHI | WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 20, 2024

Ongoing protest by contractual DTC workers disrupts public transportation

The ongoing protest by Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) contractual bus drivers and conductors continues to disrupt public transportation amid worsening air quality in Delhi on Tuesday. A major inconvenience for public bus commuters was aggravated on Tuesday, forcing them to take cabs and bike taxis, as a strike by the DTC contractual bus drivers and conductors demanding equal pay and better working conditions led to a disruption in public transportation. Some commuters left clueless as they do

Meanwhile, several social media users expressed anger towards the disruption in the public transport system in the national capital. A few netizens slammed the Delhi government to intervene in the matter and "rise above politics" while some seeking action against the protesting bus conductors and drivers. Responding to the development, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai requested the DTC employees to work together, citing a medical emergency' due to pollution. "I am in touch with those people (DTC employees), and I want to request that they



Chandni Chowk and secretary general of the Confederation of emergency and we all need to work together," Rai said. Taking cognisance of the protesting workers, the Delhi Transport Corporation formed a committee of officers to consider the demands and grievances of the contractual employees.

The DTC also requested the DTC Karmachari Ekta Union to provide a letter related to the demands or grievances of the contractual employees at the earliest for presenting it before the committee.

The strike came as a response to growing dissatisfaction among DTC's contractual

when female employees at the newly inaugurated allwomen 'Sakhi Bus Depot' in Sarojini Nagar initiated a protest, demanding equal pay and job security.

Their grievances highlighted the stark wage disparities between permanent and con-tractual staff. The protest gained momentum as male employees joined in, amplifying the call for better working conditions and fair treatment. Protesters are demanding that the government address their key issues, including regularisation of their jobs, implementation of equal pay for

equal work, and basic salary

plus dearness allowance (DA Additionally, they are asking

for job security measures to prevent arbitrary transfers to distant locations, which place an extra burden on contractual employees.

A few commuters expressed their anger over the Delhi bus strike on X and urged the Delhi government to take immediate action in the matter. "How comuters r forced to strand in midroads by some contractual workers of DTC is a little glance of picture. On part of admn. nobody is bothered abt the harassment of public transport users [sic]"

Worsening air quality leading to decline Deteriorating AQI: JNU, JMI, DU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's worsening air quality has led to sharp decline in market footfall, significantly impacting businesses, according to several trader associations. Rakesh Yadav, president of the Sadar Bazar Trades Association, said that there is a 15 percent decline in footfall in the Sadar market compared to usual days. "There's a noticeable decrease in the number of people visiting Sadar Bazar, especially customers from other states who typically come for wholesale shopping. Many are now placing orders online instead of travelling here due to the severe air pollution," Yadav said. Similarly, Sanjeev Mehra, presi-

dent of the Khan Market Traders Association, said that there has been a sharp drop of 60 percent in footfall since the implementation of Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). "Foot traffic in Khan Market has fallen drastically, and it's impacting traders, especially small shop owners. These measures are hitting the pockets of small traders,"

Mehra added.

Delhi's air quality reached the 'severe plus' category on Sunday, leading to rigorous pollution control measures under GRAP Stage IV on Monday morning. These measures include restrictions on truck entry, allowing only those carrying essential goods or using clean fuels like LNG, CNG, BS-VI diesel, or electricity, with an additional ban on construction and demolition activities along with the closure

Sanjeev Aneja, vice president of the Kailash Colony Market Association, observed fewer people on the area's weekly off, i.E

All India Traders said in a statement that air pollution and related restrictions have severely impacted Delhi's trade sector, causing an estimated 20 percent business loss. According to Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal, who is

also Secretary General, Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), the restrictions imposed to control are bound to cause adverse impact creating an on Tuesdays estimated loss of business to the "Despite it being a weekly off day, tune of almost 20%, which is a there are fewer people around compared to other Tuesdays," he substantial trade loss to Delhi trading community. Small and Rajeev Gandhi, convener of the medium enterprises, especially in 'Save Our City' campaign, a collective of Residents' Welfare markets like Chandni Chowk, Karol Bagh, and Lajpat Nagar, Associations (RWAs) said that Connaught Place, South many people have stopped com-Extension, Sadar Bazar, Kamla ing to the parks as well. Nagar, Pitampura etc experience "Once lively Parks are now sharp revenue declines due to empty as fewer people come reduced customer visits and there. Children's laughter and supply chain issues whereas seaplay have been replaced by sonal businesses, particularly silence. This shows how deeply those relying on festivals and pollution has affected people, weddings face heavy losses as keeping them indoors," he added. pollution curbs often coincide

in market footfalls: Trader's associations decide to conduct all classes online

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A mid the deteriorating and quality in the national capital, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Jamia Milia mid the deteriorating air Islamia (JMI) and Delhi University have decided to conduct all classes online till November 22 and 23, respectively. This decision comes as pollution levels in Delhi and the surrounding NCR region have reached hazardous levels, with the air quality index (AQI) marking severe plus categories, reaching 460, raising concerns about health risks for students and residents. According to Swiss group IQAir, Delhi's air quality was a "hazardous" 489 on Tuesday, making it the most polluted city in the world. However, this is a significant improvement from Monday's 1,900 reading. The Delhi government's health

department on Tuesday directed all its hospitals to constitute teams of specialists to tackle patients with respiratory ailments linked to severe air pol-



Department (IMD) issued a yellow alert for moderate-todense fog conditions in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR). The visibility over the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport was 600 metres as of 7 am. Several trains and flights have been delayed or cancelled as the visibility plunged due to the toxic smog in India's capital. At least 22 trains were delayed and eight flights were diverted on Tuesday morning. Jamia Millia Islamia has

ing those enrolled in its schools, until November 23, due to the deteriorating air quality in the national capital. The decision was made in view of the severe air pollution levels, with the city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 460, placing it in the "severe plus" category.In a notification, the university said that regular physical classes would resume on November 25, prioritising the health and wellbeing of students.

The administration also direct-

to suspend physical classes until further notice and conduct classes online.

On Monday, both Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University announced similar measures, shifting to online classes until November 23 and November 22, respectively. However, the schedule for exams and interviews at both universities will remain unchanged, as said in their notifications. schools and colleges in the

region have already transitioned to online classes in response to the worsening air

According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) data, Delhi's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) was 494 at 6 am. Of the 35 monitoring stations in the national capital, most recorded an AQI of 500.Of the 35 monitoring stations in the national capital, most recorded an AQI of 500. recorded at NSIT Dwarka, the

BJP stages protest against AAP Government over its failure to address alarming pollution levels

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Tuesday staged protests near Anand Vihar bus station and ITO, targeting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government over its failure to address the alarming pollution levels in the city and also alleged corruption in the green cess, collected by city dispensation. The demonstation, led by Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva and East Delhi MLA Harsh Malhotra saw party workers chanting slogans against AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and Atishi government and accusing them of years of neglect and corruption leading to worsening Delhi's air quality. While a protest at ITO led by former Union Minister Vijay Goel where he alongwith the party workers distributed masks and raised slogans against AAP government.

During an awareness-cummask distribution programme at Anand Vihar, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva slammed Aam Aadmi Party Chief Minister Atishi, alleging the government's inaction in addressing the pollution cri-

Delhi BJP further accused the AAP of failing to repair roads, address vehicular pollution, or fix potholes. "The Centre has provided thousands of

projects like the Yamuna Expressway and the Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways to reduce vehicular traffic in Delhi. If these projects hadn't been implemented, Delhi's condition would have been far worse. Kejriwal should stop shifting blame and take responsibility for destroying Delhi," he

He also pointed to stubble contributor to the crisis. "On Monday alone, there were 1,251 incidents of stubble burning in Punjab, governed by AAP, compared to 48 in Haryana and 130 in Uttar Pradesh. This negligence by the Punjab government is criminal, and Delhi is paying



the price," Sachdeva added. Echoing Sachdeva's sentiments, Harsh Malhotra com-mended the Centre's initiatives to curb pollution and slammed the AAP government for its inaction. Malhotra accused the AAP of using the green cess funds for corrupt practices and false people will have to live with masks permanently," he said. Former Union Minister Vijay Goel staged a protest at ITO, and alleged that the AAP government in Delhi has failed to help the people struggling against the per-sisting hazardous air in the

Goel questioned how many more years it will take for Kejriwal to address Delhi's pollution effectively, and charged that over the past 10 years AAP government has relied on rhetoric than serious measures to tackle the issue of air pollution in winters. He promises. "The public is determined to eliminate this pollution -- AAP itself. If has touched 500, and in some The AAP government has turned Delhi into a gas chamber and people in the city can not go out for morning walk because of pollution, he

> BJP Lok Sabha MP Manoj Tiwari distributed masks to people in New Delhi's

Connaught Place on Tuesday as air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR) reached alarming levels. Tiwari accused the AAP government of evading responsibility and blamed them for pointing fingers at the Centre and BJP-ruled states over stubble burning. "What could be more irresponsible? The AAP governs Delhi; its

and the pollution control boards fall under their administration. Yet, they are blaming the Centre," he said.NDMC Vice Chairperson Kuljeet Singh Chahal, who accompanied Tiwari in distributing masks, also shared

Metro records highest-ever daily ridership of 78.67 lakhs on Nov 18

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A mid the severe pollution gripping the national capital, Delhi Metro record-ed its highest-ever daily rid-ership on November 18, with a staggering 78.67 lakh passenger journeys. According to Delhi Metro's data, this fig-ure exceeded the previous high of 77.49 lakh passengers on August 20 of this year.

On November 18, the Yellow Line, which connects Millennium City Centre in Gurugram to Samaypur Badli in Delhi, saw the highest passenger traffic, with a record 20.99 lakh commuters. The Blue Line followed closely with 20.80 lakh passengers, while the Red Line recorded 8.56 lakh commuters, 8.15 lakh in Pink Line and 7.93 lakh in Violet Line.

The Magenta Line saw 6.19 lakh passengers, followed by the Green Line with 4.12 lakh commuters, 81,985 in Airport Line, 57,701 in Rapid Metro, and 50,128, in the Grey Line, as per the data. Thick grey haze continued to choke Delhi for the third consecutive day on Tuesday, with pollution levels remaining alarmingly high at 488 in

the 'severe plus' category. To encourage more people to use the metro in this scenario, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) is running 60 extra trips on week-



than usual, an official statement said. The DMRC has recorded its 25 highest passenger journeys since August this year, the statement added.

It emphasised that the more people opt for the metro over private vehicles, the greater the reduction in vehicular emissions, which will help improve the air quality of the city and its surrounding areas. In addition, the DMRC has introduced several measures to make travel more convenient for passengers, the statement read.

These include the ability to book single or multiple journey tickets through various digital platforms, allowing

neys anytime and anywhere without the need to stand in queues at the station. Furthermore, partnerships

with organisations such as IRCTC, NCRTC, ITPO, and others have made it easier for people to not only travel by metro but also access interconnected travel options, along with various offers and events, all with seamless ease, the statement said.

The DMRC also stated that it is one of the most environmentally friendly transport options and the first metro system in the world to be registered for carbon credits with the United Nations for its environmen-

Delhi Metro expanded 1.5 times faster under AAP Govt: CM Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Atishi on Tuesday said the Metro train network in Delhi has expanded one and half times faster as compared to 10 years of AAP government and of AAr government and added that work on Lajpat Nagar-Saket and Indraprastha-Inder Lok lines will begin soon. The chief minister visited first set of trains of Phase IV of the

depot earlier in the day. Addressing a press conference, she said these driverless trains are among the most sophisticated in the world and will become operational within the in next three to four months.

With the expansion of Metro network, the daily ridership of the train service has increased from 24 lakh in 2014 to 60 lakh in the current year. A record was set on Monday when Metro ridership soared to 78 lakh commuters, she said. "Under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal, the Metro expansion has been 1.5 times faster in last 10 years as compared to pre-2014 years," she

Earlier In a post on X, Atishi described it as a proud moment for Delhi. "The first train, consisting of six coaches for the Phase 4 expansion of Delhi Metro, has arrived at Mukundpur Depot.

"Today, I had the opportunity to inspect this state-of-theart driverless train, which



will soon join the Magenta Line, reaffirming Delhi Metro's position as India's only metro system with driverless technology," the chief

"Under Arvind Kejriwal's visionary leadership, Delhi Metro continues to drive rapid progress across Delhi. This milestone marks yet in 1998 to 2014, a total 193 another step in the city's jourkms of lines were construct-

more expansive metro network," she said Since the beginning of work

ney toward a smarter and

chief minister said. The number of Metro stations in 2014 was 143 that has now gone up to 288, she added. Currently, construction is underway on three Phase IV lines -- Tuhalaqabad-Aerocity,

ed. After the AAP came to power, the network expanded

by 200 Kms in 2014-2024, the

RK Ashram-Janakpuri West, and Mukundpur-Maujpur Ext. The tendering process for two other lines- Lajpat Nagar to Saket and Indraprastha to Inder Lok is in progress and the work will begin soon, she said. The chief minister said that

the the Metro network expansion has not only given boost to the economy of the city but also helped in checking pol-

The driverless train, currently stationed at Delhi Metro's Mukundpur depot, arrived in Delhi on Friday. It will undergo a series of tests required for its statutory certification before it can begin revenue service, in line with the established rules and protocols. Under the RS-17 contract,

the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) will receive a total of 52 trains for Phase IV priority corridors, including Majlis Park to Maujpur, Janakpuri West to R K Ashram Marg, and Tughlakabad to Delhi Aerocity, according to officials. These trains will be delivered in phases over the coming days.

Modi pays tributes to former PM Indira Gandhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to former prime minister Indira Gandhi on her birth anniversary on Tuesday. Born on November 19, 1917,

Indira Gandhi served as the prime minister from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 until her assassination on October 31, 1984.

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

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

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and



Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Indira Gandhi at her memorial 'Shakti Sthal' here. Rahul Gandhi also paid floral tributes at the Indira Gandhi Memorial at 1, Safdarjung

Sharing a quote by Indira Gandhi in a social media post, Kharge said crores of Indians shall continue to draw inspiration from the life of the 'Iron Lady of India' for she was the epitome of lifelong

ic leadership who selflessly contributed to nation build

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

Congress writes to President over deteriorating situation in Manipur

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

ICG conducts 136th meet of Offshore Security Coordination Committee



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, IAF, ONGC, DGH, and

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

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

who suffered grievous injury

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Awoman, who suffered a grievous injury after a speedboat collision in Mahanadi river near the Bali Yatra maritime trade fair ground in Odisha, has been rescued from the waters, the Navy said here on Tuesday. The Yatra celebrates the rich maritime history of Odisha. "While conducting reconnais-

sance for Bali Yatra 2024 preparations, the diving team, deployed by the Eastern Naval Command, observed the accident and promptly intervened," a spokesperson of the Navy

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

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

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

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

Indian Navy rescues woman | Ceremony organised at Akashwani Rang Bhawan in remembrance of Debroy

Asolemn ceremony was organized at Akashwani Rang Bhawan on Monday evening to remember the life and work of Padma Shri Bibek Debroy, Chairman,

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), who passed on the November 1.Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr P. K. Mishra remembered his old days while working with him on policies, discussing various issues of economy and how they could

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



understanding during his interactions with him when the latter was a member of the DPIO and subsequently chairman of the PM's Economic Advisory

Speaking on the occasion, Member (EAC-PM), Dr. Shamika Ravi noted that Bibek Debroy was like a mentor and a guide who always encouraged exploring new dimensions of work. Sanjiv Sanyal, Member (EAC-PM) fondly recalled his long conversations with Debroy and how he always supported independent thinking. Recalling his impressive body of work on English translations of various Sanskrit epics, Prof. Shrinivasa Varakhedi, Vice Chancellor, Central Sanskrit University, informed that Debroy was the second person to translate the Ramayana and the Mahabharata from their original Sanskrit texts.

Eminent economist, Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, spoke about the rich and varied legacy that Debroy leaves behind - whether it is his policy work or his work on the

Indian Army successfully conducts HADR Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan 2024

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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



Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration held at Chowpatty Beach at Porbandar. The Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration featured various agencies practicing coordinated logistics, rapid response and effective disaster management strategies in a simulated cyclone scenario. This event highlighted the collaborative efforts of the Indian

Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force and other Central and State Agencies in addressing natural disasters.

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

NABH inks pact with RSSDI to advance diabetes care in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent body of Quality Council of India (QCI), on Tuesday inked a pact with the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI),to advance quality and consistency of diabetes care in India through the use of robust clinical and digital health standards.

RSSDI is India's largest professional body representing over 12,000 diabetes care providers across the country.

According to a statement from the Government, the MoU will leverage the disto drive national quality certification and accreditation programs and RSSDI's expertise in developing best practice clinical guidelines for diabetes management and

"Accredited diabetes clinics will maintain high standards of care for diabetes treatment which also involves education, research, and guidelinedirected care programs. These clinics will blend modern technology with personal care delivered by trained teams ensuring patients meet their



recommended target goals," as decreasing morbidity and complications resulting from Under the MoU, NABH and diabetes.

ly to enhance NABH's Accreditation Standards for Allopathic Clinics for specific needs of diabetes care, and develop digital health standards for Clinic Management Systems (CMS) for better management of diabetes care.

The RSSDI will actively promote certification of NABH's Allopathic Accreditation Standards across its member base, resulting in better and standardised diabetes care across the country, and help in

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

 $I^{f\ you're\ pregnant\ or\ know}_{someone\ who\ will\ be\ a\ mom}$ and uses personal care prod-ucts or cleansing items, it's important to be cautious.
A recent study from

Kumamoto University suggests that exposure to chemicals commonly found in items like lotions and shampoos, such as butylparaben, may increase the risk of asthma in your child. Analysing data from over 3,500 mother-child pairs, the research revealed that high levels of butylparaben and 4nonylphenol-chemicals found in personal care and cleaning products-were associated with higher odds of asthma development.

The research, thus highlights the need for pregnant women to be aware of potential chemical exposures given their impact on both maternal and child health.

Notably, the effect of 4-nonylphenol was gender-spe-cific, significantly affecting boys but not girls.

"Boys born to mothers exposed to this chemical had 2.09 times

higher odds of developing asthma, while no such association were observed in girls," said the study. The researchers have called

for better understanding and regulation of chemical exposures during pregnancy to protect maternal and child health. Phenols, including parabens and alkylphenols, are widely used in consumer products

for their preservative and antimicrobial properties, noted

the study. While their use is considered safe in small amounts, their potential as endocrine disruptors raises concerns about longterm health effects, such as the recent increase in allergenic diseases such as asthma, particularly during sensitive peri-

ods like pregnancy. Led by Dr Shohei Kuraoka and his team at Southern Kyushu and Okinawa Unit Center of Japan Environment and Children's Study, researchers measured 24 types of phenols in urine samples collected from

pregnant women. They then tracked the health of their children until the age of four. The findings highlight the importance of understanding how everyday chemical exposures might contribute to respiratory and allergic conditions

in children. The study has shown implications on the health. "These results emphasise the need for careful evaluation of chemical exposure during pregnancy," said Dr Kuraoka. "Understanding these risks allows us to develop better

guidelines to protect maternal and child health." While the study provides groundbreaking insights, the researchers acknowledged limitations, such as not measuring

phenol levels in children direct-They said that future studies will aim to explore these mechanisms further and establish

safe exposure thresholds.

Health Ministry joins hands with John Hopkins University to end TB among children below 15 years of age in India PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 15 in the world, and child-

NEW DELHI

As India aims to eliminate TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target, the Union Health Ministry and Johns Hopkins University have joined hands, accelerating efforts to end the infectious disease particularly among kids below 15 years old in the country.

Johns Hopkins researchers launched the TB-Free Schools Initiative to address the increasing number of TB cases reported among children younger than 15 years in the country.

The initiative, also in collaboration with the Serum Institute of India and AIIMS Gorakhpur, is based on the success of a cost-effective project in Himachal Pradesh. The pilot showed an 87 per cent reduction in TB cases in residential schools

The initiative will be rolled out to Pune and Satara in Maharashtra, Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, and Chennai in Tamil Nadu.

It will focus on preventing, diagnosing, and treating active and latent cases of TB



provide linkage to care, edu-

cation, and counselling. "Addressing childhood TB is critical for eliminating tuberculosis in India," said Dr. Urvashi B. Singh, Deputy Director General, Central Tuberculosis Division, Union Health Ministry

She noted that the initiatives will provide "cost-effective screening methods that can be deployed in schools nationwide".

In addition, the JHU also launched an initiative to promote gender equality in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, The initiative in partnership with the US Department of State will train and mentor 40 early-career women for senior roles in its pilot edition.

"India is a place of tremendous talent and opportunity, and Johns Hopkins values its enduring collaborations in India and their impact. We are excited to launch these two initiatives that reflect our shared commitment to innovation and human flourishing," said Ronald J. Daniels, President, Johns Hopkins

University. India has one of the largest populations of children under

hood TB accounts for an esti-mated 10% of all TB cases in the country. However, only 6% of reported TB cases are among children, according to the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP). According to the reports children are particularly vul-

nerable to TB, with young children at higher risk of severe disease. It remains the leading cause of infectious disease death among children globally. In India, the case fatality rate for

Many childhood TB cases go unreported, especially since a significant number are diagnosed and treated by private practitioners, who often do not report cases to the government program.

children under five with TB is

This lack of data makes it difficult to accurately assess the true burden of childhood TB in India, say health experts. The widespread pollution in many Indian cities further exacerbates the risk, as TB is an airborne disease, and poor air quality can increase exposure to the bacteria.

Rajnath Singh addresses Air Force Commanders' conference



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

(CDS), General Anil Chauhan, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Śecretary (DDR&D) and Chairman DRDO Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjay Kumar and senior commanders of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The ongoing conference has witnessed in-depth discussions on key operational, administrative, and strategic issues. The apex leadership also interacted with the CDS, Chief of the Army Staff and Chief of the Naval Staff to foster synergy. This conference serves as a vital platform for the IAF's senior leadership to deliberate on current challenges and strategize future actions to maintain operational excellence and Atmanirbharta in defence capabilities.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE GANDHINAGAR

Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on Tuesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre has successfully brought down violence in Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) , North-East and Naxal-hit areas by 70 per cent in the last 10 years.

Making this assertion at the inaugural event of the 50th All India Police Science Conference (AIPSC) at the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, he expressed confidence that the confidence that the coming decade will make the Indian criminal justice system the most scientific and fastest in the world.

"For years, three regions were considered very disturbed-Kashmir, North-East, and Naxalite-affected areas. We have made significant improvements in the security of all these three regions. Comparing the data of the last 10 years with the period before that shows that we have been successful in reducing violence by 70 per cent," Shah said. "I believe this is a yeary big achievement." is a very big achievement. A large number of people have wholeheartedly supported the government's efforts to reduce this (violence)," he

Even in terms of controlling the narcotics trade, the seizure of drugs has increased six times in the last 10 years as compared to what it was a

decade ago, he said. Shah said that following the implementation of three new criminal laws this year, justice will be delivered to people from the Supreme Court (SC) level within three years from the date of registration of an

"The coming 10 years is the time to make India's criminal justice system the most modern, most scientific and fastest. Ever since I was born, I have heard taunts that one gets delayed justice from the court. I want to assure you that after the implementation of the three new criminal laws, one will get justice from the SC within three years of the FIR registration at any police station in the country,

The three new criminal laws -Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- came Adhiniyam (BSA) -- came into force from July 1, 2024, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. India became the fifth largest economy from the 11th a decade are Shah said adding

economy from the 11th a decade ago, Shah said, adding that he was confident of India becoming the third largest economy before April 1, 2028. According to him, in the last 10 years, India progressed to lead the world in every area, whether in terms of conponent whether in terms of economy, technology, education, research and development,

infrastructure and trade, and the progress has only increased the country's challenges.

He said that India conducted its elections smoothly and handled the COVID-19 pandemic well to the surprise of the world. "When the world recognises our strengths, our challenges grow. And we will have to prepare ourselves by keeping these challenges in mind," he said.



Space X launches ISRO satellite

PTI ■ BENGALURU

country's latest Communication satellite, GSAT-N2 was successfully launched by billionaire Elon Musk-founded SpaceX from Cape Canaveral in the US, ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has said.

The communication satellite will enhance broadband in-flight services and connectivity across the Indian region, NSIL said.

As the satellite was heavier than ISRO's current launch capabilities, it had to opt for a foreign launch vehicle, top space scientists and former chiefs of the country's space agency said. Sivan, former ISRO

chairperson said, satellite was a heavier one beyond the capability of ISRO launch vehicles. That is why it has gone outside."

The 4,700kg GSAT-N2 High-Throughput Satellite (HTS) onboard a Falcon 9 rocket was injected into the desired orbit. "NSIL's GSAT-N2 HTS communication satellite satellite communication successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, USA on 19th

"GSAT-N2 weighing 4700 kg has been injected into the Kourou, French Guiana on June 23, 2022. This satellite (GSAT-N2) desired Geo-synchronous featuring multiple spot beams Transfer Orbit (GTO) and ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) has taken

and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support control of the satellite. Preliminary data indicates satellite in good health," NSIL a large subscriber base with small user terminals, boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture The second Demand Driven satellite of NSIL, GSAT-N2 is a Ka-band HTS that will appear the state of the second seco allows frequency which reuse," NSIL said. The satellite has a mission life

of 14 years and is equipped and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region, 32 user beams, with comprising eight narrow spot beams over the Northeast region and 24 wide spot beams over the rest of India. satellite and launched from

Divisions lead to defeat: Rajnath Singh



Rajnath Singh, defence stressed minister, importance of unity in the country, saying divisions have always led to defeat.

He also asserted that securing the country's culture is as important as keeping the borders safe.

"Whenever our unity has weakened, invaders have tried their best to destroy our civilisation and our culture," Singh said.

Therefore, a pledge of unity should be taken by learning from history, he added.
"Those who divide, they try to divide in many ways, including into different religions, castes and sects," the minister said the minister said.

"But, you should not get divided. You should neither divide nor divide others, the whole country has to stay together. We have to stay united. If we avoid division, we will move towards development and build a developed and strong India," Singh said.

He was speaking at 'Koti Deepotsavam', an event of mass lighting of 'Deepam' during the Hindu month of Kartik organised by a private TV channel here Monday night.

from ancient Quoting scriptures, he said unity is the

strength of society. By ensuring unity, the light should be spread not just in the country but the whole world as India sees the entire

world as one family, Singh The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also focused on cultural revival. Cultural development is also important for a country along with political, economic and social economic

development, he said. If a nation loses its culture, then that country suffers, Singh added.

"As the defence minister, it is my responsibility to ensure that the country's borders remain safe under our leadership. But, in my view, keeping the country's culture safe is as important as ensuring the safety of the borders," he said.

India is not just a political entity but it also has a cultural identity of thousands of years due to which we are known and accepted all over the world, the Defence Minister

No country is made up of just a piece of land and its people, rather a nation is made up of its culture, he said.

"If hatred is filled among the people of a country towards their culture, that country would get divided at some

Bihar government seeks classical status for Maithili

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has written to Union home the grant of classical language status to Maithili. The letter by state education minister Kumar, November 18, was shared on X by Janara Dal (United) (JD(U)) working president Sanjay Kumar Iha, a close aide of the Bihar chief minister.

"I thank Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on behalf of residents of Mithila region for the formal request made by the Bihar education department, to the Centre, for grant of classical language (shastriya bhasha) status to Maithili,' Jha wrote on the micro-

blogging site. The Rajya Sabha disclosed that he had broached the issue last month, with officials of the Union Ministry for Culture.

Giriraj Singh echoes BJP dog whistles in poll bound Jharkhand



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Attacking the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress coalition in Jharkhand, Giriraj Singh, Union textiles minister, on Tuesday claimed that Chief Minister Hemant Soren wants to turn the state capital, Ranchi, into Karachi.

Speaking to reporters in Patna, Singh urged the people of Jharkhand to vote for the safety of women. "Hemant Soren and Congress

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

the majority community. People must not allow this to Asked about Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge likening the BJP and RSS to poison, he said, "Although he is a puppet in the Congress, he should

about vote-jihad. Their basic

motive is to divide the votes of

unparliamentarily derogatory words. In fact, leaders Congress poisonous words in their speeches with a motive to divide the voters into communal lines.

Addressing a rally in Sangli in Maharashtra on Sunday, Kharge said, "If there is anything which is politically the most dangerous in India, it is the BJP and RSS. They are like poison. If a snake bites the person (who is bitten) dies, such a poisonous snake should be killed."

On the allegations of religious conversions in Buxar, Motihari, Begusarai and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar, Singh said strict action must be taken against preachers indulging in such activities.

SP writes to ECI over burga checks BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

enhance broadband services

NSIL said. GSAT-24 was

NSIL's first demand driven

posted on 'X

A day before polling begins for nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP) has written to the Election Commission (EC), raising concerns over alleged misuse of power by police officials during past elections. The party has demanded that Muslim women voters not be subjected to burqa removal

The letter, submitted by the SP on Monday, requested the EC to issue a written directive to Returning Officers, District Magistrates, General Observers, and police officials to ensure that police personnel refrain

verifying voter ID cards on polling day. According to the SP, this responsibility lies solely with polling officers. The SP alleged that during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, police officers at polling stations intimidated Muslim women voters by forcing them to remove their burgas for identification. The party

for the BJP after the SP-Congress alliance inflicted a blow to the NDA in Uttar Pradesh during the general claims this led to many voters elections. leaving without casting their ballots, significantly reducing voter turnout in affected



Campaigning for the nine assembly seats ended at 5 p.m. on Monday. Voting will take place on Wednesday, November 20, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. These by-elections were necessitated by various reasons, and the notification for them was issued on October 18.

the Despite announcement a month ago, all parties had been preparing for the contest for several months. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has actively overseen the BJP's campaign, delegating seat-wise responsibilities to ministers as early as July. The BJP has fielded candidates on eight of

the nine seats, while its NDA

ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)

is contesting the Meerapur

The BJP has anchored its campaign on development and Hindutva, projecting its governance track record and ideological commitments. In contrast, the SP has focused on consolidating its PDA alliance, which targets backward classes, Dalits, and minorities.

As the state braces for polling day, political observers anticipate that the by-election results will carry significant implications for the BJP and SP ahead of the 2027

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

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) would like to register victories after its dismal performance in the Lok Sabha election while the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are also going all out for triumph in the by-elections to four assembly segments going to polls on Wednesday.

By-polls to the four Assembly segments -- Gidderbaha. Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal and Barnala -- will take place on November 20 from 7 am to 6 pm and counting will be held on November 23.

By-polls were necessitated after MLAs representing them were elected to the Lok Sabha. Of the four Assembly segments, Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbewal were earlier held by the Congress, and the Barnala seat by the AAP.

45 candidates, including three women, are in the fray for the by-polls and 6.96 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their

franchise at 831 polling stations.

More than 6,400 Punjab Police personnel and 17 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces have been deployed for peaceful elections, they said, adding that there will be 100 per cent webcasting of all polling stations.

Campaigning for the by-polls to four Assembly segments ended on Monday evening. The bypolls will decide the

of key contestants, including Manpreet Singh Badal, BJP nominee and former Punjab finance minister, Congress' Amrita Warring, Jatinder Kaur, AAP's Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbewal and BJP's Kewal Singh Dhillon, Sohan Singh Thandal and Ravikaran Singh

Kahlon. Amrita Warring is the wife of Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Punjab Congress chief and Ludhiana MP while Jatinder Kaur is the spouse of Gurdaspur MP and former



Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa. The Gidderbaha constituency in Muktsar district is set to see a fierce three-cornered fight. The seat fell vacant after Raja Warring, who was a Congress MLA, was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Ludhiana seat in the 2024 Parliamentary elections. Congress' Amrita Warring, who is contesting for the first time, BJP's Manpreet Singh Badal and AAP's Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon are in the fray. Akali Shiromani (Amritsar) (SAD) has also fielded Sukhraj Singh, son of one of the 2015 Behbal Kalan police firing victims. Raja Warring was elected Gidderbaha MLA in 2012, 2017 and 2022.

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

Similarly, Hardeep Dhillon, who lost this seat twice to

Warring in 2017 and 2022, would also want to register victory. He had joined the AAP after quitting the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in August. The Barnala seat will see a

multi-cornered contest with the AAP fielding Harinder Singh Dhaliwal, Congress nominating Kuldeep Singh Dhillon and BJP Kewal Singh Dhillon. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) has fielded Govind Singh Mann, who is the maternal grandson of former MP and party chief Simranjit Singh Mann, while AAP rebel Gurdeep Singh Batth is fighting as an independent candidate. This seat fell vacant after Gurmeet Singh Hayer, who was an AAP MLA, was elected from the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat. He had won the Barnala seat in 2017 and 2022 assembly

In the Chabbewal reserve Assembly segment, the AAP has fielded Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbewal, the son of AAP's Hoshiarpur MP Raj Kumar Chabbewal. The BJP has fielded former Akali MLA and former minister Sohan Singh Thandal, who quit the SAD last month, while the Congress named Ranjit Kumar, who

unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Hoshiarpur as a Bahujan Samaj Party candidate.

The Chabbewal by-election was necessitated after Raj Kumar Chabbewal, who was a Congress MLA but later joined the AAP, was elected to the Lok Sabha

Hoshiarpur. The Dera Baba Nanak seat will witness a three-cornered fight with Congress' Jatinder Kaur, the wife of Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Randhawa, AAP nominee Gurdeep Singh Randhawa and Ravikaran Singh Kahlon, who

switched over from the SAD,

in the fray. The Dera Baba Nanak is considered a Congress bastion as Sukhiinder Randhawa represented this seat in 2002, 2012, 2017 and

2022. The seat fell vacant after Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who was the Congress MLA from here, was elected from the Gurdaspur parliamentary seat. The SAD has opted to stay

away from the by-polls. The party took the decision not to participate in the by-polls after Sukhbir Singh Badal, who has now resigned as the SAD president, failed to get any temporary relief from the Akal Takht, which declared him 'tankhaiya' (person guilty of religious misconduct), for the "mistakes" committed by his party and government from 2007 to 2017.

The by-polls are being seen as a litmus test for Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann whose government has completed a two-and-halfyear term. . The victory will be important

for Mann given his party's dismal performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in which it could win just three Parliamentary constituencies.

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PAPER WITH PASSION-

Time for reckoning

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

■ aharashtra, one of India's most politically significant states, votes for all 288 Assembly seats today. This election comes at a time of heightened political fragmentation and social unrest, making its outcome crucial for both state and national politics. A key issue in this election is the split within the Shiv Sena, a party long associated with Maharashtra's regional pride. The party is now divided into two factions: one led by Uddhav Thackeray, aligned with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress, and the other by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, supported by the BJP. This division has significantly eroded the party's traditional voter base, creating uncertainty about its performance in this election. Adding to the complexity is the Maratha reservation demand. The Maratha community, constituting about 30 per cent of the state's population, is pushing for inclusion in the Other Backward



Classes (OBC) category to access job and educational quotas. Protests, led by figures like Manoj Jarange Patil, have brought this issue to the forefront, with the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance attempting to address it through policy measures. However, the unresolved tensions could influence voter sentiment, especially in rural areas.

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

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



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

West Bengal's lost opportunity

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

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

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

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

Let us recall how then West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu had sanctioned protests against tne Metro Kall project. The communist-driven frensied that he had 'scanned the trade-unionism destroyed sever-al iconic public undertakings such as the Haringhata Milk locate this rather revolution-



generating thousands of jobs. Much like Mamata Banerjee who has refused to enlist West Bengal in the Centre's flagship 'Aspirational District Project' and remains luke-warm to the 'Ekalavya Vidyalaya' scheme, Basu in 1986, had forbade the setting up of Navodaya Schools in the state. In 1974, three years before he came to power as Chief Minister, Basu had organised a relay protest in front of the Hongkong Bank regional office in Kolkata to stall the installation of computers. Yet ironically the same lyoti Basu in 1994, commissioned Arthur Anderson, a multinational business consultant, to carry out a study of the chances of West Bengal's industrial revival based on foreign investment. But progress was halting, it lacked a roadmap. Thus, when Ratan Tata decid-

ed to invest in the state it was a whiff of more than fresh air, it was a long-needed gush of wind for breathing fresh life into a dying industrial ethos. A noperui 1ata nad then said country and looked at various locations before deciding to



MAMATA BANERJEE WHO HAS REFUSED TO ENLIST WEST BENGAL IN THE CENTRE'S **FLAGSHIP** 'ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROJECT' AND REMAINS **LUKEWARM** TO THE **'EKALAVYA**

VIDYALAYA' SCHEME, BASU IN 1986, HAD FORBADE THE SETTING UP OF NAVODAYA SCHOOLS

ary project which will give India's truly people's car here in Bengal.' It announced a new chapter, a historic opportunity for Bengal's industrial rejuvenation. But that did not happen. Political selfishness, and one-upmanship between the ruling CPI(M) and the Trinamool opposition Congress, leading a blind only his, but ours. political opposition to the proposal led to its grounding. Later he had observed, in a In trying to bolster her flag-ging political prospects, Mamata Banerjee, desperately and deliberately jettisoned the project. Her political arrogance and self-centeredness led to its sinking. In her last fifteen years at the helm, the state has failed to recover from that mindless assault and pushback. An epic opportunity was lost, with a belea-

of West Bengal lost out. Their hopes of a possibilitiesfilled future receded in a mist of uncertainty. Both the ruling dispensation then and the opposition were responsible for pushing the state into a dark alley. The alley remains dark even to this day. Katan Tata announced that he was shifting the car plant to Gujarat's Sanand. It was a plant that would eventually

guered Tata announcing his

exit from the state due to

political reasons. The people

grow into a mega 1100-acre unit. Narendra Modi was then Chief Minister of Gujarat. As Tata was announcing his exit from West Bengal, Modi texted him 'Welcome', leading to the proposed Nano factory shifting to Gujarat. Modi told Tata that the project was not

lighter vein, that his onerupee SMS had brought about a major boost to Gujarat's industrial prospects. Ratan Tata later said that he would forever remain grateful to Modi for placing faith in him and inviting him to Gujarat during those difficult days. The saga of the Singur-Tata Nano factory's shift to Gujarat is a saga of petty political squabbles, acute selfishness, arrogance and lack of true commitment to West Bengal's future and progress. That mindset and outlook among the ruling dispensation in the state still dominate. It has to be thrown overboard. Only then will West Bengal's industrial rejuvenation appear to be a possibility.

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

Buddhas in the boardroom: How meditation can counter burnout



ISHAN SHIVANAND

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

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

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

Why meditation: Amid the workday, meditation offers an oasis - a moment to pause, reflect, and realign. The practice, often associated with

monks and mountain retreats, is now being rediscovered in the boardroom. The reason is simple: meditation fosters the ability to be present, grounded and conscious of one's thoughts and actions. Research has shown that regular meditation can alter brain activity, shifting it from the limbic system (responsible for our fight-or-flight responses) to the prefrontal thinking and calmness).

cortex (the centre for rational This neurological shift translates to a greater sense of control over stress, enabling clearer decision-making and enhancing focus. Yoga emphasises how yogic, breathing and meditation techniques can lead to transformative wellbeing. Studies on Yoga have reported a positive impact on holistic wellbeing, with participants iety, stress, and burnout by 72-82 per cent. This makes it an effective, research-backed solution for integrating meditation into workplace well-

Transforming work culture

through yogic practices
The tangible benefits of meditation go beyond stress relief. In practice, this means a more focused team, resilient in the face of challenges, and more open to collaboration Some organisations are already creating environments where wellness isn't a perk but a pillar of their work culture. We need Buddhas in the boardroom. How meditation rewrites **your life script:** Meditation is more than sitting in silence; it's about training the mind to be resilient. Techniques such as deep breathing, guided protocols and visualisation help individuals develop a heightened state of nonjudgemental awareness, balance emotions, and build a strong mental framework to manage stress effectively. One standout programme is YOI, which has garnered attention

for its multifaceted approach

to wellbeing. Imagine being

reporting reductions in anx- able to handle feedback with-

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

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

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

UKRAINE TO USE LONG-RANGE MISSILES

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

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

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN MANIPUR

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

India tests hypersonic missile



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

mobs. Education, health, development though this is practically very difficult. and civic administration are in peril. The elected government has turned dysfunctional and there are threats and possibilities of destabilising the state government. It is quite apparent that the efforts of peace in the first phase of violence have failed despite the newly elected state government post-violence.

Earlier, there were reports of missionaries inciting violence in the state. The Manipur violence has affected neighbouring states of Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. In fact, the Manipur violence has a secessionist motive and the disruptive and separatist forces behind the Manipur violence are based across the borders. It is, therefore, imperative that President Rule may be imposed in the state and the assembly may be suspended till normalcy returns and the political atmosphere is congenial for restoration of the assembly and the government. The Manipur mayhem should not be taken as political mileage by the opposition parties. The India-Myanmar border

been destroyed by the extremists and irate should be sealed with immediate effect,

ly 6200 km per hour, and at a mile per second. Hypersonic missiles are extremely difficult to detect, making enemy radars nigh impossible to spot them before they are too close for com-

Their maneuverability and ability to fly at lower altitudes separate them from the ballistic missiles that follow a set path. Hypersonic missiles can also be partially projected into orbit via a glide vehicle through the fractional orbital bombardment system (FOBS) unlike the ballistic missiles, though the latter can travel faster. Till now, Russia. China and the United States possess fullfledged hypersonic capabilities, while Germany, France, Japan, Australia, Iran and Israel are on course to follow suit. India has, thus, joined the elite "hypersonic group." Kudos to ISRO for another feather in the cap

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Vinod Johri | Delhi

KAILASH GAHLOT QUITS AAP

Madam — Gahlot resigned from AAP, citing the party's shift from focusing on public welfare to prioritising political ambitions. In his resignation letter to AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Gahlot stated that instead of fighting for people's rights, the party had increasingy been focused on its own agenda.

He also expressed dissatisfaction with controversies like the 'Sheeshmahal' row, questioning whether AAP still upheld its core identity as the party of the common man. AAP responded by alleging that Gahlot's resignation was influenced by pressure from central agencies investigating him, a claim Gahlot dismissed. The BJP believes that Gahlot's entry strengthens its position as it prepares to challenge AAP in the upcoming elections.

Akhilesh Krishnan | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

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

FIRST COLUMN

A DIET FOR PEACE: KINDNESS OVER CRUELTY

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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



From a broader perspective, the mass consumption of non-vegetarian food is a way of heaping sin upon the human community. No peace marches, diplomatic dialogues and conferences can bring peace to the planet when we are burdening it with the desperate cries of hapless creatures. For what we sow, so shall we reap. It is so ironic that the largely meat-eating developed countries of the world have stringent laws when it comes to treating a pet and it is ensured that if the pet is hurt, the owner can even be imprisoned. However, in these very countries, millions of animals are killed every day for food and yet no one goes to jail. Isn't it surprising that so many animal lovers continue to be nonvegetarians because they are unable to connect with the cruelty that goes behind, in the making of such food? Even more surprising was a weird recommendation to find humane methods of animal slaughter made by some so-called animal sympathisers. But the contention here is what can be more inhuman than nourishing an animal to kill it one day.

It is a breach of morality by all standards. What is more cruel than subjecting generations of animals to a life of stifling captivity that only leads them to a merciless end? And what is more cruel than killing animals in front of each other? While one is bleeding to death, the other watches in horror and waits for its turn. It is a great pity that even sympathetic humans are left with such little kindness that all they can think of is designing a better way to kill. It's high time that all of us should ask ourselves a question: why does our conscience need a rational argument, sanctioned by a research institute in the West, to realise that killing other living creatures is a form of cruelty?

Why do we need facts and figures to understand that cruelty can never be a bringer of any form of health - be it mind, body or the environment & bring peace and harmony to the world? Can't we realise that a heart that heaves no sigh at the sight of violence cannot be a source of compassion for other fellow men? So how do we expect people who do not nurture the feeling of kindness for other living beings to nurture feelings of brotherhood and forgiveness for their community? Aren't we just walk-

Delhi discoms in crisis: Debt and regulatory gaps



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



3 per unit (courtesy, of Kejriwal's

Where do RAs fit in? RAs are cre-

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

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

The irony is that despite charging exorbitant rates from industries and businesslatter to even pay the small tariff of Rs freebies). Thus, discoms are told not to raise any bill on HHs consuming up to 200 units even as HHs consuming up to 400 units get a flat deduction of Rs 800 per month from the bill amount. Though the government promises to reimburse them for these subsidies from the state budget, this promise is held more in breach. This increases discoms' losses which are compounded by large-scale power theft.

ated when state electricity regula-THE IRONY IS tory commissions (in this case, DERC) accept that the tariffs don't THAT DESPITE cover discounts' purchase costs but **CHARGING** don't raise rates. The gap between the cost and revenue generated from sales at tariffs (albeit unre-**EXORBITANT** vised) for supplied power, is booked by discom as receivable RATES FROM **INDUSTRIES** and classified as RA. This is contrary to the Electricity Act (2003) and the National Power Tariff Policy (NPTP) which says that "tariffs must reflect costs and reg-BUSINESSES, A GOOD SLICE OF ulatory assets should not be creat-UNDERed". In December 2022, the Ministry of Power (MoP) even warned against creating a pile of RAs. But, all these **RECOVERIES** FROM HHS regulations/warnings have fallen on deaf ears. CONSUMING All losses incurred by discoms in LESS THAN 400

Delhi during the last 11 years or so have been shown in their books as RAs. Regrettably, the RAs persist despite subsisting mechanisms to enable discoms to offset cost escalation by suitable increases in tariff. As per the order issued by MoP on November 9, 2021, discoms are allowed to impose a surcharge known as PPAC (Power Purchase Agreement Cost). Levied as a percentage of the 'total energy cost and fixed charge component' of the electricity bill, the sur-

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

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

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

First, once recorded in their books as RAs, discoms will leave no stone

consequences.

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

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

ing to accept.

This leads to substantial claims getting bogged down in legal disputes at the appeal level or in higher courts. To conclude, providing for RAs in the books of discoms is a dad practice. Apart from dis coms, it also puts the power generators and transmission companies at serious risk. It can impair the balance sheet of banks and FIs who have given loans to them. It could mean a steep hike in tariffs on supplies to industries/businesses besides HHs consuming

more than 400 units a month. To cap it all, it provides a 'cover up' for financial irregularities and corruption. The practice must be shunned. As for the RAs already piled up, a thorough enquiry should be ordered to look into irregularities followed by recovery of money from those found guilty. The discoms should be 'unshackled' from the controls of the State government. If the latter wants to subsidize or provide free power to certain consumers, the money

419 the previous day. The

harmful pollutants are linked

to health concerns, such as res-

piratory illnesses and cardio-

The Stage 4 actions outlined in

the GRAP are crucial for pro-

vascular diseases.

unturned in recovering the money ing on one path while seeking another's destination? Just give it a thought say by getting sanction of a steep hike in tariff to make up for the charge is meant to compensate es, a good slice of under-recoveries from and then decide whether to Kill or Heal. Learn to live above self when HHs consuming less than 400 units a them for variations in the fuel and life is precious to all. Let there be the right to live for all & not just Human month remains uncovered. Additionally, entire cumulative deficit in revshould be given to them directly. power procurement cost. Effective Rights, then only world peace will descend. from July 2023, the DERC had last enue. Indeed, the matter had gone the Delhi government doesn't want the (The writer is a policy analyst; (Writer is a spiritual educator&popular columnist; views are personal) right up to the Supreme Court

UNITS A MONTH

REMAINS

UNCOVERED

Delhi's air quality crisis: Action taken for now, but long-term solutions are crucial The city faces an urgent need for sustainable, long-term strategies to tackle pollution at its root

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

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



overlook the factors that contribute to pollution in the long term as well. One significant factor is the dust produced during construction activities

While the temporary suspension of construction operations following GRAP guidelines is a move in the right direction, it also underscores the urgency of implementing more envimethods. Germany and Sweden serve as examples of nations that have successfully implemented construction

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

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

with connectivity that need attention.

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

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



ing. Cities such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam serve as models for incorporating biking into urban environments. Delhi could take inspiration from its approach by investing in infrastructure for cyclists, such as bike lanes and bikesharing services, to enhance the safety and convenience of cycling for its residents.

Encouraging the use of sustainable building methods is

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

Another helpful way to decrease the number of cars on Quality Index (AQI) climbed the road is through carpooling to a hazardous 441 by 4 PM, initiatives, such as carpool classified as 'severe,' up from

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

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

action is critical now. The air pollution crisis in NCR intensified on November 17, 2024, as Delhi's average Air

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

and development professional; views are personal)

(The writer is humanitarian

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

 $F_{\text{activists were sentenced to}}^{\text{orty-five ex-lawmakers and}}$ four to 10 years in prison Tuesday in Hong Kong's biggest national security case under a Beijing-imposed law that crushed a once-thriving prodemocracy movement.

They were prosecuted under the 2020 national security law for their roles in an unofficial primary election. Prosecutors said their aim was to paralyse Hong Kong's government and force the city's leader to resign by aiming to win a legislative majority and using it to block government budgets indiscriminately. The unofficial primary

held in July 2020 drew 610,000 in pushing for the implemenvoters, and its winners had tation of the scheme". been expected to advance to the official election. Authorities postponed the official legislative election, however, citing public health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Legal scholar Benny Tai, whom the judges called the mastermind, received the longest sentence of 10 years. The judges said the sentences had been reduced for defendants who said they were unaware the plan was unlawful.

However, the court said the penalties were not reduced for Tai and former lawmaker Alvin Yeung because they are lawyers who were "absolutely adamant

In the judgment posted online, the judges wrote that Tai essentially "advocated for a revolution" by publishing a series of articles over a period of months that traced his thinking, even though in a letter seeking a shorter sentence Tai said the steps were "never intended to be used as blueprint for any political action".

Two of the 47 original defendants were acquitted earlier this year. The rest either pleaded guilty or were found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion. The judges said in their verdict that the activists' plans to effect change through the unofficial primary would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis. The judges rejected the reasoning from some defendants that the scheme would never have materialised, stating that "all the participants had put in every endeavour to make it a success".

The judges highlighted that a great deal of time, resources and money were devoted to the organisation of the primary election.

"When the Primary Election took place on the 10 and 11 July, no one had remotely mentioned the fact that Primary Election was no more than an

academic exercise and that the Scheme was absolutely unattainable," the judgment read. "In order to succeed, the organisers and participants might have hurdles to overcome, that however was expected in every subversion case where efforts were made to overthrow or paralyse a government." Some of the defendants waved

at their relatives in the courtroom after they were sentenced.

Gwyneth Ho, a journalistturned-activist who was jailed for seven years, said "our true crime for Beijing is that we were not content with playing along in manipulated elections" on her Facebook page.



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

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

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

may be amended accordingly

PUBLIC NOTICE

sidents of B/o S-83/T-238 Indira Camp Begumn Malviya Nagar, S.o, South Delhi, Delhi 110017, have disowned, debar and disinherited his son namely Rohit S/o Ramphal and her wife Ruchika from all their moveable and immoveable properties and my clien shall not be responsible for any immoral or mora activities from him and her wife. oday. Anybody dealing with Sh. Rohit and his wife w do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed o ling done by Sh. Rohit. (IVOTI & VIVEK KIIMAR SINGH) ADVOCATE CH NO. 274, SAKET COURT, LAWYER'S BLOCK-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

range missiles.

AP MOSCOW

Russia with US-supplied longer-The signing of the doctrine,

let Ukraine strike targets inside

which says that any massive aerial attack on Russia could trigger a nuclear response, reflects Putin's readiness to threaten use of the country's nuclear arsenal to force the West to back down as Moscow presses a slow-moving

Asked about whether the updated doctrine was deliberately issued on the heels of the UŚ' decision to ease restrictions on Ukraine using its longer-range missiles to strike Russia, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the document was published "in a timely manner" and that Putin instructed the government to update it earlier this year

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

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

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଂଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ରେଢ଼ାଖୋଲ (ODISHA), DIST- SAMBALPUR

> 'e' Procurement NOTICE. No. 2394 / NAC Dt. .11.2024 Bid identification No. RDL NAC -2/2024-25

The Municipal Executive Officer on behalf of NAC Redhakhol invites tenders in Single Cove System. Bid documents consisting of specification the Schedule of Quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen the Govt. Website i.e.

Tender ID- 2024_ORULB_107063

- 2. Estimated Costs
- 3. Period of completio 4. Date and time of availability of the bid documents in the portal
- 6. Bids will be opened on

7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid:

: (20) numbers

- : 0.84 lakhs to 109.41 lakhs : As per NIT
- : From 10.00 A.M. of 18.11.2024 to 04.00 PM of 02.12.2024
- : 04.00 PM of 02.12.2024 : 5.00 PM of Dt. 02.12.2024

Executive Officer, NAC Redhakhol

Executive Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for public information that QRG Medicare Limited (Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad), Plot No. 1, Sector 16, Faridabad-121002 is destroying patient medical records (excluding MLC, Death, ongoing court cases and KTP, LTP patients and New born baby IPD files) from April 2018 to September 2018 as per the hospital policy and other regulatory norms.

Any patient/relative of the patients or any other person related to the patient who desires to preserve the indoor patient Medical Record for future references are requested to contact the medical record department of the hospital for the same at Basement, Block-C, QRG Medicare Limited (Marengo Asia Hospital, Faridabad), or on 9467816025, 0129-4330000 or email to mrd@marengoasia.com on or before 20th Dec 2024.

By Order: Medical Director Dr. Navneet Singh Chhabra

> **QRG Medicare Limited** (Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad) Plot No. 1, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana 121002

ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED

REGD. OFF.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 CIN: U45400DL2007PTC168922; Ph. No. 0120-7111500 Email: compliances@atsgreens.com

ANNEXURE I [Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

(Amounts in INR Lacs except per share data and ratios)

S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended For the Year ended			
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024	
	r ai deulai s		Unaudited (Restated)	Audited (Restated)	
1	Total Income from Operations	1,158.94	3,469.24	13,407.51	
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.28	(260.27)	(420.21)	
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.28	(260.27)	(420.21)	
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.10	(260.47)	(771.48)	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	79.10	(260.47)	(775.08)	
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00	
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(4,147.96)	(3,868.93)	(4,200.57)	
8	Net worth	(4,146.96)	(3,867.93)	(4,199.57)	
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	20,787.05	16,270.32	16,425.32	
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	+:	-		
11	Debt Equity Ratio •	(0.59)	(0.59)	(0.58)	
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -				
	1. Basic: (in Rs)	791.05	(2,604.68)	(7,714.76)	
	2. Diluted: (in Rs)	791.05	(2,604.68)	(7,714.76)	
13	Capital Redemption Reserve		7.5%	5	
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve		(*)	×	
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	0.03	(0.10)	(0.17)	
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio *		(0.70)	(5.42)	
17	Current Ratio	0.78	0.84	0.80	
18	Long Term Debt to Working Capital Ratio	*	74	: <u>*</u>	
19	Bad Debt to Accounts Receivable Ratio	•	•	*	
20	Current Liability Ratio	0.99	1.00	0.99	
21	Total Debt to Total Asset Ratio	0.08	0.06	0.07	
22	Debtor Turnover Ratio	11.23	69.94	178.29	
23	Inventory Turnover Ratio	0.03	0.10	0.41	
24	Operating Margin	6.62%	-8.85%	-4.19%	
25	Net Profit Margin	6.83%	-7.51%	-5.75%	

a)The above is an extract of the detailed format of quaterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quaterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.

b)For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s). c)# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules whichever is applicable.

d)*-The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Othe Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

e)Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of **ATS Infrabuild Private Limited**

sd/-Kashinath Jha

Director

Santosh Kumar Director

sd/-

SI No Loan No.

DELHI TAGORE GARDEN BRANCH (0391) B 8, 9, 10 Tagore Garden Delhi-110027 E-mail: cb0391@canarabank.com केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 📣

offensive in Ukraine.

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

Ref: CB 0391/SM/SARFAESI/02/2024

SUMIT C/O DEVENDER SINGH, B1-432 GROUND FLOOR JANAKPURI, WEST DELHI-110058 &

GAURAY ARORA 5/O JAGDISH PRASAD ARORA, WZ-K-66 G FLOOR KRISHNA PARK EXTN, Tilak

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Tagore Garden (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

That Mr. Sumit (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower"1) has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That GAURAV ARORA (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of Rs. 1475000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac seventy five thousand

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder

However, From DEC-2023 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs. 1311443.53 (Rupees: Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty three and paisa Fifty three only), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues.

The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/les having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 29-12-2023 in accordance with the directives/quidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of as applicable, monthly compounded together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs.1311443.53 (Rupees: Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty three and paisa Fifty three only) together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under subsection (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in subsection (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt; Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable

the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available

to redeem the secured assets. You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of

sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization/income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance

further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

SCHEDULE -A [DETAILS OF THE CREDIT FACILITY/IES AVAILED BY THE BORROWER! Nature of Loan/Limit Date of canction Amount

OI NO	LUAII NO	reasure of Loan/Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount			
1.	161001049082	VEHICLE LOAN	30-09-2022	Rs.1475000/-	The state of the s		
			Total:	Rs.1475000/-			
		[DETAILS OF	EDULE -B SECURITY ASSE	rsj			
		MOVA	BLE ASSETS				
SI No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY				Name of Title holder		
1	1 REGI. No. DL 10 CU2504, MAHINDRA THAR LX D MT 4 WD 4S HT CHASSIS NO.MA1UJ4YK2N2H41600, ENGINE NO.YKN4H79745				SUMIT		
		IMI	MOVABLE				
-		THE RESERVE TO SHARE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY			THE RESIDENCE AND PERSONS ASSESSMENT OF THE		

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY Name of Title holder [DETAILS OF LIABILITY AS ON DATE] SI No Loan No Nature Of Loan/limit Liability With Interest Rate Of Interest As On Date 21-02-2024 VEHICLE LOAN 161001049082 Rs.1311443.53

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

Brazilian police arrested five officers accused over a coup plot that included plans to overthrow the government following the 2022 elections and kill President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, authorities said.

According to the investigation, the coup plotters also planned to kill Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. Brazilian media said the five arrested included four military and one police officer. The police said that five arrest warrants have been carried out, as well as three search and seizure warrants along with other measures, including seizing the suspects' passports and preventing them from contacting others.

Judge Alexandre de Moraes, who authorized the arrests, said a police investigation revealed the coup plot involved military personnel trained in the Army's Special Forces and a retired high-ranking official.

'The objective was to prevent the inauguration undermine the free exercise of democracy and the authority of Brazil's judiciary," de Moraes said in the order.

These actions, peaking between November and December 2022, were part of a broader plan to carry out a coup d'état," he added.

Several students hurt by vehicle outside school in China

Tumerous children were injured by a vehicle outside an elementary school in central China's Hunan province on Tuesday, reports said. Hours after the incident, the casualty count was unclear and authorities had yet to clarify if it was an accident or a deliberate attack. The incident follows a series of recent killings or attacks in China by people in vehicles or wielding knives.

Students were arriving for classes around 8 am at Yong'an Elementary School in the city of Changde when a small white SUV drove into a crowd of children and adults, according to state media. Few details were released, reflecting China's reflexive inclination to suppress news about crime, protests and major accidents that could erode public confidence in the ruling Communist Party's selfdeclared ability to maintain social order.

Several adults were also injured, the official Xinhua News Agency said, adding that the driver was subdued by parents and security guards and some of the injured were immediately sent to the hospi-

Police in the city's Dingcheng district, where the school is located, issued a statement saying no one had life-threatening injuries and identifying the driver as a 39-year-old man surnamed Huang, who was under detention. It said the incident was under investigation but gave no word on the cause or other details.

Footage posted on Chinese social media showed the injured lying on the road while terrified students ran past the gate and inside the schoolhouse. Comments on Chinese internet sites reflected anger and frustration with recurring incidents of violence against citizens by those venting anger at

While China has much lower rates of violence than many countries — personal gun ownership there is illegal — knifings and the use of homemade explosives still occur.

Chinese schools have been subject to numerous attacks by people armed with knives or using vehicles as weapons.

Place: Noida Total Rs.1311443.53 Date: 14.11.2024 DIN:09834435 DIN: 09835334

Thousands crowd New Zealand's Parliament | Pakistan bans public gatherings grounds in support of Maori rights

AP WELLINGTON

s tens of thousands crowd-Aed the streets in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, on Tuesday, the throng of people, flags aloft, had the air of a festival or a parade rather than a

They were marching to oppose a law that would reshape the county's founding treaty between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown. But for many, it was also a celebration of a resurging Indigenous language and identity that colonisation had once almost destroyed.

"Just fighting for the rights that our tupuna, our ancestors, fought for," Shanell Bob said as she waited for the march to begin. "We're fighting for our tamariki, for our mokopuna, so they can have what we haven't been able to have," she added, using the Maori words for children and grandchildren. What was likely the country's largest-

rights — a subject that has preoccupied modern New Zealand for much of its young history followed a long tradition of peaceful cross-country marches that have marked turning points in the nation's story.

'We're going for a walk!" one organiser proclaimed from the stage as crowds gathered at the opposite end of the city from the nation's Parliament. People had travelled from across the nation over the past nine days.

For many, the turnout reflected growing solidarity on Indigenous rights from non-Maori. At bus stops during the usual morning commute, people of all ages and races waited with Maori sovereignty flags. Some local schools said they would not register students as absent. The city's mayor joined

The bill that marchers are opposing is unpopular and unlikely to become law. But opposition to it has been wide-

spread, which marchers said indicated rising knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi's promises to Maori among New Zealanders — and a small but vocal backlash from those who are angered by the attempts of courts and lawmakers to keep them. Maori marching for their rights is not new. But the crowds were larger than at treaty marches before and the mood was changed, Indigenous people

'It's different to when I was a child," Bob said. "We're stronger now, our tamariki are stronger now, they know who they are, they're proud of who they are." As the marchers moved through the streets of Wellington with ringing Maori haka — rhythmic chants — and waiata, or songs, thousands more holding signs lined the pavement in support. Some placards bore jokes or insults about the lawmakers responsible for the bill, which would change the meaning of

the principles of the 1840 Treaty

from applying only to Maori whose chiefs signed the document when New Zealand was colonised.

But others read "proud to be Maori" or acknowledged the bearer's heritage as a non-Maori person endorsing the protest. Some denounced the widespread expropriation of Maori land during colonisation, one of the main grievances arising from the treaty. "The treaty is a document that

lets us be here in Aotearoa so holding it up and respecting it is really important," said Ben Ogilvie, who is of Pakeha or New Zealand European descent, using the Maori name for the country. "I hate what this government is doing to tear it down."

Police estimated that 42,000 people tried to crowd into Parliament's grounds, with some spilling into the surrounding streets. People crammed themselves onto the children's slide

on the lawn for a vantage point; others perched in trees.

The tone was almost joyful; as people waited to leave the cramped area, some struck up Maori songs that most Nev Zealanders learn at school.

A sea of Maori sovereignty flags in red, black and white stretched down the lawn and into the streets. But marchers bore Samoan, Tongan, Indigenous Australian, U.S., Palestinian and Israeli flags, too. At Parliament, speeches from political leaders drew attention to the reason for the protest — a proposed law that would change the meaning of words in the country's founding treaty, cement them in law and extend them to everyone.

Its author, libertarian lawmaker David Seymour — who is Maori — says the process of redress for decades of Crown breaches of its treaty with Maori has created special treatment for Indigenous people, which he

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Narinder Kumar Sharma is the GPA Holder of Property bearing MPL no. 608, Plot no. 95, area measuring 100 sq. yards., out of Khasra no. 202, Khewat no. 1, situated in Onkar Nagar-B, Ram Bazar, Ti Nagar, area of village Chowkri Mubarkabad, Delhi. He is in possession through Regd. GPA & Will & Notarized ATS dated 11.09.1991 executed by Mr. Som Nath in favour of Mr. Narinder Kumar Sharma intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned property to Mr. Sunil Kumar. Subsequently, Mr. Sunil Kumar is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property bre interests of our client.

ahead of protest by Imran's party

Pakistan federal authorities have outlawed all sorts of public gatherings in the capital region for two months ahead of a planned protest by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) last week announced to protest in Islamabad on November 24 to force the government to release its jailed founding leader, incarcerated for more than a year. The federal government retaliated by imposing Section 144 in Islamabad, a colonial era law that prohibits public assem-

According to different notifications issued by the office of Islamabad District Magistrate Usman Ashraf on Monday, Section 144 has been implemented due to "certain seg-ments of society" planning "unlawful assemblies ... which can disrupt public peace and

Authority within 30 days from the

Public gatherings of five or more people were banned, as they might "threaten public peace and tranquillity, cause public annoyance or injury, endanger human life and safety, pose a threat to public property, and ... lead to a riot or an affray including sectarian riot within the revenue/territorial limits of district Islamabad."

The notifications banned sound systems to play "all kinds of objectionable/sectarian related speeches and sermons" and has also been prohibited under the order. Similarly, the use of loudspeakto antagonise political/social groups/religious sects."

The district magistrate also banned firecrackers, the display of firearms as well as the distribution of hand-bills, pamphlets and affixing of posters. The ban would be in place for two months, "unless revoked or extended," the order said.

may hardly have any impact on the PTI which in the past flouted Section 144 several times, political observers said, adding, the protesters usually invoke a constitutional provision that provides the right of peaceful assembly and protest to all citizens.

Earlier Khan's sister Aleema Khan, after meeting him in the Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi on November 13, told the journal ists that everyone from the PTI including workers, members of parliament, and party supporters should join the protest on November 24.

Khan, 72, has been incarcerate ed in multiple cases since August last year. He has been convicted in a few and got bail in some but continues to be in jail on account of other cases. This is the moment when you

will have to decide (whether) you want to live under martial law or live with freedom," she quoted Khan as saying.

US envoy pushes for truce in Lebanon

AP BEIRUT

AUnited States envoy returned to Beirut on Tuesday, where Lebanese officials have tentatively welcomed a proposal for an Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire. There was no such optimism in the Gaza Strip, where the mass looting of aid trucks by armed men worsened an already severe food crisis.

Amos Hochstein, the Biden administration's pointman on Israel and Lebanon, arrived as Hezbollah's allies in the Lebanese government said it had responded positively to the proposal, which would entail both the militants and Israeli ground forces withdrawing from a UN buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

It's unclear how close they are to clinching an agreement. The buffer zone would be policed by thousands of additional UN peacekeepers and Lebanese troops. Israel has called for a stronger enforcement mechanism, potentially including the ability to operate against any Hezbollah threats, something Lebanon is likely to oppose. In Gaza, meanwhile, the theft of nearly 100 trucks loaded with food and other humani-

tarian aid over the weekend sent prices soaring and caused shortages in central Gaza, where most of the population of 2.3 million people have fled and where hundreds of thousands are crammed into squalid tent camps. An even more severe hunger crisis is underway in the north, where Israel has been waging a weekslong offensive that has killed hundreds of people and driven tens of thousands from their homes. Experts say a famine might already have set in there.

Food prices soar in central Gaza after looting: On Monday, a crowd of people waited outside a shuttered bakery in the central city of Deir al-Balah. A woman who had been displaced from Gaza City, identifying herself as Umm Shadi, said the price of flour had climbed to 400 shekels (over \$100) a bag, if it can even be found.

Nora Muhanna, another woman displaced from Gaza City, said she was leaving empty-handed after waiting five hours for a bag of bread for her children. "From the beginning, there are no goods, and even if they are available, there is no money," she said. The United Nations said armed

men stole food and other aid from 98 trucks over the weekend, the largest single incident of its kind since the start of the war. It did not say who was behind the theft.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the convoy of 109 trucks was instructed by the Israeli military to take an "alternative, unfamiliar route" after the aid was brought in through the Kerem Shalom crossing and that the trucks were stolen near the crossing itself.

Israel has long accused Hamas of stealing aid, allegations denied by the militant group. Al-Agsa TV, a media outlet operated by the militants, said Hamas-run security forces in Gaza had launched an operation against looters, killing 20 of them. The report implied that members of tribal groups near Rafah were behind the

The Hamas-run government had a police force of tens of thousands that maintained a high degree of public security before the war, but they have vanished from the streets in many areas after being targeted by Israeli strikes. Hamas says it has taken measures to prevent both looting and pricegouging in local markets.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

ATHE PIONEER ()

CHANGE OF NAME

I. No.2897658P Hay Iasvir Singh, R/o- Vill- Bad, Post-Dist-Agra, Kakua, 282009, declare that in my Army records, my daughter's name is wrongly written as Kumari Prity Chahar whereas her correct name is Preeti Chahar. It should be amended in Army Record.

PD(944)C

PROVISION OF TRACK MACHINE & RENOVATION OF STAFF QUARTER

Engg./46 of 2024 Dated: 13-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 1. Brief Description of work: Hatwar-Kumedpur-Provision of Track Machine siding- 5 Stations. (P.Way Works and formation works). Tender Value: ₹3,26,73,884.01/. Earnest Money: ₹3,13,400/-Tender No. 2. Brief Description of work: Kumedpur-Malda Town & Eklakhi-Balurghat-Provision of track machine siding- 2 & 3 stations respectively. (P.Way Works and formation works). Tender Value: ₹3.26.73.884.01/-, Earnest Money: ₹3.13.400/-. Tender No. 3. Brief Description of work: Repair/ Renovation of 16 unit staff quarter, Special repair of toilets, Construction of boundary wall & Provision of cycle stand along with both side approach road 1.2 m wide inside the campus of Central School. Tender Value: ₹2,25,96,244.83/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,63,000/-. Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 12-12-2024 & opening at 15.30 hrs. of 12-12-2024. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. of 12-12-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

PROVISION OF GRID CONNECTED **ROOF TOP SOLAR POWER PLANTS**

Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG/ 24 of 2024-25; dated: 13-11-2024. E tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN.1; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/21; Name of work Solar power plants for Service buildings over Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹2.09.23.049.50; Earnest Money ₹2,54,600.00. E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12-2024. SN.2; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/22 Name of work: Provision of Grid

connected Roof top Solar power plants for Residential building over Lumding Division. Tender Value ₹14,24,85,280.00; Earnest Money ₹8,62,400.00; E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and SN.3: Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/23 connected Roof top Solar power plants for Station buildings ove Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹17,30,18,848.02; Earnest Money: ₹10,15,100.00; E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 05-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 05-12tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 11:00 hrs on 05-12-2024 on website http://

PROVISION OF ROOF TOP SOLAR PLANTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNDER LUMDING DIVISION

11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. SN.2; Tender No: <u>EL/LM/24-25/25</u>; Name of work: At New Guwahati: Provision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top o various staff quarters and LC gates in New Guwahati area. Tender Value ₹10,13,22,757.20; Earnest Money ₹6,56,600.00; E-tender will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and Opened at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024 SN.3; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/26 Name of work: Provision of solar plan by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station Parking area in New Guwahati and 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. SN.4 Tender No: <u>EL/LM/24-25/27</u>; Name of work: Provision of solar plant by overing the Roof Top of various servic buildings, staff quarters, Railway area. Tender Value: ₹7,71,68,959/-Earnest Money: ₹5,35,900/-; **E-tende** will be closed at 11:00 hrs. on 06-12 12-2024. 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. Tender Value: ₹10,69,88,865/-; Earnest Money: ₹6,85,000/-; **E-tender will be closed at** 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opened** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. SN.6 Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/29; Name o work: At Pandu: Provision of solar plan by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station Parking area in Pandu area. Tende Value: ₹14,18,48,756/-; Earnest Money ₹8,59,300/-: E-tender will be closed a 11:00 hrs. on 06-12-2024 and **Opene** at 11:30 hrs. on 06-12-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tenders

on 06-12-2024 on website <u>http://</u> www.ireps.gov.in.

will be available upto 11:00 hrs

PUBLIC NOTICE The General Public is Informed that Shri SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Tender Notice No: 09 of 2024-25 R/o Village Gijhor Sector-53, Noida Open E-tenders are invited by the District-Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP ndersigned for the following work: E-Tender No. N-2024-25-09-Dy.CSTE-No. 9313107898), who died on 22.04.2018 (Death certificate issued date Surveillance system at STTC/PNO Training Centre, S&T Workshop/PNO vacant Plot No. 240, which has an area of and Microwave office/Maligaon, Tender 112.50 Sq. Mts. Which is located in Block-Value: ₹10,34,440/-; Bid Security: The said property is owned by Shri Manish 15.00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 and opened Gupta S/o Late Shri Bal Kishan Gupta R/o at 15.30 hrs on 09-12-2024. The House No. 4/1884 Street No. 4, Rama omplete information with the tender Block, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi document of above e-tender will be 110032 on the basis of will. If anyone has vailable in website www.ireps.gov.in. any objection, he can register his objectior Dy. Chief Signal & Telecon with all the evidence in Noida Development

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER KATIHAR DIVISION E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29 18 2024/K/948; dated: 14-11-2024. E enders are invited by the undersigne 18 2024: Name of work: Installation of "Grid Connected" (On Grid) Solar Photo (Phase-II). Tender . ₹9,03,84,163.63; Earnest Money ₹6,02,000.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs.on 09-12-2024 and The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender wil be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2024 in website www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/26/2024-25, Dtd: 14-11-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for

SI.No.:1; Tender No. : 50/24/0662A/OT/117/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 29-11-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Electronic LC gate Telephone system (Master) as per RDSO Spec.No RDSO/SPN/TC/51/2021(Rev.1.0) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty- 19 Nos Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty -54 Nos for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar), (iii) Qty- 46 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD NFR (West Bengal), (iv) Qty-69 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-50232368.

SI.No.:2; Tender No.: 30/24/5110/OT/118/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 02-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Stiffener Plate Part of Front Support plate for Balance Draft Gear as per RDSO Drawing No RDSO/CG/DRG/24034(With hardware items HT Hex Head Bolt M16x45, Hexagonal Castle Nut M 16 & Split Pin 4x40) and confirming to RDSO Specification as per Drawing No RDSO/CG/DRG/24034 and RDSO/2011/CG-03 (Rev.03) or Latest (To be procured from RDSO source for CBC). [Warranty Period: 84 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. Qty: 4678 Nos. for SSE/CLS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L.No-336703190012.

SI.No.:3; Tender No.: 10/24/4253A/OT/119/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 11-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Brake Rigging Kit Consisting of 16 items as per DLW Drg. No K-1702009, Alt-g or latest and to DLW Pt.No-17021182 as per Annexure-A and Annexure-B. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty-5 Nos for New Guwahati DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty-15 Nos for Siliguri Jn. DIESEL DEPOT, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No-16021186.

SI.No.:4; Tender No.: 60/24/5100/OT/120/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 09-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, installation & commissioning of Multi Track Surface Type Traverser, Capacity 80 Ton, along with DSL and support masts, concomitant accessories required for making the machine fully functional, additional spares as per Schedule I, and spares for two years normal operation and maintenance as per Clause 5 of Section -V. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage insp: No, Stages :0]. Qty-1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-659018400010. 2) Cost of comprehensive AMC for five year after the warranty as per clause 17. [Warranty Period: years, AMC Period: 5 years, Rate of Discounting: 10% Start After Year:2] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages:-0]. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam). P.L. No-65901845. (3) Consumables as per clause 6 of section-V with breakup of individual items as applicable. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages:0]. Qty-1 Set for SSE/MWS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR(Assam).

SI.No.:5; Tender No.: 30/24/5111/OT/121/2024-25:

Closing/Opening Date: 06-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: SET OF TPU RING CONSISTING OF 02 ITEMS for LHB AC Coaches & LHB Non-AC coaches (With Air Springs in Secondary suspension) AS PER ANNEXURE-1, Make/Brand : Approved Vendors for BLW item ID 2201253 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency :TPI, Stage insp: No, Stages :0]. Qty: 441 Set for SSE/BRS/ Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.No-331003400015.

SI.No.:6; Tender No.: 30/24/5106/OT/122/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 16-12-2024. Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: [S-VEL Speed Sensor FTR TIL No FT0053670-101 for LHB Coaches [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages:0]. Qty- 60 Nos for SSE/ABS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L.-33503618.

SI.No.:7; Tender No.: 30/24/5112/OT/123/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 12-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: SET OF TPU RING CONSISTING OF 04 ITEMS LHB Non-AC Coaches (With Coil Springs in Secondary suspension) AS PER ANNEXURE-1. Make/Brand: Approved vendors for BLW item ID.2201253 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0]. (i)Qty-126 Set for SSE/BRS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR

SI.No.:8; Tender No.: 77/24/5012/OT/124/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 12-12-2024. Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Supply and Apply of Anti Graffiti Clear Coating for Exterior of Coaches (LHB and ICF type), conforming to RDSO Specification No. M & C/PCN/127-2020 (Rev.2.0) or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty-400 Nos for SEE/CPS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam). P.L. No-779005280021

SI.No.:9; Tender No.: 30/24/5107/OT/125/2024-25;

Closing/Opening Date: 31-12-2024.

Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty: Primary Spring(OUTER) for Power car (LWLRRM), AC Three Tier Sleeper/EOG (LWACCN) to RCF Drg. No.1277142 Ver.01R Mat Spec.- RDSO/2017/CG-01(Rev-2) corr-01 [Warranty Period: 60 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0]. (i) Qty- 728 Nos for SSE/BSS/Dibrugarh Workshop, NFR (Assam).

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

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

UK farmers descend on Parliament to protest tax

With banners, bullhorns, toy tractors and an angry message, thousands of British farmers descended on Parliament on Tuesday to protest a tax hike they say will deal a "hammer blow" to struggling family farms.

UK farmers are rarely as militant as their European neighbours, and Britain has not seen large-scale protests like those that have snarled cities in France and other European countries. Now, though, farmers say they will step up their action if the government doesn't listen. The flashpoint is the government's decision in its budget last month to scrap a tax break dating from the 1990s that exempts agricultural property from inheritance tax. From April 2026, farms worth more than 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million) face a 20% tax when the owner dies and they are passed on to the next generation. "Everyone's mad," said Olly Harrison, co-organizer of a protest that flooded the streets around Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Downing Street office with angry farmers. He said many "want to take to the streets and block roads and go full French". Organisers urged protesters not to bring farm machinery into central London, though a handful of tractors drove past Downing Street festooned with signs saying "the final straw" and "no farmers, no food".

They were cheered by a tightly packed crowd — many in in the countryside uniform of Barbour jackets. Some held signs proclaiming "Stand with

a farmer, not Starmer". Children on toy tractors were due to lead a march around

Parliament Square after a rally addressed by speakers including former "Top Gear" TV host and celebrity farmer Jeremy Clarkson. Another 1,800 farmers were invited into Parliament for a "mass lobby" of lawmak-

ers nearby organised by the National Farmers' Union. 'The human impact of this policy is simply not acceptable, it's wrong," NFU President Tom Bradshaw told farmers gathered for the mass lobby. "It's kicking the legs out from under

British food security."

Volatile weather exacerbated by climate change, global instability and the upheaval caused by Britain's 2020 departure from the European Union have all added to the burden on UK farmers. Many feel the Labour Party government's tax change, part of an effort to raise billions of pounds to fund public services, is the last straw.

"Four out of the last five years, we've lost money," said Harrison, a fifth-generation farmer who grows cereal crops on his family farm near Liverpool in northwest England. "The only thing that's kept me going is doing it for my kids. And maybe a little bit of appreciation on the land allows you to keep borrowing, to keep going. But now that's just disappeared overnight."

Starmer's centre-left government says the "vast majority" of farms -- about 75% -- will not have to pay inheritance tax, and various loopholes mean that a farming couple can pass on an estate worth up to 3 million pounds (\$3.9 million) to their children tax-free. The 20% levy is half the 40% inheritance tax paid on other land and

property in the UK. Supporters of the tax say it will recoup money from wealthy

people who have bought up agricultural land as an invest-

But the famers' union says more than 60% of working farms could face a tax hit. And while farms may be worth a lot on paper, profits are often small.

"It's become the most effective way for the super rich to avoid paying their inheritance tax," Environment Secretary Steve Reed wrote in the Daily Telegraph, adding that high land prices were "robbing young farmers of the dream of owning their own farm."

ment, driving up the cost of farmland in the process.

Aro granite industries ltd.

GRANITILES NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY

Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund
Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended ("the Rules"). The

Shareholders may note that both the unclaimed dividend and the shares transferred to IEPF Authority including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, can be claimed back by them from IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed under the Rules. The Company has also

Company would be issuing duplicate shares certificate(s) in lieu of the original share certificate(s held by them for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPFA Authority as per the Rules and upon such issue, the original certificate(s) which stands registered in their name will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. In case of the shares are held in demat form, the Company shall inform the depository by way of Corporate Action, where the shareholders have their demat accounts, for transfer of shares to IEPF. The shareholders may further note that the details uploaded by the Company on its website should be regarded as and shall be deemed to be adequate notice in respect of issue of duplicate certificate(s) by the Company for the purpose of

CIN: L74899DL1988PLC031510 Registered Office: 1001, 10th Floor, DLF Tower A, Jasola, New Delhi 110025 Phone: 011- 41686169; Fax: 011-26941984

Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Retrund) Kuies, 2016, as amended (the Ruies). The Rules, amongst other matters, contain provisions for transfer of all shares in respect of which dividend has not been paid or claimed for seven consecutive years or more in the name of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) Authority. The Company has uploaded full details of such shareholders and shares due for transfer to IEPF Authority on its website at www.arotile.com/Investor Relations. Shareholders are requested to refer to our website www.arotile.com/Investor Relations to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority.

ent individual letters to the shareholders in this regard.

n case the shares which are required to be transferred to IEPF are held in physical form, the

ransfer of shares to IEPF Authority pursuant to the Rules.

n case the Company does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholders by 18th December 2024, the Company shall, with a view to complying with the requirements set out in the Rules, dematerialize and transfer the shares to IEPF Authority by way of corporate action by

For any clarification in this regard, the shareholders may write to the Company Unit: Aro granit

industries Itd and its Registrar & Transfer Agent M/s Alankit Assignments Limited, Alankit House 4E/2, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi – 110055, Phone: 011-42541955, 42541960. Email

nfo@alankit.com.

Place: New Delhi

For Aro granite industries Itd. Ayush Goe Company Secretary and Compliance officer

www.ireps.gov.in Sr. DEE/G&OP, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE/LMG 25 of 2024-25; dated: 14-11-2024. E enders are invited by the unders teriders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN.1; Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/24; Name of work: At covering the Roof Top of various service buildings, staff quarters, LC gates in Guwahati area. Tender Value:
₹9,37,42,306/-; Earnest Money: Narangi area. Tender Value ₹13,11,60,562/-; Earnest Money ₹8,05,800/-; E-tender will be closed a Station, parking area etc. in Amingao

Sr. DEE/G&OP. Lumdin NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



about 30 per cent of India's This success however comes with concerns, especially experiencing degradation due to rising regarding soil health," the consumption, According to Chouhan, imbalanced use of fertilisers, resources and wrong soil management practices.

The minister highlighted government initiatives, including the distribution of more than 220 million soil health cards to farmers and the promotion of micro irrigation, organic and natural farming methods. However, he emphasised

that more focused efforts are

needed, particularly in view of rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and climate change challenges. A new programme on modern agriculture will soon be launched to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers, Chouhan

Speaking at the event, Niti member Ramesh questioned the conservation agriculture and zero tillage methods in India and South Asia, despite their successful implementation South American countries like Brazil and Argentina.

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

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

conference

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Secondly, the GST on batteries should also come down to 5 per cent, she added. "While EVs attract a GST of 5

'We believe that because the demand is growing, perhaps the incentive amounts have to be reviewed so that the budget per cent, GST on batteries is under the PM E-Drive scheme

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

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

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

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

India has a history o leapfrogging other countries and the discussion shifts to requirements achieving this with EVs, he

Government addresses steel import issues amid rising concerns

minister said.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

For that we are working," he Domestic steel players have been consistently raising their concerns over rising

select nations, affecting their competitiveness. Steel imports have risen by nearly 50 per cent in the first

months of FY25

cheap steel imports from

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

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

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

According to BigMint data, India's steel imports were at 5.51 million tonnes (MnT) in April-September 2024-25, higher from 3.66 MnT in the year-ago period.

Imports from China have surged to 1.85 MnT during that period from 1.02 MnT in

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

(CCPA) will soon release guidelines on diamond sector to ensure explicit labelling and certification of all dia monds and prohibit the use of misleading terms in trade.

The CCPA has organised a stakeholder consultation on consumer protection in the diamond sector to deliberate on the use of appropriate terminology for diamonds, an official statement said on Tuesday.

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

a robust framework to transparency ensure accountability, and consumer protection across the diamond industry," the statement said.

meeting addressed critical concerns regarding

Regulations.

findings of facts and conclusions

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated

adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a show

cause notice in February for the

alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries

Pending adjudication proceedings

Emerging Índia Focus Funds filed

an application with Sebi and paid

Rs 64.35 lakh on November 13 to

settle the alleged violations.
"In view of the acceptance of the

settlement terms and the receipt of

settlement amount- by Sebi, the

instant adjudication proceedings

initiated against applicant vide

SCN (show cause notice) dated



terminology and inadequate disclosure practices in the

misleading differentiation

emphasised the need for enhance

the lack of standardised "Comprehensive guidelines were proposed to mandate: labelling and certification of all diamonds, specifying their origin and production method; prohibition of misleading like 'natural' or 'genuine' for lab-grown

The consultation was a

During the consultation, the broad key aspects and prevailing Legal and Regulatory frameworks were discussed in detail.

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

standardised measurements consistency commercial transactions across the diamond industry. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Standard IS 15766:2007 mandates that the term "diamond" alone

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

must exclusively refer to

natural diamonds.

material used.

18 per cent.

batteries,

in making

competitive

The request is to reduce it to 5

per cent so that when

consumers buy replacement

Meeting that these two

reforms on GST will help a lot

While welcoming the PM E-

Drive scheme, Motwani said

that with rising demand there

is a need to review the

EVs

affordable," Motwani said.

consumers, she stated.

incentive amounts.

To maintain market clarity, synthetic diamonds are also prohibited from being graded alongside natural diamonds. Under the Consumer

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

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

'Her Comfort' campaign to promote menstrual health awareness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

The kits include sanitary pads, undergarments, and educational materials for six months. Workshops will dispel myths

and empower girls to manage

Coal India Ltd receives **Green World** Awards 2024



NEW DELHI

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

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

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

He thanked everyone who supported me on this incredible journey.
The Certificate

Achievement was present to Coal India Coal India Ltd in recognition of winning a Green World Award for their commitment to environment best practice.

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

April-September period of financial year 2023-24.

 $F^{\text{oreign portfolio investor}}_{\text{Emerging India Focus Funds}}$

has settled a case pertaining to the

alleged violations of FPI rules with

capital markets watchdog Sebi after paying Rs 64.35 lakh as settlement

In a corrigendum to its settlement

order, Sebi on Tuesday said that

the case concerns to noncompliance with the 'fit and proper' criteria for the period from

October 13, 2022, to April 11,

The latest order came after the applicant filed an application with

Sebi proposing to settle the proceedings initiated against it, "without admitting or denying the

consumer-centric diamond

The Central Consumer Protection Authority

"The CCPA will soon release

diamond sector. "These gaps have resulted in consumer confusion and

practices, especially concerning the between natural diamonds and labgrown diamonds," it pointed Industry consensus

ethical marketing practices and consistent terminology

products; accreditation systems to regulate and standardise diamond testing laboratories, curbing the rise of unregulated entities," the statement said.

significant step toward building a transparent and

the production method Foreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds settles case with Sebi

(FSC) after which the applicant funds in India since November

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

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

Between April 2022 and April 2023, therefore, EIFF was in

breach of Sebi regulations, and a show cause notice was duly served on them. This has now been duly settled. EIFF has only invested in mutual

and proper' criteria for the period Emerging India Focus Funds was from October 13, 2022 to April 11, named in the Hindenburg Research report, which which alleged that the fund was used to inflate the volume as well as price of the Adani Group companies. Sources close to the development said that the case that has been settled with Emerging India Focus

Funds (EIFF) has nothing to do

with the Adani or Hindenburg

report related to enforcement actions undertaken by Sebi. Specifically, this case does not form a part of the 24 cases that were reported to the expert committee set up by the Supreme Court after the Hindenburg

Report of January 2023.

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

the government's flagship program, "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)"providing a robust framework to empower FPOs

across the country.
This collaboration has been driven through BFIL and IBL's Corporate Social aims to contributing to the growth gricultural and sustainability of the promote agricultural sector." Responsibility initiatives and aims to enhance agricultural productivity,

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

Commenting on this significant partnership, Mr. Faiz Ahmed Kidwai, Additional Secretary, MoA & FW, GoI, said, "BFIL and IBL's commitment commitment to leveraging technology in agriculture is commendable. By utilizing IT solutions, providing providing project

nutrients management support, and extending their expertise, BFIL& IBLare empowering farmers to make data-driven decisions and enhance their

Indic Wisdom raises funds to boost wood-pressed oil production

Monday.

The SCN was issued to the applicant on account of revocation

Fund Management Ltd- by the Mauritius financial regulator Financial Services Commission

PONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

Tndic Wisdom, a Mumbaibased manufacturer of highquality wood-pressed oils on Tuesday raised funds in a Preseries A round primarily led by Rockstud Capital along with other investors.

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

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

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



of license of its controlling

shareholder - Emerging India

invested in manufacturing to produce goodness at scale. It is strategically positioned to capitalize on the burgeoning market for premium coldpressed oils.

Their comprehensive product range, encompassing cooking oils, multipurpose oils, and specialty oils, caters to the diverse needs and preferences health-conscious consumers. The founders bring over two decades of combined experience in digital

transformation, artificial Intelligence, onshore/offshore sales. Their expertise, honed through previous roles, is now

mission: to modernize India's ancient culinary traditions through continuous innovation and knowledge expansion.

By doing so, they aim to create products that promote global well-being.
Prajakta Khare, co-founder of

Indic Wisdom, says, "With Indic Wisdom, we want to take India's timeless tradition of prasad - food that is pure, sustainable, and meant for everyone - to the world.

We are doing this by incorporating modern production best practices and quality standards in traditional food production practices."

INBRIEF

POWERGRID ACQUIRES FOUR MAJOR ISTS PROJECTS

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



55TH FOUNDATION DAY OF GNDU



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

HITS OPENS ADMISSIONS FOR 2025-26

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



GNDU'S MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN SCIENCE FESTIVAL



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

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

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

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

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

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

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

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

The Indians continued their attacking game and put on early pressure on the Japanese defence, just like the last league game.

The play was mostly inside the Japanese half as the Indian defence was hardly

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

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

Three minutes into the quarter, India second secured three back-to-back



penalty corners but failed to find the back of the net. It was raining penalty

corners for the hosts as they got back-to-back set pieces in the 21st minute but Kudo produced a brilliant save with her fully-stretched right leg to deny Deepika

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

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

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

Seconds from the end of third quarter, Kudo once again pulled off a brilliant save to deny Udita from another penalty corner. In the 47th minute, India

secured their 12th penalty corner but failed to breach

Kudo. But a minute later, India broke the deadlock through a penalty stroke earned by Deepika and Navneet made

no mistake. The goal seemed to have rejuvenated the Indians as they scored a fine field goal

in the 56th minute. Lalremsiami slammed into the back of the Japanese goal after she was brilliantly set up by Sunelita Toppo's terrific run from the right

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

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

AP ST. LOUIS (US)

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

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

The U.S. Also qualified for next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, while Jamaica will have to play a qualifier. Pulisic put the U.S. Ahead in the 13th minute when he ran onto a long looping pass from Weston McKennie and kicked the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Andre Blake. Pulisic



shot deflected in off Di'Shon Bernard

for his 33rd international goal. Ricardo Pepi, who scored off a Pulisic pass in the opening leg in Kingston doubled the lead off a pass from McKennie that Tanner Tessmann dummied in the 33rd minute. Pulisic's right-foot shot from just outside the

under the crossbar for his seventh

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

Weah started in place of injured Johnny Cardoso after completing a two-game suspension for a red card against Panama in the Copa America last summer. That was the only change made by Pochettino from the first leg.
Defender Tim Ream, at 37 the oldest

player on the roster, captained the Americans in his hometown of St.

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

Croatia, Denmark qualify for Nations League quarterfinals with draws

AP MADRID

Denmark and Croatia Completed the Nations League quarterfinals lineup after both sides secured draws. Denmark went 0-0 in Serbia, and Croatia came from behind to share 1-1 with visiting Portugal.

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

The quarterfinals will be held from March 20-23.

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

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

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

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

Scotland took just one point from its first four games in Group A1 but beat Croatia at home on Friday and was 1-0 up after three minutes in Warsaw. Billy Gilmour's threaded pass found Ben Doak, who rolled the ball to John McGinn to score his second goal in four

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

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

Croatia struggle

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



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

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

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

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

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

European champions. Pedri's first half penalty was saved but Yeremi Pino

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

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

ahead of the Serbs, for which Strahinja Pavlovic was sent off near the end. Northern Ireland steps up

Northern Ireland finished on top of Group C3 even though it blew a 2-0 lead in Luxembourg. Isaac Price opened the scoring after 19 minutes and the Standard Liege midfielder set up Conor Bradley for the second five minutes into the second half. The opener was Northern Ireland's 100th under coach Michael O'Neill.

However, even though the home side scored twice in the last 18 minutes, Northern Ireland ended its campaign with 11 points, two ahead of Bulgaria, which drew at home with Belarus 1-1. Luxembourg

Romania and Kosovo win

Romania finished on top of Group C2 with a 4-1 win over Cyprus. Daniel Bîrligea put Romania ahead after two minutes and Razvan Marin scored twice before Florinel Coman made it four.

Ioannis Pittas got Cyprus' goal and the Cypriots' Konstantinos Laifis was sent off 13 minutes from time.

Kosovo beat Lithuania 1-0 with an early goal from Muharrem Jashari, who was also sent off

on the stroke of halftime. Kosovo finished second, three points behind Romania, but an asterisk remains over the final placings following the abandonment of Friday's match

between the teams in

Bucharest. The Kosovo players alleged they were victims of pro-Serbian chants by the home fans and walked off the field in the final minute. UEFA has disciplinary

betting for a combat sports event

Mike Tyson-Jake Paul fight draws record



Take Paul's unanimous over heavyweight champion Mike Tyson might have been disappointing from competitive standpoint, but it drew record betting.
BetMGM said the fight

between the YouTube star and the 58-year-old Tyson, who showed his age by being a sitting target, was its mostbet boxing or mixed-martial arts fight. The sportsbook took three times the number of bets and four times the money of any combat sport in BetMGM's history.

Mucklow, president of trading at

fight was on par with an NFL Monday night game. "We knew there would be

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

DraftKings sports operations director Johnny Avello said the fight also was its mostbet boxing match.
"The bettors were yearning

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

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

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

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



Bayern midfielder Palhinha faces weeks out after injury while with Portugal

AP MUNICH

Demarai Gray scored the first of his

two goals for Jamaica in the 53rd and

Weah, who hit a post in the fourth

minute, put the U.S. Ahead 4-1 in the

56th when he settled a pass from

Yunus Musah and sent a shot just

João Palhinha's year could be over early after the Bayern Munich midfielder injured on Portugal duty. Palhinha will "be sidelined for

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

That kept Palhinha out of Portugal's 5-1 win over Poland in the Nations League on Friday and its 1-1 draw with Croatia on Monday. He is set to miss tough games for Bayern including hosting

Paris Saint-Germain in the

Champions League next week, facing Borussia Dortmund in

the German Klassiker on Nov. 30, and taking on defending champion Bayer Leverkusen in the German Cup on Dec. 3. German media reported Palhinha was not expected to return until after the winter break. Bayern's last game before the break is Dec. 20. Bayern could have to rely on Leon Goretzka, who has been a fringe player this season, because coach Vincent Kompany's other preferred

midfielder, defensive Aleksandar Pavlovic, has yet to return following surgery on a broken collarbone last month. Pavlovic has managed "some elements" of training with the rest of the team, Bayern said

PGA Tour approves reduction to 100 players keeping cards off FedEx Cup list **AP** ■ NEW YORK for tournaments on one director on the policy board The tour also announced number ever since. changes to the FedEx Cup points distribution that start course with ample daylight who who also serve on the It's the latest significant adjustment to the tour since

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

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

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

It also approved smaller field sizes — a maximum of 144 players, down from 156 - hours. Another change was four eliminating the restricted sponsor exemptions, allocating them to what amounts to the

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

alternate list.

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

competitions subcommittee of the PAC.

'The changes approved today will provide equitable playing opportunities for new young talent to be showcased, and positively e playing for the refine experience members?

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

the pinnacle of achievement in men's professional golf," Players who came through said Adam Scott, a player the Korn Ferry and Europe the Korn Ferry



guarantee starts, the PGA

the disruption of Saudi-backed LIV Golf, which began in June 2022. In the last two years, the tour has created \$20 million signature events with limited fields and a postseason for only the top 70 players. "The reality is that we're all

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

in 2025, awarding more points to second place and decreasing points from 11th place and down. For signature events, the decrease starts after seventh Monday qualifying will offer four spots only to 144-man

fields, reducing the number to two spots for 132-man fields and none when only 120 players are in the field. There also was the ongoing pace-of-play problem, which rules officials for years have argued was due primarily to too many players on the course. The field sizes would 120 players before Daylight Savings Time, then up to 132 players and a maximum of 144 in the

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

all-rounder Shane getting into confrontations with Virat Kohli in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy as he feels the intensity the celebrated Indian batter derives from provocations brings the best

Going through a lean run of form, Kohli has enjoyed great success in Australia in the past and will look to regain his touch in the five-match Test series, which gets underway on Friday at the Optus Stadium here. Provoking the Indian batting mainstay has often proved to be counterproductive

Australians, and Watson has experienced it himself. "The one thing that I know of Virat is... Because the fire burns so brightly and deep inside him, the intensity he brings to every ball that he is engaged in a game has been superhuman," Watson was quoted as saying on the Willow Talk podcast. "But, there have been in recent times

where moments in this career that fire has started to go out because it is just so hard to maintain that intensity in every moment he is involved in a game.

"And, that is where Australia have to leave him alone and hope he doesn't bring the intensity -- nine out of 10 intensity -- to every ball.

Kohli has played 13 Tests in



Australia since 2011, amassing 1,352 runs at an average of 54.08, including six centuries and four fifties, with a top score of 169. While this would be his fifth tour

Down Under in the longest format,

Kohli's best outing came during the

2014-15 series when he aggregated 692 runs in four Tests at an average of 86.50, including four hundreds half-century. These remarkable numbers are not lost on Watson. "We have seen that when he has had success in Australia, he is up

and above for everything in the middle. Every ball he is up for every single moment.

You can see the fierce intensity that he brings, and if he gets that, then it shuts everything else out. That is

"If there is stuff happening around and that intensity is not there, that is when you will see the not-so-best version of Virat. So from an Australian perspective, let's hope we get to see that version of him," Watson said.

Kohli's performance in the red-ball format this year has been below par, managing just 250 runs in six Tests at an average of 22.72.

'Smith wasn't actually batting at his best as an opener'

When the discussion turned to Australian batting, Watson backed Steve Smith to bring the very best of him against the formidable Indian bowling attack.

Smith will be back at his usual number four slot after struggling as opener following the retirement of David Warner

"Steve wanted to open. He was super keen to take up a new challenge. But, one thing with that opportunity he had was he wasn't actually batting at his best at that time," Watson noted. "So, he got an opportunity to open, and Steve Smith at his very best would have made the most out of it because he just loves scoring runs, whether it is opening or at No. 4. You could see it a few times he got out when he was opening – his game and his technique was a little bit off." For the marquee series against fierce rivals India, the Australian selectors have picked 25-year-old uncapped Nathan McSweeney to open the innings alongside Usman Khawaja.



I've got nothing but respect for Virat, he's a champion: Lyon

Virat Kohli has been struggling for form of late but veteran Australia spinner has nothing but respect for the Indian super star, who he says is a champion you can not write

Kohli has been enduring a lean patch over the past few months. In his last 60 Test innings, he has managed just two centuries and 11 half-centuries.

This year, he has averaged only 22.72 across six Tests, and in the three games against New Zealand, he could manage only 93 runs.

But Lyon remains wary of what Kohli could do in the fivematch Test series beginning here on Friday.

"Overall, look at his record. You don't write off champions. I've got nothing but respect for Virat," Lyon was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.
"I want to get him out, there's

no point in hiding behind that, but it's challenging. It's been pretty amazing competing against him for so many times. 'Him and Smithy (Steve Smith) are probably the best two batters in our last era of this last decade," said the 36-year-old

from 129 Tests. Lyon is one of the four members of the current squad who were part of Australia's last successful Test series against India in 2014-15.

off-spinner with 530 wickets

India have won the last two series in Australia but they have come here after a shock 0-3 loss at home against New Zealand. Lyon doesn't believe that India are vulnerable this time around. "They're dangerous all the time. They're a side full of superstars. They've got so much experience, but talented youth as well and you can never write off that," said Lyon, who took 22 wickets when Australia



Kane believes 2026 World Cup won't be his England swansong

AP ■ LONDON

Kane Harry aptain Obelieves the 2026 World Cup will not be his last appearance for England.

There is increasing scrutiny about the 31-year-old Kane's future, even though he extended his all-time England scoring record to 69 goals in 103 appearances as Ireland was beaten 5-0 on Sunday at Wembley Stadium.

The Bayern Munich striker was surprisingly omitted from the 3-0 win against Greece last Thursday.

A statue and mural of Kane were unveiled on Monday at the east London home of his former youth team Ridgeway Rovers. The British Press Association asked him if the 2026 World Cup is his last "It's pretty special to be identity of shot at glory for England. "I honest, these are things I tactically.

don't think so," he said.

when you get to your 30s that you're coming to an end, but for me I'm performing at the highest level I've ever performed and feel as good as I've ever felt, so it's about taking in the moment.

"I don't like to look too far ahead, and in my career I never have. "The World Cup (in the U.S.,

Mexico and Canada) is going to be exciting. In America it will be an incredible occasion and ultimately it's about trying to win that, looking at where you are, where to improve and it will be no different in a couple of years." Kane started playing at Ridgeway Rovers at age five, and liked his statue.

didn't think of when I was was the building blocks of my career. This is a great inspiration for the boys and

girls who play."
Asked what it will take for him to have a statue outside Wembley, alongside Bobby Moore, England's 1966 World Cup-winning captain, Kane said, "I think we need to win a

major tournament. 'We've come close on a couple of occasions and the next step is for me and the other boys to

We have a new coach coming in March (Thomas Tuchel). He'll be great for us, he has vast experience in the big competitions, he'll bring a great energy to the team and he'll put his own stamp and "It's pretty special to be identity on the way we play

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

Rishabh Pant on Tuesday rejected the Riegendary Sunil Gavaskar's assessment that the India wicketkeeperbatter left Delhi Capitals due to disagreement over his retention fee ahead of the mega auction of the Indian

Premier League.
Pant, who captained Delhi Capitals last year after making a comeback from a horrific car accident, is among the marquee players who were not retained

by their franchises.

He is expected to be one of the most sought-after players when the auction takes place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 24 and 25.

"My retention wasn't about the money for sure that I can say," Pant wrote on X, responding to a broadcaster video showing Gavaskar talking about the auction dynamics.

Gavaskar said while he expects Delhi



Capitals to rope in Pant once again, he also wondered if there was a disagreement over the fee between the franchise and the player.

The auction dynamics are completely different; we don't really know how it will go. But what I feel is that Delhi



would certainly want Rishabh Pant back in the squad," Gavaskar told Star Sports. "Sometimes, when a player is to be retained, there is talk between the franchise and the player and franchise about the fees that are expected." "As you can see, some of the players who have been retained by the franchise, they've gone for more than say, what the No 1 retention fee deduction would be. Clearly I think, maybe there was some disagreement over there," he said. Gavaskar said Delhi Capitals will have to look for a new captain as well if Pant is not there in the roster.

"My feeling is that Delhi would definitely want Pant back because they need a captain as well. If Rishabh Pant is not in their squad then they have to look for a new captain. My feeling is (that) Delhi would definitely go for Rishabh Pant." he said.

Pant, along with other former captains Shreyas Iyer (Kolkata Knight Riders) and KL Rahul (Lucknow Super Giants), is listed at a base price of Rs 2 crore each among marquee Indian players.

Pant has always been a part of the Delhi franchise since his IPL debut in 2016, scoring 3,284 runs at 35.31 with one century and 18 fifties in 111 matches.

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

PTI PERTH

shattering defeat to New Azealand on home soil would have caused a "little bit of damage" to India's confidence but Australia will not make the mistake of underestimating the visitors, charismatic batter Marnus Labuschagne here on Tuesday.

The world No. 2 India are heading into the five-Test Border-Gavaskar starting here on Friday, following their whitewash at home, which ended their 12year unbeaten run in their own backvard.

middle-order Labuschagne Australia's mainstay believes the loss to the Kiwis would have dented India's

confidence. "It's really hard to judge. They played in completely different conditions spinning conditions — but having India come here off the back of a loss at home is something that's never happened before (in my career)," Labuschagne told the media.

"I think that is a good thing in terms of... They are probably a little bit lower on confidence, not coming off a Test victory, losing to New Zealand 3-0. I and away, will have to guard think that's going to do a little against complacency.



bit of damage to their

confidence." However, Labuschagne insisted that Australia, who have lost each of their last four series to India both home

"They're a quality line-up and they're one of the best teams in the world. So you can never underestimate a team like

that," he said.

India staged an incredible comeback on their last Australia tour in 2020-21 to win 2-1, despite the absence of regular skipper Virat Kohli and injuries to several other frontline players along the

way.
"That's what happened in 2021 — the likes of (T) Natarajan played, (Mohammad) Siraj got his first crack in Australia, Washington Sundar played," Labuschagne recalled.

"They had all these guys that were probably a little bit new — Shubman (Gill) played those couple of games (in the 2020-21 series) - so there were new faces around," he

added. With India set to take the field without regular captain Rohit Sharma and No. 3 batter Gill in the first Test at the Optus Stadium here, Labuschagne said India have enough talent in their ranks to meet all challenges.

They're a quality line-up and they've showed that over a period of time. You can't ever underestimate the depth of Indian cricket," he said

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

PTI ■ PERTH

 $F^{\rm ormer\ India\ head\ coach\ Ravi}_{\rm Shastri\ is\ confident\ that\ the}$ "already world class" Yashasvi Jaiswal will return from the Australian tour a significantly improved batter, no matter the challenges he encounters along the way

Shastri said if Jaiswal can adapt to the challenging Perth pitch, known for its lively bounce, the young opener will play with freedom later on in the series.

"I think he'll be a better player when he leaves Australian shores. Already he's world class," Shastri said at a Fox Cricket

England (and) just the freedom with which he plays.

"I think once he adapts to these conditions - it's not going to be easy to adjust in Perth with that

bounce, no matter how talented you are. You have got to be prepared to do the hard yards. "But if he can see that phase through, I think he'll entertain.

someone who score pretty freely Hailed as one of Indian cricket's brightest young talents, the 21-year-old made a dazzling start to

He will love these pitches. He's

his Test career. He cemented his spot in the team with a stunning series performance against England

earlier this year. "He's come up the hard way, so you can see that hunger and passion, not just in his eyes, but when he's out there in the 'You saw what he did against middle, fielding in the slips. He wants to be involved in the

> Having led India to two series victories in Australia, Shastri knows firsthand that defeating



the Aussies on their home turf is no easy feat.

"It's going to be tough," Shastri

"As I found out on my three tours here as a coach, you have to be at your best. Your A game has to come to the park very early if you want to catch Australia on the

wrong foot. "You don't want to give an inch. I think that is the only way. There is no other way you can play. You've got to, or you're not going

to get an inch. "You have got to understand very early what to expect from the media as well, because they'll be behind the Australian team. But if you can get your boys to get out there and play as hard as it gets be ready for some tough cricket and perform, the media will respect you."

'You will see Kohli firing in the start of the series

Virat Kohli has been enduring a lean patch across all formats in recent months, with just two centuries and 11 half-centuries in his last 60 Test innings.

However, despite these struggles, Kohli boasts a remarkable record in Australia.

Having toured Down Under four times, the right-hander averages an impressive 54.0, and Shastri has once again backed the veteran batter to excel in the upcoming series.

You mellow with age, don't you? But I think at the start of the Test series, you might just see (Kohli) firing again. He needs to be, I'd like to see him (like that) again," Shastri was quoted as saying by news.Com.Au.

"In the face, that's Kohli. Come Australia, he'll get his juices going. It's (about) how he starts off, and for Australia, it's with Steve Smith.

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