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

Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth

RAHUL DATTA PTI/NEW

first Border-Gavaskar Trophy cricket Test match in Perth's Optus Stadium, and became the first country to beat the hosts at this Test centre. This is India's biggest ever Test win in Australia, as it lost by 295

This emphatic victory came close on the heels of a three-nil drubbing in as many Test matches at home at the hands of New Zealand a few weeks ago. Moreover, India was bowled out by Australia in the first innings for a meagre 150 runs raising doubts of its prowess to tame the mighty hosts. After setting a mammoth 534-run

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

Ín another achievement, India washed away its New Zealand defeat by this victory and stormed back to

surpassing their previous record of 222 runs, set back in 1978 in Sydney when Australia fielded a weakened side amidst the mass exodus for the Kerry Packer World Series.

front with a match-haul of 8/72 as India bowled out the hosts for 238 in 58.4 overs on the fourth afternoon of the opening Test. India are now 1-0 up in the five-Test series with regular skipper Rohit Sharma ready

RAJESH KUMAR I NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, on Monday, directed the

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to

restrictions on physical classes of schools, colleges

and educational institutions

in Delhi-National Capital

Region, noting students were being deprived of mid-day

lacked

versus

school.

and

wherewithal to attend virtual

classes. The restrictions on

physical classes of schools

and colleges were imposed recently due to severe air

The SC, meanwhile, ordered

the CAQM to initiate action

against the officials of Delhi

government and Delhi Police

Section 14 of

pollution.

consider relaxing



to take over during the Day/Night game starting December 6 in

responded was great,"

soft. This one was less spicy, we were really well prepared. I told everyone to keep faith... If you have faith in your abilities, then you can do something special," he added.
While Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will be among the

heroes with their solid second innings batting performances, it was Bumrah's unbelievable skill-set and self belief during Australia's first innings rout that formed the cornerstone of India's win.

Not many teams have come back after being 150 all-out on the first day but this Indian team has time and again shown that it is built differently. Prior to the Test, Bumrah spoke about embracing challenges and he did walk the talk during all

Continued on page 2

Meanwhile, residents in the

National Capital woke up to

a sunny morning on Monday. Still, a thin layer of

smog covered major areas in

the city and the air quality in

improvement in comparison

to last week, as the AQI dipped to 289 in the

morning from hazardous to

an unhealthy level. The

Central Pollution Control

Board (CPCB) recorded an

average AQI at 349 while IQ

Air also recorded air pollution 374 at 4.30 pm

which showed 706 in the

concentration is 52.4 times

Organization (WHO) annual

World

PM2.5 guideline value.

capital

slight

PM2.5

Health

national

witnessed

afternoon.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

hile the incumbent Chief Minister Eknath Shinde from Shiv Sena and his Deputy Ajit Pawar from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are leaving no stone unturned to retain their positions, after concluded iust Maharashtra polls, another

deputy CM, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis has emerged as front runner to be the next chief CM of Maharashtra, for the second time.

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

Sources said that the BJP's top leadership has reportedly cleared the names of Fadnavis Continued on page 2

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

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

Party sources said Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar are scheduled to meet Home Minister Amit Shah, and a formal announcement about the new government will be made after the meeting.

MahaYuti alliance scripted a historic victory Maharashtra assembly elections by winning 235 seats in the 288-member House. The BIP led the Mahayuti's

victory by winning 132 seats the highest among all allies. Shinde Sena won 57 seats and Ajit Pawar-led NCP won 41 seats in the election.

Continued on page 2

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{ndia}}$, on Monday, created history when it trounced Australia in the

target, India bowled Australia out

Country-made

firearms used in

Sambhal, death

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

SAMBHAL

through

toll rises to four

 $T^{
m he}$ violence in Sambhal, sparked by a dispute over

a mosque survey, has claimed four lives, all caused by bullets fired from country-

made firearms. Authorities

confirmed the findings

reports as tensions remain

high in the city. Moradabad Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar stated, "The post-

mortem findings confirm

that country-made firearms

were used in all four fatalities.

A magisterial inquiry will be

conducted into these deaths? The unrest, which began last

week, prompted the district

administration to take

stringent measures. District

ordered the closure of all

educational institutions on

Monday and imposed

restrictions on the entry of

organizations, and public

representatives into Sambhal

Efforts to restore calm were

disrupted on Monday

afternoon when Zafar Ali,

head of the Shahi Jama

Masjid, made allegations against a Circle Officer (CO)

during a press conference. Ali

accused the officer of

ordering water to be drained

from the mosque's 'hauz'

(ablution tank), which

allegedly overflowed and

drew a crowd outside the

"When I questioned the CO

about this, he abused me,

used his baton on the people, and threatened to deal with

me harshly if I continued

asking questions," Ali alleged

during the briefing. The

situation took another turn

when police detained Zafar

Ali following the press

renewed tension in the area.

Continued on page 2

sparking

Magistrate Rajendra

until November 30.

outsiders,

mosque.

conference,

post-mortem

Anjaneya

the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) standings with 61.11 percentage points. This victory is India's biggest ever,

The stand-in skipper led from the

"We were put under pressure in the

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act

for deploying police personnel admittedly only in 23 checkpoints, instead of

all, on November 18 when

GRAP IV kicked in. The SC

also observed that a large

number of students did not

have air purifiers, suggesting

that there may be little

difference in conditions for

children studying at home

A Bench of Justices Abhay S

Oka and Augustine George

Masih, however, refused to

relax the anti-pollution

GRAP-IV restrictions in Delhi-NCR and said unless it

was satisfied that there was

consistent decrease in AQI

levels, it cannot order curbs

below GRAP-III or GRAP-II.

those attending

Bumrah, who was deservedly adjudged man of the match, said after the game. "I played here in first innings, but the way we 2018 - I remember the wicket started

SC tells CAQM to relax restrictions on educational institutions

Conduct classes in hybrid mode: CAQM

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

conduct classes both in "physical

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

Continued on page 2

Vaishno Devi shrine clash with police personnel, at Katra in Reasi district,

Parliament adjourns early, on day one of Winter Session



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

Addressing the media ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, PM Modi said such a handful of people did not succeed in their intentions but people of the country observed their actions and punished them at an appropriate time. However, minutes after the PM urged the Members to allow the Parliament to function smoothly, and give opportunity to the new MPs, both the Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajva Sabha, were adjourned

due to the ruckus by the Opposition, over

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

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

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

'There should be a healthy debate in the the latest Adani Group controversy. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked political Parliament but, unfortunately, certain individuals are trying to control

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

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

"We, as their representatives, must live up to these sentiments. It is time to reflect on the time we have lost so far and resolve to compensate by thoroughly debating various issues in the House," he said, adding, "Future generations will read and draw inspiration from these discussions. I hope this session will be highly productive, enhance the prestige of the Constitution's 75th year, strengthen Bharat's global stature, provide opportunities to new MPs, and welcome Bharat's global new ideas," he said.

"With this spirit, I once again invite and welcome all esteemed members of Parliament to approach this session with enthusiasm and vigour," the PM said. He added that the current session of Parliament was special in many ways, with the most significant aspect being the 75year journey of the Constitution.

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



Local tradesman wary of Vaishno Devi ropeway project

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

local shopkeepers, pony wallahs, and palanquin owners have been protesting peacefully for the last three days demanding immediate withdrawal of the

proposal or proper rehabilitation of all families likely to be affected by the project. Carrying banners and placards, they raised slogans against the Shrine Board and the ropeway project, which they claim, would render them jobless.

However,

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

Continued on page 2

Cabinet approves **One Nation One Subscription**

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

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

institutions. Continued on page 2

NSUI bags DUSU president | Meerut groom chases down pickup driver in Bollywood-style drama post after seven years

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

fter biting the dust in the Arecently held state Assembly elections including the big jolts in Maharashtra and Haryana, the Congress party's student wing the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Monday bagged two posts in the contested Delhi keenly University Student Union (DUSU) elections. The Congress-backed student body is making the claim on the presidential post after a period of seven years.

However, the celebrations, are usually



Khatri, and joint secretary Lokesh Chaudhary of NSUI celebrate their win Photo: Ranian Dimri/Pioneei

accompanied with dhols, colours and loud music, was replaced by a rather quiet one even though the members of the Congress student wing chanted slogans for the winning candidates, even as the counting began early at DU's North Campus under tight security with the police three-layer barricading at the counting

deploying centre, ensuring law and order.
The Bharatiya Janata Party
(BJP) affiliated Akhil
Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's (ABVP) also secured two posts including Vice President and Secretary.

BISWAJEET BANERJEEN LUCKNOW

Weddings are meant to be joyous occasions, but for Dev Kumar, a newlywed groom in Meerut, his postwedding journey turned into an action-packed thriller worthy of a Bollywood blockbuster. The star of the show? Dev himself, who chased down a pickup driver accused of snatching a Rs 100 note from his traditional 'currency note garland' on NH-58 Decked out in his wedding finery, including a vibrant red

turban and a garland of Rs

100 notes, Dev was on his way

home after the festivities

Continued on page 2 when a sneaky pickup driver

allegedly swiped a note from his prized garland. Dev, however, was not one to let the matter slide.

Spotting the theft, the groom sprang into action. He flagged down a passing motorist, requesting a lift, and the two embarked on a dramatic through Meerut's bustling National Highway. The suspense heightened as Dev closed in on the alleged thief's vehicle. Then came the pièce de résistance: Dev leapt onto the moving truck, climbing through passenger-side window with all the agility of a seasoned stuntman. Caught on video, the scene

grasp and climbing back out of the truck - still dressed in his wedding attire. As the drama unfolded, Dev's relatives arrived at the scene, has since gone viral, showing adding reinforcements to Dev retrieving his garland ensure the driver did not mala was more important



What could have been a simple case of theft quickly transformed into a comedy goldmine for social media users. One X (formerly Twitter) user quipped, "Cash

"Plot twist: The groom planned this to avoid the wedding Comparisons to Bhojpuri action sequences and punchlines like "UP is not for beginners" dominated the online chatter. The video also captured the accused driver, later identified as Manish Sehgal, pleading

than varmala." Another joked,

with the groom to spare him as Dev and his relatives delivered a stern lesson in highway justice. While Dev Kumar has been hailed as a local hero, Manish Sehgal offers a different take on the incident. According to

Sehgal, he had nothing to do with the alleged theft. Continued on page 2

Supreme Court junks challenge to Preamble

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed challenging the amendment the Constitution adding terms "socialist", "seculaı "integrity" to the preamble, Parliament's observing amending power extended to Preamble too.

Rejecting the pleas on grounds, including the delay of over 44 years, the top court said terms like "socialist" and "secular" were "integral to the Preamble" making the "prayers particularly questionable"

Authoring the verdict, the Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna said, "We do not find any legitimate cause or justification challenging constitutional amendment after nearly 44 years. The circumstances do not warrant this court's exercise of discretion to undertake an exhaustive examination, as the position constitutional remains unambiguous, negating the need for a detailed academic pronouncement."

The bench also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar wrote in its seven-page order, "In essence, the concept of secularism represents one of the facets of the right to equality, intricately woven into the basic fabric that depicts the constitutional scheme's

The words "socialist", "secular"

Constitution under the 42nd constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976.

The order observed Article 368 of the Constitution permitted its amendment.

"The power to amend unquestionably rests with the Parliament. This amending power extends to Preamble," it underlined

The top court said the amendments could Constitution challenged on various grounds, including violation of the basic structure of the Constitution.

"The fact that the Constitution was adopted, enacted, and given to themselves by the people of India on the 26th day of November, 1949, does not make any difference. The date of adoption will not curtail or restrict the power under Article 368 of the Constitution. The retrospectivity argument, if accepted, would equally apply to amendments made to any part of the Constitution, though the power of Parliament to do so under Article 368, is incontrovertible is not challenged," highlighted the verdict.

The petitions do not require a detailed adjudication as the flaws and weaknesses in the arguments are obvious and manifest, it added.

"While it is true that the constituent assembly had not agreed to include the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the and "integrity" were inserted Preamble, the Constitution is a

into the Preamble to the living document, as noticed above with power given to the Parliament to amend it in terms of and in accord with Article 368," it said.

India for a period of time has developed its own interpretation of secularism, wherein the state neither supports any religion nor penalises the profession and practice of any faith, it said. The order referred to several

decisions, underscoring the term secularism was held to be basic feature of the Constitution.

"The state maintains no religion of its own, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience along with the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate their chosen religion, and all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs, enjoy equal freedoms and rights. However, the 'secular' nature of the state does not prevent the elimination of attitudes and practices derived from or connected with religion, when they, in the larger public interest impede development and the right to equality," it

Commenting on the term 'socialism", the order said in the Indian context, it should not be interpreted as restricting the economic policies of an elected government of the people's choice at a given time.

"Neither the Constitution nor the Preamble mandates a specific economic policy or structure, whether left or right.



Gurugram commissioner takes officers to task for pending citizen grievances

PARVESH SHARMA

 $M_{\rm Gurugram}^{\rm unicipal\ Corporation}_{\rm (MCG),}$ Commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg said that serious attention should be paid towards resolving complaints of the citizens. If any officer or employee unnecessarily makes the citizens run around again and again, then action will be taken against him. He said While listening to a complaint in the Samadhan Camp' on Monday.

"The goal of the civic body is to provide basic facilities like roads, sewer, drinking water, parks, street lights and cleanliness to the citizens and it is also the duty of the officers not to unnecessarily harass the citizens," he said. He strictly said that in the case of such complaints, which take time to resolve, the officers should ensure that a temporary solution to the said complaint is done

In the Samadhan Camp, the MCG Chief also sought an explanation from Prashant, clerk of the Zone-4 Tax Branch, in the matter of keeping the file pending. Along with this, an Along investigation will also be conducted as to which officer employee unnecessarily kept the said file pending with them for a

long time. Garg noticed that the clerk had unnecessarily kept the file pending with him for about one and a half months. Along with this, he also reprimanded the officers of the Revenue Department on the spot in this matter and instructed them to resolve it immediately.

hearing complaints of citizens from Sushant Lok-1 and Sector-28, the Garg told Chief Engineer Manoj Yadav present on the spot to start the tender process related to cleaning drainage from now itself so that the cleaning of all the drains is completed before the monsoon arrives.

Good news from Kuno National Park

PNS BHOPAL

heetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Monday and hailed their arrival as a boost to the project that restored a species which vanished from India decades ago. Prior to this, 17 cheetah cubs had been born at the KNP, where the fastest land animal on Earth was translocated from Namibia more than two years ago. With 12 of those cubs surviving, the count of cheetahs was last reported to be 24.

With the birth of four more cubs, their count has gone up to 16. "Today the Cheetah Project has achieved great

success. In Kuno National Park of our - Cheetah State Madhya Pradesh - the female cheetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs, which is a great achievement not only for the state but also for the country," Yadav stated in a social media post.

He lauded forest department personnel involved in the Cheetah Project for their efforts in making programme a success. In the afternoon, the forest department had informed about the birth of cheetah cubs at the KNP without specifying their exact number. "Good news from Kuno.

Female cheetah Neerva has given birth to cubs in Kuno National Park located in Sheopur district," the MP forest department said in a

Last month, Chief Minister Yadav had shared information that a female cheetah at the park was pregnant and was expected to deliver cubs soon. On September 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released Namibian cheetahs, five females and three males, into enclosures at the KNP as part the world's intercontinental translocation of the big cats, seven decades after they became extinct in India due to hunting and habitat loss. In February 2023 a dozen more cheetahs were translocated to the national park from South Africa as part of the Central government's project to reintroduce the big cats in the

Shinde camp lobbies for CM post

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

head of a formal decision Aby the ruling MahaYuti on the chief ministerial choice, the ruling Shiv Sena (SS) MP Naresh Mhaske said on Monday that the BJP should adopt the Bihar pattern and appoint its founder-president Eknath Shinde as the next chief minister of Maharashtra.

In a demand apparently orchestrated by Eknath Shinde himself, Mhaske – who is a close aide of Shinde rooted for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appointing Shinde as the state's next chief minister (CM) instead of its nominee Devendra Fadnavis

the IP Nadda-led party's first and only choice for the CM's

În a related development, state BJP leader Pravin Darekar said that Fadnavis was the ideal chief ministerial choice, as he was the most capable candidate to lead Maharashtra.

Interacting with the media ahead of the BJP central leaders' meeting with the incumbent CM Eknath Shinde and his two deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar to formalise the name of the next CM, Mhaske said: "We strongly believe that Mr Shinde will be appointed as the next CM of the state. This

who will in all likelihood be is because the MahaYuti fought the Assembly elections and got a massive mandate under Shinde's leadership. As an ordinary worker of the Shiv Sena, I would like to see Shinde return as the chief minister of the state".

In his elaboration, Mhaske said, "In Bihar, the BJP which despite being the single largest party in the Assembly nominated Nitish Kumar as the CM - should adopt the Bihar pattern and declare Shinde as the next chief minister of Maharashtra.

The same was the case with Harvana where Navab Singh Saini was appointed as the CMr after he led the BJP to

NSUI bags **DUSU** president post...

From page 1

This win will provide a big push to the Delhi Congress, as the state Assembly poll is scheduled early next year. After the results were announced, both the party's winning candidates thanked their supporters and flashed the victory signs.

The NSUI's presidential candidate Rounak Khatri won the student body against elections the Swavamsevak Rashtriya affiliated Akhil Sangh Vidyarthi Bharatiya Parishad's (ABVP)Rishabh Chaudhary by over 1,300 votes. It also secured the Joint

Choudhary won against ABVP's Aman Kapasia and Students' Federation of India's (SFI)Sneha Aggarwal. NSUI's Nandal failed to retain the post of vice-president this year, it was won by ABVP's Bhanu Pratap Singh. The RSS backed student outfit also clinched the Secretary position as its candidate Mitravinda Karanwal emerged victorious, defeating NSUI's Namrata Jeph Meena and SFI's Anamika K.

The DUSU results were scheduled to be announced on September 28, a day after the elections took place.

Secretary post as Lokesh However, it was delayed due to a Delhi High Court order stalled the which had declaration of results until the defacement caused during Yash the election campaign was cleaned.

The elections for the four central posts in DUSU were contested by 21 candidates. Out of these, eight contested the post of president, five for vice-president, and four each fought the contest to become secretary and joint secretary. The Left-aligned coalition of the All India Students Association (AISA) and Students' Federation of India (SFI) also contested the elections but its candidates

failed to secure any seat even as the university continues to be dominated by ABVP and

While the ABVP held the majority in the 2023 elections, the dynamics have changed this time around The last time the NSUI had won the President post was in 2017 while it held the Joint Secretary post in 2016.

rules implemented on the result day to prevent celebrations on campus post-results by burning firecrackers or using dhols, amid the university issuing an affidavit for all the candidates, asking them to refrain from doing so

Musical chairs in... | Cabinet approves One Nation...

From page 1

After June 2022, during political turmoil Maharashtra, BJP took a after

From page 1

students,

A total of almost Rs 6,000 crore has been allocated for One Nation One Subscription for three calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027, as a new Central Sector Scheme. One Nation One Subscription is a timely step towards establishing India in the global research ecosystem by

researchers government institutions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the

bringing ease of doing

research to the doorstep of all

faculty

and

Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2022, had pointed out the importance of Research and Development in our country in the Amrit Kaal. He had given the clarion call of "Jai

Anusandhan" The National occasion. Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has also identified research as a corequisite for outstanding education and development in our country. establishment of Anusandhan National Research Foundation

Government of India was a step in this direction.

Conduct classes in...

From page 1

All the schools in Delhi and NCR do not have infrastructure to conduct classes purely in an online mode Students of classes X and XII and the associated school authorities are most impacted by the GRAP Stage - IV restrictions, considering the Board examinations facing them and the various competitive exams which follow. These students are required to attend classes in a physical mode considering the practica-L classes as also the practical examinations Besides, the students are also required to attend extra classes / tutorials

SC tells CAOM to relax restrictions

From page 1

"It is apparent that the authorities mentioned in GRAP-IV clauses 1, 2 and 3 have made no earnest effort to implement action under clauses 1 to 3. Some police teams were deputed at few entry points that also without any specific instructions. (Court) commissioners have noted that police were only deployed as on November 23 and thus a serious lapse on part of authorities. We, therefore, direct commission to immediately initiate action under Section 14 of CAQM the Bench Act 2021," underscored

A large number of students, it noted, did not have air purifiers at home therefore there being no difference between children at home and those attending schools. 'The CAQM is expected to take a decision during the course of the day or latest by tomorrow morning so that it can be implemented from Wednesday," the Bench said. The Bench said it was not

reducing GRAP-4 measures till it is satisfied there is a consistent downward trend of AQI and has sought updated AQI figures of Delhi till Wednesday.

Noting several sections of society, especially labourers and daily wagers, were adversely affected due to GRAP-4, the Bench directed the state governments, where construction has been funds banned, to use collected as labour cess to provide subsistence to them. 'The commission has all the powers under Section 12(1) of the CAOM Act 2021 to issue directions to various authorities to take several measures to ensure that persons in the category of labour, daily workers, etc., do not suffer," the Bench said.

In its order, the Bench said the 13 apex court lawyers, appointed court commissioners to conduct inspection at entry points, would continue to visit areas and submit reports to the court. The order was passed after senior advocate Menaka

Guruswamy, appearing for a group of parents, submitted lakhs of students depended on mid-day meals but had been deprived of food owing to closure of schools.

The SC also censured the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the Delhi police for a "serious lapse" on their part in the strict implementation of GRAP-IV measures and directed the CAQM to take action against the erring officials. The Bench said the authorities made no efforts to implement GRAP-IV measures. "It is apparent that the authorities mentioned in GRAP-IV clauses 1, 2 and 3 have made no earnest efforts to implement action under clauses 1 to 3.

police teams were deputed at a few entry points that also without any specific instructions," it said. Calling for action against the erring officials, the Bench said, (Court) commissioners have noted that police were only deployed as on November 23 and thus a serious lapse on

part of authorities. We, therefore, direct commission to immediately initiate action under Section 14 of CAQM Act 2021. Section 14 of the CAQM in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 deals with the punishment for non-compliance of its provisions.

A counsel appearing for the court-appointed commissioners monitored implementation of the curbs told the Bench that while checking happened, it is not clear how effective it was. The counsel said cops were "jumping in the middle of the road" to stop trucks and that there was no barricading The checkpoints. Delhi government's counsel said employees of various levels were deployed at the checkpoints. When the court asked the Delhi government issued specific instructions to Delhi Police the former said Delhi Police does not come under its

decision and picked Eknath Shinde as the CM of Maharashtra spearheaded a coup of sorts for CM Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government by rebelling, along with over 39 party MLAs who moved from Mumbai to Surat to Goa, and finally back to Mumbai. Shortly after this Ajit Pawar broke ranks from the Sharad Pawar NCP and joined

Local tradesman wary of Vaishno Devi ropeway project

Some of them also pelted stones targeting the police personnel deployed in the area. One of the officers and a few jawans received minor injuries in the melee.

During these protests, the pilgrims visiting the shrine faced many hardships as a large number of shops en route to the 13 km long trek remained closed. Pony and palanquin owners

did not provide service to the pilgrims. According to Anshul Garg,

project has been in discussion for several years, and the board has now resolved to move forward, ensuring better facilities for pilgrims.

Anshul Garg said that once completed the ropeway project is surely going to enhance the pilgrimage experience, making it safer, faster, and more inclusive for elderly and differently-abled pilgrims as well. On average 90 lakh pilgrims (annually) offer prayers inside the cave shrine and the footfall is this year.

Reacting to the violent protests, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the genuine concerns of the people protesting against proposed ropeway project along the Mata Vaishno Devi route would be looked after. Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), said a committee headed by the divisional commissioner of Jammu had

the Chief Executive Officer of expected to cross the previous already talked to consensus development projects.

Responding to a question on the stone-pelting incident in Katra on the fourth day of the strike against construction of the ropeway project, the Lt Governor said the concerns about loss of employment are being taken care of. However, he said there would be no compromise development projects and

creating ample employment

opportunities for the people.

Country-made firearms used in

Meerut groom chases down...

From page 1

Instead, he claims the groom accused him of brushing against his vehicle, which escalated into the high-speed chase and a confrontation he describes as unwarranted.

The contrasting versions have left the local police scratching their heads. As of now, no formal complaint been registered. Regardless of the truth, Dev

Kumar's daring act has turned him into an overnight celebrity. In a region known for its high drama, this particular episode reminded everyone that not all heroes wear capes, some wear wedding turbans currency garlands.

"Meerut never disappoints. This groom didn't just chase love, he chased justice and Rs

As one user summed it up,

security across Sambhal. Under the leadership of DIG Muniraj G, police conducted flag marches in sensitive areas. Key intersections have barricaded, additional forces have been deployed at entry points to the city. Riot-control vehicles have also been stationed to prevent further flare-ups.

As of Monday, 25 people, including two women, have been arrested in connection with the violence. Two FIRs have been lodged, one of which names Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ziaur Rahman Barq and the son of local SP MLA Iqbal Mahmood for allegedly inciting the mob. Another FIR has been registered against unidentified individuals. SP Krishna warned of consequences for those involved in the violence. "Strict action will be taken under the Gangster Act and the National Security Act (NSA) against all culprits," he said.

Sambhal remains under an unofficial lockdown as shops,

Sambhal, death toll rises to four

From page 1

response, administration has bolstered

Kumar Bishnoi

markets, and schools stay closed, and streets are deserted except for security

patrols. Many homes in the violencehit areas are locked, and residents have been advised to stay indoors. Internet services have been suspended until Tuesday, with the possibility of an extension if tensions persist.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi criticised government's handling of the unrest, calling its approach "biased and hasty." In a statement on X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi said, "The administration's insensitive action without listening to all parties worsened situation, resulting in the deaths of innocent people for which the BJP government is directly responsible." He also appealed for peace and restraint. Authorities have urged

residents to avoid spreading rumors and cooperate in maintaining order. While no fresh incidents of violence were reported on Monday, the administration remains on high alert, with police personnel from 30 stations across the Moradabad range deployed to ensure peace.

It was evident from the manner in which he allowed Mohammed Siraj (match haul of five wickets). debutants Harshit Rana (match haul of four wickets) and Nitish Reddy

(41 and 37 not out and one wicket)

bowl from the Member's End so that

they can get extra help due to the ball keeping very low. Washington Sundar (two wickets and 29 runs), who was preferred after the team management felt that Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with 850 plus Test wickets between them, would not be as effective on this track, also did his bit

in mopping up the tail. With three of their automatic first team selections in skipper Rohit,

talented Shubman Gill and bowling artist Mohammed Shami ruled out due to different reasons, Bumrah, leading in only his second Test, was left with a lot to do and less options to work with.

Gabba 2021 evokes nostalgia for every Indian cricket fan but Perth 2024 will certainly be right up there considering that no one, save those 11, and the few others in that change room, could have believed that something like this is possible.

Often the job of deputies in cricket is an understated one, but it is all about making it easy for the general-incharge. Rahul Dravid had tirelessly done that for Sourav Ganguly during their time and as Rohit Sharma checked-in, he would know that his deputy has at least tried to remove the ton of pressure on his chest after the home series debacle.

Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth

Credit must also go to head coach Gautam Gambhir, who copped a lot of flak after the defeat to the Black Caps and it was widely believed that rookies Reddy and Harshit got Test caps on his insistence. Gambhir, who seldom smiles, could afford a grin under the Perth Sun as the burly Harshit and the sinewy Nitish didn't deviate from the script handed to them for the better part of the game. Starting the day at 12 for 3 in pursuit of 534, it was about how much time would it take for Australia to capitulate and they eventually did despite a counter-attacking 89 by Travis Head that only delayed the inevitable.

On the last two tours, India started

the series at Adelaide, which is indicated that just like India, believed to have friendlier batting conditions but this time, Australia decided to make the first move putting India on the bounciest surface in the country. The move only worked for a session

and a half before it backfired completely. The Australians had factored in India's vulnerability but decided to punt on their own batting line-up which has been woefully short of runs. Steve Smith, one of the modern day

greats, and Marnus Labuschagne, who has always been obsessed about batting, have had their forms desert them for the longest time. Then they inducted a rookie in Nathan McSweeney, who isn't particularly Tested and also not an opener. It

Australia will also face a transition, and its case could be even worse. Josh Hazlewood had thrown the towel on third evening itself and one shouldn't be surprised if the

Australian team management plays on flatter batting decks in the coming matches in order to nullify Bumrah's threat. But Bumrah is the sort of bowler

who can tighten the noose whenever he desires and irrespective of conditions. On the fourth afternoon, he came back to dislodge Head, who was putting on a fight. That was possibly the best of his eight wickets in the game. It was pitched on length and the compulsive driver that Head is, he didn't expect it to climb from length and it took the outside edge.

DUSU results 2024: NSUI secures President, Joint Secretary posts

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Making a comeback on the presidential post after seven years, the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), the Congress-backed student body, secured the President and Joint Secretary positions in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections on Monday. In a closely contested race, NSUI's Rounak Khatri, a 23year-old law student, emerged victorious in the presidential race, defeating the RSS-backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) candidate Rishabh Chaudhary by over 1,300 votes. Khatri secured 20,207 votes, while Chaudhary, who is pursuing his studies at the Department of Buddhist Studies currently, received 18,864 votes.

Khatri is popularly known on campus as "Matkaman" for his unique campaigning style as he had protested against poor water quality in University, for symbolic protest he had installed matkas in campus. The last NSUI president was Rocky Tuseed, who won in

The winning candidate from NSUI has gained recognition for his advocacy of student rights and aims to bring

transparency and fairness to DUSU. His legal expertise and dynamic leadership have made him a prominent figure in the university.

In what can be described as a power split, both NSUI and ABVP secured two posts each. ABVP's Bhanu Pratap Singh won the Vice President post with 24,166 votes, defeating NSUI's Yash Nandal, who garnered 15,404 votes.

graduate in Psychology (Honors) from Sri Aurobindo College is originally from Faridabad in Haryana, Singh has organized various competitions aimed at the holistic development of students and has served as the Secretary of his college's student union. He is currently pursuing a law degree at the Faculty of Law, University of Delhi.

ABVP's Mitravinda Karanwal, contesting for the Secretary post, won with 16,703 votes, overcoming NSUI's Namrata Jeph Meena, who had initially led in early trends. A thirdyear History (Honors) student from Lakshmibai College, Karnwal is actively involved in women's issues and social service. She previously served as the Secretary of her college's student union and has worked under ABVP's Ritumati campaign to raise awareness about women's health and safety at the university.

NSUI also made strides by securing the Joint Secretary position with 21,975 votes, with Lokesh Choudhary, a student of Buddhist Studies from Hisar, defeating ABVP's Aman Kapasia, a nationallevel archer, who secured 15,249 votes. Choudhary's victory marks the first time NSUI has held the Joint Secretary position since 2016. Lokesh, a member of the Gurjar community, aims to improve campus life for all students and address the concerns of marginalized communities.

The last time the power was split evenly between NSUI and ABVP was in 2017, when NSUI held the President and Vice President posts, while ABVP controlled the Secretary and Joint Secretary positions.

The DUSU election results, which were initially scheduled to be announced on September 28, were delayed by nearly two months due to a Delhi High Court order. The court had stalled the declaration of results until the defacement caused during the election campaign was



DUSU Vice President, ABVP's Bhanu Pratap and Mritvrinda Nadan Secretary Ranjan Dimri

Following the results, celebrations erupted as NSUI supporters, mostly from Congress's student wing, gathered in large numbers, chanting slogans and cheering for their leaders. This victory marks a significant revival of the Congress party's presence in the influential student body after nearly a decade of

dominance by ABVP.

The DUSU, the representative body for students from Delhi University's member colleges, faculties, and teaching departments, will serve a term from August 16 of each year to August 15 of the following year. The election results signal a shift in the dynamics of the student union, with both NSUI and ABVP securing strong footholds.

ABVP sweeps five colleges

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) emerged victorious in the majority of the colleges of Delhi University in the Students' Union election results, with them sweeping all positions in five colleges while the while the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) captured all positions in two colleges.

A statement by the ABVP noted that at least 148 candidates backed by ABVP secured landslide victory in the polls carried out across the colleges of Delhi University. The results of elections, held in 52 colleges and departments of the Delhi University on September 27, were finally declared nearly after two months.

The ABVP achieved a clean sweep in five colleges including Hansraj College, Shyam Lal College (Evening), Vivekananda, Aurobindo and Deen Daval Upadhyaya College while the NSUI captured all positions in two colleges. In the remaining

from both student organisations emerged victorious in various posts, according to the data shared by them. It also won one seat in Sri

Guru Tegh Bahadur College,

two in Miranda House, four in Ramjas College, two in Law Centre, one in Campus Law Centre, two in Satyawati College (Morning), two in Satyawati College (Evening), one in Lakshmibai College, eight in Rajguru College, four in Ambedkar College, four in Maharaja Agrasen College, one in Rajdhani College, five in Shivaji College, three in Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College, four in BCAS Bhaskaracharya College and one in Bhagini Nivedita College.

On the other hand, the NSUI achieved a clean sweep in Aurobindo Evening College and Shyam Lal College. ABVP Delhi State Secretary Harsh Attri said, "These victories at college unions reaffirm ABVP's position as the most trusted student organization. This success is a result of our consistent presence at with the students round the clock.

We remain committed to address the challenges students' face and fight for their rights. These wins are not just ours but also of every student of Delhi University."

As many as 14 CCTV cameras and 8 video cameras have been installed on the campus to monitor the votes in the Delhi University Students Union elections. Instructions have been given to conduct counting in two shifts in all colleges, departments, institutes, centres. Counting commenced at 8 am for the morning shift and at 2 pm for the evening shift This year, the DUSU elections saw a significant turnout, with 51,379 votes cast from the 1.45 lakh eligible voters. The elections were held as scheduled on 27th September 2024. However, the counting process, originally set for 28th September, was delayed by the Delhi High Court due to allegations of public prop-erty defacement by candi-

Total vote tally of coalition of left parties SFI, AISA barely crosses NOTA option

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The total vote tally of the coalition of left parties Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the All India barely crossed the 'None of the Above', or NOTA, option in the DUSU polls.

The combined tally of the coalition's four candidates was 20,827 votes, just 79 votes In the race for vice president, more than the 20,748 votes

polled for NOTA While AISA's presidential candidate Savy Gupta secured 3,906 votes, NOTA outdid her with 4,411 votes.

received 3,650 votes, again falling short of NOTA's 4,411 votes. There were two exceptions though. The coalition's joint secretary candidate Sneha Aggarwal got 8,806 votes, significantly higher than NOTA's

For the secretary post, Anamika K received 5,676 votes, narrowly edging out

NOTA's 5,660 votes. This year, the Left backed out-

seat sharing arrangement. The results highlight the challenges faced by the Left coalition in gaining traction among Delhi University students, though it has a stronghold in

University, another central university in Delhi. Last year, AISA's presidential candidate Aiyesha Ahmad Khan stood third with 3,335

In the case of vice-president's

post, Anushka Chaudhary of AISA received 3,492 votes. SFI's Aditi Tyagi who contested for the post of secretary, secured 5,150 votes, while for joint secretary post, AISA's

AAP's education revolution 'flop show', alleges BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

alling it a flop show of the CAAP's class 'education model, the BJP has accused the Delhi government of exploiting the concept of education revolution to construct school buildings, engaging in corruption during construction, embezzling money, and eventually abandoning these structures. The BJP leaders have also decided to hold a "Pol Khol Camgain" on AAP Government's 'Education Revolution' to Begin on November 28. The protest will be held outside the SOSE school in Dariyapur Kala vil-Addressing a press confer-

Delhi Assembly, Vijendra Gupta said the Aam Aadmi Party has found a new way to make money—construction.



allocates billions of rupees in the budget, constructs multistory school buildings, withdraws from projects.

order to shut down 29 Bal Pratibha Vikas Schools is

ued. Grade 11 will be discontinued in the 2024-25 academic year, and Grade 12 in 2025. Gupta mentioned that embezzles funds, and quietly the Delhi government spent Rs 45 crore constructing a Dariyapur Kala village, yet no students have enrolled, and regrettable. Classes from 6th no staff has been appointed in to 10th grade in these schools 1.5 years. The school now

ther added that in Shahbad Dairy's A-Block, a school building was constructed in 2020 at a cost of Rs 50 crore for 6,000 students over two shifts. It was inaugurated by then Deputy CM Manish Sisodia in January 2020. However, the building was vacated due to waterlogging caused by poor construction

Similarly, in Pitampura's Kohat Enclave, Rs 50 crore was spent constructing a building for the 'Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar School of Special Excellence,' intended for 2,000 students. Despite its heavy promotion, the school currently has only 200 stu-

He claimed this has resulted in a colossal waste of taxpayer money. Citing the academic results of government

were admitted to Class 9, of which 88,409 failed. In 2023-24, out of 277,280 students, 101,331 failed. Similarly, in Class 11, 54,755 out of 214,744 students failed in 2022-23, and 51,914 out of 218,843 failed in 2023-24. Gupta questioned the education policy under which nearly 300,000 students have failed over two years, despite the Delhi Government boasting about its schools outperforming private ones. He pointed out that the Delhi Government runs 1,034 schools, with an annual budget of Rs 16,575 crore, serv-

ing 1.649 million students.

This equates to Rs 63,000 However, the schools suffer from a severe shortage of teachers, with 1,094 out of | Modi has rightly said that it is our duty to protect the Constitution. "The to the vision of the founding 1,670 sanctioned Vice The party drafts massive plans have already been discontin- remains closed, with its schools, Gupta revealed that Principal posts lying vacant. | Constitution.

Vijay Goel leads Samvidhan Samman Yatra on eve of 76th Constitution Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Vice Chairman Gandhi}}^{\text{ormer Union Minister and}}$ Smriti and Darshan Samiti Vijay Goel on Monday led a grand Samvidhan Samman Yatra on the eve of the 76th Constitution Day on Sunday from Red Fort, before culminating at Fatehpuri Masiid. The highlight of the Yatra was an 8-foot replica of the Constitution, which was placed on a grand horsedrawn carriage. Goel also paid respect to the Constitution during this event by offering flowers while large number of people joined him. occasion, Goel emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra



Constitution grants everyone the right to equality, ensuring justice and fairness for all. It is a testament to India's strength signifying equality the Preamble Goel said that this Samvidhan amidst diversity," he stated. Constitution is the cornerstone of our democracy and the unifying thread of our

and a reminder of the values of justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity enshrined in

constitutional values among citizens and encourage dialogue on its relevance in mod-

AAP extends pension reach to 80,000 seniors, Opposition counters with elderly coverage

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced that an additional 80,000 people in Delhi are now eligible for oldage pensions, bringing the total number of beneficiaries to 5.3

However, hours after the AAP announced the inclusion, the BJP and the Congress countered it with a promise of comprehensive pension coverage on the demand for all elderly people if voted to power in the national capital, where elections are due early next year.

"When our government was formed in 2015, 3.32 lakh senior citizens were receiving pensions. Over the past nine years, we added 1.25 lakh beneficiaries. With 80,000 more, 5.3 lakh senior citizens now benefit," Kejriwal said during a press conference.

The Delhi government also launched a dedicated portal on Sunday for elderly citizens to apply for pensions. According to Kejriwal, 10,000 applications have already been

Kejriwal highlighted that Delhi provides the highest pension rates in the country, with Rs

2,000 for individuals aged 60–69 and Rs 2,500 for those aged 70 and above.

In a further boost to inclusivity, the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minority communities will receive an additional Rs 500, he added. Accusing the BJP of halting pensions during his imprisonment, Kejriwal said, "It is a sin to stop pensions for old people. After my release, we not only restarted the pensions but also added new beneficiaries."

Responding to the accusations the BJP in a post on X called the AAP's announcement a "political sham", claiming that



it was made by Kejriwal instead of the appropriate administra-

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The changes will shield the

of non-standard weight or

measure will be increased from

lations.

tive authorities. If the BJP comes to power in

Delhi next year, 100 per cent of the elderly population will receive old-age pensions on demand, the party said. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "Even after this announcement, more than half of Delhi's 10 lakh elderly residents remain uncovered. This is just a drop in the ocean." Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav said that Kejriwal's launch of a portal for the elderly to apply for pensions

LG OK's amendments in Delhi Legal Metrology Rules, 2011

was a big joke to mislead the people as he would never be able to fulfil this promise, like his hollow promise of giving Rs 1000 per month under the "Mahila

Samman Rashi Scheme" to a woman in every family. Kejriwal further criticised the

BJP's claim of "double-engine governments", stating, "In Delhi, where we have a singleengine government, senior citizens receive Rs 2,500. In the BJP-led states, the amount is barely Rs 500–600. Why choose a double engine when a singleengine works better?'

Refuting the claim, the BJP said its government in Haryana provides the highest old-age pension at Rs 2,750 per month. Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj announced a new Rs 5,000 monthly pension scheme for individuals with over 60 per cent disability, with applications opening soon. Chief Minister Atishi also praised Kejriwal's leadership, likening him to a modernday 'Shravan Kumar' for facilitating pilgrimages for over one lakh senior citizens.

With the Delhi Assembly elections slated for February 2025, the AAP is vying for a third consecutive term after its sweeping victory in 2020 winning 62 seats out of 70.

The BIP on the other hand is aiming for a comeback in Delhi after 25 years where it has been out of power since 1998.

HC directs DJB to pay Rs 22 lakh compensation to parents of boy who died after falling into pit in 2016

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ▲ directed the Delhi Jal Board to pay Rs 22 lakh compensation to the parents of a nine-yearold boy who died after falling in a pit in 2016, saying that DJB's negligence has been established.

The high court said it was the primary responsibility of the DIB to maintain safe conditions and take necessary precautions around the land which the authorities failed to do.

The court was dealing with a petition by the parents of the deceased child who fell in a pit filled with rainwater and died allegedly due to the gross negligence and dereliction of duty on the part of the authorities. The incident took place in July 2016, when the child along with other kids was flying kites. To chase a kite, he ran towards a nearly vacant ground owned by the DJB and fell into the pit which was dug there. When he did not return home, his parents enquired from other children and went to the vacant land where his body was found in the pit. The parents approached the court seeking compensation for their child's

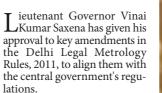
death due to the alleged negligence of DJB. "It was the primary responsibility of DJB to maintain safe conditions and take due precautions in and around the said land, which it failed to do.

"Furthermore, if as per DJB, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Private Limited (TPDDL) was negligent in maintaining the

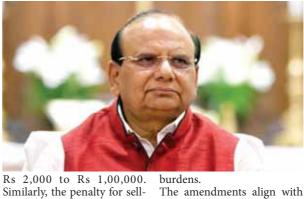
land, DJB is at liberty to initiate legal action against TPDDL or its contractors for any negligent acts concerning the land, in accordance with the law," Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav said, adding that DJB's negligence has been estab-

DJB claimed that the land was in possession of TPDDL when the incident took place and alleged that the unfortunate incident was a consequence of negligence on the part of TPDDL and contributory negligence of the deceased.

The counsel for TPDDL said the petition was not maintainable against it and the petitioners have neither made any allegations against it nor specifically averred any negligence on



common consumer from fraud and cheating by introducing stricter deterrence against malpractices by retailers, wholesalers, and manufacturers, etc, Raj niwas said in a statement. Penalty on use of non-standard weight or measure will be increased from Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 for a retailer, Rs 10,000 25,000 for manufacturers, it for wholesale dealer and Rs 50,000 for petroleum industry/petrol pump, the statement said. The fine for manufacture



Similarly, the penalty for selling of non-standard packages will be increased from Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 for retailers and Rs

This will ensure uniformity in regulatory standards across the country, streamlining compliance procedures for businesses and reducing administrative

the changes recently introduced by the central government under the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 to ensure fair market practices. The changes include an amendment in Schedule XI of Delhi Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Amendment Rules, 2011 that enhances penalty on users and manufacturers of non-standard weights or measures, the state-

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution had earlier advised the state governments to prescribe the compounding fees in the enforcement rules and circulated a draft model rules in that direction.

While approving the proposal of the legal department for amendment in the rules, the LG directed that draft notification be forwarded to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (weight and measures division) for its approval, as mandated in the Act, it said.

The LG has also instructed that the department may process such proposals strictly in accordance with the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991. Once the changes come into

from the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodity) Rules, 2011, will be integrated into the Delhi rules to ensure uniformity in regulatory standards across the country, the statement said. The implementation of these changes will empower con-sumers and create a level play-

effect, the Delhi government will be empowered to increase

compounding fees for specific

offences. Specific provisions

ing field for businesses. These amendments will not only strengthen consumer protection but also contribute to the overall economic growth of the region. By aligning with the Central Government's initiatives and implementing best practices, it will help establish Delhi as a consumer-friendly and business-friendly destina-

President Murmu to lead celebrations marking 75 years of Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $P^{\text{resident Droupadi Murmu}}_{\text{will lead the celebrations}}$ at the Central Hall of the old Parliament complex on November 26 to mark 75 years of India's Constitution, the government announced on Monday.

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

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

said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be addressing the event and accused "some of the Opposition parties" of giving reactions without knowing the actual arrange-

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

After a presentation by Union Culture Secretary Árunish Chawla, Rijiju and Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat interacted with media persons at the National Media Centre. "The problem with some of

the Opposition parties is that without knowing the actual arrangement. They started



giving reactions. The prime minister is not even speaking tomorrow in the function. The Speaker, the vice president and the President of India will speak," he said. "Secondly, we have made sit-

ting arrangements for the Leader of Opposition of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the dais. Without knowing anything, this kind of reaction on a very solemn occasion is condemnable," Rijiju said.

that the Constitution Day celebration was above politics and is a celebration of the "On the occasion of the 75

The Union minister also said

years of India's Constitution,

tions at Parliament (com-

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

chamber

Constituent Assembly sittings happened and Constitution was adopted," Rijiju added. He termed the event a "historic occasion". "I believe that it is not just an event of the judiciary, execuand legislative wings..Entire country has to take part in this celebrations, in full spirt and read the Preamble," Rijiju said. The minister extolled the

where

Constitution and said it gave

vibrant democracy". And the credit goes to the founding father, the makers of the Indian Constitution, he

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

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

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

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

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

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

BJP slams Opposition for stalling Parliament



The BJP on Monday slammed the opposition parties and said it was not right on their part to stall Parliament proceedings in "retaliation" to their defeat in Maharashtra assembly elections and bypolls in other

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned without transacting any significant business amid uproar by the opposition members on

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

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

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others

from the government had asserted that discussions will Parliament. "You could have discussed the Sambhal issue also," the former Union min-

LS Speaker asks political parties to avoid ruckus in House

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

speaker urged members to follow the highest traditions of debate and dialogue in the



Birla referred to 75 years of

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

alleging wilful disobedience by the Rajasthan authorities of the apex court's May 17 order which directed that there shall be no attempt to reduce the area of open-air camps/prisons functioning in the country. Semi-open or open prisons allow convicts to work outside the premises during the day to

earn a livelihood and return in the evening. The concept was introduced to assimilate the convicts with society and reduce psychological pressure as they faced

difficulties in leading normal lives outside. Solicitor General Tushar appearing for Rajasthan, said the state has outside the actual allotted area

neither reduced nor there is any attempt to reduce the area of Sanganer open-air camp. This is the constituency of the the bench asked, "Who can be chief minister (of Rajasthan) where there are interested people who do not want a hospi-

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

tal to come up," the top law

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

He said the area allotted for the construction of a 300-bed government hospital was totally for the open-air prison. When Mehta said it appeared to be a "sponsored litigation",

behind this? It is not as if that somebody has any commercial "I know the reason, I do not wish to say. Let us not go into

it. The purpose is that direction of the court must be complied with," the solicitor general

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

130 cities under NCAP since 2017-18: Environment Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

Minister Bhupendra Yadav said the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aims to reduce particulate matter (PM10) pollution by up to 40 per cent or achieving national air quality standards by 2025-26. As of 2023-24, 97 of the 130 cities targeted have shown

improvement in air quality as compared to 2017-18, with 55 recording reduction exceeding 20 per cent, the minister said.

However, concerns about pollution remain in the coal mining regions, particularly in Jharkhand, he added. Launched in January 2019 by

the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, NCAP covers 130 cities across 24 states and Union Territories.

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

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

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



allocated between 2019-20 and 2023-24.

plemented by resources from Central and state government initiatives, including the Smart City Mission and the Swachh Bharat Mission. In Jharkhand, the govern-ment has undertaken specific measures to combat pollution caused by coal mining

greenbelt-protected coal transport roads, installing mechanised transportation systems, and implementing continuous air quality mon-

For example, the key mining hubs of Dhanbad, Ranchi and Jamshedpur continue to struggle with pollution levels despite the allocation of Rs 279.44 crore under the NCAP for targeted interven-

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

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



This funding has been com-

These include constructing

However, despite these efforts, the challenges persist.

be held on every issue in

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

adoption of the Constitution and recalled the glorious traditions of "high quality debates by our founding fathers in the constituent assembly", they In view of the Constitution Day

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

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

Air quality improved in 97 out of VHP demands NSA against Sambhal violence perpetrators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

Three people were killed and scores of others, including around 20 security personnel and four personnel of the administration, were injured as protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here clashed with police on Sunday. One injured person died on Monday.

"The way Muslim fundamentalists pelted stones on police, fired bullets and committed arson in Sambhal is highly condemnable. The way Muslim leaders,

maulanas and many leaders of the Samajwadi party and the Congress, including Rahul Gandhi, have supported this violence is also wor-risome," Jain said.

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



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

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

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

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

been mentioned as unidenti-

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

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

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

BIS in process of developing standards for 214 critical medical devices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ **NEW DELHI**

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

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

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



ensure that Indian medical devices are safe, effective, and globally competitive. These efforts build trust among healthcare providers, consumers, and international stakeholders while solidifying India's reputation as a leader in healthcare innovation," said the Ministry. "By aligning with the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, and the National Medical Device

Policy, 2023, BIS is proving to

be instrumental in establishing

a robust regulatory framework

that prioritizes public safety

while fostering innovation," it

tor, covering specialties such as cardiology, neurology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and more. Of these, around 1,200 standards specifically focus on medical devices critical to healthcare.

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

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



Foundation and is dedicated to the capacity building of teachers. Pradhan said Centre is leveraging innovation and technology for continuous capacity building of teachers in the spirit of new National Education Policy (NEP). Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises Rakesh Bharti Mittal, top ministry officials amongst other stakeholders from education field were present on the



Kerala BJP finds no one responsible for poll loss



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

It turned out to be a Monday for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kerala as leaders came out in the open blaming each other for the crushing defeat suffered by the party candidate in the byelection held for the Palakkad

the municipal chairperson of the BJP ruled Palakkad Municipality, blamed the state leadership for fielding C Krishnakumar as the party candidate, K Surendran, the Hindutva party's state chief, claimed that all the party candidates did exceptionally

"The candidates are selected and approved by the BJP high command and the state leaders have no role in the while speaking to reporters on Monday. He said there was no need for him to guit as the party chief though the party failed to poll even close to

manage in the 2021 Assembly election from Palakkad. Former union minister V Muraledharan washed off his

hands from the Palakkad drubbing by claiming that he was busy with Maharashtra Assembly Election which the BJP-led alliance won with ease. "You may have to ask Kerala BJP chief about the reasons for the poor performance of the party candidates in the by elections held at Wayanad (Lok Sabha), Palakkad and Chelakkara (Assembly constituencies),

second leadership towards Surendran Muraleedharan, according to Sasidharan. She said that despite their reservation over the fielding Krishnakumar as candidate from Palakkad, the entire party mechanism functioned like a well-oiled machine for his victory. But Krishnakumar failed miserably to reach the 35.34 per cent votes, which was what Sreedharan bagged in election

against Shafi Parambil of the Congress. Krishnakumar could poll just 28.63 per cent of the popular vortes despite

the high voltage campaign.
Adding insult to injury was
Prakash Javadekar, the incharge of the Kerala affairs of
the party. "The BJP will win
many more seats in the 2026 many more seats in the 2026 Assembly election including Palakkad. We have done good work in the poll," said Javadekar. Interestingly, Javadekar had claimed during the run up to the Parliament election that he would see to it that the BJP wins a minimum of six seats from Kerala. Kerala's political chronicler, P

present leaders have proved their all round incompetence, the BJP high command should launch a mission to find out and appoint new leadership. "The BJP leadership. leadership in the state is a blot on the people who are badly in need of a change from the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF). Both Surendran and Muraleedharan should be removed at the earliest to save the BJP," said Sujathan.

Sujathan, says that since the

Rahul, Mamata, Tejashwi may attend Soren swearing in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

"All top leaders of the INDIA bloc are being invited to attend the ne swearing-in at Morabadi ceremony Ground here on November

28. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav are likely to attend the event," the Congress leader told PTI. As far as ministerial berths

are concerned, in all likelihood, there may be four ministers from the grand old party as per the initial plans of one ministerial berth for every four seats won.

JMM contested 43 seats and won 34, the highest-ever tally of the party in its history. The Congress got 16 seats, RJD four and the CPI (ML) secured two seats in the INDIA bloc. As per the arrangement, RJD may get ministerial berth. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the oath-taking

Soren on Sunday met Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and staked claim to form the government, soon

after leaders of the INDIA bloc in the state unanimously elected him as the legislature party leader.

He resigned as the chief minister, before staking claim to form the government. He will officiate as the acting chief minister till oath is administered to him on November 28.

"I met the governor. We staked claim to form the government, and handed over support letter of alliance partners to him. He invited us to form the government. The swearing in ceremony will be held on November 28," Soren had told reporters after meeting Gangwar. Soren will be sworn in as the

14th chief minister of Iharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar on November 15, 2000. He will be sworn in as the chief minister for the fourth term. The majority mark in the state assembly is

India lauded for FATF ratings

India was lauded for its Lefforts to implement measures against money laundering and terror financing on the first day of laundering the 41st plenary meeting of Eurasian Group (EAG), which began in Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Monday, an official said.

During the five-day meeting, nine member countries, including India, will including deliberate and chart out a road map to deal with the challenges growing cybercrimes, laundering and financing of terrorism, the official said. "In the first session of the

meeting, representatives from member countries hailed India for getting the highest rating of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)," said Vivek Agrawal, additional secretary, department of the Ministry of

Finance, who is representing India at the meet. He said the FATF placed

India in the category of regular follow-up, the highest

independent governmental body after assessing India's efforts to implement measures to combat illegal activities such as money laundering and

terror financing. Talking to reporters, Agrawal said that in the upcoming meetings, member countries will discuss issues such as money laundering, illegal

transactions, financing, cybercrimes and their solutions. He said representatives of the fintech industry will also

discuss the financial products that can trigger crime. Agrawal said that based on

the discussions held for three days, member countries will adopt a resolution during the plenary session of the meeting. representatives, Public

including Indore MP Shankar Lalwani, state development minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, mayor Pushyamitra Bhargava and district magistrate Ashish Singh participated in the welcome session of the meet.

t turned out to be a black Assembly constituency. While Prameela Sasidharan,

said Muraleedharan. is widespread discontentment among the well in the hustings, even though the votes polled by them did not show any

Surendran said, what E Sreedharan could Assembly

PM Modi to attend police chiefs conference in Bhubaneswar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra
Modi is scheduled to undertake a three-day visit to Odisha from November 29 to attend an all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar.

He will arrive in Bhubaneswar on the night of November 29 and stay in Odisha till the afternoon of December 1 state Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan told reporters here on Monday.

During his visit, the Prime

Minister will attend the all-India conference of Director Generals of Police and Inspector Generals of Police in Bhubaneswar.

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

After sweeping the by-elections six-nil the Trinamool Congress (TMC) plans to steal a tactical march over the Congress by ensuring an atmosphere free of commotion in the Lok Sabha so that some issues can be debated and the government can be compelled to reply

Taking part in a TMC National Working Committee (TMCNWC) meeting West Bengal (WB) Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday spelt out a clear policy line for the elected representatives in Delhi, where "the honourable members will raise questions on a number of burning issues such as price rise, unemployment, national fertilizer policy, central deprivation of WB in rural housing scheme, non-payment of funds despite collecting GST from the

Bhattacharva, finance minister said.

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

party would join the future

meetings the minister said such things had not been discussed in the TMCWC

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

"All the Opposition parties nationally should accept nationally should accept Mamata Banerjee as their

leader. Some parties should set aside their ego and accept Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the Opposition against the BJP," Kalyan Banerjee said.

On whether the TMC's decision to walk a different path from the Congress was the result of the same outlook projecting Mamata Banerjee as a more effective leader against the BJP, a senior leader and an MP said, "It has been repeatedly proved that she is the only person who can handle the BJP and none else. So it is time she should assume the centre

stage."
Back to the decisions taken in the TMCNWC, Bhattacharya also said that it has been decided that three senior MPs Bandopadhyay, Derek

Kakoli O'Brien Ghosh dast id arconstitute the disciplinary

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

 $T_{\text{M K Stalin inaugurated}}^{\text{amil Nadu Chief Minister}}$ the 'Vizhuthugal-Integrated Service Centre' to provide health related rehabilitation services for differently-abled persons here on Monday.

An initiative of the Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons under the World Bank assisted TN Rights project, Stalin inaugurated the onestop centre at Kannagi Nagar in Sozhinganallur, the first facility out of the proposed 273 centres across the state. The TN Rights project aims delivering, "integrated and accessible services tailored to

the individual needs of differently- abled persons either in their homes or in specialised vehicles rehabilitation or in dedicated one stop centres," a statement said here.

According to the government, this is the first time in the country that rehabilitation professionals of special education, optometry, audiology and speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational



counselling are brought under a single roof to meet the chronic health-related rehabilitation service requirements exclusively for differently-abled persons.

abled persons identified in a field survey held during 2023-24. Those who wish to access the services will have to approach the community differently-abled persons.
The services in the centre are
Rights project. "This centre only available in pre-assigned has been empanelled under

Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

The centre has strategically placed surveillance cameras that ensure safety while protecting privacy and has all its restrooms equipped with

Body of fisherman dead in Pak brought to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

The body of a 31-year-old fisherman, who died in a Pakistani jail last month, was handed over to his family in his native village of Nanavada in Gujarat's Junagadh district, officials said on Monday. Haribhai Sosa, a resident of

had been Porbandar, imprisoned in Karachi for over three years after he was apprehendéd by Pakistani security forces in early 2021. He was arrested near the international maritime border while fishing in the Arabian Sea.

According to officials, Sosa died of heart failure on October 25 while in the jail in Karachi on October 25.

The body was handed over to Indian authorities at the Attari border in Punjab and flown to Ahmedabad from where it was transported to Nanavada village by road on Sunday night.

Fewer Crorepati MLAs make it to Jharkhand Assembly

PTI ■ RANCHI

Eighty-nine per cent of the newly elected MLAs in Jharkhand are crorepatis, and Rameshwar Oraon of the Congress is the richest legislator with total assets worth Rs 42.20 crore, according to a report released on Monday. The Jharkhand Election

Watch and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) analysed the affidavits of 80, out of 81 winning candidates, and found that 71 newly elected MLAs in 2024 are crorepatis, which is 20 per cent higher than the number of such legislators elected in

Of the 81 MLAs elected five years ago, 56 were crorepatis, and there were 41 in 2014, according to the report.
Of the 71 'crorepati' MLAs

this year, 28 are from JMM, 20 from BJP, 14 from Congress, four from RJD, two from CPI(ML) Liberation and one each from LJP (Ram Vilas), JD(U) and AJSU Party. The JMM won 34 assembly

seats, and its allies Congress 16, RJD four and CPI(ML) Liberation two constituencies.



On the other hand, the BJP won 21 assembly segments, and its partners LJP (Ram Vilas), JD(U) and AJSU Party secured one each.

The average of assets per winning candidate in the Jharkhand assembly elections in 2024 is Rs 6.90 crore and the same was Rs 3.87 crore in the 2019 elections. winning

Among the candidates, Congress Lohardaga MLA Rameshwar Oraon is the richest with total assets of Rs 42.20 crore, the report said. BJP's Kushwaha Shashi

Bhushan Mehta, who secured the Panki constituency, is the

second richest winning Rs 32.15 crore, while RJD's Sanjay Prasad Yadav, who bagged the Godda seat, is the third on the list with total assets of Rs 29.59 crore, according to it.

Loktantrik Iharkhand Krantikari Morcha's (JLKM) Jairam Kumar Mahato, who won from Dumri seat, has the lowest assets worth around Rs 2.55 lakh.

As many as 14 winning candidates have declared liabilities of Rs 1 crore and above, the report said.

Altogether 42 MLAs have been re-elected and their average asset growth is Rs 2.71 crore in the last five years, it stated.

As many as 28 winning candidates have declared their educational qualification to be between Class 8 and 12 pass, while 50 have an educational qualification of graduate and above, and one winner is a diploma holder, and another has declared himself just literate. The number of winning women candidates in the state

assembly increased to 12 from

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

reported across Kerala. According to police data, Thiruvananthapuram district recorded the highest number of cases, while Pathanamthitta district had

the lowest, the report said. Of the 4,663 POCSO cases reported in the year, 4,701 ere survivors, indicating that many cases involved more than one victim. "This highlights the need to educate children about the POCSO and child-friendly procedures, along with providing them self-defense training," the report stated.

crime was not available, the report added. In 2023, a total of 4,663 POCSO cases were 4,583 in 2022. It was 3,616 cases in 2019 and 3030 in 2020. The Commission found that, out of 4,582 cases analysed during the specified involving 5,002 individuals, the period, accused relationship between the child victims and the accused was categorised as follows: 873 were known to the children, 631 neighbours, 439 were family members, 435 were relatives, 477 were friends, 692 were romantic partners, 210 were teachers, 305 were strangers, 896 were undocumented or unidentified, and 36 were

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

children who survived sexual abuse, 73 (two per cent) were aged four to six, 423 (nine per cent) were aged five to nine, 1574 (39 per cent) were aged 10 to 14, and 1929 (48 per cent) were aged 15 to 18. Besides, two (0.03 per cent) children with unclear or undocumented ages were also victims. This highlights the need for parents and guardians to focus on enhancing children's ability to respond to uncomfortable situations and providing ageappropriate safety awareness. Manoj Kumar, Chairperson of the Kerala State Commission

Protection of Child Rights,

said the commission is now

about child abuse as part of places, society has the provided training Kudumbashree workers on the Juvenile Justice Act, POCSO Act, child rights, and good parenting in seven told PTI. Besides, we provided awareness for child protection committee in block members panchayats, teachers, parents in it," he told

focused on raising awareness and police officials, he said. Nazeer Chaliyam, former recommendations member of the Kerala State outlined in the report. "As Commission for Protection children are being abused in of Child Rights, said the their homes and public government should intervene and initiate the necessary responsibility to prevent this. measures to address the To address this, we have issues highlighted by the for commission in the report. "As per Section 16 of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the report should be laid before the state districts of the state, and it Assembly along with the will continue in the recommendations and the remaining districts," Kumar action taken by the commission, so that the government can initiate the required measures for the redressal of the matters raised

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Celebrating Constitution Day

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

very year, on November 26, India celebrates Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution ■ in 1949, a landmark event that laid the foundation for India's democratic ethos. As we reflect on this momentous occasion, it is imperative to understand the making, functioning and future challenges of this legal document that has been the guiding force for the world's largest democracy, India. The drafting of the Indian Constitution was an extraordinary achievement, considering the diversity and complexities of India. Following independence in 1947, the Constituent Assembly, comprising 299 members, undertook the monumental task of framing a constitution for a newly liberated yet diverse nation. Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, chaired the drafting committee, ensuring that the document reflected justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity. The Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete



the drafting process, during which it conducted exhaustive debates and deliberations. Drawing inspiration from the constitutions of various nations, such as the United States, Ireland and Canada, the Indian Constitution incorporated the best practices while tailoring them to Indian realities.

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

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



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

Samvidhan Divas: A tribute to India's democratic vision



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

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

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

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

The Vision Behind the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution is more than a legal charter; it is a visionary framework that upholds the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It reflects the collective aspirations of a diverse population, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of truth, non-violence, and grassroots empowerment. Gandhi's ideals of swaraj (selfrule) emphasised moral values, social equity and the welfare of all, which deeply influenced the Constitution's framers.

Although Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar had differences on certain issues, they shared a commitment to social justice and local self-governance. This shared vision is evident in foundational aspects of the Constitution, such as the Preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties.

The Preamble: Soul of the Constitution

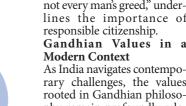
The Preamble encapsulates the essence of the Constitution, emphasising ideals like justice, liband upholding the dignity of erty, equality and fraternity. These

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

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

Fundamental Duties: Rights and Responsibilities

Mahatma Gandhi emphasised the interconnectedness of rights and duties, asserting that rights derive their meaning from duties well-performed. Reflecting this philosophy, the 42nd Amendment introduced Fundamental Duties in 1976. These duties, women, align closely with values resonate with Gandhi's Gandhian principles of non-



AS INDIA MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION IN 2024, IT IS A **MOMENT TO** REFLECT ON THIS TRANSFORMATIVE DOCUMENT, WHICH SERVES

AS THE **BEDROCK** OF THE NATION'S **DEMOCRACY INCLUSIVITY**

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

Gandhian Values in **Modern Context**

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

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

Decentralized Governance A cornerstone of Gandhi's political thought was decentransed governance. He believed true democracy could only be achieved by empowering local communities. The Panchayati Raj system, enshrined in the Constitution, embodies this vision. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi's initiatives, such as 'Vocal for Local 'and 'Viksit Bharat 2047', echo Gandhi's principle of 'Gram Swaraj'. These programmes aim to promote local entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and self-reliance, elevating India's global stature while

empowering its citizens. The Role of Citizens and Media

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

A Living Document for a **Dynamic Nation**

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

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

THE EDITOR

Lessons from childhood, family and experiences



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

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

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

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

sonality. He gruffly apologized for having hurt me. I learnt an important lesson. There is no shame in accepting your mistake.

I remember the day I met the young girl who became my wife and life partner in the next few months. I also remember I had eyes only for her during the wedding reception. Those were the heady days before we buckled up to the serious business of making a life together. We have been married for 40 years. These have not been easy decades, faced with the harsh realities of life. We never give up, whatever the setbacks. We work towards the common goal of leading a happy and contented life

together. There is respect,

and a recognition of the need

for space for each to evolve as an individual.

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

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

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

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

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

BJP'S STRONG COMEBACK

Madam —In just five months, the momentum in Indian politics has shifted dramatically. Following the BJP's underwhelming performance in the last Parliament elections, questions were raised about its durability and PM Modi's pan-national acceptability. Now, it's the opposition INDIA block that is looking fragile. The reason for the shift is a series of unexpected electoral reverses suffered by the INDIA bloc. The most significant of these setbacks occurred in Maharashtra, the second most consequential state in the Indian union. By handing the NDA a mammoth victory, Maharashtra voters have given the alliance a pretext to dismiss the Lok Sabha election jolt as an aberration.

A reversal triggered more by a "fake narrative" spun by a desperate Opposition than any discernible anti-incumbency. In Maharashtra, the BJP with allies not only smashed a five-decade-old electoral record, but it has also come astonishingly close to winning the election on its own steam. The party has been able to reunite its coalition of disparate castes. Add to this, the BJP has been better able to present itself as the emissary of "political nationalism and economic welfarism." Meanwhile, this victory is a stepping stone to the validation it needs to push ahead with its governance agenda. N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

GENDER BIAS IN THE US POLITICS

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

Kohli breaks Tendulkar's record



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

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

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urapakkam

ADDRESS FARMERS' DISTRESS

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

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

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

style of batting prowess.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

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

The Green Revolution has helped in increasing the yield but the other aspects of the farmers, like input cost, subsidies and MSP, in spite of being vital, are not considered favourably but changes are made hostile to the farmers' needs and benefits. The policies of the successive governments are focusing on the industrial sector. A lot of incentives, like concessions, exemptions, and extending huge loans to write off or

waive off, and PLI are extended to the industrial sector, though the desired results, like a substantial increase in employment and exports, are not forthcoming. Such apathy in the approach of the government towards agriculture has resulted in millions of farmers resorting to suicide, getting plunged in unbearable debt and small farmers deserting their fields and seeking livelihood in cities.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

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FIRST COLUMN CORPORATE CAREWASHING

Many organisations falsely present themselves as socially responsible



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

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

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



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

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

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

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Food subsidy: Go for direct transfer to curb leakages



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

ccording to a Study titled 'Rationalising Public Distribution System in India' done by the Indian Council For Research On International Economic Relations (ICRIER), there was grain leakage under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) of 20 million tons (17 million ton of rice and 3 million ton of wheat) which is 28 per cent of the 71 million ton of grain offtake by states (that included 52 million ton of rice and 19 million ton wheat) during August 2022 - July 2023. The Study estimates the annual fiscal cost of this leakage to be around Rs 70,000 crore. Under the PMGKAY, the Union Government asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organise its distribution to around 820 million people for free. The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farm-

ers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kilograms of cereals per person per month to the remaining 700 million) at a heavily subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In addition, since April 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PMGKAY to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

During 2022-23, this was Rs 36.7 per kg or Rs 36,700 per ton for rice and Rs 25.9 per kg or Rs 25,900 per ton for wheat. Multiply the pilfered quantity of rice 17 million tons by its EC, we get the cost of its pilferage Rs 62,390 crore. Likewise, multiply 3 million tons of pilfered wheat by its EC, and the cost comes to Rs 7770 crore. Thus, the total cost was around Rs 70,000 crore. This



'BUFFER STOCK' REFERS TO A STRATEGIC STOCK FOR **SMOOTHENING OUT PRICE** FLUCTUATIONS— BUYING A COMMODITY WHEN THE PRICE

IS LOW AND RELEASING IT IN THE MARKET WHEN THE PRICE IS HIGH is around 26 per cent of the food subsidy expenditure of Rs 272,000 crore for 2022-23.

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

How has the Study arrived at the quantum of leakage?

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

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

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

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

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

The quantities meant for all such purposes need to be excluded from the grains that left FCI warehouses and only the net figure available for PDS consumption should be compared with actual household consumption levels as read from the Consumption surveys. It seems, the Study hasn't done it.

This is also corroborated by the fact that the annual distribution of free food for PMGKAY beneficiaries is normally 55 million tons; against this, the Study uses 71 million tons.

At the beneficiary's end also, the actual household consumption level includes cereal consumed

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

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

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

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

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

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

This ambitious welfare program aims to provide financial and construction assistance to build durable 'pucca' houses equipped with essential amenities. The scheme targets both houseless households and those residing in 'kutcha'



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

Leveraging Technology for **Quality and Oversight**

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

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

Transformative Impact on Beneficiaries

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



groups, promoting transparency and ensuring female coownership, thereby empowering women.

The initiative has also significantly contributed to rural employment. Each house constructed under PMAY-G generates approximately 314 person-days of work, distributed among skilled (81 days), semiskilled (71 days), and unskilled

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

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

LPG connections via

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

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

claims. **Global Scale and Ambitions:** PMAY-G Despite its notable (164 days) labour. This 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala success, PMAY-G faces sever-

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

(The writer is faculty, IIM Ahmedabad; views are

Hezbollah ceasefire deal could come 'within days'

AP JERUSALEM/DUBAI

The Israeli ambassador to Washington says that a cease-fire deal to end fighting between Israel and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah could be reached "within days." Ambassador Mike Herzog told Israeli Army Radio on Monday that there remained "points to finalize" and that any deal required agreement from the government. But he said "we are close to a deal" and that "it can happen within days."

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

Hezbollah did not adhere to a UN resolution that ended the 2006 war between the sides that made similar provisions, and Israel has concerns that it could stage a Hamas-style cross-border attack from southern Lebanon if it maintains a heavy presence there. Lebanon says Israel also violated the 2006 resolution. It is not clear whether Lebanon would agree to the demand. The optimism surrounding a deal comes after a top US envoy held talks between the sides last week in a bid to clinch a deal

Hezbollah began attacking Israel on October 8, 2023, a day after Hamas' raid on southern Israel, setting off more than a year of fighting. That escalated into all-out war in September with massive Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon and later



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

an Israeli ground incursion into the country's south. Hezbollah has fired thousands of rockets into Israeli cities and towns, including some 250 on

'NETANYAHU SHOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH'

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

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the remarks Monday during an event in which he spoke to members of the Basij, the allvolunteer arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. Khamenei referenced the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest war-

rant for Netanyahu and Israel's

former Defence Minister Yoav

"What the Zionist regime did in Gaza and Lebanon is not a victory, it is a war crime. Now they have issued a warrant for their arrest. This is not enough!" Khamenei said, according to remarks pub-lished by the state-run IRNA news agency. "Netanyahu and the criminal leaders of this regime must be sentenced to death.

The International Criminal Court at the Hague does not issue death sentences.

Khamenei also insisted those in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance," like the Palestinian militant group Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah, would be stronger after the war. "The idiots should not think that bombing houses and hospitals in Gaza and Lebanon is a victory," he said. "The enemy has not become winner in Gaza and Lebanon, and it will not be

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

AP ■ BEIRUT

n Israeli airstrike that Akilled three journalists and wounded others in Lebanon last month was most likely a deliberate attack on civilians and an apparent war crime, an international human rights group said on Monday. The October 25 airstrike killed three journalists as they slept at a guesthouse in southeast Lebanon in one of the deadliest attacks on the media since the Israel-Hezbollah war began 13 months ago.

Eleven other journalists have been killed and eight wounded since then, Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad

said. More than 3,500 people have been killed in Lebanon, and women and children accounted for more than 900 of the dead, according to the Health Ministry. More than 1 million people have been displaced since Israeli ground troops invaded while Hezbollah has been firing thousands of rockets, drones and missiles into Israel — and drawing fierce

Israeli retaliatory strikes. Human Rights Watch determined that Israeli forces carried out the October 25 attack using an air-dropped bomb equipped with a US-produced Joint Direct Attack Munition,

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

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the report.

The Biden administration said in May that Israel's use of USprovided weapons in the İsrael-Hamas war in Gaza likely violated international humanitarian law but that wartime conditions prevented US officials from determining that for certain in specific airstrikes.

The journalists killed in the airstrike in the southeastern town of Hasbaya were camera operator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida of the Beirut-based pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV, and camera operator Wissam Qassim, who worked for Hezbollah's

Al-Manar TV. Human Rights Watch said a munition struck the single-storey building and detonated upon hitting the floor. "Israel's use of US arms to

unlawfully attack and kill journalists away from any military target is a terrible mark on the United States as

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

Human Rights Watch said that it found remnants at the site and reviewed photographs of pieces collected by the resort owner and determined that they were consistent with a JDAM guidance kit assembled and sold by the US company Boeing.
The JDAM is affixed to air-

dropped bombs and allows them to be guided to a target by using satellite coordinates, making the weapon accurate to within several meters, the group said. In November 2023, two jour-

nalists for Al-Mayadeen TV were killed in a drone strike at their reporting spot. A month earlier, Israeli shelling in southern Lebanon killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah and seriously wounded other journalists from France's international news agency Agence France-Presse and Oatar's Al-Jazeera TV on a hilltop not far from the Israeli border.

UAE arrests three Uzbek nationals for killing of rabbi

 $T^{\text{he United Arab Emirates}}_{\text{said on Monday police}}$ arrested three Uzbek nationals for the killing of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi.

The statement from the country's Interior Ministry offered no motive for the slaying of Zvi Kogan. Kogan, 28, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who went missing on Thursday, ran a kosher grocery store in the futuristic city of Dubai, where Israelis have flocked for commerce and tourism since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The agreement has held through more than a year of soaring regional tensions unleashed by Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack into southern Israel. But Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon after months of fighting with the Hezbollah militant group, have stoked anger among Emiratis, Arab nationals and others living in the UAE.

The Interior Ministry statement identified the three men as Olimpi Tohirovic, 28, Mahmoud John Abdul Rahim 28, and Azizi Kamilovic, 33. The state-run WAM news agency carried images of the three men, their faces blurred. It did not say if charges had been filed against the men.

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

Israeli media reports, citing unnamed security officials, had alleged Uzbeks were involved in Kogan's killing. Uzbeks previously have been hired in Iranian plots targeting dissidents and others.

Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also been threatening to retaliate against Israel after a wave of airstrikes Israel carried out in October in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack. Iran's Embassy in Abu Dhabi denied Tehran was involved in the

rabbi's slaying. While the UAE statement did not mention Iran, Iranian intelligence services have carried out past kidnappings in the UAE.

Western officials believe Iran runs intelligence operations in the UAE and keeps tabs on the hundreds of thousands of Iranians living across the country.

Iran is suspected of kidnapping and later killing British Iranian national Abbas Yazdi in Dubai in 2013, though Tehran has denied involvement.

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

 $P^{\text{reliminary results from an}}_{\text{Iraqi national census, the}}$ first in nearly 40 years, show that the population has grown to 45.4 million, the prime minister said on Monday. The nationwide population census, carried out earlier this month, is a step aimed at modernising data collection and planning in a country long impacted by conflict and political divisions.

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said on Monday that initial results showed the country's population has reached approximately 45.4 million people. In 2009, an unofficial count estimated the population at 31.6 million.

ing to Monday's initial results shows a nearly even split, with males making up 50.1 per cent of the population and females 49.8 per cent of the population. The act of counting the population, the first in 37 years, is contentious in Iraq, with profound implications for the country's resource distribution, budget allocations and development planning. Minority groups

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

the census excluded questions about ethnicity and sectarian affiliation, focusing solely on broad religious categories such as Muslim and Christian.

The last nationwide census in Iraq was held in 1987. Another one held in 1997 excluded the Kurdish region. The next phase of the census will run over the coming weeks before final results, which will include information on religious groups, are announced, according to Ali Arian Saleh, the executive director of the census at the Ministry of Planning.

The census was the first to employ advanced technologies for gathering and analysing data, providing a comprehensive picture of Iraq's demographic, social, and economic landscape, officials said. Some 120,000 census workers surveved households across the country, covering approximately 160 housing units each over two days.

Imran supporters march towards Islamabad amid crackdown PTI ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

 $T^{\text{housands of Pakistan}}_{\text{Tehreek-e-Insaf workers,}}$ led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, were moving towards Islamabad on Monday as the top party leaders met expremier Imran Khan in jail and dismissed any rumours about the protest march being called

The 72-year-old former premier issued a "final call" on November 13 for nationwide protests on November 24. denouncing what he termed as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

His supporters resumed march towards Islamabad on Monday after an overnight stop on the way amid stiff resistance by the authorities to foil their attempt stage a sit-in at the D-Chowk, located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme

Party chairman Gohar Khan, accompanied by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Advisor Barrister Saif and senior leader Ali Mohammad Khan, held a 90-minute meet-

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

"Yes, I have met him (Khan)," Gohar told the media after the meeting, which he described as "significant".

Gohar said that Khan's call for protest is final and dismissed any rumours about it being called off.

When asked about the details of the ongoing negotiations, Gohar responded that the talks were underway and updates would be provided soon, Geo News reported.

Sources said the purpose of the meeting was to brief Khan on the latest developments concerning the Islamabad protest and to take his guidance on the matter.

Meanwhile, a large convoy of PTI supporters moved steadily into Punjab territory but near the Attock Bridge, Chach Interchange, and Ghazi Barotha Canal, where officers used heavy tear gas to disperse pro-

Despite the police crackdown, Opposition leader Omar Ayub's convoy managed to push back Punjab Police forces at the Hazara Interchange In a brief address to the crowd

before departing Swabi, KP

other cases of sabotage —

although they stressed that there

is no evidence pointing to that yet.

"Without a doubt, we cannot rule

out the terrorism version," said

Darius Jauniškis, chief of

"We see Russia becoming more

aggressive," he said. "But for now,

we really cannot make any attri-

butions or point fingers at anyone,

because there is no information

The Lithuanian airport authori-

ty identified the aircraft as a DHL

cargo plane arriving from Leipzig,

Germany, a major freight hub,

and one of the injured was a

The German transportation min-

istry said that experts from the

German Federal Bureau of

Lithuanian intelligence.



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

husband's release. "We will not

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

Later, he rallied supporters, telling them to "prepare, as we will need to confront further resistance ahead?

Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, who is a part of the convoy being led Gandapur, demanded her

Aircraft Accident Investigation

would be sent to Lithuania to help

with the investigation. Officials

there also cautioned against try-

ing to draw conclusions before all

the evidence has been examined.

about the cause of the accident.

Whether it was an accident or

whether another cause led to the

crash of the cargo plane is the sub-

ject of the current investigation,

German Interior Ministry

spokesperson Mehmet Atta said

The head of Lithuania's firefight-

ing service said that the plane

skidded a few hundred meters

(yards), and photos showed

smoke rising from a damaged

structure in an area of barren

at a briefing in Berlin.

'No statements can yet be made

end this march till Imran is not with us," she said while addressing supporters at a stop near the Hazara Interchange. "I will stay there till my last breath, and all of you have to support me. This is not just about my husband but about the country and its leader."

PTI leader Sanam Javaid Khan shared an update on her con-

outh Korean opposition

Sleader Lee Jae-myung was

acquitted on Monday on

charges that he persuaded a

witness to lie in court to under-

state Lee's past criminal convic-

tion, in a rare moment of relief

from broad legal troubles that

threaten to derail his political

Lee thanked the Seoul Central

District Court judge after the

ruling for "bringing back truth

and justice." The prosecution

didn't immediately say whether

The same court earlier this

it would appeal.

voy's location in a post on X at 1:33 pm, saying they had

reached Hassanabdal. According to her post, Bushra Bibi, Gandapur, Babar Saleem Swati, Faisal Javed and Omar Ayub Khan were present in the convoy, among other party leaders. The authorities had blocked the highways by placing shipping containers, but protestors accompanied by lift-

Court acquits S Korean opp leader

month sentenced Lee to a sus-

pended prison term for violat-

ing election law by making false

public statements while run-

ning for president in the 2022

election, which he narrowly lost

to conservative rival Yoon Suk

If that conviction stands, Lee

would be unseated as a law-

maker and barred from run-

ning for president in the next

election, for which polls now

show him to be the favourite.

But Lee, who is facing five dif-

ferent trials over corruption

and other charges, will likely

challenge any guilty verdict he

receives, and it's uncertain

Yeol.

on charges of instigating perjury

machines worked their way by removing hurdles, but it skittled their speed and plans. The government has banned rallies by imposing Section

ing equipment and other heavy

144, a colonial-era law used to outlaw political activities, as a high-level delegation from Belarus is visiting Pakistan.
Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq
Dar questioned PTI's repeated
calls for strikes, terming them

a "well-thought-out conspira-cy" against the country. He regretted that the party always seemed to call for a protest at a time when global

figures were visiting Pakistan, whether it be the Chinese premier's visit, the SCO summit or other occasions. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi

has vowed to arrest everyone entering the capital to protest. Not only all major roads leading to the capital and within the city have been barricaded but troops deployed to deal with the miscreants

Rawalpindi police clashed with PTI workers at IJ Principal Road, arresting around 60 people after baton charges.

Punjab province of over 120 million people remained cut off from the rest of the country due to high-security measures to prevent protesters from entering the province.

whether the Supreme Court

would decide on any of the

cases before the vote in March

2027. The ruling Monday at the

Seoul court was about whether

Lee pressured a former

employee of Seongnam city

into giving false testimony in

court in 2019. The testimony

was meant to downplay Lee's

2002 conviction that, as a

lawyer, he had helped a jour-

nalist of KBS television to

impersonate a prosecutor to

secure an interview with then-

Seongnam Mayor Kim Byung-

ryang over corruption suspi-

cions regarding the allocation

of new apartments.

Cargo plane crashes, killing Spanish crew member

Western security officials sus-

pect that Russian intelligence is

carrying out sabotage against

their nations in retaliation for their

support for Ukraine — including

arson attacks, disinformation and

by putting incendiary devices in

packages on cargo planes. In July

one caught fire at a courier hub in

Germany and another ignited in

a warehouse in England. Polish

prosecutors said last month that

parcels with camouflaged explo-

sives were sent via cargo compa-

nies to EU countries and Britain

to "test the transfer channel for

such parcels" that were ultimate-

ly destined for the US and Canada

Lithuanian officials acknowledged

that one line of inquiry will be

whether Russia played a role

given its suspected involvement in

AP VILNIUS

KOIDA

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

is under investigation.

A surveillance video showed the plane descending normally as it approached the airport before sunrise, and then exploding into a huge ball of fire behind a building. The moment of impact could not be seen in the video. The crash occurred at a time that

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority nistrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as pe 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.

1. 01/OSD(DP)/PG CELL/2024-25 Rs. 37.23 Lacs

2. 02/OSD(DP)/RECEPTION/2024-25 Rs. 42.84 Lacs The above tenders can be uploaded by date 02-12-2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened downloaded on date 03-12-2024 at 11.00 AM.

'महत्वपूर्ण सूचना-

नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन र स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 वे 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 एव अवैध निर्मित भवनों में भूखण्डों/अपार्टमेंट/दुकान/गोडाऊन/फार्महाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कॉलोनाईजर के लुभावने एवं भ्रामक विज्ञापनों से बचे। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिण्डन एवं यमुना नदियों वे डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अनिधिकृत / अवैध प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों वे कारोबार में संलिप्त भूमाफियाओं के चंगल में न फंसे।''

स्वागत कक्ष **CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

THE PIONEER O CHANGE OF NAME

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

Washington Globalisation, enormous

about it."

German citizen.

PD(972)C

large Indian diaspora are the main attractions for students from India coming to America for higher education, especially in STEM, according to educationists. STEM courses are the ones that fall under the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. "The growth of the Indian youth and their enthusiasm for education and the opportunities in the United States are very much a pull," Marvin University, told PTI in an inter-

American community that is part of the attraction. People

many Indians have come here and gotten their education.

According to Raj Echambadi, President of Illinois Tech, there

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

interview The second broader reason is from the US perspective. When

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

Education, opportunities pull Indian students to US univs

opportunities in the US and a Krislov, President of Pace

view. A recent report by the International Educational Exchange revealed that last year, India surpassed China as the top place of origin for international students, with a record 3,31,602 Indian students in the US in 2023-2024. This was a 23 per cent increase from the previous year. 'There's a large Indian-

enjoy having those close connections to the Indian community. There are also just enormous opportunities and so

Some of them have stayed at least for a while and have had enormous success," Krislov said. According to the report, Indian enrolments increased primarily at the graduate (1,96,567, +19 per cent) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) academic levels (97,556, +41 per cent). OPT is a temporary work permit that allows F-1 international students to gain practical experience related to their field of

nomenal and most of these students are in STEM fields, so there is a natural fit...That fit is what is driving a lot of admissions towards Indian students, Echambadi told PTI in an

Orsi becomes new president of Uruguay

AP ■ MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY)

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Let's understand that there is another part of our country who have different feelings today," he said, as fireworks erupted over his stage overlooking the city's waterfront. "These people will also have to help build a better country. We need them too." With nearly all the votes count ed, electoral officials reported that Orsi won 49.8% of the vote, ahead of Delgado's 45.9%, a clear call after weeks in which the opponents appeared tied in polls. The rest cast blank votes or abstained in defiance of Uruguay's enforced compulsory voting. Turnout in the nation with 2.7 million eligible voters reached almost 90%.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SAGARPUR, EAST SAGARPUR, NEW DELHI 110046 and Sh. Pankaj Kumar purchase plo from Sh. Dharampal Tanwar vide Notarizet GPA, ATS and will dated 19.11.2002 Now Sh Pankaj Kumar wants to sell aforesais property. And It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. I any person having any claim right in said any person having any claim right in said property.

any person having any claim, right in sai property then he may contact and handow the same and apprise his claim to undersigne within 8 days of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Janwar who wants to purchase the Pfot No.190, Admeasuring 190.00 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Sector-Kasna, Greater Noida, Gautam Budu Nagar, U.P. from Mr. Subhash Chand owner vide Transfer Deed dated 31.10.2022 (vide Doc. No.2282) executed by Mr. Balraj Singh and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. That, (1) Original Allotment Letter 17.11.2009 in favour of Mr. Bhim Singh, Mr. Balraj, Mr. Dori Lal, Mr. Ram Singh, (2) Original Possessing Certificate in (avour of Mr. Bhim Singh, Mr. Balraj, Mr. Dori Lal, Mr. Ram Singh, (3)Original Transfer Letter in favour of Mr. Dori Lal and Mr. Balraj, (4) Original Lease Deed dated 93.09.2020 (Vide Document No.16043) in favour of Mr. Dori Lal and Mr. Balraj, (5) Original Transfer Deed dated 24.09.2020 (Vide Document No.17148) in favour of Mr. Balraj, (6) Original Transfer Memorandum in favour of Mr. Sulraj, (7) Original Transfer Memorandum in favour of Mr. Sulraj, No.17148) in favour of Mr. Balraj, (6) Original Transfer Memorandum in favour of Mr. Sulraj, No.17148) in favour of Mr. Balraj, (7) Original Transfer Memorandum in favour of Mr. Subhash Chand arelostroit available. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienetc. Lucem Legal LLP B-938, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Balk Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301 Contact#0120-4269379

MA 39, DLF City, Phase-3, Gurgram

This Public Notice is Being issued to the Public at Larege and to Whom it May

Concern for and on Behalf of our Client Who

Wishes to Purchase Entire Residential Plot

Bearing No. 39 on Maulsari Avenue Road and Measuring 420 Sq. Mtrs. Situated in the

Residential Colony Known as DLF City (earlier Known as DLF Qutub Enclave

Complex) Phase 3 in and around Village

Nathupur, Tehsil Wazirabad & District

Gurugram, Haryana. Plot is Owned by (1)

Mr. Atul Atri (Aadhar No.6985 3434 6174 &

Pan No. BVKPA3537Q) S/O Late Sh. D.S.

Atri R/o J-2/16, DLF City Phase-2,

Gurugram-122002, Haryana and (2) Ms.

Mukta Nidhi Samnotra (Aadhar 9924 4782

8725 & Pan No. AHRPS3960R) D/O Late

Sh. D.S Atri R/o Flat No. 4182 Tower 4 ATS

ristine Phase 1 Rushta Road, Sector-150.

loida, Gautam Buddha Nagar-210301

Uttar Pradesh by the Way of Transfer Deed

Dated 05.07.2024 By Smt. Tara Atri (Aadhar No. 2046 0300 2675 & Pan No. AECPA

2442N) W/o Late Sh. D.S Atri R/o D-63B, Hauz Khas, South Delhi, Delhi-110016

By this Notice, the Public at Larege is hereby

nformed that our Client is Updated by the

Present Owners that the Property is Free

From any All Encumbrances, Liens, Prior

Case Any Person has any Concern

Objection Regarding the Title/ Ownership of

he Afore-said Property or any of its Floors

Mentioned above or has Entered into any

Kind of Agreement to Sell Etc. Qua the

Afore-said Property or any of its Floors Mentioned above or has any Demure to the

Purchase of the Same by our Client then Such Person may contact the Undersigned

within a period of **10 Days** from this Notice, along with all the Documents (if Any), Failing

Which it shall be Deemed and Followed that

DEEPAK YADAV (Advocate)

Session & District Court Gurugram Ph. No.: 8800787414

Chamber No. 1980

Nobody has any objection to the said Sale.

Agreements Etc.

Blood Relation Having Vasika No. 6723

wn to all that my client **Sn. Pankaj Kum** ner of the SECOND FLOOR ON RZ-129/6

PUBLIC NOTICE

Through this Publication This is for Constructive Notice for respondent M/S SHREE SIDDHI VINAYAK CLOTHES & CONCEPT having registered office at 2nd Floor, Pooja Tower, Rohit Kunj, Pitampura New Delhil-110034 to appear in person or through authorized representative before the District Level Micro & Small facilitation Council Ludhiana, District Industries Centre, Ludhiana on Dated 28-11-2024 regarding claim reference petition submitted by claimant M/S BLUE WAX INTERNATIONAL U/s 18(1) of MSMED Act 2006 bearing reference: MSEFC/ DIC/09/21/1634. If respondent still fails or omits to appear as above then arbitration proceedings shall be conducted as per section 23 & 25 of Arbitration and Conciliation Act and award shall also be passed on the basis of evidence before it Member Secretary cum General Manager District Industries Centre, Industrial Estate Ludhiana. Ph. No:- 0161-2540695

Rakesh Kumar Kansal (General Manager dicludhiana5@gmail.com, Ludhiana.msefc@gmail



CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.14448630F Hav (OPR) Kukar Shivaji Kerba, R/o-VPO+Teh- Renapur, Dist-Latur, Maharashtra- 413527, have changed my minor son's name from Pranay to Kukar Pranav Shivaji, vide affidavit dated 25/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(967)C I, No.14448630F Hav (OPR) Kukar Shivaji Kerba, R/o-VPO+Teh- Renapur, Dist-Latur, Maharashtra- 413527, have changed my minor daughter's name from Pranita Kukar to Kukar Pranita Shivaji, vide affidavit dated 25/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

PD(968)C PUBLIC NOTICE

I, JC-812489X Sub Anil Kumar Tiwari, R/o- VPO+Teh-Amarpatan, Dist-Satna, M.P.-485775, declare that Rukmani Tiwari is my wife, in my service record her D.O.B is wrongly recorded 08/10/1981, whereas her correct D.O.B is 01/01/1980.

PD(969)C I, Sobhit Sharma S/o Sh. Gopal Sharma R/o H.No.-1441/C, Gali No-13 Govindpuri, Kalkaji Near Shiv Mandir South Delhi-110019 declare that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my 10th and 12th class Certificate as Sobhit Kumar Sharma hence Sobhit Sharma and Sobhit Kumar Sharma both are same and one person, Sobhit Sharma is my official and real name kindly consider

PD(970)C

I, Priya Inder Chadha W/o Jasjeet Singh R/o House No. 28, Feroze Gandhi Road, Lajpat Nagar-3, New Delhi-110024 hereby declare that Priya Inder and Priya Inder Chadha both are one and the same person and known as Priya Inder Chadha for all future purposes.

PD(971)C

Leftist opp candidate | Foreign ministers meet in Italy for last G7 of Biden admninistration Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates and the Italian foreign ministry

trialized nations are meeting Monday, with the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East entering decisive phases and a certain pressure to advance diplomatic efforts ahead of the new US administration taking

Hopes for brokering a cease-fire

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Pratibha Sharma W/o Anand Sharma, 70 H No.22, Ram Nagar, Near Punjabi Jutti hander Nagar, Delhi- 110051, has debarred and sowned his son namely Vishal Sharma & aughter-in-law namely Vaishali Arora & their

moveable properties and broken all her ties and

uel some nature, misconduct and bad habit

nd my client has no any kind of responsibility for

he same if they deal with anyone and all of then olely responsible for their illegal acts and deeds

NIDHI KAUR SETHI (ADVOCATE), Seat No. F-04

Lawyers Chamber Block, Karkardoom Court Complex, Delhi- 110032, Mob. 8383911470

KATIHAR DIVISION

Tender Notice No. : KIR/Engg./48 of

2024: Dated: 21-11-2024: E-Tender are

nvited by the undersigned for the following

vork; Tender No. 1; Brief Description

Fransit Accommodation for ADEN/PRNA

at Purnia station. Tender Value:

₹23,68,488.64/-; Bid Security: ₹47,400/-

Tender No. 2; Brief Description of

Work: Reconditioning of worn out 1 in

12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc.

inder the jurisdiction of DEN/Line/

Katihar. Tender Value: ₹38,05,453.89/-

Bid Security: ₹76,100/-; Tender No. 3:

Brief Description of Work: At Katihar

yard-Reconditioning of worn out 1 in 12 8

1 in 8.5 crossing body, switches etc.

inder the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/IV

Katihar. Tender Value: ₹32,07,990.49/-

Bid Security: ₹64,200/-; Tender No. 4;

Brief Description of Work: At Katihar-

Construction of 35 M length Covered Shed

and service building and allied works

for 140 T Crane. Tender Value:

₹2 33.81.422.29/-: Bid Security

₹2,66,900/-; Date & time of closing of

at 15:30 hrs. on 20-12-2024. For complete

bove tenders at 15:00 hrs. and opening

formation with the tender document of

above e-tender will be available upto 15:00

hrs. on 20-12-2024 in website

DRM (W), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Rome (AP): Foreign ministers from the world's leading indus- most on the agenda of the Group of Seven meeting outside Rome that is gathering ministers from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States On the first day of the two-day

gathering Monday, the G7 will

be joined by ministers from

CORRIGENDUM NO. SDEE/LMG/CORRIGENDUM/ 03 OF 2024-25 DATE: 22-11-2024

The following changes have been

made in following Tenders published vide E-Tender Notice No. Sr. DEE

LMG/25 of 2024-25; dated: 14-11

24: Name of work: At Guwahati ision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings staff quarters, LC gates in Guwahat area. Brief of corrigendum: Tende Documents, NIT schedule, Specia 25/25; Name of work: At Nev covering the Roof Top of various staf quarters and LC gates in New Guwahat area. Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Allowed, Tender Documents, NI Tender No: EL/LM/24-25/26: Name of overing the Roof Top of various service buildings, Railway Station, Parking area in New Guwahati and Narangi area Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Allowed Tender Documents, NIT schedule Special condition, SN.4: Tender No: EL LM/24-25/27; Name of work: Pro of solar plant by covering the Roof Tor of various service buildings, staff quarters, Railway Station, parking area etc. in Amingaon area. Brief of corrigendum: Tender Documents, NIT schedule. SN.5; Tender No: EL/LM/24 25/28; Name of work: At Pandu rovision of Solar Plant by covering the Roof Top of Various Staff quarters Pandu area. Brief of corrigendum: J\ Firm Allowed, Tender Documents, NIT schedule. SN.6; Tender No: EL/LM/24 25/29; Name of work: At Pandu rovision of solar plant by covering the Roof Top of various service buildings Railway Station, Parking area in Pando area. Brief of corrigendum: JV Firm Tender Documents, NIT

main unchanged. For details please isit www.ireps.gov.in.



Form No. URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about

registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act.

[Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof out before the expiry of thirty days nereinafter to the Registrar of Companies at Delhi that SONI SILVER ART JEWELLERY a Partnership Firm, may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company

limited by shares. The principal objects of

the company are as follows: To take over the running business of the Partnership Firm "Soni Silver Art Jewellery" and to carry on the types of artificial jewellery whether made of silver or semi precious or any other metal and allied products.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be nspected at the office at J-90, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027.

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in vriting to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot no. 6, 7, 8, Sector-5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Harvana) Pin code 122050 within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy o the company at its registered

Dated this 18th day of October 2024.

Name(s) of Applicant 1. Deepak Arora (Partner) 2. Amit Arora (Partner)

FORM NO. INC-26 [Pursuant to rule 30 of the

pmpanies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for the change of registered office of the company from one state to another Before the Central Government New Delhi)

In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of rule 30 of the

In the matter of Varanium Capital Advisors Private Limited having its registered office at "Plot No. A 3, 4 & 5 Sector-125, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, 201301"

...Petitione

Notice is hereby given to the Genera Notice is nevely given to the General Public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General meeting held on dated October 17, 2024, to enable the ompany to change its Registered ffice from "State of Uttar Pradesh" to "State of Maharashtra".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing an investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address "R-2 Wing Director at the address "B-2 Wing, 2nd floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, 2nd floor, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003" within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address

"Plot No. A-3,4 & 5 Sector-125, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, 201301"

For and on behalf of the Varanium Capital Advisors Private Limited
Mr. Aparajit Bhalchandra Bhandarkar Whole-time Director DIN: 07775422

Date: 25.11.2024 Place: Noida

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 And In the Matter of Central Bank of India

Jeevan Tara Building, 5, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 Vs M/s. C.K. Software Pvt. Ltd. CIN- U72501DL2000PTC106184

Stressed Assets Management Branch,

Registered Office:

S-384, Panchshila Park, Ground Floor, South Delhi, New Delhi-110017.

Company Petition / No.(IB) 522 of 2024 **NOTICE OF PETITION**

A petition/ application /reference (Case Title: Central Bank of India Vs M/s. C.K. Software 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 07.01,2025. 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 pefore the date fixed for the hearing of the petition / application /reference. Where he eeks 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 or payment of the prescribed charges for the same. (Sd/-) BKM & ASSOCIATES

Dated 22/11/2024

Advocates, Solicitors & Consultants, Counsel for the Financial Creditors 206, AJ, Chambers, Naiwala Bank Street, Karolbagh, New Delhi-110005. Mobile: 9868113796, E-mail: bkmdelhi@gmail.com

The so-called "Quint" grouping Oatar, as well as the Secretary General of the Arab League. of the US, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and the UAE has been

said.

"With partners will be discussed ways to support efforts working to finalise a "day after" to reach a ceasefire in Gaza and plan for Gaza, and there is some Lebanon, initiatives to support urgency to make progress the population and the promobefore the Trump administration of a credible political horition takes over in January. President-elect Donald Trump zon for stability in the region,"

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,

RushikulyaBahuda Basin, Berhampur - 760004

e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e-Procurement Notice No. ACE,RBB - 07/2024-25

Type of Work

:- Building Work.

Total No of Works :- 01 (One) No. : - Rs.136.06 Lakh

Bid Identification

Amount put to tender Period of completion Class of Contractor

OIPR-32411/11/0011/2425

:- 11 (Eleven) calendar months

Bid Amount

Availability &

Rushikulya Bahuda Basin,

Submission of Bid On Procurement officer (Rs. in lakh) No. 28.11.2024. Engineer, ACE.RBB(BNID) 10.00 A.M. to RushikulyaBahuda 13.12.2024, Basin, Berhampur

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:-16.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M. Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in Additional Chief Engineer

Indian Overseas Bank
SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH (Address, Gurgaon(M Corp.). Phone No: & E-mail: iob2367@iob.in

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16/12/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shr Dinesh Singh S/o Bhup Singh Rana D-23, Gautam Buddha Nagar Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201301. (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 32,39,585.21 (Thirty Two Lakh, Thirty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Five point Two One as on 01.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said (1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to

the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21" Day of November of the year (2024). (2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby caution

not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 32,39,585,21 (Thirty Two Lakh, Thirty Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Five point Two One) as on 01.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notic till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 32,18,426.21 (Thirty-Two Lakh, Eighteen Thousand, Four Hundred and Twenty-Six point Two One) payable with further interest at contractual rates 8

(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the ection 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

8040710-804 AVALON BHIWADI - SECTOR 57

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No - 804 on 8th Floor, Tower - A-1, Avalon Regal Court, Mouja-Banripur, Alwar Bye Pass Road, Tehsil-Bhiwadi, District-Alwar (Rajasthan) Pin - 301019 owned by Avalon Projects (Unit of M/s. GRJ Distril/ City or Town Survey No. .../ Khasra No- within the Ltd in survey No. registration sub-district-Bhiwadi and District-Alwar (Rajasthan) Bounded:

On the North by- Main Entry of Flat

On the South by - Open to Sky On the East by - Open to Sky and Stair Case On the West by - Flat No A-1/803 & Open Duct

Sd/- Authorised Office

Indian Overseas Bank (Address, Gurgaon(M Corp.).

Phone No: & E-mail: iob2367@iob.in

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation an Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16/12/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shri Mahesh S/o Kishan Chand, Mohalla Ghhare, Chandhat, Palwal, Palwal haryana, 121102. (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount oned in the notice being Rs 25,44,988.22 (Twenty -Five Lakh, Fourty Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty - Eight point Two Two) as or 04.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc til

date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice (1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21" Day of November of the year (2024).

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(3) The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

1406 B1-Flat No 1406 B1 14th Floor-Avaion Homes

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No - 1406, 14th Floor, Tower _B-1, Avalon Homes situated within the revenue state of Village - Masit, Sector-24, Alwar Bypass Road, Tehsil- Tijara, Bhiwadi dist-Alwar, Rajasthan Pin - 301019

in survey No....../ City or Town Survey No....../ Khasra No. within the registration sub-district...... and District Bounded: On the North by

On the South by On the East by On the West by

Dated: 21.11.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer

is expected to pursue a policy that strongly favours Israel over the aspirations of the Palestinians. Host Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani added another item to the G7 agenda last week after the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister

mer defense minister and Hamas' military chief. Italy is a founding member of the court and hosted the 1998 Rome conference that gave birth to it. But Italy's right-wing government has been a strong supporter of Israel after the October 7 Hamas attacks, while

SDEE/LMG/CORRIGENDUM/ 04 OF 2024-25 DATE: 22-11-2024

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

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

SETTING UP OF WATER RECYCLING PLANT AND ALONG WITH PROVISION OF WATER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT

aid for Palestinians in Gaza.

also providing humanitarian

Tender Notice No. Dy.CEE/PS/MLG 36/24-25; Date: 21-11-2024. E-tende are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Tender No. DYCEE-PS MLS-HQ-36-24-25; Name of Work: At Maligaon- Setting up of water recycling plant and along with provision of water supply arrangement in NFR stadium Advertised Value: ₹47.93.288.22 Earnest Money: ₹95,900.00. E-tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on 06-12-2024. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender wil

Indian Overseas Bank SECTOR 31 GURGAON BRANCH

(Address, Gurgaon(M Corp.). Phone No: & E-mail: iob2367@iob.in

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 21" Day of November of the year (2024).

not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 23,80,227,82 (Twenty Three Lakh, Eighty Thousand Two hundred and Twenty Seven point Eighty Two) as on 01.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates

Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Flat No. 1002, Tower -B2, 10th Floor, Avalon homes Village Masit, Alwa

-B2, 10th Floor, Avalon homes Village Masit, Alwar Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar-201019, Rajasthan In Survey No. City of Town Survey No..... Bhiwadi, Khasra No...... within the registration sub-district-Bhiwadi and District-Alwar, Rajasthan

On the North by- Flat No. B-2, 1003

On the West by - Open to Sky Dated: 21.11.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer

CHELMSFORD CLUB LIMITED

scheduled to be held on Saturday, 21st December, 2024 at 11.30 AM at the Club premises 1. Raisina Road. New Delhi-110001 to transact the matters as stated in the Notice convening the meeting.

Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024 have been sent to all members whose email IDs are registered with the Club. The same are also available on the website of the Club: www.chelmsfordclub.in and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited e-voting website: https://www.evoting.nsdl.com. Notice of AGM, Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March, 2024 have been sent to all the members at their registered address in the permitted mode. The electronic dispatch and dispatch by post has been completed by 26th November, 2024. Green

In compliance with provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as substituted by the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 as amended, the Club is pleased to provide e-voting facility to its members, to vote from a place other than venue of the AGM (remote e-voting). The Club has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) to provide e-voting facilities

a) The business as set forth in the Notice of the AGM may be transacted through voting by

) The e-voting facility will be available at the link https://www.evoting.nsdl.com during the voting period from Wednesday, 18thDecember, 2024 (9 AM) to Friday, 20thDecember,

) The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by electronic means or at the AGM is Thursday, 14th November, 2024. A person whose name is entered in the Register of Members as on the Cut Off Date only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e

voting as well as voting in the AGM. I) Any person, who has become a member of the Club, after the dispatch of the Notice of AGM may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request to the Club Secretary & CEO at info@chelmsfordclub.in and request for their login ID and Password. After

will forward the login id and password to their respective email id. e) Members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to AGM may attend the

AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. f) The facility for voting through ballot shall be made available at the AGM and the members attending the AGM who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting or by ballot

shall be able to exercise their right to vote at the AGM through Ballot. The Club has appointed Mr.Ishant Arora (CS) of Ishant & Associates, along with Sh Sunil Sareen and Sh. Sushil Kumar Dwivedi. Members of the Club, as scrutinizers to scrutinize the entire Ballot and Voting process in a fair and transparent manner.) In case of any query/grievance in relation to e-voting, they may be addressed to Mr.

Puneet Bhasin, the Club Secretary & CEO, at info@chelmsfordclub.in or members car visit "Help/FAQ" section (under download section) available at NSDL's website https://www.evoting.nsdl.com or write an email to evoting@nsdl.co.in or call NSDL at toll free number 1800 1020 990 /1800 224 430. The result of election/voting at the AGM shall be declared on Saturday, 21st December,

Depository Limited (website: https://www.evoting.nsdl.com). For Chelmsford Club Limited Puneet Bhasin

Date: 26th November, 2024 Place: New Delhi

Benjamin Netanyahu, his for-

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank SECTOR-31 GURGAON, Gurgaon (M Corp.), under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 03/11/2023 calling upon the borrowers / mortgagors / guarantors Shri Bablu S/o Devaki, 7 Sant Nagar, Chandravar Gate Frrozabad, Uttar Pradesh 283203. (hereinafter referred as borrowers') to repay the amount entioned in the notice being Rs 23,80,227,82 (Twenty Three Lakh, Eighty Thousand Two hundred and Twenty Seven point Eighty Two) as on 01.11.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till ate of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned

& rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the emand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 23.80,227.82 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment. 3)The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the

Bypass Road, Bhiwadi Alwar-201019, Rajasthan All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. 1002, Tower

On the South by - Flat No. B-2, 1003 On the East by - Main Entry to Flat

CIN: U91990DL1956PLC001601 A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered Office:

1, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001 | Tel: 9311828891/92/93
Email: Info@chelmsfordclub.in Website: www.chelmsfordclub.in

NOTICE OF THE 102nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE is hereby given that

The 102nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Chelmsford Club Limited ("Club") is

Initiative in the Corporate Governance. Due to high price of paper and printing, additional copies of the Notice will not be available at the AGM. Members are therefore, requested to bring their copy to the AGM

enabling the members to cast their vote in a secure manner All the Members are informed that:

2024 (5 PM). The remote e-voting shall be disabled thereafter, by NSDL.

verifying their membership details, the Club will forward the request to NSDL and NSDL

2024. The result declared, alongwith the Scrutinisers' Report shall be displayed at the registered office of the Club and also be placed on the Club's website (www.chelmsfordclub.in) and on the website of e-voting agency National Securities

Secretary & CEO

India's economic outlook for coming months 'cautiously optimistic': Finmin Report

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

"Bright agricultural production prospects make the inflation outlook benign, despite existing price pressures in select food items," the October edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday said. Early November trends signalled

moderation in key food prices, though geopolitical factors may continue to impact domestic inflation and supply chains, it said. A bumper kharif harvest is expected

to lower food inflation in the coming months, it said, adding that a favourable monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are likely to boost rabi sowing and production.

Amidst a clouded global background, said. and after a brief period of softening momentum over the monsoon



months, the report said, many highfrequency indicators of economic activity in India have shown a rebound in October.

These include indicators of rural and urban demand and supply side variables like Purchasing Managers' Index and E-way bill generation, it

On the employment front, it said, the formal workforce is expanding, with

notable increases in manufacturing jobs and a strong inflow of youth into organised sectors

With regard to the external front, it said, India's export recovery may encounter challenges due to softening demand in developed markets. However, it said, trade in the services

sector is sustaining momentum. Net foreign direct investment inflows registered remarkable growth in the

first five months of FY25, it said. Supported by stable capital inflows, India's forex reserves increased by USD 64.8 billion so far during 2024, the second-largest increase after China amongst major forex reserve-holding countries, it said.

Apart from the emerging indications of domestic growth and stability, the dynamics of global interest rates, earning growth and valuation, geopolitical developments and policy decisions of the pert administration in decisions of the next administration in the United States will determine the course of trade and capital flows, the report said.

Recent developments in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine have caused some concern in financial markets with safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold finding a bid, it said, adding, that geopolitical conditions remain fragile.

The report said the global economy reveals a mixed outlook as 2024 draws

Structural weaknesses in parts of Europe and China's slowdown continued to weigh on growth. In contrast, the US economy has surpassed earlier expectations, maintaining steady expansion.

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

PTI MUMBAI

 $B^{\rm enchmark\ equity\ indices}_{\rm Sensex\ and\ Nifty\ surged}$ more than 1 per cent on Monday, helped by a rally in blue-chip stocks and the BJP pulling off a stunning performance

Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory.

Extending its previous day's sharp rally, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85. During the day, it soared 1,355.97 points or 1.71 per cent to 80,473.08.

The NSE Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, JSW Steel, Tech Mahindra.

Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints and HCL Tech were the

laggards. Online food delivery giant Zomato will become a part of the benchmark BSE Sensex, replacing JSW Steel from December 23.

This is part of the latest reconstitution announced by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE.

'The ability of the market to surprise was evident in the 557 points spurt in the Nifty on Friday. This sharp upswing will continue today assisted by the super NDA performance

Maharashtra. The political message from this election is huge and highly positive from the market perspective," VK

Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. The BJP on Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory, while the

INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM. In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the red.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.40 per cent to USD 74.87 a barrel.

Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,278.37 crore on Friday, according to

exchange data.
The BSE benchmark jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11 on Friday. The Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With 59 per cent of employers planning to increase headcount in October-March FY25, 7.1 per cent workforce growth is expected during the period, driven by logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing sectors, a report said.

Outlook Report for October 2024 to March 2025', an additional 22 per cent will maintain their current staffing

The report is based on primary and secondary research, taking inputs from 1,307 employers across 23 industries in 20 cities.

These findings reveal a dynamic hiring landscape where industry-specific demands and macroeconomic factors are significantly shaping employment trends, the report

This growth will mainly be driven by sectors including logistics, EV & EV infrastructure, agriculture and agrochemicals, and ecommerce, which are heavily investing in infrastructure and technological advancements, it said.

Logistics, for instance, stands out with a 14.2 per cent net employment change, as 69 per cent of companies in the sector look to increase headcount. This growth is attributed to the sector's

adoption of 5G logistics, green supply chain initiatives, and benefits from National Logistics Policy implementations, it noted. Logistics is followed by EV and EV Infrastructure (12.1 per cent), agriculture and agrochemicals (10.5 per cent), and ecommerce and tech startups (8.9 per cent), where startups are capitalising on AI-enabled customer insights, Web 3.0 applications, and seasonal demand from the festive period, it

As technology continues to evolve, the automotive industry is also seeing 8.5 per cent growth, spurred by integrated smart technologies, while the retail sector's 8.2 per cent growth reflects the popularity of

hyperlocal deliveries and smart-store

The report further said that cities like Coimbatore (24.6 per cent) and Gurugram (22.6 per cent) are becoming job hubs, representing a decentralisation of employment opportunities traditional metros.

TeamLease Services While Bengaluru (53.1 per cent), Mumbai cent) remained central employment anchors with high workforce demand, demand in cities like Coimbatore, Gurugram, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Nagpur signals a broader spread of job growth across India, reinforcing the appeal of smaller cities as viable alternatives for job seekers and companies alike, it added.

According to the report, major economic initiatives are also shaping workforce expansion. Policies such as the Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which are projected to add USD 60 billion to India's economy by 2025, are creating high-skill roles in technology and R&D.

Meanwhile, National Industrial Corridors aim to generate 1 million direct jobs and 3 million indirect jobs in manufacturing and logistics. The semiconductor mission seeks to add 80,000 jobs by 2025 through an investment of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, underscoring India's drive toward high-tech manufacturing.

The employment landscape is increasingly shaped by technology and policy-driven shifts. Our latest findings underscore the diversity in job growth across India, from established urban hubs to emerging cities, and reveal a workforce that is evolving rapidly to meet demands in sectors like logistics, EV, and tech startups," TeamLease Staffing CEO Kartik Narayan said.

As companies embrace flexible staffing models, digital skill sets such as problemsolving, critical thinking, and cloud technology are not only in demand but essential for maintaining a competitive edge in today's economy, he noted.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday revised down its estimate for India's economic growth in the next two financial years as high interest rate and lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand.

In an update to its economic forecast for Asia-Pacific economies after US election results, the rating agency projected a 6.7 per cent GDP growth rate in 2025-26 financial year (April 2025 to March 2026) and 6.8 per cent in the following fiscal year, down from 6.9 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively in previous projections. For FY25, S&P Global pegged

GDP growth rate at 6.8 per

"In India we see GDP growth easing to 6.8 per cent this fiscal year as high interest rates and a lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand. While purchasing manager indices (PMIs) remain convincingly in the expansion zone, other highsome transitory softening of growth momentum due to the hit to the construction sector in the September quarter," it



The agency expects India's GDP to grow at 7 per cent in

S&P retained its growth projection for China at 4.8 per cent in 2024 but cut next year's forecast to 4.1 per cent from 4.3 per cent earlier and to 3.8 per cent in 2026 from the previous estimate of 4.5 per cent.

The impending change in the US administration will be challenging for China and the rest of Asia-Pacific. US tariff increases have become more likely, especially on China, and possible changes in the acro picture are to different interest rate be impeded by slower global expectations," said the report titled 'Economic Outlook But lower interest rates and Asia-Pacific Q1 2025: US inflation should ease their Trade Shift Blurs The drag on spending power.

Horizon'.

Louis Kuijs, S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific Chief Economist, said rising risks are blurring the economic outlook for Asia-Pacific in the first quarter of 2025." While much of the region should be able to continue to grow solidly, central banks will probably remain cautious by not reducing their policy rates too fast."

China's stimulus measures should support growth, but S&P expected its economy to be hit by US trade tariffs on its exports.

demand and US trade policy.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Edible oil industry SEA on Monday called on the government to lift a ban on futures trading in key agricultural commodities, including crude palm oil and soyabean, citing significant financial impact on its members.

The ban, first implemented in December 2021 on seven agricultural commodities, has been extended multiple times with the current extension running through December 20, 2024.

Extractors The Solvent Association of India (SEA) has appealed to five ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, arguing that the absence of futures trading has hindered price risk management and market

"The industry was hopeful that the suspension would be operations, continuation of this restriction has further weakened an essential risk mitigation

development.



President Sanjeev Asthana said in a representation made to the ministers. SEA emphasised that studies

have shown futures trading does not significantly drive inflation, a key concern when the ban was implemented. Current soyabean prices are below trading government-set minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 4,892 per quintal, while rapeseed prices are slightly above its MSP of Rs 5,950, the industry body said.

The association particularly stressed the need to resume futures internati commodities like crude palm oil and crude soybean oil arguing that the ban has left businesses exposed to greater price volatility.

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

PTI KOLKATA

Despite having switched to its internal e-auction platform in January this year, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has floated a tender seeking bids private from service providers to conduct eauctions of the dry fuel for its subsidiaries over the next two years, officials said on Monday. This move has left external e-

auction service providers, such as MSTC and mjunction, who managed CIL's auctions through electronic platforms for nearly two decades, confused and they were seeking more clarity before whether deciding participate in the tender, stakeholders said. The deadline for submission

of bids is November 27.

CIL had engaged its subsidiary CMPDI to develop an internal coal e-auction system in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the officials The internal platform was

successfully transitioned in January 2024 after conducting successful trials in 2023 "However, there have been complaints about the system's performance, prompting Coal Îndia to seek external platforms for its e-auctions,"

an official told PTI. CIL's coal volume through the e-auction platform was estimated to reach around 60 million tonnes by September

"Engaging service providers to conduct e-auction is aimed at having more options at hand. CIL should be in a position to respond to



changing consumer requirements, another Coal India official said.

market

The new engagement with external service providers is expected to begin in April next year after the current contracts with service providers expire in March, he

There is speculation within

the industry regarding the future role of CIL's internal eauction platform. "We want to engage more

firms to conduct coal auctions alongside our own platform to ensure smooth sales. The CMPDI platform

will also continue to function," the senior CIL official said.

External service providers have expressed concerns about the new tender and are seeking clarity on the scope of work, especially given the CIL's reliance on its internal

"We've sought greater clarity on the expected business in the tender, as our revenue depends on the number of auctions Currently, most e-auctions are being handled internally by CIL. It remains unclear whether external providers will serve merely as a backup or whether there will be an assured revenue model. We have not yet decided whether to participate or not," said a top official from one of the two main service providers, requesting anonymity.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

'ndia's Generative AI ecosystem Indias Generative III conglobal downturn, recording an impressive 6 times growth in quarterly investments driven by B2B and productivity solutions, according to a report by IT industry body nasscom.

Nasscom on Monday released the "Generative AI Tracker: Tech Industry Activity in Q2FY2025" report that revenue rebound in funding and within India's

Generative AI landscape.

Q2FY2025, saw over 6 times rise quarter-on-quarter, led by B2B and agentic AI startups. Funding rounds continued to rise, with Q2FY2025 registering a record 20 rounds, after a tepid Q1. "GenAI applications garnered

most funding, however, per-stage funding got capped lower due to no model funding in Q2," the report said.

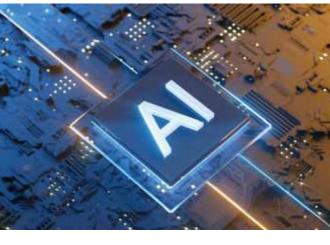
On the contrary, global GenAI startup funding, at about USD 4 billion in Q2FY2025, hit the lower circuit with a 2.3 times quarteron-quarter (q-o-q) drop from Q1, the report revealed.

"Indian GenAI startup funding, at about USD 51 million in tech companies have been

releasing GenAI platforms since early 2023. These platforms are gradually being offered with multimodal, multi-model data, AI, and cloud integration ecosystems. With more and more tech

providers prioritising partnerships and advanced skilling, partnerships in the industry surged by 25 per cent sequentially, focusing on product enhancements, joint go-to-market strategies, and government-led skilling initiatives.

This strategic pivot has led to improved revenue pipelines and stronger realizations from active Proofs of Concept (PoCs), the



Companies are moving beyond basic AI literacy to focus on advanced and thematic upskilling integrates platform capabilities and agentic AI functionalities.

The evolution of the Indian GenAI ecosystem from experimental use cases to production-ready scalable, solutions is reflected in its growing maturity, nasscom said, adding that improved finance inflows, more revenue realisations, and growing applications in interaction and customer enterprise productivity are the main drivers

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

"The generative AI landscape is

of this expansion.

Emma McKeon retires from swimming

¬ mma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, retirement from competitive swimming on

McKeon holds the Australian record of 14 Olympic medals — six of them gold — won over three Summer Olympics, while her seven-medal haul at Tokyo 2020 is the most ever by a female swimmer at a single Games and equal most for any female athlete from any sport at a single Olympics.

The 30-year-old McKeon had previously hinted that the 2024 Paris Games — where she won gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay — would be her final Olympics, but she had not said whether she would continue to swim competitively.

"I am proud of myself for giving my swimming career absolutely swimming career absolutely everything, both physically and mentally. I wanted to see what I was capable of, and I did," McKeon said on social media.

"Swimming has given me so much.

Hockey great Ashok Kumar

suffers heart attack; to

undergo angioplasty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Monday.

Former India hockey player and son of legendary Major Dhyan Chand, Ashok

Kumar suffered a heart attack after being hospitalised here

for discomfort in chest but is

now stable and out of danger,

sources in his family said on

The 74-year-old will undergo an angioplasty later on

Monday.
"He (Ashok Kumar) felt

discomfort in chest yesterday

(Sunday) evening. He was

then taken to Escorts

Hospital where angiography was performed. The

angiography results showed

there were a few blockages.

The doctors will implant stents today," family sources

"He is out of danger and in a



From the dream igniting at 5 years old, right through to my third Olympic games - I have so many lessons, experiences, friendships and memories that I am so thankful for." McKeon's 14 medals came across the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Games, with six Olympic gold, three silver and five bronze.

She's second only to Katie Ledecky in terms of Olympic swimming gold medals won. The American has won nine across four Olympics in her tally of 14.

"Emma has added her own incredible chapter to Australia's history at the Olympic Games," Australian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman said in a written statement.

written statement.

"Emma has been an extraordinary athlete who has etched herself a special place in Australian sporting landscape, particularly through her success at the Olympics.

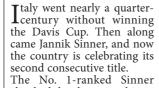
"Her performances during Tokyo were particularly stunning. Emma is recognised not just in Australia but

recognised not just in Australia, but around the world, as one of the greatest Olympians ever.



DAVIS CUP

AP MALAGA (SPAIN)



The No. 1-ranked Sinner clinched the championship in the annual team event and capped his breakthrough season by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Sunday for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final of the Davis Cup. "Coming back as defending champions and winning again — it's one of the best feelings I think for all of us," Sinner said. "We are very happy to lift this trophy and, of course, also to go into the

of course, also to go into the preseason with a bunch of confidence boosts.'

Matteo Berrettini put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp – the last man to beat Rafael Nadal — in the opening singles match on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in southern Spain. The Italians, backed by a loud contingent of singing fans playing drums and armed

with megaphones in the crowd of 9,200, became the

Cup twice in a row since the Czech Republic in 2012 and

Italy's women won the Billie Jean King Cup by defeating Slovakia on Wednesday. "They make us even more proud," Davis Cup captain Filippo Volandri said.

After Sinner finished off his win, Berrettini and other teammates rushed onto the court to begin the party, wrapping their arms around one another and bouncing in unison. Volandri grabbed Sinner and lifted him off the

was clear who was key to this success. Sinner went 4-0 in Malaga, including a victory in doubles with Berrettini against Argentina in the quarterfinals.

ground.

PTI CHENNAI

his groove against the 80th-ranked van de Zandschulp. But Berrettini took control by grabbing the opening set's last three games, and Sinner left his front-row seat behind Italy's bench to head to the locker room and prepare to

close the deal.

40th-ranked Griekspoor and

too, after replacing Lorenzo

Musetti for singles. Berrettini

was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2021 but since

then went through a series of

injuries and illnesses that

have limited his playing time. He has spoken about the mental challenges he faced.

"I didn't miss the wins or the losses," Berrettini said. "I

He needed some time to find

missed these moments."

in tour-level singles competition to 14 matches and 26 sets, including a title and 26 sets, including a title at the ATP Finals a week ago. Sinner's ascension is one of the year's biggest stories in tennis. He went 73-6 with eight singles titles in 2024, with his first two Grand Slam trophies at the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. The latter came shortly after he Open and the U.S. Open. The latter came shortly after he was cleared of wrongdoing in a doping case connected to two positive tests for steroids in March; the World Anti-Doping Agency's appeal of that ruling is still pending. The Netherlands reached the Davis Cup final for the first Davis Cup final for the first

We believed," Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis said about the Italians, "we could beat

them? Until last year, Italy's only Davis Cup triumph came in 1976. So Volandri said he told his players to think of their goal this way: "We want to make history.

Griekspoor, who fell to 0-6 against Sinner, held his own until the first-set tiebreaker, which was preceded by dueling chants of "Italia! Italia!" and "Let's go, Tallon! Let's go!" Sinner was steadier, He hit 15 aces against the more ready for the moment, and he built a substantial lead



Modi International

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will aim to end their title droughts when they spearhead India's challenge at the Syed Modi International Super 300 Modi International Super 300 Modi International Super 300 Modifications to the speaking statement of the speak badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday. Fresh off a semifinal finish in

Fresh off a semifinal finish in their comeback tournament post the Paris Olympics, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the former world No. 1 doubles pair, enter as favourites in the men's doubles category.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, last clinched a title at the Singapore Open in 2022, while Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronzemedallist, won the Canada Open in 2023.

The 29-year-old Sindhu reached the final of the Malaysia Masters earlier this year but has struggled to find her peak form.

Lakshya, 23, showed promise with semifinal finishes at the All England Championship, French Open, and Paris Olympics, where he lost the bronze playoff from a strong position to Malaysia's Lee Zii

Both shuttlers have endured mixed fortunes since their

Olympic outings.
Lakshya faced early exits at the
Arctic Open, Denmark Open, and Kumamoto Masters before recovering to an extent with a quarterfinal finish at the China Masters, avenging his Olympic loss to Lee in the

Lakshya starts his campaign here against a qualifier, hoping to reclaim his spot on the podium. Sindhu, meanwhile, has battled inconsistency, with a shock first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland and subsequent defeats at the Denmark Open She opens her campaign against compatriot Anmol Kharb, a 17-year-old rising star who has impressed with titles at the Belgium and Poland International Challenge events this year. The clash between the

seasoned Sindhu and the prodigious Kharb promises to an intriguing one, symbolising the generational shift in Indian badminton. In men's singles, second seed Priyanshu Rajawat is a strong contender alongside Lakshya.

The 22-year-old from Dhar has shown promise on the international circuit, including a fighting performance at the China Masters. Other Indian hopefuls include third seed Kiran George, 2023

World Junior Championships bronze-medallist Shetty, Odisha Masters winner Sathish Karunakaran, and national champion Chirag

The women's singles draw also looks competitive, with second seed Malvika Bansod aiming

to better her runner-up finish in the 2022 edition.
Third seed Aakarshi Kashyap, sixth seed Rakshitha Sree Santhosh Ramraj, and fifth seed Anuapama Upadhyaya are among others eyeing glory. Isharani Baruah, who has clinched titles at the Sri Lanka International, Dutch International, and India International, along with Devika Sihag, will also hope

for a good outing.
Unnati Hooda, a winner at the
2023 Abu Dhabi Masters, is another player to watch out

In women's doubles, the top-seeded duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, along with second seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly, are strong title contenders, with a potential all-Indian final on tl

Mumbai City FC eye third straight win against Punjab FC

The former inside-right

player, who was known for his ball control, was a

member of the Indian team

that won the 1975 World Cup

under Ajit Pal Singh. He was

also a member of Indian team

that won a bronze medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He became a recipient of the Arjuna Award in 1974 and, in

1975, scored the winning goal

against Pakistan to achieve

India's only win in the World

Kumar was awarded the Hockey India Major Dhyan

Chand Lifetime Achievement

His other accomplishments include two more World Cup

medals (bronze in 1971 Barcelona and silver in 1973

Amsterdam), besides three

Asia Games silver medals

(1970 Bangkok, 1974 Tehran

Award earlier this year.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC will face Punjab FC as the Islanders aim to go above the visitors in this crucial fixture of the Indian Super League here on Tuesday.
Punjab FC have cruised to

four victories from seven games to accumulate 12 points and be at the fifth spot in the standings, whereas Mumbai City FC are ninth in the table with 10 points to their name.

The gap among teams is so narrow at this point that a victory here can propel the Petr Kratky-coached team above Punjab FC and bring them straight back into the They average 329.9 successful reckoning for the top-six.

While it's also too early into the campaign to discuss point table scenarios, it also serves as a reminder to put the focus on the process. At this moment, both Punjab FC and Mumbai City FC have taken ample learning from their outings thus far and would want to fix that to get their functioning both cohesively and consistently moving forward.

The overall playing strategy of Mumbai City FC has been consistent of late and that involves building pressure onto the opponents through their passing sequences

basses this season, which is the highest amongst all teams, and their completion rate of 81.2 per cent is also the highest in the league.

The Islanders won both their matches against Punjab FC last season, which was also the first campaign in the competition for the latter. Among all teams, Punjab FC have allowed the fewest touches (102) inside their box. They have also permitted only 36 shot attempts from within their 18-vard area.

Punjab FC have been at the receiving end of defeats in each of their last two matches

Lasha Shavdatuashvili urges more competitions to develop judo in India

T egendary Georgian judoka Land Olympic gold medalist Lasha Shavdatuashvili believes the lack of a strong judo ecosystem in India is hindering the sport's growth as he urged the need for increased exposure.

India have achieved notable milestones, including a bronze medal by Poonam Chopra way back at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, as well as four podium finishes at the 2014 Glasgow

Commonwealth Games with Sushila Likmabam and Navjot Chana each winning a silver. At the Olympics, Indian judokas have consistently qualified since London 2012 yet progress has remained limited as the 32-year-old

two-time former world champion urged for an overall development of the sport in the country.

"In my opinion, the approach had to be changed, so that the sportsman had to participate in as many competitions as possible, in order to progress, in order to achieve some trend," the Georgian, who had won gold at the London 2012 Olympics in men's 66kg category, told PTI in an interview.

"Once you have four-five world champions every year, that means there is competition inside the country. So, in this case, there will be good progress inside the country.

"But before that, participating in different competitions is essential," added



Shavdatuashvili, who is also a silver and bronze medalist at Tokyo and Rio Olympics respectively.

"It's like a plant. If you don't water a plant, no matter how strong it is, soon or later it will die. That's why it is the same for the sportsman, the competition is as water for

plants." Emulate Japan Describing Japan as the mother land of judo, the Georgian said he frequently

trains in Japan to to gain experience.

"You know, it's possible to achieve very serious success. "I myself, as I said, I'm going

to different competitions, to different countries, and I would make this name in

'You know that Japan is the mother of Judo, and I even stay sometimes a couple of months over there, and it gives me a huge experience... You can create great achievement

and achieve great success." The star judoka visited India to conduct a Masterclass on the sport at the Inspire Institute of Sport, Bellary in Karnataka.

'Judo can match wrestling success'

Bullish on the prospect of judo in India, IIS president Manisha Malhotra hopes

things will improve by 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and judokas can replicate the success of wrestlers.

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

AP GENEVA

 $R_{
m in}^{
m eal}$ Madrid playing Liverpool in the Champions League has twice in recent years been a final between arguably the two best

teams in the competition. Their next meeting, however, finds two storied powers in starkly different positions at the midway point of the 36-team single league standings format. One is in first place and the other a lowly 18th.

It is not defending champion Madrid on top despite adding Kylian Mbappé to the roster that won a record-extending 15th European title in May.

Madrid has lost two of four games in the eight-round opening phase — and against teams that are far from challenging for domestic league titles: Lille and AC Milan.

points clear atop the Premier League under new coach Arne Slot and the only team to win all four Champions League games so

Still, the six-time European champion cannot completely forget losing the 2018 and 2022 finals when Madrid lifted its 13th and 14th titles. Madrid also won 5-2 at Anfield, despite trailing by two goals after 14 minutes, on its last visit to Anfield in February

The 2020 finalists also will be reunited this week, when Bayern Munich hosts Paris Saint-Germain in the stadium that will stage the next final on May 31. Bayern's home will rock to a 75,000-capacity crowd Tuesday,

even though it is surprisingly a clash of 17th vs. 25th in the standings. Only the top 24 at the end of January advance to the Liverpool, which will host knockout round.

Wednesday's game, is eight No fans were allowed in the



Lisbon stadium in August 2020 when Kingsley Coman scored against his former club PSG to

the COVID-19 pandemic season. MAN CITY IN CRISIS Manchester City at home to settle the post-lockdown final in Feyenoord had looked like a

routine win when fixtures were drawn in August, but it arrives with the 2023 champion on a stunning five-game losing run.

Such a streak was previously unthinkable for any team coached by Pep Guardiola, but it ensures extra attention Tuesday on Manchester.

City went unbeaten through its Champions League title season, and did not lose any of 10 games last season when it was dethroned by Real Madrid on a penalty shootout after two tied games in the quarterfinals.

City's unbeaten run was stopped at 26 games three weeks ago in a 4-1 loss to Sporting Lisbon. SPORTING REBUILDS

That rout was a farewell to Sporting in the Champions League for coach Rúben Amorim after he finalized his move to Manchester United.

Second to Liverpool in the Champions League standings, Sporting will be coached by João Pereira taking charge of just his second top-tier game when Arsenal visits on Tuesday.

Sporting still has European soccer's hottest striker Viktor Gyökeres, who is being pursued by a slew of clubs reportedly including Arsenal. Gyökeres has four hat tricks this season for

Sporting and Sweden including against Man City.

TOUGH TESTS FOR TOUGH **OVERACHIEVERS**

Brest is in its first-ever UEFA competition and Aston Villa last played with the elite in the 1982-83 European Cup as the defending champion. Remarkably, fourth-place Brest is

two spots above Barcelona in the standings — having beaten opponents from Austria and the Czech Republic — before going the five-time European champion on Tuesday. Villa in eighth place is looking down on Juventus in 11th. Juventus plays at Villa Park on

Wednesday for the first time since March 1983 when a team with the storied Platini-Boniek-Rossi attack eliminated the title holder in the quarterfinals. Villa has beaten Bayern and Bologna at home with shutout wins. ZEROES TO HEROES?

Five teams are still on zero points and might need to go unbeaten to stay in the competition beyond January. Eight points is the projected tally to finish 24th. They include Leipzig, whose

tough fixture program continues with a trip to Inter Milan, the champion of Italy. Inter and Atalanta are vet to concede a goal after four rounds,

and Bologna is the only team yet to score. Atalanta plays at Young Boys, one of the teams without a point, on

Tuesday and Bologna hosts Lille on Wednesday.

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

asprit Bumrah said on Monday that he relishes absorbing the pressure in tight situations as captain and bowler which can make the job of his less experienced colleagues much easier.

The ace pacer was India's standout bowler with an eight-wicket haul in the Perth shaping India's 295-run humongousdrubbing of Australia.

"Whenever the tough scenarios come, I look at myself to see how I can contribute, even when I'm not the captain. So, whenever tough scenarios are there, I look at answers — if I'm going to bowl at this moment, what can I do? I automatically want to put myself in tough scenarios," said Bumrah in post-match conference here.

His fighting spirit found resonance in young bowlers like Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy as contributed crucial junctures at the Optus

"I was trying to put myself in

that tough scenario to make the job a little bit easier for the new guys coming in. Because, you know, it's not very easy in the first tour to take a lot of responsibility.

"So, I was trying to do that and very happy to be on the positive side," he added. Despite the historic win,

Bumrah will have to vacate the top seat when Rohit Sharma returns for the Adelaide Test to lead India. So, how will he tackle a rather personal tough spot? Bumrah offered a cheeky reply

"I'm not going to tell him that I'm going to (captaincy)," he said. Going more matter of fact, the 30-year-old said: "I said that in the previous press conference as well, he's the captain and he's done a phenomenal job. I was filling

"I had discussions when he was in India, you know, discussing how we are shaping up. But, yeah, But, yeah, I'm going to help him in whatever capacity I can," he

in for him.

However, Burmah was quite chuffed to see his side



responding to a marshy situation after getting bundled out for 150 in the

first innings.

104 in their first essay. "I am very proud of the team. We were put under pressure The Indian bowlers struck in the first innings when we

back to skittle the Aussies for

were bowled out for 150. But then, you know, the team special for us.

Obviously, in this game, showed character and didn't there are a lot of positives for lose belief. So, that is us. You know, we scored a lot something that will be really of runs in the second innings.

New guys coming in, also chipping in with a lot of runs. Of course, Virat scoring a 100 as well is a great sign for us," he added.

So, what was the plan of the Indian bowling unit to be successful on the Perth pitch? "There was some health on the wicket. So, I want to make the batters play as much as I can because the new ball is crucial over here. So, with the wicket having dents in it, the ball would seam around."

Bumrah said the key for his bowlers was not to get desperate to bag wickets even in helpful conditions.

'Sometimes when you are bowled out for a lower score, you can be a little too desperate and try too much to get wickets.

When you try too much here, it doesn't really help and the run scoring goes high. So, we be nice and had to disciplined."

The 30-year-old pacer was delighted to see his colleagues adjusting to the Perth length very quickly to make an

"Usually in Perth, there could be a scenario when we come from India, you tend to bowl a little short because you can get excited by the bounce and you can't find the length. It looks good when you bowl a back of length delivery and the batsman gets beaten, but

the batsman is still there. 'So, you have to find the right length. We were focusing on our strength. We as a bowling unit got a lot of dismissals through LBW and caught behind. So, yeah, we realised that, you have to stick to your strengths and find the right length and we were able to do

that," he explained. However, Bumrah reminded the team that they needed to start afresh in the second Test since it would be the Pink Ball Test, starting from December 6 at Adelaide. "Adelaide might be totally

different. It's a pink ball. So, yes, you can take the confidence from here. But, again, you have to start from zero. You have to build on this confidence.

'You have to take learnings from this game as well. So we're going to take it in our stride and, you know, put our best foot forward," he noted.

Kohli proves why team India needs him

In a reverential tone, India skipper Jasprit Bumrah on Monday paid a massive compliment to Virat Kohli, saying the team needs his support more than the batting mainstay needs theirs.

Kohli's 30th Test century, an unbeaten 100, played a big part in India's epochal 295-run win over Australia at Perth after getting rolled over for a paltry 150 in the first innings.

"Obviously, I have already said that Virat Kohli does not need us, We need him. He is an experienced player. This is his fourth or fifth tour. So, he knows his cricket more than anyone else," said Bumrah in the post-match press meet.

"He was in good shape. He was mentally switched on. Sometimes, as long as the career is, sometimes you bat in tough scenarios. He has always been batting in tough scenarios. So, it is always difficult to do in every match. But he was batting in a very good form and in a very good space.

"And obviously, he got a good delivery in the first inning. But he was still in a great space. And in the



second inning, he capitalized. He needed a lot of experience at that time. So, he played with him and also made the other player play with

The stand-in skipper added, "So, we are very happy for that. And obviously, at the start of the series, when he comes in confidence, you can't ask for more than this."

Bumrah was also delighted to register his first Test win as skipper, but remained firmly rooted to the ground saying that the India need to start fresh in the second Test against Australia at Adelaide on December

"Special win, first win as captain. We were put under pressure and we showed the character.

"We can take confidence from this game but we need to start fresh in the second Test. We need to carry forward the learnings as well to Adelaide," Bumrah added.

The speedster also said there were no jitters in the dressing room despite getting bundled out for a low score in the first innings.
"When we got out for 150, no one

was feeling down in the dressing room. That was the biggest positive, that attitude, you know," he said.

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

PTI ■ JEDDAH

Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach Daniel Vettori was most excited about securing Ishan Kishan on day one of the IPL mega auction here but admitted that losing T wait for the back end." said Natarajan to Delhi Capitals was a setback.

Kishan, who made his name at the Mumbai Indians, was sold to SRH for Rs 11.25 crore on Sunday. The left-arm batter has had a tumultuous year, having lost his place in the Indian team as well as a BCCI central contract for defying the board's diktat to play domestic cricket. However, he is back playing

Ranji Trophy.
SRH bought as many as eight players on day one including pacers Mohammed Shami (Rs 10 crore) and Harshal Patel (Rs 8 crore). However, they were not able to buy back T Natarajan and Vettori said nobody could offset the loss of the left-arm pacer.

SRH had retained five players ahead of the auction skipper Pat Travis Head, including Cummins, Abhishek Sharma, Heinrich

Klaasen and Nitish Reddy. 'Nothing sets off Nattu's loss (smiles). Every team goes through it, whether you try and find the players early

and...Pounce

for the back Vettori in a media interaction. Natarajan was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 10.75 crore.

"We decided today to try and sense an opportunity when they came along and Mohammad Shami was one and then Harshal Patel, they were two guys that we potentially didn't think would go for those prices (bargain

"And then Ishan Kishan was a huge deal for us. We really wanted to secure him and we thought he'd go for more. So extremely happy that we got those three players as well as the rest," said Vettori, who took time off from his coaching duties for Australia in the ongoing first Test against India.

Vettori said skipper Cummins is in agreement with all the picks.

'Yes, yes there were (inputs from Cummins). A sad captain tonight (referring to Australia being behind in Perth), he had a hard day. I spoke to him earlier today (Sunday) and he understood we'd gone for and then he had some ideas for obviously the rest of the squad building," said the former New Zealand

spinner. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar was a steal at Rs 3.2 crore. Vettori said they factored both recent performance and pedigree before going for the

players.
"We identified players that we thought had performed in the IPL previously. So we put a premium on that experience. And we've seen that pay off time and time

"So to get those players who maybe didn't have the season they wanted, in terms of Rahul Chahar last year (for Punjab Kings), we still see the skill set. We still see a bowler who's played for India, and hopefully in our

conditions, he can be a real asset for us," Vettori added.

Harshit Rana, Nitish Reddy prove detractors wrong

PTI PERTH

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



innings with a gem of a delivery and was even not hesitant to exchange a few words with veteran Mitchell Starc, despite them being team-mates at the Kolkata Knight Riders during the IPL

Nitish made nerveless 41 and 38 across two innings here, knocks that belied his lack of sufficient exposure in FirstClass cricket.

"If you are scared, then your fear will not go away. So, that is a very positive sign for me that they are not afraid and have a lot of desire to learn. "They have started very well and hopefully, they will do well in future as well," added Bumrah.

The pace talisman said the two young players were more than happy to handle the responsibility once they were informed of their debut. themselves were

looking for responsibility. When you talk to them... they are more than ready. They were looking for responsibility. So, that is a very positive sign for our

"All the youngsters who are coming (in), they are very hungry. They have a lot of faith in their ability. So, if that happens, then you can learn skills," he said.

Similarly, Yashasvi Jaiswal was also playing his first Test Down Under but the lefthander left an indelible impression with a remarkable 161. Bumrah said it was the best Test innings in Jaiswal's fledgling career because the 22-year-old showed a lot of self-restraint.

"If I had to choose a man of

because, you know, he has an attacking nature. But in that second innings, he left certain balls, he took his time and batted deep. That gives us a lot of confidence. "He showed that he has patience as well and he's ready to adapt and change. That is a brilliant sign for Indian cricket that a batsman is able

the match, I would choose

Jaiswal. I think this was his

best Test knock so far

to adapt so early in his career," said Bumrah. The 30-year-old also did not forget the role KL Rahul

played as an opener. The right-hander made an

obdurate 26 off 74 balls in the first innings before getting out to a dubious caughtbehind decision, and a more fluent 77 off 176 balls in the second while sharing 201 runs with Jaiswal for the first

We are a really tight unit: Cummins scotches speculation on dressing room divide approach going into day four, at all (division). There's plenty having been reduced to 12 for of times where the batters Vaughan added: "I must PTI PERTH admit, I'm staggered by that. three on day three chasing an improbable 534. Australia Josh Hazlewood is a great Australia captain Pat Cummins on Monday have dragged us bowlers out captain Pat said Warner. of tight situations, and we've bowler, terrific team member. Marnus has got a very good defended his struggling were bundled out for 104 in done the same. So it's a really Publicly, I've never heard an their second innings after batting unit after former tight unit. It's probably one of Australian come out and kind players including Adam Gilchrist raised the question of divide the camp into batters and bowlers."

Following one of their heaviest defeats at home, Cummins was asked if there were any divisions in the team with batters letting the team down in Perth.

of a potential batters and

bowlers divide in the dressing

The chatter around possible tensions in the unit started when Josh Hazlwood was about Australia's

India put up 150 on day one. "You probably have to ask one of the batters that question. I'm sort of relaxing and trying to get a bit of physio and a bit of treatment, and I'm probably looking mostly towards the next Test and

what plans we can do against these batters," Hazlwood said on Sunday A day later, Cummins cleared

the air.
"I don't know what Joshy (Hazlewood) said, but no, not the tightest teams I've ever played with," Cummins was scotch speculations following the

"We really enjoy playing cricket together. We've been through a lot over the last few years, the core group. So no problems there. Everyone gets along really well. So all good." On Fox Cricket, Gilchrist and Michael Vaughan were the experts who sensed a possible divide between batters and

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"That to me tells me there is potentially a divided change

I might be reading too much into that," Gilchrist said referring to Hazlewood's room. I don't know if there is.

On the same Fox Cricket panel was Hazlewood's ongtime teammate David Warner who came to the fast bowler's defence.

'Those comments (from Hazlewood) probably weren't warranted, [but] I don't think there is a divide.

"In the England team, Broady [Stuart Broad] or Jimmy [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you

can start pointing fingers, but I don't think there is a divide,"

pink ball record Cummins was asked about the lean run of Marnus Labuschagne in the post match media interaction. The batters in general have been under the scanner for a while now and that includes the great Steve Smith.

"Marnus, along with quite a few guys in the team didn't have the week that we would have wanted. It's no secret hard the batters, particularly Marn, works in the nets, and he's always trying to find those small marginal gains. "So, this week, there'll be a lot

of conversation with the coaches around, you know, maybe his approach and what he could be doing differently. We know he's a class player. "So, yeah, this week will be about those conversations. As I say, get to Adelaide a little bit earlier, maybe do an extra day or two prep leading to that second Test. But he's done it before over here. He's got a very good pink ball record. "So I always think it's, you know, looking back at past successes when you're at your best is always a pretty good way to get yourself back on track," said the skipper.

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