सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

https://www.iharkhand.gov.in/wcd

Two IEDs weighing 5 kgs each recovered in anti-Naxalite operation



n a significant and proactive measure against the ongoing insurgency in Kolhan, security forces have successfully recovered two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) weighing approximately 5 kilograms each in the forest area of Tonto police station area under West Singhbhum. The operation, part of a concerted effort to neutralize the influence of the banned CPI(Maoist) organi-

On Monday, security forces conducted a thorough sweep of the forested and hilly terrains Tumbahaka

Naxalite movement. During this operation, the two IEDs were discovered hidden in the ground, strategically placed to target security forces conducting patrols

With the assistance of a specialized bomb disposal squad, the IEDs were safely recovered and destroyed on-site, thereby eliminating a potential threat to both security personnel and local civilians. The swift action of the security forces is being commended for its effectiveness in preventing possible attacks that could have had dire consequences.

The operation was launched

to credible intelligence reports indicating that several top leaders of the CPI(Maoist), including Misir Besra, Anmol, Maechhu, Anal, Asim Mandal, Chaman, Ajay Mehta, Sagan Angaria, and Ashwin, were operating in the Kalehan region. These leaders, along with their squad members, have been reportedly involved in subversive activities aimed at destabilizing local governance and inciting violence against security personnel.

In light of this information, a joint task force was established, comprising multiple security agencies, including the Chaibasa

PNS: RANCHI

A vibrant cultural in-house

program was organized at

the PVUNL Township on the

Navratri. The event featured

Durga Pandal set up in the

township ground, creating a

festive and spiritual atmos-

phere. The celebration began

with an inspiring address by CEO of PVUNL, RK Singh, who extended his warm

wishes to all present,

acknowledging the efforts of

employees, their families,

and the community. The

evening was filled with cul-

tural performances, starting

with graceful dances and

melodious singing by the

wives of PVUNL employees,

students of Srijan, and the talented wards of PVUNL

employees. Their perform-

ances reflected the essence

of devotion and celebration

associated with Navratri. A

highlight of this segment was the energetic Dhunuchi

dance, which captivated the

audience with its traditional

charm and spirit. The show-

stopper of the evening was

dance, a renowned folk

dance from Purulia district in

West Bengal, known for its

dramatic martial movements

and vibrant masks. The per-

formance left the audience in

awe, showcasing the rich

cultural heritage of the

region and bringing the

mesmerizing Chhau

beautifully decorated

auspicious occasion

Jharkhand Jaguar, and several battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The collaborative nature of this operation underscores the commitment of local and central security forces to tackle the Naxalite threat head-

The operation spanned several border villages, including Kuida, Meralgada, Hathiburu, Tilaybeda Boypaisang, Katamba, Bayahatu, Lemsadih, Rajabasa, Tumbahaka, Regra, Patatorb, Gaiburu, and Luiya.

to dismantle any operational infrastructure set up by the insurgents. The recovery of these explosives not only highlights the ongoing risks posed by Naxalite groups but also emphasizes the importance of community awareness and cooperation with security forces. Local authorities have been encouraged to continue fostering relationships with community members to improve intelligence gathering and reduce sup-

port for insurgent activities. The joint operation remains active as security forces conduct further investigations into the presence of Naxalite operatives in and patrols are planned to ensure that any remaining threats are neutralized and that the safety of the local populace is prioritized.

Local officials have expressed their gratitude for the collaborative efforts of various security agencies involved in the operation. They reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing security measures and urged community members to report any suspicious activities. "This operation reflects our determination to uphold law and order in the region and protect our citizens from the menace of Naxalism," a senior police offi-

Durga idols' immersion peaceful after tension in Garhwa

The ruckus over idol immersion in Garhwa district has now ended. The dispute over the route for immersion of Goddess Durga's idol in Madgadi village of Bhandaria police station area has ended. After lathi charge by the police, ASP Rahul Dev Baraik got injured in stone pelting by the vio-lent mob and tear gas was released as well as air firing, the atmosphere remained tense till Sunday evening.

On Sunday late evening around 8 pm, Garhwa Deputy Commissioner Shekhar Jamuar, SP Deepak Kumar Pandey, Ranka SDM Rudra Pratap, local MLA Alok Kumar Chorasia and senior officials reached the Puja pandal of



DC Shekhar Jamuar and others officially attended the immersion procession of Goddess Durga in Madgari village. PNS

Madgadi village. Where talks took place between the Puja committee and representatives of the special community. During this, both sides agreed to immerse the idol from the disputed road. After the agreement, the idol

of Maa Durga was taken around the village on the disputed route along with the DC, SP and policemen. Where the idol of Goddess Durga was immersed in the Kanhar river at around 1 am

On Saturday afternoon at around 3 o'clock, there was a clash between the villagers and the police over the immersion of the idol on the disputed road. After which the police fired tear gas shells in addition to lathi charge. The villagers also said that firing was done. In this incident, a youth was injured as well as ASP Rahul Dev Baraik, Ranka DSP Rohit Ranjan and many others were injured.

After that the atmosphere remained tense Dussehra throughout regarding the immersion of the idol on the disputed

When the matter was not resolved by both the communities four times in the police station, the administration had stopped the disputed

PVUNL township BIS Jamshedpur celebrates shines with **World Standards Day** traditional **Chhau Dance**

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

As part of World Standards Day celebra-tions, Bureau of Indian of World Standards (BIS) Jamshedpur organised 'Manak Mahotsav in the steel city to enhance public awareness about standards, which are crucial for empowering consumers and encouraging them to check for BIS certification marks before purchasing products.

SKVerma, Senior Director and Head Jamshedpur Branch Office, BIS briefed about the various initiatives of BIS includestablishment Standard Clubs in academic institutions, sensitization training for gram panchayats, training program for government officials and handholding initiatives for industries and jewelers.

For the last few years the focus of World Standards Day has been on one of the Nations' United Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The theme this year is 'Achieving Industry, Innovation Infrastructure Through AI'." Verma said. He emphasized that every citizen of India should have access to safe, reliable and high-quality products and services, recognizing the interdependence of consumers and producers.

Sanjay, Mechanical Department, National Institute of (NIT), Technology Jamshedpur, said that the world is moving towards Industry 5.0, which refers to people working with robots tional trade. smart machines. Germany is working on cobots (collaborative robots).

adaptable than traditional industrial robots. SK Khirwal, Scientific Officer G, Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration & Research, Eastern Region, Jamshedpur, said that standards act as catalysts for development, technical industrial growth and societal well-being. "Atomic energy is a good alternate source for clean energy. It contributes towards economic growth and environmental sustainability."

Cobots are intended to be

more flexible, secure and

Dr Anup Kumar, Chief Scientific Services, Tata Steel, emphasised on the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in the growth of industry. He shared the use of these technologies in Tata Steel to enhance the quality of products and processes. This boosts the 'Made in India'

initiative and also facilitates both domestic and interna-

Prof (Dr) Rajesh Kumar Tiwari, Principal, RVS College of Engineering and Technology, Jamshedpur, said, "AI has come into our daily lives. All industries, small or big, use AI to improve its products and sales. Industry 5.0 is already knocking on the door. If we do not start working on it, we will not be able to be a developed country.

More than 150 participants from various industries, trade and associations consumers and educational institutions, including school students, attended the program. Awards were given out to industries, mentors from school and college, and resource persons from both colleges and industries. Cultural activities were performed by school students of St Xavier's English High School. Khasmahal Jamshedpur, and BPDA High Bhimkhanda. School, Jamshedpur.

SADAR HOSPITAL **LATEHAR SANS**

SURGEON

PNS: DALTONGANJ

As Sadar Hospital Latehar

has no anesthetist, there

has been no cesarean

operation done here for

many years. Pregnant women in need of urgent

surgical procedures are

advised to visit mission

hospital at Tumbagara or

some higher centre in

Civil surgeon Latehar Dr Awadesh Singh told

this correspondent "We

don't have a single anes-

thetist here in the whole

of the district health care

Civil surgeon conceded

"How can you go for C

section intervention when

Ranchi.

system.

STEEL SECRETARY VISITS SAIL

PNS: BOKARO

In a significant move aimed at strengthening operational oversight, Secretary Steel, Sandeep Poundrik, visited the state-of-the-art Control Room at the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Corporate Office. The Control Room plays a pivotal role in realtime monitoring of production processes and analyzing the techno-economic per-formance of major SAIL plants across the country. During the visit, SAIL Chairman, Amarendu Prakash, provided an indepth briefing to Poundrik, outlining critical operational parameters, including production outputs, energy consumption, and cost-efficiency metrics. The briefing also covered the latest technologi-

cal innovations adopted by

SAIL to enhance plant pro-

ductivity and environmental



Poundrik's visit underscores the Ministry of Ste.el's continued emphasis improving operational effi-

ciency, reducing production costs, and ensuring that SAIL plants maintain global com-

Cervical Spondylitis: Causes, Symptoms,

evening to a grand close



Dr.RAJEEV KUMAR

DR RAJEEV KUMAR

Spondylitis? known

osteoarthritis, is a condition affecting the cervical spine in and bones, leading to pain Cervical

Spondylitis 1. Aging: The most common cause, as the spine degener-

ates over time.

PNS: BOKARO

A pipping ceremony was held

today at the office premises of

the Deputy Inspector General

of Police (DIG), Coal Region,

2. Heredity: A family history

injuries can lead to cervical spondylitis.

poor posture can strain the Spinal

in the neck.

newly promoted ASIs in Bokaro

were adorned with their rank

insignia. The ceremony was

graced by DIG of Police, Coal

Region, Bokaro, Surendra

Kumar Jha, along with Deputy

Superintendent of Police (DSP)

Gupta, DSP City, Alok Ranjan,

and Sergeant Major,

Animesh

Headquarters,

Pipping Ceremony held for

• Headaches: Often starting

 Weakness: In the muscles of the arms or legs.

Maintain Good Posture:

Ensure your neck is in a neutral position, whether sitting or standing.

Regular Exercise: Include gentle neck

exercises 3. Ergonomic Workstation: computer to avoid strain. diet rich in calcium and vitamin D supports bone health.

6. Proper Sleep: Use a supportive pillow and mattress.

Yoga can help improve flexibility and strength. Some beneficial poses include: • Tadasana (Mountain Pose):

Improves posture. Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose): Strengthens the spine.

Marjariasana (Cat-Cow Pose): Increases flexibility.

Setu Bandhasana (Bridge Pose): Strengthens the neck and back Foods to Include

Leafy Greens: Rich in cal-

Nuts and Seeds: Provide

healthy fats. Fruits: High in vitamins. Fish: Contains omega-3

fatty acids. Dairy Products: High in calcium and vitamin D.

Homeopathic Medicines for Cervical Spondylitis 1. Rhus Tox: For stiffness and pain that improve with movement.

2. Bryonia: For pain aggravated by movement. 3. Kali Carb: For sharp, stitching pains in the neck.

4. Cimicifuga: For pain extending to the shoulders and back 5. Hypericum: For nerve

pain.

X-ray and Diagnosis An X-ray can help diagnose cervical spondylitis by showing changes in the spine, such as bone spurs and narrowed disc spaces. Additional tests like MRI or CT scans may be needed for a detailed

view of nerve compression.

Conclusion Cervical spondylitis is a manageable condition with the right lifestyle changes, exercise, and treatment. By maintaining good posture, staying active, eating a healthy diet, and considering homeopathic remedies, you can alleviate symptoms and

DR RAJEEV KUMAR IS MD. WWW.RAJEEVCLINIC.COM.

improve your quality of life. you don't have an anesthetist? It's a major problem here. BHMS. HE CAN BE CON-TACTED ON +91 9263049994, WEB

Again there is also no surgeon here. Lady medical officers used to do C section long long ago when there was a lone anesthetist in Dr Sunil Kandula.

Following his transfer from here these lady medical officers are just hands tied when it comes to conducting C section.

A health official Ved Prakash said "We had sought services for surgeon, forensic expert, anesthetist, radiologist and general duty medical officer through the DMFT." Ved Prakash added "We didn't get an anesthetist. We did get a radiologist and general duty medical officer.'

Ås regards surgeon, Ved Prakash said "The surgeon through the DMFT is yet to join the Sadar Hospital Latehar."

be any forensic experts for the job through the

School van driver shot dead amid dispute PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

In a shocking incident, Rohit Kumar Singh, commonly known as Chhotu Singh, was found dead in his courtvard early Monday morning. The 25-vear-old school van driver was discovered bleeding and unresponsive, leading to immediate concern among family members and neigh-

According to sources, Chhotu Singh had chosen to sleep outside in the courtvard of his home in Baghbera village the night before. His grandfather, Alak Singh, was the first to discover him lying on the ground when he woke up. Alarmingly, the door of the house was found aiar from the outside, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding Chhotu's death.

"He was sleeping peacefully when I last saw him,' Alak Singh recounted. When I checked on him in the morning, I found him in a terrible state—bleeding and unconscious. I immediately called for help.

Despite the urgency, by the time he was rushed to Tata Main Hospital (TMH) at approximately 6 AM, doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. No one in the vicinity reported hearing gunshots during the night, adding to the mystery of the incident.

Reports suggest that Chhotu had been involved in a physical altercation with a group of boys just days prior to his death. This confrontation has led to speculation that his murder was a direct consequence of that dispute. Witnesses claim that tensions had been brewing in the area, and the nature of the conflict points toward a

potential motive. Chhotu's father has expressed grave concerns to

the police, particularly pointing to a previous dispute between Chhotu and a local resident, Sanjay Sharma. According to the elder Singh, during a heated exchange over the earlier conflict with another local Kailash Choubey, Sharma allegedly threatened Chhotu. saying, "I will shoot you."

The father's assertion has led investigators to focus on Sanjay Sharma as a person of interest in the case. However, as of now. police officials have refrained from issuing a definitive statement regarding the ongoing investiga-

Jamshedpur police have initiated a thorough investigation, exploring every angle of the case. In a preliminary search of the house, authorities discovered liquor, which has been taken into evidence as part of the investigation. The police are currently examining Chhotu's background and the relationships he had with the individuals involved in the reported disputes.

"We are looking into all aspects surrounding this tragic incident," stated a police official. "We are gathering evidence and statements from family members and neighbors to establish a clearer picture of what transpired. While there are suspicions regarding the motives, we will ensure a comprehensive investigation

is conducted The body of Rohit Kumar Singh has been sent for post-mortem examination. which will help ascertain the exact cause of death and provide further evidence for

and Management & Cure with Homeopathy



What Cervical

Cervical spondylitis, also cervical the neck. It occurs due to

wear and tear of the cartilage and stiffness. Causes

of neck problems increases 3. Occupational Strain: Jobs

requiring repetitive neck movements or holding the neck in one position for long periods can contribute. Injury: Previous neck

5. Poor Posture: Prolonged

Structure **Cervical Spondylitis**

The cervical spine consists of seven vertebrae, supported by discs, ligaments, and muscles. Over time, these structures can degenerate, leading to cervical spondylitis. Bone spurs and herniated discs are common in this condition, causing nerve compression. Spondylitis

Neck Pain: Persistent pain

• Stiffness: Difficulty in mov-

at the back of the head. • Numbness or Tingling: In the shoulders, arms, hands.

Lifestyle and Prevention

Strengthens the neck musstretches and strengthening

Adjust your chair, desk, and 4. Healthy Diet: A balanced 5. Avoid Smoking: Smoking can accelerate spinal degen-

Yoga for Cervical Spondylitis

Prabhakar Lakra. These digni-

taries officiated the pipping of

the insignia on the promoted

officers. In his address,

VBU Alumni Association welcomes VC in-charge

PNS: RANCHI

Representatives of the Alumni Association paid a formal visit to the newly appointed Vice Chancellor (VC) of Vinoba Bhave University (VBU), Dr Pawan Kumar Poddar on Monday. On this occasion, the members of the organization welcomed him by presenting a bouquet and discussed in detail various issues related to the alumni of the university. During the meeting, Poddar described the role of the Alumni Association as commendable and said that the alumni can play an important role in the progress of the university.

The Vice Chancellor sug-

gested that a comprehensive meeting of all the alumni should be organized, so that the participation of maximum pass-out students can be ensured. On this occasion, Alumni Association President Dr Mohammad Alam Fakhri, Mansoor Secretary Dr Sunny Kumar Mehta, Vice President Dr Amita Kumari, Treasurer Prabhat Pradhan, Joint Secretary Jaya Sinha, Media Mukesh

Surendra Kumar Jha congrat-There don't appear to ulated the newly promoted this organization provides a Incharge Mohammad Fazal, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and common platform to the Anima, extended his best wishes for alumni of the university. He Prajapati and Bhairav Anand their bright future said that the cooperation of were present.

Bokaro. During the event, 80 out of 112 newly promoted Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI) the ongoing investigation.

OPINION 6

RATAN NAVAL TATA:

MONEY 10

RBI CALLS FOR CHEAPER.

FASTER REMITTANCES

DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA

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RANCHI, TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3 Established 1865 the plant 1865 the property of the property of

WORLD 9

ASYLUM LAW TRIGGERS CONCERN

POLISH GOVT'S DECISION TO SUSPEND

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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 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 further violence, including incidents of stone-pelting and gunfire, which left around six people injured. As tensions mounted, a local hospital and several shops were set ablaze on Monday morning, prompting the local prompting administration to suspend

internet services in an effort to curb the spread of rumors and restore order. 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, Minister Chief 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 Vadra Priyanka Gandhi 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. 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 6E56. Hoax messages severely

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 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

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 members onboard 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 minutes hehind its scheduled departure of 1:40 am, and landed around one-and-ahalf 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

Deveral opposition MPs on Monday Sboycotted a meeting 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 BIP vice-president.

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



Hosted by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the direct supervision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Manipur's Meitei, Kuki, and Naga legislators will meet on Tuesday, in a bid to restore peace in the strife-torn state. According to officials, three meeting, while the exact number of Meitei and Kuki legislators is not vet clear. This is the first meeting convened by the MHA, since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur

last year. Among the representatives attending the talks are Thongam Biswajit, Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata, Thounaojam Basantakumar, Khongbantabam Ibomcha, Dr. Sapam Ranjan, Thokchom Radheshyam, and Tongbram Robindro. Representing the Kuki community are Letpao Haokip, Paolienlal Haokip, and Haokholet Kipgen. Naga leaders such as Awangbow Newmai, L. Dikho, and Ram Muivah will also be part of the

discussions. The dialogue will be the first face-to-face meeting between Kuki and Meitei leaders, signalling what some political observers described as "the



central government's intent to secure a peaceful resolution." Some of the Manipur MLAs have welcomed the Home Ministry's initiative to restore peace in the strife-torn state. Over 200 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence in Manipur since May 2023. "From the Naga side, three MLAs - Awangbou Newmai, L Dikho and Ram Muivah - will be attending the meeting in New Delhi. Muivah is currently in the national capital over a personal issue," an official source said. All three MLAs are from the Naga People's Front (NPF), an ally of BJP legislators also left for the national capital on different

"We have been asked to come to Delhi to discuss certain

flights from Imphal.

things. I don't know the exact agenda now. We have been exploring all means for Water bringing peace," Resources Minister Awangbou Newmai told reporters at Imphal airport. NPF legislator Dikho said it is difficult to bring peace to Manipur unless all the communities and people

are involved.

The violence in Manipur began on May 3, 2023, when protests broke out against a Manipur High Court ruling that favoured granting the Meitei community access to land ownership in tribal areas, a benefit traditionally reserved for the state's the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state. Several minority tribes like the Kukis and Nagas. The ruling was and Nagas. The ruling was seen as a threat to the land rights of the tribal communities, sparking ethnic

clashes between the Meteis

and the Kukis.

Conservation Zone notification

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and other agencies on a plea against unauthorised constructions and encroachments on the iverheds floodulains catchments of all rivers. A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued notices Ministry, Environment Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Central Water Commission and the Central Pollution Control Board while seeking their replies within three weeks.

The SC was hearing a plea filed by former IPS officer Dr Ashok Kumar Raghav seeking directions to demolish all unauthorised constructions and encroachments on the riverbeds, floodplains and catchments of all rivers, water courses and water channels, including the tributaries and restore the same to their original forms.

plea also sought directions to notify the 2015 of the



Conservation Zone (RCZ) Regulation without delay further demarcation of floodplains of all rivers, water courses and water channels within a time-bound period not exceeding three months. The draft River Regulation Zones (RRZ) notification proposes to establish River Conservation Zones (RCZs) to prevent encroachments on rivers and floodplains. Advocate Akash Vashishtha,

appearing for the petitioner, submitted that increasing illegal and unauthorised constructions on the encroachments floodplains and catchments of rivers and water courses have become the biggest cause of devastation across



Gasp! Delhi AQI is already over 200

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

s the Air Quality Index (AQI) already National Capital Region (NCR) for the second consecutive day, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Monday imposed restrictions, invoking the first stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to prevent further deterioration of air quality in entire Delhi and also in districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan that fall under the NCR. The ban will be in force from 8 am on

Tuesday. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index stood at 234 (poor category) as of 4 pm on Monday. Following Dussehra, the AQI in Delhi entered the "poor" category on Sunday, recording a reading of 224. This marked the first instance of poor air quality since September 25, according to the Central Pollution Control Board

The GRAP's Stage 1 has a 27-point action plan, which includes sprinkling water on roads, using anti-smog guns, and ensuring proper disposal of construction and demolition waste. It also imposes a ban on the use of coal and firewood in hotels, restaurants, and open eateries.



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 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 Ínter 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.

hotbeds in north Delhi.

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

Now, women aged 18-49 years to get Rs 2500 honorarium in Jharkhand

Cabinet nod to hike of Rs 1500 under Maiya Samman Scheme

head of announcement of dates for Jharkhand Assembly elections, more than 50 lakh women of the state have received a big gift from the state government. This political decision of the Hemant Soren government before the elections is being considered a master stroke. The state government has decided to increase the amount of the Chief Minister Mainiya Samman Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 2500. This proposal was approved in the Jharkhand Cabinet meeting held on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Hemant

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, while talking to reporters after the cabinet meeting, said that

his government does not believe in announcements, but believes in working and taking decisions. This is the reason why it has been decided to increase the amount of Mainiva Samman Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 2500. On the claim being made by the BJP about returning to power, Hemant Soren said that now the opposition's fantasy is not going to cook in the state.

Cabinet Secretary Vandana Dadel, while talking to reporters after the meeting, said that women and sisters will get this honor amount from the month of December. He said that the women who were getting Rs 1000 transferred to their bank accounts will get Rs 2500 from the month of December. This scheme will put an additional financial burden of about Rs 900



Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Ministers Mithilesh Thakur, Satvanand Bhokta and Banna Gupta during online foundation stone laying ceremony of the proposed Jharkhand Bhawan in Mumbai and 220/33 KV Grid-Sub Station, Pakribarwadih, in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

Earlier, BJP had announced to provide assistance of Rs 2100 per month to women under Gogo Didi Yojana'. But even before BJP. Hemant Soren has tried to woo women voters by

increasing the amount of Mainiya Samman Yojana from Rs 1000 to Rs 2500. In today's cabinet meeting, approval to 30 agendas were given a nod by the council of ministers. Apart from hike in amount of Maiya Samman

Pargana division, Dumka as well as Bokaro district under North Chotanagpur division, Hazaribagh on the lines of Netarhat Residential School,

scheme, the cabinet also gave

its nod for the establishment of

residential schools in Kolhan

division, Chaibasa and Santhal

Revised administrative approval of Rs. 109,16,46,200/-(Rupees one hundred nine crore sixteen lakh forty six thousand two hundred) only was given for the reconstruction work (including bridge construction and land acquisition) of "Bilaspur (on NH-75)-Dhurki (on MDR-139) road and Birbal Chowk to Sagma (on MDR-139) link road (total length-31.600 km)" under Road

Division, Garhwa. In the financial year 2024-25, Rs. Approval was given for the establishment of Integrated Science and Mathematics Laboratory in primary schools at a cost of Rs. 50,00,00,000/-(fifty crore rupees) only. Approval was given to close Special Purpose Vehicle Patratu Energy Limited (PEL), a subsidiary company of Jharkhand Energy Generation Corporation Limited, under the provisions of the Company Act.
Multiple Entry - Multiple Exit

in State Universities of Jharkhand Regulations, 2024 was approved for implementing the system of Multiple Entry-Multiple Exit in the state universities of the state of Jharkhand under the National Education Policy-2020.

Under National Education Policy-2020, the Implementation of Four Year UnderGraduate Programme (FYGUP) in State Universities of Jharkhand Regulations, 2024 was approved for implementing the system of Four Year UnderGraduate Programme (FYGUP) in the state universities

Govt cheated women by giving Rs 1000 instead of Rs 2500: BJP

Decision taken in the pressure of BJP: Himanta Biswa Sarma

BJP's Jharkhand election coincharge Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that in Haryana, the party had announced to give Rs 2100 per month to mothers and sisters. Earlier, Congress had said that it would give Rs 2000. After the BJP announced Rs 2100, Congress announced to increase it to Rs 6000. However, the people of Haryana trusted Modi ii's Rs 2100. They did not trust Congress' Rs 6000. The people of Harvana said that we know that Congress will not give money after the elections

implemented 100 percent. He said that till now lakhs of women have filled the form in the Gogo Didi scheme. Their data has been entered. The party is also answering everyone that we are committed to fulfill the announcement we have made. Gogo Didi scheme will be implemented as soon as the gov-ernment takes oath. There will be no wait of four years

are over. However, whatever

Modi ji has announced will be

He said that what will happen if Hemant government approves giving Rs 2500 in the cabinet. Elections will be announced in a few days. Then from where will they be able to give money to women. This is like cheating people. If Hemant government had resources and could give Rs 2500 then why did it start with Rs 1000. Why



BJP State President Babulal Marandi and Assam CM-cum Assembly election co-incharge Himanta Biswa Sarma and others during a Mllan Samaroh in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

did they cheat women? Why did they take out Samman Yatra to give Rs 1000. If Hemant government had resources to give Rs 2500 to women then why did they give only ?1000. Why did they chea? They came into action after the announcement of Bharatiya Janata Party. Therefore, this entire system is about cheating. Modi's guarantee is 100 per

He said that Bharatiya Janata Party has nothing to do with ED's raid. ED keeps doing its work. One should also look at the Lok Sabha election results in Mithlesh Thakur's area.

Three lakh jobs will be given to the youth. If there is a job in someone's house. then there will be no need for such a scheme. If the youth get three lakh jobs and 5 lakh additional jobs, then they themselves will take care of their mothers and sisters at home. He said that the date of the interview will be announced even before the formation of the government. 2 lakh 78 thousand jobs will be given to the youth. There will be no irregularity in this. There will be no question paper leak. Everything will be transparent.

Sarma said that let the BJP government remain for one year. I promise that there will be no issue of any kind during Muharram and Durga Puia. Muslims themselves will participate in Durga Puja and Ram Navami. The whole situation will change. The procession of Tajia, Ram Navami and Durga Puja will come out in a better way. There will be no problem anywhere. Just give one year's time to BJP after the formation of the government.

He said that everything Care Limited. has been decided regarding

Gangster Aman Shahu shifted to Chhattisgarh

PNS: RANCHI

Chhattisgarh Police took criminal Aman Sahu, lodged in Chaibasa jail, to Raipur under production warrant. Late on Sunday night, a 10member team of Raipur Crime Branch came to Chaibasa and took Aman Sahu with them under tight

Aman Sahu is accused of firing outside the office of a businessman in Telibandha police station area of Raipur three months ago. Police took him to Raipur to investigate the matter further. It is worth noting that the local

police has obtained protection from the court five to six times to bring Aman Sahu to Raipur under protection warrant, but till now Aman could not be brought to

Criminal Aman Sahu, lodged in jail, has been shifted from one jail to another and a half years. Even after this, his terror is not decreasing.

Sahu has been continuously threatening and extorting money from businessmen of different districts months ago, Aman Sahu had

written a letter to the Chief Justice of the High Court claiming that a conspiracy was being hatched to kill him. He had alleged that police officers, coal mafia politicians involved in the conspiracy. As part of the conspiracy, he was being shifted from one jail to another.

Sunil Meena of Aman Sahu gang, whose arrest remains a challenge for Jharkhand Police, is originally from Naya Mandi of Ghadsana in Sriganganagar district of Rajasthan. Sunil has been among the trusted people of Lawrence Bishnoi



gang. Sunil went to Malaysia from India on a work visa. During his stay in Kuala Lumpur, he came in contact Lawrence through Rohit Godara, Goldie Brar and Sampat Nehra of Lawrence Bishnoi gang and from Malaysia it started establishing his roots in the world of crime. He has started carrying out incidents like murder, extortion, firing in many districts of Rajasthan and Punjab at the behest of

108 ambulance services on halt for two days

Ambulance services Jharkhand remained stalled for the second day on Monday. Patients are facing a lot of problems due to the ambulance being stalled. Ambulance employees are angry due to non-payment of salary and have gone on strike. Due to this, the operation of about 500 ambulances operating in the state has stopped.

Hundreds of employees surrounded the residence of Health Minister Banna in Morhabadi. Gupta Employees say that when the Secunderabad based company EMRI Green Health Services was workpany M/s Ziqitza Health

After the tender ended, M/s Ziqitza has not paid the salary for two months. At the same time, after the tender of EMRI Green Health Services also ended, the work has been handed over

Samman Foundation. Employees fear that after the change of agency, the salary of the month of September may also be pending. At the same time, they say that they do not even get the facility of PF. There is no fixed time for work, despite having a 12hour duty, they have to work for longer hours.

At the same time, the employees are also demanding permanent employment. They say that until their demands are met, they will remain on indefinite strike.

Around 1500 employees are associated with this agency in the state. On Saturday itself, the employagency started affecting the work. But its effect started showing from Sunday. At the same time, EMRI Green also has a pending amount of Rs 40 crore. For the payment of which, continuous correspondence is going on with the Health Department.

Every vehicle will be checked at checkposts during polls: CEO



Chief Electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar during a meeting in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

PNS: RANCHI

Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand, K. Ravi said that during the assemb tions, the enforcement agency should work diligently to impose a complete ban on illegal activities, it will be monitored at every level. He said that to conduct clean, fair and peaceful voting, the officers engaged in the work of the election should follow the instructions given by the Election Commission of India. He was addressing the training session organized through online medium for the officials of FST

and SST constituted for the upcoming assembly elections in all the districts today. Kumar said that in the assembly elections,

all FST and FST have to keep a close watch on the cases of illegal election expenditure and MCC violation. He said that the officers of FST and SST have to work in coordination with the police station and headquarters level. During the election, every vehicle will be checked at all the check posts. Also, all the check posts will be monitored through webcasting. No negligence of any kind will be tolerated at the check post, prompt action will be taken against the officer who is negligent.

The CEO said that by deputing CAPF as per the requirement in all the check posts, the movement of banned materials like illegal liquor, illegal cash, weapons etc. which can affect the election has to be completely stopped during the election. For this, all the officers should take action by complying with their duties and rights.

On this occasion, Assistant Chief Electoral Officer Dev Das Dutta made the officers aware of the duties of FST and SST and miking, communication plan, C-Vigil etc. related to ethical voting. At the same time, System Analyst S.N. Jameel gave detailed information about the installation and implementation of mobile applications used by FST and SST. On this occasion, officials of FST and SST of all districts were present online.

ED raids locations linked with IAS officer, minister's kin in drinking water scam

The raids were conducted at 23 places in connection with multi-crore scam in the Jal Jeevan Mission

Directorate (ED) on Monday conducted multiple raids at the premises of secretary level officer, brother of minister and other persons in connection with multi-crore scam in the Jal Jeevan Mission of the Drinking and Sanitation Department. Jal Jeevan Mission is a scheme of the central government.

Premises linked to senior IAS officer Manish Ranjan, Harendra Singh, a personal staffer of drinking water and sanitation minister Mithilesh Kumar Thakur, Thakur's brother Vinay Thakur, some government officials, contractors and businessmen were searched by the agency, the sources said.

Ranjan was questioned by the ED earlier in a separate money laundering case, in which it arrested former minister Alamgir Alam.

According to ED sources, the agency is conducting these raids as part of an investigation into irregularities in the Jal Jeevan Mission of the Department of Sanitation. Notably, Prime



Minister Narendra Modi during his recent visit to Hazaribagh had also raised the issue of irregularities in the Centrally funded scheme Jal Jeevan Mission. In the State capital, the raids were conducted at Morhabadi area, Indrapuri area of Ratu Road, Harmu and other places also raids were conducted at Chaibasa and Garhwa. Mithlesh Thakur. a contractor-turned-politician, holds significant influence in the current administration. Manish Ranjan, who was previously under the ED's scrutiny in connection with a rural development scam, served as secretary in the Water Drinking Sanitation Department for a considerable period.

This scam in the Drinking and Sanitation Department is reported to be of substantial scale, with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) already filed alleging a scam of over Rs 4,000 crore. The money laundering

case stems from a December, 2023 FIR lodged by the Jharkhand Police against one Santosh Kumar, a former cashier-cum-upper divisional clerk (UDC), posted at the office of Drinking Water and Sanitation Suvarnarekha Division, Ranchi along with unknown others. The police FIR alleged that Santosh Kumar, in connivance of other government officials, "dishonestly" made fake payee ID of an entity and used the account details of his own and his company Rockdril Constructions (OPC) Private Limited to fraudulently withdraw funds of Rs 2,71,62,833 causing wrongful loss to the state government. "It is found that a total of Rs 23 crore has been credited into the accounts of Santosh Kumar and his company from the Treasury Office, Ranchi. This amount was subsequently withdrawn by Santosh Kumar and distributed among the other

Thakur charged that the raids were "politically motivated" as he refused to "buckle under pressure" of the saffron brigade to join the BJP.

letters to about 500 CHOs in State PNS: RANCHI The caravan of appointments in the State is continuously moving forward. There will not be any month when the appointment letter distribution ceremony is not organized. About 500 community health officers are getting appointment letters. In this way, now all of you will fulfill your responsibilities as an integral part of the government," said Chief Minister Hemant Soren while addressing the appointment letter distribution ceremony organized by the Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare in the Jharkhand Ministry on

officials," the FIR stated. Meanwhile, **Various programmes held in RINPAS on WMHW**

field of energy. The CM told the community health officers who received the appointment letters that Jharkhand is counted among the poorest and backward states of the country. "You have been appointed to improve the health care system. All of

Monday. On this occasion,

the Chief Minister also laid

the foundation stone of the

220/33 kV Grid- Sub Station

achieving self-reliance in the

Pakribarwadih online and

expressed commitment to

Bhawan in Mumbai and

proposed Jharkhand



CM hands over appointment

Chief Minister Hemant Soren hands over appointment letters to a newly appointed community health officer at the appointment distribution ceremony at the Jharkhand Ministry on behalf of the Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Ratan Lal

you are getting an opportunity to work in the remote and remote rural areas of the state. I want to tell all of vou that you should try to live up to the responsibility you have been given towards the people of this state. Perform your service with full honesty and integrity, so that the villagers continue to trust you. This will help us in strengthening the system of this state," he said

The CM said that the government is constantly making efforts to strengthen the health care system in the state. The health system cannot be improved just by

building a building. For this, it is necessary to provide adequate doctors and medical personnel and proper facilities related to treatment in the hospitals. Keeping this in mind, our government is taking concrete steps to strengthen all the systems related to health. Today, along with the appointment of doctors and medical personnel, providing modern medical resources and facilities, there is also a proper system for the maintenance and repair of hospitals. Many health schemes are being run for the poor and needy people of the state.

Our effort is to provide better medical facilities to the

Soren said that the government is continuously working towards providing world-class health facilities in the state. In this regard, we are taking the help of private sector institutions which have made a name for themselves for providing better services in the field of health on the world stage. In this episode, the foundation stone of Apollo Hospital has been laid recently. At the same time, a world class medical college and hospital is being built in Itki, Ranchi, by Azim Premji Foundation. I am confident that very soon the people here will not have to go to big hospitals in other states for treatment. They will get better and modern medical facilities in their own state.

The CM said that today many new diseases remain a challenge for us. Since Covid-19, we are constantly moving forward in the direction of strengthening the health system. In this episode, efforts are on to make treatment of serious diseases possible in this state. For this, with the help of private organizations, institutions and hospitals

working in the field of health, efforts are constantly being made to provide modern treatment related facili-

The CM said that generally women and girls are associated with nursing. But, I believe that men should also participate in nursing. That is why the government has decided to ensure admission of men in nursing institutes. If men and women work equally in the field of nursing, then patients will get

better service. The CM said that many links have been added towards strengthening the health system in the state and providing better medical facilities to the patients. The government has also made the service of air ambulance available at an affordable rate, so that if serious patients need to be taken out for treatment in an emergency, they do not have to face problems.

On this occasion Ministers Satyanand Bhokta, Banna Gupta, Mithilesh Kumar Thakur, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Avinash Kumar, Principal Secretary Ajay Kumar Singh and Campaign Director Abu Imran were

ful activities aimed at promoting mental health awareness across diverse groups, including our patients, staff, students, and the wider community in Kanke. Here's a summary of the various initiatives carried out such as painting competition, movie screening, skit on Workplace Stress in the OPD, skit on maternity mental health at the community health centre, Kanke and stress management program at Kasturba School, Kanke.

Following the direction of Director, RINPAS, Kanke, Ranchi, Dr Jayati Simlai on the occasion of

World Mental Health Week (WMHW) the Psychiatric Institute has conducted a series of impact-

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 be given to the Nishad Party, maintaining consistency with previous arrangements.

Upcoming by-elections and

political implications

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 firstवगर्यसमिति ह

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.

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 conscious. 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.

an, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry; views are personal)

(1 ne writer, a military veter

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

entitled conveyance allowance for the commute. He gently pulled me up and told me that

I could not claim the money till the time he chauffeured 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 proorganisation, I claimed the posals of illegal gratification. touching the money that we

A gentleman joined the dispute resolution board that I am part of only when he was assured by a former senior colleague about my proven 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



Telangana proud and brought honours to the nation, hence this great honour for him. Among 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

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

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 womana serious undercurrent. This hood—its beauty, complex- ditions to explore gender,

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-

tance of societal institutions for a panacea. Introducing democracy is 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

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

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

has said it will respond to any Israeli attack. Bodies rot in the streets

attack earlier this month. Iran

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.

China holds military exercises drills around

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 war-

like 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 North Korea if the safety of its

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

citizens is threatened.

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

China appropriately" said the exact location of the car- China held similar large-scale 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

rier is unclear.

"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

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

"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.

campaign rally in Pennsylvania.

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 over-

seeing 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 the outskirts of war, but this doesn't exempt us from human-

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

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 समात 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 has severed all his relations and have nis all movable and immovable esponsible for any act of his Son Sh

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

****	With the property Will be Subject to charges of feren bank Elithica.					
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		
1.	Shammi Kapoor/ Shalini	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		
TI						

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amo 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 Pranch 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.

Name of the Description of Property/

	INO.	Account Number	Date of Symbolic Possession	in Demand Notice (Rs)	Branch
	1.	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
	2.	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
	3.	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
	4.	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
	5.	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
1	The		augrantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day No	tice to renay the	amou

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

Tender Amount

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in **E-TENDER NOTICE**

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.

Name of the work

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:-

S. No	Jobs No.	Name of the work	Tender Amoun (Rs. Lacs)	
6	62/DGM/SM(WC-7)/ ET/ 2023-24	M/o Road (C/o Drain and footpath in front of A-08, Sector-87), Noida.	36.53	
7	15/DGM/SM(WC-1)/ 2024-25	M/o Drain (P/L 600 mm M.S. Pipe Underground by Trench less by Augar Boring Method & Construction Water Harvesting in front of Dalit Prana Sthal on Expressway), Noida.	52.55	
8	22/DGM/SM(WC-6)/ 2023-24	Development of Sector-73 (Reconstruction of damaged C.C. Road, Drain Repairing, Covering and other Misc. Work in EWS flats Sector-73), Noida.	98.22	

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)

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

hurt in Dhaka clashes entering, which eventually led

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.

to enter the market but faced 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

security, we resisted them from added.

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

Notice is hereby given to the General Public th of Mr. Yakoob is the owner of PLOT NO. 74 AREA MEASURING 291 SQ. YDS., OUT O KHASRA NO. 2326/2, SITUATED AT NET-PARK, AREA MAUJA LONI, PARAGAN LONI, TEHSILAND DISTRICT GHAZIABAI

LONI, 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.

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 objection/s upon the ownership of above owner over the said properly, its mortgageflitigation as who the objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants), 200, lind Floro, 23, Shiyai Marq, Mott Nagar, N. Delin-15 Ph: 011-41112527-28 legal@knalegal.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my cleint Seema Rana is in process to avail the LAP against her property Bearing No. 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) PUBLIC NOTICE 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 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 duly registered vide Document No.3885, a Sub-Registrar-Sohna,; and intend to mortgag

PUBLIC NOTICE Costs hereby given to the General Public that PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

responsible for his any acts.

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/RII. 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. 2188030/2024. on 08/10/2024. 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

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 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 FOR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES, 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. t is therefore, Notified that anybody

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 be presumed that the said property is from all encumbrances, charges and/or lien, etc. and my client is free to purchase the said property from the above named seller. SAHIL ARORA (ADVOCATE)

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

Mob.: +91-9811912277

Chambers, Aruna Park, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092

ny client SHRI NARENDER R/o - D2A/66 B, D Block, LIG Flats, Janak Puri, West Delhi, Delhi - 110058, disowned his son Sh. Nitin Singh, from properties due to his disobedient nature. So my client shall not be Nitin Singh, if anyone do so then ie/she will do so at his/her own risk.

GAURAV SADANA Advocate

ACHIN SHARMA (ADVOCATE)

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

// सर्व संबंधित को सुचना // 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 स्थिगत किया गया था। भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन और जलवाय 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 हेतु 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, दुर्ग्कोंदल, कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत - चिहरो, बरहेली, परभेली, खुटगाँव, दुर्गूकोंदल, हानपतरी, दमकसा, गुद्म, 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.)

RBI calls for cheaper, faster remittances

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

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-

bilateral multilateral arrangements. India and a few other growth, he noted.
"Remittances are the starting point for many emerging and developing 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,

in major trade currencies

such as dollar, Euro and

Pound can be explored

time gross settlement (RTGS) to settle transactions Thailand) and India. settlement Under

bilateral 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 stated.

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

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

Windergy India 2024

set to propel wind

energy growth

"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

Awareness Week at NSE,

Narayan said FY24 was a

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 fly-by-night 'finfluencers' 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 machinery & equipment, etc," the commerce and industry

ministry said in a statement. 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

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 sixth edition of Windergy India, a key

PNS NEW DELHI

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: frameworks, policy

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

BACL breaks ground on major Bengaluru Business Park

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 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, 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 Silkli Roddy are set to face Consde's

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 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 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.

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 participate, ensuring a global Each team will consist of 24

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.

> 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 goldmed blist Nathan Hales will not be medallist 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.

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 and Matt Coward-Holley, and one in team and the Olympic gold medallist 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

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

GREECE WINS: Greece still

leads Group B2 after extending its perfect start in 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

Wednesday.

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

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

Athens on

home in

Austria.

Raiffeisen

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 England team ranked 60 places higher.

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

Alexander-Arnold doubled England's lead in the 74th with a trademark free kick and Rice converted at the near post 10 minutes later

substitute

Watkins' cross.

Arttu Hoskonen scored a

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. Ollie

"My bosses have made it

Alexander Sorloth evened the game before halftime.

consolation for Finland in the

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 bellning 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

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 is. That was my only watching the game very understanding about it. 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 Leach, Shoaib Bashir.



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.

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 Johnson was ruled out with a side strain before it began. Meanwhile, test allrounder

Monday he will undergo surgery on a stress fracture in his back and will be out of action for six months.

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

Champions Trophy Pakistan in February.

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.

judged after every match. Kohli has made only one

PTI ■ BENGALURU

fifty, a 76 against South Africa at Centurion in Cameron Green confirmed December 2023, in his last eight innings, and him regaining his touch is crucial for India against New Zealand in a three-Test A squad for the Twenty20 rubber starting on Wednesday and during the five-match series against Australia next month. series against Pakistan will be

Gambhir is confident that Kohli will come good very

"See, my thoughts about Virat have always been very clear that he is a world-class cricketer. He has performed

Kohli hungry for runs, no need to

judge after every match: Gambhir

for such a long period of time. He is as hungry as when he made his debut. To India head coach Gautam Gambhir is not too now, his hunger is always concerned about the recent lukewarm form of Virat Gambhir told there," reporters here on Monday. Kohli, insisting that the star "That hunger is what makes he was when he made his am sure that he will be debut and should not be hungry to get runs in this series and probably moving

> he added. 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

forward to Australia as well,

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

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

all-rounder ustralia Australia an Island 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

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

"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.

participation in the IPL is also in doubt.

Green has decided to opt for a similar type of surgery undergone by several pacers including Jasprit Bumrah, James Pattinson, Jason Jason Behrendorff, and Dwarshuis. "After thorough consultation

a surgery.

The 25-year-old seam- would benefit from the work to stabilise the defect it was determined Cameron bowling all-rounder was surgery to stabilise the defect diagnosed with the problem 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 allrounder in mind," the statement added.

The operation will be performed by New Zealand surgeons Grahame Inglis and Rowan Schouten, which wire to bind vertebrae according to together, 'cricket.Com.Au.'

involves screws and titanium

His absence would mean Australia will have to rejig their batting order.

Green had returned to the

Test side following veteran opener David Warner's opener David retirement earlier this year with Steve Smith being pushed to open the innings. struggled at the top of the order and will drop back to his preferred number four

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

position, which has been left

opening spot. Additionally, Australia will also have to find someone to bowl Green's overs.

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

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 Test rubber. The Kiwi played in this part of

the world during last year's ODI World Cup before appearing for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL 2024. "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.
"As you've seen, those two tournaments (ODI WC and IPL) were amazing, the crowds and the passion and the hype and the

of the world. Obviously, we 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 very positive, especially in their own conditions. The way

they've evolved 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, hopeful-

ly, 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 play.



village-Thana Toli, Thana and District Lohardaga (Jharkhand) have changed my name from Amit Kumar to Riyaz Ansari as per affidavit no. 13123, dated- 05 October 2024.

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