NEW DELHI, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

Established 1865 the moneer

www.dailypioneer.com

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

ADANI ISSUE TO HEAT UP WINTER SESSION

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

political storm erupted in India soon after Billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani was charged by United States prosecutors over his role in an alleged scheme to pay USD 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

It may be a coincidence that some of the major controversies, including the latest one, and the ones that came before it such as 'Hindenburg, Pegasus, Soros' have surfaced just before the beginning of a Parliament session. This time, the Winter Session begins on Monday, with the Opposition announcing to raise the issue during the session while ruling

Set up courtroom in Tihar:

Mehta said Malik was not an

ordinary criminal and showed

a purported photograph of

Malik sharing the dais with

The Supreme Court said it

could order a trial to take

place inside the jail besides

asking the judge to come to

the national capital for the proceedings. The Bench,

however, noted all the accused

had to be heard before it

passes an order. Mehta said

Malik physically appearing in

the Supreme Court had raised

security concerns previously.

permission.

terrorist Hafiz Saeed.

SC on Yasin Malik case

Kashmir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Dointing out that "how can

online," the Supreme Court on

Thursday indicated that it may

set up a courtroom inside Tihar Jail for the trial of

and

separatist leader Yasin Malik

in a kidnapping case. A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and

Augustine George Masih was

hearing a Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) plea against the September 20, 2022 order of a Jammu trial court that directed Malik,

serving life term in Tihar jail, to be produced before it

physically to cross-examine

the prosecution witnesses in

the kidnapping case of

politician Mufti Mohammad

Observing that even Ajmal

Kasab was given fair trial, the

bench, however, remarked,

"How will cross-examination

be done online? There is

hardly any connectivity in

Jammu... In our country, a fair

trial was given even to Ajmal Kasab and legal assistance was

given to him in the high

The Bench told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta,

representing the CBI, to take

instructions on the total number of witnesses in the

case. Mehta pointed out

security concerns and said

Malik couldn't be taken to

Jammu for the trial. The law

officer accused Malik of "playing tricks" for having

asked to appear personally

and not engaging a lawyer.

cross examination be done

NEW DELHI

Jammu

Sayeed.

court."

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) calling it preparation for another 'drama' to stall proceedings of yet another important Session.
While the BJP said all the states

mentioned in the indictment were at that time ruled by Opposition parties, Congress led INDIA Bloc partners have demanded immediate arrest of Adani.

The Adani group has denied charges of paying bribes to secure favourable terms for solar power contracts, saying the allegations by US prosecutors are baseless and the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. It said all possible legal recourse will be sought.

According to agency reports from New York, United States States prosecutors charged Adani and his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over USD 250 million in



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh address a press conference in New Delhi Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

bribes between 2020 and 2024 to than USD 2 billion in profit.

billions of dollars for the project. US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets.

The indictment has thrown Adani Group in yet another financial trouble after it suffered a jolt by US short seller Hindenburg Research's damning fraud allegations.

Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi demanded immediate arrest of Gautam Adani. Addressing a Press conference Rahul said it is now pretty clear and established in the US that the businessman has broken Indian as well as American laws. Rahul also demanded Adani's "protector" and SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch be removed from her post and a probe should be initiated.

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The attack comes two days

Vladimir Putin signed a

revised nuclear doctrine that

formally lowers the threshold

for the country's use of

nuclear weapons. Ukraine on

fired

American-supplied longer-

range missiles and reportedly

UK-made

Shadows on Wednesday into

Russia. The Russian Defence

Ministry said in a statement

Thursday that its air defence

systems shot down two

British-made Storm Shadow

missiles, six HIMARS rockets,

several

Storm

Tuesday

Russian President



measures may be adopted by

ministries/departments/

organisations as per their

functional requirements ensuring that it should not

have an adverse impact on

efficiency and productivity in

any manner," the order read.

The order said offices can be

open from 9 am to 5.30 pm

significance as a body representing the Central Secretariat Service (CSS)

officers had, on November 18,

demanded work-from-home,

staggered working hours and air purifiers in all office buildings to mitigate the

health impact of the severe

pollution levels.

assumes

and 10 am to 6.30 pm.

move

From 'severe' to 'very poor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi's air quality saw a slight improvement on Thursday, moving from the 'severe' category to 'very poor'. had The city experiencing hazardous air quality for several days. The Centre has announced staggered working timings for its employees in view of the severe air pollution here. Meanwhile, the restrictions

imposed under the Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) which bans BS-3 and BS-4 diesel vehicles, has disrupted travel and transportation, particularly for those engaged in the wedding business. The National Capital emerged as the most polluted city in

India, recording an average PM2.5 level of 243.3 micrograms per cubic metre air (μg/m), with pollution surging by 19.5 per cent in week-on-week increase. The Department of Personnel and Training

A thin blanket of smog continued to envelop the National Capital Region including Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Noida, Gurugram. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Air

Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded at 371. A data from AQICN.Org showed AQI of 569 at Delhi Institute (DoPT), employees have also been of Tool Engineering and 479 asked to pool vehicles and use Satyawati College monitoring stations. public transport to minimise

Continued on page 2

Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more

This, they alleged, was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised

Ukraine says Russia launched intercontinental missile

Russia **T**kraine says launched ballistic intercontinental missile overnight targeting Dnipro city in the central-east of the country, which, if confirmed, would be the first time Moscow has used such a missile in the war. In a statement Thursday on

the Telegram messaging app, Ukraine's air force did not specify the exact type of missile, but said it was launched from Russia's Astrakhan region, which borders the Caspian Sea. It said an intercontinental ballistic missile was fired at Dnipro city along with eight other missiles, and that the Ukrainian military shot down



Two people were wounded as a result of the attack, and an industrial facility and a rehabilitation centre for people with disabilities were damaged, according to local officials. While the range of an ICBM would

excessive for use against Ukraine, such missiles are designed to carry nuclear warheads, and the use of one would serve as a chilling reminder of Russia's nuclear capability and a powerful message potential

and 67 drones. announcement came in the ministry's daily roundup regarding the military actions in Ukraine. Continued on page 2

Pehle AAP... first candidates' list out

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

Later many jail officials faced The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is "fishing" in the Congress and Bharatiya suspension and notice for this goof up. The Bench said Malik could Janata Party (BJP) waters for be allowed to appear virtually "strong candidates" before the in the apex court proceedings and posted the matter on 2025 Delhi election. The AAP list of 11 candidates including life sentence in a terrorfunding case, was brought to six turncoats who joined the the high-security apex court party from Congress or the BJP, for the upcoming assembly polls in Delhi scheduled to take place in premises in a prison van escorted by armed security personnel without the court's February next year.

The CBI said Malik, the top The AAP has denied a poll pass to three sitting Members leader of the Jammu and of Legislative Assembly Kashmir Liberation Front, was (MLAs) and subsequent lists will show if they are a threat to national security and cannot be allowed to be taken outside the Tihar jail accommodated in other seats. They are Kirari MLA Rituraj premises. On September 20, Jha, Seelampur legislator Abdul Rahman and Matiala 2022, a special TADA court in Jammu directed Malik to be physically produced before it MLA Gulab Singh Yadav. The on the next hearing for him to development came after AAP cross-examine prosecution witnesses in the kidnapping supremo Arvind Kejriwal chaired a meeting of the case. The CBI challenged the affairs political party's trial court order before the committee (PAC) at his Supreme Court as appeals in residence in the national capital. While Brahm Singh TADA cases are only heard by the top court. Tanwar (Chhatarpur), Anil Continued on page 2 Jha (Kirari), BB Tyagi (Laxmi



Nagar) had recently quit the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and joined the AAP, Zubair Chaudhary (Seelampur), Veer Singh Dhingan (Seemapuri) Somesh Shokeen (Matiala) joined the AAP after quitting the Congress. Sharing the list on X (formerly Twitter), the AAP posted: "First list of AAP candidates for Delhi Elections is OUT!! All the best to all the candidates. Phir laayenge Kejriwal (sic)."

With a mix of experienced leaders and newcomers, AAP is preparing for a possible tough battle in the 2025 elections, aiming to retain its stronghold in the national

Continued on page 2

Post-poll posturing peaks in MY, **MVA camps**

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

wo days ahead of the Maharashtra, post-poll posturing began in both the MahaYuti ruling Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) camps on Thursday, even as the both the parties started reaching out to the rebels and independents to rope in and boost their final winning tallies.

While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders began to clamour for its senior Devendra Fadnavis being chosen as the Chief Minister if the MahaYuti gets a majority in the polls, which many BJP leaders claimed was a certainty. The Shinde Sena began pushing for the nomination of its president Eknath Shinde as the Chief Minister, a post he is currently holding.

Continued on page 2

vehicular pollution." These



Two Indian Rhinoceroses, also known as Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros, seen with flocks of Egrets and Common Mynas at

Patiala House Court puts Bikaner House in the dock

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

APatiala House Court in Delhi has directed the attachment of the Iconic Bikaner House after the Nokha municipal council in Rajasthan which owns the historic building failed to pay an arbitral award of Rs 50.31 lakh to Enviro Infra Engineers Private Limited. The court passed the order on an application seeking enforcement of the arbitral award passed by the arbitral tribunal in January 2020 Bikaner House was designed as the residence of the Rajput rulers of the princely state of

Bikaner. Bikaner House was built during the rule of Maharaja Ganga Singh, Maharaja of princely state of Bikaner (1887 to 1943 AD). Categorised as a Grade II heritage building by



the attachment of Bikaner House, which is owned by Nokha municipal council in Rajasthan, after it failed to pay arbitral award of ₹50.31 lakh to a company

the Archeological Survey of otherwise. The court has India, Bikaner House has its original form. It opened to the public on November 18,

After the attachment order, the Nagar Palika of Nokha cannot transfer or liquidate the property by sale, gift or

directed the representative of been meticulously restored to the Nokha Nagar Palika to appear before the court on November 29, the next date of hearing.The Raiasthan government, meanwhile, said it will take immediate action in the matter.

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

You might have heard about wedding crashers, but those pale in comparison t30 this variation of unwanted guests: the infamous 'Band, Baaja, Baarat' gang is back. Gangmembers gate crash into usually high-profile wedding ceremonies in the city, not to eat free food but rather to steal valuables from unsuspecting guests. Recently this gang looted two lavish weddings in Delhi's Alipur and Chhatarpur's Maidan Garhi on November 12, and 17, respectively. Located about 800 km from Delhi, a

specialized gang of wedding looters recruit from two villages: Kadiya and Gulkhedi in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh where families send their young members to the gang on 'rent'. They are then trained to loot valuables from wedding parties without being noticed. According to police, 50-yearold Raj Kumar alias Raju, who is the 'gang coordinator', manages his operations remotely, sitting in a taxi outside the wedding venue, directing his band of thieves.

"Known for the practice of 'renting' out **Continued on page 2** | families to criminal gangs, the residents functions, and are used to carry out



Band, baaja, baaraat, aur chor

of Kadiya and Gulkhedi villages often crimes without drawing any attention enter into agreements known as 'Anubandh', where families receive financial compensation for sending families from their families to participate in theft operations," a senior police official said. The gang gives a 'crash course' to the young people so they can lift bags and added. steal valuables from the big fat weddings. "They use young recruits, trained to blend in at wedding

towards them. The practice is seen as a form of a social contract, where impoverished backgrounds are exploited by criminal elements for thefts at weddings, typically targeting the wealthy," he

The officer also said that in previous instances, once an accused gets bail, they never turn up before the court for trial. "Thus, they have been declared

proclaimed offenders throughout India," he stated.

However, the Delhi Police's Crime Branch finally busted the syndicate by arresting four members of the gang including Kumar, 30-year-old Mohit, 19-year-old Sumit, and 30-year-old Karan, near Ghitorni Metro Station, who were the primary perpetrators, executing the bag-lifting operations and stealing valuables from wedding guests. "After the thefts, Raj Kumar would distribute the stolen items among the gang members," another officer added. On the night of November 12, Sumit

and Karan stole cash and valuables from two wedding ceremonies in Alipur, and on the night of November 17, they also stole a bag filled with cash and valuables from a wedding ceremony at a farmhouse in Maidan Garhi in Chhatarpur. "While they entered the ceremonies to commit the thefts, Raj Kumar and Mohit waited outside in a private taxi, keeping watch and giving them directions over mobile phones," the officer said, adding that they recovered five mobile phones along with 13 SIM cards being used for fake identity.

High voter turn-out, raises candidates' hopes

In a development that may have a bearing on the poll outcome, Maharashtra recorded an estimated 65.02 percent of voting in the Assembly elections when the polling ended on Wednesday evening, marking more than 3.58 per cent increase in the final polling of the 2019 State Assembly polls. As per the update put out by the Election Commission of India (ECI) at 11.30 pm on Wednesday,

an estimated 65.02 per cent of 9.7 crore voters exercised their franchise when the polling ended. The ECI had reported earlier that 58.22 per cent of voters had exercised their rights till 5 pm. The 65.02 per cent of final polling is more than 61.44 per cent polling witnessed in the Maharashtra Assembly polls.

Expressing his happiness over the increased polling percentage,

Deputy Chief Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis said: "The increase in the voter turnout will benefit the BIP and our partners. The percentage of voting increased due to pro-incumbency and the feeling of affinity that voters have for the government. Also, it cannot be ignored that the rise in the turnout of women voters was possibly due to the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana".

Officials said that the final polling percentage reported at 11.30 pm was provisional and it may undergo minor revisions until the ECI finalises the polling percentage. "The same (polling percentages) will be updated by the field level officers as the remaining parties will keep returning and updated figures will be available Assembly constituency and district-wise live at the Voter turnout APP," ECI said

in a press release issued late in the



night.
Incidentally, Maharashtra on Wednesday witnessed the highestever voter turn-out in 30 years. The state had recorded a higher turnout in 1995, with 71.7 per cent. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Maharashtra had recorded 61.33 per cent of

Reports emanating from different parts of the state suggest that the Rashriya Swyamsevak Sangh (RSS) workers played a crucial role in bringing a sizeable number of reluctant voters, an indication that the increased voter-turnout will benefit the BJP-led MahaYuti.

Similarly, there is a large turn-out of voters in the constituencies affected by agrarian crisis, especially in Vidarbha and Marathwada which may tilt the scales in favour of the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghad (MVA). Kolhapur in western Maharashtra recorded a maximum 76.25 per cent of polling, followed

by the naxalite-infested Gadchiroli district in Vidarbha region (73.68 %) by Jalna (72.30 %), by Jalna Ahmednagar, Chandrapur, Hingoli, Sangli and Satara, all of which witnessed more than 71 per Chandrapur,

cent of polling. The urban apathy can be evidenced from the fact that Mumbai city recorded a low turn-out of 52.07 followed by Mumbai suburban (55.77), Thane (56.05) and Pune

Lamenting the poor turn-out in urban areas of Maharashtra, the ECI had said on Thursday evening: Despite a range of measures by the Commission for ease of voting, and motivational campaigns, urban voters in the state continued their dismal record of low participation in cities like Mumbai, Pune and Thane". The exact impact of increased voter turn-out will be known when the votes are counted

Army to probe allegations of torture in Kishtwar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $F_{\mathrm{use}}^{\mathrm{ollowing}}$ allegations of the brutal force against the civilians reportedly detained for questioning in with connection movement of terrorists in the higher reaches of Kishtwar, the Indian Army, on Thursday, said an investigation is being launched to ascertain the facts in the matter. Nagrota-based White Knight

Corps stated in a post on X, specific intelligence of the move of a group of terrorists in the Kishtwar Sector, an operation was launched by the Rashtriya Rifles on 20 November 2024. There are some reports on the alleged ill-treatment of civilians during the conduct of the operation. An investigation is being investigation is being launched to ascertain the facts. Necessary follow-up action will be ensured

Further moves of the group of

are

terrorists

monitored". According to ground reports, at least four civilians were called for questioning at the Chas camp of Mughal Maidan tehsil in Kishtwar district on Wednesday. When these individuals failed to return home until late evening, their families decided to visit the army camp to ask about their whereabouts. Before the families could reach the camp. these four civilians were

According to some of the videos circulated on social media platforms, the civilians were in bad shape with marks of brutal injuries on their

Post-poll posturing peaks in MY, MVA camps

From page 1

Queried about the Chief Ministerial candidate within the MY, State BJP president Chandrashekar Bawankule said: "Our workers want Fadnavis to be the chief minister. Similarly the Shiv Sena feels it should be Shinde or for that matter NCP workers want Ajit Pawar as chief minister...once the results are out the BJP high command and leaderships of the other parties would take a call." Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said that his party was all for Shinde returning as the chief minister. "We feel Shinde should be the chief minister

once again," he said. Responding to a question on the nomination of the CM candidate, Fadnavis - who is the number one aspirant for the CM's post, said: "After the results are out, the leaders of MahaYuti constituents will sit across and decide on the chief ministerial candidate".

However, Congress' Leader Opposition Wadettiwar said that the MVA partner that bags the highest number of seats "will be a natural claimant to the post of CM". On state Congress president Nana Patole's suggestion that there will be a Congress-led government in the state, Raut said: "The Congress high command has said that if he is becoming the CM, then Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi should announce it...After we will sit together, we will sit across and confirm if Nana Patole has made a suggestion that there should Congress-led government in the state and whether Nana Patole has the Congress high command's backing. " Notwithstanding

confidence of a comfortable majority being expressed by the ruling MahaYuti leaders, the MVA leaders said that out of 288 seats, they would cross 160 seats. "The MVA will win anywhere from 160 to 165 seats in the polls," Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said.

Together with the help of our allies and smaller parties like the PWP, Samajwadi Party and the Left parties. The MVA expects to cross the majority mark. There will be a stable government in the state. I can say this very confidently," Raut said.

In a related development, Congress general secretary Ramesh Chennithala has called a meeting of party leaders on Friday. He will also confabulate with the MVA leaders. Congress Legislature Party leader Balasaheb Thorat and state NCP president Jayant Patil are reaching out to the rebels from the respective parties. We will need the help of rebels in case we fall short of numbers. That's why our leaders are contacting the rebels so that their support can be enlisted formally on Saturday," a senior Congress leader said.

'Digital arrest' gang nabbed

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has arrested three members of "digital arrest gang" who cheated a woman of Rs 2 lakh by putting her under so-called 'digital detention.

According to the police, the accused have been identified as Tasim Ahmad (31), Aman Sharma (29), and Dharmesh Chandulal Soni (48). "The complainant, who works as a graphic designer with a MNC, filed a Digital Arrest/ Financial fraud complaint to which she inadvertently became a part of. On September 29, she received a call in the name of FedEx Courier Services about a suspicious parcel registered in her name and Aadhar number," a senior police official said, adding that as per the caller the parcel contained illegal items including drugs. The officer said based on the woman's complaint a team nabbed three people on

UP Police Constable Recruitment exam results declared

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

 $T_{\text{exam}}^{\text{he results of the written}}$ constable recruitment in the history of Uttar Pradesh have been announced. Based on merit, approximately two and a half times the number of available posts, 1,74,316 candidates, have been declared eligible for the next

The selected candidates will now proceed to the next phase, which includes record verification and a physical standard test. This stage of the selection process is scheduled to take place in the third week of December.

Rajeev Krishna, Chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board, stated that all candidates who achieved the same cut-off marks in the written examination for

Direct Recruitment-2023 to the posts of Constable (Civil Police) have been included in the merit list for the next stage.
"The list of eligible candidates

for document verification and

the Physical Standard Test (DV/PST) has been published on the Board's official website, (https://uppbpb.gov.in/). Candidates can check their results using their registration number or exam roll number," he added. The Chairman further informed that the document verification and Physical Standard Test (DV/PST) are scheduled for the third week of December. Candidates who qualify in this stage will then participate in the Physical Efficiency Test (PET), which is set to take place in the third week of January 2025.

Board Chairman Rajeev Krishna stated that the Selection Board had invited

objections from candidates by publishing the question papers and answer keys for all 10 shifts of the examination on its official website between September 11 and September

"All objections received through various channels were meticulously reviewed, and opinions were sought from a panel of subject experts as necessary. After the completion of the written examination, the process of scanning the OMR answer sheets was conducted under strict security measures. personnel and Security

CCTV cameras were deployed, and 24/7 live monitoring was ensured throughout the process. Additionally, normalisation of candidates' marks was carried out in line with the provisions outlined in the recrunotification," he added. recruitment

Set up courtroom in Tihar...

From page 1

Rubaiya was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar on December 8, 1989 and freed five days later after the then BJP-backed V P Singh government at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange. Mufti, who now lives in Tamil

of the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990s. Malik is lodged in Tihar jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in May, 2023 in a terror-funding case.

From 'severe' to 'very poor'

From page 1

According to IQAir, PM2.5 concentration is currently 47.8 times the World Health Organization annual PM2.5 guideline value. Visibility at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport dropped, leading to flight disruptions. According to Flightradar, 97 flights have been delayed and 3 cancelled till now

According to the CPCB, in 12 areas of Delhi, the AQI level remained between 400 and 500. It was 408 in Alipur,

405 in Anand Vihar, 414 in Ashok Vihar, 418 in Bawana, 401 in Dwarka Sector 8, 435 in Jahangirpuri, 413 in Mundka, 411 in Nehru Nagar, 407 in Punjabi Bagh, 407 in Rohini, 412 in Shadipur, and Wazirpur remains at 436 level. Whereas in 26 areas of the

National Capital, the AQI remained and between 400. It was 369 Nagar, 339 in Chandni Chowk, 343 in Mathura Road, 368 in Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range, 360 in DTU, 370 in IGI

Garden, 365 in ITO, 354 in Innova, and traveller buses, Iawaharlal Stadium.At Lodhi Road the air pollution level was 335, Major Dhyanchand Stadium 372 and Mahendra Marg 365. The levels were 366 in Najafgarh, 395 in Narela, 356 advance, and with this in North Campus DU, 365 in sudden ban, we had to NSIT Dwarka, 389 in Okhla scramble to adjust," said a 381 in Patnargani 365 in Pusha, 389 in RK Puram, 373 in Siri Fort, and 394 in Sonia Vihar. While vehicles, the petrol, CNG, and BS-6 compliant ones, as Travel agencies report a weddings and transportation

Airport, 341 in Dilshad including cars like Ertiga, Nehru as they scramble to meet commitments made before the ban."The wedding season has added to the pressure. Many vehicles were pre-booked months in struggling to arrange new sharp rise in demand for BS-6 and CNG vehicles, affected," he added. Another

travel agency highlighted the growing challenges. Another travel agency owner said that this is the peak wedding season, and many families plan destination weddings or large gatherings requiring bulk bookings and they are finding it difficult to arrange vehicles. According to the by Respirer Living Sciences, which analysed PM2.5 levels across 281 Indian cities from November 3 to 16, Delhi was ranked last, holding position

Ukraine says Russia launched intercontinental...

The statement didn't say

From page 1

when or where exactly it happened or what the missiles were targeting. This is not Moscow's first public announcement of shooting down Shadow missiles, as Russia earlier reported downing some over the annexed Crimean Peninsula. The developments come as the war has taken on a growing international dimension with the arrival of North Korean troops to help Russia on the battlefield development that officials said prompted the United States President Joe Biden's policy shift on allowing Ukraine to fire longer-range US missiles into Russia. The Kremlin responded with threats to

escalate further. Putin has previously warned the US and other NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to use Western-supplied longer-range weapons to hit Russian territory would mean that Russia and NATO are at war. And the new doctrine allows for a potential nuclear response by Moscow even to a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear

While the doctrine envisions a possible nuclear response by Russia to a conventional strike, it is formulated broadly to avoid a firm commitment to use nuclear weapons.

Adani issue to heat up Winter Session

From page 1

Opposition members Communist Party of India (CPIM), (Marxist) Trinamool Congress (TMC), Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), National Conference (NC) Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Shiv Sena (Uddhav), said the Narendra Modi government "cannot hide behind smokescreen anymore" and demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the matter.

Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Ek hain to safe hain' slogan, Rahul said as long as the PM and Adani are together, "they are safe" in India. He said he will raise the issue during the Winter session of Parliament beginning Monday and the entire opposition is together on the matter.

Rahul, who has been constantly attacking Adani

accusing him of 'using his proximity to the PM, said criminality and corruption are two different issues. "But if Adani is working under due process, we don't have a problem. It is up to the government to investigate," Rahul said

Asked about some states ruled by non-BJP parties being named by the US prosecutors, Rahul said wherever this has happened irrespective of the party in power there should be an investigation.

president Mallikarjun Kharge said a comprehensive Joint Parliament Committee probe into all aspects of the Adani group's functioning, including its investments in foreign countries should be initiated. The BJP dubbed Rahul Gandhi's attack on the Prime Minister as a part of his longrunning efforts to target its leader, and noted that none of

the four states (Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha) named in American courts had a BJP government.

BJP spokesperson and Lok Sabha MP Sambit Patra made it clear that as far as allegations against the Adani group are concerned it is for the company to issue a clarification and defend itself. "Law will take its own course and if Adani is corrupt, then why are the Congress governments seeking investment from his company," BJP sought to from

know at a Press conference. The US authorities also charged three former employees of a large Canadian pension fund, CDPQ, in connection with the alleged scheme, saying they obstructed investigation into the bribes by deleting emails and agreeing to provide false

information to the government. The CDPQ, which invests infrastructure projects, is a shareholder companies.

Commenting on development, Adani spokesperson pointed to a US Department of statement that said "the charges in the indictment are allegations and defendants are presumed innocent unless and until

proven guilty". The Adani Group has always upheld and is steadfastly committed to maintaining the highest standards governance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all iurisdictions of its operations. We assure our stakeholders, partners and employees that we are a lawabiding organisation, fully compliant with all laws," the

spokesperson added.

Patiala House Court puts Bikaner House...

From page 1

In its five-page order, District Judge (Commercial Vidya Prakash, noted that the 2020 arbitral award in favour of Enviro Infra Engineers Private Limited has attained finality after an appeal preferred by the Nagar Palika was dismissed earlier this year. 'Keeping in view the facts aforesaid circumstances and the fact that the JD had failed to comply with the direction for furnishing affidavit of their assets despite grant of repeated opportunities, Court while agreeing with the submissions made on behalf of DH, finds it a fit case for issuance of warrants attachment against immovable property of Judgement Debtor (JD)i.e. Bikaner House, New Delhi". "Accordingly, issue warrants of attachment of immovable In 1911, during the grand

property of JD i.e. Bikaner House, New Delhi situated territorial jurisdiction of this Court on taking requisite steps by DH, in accordance with the provisions contained in Order XXI Rule 54 CPC, which shall state that the judgement debtor (JD) is prohibited from transferring or charging the property in any way, and all persons from taking any benefit from such transfer or charge and shall further require the JD to attend this Court on the next date to be so fixed by this Court, in order to take notice of the date to be fixed for settling terms proclamation sale, returnable for next date," reads the orderIn an order passed on September 18, the judge had noted the noncompliance of the court's directions.

ceremonies of the Delhi Durbar, King George V announced that the Capital of British India was to be moved from Calcutta to Delhi. The intention was to create a grand imperial presence in historic Delhi. While in use as a royal residence, the ground floor hosted the reception suites. private rooms and guest rooms, while the zenana, or women's quarters, was on the first floor. Its present form still reflects the regal grandeur and taste of its original patrons. Around the time of Indian

Independence in 1947, Bikaner House was the venue for many important meetings between Indian roval families, deliberated their futures. This was where they considered the accession policy that would allow to formally independent India.

Pehle AA first candidates' list

From page 1

As a shrewd politician, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal realized that people will not vote to his party on his name or on the politics of perceptions due to corruption charges leveled against him. He needs strong candidates to counter anti-incumbency in more than 30 seats. The game plan could see sitting MLAs dropped to counter the antiincumbency factor. "Many of those chosen have a

working tirelessly for their communities, addressing issues such as healthcare, education, and public amenities. Despite facing public electoral setbacks in the past, candidates maintained a strong presence on the ground, demonstrating their commitment to public over personal ambition," the AAP said in a finalised. Most of these seats statement. Kejriwal has are those where the MLA is already reiterated his party's not from AAP currently," Rai six free 'revris' to Delhi, said.

proven track record of

electricity, water, education, health pilgrimage and bus travel to women. Delhi AAP convener Gopal

Rai said the eight seats the party failed to win in 2020 prioritised finalising the candidates as it wants to have an all-round campaign constituencies. "The names of 11 candidates have been

Brahma Singh Tanwar will contest from Chhatarpur, Anil Jha will be AAP candidate from Kiradi. Deepak Singhla will contest in Vishwas Nagar and Sarita Singh in Rohtas Nagar. BB Tyagi has been named AAP candidate in Laxmi Nagar and Ram Singh Netaji in Badarpur. Zubair Chaudhary will be

candidate

Seelampur and Veer Singh

Dhingan will contest in

Seemapuri. Gaurav Sharma

will contest in Ghonda and

from

Manoj Tyagi has been picked as candidate in Karawal Nagar. Somesh Shaukeen will be AAP's candidate from Matiala. Both Tanwar and Iha are

former BJP legislators and switched to the AAP this year, BB Tyagi, too, is a former BJP leader and a two-time councillor of Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Deepak Singhla is a senior party leader who lost to the BIP's Om Prakash Sharma in Vishwas Nagar last time.

Sarita Singh heads the AAP's student wing, Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti, and a former MLA from Rohtas Nagar.Ram Singh Netaji is a ЙLА two-time from Zubair Badarpur and Chaudhary is the son of fivetime Seelampur MLA and Congress leader Mateen Ahmed. Veer Singh Dhingan, earlier with the Congress, is a three-time MLA from Seemapuri. Gaurav Sharma is AAP's national joint secretary

for organisation building and

Manoj Tyagi is a former councillor. Somesh Shaukeen, too, is a former Congress MLA who switched to the AAP this year.

The last Delhi Assembly elections were held in February 2020, where the AAP won a decisive victory, securing 62 out of 70 seats. The BJP managed only 8 seats, and Congress failed to open its account. Arvind Kejriwal became the Chief Minister. However, Kejriwal's tenure faced major challenges. In

March 2024, he was arrested the Enforcement Directorate (ED) connection with a money laundering investigation related to the cancelled Delhi excise policy. He was later arrested by the CBI in June 2024, making him the first sitting CM to be arrested. Kejriwal's legal continued until September, when the Supreme Court granted him bail after his plea was supported by the Delhi

Crime Branch busts Gogi gang arms syndicate, 4 arrested

The Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Thursday claimed to have busted an arms syndicate of Gogi gang by arresting four gang members and recovered thirteen sophisticated automatic pistols of .32 bore with two spare magazines, one revolver of .32 bore and thirty-four live cartridges.

thirty-four live cartridges. According to the police, they arrested a 22 year old Deepak Sharma alias Mandu, 21 year old Sagar Rana, 25 year old Deepak Mudgal alias Panchhi and 20 year old Veer Singh alias Aakash. The case had involvement of a national involvement of a national level shooter Himmat Deshwal, who used to supply cartridges to these gang members, acquired at a cheaper cost through sports quota, and was previously in Bhiwani jail. The Crime Branch has

A senior police official said that after direction from senior officers to locate the sympathizer, arms supplier and members of the active gangs, the police team was directed to focus on these sleeper gang members who are not involved in any criminal case but continue to help

the gangster.
He added that they did so by providing shelter to active/wanted gang members, by working as carrier of arms ammunitions and cash, by providing/giving vehicle to the active gang members, and other logistic support sys-

'Two arms suppliers of Gogi gang namely Deepak and Veer were identified, who used to receive illegal arms and ammunition and supplying from Bihar with the help of



further supplying arms to the Gogi gang members namely Sagar Rana and Deepak at the instance of gangsters who are lodged in jail," a senior officer said, adding that on interrogation, one co-accused Himmat Deshwal was also identified who is supplying ammunition to the gang members.

The officer stated that a case under relevant sections of Arms Act was registered at Crime Branch police station in this regard. During the police interrogation, the accused revealed that they were getting directions from were getting directions from gangsters Kapil alias Kallu Khera, Deepak alias Boxer and Yogesh alias Tunda of

"Kapil alias Kallu and Yogesh alias Tunda tasked them to help the shooter by provid-

ing/arranging pistols to shooters of gang, for their criminal activities. Kapil alias Kallu Khera is one of the kingpins/leaders of Gogi Gang. He arranged this second layer of sleeper cell of his gang who are continue to provide the arms ammunition to the shooters of this gang. They are getting ammunitions from Himmat Deshwal," a senior official said.

Sharma, Mudgal and Aakash belong to village Khera Kalan while Sagar Rana hails from Khera Kalan in Delhi. "Aakash was found previously arrested in an Arms Act case registered at K.N Katju Marg police station," the officer

Recently, the Delhi Police Crime Branch's Anti Extortion and Kidnapping Cell (AEKC) arrested a key member of an inter-state arms

smuggling network who allegedly supplied firearms in a huge quantity at the time of the Jahangirpuri violence. The accused, identified as Zulfikar Ali, was apprehended in connection with multiple cases of illegal firearms supply to notorious gangsters in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.On November 5, a team of the Crime Branch led by Inspector Priyanka under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police Sushil Kumar arrested one Salman aka Lala with an illegal firearm on a tip-off while he came to meet an associate in Sarai Kale Khan to commit a criminal act in a CNG station of the nearby area. According to the police, he was previously involved in six cases of Arms Act, snatching, burglary, and theft across

BJP holds massive protest outside Kejriwal's residence

The Delhi BJP held a massive protest infront of the residence of former Chief Minister and AAP Convenor Arvind Kejriwal against the misuse of public funds in the construction of his earlier residence and using lavish equipment including gold plated toilet accessories in it. The party demanded a high level investigation.
Meanwhile, police said they have detained some BJP lead-

ers including Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva who took part in the protest and taken them to the Parliament Street police station, where they were later released after being warned. "No one is allowed to breach law and order situations," a senior police officer said.

Scores of party workers and supporters raised slogans and questioned, "Kejriwal, give answers-how did you get so much money, and how did you decorate the 'Sheesh Mahal' bungalow?" Sachdeva stated, "From day one, we have been saying that this 'Sheesh Mahal' bungalow is the result of embezzlement of crores of rupees from the public's hard-earned money



and is a symbol of corruption. We have never heard of something as extravagant as a gold-

en toilet seat before." He added, "When Arvind Kejriwal was allotted the house by the PWD, the inventory was recorded on a single page. However, today, eight pages are insufficient to document the items in this house. The golden toilet seat, golden washbasin, silver dinner set, carpets worth Rs 50 lakh, curtains worth Rs 8 lakh, expensive stones, and even Bose speakers in all rooms and bathrooms were all installed by Kejriwal himself."

He questioned the source of

this luxurious equipment. "The people of Delhi are asking if the money for this bungalow came from the liquor scam, the water board scam, or from terrorist organizations accused of funding the AAP," the Delhi BJP Chief questioned, adding that in the coming days, the citizens of Delhi will hold him account-

Sachdeva declared, "Arvind Kejriwal, with a mindset akin to royalty, can no longer claim to represent the common man with his tales of Rs 100 slippers and Rs 2 pens. His story will now be defined by the documents that expose his corruption.

South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged that Kejriwal built his lavish mansion without even getting the required approvals for its blueprint and illegally cut down dozens of trees. "If someone in Delhi builds even a small house, they immediately receive notices and face demolition, but no rules were followed for Kejriwal's mansion," he said.

Former Delhi Minister Kailash Gahlot, who recently joined BJP, remarked that he had been with the AAP for the past ten years. He worked selflessly without any personal interest or greed, but the party is no longer the same AAP for which they all left their jobs to join a people's movement.

The current issue of protest was something he had mentioned in his resignation letter when he left the AAP. A person embroiled in such controversies over luxurious items in his residence should demonstrate moral responsibility and step down from his position," he said, adding that the issue of the protest was something he mentioned in his letter when he decided to

leave the AAP. "If there is such a controversy over luxury items in someone's bungalow, they should show some morality and resign from their position," he

City witnesses dropping temperatures, Thursday night coldest so far at 10.2 degrees

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The people of Delhi have started to feel chills as the national Capital continues to experience dropping temper-atures, with Thursday record-ing the season's coldest night so far at 10.2 degrees Celsius. People have started to take out their blazers and scarves as the city is witnessing temperatures dropping every day. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the night time temperature recorded on Wednesday was 11.2 degrees Celsius, while Tuesday night saw a low of 12.3 degrees Celsius, making them the second and third lowest of the

season so far. During the same period last year, the temperature dropped to 10.6 degrees Celsius in 2023 and 11.5 degrees Celsius in 2022, according to the data.

The city, covered in a blanket of fog and smitten by chilly wind, saw a maximum temperature of 27 degrees Celsius, 0.8 notches below the normal. The humidity levels fluctuated between 80 per cent and 64 per cent during the day, according to the weather



forecast shallow fog for Friday, with the maximum and minimum temperatures expected to settle at 27 degrees Celsius and 10 degrees Celsius. According to the Air Quality

Early Warning System for Delhi, there has been a slight fall in minimum temperatures over Delhi/NCR during the past 24 hours. "The Maximum and Minimum temperature over Delhi is in the range of 24 to 27 degrees Celsius and 8 to 12 degrees Celsius respectively. The maximum temperature was near normal and the minimum temperature was below normal by 1 to 2 degrees Celsius in most places over the

It added that mainly shallow fog/smog conditions with predominant surface wind from northwest direction with wind speed reaching 6 to 10 kmph prevailed during daytime and calm wind during night time on Wednesday. 'Shallow fog reported at Safdarjung airport during early morning today. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility 600 m during 0700 hours to 0900 hours IST which improved thereafter becoming 700m at 0930 hours IST. Mainly smog conditions with wind speed less than 08 kmph southwest direction prevailed over the region in the forenoon today," it stated.

BJP, Congress attack AAP for not giving tickets to own leaders



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP and Congress on Thursday attacked the AAP for not giving tickets to its own leaders and said that the party is not confident on the performance of its MLAs amid the ruling party announcing the names of 11 candidates for the upcoming state assembly polls slated to be held early

The AAP announced its first list for the Assembly elections likely to be held early next year on Thursday, replacing three sitting MLAs and fielding six leaders who recently switched sides from rival parties. Claiming that the list reflects

a lack of confidence within the ruling party, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said, "The first list doesn't name the chief minister, Cabinet ministers or the other prominent leaders who work closely with the government. If AAP wants to win with 'pawns', this list shows its likely fate in Delhi." He also claimed that internal rebellion in AAP would soon become evident to the voters of Delhi.

Calling AAP a party in "decline", senior BJP legislator and Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly, Vijender Gupta, said in a post on X, "The Aam Aadmi Party is now on the verge of extinc-

of its own workers and has lost the trust of the public."
As per the list, AAP has fielded Brahm Singh Tanwar from Chhatarpur, Anil Jha from Kirari and B B Tyagi from Laxmi Nagar. All three recently quit the BJP to join

Similarly, former Congress leader Choudhary Zubair Ahmed has been fielded from Seelampur, while ex-MLAs Veer Singh Dhingan and Somesh Shokeen have been given tickets from Seemapuri and Matiala, respectively. The trio recently joined AAP from the Congress.

Reacting the development, Delhi Congress President Devender Yadav said that the desperation of AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal was clearly evident from the list where three of the 11 candidates were recent Congress discards, and tickets have been given to them by replacing sitting AAP MLAs of Seelampur, Seemapuri and

Matiala.

"These changes of candidates by AAP were a clear admission that most of its MLAs were corrupt and did not do any work during their tenure," he said.

Now with AAP taking the lead in releasing its first list of candidates, the political battle in poll-bound Delhi has officially commenced.

has officially commenced.

LG distributes appointment letters to 47 victims of 1984 anti-Sikh riots

Kumar Saxena on Thursday distributed appointment letters to 47 victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots at Tilak Vihar in West Delhi, Raj Niwas said. It also said six additional such letters will be issued to nominated successors of those beneficiaries who had exceeded the age of service, during the interim period.

This move comes after four decades of delay after, Saxena recently relaxed qualifications for recruitment of victims of the 1984 riots. This decision, pending for decades due to procedural delays and insen-

sitive red tape, has enabled a larger pool of candidates to Lieutenant secure employment, by

Addressing people on the occasion in this colony, which primarily houses victims of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the LG declared that for the remaining 437 cases of applications for appointments were being verified and directed the Revenue Department to organize special camps to dispose these applications at the earliest.

Saxena said this event, more than anything else was a moment of satisfaction since it has ultimately led to justice being delivered. He also



Colony(Widows' colony), will

be renamed as per the recommendations of the local residents. It may be noted that various

groups, public representatives, the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee and a delegation of the victims themselves had met the LG last month and requested him to consider all eligible applicants, including those who may have aged out or passed away for recruitment.

Following this, Saxena had directed the departments concerned to look into the issue

announced that the specific colony housing the Sikh riot way forward. Thereafter, he victims, which was tragically had approved the proposal for cations, observing that 1984 riots were a blot on Indian democracy.

He had noted that given the significant trauma and hardship endured by the victims of the 1984 riots and the absence of relief for a few families for over the last 4 decades, a humanitarian view is needed. Though no relief can compensate for the loss of loved ones and mitigate the trauma faced by the families of the victims, it is imperative to take a compassionate view for well-being of these families and their economic stability.

EC approves appointment of IAS officer R Alice Vaz as CEO of Delhi

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Election Commission The Election Commission (EC) on Thursday approved the appointment of senior IAS officer R Alice Vaz as the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Delhi, ahead of the assembly elections in the city due next February.

Vaz, a 2005 batch IAS officer of the AGMUT cadre, is serving as secretary in Delhi's Directorate of Higher Education. She will replace P Krishnamurthy, who was appointed as Delhi CEO in August 2023.

Last month, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment 1 appointment of Krishnamurthy as the chair-person of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

The Election Commission, in an order, said, "The Commission has approved the name of R Alice Vaz, IAS (AGMUT: 2005) for the appointment as the chief electoral officer, NCT of Delhi, in place of P Krishnamurthy,



has become an IAS officer from nurse. She graduated in nursing from MGR Medical, Chennai after which, she cleared the UPSC exams.

So far she has held various posts across many states. Her posts across many states. Her first posting was in West Bengal, where she was post-ed in different districts. Then she stayed in Puducherry for a long time. In 2020, she was transferred to Delhi and has served as Labour Director under Delhi Government. Also, she served as Joint Secretary in Delhi Jal Board and was posted in the Higher and Technical Education

Commission is part of its regular practice of appointing chief electoral officers in consultation with state governments, ensuring efficient election management throughout the Union Territories and states. In view of the Delhi Assembly elections, amendment in the draft voter list published by the Election Commission is currently underway. The final voter list will be published on January 6 2025. There are over 13 000. 6, 2025. There are over 13,000 polling booths in different districts of Delhi. In the last one year, the number of voters in Delhi has increased by about five lakh.

HC refuses to stay proceedings against Kejriwal in liquorgate money laundering scam

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday refused to stay for now the proceedings against former CM and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal in a money laundering case linked to irreg-ularities in the state Excise Policy 2021-22.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri issued notice and sought the response of the Enforcement Directorate on a plea by the former Delhi chief minister challenging a trial court's order taking cognisance of a chargesheet in the case. The matter will be heard on December 20.

Kejriwal sought setting aside of the trial court order and argued that cognisance of the chargesheet was taken by the special court in the absence of the required sanction for his prosecution as he was a public servant when the alleged offence was committed. However, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the ED, submitted a sanction was obtained to prosecute Kejriwal and he would be filing an affidavit.

Kejriwal's counsel said the relevant document was not sup-

plied to them along with the supplementary chargesheet and claimed there was no sanction at the time of filing of the final report. The AAP convenor's lawyer sought an early hearing after the court posted the hearing in January, 2025 and insist-

ed an order on his plea for a stay on the proceedings be passed during the day owing to Mehta opposed the submission and sought to file a reply to the stay application, pointing out such an approach was unfair. He said this was a kind of "threat" on the part of the petitioner to carry the matter to the

Supreme Court. Kejriwal's lawyer responded asking how could they "threaten anybody' said an early date was not possible as there was "enough load", posted the matter on December 20. Kejriwal's counsel also urged

the high court to exempt the leader from appearing before the trial court, scheduled to hear the money laundering case on December 3. Justice Ohri remarked such a request could be made by the petitioner to the trial court and not before him. During the hearing, Kejriwal's counsel contended the seventh supplementary chargesheet filed by the ED naming Kejriwal as an accused was the "verbatim" repetition of the sixth supplementary

Rajnath Singh holds bilateral talks with US Secretary of Defence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India and US on Thursday reviewed the entire spectrum of their bilateral defence ties during talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd J Austin on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus at Vientiane,

The two leaders commended the progress achieved by the India-US defence partnership, based on increased operational coordination, information-sharing, and industrial innovation, defence ministry

Both sides recognised the remarkable progress made under the US-India Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap, including ongoing collaboration to advance priority co-production arrangements for jet engines, munitions, and ground mobility

Rajnath Singh recalled his recent productive and successful visit to the US in August 2024, wherein two important documents were concluded - the Security of Supplies Agreement (SOSA) and the Memorandum of Agreement regarding the deployment of Liaison Officers. Both sides welcomed ongoing efforts to deepen the



military partnership and interoperability to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific. Drawing attention to the suc-

cessful QUAD Summit attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 21, 2024, Rajnath Singh emphasised the need for both sides to work together on the agreed deliverables including the new regional Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI), the first-ever Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, and the launch of a Quad Indo-Pacific Logistics Network pilot project, to support civilian response to natural disasters more rapidly and efficiently across the Indo-Pacific region.

the growing defence innovation collaboration between the two governments, businesses, and academic institutions fostered

by India-US Defense

Acceleration Ecosystem, by

providing them with more

joint challenges, funding opportunities and visibility. Both leaders agreed to continue the momentum achieved in the last two and a half years through growing convergence to strategic interests and enhanced India-US defence cooperation. Rajnath Singh expressed gratitude to Secretary Austin for his enriching and lasting contri-

bution for deepening and

expanding India-US defence

În a social media post, Rajnath Singh termed Secretary Lloyd Austin as a great friend to

India, whose contribution towards strengthening India-US defence partnership has been exemplary. He wished him very best in all his future endeavours. In addition to his meeting

with US Secretary of Defense, Rajnath Singh met Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea Kim Yong Hyun, Minister for Defence Industry and Capability Delivery of Australia Pat Conroy and Defence Minister of New Zealand Judith Collins on the sidelines of the ADMM-Plus

Number of hoax bomb threats to airlines | Powergrid to revive crematoriums, have reduced: Civil Aviation Secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Authorities have successfully handled the menace of hoax bomb calls to airlines and such calls have reduced. To a query about hoax bomb calls, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam also said that authorities have tackled them successfully. He fur-ther said that procedures being adopted to deal with fog-related disruptions have been streamlined.

A few weeks back, hundreds of flights had received bomb threat calls that later turned out to be hoaxes. These threats had significantly impacted flight operations of various domestic carriers. "Our security have tackled this (hoax bomb calls) and we have seen also that we have been successful. The numbers have now gone down and from the airport threat assessment committee also, the consultation process has been streamlined. They have been made more responsive, (for) quick response..

"We have successfully handled the hoax cases so that passengers and flights are not disrupted by hoax calls," Vualnam

As part of preparations for the



fog season during which generally there are flight disruptions due to low visibility conditions, the secretary said airlines have been instructed to timely inform passengers about delays or cancellations. "We will be issuing fresh instructions to remind airlines and airports for the arrangements for passen-"If there is any unavoidable

delay in flights or cancellations, the procedures being adopted have been streamlined... BCAS has issued the circular and the drills are taking place. With this, there will be a better handling of fog season this year,"

Other steps include allowing passengers to exit from an aircraft through an airport departure gate in case there is a long delay in operating the flight after boarding. In this regard, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had issued a circular earlier this year.

"Now, with the drills and the space being earmarked, it has been activated. It requires holding areas to be earmarked and those things... It will be applicable everywhere (airports) but Delhi is the top priority because of the weather and the volume of people," the secretary said on the sidelines of an event in the national cap-

On Wednesday, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu held a review meeting with various stakeholders on fog pre-

graveyards in 658 villages under CSR scheme



PARVESH SHARMA **GURUGRAN**

Under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme, Powergrid will revive crematoriums and graveyards in 658 villages of four districts of Haryana, Karnal, Panipat, Rewari and Kurukshetra, with an amount of about Rs 50 crore.

For this, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Powergrid and the Development and Panchayat Department in the presence of the Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini in Gurugram on Thursday.

The Chief Minister said that under the CSR scheme, corporate companies are making incomparable contributions in the field of rural development, which is a commendable step towards social upliftment.

Commerce, Industry, Forest and Environment Minister Rao Narbir Singh and Cooperation and Tourism Minister Dr Arvind Sharma were also present on this

Chairman of Powergrid R.K. Tyagi said that an amount of Rs 49.94 crore will be spent for the revival of these crematoriums and graveyards. Under the MoU, boundary walls and paved roads will be constructed for all these 658 crematoriums and graveyards. Dr Jai Kishan Abir said that the population of these 658 villages is around 40 lakh. Rs 10.97 crore will be spent on the reconstruction of crematoriums and graveyards in 198 villages of Karnal district, Rs 18.46 crore will be spent 237 villages in Kurukshetra district, Rs 5.15 core in 106 villages of Panipat and Rs 15.37 crore in 117 villages of Rewari district.

In Haryana, a CSR Board was constituted in November 2018, which was made Haryana State CSR Trust under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister in March 2021. Development works worth Rs 750 crore have been done in the state under the Social Participation Program from November 2018 to March 2024. In the current financial year, development works worth Rs 350 crore will be done under this scheme," CM

Opposition members demand tenure extension of Parliamentary Panel on Waqf

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Opposition members on Thursday demanded extension of the tenure of the Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill, contending that they need more time to study the changes to the draft legislation.

At a meeting of the committee, Chairman and BJP member Jagdambika Pal announced that Thursday's meeting would be the last sitting of the panel and a draft report would be circulated to the members shortly.

This led to protests by the Opposition members who resorted to sloganeering and some of them called Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and sought his intervention in the matter.

The committee has been asked by the Lok Sabha to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the winter session of Parliament beginning Monday.

The government has already listed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill for consideration and



committee is presented to the Lok Sabha". In the past too, opposition

members on the panel have accused Pal, a BJP MP, of doing the government's bidding. They had earlier even threatened to disassociate themselves with the panel's

Their main concern was the frequent day-long meetings of the panel which did not allow them to prepare adequately and had accused Pal of "bulldozing proceedings" by not consulting them in picking on whom to call to depose. Several opposition members of the committee had earlier too approached Speaker Birla

Peaceful environment necessary for growth: Dhankhar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday asserted that India's foreign sovereignty, territorial integri ty of nations and the primacy of dialogue over conflict and said as wars intensify, the world can learn from the country's age-old principles of harmony and coexistence.

He also stressed the need for nations to focus on strategic security through strong defence capabilities and underlined that a peaceful environment is necessary for growth.

Noting that peace disruption or conflagration in any part of the globe has the potential to upset and unsettle growth, he



said a robust national security architecture based on a clear national security strategy is a precondition for achieving our developmental

National Defence College here on 'India's Core Values, Interests and Objectives', Dhankhar underlined that inclusive development, peace, and universal well-being, while nurturing the environment, is at the heart of Indian philosophy.

He said India's core values for ages are the foundation of its identity and are premised on its civilisational ethos. In the present times, they are a blend of ancient wisdom and modernity aimed at fructify people's aspirations. As the world's largest democracy, the vice president said, India celebrates its diversity with several official languages, multiple religions, and varied ethnicities canvassed under one constitution ensuring free-

In his address, Dhankhar said India's interests are driven by the welfare of its people and global peace while emphasising that the menace of terrorism and fundamentalism need to be combated in tandem and togetherness.

Highlighting the nation's commitment to gender justice he said, "India is committed to gender justice, this being vital to economy and societal values, as also harmony. This has resulted in not only the empowerment of women, it

New Tidel Park at Pattabiram to ensure IT development in northern TN

Pattabiram here to foster development of information technology in northern Tamil Nadu, the state government said on Thursday.

The project established on an area of 11.41 acres in neighbouring Thiruvallur district will employ 5,000 to 6,000 people in the initial phase in the IT/ITeS sector.

"The project aims to bring information technology development to the cities in the northern part of Tamil Nadu. The complex with a floor area of 5.57 lakh square feet and 21 has graduated to the next level of women-led growth." of 5.57 lakh square feet and 21 floors, will be inaugurated on

PTI CHENNAI

November 22 by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, especially the Surrounding districts including formal launch of the Rs

November 22 by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, especially the surrounding districts including Thiruvallur, will get employment and the socioto function such as modern telecommunication facilities, uninterrupted high-voltage three-phase power connections and electrical drive facilities, elevators, sanitary facilities, fire safety, and building management facilities, CCTV cameras, 24X7 security, a restaurant, and a gymnasium.

The building will house 6,000 IT professionals and has been built according to green build-ing guidelines," the release

youth of the northern part of

With the establishment of this new Tidel Park, the educated

tricts will improve, the release

The chief minister will also issue orders for the allotment of sites in the park to various private IT companies during the opening ceremony.

Also, Stalin would inaugurate the Precision Engineering and Technology Centre at SIDCO Industrial

Thirumudivakkam, Kancheepuram district, which has been set up at an estimated cost of Rs 18.18 crore. Young engineers and college students would benefit from this project.

India's first indigenous antibiotic drug Nafithromycin for resistant infections launched

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

In a ground breaking step for India's biotechnology sector, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has formally launched the first indigenous antibiotic 'Nafithromycin' for resistant infections at an event here. The drug is now awaiting final approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) for manufacturing and public use, marking a major leap forward in India's fight against AMR. The antibiotic has been developed with the support of "Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council" (BIRAC), a unit of the Department of Biotechnology and has been brought to market under the trade name "Miqnaf" by pharma company "Wolkardt".

It is the country's first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at tackling tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

This innovation is designed to treat Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP), a



proportionately affects vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly as well as immune compromised hosts like Patients with Diabetes, Cancers etc, said the Minister, as per a statement here.

Dr. Singh described the threeday treatment regimen of Nafithromycin as a gamechanger in addressing drugresistant pneumonia, a condition responsible for over two million deaths globally each

Índia, which bears 23% of the

with existing treatments, including widespread resistance to drugs like azithromycin. The new antibiotic is said to be ten times more effective than current options and offers a safer,

tion for patients. Nafithromycin's efficacy stands out as it targets both typical and atypical pathogens, offering a potent solution where no new antibiotic in this class has been developed worldwide for over three decades.

faster, and more tolerable solu-

Beyond its efficacy. Nafithromycin boasts superior safety and tolerability. The antibiotic has minimal gastrointestinal side effects, no significant drug interactions, and remains unaffected by food, making it a versatile option for patients. The antibiotics marks a his-

toric breakthrough as the first new antibiotic in its class to be developed globally in over 30 years. "This significant milestone comes at a time when antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health crisis, with few new drugs entering the pipeline," said the Minister.

development Nafithromycin is a testament to India's scientific advancement, offering a much-needed solution to combat multidrug-resistant pathogens. Its innovative design, targeting both typical and atypical organisms and its ability to overcome existing resistance mechanisms, positions it as a beacon of hope in the fight against AMR, with the potential to save countless lives

MP Congress committee president faces ire from leaders after declaration of State executive body

GIRISH SHARMA BHOPAL

The red carpet was remainded but the tent wallah was summoned to take away the carpet that was brought in to greet senior Congress leaders invited for the MPCC executive meet, as none of them turned up.

Madhya Pradesh Congress committee president Jitu Patwari continues to face the ire from senior party leaders and their camps after the State executive body was declared in first week of November.

At least six leaders have already expressed their annoyance over inclusion if their names at lower posts and submitted resignations. After the announcement of a iumbo executive body, the first meeting of the new body was convened on Thursday, which met in the absence of all senior party leaders from Madhya Pradesh. Former chief ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijay Singh did not attend the meeting claiming that they had to attend a

meeting in New Delhi, while



Leader of the Opposition on the State Assembly Umang Singhar cited the reason of being sick.

Other senior leaders Jay Singh, Arun Yadav and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Hemant Katare maintained distance with an excuse that it is a marriage season. Besides, Congress legislator from Bhopal Central also remained absent. Since, it was the first State

executive meeting, All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary and incharge of Madhya Pradesh Bhanwar Jitendra Singh was present and he addressed the new member of the body. Notably, former chief minis-

ter Kamal Nath had remained absent from the campaigning in the Budhni and Vijaypur assembly by-elections in the State stating that he was sick. However, soon after the

polling on November 13,

Nath celebrated his birthday at Bhopal and Chhindwara with a show of strength. When he was in Bhopal, Leader if the Opposition &mang Singhar had reached Chhindwara and thus he failed to meet Nath. Just the next day, on November 19, Jitu Patwari celebrated his birthday in Bhopal, but both Nath and Sighar maintained a distance from them, they did not even post their message on social media. While talking to media persons, Bhanwar Jitendra Singh

said that those could not

reach would attend the meet-

ing through video conferencing. On the other hand, a local leader said that they have been informed that those senior leaders remained absent would attend the meet on second day, on Friday. Furthermore, two-term Congress legislator and son of senior party leaders Digvijay Singh, Jaivardhan Singh attended the Hindu yatra being taken out by Pandit Dheerendra Shastri at Bageshwar Dham in

Chhatarpur district.

NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 22, 2024

Centre deploys additional forces VP M Venkaiah Naidu calls for to quell Manipur violence

mid an escalation in vio-Allence in Manipur, eight companies of the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) have reached the state capital Imphal, and these forces will be deployed in sensitive and fringe areas, an official said.

These forces arrived in Imphal on Wednesday, a day after another batch of 11 companies of CAPF reached

"Four companies each of CRPF and BSF will be deployed in sensitive and fringe areas of the state," the official said.

Of the CRPF companies, one belongs to the Mahila Battalion.

recently announced that 50 fresh companies of CAPF would be deployed in Manipur. Violence has escalated in the

state as offices of the Congress and the BJP have been ransacked in the hill district of Jiribam last week. The incidents occurred after

Valley where an indefinite curfew has been clamped. Security forces also foiled the attempt of the agitators to storm the ancestral residence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday

The violence escalated after three women and three children belonging to the Meitei community had gone missing from a relief camp in Iiribam district after a gunfight between security forces and suspected Kuki-Zo militants that resulted in the deaths of 10 insurgents on November 11.

Bodies of those six were later found over the past few days. More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

revival of Indian roots and languages

PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday stressed the need for going back to the roots of Indian culture and encouraging its languages.

Speaking after inaugurating an exhibition here organised as part of LokManthan-2024, a colloquium of "nationalist thinkers", Naidu said there is a necessity that everyone should again start following "our traditions, culture and dressing".

Asserting that 'Sanatana Dharma' is superior, Naidu said Hindu Dharma is so sacred that the people feed ants, snakes and worship trees and cattle also.

"Please observe where we are going from there. The Englishmen came and

invaded us. They not only looted us but took away our diamonds and

other valuables. Not only that, they also

"robbed" some our people's minds.

That's the reason there are changes in us (with respect to practising culture traditions) today," he said. He advised the youngsters to be friendly with nature.

Naidu further emphasised the importance of practising yoga to become physically fit and mentally alert and pointed out that the ancient practice has no religion. On LokManthan, Naidu said

looted.'

distribution

the underlying idea of this event is to decolonise the minds of Indians and to foster a sense of pride and commitment to Bharatiya intellectual discourse, culture, heritage, music and dance. "That is the purpose of this programme.

It's a noble idea behind the programme," he said. Union Minister G Kishan Reddy was also present.

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate LokManthanOrganised by Prajna Pravah, an organisation of 'nationintellectuals, researchers,

academicians, the event will feature debates on various topics as well as cultural programmes.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, and other dignitaries are also expected to attend the event to be held till November 24. Delegates from foreign countries, including groups that follow pre-Abrahamic traditions, will also participate and perform cultural dances and other exhibitions.

The Yazidis, who faced attacks by ISIS, are also expected to attend the conference, the organisers

LokManthan, a biennial event, was previously held in Bhopal, Ranchi, Guwahati, starting in 2016.

Gujarat government declares 'The Sabarmati Report' film tax-free



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat BJP government has declared 'The Sabarmati Report' Hindi film, based on the Godhra train burning incident of 2002, as tax-free in the state, officials said on Thursday.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel took the decision after watching the movie at a multiplex here on Wednesday night, an official release said. Patel watched the film along with its producer Ekta Kapoor, veteran Bollywood star Jitendra, movie's actress Riddhi Dogra and Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi, it said.

The chief minister has praised the movie and made it tax-free in Gujarat," the release said.

Gujarat is the fifth BJP-ruled state to give tax-free status to the Vikrant Massey-starrer film, which released in theatres last week.

Earlier this week, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh declared the movie as tax-free, which will effectively reduce its ticket

prices. On February 27, 2002, 59 persons, mostly kar sevaks, were killed when a coach of the Sabarmati Express train was set afire near Godhra station in Gujarat, triggering widespread riots in the state. Notably, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were among the leaders who had praised the movie.

Mob loots ₹ 1.68 Crore from Manipur MLA Kh Joykishan Singh's residence

of three BJP legislators, one of

whom is a senior minister,

and a Congress MLA in

various districts of Imphal

 $T^{\text{he mother of JD(U)}}_{\text{MLA Kh Joykishan}}$ Singh in Manipur has lodged a complaint, alleging that Rs 18 lakh in cash and jewellery items worth Rs 1.5 crore were looted by a mob that vandalised the legislator's residence on November 16, police said on Thursday Several items kept at the

MLA's residence in West Imphal's Thangmeiband area for internally displaced were also destroyed during the

attack, a senior officer

mother 'The Thangmeiband constituency legislator Joykishan Singh filed a complaint with the Imphal Police Station that Rs 18 lakh in cash and several

valuable items worth Rs



1.5 crore were looted and destroyed during a mob attack.

An FIR has been registered," the police officer told PTI. The mob vandalised the

residence of legislator for about two hours on the November 16 evening, he said. Notably, the MLA was in Delhi due to medical treatment for one of his family members when the mob attacked his residence last week. An internally displaced person, staying in a

Tombisana Secondary School in Thangmeiband, a few meters away from the residence of Joykishan, said, "Vegetables like potatoes and onions. and other items such as winter clothes were relief camp set up at kept for people like us.

the supervision of Joykishan, said. Lockers, electronics goods and furniture were vandalised, she claimed, adding that the mob attempted to take

> Seven gas cylinders were also taken away by the mob, she claimed. Documents displaced internally people were also destroyed during the

three

conditioners but failed.

All these materials were

"We urged the mob not

vandalise

residence of the MLA as

several items meant for

displaced people were kept there," Sanayai, a

volunteer who manages the relief camp under

the

among

attack, Sanayai said. The mob also pushed internally displaced people and one of the volunteers there was injured after being beaten up, she claimed. Houses of several legislators in Manipur were vandalised as violence escalated last week after three women and three children belonging to the Meitei community had gone missing from a relief camp in Jiribam district following a gunfight between security forces and suspected Kuki-Zo militants that resulted in the deaths of 10 insurgents November 11.

Bodies of those six were later found over the past few days. More than 220 people

have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last

Assam Rifles, Mizoram Police seize banned tablets, heroin



PTI AIZAWL

A ssam Rifles in collabora-tion with Mizoram Police seized Methamphetamine tablets and heroin worth over Rs 86 crore in two separate operations in Champhai district and two Myanmar nationals were arrested in one of these connections, statement said on Thursday. A joint team of Assam Rifles and state police launched an operation in a village on Wednesday after security forces received information about the movement of a suspicious consignment iau riv the India-Myanmar border. During the operation, the traffickers escaped from the spot but the consignment was seized, the Assam Rifles statement said.

During the search, 28.52 kilograms Methamphetamine tablets worth Rs 85.56 crore were

recovered, it said. Methamphetamine tablets,

also called 'crazy drug', have been banned in India.

In another operation in the district, a woman and a man, both residents of

Myanmar, were arrested after 52-gram heroin worth Rs 39 lakh was seized from their possession, the statement said.

One motorcycle used for transporting the narcotics substance was also seized, it

Haryana chief secretary oversees ₹ 58,274 Crore infrastructure projects



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Secretary Vivek Joshi on Thursday reviewed the progress of nine infrastructure projects currently underway in the state with an anticipated investment of Rs 58,274.05 crore. Reviewing the projects listed in the Project Monitoring Group (PMG) at a state-level

concerned commissioners via video conferencing along with senior officials of NHAI, power, public works, health, and medical education departments.

Expressing satisfaction over the progress of work, the chief secretary directed the concerned pending issues within the stipulated time frame, an official statement said.

Reviewing the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway

being implemented under Haryana State Industrial and

deputy commissioners to resolve the

project, Joshi directed the district administration to complete

the possession of a 30-metre strip at Kharak Pandwa village in Kalayat by December-end. The fourlane greenfield project is

Punjab by-elections see impressive 63.91 per cent

meeting here, Joshi held the Bharatmala Pariyojana in detailed discussions with the Harvana, the statement said.

Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIDC) and Joshi also reviewed the construction of greenfield connectivity to the Jewar Airport from the DND-Faridabad-Ballabhgarh Bypass KMP Link and

district the directed administration of Faridabad "to remove the bottlenecks" within a month so that the project is completed expeditiously. Travel time will be reduced

significantly for the traffic originating from south Delhi, Faridabad and Delhi, Gurugram to Agra and beyond on completion of the project, the statement said. On land allotment for a 150bed ESIC Hospital in Sonipat, the chief secretary directed the

administration to

with

discussions

find a suitable piece of land at the earliest.

Regarding the construction of a 100-bed ESI Hospital in Hisar, officials informed Joshi that the letter for allotment of land for the hospital has been sent to the concerned authority. Citing encroachment on the

land allotted for the construction an AIIMS at Majra in Rewari district, the concerned deputy commissioner informed the meeting that the Indian Railways has assured to clear the encroachment within 15

On the status of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor, the Yamunanagar deputy commissioner assured that issue of land will compensation resolved at the earliest.

Tragic bus accident in Jharkhand, seven killed and many injured as Patna-bound bus overturns

HAZARIBAG/JHARKHAND

t least seven people were A killed and several others injured on Thursday after a Patna-bound bus with passengers on board overturned in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, police said.

The accident occurred near Gorhar Police Station area, around 50 km away from district headquarters, when the bus overturned while negotiating a sharp bend, a senior officer said.

"Seven deaths have been confirmed so far. Some more people may be trapped in the bus," Hazaribag SP Arvind Kumar Singh told PTI.

There were about 50 passengers on the bus which was going to Patna from Kolkata when the accident took place, another officer



Motichand Prasad, passenger of the bus, said his wife Rajkumari Prasad was killed in the accident. "We were asleep when the accident occurred in the morning. We boarded the bus in Kolkata on Wednesday for Bihar," Prasad, a resident of Bihar's Gopalganj, said. Another passenger from Bihar Sharif Ganesh Kumar said that the accident took place around 6 AM. "There were around passengers on the bus. As the driver negotiated a sharp bend, he lost control over the bus and the vehicle overturned," Kumar said.

A police official on the spot said that around 10 people of those injured in the accident are in critical condition.

Kuki MLAs demand extension of AFSPA across Manipur to recover looted arms

voter turnout, Gidderbaha leads with 81.90 per cent

Avoter turnout of around 63.91 per cent was recorded in the by-elections to Punjab's four assembly with segments Gidderbaha segment recording the highest polling at 81.90 per cent, officials said

on Thursday.
Polling for the bypolls to the Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbewal (SC) and Barnala assembly segments took place on Wednesday. by-elections necessitated after the incumbent legislators were elected to the Lok Sabha.

Of the 6.96 lakh eligible voters in these four assembly segments, 4.45 lakh voters, including 2.15 lakh women, cast their votes, according to

officials. The Gidderbaha segment recorded 81.90 percent polling, Dera Baba 64.01 percent, Barnala 56.34



53.43 percent, they said. In the 2022 assembly polls, Gidderbaha had recorded 84.93 voter turnout, Dera Baba Nanak 73.70 percent, Barnala 71.45 percent and Chabbewal 71.19 percent. The main contesting political outfits in the bypolls were the Aam Aadmi Party, Congress and BJP.

The Shiromani Akali Dal did

not fight the elections.

Among the key contestants in the fray were former Punjab finance minister Manpreet Singh Badal, Kewal Singh Dhillon, Sohan Singh Thandal and Ravikaran Singh Kahlon (BJP), Amrita Warring and Jatinder Kaur (Congress), and Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon and Ishank Kumar Chabbewal (AAP). Amrita Warring is the wife

Amrita Warring is the size of the Congress' Punjab chief and Ludhiana MP Amrinder Singh Raja

Warring.
Jatinder Kaur is the spouse of Gurdaspur MP and former deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Randhawa. The AAP currently has 91

MLAs in the 117-member Punjab Assembly, while the Congress has 15. The Shiromani Akali Dal has three MLAs, BJP two

and the Bahujan Samaj Party

PTI ■ BENGALURU Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on

ISRO and ASA strengthen

ties with landmark agreement

Thursday said it has signed Implementation Agreement (IA) with Australian Space Agency (ASA) for further strengthening of cooperation in space activities between the two countries.

The IA enables cooperation between both space agencies on crew and crew module recovery for Gaganyaan missions, the country's first crewed spaceflight program, it said.

The IA was signed by D K Singh, Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) on ISRO's side at Bengaluru and Jarrod Powell, General Manager, Space Capability Branch, on ASA's side at Canberra on November 20, the space agency said in a statement.

ISRO has embarked on the Spaceflight Human "Gaganyaan" programme with an objective of demonstrating capability to carryout Low Earth Orbit in an Indian Crew Module with up to three crew members onboard, for up to three days and to safely recover the module.

IA enables the Australian authorities to Indian with authorities to ensure support for search and rescue of crew and recovery of crew module as part of a contingency plan for ascent phase that aborts near Australian waters, ISRO said. India and Australia are enduring strategic partners and both space agencies are working closely and are committed to explore and current collaboration activities, it

PTI ■ IMPHAL/GUWAHATI

 $M_{
m Kuki\ MLAs,\ including}^{
m anipur\ Assembly's\ 10}$ seven of the state's ruling BJP-led alliance, have demanded that AFSPA be extended to the entire state to

recover looted arms.

The Centre on November 14 reimposed the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in Manipur's six police station areas, including the violence-hit Jiribam, with the Union Home Ministry asserting that the decision was taken given the "continuous volatile situation" there due to ethnic strife.

In a joint statement, the 10 Kuki MLAs said, "The imposition of AFSPA as per orders dated 14 November, indeed needs immediate review to extend the Act in the remaining 13 police jurisdictions."

They asserted that AFSPA should be imposed in the entire state in order to facilitate the recovery of the than 6,000 "more sophisticated weapons" looted by Meiteis since May 3 last year as it is a long overdue action required to

contain the violence. Ethnic violence between Meities and Kukis began on May 3, 2023, after a Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the state's hill districts to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. More than 220 people have been killed in the violence since then.

The central and state governments must take all necessary steps to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur by initiating political dialogue to bring lasting peace to the troubled region according to the region, according to the

statement of the Kuki legislators including five of the BJP and two of JD(U). The 10 tribal legislators also criticised the resolution adopted by the MLAs of the ruling BJP-led NDA in Manipur, calling for a "mass operation" against the Kuki

militants responsible for killing three women and three children in Jiribam district within seven days. The Kuki legislators alleged that the resolution was "divisive, one-sided and communal". They also claimed that the resolution seeking the handing over of cases

relating to the death of six civilians to NIA "smacks of a communalised state". 'We recommend that all

civilian killings from the 3rd of May, 2023, both in the valley and hills be handed over to the NIA," they added.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Mending fences with China

Faced with a slowing economy and increasing geopolitical challenges, Beijing seems eager to seek a thaw with India

n a notable shift, the Chinese government has signalled its intent to recalibrate its ties with India following a series of disengagement measures along their disputed border. The thaw reflects both strategic considerations and economic imperatives as Beijing grapples with slowing economic growth and rising geopolitical challenges. After years of strained relations exacerbated by the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, which resulted in casualties on both sides, the disengagement at friction points offers a moment to 'look into the future.' Chinese officials and business leaders have expressed optimism about a potential reset in ties, framing peace and stability as prerequisites for deeper bilateral engagement. China's economy has been under pressure from multiple fronts: sluggish growth, weakening consumer demand and the looming threat of escalating tariffs from the United States under Donald Trump's proposed policies. Beijing has already announced two rounds of monetary and fiscal stimulus packages, with a third expect-

ed soon, aiming to rejuvenate its domestic economy and strengthen trade ties with key partners like India. India, with its vast middle-class market and growing manufacturing sector, represents an attractive prospect for Chinese businesses.

Despite a persistent trade imbalance—India's imports from China stood at \$99.59 billion in 2023, dwarfing its exports of \$16.23 billion—there is scope for collaboration. Chinese businesses see opportunities in India's pharmaceuticals, services and burgeoning electric vehicle market. China's business leaders and scholars have called for a pragmatic approach that separates border issues from economic and cultural ties.

Influential figures in China's economic hubs—Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen—have emphasised the benefits of collaboration. Companies like Shanghai Pharmaceuticals and carmaker BYD have expressed interest in leveraging the Indian market, highlighting areas like healthcare and electric vehicles as promising fields for cooperation. While Beijing appears eager to reset relations, New Delhi's emphasis on resolving border disputes as a precondition for normalisation remains a sticking point. India is likely to continue leveraging its trade policies to address the trade deficit and ensure balanced economic ties. Additionally, mutual trust needs rebuilding after years of diplomatic and military standoffs. Indeed, the disengagement along the border is a significant step toward restoring confidence between the two nations. If both sides prioritise dialogue and economic cooperation, the thaw could lead to a more stable and mutually beneficial relationship. China's acknowledgment of India's potential as a key trade and investment partner, coupled with India's focus on reducing its trade deficit and securing fair access to Chinese markets, could lay the foundation for a new era in Sino-Indian relations. Whatever the reasons behind China's willingness to engage in dialogue, this is an opportunity that must be fully seized.



vorker spreads 'Finger Fryums,' for drying under the sun at a factory on the outskirts of Agartala

Congress party's political opportunism SYED ZAFAR ISLAM



The glaring contradiction between Congress party's diatribes against Adani and its actions underscores a deeper issue of political expediency eroding its trust

he relationship between the Congress Party and the Adani Group is a masterclass in political hypocrisy. For all its vocal criticisms of the Adani-BJP nexus, Congress's historical and current actions tell a different story-one of close collaboration and mutual benefit. While Rahul Gandhi and his party present themselves as crusaders against crony capitalism, the truth is that Congress has been instrumental in the growth of the Adani empire. If anything, Congress's attacks on Adani only serve to highlight its duplicity.

Adani's early growth can be traced back to the 1990s when the Congress Party was in power. In 1993, under the Chimanbhai Patel-led Congress government in Gujarat, Adani was granted land at just 10 paise per square meter for his Mundra Port project. Further land allocations were made by Shanker Singh Vaghela, who was supported by the Congress Party. Interestingly, only about a third of Adani's total land acquisitions in Gujarat occurred during Modi's tenure as Chief Minister. Despite Rahul Gandhi's relent-

less attacks on Adani, Congress-ruled states continue to roll out the red carpet for the conglomerate. In Rajasthan, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's government has signed agreements with Adani for a massive 10,000 MW solar power project and handed over operational control of Jaipur International Airport.

In Chhattisgarh, Bhupesh Baghel's administration has approved Adani's role as a Mine Developer and Operator for coal blocks, while Himachal Pradesh's Congress Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu brokered a deal to reopen Adani-owned cement plants. These are not isolated incidents but part of a broader trend where Congress governments actively court the same group their leaders lambast at the national level. This two-faced approach isn't

just political theatre—it's deeply

cynical. The group's ability to

structure projects, attract investments, and create jobs makes it indispensable to state governments, including those led by Congress. Yet, instead of owning this reality, Congress chooses to vilify Adani on the national stage, using him as a convenient punching bag to score political points against the

deliver large-scale infra-

It's a strategy designed to mask its complicity while hoping voters don't notice the glaring contradictions. Rahul Gandhi, in particular, has made Adani the centerpiece of his attacks on Modi, framing the group as a beneficiary of crony capitalism. But his rhetoric collapses under scrutiny. Congress's historical and ongoing engagement with Adani exposes its attacks as hollow. If Congress truly believes Adani is emblematic of everything wrong with India's economic system, why does it continue to facilitate his projects in Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Himachai Pradesh: why does it refuse to acknowledge its role in Adani's rise, from land allocations in the 1990s to the financial wind-



THIS DUPLICITY ISN'T JUST BAD POLITICS; IT'S BAD FOR INDIA. CONGRESS'S SELECTIVE OUTRAGE **OVER ADANI DISTRACTS FROM** THE REAL ISSUES OF **ECONOMIC** CONCENTRATION CAPTURE falls his group enjoyed during UPA rule? The answer lies in political

expediency. Adani Group's growth and expansion have not been limited to any single political party or government. The conglomerate has secured projects, investments, and approvals from governments led by Congress, regional parties, and other opposition parties across various states. But at the state level, where governance realities take precedence over rhetoric, the result is a schizophrenic approach that undermines whatever credibility Congress hopes to claim in its critique of crony capital-

This duplicity isn't just bad politics; it's bad for India. Congress's selective outrage over Adani distracts from the real issues of economic concentration and regulatory capture. While concerns about corporate influence on politics are valid and must be addressed, it is crucial to have a balanced and the issue. Worse, it perpet-uates the very system it (The writer is E claims to oppose, enabling Adani's expansion while pre-

tending to stand against it. For Congress, the cost of this hypocrisy is more than just bad optics—it's a loss of trust. Voters are not blind to the contradictions between what Congress says and what it does. Rahul Gandhi's crusade against Adani might make for compelling headlines, but it rings hollow when Congress-ruled states continue to partner with the group. This gap between rhetoric and reality exposes Congress as a party more interested in political opportunism than principled

The people of India are wise enough to see through the opposition's double standards and political opportunism. They understand that the BJP government has always prioritised the nation's interests and has worked tirelessly to promote inclusive growth and development. We will continue to focus on our agenda of good governance, economic reforms, and social welfare, regardless of the positions daseless attacks

opposition.

(The writer is BJP national spokesperson; views are

THE EDITOR

Are taxpayers getting their money's worth?



From understaffed schools and ill-equipped hospitals to failing sanitation systems, taxpayers are left wondering: where is their money really going?

ach month, countless individuals contribute a significant portion of their earnings to the government, with the expectation that it will deliver essential services and build a nation worthy of our pride. Despite decades of commitments and the collection of hundreds of billions in taxes, numerous regions still suffer from shockingly inadequate basic infrastructure. Educational institutions lack adequate teaching personnel, public healthcare facilities consistently face shortages in supplies, and the sanitation system remains in its early developmental phase. What is the reason for this recurring issue? Is the hard-earned money of taxpayers truly being utilised efficiently, or is it time for citizens to demand more accountability?

The irony lies in the fact that the middle-class sector shoulders the weight of taxes, yet they find themselves unable to reap the rewards of the services those taxes are intended to provide. Government schools are supposed to deliver affordable and quality education; however, many lack essential facilities like toilets,



dedicated teachers. Instead, middle-class families find themselves having to extend their budgets to enrol their children in private schools. Government hospitals, which are meant to provide free health care, are often overcrowded, dirty and severely lacking in staff. The middle class has ultimately turned away from these facilities, leading them to seek costly private care—where once more, their taxes and the expected refunds were meant to support them.

year, governments amass billions in tax revenue, yet a significant portion frequently gets redirected to non-essential projects, bureaucratic inefficiencies, or, even more troubling, corruption. Extravagant government offices, regular overseas travel for officials and inadequately planned infrastructure initiatives consume resources that ought to be allocated to enhancing public services. Systemic leakages in public sector spending result in a significant portion of the allocated budget failing to reach those it was meant to benefit. It is not merely a matter of inefficiency; it represents a profound betrayal of public trust.

Taxpayers deserve clarity and results. Therefore, it is essential for governments to create detailed spending breakdowns that enable citizens to follow the flow of their funds. It is essential for governments to reassess their spending priorities. Rather than focussing on grand symbolic infrastructure projects, efforts will be directed towards grassroots enhancements—cleaning hospitals, recruiting skilled teachers, and ensuring proper sanitation in every school. Technology can play a crucial role in monitoring advancements on extensive spreadsheets and digital platforms,

highlighting areas that

require urgent focus. The key takeaway is the importance of civic engagement. People must insist on greater accountability from those they elect. Advocacy, community assessments, and exerting influence can indeed compel a government to establish fundamental infrastructure for the public. If the government disregards the opinions of the taxpayer, the collective voting strength and lobbying activities can convey a different kind of message. Public funds should serve as a means for advancing the nation, rather than being squandered on wasteful expenditures or corrupt practices. The true measure of a nation's greatness lies not in its towering skyscrapers or grand monuments, but in the care and support it provides to its people. Quality education, hygienic healthcare facilities, and essential sanitation are not privilegesthey are basic entitlements. Now is the moment to hold the influential responsible for fulfilling their commit-

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

GANGA UNSAFE FOR BATHING

Madam — The National Green Tribunal has ordered Varanasi DM to put up a board as the Ganga is not fit for bathing. It is unfortunate. Ganga is a lifeline to tens of millions of people who live in its basin and depend on it for their daily life. But in the recent years, the Ganga has become not suitable for drinking purposes and more pathetically for bathing too since it is severely polluted with human waste and industrial contaminants. Three quarters of sewage from the northern plains is discharged into the Ganga without treatment. The Central Pollution Control Board states that BOD levels should be less than 3 mg per litre for bathing, but in the Ganges, BOD levels can be up to 6.4 mg

Therefore, swimming in the river, which has high levels of harmful bacteria and toxic chemicals, can increase the chance of developing diseases like viral fever, nausea, typhoid, hepatitis, gastroenteritis and so on. The Ganga Action Plan was launched in 1985 with the aim of improving water quality through interception, diversion and treatment of domestic sewage and to prevent toxic and industrial chemical wastes from identified polluting units from entering the Ganga should be strictly implemented. The Namami Ganga project was launched in 2014 with the objective of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of the Ganga should be given life.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

BENGAL'S MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

Madam — The article 'West Bengal's lost opportunity' (November 20), rehashes the genesis of Bengal's apathy for industry for decades and its doomed economy. The militancy of trade unionism under CPI(M) and TMC regimes has left Bengal de-industrialised for over five decades. CPI(M) and TMC are synonyms as the leftist cadre of CPI(M) has shifted enmasse to TMC. Besides Tata Nano and Haringhata Dairy, the successive govern-

Winter smog chokes Delhi



North India, particularly New Delhi, in the winter season is the cause for concern, which needs a comprehensive and long-lasting solution. This year the air quality index there reached 500 points, a severe plus range. Despite

he recurrent worsening of air quality in

Haripur through violent agitations. In fact, the state governments and leadership of CPI(M) and TMC have been confrontational with Union Governments on setting up industries. The leftist agenda aims to weaken India and is subservient to the interests of China. The vote bank politics of CPI(M) and TMC have failed the state. Lakhs of youth have migrated to the other states for jobs.

The infrastructure of the state is in the worst condition and the political ecosystem thrives on violence. Therefore, alternative leadership outside CPI(M) and TMC has not emerged. Mamata Banerjee's leadership is more leftist than the Communist leadership of CPI(M) and CPI. Bengal is badly bruised on economy and GST and income tax collections are some of the poorest in the country with the size and population of the state. The successive governments of CPI and TMC have been oppressive, as evident from the recurrent violence in all Lok Sabha, Assembly, and Panchayat elections. A poor state with potential to be the most ments had opposed the Nuclear plant in developed is very unfortunate for the

frightening for one and all. The stubble burning in the fields of adjacent states has been considered a major contributing factor for the worsening of air quality there.

Apart from discouraging stubble burning, other measures like restricting the number of constructions, putting a cap on industrial emissions, and encouraging public transport should be implemented. Instead of passing the buck to the next, the centre and states should work in tandem to chalk out a comprehensive plan and implement it effectively. The authorities should involve the scientific community and include the people for better results. The public health, schools, transport, work and livelihood getting a halt with regularity every winter for decades in the capital region of India augurs no good at

DVG Sankara Rao | Vizianagaram

country. Bengali people deserve a better life and opportunity to grow. Vinod Johri | Delhi

CASH CONTROVERSY Madam — As Maharashtra hurtles toward a critical election, a political firestorm has engulfed the state, with BJP veteran Vinod Tawde and Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) leader Hitendra Thakur locked in a battle of accusations and counterclaims. Tawde, long embroiled in controversies and estranged from BJP heavyweight Devendra Fadnavis, has found himself at the epicentre of fresh allegations of voter bribery. In Virar, BVA workers alleged that Tawde was caught red-handed with Rs 9.93 lakh in cash, sparking chaos. Thakur, claiming Tawde also possessed Rs 5 crore in cash and incriminating diaries listing names for monetary distribution, led the charge, insisting the BJP was attempting to buy its way to victory. **Dorai Ramani Suresh** | *Mumbai*

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FIRST COLUMN

THE FRAGILE MIND **AND OVERCOMING FEAR**

understanding the causes of mental fragility and embracing methods of healing can help us fight fear



RAVI VALLURI

he cell rang and dropped from her hands. There was an agonising silence across continents. Her only son in the US, a brilliant student, committed suicide. Bill Maher writes, "Suicide is man's way of telling God: You can't fire me, I quit." But do brave men commit suicide? It appears to be a permanent solution to a transitory problem. Marcus Trescothick and Chetan Sharma come to mind. The former suffered from xenophobia in the subcontinent and Chetan Sharma after being hit for that last ball six at Sharjah by Javed Miandad lost his mojo and rhythm.

Fear, anxiety, emotional upheavals, unpleasant feelings, panic attacks and phobias are all symptomatic of a fragile and delicate mind. A fragmented mind is invariably a victim of irrational fear. Such an individual is unable to distinguish between what is logical and what is not. People harbouring fear suffer from panic attacks, sweaty palms, disturbed sleep, palpitation, shortness of breath, inability to remain calm, dry mouth and numbness of the feet and hands. A contributor to the magnification of fear is our pent-up emotions. These emotions are not based on a rational or scientific thinking pattern. We end up violently or irrationally reacting rather than responding in a coherent and clear-sighted manner. Humans should be prudent to ponder, that if left untreated this situation can become mourning regalia. A person can suffer from psychosomatic illnesses, loss of appetite, self-deprecatory behaviour or even schizophrenia. An element of fear is perhaps required, because then we can patrol our fences. Perhaps the only fearless people are sages and mentally deranged personalities! They are insulated from fear! The



brain is an organ and the mind is our intellect. It makes us aware and enhances the quality of consciousness. The mind is a movie theatre where the soap opera of our life is enacted. We play, rewind, and rerun an enormous number of movies. Thoughts are impacted by the kind of food we partake in (Tamasik, Rajasik, Sattvik), the company we keep and the amount of rest we take. The quality (guna) of food has a bearing on our disposition and approach to life.

Tamasik food makes us sluggish, Rajasik food makes us feverish or anxious in disposition and Sattvik food makes us feel calm. The first two lead us to fearful situations. If we are closeted with individuals who have a negative thought process, we imbibe such attributes and evince such a behavioural pattern. "Man is known by the company he keeps" is a very old adage and so is "man is born free but always is in chains". It is cardinal to have adequate physical and mental rest. If we are rested, then we are at peace and do not complain or quibble.

Then we are physically and mentally alert and high-yielding. In our minds, we need to keep space to just dump the garbage which disappears into the recycle bin, NEVER to APPEAR again. We need to pursue passions, and hobbies, indulge in sports, participate in extracurricular activities, avoid negative company, take up initiatives, practice meditation, keep the mind occupied, footslog on the treadmill, go for long walks, go for treks and read autobiographies of entrepreneurs and achievers. There are others who adopt the spiritual path by practising pranayama, learning yoga, undertaking the Art of Living course, or observing the breath through the Vipassana technique. To conquer fear, we need to log out of our comfort zone so that the virus of fear does not enter our operating system. And if nothing works out, the magic is to surrender to the Divine and feel grateful.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

Dedicated bank for MSMEs to boost credit access

This new initiative seeks to bridge that gap and stimulate job creation and economic activity by providing MSMEs with the financial support they desperately need

he government plans to estab-lish a dedicated bank to lend directly to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to enhance credit availability in this crucial sector. The industry has called for increased financial support, as current institutions like the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) primarily focus on refinancing loans rather than providing direct funding. In contrast, state financial and industrial development corporations do lend directly to MSMEs.

However, many, such as the Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation (PSIDC) and Punjab Finance Corporation (PFC), are experiencing funds crunch and have stopped credit flow. PSIDC gathered liabilities worth Rs 4700 crore, therefore, has not given any fresh loans to any company for the last 16 years. According to an Ernst&Young(EY) report, MSME credit penetration in India is only 14 per cent, significantly lower than in larger economies like the US and China, where the figures are 50 per cent and 37 per cent, respectively. Indian MSMEs face a critical credit shortage of? 25 trillion, indicating a substantial untapped credit market. Increasing lending to MSMEs can stimulate economic activity and create jobs. The proposed establishment of a separate bank dedicated to the MSME sector would help address these direct credit shortages. However, the government needs to finalise various details, such as the bank's ownership structure, which may adopt a hybrid public-private partnership model. Although large banks operate in the sector, they often struggle to meet the unique needs of MSMEs.

Countries in Europe provide valuable lessons by grouping MSMEs with home loan customers, both considered small borrowers. If the government does not establish a new bank, SIDBI could be transformed into a full-fledged bank focused on direct lending to MSMEs instead of merely refinancing. SIDBI plays a vital role in financing India's MSMEs and is owned by a consortium that includes the government and major financial institutions. In 2023-24, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) supported the agricultural sector with a loan portfolio of Rs 6.68 lakh crore, with the agriculture CREATE JOBS.THE sector contributing 18 per cent to the country's GDP. On the other hand, SIDBI had a refinancing loan portfolio of? 84,000 crore in FY 2023-24, with the MSME sector contributing 30 per cent to the GDP.For micro and small enterprises to grow, obtaining capital remains one of their most significant challenges.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has designated MSMEs as a priority sector and directed banks to allocate 40 per cent of the Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to priority sectors, including MSMEs. However, a study by the RBI has found that most banks do not exceed 25 per cent for MSME credit. SIDBI's future growth depends on how effectively commercial banks fulfil their priority sector lending targets. A report by ICRA warns that if banks successfully meet their quotas, there could be a reduced need for SIDBI's refinancing services. Challenges: Despite the vital role MSMEs play in the country's economy, access to adequate, timely, and low-cost finance poses a significant hurdle to the sector's growth prospects. Limited credit history, insuf-



The importance of MSMEs to the Indian economy cannot be overstated. They drive innovation, generate employment, and contribute significantly to exports and GDP. By fostering entrepreneurship and supporting large-scale industrialisation, MSMEs play a pivotal role in reducing regional imbalances, uplifting economically weaker sections, and stimulating socio-economic development. Their adaptability and resilience make them indispensable in the face of economic adversities, ensuring the continuous dynamism of the Indian economy. With a contribution of 27 per cent to India's GDP, 38.4 per cent of total manufacturing output, and 45 per cent of the country's total exports, the MSME sector serves as the backbone of the economy. **Global Models to Emulate:**

However, the government has launched several initiatives to promote financing for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), including the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), Pradhan Mantri

government must ensure awareness of and effective disbursement for these schemes so that more enterprises can benefit. Additionally, the private sector needs to step up and promote MSME financing.
Without public-private partner-

ships, alliances, and collaborations, MSME financing will continue to face challenges. One pressing issue is the introduction of interest subvention to address high borrowing costs, which range from 10 to 12 per cent. This creates an uneven playing field when compared to countries like China, where the borrowing rate is 3.1 per cent, the US at 4.37 per cent, and the European Union, which averages 5.1 per cent for MSMEs. In the US, MSMEs can access

funding through various federal and state programmes. The Small Business Administration (SBA) plays a vital role by offering loan guarantees and encouraging banks and other financial institutions to lend to small businesses. The Microloan Programmes provide capital for various business needs, including working capital, equipment purchases, and real estate acquisitions. Furthermore, the US government supports MSMEs through grants, venture capital initiatives, and state-specific funding programs tailored to local business environments. This diverse range of financial products ensures that MSMEs can find suitable funding options for their specific requirements.

In European Union countries, MSMEs benefit from robust financial support frameworks facilitated by institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF). These entities provide funding through intermediaries like banks and microfinance institutions, offering loans, guarantees, and equity

MSME funding through programs focused on the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, which emphasise innovation and competitiveness.In China, the government has implemented several measures to enhance MSMEs' access to finance through dedicated banks, such as the China Development Bank, which offers targeted lending. Local governments have established credit guarantee funds as well. Moreover, China's financial technology sector has significantly grown, with online lending platforms and digital financial services providing alternative funding sources for MSMEs.

Way Forward: The inherent challenges faced by MSMEs cannot be overlooked. It is essential to address the issues within the MSME sector that hinder financial accessibility. As recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, the comprehensive approaches in the US, EU, and China serve as valuable models for India to enhance its financing landscape for MSMEs, improve credit access, and make these enterprises globally compet-

The government also proposed establishing a Merchant Credit Card (MCC) Scheme for traders and a Vyapar Credit Card (VCC) for micro-units, similar to the Kisan Credit Card (KCC). Under the Credit Guarantee Fund, a scheme to provide short-term loans with interest subvention is still awaited. There is still much work to be done to ensure that all MSMEs can access affordable

and timely financing.
(The Author is vice-chairman of Sonalika ITL Group, vice-chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and president of Tractor and Mechanisation Association;

Views expressed are personal)





LENDING TO

MSMES CAN STIMULATE ECONOMIC **ACTIVITY AND ESTABLISHMENT** OF A SEPARATE BANK DEDICATED TO THE MSME

SECTOR WOULD **HELP ADDRESS** THESE DIRECT CREDIT SHORTAGE

India's gender gap in labour force participation: A missed opportunity

India must act swiftly to secure its digital future in an era where technological prowess is now essential for national security

recent International Labour Organisation and Niti Aayog report shows that less than 50 per cent of women are in the labour force in India, compared to 80 per cent of men, and this proportion has not increased since 1990

India is presently realising a demographic dividend, with the largest number of the young working population in the age group of 15-34. The above trend in women's labour market participation has serious implications for the economy, indicating a need for transition.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI),



picture, where women's participation in the labour force has notably increased to 37 per cent from 23.3 per

Although growing, these figures are disgracefully low compared to 69 per cent in China and 57 per cent in nomic growth has not gen-Bangladesh. A similar comparison of female literacy rate in India with Sri Lanka, China, South Africa and

shows a remarkable growth from 59.28 per cent to 69 per cent for India, but it is way below all other countries where the figure is greater than 90 per cent, due to their dedicated efforts to female literacy.
The female labour supply

traces a U-shaped curve to economic growth in many developed countries implying an initial fall in the supply with an increase in the GDP of the country, but later showing a positive trend. However, in India, this upward trend is not realised implying that ecoerated adequate jobs for women.

According to the OECD report (2019), women in presents a slightly optimistic Russia between 2011-2021 India spend on average 352 eral initiatives and schemes

minutes a day on unpaid work as against 52 minutes by men. The division emphasises that a woman's "appropriate" role may be dominated by patriarchal structures, societal expectations, and traditional bias, and are restricted to caregivers and homemakers. There is also a considerable

gender-based wage gap of about INR 4,014. On average, men earn INR 12,048 per month while women earn INR 8,034, or about 33 per cent less than men. This illustrates the stereo-

types and gender biases that affect employment decisions, promotions, and wage negotiations. Recently, Indian policymakers and government have undertaken sev-



with better access, eliminating barriers, and gender parity in the educational

Programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, and the National Programme for Education of Girls at India ranks 127 out of 146

Elementary Level (NPEGEL) aim to combat gender bias, guarantee inclusive education, and improve access to education for all.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) also introduced the "Udaan Scheme" in 2022 to encourage and facilitate female students to pursue higher education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

This is relevant as the Indian global compatibility centres (GCCs) show only 6.7 per cent of women in executive roles and 5.1 per cent in deep tech organisations. According to the World Economic Forum's annual Gender Gap Report 2023,

countries in terms of gender parity, an improvement of eight places from 2022. The underutilised talents and unrealised potential and skills of women are crucial for redeeming the benefits of demographic dividend. A comprehensive strategy including education beyond secondary schooling with a focus on skill development can design a long-term employment-oriented development strategy, acting as a catalyst in achieving goals as set under United Nation's Sustainable Development (Kajleen is an assistant

professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, Delhi University; Views are personal)

Israel-Hamas war death toll passes 44k

deprived the civilian popula-tion in Gaza of objects indis-

pensable to their survival,

including food, water, and

medicine and medical sup-

plies, as well as fuel and elec-

tricity," the three-judge panel

wrote in its unanimous deci-

sion to issue warrants for Netanyahu and his former

defence minister Yoav Gallant.

The court also issued a warrant

for the arrest of Mohammed

Deif, one of the leaders of

Hamas. The ICC chief prose-

cutor had also sought warrants

for two other senior Hamas

figures, Yahya Sinwar and

Ismail Haniyeh, but they were

both killed in the conflict. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in September that it had

The death toll in the Gaza Strip from the 13-month-old war between Israel and Hamas has surpassed 44,000, local health officials said Thursday.

The Gaza Health Ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count, but it has said that more than half of the fatalities are women and children. The Israeli military says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The Health Ministry said 44,056 people have been killed and 104,268 wounded since the start of the war. It has said the real toll is higher because thousands of bodies are buried under rubble or in areas that medics cannot access.

The war began when Hamasled militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Most of the rest were released during a cease-fire last year.

ICC issues arrest warrants for Netanyahu

The Hague (AP): The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defence minister and Hamas officials, accusing them of war crimes and crimes against humanity over the war in Gaza and the October 2023 attacks that triggered Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territory.

The decision turns Netanyahu and the others into internationally wanted suspects and is likely to further isolate them and complicate efforts to negotiate a cease-fire to end the 13month conflict.

But its practical implications could be limited since Israel and its major ally, the United States, are not members of the court and several of the Hamas officials have been subsequently killed in the conflict.

Netanyahu and other Israeli leaders have condemned ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan's request for warrants as disgraceful and antisemitic.

US President Joe Biden also blasted the prosecutor and submitted two legal briefs challenging the ICC's jurisdiction expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself against and arguing that the court did not provide Israel the oppor-Hamas. Hamas also slammed the request. "The Chamber tunity to investigate the allegations itself before requesting considered that there are reathe warrants. "No other democracy with an sonable grounds to believe that both individuals inten-tionally and knowingly

independent and respected legal system like that which exists in Israel has been treated in this prejudicial manner by the Prosecutor," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Oren Marmorstein wrote on X. He said Israel remained "stead-

fast in its commitment to the rule of law and justice" and would continue to protect its citizens against militancy. The ICC is a court of last resort

that only prosecutes cases when domestic law enforcement authorities cannot or will not investigate. Israel is not a member state of the court. The country has struggled to investigate itself in the past, rights groups say. Despite the warrants, none of the suspects is likely to face judges in The

The court itself has no police to enforce warrants, instead relying on cooperation from its member states

Even so, the threat of arrest could make it difficult for Netanyahu and Gallant to travel abroad, although Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is wanted on an ICC warrant for alleged war crimes in Ukraine, recently showed he could still visit an ally when he traveled to Mongolia, one of the court's member states, and

was not arrested. Khan sought warrants in May, accusing Netanyahu and Gallant of crimes including murder, intentionally attacking civilians, and persecution.

In a statement at the time, Khan alleged that Israel "has intentionally and systematically deprived the civilian population in all parts of Gaza of objects indispensable to human survival" by closing border crossings into the territory and restricting essential supplies including food and



Aus tourist dies after drinking tainted alcohol in Laos, raising toll to four

n Australian teenager Ahas died after drinking tainted alcohol in Laos in what Australia's prime minister on Thursday called every parent's nightmare. An American and two Danish tourists also died, officials said after reports that multi-ple people had been sickened in town popular with back-

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Parliament that 19-year-old Bianca Jones had died after being evacuated from Vang Vieng, Laos for treatment in also 19, remains hospitalised in neighbouring Thailand.

"This is every parent's very worst fear and a nightmare that no one should have to endure," Albanese said. "We also take this moment to say that we're thinking of Bianca's friend Holly Bowles

who is fighting for her life."
They are believed to have consumed drinks tainted with methanol, which is sometimes added to mixeddrinks at disreputable bars as a cheaper alternative to ethanol, but can cause severe poisoning or death. Telephone numbers listed

for Laos' Health Ministry did

not work and police refused to comment on the inci-

Australia said "several foreign nationals" had also been victims of methanol poisoning. The US State

Department confirmed that an American had also died in Vang Vieng, and Denmark's Foreign Ministry said two of its citizens had also died in "the incident in Laos," but neither would comment directly on a link to the methanol poisoning that killed Jones. Shaun Bowles told reporters outside Bangkok Hospital on Wednesday that his daughter

remained in critical condi-

tion and on life support. "We just like to thank every-

one from back home for all of the support and love that we're receiving," he said. "But we'd also like the people to appreciate right now, we just need privacy so we can spend as much time as we can with Holly.'

In a statement to the Melbourne Herald Sun newspaper, Jones' family asked for privacy in their grief.

She was surrounded by love, and we are comforted by the knowledge that her incredible spirit touched so many lives during her time with us," the family wrote.

Technical Bid & Commercial Bid, from eligible ontractor for the Design, Engineering, Supply, installation, Testing & Commissioning of 80 Kwp Bank, Zonal Office Gurugram. Tender docum and further information are available on the Bank's ebsite https://psb.eproc.in ZONAL MANAGER

COP29 produces streamlined climate finance draft, but key issues remain

PTI BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

fter an all-nighter, a draft text on After an all-nignter, a trial text on the new climate finance package for the developing world finally dropped Thursday morning — shrunk from 25 pages to 10, but the major sticking points remain. With less than two days left for the UN climate conference to close, negotiators face a gargantuan task to hammer it out.

A quick glance at the text shows developed countries are still dodg-ing a key question: How much climate finance are they ready to give developing countries every year starting in 2025?

This has led to significant frustration among developing countries, who have repeatedly said they need at least USD 1.3 trillion to tackle the escalating challenges. "The revised draft text, while more streamlined, presents a spectrum of options some good, some bad, and some outright ugly," said Harjeet Singh, a climate activist and Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative. He said it acknowledges the need for public funds from developed countries but dodges the key question of how much finance is

needed, shifting the burden onto developing countries to raise more domestic funds. The veteran COP watcher also said the text fails to set clear financial targets for mitigation, adaptation, and losses and damages from climate impacts — areas with growing needs and limited resources. A real, just transition from fossil

fuels requires strong public finance, not empty promises," Singh said. Vaibhav Chaturvedi from Delhibased think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water said it is great that the structure is streamlined, but there is no high-level number from the developed world.

David Waskow, the Director of WRI's International Climate Initiative, said the text leaves a lot of work to be done.

'Time is very tight, and to get to bridging texts, even bridging texts with options, is going to take quite a lot of work, and the presidency and the ministerial pair and parties above all, are going to need to really work hard over the next 48 to 72 hours to reach a conclusion," he said Developing countries' perspective in the text is that the new climate finance package should be in trillions and be given by developed countries every year from 2025.

'Failure is not an option'

Baku (PTI): UN climate chief Simon Stiell on Thursday issued a strong call for global unity and ambition to secure a groundbreaking finance goal to support climate action in the developing world, saying, "Failure is not an option."

As negotiators raced against time to resolve outstanding issues related to the critical objective of COP29, Stiell said a major push was needed to bring discussions to the finishing line. "It might jeopardise both near-

term action, and ambition in the preparation of the new national climate action plans, with potential devastating impacts as irreversible tipping points are getting closer," he said. On draft climate finance text released earlier in the morning, the UN climate chief said that despite areas of convergence, significant differences remain. "A surge in finance is essential: To ensure all parties can deliver new national plans aligned with 1.5 degrees – as they must," he said. Stiell warned that delays at COP29 could complicate the road to COP30 in Brazil next year. "This COP must deliver justice in the face of climate catastrophe," he urged. Stiell asked countries to come together, soften hard lines, and navigate a path through their differences. "Keep your eyes on the bigger picture. Never forget what is at stake," he said. The COP29 presidency issued a draft text on the new climate finance package for the developing world on Thursday morning. It has shrunk from 25 pages to 10, but the major stick-

ing points remain. With less than one and a half days left for the UN climate conference to close, negotiators face a gargantuan task to hammer out a deal. The text shows developed countries are still dodging a key question: how much climate finance they are ready to provide developing countries every year starting in

1/N2/2020-21/15 dated 30.03.2021 conveying sanction of various credit facilities and the terms of sanction. Pursuant to the above sanction you have availed and started utilising the credit facilities after providing security for the same, as hereinafter started. The present outstanding in various loan/credit facility accounts and the security interest created for

S. Nature and type of Limit (in Rs.) Rate of interest Ols Balance as on Security agreement with brief facility 3,72,00,000.00/ BRLLR + 2.25 % i.e. BRLLR + 2.25 % i.e. 1.69.27.4381- plus Primary: 1.35% p.a. Plus Penal Future interest and II) Hypothecation to stock comprising of 274405000000047

NOTICE TO BORROWER

(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION OF 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

09.03.2018 BR/Shadel/ADV/2018-19/05/47 dated 29.09.2018 BR/Shadel/ADV/2020-21/05/47 dated

9810409039, 7359617555 Email ID: CREDENCEWHOLEFOODS AJAY@GMAIL.COM

. We refer to our sanction letter no. SMELF/DMR-I/IND/2017-18 dated 04.10.2017, BR/Shad

Re: Various Credit Facilities with our Shalimar Bagh Branch, Delhi-110088.

milk and milk products etc located at khata no 49 & 51 khasra no 353 & 354, vill-Mascori, Tehsil - Khekra Dist-Baghpat UP-250101 and book debt of ompany both present and future. 55.51,332/- plus BRLLR + 2.25 % i.e. 11.35% p.a. Plus Penal Interest of 2% p.a from 75,00,000.00/) Hypothecation of plant and machin comprised of factory Plant and machinery at khata no 49 & 51 khasra no 353 & 354, vili- Masoon, Tehsil charges incurred the date of default. thereon. hekra Dist-Baghpat UP-250101. BRLLR + 2.25 % to. 13.31.996/- plur 26,00,000.00/ Mahindra Bolero Pick Up FC CNG BS 4 1. Registration no- DL1LAA3967, Engine no -EPJ1B19028, Chasis nothe date of default. MA1ZP2EPKJ1826009. BRLLR + 2.25 % (e. 1.35% p.a. Plus Penal Cersal Asset ID: 200029010292 ,50,00,000.00 the date of default thereon. MATZNZEPKJ1B26138. Cersai Asset ID: 200029011209 Security Interest ID: 400029061687 1.35% p.s. Plus Penal Future interest and charges incurred the date of default. No EPJ1B19027, Chassis No **BGECLS Term** 94,88,835/- plus 1,20,00,000.00 M1ZN2EPKJ1B25709 Future interest and Cersai Asset ID: 200029010791 Security Interest ID: 400029061267 Collateral: 1) All the part and parcel of 2744060000224 terest of 2% p.a from charges incurred WCTL 1 2,78,00,000.00 factory land and building situated at Future interest and Khata no 049 and 051, Khasra nos 353 and 354, village Hasanpur massori, P.O. Khekra, Beghpat, Uttar Pradesh 250101, total land measuring 1.1790 Hectare in the name of Mr. Dhani Rain the date of default BRLLR + 1.25 % Le. 3.99.683/- plus 10.40% p.a. Plus Penal Future interest and WCTL 2 27440600002403 Yadav Sio. Sh. Bhim Singh, Mr charges incurred Mahendra Yadav S/o. Sh. Bhim Singt and Mr. Mahabir Yadav S/o. Sh. Bhim the date of default. 27440600002404 9.65 % p.a. Plus Penal Security Interest ID: 400024883301 charges incurred

In the Letter of Acknowledgment of Debt dated 11-09-2020, you have acknowledged your liability to the bank to the une of Rs. 918.65 Lakhs as on 10-09-2020.

and charges

TOTAL

AMOUNT

11,01,58,000.00

As you are aware, you have committed default in payment of instalments of term loan/demand loans which have fallen due for payment on November 2022 and thereafter

Consequent upon the defaults committed by you, your loan account has been classified as non-performing asset on

01-02-2023 in accordance with Reserve Bank of India directives and guidelines. In spite of our repeated requirements you have not repeat the overdue loans including interest thereon.

Having regard to your linability to meet your liabilities in respect of the credit facilities duly secured by various securities mentioned in para 1 above, and classification of your account as a non-performing asset, we hereby give you notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and call upon you to pay in full and discharge your liabilities to the Bank aggregating Rs. 8.63,75,062/- (Rupee Eight Crores Sixty Three Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Sixty Two Only) as on 26/10/2024 plus Future Interest and Charges incurred thereon, as stated in para 1 above, within 60 days from the date of this notice. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest till date of payment, we shall be free to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of the said Act, which please

Please note that, interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 above for each credit facility until payment in full

We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13 (13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the

secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty ease note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sum

Place: Delhi **Authorised Officer** Chief Manager



Mis. Credence WholeFoods Pvt. Ltd., Registered Office: Plot No. 82-A Saraswati Kunj, Golf Course Road, Opposite Vatika Tower, Sector- 53, Gunugram, Haryana- 122002., M-9810409039, 7359617555, Email ID: credencewholefoods.aiav@gmail.com

M/s. Credence Whole Foods Pvt. Ltd., Khata No 49 & 51, Khasra No. 353 & 354, Village Hasanpur Masoori, Tehsil-Khekra, Dist-Baghpat (UP)- 250101. M/s. Credence Whole Foods Pvt. Ltd., Plot no 74, Sector -8, IMT Manesar, Gurugram

Harvana - 122052., M. 9810409039, 7359617555, Email ID: credencewholefoods.aiar Mr. Mahabir Singh Yadav, R/o. 1791, Sector 12, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, M-8059658024 Re: Intimation of withdrawal of Notice issued u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act and all

subsequent SARFAESI proceedings. In order to provide adequate Notice to the Legal heirs of the deceased Guarantor Late Sh. Dhani

Ram Yadav, the Bank has taken steps to issue a fresh Notice under Section 13(2) of the SARFAESIAct, 2002 and the Rules made thereunder. Take notice that the abovementioned fresh Notice supersedes all previous Notices issued by the

bank under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and the Rules made thereunde In view of the issue of fresh Notice dated 28/10/2024, all previous Notice(s) and SARFAESI

Copy of Fresh Notice dated 28/10/2024 issued u/s 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 is also nclosed with Letters for necessary information.

Bank of Baroda





NOTICE TO GUARANTOR (UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION OF 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

Mr. Mahabir Singh Yadav. R/o. 1791, Sector 12, Sonipat, Haryana-131001, M-8059658024

Dear Sir.

Re: Your guarantee for Credit facilities sanctioned to M/s Credence Whole Foods Pvt Ltd.

As you are aware, you have by a guarantee dated 23-09-2020 and subsequent Guarantee dated 31-03-2021 guarantee payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities then or at any time thereafter owing or incurred to us by M/s. Credence Whole Foods Pvt. Ltd., for aggregate credit limits of Rs. 1101.58 Lacs with interest thereon more particularly set out in the said guarantee document. To secure the guarantee obligation you have also provided following securities to us:

By way of Mortgage of Property:- All the part and parcel of Factory land and building situated at Khata no 049 and 051 Khasra nos 353 and 354, Village-Hasanpur massori, Khekra, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh 250101, Total land measuring 1.1790 Hectare in the name of Mr. Dhani Ram Yadav S/o. Sh. Bhim Singh, Mr. Mahendra Yadav S/o. Sh. Bhim Singh and Mr. Mahabir Yadav S/o. Sh. Bhim Singh.

We have to inform you that the borrower has committed defaults in payment of his liabilities and consequently his ccount has been classified as non-performing asset. A copy of the notice dated 28/10/2024 under section 13(2) of the ecuritisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 sent by us to the prower is enclosed. Since the borrower has committed defaults, in terms of the guarantee you have become liable to pay to us the outstanding amount of loan/credit facilities aggregating Rs. 8.63,75,062/- (Rupee Eight Crores Sixty Three Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Sixty Two Only) as on 26/10/2024 plus Future Interest and Charges incurred thereon and we hereby invoke the guarantee and call upon you to pay the said amount within 60 days from the date of this notice se note that interest will continue to accrue at the rates specified in para 1 of the notice dated 28/10/2024 served or the borrower (copy enclosed).

. We further wish to inform you that in regard to the security provided by you to secure your guarantee obligations for the due repayment of the loans and advances by the borrower, this notice of 60 days may please be treated as notice under sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security sterest Act, 2002. We further give you notice that failing payment of the above amount with interest up to the date of ment, we shall be at liberty to exercise all or any of the rights under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, which . We invite your attention to sub-section (13) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transfe

any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.

I. We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the scured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by ou, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender/private treaty. Please ote that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available. 5. Please note that this demand notice is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or

nedies which we may have, including without limitation, the right to make further demands in respect of sums owing to

Authorised Officer Chief Manager

Australia's parl considers legislation banning social media for under 16s

Date: 28/10/2024

ustralia's communications minis-Ater introduced a world-first law into Parliament on Thursday that would ban children under 16 from social media, saying online safety was one of parents' toughest challenges. Michelle Rowland said TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram were among the platforms that would face fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (\$33 million) for systemic failures to prevent young children from holding accounts.

"This bill seeks to set a new norma

Bank invites offers, under two bid

system for premises measuring

carpet area 1200 Sq. Ft. to 1500

Sq. Ft. on ground floor, on lease

for a minimum period of 15 Years

(Fifteen Years) for new branch

office along with onsite ATM at prime location in Greater

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ndian overseas bank

Regional Office NCR Delhi NHPC Complex Sector-33, Faridabad, Haryana - 121003 Phone: 0129-2259549

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Indian Overseas Bank requires Office Space, preferably on Ground Floor, for shifting of our Vrindavan Branch - Carpet area-1500 sq.ft. (£10%).

The offer is solicited from owners of premises with clear and marketable litte, with proper parking, water and electricity facility & confirming to civic authority norms, in their respective areas.

The offer is to be submitted under two bid system (Technical Bid and Financial Bid in separate sealed cover) to reach The Chief Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Regional Office, NHPC Complex, 1* and 2* Floor, First Building (Near Main Gafe), Sector-33. Faridabad-121003 on or before 07-12-2024 upto 5 p.m. (Bid is to be submitted by landlord/ landlady or power of attorney holder only). Only one bid is to be submitted for one property. Multiple bids of same property and bids submitted by third party will be rejected. The format for Echnical Bid (Part A) and Financial Bid (Part A) and Financial Bid (Part B) may be obtained from our above Office or may be downloaded from our Bank's website: www.iob.lin (tender) Bank Reserves the right to reject any/ all offers without assigning any reason. No brokerage is payable.

Date: 22-11-2024 Chief Regional Manager

www.punjabandsindbank.co.in

Faridabad (Haryana)

tive value in society that accessing social media is not the defining feature of growing up in Australia," Rowland told Parliament.

"There is wide acknowledgement that something must be done in the immediate term to help prevent young teens and children from being exposed to streams of content unfiltered and infinite," she added.

X owner Elon Musk warned that Australia intended to go further, posting on his platform: "Seems like a backdoor way to control access to the Internet by all Australians." The bill has wide political support. After it becomes law, the platforms would have one year to work out how

to implement the age restriction. "For too many young Australians, social media can be harmful," Rowland said. "Almost two-thirds of 14- to 17vears-old Australians have viewed extremely harmful content online including drug abuse, suicide or selfharm as well as violent material. One quarter have been exposed to content

promoting unsafe eating habits." NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Main Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

amendments & corrigendum etc. A) (Rs. 30.00 Lacs to100.00 Lacs)

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Sr.	Job No.	Sale Start	Sale End	Tender
No.		Date	Date	Opening
				Date and
				Time
1	Job No01/E-TENDER	22.11.2024	28.11.2024	29.11.2024
	/SPO/2024-25		upto	11.00 AM
	Name of Work -		5:00 P.M.	
	Procurement of			
	Printing & Stationary			
	Items, Estimated Cost			
	Rs. 64,06,115.00			

''महत्वपूर्ण सूचना–

मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विपरीत प्लॉटिंग या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अवैध है। जनसामान्य को आगाह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अवैध कॉलोनियों एवं अवैध निर्मित भवनों में भुखण्डों / अपार्टमेंट / दुकान / गोडाऊन / फार्महाउस की खरीद–फरोख्त से पूर्णतः मचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाईजर के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचे। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसुचित क्षेत्र के हिण्डन एवं यमूना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनिधकृत / अवैध प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में संलिप्त भूमाफियाओं के

Store Purchase Officer

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

50 killed, 20 injured in Pak's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ambush

PTI PESHAWAR

At least 50 people were killed and 20 others injured when several vehicles carrying passengers were targeted by mili tants in northwest Pakistan on Thursday, officials said.

The militants ambushed the vehicles in the Kurram district of restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering

Afghanistan.

The vehicles were travelling in a convoy from Parachinar to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when gunmen opened fire, the officials said. Rescue authorities said 50 people, including eight women and five children, and 20 others were killed in the attack.

Most of the victims belonged to the Shia community, they said The vehicles were ambushed in areas dominated by the Taliban, a local journalist said.

According to local media, there were over 200 vehicles in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief

Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur strongly condemned the attack and directed a delegation comprising the provincial law minister, lawmakers from the region, and the chief secretary to immediately visit Kurram to assess the situation and submit a report. He also instructed relevant authorities to work on establishing a Provincial Highways Police unit to secure all roads in the province

Gandapur extended condolences to the bereaved families and announced financial assistance for the families of the vic-

"Targeting innocent civilians is extremely tragic and con-demnable. Those involved in this incident will not escape the grip of the law," he said.

Pak court grants 5-day physical remand of Imran Khan

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Thursday granted a five-day physical remand of former prime minister Imran Khan, who was arrested formally by police hours after his bail in a corruption case was accepted.

Khan, 72, was arrested by Rawalpindi police in the New Town police station case on Wednesday night after securing bail in the second Toshakhana case and was produced before the Anti-Terrorism Court in

The police prosecution team sought a 15-day physical remand but the court granted the five-day physical remand and ordered to continue the investigation inside the jail.

The court also rejected the PTI lawyer Salman Safdar's plea to discharge his client from the case.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted Khan bail in the second Toshakhana case related to the purchase of an expensive Bulgari jewellery set at a throwaway price, igniting hopes of his release.

However, hours later, Rawalpindi police arrested him late at night in connection with a case registered at New Town Police Station on terrorism and other charges.

The police alleged that

Khan, while imprisoned in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, had called for a protest in Rawalpindi on September 28.

Dawn newspaper quoted a police spokesperson as saying that Khan had been detained in the case filed on September 28 and a team has been tasked to probe the charges.

The charges include violations of the Anti-Terrorism Act, defying the government ban on public gatherings, obstructing police duty, damaging police vehicles and endangering public safety.

Even before the formal arrest in the case, federal information minister Atta Tarar doused the idea of his release, saying Khan was wanted in eight cases related to May 9, 2023 violence and should secure bail before being set free from jail.

Dawn reported that Khan needs to secure bail in nearly two dozen other cases regisacross Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad before being released.

According to Islamabad police, at least 62 cases were registered against Khan in various police stations of the capital, while his PTI party said that another 54 cases were Punjab registered in province. Meanwhile, an accountability court on Wednesday held a hearing on the GBP 190 million case at the Adiala Jail and was informed that Khan and Bushra Bibi have yet to submit responses to the questionnaires issued to

The court granted Bibi's request for an exemption from court appearance on medical grounds and adjourned the hearing till November 22. Separately, the Lahore High Court dismissed a plea by Khan's sister, Noreen Niazi, seeking bail for her brother in all cases against him in Punjab and Islamabad.An assistant

attorney general presented a be "worked out in consultation report to the court, stating that 62 cases had been registered against Khan by the Islamabad police. After going through the report, Justice Farooq Haider turned down the request, observing that bail petitions must be filed personally by the suspect. Dozens of cases have been registered against Khan since losing power in April 2022. His party

PAK GOVT BRACES FOR IMRAN'S PARTY PROTEST

politically motivated.

maintained that all cases were

Pakistan's government has given a nod to the deployment of paramilitary forces in the national capital from Friday to spruce up security ahead of a planned protest by jailed former prime minister Imran

Khan's party on Sunday. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) gave a call last week for a long march to press for three demands: the release of the incarcerated party founder, against the alleged "stolen mandate" during February 8 elections and restoration of the judiciary by revoking the recent 26th amendment to the Constitution that granted legislators more power in appointing top judges.

The government has decided to deploy the Pakistan Rangers and Frontier Constabulary (FC) personnel in Islamabad from Friday onwards under Sections 4 and 5 of the Anti-Terrorism Act.

According to a notification by the Interior Ministry on Wednesday, the exact number of personnel and the date and area of their deployment would

Jong Un and his top econom-

ic official, Premier Kim Tok

Hun, before returning home

with concerned stakeholders", while the date of de-requisitioning of troops would be decided after mutually consulting all relevant stakeholders. Earlier, the Islamabad police, in

a letter dated November 14, had asked for the deployment of Rangers and FC personnel ahead of the PTI rally.

According to the letter, the Islamabad police chief requested 5,000 Rangers personnel and 4,000 FC personnel "in addition to the 1,000 FC personnel already provided to ICT police."

The federal government already imposed Section 144 in the capital and banned all kinds of rallies for two months. Similarly, the Punjab government. which also exercises jurisdiction over Rawalpindi near Islamabad, placed police on high alert throughout the province.

Meanwhile, PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram, briefing reporters at Peshawar, said that protest was a fundamental right. "Nobody can take it away from us," he said, adding that governments do not threaten or bully their citizens like thugs.

He also warned to bring a sea of people to the capital on November 24 from across the country for the proposed long march to Islamabad.

Mobile and internet services are likely to remain suspended in various parts of Pakistan, particularly in Islamabad and Punjab, during the protest, ARÝ News reported, citing

According to sources, the suspension may affect some dis-

Gen Munir urges people to prioritise nation over 'personal interests'

Karachi (PTI): Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir has said that "nothing, including politics," was above the country and urged people to prioritise the nation over "personal interests". "People must prioritise Pakistan over everything else, including politics and personal interests," he said while visiting an ongoing defence exhibition in Karachi on Wednesday. He also made it clear that "digital terrorism" was a real threat to the country and said social media was being used to spread anarchy and lies about the armed forces.

The protection of a country's digital borders and the digital security of its citizens is the responsibility of the state," he said.

Gen Munir also warned that unrestricted freedom of speech was "leading to the degrada-

tion of moral values in all societies". Earlier meeting with the business leaders in Karachi, he said everyone needed to understand the importance of putting the country above everything else.

"The public must prioritise Pakistan over personal interests. Remember, we have no identity apart from Pakistan," he said, noting that the state was like a mother and "its value should be asked from the people of Libya, Iraq and

The army chief also spoke about Pakistan's economic situation, expressing "complete faith in Pakistan's bright and stable future".

"Today, all indicators of Pakistan's economy are

positive, and by next year, God willing, they will further improve," he said.

tricts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,

Punjab and Islamabad. Sources within the Pakistan

Telecommunication Authority (PTA) have claimed that mobile internet services will be suspended from November 22. with firewalls activated to slow down internet speeds and impact social media apps. The authorities may also block

internet and mobile services in specific locations, depending on the situation, sources added. In a separate development, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-İnsaf (PTI) presented 'conditions' to hold negotiations to withdraw its November 24 protest call.

The PTI demanded immediate relief for the party founder, the sources said. "In exchange for relief to its founder, the PTI is ready to call off the protest," they added.

break out of international iso-

The party asked the government to quash all "fabricated" cases against Khan and his immediate release. "If legal proceedings delay his release, Îmran Khan should be transferred to Peshawar Jail," according to one of the conditions set

The party also demanded the immediate release of other leaders imprisoned in various

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Amin Gandapur said that negotiations on the November 24 protest will only be commenced after the release of PTI founder Imran Khan.

Khan, 72, has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence motion in 2022. He has been in

acknowledge that he has been

in some of them, convicted in some others, and hearings going on for some more. Khan's party won the largest number of seats in the February general elections despite contesting as independents as the party was denied an election symbol and the PTI chief has already alleged that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its coalition partners, including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had "stolen the mandate" to grab power at the federal level.

Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since

last year facing, according to his

party, over 200 cases; got bail

Relations between the PTI and the PML-N-led coalition government —already tense since Khan's ouster in 2022 — have strained even more in recent

Sri Lanka Prez backs IMF package despite pre-poll rhetoric

PTI COLOMBO

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake Thursday backed an International Monetary Fund bailout package despite prepresidential election rhetoric to renegotiate with the global lender to water down tough conditions laid down for the

In his inaugural address to the newly convened parliament after his party's landslide victory last week, President fulfil his pre-election promises by ensuring the supremacy of the law and addressing past wrongdoings.

Dissanayake affirmed his administration's commitment to continue the IMF bailout programme initiated by the previous government led by Ranil Wickremesinghe.

"We will enter the staff-level agreement (with IMF) hopefully by November 23," Dissanayake said, expressing optimism about securing the agreement for the next tranche of the nearly USD 3 billion facility.

A staff-level agreement is a preliminary pact reached between the IMF staff and the government of a country on a set of economic policies and reforms that the country must implement in exchange for financial assistance from the global lender. The IMF team on Sunday arrived in Sri Lanka to carry out the third review of the nearly USD 3 billion bailout facility.

The third review should lead to the fourth tranche of the 4year facility. It would be around USD 330 million as was the case in the previous three tranches, according to the Finance Ministry officials. The debt restructuring agreement reached in the last week of the Wickremesinghe presidency is yet to be official lv sealed. Debt restructuring agreement with both bilateral and sovereign bondholders was made compulsory to maintain debt sustainability

by the IMF. Sri Lanka tapped the IMF for a facility at the height of the economic crisis under the presidency of Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the president who was made to flee the country by months-long public protests. Mid April of 2022 Sri Lanka announced its first-

ever debt default. The negotiations with the IMF began thereafter and the Wickremesinghe's government clinched the bailout, a year later in March 2023.

N Korea, Russia agree to expand eco cooperation

North Korea and Russia reached a new agreement for expanding economic cooperation following high-level talks in Pyongyang this week, the North's state media said Thursday, as they continue to align in the face of their confrontations with Washington. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency didn't elaborate on the details of the agreement signed Wednesday between its senior trade officials and a Russian delegation led by Alexandr Kozlov, the

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that of Mr. Sudhir Kumar Gupta S'O. Lt. Mr. Raghunath Prashad is the owner of Residential Plot No. 54-B4/8, Area Measuring 50 Sq. Yards, Out of Khasra No. 204/3. Situated at Sarswati Vihar, Village Dharoti Khurd, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, District Ghaziabad, by virtue of GPA (mother to son) Dated 10.10.2014, executed by Mrs. Gyatri Devi, same to be finance by SMFG India Credit/Company Limited., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within days of the present. Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate SG. Associates (Law Firm) **PUBLIC NOTICE**

ATHE PIONEER A

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kulwant Singh Bhogal S/o-Kirpal Singh, R/o-RZ-84, Radha Swamy Dairy, Indra Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kulwant Singh.

PD(953)C No.2897857H Hav Ramkishor, R/o-Vill+Post-Sathin, Teh-Bhopalgarh Dist-Jodhpur, Rajasthan-342601, declare that in my Army records, my mother's name is wrongly written as Sita Devi whereas her correct name is Sita. It should be amended in

PD(954)C I, Ruchi Sharma W/o Praveen Kumar Sharma R/o 16/18 Nova Banyan Road, Shipra Suncity, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Ruchi for all future purposes.

PD(952)A

Dated 19/11/2024

LOST & FOUND

Army Record.

Lost: Perpetual Lease Deed & other documents for Property No. 385, Nimri Colony, Ashok Vihar Phase 4, Delhi. NCR filed, LR No: 2316794/2024. Finder contact Sanjeev Kumar: 9999992570 PD(955)A

country's minister of natural resources and ecology. The Russian news agency Tass on Tuesday said officials following an earlier round of talks

agreed to increase the number of charter flights between the countries to promote tourism. Kozlov, who arrived in North Korea on Sunday, met with North Korean leader Kim PUBLIC NOTICE

st. FIR of the same has been registered with Baoaipus illice Station, same to be finance by Muthou Homelin dia Ltd. General public hereby informed that if ybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property rany kind of dispute kindly inform the undersignet writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present. Rank IR alp Patha, Advocat SG Associates (Law Firm

PUBLIC NOTICE

t is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Azha Zaidi had acquired Plot bearing No. 65-B, area mea suring 50 sq. yrds., out of Khasra No. 18/6, situa ed in the area of Village Razapur Khurd Delhi colon known as R-III. Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar Ne Delhi vide regd. GPA Dt. 04.08.2009 along with ATS and will executed by Mr. Asgar Ali and Now Mr. Ashar Zaidi is the undisputed owner of the said property OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance share sale agreement lease license ift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance owsoever or otherwise is hereby required to inti nate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days rom the date of publication of this notice nis/her/their share or claim, if any, with all suppo ing documents at below mentioned address. Afte expiration of notice period, the claims, if any of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Laipat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

on Wednesday, KCNA said. During Kozlov's visit, Russian President Vladimir Putin's gifted Pyongyang's Central Zoo with more than 70 ani-PUBLIC NOTICE

ly client Smt. Nazma Naz & Sh. Mohammad alim R/o House No A-53 Opposite Shalima

Garden, garima garden sahibabad ghaziabad

up-201005, do hereby disown/debar his son mohd. Mujeeb & his wife reshma and their child namely arsalan from all their movable and

movable properties/articles and severed all

ney are misbehaving/doing unlawful acts with my

lient and not obeying my client my client will not e responsible for any dealing/acts.

Tushar Malhotra (Advocate) Ch. No. G-720

Narang & amp; 2.5h. Shubham vide sale deed no 9269 dated 12.07.2023 and 1. Sh.Anuj Narang & amp; 2.5h.Shubham purchase from Smt. Madhu vide Notarized GPA, ATS and Will dated 26.09.2022.And It is informed that any deal with

ocuments by any person except my s and said institution regarding s rty, shall be deemed as null and void.If

nolication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-7:
Mobile :- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Sonia Saini w/o Mr. Kapii Saini is the owner of freehold Residential Plot no. 35 area measuring 50 sq. yds. out of fotal erae measuring 100 sq. yds. out of Khasra no. 43/9, 10 & 11 situated in the Waka Mauja Saran, Tehsil & District Faridabarthrough Registere C Sale Deed Dated 22.08.2024 executed by Mr. Nandu Kumar Gaund in favour of Mrs. Sonia Saiji W/o Mr. Kanil Saini Vide Rev. no. 3831 at

onia Saini W/o Mr. Kapil Saini Vide Reg. no. 3831 a

SR-BADKHAL Faridabad Haryana the above

mals, including lions, bears and several species of birds, according to Tass, in another display of the countries' growing ties.

Kim Jong Un in recent months has prioritized relations with Moscow as he attempts to ing, actively supporting Putin's war on Ukraine while portraying the North as a player in a united front against Washington.

Kim has yet to directly

providing military equipment lation and strengthen his footand troops to Russia to support its fighting against Ukraine. South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers in a closeddoor briefing on Wednesday

that an estimated 11,000 North Korean soldiers in late October were moved to Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops seized parts of its territory this year, following their training in Russia's northeast.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The last date of submission of tender is 10-12-2024 upto 2:00



Sd/-Mission Director. Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/2284/24/22-Nov-24

Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Bank Mydt. (APEX BANK) Head Office, Sahakar Bhavan,

GEM/2024/B/5608546

Plot no.74, Sector-24, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar (C.G.) 492002

Advertisement of RFP for Procurement of Cloud based Services for Computerisation of Office of the

RFP document and other details are available on Gem and bank **Managing Director**

FORM NO. NCLT 3A **Advertisement Detailing Petition BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL BENCH-VI NEW DELHI** In the matter of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016

In the Matter of Section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with rule 4 of the insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2016

In the Matter of

Central Bank of India Stressed Assets Management Branch, Jeevan Tara Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 M/s. Praneet Softech Pvt. Ltd.

CIN- U 72900DL2002 PTC 115139 Registered Office: Having its Registered Office S-384, Panchshila Park, Ground Floor, South Delhi, Delhi-110017

Company Petition / No.(IB) 518 of 2024

NOTICE OF PETITION

A petition/ application /reference (Case Title: Central Bank of India Vs M/s. Pranee Softech Pvt. Ltd.) under section 7 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with rule 4 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Application to Adjudicating Authority) Rules, 2016 for initiating a insolvency proceedings, was presented by BKM & Associate on the 13 day of May 2024 and the said petition is fixed for hearing before Bench-VI of National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi on 13,12,2024. Any person desirous of supporting or opposing the said petition / application/reference should send to the petitioner's advocate notice of his intention, signed by him or his advocate, with his name and address, so as to reach the petitioner's advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the petition / application /reference. Where he seeks to oppose the petition /application reference, the grounds of opposition or a copy of his affidavit shall be furnished with such notice. A copy of the petition / application / reference will be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges for the same.

(Sd/-) BKM & ASSOCIATES

206, AJ, Chambers, Naiwala Bank Street, Karolbagh, New Delhi-110005. Mobile: 9868113796, E-mail: bkmdelhi@gmail.com

Advocates, Solicitors & Consultants,

Counsel for the Financial Creditors

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public at large that LATE SARABIT KAUR BALI W.O. DS. Bali (DAWINDER SINGH BALI) is the owner of 100% share of Flat No. 206/ Second Floor Block-A, KENWOOD TOWER, Charmwood Village, Faridabad-121009 (Haryana). Who died on 16.09.2024 Leaving Behind S. D.S. BALI (Davinder Singh Bali) (Husband), GUNMEET KAUR BALI (Daughter), HARSHNEET KAUR BALI (Daughter), CURRARMAN SUNGH BALI (Son). The Legal heirs S. DAVINDER SINGH BALI (Husband), GUNMEET KAUR BALI (Daughter), HARSHNEET KAUR BALI (Daughter), CURRARMAN SINGH BALI (Son) intends to transfer the property in 50 of the said property in their names. Therefore, all person having any claims/objections in respect of Said Flat as and by way of Sale, Exchange, mortgage change, gift, trust, mantenance, inheritance. mortgage change, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance possession, tenancy, occupation lease, then agreement icense or otherwise howsgever, are hereby requested t in a period of **thirty days** from the date of Publication (Municipal Corporation Faridabad).

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is given to the public that my clientess Jameela Begum Dio Tayyab Hussain currently Rio B-1766 A, D.D. A Flat, Inderick, New Delhi, Delhi-110035 who is aged about 41 years and my clientess is 50% shareholder of the property having property description i.e. Apartment No. 1827, 18th Floor, Block TULIP SKA METROVILLE, Plot No. GH-01(8)/3), Sector ETA 2, Greater Noida, U.P. That it is made upblic that arm one is willing to purchase this property public that any one is willing to purchase this propert

19.07.2023. **Mukesh Kumar (Advocate)** Ch. No. B-129, B.G.S Block, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi- 110054. **Mob No.**: 9810629420

SR-BADKHAL Faridabad Haryana the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with fed Bank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank/financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile No. 9811215181

That our client **Sarthak Nayak**, proposes to purchases the above said property from **Kunal Oberoi & Mayank Gambhir**, who has assured our client that they are absolute owner in possession of the said property vide Sale deed No. 4040 dated 04.09.21 having purchased the same from Paviter Singh Choudhary, Gian Kaur, Surinder Kaur, Sunil Kaur Bakshi, Tejwans Singh Bakshi through SPA Sunil Kaur Bakshi, Sarwans Singh Bakshi through SPA Sunil Kaur Bakshi, Gurbeen Rekhi through SPA Sunil Kaur Bakshi. That 1/5th share of said property previously owned by Amrit Kaur vide Conveyance deed 94831) dated 06.10.17, who died leaving behind a will dated 22.03.18 (lost/misplaced/not traceable) bequeathing the said property to Sunil Kaur Bakshi, Tejwans Singh Bakshi, Sarwans Singh Bakshi & Gurbeen

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or otl person/s, organization/s, company/ies, governm authority/ies, having any claim, rights, title, or interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the s property, is hereby called upon to make the same know in writing with documentary evidence by registered Post to the undersigned at the address mention hereinbelow within 7 days of the publication of t notice and in the event no response having be received to the notice, the title of Kunal Oberoi & Maya Gambhir to the said property shall be deemed to be cl of any claim, charge or encumbrance of any nate whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind

Kumar Abhishek 132A, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

GreenParc -II, SARE Homes, Sector 92, Gurgaon, 122505 Subject: Transfer of ownership in respect of constructed category flat No. T15-1102, GreenParc -II, SARE Homes, Sector 92, Gurgaon, 122505 consequent upon the intestate death of allottee Late Smt. Subodh Umesh Singh who was the allottee of the subject of property as per record has died on 10th November 2015 and has no registered or un-registered will, leaving behind the following legal heirs: Sh.Pankaj Singh(husband) R/o Tower 5, 203, Paras Tirea Sector 137, Noida 201301 has applied for transfer the said property in his favour being the legal heir. If any person is having any objection against the transfer of the Bid/she can submit objections in writing to the CRM is having any objection against the transfer of the flat he/she can submit objections in wrilling to the CRM Office Sare Homes Gurugram along with supporting documents within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise the Authority may accord permission to transfer/re-allotment of the said property as per said public notice and may not entertain subsequent claim, if any.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(LAB-H), DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, Ne

WE, Rahul Mehra S/o Late Shri Madan Lai Mehra R/o EC-241, Maya Enclave, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064 and Rohini Grewai Nagar, New Delhi-110064 and Rohini Grewal W/o Daljit Singh Grewal R/o 06, Second Floor, G-7 Road, Sector-26, Sikanderpur Ghosi (68), DLF, Gurugram, Haryana-122002 have lost the DDA Original Allocation Letter, 5th and Final Demand-cum-Allotment Letter/ Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for Water and Electricity connection and Site Desease Sizing in the pages of Ball Mahoe. public that any one is willing to purchase this property in connivence with anybody will be prosecuted as per law as my clientess has apprehension that the husband of my clientess due to strained relationship with my clientess will try his best to sell out this property without the consent of my clientess. Hence anybody dealing with same will do so at their own cost and risk as there is legal question over the same as my clientess is going to elaim her 50% share in the same as the property above mentioned is in joint name of my clientess and his husband Mohd. Atharvide Regn. No. 18526 and the date of registration of the same is 19.07.2023. Mukesh Kumar (Advocate) water and Electricity connection and Sir Possession Slip in the name of Brij Mohan Vatsa and Orignal GPA executed by Brij Mohn Vats s/o Sh. L. C. Vatsa in favour Brig. Madan Lal Mehra s/o Late Sh. Manohar Lal Mehra dated 04.07.1989, Will, Agreement Sell and payment receipt between Br Mohan Vats and Brig. Madan Lal Mehra Monan vats and Brig. Madan Lai Mendada Lai Mendada Lai Mendadated, and other related property documents in respect of the property Flat No. EC-170, on Ground Floor, SFS Category III, G-8 Area, Rajouri Garden, known as Maya Enclave, Hari Nagar, New Delhi-110064. Anybody finds pils contact: 9811138275 within 15 days from the detact of whitering of this property. from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest objection with respect to this flat car personally inform or write to **Director**.

PUBLIC NOTICE Public notice is given to the public that my clientess Jameela Begum D/o Tayyab Hussain currently R/o B-7/56 A, D.D.A Flat, Inderlok, New Delhi, Delhi-1/10035 who is aged about 41 years and my clientess has one daughter namely Sumalya age about 15 years and one son namely Kabri age about 9 years. My clientess by this public notice intimates to the general public that my clientess is absolute owner and title holder of Property located at Bhamola Mafi, Pargana Tehsil-Koli, Aligarh, U.P ad measuring area 173.25 Sq. Yards of Khet No. 41, 42 and the date of registration of the same property in the name of my clientess is 16.11.2011 vide Regn No. 12953. That it is made public that any one is willing to purchase this property in connivence with anybody will be prosecuted as per law as my clientess has apprehension that the husband of my connivence with anybody will be prosecuted as per law as my clientess has apprehension that the husband of my clientess due to strain relationship with my clientess wil try his best to sell out this properly without the consent o my clientess. Hence anybody dealing with same will do so at their own cost and consequences.

Mukesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. B-129, B.G.S Block, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi- 110054. Mob No.: 9810629420

PUBLIC NOTICE Third floor with roof rights portion of Property No.D-145, area measuring 325 sq. yds. Defence Colony, New Delhi

SSA-17011(11)/2-Civil/l/817630/2024 - E-499218/461

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam, invites bids from registered appropriate class of contractor for building works in different schools as per the detailed notice inviting tender which can be downloaded from the website https://



Date: 22/11/2024

Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of Chhattisgarh State Chhattisgarh Rajya Sahakari Bank Mydt., Raipur (Nodal Agency of Chhattisgarh State Government for Computerisation of Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS) Project) invites RFP for Procuremen of Cloud Based Services for RCS Computerisation Project of Chhattisgarh State. RFP Document, Terms and Conditions, Eligibility criteria etc. shall be downloaded from www.gem.gov.in, document copy is also available at Bank's website www.cgapexbank.com.

AMOUNT WEBSITE OF THE BOARD EMD NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER CLOSING OFFICER/CONTACT DATE DETAILS/EMAIL RUPEES REPAIR OF ROAD IN PATCHES AT 45MTR. WIDE ROAD (SERVICE LANES) AT 19.11.2024 9582014903 7.88 LACS SECTOR-68 HSIIDC, IMT FARIDABAD 26.11.2024 ia.faridabad@hsiidc.org.ir

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.etenders.hry.nic.in

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE NAME OF WEBSITE OF THE BOARD NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER (APPROX.) IN CLOSING DETAILS/EMAIL CONSTRUCTION OF 3 MLD CAPACITY CETP BASED OF 2038 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in THEREAFTER 3 MONTHS TRUAL-RUN ORM OF 10 YEARS AT 11.12.2024 (ia.barwala@hsidc.org.in)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.etenders.hry.nic.in

	THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERA' SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0177	
	Notice Inviting Tender	www.verka.coo
Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative
1.	For Verka Head Office, Chandigarth Hiring of milk powder plants having conversion capacity of 2LLPD & above for conversion of liquid milk into Extra grade SMP for Verka Dairies	16.12.2024 to 15.05.2025

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Adani Group MCAP plunges by Rs 2.19 Lakh Crore after bribery charges in US

The combined market valuation of all 10 listed Adani group firms fell by Rs 2.19 lakh crore on Thursday, more than double of what the conglomerate lost when the US short seller Hindenburg brought out a damning report in January 2023.

In January 2023.

Shares of Adani group firms fell sharply as billionaire Gautam Adani was charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay USD 265 million (about Rs 2,200 crore) bribe to Indian officials in bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

The stock of the group's flagship firm, Adani Enterprises, plunged 22.61 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions tanked 20 per cent, Adani Green Energy plummeted 18.80 per cent, plummeted 18.80 per cent, Adani Ports dived 13.53 per cent, Ambuja Cements cracked 11.98 per cent, and Adani Total Gas tumbled 10.40 per cent on the BSE. Shares of Adani Wilmar declined 9.98 per cent, Adani Power slumped 9.15 per cent, ACC fell 7.29 per cent, and NDTV dipped 0.06 per cent. Some of the group firms also

Some of the group firms also hit their lowest trading permissible limit for the day during the day.

Vumlunmang Vualnam, civil

Thursday said the number of

planes with domestic airlines

will increase to 1,400 in the

next five years as he highlighted the growth

potential of the country's

Currently, the fleet is around

800 aircraft and leading

carriers, IndiGo and Air

India, have placed significant

maker Belrise Industries has

filed preliminary papers with

to raise Rs 2,150 crore

through an initial public offering (IPO).
The IPO is entirely a fresh

issue of equity shares with no

offer for sale (OFS)

component, according to the

draft red herring prospectus

The company may consider

raising up to Rs 430 crore through a pre-IPO placement.

If this is carried out, the issue

(DRHP).

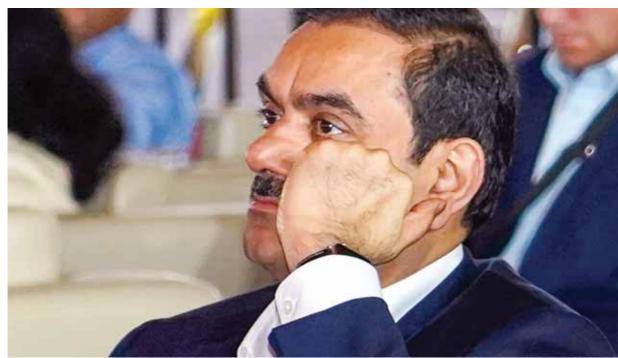
secretary,

the growth

component

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

aviation space.



The combined market capitalisation (MCAP) of all 10 listed firms eroded by Rs 2,19,878.35 crore.

In the equity market, the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 422.59 points or 0.54 per cent to 77,155.79, and the NSE Nifty declined 168.60 points or 0.72 per cent to 23,349.90.

opportunities for women in

the aviation sector, including

than doubled from 74 to 157, Vualnam said.He also said the

number of passengers has doubled to around 22 crore

the 'Giving Wings to Dreams

Awards 2024' hosted by

Belrise Industries files papers to raise Rs 2,150 crore via IPO

Domestic fleet to touch 1,400 in five years

in the drone segment. In the last 10 years, the number of airports has more

mentioned

from 11 crore.

automotive

systems

manufacturing

based in India offering a

past few weeks, today's fall can also be attributed to the news of Adani group facing bribery charges, which triggered a massive sell-off in its group stocks," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.

Adani, India's second-richest man, and seven others, "While the market is in the including his nephew Sagar, midst of a bear hug for the have been charged with

At a function in the national Women in Aviation India in

Capital, the secretary also collaboration with the civil

The secretary was speaking at for three financial years

about the

aviation ministry.

successful

According to him, the Rs 120-

crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme was successful and that

successful and that beneficiary companies have seen their overall turnover rose to Rs 1,400 crore.

The first PLI scheme for

drones, introduced in 2021

with an outlay of Rs 120 crore

starting from 2021-22, has

and

paying bribes to unidentified officials of state governments in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to buy expensive solar power, earning more than USD 2 billion over 20 years. Adani group on Thursday denied charges of paying bribes to secure favourable terms for power contracts, saying the allegations by US prosecutors are baseless and the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. It said all possible legal recourse will be sought. "The allegations made by the US Department of Justice and the US Securities

and Exchange Commission against directors of Adani Green are baseless and denied," the group denied," the group spokesperson said in a Steelmakers need to



collaborate with IISc

and IITs: Minister

PTI ■ BENGALURU

union Steel Minister HD steelmakers Kumaraswamy has said that collaborate with leading steelmakers need to institutions like IISc and IITs collaborate with leading institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to create a globally-competitive and technologically-advanced steel industry. He said India's steel sector

stands as the backbone of its industrial strength and a cornerstone of nation-building. "From skyscrapers to highways, railways to defence, steel powers our progress and fuels our ambitions," he said.

Speaking on the occasion of the National Metallurgists Awards ceremony Bengaluru on Wednesday, he said, "To create a globallycompetitive

technologically-advanced industry, need (Indian Institutes Technology) for research." Specialty steel, Kumaraswamy said, is also a crucial sector where research

The minister said that under

"Yet, challenges persist markets,

Sensex, Nifty tumble amid broad-based selloff

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled on Thursday amid a sharp fall in Adani group stocks after billionaire industrialist Gautam Adani was charged in the US for alleged bribery and

Besides, unabated foreign fund outflows and weak trends in Asian and European also dragged

peers also dragged benchmark indices lower. The BSE benchmark Sensex tanked 422.59 points or 0.54 per cent to settle at 77,155.79. During the day, it lost 775.65 points or 0.99 per cent to 76,802.73

The NSE Nifty slumped 168.60 points or 0.72 per cent to 23 349 90 From the 30-share Sensex

pack, Adani Ports tumbled

Adani was charged by US prosecutors over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay USD 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts.

over 13 per cent after Gautam

All other Adani group stocks, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Energy Solutions, Adani Ports and Adani Green Energy, fell sharply by up to nearly 23 per cent

nearly 23 per cent.
State Bank of India, NTPC, ITC, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv were also among the major laggards.

In contrast, Power Grid, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies and Axis Bank were among the gainers. Foreign Investors (FIIs) offloaded

Institutional equities worth Rs 3,411.73

crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The Indian stock markets were closed on Wednesday due to assembly elections in Maharashtra.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong settled lower, while Shanghai ended higher.

European markets were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended mostly in the positive

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.13 per cent to USD 73.71 a barrel.

Snapping its four days of decline, the BSE benchmark Sensex had climbed 239.37 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,578.38 on Tuesday. The Nifty also bounced back on Tuesday after falling in the past seven trading days

US regulators seek to break up Google, force sale of Chrome browser

AP WASHINGTON

US regulators want a federal judge to break up Google to prevent the company from continuing to squash competition through its dominant search engine after a court found it had maintained an abusive monopoly over the past

The proposed breakup floated in a 23-page document filed late Wednesday by the US Department of Justice calls for sweeping punishments that would include a sale of that would include a sale of Google's industry-leading Chrome web browser and impose restrictions to prevent Android from favouring its

own search engine.
A sale of Chrome "will permanently stop Google's control of this critical search access point and allow rival search engines the ability to access the browser that for many users is a gateway to the internet," justice department lawyers argued in their filing. Although regulators stopped short of demanding Google sell Android too, they asserted the judge should make it clear the company could still be required to divest its smartphone operating system if its more transparency into how it continues to see evidence of misconduct.

The broad scope of the recommended penalties underscores how severely regulators operating under president Biden's Joe administration believe Google should be punished following an August ruling by US District Judge Amit Mehta that branded the company as a monopolist.

justice department The decision-makers who will inherit the case after president-elect Donald Trump takes office next year might not be as strident. The Washington, DC court hearings on Google's punishment are scheduled to begin in April and Mehta is

acknowledged the challenges

of transporting milk over 2,500 km, which takes 50-54

There is a need to find new

markets for surplus milk and gradually the KMF should be

able to sell 5-6 lakh litres per day in Delhi-NCR, he added.

Chairman Bheemanaik assured that

milk quality would be

The federation has already

partnered with 40 dealers in

the Delhi-NCR region to facilitate sales, he added.

With a robust infrastructure

of 26.76 lakh milk producers,

15,737 dairy cooperative societies, and 15 district milk

unions, KMF has a turnover of Rs 25,000 crore and exports

dairy products to over 25

countries.

maintained during transit.

hours.

aiming to issue his final decision before the Labour

If Mehta embraces the government's recommendations, Google would be forced to sell its 16year-old Chrome browser within six months of the final ruling. But the company certainly would appeal any punishment, potentially prolonging a legal tussle, which has dragged on for more than four years

more than four years.
Besides seeking a Chrome spinoff and a corralling of the Android software, the justice department wants the judge to ban Google from forging multibillion-dollar deals to lock in its dominant search engine as the default option on Apple's iPhone and other devices. It would also ban Google from favouring its own services, such YouTube or its recentlyartificial launched intelligence platform, Gemini. Regulators also want Google to license the search index data it collects from people's queries to its rivals, giving

them a better chance at competing with the tech giant. On the commercial side of its search engine, Google would be required to provide sets the prices that advertisers pay to be listed near the top of some targeted search results. Kent Walker, Google's chief legal officer, lashed out at the justice department pursuing "a ra radical pursuing interventionist agenda that would harm Americans and America's global technology." In a blog post, Walker warned the overly broad proposal would threaten personal privacy while undermining Google's early leadership in artificial intelligence, intelligence, "perhaps the most important innovation of our time.

Wary of Google's increasing use of artificial intelligence in its search results, regulators also advised Mehta to ensure websites will be able to shield their content from Google's

AI training techniques. The measures, if they are ordered, threaten to upend a

business expected to generate more than \$300 billion in revenue this year. "The playing field is not level because of Google's conduct, and Google's quality reflects the ill-gotten gains of an advantage illegally acquired," the Justice Department asserted in recommendations.

and deprive Google of these advantages." It's still possible that the Justice Department could ease off attempts to break up Google, especially if Trump takes the widely are the still the takes the widely expected step

remedy must close this gap

of replacing Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter, who was appointed by Biden to oversee the agency's antitrust division.

Although the case targeting Google was originally filed during the final months of Trump's first term in office, Kanter oversaw the high-profile trial that culminated in Mehta's ruling against Google. Working in tandem with Federal Commission Chair Lina Khan, Kanter took a get-tough stance against Big Tech that triggered other attempted powerhouses such as Apple and discouraged many business deals from getting done during the past four

Trump recently expressed concerns that a breakup might destroy Google but didn't elaborate on alternative penalties he might have in mind. "What you can do without breaking it up is make sure it's more fair," Trump said last month. Matt Gaetz, the former Republican congressman that Trump nominated to be the next US Attorney General, has previously called for the breakup of Big companies.

Gaetz faces a confirmation hearing.

As per the draft papers filed on Tuesday, the company intends to utilise proceeds worth Rs 1,618 crore for payment of debt. The company has borrowing of Rs 2,463 crore in its books as of June 2024. Belrise Industries is an

KS Murthy

sworn in as

size will be reduced.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former higher education secretary, K Sanjay Murthy, was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India by President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday. Murthy, a 1989 batch Indian

Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu.

Murthy was named the new CAG by the Centre on Monday. Girish Chandra Murmu completed his tenure as the CAG on Wednesday.

As of June 2024, it marketed MotoCorp, Jaguar Land Rover and Royal Enfield its products both domestically and internationally, with operations extending to several markets, including Motors. It has 15 manufacturing facilities in eight states as of Austria, Slovakia, the UK, June 30, 2024.

component

company

including diverse range of safety critical and prominent multinational other engineering solutions for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) such as Bajaj four-wheelers, commercial vehicles and agri-vehicles. Auto, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India,

customers,

Japan and Thailand.

The company has a long-

standing relationship with

the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is on a path towards becoming a USD five trillion

innovation is the need of the

hour.

economy, and steel will remain at the heart of this transformation, showcasing India's resilience and reinforcing its leadership on the global stage.

volatile sustainability imperatives and the need for innovation," he noted.

INBRIEF

55TH FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY

vears.

AMRITSAR: Guru Nanak Dev University is all set to celebrate its 55th Foundation Day on November 24, 2024 (Sunday), with a series of events lined up across various venues within the University Campus. Prof. Karanjeet Singh Kahlon, Registrar, said the highlight of the Foundation Day will



be the Academic Lectures delivered by esteemed scholars, taking place at 11:00 AM in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan Auditorium.

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY RE-POSTPONES EXAM SCHEDULE

AMRITSAR: Guru Nanak Dev University has announced the Repostponement of all annual and semester (theory) examinations. These examinations were postponed on December 01 from November 20. But now due to administrative reasons, again, these examinations will be held on December 28, 2024 (Saturday)

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY ORGANISED PROF IS GROVER MEMORIAL LECTURESHIP AWARD

AMRAVATI: The Department of Botanical and Environmental Sciences of Guru Nanak Dev University organised Prof IS Grover Memorial Lectureship Award on November 13 which has been instituted under MoU between Guru Nanak Dev University and Dr. Avinash Kaur (Professor Retd.). She apprised that this award was instituted in the name of Late Prof. I.S. Grover, Founder Head, Department of Botany and Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences of the University, to pay tribute to all her teachers.

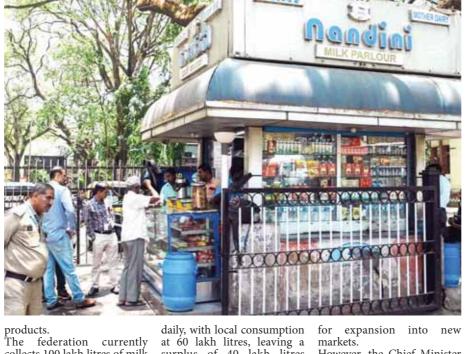
KMF enters Delhi-NCR with competitive pricing on Nandini products



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The cooperative will retail four cow milk variants, curd, and buttermilk from Friday, with competitive pricing that undercuts established players like Mother Dairy and Amul. Cow milk will be sold at Rs 56 per litre, full cream milk at Rs 67 per litre, standardised milk at Rs 61 per litre, toned milk at Rs 55 per litre, and curd at Rs 74 per kg.

"We have surplus milk in the state. KMF along with Mandya Milk Union will market surplus milk of 3-4 lakh litres per day in Delhi-NCR," Siddaramaiah told reporters after launching the collects 100 lakh litres of milk



daily, with local consumption for expansion into new at 60 lakh litres, leaving a markets. surplus of 40 lakh litres However, the Chief Minister

State Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh and Agriculture Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy present at the product launch.

EAR OF POLITICAL RESURGENC



In 2024, Donald Trump made a surprising return to the White House, defying expectations after his 2020 loss. His victory, alongside Modi's re-election, marked a pivotal moment in global politics, says KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

remembered by political historians for two major developments: the reelection of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of India for a third term and that of Donald *Trump* as President of the United States. Modi's victory was as expected, but Trump's victory, having lost his re-election bid in 2020, was not so certain. The left-leaning media had written off Trump after his 2020 defeat, and it is rare for a defeated president to stage a comeback. However, Trump, a master at making the impossible possible, won a landslide in the 2024 election, defeating the entire left-liberal establishment. He proved that hard work is often the key to

You may either love or loathe Trump, depending on your political views, but the truth is, he can never be ignored. He first became President in 2016 when the US economy was struggling, and the country's global image was tarnished.

he year 2024 will be wasteland. "My mission is to make Colombia and Mexico, which had been America great again. We have to retrieve the lost ground and make the people happy and content," *Trump* declared during his campaign speeches.

Despite relentless attacks from Hillary Clinton, Trump held firm and focused on his mission. His dedication earned him significant support from voters. When he was declared the winner by a substantial margin, Washington and other major cities saw rioting by anti-Trump forces. The media quickly pointed the finger at Trump's followers for the unrest.

The period between 2016 and 2020 saw the US recover from economic stagnation and terrorism-related challenges. For Trump, America remained his top priority, and he aimed to keep the US out of foreign conflicts. His main goal was to ensure no more coffins with US soldiers' remains were returned from Asia and Africa. Under Trump, illegal immigration from Mexico and Latin America came to a The infrastructure was in decline, and halt, as he warned against job theft by

a major issue, was also reduced, strengthening the US social security system. Like a soldier guarding his nation's borders, Trump, at the helm of a major business empire, defended the social fabric of America. However, many in the US and abroad resented Trump's patriotism and worked to oust him from the White House. It seemed a foregone conclusion that *Trump* would easily win re-election in 2020. However, overconfidence led to his

defeat by a narrow margin. Bob Woodward, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, had predicted in his book Rage (2020) that Trump was likely to lose. Despite strong economic performance, record-low unemployment, and the US staying out of international conflicts, Trump lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Woodward claimed that Trump was warned about the virus as early as January 2020, but he ignored the threat and paid the price for his inaction.

Other factors also played a role. The the US had become an industrial outsiders. Drug trafficking from 2020 election was marred by allegations



by Bob Woodward Publisher: Simon & Schuster Price. ₹999

of fraud, with many believing it was manipulated by Trump's rivals and hostile forces. Shiv Ayyadurai, an Indian-origin computer scientist credited with inventing email, raised concerns about the election's integrity. According to Ayyadurai, the mail-in ballots used in Arizona had mismatched signatures, which were overlooked by election officials. Despite *Ayyadurai's* efforts to prove these discrepancies, little attention was given to the alleged fraud. In his book War, Woodward examines Joe Biden's presidency and highlights three major failures during his four-year tenure. Biden's inability to deal with Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is central to the critique. Woodward argues that Biden's handling of the Ukraine crisis, in particular, was ineffective, and his approach to the Jewish state was also disappointing. The brutal 2023 Hamas attack on Israel, which resulted in widespread death and destruction, will Russia, and Ukraine. Woodward will no remain a painful memory for humanity.

Hamas and Hezbollah have influence, added to the turmoil.

Woodward also reveals that US intelligence agencies had warned Biden in October 2021 about Putin's plans to attack Ukraine. Yet, Biden seemed reluctant to take decisive action. The cause for his hesitation may lie in his son Hunter Biden's involvement with Burisma, a major Ukrainian energy company, potentially jeopardising his ability to challenge Russia.

As I write this review, TV channels are reporting that President-elect Trump has issued a stern warning for all illegal immigrants to leave the US within two months. This is one of the promises he made during his campaign, and he seems determined to see it through. The Democrats and liberals have already expressed their opposition to this move. The next four years will be filled with action, and it will be fascinating to see how Trump's administration navigates issues like Iran, Hamas, West Asia, doubt continue to provide in-depth Protests in India, where groups like coverage of these developments.

NEWRELEASE

Discover India Beyond the Metros

The High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Dato Paduka HJ Alaihuddin Mohd Taha, recently launched "India Beyond Metros: Dekho Apna Bharat", a travelogue by Varun Soni. The book highlights India's lesser-known Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, offering readers a fresh perspective on the country's hidden gems beyond the metropolitan hubs. Writes SAKSHI PRIYA

CC ndia Beyond Metros: Dekho Apna Bharat", authored by Varun Soni, is a captivating travelogue that takes readers on a journey through the lesser-known cities of India. In this, his fifth book, Soni explores around 50 Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across the country, offering an in-depth look at small-town India and the vibrant culture that often goes unnoticed by mainstream

Unlike typical travel guides that focus on major metropolitan destinations such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, Soni's book highlights cities such as Jabalpur, Gorakhpur, Hubballi, Kollam, Rajkot, and others. These places, though not typically featured in popular travel literature, offer a wealth of untapped history, culture, and natural beauty. Each chapter of the book is dedicated to one city, providing practical insights on what to see, where to stay, how to get there, and even what to shop for.

The book fills a significant gap in Indian travel literature by encouraging people to venture beyond the typical tourist hotspots and explore the rich diversity of India's smaller towns and rural areas. It showcases the hidden gems of the Indian hinterland, offering readers a chance to experience



the authentic essence of Bharat (India).

At the launch event, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam, H.E. Dato Paduka HJ Alaihuddin Mohd Taha, expressed his admiration for the book. At the book launch, He expressed his excitement, stating, "I am very glad to be here to launch a book on a topic that is a passion with me. After travelling across various parts of India, I can vouch that the hinterland has much more to offer than just the metropolitan areas. This book will serve as a helpful guide for those keen to explore these lesser-known regions." As an avid traveller, he shared his own experiences of exploring various regions of including Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Nagaland. He



ABOUT THE BOOK Book: India beyond metros by Varun Soni Publisher: ZORBA BOOKS

Price: ₹299 Pages: 172 highlighted that these lesserexplored areas of India offer a different, yet equally rich, experience compared to the well-known metropolitan cities. Author Varun Soni added, "It is time to look inward, into Bharat. This book highlights the hidden treasures in our smaller cities and towns, showcasing not only historical monuments but also the natural beauty that often goes unnoticed in mainstream travel guides." Soni, in his address, discussed the book's purpose of shedding light on the lesser-visited cities and towns of India. He spoke about country's ancient civilisation, its countless monuments and temples, and the natural beauty found in these regions. Soni's aim with "India Beyond Metros: Dekho Apna Bharat" is to inspire readers to look inward and discover the treasures hidden in the smaller cities and villages that often go unnoticed. Soni's literary career spans more

than 15 years, with works that include books on celebrity homes, luxury resorts, and fiction. With this latest offering, he continues his mission to share the lesser-known aspects of India, bringing attention to the often-overlooked parts of narrative. the country that are full of untold stories and cultural

A Spellbinding Adventure

Alexander Armstrong's 'Evenfall: The Golden Linnet', is a captivating fantasy adventure that whisks readers away to a world of magic and mystery. With stunning world-building, unforgettable characters, and a thrilling plot, Armstrong's novel is a must-read for fans of fantasy and storytelling alike, says ABHI SINGHAL

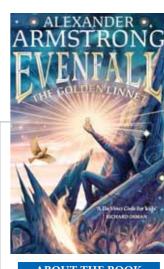
n Evenfall: The Golden Linnet, Alexander Armstrong crafts a mesmerising portal into a world of magic and the enduring power of storytelling. A tale of courage, friendship, and family in his debut novel is destined to become a modern fantasy classic which weaves ancient lore with the challenges of

The story centres on 13-year-old Sam, a relatable and sympathetic protagonist of the novel whose life has been marked by tragedy. Caring for his grieving, unwell father after his mother's untimely death, Sam grapples with the complexities of loss, love, and responsibility. His life takes a thrilling and dangerous turn when he discovers his hidden heritage as part of The Order of the Evening, a secret society devoted to protecting the world through

storytelling.

Armstrong's plot is rich, combining elements of historical mystery with the fantastical quest for magical artefacts that makes it happen and sparks out curiosity. Sam's mission to uncover the truth about his parents and his destiny introduces readers to a lush, danger-laden world where trust is scarce, alliances are fragile, and malevolent forces threaten humanity. The inclusion of supporting characters like Sam's loyal friend Ish and the enigmatic Goz brings depth and warmth to the

Their camaraderie highlights the strength of friendship amid the gravest of challenges, providing



Book: Evenfall: The Golden

Linnet by Alexander Armstrong Publisher: Farshore **Price**: ₹499 **Pages**: 352

balance to the story's darker themes. The vivid setting of Durham, steeped in British folklore and cultural heritage, serves in perfect for this battle between good and evil. Armstrong's talent for description shines as he immerses readers in both the modern cityscape and the mystical locations that form the heart of the Order's secrets.

As a well-known TV and radio personality, Alexander Armstrong has a knack for storytelling that

translates seamlessly into his writing. Widely recognised as a comedian, quiz show host, and singer, Armstrong's foray into children's literature reveals another layer of his creative versatility. With a nod to the timeless appeal of authors like Philip Pullman and J.K. Rowling, Armstrong builds a world that feels both familiar and extraordinary.

At nearly 400 pages, the novel is a longer read, yet its pacing ensures readers remain hooked. Suspense builds steadily as Sam uncovers his latent powers, battles sinister forces, and learns that the fate of the world may rest in his hands. Tom Roberts' striking black-and-white illustrations further elevate the reading experience, giving visual depth to Armstrong's vivid prose.

What sets Evenfall: The Golden Linnet apart is its heart. Beneath the magic and danger lies a story about grief, hope, and the lengths we go to for those we love. The imperfections in Sam's relationships - with his friends, his father, and even himself - are portrayed with sensitivity, making his journey feel deeply authentic.

This debut novel, brimming with excitement and emotion, is an absolute treat for readers aged 10 and up. Whether you're a lifelong fantasy enthusiast or new to the genre, Evenfall: The Golden Linnet promises a compelling, immersive adventure and with its final pages hinting at more to come, Alexander Armstrong's literary journey is one to watch.

It's going to get more attritional: Pat Cummins

A ustralian captain Pat Cummins expects the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against arch-foes India to be more "attritional" as the two heavyweights of world cricket spar over five Test matches instead of the traditional four games.

And given the enormity of the series, Cummins believes players would not have the time to be distracted by the IPL auction that would take place in Jeddah on Sunday, the third day of the match.

The blockbuster series will be a survival of the fittest as Australia look to avenge successive losses on home soil when they go head-to-head from Friday. Border-Gavaskar

Trophy has always been very tight every series, five Testmatch series gets really attritional, it's a big one really," Cummins said at the prematch press conference here on Thursday

Australia will be without their assistant coach Daniel Vettori, who was granted permission to leave the Perth Test and be at the two-day auction with his IPL franchise SunRisers Hyderabad.

"Ýeah, I think he is there in the auction. I don't think so (it the auction. I don't think so (it have been there in the The Australia captain will be a distraction). Dan has auctions before. They know admitted there will be



flown over there, but he has been here for the whole prep. Done all the meetings, done all the chats, watching it. We came to know that anyway," Cummins said.

So, for the players, I don't think so. Most of these guys

they can't really do anything. "You are a sitting duck and seeing whether you get selected or not. It doesn't... Doesn't make a difference to how we go about the first two days. It is not a distraction as far as I can see it," he added.

pressure on the home team. especially after it lost the last four Test series against India, including the two humiliating reverses on own soil.

"There will always be pressure when you are playing at home. India are a very talented side and it will be a good challenge. But we are not looking too far ahead,"

Cummins said.
"It would be great to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. India are a great side but we are well prepared."

The leading pacer also said said that newcomer Nathan McSweeney should not try to McSweeney should not try to imitate David Warner, the back-to-back away Test series then also you also start from wins in 2018-19 and 2020-21.

legendary opener who retired from international cricket earlier this year.

"He should play his natural game. He shouldn't try to imitate David Warner. That's not his game. As long as he makes the bowlers bowl again and again, that's his game," Cummins said of the man who is going to be handed his Test debut at Optus Stadium. Asked about India's talented all-rounder Nitish Reddy, Cummins said they shared the dressing room for IPL franchise SunRisers Hyderabad and praised the 21-year-old.

"He is and impressive youngster. Didn't bowl much for SRH. He can swing the ball and is a really talented

Interestingly, both Australia and India will be led by fast bowling captains, a rarity in international cricket. While Cummins will lead Australia, Japanete Burgash will be in Jasprit Bumrah will be in charge of the Indian team as regular skipper Rohit Sharma is currently on a paternity

"It should happen more (pacers leading teams)," Cummins said. In the past four series between the two teams, India have won on all four occasions, including



We are not carrying baggage from New Zealand series, says Jasprit Bumrah

PTI ■ PERTH

India's stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah Thursday insisted that his team is not carrying any baggage from unprecedented 0-3 defeat at home against New Zealand as it challenging les it embarks Test series rivals Australia.

The five-match Test series starts here on Friday.

"When you win you start from zero but when you lose,

baggage from India. Yes, we have our learnings from New Zealand series but those were different conditions and our results here have been different," said Bumrah, who is leading in the opening Test in the absence of Rohit Sharma, who is on paternity leave.

Bumrah also said that the team has finalised its playing XI although he will reveal it only at the toss.

We have finalised our playing XI and you will get to know tomorrow morning before the start of the match," the skipper said.

Pujara backs KL Rahul at No. 3, believes Jaiswal can do a Warner

"His role would be one of the most

important ones. He can play a role

similar to what David Warner used to do

"Being an opener, he holds the key. He's

mentally tough. He loves batting, hits a

number of balls. He has a long way to go

Pujara said the youngsters must play

with self-confidence and without the fear

"I will tell them the first battle is a mental

battle. Self-confidence and belief are

needed to make runs in these conditions.

When there is pace and bounce, there is a chance of the ball hitting the body. You

have to come out of that fear," Pujara

On tackling short-pitch deliveries in

Australian conditions, Pujara said the

batters will have to identify the deliveries

"As a batter, you need to understand your

strengths. We often end up playing hook shots we aren't quite capable of. On Indian pitches, most short-pitched deliveries are below shoulder level. But in

Australia, they're often above shoulder

"As a batter, you need to identify which balls to leave and which to play. Those

below the shoulders are the ones you can

pull, but you need to be in control of the

shot. Sometimes you leave the ball, and

sometimes you pull. You can't have a set

rule -- you just need to look at the ball

for the Australian team.

across the formats.

they should leave.



heteshwar Pujara, who knows a thing Or two about grinding the Australian attack in their den, on Thursday backed KL Rahul to bat at the vital number three slot in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and said the swashbuckling Yashasvi Jaiswal is capable of doing what David Warner did in his prime.

"I don't know the batting order. I would prefer him (Rahul) at No. 3 because he has the experience to bat there," Pujara said in Star Sports press room.

Rahul, however, is expected to open with youngster Yashasvi Jaiswal, while Karnataka's Devdutt Padikkal is being considered for No. 3 to maintain a leftright combination.

"It seems the team is preferring Devdutt (Padikkal) at No. 3 for the left-right combination. He has batted at 5-6 and in the middle order. It will be easier to bat at No. 3 than opening. If he can bat at No. 3, it will be good."

Pujara, currently sidelined from the Test set-up, praised Jaiswal and compared his batting with that of Australian great David Warner.

"One of the most talented cricketers India has produced.... I'm very confident that going forward, he has a lot to prove. I know he will play a key role in this series if we have to win.

Kohli needs a start

the present moment," he said.

Virat Kohli may be going through a lean patch but Pujara believes his past success in Australia will help him to turn things

and play according to the situation. Be in

"There is a lot of expectation of him. The number of matches he's playing and the athlete Virat is, he doesn't get enough breaks in between. That is why sometimes, when you're not getting enough breaks, your body and confidence go down a bit. That's normal. "He has got some break. He's at a place where he likes to compete. If someone is having a go at him, he would like to give it back to the bowlers -- that's how he

started his journey. 'He has set high standards for himself. He has that awareness. He has been a leader and is probably the best in the circuit. He's aware of what's expected of him and how many runs he has to make." Under Kohli's captaincy on the 2017-18 tour of Australia, Pujara aggregated over 500 runs and played a significant role in India's historic Test series triumph.

m confident that once needs to spend some time in the game. He's capable of doing all things. Always leading from the front, it's about getting a 50-60-70. If he gets a hundred, then he will have a great series ahead," Pujara said of Kohli.

In every match, he is motivated, whatever the format. Definitely, he has worked on it. It's about getting that start and spending time at the crease.

Pant 2.0 a lot smarter Rishabh Pant has been the architect of their epic triumph in the 2020-21 series, and the wicketkeeper-batter has returned after surviving a horrific car accident two years ago. Pujara feels the left-hander is a lot smarter now and will be one to watch

Australian bowlers struggle a bit to bowl to lefties. There's a different kind of enjoyment watching him. He's an attacking player who puts pressure on the bowlers. It becomes easy for me to play my natural game as they try to stop

Spanish star Juan Mata joins ownership group of MLS expansion franchise San Diego FC

AP SAN DIEGO

Spanish star and World Cup Schampion Juan Mata has joined the expansion San Diego FC's ownership group, making him the first active international soccer player to hold an ownership stake in Major League Soccer.

Mata joins David Beckham as only the second international player to be involved in MLS ownership.

"Joining San Diego FC as a an exciting partner is opportunity to help build something truly special in a league that are city and experiencing incredible growth," Mata said in a statement.

that added commitment community by both the club and the Right to Dream



my own values. I look forward to contributing my experience and passion for the game and working alongside everyone here to build a club that inspires both on and off the pitch.

He has been with the Western Sydney Wanderers of the Championship. A product of Real Madrid's youth academy, Australian A-League since Mata began his professional

Mata has been a big name in international soccer for years. He won club honors in England, Spain, Turkey and Japan, and was a key player in the golden era of the Spanish men's national team which won the 2010 World Cup and the 2012 UEFA European

career with Real Madrid Castilla before transferring to Valencia CF in 2007, where he won the Copa del Rey the following year. Mata signed with Chelsea FC

in 2011, where he was pivotal in helping the London club capture the UEFA Champions League, FA Cup, and UEFA Europa League titles, earning Chelsea's Player of the Year honors twice in that span. He joined Manchester United in 2014, winning the FA Cup,

Europa League and EFL Cup in nine seasons. He joined Turkish side Galatasaray in 2022, where he celebrated his first league title, before signing with Japan's Vissel Kobe in 2023, where he won the league again. Mata founded the Common Goal initiative, pledging 1 per cent of his salary to social causes.

Liga Deportiva Alajuelense threatens legal action in bid for spot at Club World Cup

AP ■ SAN JOSE

The winningest team in Costa Rica is asking FIFA for a spot in next summer's Club World Cup and is willing to take legal action if denied. Liga Deportiva Alajuelense, which has won 30 league titles, wants FIFA to enforce the rule that forbids clubs from the same ownership to participate in the tournament.

The claim is based on the principles of eligibility set in the rules of the tournament," the club said in a press release. Team spokesman Marco Vazquez noted that Mexican clubs Leon and Pachuca belong to the same owner, Jesus Martinez, of Grupo Pachuca, "Those are the rules that FIFA established

 there cannot be multi-ownership," Vazquez said Wednesday. "There are two



Mexican clubs from the same owner and the rulebook is clear. What we are asking is to review what FIFA itself established.

The FIFA-run competition has been expanded from seven teams to 32 and will be staged in the United States from June to July next year. "We hired a law firm in

Spain, and they have all the details," Vazquez said of potential legal action. FIFA has not publicly reacted to the team's announcement and didn't immediately answer a request for comment.

Alajuelense is the best-ranked team in Central America for the CONCACAF but 40th overall in the region. CONCACAF has four spots in the Club World Cup. The teams that qualified are: the Seattle Sounders, Monterrey, Leon and Pachuca. Lionel Messi's Inter Miami will participate as a guest of the host.

All five clubs were announced for the Dec. 5 draw in Miami. In Mexico, besides Leon and Pachuca, there are another two companies that own two or more clubs in the first division. Grupo Caliente owns Tijuana and Oueretaro, while Grupo Orlegi controls Atlas and Santos.

Indian women's hockey team starts 2028 Los Angeles Olympics' qualification journey

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

new-look and much-fitter Alindian women's hockey team started its 2028 Los Ángeles Olympics' qualification journey in the most perfect manner, producing scintillating, unbeaten performance during its title-defending Asian Champions defending Trophy campaign here.

It marked a resurrection of sorts for the side that had been left deflated after failing to qualify for the Paris Olympics this year. It marks a fresh beginning for the team and its seasoned coach Harendra Singh. Since taking over in April,

Harendra's vision has been crystal clear -- to qualify for the 2028 Games. He always believed and emphasised

that a successful ACT campaign will be the right start for the team's journey towards the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympics. And Harendra couldn't have asked for more from his wards.

"I truly believe this victory will inspire more young girls to take up hockey and further elevate the sport in India. We are thrilled to be able to bring this win to our fans and our nation," said captain Salima Tete after the brilliant campaign.

His primary focus since taking charge has been to improve the team's fitness, and fortitude and the Indian players performance in the just-concluded ACT was a testament to the fact that they have worked tremendously on these core areas and lived upto their coach's expectation.

"While we celebrate this win, our focus remains on long-term goals. We are working hard every day, trusting the process, and staying dedicated to delivering our best in every tournament," Salima said.



"Our ultimate aim is to bring more laurels to India and make the country proud," she added.

The Indians were impressive in most departments of the game and remained unbeaten in seven

Bangalore & Chennai. Central: Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

matches, including the semifinal and final. What has been heartening for India was their ball transition from the backline to the opposition circle using both the flanks. The resolute show by the defensive

line was also one of the hallmarks of India's performance as they conceded just two goals in seven games, while scoring as many as 29 themselves.

Out of these 29 goals, 15 came from field efforts -- a heartening statistic -, 12 from penalty corners and two from penalty strokes.

The ACT produced many stars for India, the prominent among them was 20-year-old young striker Deepika, who was the tournament's highest scorer with 11 goals to her name, including four from field play, six from penalty corners and one penalty stroke.

In fact, five Indians were there in the top-10 scorers' list. Besides Deepika, Sangita Kumari (4 goals), Preeti Dubey (3), Navneet Kaur (3) and Lalrmsiami (3) were also impressive.

Harendra worked extensively on the fitness of the players in the run up

to the tournament and it was clearly visible on the turf as the side played fast-paced, one-touch hockey throughout the tournament to trouble opponents, including reigning Olympic silver-medallists China whom they defeated 1-0 in the final to retain the title.

If Deepika was a sensation upfront, vice-captain Navneet Kaur, Lalremsiami and Neha were the fulcrum of India's midfield.

Besides Deepika, young Sangita too was brilliant inside the circle, while Salima and 17-year-old Sunelita Toppo simply broke down the opposition defence with their dribbling skills and brilliant runs from the flanks.

The defensive line was brilliantly held together by Udita, Sushila Chanu, Jyoti and Ishika Chaudhary. So good was their performance that Indian goalkeepers Savita Punia and Bichu Devi Kharibam were

tournament. But going forward, their is a vital area of concern for Harendra -conversion rate from penalty corners.

hardly called into action in the

The statistics might show India scored 12 from penalty corners but the team's conversion rate was very

The Indians earned penalty corners aplenty in all the matches but lacked in execution and variation despite having as many as four options in the side in the form of Deepika, Udita, Navneet and Manisha Chauhan.

But the future augurs well for the Indian team as the players look to gain much-needed exposure by rubbing shoulders with the best of the world in the first-ever four-team women's Hockey India League, starting in Ranchi on January 12 and finishing on January 26.

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