MONEY 10

Late City Vol.20 Issue 281 *Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

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OPINION 6

RATAN NAVAL TATA:

RBI CALLS FOR CHEAPER. FASTER REMITTANCES

POLISH GOVT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND ASYLUM LAW TRIGGERS CONCERN

WORLD 9

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BEN STOKES RETURNS FOR SECOND TEST AGAINST PAKISTAN

Communal conflagration in Uttar Pradesh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

escalated Tensions escalated Bahraich district Monday, as protests and violence erupted following a communal clash during a idol Durga immersion procession in the Mahasi area. The violence, which broke out on Sunday, led to the death of a 22-year-old man, Ram Gopal Mishra, who succumbed to a gunshot wound during the incident. The clash reportedly began over loud music being played from a Durga procession as it through Mahrajganj area of Mansoor village. The altercation led to

mounted, a local hospital and several shops were set ablaze on Monday morning, prompting the local administration to suspend internet services in an effort to curb the spread of rumors and restore order.

further violence, including

incidents of stone-pelting and

gunfire, which left around six

people injured. As tensions

Shukla, Vrinda Superintendent of Police (SP) in Bahraich, confirmed that over 30 persons have been detained in connection with the violence. Police have been deployed in the affected areas to maintain order and prevent further escalation. A case has been registered against a man named Salman, from whose house, gunshots are believed to have been fired during the clash.



Security personnel deployed to maintain law & order in a violence-affected area, a day after a 22-year-old man was killed in communal violence during a Goddess Durga idol immersion procession, in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, Monday

Authorities, including Home Secretary Sanjeev Gupta and Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Amitabh Yash, have arrived in Bahraich to assess the situation and coordinate the security response.

Police have conducted flag marches in the area to ensure a visible presence and to deter further unrest. Despite these efforts, sporadic protests continued, with locals raising slogans against police and administrative officials.

In response to the violence, Chief Minister Prasad Maurya condemned the incident and warned against any attempts

to disturb the peace and harmony in Uttar Pradesh. He emphasized that the state government would take stringent action against those involved in the violence, assuring that the victims would receive justice. Maurya appealed to the public to maintain peace and patience during this sensitive time, stating, "The bright future of the state will not be allowed to be tampered with."

leader Senior Congress Gandhi Vadra Priyanka expressed concern over the incident, criticizing what she described as the "inaction" of the administration. In a statement on X (formerly

Twitter), she called for immediate intervention by the state government and urged the public to avoid taking the law into their own hands.

Vadra emphasized the need for the state administration to take the public into confidence and to ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable.

As the situation in Bahraich remains tense, the local administration is working to restore normalcy. The restore normalcy. suspension of internet services is expected to remain in effect until the situation stabilizes, to prevent the spread of rumors and

misinformation. Authorities have also appealed to community leaders to help in maintaining peace. What had happened: The initial clash in Bahraich

reportedly stemmed from a dispute over loud music being played during the Durga idol immersion procession. As tensions flared, the situation escalated dramatically after the death of Ram Gopal Mishra, which triggered outrage among local villagers. In retaliation, angry residents vandalized vehicles and set fire to several properties in the Maharajganj market area.

According to Mishra's family, he was shot while walking with the procession and was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. His death intensified already volatile atmosphere in the area, leading to further acts of and damage to arson property.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condemned the violence and assured that those responsible would face strict consequences. He directed authorities to ensure that the process of idol continues immersion despite smoothly, communal tensions. The Chief Minister stressed the importance of coordinating local religious organizations to carry out the immersions as planned, while also maintaining law and



Manic Monday for Air India

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a worrying trend, five hoax bomb threat messages to three international flights, a mail train and a university, made it a manic Monday for security agencies. Three security agencies. separate international flights with 600 passengers on board departing from Mumbai received bomb threat messages early this morning. Besides, Gujarat based National Law University and Mumbai-Howrah mail train number 12809 also received bomb threat messages, which proved to be hoaxes.

Since any threat is taken seriously, one flight Air India York was Mumbai-New diverted to Indira Gandhi international airport at New Delhi and two others delayed for being checked thoroughly before being allowed to proceed for their destinations. According to the Bureau of Civil Aviation (BCAS), the affected flights were AI 119, that was the Mumbai-New York Air India flight that diverted to IGI airport, IndiGo Mumbai-Muscat 6E 1275 and Mumbai-Jeddah

6E56. Hoax messages severely cripple flight schedules. On getting a threat like this

airports/aircraft, passengers and baggage has to be thoroughly checked. Getting the all clear nod takes several hours and by then sometimes the maximum time for which crew can operate is about to "Flight AI 119 operating from Mumbai to JFK on October 14

received a specific security alert and on instructions of the government's security regulatory committee, (it) was diverted to Delhi," Air India said in a statement."Staff on ground are working to minimise the inconvenience caused to our guests by this unexpected disruption, it said. All 258 people onboard the aircraft have disembarked and are currently undergoing security procedures. Once the security protocols are completed, the passengers will be moved to hotels, it added.There were passengers and 19 crew onboard members plane.The flight has been rescheduled and will now depart for New York from

Delhi on Tuesday morning the airline said.

"The aircraft was thoroughly checked at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, and all standard safety protocols were diligently followed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the crew on board," a senior police officer said, adding that nothing suspicious was found during checking.

The Boeing 777 aircraft - VT-AER - departed Mumbai at 2:27 am, nearly 50 behind minutes scheduled departure of 1:40 am, and landed around oneand-a-half hours later, according to flight tracking service Flightradar24 Passengers were made to deplane the aircraft at around 4:10 am, but were asked to leave their bags on board.

The bomb threat was received through a post on the microblogging platform X and the handle is being verified, the officer said. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol visited the Delhi airport to take stock of the situation.

Opposition MPs boycott Waqf parliamentary committee meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

everal opposition MPs on Monday Substitution of the parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill alleging that the panel is not functioning in accordance with rules, after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was accused by a deposer of being involved in Waqf land scams. The lengthy meetings of the Joint Committee of Parliament have been marked by the exchange of words between its Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Opposition members, and things turned especially stormy on Monday as the latter questioned the rationale behind calling members of Hindu groups for deposition on a law concerning Muslims.

Opposition MPs walked out in protest against the submission of Anwar Manippady, a former chairman of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission and the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation. He is also a former Karnataka BJP vice-president.

Manippady named several Congress leaders from Karnataka, including Kharge and Rehman Khan, and others for their alleged involvement in embezzling Waqf properties

Odia woman gang-raped in Delhi

Odisha Police in contract with Delhi cops: DGP

Right activist moves NHRC for probe

 $oldsymbol{\mathbb{L}}$ ven as the alleged gang-rape of an Odia woman in New Delhi triggered outrage in Odisha, Director General of Police (DGP) YB Khurania on Monday said the incident is being followed up with the Delhi Police with all seriousness and sensitivity.

Khurania said the Odisha Police is in touch with the

family members of the victim and is also following up the progress of investigation with their Delhi counter-Meanwhile, Odisha Resident Commissioner in Delhi

Vishal Gagan said that a senior woman official is in touch with the victim and the local police. As per sources, the woman's family members have

left for New Delhi after the incident came to light. Meanwhile, the BJD has come down heavily on the

Odisha Government over the incident and questioned the silence of the Mohan Majhi administration on the

BJD Rajya Sabha member Manas Mangaraj said, "Call it negligence or apathy, the State Government has turned a blind eye to the plight of distressed woman and seems to be busy in holidays," he said.

The victim, stated to be a nursing graduate from Odisha, was raped by unknown miscreants who later dumped the victim in a semi-conscious state in the Sarai Kale Khan area of southeast Delhi on the intervening night of October 10 and 11.

The woman was rescued by a police team and taken to the AIIMS Trauma Centre, where she is undergoing treatment. The Delhi Police have registered a case against the miscreants under Sections 70(1) (gang rape) and 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Multiple teams have been formed to apprehend the culprits.

In a related development, a rights activist has moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking its direction to the police to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. Advocate and human rights activist Radhakant Tripathy has lodged a complaint with the NHRC for steps to ensure proper probe.

Accusing the Government of Delhi of failing to take precautions and preventive measures even after the Nirbhaya case, Tripathy urged the commission to investigate the case independently and impartially.

The NHRC has also been requested to issue directions for rehabilitation of the victim with proper medical care and compensation.

Tripathy urged the commission to direct the Delhi State Legal Services Authority to provide Rs 10 lakh to the victim as per the NALSA Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other Crimes, 2018.



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi meets people to be apprised of their grievances at the Circuit

House in Keonjhar on Monday on the last day of a three-day visit to his home district. Ratna Bhandar GPR report in couple of days

Says Minister

The report of the Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey that was conducted to assess the condition of both the 'Bahar' and 'Bhitar' Ratna Bhandar of the Jagannath Temple in Puri to determine the existence of any hidden chambers to tunnels is most likely to come in a couple of

The survey conducted by an expert team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) would come out in two or four days, said Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan

The expert team in the presence of the nine-member Ratna Bhandar committee, chaired by Justice Biswanath Rath, had used the latest equipment to scan the walls of Ratna Bhandars of the 12th-century shrine.

Speaking to media, Harichandan said, "The report of

the GPR survey that was conducted has not come yet. It is most likely to come in another two to four days. The next course of action will be taken by the

State Government only after getting the report." "If the report says that there are any gold or silver ornaments inside or any other treasure, or some hidden tunnel, the Odisha government will take necessary steps accordingly. If nothing is found, then the ASI will undertake the report work imme-

"The counting of the ornaments will be done only after the treasure boxes are taken back to the Ratna Bhandar after the repair work is completed,"

In the final phase, all the treasures would be again brought back to the Ratna Bhandar where the fresh inventory of the wealth would be conducted and then compared with the inventory made in 1978.

hotbeds in north Delhi.



E-rickshaws, the Capital's ticking time bombs

The untrained drivers carry extra passengers, choke traffic on busy stretches

BY RAJESH KUMAR

 B^{e} it Laxmi Nagar to CR Park or Seelampur to Aerocity, erickshaws have become ubiquitous sight across the capital, often seen wobbling slowly on roads overloaded with passengers, choking traffic on busy stretches. They congregate mostly at bus stands, metro stations, markets, malls and shopping centres. Experts say the design of e rickshaws is inherently faulty and their operation by non licensed/untrained/underage by non drivers render them dangerous on the roads. They always park and travel on the wrong side. Another danger associated

with e rickshaws is the illegal charging of batteries which has caused fire and explosion in the past.

official, the major complaints against e-rickshaws clustering on the road that was leading to traffic jams and long tailbacks, improper parking, violation of restrictions on road one-way violations, overloading passengers and underage driving. Since they usually do not move until they pick up a certain number of passengers, they block roads and cause congestion. These vehicles also pose risk to people in different ways. showed there are

approximately 120,000 registered e-rickshaws in the national capital. However, there are many plying the road without valid registration causing congestion and safety hazards.

Recently, a 40-year-old e-rickshaw According to the transport died after being

electrocuted at an illegal charging station in Shahbad Dairy. He was sitting in his vehicle while it was being charged. Last month, two men sustained serious injuries while a woman succumbed at the hospital after an e-rickshaw they were travelling in caught fire in north-east Delhi's Nand Nagri, Besides, they not only cause traffic jams on most arterial roads and Inter State Bus Terminals but also engaged in power theft. In its report earlier, power Discoms flagged to government agencies that around half of these are engaged in power theft, resulting in a loss of 15-20 MW across the

This translates to an annual loss of around

Rs 120 Approximately 200 e-rickshaw charging locations, with a load of about 3 MW, are booked for theft every year in Delhi.

These e-rickshaws were largely engaged in illegal charging

sub-standard batteries, which posed significant safety hazards. Exposed electricity wires left open during illegal charging and nonadherence to safety standards often cause sparks and short circuits. These live wires also pose a danger

through direct theft and the use of

to the public, especially children playing in these areas during the daytime. Such open wires have led

to electrocutions in the past. The areas where such illegal businesses are proliferating include Sangam Vihar, Jamia, Kalkaji, Tughlakabad, Sarai Kale Khan, Paschim Vihar, Matiyala and Mahavir Enclave in south and west Delhi. In East Delhi, the breeding grounds for such activity

are Shastri Park, Karawal Nagar,

and Mustafabad, while Civil Lines,

Mukherjee Nagar and Rohini are

Officials say the number of erickshaws has been spiralling in the city. Though they have slowly progressed towards becoming a traffic hazard, there is almost no regulation with Delhi government and traffic police passing the buck to each other. The first e-rickshaws started

plying in 2012. In the past 12 years, they have mushroomed on neighbourhood as well as arterial roads. The reason for the meteoric rise in their numbers can be attributed to first and last mile connectivity at pocket-friendly rates. Without any regulations, almost anyone can become an e-rickshaw driver. These vehicles have now become a major nuisance even on arterial roads, where they are not allowed

ORERA rules to be amended to Three-day Math camp begins at IIT-BBS simplify land registration

Says Revenue Minister

PNS SAMBALPUR

Certain rules of the Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) are likely to be amended to simplify the process of purchase and sale of land in the State.

Giving this information during a visit to Sambalpur on Monday, Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari told reporters that the government has received complaints about difficulties faced by people during land registration process. Talks are being held



with the Urban Development Department in this regard.

Stating that the RERA now complicated legal provisions, he said an individual is unable to sell land during emergencies like medical purpose, education of

Therefore, it is necessary to bring changes in the RERA; and the Revenue Department is looking into all aspects with the Urban Development Department and would see what can be done in this

regard, the minister said.

Noting that the Eregistration process is being done through outsourcing, Pujari said that because of outsourcing, people have to depend on others and the government has received a lot of complaints in this regard.

outsourcing company is paying low salary to its staffs, he said employees are cheating people and the land registration process is getting

Claiming that the

The minister also warned land brokers of strict action and said they would be barred from entering any office.

40 selected students from 18

PNS BHUBANESWAR

dists join

Logical thinking and open mindedness not only help students solve problems in mathematics but in real life as well," said the dignitaries during the inaugural ceremony of the three-day Mathematics Problem Solving Camp held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar on Monday.

The camp was inaugurated by Minister of Law, Works, Excise, Prithiviraj Harichandan and Minister, Electronics and Information Technology, Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs Dr Mukesh Mahaling in the

presence of Director, IIT Bhubaneswar Prof Shreepad Karmalkar.

Prof Karmalkar handled a session on 'Problem Solving', wherein he showed with examples how general discipline independent strategies help solve a variety of real-life problems.

In the beginning, Associate Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar and Coordinator of the camp Dr Tarakanta Nayak provided the

introduction of the programme and highlighted the objectives of the camp. Smruti Ranjan Sahoo, Assistant Professor from BJB Autonomous College, Bhubaneswar proposed a vote

Above 40 selected students from 18 districts of Odisha are participating in the camp.

It may be noted that the residential camp is being organised for undergraduate students in association with

Foundation (Bhubaneswar), Institute of Mathematics and Applications (Bhubaneswar), Indian National Young Academy of Science (New Delhi) and IIT Bhubaneswar Research and Entrepreneurship Park. The objective is to identify, nurture and prepare a pool of brilliant mathematicians who shall take the lead in the scientific and education landscape when Odisha will be completing her 100 years of State formation in 2036. The special focus is on government-run colleges in rural areas and socially, economically educationally backward districts of Odisha and to assist them for taking up and excelling in higher education.

Competition, Dhuriapada

Prez to visit Odisha for 2 says next week

BHUBANESWAR

President Droupadi Murmu is slated to undertake a twoday visit to Odisha from October 23.

Sources said the President is scheduled to arrive in Odisha on October 23 and visit Puri next



day to attend the 75th anniversary of the Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya as chief guest. She would attend the Puri programme from 12.10 pm to 1.00 pm on October 24.

Notably, the President had had undertaken a four-day visit

to Odisha in July. She had graced the 96th death anniversary of Utkalamani Pandit Gopabandhu Das at Bhubaneswar on July 6. Later, she witnessed the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri on July 7. On July 8, the President visited the Udayagiri Caves and interacted with the students of Bibhuti Kanungo College of Art and Crafts and Utkal University of Culture. On the same day, she inaugurated the Divine Retreat Centre of Brahma Kumaris at Haridamada village

The President graced the 13th Graduation Ceremony of the National Institute of Science Education and (NISER) Bhubaneswar on July 9.

near Bhubaneswar and launched

the 'Lifestyle for Sustainability'

'Let's support every girl's aspiration' Int'l Girl Child

Day held at Pathrabandha slum

PNS BHUBANESWAR

A girl with a dream can change the world. Let's support and uplift every girl's aspiration," said the dignitaries on the occasion of the International Day of Girl Child held at Pathrabandha slum under ward No.17 of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation.

It was organised by ActionAid Association in collaboration with Centre for



Attending as guest, social activist Bholanath Moharana shared the issues and challenges

in promoting girls and role of

CCWD secretary Sadasiv Swain gave a brief address based on the role of parents community safeguarding girl children. and Child Club were present.

Panda, Renubala Sahoo, Snigdha Das and Sucharita Behera spoke on the occasion. To mark the day, a signature

campaign and oath taking ceremony were conducted. While welcome address was given by Bhaskar Chandra Pradhan, Sabita Rout proposed the vote of thanks. The programme coordinated by Bishnupriya Samal was attended among others by Saraswati Parida, Shiba Sahoo, Smruti Rekha Das and Soumya Ranjan Das. Representatives from Bhubaneswar Young Urban Women Anasangathita Sramik Manch

In Cuttack

'Baba' held for kidnapping woman

Police on Saturday picked up a self-styled Baba from his

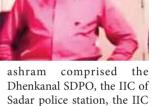
ashram Baharbila under the Tigiria police station Cuttack district on the charge of kidnapping a woman.

As per reports, Kaibalya Jani, the self-

proclaimed Baba, was worshipping Goddess Durga in his ashram at Baharbila when Dhenkanal police raided the place and picked him up on the charge of kidnapping a woman

During the raid, police

recovered several photos of women and incriminating materials from Jani's vehicle. The team that raided the



of Bhapur police station and a team of the Tigiria police. The police are conducting further investigation to

unearth more information about Jani's activities.

Cuttack to be a smart city soon: CM

PNS CUTTACK

he long-standing demand of Cuttack dwellers to elevate the millennium city to a smart city seems to be not far away as Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday dropped ample hints in this regard.

visit Durga puja pandals. Later, while speaking to journalists, he said his government is wellaware of Cuttack people's demand transformation of their city

The World Sight Day,

celebrated on the second

Thursday of October each

year, is an event aimed at

raising awareness about

attention on the importance

of eye health, the prevention

of avoidable blindness and

In the year 2024, the day

focussed on "Children

Should Take Care of Their

Eyes," emphasising the need

of early intervention and

education in eye health for

In this context, the

"Bullseye" organisation held

an awareness programme

among children for the

of visually-

children.

growth

access to eye care for all.

World Sight Day

'Ensure eye care for children'

into a smart city.

"The new government has come along with new hopes and excitement. The government is committed to forming a new and prosperous Odisha. Cuttack is a millennium city known for its unique brotherhood. It has been a long-standing demand of Cuttack people to elevate their city as the smart city. Former Minister Samir Dey also raised the matter. In the coming days, the city will become a smart city," said

challenged individuals in the

periphery of Bhubaneswar

Guests Sushanta Sahoo

and Trilochan Beura said

technology, mobile devices

and modern living styles

have significantly impacted

eye health aong both

children and adults. The

widespread use of screens and

evolving lifestyles has

introduced new challenges

for maintaining good vision.

Hence, the number of

visually impaired is seen more

in rich families due to

Everyone was advised to

consult a doctor as soon as

they notice any differences in

modern lifestyle.

Trilochan Beura

their vision.

near Kandalei.

Collapsible barricading at Jagannath Temple soon

disciplined darshan of deities

PNS PURI

The Jagannath Temple in Puri is set have a collapsible wooden system with ramps and barricades for smooth devotees' darshan of the

feature separate queues for men, women, children, elderly and divyang devotees. Starting from Sata Pahacha, the devotees would proceed through Nata Mandap.

Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan emphasised such disciplined darshan from Margasir month.

A possible design of the collapsible

the fore on Monday. Similarly, a ramp would be installed at Bahara Katha and devotees would climb it to get hassle-free darshan before exiting through the Ghanti

"I think the temple administration has plans to install 6 inch to 1 ft high ramp. I am of the opinion that the system should be designed for

Harichandan.

"A high-level meeting regarding various projects of the temple is scheduled for October 18. As per the initial plan, the devotees will enter through Sata Pahacha and exit through Ghanti Dwar," Harichandan said.

"We will try to completely eliminate chaos and long waits through this system," he added.

In city

Scribe, security men clash in hosp

Tension prevailed at a hospital in Bhubaneswar after a journalist from a web channel and security personnel allegedly came to blows on Monday.

As per reports, an autorickshaw driver had suffered burn injuries on Sunday. He was rushed to the hospital in the city.

After the insurance limit on his BSKY card was exhausted.

the hospital authorities asked his family members to take him elsewhere.

After coming to know about the incident, the journalist went to the hospital to gather information regarding the incident. However, the security staffs allegedly did not allow him to carry out his duty, leading to an altercation between him and the security personnel.

Later, they allegedly

exchanged blows. Girls join rural sports competitions in B'pur

Organised by Madhumaya Panigrahi Foundation

PNS BRAHMAPUR

The Madhumaya Panigrahi Foundation (MPF) organised a rural sports competition among girl students of various educational institutions at the Khallikote University stadium to promote traditional rural sports here on Sunday.

A total of 325 students from different schools and colleges of the city and its adjoining areas participated in events like Khapara Dian, Kaudi Khela, Daudi Dian (skipping), Sankha Nada (blowing of conch shells), Thia Puchi, Basa Puchi, and Hulahuli.

Ganjam Santosh Kumar Sahu inaugurated the competition while founder and chief convener of foundation Hrushikesh Panigrahi presided in presence of the chief coordinator of the Sudipta programme

"Such competitions will facilitate the rural sports which are passing into oblivion and help the women folk to keep them fit and fine. It would lead to a better society," said DSO Ganjam Santosh Kumar Sahu.

Hrushikesh and Sudipta in their address said 16 girls were selected from the competition who will be trained to perform a dance ballet from October 8. These top performers would perform at a cultural programme titled 'Thia puchi naranga, goda deita saranga', to be held on the occasion of Kumara Purnima at the Government ITI auditorium in Brahmapur on October 16.

Manorama Maharana of Berhampur, who has earned a niche for herself in boxing at national level, was felicitated on the occasion. Binayak Hota, Sukanti Patra, Manorama Maharana, Braja Das, Rabindra Maharana and Kedarnath Chowdhury who are the adjudicators of State and national repute were the judges in various events.

After training guns at Naveen

Amar Satpathy says he's no longer in BJD

PNS BHUBANESWAR

In what could be seen as a jolt to the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), veteran leader and former Minister Amar Prasad Satpathy on Monday said he is no more associated with the Naveen Patnaik-led regional party. Days after training guns

at Patnaik over the debacle

in the last elections,

Satpathy told the media

that he is no more in the

BJD as he did not take the

party's membership during

the recent drive launched



The six-time legislator's Patnaik to take the poor performance in the

statement came a few days after he asked Naveen responsibility for the party's 2024 polls. "I am no longer

associated with BJD. I have

not taken the membership

of party during the drive undertaken by it recently. I felt suffocated in the organisation because of the prevailing atmosphere," said Satpathy. Stating that he is not

associated with any political activities for the time being, he said many political parties including the BJP are in contact with him.

"I am keeping myself away from political activities at the moment," he said, adding that he is yet to decide his future

course of action.

Reacting sharply to Satpathy's remark, BJD spokesperson Lenin Mohanty said it would be better if the former MLA leaves the party. "If he does not want to remain in BJD, it will be better to leave the party," Mohanty remarked.

Claiming that Satpathy could become MLA for six times as he was given a lot of opportunities by the BJD, Mohanty said the party would not be affected if any leader quits and joins another political outfit.

District Sports Officer

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Docs' crunch hits B'swar, Bhadrak hosps

Patients forced to move to pvt facilities

PNS BALESWAR

 Γ he healthcare services in Bhadrak and Baleswar districts are severely affected by a shortage of doctors and medical equipment.

The Bhadrak District Headquarters Hospital (DHH) is operating with only 134 out of 350 sanctioned posts, while Baleswar DHH has only 71 out of 166. The community health centres (CHC) and PHCs face similar issues as patients are forced to seek private care in both districts. The Fakir Mohan Medical College in Baleswar also is grappling with staff shortages.

"Most of the doctors are busy working in private clinics forcing patients to go home empty-handed after standing in a long queue. Most importantly, brokers have become a nuisance here as they are taking patients to private hospitals promising better treatment. Moreover, most departments do not have doctors and many positions are lying vacant," Rajendra Jena, a local said.

Similarly, another local resi-

gent need of a medical college and hospital. However, our demands have been neglected for years. There is a need for the immediate appointment of doctors, availability of beds, oxygen cylinders, and other equipment. There is not one or two, the Bhadrak DHH is

Youth's body donated

after death in P'khemundi

Healthcare services in the

crippled with several prob-

Respecting

decision of

deceased by kin

PARALAKHEMUNDI: A

rare gesture was shown by a

youth's family here. The youth

had pledged to contribute his

body after his death and when

he died at a tender age of 32

years, his family members

obliged his decision and do-

nated the body to a medical

K Naresh Patnaik of

Paralakhemundi left his be-

reaved mother K Usharani af-

ter undergoing treatment at a

hospital in Visakhapatnam.

Honouring his decision, his

bereaved family handed over

Telimela

Street

cal College and Hospital (FMMCH) are crippled due to lack of medical staff. Moreover, the absence of specialized doctors has seen instances of patients being referred to other hospitals.

Repeated demands for fulfilment of posts are yet to be addressed. Meanwhile, no comments could be obtained from senior officials over the matter.

Path used by thousands of locals for daily KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA BRAHMAPUR

A large number of women of Alladigaon village under Purushottampur Tehsil held dharna on Wednesday at the Rushikulya river bank protesting the damage caused to the river bank and an approach path to the river ghat which the villagers have been using for years.

According to the villagers, sand mafias have damaged the river bank and laid a road (huda) right into the river course. A small pond of the rain water has been created inside the river which is currently being used by the villagers for their daily use.

When former Deputy Speaker of Assembly and senior BJP leader Rama Chandra Panda was passing through the

village (which is the native village of Panda) on Wednesday, hundreds of agitating women gathered around his vehicle and complained that the sand mafias have deployed heavy transport vehicles and machineries including JCB machines to lay the road/sand ramp on the river-bed with an

intention to lift sand.

approach road to R'kulya river

Sand mafias damage

They alleged that the little water available in the river bed which is being used by 3,000 local residents will completely dry out causing severe water scarcity for both human and cattle populations in summer. The damage of the river bank will consequently give rise to overflowing of water to the village as well as to nearby agriculture/crop fields during flood times, causing catastrophe to the precious human lives and their livelihood.

Panda reportedly assured the agitating women to take up the matter with the district

INBRIEF

Paradeep: The ArcelorMittal

Nippon Steel India (AM/NS

India), as part of its CSR

initiative "Padhega Bharat" has

administration to stop such illegal sand lifting and to take remedial measures to provide relief to the villagers.

Panda sent a letter immediately to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to stop the sand ramp to prevent overflowing of flood water to village Alladigaon. He also sent a copy of his letter to Ganjam Collector and Tehsildar, Purushottampur for necessary action.

According to a villager and social worker Saumya Ranjan Panda, overnight construction of the ramp by damaging the pathway would now prevent male, female, and children of the village from reaching the river ghat for their dayto-day use. Besides, transportation of sand from the spot would weaken and damage the low height river bank, imbalance the river bed, besides damaging the ecology and making the spot vulnerable to

3 killed in separate road mishaps in State

BBSR-bound bus catches fire after hitting bike

PNS SONEPUR/ JAJPUR

hree people were killed in two separate road accidents in Jajpur and Subarnapur districts on Monday.

According to sources, two motorcyclists died when the bikes they were riding collided head on near Katapali under the Binika police limits in Subarnapur district.

While one of the bikers was killed on the spot, the other was rescued by locals in a critical condition and rushed to the VIMSAR in Burla. However, he succumbed to injuries at the

In another mishap, a biker

IN BALESWAR

scammers

allegedly been duped by

fraudsters in the name of the

Centrally-sponsored scheme.

eral youths visited Aruhabada,

Bishnupur, Abhana, Dolapur

and Kalyani villages under the

block some eight months ago

and collected documents

from the beneficiaries for LPG

connections at free of cost

Though months have passed,

the beneficiaries did not get the

gas connection. However, af-

under the Ujjwala Yojana.

According to sources, sev-



was killed while two others were critically injured after their twowheeler was hit by a passenger bus near Chhatia in Jajpur dis-

Sources said the incident took place when the private bus carrying passengers was proceeding to Bhubaneswar from Baleswar. Soon after the collision, the bus caught fire creat-

Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries duped by

to know that it is subsidy

amount which has been cred-

ited to their account even if

they did not get the gas con-

Later, they discovered that

they had their gas connection

at an agency at Padhuan un-

der Basudevpur block in

Bhadrak district. When the

duped beneficiaries approached

the gas agency, it allegedly took

Rs 1,400 from them and

handed over gas cylinder, regu-

lator, gas stove and gas pipe.

nection, sources informed.

ing panic among passengers. However, all the passengers were rescued safely and none of them was hurt, they said.

On being informed, a police team rushed to the spot and sent the body for autopsy. Fire Service personnel from Chandikhol reached the spot and launched an operation to

Ujjwala Yojana. They said it

would be free of cost and take

three to four months to get the

connection. Later, we received

Rs 328 subsidy in our account.

The gas agency took Rs 1,400

On the other hand, the dis-

trict Civil Supplies Officer said

that there is sufficient evidence

against the gas agency and

necessary action would be

taken against it after inform-

ing the district Collector about

from us," alleged a victim.



The gesture of the youth was lauded by people from all corners. He was serving in a mobile store and had a dream to join the police department.

Lenka Simadri. Budhadebaswar Pradhan, Santosh Patra, Rintu Barala, Sambit Patra and all media representatives of Gajapati district conveyed their tribute to

Forest officials-mafia nexus Illegal sawmills flourish in Kakatpur

Kundhei Panchayat under Kakatpur block is going on and saw mill business has turned into a cottage industry in Kundhei and surrounding ar-

eas due to nexus between the wood mafia and Forest officials. A huge plywood factory is being built in the forest near



Chika Mutt. Locals have begun to ask as to who is behind the illegal flourishing of log trading in the area and also who is building the plywood unit. Due to the saw mills, noise and air

pollution is on the rise. Whenever there is a plan to raid the illegal sawmills by the Forest sleuths, the latter get prior information about it from the corrupt Forest officials. So, they manage to hide their equipment and logs. The locals have demanded stringent action against the mafia under the supervision of the district Col-

2 jumbos dead in separate cases in Balangir

5 persons arrested **SUDHIR MISHRA ■** BALANGIR

 Γ he death of two elephants in two different areas under Balangir Forest Division has flagged concern over the issue

of safety of jumbos here. On October 8, the Balangir forest officials got the news of an elephant carcass lying in Asurdunguri village in Matkhai forest. A team of forest officials including the Regional Conservator of Forest Bhawanipatna circle, Santosh Joshi, Balangir DFO Sudarshan Behera and others rushed to spot and found the body, a portion of whose tusk was taken away by miscre-

"The elephant would be 20-25 years. A preliminary investigation reveals it to be a case of electrocution. A portion of one of its tusks was taken away by the miscreants. The exact cause of death would be known after postmortem," said Regional Conservator of Forest Bhavanipatna circle Joshi.



For the first time, a police dog squad was pressed into service for investigation and a metal detector was used to track any bullets inside the jumbo body but found nothing. A Joint Task Force (JTF) of police and forest departments has begun an investigation into the case.

A case under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 was registered in Balangir forest range and five persons of village, namely Ani Majhi (45), Padu Majhi (20), Tarani Majhi (25),

Laba Bhue (25) and Saroj Bariha were arrested in the case and forwarded to court on Sunday last

Similarly, on Saturday, the death of another jumbo in Sulia reserve forest was reported. A postmortem of the body was conducted and a joint task force team was also formed to probe the case. The preliminary report of the cause of the death of the elephant is stated to be due to old age. However, the exact cause of death of the elephant would be known after the postmortem report.

PNS BALESWAR ter some days, money got cred-"Some youths came to our vilited to the bank accounts of lage and asked us to come with PNS ■ KAKATPUR Several Ujjwala beneficiaries some of the beneficiaries. When Aadhaar Cards, ration cards and in villages under Bahanaga inquired about the transaction bank passbooks to apply for Illegal felling of trees under block in Baleswar district have at the bank, they were surprised new LPG connection under

care and health and nutrition. Vedanta Jharsuguda celebrates Dussehra Jharsuguda: Vedanta

Jharsuguda celebrated Dussehra, embracing the festival's message of good triumphing over evil. The multi-day celebration brought gether employees and their



families to partake in a series of traditional rituals, cultural performances, and community-building activities. The festivities kicked off with the ceremonial lighting of divas and continued with a variety of events, including traditional dance performances, games, and cultural showcases that highlighted the rich heritage of India. Sunil Gupta, COO, Vedanta Aluminium, said, "Over the past few days, we've come together as a community to honour these principles and celebrate our

AM/NS to strengthen 25 Anganwadi Centres at Paradeep

launched a project to revamp twenty-five Anganwadi Centres

in the gram panchayats of Nuagarh, Paradeepgarh and

Bhutmundai in Paradeep. This initiative will benefit more

than a thousand children in those Anganwadi Centres and

support staffs working there. The initiative focuses on

developing better infrastructure of the Anganwadi Centres in

periphery villages of AM/NS Indiain Paradeep in order to help

them provide quality pre-school education, early childhood

7 hurt as band party vehicle overturns in Dhenkanal Jajpur: At least seven members of a band party on way to

Kamakhyanagar Dhenkanal district to participate in the Durga idol immersion ceremony sustained grievous injuries when a vehicle carrying them



overturned midway in the wee hours of Monday. The conditions of two of the injured were stated to be critical. The mishap occurred when the vehicle hit a road divider and turned turtle.

B'pur Rotary distributes mosquito nets

Brahmapur: The Rotary Club of Brahmapur distributed 40 mosquito nets among the underprivileged residents of the Premnagar Slum on October 8. Led by Rotary Governor 3262 Rtn Yagnasis Mohapatra, the drive was meant to safeguard the slum community against dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases, when the Durga Puja celebrations are underway. Club president Rotarian (Rtn) RL Tarun, secretary Rtn KVG Ravi Kumar, assistant governor Rtn V Dhanawantri, zonal chair Rtn Mihir Panigrahi, club trainer Rtn V Ajay, vice president Rtn E Sarthak and treasurer Rtn V Satyanarayana attended

Odisha weightlifter bags gold at IWLF Championship

Bhubaneswar: Odisha weightlifter Hrudananda Das clinched gold medal in the IWLF National Championship 2024 on Monday. He won the medal in the Youth Boys category, setting a new Youth National Record in Clean & Jerk with a lift of 170 kg. He also secured the silver medal in the Junior Men's 81 Kg division at the IWLF National Championship.

Kabaddi player dies during match in Nuapada

Nuapada: A 26-year-old player from Chhattisgarh died during an inter-State Kabaddi tournament at Tarabod village under the Komana police station in Nuapada district on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Khageswar Rathia. He fell ill during the match and was immediately rushed to Tarabod government hospital from where he was shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital. But the doctors there declared him brought dead. While the reason for his death was yet to be ascertained, it was suspected that he might have suffered a heart attack.

Subhadra applicants cheated of money in K'jhar

Their A/Cs got debited after linking with Aadhaar, Phone No. at CSC

NARESH PATTANAYAK KEONJHAR

While Subhadra Yojana has brought smiles to thousands of women, for some it was not getting money but

Not one or two, more than 20 women have lodged the same complaint that money was missing from their bank accounts when linked with Aadhaar and phone number in Benamunda village under Telkoi police station in Keonihar district.

Sources alleged that some women from Benamunda and Galda villages went to a common service center at Benamunda to connect their mobile numbers with Aadhaar to get benefit from Subhadra

ing at providing better

Rampur Block in Kalahandi.



There, a man was linking mobile number with Aadhaar, But, surprisingly after they returned home, they found that their A/Cs were debited with money. The women later lodged a complaint in Telkoi police station.

Satavama Sahu, the wife of Trilochan Sahu of the village,

received a message on her mobile that Rs 10,000 was withdrawn from the bank account on October 4 and Rs 10,000 again on October 6. She said that after knowing that the money was withdrawn from the bank account, she went to the bank and found out that his money was withdrawn due to tipping at the Aadhaar center.

Similarly, Snehanalata Baksingh, Bhavani Patra, Yotirmayi Dehuri, and Anandita Jena of Galda village were found to have been looted of money after tipping off at the Aadhaar center.

Telkoi police station Inspector -In- charge Sushant Parida said that an investigation was going on pertaining to the

Asurdungari

infants have been brought under its fold, demonstrating its expanding reach within the

In its efforts to address the nutritional needs of mothers and children, the project has sal menstrual hygiene prac-

UAIL's Project URMI addresses multiple needs Of adolescent girls, women, children in R'gada, K'handi PNS BHUBANESWAR he Utkal Alumina Inter-ରାବାଳିକାମାନଙ୍କ ଦକ୍ଷତାବ୍ରଦ୍ଧି ଓ ପ୍ରଶିକ୍ଷଣ କର୍ମଣା national Limited (UAIL) has VENUEJOGIPARITUNDADATE 222324JUJY. 200 launched Project URMI, aim-

healthcare in Kashipur Block of Rayagada and Thuamul the project has successfully established 40 Adolescent Clubs, Within a span of six months, fostering community engage-

ment and support. It has ensured health registrations for 375 Antenatal Care

(ANC) and 526 Postnatal Care (PNC), providing vital health services to mothers. So far, 902

A notable achievement of Project URMI is its focus on menstrual hygiene, distributing over 100 sanitary napkins to promote healthy practices among adolescents. Additionally, the project has facilitated 247 institutional deliveries, reinforcing its commitment to improving maternal health outcomes in the region.

introduced innovative solutions and regularly organizes health check-up camps. These initiatives underscore the importance of routine health assessments and immunizations. Project URMI's ambitious targets include achieving 100 percent institutional deliveries, complete immunization coverage, and univer-

Nation needs well trained workforce: EA Minister

 $E_{\text{Jaishankar on Monday said}}$ the need for a "well-trained workforce" in different geographies is only going to grow fur-ther, and urged friendly nations to turn towards the Indian talent for sourcing workforce requirements in their coun-

In his keynote address after launching the eMigrate V2.0 portal and a mobile app here, he also said the government shall remain steadfast in the efforts to create safer and legal channels of emigrating abroad.

Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita also joined on dais, while ambassadors of several countries, among others, were present among the audience.

Mandaviya in his address said efforts are underway to integrate the eMigrate V2.0 portal with other digital platforms of his ministry to provide seamless access of relevant documents and profiles of skilled workers by potential employees sitting abroad.

The revamped version of eMigrate portal is more than just a digital platform, "it is a beacon of hope, a symbol of our commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of our work-



ers in foreign lands", Jaishankar

The enhancements in the portal reflect new realities and transformation that is being witnessed in so far as global migration dynamics are concerned, the external affairs minister underlined.

"There is a global need for workers who have domain specific knowledge in their particular fields. For several reasons, this need for a well-trained workforce in different geographies is only going to grow further," he said.

This is clearly reflected in the pace at which "we have undertaken negotiations with different countries" on migration and mobility since 2015, and also in how the mobility ecosystem in India itself is taking shape, the EAM said.

In his address, Jaishankar said the government shall remain steadfast in the efforts to create safer and legal channels of emigrating abroad.

I am sure that all the Protectors of Emigrants, empowered with technology and through their collective experiences, will gear to work relentlessly towards fulfilling our commitments to the public and to the nation," he

'I urge all the participants and particularly the ambassadors who have joined us today, in this inauguration programme, to turn towards the Indian talent and the demographic dividend that India has to offer, for sourcing workforce requirements in your particular countries" the

The eMigrate Version 2 portal has also been integrated with DigiLocker, and that is also a big step in digital transformation. This will enable the emigrants to submit various documents for obtaining clearances through DigiLocker in a paperless mode, as well as to store them securely, all their important documents like passports, employment contracts, are actually secured, he added.

The Ministry of External Affairs has leveraged the use of technology and digital systems to enhance the efficiency and efficacy of this portal.

Haryana Cong incharge offers to quit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress' Haryana in-charge Deepak Babaria on Monday said he has offered to resign from his post, taking moral responsibility for the assembly polls defeat. Babaria said he offered his resignation to the high command soon after the result of the Haryana assembly polls came out last week but no decision has been communicated to him over the matter.

"Last week, after the results, I offered to resign. I offered to the high command that you can replace me. My health is not well and also it is my moral responsibility in the wake of the results. Keeping that in mind, I had told this to the high command that 'if you deem fit, you can replace me',"

After the Lok Sabha polls also, I had offered to resign as incharge of Delhi, but no decision has been taken on that. Similarly, no decision has been taken (for Haryana), but it was my responsibility to offer (to resign)," he said.

The Congress top brass last Thursday held a review meeting on the party's shock defeat in Haryana Ássembly polls and decided to form a factfinding team that will speak to all its candidates to find out the reasons for the debacle. Sources said the leaders during

the meeting discussed the possible reasons for the "unexpected" results in Haryana and decided to set up the team to ascertain the reasons behind such results and also look into complaints of "discrepancies" in



EVMs, as alleged by party candidates.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary organisation KC Venugopal, AICC senior observers for the polls Ashok Gehlot and Ajay Maken, as well as AICC secretaries for the state, participated in the review meeting. AICC in-charge of Haryana Babaria joined the meeting online.

The Congress has also demanded a thorough probe into "discrepancies" found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes of the Haryana polls and demanded that such EVMs should be sealed and secured pending the

A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C

Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera, besides Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials here on Wednesday.

The Congress leaders alleged that there are at least 20 such complaints with many referring to EVMs functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity whereas the average EVMs were found to be operating at 60 to 70 per cent battery capacity during the counting.

The Congress appeared confident of dislodging the BJP dis-pensation which was in power for 10 years and facing anti-

incumbency.
However, the BJP with 48 seats halted the Congress' comeback attempt and also proved several exit polls wrong which had predicted a comfortable win for the grand old party in Haryana. The Congress managed to muster 37 seats in the 90-member assembly.

Congress neck deep in 'bhu harap': BJP spokesperson

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

B^{JP} on Monday alleged that the entire top leadership of the Congress is involved in corruption relating to land transactions and suggested they should resign on moral grounds after being "exposed" BJP spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi's sharp attack on the Congress came after a trust linked to its president Mallikarjun Kharge's family withdrew its request for the allotment of five acres of civic amenity site in Bengaluru to set up a 'Multi-Skill Development Centre, Training Institutes and Research Centre'.

The move by Congress president Kharge's son Rahul Kharge, who heads the trust, comes close on the heels of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi returning the 14 sites to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority after the Lokayukta police registered a case against Siddaramaiah, his wife and brother-in-law.

Trivedi said these decisions were triggered by adverse CAG reports and legal proceedings, and amounted to a virtual admission that the transactions were wrong.

It was done to escape humiliation in legal proceedings, he claimed. A party, which was once asso-

ciated with Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave's "bhu daan" (giving away land in charity), is now neck deep in "bhu harap" (land grab) under the "inspiration" of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, he alleged. The BJP MP noted in the press conference that both Gandhis are accused in the National Herald case, which pertains to alleged capture of the company's properties at a highly nominal rate, and added that the probe began in the case on a court's direction before his party came to power in 2014. Such allegations involving land have been levelled against Ashok Gehlot and Bhupesh Baghel, both former chief ministers, and D K Shivakumar, the Karnataka deputy chief minis-

India strengthens drug testing network: Health Minister Nadda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

India's network of drug testing labs, which includes 8 central labs, 38 state regulator labs, and 8 mini labs at key ports for rapid import testing, ensures the annual testing of over 100,000 samples, reinforces the country's commitment to public health and regulatory excellence, Union Health Minister J P Nadda said on Monday. The Union Health Minister

who inaugurated the five-day 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities organised by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), said collaboration across borders, sectors and ating lasting health solutions. He underlined India's commitment to meeting the increasing demand for pharma products while adhering to global quality standards.

The event is being hosted for the first time in India by the CDSCO, Union Health Ministry in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), brings together regulatory authorities, policymakers, and health officials from over 194 WHO member states. Nadda also pointed out that in order to make drug supply chain robust, it has been made mandatory to provide bar code or quick response code (QR Code) on top 300 brands of

drug products. Similarly, QR code is mandatory on all API packs, either being imported or manufactured in India

Noting that India emerged not



only as a global leader in health resilience and innovation but also reaffirmed its role as the pharmacy of the world during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minister said the country rapidly expanded its healthcare infrastructure and scaled

"The successful roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme covering over a billion people is a testament to the robustness of our healthcare our healthcare workers and soundness of our policies, Nadda stated.

"Guided by the principle of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', we extend our support to more than 150 countries providing life saving drugs and vaccines during the pandemic. This spirit of international solidarity is the heart of India's approach to global health," he

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, who virtually joined the conference, commended India for hosting this crucial global regulatory forum and highlighted the importance of global cooperation in drug regulation, particularly in light of challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, the postpandemic world, and the safe use of AI in healthcare.

SC directs ED to seek HC stay vacate in trial against Madhu Koda

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Enforcement Directorate to approach the high court for vacation of stay on the trial against former Jharkhand chief minister Madhu Koda in a money laundering case.

The ED has challenged the November 8, 2023 order of the Jharkhand High Court which while admitting the plea of Koda against framing of charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, had

ordered for stay of further proceedings in the trial court. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar

was told by Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, that 25 out of the 77 witnesses have been examined. The bench told Raju that he should have raised the grievances of the probe agency before the high court as the matter is still pending over It suggested that the plea of ED

before the top court will be kept pending and meanwhile the



agency can approach the high court for vacation of the stay on

Raju agreed and sought direction for expeditious disposal of their application to be filed before the high court. The bench directed for listing

of ED's plea on November 25 and asked the high court to consider the application of the agency within seven days of filing. "Bring the relevant facts to the knowledge of the high court and meanwhile we are keeping your petition pending here," the bench told Raju. The special PMLA court in Ranchi had framed charges against Koda and five others under provisions of the PMLA pertaining to around Rs 3,500 Koda was charged for money laundering and aiding the gen-

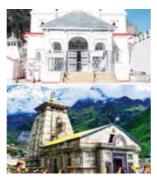
eration of the proceeds of crime between February 2005 and September 2006 when he was mines minister in Jharkhand and September 2005 and August 2008 during his tenure as chief minister of the

ters among others, he added. Chardham project 75 per cent complete, Centre to SC Om Birla addresses 149th IPU in Geneva

PTI NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday Informed the Supreme Court that almost 75 per cent of the awarded work of the strategic Chardham Project in Uttarakhand which goes up to China border, was complete. The strategic 900-kilometre project aims to provide an allweather connectivity to the four holy shrines in Uttarakhand -- Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, informed a bench of Justices C T Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan that the apex court-appointed oversight committee has submitted two reports to the top

According to Bhati, the apex court had appointed an oversight committee, chaired by



former top court judge Justice (retired) A K Sikri.

Referring to the committee's report given in August, 2024, Bhati said, "Almost 75 per cent of the awarded work is complete." She further said there were two reports one in April, 2024 and the other of August 27 pertaining to the proposed

The bench said the committee's

reports would be taken on

In December 2021, the apex court had allowed the doublelane widening of the Chardham Highway Project while setting up the oversight committee headed by the retired judge. The top court said the committee, formed to allay environmental concerns relating to the project, will not undertake a fresh environment assessment.

The committee was also extended the complete support of the ministries of defence, road transport and environment, the Uttarakhand Government and the district magistrates concerned.

The committee was further directed to have representatives of the National Environmental Research Institute and the Forest Research Institute,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Lwho is leading an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to

149th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva, addressed the Assembly on the theme "Harnessing science, technology and innovation for a more peaceful and sustainable future." In his address on Monday, Birla illuminated the pressing global challenges of present time, presenting India's perspective with clarity.

Emphasizing that India has always been a strong proponent of multilateralism, he noted that dialogue and cooperation amongst Parliaments in the field of science, technology and innovation was vital for common good. He expressed hope that through the forum like the IPU, Parliaments would be able to pave the way for inclusive development in the



world through shared action plans and joint efforts. He was unequivocal in stating that the collective endeavour of Parliaments across the world should be to in place to ensure fair and equitable distribution of the benefits of science, technology and innovation in the world.

He called for convergence of technological advancements, scientific research and innovative approaches so that the fruits of such advancements were shared equitably and leveraged responsibly to build

resilient and peaceful. and energy security, Birla referred to the idea of ONE SUN, ONE WORLD, ONE GRID - "OSOWOG", initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the last decade, India's renewable energy capacity has increased from 76 GW to 203 GW, he added. He also spoke about the initiatives like Green Hydrogen Mission, International Solar Alliance, Bio-Fuel Alliance underscoring India's commitment to address climate change. Mentioning the steps taken by the Parliament in this regard, he noted that the issues of climate change and Sustainable Development Goals had been discussed at length in Parliament. He also noted that utmost use of green technology had been ensured in the construction of the new build-

ing which speaks of our com-

mitment to green energy.

a future that is inclusive,

Army Chief visits Japan to strengthen ties

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi is on a four-day visit to Japan with an aim to bolster defence cooperation between countries. During his visit from October 14-17, the Army chief will also visit Hiroshima, wherein he will lay a wreath at the Hiroshima Peace Park and pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue at the Peace Park.

The visit marks a "significant step in bolstering defence cooperation between India and Japan," the defence ministry said in a statement here.

On Monday, Gen Dwivedi will interact with Sibi George, India's Ambassador to Japan and would thereafter engage in a discussion on India-Japan relations at the Embassy of India in Tokyo.



with the senior military leadership of Japan at the defence ministry in Ichigaya on Tuesday.

During his visit, the Army chief will hold meetings with Gen Yoshida Yoshihide, Chief of Staff, Joint Self Defence

Force; Gen Morishita Yasunori, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF); Ishikawa Takeshi, Commissioner of Acquisition, Technology and Logistic Agency (ATLA), it said. The discussions will be aimed

at fostering stronger military cooperation between India and Japan. Gen Dwivedi will also pay homage at the memorial at the MoD, Ichigaya and will be given a Guard of Honour by the

The itinerary also includes an interaction with senior hierarchy of the JGSDF and a visit to the National Institute of On Wednesday, the Indian

Army chief accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defence Force, will visit Fuji School, wherein he will engage in a conversation with Lt Gen Kodama Yasuyuki, Commanding Gen of Fuji School.

Gen Dwivedi will be given a briefing at the School and he will also witness an equipment and facility display.

On the last leg of his visit, the general will visit Hiroshima on October 17, wherein he will lav a wreath at Hiroshima Peace Park and pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his statue at the Peace Park. The visit by Gen Dwivedi aims

at strengthening cooperation between militaries of India and Japan, besides "exploring new avenues of collaboration between the two nations, the statement said.

India launches marine dolphin population estimation initiative PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW system and its tributaries span-

 $F_{\text{population estimation of}}^{\text{ollowing the successful first}}$ riverine dolphins in the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus river systems, India is now planning to conduct a similar estimation for marine dolphins.

This upcoming survey will target eco-sensitive areas to bolster conservation efforts, as marine dolphins face numerous threats. including hunting, entanglement in fishing nets, overfishing, climate change, tourism activities, toxic contamination, noise pollution, and habitat degradation among others, according to an official.

In fact, the Tamil Nadu Government announced is already implementing 'Project Dolphin' to strengthen the



health of the marine environ-

More than nine species of marine dolphins are found in the coastal waters including four types of dolphin species in the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve in the Southern State. The famous Ganges river dolphin is found in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna river ning across India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. A small population of the Indus

river dolphin, a close relative of the Ganges river dolphin, is found in the Indus River system in India. "Under Project Dolphin, we

have completed the estimation of riverine dolphins, the first of its kind in the world. The survey, conducted over two years, covered 8,000 kilometres of the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Indus rivers. The results will be released soon," an official said. The exercise, led by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), covered two species the Ganges river dolphin and the Indus river dolphin. It will provide a baseline population of riverine dolphins in India for future assessments. A WII study found that smaller rivers in the Ganga basin are a refuge for Gangetic dolphins and contribute to habitat diversity. It identified 620 kilometers of smaller rivers as a conservation priority. The presence of dolphins indi-

cates a healthy river system because they require clean, flowing water to survive. Their population helps scientists assess the overall health of a river. Some of the threats to Gangetic dolphins include unintentional killing in fishing gear, poach-

ing for dolphin oil, habitat destruction due to development projects, pollution, and overexploitation of prey. India launched Project Dolphin, a conservation initiative to protect dolphins in both

freshwater rivers and coastal waters, in 2020.

BJP to contest nine seats in UP by-elections, efforts underway to placate Nishad Party

fter deciding to field can-Adidates in nine of the ten upcoming by-elections in Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is now working to resolve tensions with its ally, the Nishad Party, which had staked a claim to two seats.

The BJP has allocated one seat to the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), but the Nishad Party remains unsatisfied with the BJP's current proposal, leading to internal friction within the ruling alliance

In an effort to resolve the issue, BJP state president Bhupendra Chaudhary, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, have been tasked with negotiating with Nishad Party President Sanjay Nishad. The dispute revolves around the Katehari and Majhawan constituencies, which Sanjay

cated to his party, as they were in the 2022 assembly elections. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed the three BJP leaders to engage in discussions with Sanjay Nishad in hopes of reaching a compromise. However, sources suggest that the BJP is inclined to offer only one seat to the Nishad Party, and that too with the condition that the candidate would conthat the candidate would contest under the BJP symbol. This proposal has reportedly not been well-received by Sanjay Nishad, who has yet to agree to the offer.

The BJP finalized its strategy for the by-elections in a high-level meeting held in Delhi on Sunday. The party has decided to contest nine of the ten assembly seats, with the Meerapur seat being reserved for its ally, the RLD. Meerapur, historically an RLD stronghold, has been given back to the party for the by-elections, further compli-



cating the situation with the Nishad Party. An official announcement of BJP's candidates is expected

soon, and the dates for the byelections are likely to be declared within a few days. Sources indicate that the central leadership, after thorough dis-Committee, finalized the list of

Sanjay Nishad, however, remains firm in his demand for both the Katehari and Majhawan seats. He has underscored the importance of 'Alliance Dharma" (alliance principles), questioning why the Nishad Party's claims have not been honored, especially since these constituencies were allocated to his party in the 2022 elections. Nishad drew a 2022 elections. Nishad drew a parallel to the Meerapur seat being reserved for the RLD, emphasizing that similar consideration should be extended to his party. "Alliance Dharma should be followed," Nishad remarked. He argued that just as Meerapur was allocated to the RLD due to their past victory, the Katehari and tory, the Katehari and Majhawan seats should likewise

previous arrangements. Upcoming by-elections and political implications

be given to the Nishad Party,

maintaining consistency with

The upcoming by-elections will be held in the constituencies of Karhal, Milkipur, Katehari, Kundarki, Ghaziabad, Khair, Meerapur, Phulpur, Majhawan, and Sisamau. Out of these ten seats, five are currently held by the Samajwadi Party (SP), while the RLD and Nishad Party each hold one seat. The remaining three seats are under the control of the BJP. For the BJP, these by-elections

are seen as a significant opportunity to consolidate its position in the state ahead of the general state is 2000 April 1 al elections in 2024. At the same time, it faces challenges in maintaining its alliance dynamics, particularly with the Nishad

Meanwhile, the Samajwadi Party, led by Akhilesh Yadav, has forged an alliance with the Congress for the by-elections. The SP plans to field candidates in six seats, with speculation suggesting that it may allocate two seats to Congress as part of

viewed as a critical counterbalance to the BJP-led coalition. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) has also finalized its list of candidates for most constituencies, adding another layer of complexity to the political landscape. With multiple parties vying for control of key constituencies, the by-elections are shaping up to be a litmus test for the broader political land-scape in Uttar Pradesh.

The by-elections are being closely watched as they are expected to set the tone for upcoming political battles in the state. For the BJP, the challenge lies not only in securing the maximum number of seats but also in managing alliance partners like the Nishad Party. For the SP-Congress alliance, the by-elections represent an opportunity to regain lost ground and present a united front against the ruling coali-

J and K BJP to elect LoP soon

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

After failing to realize its dream of anointing a Dogra Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir, the Bharatiya Janta Party has launched a preliminary exercise to zero in on the name of the leader of the opposition who can live up to the expectations of the masses in the region and can also give tough time to the ruling benches. As of now, several names are doing the rounds but the final selection is awaited.

The BJP Parliamentary Board has appointed Union Minister, Prahlad Joshi and BJP national general secretary, Incharge J and K and Ladakh UTs, Tarun Chugh as Central Observers for Jammu and Kashmir to monitor the appointment of the Leader of the Legislature Party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which swept the polls in the Jammu plains winning 29 seats, is second in terms of seats won as well as the number of first-time MLAs. The saffron party has 15 first-

कार्यसमिति है time MLAs, accounting for

more than half of its tally. J&K unit BJP chief Ravinder Raina felicitated the newlyelected party MLAs here on Monday and said the leader of the opposition will soon be selected after holding meetings with party leaders under the command of central observers.

One name in the race for

Leader of Opposition is that of State General Secretary Sunil Kumar Sharma, who won from Padar Nagseni. He has become MLA for the

second consecutive time. He was also a minister in the previous government after winning the Kishtwar seat. He enjoys the confidence of

the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and worked close-

ly with him during the month-long campaigning in the region.

Another name, Devendra Singh Rana, is also being considered as the leader of the opposition. Rana has become MLA from Nagrota for the second time.

He is the younger brother of Union Minister and MP from Udhampur, Dr. Jitendra

Singh. He joined the BJP in October 2021. While remaining in the National Conference, he served as Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's political advisor. He is very articulate and can give the ruling benches a tough time with support from the saffron party brigade. The name of Dr. Devendra Kumar Maniyal, who won from Ramgarh (SC) seat, is also being discussed for the post of the opposition leader.

post of the opposition leader. He won the 2014 assembly elections from Samba (SC) and was the Health Minister. Dr. Maniyal is currently holding the post of State General Secretary in the party.

The party leadership is also discussing the name of Dr. Narendra Singh, the national secretary of BJP, for the post of the leader of the opposi-

Narinder Singh became MLA for the first time in 2024 from RS Pura-Jammu South Assembly seat. He is also the face of PoK displaced people. He also has political experience at the national level.

Baba Siddique murder accused facing nine criminal cases: Cops

The Punjab Police on Monday said Mohammad Yasin Akhtar, one of the suspects in the killing of NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique in Mumbai, is facing nine heinous criminal cases, including for murder and attempt to murder. Akhtar (21) is a resident of Shankar village in Jalandhar's district, police said.

A police official in Jalandhar said nine cases are registered against Akhtar alias Jessi alias Sikandar at different police

He is facing serious charges, such as murder, attempt to murder and dacoity, Nakodar Deputy Superintendent of Police Sukhpal Singh said. He added that Akhtar is facing two criminal cases in Haryana's Kaithal as well. Akhtar was arrested in a criminal case in June 2022. He had not visited his village after he

came out of jail in June 2024, police said. Akhtar is suspected to have links with gangster Vikram Brar. His father Mohammad Jamil

Akhtar, who was engaged in the work of laying marble and tiles, and brother were not found in the village and their house was found locked. Akhtar's mother and sister have passed away.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique

(66) was waylaid by three persons at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area, just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office, and shot at on Saturday night.

The Mumbai Police has arrested two of the alleged assailants -- Haryana resident Gurmail Baljit Singh and Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap -while the third one is on the

Maha Yuti Government waives | Doctors' meet with Government fails as fast-unto-death enters 10th day toll tax on light vehicles at five Mumbai entry points

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

 $I^{\rm n}$ a major sop doled out to people living in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the BJP-led MahaYuti government on Monday announced complete waiver of toll tax for light motor vehicles (LMVs) at all the five Mumbai Entry Points (MEPs) with effect from Tuesday.

The decision to waive the toll tax completely at the Dahisar, Mulund, Thane, Airoli and Vashi MEPs, was taken on Monday at a special State Cabinet meeting presided over by chief minister Eknath Shinde and attended by deputy chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar and other ministers.

Announcing his government's decision to waive the toll tax on LMVs, chief minister Eknath Shinde said: "Our government's decision is historic and peoplefriendly. This move will save commuters' time, and reduce pollution and traffic".

Given that people living in MMR - who drive down to the country's commercial capital every day for their work -- have long been demanding the total waiver of toll tax, the decision has become a big relief to people using lighter vehicles like cars, jeeps, vans, and small

Currently, the toll tax levied on motorists by the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is Rs

45.per single trip.
The ruling BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP celebrated the state government's decision to waive toll tax for LMVs by distributing sweets among the people.

In a related development, RTI activist Pravin Wategaonkar who has long been crusading for discontinuation of the levy toll tax at five entry points of Mumbai and Bombay-{une Expressway – welcomed the decision and said: "The decision has become as a big relief to the



vehicle users at five entry points of Mumbai. Inordinate delays at toll booths and poor condition of roads even after paying toll were some of the important grievances of these regular users. There would not be any financial burden on the vehicle users".

"Given that all vehicle owners have paid one time Motor Vehicle Tax, there is no declaration of Total capital Outlay prior to issuance of toll notification and given the location of toll booths, the toll collection at five entry points was mala fide, arbitrary, capricious, illegal and violative of article 14 read with article 19(1)d of the Constitution of India especially as regards vehicle owners in thane; and ultra vires of Sec. 20 of Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Tax Act and articles 265 of the Constitution of India," Wategaonkar said.

Welcoming the decision, MNS chief Raj Thackeray said: "We demanded that all roads should be toll-free. We were criticized for vandalizing the toll plazas, but extreme steps were necessary to draw the government's attention. At least, now the Mumbaikars shall be free of paying tolls and we are happy that our agitations were suc-

Terming the decision as "politically motivated", State Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant said: "The ruling MahaYuti is aware of the public angst and fears losing power. So it is taking such 'feel-good' decisions. But why can't it be extended even for HMVs? Why continue paying the contractors?"



SAUGAR SENGUPTA

Acrucial high-level meeting between the Bengal State administration led by and a delegation different organizations, including Indian Medical Association (IMA) failed to produce desired results "for want of any concrete initiative from the government's side," the representatives of the doctors associations said.

The meeting was hosted to end the present gridlock emerging out of the indefinite fast resorted to by a group of junior doctors demanding justice for the Kolkata doctor rape and murder victim and resolution of many other issues including the alleged "mafia and syndicate raj" in medical institutions.

"We came out hopeless as there was no positive intent shown by the Government,' said the İMA representatives

they are taking steps towards resolving issues ... but there was no concrete proposal ... there was no show of intent ... nothing in writing was given doing ... we are looking into it' ... the Health Secretary whose resignation the junior doctors have been asking for and who should have been present in the meeting was not present and we were told that he is absent ... this is the most insensitive Government that we have ever seen," the doctors emerging out of the meeting said.

The meeting was held in the backdrop of the junior doctors' indefinite fast entering its tenth day on Monday with four doctors already having been shifted to hospital with their parameters falling drastically, sources said.

"What illegality is there in the doctors' demands ... they are asking for justice for their lady colleague who was raped



and murdered on August 9 inside the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital ... They are asking for a foolproof system including centralized real system with real time monitoring, enhanced security network, end of mafia and syndicate raj, timely students' union elections so as to keep the corrupt authorities in check ... these can all be done The doctors are

The IMA reportedly gave in writing to the Government about the existence of a "mafia

and syndicate raj inside the government hospitals including the medical colleges --- of which the RG Kar incident was an upshot.'

The senior doctors during their meeting with the Government representatives demanded immediate removal of the present Chairman of the Patients' Welfare Committee Dr Sudipto Roy who is also a Trinamool Congress MLA, besides they asked for the "dissolution of the State Medical Council which is the breeding ground of medical mafias" generating hundreds of crores, sources said.

the "publication of a proforwherein a mass resignation could be made legally tenable," the IMA representatives said adding, the State Government had earlier said that it was not taking the matter of mass resignation of the doctors seriously as there was no procedure for such mass resignations as "resignations are individual affairs."

Referring to the meeting the Chief Secretary however said that the Government would deliberate over things at appropriate level. "In the meeting we told the doctors that we have noted their issues and concerns and would intimate them at appropriate time .. we also told them that the main concern is the deteriorating health of the junior doctors ...

we requested them to see to it that the fast should end immediately because the Government is concerned The doctors also demanded about the doctors," the Chief Secretary said.

> junior doctors backed by members of civil society on Monday marched to Raj Bhavan to see Governor C.V. Ananda Bose so as to draw his attention towards the alleged "inadequacy of the charge sheet submitted by the Central Bureau Investigation" in the RGKM-

> CH case. "We have seen that only one person has been named in the charge sheet whereas several other persons have been arrested on charges of tampering of evidence ... we want to know why their names were left out from the charge sheet," doctors asked. An eleven-member delegation was deliberating with the Governor when reports last

Uddhav undergoes angioplasty proocedure at Lilavati hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ess than a week after he was diagnosed with three blockages in his coronary arteries, Shiv Sena's executive president Uddhav Thackeray underwent an angioplasty at the Lilavati Hospital here on

Four days after they conducted an angiography on him, a team of cardiologists, led by Dr Samuel Mathew, carried out an angioplasty on Uddhav and removed three major blockages in his arteries. The medical procedure lasted for nearly two hours.

The procedure was successful. He is doing well. His heart is functioning normally. We will be discharging him on Sunday," Dr Mathew told media persons. Replying to a question, Dr

Mathew said: "He is fully con-

scious. Immediately after the

procedure, he spoke to

Balasaheb (on phone)". Apart from Uddhav's wife Rashmi and son Aditya, his estranged cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, wife Sharmila and mother Kunda were also present at the hospital when the Sena leader underwent angioplasty.

Raj's presence at the hospital should be seen in the light of the fact that despite his strained relations with his cousin for six and a half years, he had suspended his visit to Aligbau midway and rushed

to Lilavati Hospital on the afternoon of July 16, on hearing that Uddhav was undergoing angiography that after-Later that evening, Raj had

sprung another surprise by driving Uddhav back to his Bandra residence, after the latter was discharged from the hospital. Raj's touching gesture had unleashed speculation about the possibility of reconciliation between the two estranged Thackeray cousins. The angiography had revealed that Uddhav had three major blockages in his coronary arteries. Though the doctors had advised Uddhav to undergo by-pass surgery, the Sena leader opted for angioplasty as an alternative to remove the artery blockages. Apart from making anxious enquiries about his cousin's health since then, Raj visited "Matoshri" on Thursday night and met Uddhav, ahead of his

Implemented robust action plan this festive season: Railways

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA/ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The Northern Railway Zone **⊥** on Monday said it has implemented a robust action plan this festive season to provide passengers with a comfortable journey and accommodate the surge in demand with 2,950 special trains.

The zone said it has achieved about 172 per cent jump in the number of festival-special trains running from October 1 to 30, compared to last year. Speaking about the arrangements, Himanshu Shekhar Upadhyay, Chief Public Relations Officer, Northern Railway, said, "Out of 2,950 trains, around 83 per cent festival specials will cater to the passengers of east-bound states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and

Assam, among others. 'The towns or cities such as Barauni, Samastipur, Saharsa, Varanasi, Ayodhya,

Gorakhpur, Darbhanga, Jogbani, Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati, Howrah, Muzaffarpur, Katihar, Tatanagar, and Lucknow are some of the popular destinations of these special trains originating from the National Capital Region," Upadhyay

The officer also mentioned various steps to enhance passenger safety and facilities such as strict measures to prevent unauthorised entry into reserved coaches, curbs on carrying inflammable materials, and steps to check smoking and littering in trains and on the station premises.

The Northern Railway, in a statement, said, "It may be noted that Northern Railway in association with other zonal railways is operating more than 2,950 Festival special trains during the festival season from 01.10.2024 to 30.11.2024.

"Last year in the correspond-

ing period a total number of 1,082 specials were arranged by Northern Railway, hence this year, there will be an increase of approximately 172 per cent in comparison to last year," it added in the release issued

According to Upadhyay, the Northern Railway would also run unreserved special trains to clear the extra rush in case of need on a real-time basis. "A total of 52 extra coaches are being added to various trains, making 2,740 trips and accommodating over 2.06 lakh passengers during the festive period," the railway press release said.

According to Upadhyay, other amenities taken by Northern Railway amid the festive rush include increased deployment of ticket checking staff and RPF personnel to manage crowds on foot-over bridges, entry and exit points, platforms, booking offices, and

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Speeding up 'GatiShakti'

GatiShakti gets a fresh boost as PM Modi hails it as a game-changer for India's infrastructure

rime Minister Narendra Modi has lauded 'GatiShakti,' describing it as a transformative initiative poised to revolutionise India's infrastructure. Speaking on the third anniversary of 'GatiShaki' PM Modi hailed its potential to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's logistical network, thereby driving economic growth and development. The 'GatiShakti initiative,' introduced by the Central Government in 2021, aims to streamline and integrate various infrastructure projects across sectors, including roads, railways, ports and airports. The programmed seeks to bridge gaps in existing networks, eliminate bottlenecks and promote the use of advanced technology and data analytics in planning and execution. GatiShakti goes beyond traditional infrastructure planning, as it involves the coordination of multiple departments and incorporates feedback from state governments, private sector stakeholders and local communities. The initiative is expected to transform



how infrastructure projects are conceived and executed, bringing about a paradigm shift in the country's growth trajectory. By fostering seamless integration of various sectors and improving the synergy between different modes of transport, GatiShakti is set to play a pivotal role in accelerating India's economic development.

By improving logistical efficiency, reducing costs and promoting seamless connectivity, the initiative can significantly bring down the cost of production. China's rapid economic growth provides a valuable lesson for India. Over the past few decades, China has focused heavily on large-scale infrastructure

development, including extensive networks of high-speed railways, highways and ports. This not only improved connectivity but also drastically lowered logistics costs, making it easier for businesses to thrive. Following a similar path, 'GatiShakti' can serve as a catalyst for India's economic transformation, driving sustainable growth and helping the country achieve its ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy. While 'GatiShakti' promises to transform India's infrastructure, several challenges may hinder its implementation. Key impediments include land acquisition issues, where delays and disputes over land ownership can stall projects. Regulatory bottlenecks also pose challenges, with complex approval processes across different ministries slowing down progress. Additionally, financing constraints may arise, as large-scale infrastructure projects require substantial investment and public-private partnerships. To overcome these hurdles, the government can implement policy reforms to streamline land acquisition and simplify approval procedures, reducing bureaucratic delays. Incentivising private investment through tax benefits and offering risksharing models can attract more participation from the private sector. GatiShakti is the need of the hour and must be prioritised to realise India's growth potential.



Ratan Naval Tata: A gem of a person 4



The passing of Ratan Tata has left the nation mourning not just an industrialist, but a rare leader who transcended divides, representing the 'Idea of India'

he year was 2000 and the list of Padma Awardees sent to the Rashtrapati Bhawan had included a list of super achievers. The scholarly constitutionalist in President K Ř Narayanan went through each name carefully, as he always did. The list had included luminaries like Pandit Hariprasad Churasia, Prof J B Bhagwati, Rajnikanth, Tarlok Singh etc., but one particular name brought a smile to the face of the otherwise reserved and ultra-correct Rashtrapati K R Narayanan, and it was the name of the-then relatively young, 63year-old Chairman of the Tata Group, Ratan Tata.

Arguably the most accomplished President ever, with a curriculum vitae of achievements that included recognition as the 'best diplomat of Indian Foreign Service, Ambassadorship to countries like USA, China etc., Vice Chancellorship of JNU, 3 consecutive wins as Member of Parliament, posts of Union Minister, Vice President of India, all on merit was no small achievement. Unbeknownst to many, his brilliant journey had the benefit of winds in his sails instilled by the Tata Group, long back! KR Narayanan had never forgotten what the Tatas had done to make its version of the 'Indian Dream' - the story from Uzhavoor in Kottayam to the Rashtrapati Bhawan had an unmistakably selfless, generous, and humble hand of the Tatas.

The topper from his school days who overcame unimaginable tribulations of financial and social nature fought against all odds and with the timely aid of the Travancore Royal family. In 1944, KR Narayanan was helped immeasurably by the Tata Scholarship to pursue his obvious genius in economics, politics and ournalism at the London School of Economics – it was just the academic break that the precocious talent needed, and the rest as they say, is history. JRD Tata had heeded a recommendation letter stating that Narayanan had secured an MA at Travancore University ranking first. He further noted that he achieved the distinction after surmounting many personal obstacles. Ironically, there any sense of entitlement.

was yet another name in the 2000 Padma awardees who had a Tata hand in his own life story, the illustrious scientist, RA Mashelkar. Given his financial hardship, he too would attribute a large part of his success to the "Tata scholarship of 60 rupees per month for six years that helped me study".

He conflated his own story to that of KR Narayanan's, "Both of us were Tata scholars. We both left India, only to return when we were fairly young with a zeal to do more for our homeland". The surreal moment was described by Mashelkar, "Padma Bhushan, was bestowed on both me, a Tata scholar, and Ratan Tata, head of the house of Tatas. By whom? President Narayanan, another Tata scholar. This was the best endorsement of President Narayanan's remarks about moving from the 'sidelines of the society to the hub of social standing?

As President Narayanan's Military Secretary, I was responsible for protocols et al, and I distinctly remember the President telling me that presumably Ratan Tata knew of the lata connection in Narayanan's life, yet he had never sought any favour, consideration, or familiarity, out of



HIS DEATH

SHOWED WHAT A COLOSSUS HE WAS, WHOSE LOSS IS FELT BY ALL, WITHOUT ANY EXCEPTIONS. HE WAS **UNBELIEVABLY ABOVE ALL POSSIBLE** 'DIVIDES' THAT **BESET** A 5000-YEAR-OLD CIVILISATION AND DEMOCRACY

Always one for puns with languages, he suggested fondly that perhaps the Tata leaders were not 'Captains of the Industry', but more befittingly 'Generals of the Industry'. As one from the 'Uniform' and

knowing Narayanan personally, I knew immediately that the remark was not about seniority (ranks) but about leadership, inviolable values, and personal integrity, which is asked of an individual, as she/he is in a position to walkthe-talk. Much before expressions like affirmative action, corporate social responsibility or corporate trusteeship were defined – Tatas were already doing the same, with no vested interest, whatsoever. It was always about a larger purpose. It is with this sense of immutable responsibility that Ratan Tata stepped into the shoes of the legendary JRD Tata, who had been passed the baton by Nowroji Saklatwala and Jamsetji Tata. The silent dignity, grace, and magnanimity of the typical Tata way of doing things were upheld and reinforced by Ratan Tata – in his passing, the nation lost its most loved son and the 'Idea of India its finest exponent. The passing away of Ratan Tata has also exposed just how poor (in leadership) we

wounded and polarised times of bitter conflicts between the realms of majority-minority denominations, capitalistsocialist societies, agrarianindustry priorities, and white collar-blue collar dimension it is ironic that Ratan Tata was never ascribed to be working for a restricted denomination. His death showed what a colossus he was, whose loss is felt by all. He was unbelievably above all possible 'divides' that beset a 5000-year-old civilisation and democracy called

Today there are many leaders of political parties, communities, regions, corporations and even perhaps of causes - but none who can be said to be a leader of the inclusive and caring 'Idea of India'. In such desperate times, his passing away has also inadvertently posited the relevance of 'humility' and basic 'decency' that is so sadly missing in the national discourse. So, there may be leaders or even 'Captains of Industry', but 'General' of Leadership (and beyond) absolutely none. Ratan Tata was the last of the knights, a first-rate hero.

(1 ne writer, a military veter an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; views are personal)

HE EDITO

CALLED INDIA

Navigating the complex path of integrity



In a world where honesty is often presented as situational, staying true to one's principles can be a daunting task

caught snatches of an interesting conversation **▲**on the radio recently. The host and the guest were having a free-flowing discussion on the role of honesty and truthfulness in life. The conclusion was that honesty always pays, but a half-truth may be acceptable to avoid hurting the other person. I did not agree to subjective honesty as the situation demands. I remembered a few incidents while working in the government. These were lessons learned about integrity and honesty in public life. I was working on an arbitration case a few decades back. The advocate representing the contractor approached me to tilt the report in his favour for consideration. I told him that the case would be dealt with on merits. He was expecting elevation as a High Court judge, and I was warned of being hauled up in his court. I do not know if he was promoted. I was certainly not summoned. I moved to a government company in Delhi. I started commuting to work with my senior colleague in his official vehicle. New to the organisation, I claimed the posals of illegal gratification. touching the money that we

A gentleman joined the disentitled conveyance allowance for the commute. He gently pute resolution board that I pulled me up and told me that am part of only when he was I could not claim the money assured by a former senior till the time he chauffeured colleague about my proven

me. I continued to travel with him till I was elevated and had been provided with an official vehicle. Another acquaintance from the private sector informed me about his promotion. Having received my congratulatory wishes, he hesitantly told me he was now in a position of authority to do something for me. I pointed out that I was better placed to do his company a favour, and not broach the subject again if he wished to remain a friend and a business associate. We continue to be friends. The word got around. I was not subject to any more pro-

integrity in public life. I am not vain, or at least try not to be demonstrative of my vanity, but I could not resist a proud smile. There were also incidents when I was on the receiving end. I did not live up to the standards that I had set. My father-in-law met an untimely death three decades back. A few days after the rituals were over, I accompanied my brother-in-law to the local post office to withdraw the savings. The dealing assistant's table was piled high with earlier case files. The work was done within the time frame promised, without his

were asked to put in the office drawer. I could have refused and waited out. I chose the easy way. I once read an article that corruption is a global phenomenon. It exists even in developed countries like America and Japan. The difference is that it is at the highest levels and does not affect the common man. I recently flew with a senior corporate leader who echoed exactly similar sentiments. This is the conundrum that I am unable to resolve. We should not be teaching our children conflicting lessons. To me, being truthful or honest are the two sides of the same coin. There cannot be two standards, be it in business, politics, personal life, or at the common man's level. American author, H Jackson Brown Jr said "Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you." That will be the day when we will be truly proud of our-

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

RSS CALLS FOR HINDU UNITY Madam — Apropos of the news 'Hindus

be united, empowered, weakness not an option: RSS' (October 13). The message of RSS Sar Sangh Chalak for unity of Hindus amidst political subversion on caste lines has made a wide impact and sensitises Hindus to diminish caste lines. The media made it headlines like never before. This is highly worrisome, as religious conversions by Islamic and missionary institutions and consequent demography change are the most potent threats emanating from caste divisions. Kashmiri Hindus have faced the worst violence and mass exodus since independence and even before, which is yet another consequence of weakened and divided Hindus but which was taboo for a selected media and the intellectuals to even discuss.

Narratives have been set on caste divisions weakening and dividing Hindus for more than a century on misrepresentation of oppression bereft of any evidence, whereas the former rulers of various princely states, entrepreneurs of traditional businesses, and defeated warriors faced persecutions by the Mughal and British rulers and were reduced to penury and ruins and classified later as lower castes. Such narratives should be busted.

The movies and OTT platforms are equally responsible for inculcating inferiority complexes among Hindus selectively. Lately, there is a noticeably undercurrent among Hindus against those who are insulting Hindus and their Gods and undercutting their religious faiths. The constitutional term secular has been misused to the extreme for dividing Hindus. The demand for caste census selectively for Hindus only while excluding other religions, though not provided in the Constitution is yet another shot to divide Hindus and create vote banks. Sangh Pramukh's message is loud and clear.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

TRAIN CRASH SPARKS PANIC Madam—Gruesome rail accidents in the recent past caused concern and created a

Md Siraj appointed as DSP

have suddenly become. In



🖚 tar Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj has been Sappointed as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) by the Telangana state. The post has been extended to him by the state government in appreciation of his exceptional and splendid achievement in international cricket. Siraj no doubt fought all odds to get into the national team and has carved a niche of his own with his superb

panic among railway passengers. This is a serious lapse and it will be treated as a human error to save heads from sacking. Following a collision between Darbhangabound Bagmati Express and a stationary goods train on Friday night, the Railways

ordered a high-level inquiry to ascertain

Nine injuries and no fatalities have been reported, although 11 coaches of the express train derailed on impact, leaving a parcel van in flames and mangled coaches strewn across the crash site. After crossing Ponneri railway station, the Darbhanga-bound train received the green signal to pass through the main line towards the next station, Kavaraipettai, near Gummidipoondi. However, the express train carrying more than 1,600 passengers experienced a "heavy jerk" while entering the station. It ended up entering the loop line instead and colliding with the rear of a goods train stabled there around 8:30 PM, according to the Railways. This is a serious lapse on the part of the railways and

heads must roll CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

laration cited that the young cricketer has made

his noteworthy accomplishments are his participation in the Cricket World Cup series and the ongoing series with various teams before World Test Championship finals

It has to be noted that the state made amendments in its regulations of appointments to felicitate and honour sportspersons as heads of government departments. He now joins the likes of Joginder Sharma (Cricketer), Akhil Kumar, Jitender and Vijender (Boxers) and Hima Das (Athlete) to name a few who became police officers for their contributions to sports. This no doubt will attract more voungsters to sports and encourage them to showcase their best to bring laurels to the state and the nation

Telangana proud and brought honours to the

nation, hence this great honour for him. Among

M Pradyu | Kannur

BABA SIDDIQUE ASSASSINATED

Madam — Former Maharashtra minister and Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique was killed in Mumbai. He was shot outside his office by three unidentified men. Siddique, 66, was a key Muslim political leader in Maharashtra and also served as Minister of State for Food and Civil Supplies, Labour and FDA.

More than politics, Siddique was known for his social image and hosting grand iftar parties every year. During his time as an MLA, Siddique worked extensively on improving the infrastructure of his constituency, focusing on slum rehabilitation, upgrading healthcare facilities, and enhancing educational institutions. It is too premature to say anything as an investigation is going on. The law and order situation is deteriorating. This is not good for the city and state of Maharashtra. If the third shooter is also arrested, then we can make a breakthrough in this murder case.

M R Jayanthi | Trichy

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FIRST COLUMN

THE CHANGING **FACE OF RAM LEELA**

As traditional values blur, concerns grow about the erosion of cultural heritage of Ram Leela



VINOD TAKIAWALA

he connection between Delhi's residents and Ram Leelas is a deeply rooted tradition, with the historic Ramlila Maidan serving as a living testament to this cultural bond. Stories linked to the venue continue to be shared even today. During the Ram Leela performances, the atmosphere in Delhi and the NCR resonates with the chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Har Har Mahadev." As evening falls, families eagerly set out to partake in the festivities. I, too, had the opportunity to witness some of these performances. However, to my disappointment, the portrayal of Ram's story often appeared distorted, with dialogues sounding jarring and performances lacking in choreography. It seemed as though the actors, much like the director and scriptwriter, had little familiarity with the original Ramayana.

The Ram Leela I watched during my younger days has transformed into a commercial event, with little regard for the religious and cultural essence of this annual festival. It has become more of an entertainment spectacle than an exploration of the Ramayana's teachings. For some, it's a means to profit, while others use it as a platform to pursue their personal agendas. In the capital, the celebrations—including the enactment of the Ram Leela and the ritual of burning Ravana's effigy—frequently feature prominent figures such as politicians and businessmen as guests of honour. It often feels as though the Ram Leela is being staged to honour them, as the announcements from the stage are filled with praises for their greatness and importance.

Yet, I couldn't help but wonder whether any of them truly embodied the



virtues of Maryada Purushottam Ram. Whether ministers, political leaders, social workers, or other distinguished personalities holding official positions, none struck me as being worthy of comparison to Ram. I kept asking myself, "Is there anyone among them who genuinely understands Ram or upholds his ideals?"

Moreover, the management of the Ram Leelas raises several concerns. From the chaotic parking outside the venues to the giant advertisements plastered on temporary boundaries, the arrangements leave much to be desired. The presence of high-ranking officials, Delhi police, and businessmen with their families often overshadows the experience of the common people. Organisers are granted access to public spaces with government support, including subsidised electricity, water, security, and other amenities. Despite this, substantial funds are collected through donations for staging the Ram Leelas, though there is no clear accounting or auditing of these finances. Only God knows where the money

At one Ram Leela in Delhi, the organisers spared no expense in creating luxurious settings for themselves, while visitors had minimal or no facilities. A statue of Lord Ram was placed in an open field, and the idols of other Hindu deities were carelessly laid out on the ground. Meanwhile, the organisers and their close circle enjoyed lavish facilities in opulent tents with exclusive arrangements for food, photoshoots, and private promotions. Ordinary visitors, who came with their families to enjoy the performance, often struggled to gain entry. Once inside, they were met with private security guards employed to serve the organisers' quests, who sometimes treated the common people poorly.

Ram Leelas have now become major attractions and money-making opportunities, with little consideration for the people who come to witness them. The entire event is chaotic, and all one can hope for is that it concludes without any unfortunate incidents. The ideals of Ram seem to be the last thing on the minds of those who organise these events. The essence of Ram Leela has been overshadowed by the spectacle of wealth and status. Even the story of Ram is distorted, and the dialogues are awkward—but that is the reality of modern-day Ram Leela. (The writer is a freelance journalist; views are personal)

Why RBI should not look at food inflation



Concerns over persistent food price volatility and the need for economic growth support have prompted the Reserve Bank of India to keep its options open



n October 9, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta announced the decisions taken by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in its fourth bi-monthly meeting of the current financial year (FY). It has kept the policy rate (the interest rate at which the RBI lends to banks) unchanged at 6.5 per cent. However, it has altered its policy stance from "withdrawal of accommodation" to a neutral stance. In 2016, the Union Government put in place an institutionalised framework to enable the MPC to formulate monetary policy and determine the key interest rates including the policy rate for inflation targeting. It mandated the RBI to fix the policy rate in such a manner as to maintain the Consumer Price Index or CPI (it corresponds to a basket that includes food, fuel, manufactured goods and select services) within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). The RBI decides the policy rates once in two months during each FY. The mandate initially

years ending March 31, 2021, has since been extended till March 31, 2026. The other crucial policy instrument the banking regulator uses for targeting inflation is Liquidity - a jargon for the quantum of credit available in the banking system. Pumping more liquidity along with a reduction in the policy rate represents a scenario which in jargon is described as an 'accommodative policy stance. The terminology was coined by Das in June 2019 when he started going for aggressive cuts in the policy rate and an increase in credit availability. Since June 2022 the RBI changed its stance to "withdrawal of accommodation" and has since stuck to

From October 9, 2024, it has decided to go for what it terms a "neutral" stance. A "neutral" stance connotes that the RBI has vowed to keep its options flexible meaning it will neither squeeze liquidity by restricting credit availability and keeping policy rates high nor go



AS LONG AS FOOD (WHOSE PRICES ARE **FUNDAMENTALLY** AFFECTED BY SUPPLY-SIDE FACTORS) REMAINS A PART

OF THE CPI INFLATION TARGETING WILL **ALWAYS REMAIN** A PROBLEM for unrestrained lending at low interest rates.

At the time of taking charge in December 2018, Das was confronted with a legacy of policy rate at a peak of 6.5 per cent, courtesy of a tight stance taken by his predecessor Urjit Patel. In February 2019, he initiated a process of aggressive cut that led to its plummeting to a low of 4 per cent by May 2020. It stayed at that level for over two years. Beginning May 2022, the RBI delivered a hike of 1.4 per cent during the first half of FY 2022-23 and another dose of 1.1 per cent during the second

A total hike of 2.5 per cent thus restored the policy rate to its earlier peak of 6.5 per cent by February 2023. Since then, the rate has remained unchanged to

Why hasn't RBI reduced the rate? Look at the trajectory of the CPI inflation. It had scaled to a high of 7.8 per cent in April 2022. During FY 2022-23, it hovered around 8 per cent. In the following FY, it started decreasing from 7.4 per cent in July 2023 to 5 per cent in September 2023, 4.8 per cent in October 2023 and 5.1 per cent during January/February 2024. For the whole of FY 2023-24, it was 5.4 percent. During the current FY also, the CPI inflation June 2024 and 3.54 percent in July of 2024. During FY 2024-25, the RBI expects the CPI inflation to be 4.5 per cent. Given the above, from the third quarter of FY 2023-24, the CPI inflation has remained well within the target range of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent). Moreover, as per RBI's assessment, this position will be sustained till the end of the cur-

There was thus a strong case for have given a boost to economic cent and by June 2024, it had fur-

growth besides helping millions of borrowers reduce their EMIs and helping industries, especially MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises) reduce the cost of servicing their loans. Yet, the RBI remains unfazed and has stuck to its stance of 'not reducing the policy rate. This has to do with a mindset that was reflected in Das's observation while announcing the first bi-monthly policy of the current FY. He had said "The elephant has now gone out for a walk and appears to be returning to the forest. We would like the elephant to return to the forest and remain there on a durable basis." Put simply, he meant there was no need to start reducing interest rates until inflation reached the target of 4 per cent and stayed at that level. If, that figure of 4 per cent was so sacrosanct, then why keep (+/- 2 per cent)?

The short point is the RBI is clamoring for a scenario that is unlikely and even if it is reached, it wont be possible to stay there for long. A potent reason for this is food inflation which has a weight of around 40 per cent in the overall CPI and is impacted predominantly by supply side/seasonal factors whereas monetary policy instruments work on the demand

Invariably, food inflation maintains an upward trend even as a small disruption in supply caused by seasonal factors can lead to spiralling prices. This, in turn, lifts the CPI inflation more so because of its high weight of 40 per cent. In July 2023, food inflation was 11.8 percent which led to CPI inflation of 7.4 percent. In October 2023, the former decreased to 6.6 per cent, and so did the latter to 4.8 per cent. At the start of the current year, food reducing the repo rate. This would inflation spurted to around 8 per

ther moved up to 9.4 per cent. As long as food (whose prices are fundamentally affected by supplyside factors) remains a part of the CPI basket, inflation targeting will always remain a problem. There is an urgent need to exclude it while setting benchmark interest rates, an idea that was mooted by the Chief Economic Advisor in the Economic Survey (ES) for 2023-24. The CEA argued that monetary policy has no bearing on the prices of food items, which are dictated by supply-side pressures. For instance, during 2021-22, wheat output was affected by unusually high temperatures. During 2022-23, rains accompanied by hailstorms acted as a spoiler. During the first half of FY 2023-24, food inflation went up due to a spike in the prices of vegetables caused by seasonal factors. The current inflationary trend in food prices also has to do with supply-side pressures only. The RBI can achieve little to control tnem by keeping the policy rate

The RBI should take the idea mooted in the ES - 2023-24 on board. Meanwhile, it should consider reducing the weight of food inflation in CPI to reflect the contemporary reality. The current $40\,$ per cent weight is based on the Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) of 2011-12 whereas Summary Statistics from the 2022-23 CES point towards a significant reduction. While formulating its monetary policy, the RBI's prime responsibility is to ensure macro-economic stability its pivotal focus being on keeping inflation within reasonable bounds. However, it can't be oblivious of the dire need to support economic growth which could be adversely impacted if it keeps the interest rates high.

(The writer is a policy analyst;

Laapataa Ladies: India's Oscar entry poised to captivate the world

This year's selection for Oscar marks a bold statement about the future of Indian cinema and its universal appeal

ndia is ready to stun the world once again, not **⊥** only with its glamorous presence but also with its captivating storytelling at the 2025 Oscars. With Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies chosen as India's official entry for Best International Feature Film, the global stage is about to witness a film that exemplifies the power of Indian cinema where tradition meets modernity, and women's stories are told with gradation, strength and authenticity. From the grand stages of Cannes and TIFF to the prestigious halls of the Oscars, India's cinematic

journey continues to break

boundaries, capturing hearts across the globe. The selec-

tion of Laapataa Ladies



PRASAD stands out as a justified

move that speaks volumes about the direction the Indian cinema will take in the future.

It signifies not just a bold statement but also a deeper narrative that India aims to convey to the world. The decision has stirred passion-

global filmmaking, and the art of storytelling that resonates universally. It signifies not just a bold statement but also a deeper narrative that India aims to convey to the world. One characterised by powerful storytelling and emotional depth, laced with cultural authenticity that delves into the unique yet universally relatable experiences of women.

Kiran Rao's return to the director's chair after more than a decade has proven to be nothing short of a cinematic triumph of her evolution as a filmmaker.

'Laapataa Ladies' offers more than a film, it's an experience that beautifully blends ate discussions about the humour and poignant social nature of Indian cinema, commentary and a fresh the evolving landscape of perspective on the complex-

ities of Indian womanhood. Set against the backdrop of rural India, the story revolves around two brides mistakenly swapped due to their veils, igniting a whirlwind of confusion and identity crisis. But beneath the surface, the film tackles deeper societal themes, portraying the often unspoken struggles women face while navigating tradition and personal identity. Rao's masterful storytelling elevates this from a simple narrative to a cultural dialogue, one that resonates with both Indian and global audiences. It's this jugalbandi of emotion, drama, and humour that makes 'Laapataa Ladies' stand out as a universal story about women's



The film doesn't just reflect the plight of Indian women, it taps into the global consciousness of gender roles, the subtle acts of defiance, and the resilience required to reclaim one's identity in a patriarchal society. By sending 'Laapataa Ladies' to the Oscars, India is presenting the world with a film that a serious undercurrent. This hood—its beauty, complex- ditions to explore gender,

is the kind of storytelling that Hollywood needs to see an authentic narrative that reflects the socio-cultural realities of a nation while remaining universally relatable. With well-written characters, immersive performances, and a storyline that oscillates between lightheartedness and gravitas, 'Laapataa Ladies' will serve as a testament to Indian filmmaking talent. The performances of Nitanshi Goel and Pratibha Ranta shine, their portrayals brimming with vulnerability and strength, making their characters relatable on a universal scale. This film is not just a story about two women but about the entire specbalances entertainment with trum of Indian woman-

ity, and contradictions. The landscape of global filmmaking is undergoing a revolution.

The world is slowly waking up to the storytelling brilliance that many nations like South Korea, China, Turkey and India have always possessed but are now showcasing with greater confidence and finesse. India's selection of 'Laapataa Ladies' is part of this global wave of cinema that is redefining the narrative structure, giving voice to local stories with universal appeal. Much like South Korea's Parasite, which used the backdrop of class disparity to tell a universally compelling story, 'Laapataa Ladies' uses rural India's tra-

identity and empowerment in a way that transcends cultural boundaries. As 'Laapataa Ladies' makes its way to the Oscars, it carries with it the hopes of millions who believe in the power of authentic storytelling.

The film's emotional depth, paired with Rao's visionary direction, is set to make waves on the international stage, showing Hollywood and the world what Indian cinema is truly capable of. With 'Laapataa Ladies', India has not just sent a film-it has sent a message.

(The writer is a former additional DG, DFF, and festival director at IFFI. İnputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan; Views are

3 share Nobel prize in economics

The Nobel memorial prize in economics was awarded Monday to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for research that explains why societies with poor rule of law and exploitative institutions do not generate sustainable growth. The three economists "have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperitv." the Nobel committee of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said at the announcement in Stockholm. Acemoglu and Johnson work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Robinson conducts his research

at the University of Chicago. "Reducing the vast differences in income between countries is one of our time's greatest challenges. The laureates have demonstrated the impor-

achieving this," Jakob Svensson, Chair of the Committee for the Prize in Economic Sciences, said.

He said their research has provided "a much deeper understanding of the root causes of why countries fail or succeed." Reached by the academy in Athens, Greece, where he is due to speak at a conference, the Turkishborn Acemoglu, 57, said he was surprised and shocked by the award. You never expect something like this,

Acemoglu said the research honoured by the prize underscores the value of democratic institutions.

"I think broadly speaking the work that we have done favours democracy," he said in a telephone call with the Nobel committee and reporters in Stockholm.

But he added that "democracy is not

a panacea. Introducing democracy is very hard. When you introduce elections, that sometimes creates conflict. Asked about how economic growth in countries like China fits into the theories, Acemoglu said that "my perspective is generally that these authoritarian regimes, for a variety of reasons, are going to have a harder time .. in achieving ... long-term sustain-

able innovation outcomes. Acemoglu and Robinson wrote the 2012 bestseller "Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty,' which argued that manmade problems were responsible for keeping countries poor.

In their work, the winners looked, for instance, at the city of Nogales, which straddles the US-Mexico border. Despite sharing the same geography, climate, many of the same ancestors and a common culture, life is very different on either side of the border. In Nogales, Arizona, to the north, residents are relatively well-off and live long lives; most children graduate from high school. To the south, in Mexico's Nogales, Sonora, "residents here are in general considerably poor-

er. ... Organised crime makes starting and running companies risky. Corrupt politicians are difficult to remove, even f the chances of this have improved since Mexico democratised, just over 20 years ago," the Nobel committee wrote. The difference, the economists found, is a US system that protects property rights and gives citizens a say in their government.

Acemoglu expressed worry Monday that democratic institutions in the United States and Europe were losing support from the population. "Democracies particularly underperform when the population thinks they

when democracies are going through a rough patch. ... It is, in some sense, quite crucial that they reclaim the high ground of better governance.

The economics prize is formally known as the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. The central bank established it in 1968 as a memorial to Nobel, the 19th-century Swedish businessman and chemist who invented dynamite and established the five Nobel Prizes.

Though Nobel purists stress that the economics prize is technically not a Nobel Prize, it is always presented together with the others on December 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896. Nobel honours were announced last week in medicine, physics, chemistry, literature and

Armed man held at checkpoint near Trump's rally in Southern California

A Nevada man with a shot-gun, loaded handgun, ammunition and several fake passports in his vehicle was arrested at a security check-point outside Donald Trump's rally Saturday night in the Southern California desert, authorities said. He was released the same day on \$5,000 bail.

The suspect, a 49-year-old resident of Las Vegas, was driving an unregistered black SUV with a "homemade" license plate that was stopped by deputies assigned to the rally in Coachella, east of Los Angeles, Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco said at a news conference Sunday afternoon.

The driver claimed to be a journalist but it was unclear if he had the proper credentials. Deputies noticed the interior of the vehicle was "in disarray" and a search uncovered the weapons and ammo, along with multiple passports and driver licenses with different

names, Bianco said. The man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a loaded firearm and possession of a high-capacity magazine, the department said in a statement. "This incident did not impact the safety of former President Trump or attendees of the event," the Saturday statement said. Trump had not yet arrived at the rally at the time of the arrest, the sheriff said Sunday. The suspect is scheduled to appear in court on Jan. 2, 2025, according to online records. Bianco declined to speculate about the suspect's motives or frame of mind. "We know we prevented something bad from happening, and it was irrelevant what that bad was going to be," Bianco said. The man made it past an outer security boundary and



was stopped at an inner perimeter patrolled by the sheriff's department, Bianco said Another security checkpoint closer to the rally site was operated by the Secret Service. "The US Secret Service assess-

es that the incident did not impact protective operations and former President Trump was not in any danger," the US Attorney's Office said in a statement Sunday. "While no federal arrest has been made at this time, the investigation is ongoing."

Media members, as well as VIP ticket holders, were routed through a number of intersections manned by state and local law enforcement officers before arriving at a large, grassy area where drivers were asked to open hoods and trunks, and each vehicle was searched by a K-9 officer. Other general ticket holders were directed to a site roughly 3 miles away from the rally, where they were boarded onto buses and driven to the site. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the arrest. Security is very tight at Trump rallies following two recent assassination attempts. Last month, a man was indicted on an attempted assassination charge after authorities said he staked out the former president for 12 hours and wrote of his desire to kill him. The Florida arrest came two months after Trump was shot

and wounded in the ear in an

assassination attempt during a

campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

EU condemns attacks on peacekeepers in Lebanon

The European Union on Monday condemned attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon and rejected Israeli allegations that the UN was keeping them there to obstruct military operations against Hezbollah.

Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions since Israel began a ground campaign against the Hezbollah militant group, with most blamed on Israeli forces. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that "their work is very important. It's completely unacceptable attacking United Nations troops."

Israel has been escalating its campaign against Hezbollah after a year of exchanges of fire, while it is also at war with Hamas in Gaza. Israel's offensive in Gaza has

42,000 over Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were

fighters but say women and important. It's completely children make up more than half of the fatalities. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90 per cent of its population of 2.3 million people. It's been more than a year

since Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's security fence and stormed into army bases and farming communities, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. They are still holding about 100 captives inside Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be

The European Union condemned attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon and rejected allegations that UN Secretary-General António Guterres is responsible for obstructing the Israeli army. Sixteen EU countries are contributing to the UNIFIL peacekeeping force. EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that "their work is very

unacceptable attacking United Nations troops." Five peacekeepers have been wounded in attacks that struck their positions, with most blamed

on Israeli forces. Speaking in Luxembourg before chairing talks between EU foreign ministers, Borrell underlined that the UN Security Council decides whether UNIFIL should be moved, "so stop blaming Secretary Guterres.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, whose country is one of Europe's strongest backers of Israel, said the attacks are "simply unacceptable" and that UNFIL will not be leav-

ing. "No, they will not withdraw. Yes, they will continue to fulfil the mandate. And yes, we demand on each and every party to respect this mandate and respect the security and safety of our blue helmets," he

4 killed in Hezbollah drone attack on Israeli army base

A Hezbollah drone attack on an army base in central Israel killed four soldiers and severely wounded seven others Sunday, the military said, in the deadliest strike by the militant group since Israel launched its ground invasion of Lebanon nearly two weeks

Lebanon-based Hezbollah called the attack near Binyamina city retaliation for Israeli strikes on Beirut on Thursday that killed 22 people. It later said it targeted Israel's elite Golani brigade, launching dozens of missiles to occupy Israeli air defense systems during the assault by "squadrons" of drones.

Israel's national rescue service said the attack wounded 61. With Israel's advanced airdefense systems, it's rare for so many people to be hurt by drones or missiles. Hezbollah and Israel have traded fire almost daily in the year since

the war in Gaza began, and fighting has escalated.

Inside Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed at least 20 people including children at a school Sunday night, according to two local hospitals. The school in Nuseirat was sheltering some of the many Palestinians displaced by the

Meanwhile, explosions hit early Monday outside Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. People were carried into the hospital.

Hezbollah's deadly strike in Israel came the same day that the United States announced it would send a new airdefense system to Israel to help bolster protection against missiles, along with troops needed to operate it. An Israeli army spokesperson declined to provide a timeline.

Israel is now at war with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — both Iranbacked militant groups and is expected to strike Iran in retaliation for a missile

attack earlier this month. Iran has said it will respond to any Israeli attack. **Bodies** rot in the streets

in northern Gaza: Israel continues to strike what it says are militant targets in Gaza almost daily. The military says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas and other armed groups because they operate in densely populated

In northern Gaza, Israeli air and ground forces have been attacking Jabaliya, where the military says militants have regrouped. Over the past year, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to the built-up refugee camp, which dates to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation, and other

Israel has ordered the full evacuation of northern Gaza, including Gaza City. An estimated 400,000 people remain in the north after a mass evacuation ordered in the war's opening weeks.

Seoul says North Korea prepares to destroy inter-Korean roads

AP ■ SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

South Korea said Monday it has detected signs that North Korea is preparing to destroy the roads no longer in use, as the rivals are embroiled in soaring tensions over North Korea's claim that South Korea flew drones over its territory. Destroying the roads would be

in line with leader Kim Jong Un's push to cut off ties with South Korea and formally cement it as his country's principal enemy. South Korea's military said Monday that it was observing various activities in North Korea that appeared to be preparations for demolishing the roads, such as installing screens.

"They have installed screens on the road and are working behind those screens, preparing to blow up the roads," Lee Sung Joon, spokesperson of South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a briefing. He said the demolitions could be carried out as early as Monday.

Lee said that the South Korean military believes that the North could also attempt to launch a space rocket, which is viewed by the UN as a banned test of longsaid North Korea may conduct unspecified "small provocations' to ramp up pressure on Seoul. It's not clear how much parts of the roads North Korea would destroy. The development comes as North Korea has recently accused South Korea of launching drones to drop propaganda leaflets over Pyongyang three times this month and threatened to respond with force if it happened again.

In a statement Sunday, the North's Defense Ministry said that the military had issued a preliminary operation order to artillery and other army units near the border with South Korea to "get fully ready to open

The spokesperson said that the entire South Korean territory "might turn into piles of ashes' following the North's powerful

North Korea often releases warlike rhetoric when animosities with its rivals increase. Experts say it's highly unlikely for North emptive attacks as it military is outmatched by the combined US and South Korean forces. South Korea has refused to confirm whether it sent drones but warned it would sternly punish

citizens is threatened. Last week, North Korea said it will permanently block its border with South Korea and build front-line defense structures to cope with "confrontational hysteria" by South Korean and US

North Korea if the safety of its

South Korean officials said North Korea had already been adding anti-tank barriers, planting mines and reinforcing roads on its side of the border since earlier this year in a likely attempt to boost its front-line security posture and prevent its soldiers and citizens from defecting to South Korea.

Taiwan to 'warn against separatists'

Thina held large-scale mil-Citary exercises surrounding Taiwan and its outlying aircraft carrier along with warplanes, in a move that underscores the tense situation in the Taiwan Strait.

China's Defence Ministry said the drills were a response to the Taiwanese president's refusal to concede to Beijing's demands that self-ruled Taiwan acknowledge itself as a part of the People's Republic of China under the rule of the

Communist Party. The drills came four days after Taiwan celebrated the founding of its government on its National Day, during which Taiwan's President Lai Chingte said in a speech that China has no right to represent Taiwan and declared his commitment to "resist annexation or encroachment."
"Our military will definitely

deal with the threat from

Joseph Wu, secretary-general

a forum in Taipei. the basic spirit of the United Nations Charter to resolve disputes through peaceful means."

The Presidential Office of Taiwan called on China to "cease military provocations that undermine regional peace and stability and stop threatening Taiwan's democracy and freedom?

A map aired on China's state broadcaster CCTV showed six large blocks encircling Taiwan indicating where the military drills are being held, along with circles drawn around Taiwan's outlying islands. China's Defense Ministry has not said how long the drills will last.

China deployed its Liaoning aircraft carrier for the drills, and CCTV showed a J-15 fighter jet taking off from the decks of the carrier, though

China appropriately" said the exact location of the car- China held similar large-scale rier is unclear.

China holds military exercises drills around

"Threatening other countries Navy Senior Captain Li Xi Democratic Progressive Party missile corps were all mobilized for the drills, as it was an integrated operation. "This is a major warning to those who back Taiwan independence and a signifier of our determination to safeguard our national sovereignty," Li said in a statement on the service's public media channel.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it had deployed its warships to designated spots in the ocean where they'd carry out surveillance and stand at ready. It also deployed its mobile missile and radar groups on land to track the vessels at sea. As of Monday morning, they had tracked 25 Chinese warplanes and seven warships and four Chinese government ships, though it did not specify what types of ships they were.

exercises after Lai was inauguof Taiwan's security council at The PLA's Eastern Theater rated in May. Lai continues Command spokesperson the eight-year rule of the that it recognize Taiwan is a part of China.

Also on Monday, China's Taiwan Affairs Office announced it was sanctioning two Taiwanese individuals. Puma Shen and Robert Tsao, for their work in promoting Taiwan independence. Shen is the co-founder of the Kuma Academy, a nonprofit that trains civilians on wartime readiness. Tsao donated \$32.8 million to fund the academy's training courses. Shen and Tsao are forbidden to travel to China, including Hong Kong. China also held massive military exercises around Taiwan and simulated a blockade in 2022, after a visit to the island by Nancy Pelosi, who was then speaker of the US House. China routinely states that Taiwan independence is a

"dead end" and that annexation by Beijing is a historical inevitability. China's military has increased its encircling of Taiwan's skies and waters in joint drills with its warships and fighter jets on a near-daily basis near the island.

On the streets of Taipei, the capital, residents were unde-terred. "I don't worry, I don't panic either, it doesn't have any impact to me" Chang Chia-rui said.

Another Taipei resident, Jeff Huang, said: "Taiwan is very stable now, and I am used to China's military exercises. I have been threatened by this kind of threats since I was a child, and I am used to it." Taiwan was a Japanese colony before being unified with China at the end of World War II. It split away in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's

Nationalists fled to the island

as Mao Zedong's Communists

defeated them in a civil war

Chinese premier arrives in Pak for SCO meet

PTI ISLAMABAD

hinese Premier Li Qiang on Monday arrived for a fourday visit during which he will attend the SCO summit and hold bilateral meetings with his Pakistani counterpart Shehbaz Sharif and discuss issues of mutual interests, including the strategic CPEC.

11 years and comes on the back of recent attacks on Chinese nationals working on infrastructure projects in Pakistan. Prime Minister Sharif received Li

This is the first visit by any

Chinese premier to Pakistan in

along with cabinet ministers at the Nur Khan airbase at Rawalpindi near here.

Li and other foreign leaders will attend the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government (CHG) of Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sharif later took to social media

to welcome visiting Chinese

premier by saying he was delight-

ed to welcome Li to Islamabad. "Looking forward to a historic & productive visit by my brother that will further strengthen and deepen our friendship," he said in a message on X.

"We will review progress on existing initiatives, especially CPEC and also explore new avenues of mutually beneficial cooperation. Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership is a cornerstone of regional stability & prosperity." Earlier there were speculations about Li's participation in the wake of the killing of two Chinese workers in a suicide attack in Karachi and the ongoing agitation by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party for the release of its jailed leader and former premier

Imran Khan. State-run the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported ahead of Li's visit that he would be meeting Pakistan's civil and military leadership and attend the SCO summit during his October

Sharif and Li will lead their respective delegations to comprehensively discuss all aspects of Pakistan-China relations, including economic and trade ties and cooperation under the USD 60 billion CPEC. The two sides will also discuss regional and global

developments. Premier Li will also call on President Asif Ali Zardari and hold meetings with parliamentary leaders.

Li is accompanied by ministers and senior officials, including from the ministries of foreign affairs and commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China International Development Cooperation

Agency Pakistan's Foreign Office termed the Chinese leader's visit as "an expression of the importance

attached by Pakistan and China to their 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership." Earlier last week, Sharif assured the Chinese of personally overseeing the investigation into the Karachi attack, for which the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibil-

Later, on Friday, China said it had dispatched an inter-agency working group to Pakistan to review the security of scores of Chinese personnel working on the CPEC projects. Elaborate security measures are

in place as Pakistan on Monday was gearing up to host the Shanghai Cooperation Shanghai Organisation summit starting Tuesday here in Islamabad. Foreign delegations have started

to reach Pakistan to attend the mega international event being held under the shadow of increased terror attacks across the country and the continued protests by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party threatening to disrupt the law and order situation. External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar and prime ministers

of China and Russia among

others are attending the two-day

23rd SCO Council of Heads of

Government (CHG) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) here to discuss the ongoing cooperation in economy, trade and environ-The CHG meeting will discuss

ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organisation.

The leaders will adopt important organisational decisions to further enhance cooperation among SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organisation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his capacity as the current Chair of the CHG, will preside over the upcoming CHG meet-

According to the Foreign Office, the SCO member States will be represented by the Prime Ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran apart from Jaishankar.



China's Premier Li Qiang (left) walks Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif (second left) upon his arrival at an airbase in

UK sanctions on Iranian military leaders, space agency over Israel attack

The UK on Monday ■ announced a new round of sanctions targeting senior Iranian military figures and organisations for their alleged role in attempting to destabilise West Asia.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said that the latest package comes in response to Iran's attack against Israel on October 1 and targets senior figures who facilitate such behaviour in the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, Iran's Air Force and the IRGC Intelligence Organisation.

The sanctions will also designate Farzanegan Propulsion Systems Design Bureau (FPSDB), which designs and manufactures parts that can be used in cruise missiles, as well

as the Iranian Space Agency, which develops technologies that have applications in ballistic missile development.

"Despite repeated warnings, the dangerous actions of Iran and its proxies are driving further escalation in the Middle East," said Foreign Secretary David Lammy

"Following its ballistic missile attack on Israel, we are holding Iran to account and exposing those who facilitated these acts. Alongside allies and partners, we will continue to take necessary measures to challenge Iran's unacceptable threats and press for de-escalation across the region," he

Lammy also discussed Iran's actions with partners at the European Union (EU) Foreign Affairs Council, where he pushed for de-escalation across

the region during talks on Monday.

The individuals sanctioned and subject to a travel ban and asset freeze include: Abdolrahim Mousavi, Commander-in Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army and a member of Iran's Supreme National Security Council; Mohammad-Hossein Dadras: Deputy Commanderin Chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army; Hamid Vahedi: Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force; Mohammad Kazemi: Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Intelligence Chief; Habibollah Sayyari: Head of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Army and Deputy Chief for Coordination of the Iranian Army; Ali-Mohammad Naini: IRGC Spokesperson; and Houssein Pourfarzaneh: Chief Engineer of Farzanegan

Propulsion Systems Design Bureau (FPSDB).

The FCDO said the UK already has over 400 sanctions imposed on Iran, including designa-tions against the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in its entirety and many of those responsible for the recent attack on Israel.

Monday's announcement follows warnings from the UK and international partners calling on Iran to cease its dangerous and escalatory activity across the Middle East. It also follows the G7 joint statement condemning Iran's missile attack on Israel and outlined the necessary steps being taken in response.

The FCDO added: "The UK will continue to work with international partners to hold Iran to account for its escalatory behaviour in the Middle East and its attempts to under mine global security.
"The UK is clear that a wider

regional conflict must be avoided at all costs and is committed to working with partners to secure a ceasefire on all sides."

asylum law triggers concern

uman rights and civil soci-Hety groups voiced concerns Monday after Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced a plan to temporarily suspend the right to asylum because of its alleged abuse by eastern neighbours Belarus and

Poland has struggled since 2021 with migration pressures on its border with Belarus — which is also part of the European Union's external border.

Successive Polish governments have accused Belarus and Russia of organising the mass transfer of migrants from the Middle East and Africa to the border to destabilise the West. They view it as part of a hybrid war that they accuse Moscow of waging against the West as it continues its nearly three-year full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Some migrants have applied for asylum in Poland, but before the requests are processed, they travel across the EU's borderfree travel zone to reach Germany or other countries in

Western Europe. Germany, where security fears are rising after a spate of extremist attacks, has recently responded by expanding border controls at all of its borders to fight irregular migration. Tusk called Germany's move "unaccept-

Polish govt's decision to suspend

Tusk announced his plan to temporarily suspend the right for migrants to seek asylum at a convention of his Civic Coalition on Saturday. It will be part of a strategy that will be presented to a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

In an an open letter to Tusk published on Monday, dozens of non-governmental organisations urged him to respect the right to asylum guaranteed by international conventions which Poland signed, including the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and Poland's own constitution. The groups said that funda-

mental rights and freedoms must be respected. "It is thanks to them that thoumen found shelter abroad in the difficult times of communist totalitarianism, and we have become one of the greatest beneficiaries of these rights," the letter said. "We live in difficult and uncertain times of war conflicts breaking out all over the world, and we ourselves exist on

It was signed by Amnesty International and 45 other organisations that represent a range of humanitarian, legal and civic causes.

the outskirts of war, but this

doesn't exempt us from human-

ity and from observing the

Tusk defended his decision to temporarily suspend asylum rights. He argued that Finland also suspended accepting asylum applications after facing migration pressure on its border with Russia.

"The right to asylum is used instrumentally in this war and has nothing to do with human rights. Border control and the territorial security of Poland is and will be our priority. Our decisions and actions will be absolutely subordinate to this," Tusk said on X on Sunday.

A spokesperson for the European Commission, the EU's executive branch, acknowledged the challenge posed by Belarus, but also Russia, and didn't explicitly criticise Tusk's approach.

"It is important and imperative that the union is protecting the external borders, and in particular from Russia and Belarus, both countries that have put in the past three years, a lot of pressure on the external borders," European Commission spokesperson Anitta Hipper said during a briefing Monday.

"This is something that is undermining the security of the EU member states and of the union as a whole."

But she also underlined that EU member countries are legally obliged to allow people to apply for international protection. Hipper noted that the European Commission intends to "work on ensuring that the member states have the necessary tools to respond to these types of hybrid attacks".

Russia captures southern Ukraine village in push before winters

Russia said Monday it has Captured the village of Levadne in southern Ukraine as it probes for weaknesses along the war's roughly 1,000kilometre front line, including in eastern areas which currently are the main focus of Moscow's military effort before winter arrives.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, reported no nighttime Shahed drone attacks on the country for the first time in about six weeks, after saying five days ago it struck a Shahed storage facility in Russia's Krasnodar region where some 400 drones reportedly were being kept.

In Moscow, the Defence Ministry said Russian troops Levadne in the Zaporizhzhia region. Levadne

early during the war but was recaptured by Ukrainian forces during a counteroffensive in the summer of 2023.

Ukraine's troops are straining to hold back Russia's military might, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, and don't have the manpower or weaponry to launch their own offensive. Though Russia's gains have been incremental, its steady forward movement is slowly adding up as the Ukrainians are

pushed backward. Ukraine says it needs more Western help to have a chance of holding back Russia's invasion. Russia illegally annexed four regions of Ukraine, including Zaporizhzhia, in September 2022. Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded the withdrawal of Ukrainian forces from all four regions as was seized by the Russians prospective peace deal, a depots.

demand Ukraine and the West have rejected.

The Ukrainian General Staff last week reported a direct hit on the Shahed drone warehouse inside Russia

'The destruction of the Shahed drone storage base will significantly reduce the ability of Russian occupiers to terrorise peaceful residents of Ukrainian cities and villages," it said at the

Ukrainian officials are keen to show the West they are not giving up the fight against their much bigger neighbour. An incursion into Russia's Kursk border region has put Ukrainian troops on Russian soil for more than two months. Ukraine has also deployed sophisticated new long-range drones to strike targets inside Russia, including airfields, oil the main condition for a refineries and ammunition

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि, मेर मुविकल श्री महेंद्र सिंह पुत्र स्वर्गीय श्री मेवा राम, नवासी मकान न.F-29. हरीजन बस्ती, कोंडली, पूर्वी देल्ली- 110096 ने अपने पत्र हिमांश सिंह व उसके पत्नी दीक्षा मय बच्चा (ईशिका) को उनके दुराचार दुर्व्यवहार के कारण अपनी सम्पूर्ण चल-अचल संपर्ि बुज्जपहार पर पहारण जन्मा सन्दूर्ण जला-जनस्य समाह से बेदखल कर समस्त सम्बन्ध विच्छेद / खृत्म कर लिए हैं। मेरे मुविक्कल व् उसके परिवार के अन्य सदस्यो का भविष्य में उनसे कोई लेन-देना / सम्बन्ध नहीं है यदि कोई व्यक्ति उनके साथ रिश्ता, व्यवहार रखता है तो अपनी जिम्मेदारी पर रखे। इसके लिए मेरे मुविका व् उसके परिवार की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी। अशोक चन्द्र मेहरा (एडवोकेट

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of DEEPAK KUMAR who is owner of the Plot No.67 and Nep 101 No.67 on Wellot No.62 on Song Vides, out of Khasra No.270, Situated at Village Brahampur @ Bhopura in the abadi of Harsh Vihar, Phase II, Pargana Loni, Tehsil District Ghaziabad, UP; purchased the same from Mrs. Kamlesh, vide Sale Deed dated 10.06.2024 bearing Document no.7486, Book no.I. Volume no.21608, on pages 129-152, dated 10.06.2024, and intend to morgage against linancial assistance from SMFG india Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd., (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.), (Formerly known as Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd. ANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any ereson having any type of claim/right/title/ laterest/creating mortgage over the said property ay inform in writing, at the address mentioned elow, about his objections, within 14days om today, falling which it shall be presumed that le said property is free from all type of nocumbrances, lienetc. Lucem Legal LLP Flot No.136. (Basement) Uday Park.

NOTICE is hereby given that Rohit Khatana, Ranvir Singh Khatana & Karamvir Singh Khatana (hereinafter called the seller/s) claims to be owner and in possession of Prop. No. 202, Block-M. in South City -I, Phase-I, Gurgaon, Haryana (herein after called the said property) on the basis of Sale Deed dated 07.09.2016, Doc. No. 15867 r/w Relinquishment Deed dated 01.10.2024, Doc. No. 12860 after the death of Co-owner Vidhi Chand Khatana and Seller/s have agreed to sell the said Property to Bharat Bhushan Yaday & said Bharat Bhushan Yadav agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd. ITO Branch, any person/s having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect

> Vishal Diwan (Advocate) For Diwan and Company LLP H. No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex New Delhi-19 Mobile No. 9818399999

PUBLIC NOTICE

SINGH S/o- Late Sh. Raghubir Singh R/o - D2A/66 B, D Block, LIG Flats, Janak Puri, West Delhi, Delhi - 110058, has severed all his relations and have nis all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be esponsible for any act of his Son Sh Nitin Singh, if anyone do so then

GAURAV SADANA Advocate

Public Notice

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Rakesh Kumar is the GPA Holder of Property bearing no. 1399 X/13, area measuring 55 sq. yards. i.e., 15 x 33 ** situated at Gobind Purl, Kalkaji, New Delhi. He is in possession through GPA, ATS & Will dated 16.02. 1996 executed by Mr. Manohar Singh in favour of Mr. Rakesh Kumar in respectof Said Property.

Mr. Rakesh Kumar intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Property to Mohd. Faizan. Subsequently, Mohd. Faizan is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 7 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 7-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683; e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase FREEHOLD DDA SFS FLAT NO. C- 13-C, WITH SCOOTER GARAGE, SITUATED AT POCKET-C GANGOTRI ENCLAVE ALAKNANADA, NEW DELHI-110019 from (1 Shri VIJAY KUMAR SAMNOTRA, son of Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samnotra, and (2) Smt VEENA SHARMA, daughter of Late Shr Krishan Gopal Samnotra, which was inherited by them after demise of their father Late Shri demise of their mother Late Smt. Krishna Dev on 03/02/2023. That Shri VIJAY KUMAR SAMNOTRA, and Smt. VEENA SHARMA claim to be the only Class-I legal heirs of Late Shri Krishan Gopal Samnotra and except them there are no other legal heirs of Late Shr Krishan Gopal Samnotra, If anybody including Bank, Financial Institutions, person(s), relative(s) known to them have any claim, right, interest, objection, whatsoever in the said property shall inform to the undersigned within 7 days with documentary evidence. In the event of no response to this notice, our client shall presume that title of the said property is inencumbered and clear

Read No. D/5425/2021 G-2/210 & 210A, Tulsi Tower, Alaknand Main Shopping Complex, New Delhi-110 019

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE **PICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Shal Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to

repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch			
	Ms Safety Doors Llp/ Mohit Kapoor/ Sahil Goel/ Shammi Kapoor/ Shalini Kapoor/ 731605000042/ 731655000001	Address-1: House No./ Plot No. 7 (Third Floor With Roof Rights), Block-I, Pocket-11, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi- 110089./ Address- 2: House No./ Plot No. 6(Third Floor With Roof Rights), Block-I, Pocket-11, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi- 110089./ October 09, 2024	February 23,2024 Rs. 57,60,512.00/-	Delhi			
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/augrantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount.							

else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: October 15, 2024

Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE Pronch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Description of Property/ Name of the rrower(s)/ Loan

Account Number	Date of Symbolic Possession	in Demand Notice (Rs)	Branch
Yogesh Kumar Sharma/ Parul Dhawan/ LBDEL00002089897/ LBDEL00005509429	Unit No. Carnation-02, Block- Carnation, Eldeco Residency Greens, Plot No-12, Pocket- B, Sector-Pl, Greater Noida./ October 9, 2024	November 15, 2021 Rs. 30,60,384/-	Delhi/ NCR
Sharad Mohan Chaubey/ Mohini/ LBDEL00002069400/ LBDEL00002069401	Unit No. D-1102, 10th Floor, Situated at Neel Padm- 1, Plot No.4, Sector-04, Vaishali, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201001./ October 10, 2024	May 31, 2024 Rs. 20,07,572/-	Delhi/ NCR
Vishwanath Purohit/ Bhawana Purohit/ LBDEL00002325463	Flat No. B7-G003, Ground Floor, Tower B 7, Gardenia Aims Glory, Gh-01, Sector 46 Noida, G.B Nagar, Noida./ October 9, 2024	January 18, 2022 Rs. 11,80,439/-	Delhi/ NCR
Mukesh Jalutheria/ Geeta Rani/ LBDEL00001409962/ LBDEL00001435575	House No-105, Second Floor, Pkt-12, Sec-20, Rohini Delhi./ October 9, 2024	December 04, 2019 Rs. 25,09,031/-	Delhi/ NCR
Vikash Kumar/ Raj Kumar Yadav/ Santosh Kumar Sharma/ LBDEL00002381624	Dda Lig Flat No. 46, Floor 1st, Sector-G-2 Pocket-2, Block-D6, Narela, Delhi- 110040/ October 9, 2024	May 07, 2022 Rs. 12,12,629/-	Delhi/ NCR
	Account Number Yogesh Kumar Sharma/ Parul Dhawan/ LBDEL00002089897/ LBDEL00005509429 Sharad Mohan Chaubey/ Mohini/ LBDEL00002069400/ LBDEL00002069401 Vishwanath Purohit/ Bhawana Purohit/ LBDEL00002325463 Mukesh Jalutheria/ Geeta Rani/ LBDEL00001435575 Vikash Kumar/ Raj Kumar Yadav/ Santosh Kumar	Account Númber Yogesh Kumar Sharma/ Parul Dhawan/ LBDEL00002089897/ LBDEL00005509429 Sharad Mohan Chaubey/ Mohini/ LBDEL00002069400/ LBDEL00002069401 Vishwanath Purohit/ Bhawana Purohit/ LBDEL00002325463 Wikesh Jalutheria/ Geeta Rani/ LBDEL00001435575 Wikash Kumar/ Raj Kumar Yaday/ Santosh Kumar Pyadsy Carnation-02, Block- Carnation, Eldeco Residency Greens, Plot No-12, Pocket-8, Sector-Pl, Greater Noida./ October 9, 2024 Unit No. D-1102, 10th Floor, Situated at Neel Padm- 1, Plot No. 4, Sector-04, Vaishali, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001./ October 10, 2024 Flat No. B7-G003, Ground Floor, Tower B 7, Gardenia Aims Glory, Gh-01, Sector 46 Noida, G.B Nagar, Noida./ October 9, 2024 House No-105, Second Floor, Pkt-12, Sec-20, Rohini Delhi./ October 9, 2024 Dda Lig Flat No. 46, Floor 1st, Sector-G-2 Pocket-2, Block-D6, Narela, Delhi- 110040/	Account Number Yogesh Kumar Sharma/ Parul Dhawan/ LBDEL00002089897/ LBDEL00005509429 Sharad Mohan Chaubey/ Mohini/ LBDEL00002069400/ LBDEL00002069401 Vishwanath Purohit/ Bhawana Purohit/ LBDEL00002325463 Mukesh Jalutheria/ Geeta Rani/ LBDEL00001435575 Wikash Kumar/ Raj Kumar Yaday/ Santosh Kumar Data Lig Flat No. 46, Floor 1st, Sector-G-2 Yaday/ Santosh Kumar Proket-Z, Block-D6, Narela, Delhi- 110040/ Moy 31, 2024 Rs. 30,60,384/- November 15, 2021 Rs. 30,60,384/- November 15, 2021 Rs. 30,60,384/- May 31, 2024 Rs. 20,07,572/- 201001./ October 10, 2024 May 31, 2024 Rs. 30,60,384/- May 31

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: October 15, 2024

voigs

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

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

A) Fresh- Tender Work:-S. Jobs No.

١	No			(Rs. Lacs)
	1	21/DGM/SM(WC-1)/ 2024-25	M/o Building (Annual Maintenance Work in CAG Guest House, Police Control Room and Staff Quarter in Sector-14A and Sector-15A), Noida.	39.96
	2	17/DGM/SM(WC-3)/ 2024-25	M/o Road (P/L DBM & BC for service road Barola and Construction of Traffic Diversion Tripod at Vishwakarma Marg DSC road Junction near Piler No.59 of Elevated road), Noida.	44.08
	3	22/DGM/SM(WC-3)/ 2024-25	M/o Drain (C/o RCC drain in front of Kartik Kunj Society Sector-44), Noida.	48.99
	4	25/DGM/SM(WC-3)/ 2024-25	M/o Road (Widening and Construction of RCC road & RCC Adjoining road for Kashiram Colony, Sector-45), Noida.	51.44
	5	14/DGM/SM(WC-10)/ ET/2024-25	D/o & M/o Village (R/o C.C. Roads, drain & M.S. Jaal at different location in Village Jhatta, Sector-159), Noida.	45.23

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 28.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 29.10.2024 at 11.00 AM

B) Re- Tender Work:-

Jobs No Name of the work Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs) 62/DGM/SM(WC-7)/ M/o Road (C/o Drain and footpath in front of A-08, ET/ 2023-24 Sector-87), Noida. M/o Drain (P/L 600 mm M.S. Pipe Underground by 15/DGM/SM(WC-1)/ 2024-25 Trench less by Augar Boring Method & Construction Water Harvesting in front of Dalit Prana Sthal on Expressway), Noida Development of Sector-73 (Reconstruction of 22/DGM/SM(WC-6)/ 98.22 damaged C.C. Road, Drain Repairing, Covering and other Misc. Work in EWS flats Sector-73), Noida.

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 21.10.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 22.10.2024 at 11.00 AM SD/-Dy. General Manager (Civil)

hurt in Dhaka clashes

t least three people were Ainjured in a clash that broke out between police and Hindu community going to immerse idols following the conclusion of Durga Puja in an Old Dhaka locality, a media report said on Monday.

police officer, were injured when miscreants threw bricks from the rooftop of Nur Super Market in Patuatuli area of Old Dhaka on the procession heading to immerse idols in the Buriganga river late Sunday night, The Daily Star newspaper said quoting an eyewit-

Following the attack, members of the Hindu community tried

Rains claim 3 lives in Lanka

Three people have lost their lives and over 1,25,000 marooned after Sri Lanka witnessed extreme weather conditions in 12 districts prompting authorities to close all schools in the capital region on Monday after heavy-rain triggered rains.

President Anura Dissanavake has directed allocation of an additional Rs 50 million to provide relief to the affected people even as Sri Lankan Navy and army troops have been deployed for flood relief and rescue work, including to provide food and other essentials to the affected people.

The island nation has been pummeled with heavy rainfall since October 8, however, some districts received rainfall over 100 mm over last two days along with high winds leading to flash floods and inundation in several areas

Forecast issued at 12 noon on Monday warned of further rainfall of over 100 mm to lash many areas across the nation over next 24 hours.

As on Monday morning, over 32,000 families have been affected, and over 1,25,000 marooned, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) said, adding, thousands have been evacuated and placed in over 80 temporary shelters.

resistance from the police. Kotwali police station Officerin-Charge Md Enamul Hasan told the newspaper, "The locals attempted to enter the market. For the sake of the market's

to enter the market but faced security, we resisted them from added.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Mahinder Pal Panwar is claiming to be the owner of Plot bearing No. 186, area measuring 70.00 s, mtrs., in Block C-11, situated at Ghonda Residential Scheme, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi; vide a Conveyance Deed dated 20.42022, duly registered with SRO VII, as Document No. 6513, Book No. 1, & Volume No. 8369, on Pages 43-47, on 12.05.2022, executed by DDA, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner (through Mr. Mohit Panwar) wants to mortage the said properly and intend to obtain

wants to mortgage the said property and intend to obtain loan from our client against the said property, if anybody

has any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner nas any opiection's upon the ownership of adove ownership of adove when the said property, its mortiagealtilegation & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants).

200, Inferior 23, Shival Marg, Mott Nagar, N. Delin-15

Ph : 011-41112527-28 legal@knalegal.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my cleint Seema Rana is in process to avail the LAP against her property Bearing Vo. 103, area measuring 44 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 5116, situated in the area of Village Hastsal, Delhi State, Delhi, Colony known as Vikas Vhar, Vikas Nagar, Ulttam Nagar, New Delhi-1 10059 (availing loan from SHFL), having acquired the same vide Gift Deed dated 9/8/2024, Doc no. 2024/25/1/21813 executed by her husband Balvir Singh Rana alias Balbis Singh Rana All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, piedge, easement or otherwise howsnever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxnii Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of RAHUI SACHDEVA AND SEEMA SACHDEVA Who have purchasing the Residential Unit No. M-940 ho, on 9th Floor, having carpet area measuring 1275 Sq. Fl. in the residential Project known as "Ashiana Anmol", at village Dhunela Sector-33, Urban Estate Gurgaon, Haryana, from MS. POOJA who is owner of the aforesaid property vide Conveyance Deed dated 26.05.2024 which is the registered vide Document No. 3885.

duly registered vide Document No.3885, a Sub-Registrar-Sohna,; and intend to mortgag

duly registered vide Document No.3885, a Sub-Registrar-Sohna, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from IDBI Bank Limited. That original Allotment Letter Issued by M/s Ashiana Housing Limited in Tavour of Mr. Manish Malhotra & Mrs. Jimsy Malhotra and original Flat Buyer's Agreement dated 29.05.2015 executed by M/s Ashiana Housing Limited & M/s Universe Heights (India) LLP in favour of Mr. Manish Malhotra & Mrs. Jimsy Malhotra in respect of Unit No. M-905, on 9th Floor, having carpet area measuring 1275 Sq. Ft., (endorsed in the name of Mrs. Pooja) is/are Lost/Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage 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, lienets. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

entering, which eventually led to the clash." The officer further said that unable to control the situation, he informed the army and they arrived and dispersed the crowd. "The situation is now largely under control," he

PUBLIC NOTICE Costs hereby given to the General Public that PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to the General Public th of Mr. Yakoob is the owner of PLOT NO. 7 AREA MEASURING 291 SQ. YDS., OUT C KHASRA NO. 2326/2, SITUATED AT NETA PARK, AREA MAUJA LONI, PARAGAN LONI, TEHSILAND DISTRICT GHAZIABAI

LON, TEHSILAND DISTRICT GHAZIABAD U.P., by virtue of Regd. GPA. ATS and Will date 08.04.2013, executed by Mrs. Faijina, and sam to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Lud. General public hereby informed that i anybody has any charge/interest/title in the sai property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. responsible for his any acts.

GIRISH SHARMA (Advocate) G-73, Lawyers Chambe Karkardooma Courts, Shahdara, Delhi-110032

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Raju Gupta, S/o Jagannath Gupta, Flat No. 6485, Second Floor Jagannath Gupta, Flat No. 6485. Second Floor Pocket 9, Sector-B, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, is the sole owner of above mentioned Flat of vide DDA file no F125(5225)83/SFS/V/III. The original Documents 1. Allocation Latter, 2. Fifth and Final Demand Latter, 3. Bank Challan of above mentioned Flat. Has been Lost/ Misplaced somewhere and not traceable my best Efforts. An FIR of this has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No: 2188038/2024_on 08/11/0704 188030/2024 on 08/10/2024

2188030/2024 on 08/10/2024.

Any person(s) claiming any right, interest having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9840025465. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, LAB(H) or Director (H)-1, D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023.

PUBLIC NOTICE

aliwada, Village-Jatwada Kalan, Pargana oni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad. U.P. ereinafter referred to as "said property" Reference Public Notice appeared in Col 7 lage 9, (English Edition) and Col 1, page Hindi Edition) of New Delhi Edition of Piones Hind Edition) of New Deini Edition of Prioragidated 11.10.24 published by us on behalf of bur clientess, Mrs Renu Goel, regarding the aforesaid property. Erroneously, the Notice period has been mentioned as 15 days. The Notice period may be read as 07 days from the date of publication of the Notice I.e., 11.07.24 SHIVKANT ARÓRA, ADVOCATE A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR, DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

The Public at large is hereby notified that my client Mr. Raja Kalsi intend to purchase Entire Basement and Upper Ground Floor of the Property Bearing No.8-54, Swasthya Vihar, Delhi-110092 from Mrs. Jayna Jariwala W/o Late Shri Abhay Jariwala who became the owner of the entire property after the death of her husband Shri Abhay Jariwala. It is therefore. Notified that anybody.

claiming any right, title, interest or lien over the aforesaid property may file such claim or objection to the undersigned within a period of 10 days from the date of Publication of this notice. Otherwise, it will SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE)

Office No.107, First Floor, M.S.

Mob.: +91-9811912277

Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092

My client Dilsad Ali s/o Shaukat Ali R/o E-85 IInd Floor, South Anarkali, Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051 also having shop Jahanv Boutique at S-23, G/F, South Anarkali Krishna Nagar, Near Anarkali Gurudwara, Delhi-110051 has severed relations and debarred his son Nadeem from his movable immovable properties due to his misconduct. My client will not be

Re: Property Bearing Plot No. 18, MC No. 245 area measuring 203 sq. yds i.e 169.728 sq mtrs, situated in Colony namely Laxmi Vihar FOR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES,

t is therefore, Notified that anybody

Provincation of this notice. Otherwise, it will be presumed that the said property is free from all encumbrances, charges and/or lien, etc. and my client is free to purchase the said property from the above named

ny client SHRI NARENDER disowned his son Sh. Nitin Singh, from ie/she will do so at his/her own risk.

ACHIN SHARMA (ADVOCATE)

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल पर्यावास भवन, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला- रायपुर (छ.ग.)

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी

ई.आई.ए. नोटिफिकेशन, 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित

किया जाता है कि मेसर्स पृष्प स्टील्स एण्ड माईनिंग (प्रा.) लिमिटेड, ग्राम - हाहालद्दी तहसील - दुर्गूकोंदल, जिला उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर स्थित फॉरेस्ट रेंज दुर्गूकोंदल, कुल क्षेत्रफल - 66 हेक्टेयर में क्षमता विस्तार के तहत् आयरन ओर माईन (मुख्य खनिज) एलॉंग विथ क्रशर एण्ड स्क्रीन प्लांट क्षमता 0.4 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष से 1.2 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष एवं न्यु आयरन ओर बेनिफिसिएशन (ड्राई / वेट) क्षमता - 0.95 मिलियन टन प्रतिवर्ष के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेत् लोक सुनवाई बाबत् छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना हेतू लोकसूनवाई दिनांक 26.09.2024 को आयोजित की गयी थी। कार्यालय कलेक्टर (खनिज शाखा) जिला- उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर (छ.ग.) के ज्ञापन क्रमांक 1813, दिनांक 03.10.2024 के माध्यम से उक्त लोक सुनवाई को अपरिहार्य कारणों से स्थगित किया गया था। भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के अधिसूचना दिनांक 09.05.2022 के परिप्रेक्ष्य में उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्तियां / सुझाव / विचार / टीका-टिप्पणियाँ, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 15 दिवस के अन्दर क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल जगदलपुर (छ.ग.) में कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। **उक्त परियोजना** के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक - 30/10/2024, दिन- बुधवार, समय - प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थान- जनपद पंचायत हॉल, दुर्गुकोंदल, तहसील - दुर्गुकोंदल, जिला - उ.ब. कांकेर (छ.ग.) में नियत की गई है । ई.आई.ए. नोटिंफिकेशन 14 सितम्बर, 2006 (यथा - संशोधित) के अनुसार संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन / पठन हेत् ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट, कार्यपालक सार हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कापी), डायरेक्टर, भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायू परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली; एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर, कांकेर, जिला-उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर, जिला पंचायत कार्यालय, कांकेर जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र, कांकेर, कार्यालय जनपद पंचायत, दुर्गुकोंदल, कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत - चिहरो, बरहेली, परभेली, खुटगाँव, दुर्गूकोंदल, हानपतरी, दमकसा, गुदुम, जाड़ेकुर्से, साधुमिचगाँव, जिला- उत्तर बस्तर कांकेर, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, जगदलपुर, जिला- बस्तर तथा मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर में रखी गई है। सदस्य सचिव

छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P) **E-TENDER NOTICE** Name of the work Tender Amount

RBI calls for cheaper, faster remittances

PTI NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday made a case for reducing time and cost of overseas remittances, which are important for developing economies including India. According to the World Migration Report 2024 released by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), India's remittances surged to USD 111 billion last year, surpassing all other nations.

As per the Bank of England projection, the value of global cross-border payments is estimated to surpass USD 250 trillion by

The significant volume of crossborder remittances, the growing size of gross flows of capital, and the increasing importance of cross-border ecommerce have acted as catalysts to this

growth, he noted.

"Remittances are the starting point for many emerging and developing economies, including India, to explore cross-border peerto-peer (P2P) payments. We believe there is immense scope to significantly reduce the cost and time for such remittances," Das said in his keynote address at the conference on 'Central conference on 'Cer Banking at Crossroads'. Besides, he said, the feasibility of expanding real-

settlement gross (RTGS) to settle transactions in major trade currencies such as dollar, Euro and Pound can be explored bilateral multilateral arrangements. India and a few other

economies have already commenced efforts to linkage expand crossborder fast payment systems both in the bilateral and multilateral modes, he

These include Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant month later, the pilot of the crossborder retail payments retail CBDC kicked off. crossborder retail payments by interlinking domestic Instant Payment Systems (IPSs) of four **ASEAN** countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and (Malaysia,

Thailand) and India.

bilateral Under arrangements, cross-border payment linkages have already been established by India with Singapore, UAE, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Nepal,

The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is another area which has the potential to facilitate efficient crossborder payments, he added. On November 1, 2022, the RBI started the wholesale pilot of CBDC for settlement in government bonds. A

Talking about the risk of digitisation, the RBI digitisation, the RBI Governor said, in the Going forward, he said, modern world with deep harmonisation of standards social media presence and and interoperability would be important for CBDCs for cross-border payments and vast access to online banking money

to overcome the serious

financial stability concerns

"A key challenge could be

the fact that countries may

prefer to design their own

systems as per their domestic

considerations. I feel we can overcome this challenge by

developing a plug-and-play

that

replicability of India's experience while also

maintaining the sovereignty

of respective countries," he

associated

system

cryptocurrencies.

rumours misinformation can spread very quickly and can cause liquidity stress.

Banks have to remain alert in the social media space and also strengthen their liquidity buffers, he said. The RBI Governor also raised concerns over misuse of Artificial Intelligence in the banking space saying it could lead to more cyber attacks and data breaches.

"Banks and other financial institutions must put in place adequate risk mitigation measures against all these risks. In the ultimate analysis, banks have to ride on the advantages of AI and Bigtech and not allow the latter to ride on them, he said.

Observing that the global economy is more financially integrated than ever before, Das said, the divergence in global monetary policies monetary easing in some economies, tightening in a few, and pause in several other economies can be expected to lead to volatility in capital flows and exchange rates, which may disrupt financial stability.

Private credit markets have expanded rapidly with limited regulation, he said, adding, they pose significant risks to financial stability, particularly since they have not been stress-tested in a

Blockchain leaders discuss future opportunities

PTI DUBAI

 $P_{\mathrm{global}}^{\mathrm{articipants}}$ from across the cryptocurrency community gathered at the Future Blockchain Summit 2024 to explore the latest advancements opportunities within the blockchain ecosystem.

The event features a series of sessions under the theme 'Investments in Blockchain & Gaming.

Marwan AlZarouni, CEO of AI, Dubai Department of Economy & Tourism led a session, highlighting Dubai's leadership in AI and blockchain innovation, as well as its approach to AI. "Here, you can engage with us and our regulators to bring your projects to life. If it can't be done anywhere else in the world, it can be done here," he said.

Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Executive Chairman & CEO, Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC), talked about the potential impact of AI, crypto and gaming in the future of trade.

"I think from 2026 you won't recognise your life. It will continue to change. Security will be the deciding factor of how far we go, but automated systems, AI and blockchain

would be very embraced," he said. The accelerated institutional



adoption of blockchain technology was a key focus area. John Fan, Venture Partner, Inception Capital, USA, Marcel Kasumovich, Deputy Chief Investment Officer, Coinbase Asset Management, Oliver von Wolff, Founder & CEO, Helion Edge, UAE and According

to Mansoor Madhavji, Partner, Blockchain Founders Fund, UAE, "the UAE is rapidly becoming a global hub for blockchain innovation, with key industry players and potential founders converging here, especially during major conferences.

Williams, Mike Officer, Communication Officer, Toobit shed light on the investment opportunities in blockchain technology. Projects are increasingly blockchain using fractionalise traditionally illiquid assets such as real estate and commodities, making them accessible to a broader audience, he said. "Today, crypto is not just an asset class, it is a growing

community.

Geographically, regions like Southeast Asia, Middle East and Africa becoming key players in driving innovation and creating new cry markets," Williams said. Meanwhile, Blowfish Studios, a fully-owned subsidiary of Animoca Brands, showcased their AAA open-world space adventure with integrated blockchain technology as well as a new cooperative game mode where players can team up to complete objectives online, offering

attendees a hands-on experience of the future of

blockchain gaming.

Consumer Affairs Minister criticises air purifier false claims

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

onsumer Affairs Minister Consumer Thinks

Pralhad Joshi on Monday criticised air criticised air purifier manufacturers for making false claims about their products, and called for increased consumer awareness ahead of winter when air pollution worsens in Delhi due to crop stubble burning in neighbouring

Addressing commemorating Standards concern over expressed misleading marketing tactics adopted by some air purifier companies.

"Discussion on air pollution has begun. Looking at Air Quality Index (AQI) on mobiles, people out of fear, go and buy air purifiers. Air claims. ...We see air purifiers and so much is written but nothing is there in it. There is just a fan in it, yet claims are still made," the minister

called for collaborative approach involving the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the consumer affairs ministry and consumers to address the

stated.

While praising the BIS for their "exceptionally wonderful job" in recent years, the minister emphasized that more needs to be done.
"I do not blame BIS for this.

BIS in the last few years has done an exceptionally wonderful job. But both BIS and the consumer affairs ministry and consumers together need to create



and I strongly feel (this the minister said ng the collective responsibility in combating misleading product claims.

emphasized government's commitment to ensuring every Indian has access to safe, reliable, and high-quality products These comments come as

concerns grow about air quality in major Indian cities and expansion of the air purifier market.

Joshi also announced plans to make BIS standards mandatory for public procurement on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal. "BIS standards are partially implemented on GeM. We'll try to make it mandatory."

The minister highlighted the government's focus on quality standards, noting that proposals now include global standard

"These days, the tradition has started in the Union Cabinet. Wherever a bill to be introduced in Parliament comes before the Cabinet,

awareness. It is important, the global standard note comes with it. That has been made mandatory for the Cabinet," he said.

> This note mentions which countries perform best in the particular field, rules and how India can achieve it. "So, we have to match every Cabinet note with the global standards. This helps our government decisions to set standards whether it is quality infrastructure or urban metro trains.'

> Implementation of standards at national level has been given a top priority by the government and is actively bringing more products under mandatory quality controls, he said.

> He said that over 22,300 standards are currently in force, with 94 per cent harmonized international standards. The number of Quality Control Orders has risen from 14 (covering 106 products) in 2014 to 174 (covering 732 products) now.

Also, 94 per cent of Indian Standards are harmonised with with international

Indian markets outperform China in last five years, says SEBI



PTI ■ MUMBAI

Sebi Whole-time Member "remarkable" year for India, with the benchmark indices Monday reminded investors returning 28 per cent and the consistently delivered 15 per cent returns over the last 5 years whereas the same has been zero or even negative in China.

Terming the Indian markets "sone pe suhaga" for delivering higher returns for lower risks, Narayan also flagged a few areas of caution for investors and asked them to be conscious of the risks. "There's a lot of talk about China markets over the last few days. But over the last five years, while Indian markets have given around 15 per cent compound annual growth rate consistently, Chinese markets are nowhere close to that. It's almost zero. In fact, in some cases, like in Hong Kong, it's actually negative," Narayan said.

Speaking at an event marking the start of the Investor

Awareness Week at NSE, Narayan said FY24 was a

"That's like 'sone pe suhaga'. It's like the best of all worlds: low risk and very high return," Narayan said, underlining that there are side effects of this as well.

Making it clear that it will not be the same going forward and investors should not assume it to be a one-way street, Narayan said such handsome returns can lead to complacency and pointed to a lot of youngsters opening up demat accounts to join the

bandwagon. Educating people about risks is very important, Narayan said, giving the analogy of driving a car. "There has to be a light push on the accelerator to get more investors to provide risk capital for the economic growth, we also need to be aware of risks and use the brakes if need be.

He said that 40 per cent of the small and midcap scrips have shot up by 5 times in the last five years, because of an imbalance between inflow of investor money and supply of new paper. On its part, the capital

markets regulator is trying hard to ensure that fundraising clearances are done early so that there is a steady stream of quality paper supply in the market. From a broader, longer-term

perspective, Indian markets will only go north from here given the economic growth prospects in the country, Narayan said, issuing specific advice to investors.

Investors need to have the right intermediaries to capitalise on this opportunity presented by India, and not fall for the unregistered and flv-hv-night who might be driven by vested interests, he said.

Using the oft-repeated idiom of "all roads lead to Rome", Narayan remarked that Rome is not a traveller-friendly place and one may get scammed there as well. Therefore, it is important to seek advice from the right people for the investors, he

He also said that it is in investors' interests to trade less and stay invested for longer for higher returns, and added that studies prove the

Sebi, which has flagged certain areas like derivatives recently, is not against speculation or participants taking short-term trades, but it would want investors to understand the risks, Narayan



WPI inflation rises to 1.84 per cent in September

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

wholesale I inflation rose to 1.84 per cent in September as food items, especially vegetables, turned costlier, as per the government data released on Monday.

The wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation was 1.31 per cent in August. It was (-)0.07 per cent in September last year.

Inflation in food items shot up to 11.53 per cent last month against 3.11 per cent in August. This was led by 48.73 per cent inflation in vegetables as against (-)10.01 per cent in August.

Inflation in potato and onion continued to be high at 78.13 per cent and 78.82 per cent, respectively in September.

Fuel and power category witnessed deflation of 4.05 per cent in September against a deflation of 0.67 per cent in

August. "Positive rate of inflation in September 2024 is primarily due to increase in prices of food articles, food products, manufacturing, other manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers & semitrailers, manufacture of ministry said in a statement.

machinery & equipment, etc," the commerce and industry The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which mainly takes into account retail inflation while framing monetary policy, kept benchmark interest rate or repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its monetary policy review earlier this month.

Mobius Foundation calls for Green Curriculums

PNS NEW DELHI

The 6th International Conference on Education Sustainability (ICSE), organized by the Mobius Foundation in collaboration with key global organizations, concluded in New Delhi, sending a strong message on the urgency of incorporating sustainability into educational frameworks. The two-day event, which centered around the theme "Greening Education for a Sustainable Future,

"brought together over 500 educators, policymakers, environmentalists, and educators, thought leaders from more than 20 countries.

The conference underscored the need for an education that actively promotes eco-conscious living and sustainable lifestyles. Discussions

highlighted the critical role of the National Education Policy 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework furthering sustainable education efforts.

The recognition of these policies as instrumental in embedding environmental consciousness curriculums was one of the event's key takeaways.

This year's ICSE focused on the emerging importance of "green education" and "green essential components in driving sustainability initiatives in India and

beyond. By advocating for the integration of these elements into educational systems. The conference aimed to foster a collective movement

towards a more sustainable

Windergy India 2024 set to propel wind energy growth

PNS NEW DELHI

The sixth edition of Windergy India, a key international trade fair and conference for the wind energy sector. It will be held from October

23-25, 2024, at the Chennai Trade Centre, Tamil Nadu. The event will host over 300 exhibitors from 25 countries, showcasing cutting-edge innovations and driving discussions on India's

renewable energy future. The conference, themed "Wind: Powering India's Energy Transition," industry leaders, feature policymakers, innovators addressing key topics such as:

policy

frameworks,

technology trends, investment strategies. India, a global leader in wind energy, ranks fourth in installations and aims to achieve 140 GW of wind

power capacity by 2030.
The Union Cabinet recently approved 1 GW of offshore wind projects in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, with an investment of Rs 7,453 crore, highlighting the nation's commitment to its Net Zero 2070 goals.

Hosted by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd. Windergy India 2024 is supported by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of New and

Renewable Energy, and Niti

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport City (BACL), a subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), broke ground for its ambitious two million sq. Ft. Business Park, aimed at promoting the city as a global hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

This comes as part of the Karnataka Government's new GCC policy (2024-2029), which aims to create 3.5 lakh jobs and contribute USD 50 billion to the economy, a BIAL statement said on Monday.

Kionday.

Located within the larger Kempegowda International Airport's (BLR Airport) campus, Bengaluru Airport City is being developed as a mixed-use destination destination, mixed-use featuring business parks, an education & health district, R&D hubs, and multiple entertainment and hospitality options, it said.



The Business Park will be built over 17.7 acres. Executive Director & CEO of

BACL, Rao Munukutla, said: 'The city has cemented its status as India's premier hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs), with 36 per cent of India's GCC workforce workforce driving growth across IT, biotechnology, automotive, and aerospace.

The upcoming Airport West metro station, located within

walking distance from the Business Park, will enhance connectivity to Bengaluru's city centre, providing faster and eco-friendly travel for employees and visitors, it was noted. As a future entertainment

and hospitality hub, plans include India's first 'Concert Arena' within an airport ecosystem and a Convention & Exhibition Centre, it

SW Energy BACL breaks ground on major Bengaluru Business Park arm, NTPC sign agreement

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

JSW Renew Energy Thirteen Ltd, a step-down subsidiary of JSW Energy, has signed a 25power purchase agreement with state-owned NTPC. The tariff for the 700 MW

solar project is Rs 2.59/kilowatt hour, JSW Energy said in an exchange filing."JSW Renew Energy Thirteen has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with NTPC for ISTS/STU-connected solar capacity of 700 MW," the company said. The project is expected to be The project is expected to be commissioned by June 2026.

The current solar pipeline capacity stands at 3.2 GW, with PPAs signed for 2.0 GW.

SINDHU, LAKSHYA AIM TO REGAIN FORM AT DENMARK OPEN

ndian badminton stars PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be eager to ▲bounce back from a disappointing

resumption to their season when they compete in the USD 850,000 Denmark Open Super 750, starting Tuesday. Both players found the going tough in the Arctic Open in Vantaa, Finland, last week where former world champion Sindhu suffered a firstround exit, while 2021 world bronze winner Sen bowed out in the second winner Sen bowed out in the second

At Arena Fyn in Odense, they will hope for better results as they lead India's challenge in this prestigious tournament, the 13th event of the 2024 BWF World Tour.

Sen, who finished fourth at the Paris Olympics, went down fighting to Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen last

Here, the 23-year-old from Almora will face China's Lu Guang Zu in his opening match an opponent he is yet to meet in professional badminton. Should he advance, Sen might face Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in the

second round, with reigning world champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand will, in all likelihood, be waiting for him in the quarter-finals. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, will need to quickly address the issues affecting her performance after a disappointing first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li, an opponent she



she will open against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po and could potentially face China's Han Yue in the second round if

In addition to Sindhu, India will have several other competitors in women's singles, including the in-form Malvika Bansod, Aakarshi Kashyap, and promising talent Unnati Hooda. had previously defeated 10 times.

Under the guidance of new coaches
Anup Sridhar and Korea's Lee Hyun-il,

Bansod, who had reached the quarterfinals of China Open, will go up against Vietnam's Nguyen Thuy

Linh at first, while Kashyap faces Thailand's Supanida Katethong. Hooda, the 2022 Odisha Open winner, will compete against Lauren Lam from

While there will be no Indian representation in men's doubles, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, who had missed the Paris Olympics, will compete in the women's doubles, taking on the fifth-seeded Malaysian duo of Pearly Tan and Thinnah

Muralitharan. The Panda sisters, Muralitnaran. The Fallua Sisters, Swetaparna and Rutaparna, will face off against Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tung of Chinese Taipei. In mixed doubles, the husband-wife combination of B Sumeeth Reddy and

Sikki Reddy are set to face Canada's Kevin Lee and Eliana Zhang, while Sathish Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath will take on Indonesia's Rehan Kusharjanto and Lisa



Australia faces toughest of challenges in Asian World Cup qualifying

Australia faces the most daunting road trip in Asia on Tuesday when it faces a dominant Japan at Saitama Stadium, knowing a win would put the Socceroos back on track for a sixth successive World Cup appearance after a mixed start in the third round

of qualification.
The Group C meeting is also a chance for new coach Tony Popovic, appointed in September to replace Graham Arnold, to make a statement win in his second game in charge and cross swords with a former team-mate.

Popovic played for Japanese club Sanfrecce Hiroshima from 1997 to 2001 alongside Hajime Moriyasu - now The top two teams from each coach of Japan. "I know their of the three groups of six

head coach very well; he was my captain during my time in Japan. A remarkable person who has dedicated years to developing the national team," said Popovic.

Japan is on course for an eighth successive World Cup appearance with three wins against China, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, scoring 14 goals and conceding none.

This is undoubtedly a significant challenge, but it also presents a fantastic opportunity to etch our name in history by winning in Japan," Popovic said after defeating China 3-1 in his first game in charge on Thursday, a result that took Australia to four points in the

group, five behind Japan.

qualify automatically for the 2026 World Cup with the third and fourth place finishers advancing to the next stage.

Like Australia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have four points and meet in Jeddah, while winless China hosts Indonesia at home.

The top two in Group B meet as South Korea hosts Iraq with both teams on seven points. The game has been switched to the city of Yongin, due to the poor condition of the playing surface at Seoul World Cup Stadium.

South Korea will be without English Premier League stars Tottenham Hotspur captain Son Heung-min and Hwang Hee-chan of Wolverhampton

Over 350 players in fray for first

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Over 350 players from around the world will go under the hammer in the inaugural women's Hockey India League auctions here on Tuesday. Tuesday.

After a seven-year hiatus, the highly-anticipated HIL is making a grand return with an expanded format, featuring both men's and an exclusive women's league for exclusive women's league for the first time.

The historic auction will witness over 250 domestic players and more than 70 overseas players vying for a spot in the inaugural season of the women's HIL.

India's top women players, including seasoned goalkeeper Savita, national team captain Salima Tete, rising drag-flicker Deepika, player Vandana Katariya, and forward Lalremsiami are some of the big names from

the country.
Additionally, former Indian stalwarts such as Yogita Bali, Lilima Minz, and Namita Toppo have registered, adding further excitement to the



renowned players such as Delfina Merino (Argentina), Stapenhorst (Germany), Maria Granatto (Argentina), Rachael Lynch (Germany) are set to

Notably, the maiden season of the women's edition of the HIL will witness participation of total four teams, while two more teams will be added in the second season of the

tournament. The participating teams for this season include Soorma

On the international front, Bengal Tigers, Delhi SG Pipers, and Odisha Warriors. For the second season, Hyderabad Toofans and a team owned by the BC Jindal Group will be added, (Australia), and Nike Lorenz expanding the lineup to six teams.

participate, ensuring a global Each team will consist of 24 players (with a mandatory inclusion of four junior players) and eight overseas players, aligning with HIL's vision of promoting both local and global talent.

Franchises will have a purse of Rs 2 crore to select players, athletes categorised with Hockey Club, Shrachi Rahr under three base price slabs

Rs 10 lakh, Rs 5 lakhs, and Rs

The historic women's auction marks a major milestone in world of hockey, showcasing the sport's growth and the increasing prominence of women's

It also stands out as one of the rare instances in India where both men's and women's editions of a major sports league will run concurrently. "This is not just a revival of the Hockey India League but also a celebration of the growth of women's hockey in India. We are proud to host the first-ever women's auction, which is not just about building teams but also about building legacies," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said.

We are excited to see our head with some of the best international players and create new heroes for the next generation. The Women's HIL 2024-25 promises to be a watershed moment for Indian hockey, further propelling the sport's growth on both national and international

Top British shooters miss World Cup due to 'confusion' over visa paperwork

The ISSF World Cup final here has been robbed of some sheen as three of Britain's top shotgun shooters, including Paris Olympics trap goldmedallist Nathan Hales, will not be competing in the prestigious year-ending event owing to "confusion" over paperwork that led to denial of visa to

The World Cup final got underway at the Karni Singh Ranges with elite shooters from across the world, including Olympic and world championship medallists, taking part in the training sessions on Monday. The competitions will start on Tuesday. "No, he's (Hales) not (coming). They couldn't get their business visas in time.

I don't know the exact ins and outs of it, but there was a complication...I think, what happened is that one of them (shooters) applied for a tourist visa, which was accepted," former shooter Peter Wilson, personal coach of Hales in es told PT

"But, then, they were told that they had to apply for a business visa and there was, for whatever reason, a complication and it was either revoked and the rest were left pending and they just didn't have the time for it to be processed," added the legendary double-trap marksman who won a gold in the 2012 London Olympics.

Wilson, who had recently expressed his of India (NRAI) had provided these



desire to coach the Indian trap_team, said it was a huge setback for British

"Obviously, it's a massive shame that they're not competing. So, there were three (shooters), two in men's trap, Hales teams, we've not got the Great Britain Matt Coward-Holley and men's skeet Ben Llewellin. Ben got a tourist visa but was then told by our federation that he should reapply for a business visa.

"He applied incorrectly and at that point he had left it too late; apparently he was refused... I don't know why he was refused," Wilson revealed.

Asked if the National Rifle Association

shooters details on the visa they should apply for, Wilson said, "I would assume so, but I think at the moment no one knows quite where the blame lies. "But it's just a shame that of all the

here, so it's a real shame."

NRAI president Kalikesh Singh Deo said, "I think there was some confusion with the way they applied." Most of India's Paris Games squad will

compete at the World Cup. A prominent who would skip is double bronzemedallist Manu Bhaker, who is on a break after her exploits in the French

Tough competition expected at Delhi Half Marathon elite field

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ethiopia's two-time 5000m world champion Muktar Edris is expected to challenge Paris Olympics 10,000m winner Joshua Cheptegai of Uganda for the top prize in the men's elite race at the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon on October 20 here on October 20 here.

Fresh from his victory in the 10,000m in Paris, the 28-yearold Cheptegei is set to make his debut at the Delhi Half Marathon. He has been a three-time world champion in 10,000m and boasts a personal best of 59:21 seconds in half marathon.

He is the current world record holder for both the 5000m and 10,000m and holds the world's best time over the 15km distance. A three-time world champion in the 10,000m, he made his international debut in India at the TCS World 10K World Bengaluru 2014, finishing second.

Cheptegei will face formidable opposition from Ethiopia's Edris, who will be returning to the Delhi Half Marathon after 2022. A star of the sport at the junior level the sport at the junior level, Edris finished fourth on debut in the Delhi Half Marathon in 2020 with an impressive run of 59:04

Before that, he won two world



championship titles in the 5,000m in 2017 and 2019. His half marathon personal best is better than that of Cheptegei at 58:40 seconds, which he had clocked in Valencia, Spain in 2021.

The women's elite field will be led by 2022 Commonwealth Games 10000m champion Eilish McColgan of Great

McColgan holds the European record for the 10km road race and British records for multiple distances. She has also represented Great Britain in four Olympic Games (2012-2024) and Scotland in three Commonwealth Games (2014-2022).

She won the Berlin Half Marathon with a personal best time of 65:43 seconds in Kenya's Cynthia Limo (66:04) Ethiopia's Yalemget Yaregal (66:27s), Tiruye Mesfin (66:31), and Tanzania's Magdalena Shauri (66:37), are joining McColgan in the women's race.

With five women having clocked times under 67 minutes, the competition promises to be a fast-paced Amdework Ethiopians

Walelegn (58:53) and Yalemzerf Yehualaw (64:46) held the men's and women's course records in the Delhi Half Marathon since 2020.

A World Athletics Gold Label Road Race, the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon, with a prize pool of USD 260,000, will be flagged off from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

England gets back to winning, interim coach Carsley says team needs "world class" manager

A fter three wins from four games as England interim coach, Lee Carsley appeared to distance himself from tabling on the fall England from taking on the job full

A 3-1 victory against Finland in the Nations League on Sunday saw England get back to winning ways after the shock 2-1 home loss to Greece. But Carsley sounded uncertain about credentials to succeed Gareth Southgate in one of the biggest management roles in world soccer.

"This job deserves a world class coach that's won trophies and been there and done it and I'm still on the path to that," Carsley said after goals from Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Declan Rice secured the win in Helsinki. Carsley led England's under-21 team to victory in the European Championship last year and was seen as one of the leading contenders to replace Southgate, who

stepped down in July.
But after naming an experimental team that lost to Greece on Thursday, questions about his suitability were raised. If not for some errant finishing from No. 64ranked Finland, Sunday could have been another



uncomfortable night for an from close range in the 18th England team ranked 60

places higher. Carsley said he hadn't enjoyed the days following Angel Gomes.

the loss to Greece. "I'm just not used to losing with an England team. I don't take losing very well," he said. Grealish helped lift his mood when opening the scoring from

minute at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium after being set up by a clever flick from

and Rice converted at the

near post 10 minutes later

substitute

Alexander-Arnold doubled England's lead in the 74th with a trademark free kick

Ollie

Arttu Hoskonen scored a

consolation for Finland in the Carsley said his remit was to take charge of the six Nations League games before the end

of the year, with two remaining against Greece and Ireland next month. "My bosses have made it

leads Group B2 after extending its perfect start in

totally clear what they need from me," he said.

GREECE WINS: Greece still

the Nations League with a 2-0 win against Ireland.

Anastasios Bakasetas and Petros Mantalos scored the goals that kept Greece three points about 16 P. 1. goals that kept Greece three points ahead of England.
Before the game, Greece's players held up the jersey of defender George Baldock, who was found dead at his

home in Athens on Wednesday.

NORWAY ROUTED: Not even Erling Haaland could prevent Norway from a humbling 5-1 loss against Austria

Austria. Austria.
The Manchester City striker became his country's all time leading scorer this week with 34 goals. But he was kept quiet by Austria in Group B3. Marko Arnautovic opened

the scoring at Austria's Raiffeisen Arena before Raiffeisen Alexander Sorloth evened the game before halftime. In the second half Austria took control with Arnautovic scoring again. Philipp Lienhart, Stefan Posch and

Michael Gregoritsch also

scored. Norway still leads the group but is level on seven points

with Austria in second and third-place Slovenia, which beat Kazakhstan 1-0.

IT MAY HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF WE TOOK CHANCES: MUZUMDAR

disheartened Ahead coach Amol Muzumdar rued the missed opportunities that could have altered the game's outcome after his team's hopes of reaching the women's T20 World Cup semifinals were dashed by a loss to Australia.

In a bid to control their own destiny, the Indian team delivered a lackluster performance on the field, ultimately resulting in a ninerun loss to defending champions Australia in their

must-win game on Sunday.
"I think we were right in the game, right till the last over. Just that experience of Australia, saw them through," Muzumdar said at the post match press conference. "Just a little disappointing

with the loss. And I feel we've fielded pretty well. But yeah, a couple of chances could have been, we could have taken those chances and then the things could have been different.

"Maybe 10-15 runs less, even the last over. But at the same time, I would like to say that we put in our best effort



India dropped as many as three catches, while also missing a stumping opportunity. To add to their woes, a close lbw call also

went against them.

In the 17th over of the Australian innings, Phoebe Litchfield, batting on 5, had attempted a reverse sweep with the on-field umpire giving her leg-before-wicket after she missed the shot. However, a decision to review

handed her a reprieve because the ball pitched outside leg stump. India players, including vice-captain Smriti Mandhana, protested, claiming the ball pitching outside the leg-stump line should be deemed inconsequential given the batter had switched stances. Litchfield went on to add 10 more crucial runs helping more crucial runs, helping Australia post the highest team total at Sharjah in the

ongoing tournament.
"What I gathered from that non-dismissal is that she didn't move before the ball was released. So, the leg mark, what was there, it stood as it That was my only

understanding about it.

was up to the umpires to decide or the third umpire. So yeah, it was a crucial one."
Australia posted a total of

151/8. In response, India fell short, finishing at 142/9 despite skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's unbeaten 54.

With senior Harmanpreet and Deepti Sharma in the middle, India needed 85 off 10 overs.

Asked what message was being sent to the duo in the middle at the time, Muzumdar said: "First and foremost, it was about the run chase. Second was keeping the net run rate also in account. But the only message was if we take it a little deeper, then we do have a good chance to chase these runs down. "I think Harman's presence was very important till the end. That is what I felt in her run chase. We almost got it through.

India's chances of making the semifinal now hinge on Pakistan beating New beating Pakistan Zealand on Monday.

Well, I just want to wish Pakistan all the best. That's all can say. But we will be watching the game very closely, that's for sure."

Ben Stokes returns for second Test against Pakistan

PTI MULTAN

Taptain Ben Stokes made Ca return to the England Test team as he was on Monday named in the playing eleven for the second match against Pakistan beginning here Tuesday, after he was declared to have been recovered from an injury he sustained in

August. Stokes, who has been out of action due to a hamstring problem, is one of the two changes in the England side that beat Pakistan in the first Test by an innings and 47 runs.

Fast bowler Matthew Potts was included in place of Gus Atkinson.

Stokes has replaced pacer Chris Woakes while England have retained both spinners Shoaib Bashir and Jack Leach in their eleven. According to the visiting

team management, Stokes has bowled and batted

without any discomfort in the nets in the last few days and was cleared by medical experts to make his comeback.

The 33-year-old all-rounder last played in the Hundred where he sustained his injury in August forcing him to miss the entire three-match series against Sri Lanka at

He also missed the first Test against Pakistan here.

home.

Pakistan is yet to announce its playing eleven although the selectors on Sunday dropped Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah for the remaining two Tests and also released Sarfaraz Ahmed from the squad.

England Playing XI:
Ben Stokes (capt), Zak
Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jamie Smith (wk), Brydon Carse, Matthew Potts, Jack



Cummins to lead Australia in Pakistan ODIs, McGuirk retained

AP SYDNEY

Pat Cummins will captain Australia's one-day squad for the first time since lifting the Cricket World Cup in November in its three-match series against Pakistan at home next month.

Cummins Monday in the 14-man Australia squad for the matches at Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth along with Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc, the other regular members

Jake Fraser-McGuirk has been given another chance after struggling in Australia's Twenty20 series against Scotland in September, in which he made 16 runs in three innings with two ducks. While he made a 30-ball 50 against England, he wasn't selected for the subsequent five-match ODI series.

Fraser-McGuirk will likely open the batting with Matt Short in the absence of Travis Head and Mitch Marsh who are on paternity leave. The squad also includes batters Steve Smith and Marnus Labushagne and white ball regulars Glenn Maxwell, Josh Inglis and Adam Zampa. Cooper Connolly also has

been retained after making his one-day and T20 debuts on Australia's September tour to Britain.

Allrounder Aaron Hardie who scored 67 runs in two innings while batting No. 8 and took four wickets in the England series has kept his place while Marcus Stoinis returns after being left out of the England one-dayers. Seamer Sean Abbott also has

held his spot with several bowlers recovering from injuries suffered in England. Nathan Ellis, Xavier Bartlett, Ben Dwarshuis and Riley Meredith all left that series with injuries while Spencer Iohnson was ruled out with a side strain before it began. Meanwhile, test allrounder Cameron Green confirmed Monday he will undergo surgery on a stress fracture in

his back and will be out of action for six months. A squad for the Twenty20 series against Pakistan will be

named later this month. The Pakistan series which comprises matches at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Nov. 4, the Adelaide Oval on Nov. 8 and Perth Stadium on Nov. 10 is Australia's last one-day series before the ICC Trophy Champions Pakistan in February.

Kohli hungry for runs, no need to judge after every match: Gambhir



PTI ■ BENGALURU

India head coach Gautam Gambhir is not too concerned about the recent lukewarm form of Virat Kohli, insisting that the star he was when he made his debut and should not be judged after every match.

Kohli has made only one fifty, a 76 against South Africa at Centurion in December 2023, in his last eight innings, and him regaining his touch is crucial for India against New Zealand in a three-Test rubber starting on Wednesday and during the five-match series against Australia next month.

Gambhir is confident that Kohli will come good very soon.

'See, my thoughts about Virat have always been very clear that he is a world-class cricketer. He has performed

for such a long period of time. He is as hungry as when he made his debut. To now, his hunger is always

Gambhir told

reporters here on Monday. "That hunger is what makes am sure that he will be hungry to get runs in this series and probably moving forward to Australia as well, he added.

there,"

Gambhir said the prolific batter, once he gets into "those runs scoring phases", is remarkably consistent. 'So, I am sure that he will be looking for these three Test

matches in the series and then to Australia. Gambhir reiterated his opinion that a player should not to be judged on the basis of a one bad match or a

"You don't keep judging people after every game. If you keep judging people after every game, that's not fair on

them. It's a sport and people are bound to fail.

"But more importantly, I think if we can get the results, if people are doing what is needed of them to get the results in our favour, that

The former opener said his job is to back the players and keep them hungry for success, particularly during a long season where India is scheduled to play eight more Test matches.

"Everyone doesn't have the best days everyday. I think the kind of vibe we have is we keep backing our players. My job is to keep backing the players. My job is to keep selecting the best playing 11, not dropping anyone.

"I'm sure everyone is hungry and they know there are eight Test matches in a row. So, this is probably the start of them looking at eight Test matches in a row and performing well," said Gambhir.

Green ruled out of India Test series, to undergo back surgery

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green was on Monday ruled out of the marquee Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test series against India owing to a stress fracture in his spine that will need six months to heal after a

The 25-year-old seam-bowling all-rounder was diagnosed with the problem in his lower back after experiencing pain during last month's tour of the UK. Green has previously suffered four stress fractures in his back but has not encountered any issues in that area since 2019. "Whilst spine stress fractures are not unusual in pace bowlers, Cam has a unique defect in an adjacent area to the fracture that is believed to be contributing to the injury," a CA statement said on Monday.

A six-month recovery time will mean Green misses not just the Border Gavaskar Trophy, but also February's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy. His participation in the IPL is also

Green has decided to opt for a similar type of surgery undergone by several pacers including Jasprit Bumrah, James Pattinson, Jason Behrendorff, and Ben Dwarshuis.

'After thorough consultation it was determined Cameron would benefit from the surgery to stabilise the defect and reduce the risk of future recurrence," CA said.

The alternative to surgery would have involved rehabilitation and restricting his bowling during the fivematch series against India, starting November 22 in Perth.

"The surgery has been performed successfully with



elite pace bowlers in the past. Recovery time is anticipated to be around six-months.

"The decision to proceed to surgery is with Cameron's long-term future as an all-rounder in mind," the statement added.

The operation will performed by New Zealand surgeons Grahame Inglis and Rowan Schouten, involves screws and titanium wire to bind vertebrae together, according 'cricket.Com.Au.'

Australia will have to rejig their batting order.

Green had returned to the Test side following veteran opener David Warner's retirement earlier this year with Steve Smith being

pushed to open the innings. However, the veteran struggled at the top of the order and will drop back to his preferred number four position, which has been left vacant by Green.

The selectors will now keep an eye on Australia's A series against India where the likes of Cameron Bancroft, and teen prodigy Sam Konstas will vie for the now vacant opening spot.

Additionally, Australia will also have to find someone to

Mitchell Marsh did not bowl Western Australia's Sheffield Shield match against Queensland and hardly rolled his arm while captaining the white-ball teams over the

Battling accomplished Ashwin, Jadeja crucial for New Zealand: Rachin Ravindra

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Top-order batter Rachin Ravindra said on Monday that nullifying the twin threat posed by senior spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will be crucial to New Zealand's success in the three-match series against India.

Ashwin and Jadeja together have grabbed over 800 Test wickets, and are among the most experienced bowling pairs in world cricket at present.

They've got consistent bowlers who bowl in an area for a long period of time. I mean, you see the two spinners who play consistently, Ashwin and Jadeja, they're two very accomplished bowlers. You know, they can bat too, which makes it a little bit hard," Ravindra told

reporters here on Monday. "They're consistent, they're good to battle, especially in this part of the world. Obviously, we know how good India are in their own conditions, the quality of their bowlers and batters. It shows how hard it is for a team to come and win here. So, it's difficult," he added. Ravindra banked on his previous experience of playing cricket in India to come good in the upcoming



"Although it is different formats, it

gives you confidence that you can perform in this part of the world. I think it's (Test cricket) a different challenge entirely and it's something I'm really looking forward to.

very positive, especially in their own conditions. The way they've evolved "As you've seen, those two tournaments (ODI WC and IPL)

were amazing, the crowds and the passion and the hype and the buzz around them. So, I'm excited to have a full-fledged series here," he noted. From a team perspective, the 24year-old said the tourists will have to keep focus on their game plans rather than worrying about India's approach.
"The brand of cricket they play is

over the last few years has been amazing, especially away (from home). "As New Zealanders, we don't necessarily try and look at the opposition too much. We know what a quality side they are and what they bring to the table, but I think if we're able to play our game and be consistent and put our best foot forward, hopefully, that will result in a win," he added.

New Zealand's preparation for the

series against India has been far from ideal as they lost 0-2 against Sri Lanka recently, while their one-off Test match against Afghanistan was a washout at Noida. However, Ravindra was confident

that the team can lean upon the learnings from those experiences

against India.
"We did some really good stuff during the Sri Lankan series, obviously, came on the wrong side of the win and loss column. But I think as a group there were times where we really pushed and that first Test was close," he said. In the first Test against the Islanders

at Galle, the left-hander made a fine 92 but the Kiwis lost the match by 63 runs while chasing 275. Ravindra wanted his side not to

repeat the mistake of faltering at the crunch moments.

"I think we've got to understand that we've got to do it (fighting) for long periods of time because that's what Test match cricket is about. Obviously, Sri Lanka and India are different places, but similar in terms of the amount of spin you might

So, we have learnt a lot. So, it's about, you know, seeing how we can play our game and how we can bring that here to India," he added.



No of work 01 No. Building Work Estimated cost; Rs. 16.15 Lakh Period of completion ;-04 (four) Clalender Month From 10 00 Hr 15 10 2024 Date and Time of availability to 17.00 Hr of 25.10.2024 of Bid document in the portal Last date /Time for receipt of 17.00 Hr of 25.10.2024. bids in the portal :-Date of opening of Bid from Portal :-10.30 Hr of 28.10.2024 Additional Chief Engineer Name and address of the officer inviting Bid :-(I/C) Superintending Engineer

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http:// tendersodisha.gov.in

> Additional Chief Engineer Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjha

Keonjhar (R&B) Division, Keonjhar

email: srgeologistbolangir@gmail.co **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GEOLOGY, **GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, BOLANGIR**

Jyotinagar, Laltikra, P.O.: Rajendra College, Dist: Bolangir, PIN - 767002 Letter No - 518 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement No.03/GWBLGR/2024-25 of 2024-25 Dt. 08-10-24 01. Name of the work 4 nos Work 02. Type of Bid Single System Rs. 07.23 Lakhs to 19.58 Lakhs 03. Estimated Cost 04. Period of Completion 02 Calender Months

From 11.00 AM of dt. 17.10.2024 05. Date & Time of availability to 5.00 PM of 28.10.2024 of bid document in the portal 06. Last date /time of receipt of 5.00 PM of 28.10.2024 bids in the portal 07. Date & Time of opening of At 11.30 AM of 29.10.2024 technical bids

08. Name and Address of the Deputy Director, Geology Ground Water Development Division Officer inviting Bid Jyotinagar, Laltikra, P.O. : Rajendra College - 767002 Bolangir, Dist : Bolangir

Deputy Director, Geolog