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WORLD 8
HOLLYWOOD HILLS FIRE BREAKS OUT AS DEADLY WILDFIRES BURN OUT OF CONTROL ACROSS LOS ANGELES

RANCHI, FRIDAY JANUARY 10, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹3

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

Cong cornered in INDIA bloc truck Bijli, Paani free on BJP's poll platter?

Mohit Kandhari n Jammu

Amid growing differences within the INDIA bloc, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday dropped clear hints suggesting he was also on the verge of splitting ties with the opposition plank. Omar also demanded the INDIA bloc should be disbanded as the opposition parties were not on the same page in the run-up to the Delhi polls.

Acerbic observations made by Omar, a close friend of Rahul Gandhi, have once again sparked speculation over the future of the Congress party in the INDIA bloc.

While both AAP and the Congress are part of the INDIA bloc, the parties are contesting the Delhi polls separately

Banerjee-led Mamta Trinamool Congress along with Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) and Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party (SP) have already announced their support to the Aam Aadmi Party in the Delhi elections leaving Congress party stranded in the cornered poll battle. stranded the multi-

timing The subtle Abdullah's remark, a day after Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav said the INDIA bloc had lost its significance and was formed specifically for the Lok Sabha polls, has also raised many eyebrows in the power corridors

"INDIA bloc was formed just for the Lok Sabha elections and to stop the victory march of the BJP. It has no significance now. bickering between the



Congress and the AAP is not unexpected," the former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister said. Abdullah's Reacting to Congress Manickam Tagore said the opinion of INDIA bloc allies was not binding on the party. "INDIA bloc allies will not decide what the Congress wants to do in Delhi," he said.

Abdullah, whose National Conference is part of the INDIA bloc, Thursday said "It is unfortunate that no meeting of the INDIA bloc has taken place. Who will lead? What will be the agenda? How will the alliance move forward? There is no discussion on these issues. There is no clarity on whether we will remain united or not". "After the Assembly elections in Delhi, they (INDIA Bloc) should call all the alliance members for a meeting. If this alliance was only for the parliamentary elections, it should be wound up, and we will work separately. But if it is also meant for Assembly elections, we will have to sit together and work collectively," Abdullah told reporters on the sidelines of a three-day long orientation programme of the newly elected legislators here in

Jammu.

In December 2024, When Trinamool Congress leaders started a campaign to aggressively push for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to head the opposition alliance, the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi directed the party's Lok Sabha MPs not to react to comments of "middle-and low-rung" leaders of INDIA bloc parties. Replying to another query on

increasing support for AAP ahead of next month's Delhi elections, Omar Abdullah said, "I cannot say anything about this at the moment because we involvement with Delhi polls. The Aam Aadmi Party, Congress, and other political parties on the ground will decide how to compete with

the BJP strongly."
Stating that AAP succeeded twice in Delhi previously, Abdullah said, "This time, we will have to wait and see what the people of Delhi decide." Meanwhile, National Conference President Dr Abdullah Farooq Thursday said his party does not intend to "fight" New Delhi to collaborate with the

central government address the pressing issues of Jammu and Kashmir. Commenting on the unity within the INDIA bloc, Abdullah said the alliance is not just about contesting

elections, but it is about strengthening India and eliminating hatred. alliance is permanent - it is for every day and every moment." "We don't want to fight New Delhi. We want to work together with Delhi to resolve the state's problems. We don't want to engage in battles. Those who want to fight can do so," the former chief minister told reporters here. Abdullah said the National Conference has nothing to do with the BJP, but it is the responsibility of the central government to support state governments in addressing local issues. "We are not with the BJP, nor do we have any connection with them," he

What was once criticised as "free ki revri" and "freebies" has now become the central focus for the political parties as they vie for votes in the February 5 Delhi elections. In a bid to match the ruling AAP's raft of prepoll promises in Delhi, the BJP is likely to announce free electricity of up to 300 units for household, free piped water, and a Ladli Behna-like scheme (financial assistance of Rs 2500 for eligible women) to woo the voters in its manifesto for the upcoming assembly polls. Along with this, the BJP is also planning to provide free electricity of up to 500 units religious places like temples and gurudwaras.

Top sources said these recommendations expected to be part of the manifesto.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $E^{
m ven}$ as outbound travel from India continues to

grow rapidly and a growing number of destinations try to

obtaining a visa for travel has

become harder for Indian

travelers, the global ranking

of Indian passport dropped

five spots to 85th in Henley

Passport Index 2025 even as

Singapore reclaimed the top

spot and Japan takes the

statement, as per the Henley

Passport Index 2025, India

has slipped from 80th rank in

second position.

According to

tourists,

Indian

NEW DELHI



recommendations have been sent to central leadership for approval. According to sources, the manifesto committee recommended not doing away with schemes currently in place in Delhi including free public bus travel for women, up to 20 kilolitres of free water per month to domestic consumers, and free electricity to households that consume less than 200 units a month.

Indian passport ranking slips

2024 to 85th in 2025. An

Indian national can travel to

57 visa-free destinations

The index is considered the

standard reference tool for

global citizens and sovereign

states when assessing where a

passport ranks on the global

around the world, it adds.

AAP-led The government currently provides free electricity for up to 200 units a month. Under the existing free electricity scheme, the government provides free electricity to consumers with a monthly consumption of 200 units. Whereas, a 50 per cent subsidy is given to people with a consumption of 201-400 units of electricity.

Henley & Partners said. As per the index for 2025, India stands at 85th while the

ranking of Pakistan and Bangladesh stood at 103rd

(101st in 2024) and 100th (97th in 2024), respectively.

According to a data chart

available on the firm's

website, for the range of years

from 2006-2025, India's rank

was the lowest at 90th in 2021,

while its best score was in

2006 when the country was

ranked 71st.According to the

passport index, the ranking of Pakistan and Bangladesh

stood at 103rd (101st in 2024)

and 100th (97th in 2024),

respectively.



GRAP III invoked in the Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Rising air pollution level has once again forced the authorities to impose vehicle ban on BS 3 petrol and BS 4 diesel cars as the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for Delhi and its adjoining area has imposed the Stage-III ('Severe' Air Quality) measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi-NCR with immediate effect. The stage 3 also bans the entry of non-essential BS 4 diesel trucks into Delhi. The restrictions are not applicable for commercial vehicles involved in essential services "Persons with Disabilities shall be permitted to ply BS - III Petrol

BS - IV Diesel LMVs, provided that these are specifically adopted for them and are run only for their personal use," the CAQM said in a statement. GRAP Stage 3. which was revoked on Sunday, entails a ban on non-essentia construction work.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu meets a persor injured in the stampede on Wednesday,

Naidu visits Tirupati stampede victims

PNS TIRUPATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday visited the injured undergoing treatment in a hospital here following a stampede that left six people dead. Six devotees died and nearly 40 more were injured in the stampede at Bairagi Patteda near MGM School in Tirupati on Wednesday night as hundreds of them jostled for tickets for Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam at Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple on Tirumala Hills. Hundreds of devotees turned

up from across the country for the 10-day Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam Dwara commencing from January 10. Earlier, Naidu visited the accident site where the stampede claimed six lives and injured many.

Congress still relevant in Delhi: Sandeep Dikshit

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

ongress candidate from the New Delhi assembly constituency and two-time East Delhi MP, Sandeep Dikshit, has accused the AAP of siphoning off Congress votes in other states, at a time when the ruling party has serious allegation t him and his party for made being in cahoots with BJP while dismissing AAP's claim of Centre hindering the Delhi government

functioning. The son of former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit is a widely known critique of AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, one of the reasons he stated for pitting him against Kejriwal in the upcoming elections. While the AAP has made several allegations against Dikshit and Congress for being hands in gloves with the BJP, Dikshit, in an interview with The Pioneer, shrugged them off claiming that the BJP is picking his criticisms rather than the

other way around. "BJP is repeating what I am saying. They have never attacked Kejriwal on factual information. I have done that and I think it's good whoever is picking that up. Secondly, there is a critique and a criticism of AAP, which is not party-specific. Criticism is opposition-specific," he said.
"If Yamuna is dirty, do you



say something else? We are in the opposition, we will attack you for all the things that you have not done. When they were in the opposition, AAP and BJP both called us corrupt in 2012-13. We could very easily say that you are saying exactly what BJP was saying. The role of the opposition is to criticize the government wherever it finds

valid criticism," he said. He further raised questions on AAP fighting elections outside Delhi and claimed that they cut Congress votes to help the BJP. "They are really somebody who helps BJP win different elections and then they attack me,"

Dikshit alleged. Claiming that the AAP is afraid of Congress fighting the elections, he asked why the AAP is scared of him or AICC treasurer Ajay Maken "If Yamuna is dirty, do you when they say that Congress expect BJP to say something is not relevant in Delhi.

"Their problem is that they are finding that the Congress is fighting full throttle and we are going to damage the prospects of both AAP and BJP very severely," Dikshit asserted.

The senior Congress leader also asked for evidence from the ruling party for their allegations against the Central government for stopping their work. Remembering his mother's time, he said that the delay is obvious in Delhi where files have to be delivered to the Lieutenant Governor (LG) first for approval. However, he said that it is a matter of delay rather than denial.

He claimed that the BJP has stopped the AAP from working where they believe they are indulging in corruption. "Otherwise, where is it that you've been stopped? Files will get delayed in Delhi because, unlike other states, where the Chief

Minister signs a file and it becomes policy, in Delhi's case, in many of the subjects, files have to go to the LG level," Dikshit added.

While the AAP's narrative is centered around 'Phir layenge

Keiriwal' (We will bring Kejriwal again), Kejriwal's rival said that even if he becomes one he will be a jail', or he will 'not do any work' because of the work' because of the conditions put by the Supreme Court on his bail. "In the remote chance that AAP wins Delhi again, and you get elected as their leader, even if you get sworn in as Chief Minister, you cannot perform. Not even for a single day. This promise of Rs 2,100 he made to the women. In reality, if he signs that file, he'll go to jail. He'll break his bail conditions," the leader said, adding that AAP Convenor resigned from his Chief Ministerial post not as a sacrifice but because he knew that he cannot perform its

duties. The Congress candidate also plans to remind people of the work his mother has done for Delhi and how Kejriwal has not been able to carry it on even in an 'average fashion'. Dikshit also claims that in case of any post-poll alliance, other parties will have to come to them and not the other way around as he is confident of a good performance by the Congress.



SC to review **JEE-Advanced** attempt limit

PNS NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Thursday agreed to}}$ examine ac plea against bringing down from three to two, the attempts given to Joint Entrance Examination (JEE)-Advanced aspirants. When the plea came up before a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih, the petitioner's counsel said, "This matter pertains to the IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) admission entrance examination in which the number of attempts have been reduced from three to two." The lawyer said a similar plea was listed before the bench on January 10 following which the court directed both to be tagged.





mandatory for heads of all its departments (HoDs) to tune into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' monthly radio broadcast. In a circular issued on Thursday, Shreyas D'Silva, under secretary (general HoDs to tune into 'Maan Ki Baat' and draw inspiration from suggestions and best practices mentioned in the programme. Posting the circular on his

social media handle, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said "Mann Ki Baat, the monthly interactive program by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi Ji, highlights the thoughts and ideas of citizens on Governance, as well as individual and collective efforts driving societal change."

He said success stories and best practices shared during the programme can be adopted to improve governance. "All Heads of Government Departments in Goa are directed to actively tune in to #MaanKiBaat. It is encouraged to draw inspiration from success stories and best practices during shared the programme, which have brought positive change across the nation. These insights shall be appropriately considered for adoption to



improve governance and enhance service delivery in Goa," Sawant noted.

The CM further said "Goa has been pioneer implementing progressive Governance practices that have been emulated at both state and national levels." He also talked about his government's vision of 'Swayampurna' sufficient) and developed

"It is essential to continually seek inspiration and adopt innovative practices from across India, be it from individuals, organizations, or state initiatives. This will further our efforts to promote Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, propelling us toward achieving the vision of a Swayampurna, Viksit (developed) Goa," Sawant said. 'Swayampurna Goa' is a government-led community level action plan to make each

and every village and city in

the state self-reliant.

CRPF launches online platform to adopt retired K9s for second life binding" agreement with the adopter and will provide a KCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

common people to adopt retired sniffer and assault dogs from the country's largest paramilitary force to give these four-legged soldiers a

any security force has decided to offer their trained dogs for public adoption, as this move was always fraught with the dangers of misuse of these highly-skilled and motivated dogs by anti-national

state police were handing over their retired dogs to registered NGOs or reputed organisations for their care.

The CRPF has launched a first-**1** ever online service that allows comfortable second life. This is probably the first time that

Till now, the central forces and

More than 30 canines from four combat streams such as explosive

Belgian Shepherd, Malinois, German Labrador and the indigenous Mudhol Hound — can now be adopted through a rigorous process that will be monitored by the CRPF's specialised Dog Breeding and Training School (DBTS) near Bengaluru. These canines, aged 8-12 years,

have undertaken hundreds of operations in the anti-Naxal, counter-insurgency and counterterrorism theatres across the country, saving lives of numerous troops from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and deadly ambushes laid by Maoists or terrorists, a senior officer told PTI. Baloo, Sweety, Veeru, Moby, Coco, Stroll and their colleagues have been trained in various sniffer and

detection and tracking, infantry patrol and assault, etc.

The officer said the adoption is free and the adopter can check the force's website to gather basic details and pictures of the dogs up for adoption, fill up a form stating their "motivation and intent" for adopting a retired police K9, and state how they plan to engage the canine -- like a companion, guard or a therapy dog — along with details of the proposed details of the proposed accommodation for the adopted "A compatibility meeting between

the adopter and the dog will be organised at a designated camp where the retired canine is housed. We have also got these selected canines groomed by dog behaviour experts so that they can adjust in a homely environment,"



the officer said. A brief profile, picture and citation of these "soldier buddies" have been hosted on the CRPF portal, been hosted on the CRPF portal, making it clear that the adopter process, will sign a "legally-

shall take care of the "K9 hero with dignity, due diligence compassion".

"Initiating public adoption of our retired dogs is an effort to ensure a happy second life for our canine soldiers," CRPF Deputy Inspector General Moses Dhinakaran told It has been made clear in the terms and conditions of the adoption

(Kennel Club of India) registration

certificate, medical and vaccination records, and other

vital documents of these canines.

process that there shall be no abuse or ill-treatment" of the K9 and that they should not be sold, used for any purpose to earn money, or deployed against any person.

The guidelines state that CRPF officers should be allowed for "periodic verification" of the adopted dogs, including regular communication with their handlers through short videos and live videoconferencing. "The adopter shall give emotional support if the K9 is found in

distress, and extend all therapeutic care as required for a geriatric dog," the guidelines state. The force hopes that these brave

loyal soldiers get a good home and family as it writes about Zina, a female Belgian Shepherd Malinois, how she is "loval with a balanced temperament, making her an ideal companion for families looking for a protective yet gentle dog". With about 3.25 lakh personnel in

its ranks, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is the leading internal security force of the country which functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Cold wave grips Jharkhand, Lohardaga records 3.2 degrees Celsius making it difficult for resi-



A severe cold wave has swept across Jharkhand, with temperatures dipping to new lows as the state continues to experience bone-chilling weather. The drop in temperature is attributed to the strong flow of northwesterly winds from northern India, causing a significant dip in the minimum temperatures across various regions.

worst-hit areas include Lohardaga, which recorded a bone-chilling 3.2 Celsius, and Hazaribagh, which registered a minimum tempera-

other districts, including Chatra, Ramgarh, and Khunti, also faced freezing temperatures, with the mercury hovering between 4-6 degrees Celsius

The state capital, Ranchi, saw its minimum temperature fall to 7 degrees Celsius, while the Palamu region also experienced intense cold. Daltonganj, a prominent town in the region, recorded a minimum temperature of 6.2 degrees Celsius, adding to the widespread chill.

In the steel city of Jamshedpur, temperatures Bokaro registered a minimum temperature of 8.1 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, Dhanbad saw a sudden drop in temperature, with the automatic weather station recording a minimum temperature of 8.8 degrees Celsius. Deoghar, the famous temple town, also saw its night reading plummet to 6.7 degrees Celsius, further intensifying the cold spell across the state.

The chill is not limited to the towns and cities alone; several rural areas across Jharkhand are grappling with plunging temperatures.

dents to cope with the extreme weather conditions. Meteorological Department has indicated that satellite images suggest the presence of a trough in the middle and upper tropospheric westerlies, with its axis at 5.8 km above mean

sea level running roughly

along Long. 93°E to the north

of Lat. 26°N.

The prevailing weather pattern is also linked to the ongoing cold wave, with the onset of a fresh Western Disturbance expected to affect northwest India from January 10. This new disturcold winds to the region, further intensifying the chill in Jharkhand.

In response to the cold wave, local authorities and health officials have issued advisories, urging residents to take necessary precautions against the extreme cold. People have been advised to wear warm clothing, avoid unnecessary outdoor activities, and take extra care of vulnerable groups, especially the elderly and children, to avoid health complications like hypother-

mia or frostbite. Experts suggest that this cold spell is likely to persist over the next few days, with further drops in temperature expected in several parts of Jharkhand. The combination of the northwest winds and the approaching Western Disturbance is expected to keep the state shivering in the coming days.

As the cold wave continues to grip Jharkhand, residents are bracing themselves for even colder nights ahead. The ongoing chill, combined with the likely impact of the new weather system, promises to make January one of the coldest months in recent memory for the region.

The Silent Art of Confidence: Mastering Body Language in Fashion

BY RACHNA TIWARI

Fashion isn't just about what you wear; it's about how you wear it. Body language—the unspoken art

Fashion is more than the clothes vou wear-it's about how you wear them. Body language, the silent art of confidence, can elevate any outfit and leave a lasting impression. Whether on the runway, at an event, or in daily life, mastering your posture, movement, and expression is essential to embodying true style.

At the heart of effective body language is confidence.

The way you carry yourself can transform an ordinary outfit into a statement of elegance and self-assur-

A strong posture is key. Standing tall with your shoulders back and neck elongated creates an air of grace and sophistication. Slouching or hunching, on the other hand, diminishes the impact of even the most exquisite attire.

Confidence begins with how you hold yourself—it's the first thing people notice. Walking with purpose is equally important.









Place one foot directly in front of the other, as though walking along an invisible line. Keep your gaze soft but steady, and let your arms sway naturally by your sides. Every step should feel intentional, exuding a quiet power that enhances your presence.

For many, wearing heels is a hallmark of fashion, but it requires practice to look effortless. Start with lower heels and gradually progress to higher ones to build balance and confidence. Walk on various surfaces—carpet, tiles, and uneven ground—to adaptability. improve Strengthen your core with exercises like planks to maintain stability and posture. When walking in heels, allowing for a graceful and controlled stride. With time and practice, heels will feel like a natural extension of vour body.

The right outfit works in harmony with confident body language.

Structured pieces such as tailored blazers and pencil skirts encourage good posture, while flowing garments like maxi dresses or wide-leg trousers pair beautifully with an elegant stride. Bold accents—dramatic collars, statement shoulders, or accessories-draw attention to a poised upper body, enhancing the overall impact

of your look. Body language isn't just about looking good; it's about conveying an attitude.

When you move with confidence, you make your clothes come alive, turning them into an expression of your personality. Fashion is as much about storytelling as it is about design, and your body language is the unspoken narrator.

Pairing Clothes with Poise Ultimately, mastering body language is about aligning how you look with how you feel. When you stand tall, walk with purpose, and move with intention, you elevate not just your style but your entire presence. Fashion isn't just what you wear; it's how you carry yourself Why Body Language Matters

The right body language conveys confidence, grace, and individuality, elevating even the simplest attire.

Adopting the Right Body

Posture is Key:

The Walk: The Look:

Arm Movement: Heels with Style: Final

Thoughts Body language is the unspoken accessory that completes any look. With practice, it becomes second nature, enhancing your presence and amplifying your personal style. Whether you're on the runway, at a

how you wear it. So, stand tall, stride with purpose, and let your confidence speak louder than

dinner party, or simply walk-

ing down the street, remem-

ber: fashion isn't just about

what you wear-it's about

words Let your body language speak volumes, and you'll make every outfit unforget-

WITH A CAREER SPAN-NING TEN YEARS, THE WRITER HAS SOLIDIFIED HER EXPERTISE IN HR, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT. SHE IS A PRINT AND RAMP MODEL WHO WAS ALSO FEATURED IN VOGUE AND GLADRAGS

Push for TB-free Jamshedpur, community urged to Join TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

A high-level review meeting of the Health and Social Welfare Department, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal, focused on fast-tracking welfare initiatives across East Singhbhum. Held at the Collectorate Auditorium, the meeting saw participation from key officials, including Project Director ITDA Deepak Chaudhary and Civil Surgeon Dr. Sahir Pal.

District Magistrate Mittal underscored the district's second place rank under the Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and called for intensified efforts to eliminate anaemia entirely. He directed all stakeholders to prioritize programs targeting pregnant women, child nutrition, and institutional deliveries.

Progress was reviewed for schemes like Savitribai Phule Kishori Samridhi Yojana, PM Matru Vandana Yojana, and Kanyadan Yojana. Specific instructions included ensuring 100% registration of pregnant women, conducting thorough ANC checkups, and increasing institutional delivery rates, particularly in underperforming areas like Potka and Musabani.

Malnutrition treatment centres (MTCs) in Baharagora and Musabani were flagged for underperformance. Clear directives were issued to identify severely malnourished children through intensive campaigns and ensure no MTC beds remain

In a major appeal, Mittal urged citizens to participate in the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan by adopting tuberculosis patients as Nishchay Mitras, fostering community involvement in health improvement efforts.

The meeting also addressed sickle cell anaemia, with 22 confirmed cases from 77,958 identified potential patients. Authorities were instructed to ensure continuous follow-ups and treatment.

In the Social Welfare Department review, swift appointments for 36 vacant Sevika and 87 Sahayika posts were mandated through Gram Sabha by January-end. Officials were also told to ensure 100% data entry in the Poshan Tracker App for effective monitoring of children and pregnant women.

The District Magistrate concluded the meeting by emphasizing proactive measures to strengthen health and welfare services in rural areas, ensuring a significant impact on community well-being.



Dalmia Cement launches **'RCF Expert'** Cement Range

PNS: BOKARO

Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, a leading Indian cement company, has launched its upgraded 'Roof, Column, Foundation (RCF) Expert' brand portfolio. The flagship products, Dalmia DSP RCF Expert++ and Dalmia Cement (DC) RCF Expert, are designed with Nano Bonding Technology (NBT) to meet modern construction needs. These products offer enhanced strength, superior corrosion resist ance, and long-lasting durability. With over 80 years of trusted legacy, Dalmia Cement (DC) is known for its consistent quality. Dalmia DSP RCF++, the premium offering, combines NBT with High Reactive Silica and Pore Reduction Technology (PRT) for robust roofs, columns, and foundations. Supported by on-site RCF advisors, the initiative ensures precision in construction. The launch. backed by over 50,000 channel partners, witnessed participation from dealers, contractors, and masons. Interactive sessions showcased the products' advanced features, catering to demands like faster setting times and environmental resistance. Dalmia Cement's motto, "RCF Strong Toh Ghar Strong," highlights its commitment to building resilient homes. In Eastern India, Dalmia

Cement leads as the

largest producer, with

partners in Odisha, West

Jharkhand. Its communi-

enhance its reputation as

over 20,126 channel

Bengal, Bihar, and

ty-focused initiatives

a trusted construction

partner.

Tata Zoo gets Blackbuck and Nilgai enclosure

keep your weight primarily on the balls of your feet,

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Tata Steel Zoological Park marked a momentous occasion today with the inauguration of a newly constructed enclosure for Blackbucks and Nilgais. The event was attended Chanakya Chaudhary, Vice President of Corporate Services at Tata Steel and President of the Tata Steel Zoological Society, who officially opened the nabitat

The enclosure, designed to replicate the natural environment of these antelopes, is part of the zoo's mission to enhance the quality of life for its animal residents while

promoting wildlife conservation and education. Spread over a significant area, the features grassy meadows, shaded zones, and a secure vet open structure, allowing the animals to roam freely while ensuring safe and engaging observation for

Addressing attendees, Chaudhary emphasized Tata Steel Zoological Park's commitment to wildlife conservation and environmental sus tainability. "This enclosure is a testament to our dedication to creating awareness about wildlife protection. It reflects our ongoing efforts to provide naturalistic habitats for the



animals under our care while educating visitors about the importance of conservation,"

he stated.

The event saw participation from members of the zoo personnel, and media representatives. The newly inaugurated enclosure is expected to serve as both a sanctuary for Blackbucks and Nilgais and an educational platform for visitors, fostering a deeper connection with nature. The initiative aligns with Tata Steel Zoological Park's broader vision of promoting harmony between humans and wildlife. As a leader in wildlife conservation, the park continues to introduce innovative projects aimed at safeguarding biodiversity and inspiring collective action toward protecting the planet's natural heritage.

Tata Steel Zoological Society,

Trudeau Is

BANSHIDHAR RUKHAIYAR

The Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has met a political fate, which is almost a disaster for any political leader and it would be a lesson for all politicians to think before they speak or act. No one should put his foot in his mouth as Trudeau did. He made wild allegations in India regarding the murder of the so-called Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjer without any proof to substantiate his allegation. He could not produce any evidence in support of his accusation before the foreign affairs inquiry committee of Canada and admitted that he had no tangible evidence. It is an irony that a Prime Minister doesn't understand the diplomatic subtleties and nuances. His political party realised what a blunder he had done and to what a diplomatic mess he brought Indo-Canadian relationship. Trudeau had this poetic justice because he carried out

the command of General Biden like a foot soldier of his army and not like the Prime Minister of Canada. Trudeau is a victim of Biden's failed foreign policy. He had to resign before the elections just like Biden, who was changed as the Democratic Party Presidential candidate midway even though he had won the party nomination in

democratic Unfortunately, there is nothing democratic about the Democratic Party of America which is run like a corporation by the likes of Barack Hussain Obama, Michelle Obama, Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton

Trump humiliated him in a lighter vein by calling him as the Governor Trudeau and Canada as the fifty first state of America and not once but so many times massaging that it was more than a joke. Trudeau took this humiliation lying down and he was thoroughly discredited in the eyes of the upright leaders and self respecting voters of Canada. His rating as a leader started falling and he had to resign from the Prime Ministership.

Biden, too, ate more than he could chew. He and the Deep State led by George Soros tried to meddle in the affairs of India and influence the election results of 2024 to oust the iron fisted leadership of Narendra Modi and his astute foreign minister S. Jaishankar who swims in the dirty whirlpool of international politics like the Chancellor Metternich who dictated European politics in the first

that India is not a banana republic like Bangladesh where he and the Deep State had managed to overthrow the democratically elected government of Sheikh Hasina and had popped up a puppet and political non entity like Muhammad Yunus. The new dispensation in Bangladesh is neither democratic nor legal. The way the minorities in Bangladesh and particularly the Hindus have been targeted, their dignity and honour have been violated and their property vandalised is a shame on America. The socalled Deep State of America is like any other terrorist organisation operating in the Middle East and in our vicinity. It is a non-state actor of America and it is indirectly funded by different agencies of the federal government of America. Biden, too, is a casualty of this Deep State. He was dumped the moment he failed, lost popularity and

half of the nineteenth centu-

ry. He learnt the hard way

Xi Jinping, too, was humbled by India and he had to agree to disengagement on the Ladakh border. His political graph has started falling since 2020 because of his misadventure with India and the Coronavirus. I apprehend that Xi would have an igniminous exit like Trudeau and Biden. The lesson is, don't play foul with India unwarranted and uncalled for.

THE WRITER IS A NOTED ACADEMICIAN AND POLITI-CAL COMMENTATOR.

Addl CS, Health inspects Medinirai **Medical College and Hospital** Warns construction agency of 2 percent penalty for delay

PNS: DALTONGANJ

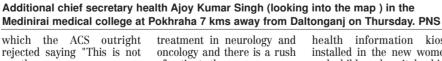
The visit of the additional chief secretary health Ajoy Kumar Singh has put the entire health mechanism here today on the live wire. He got on the job right away, arriving here in the forenoon.

The ACS, Health has warned the construction agency of the 500 bedded hospital in the campus of the Medinirai medical college at Pokhraha, 7 kms away from Daltonganj, to hand over the building 'full and complete' by July 31st of this year 2025 or face a 2 percent penalty per month from August, 2025 for dragging on the construc-

The ACS further warned " This penalty will multiply by 2 per cent every succeeding month like 2 per cent penalty in August but 4 per cent in September and so on and so

The ACS further reminded that the state government can extract penalty upto the maximum of 8 percent for construction lingering and lingering like this 500 bedded hospital which is dragging on for around six years and still far from the completion.

The construction agency in a bid to buy more time without being penalised, offered and assured the ACS health of handing over some portions of the under construction building in May this year to start with the OPD (outpatient department)



consideration.Such a piecemeal health facility is never acceptable. This 500 bedded hospital

must take off in its fullness and just not in any piecemeal type facility ACS reiterated. The principal of the

MMCH Dr P N Mahto was asked to provide 200 beds in this building on its completion, for super speciality cases of treatment while 300 beds in the general cate-

The ACS directed the medical college hospital management to set up one Cath lab in this 500 bedded hospi-

A Cath lab under cardiology unit is an eight crore worth project he told the team of the doctors and the construction engineers there.

The ACS in the same vein asked to set up neurology and oncology units. The Sadar

hospital Ranchi is providing

treatment in neurology and oncology and there is a rush of patients there The ACS told the principal

about how the government has roped in private specialist doctors to give their medin the government hospi-

He alluded once again to

Sadar hospital Ranchi where private specialist doctors are giving their services. It's 400 rupees per patient in the OPD which the govern-

ices in the OPD of the government hospital. He said their payment is arranged with the 25 percent fund of the Ayushman Yojna.

ment pays to the private spe-

cialist doctors for their serv-

The ACS had sent in a team of around a dozen specialist doctors of the RIMS Ranchi here to Sadar hospital today also to explore the avenues for advanced and specialised medical treat-

superintendent to ease the process of registration as 5 rupees registration fee per OPD patient is such where

health information kiosk

installed in the new women

and children hospital which

SNCU wards. He expressed

his displeasure over the non

setting up of the ICU for gen-

The ACS directed the

eral patients in the hospital.

deputy commissioner Shashi

Ranjan to 'demolish such

walls in the Sadar hospital

campus here in Daltonganj

which are time worn and

now act as a blockade of the

passage of the patients and

He directed the medical

The ACS inspected the

didn't work.

the man on the counter may ask the patient or the attendant to bring in "khudra (read smaller coins) and when the man or woman goes out of the queue for khudra, he or she loses his her number or position from the

He tried his hands on the

VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE ARTICLE ARE PERSONAL.



Ratan Tata's life journey to be seen in Jharkhand's tableau in Delhi

The Maiyaan Samman

Yojana, a flagship initiative of

the state government aimed

at empowering women, will

lights of the tableau. In addi-

tion, the theme of Road Safety

will also be included to spread

awareness on traffic safety

measures. The Mukhyamantri

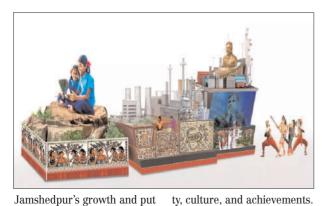
Maiya Samman Yojana, a

This year (26th January 2025), the Republic Day parade on Kartavya Path in New Delhi will feature a tableau from Jharkhand showcasing glimpses of the life journey of the late industrialist Ratan Tata and a panoramic view of the industrial units of Tata Nagar.

For the Republic Day parade, tableaux from 16 states and Union Territories, including Jharkhand, have been selected.

Late Ratan Tata's contributions are considered significant towards shaping Jharkhand, a backward region that became a state in

Named after Tata Group's founding father Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, it was the timeless vision of Late Ratan



Jamshedpur's growth and put it on the global map

Meanwhile, in Ranchi the tableau on January 26 2025 will feature the Maiyaan Samman Yojana, along with other significant themes, as announced during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari. The Chief Secretary emphasized that the tableau must reflect the essence of Jharkhand's identi-

launched in August 2024, initially provided Rs 1,000 per month to women aged 21-50. In the lead-up to the Assembly elections, the amount was increased to Rs 2,500, boosting the scheme's popularity.
The initiative has been

Hemant Soren government

widely credited for bolstering the electoral success of the INDIA bloc in Jharkhand. Launched last August, the scheme initially provided Rs 1,000 to women aged 18-50, covering approximately 56 lakh beneficiaries.

On January 6, Chief Minister Hemant Soren transferred over Rs 1.415.44 crore to the accounts of 56.62 lakh women under Maiya Mukhyamantri Samman Yojana through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during a program organized in Ranchi. Each beneficiary received Rs 2.500 as a monthly allowance for December and January

Meanwhile, to ensure the selection of creative and impactful tableaux, a threemember committee was formed during the meeting. The committee consists of Agriculture Secretary Abu Bakkar Siddiqui, Tourism Secretary Manoj Kumar, and Director of Information and Public Relations Department Rajiv Lochan Bakshi. A total of 12 to 13 tableaux from various departments will be pre sented during the celebrations after receiving the committee's approval.

This year's Republic Day parade will also feature bands and platoons from the Army CISF, CRPF, SSV, JAP, District Force, NDRF, and the Fire Brigade. Rehearsals for the parade are scheduled to take place between 18 January and 24 January

flagship program of the Former CM Raghubar Das to re-join BJP today

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das is set to re-enter active politics by Janata Party (BJP) on January 10, 2025. Das, who recently resigned as the Governor of Odisha, confirmed his return to politics, where he plans to work as a common worker of the BJP. In an interaction with the media in Ranchi, he expressed his dedication to serving the party and the people of Jharkhand.

Although it is not yet clear what his role will be in Jharkhand BJP, but when the high command has made him join BJP again, then there should be no confusion about his power.

Raghubar Das will take the membership of the party in the BJP office in Ranchi. There is a lot of enthusiasm among the party workers about this. The party leaders are putting up banners and posters welcoming Raghuvar



Former Governor Odisha Raghubar Das meets Governor Santosh Gangwar at Rajbhawan in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

Das in the party at the squares and intersections of the city. On Friday, thousands

of leaders and workers will leave for Ranchi from Jamshedpur and will witness

Raghuvar Das's return to the party.
Meanwhile, in an interac-

tion with the media in Ranchi, he expressed his dedication to serving the party and the people of Jharkhand.

Das, who served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019, said, "I am and will always remain the CM. But CM means 'common man.' A person who is accessible to everyone at any time." He emphasized his unwavering commitment to public service and his readiness to take on any responsibility that the BJP assigns him. "Whatever role the party gives me, I will accept it as a loyal worker," he said.

Raghubar Das also highlighted his past work and his approach to leadership. "As the Chief Minister and later as the Governor of Odisha, I always kept my doors open for the common people. It was never about holding a title for me; it was always about serving the people," he

Former District President Gunjan Yadav said that Raghuvar Das has been a worker as well as a Governor. He is returning to Jharkhand politics again, due to which there is a lot of joy among the party leaders and workers. He said that a new chapter of BJP will begin in Jharkhand politics.

Reactions are also coming from the ruling party on this. Minister Radha Krishna Kishore says, the top leadership of BJP has accepted that all the experiments done, whether it was calling the Chief Minister from Assam or calling the Union Minister, all failed. That is why Raghubar Das ji is being brought back again. Now how successful he is, this needs to be asked from the BJP.

Radha Krishna Kishore said, even when they brought Shivraj Singh Chauhan and Himanta Biswa Sarma, we had no problem. He said, no one can shake Hemant Soren's government for the next 10-15 years.

Committee to decide tableau for R-Day celebrations: CS

Tableaux of Maina Samman Yojana and Road Safety will also be seen



Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari holds a meeting with senior officials in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

PNS: RANCHI

A meeting was held on Thursday under the chair-Secretary regarding preparations for Republic Day 26 January 2025. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari said that the character and face of Jharkhand should be reflected in the tableau of Republic Day celebrations. She also directed to add Maina Samman Yojana and Road Safety in the tableau. She said that there should also be a committee for the selection of tableaux, which finalizes its theme and pres-

A three-member committee was also formed in the meeting itself, which included Agriculture Secretary Abu Bakkar Siddiqui, Tourism Secretary Manoj Kumar and Director of Information and Public Relations Department Rajiv Lochan Bakshi. It was decided in the meeting that tableaus of total 12 to 13 departments will be displayed in the function after the approval of the committee.

The Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners of Dumka and Ranchi to

ensure timely printing and distribution of invitation cards for the Republic Day celebrations. At the same time, cleaning of important statue sites installed in Ranchi and Dumka and arrangement of garlanding the statues, arrangement for bringing the chief guest and special guests to the function venue, pandal, barricading and seating arrangements at the main function venue, arrangement of loudspeakers at the function venue, arrangement of drinking water, toilets and cleanliness etc., traffic and parking arrangements on the main roads leading to the function venue, medical arrangements at the main function venue, fire fighting arrangements, distribution of award-honour letters, security arrangements and organizing Republic Day celebrations at other district headquarters were discussed in detail in the meeting and decisions were

The Chief Secretary directed to improve the quality of the LED screen installed near Morhabadi ground. On the proposal of the Director of Information and Public Relations Department, exhibition of musical instruments of Jharkhand in the tableau was approved. DGP Anurag Gupta security in the tableau. It was decided that bands of Army, CISF, CRPF, SSV, JAP, District Force, NDRF, Fire Brigade along with platoons of Army, CRPF and JAP will participate in the Republic Day parade. Instructions were given to ensure its rehearsal between 18 January and 24 January.

In the meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari regarding the preparation of Republic Day celebrations, Home Secretary Vandana (Dadel, DGP Anurag Gupta, Principal Secretary of Drinking Water Sanitation Department Mastram Meena, Agriculture Secretary Abu Bakkar Siddiqui, Tourism Secretary Manoj Kumar, Transport Secretary Kripanand Jha, Rural Development Secretary K. Srinivasan, Commissioner of South Chotanagpur Anjani Mishra. Director Information and Public Relations Department Rajiv Lochan Bakshi, IG Campaign AV Homkar and other senior



Soren at his official residence in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

Agriculture Minister exhorts Govt employees for better performance

Special camp to be set up in elephant affected area in Bero

PNS: RANCHI

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperation Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey held a marathon meeting regarding the government's schemes in Bero block office. On this occasion, Tirkey told the officials that the government is in a race to bring the development schemes on the ground. But until the officers and employees are not in a race, the government's scheme will not reach the doorstep of the beneficiaries.

She said that today it is important that the scheme being run by the government through departments should reach the beneficiaries on time. The minister said that the officers and employees have been given a task regarding this. Especially VLW will focus on the schemes of the Agriculture Department. Earlier they were working on schemes of other departments. Tirkey also instructed the electricity department officials to

replace the worn out wires in the fields and ensure uninterrupted power supply. A workshop of Urja Mitras has been organized on 16th January. Along with this, the block officials have also been instructed to set up camps in the areas affected by elephants. Firecrackers and torches will be distributed among the villagers through these camps. She said that there is a need to implement the schemes on the ground.

Even today, the government's schemes are limited to paper. The presence of Rs 700 crore in the PL account in the Agriculture Department is proof of this. Therefore, it is important that the amount of the scheme is spent and the beneficiary also gets its benefit. Block Development Officer, Circle Officer, officers of all departments, Chief Binita Kachhap, District Council Member Beronica Oraon, Deputy Chief Mudassir Haque, Block President Karma Oraon, PCC delegates Majkur Alam Siddiqui, Naval Kishore Singh among others were present in the meeting were present.



'Make plan to increase wage rate year-wise under MGNREGA'

Instructs to distribute appointment letters in the month of January

PNS: RANCHI

A necessary plan will be formed to increase the wage rate year-wise under MGN-REGA. Regarding this, a review meeting was held under the chairmanship of Rural Development Minister Deepika Pandey Singh here on Thursday. The minister directed the officials to work to achieve the target in the current financial year as well as the completion of employment generation and schemes done in the last financial year 2023-24 under the MGNRE-GA scheme.

Clear guidelines should be issued from the department level for granting approval of soil-gravel path from the MNREGA scheme so that all villages, towns and hamlets can be provided with facilities for transportation. A guideline should be issued regarding the selection of plants under the Birsa Harit Gram Yojana. Arrangement of drinking water and medicines has to be made as per rules in the schemes implemented under MGNREGA. Arrangement for this should be made at all the project sites, for this regular monitoring and supervision should be ensured. The minimum wage rate for MGNREGA workers is to be fixed at Rs. 350 by the present government, for which the minister has directed to formulate the necessary scheme to increase the wage rate year-wise. Leveling work under Veer Shaheed Poto Ho sports ground has been done under MGNREGA scheme, but the arrangement of toilets and changing rooms has not been made in all these grounds till now. Therefore, a mapping should be done for the construction of toilets and changing rooms. In the MGNREGA scheme, the amount of material item is being transferred to the bank accounts of the concerned vendors, but many types of complaints are being received against the vendors

at the regional level.

Therefore, an SOP should be

prepared to transfer the



Rural Development Minister Deepika Pandey Singh holds a review meeting in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

amount of material item directly to the accounts of the beneficiaries.

The minister said that the number of Didi Bagiyas should be increased and a scheme should be formed for the establishment of a big nursery at the state level. The minister directed to complete the process of appointment on vacant posts against the sanctioned posts in the MGN-REGA scheme and distribute appointment letters in the month of January. He has also ordered to provide the facility of Poshan Vatika in all

Anganwadi centers. Singh said during the review of Abua Awas Yojana that the concerned officials and employees who delay the release of the third installment amount to the beneficiaries of Abua Awas Yojana by more than seven days will be asked for an explanation. She has directed to complete the houses under construction on priority basis. She said that area-wise data related to tribals and scheduled castes should be prepared and made available, review should be done at fixed intervals for effective implementation of housing schemes and inspection should be done at the field level by senior officials. Minister said that there is a need to increase the number of self-help groups in the state, for which a special campaign should be run and

the process of forming self-

help groups of eligible women in all villages should be ensured in this financial year. The minister has ordered to obtain the list of beneficiaries covered under Mainiyaan Yojana and speed up the formation of SHGs accordingly

The minister expressed

displeasure over not submit-

ting the proposal on time for

Johar Yojana and has ordered

the World Bank-supported

immediate action in this

regard. She has talked about giving special incentives to women associated with selfhelp groups in the recruitment process. She asked NABARD to prepare a propos al for the construction of Didi Bari and review the vacant posts against the approved workforce for JSLPS and complete the process of empanelment of the agency for early recruitment. She also talked about preparing an action plan for setting up Skill Development Centers at the state and district levels. The Minister, while emphasizing the need for watershed management for the state, talked about inspecting the scheme in the coming month to get information about the implementation of the scheme. She

said that necessary action

would be taken to make the

facility of solar powered irri-

gation plants available to the

maximum number of farmers

ate appointment to the vacant

and the process for immedi-

posts would be completed.

Remembering the Champion of Jharkhand Statehood Movement



PNS: RANCHI

Time flies! It's 13 years since the Jurist and renowned political activist who spearheaded the movement for separation of Jharkhand from Bihar in Shahdeo breathed his last at the age of 82 on 10th January

Lal Pingla Nath Shahdeo (3 January 1930 – 10 January 2012), was an Indian jurist and political activist. He had led a movement for separate Jharkhand state in 1998-99 by forming committees of all political parties. He helped in achieving the status of a separate state for Jharkhand.

He was born on 3 January 1930 in a Nagvanshi royal family in Kaamta village of Latehar district in Bihar and Orissa Province Jharkhand). He completed his primary education in a government school and matriculation from Balkrishna High school in Ranchi. After graduation from Ranchi College, he completed his study of law in 1954. Justice Shahdeo joined



udicial services in 1958 and his first posting was at the post of munsif in Hazaribagh. He became the first person of Jharkhand to become a judge in the High Court. He became the district and session judge committee. of Dhanbad in 1989. He was the judge at Ranchi bench of Patna High Court from 1986

to 1992. He was a supporter of a separate state for a long time. In 1992, after retiring from the High Court, he started supporting the movement on public platforms, through his writings in local newspapers and helping in legal issues. He led the movement in 1998-99, when the movement was falling apart. In 1998, the Union government decided to send the Bill concerning formation of Jharkhand State to Bihar Legislative Assembly to which Lalu Prasad Yadav had said that the State would be divided over his dead body.

BJP, JMM, Congress, a total of 16 political parties came on one platform and formed 'All Party Separate State Formation Committee' to start the movement. Justice Shahdeo was elected as the convener of the

The voting on Jharkhand Act was to be done on 21 September 1998 in Bihar legislation. On that day, the committee under the leadership of Justice Shahdeo called for Jharkhand Bandh and organised a protest march. Thousands of supporters of the separate state took to the streets under the leadership of Justice Shadeo with the slogan "Pehle mati, fir Party." He was arrested and detained in kotwali police station of Ranchi for hours along with many supporters.

Late Justice Shahdeo was married to Prabha Shahdeo and has five children including a son Pratul Shahdeo, a senior BJP leader who is currently the spokesperson of

Dream big, strive to become changemakers, leaders of tomorrow: Army chief urges NCC cadets

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

R ecalling his days as an NCC cadet, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday urged the youth to dream big and strive to become the "changemakers, innovators and leaders" of tomorrow.

Addressing a gathering of cadets and officers during his visit to the ongoing National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantonment, Gen Dwivedi also wished his best to an NCC expedition team that will attempt to scale Mount Everest later this year.

"Being part of NCC is a way of life. The formative years as a cadet will forge a unique identity for each one of you, and shall form the edifice of your achievements later in life," the

It is also encouraging to know that in 2024, 100 boy cadets and 10 girl cadets joined the army's pre-commissioning training academies through NCC's entry schemes, while more than 8,800 NCC cadets joined the force as Agniveers, Gen Dwivedi said.

The army chief was welcomed by the NCC cadets upon his arrival at the camp. Later, he also interacted with some of them in the flag area, and presented mementoes to those who delivered excellent briefings. He was also treated to culture performances in the auditorium at the venue.

"Seeing all of you proudly donning your uniform makes me nostalgic as I recall my NCC enrolment number -- 73727 -- which I had for seven years, and the cherished days I spent



as an NCC cadet," he told the

Gen Dwivedi, an alumnus of Sainik School in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh, also said he felt proud being part of the NCC Alumni Association.

"Dear cadets, as I look at you today, I see not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the custodians of our country's heritage and future. As young citizens of this great nation, you are an integral part of India's transformation and growth story," he said in his address.

"Leadership roles in diverse fields shall soon come your way. Therefore, dream big, and strive to become the changemakers, innovators and leaders of tomorrow," he added.

The army chief also urged the cadets to believe in themselves, equip themselves with determination and fortitude, and "let hardwork and dedication be your companion in your pursuit of excellence". Gen Dwivedi also praised the

noble efforts of the cadets in community service, blood donation programmes, envi-ronment conservation, and spreading awareness on social issues, and urged them to "demonstrate the strength of vouth towards making a tangible difference towards nation-building". "I know that a team of NCC cadets will attempt to scale Mount Everest this year, and I am happy to note that they are currently training at the Army Mountaineering Institute in the Siachen Base Camp. My best wishes are with the expedition team," the army chief said, adding that he will eagerly look forward to "see a glimpse of the NCC summit flag atop Mt Everest".

Stating that the Indian Army takes great pride in its association and support to the NCC, Gen Dwivedi said at one time, more than 12,500 army personnel stood posted as staff in the NCC.

As part of training support, more than 30,000 NCC cadets have done attachment training with army units thus far, including 4,000 cadets -- boys and girls -- undergoing attachments with military hospitals,

the army chief said.
A total of 2,361 NCC cadets from around the country are taking part in the month-long Republic Day camp, which began on December 30 and will culminate with the PM Rally on January 27.

The annual event is also witnessing the participation of 917 girl cadets, the largest con-

INSV 'Tarini' with two women Navy officers crosses International Date Line

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $I^{\text{ndian Naval Sailing Vessel}}_{(\text{INSV})\,'\text{Tarini'}\,\text{carrying two}}$ women officers on Thursday crossed the International Date Line (IDL), achieving a significant milestone during the crew's global circumnavigation expedition, officials said.

"As the vessel sailed eastwards, the crew adjusted their clocks to account for the date change, symbolising the blending of two consecutive calendar days," a Navy spokesperson said.

"Tarini successfully crossed the International Date Line (IDL) today at approximately 1130 hours, Indian Standard Time (IST)," he said. This notable achievement marks a crew's ongoing global circumnavigation expedition, the official added.

'Tarini' is undertaking the global circumnavigation journey under the Navika Śagar Parikrama II, an Indian Navy expedition attempting a double-handed circumnavigation of the earth via the three Great Capes. The boat was flagged off from Goa on October 2, 2024, by Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K

Carrying the two women officers, 'Tarini' had left the Lyttelton Port in New Zealand Saturday for the longest and the most challenging leg of its expedition.

INSV 'Tarini' had reached Lyttelton on December 22, completing the second leg of the historic circumnavigation

being undertaken by two Indian Navy officers -- Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A -- symbolising India's growing prowess of maritime exploration. The crew had left the Lyttelton

Port for its onward passage -third leg of the expedition -to Port Stanley (Falkland Islands). This is the longest leg of the expedition with a distance of approximately 5,600 nautical miles (about 10,400 km), the official said.

During the stay at Lyttelton, the crew undertook repairs and maintenance of the vessel with particular focus on the next leg where it will cross the South Pacific, pass through the treacherous Drake Passage, before crossing Cape Horn to reach Port Stanley, the spokesperson earlier said.

Kin of woman who died in child birth allege negligence by hospital

Afamily member of a woman who died on Sunday allegedly that she was expired at the Saksham Health Care hospital due to negligence of the hospital administration.

The deceased's family has also filed a complaint against the hospital administration at the Kherki Daula Police Station for further investigation.

According to police, the husband of the 30-year-old victim a resident of Manesar has alleged that his wife died due to medical negligence.

Cops said on Thursday, they have a received a complaint against Saksham Health Care hospital located in Sector-83 Manesar but they will forward the case for preliminary inquiry to the Gurugram health depart-



ahead with their investigation (as is norm for cases against

According to the complaint, the deceased's woman husband Manoj Yadav admitted his wife Monika Yadav for delivery around 9 am on January 5. Doctor Shikha Parashar at Saksham Health Care hospital perform normal delivery around 2.20 pm. She delivered baby boy on January 5.

"After delivery she was responding well. The doctors suggested us to go home as the medical staff will take care of the patient. At around 6.40 pm, her condition detorated due to bleeding and the doctor failed to control her bleeding and later she died at the hospital," deceased husband Manoj told The Pioneer.

He alleged that the hospital administration did not arrange did not use blood unit despite arranged by the family.

"My wife was in immense pain and was begging me to save her. I told doctors that she is in pain, but they said this was normal and she will recover soon. Soon after, she lost consciousness. Doctors then put her in an ambulance and asked me to rush to another hospital as the case was beyond their control," the complaint said.

She was expired at the hospital but despite this and to mis-guide us they shifted my wife to another private hospital, where the hospital management informed us that she was expired hours back," he alleged.

The Doctors had initially said the treatment would cost around Rs 80,000 and has charged Rs 50,000 after the delivery, he said.

"We have lodged a complaint

station for Manika's death due to medical negligence and also filed complaint with the Gurgaon civil surgeon," he

administration said that it was rare case of death. Despite all possible care and efforts, she succumbed on January 5. "The patient had previously delivered a girl through operation but the family insisted for

When contacted, the hospital

normal delivery. We also informed the family about the seriousness of the normal delivery but despite this

they were adamant for normal delivery. After the delivery she suffered Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) which is severe bleeding after

giving birth. The family was briefed on her criticality before delivery," Dr

Shikha Parashar told The

Film personalities remember 'creative genius' and 'brilliant' Pritish Nandy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Filmmakers Sudhir Mishra, Hansal Mehta, actors Kareena Kapoor Khan, Sayani Gupta, and Sanjay Dutt paid rich tributes to veteran journalist, poet and filmmaker Pritish Nandy, who died in Mumbai on Wednesday. Nandy died after a cardiac

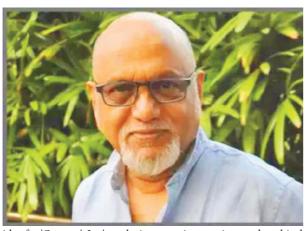
arrest at his home in south As a film producer, Nandy backed films such as "Hazaaron

Khwahishen Aisi", "Kaante", "Jhankaar Beats", "Chameli", "Shabd", and "Pyaar Ke Side Effects". Mishra expressed gratitude

towards Nandy for producing his acclaimed 2005 film "Hazaaron Khwahishen Aisi". "Pritish Nandy changed my life. Only he could make 'Hazaaron' Khwahishen Aisi'. He taught me so much. I am so sorry Pritish Da. I couldn't come up with an idea for the sequel," he wrote on X.

Mehta said his most personal work, the 2017 movie "Omerta", had lost "one of its greatest patrons". He revealed that it was Nandy who encouraged him to make Rajkummar Rao-starrer which was based on the life of British-Pakistani terrorist Ahmed Omar Saeed

"I remember when I first met him in 2005 I had shared the



idea for 'Omerta'. Let's make it he said. When nobody had belief in me or my ideas Mr Pritish Nandy gave me the strength to dare, to dream and to tell stories that mattered to me - no matter what.

"He did not end up producing 'Omerta' eventually but I owe the film and a lot of my journey beginning from Shahid to him. We had the most delightful conversations, he was always candid with me and I always left his room very energized. So hard to believe that he is gone," he posted on X.

Kareena, who received critical acclaim for her performance as a sex worker in "Chameli", shared a picture from the set of the 2004 movie with an infinity symbol and a folded hands emoji as a caption.

Dutt said Nandy was "a true

creative genius and a kind soul" who would be missed. The actor worked in "Kaante" and "Shabd"

Godspeed Pritish Uncle," direc-Instagram.

Nandy was the "youngest guy in the room, the most articulate and brilliant", said Sayani Gupta, one of the lead actors of Prime Video series "Four More Shots Please!", which is backed by Nandy's banner Pritish Nandy Communications. "Always smiling, always warm

and with that glint in his eyes.

"Fierce. Fearless. Fine. tor Meghna Gulzar wrote on

Anil Kapoor posted on X, Shocked and heartbroken by the loss of my dear friend Pritish Nandy. A fearless editor, a brave soul, and a man of his word, he embodied integrity like no other.'

He loved Bong women. And I knew he loved me. He would always express his

He loved a good conversation.

love & never shied away from appreciating the people around

There are very few people who are this magnetic.

"An absolute stalwart. A true visionary. A rock star feminist who has created some of the most iconic women characters lot when his very close friend Mr. Ratan Tata passed away recently. How he must be holding up. Cannot believe he left us so soon. The head of our family just left us. Hasn't sunk in. I am grateful for his grace, wisdom & the moments spent under his light. A deep deep loss," Gupta wrote in an Instagram post.

Bhumi Pednekar, who will next be seen in Netflix series "The Royals" produced by Nandy, described Nandy as a visionary that disrupted the ways in his

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Pritish Nandy sir. His vision shaped stories that touched millions, and I'm grateful to have been a part of project he believed in. Pednekar said in an Instagram

Actor-filmmaker Anupam Kher shared news of Nandy's death on social media on Wednesday night.

SC orders status quo on construction under PM Awas Yojana on Abbas Ansari's land in Lucknow

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered status quo on the construction of housing units under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at a disputed site in Lucknow's Jiamau whose ownership is claimed by the sons of late gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari.

Development Authority had bulldozed the bungalow that belonged to Ansari and his sons including Abbas Ansari. The government plans to build flats on the land under the PM Awas An SC bench of Justices Surya

Kant and N Kotiswar Singh took note of submission by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Abbas Ansari, that the plea regarding the possession of land was listed before the Division Bench of Allahabad High court repeatedly, but no interim stay was passed.

On October 21 last year, the top court asked the High Court to take up the application for interim stay for hearing as early as possible. When the matter came up for hearing in the SC on Thursday, Sibal informed the bench that despite its order, the case has not been taken for hearing. "Some High Courts, we don't



know what will happen. Allahabad High Court is one of the high courts which one should be worrisome about," the bench said.

While granting the status quo on construction, the top court bench directed the high court to hear the matter expedi-

Since we have not issued notice and have also not obtained any report from Registry of the High Court, we are not inclined to express any opinion as to what were the circumstances in which the petitioner's writ petition could not be taken up for hearing by the bench, though it was listed from time to time," the bench observed.

It said that the petitioners have specifically stated that the

authorities have commenced construction at plot No 93 located in Village Jiamau, Lucknow, which they claim to be under their ownership.

If third party rights are created it is likely to cause irreversible loss to the petitioners, the court observed. "We dispose of this application with a direction to the authorities as well as to the petitioners to maintain status quo at the site till the matter is heard by the High Court," it said. According to Abbas Ansari, his

grandfather purchased a share in a plot in Jiamau and the deed was registered on March 9, 2004. The said property was allegedly gifted by him to his wife Rabia Begum, who then bequeathed the same through a registered will dated June 28,

2017 to the petitioner and his brother.

The plea said that the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dalibagh, Lucknow allegedly passed an ex parte (in their absence) order on August 14, 2020 declaring the plot a government property.
Thereafter, the petitioner and

his brother were dispossessed in August 2023. Abbas Ansari then filed a peti-

Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court. Some other co-owners of the plot, who were also affected by the SDMs order, also approached the High Court and the matter was listed before a division

When Abbas Ansari's writ petition came up for hearing before the single judge on January 8, 2024, he ordered it to be listed along with other matters so as to avoid conflicting orders.

Abbas Ansari contended that his writ petition has been listed before the division bench repeatedly, but no interim stay has been passed in their favour, as was done by the division bench in the case of other

affected persons.
"Resultantly, the authorities, after taking physical possession of the petitioner's plot, have started construction of some dwelling units at the site under the Prima Minister Awas Yojna," the plea said.

Paralympic contingent, top sarpanches, innovators among 10,000 special invitees for R-Day Parade

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $M_{
m contingent,\ sarpanches}^{
m embers\ of\ Paralympic}$ from top-performing villages, handloom artisans, and forest and wildlife conservation workers are among the nearly 10,000 special guests invited to witness the 76th Republic Day Parade at the Kartavya Path here, the government said on Thursday.

"These architects of 'Swarnim Bharat', with diverse backgrounds, include best performers in various fields and those who have made best use of the schemes of the government," the defence ministry said in a statement.

In line with the objective to increase 'Jan Bhagidari' (public participation) in events of national importance, approximately 10,000 special guests have been invited to witness the Republic Day Parade, it said. The ministry also shared that these special guests have been drawn fro diverse areas and fields, falling into 31 cat-

Sarpanches from top performing village', 'Disaster Relief Workers', 'Best performing Water Warriors', 'Guests from Vibrant Villages', 'Guests from North Eastern States', 'Best Patent Holders', 'Best Start-Ups', 'Road Construction Workers' are some of these cat-

The invitees also include handloom artisans, members of Paralympic contingent and forest and wildlife conservation volunteers and workers, according to the statement. In addition to attending the Republic Day celebrations, these special guests would be visiting the National War Memorial, PM Sangrahalaya and other prominent places in



Delhi, it said.

They will also get an opportunity to interact with people in different ministers.

Besides them, Chess Olympiad medallist, Bridge World Games silver medallist and Snooker World Championship gold medallist have been invited as special guests as they have made country proud with their performances, the ministry

Sarpanches whose villages have achieved targets in selected government initiatives have been invited. A national-level competition was announced by Department Administrative Reforms &

Public Grievances among panchayats. The panchayats which have achieved targets in "at least six

ed as special guests, the statement said. Some of those who have been

flagship schemes" were select-

ensure income and employment generation and environment protection through selfhelp groups (SHGs), it said. SHGs working in areas of food, nutrition, health, water sani-

invited as special guests are car-

rying out "exemplary work" to

tation and hygiene, Panchayati Raj Institutions-community based organisations convergence and gender activities have been invited. Preference has been given to a SHG member who has not visited Delhi, it added.

PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Ábhíyan) mission participants, tribal artisans, Van Dhan Vikas Yojna members, National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation ventures, ASHA workers, MyBharat volunteers have also been invited.

For their excellent work in the

area of disaster relief and envi-

relief workers, 'Water Warriors', community resource persons, among others, have been "invited for the first time", it Farmers and families who have supported environment

conservation and use of renew-

able energy under PM Surya

ronment protection, disaster

Ghar scheme and PM KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) have also been invited for the first time, the ministry said. "Encouraging innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, patent

holders and start-ups have also been included as special guests. Schoolchildren with patriotic fervour who have emerged as winners of All-India Šchool Band Competition and Veer Gatha competition will also be attending the Republic Day ceremony as special guests," the

Uttarakhand to implement

UCC this month says CM

Pushkar Singh Dhami

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ious initiatives undertaken in

the state, reaffirming the implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the

Uttarakhand is the first state

in the country to have UCC

Act, which seeks to establish a uniform and an equal set of

rules on marriage, divorce, succession and inheritance for

all citizens in the state, except the Scheduled Tribes (STs),

irrespective of religion. It

This is the state's first honour

and will be implemented within this month," Dhami said during the inauguration of the 29th Uttarayani Mela in

He compared the UCC to India's sacred rivers such as

Sharda, Ganga, Saraswati and

Kaveri, stating that just as they

sustain life across the country,

the UCC will work similarly.

Regarding the state's tourism

and infrastructure initiatives, Dhami said, "In Haridwar and

Rishikesh, we are planning to

develop the Ganga Corridor.

Work on a corridor along the

Sharda River has also begun."

He added that Uttarakhand

continues to see an increasing

influx of devotees and tourists

"Devbhoomi" this month.

PM Modi to global community: India's heritage shows future lies in peace, not war

Asserting that the world today listens to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that due to the country's heritage, it is able to tell the international community that the future does not lie in 'yudh' (war) but in 'Budh' (Buddha). Addressing the diaspora at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention Bhubaneswar, Modi India is not only the mother democracy, democracy is a part of

people's lives here. He said the world today listens to India, which not only presents its own views strongly but also those of the Global South.

Noting that at the time when the world was witnessing the expansion of empires by the power of the sword, Emperor Ashoka chose the path of peace, he said this was the strength of India's heritage. "Due to this heritage, India is able to tell the world --'bhavishya yudh mein nahi hai, Budh mein hai' (the future does not lie in war but



in Buddha)," he said. Modi said he has always considered the diaspora as India's ambassador to the countries they live in.

We are not just the mother democracy, democracy, but democracy is part of our lives, our lifestyle. We don't

rather, our life runs on That's wherever Indians go, they become part of the society of that particular place. We respect the rules and traditions of that country and also honestly serve that

have to be taught diversity, country and its society, contributing to its growth and prosperity. At the same time, our hearts continue to beat for India," he said. The PM said it was because

of the diaspora, that he keeps

his head high wherever he

"I do not forget the love, affection and prestige I receive across the world. I would like to say thank you. This is because of you, I keep my head high across the world. During the last 10 years, I have met several leaders across the world. The

world leaders praise the Indian diaspora. It's because of the social values you add to their society," he said.
"Your safety and welfare are

our top priority. We consider it our responsibility to help our diaspora during crisis situations no matter where they are. This is one of the guiding principles of India's foreign policy today. Over the last decade, our embassies and offices have been sensitive and proactive," he said.

Modi said that earlier in

many countries, people had to travel long distances to access consular facilities and wait for days for help.

"Now, these problems are being solved. In the last two years, 14 embassies and consulates have been opened. The scope of the OCI card is also being expanded," he said.

The PM said the diaspora played a major role in Independence in 1947, and sought their help to make India a developed country by 2047.

He said India is not only a young country but also a country of skilled youths.

announced beautification and restoration efforts for temples Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on in the Kumaon region and development at Purnagiri. Thursday highlighted the var-

"It gives me immense joy that more devotees from Uttar Pradesh visit Purnagiri. We are creating the Sharda Corridor, which will enhance the ghats and beautify the

area," he said. The chief minister expressed for Uttarakhand becoming a hub destination weddings and tourism, emphasising the state's growing reputation. "Handicraft products from Uttarakhand are gaining

makes registration of all marriages and live-in relationships mandatory. "We have formulated the Uniform Civil Code law in Devbhoomi Uttarakhand. This is the state's first benow." recognition multinational companies and women in the state are doing excellent work. Over one lakh women in Uttarakhand are now earning a substantial income. We will provide them with interest-free loans," he said. On governance and security, Dhami shared progress on several legal reforms, including the anticonversion law, the introduction of anti-riot

> counter exam malpractice. 'We have taken strong steps by enacting an anti-riot law. Any damages caused during riots will be recovered from

legislation and measures to

the perpetrators. "Similarly, with our anti-cheating law, over 100 individuals involved in exam malpractice have been jailed. ensures opportunities for deserving candidates," he added. Dhami mentioned initiatives to combat "land jihad", stating

First case of HMPV detected in Lucknow, health department on alert

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

Lucknow has reported its first case of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) after a 60-year-old woman tested positive. A private lab-oratory confirmed the diag-nosis, and her sample has been sent to King George's Medical University (KGMU) for further testing.

The woman, a resident of the Cantt area, was initially admitted to Charak Hospital before being transferred to Balrampur Hospital late Balrampur Hospital late Wednesday night. She is currently in isolation in Ward 11, where her condition is being monitored.

put the health department on alert as 11 cases have been reported nationwide so far. Experts assure that there is no need for panic, as HMPV is a seasonal virus that causes symptoms like cold, fever, cough, and chest

tightness. Dr. Shailendra Kumar, a senior health official, said that the infection is manageable with proper care and precautions.

Human Metapneumovirus belongs to the Pneumoviridae family and belongs has been present in the environment for decades, although it was officially identified in 2001. The virus is typically associated with winter seasons and flu-like symptoms. It was first confirmed in India in 2003 in children, as per studies conducted by BJ Medical College and the National Institute of Virology, Pune. While the virus is not new, health experts recommend staying vigilant.

India, Bangladesh border forces hold informal meeting at Petrapole to strengthen border coordination

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Amidst recent objections by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) over the Border Security Force's (BSF) attempts to erect fences in certain areas along the India-Bangladesh border, the two forces held an informal meeting at the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Petrapole in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Thursday.
The pre-scheduled meeting,

aimed at fostering mutual cooperation and enhancing coordination along the border,



Bengal Frontier inspectorgeneral Maninder PS Pawar and BGB brigadier-general Mohammad Humayun Kabir.

The discussions between the two forces focused on effective management, measures to prevent illegal crossings, combating cross-

environment in the region, a statement by the BSF South Bengal Frontier said. The meeting assumes significance in the wake of recent instances of BGB mining chiraties. of BGB raising objections to BSF's efforts to build border fences in certain areas along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Pawar emphasised the importance of mutual cooperation in ensuring the stability and prosperity of border regions, while Kabir expressed the BGB's readiness to work closely with their

Indian counterparts to resolve

border crimes, and fostering a

peaceful

issues amicably, the statement added. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral relations and pledged

to enhance joint efforts to

address border challenges, it added. fencing Sukdevpur area of Malda's Kaliachak III block was briefly paused on Monday after the BGB claimed it was being conducted on Bangladeshi territory. However, the issue

resolved which would be bolstered by through the reconstruction efforts in Kedarnath and the master discussions, and construction resumed without further plan underway at Badrinath

Bareilly.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan confident of alliance's victory in Bihar assembly polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union minister Chirag Paswan on Thursday asserted that all constituents of the NDA in Bihar will "together" contest the assembly elections, due in less than a year. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president was replying to queries from journalists on RJD president Lalu Prasad holding out an olive branch to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "There are some people who may be dreaming of causing a rift in the NDA. But, that is not going to happen. No NDA partner is going to align with the opposition coalition," Paswan said.
"I would also like to add that all

five NDA partners in Bihar will fight the assembly elections together and win more than 225 seats (in the 243-member House)," the Hajipur MP said. The NDA in Bihar comprises the chief minister's JD(U), BJP, LIP(RV), Union Minister Jitan



Awam Morcha and Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha. Last month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had, in an interview, cryptically said that the BJP's parliamentary board

would take a call on whether to

go without a chief ministerial

candidate in Bihar. This was viewed, in political circles as well as a section of the media, as a signal from one of the most powerful leaders in the BJP to Kumar, who is in his 70s and has been chief minister for close to two decades.

US has independent criminal justice: Garcetti on proceedings against Adani

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

US Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti on Thursday declined to comment on the ongoing legal proceedings in the United States involving Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani and other executives. Talking to reporters in Mumbai, Garcetti expressed optimism about continuing collaborations between the US and India to enhance capacity-building efforts in the

"No, I don't have any comment on that. Obviously, we have an independent criminal justice (system that is different) from our political (system). It's different than a lot of countries," Garcetti said when asked about the Adani issue. "We have had amazing partners with the great industrialists here, with the big companies. We sometimes been funding directly, new factories, ports

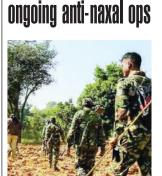


on March 15, 2023. "And I would hope that that vision continues no matter what, because we are seeing a great new India being built. We are seeing a capacity of Indian companies to do that outside of India, whether it is in the

region, in places like Sri Lanka or whether it is in the eastern coast of Africa," he said. "I coast of Africa," he said. would hope we keep our eye on the ball. That is the most important thing, of who has the capacity, how can we partner and ensure that (instead of) debt traps and state-based, you know, more democratic-led industrialists from across both the nations," he said.

US prosecutors have charged Adani for allegedly being involved in a scheme to bribe Indian officials with USD 265 million (around Rs 2,200 crore) in exchange for favourable solar power

that 5,000 acres of encroached land have been freed. Three Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh encounter amid



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Thursday, state Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma

The security forces have achieved success in the anti-Naxal operation in Sukma,

said.

he said. So far, bodies of three Naxalites have been recovered and the search operation is still underway, Sharma, who holds the portfolio, told Home

reporters in Raipur. Referring to the IED blast triggered by Naxalites on January 6 wherein eight security personnel and a civilian driver of their vehicle were killed in Bijapur district, the deputy CM said, "There is huge anger among security forces after what Naxalites have done." "I have met them (security forces). I reiterate that with the strength and courage of our jawans, the (Naxal) menace will be eliminated within the stipulated time," he said. Union Home Minister Amit

Ayodhya emerges as a thriving economic hub after Ram Mandir consecration

transformation

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

lmost a year after the con-Assecration of Ram Lalla at the grand Ram Mandir, Ayodhya has witnessed a remarkable transformation. Once known for its tranquil religious gatherings and modest economy, the city has become a bustling hub of economic activity. While standing as a symbol of devotion, the Ram Mandir has also emerged as the cornerstone of Ayodhya's economic resurgence. "The faith of millions has

brought prosperity to Ayodhya," said Anil Shukla, a shopkeeper near the temple. "Earlier, people barely had enough to survive. Now, thanks to Ram ji ki kripa, everyone is earning well. Even



flourishing." The influx of pilgrims has been staggering. Government figures reveal that from

crore visitors, outpacing even the Taj Mahal in footfall. The numbers are expected to exceed 16 crore by the end of figures reveal that from January 22 to September 30, 2024, Ayodhya received 13.77 the year, driving a wave of unprecedented economic activity. For local residents,

brought prosperity optimism, changing lives across sectors. Kamlesh Tiwari, a local shopkeeper, shared his experience: "Earlier, we

earned just enough to make ends meet. Now, with so many tourists coming in, my income has tripled. It feels like Ayodhya is finally getting its due." Small businesses, from souvenir vendors to eateries, have thrived in this new environment. Vendors selling Ram photographs, puja materials, and prasad have reported record earnings. Many have expanded their operations, sourcing high-quality products to meet the growing demand. The state government's

redevelopment initiatives, worth ?85,000 crore, have played a crucial role in facilitating transformation. Infrastructure improvements,

including better roads, public utilities, and transport facilities, are designed to handle a daily footfall of 3 lakh visitors. These developments have not only enhanced the tourist experience but also created thousands of jobs in retail, transport, construction, and food services.

For residents, the economic boost is tangible. People are upgrading their lifestyles, purchasing vehicles, and investing in better homes. Mukesh Kumar, a prasad seller near the temple, said, "I used to earn ?300 a day, but

now it's ?2,000 on average. The number of visitors has changed everything for us." The rise in Ayodhya's profile has also attracted national and international brands. Global food chains like Domino's and Pizza Hut, along with retail giants like Reliance Trends, have set up outlets, catering to the growing number of tourists. Such developments highlight the city's evolving identity as not just a spiritual center but also a modern economic hub. Economists view Ayodhya's transformation as a blueprint for leveraging religious development. According to Dr. Arvind Mishra, an analyst, "The economic analyst,

of how faith and economy can work hand in hand. With increased tourism, disposable incomes are rising, and this ripple effect is boosting the local economy in ways we couldn't have predicted." The changes are visible everywhere, from the vibrant new markets near the temple to the busy streets lined with vendors. Local entrepreneurs,

small-scale traders, and service providers all report significant growth in their earnings. Even roadside snack stalls, offering items like tandoori chai and sweet corn, are benefiting from the influx of tourists. Ayodhya today is a city

transformed, with its faithdriven identity seamlessly merging with its newfound growth we're seeing in merging with its ne Ayodhya is a perfect example economic dynamism.

Shah on Monday vowed to eliminate Naxals from the country by March 2026 and asserted that the sacrifice of those killed by the extremists in Chhattisgarh will not go in vain.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Breaking ice

The India-Afghanistan talks reflect India's shift from nonrecognition of the Taliban to a pragmatic approach to engagement

n a significant step towards recalibrating ties, India and the Taliban-led Afghan government held a high-level meeting in Dubai. The dialogue, attended by India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, revolved around enhancing bilateral relations and addressing regional challenges. The talks, focusing on economic, humanitarian, and strategic cooperation, underscore India's pragmatic approach toward engaging with Afghanistan despite the complex political dynamics following the Taliban's return to power in 2021. India's relations with Afghanistan have been historically robust, characterised by cultural and economic collaboration. However, the Taliban's return disrupted bilateral ties, with India maintaining a cautious stance while continuing to provide humanitarian aid. The evolving geopolitical landscape, Pakistan's actions in the region, and Afghanistan's dire humanitarian crisis have necessitated a renewed engagement. The discussions also



gain relevance amidst regional tensions, notably Pakistan's airstrikes in Afghanistan, which New Delhi strongly condemned. This shared concern over Islamabad's destabilising actions further aligns Indian and Afghan interests, fostering mutual coop-

The Dubai meeting covered a wide range of topics. India reaffirmed its commitment to aiding Afghanistan's recovery. It pledged continued support in healthcare, food security, and disaster relief, building on its earlier contributions, such as 50,000 metric tonnes of wheat, medical supplies, and vaccines. Besides, both sides emphasised the strategic impor-

tance of Chabahar Port in Iran as a key trade and humanitarian supply route. The port offers Afghanistan access to global markets, bypassing Pakistan, and could serve as a stabilising economic lifeline for the war-torn country. India has expressed readiness to resume developmental activities, including infrastructure and capacity-building projects. This signals India's willingness to strengthen Afghanistan's socio-economic framework despite challenges posed by the Taliban's governance. The Afghan delegation addressed India's concerns about terrorism and regional stability, assuring cooperation to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for anti-India activities. The talks indicate a shift in India's approach. This may encourage other nations to adopt a similar stance, recognising the necessity of dealing with the Afghan government. But the biggest takeaway from this meeting indeed was Strengthening India-Afghanistan ties to counter Pakistan's influence in the region. Islamabad's strained relations with Kabul, exacerbated by recent airstrikes, present an opportunity for New Delhi to assert its role as a reliable partner. Reviving trade and development projects through Chabahar Port could bolster Afghanistan's economy and offer India strategic leverage in Central



A commuter rides his bicycle through a mustard field on a winter morning, in Nadia

Navigating Trump redux: India's tightrope



While Trump's focus on countering China could strengthen Indo-US strategic ties, his erratic temperament and divisive policies present challenges

n India, there is a mix of excitement, tentativeness, and even concern, with the second coming of Donald Trump as the President of the United States. While Trump's excitable temperament is well known, he ought to be served better with hindsight of experience. But he may not. While India will remain resolutely relevant and critical in his foreign policy calculus, the handling of certain issues could test Indian reaction and patience. His inevitable fixation with managing China will necessitate nurturing the strategic 'pivot' of India as a counterbalance, Delhi's deep-rooted equations with countries like Russia or Iran, could earn his ire and vitriol.

A lot will depend on 'Team Trump' who will aid and assist Trump as he attempts the shape his poll promises of MAGA i.e., Make America Great Again! However, unlike the first term when he did inherit and heed reputation and professionalism as the criteria for key jobs in the Trump administration (though subsequently, he developed a penchant for 'revolving door' ousters of many), this time the criteria only seem to be 'loyalty' to Trump, personally. There is a disconcerting and

contradictory logic to many recent appointments that begs the question if it indeed will be business as usual' - something Delhi had got used to, irrespective of the dispensation in Washington DC. Sadly, that vital presence of 'adults in the room' from the first Trump administration who were able to navigate and manage Trump out of his outlandish and fickle ideas, will not be present anymore. If anything, in a room filled with 'loyalists' (read, obsequious staff), chances that someone will play the 'adult in the room' anymore, will be starkly lesser than before, as there could be competitive grovelling to valourise Trump's ideas, whatever be the portent. How will Trump's purported 'non-interventionist' preferences sit with Sino-wary countries like India, Japan or Australia the other three from QUAD framework) that are in the direct line of Chinese belligerence and expansionism?

Will Trump's 'non-intervention-



ist' instinct embolden Beijing to finally bite the bullet on Taiwan and storm the same, knowing that beyond mouthing Washington DC will not intervene militarily? The picture emerging out of a beleaguered (and potentially isolated) Ukraine does not seem reassuring from a security angle, as the possibility of America pushing its 'allies' under the bus, seems very plausible. Even disconcerting memories of the Summer of 2020 when the Chinese aggression pushed through Indian frontiers, with a seemingly disinterested Trump offering to 'negotiate a deal' instead of adopting a more assertive stance, are still

Indeed, the Americans had expedited the exports of weaponry to Delhi, but all that made imminent commercial sense to the die-hard businessman in Trump. Just how ramrod and unfailing will the Trump support be in meeting any such exigency in the future, is worth considering. Even in bilateral relations, there is a fresh bunch of unrestrained radicals who make up the Trump redux cabinet.

They may or may not play by the traditional rulebook of diplomacy and could make comments that are unpalatable to Indian sensibilities. Delhi will be under immense pressure to moderate the bilateral

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CONTRADICTORY LOGIC TO MANY **RECENT APPOINTMENTS** THAT BEGS THE QUESTION IF IT INDEED WILL BE 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' -SOMETHING DELHI HAD GOT USED TO. IRRESPECTIVE OF

THE DISPENSATION

IN WASHINGTON DC

contradiction that many amongst this new Trump cabinet are trigger-happy interventionists (e.g., Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Elise Stefanik the Ambassador to UN etc.,) a la neoconservatives whom Trump rubbish repeatedly - how this contradiction will manifest will be interesting. Even on non-security issues like immigration, trade terms, or commitment towards the environmental issues, could be a very rocky ride for Delhi.

India has made ambitious commitments towards the global environmental cause, whereas Trump's rhetoric has cockily been, "We're going to drill, baby, drill," and confirmed that, "I will terminate the green new scam". While India isn't on top of its target list on immigrant issues, it will only be a matter of time before the bogey "stealing your jobs" impacts India. Trump will be a mega populist who will dance to the 'redneck' wish list and this will impact relations with the world's largest democracy, a lot more gravely than other countries. Trump has demonstrated a ter-

THE EDITOR

rifying ability to shed responsibilities towards his allies (sovereign, coalition, and even personal) and also his moral responsibility by readily abandoning its vital geostrategic (remember Afghanistan, and now Syria) with a thoughtless shrug of the shoulder and "not my problem" approach. This tests the will to invest in a transactional relationship like the one offered by Trump, as no support can be construed for

sure.

Owing to his polarising politics of identity and blind support for the likes of Benjamin Netanyahu, the narrative emanating from the White House could jeopardise and harm the societal fabric of a diverse country like India that needs to maintain an inclusive outlook. America itself is in for a tumultuous time with the President-designate having promised to close the border with Mexico and launch the largest deportation exercise in US history within hours (not days) of taking over. While Donald Trump's rhetoric is usually more bark than bite, India may find it difficult to accommodate his provocative talk and temperament, beyond a point.

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

How India's healthcare sector is

accelerating towards Viksit Bharat 2047

As India embarks on its journey toward becoming a \$35 trillion economy by

85, India's vision of Viksit Bharat aligns closely with the sentiment of "Swasth Bharat, Viksit Bharat, and Niramaya Bharat." It considers a robust healthcare system not just as a necessity but as the foundation for a healthier, more productive nation. A Visionary Healthcare System

As part of its vision, the government strives to establish a healthcare system capable of addressing the diverse needs of a population exceeding 1.4 billion. Not only are efforts underway to improve physician and

s India aims to achieve

its ambitious goal of

becoming a \$35 trillion economy by 2047, the

healthcare sector stands as the

cornerstone of this transfor-

mation. With aspirations to

increase the average life

expectancy from 71 to over

hospital bed ratios, expand access to affordable healthcare, and ensure universal health insurance coverage but the inclusion of senior citizens over 70 years through the Ayushman Bharat Vay Vandana Card highlights the commitment to an inclusive healthcare approach. India's



Viksit Bharat 2047 journey builds upon substantial achievements in the healthcare sector. Since independence, the nation has witnessed notable reductions in neonatal, infant, under-five, and maternal mortality rates, reflecting improved healthcare outcomes.

Flagship initiatives such as Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, the establishment of new AIIMS, and a growing network of medical colleges have bolstered healthcare delivery. Moreover, digital advancements through initiatives like CoWIN, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, and e-Sanjeevani have revolutionized healthcare accessibility, particularly in rural areas.

Role of the Pharmaceutical

India's pharmaceutical leadership has further solidified the country's position as a global healthcare contributor. As a leading producer of vaccines and generic medicines, the nation plays a pivotal role in ensuring global health care equity. Coupled with its steadily increasing medical tourism industry, India continues to attract patients worldwide, offering advanced care at affordable costs.

The private sector continues to play a crucial role in complementing public healthcare efforts. Innovation, R&D, and cost-effective healthcare models spearheaded by private players have extended quali-ty healthcare to remote and underserved regions. Technological advancements, from AI and robotics to telemedicine and wearables, are shaping the future of healthcare delivery, making it more accessible.

Roadmap of Viksit Bharat 2047: Looking ahead, the roadmap to Viksit Bharat 2047 includes priorities such as workforce development through the expansion of medical and nursing colleges, further integration of cuttingedge technologies, and an

2047, the healthcare sector emerges as a critical pillar in this transformation. emphasis on preventive care, mental health, and holistic wellness. The transition from mass-produced to biotechbased personalized medicine, supported by advancements in CRISPR and nano-technology, is set to redefine pharmaceutical practices.

India's healthcare system is also poised to transform its business models, shifting from predominantly out-ofpocket expenses to public and insurance-funded frameworks. This evolution will not only strengthen the healthcare sector but also ensure equity and affordability for all. As India strives toward its 2047 goals, public-private partnerships and an unwavering commitment to equitable healthcare are vital. India's healthcare providers remain dedicated to contributing to this transformative journey. By fostering innovation, enhancing accessibility, and ensuring quality care for all, the sector aims to play an integral role in building a healthier, stronger, and more prosperous India.

(The writer is CMD, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospitals, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad; views are personal)

INDIA'S GDP GAP WITH CHINA WIDENS Madam — An analysis of the economies

done by a start-up highlights the pressing necessity to boost India's lacklustre growth. In 1980, India's Gross Domestic Product was \$186 billion, close to China's \$303 billion. But, by 2024, India's GDP had grown 21 times to \$3.93 trillion, while China's GDP had surged to \$18.5 trillion-61 times its 1980 level. To put it differently, China's GDP in 2004 was 2.82 times greater than India's. In 2014, it was 5.13 times greater and in 2024, 4.71 times greater. India's GDP surged 2.94 times from \$694 billion to \$2,043 billion between 2004 and 2014, while it grew merely 1.92 times, reaching \$3,930 billion between 2014 and 2024. Had the GDP growth in the decade starting in 2004 persisted in the decade beginning in 2014, the GDP disparity would have further

decreased. The decade before 2004 was a period of consolidation after structural reforms were initiated. India has to rejig its economic strategy to achieve a consistent 9-10 per cent rate of growth. India chose a mixed economic system, which combines the features of both socialist and freemarket economic systems. The recent push towards private investment in government-owned assets has served only as an easy route for crony capitalists to enrich themselves into billionaires. Democratic India can consider a new economic system aimed at fostering faster

However, growth in Southern India, which accounts for about 31 per cent of GDP, has thrived under the current system and can accelerate further with adequate support from the Centre. Northern India needs to explore strategies to bridge the gap with the South. And the ostrich-like attitude and constant denials hinder progress in addressing realities. The nation must embark on a rapid growth path that creates jobs, elevates the living standard of common man

and reduces inequality. Haridasan Rajan | Kozhikode



golden chapter has begun in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India. The announcement by Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella to invest \$3 billion (approximately Rs 25,000 crores) marks a historic step toward elevating India's technological capabilities to new heights. This initiative will serve as a foundation for strengthening visionary programs like Prime Minister Narendra

STAMPEDE AT TIRUPATI TEMPLE Madam — Six devotees, including four women, and many injured in a stampede near Vishnu Niwasam in Tirupati for getting tokens to visit Tirumala Srivari Vaikuntha Dwara is disturbing, tragic and appalling. A huge rush for getting tokens by devotees had caused the tragedy. But this accident at Tirupathy is unfortunate and could have been avoided. It is the utter failure of the state machinery. Mismanagement in the crowd governance system is a primary cause of the

accident. An immediate investigation should be conducted into this incident. Officials should be made accountable for negligence of duty. People were accommodated in temporarily constructed compartments and neatly provided darshan. This token system is ill-advised and should be dispensed with. All safety measures should be put in place so that people have a hassle-free Vaikunta Ekadasi Darshan, which is to run for the next ten

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

India's Al gets a leg-up Modi's 'Digital India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India). The Government of India is

already committed to promoting digital infrastructure, skill development, and startups. Microsoft's investment will further bolster

The initiative to train 10 million Indians in AI over the next five years is a significant step to prepare the youth for global competition. This effort will create new opportunities in areas such as cloud infrastructure, data centres, and SaaS (Software as a Service). With the support of the government. Indian industries and startups will become global leaders in competition. The collaborative efforts of Microsoft and the government will not only place India in a leading position on the global AI map but also pave the way for entering a golden era of self-reliance and innovation

RK Jain | Barwani

EARTHQUAKE IN TIBET Madam — Powerful Tibet earthquake near Nepal kills 53, injures 62; tremors also felt in Bhutan and northern India, including Delhi-NCR and parts of Bihar. The impact of the temblour was felt across the region of 800,000 people, which is administered by Shigatse, the traditional seat of the Panchen Lama, one of the most important figures in Tibetan Buddhism.

Can we ever forget the havoc the Nepal earthquakes wreaked back in 2015, killing about 9,000 people, or the huge quake in China's Sichuan province in 2008 that killed almost 70,000 people? Today (on January 7, 2025), a 7.1 magnitude earthquake, near the Nepal-Tibet border, was felt in North India. India's geographical position at tectonic plate boundaries makes it prone to earthquakes, particularly in the Himalayan and Northeast regions.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

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FIRST COLUMN

TRUMP 2.0: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASEAN

With Trump's return, Southeast Asia finds itself bracing for another era of US ambiguity



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

Ith the return of Donald Trump to the US presidency, Southeast Asia braces for another era of unpredictability in American foreign policy. Southeast Asian nations, while expressing formal congratulations following Trump's victory, are now focusing on how his administration will impact their economies and strategic interests. As the region's governments gear up for a distinctly different governance style than the one under President Joe Biden, the potential for dramatic shifts in trade relations, diplomatic ties and regional stability is palpable. The ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—spanning from Indonesia to Myanmar—are acutely aware that Southeast Asia may not be at the top of the new administration's

Trump is a known figure for his transactional and often unpredictable style of diplomacy. ASEAN countries, while understanding the volatility that a Trump administration can bring, remain cautiously optimistic that his return might lead to a return to serious trade talks. Many regional leaders believe that Trump's preference for direct, bilateral negotiations could lead to more favourable deals for specific countries, particularly those that are not bound by multilateral negotiations, like those seen under Biden's tenure. Yet, for many in Southeast Asia, the most pressing concern remains the US-China relationship. Since Trump's first term, ASEAN nations have had to balance their relationships with both China and the US, seeking to maintain economic growth and regional security without angering either side. The dynamic has changed considerably in the



trade partners. The direction of US-China relations will have profound consequences for Southeast Asia's economic stability and security. Under Trump, this relationship was tense, marked by the trade war and military posturing, and the nomination of hardline China critics, such as Marco Rubio for Secretary of State and Mike Waltz as National Security Advisor, signals that the US will continue to confront China head-on in ways that could disrupt regional dynamics. While many ASEAN leaders are concerned about the economic impact of a hard-line US-China policy, there is also hope that Trump's presidency could bring muchneeded attention back to Southeast Asia's trade and strategic importance. This could be particularly appealing to resource-rich nations like Indonesia and the Philippines, which are in high demand for critical minerals used in electronics and green technologies. On the other hand, a significant worry for ASEAN countries is that they may become collateral damage in the US's efforts to reduce its trade deficit.

Despite these uncertainties, ASEAN's primary goal will remain stability and balance. ASEAN countries will push for steady relationships with both global powers, aiming to shield themselves from the worst effects of US-China tensions while seeking to expand their own economic and diplomatic space. To avoid being left behind, India is watching the space closely, as it is well aware that Trump will target Delhi soon.

Delhi is trying to rebuild bilateral relationships with several ASEAN groups of countries, even as it participates with full vigour on the multilateral platform. The chief guest for 2025 Republic Day would be the President of Indonesia, a key country in ASEAN. India's exports to the US could be hit due to Trump's overtures and it needs to find new markets for its products, while gently easing out domestic compliances and trade barriers. The region's future relationship with the US will depend not only on Trump's domestic agenda but also on how ASEAN and India navigate the delicate balance between American and Chinese influence in the years to come.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

The courage to tell untold stories on the celluloid



Despite the challenges, a new wave of filmmakers continues to illuminate untold stories, challenging entrenched narratives and bringing forgotten truths to light



ecently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the film The Sabarmati Report produced by Ekta Kapoor and her Balaji Motion Pictures.
Before this also PM has been praised films - The Kashmir Files and The Kerala Story. It took almost seventy years after the independence of India, for a few courageous filmmakers like Vivek Agnihori to make Buddha in a Traffic Jam, The Tashkent Files, The Kashmir Files, and Vaccine War; Sanjay Puran Singh make 72 Hoorain and Sudipto Sen to make The Kerala Story and Bastar: The Naxal Story both produced by Vipul Shah. Fortunately, most of these films have been celebrated among the audiences overwhelmingly. The group of pseudo-secular, those who still control the fake narratives to spread one-sided, false propaganda throughout the world, have also been super active in dismissing these films.

But not all filmmakers are lucky enough; forget about PM's praise to release their films, get proper distribution channels or theatres, or the cooperation from the local authorities, governments and positive reviews by film critics. It is almost swimming against the tide. After the success of those films, some independent filmmakers got the courage to tell the true stories, incidents which were unfortunately never been part of our history syllabus. The incidents were not discussed, or debated much by the elite of the society or the so-called liberal, secular, intellectual groups. Very few filmmakers dare to make films on those subjects, because, in most cases, the victims are the majority Hindu community while the oppressors are from other communities. Since the last many years there has been a tendency among the liberals, that whenever the Hindus are the victim, the stories have been buried with all extra efforts so that the so-called peace should be maintained in society.

Even if there has been immense loss of human lives, property, rape of women, and permanent displacement from the homeland, nothing is much more impor-



keeping peace in the society to just appease the particular community. That is why so far whatever films have been made on the partition

of India very few films portrayed the true stories. Most of the films are sugar-coated to portray that the victims belong to both com-munities and it was a loss for everyone. No doubt the partition of India was a great loss for all the SINCE THE LAST communities but why do we feel

MANY YEARS and the responsible people? THERE HAS BEEN Neither our history books nor the literature or cinema have been A TENDENCY ever so brave as to tell the actual AMONG THE stories of our society.
Filmmaker M K Shivaaksh made

LIBERALS, THAT the film Accident or Conspiracy: Godhra which is based on the WHENEVER THE infamous case of Godhra in HINDUS ARE THE devotees were burnt alive in a VICTIM, THE train coach of the Sabarmati with the censor process, they STORIES HAVE munity. Again the film became the victim of the ecosystem and got a very limited release so the WITH ALL EXTRA film can't be seen by many peo-EFFORTS SO THAT Sabarmati Report not only got THE SO-CALLED praise from the PM but also Yogi Adityanath, Pushkar Singh PEACE SHOULD Dhami and Naib Singh Saini took time to watch the film along BE MAINTAINED with the crew and casts and made IN SOCIETY the film tax-free in their respective states UP, Uttarakhand and

Haryana because of Ekta Kapoor Smriti Irani connection. But Shivaaksh was not that lucky at

He had planned to release his film Accident or Conspiracy: Godhra in February but the censor board delayed the process for seven months. They have asked for literally all the evidence and the related evidence based on the

Report, Court Verdicts, eyewitness records as well as all the supporting documents.

To study the material the censor board took seven months and even after that they gave the certificate where they chopped about fifty per cent of the content, informed Shivaaksh. Unfortunately, some renowned actors also took advantage of the situation from these novice young independent filmmakers to bully them, those who have good connections with the government agencies as well as some strong political backing. Initially, they talk big to bag the role and comparatively good remuneration, but after the film is completed, instead of helping the film for smooth sailing, they even discourage the other co-actors from not promoting their film just pretending to be secular. Forget to help don't even come forward to promote the film, nor even post on social media.

Pushpendra Singh director of Ajmer 92, Kamal Chandra director of Humare Baraah and Shivaaksh, all of them have the same terrible experiences with some of their actors. Akashaditya Lama's Bengal 1947 described the hardships faced by the displaced Hindu refugees from the then East Pakistan now Bangladesh to the completely unknown, unfamiliar terrine of present days Chhatisgarh.

A few political leaders' high ambitions divided the country into three different territories and created devastating for the crores of innocent people in the country. The film was released in very limited theatres. Akashaditya said that when he made the film in makers have provided all the Chhatisgarh, the then Congress

tant than the pseudo ideology of Nanavati - Mehta Commission without imposing many terms and conditions, then Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, told him only not to show Pundit Nehru in a bad light.

Even a cabinet minister came to receive the shooting team at the airport, and arranged the fullproof security for the entire team, with overwhelming hospitality. By the time the film got ready to release BJP government came to power in Chhatisgarh, but unfortunately, the film never got any special attention or tax rebate from the local government. However, the films have been screened at various film festivals. In the same manner, another film The Diary of West Bengal directed by Sanoj Mishra has suffered massively at the hands of the government and political elements of West Bengal.

Finally, the film was released, which too a very limited release by the order of the court. All of these films are not only talking of the great human rights viola-tions by one particular religious community towards the majority Hindu community but also these films are unbiased, true documentation of time a political era as well as the impact on society. Unfortunately, none of these films got any recognition, big awards or even tax rebates from the government. In this situation, a special section "The untold stories" could have been curated in the just concluded International Film Festival of India (IFFI) which would have been very much appropriate to showcase the film to the larger audiences, as well as the screening at IFFI would have certainly boosted the morale of the filmmakers.

(The writer is a Delhi based Film Festival curator. The views

What gaming regulation can learn from SEBI'S F&O regulations

India's gaming sector stands at a critical juncture. Thoughtful regulation can help it realise its immense potential while safeguarding consumers

¬wo seemingly disparate sectors—India's gaming industry and capital markets—are drawing significant attention in public policy discourse. Both sectors hold immense promise: gaming contributes to job creation, while capital markets foster capital formation. However, both also pose substantial challenges. Gaming can lead to habit formation and addiction, while the Futures and Options (F&O) segment of capital markets carries risks of speculative losses. Policymakers have tackled these challenges differently, with contrasting approaches in gaming and F&O regu-

The Opportunities and Challenges: India is a global gaming hub, housing 40 per cent of the world's gamers—



around 568 million players and employing 15,000 developers. The sector's revenue is projected to grow from \$3 billion in 2023 to \$6 billion by 2028, potentially creating 250.000 new jobs over the next decade. With development costs in India nearly 50 per cent lower than the global average, gaming has the potential to generate significant

export revenues.

on balanced regulation, particularly concerning gaming's habit-forming nature. Unfortunately, current proposals by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI), and other stakeholders lean toward rigid, prescriptive measures, drawing inspiration from China's heavy-handed regulatory framework.

Flaws in Current Gaming Regulation

1. Time and Age Restrictions Proposals to impose strict time limits and age restrictions on gaming apps are touted as innovative but raise significant concerns. Forcing intermediaries to monitor minors' activities infringes on privacy and However, this growth depends contravenes the data minimi-

sation principle of India's Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA). Such policies may inadvertently lead to surveillance overreach, compromising minors' online privacy.

Parents, who have a far greater vested interest in their children's wellbeing, are better positioned to manage their gaming habits. Handing this responsibility to unelected bureaucrats not only undermines parental discretion but also risks creating intrusive and overly broad policies.

2. Blanket Warnings and

Advertising Restrictions The Ministry of Education's 2021 advisory linking online gaming to "gaming disorder" is an overgeneralisation. Such broad statements, without clinical substantiation, stigmatise



gaming and equate it with gambling. Similarly, ASCI's restrictions on advertisements portraying gaming as a viable career path stifle creativity. These measures lump educational and cerebral games with gambling-like activities, disincentivising developers from creating "good habit-forming" games. This could slow innovation and limit the gaming

sector's growth potential.

Learning from SEBI's Approach to F&O Regulation The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) faced a similar challenge with F&O trading, where explosive volumes exposed retail investors to speculative risks. Instead of resorting to outright bans.

Key Steps by SEBI: Increased Contract Sizes: Raising the minimum investment size by 50 per cent reduced speculative trading by retail investors.

Disclosure Requirements: Brokers were mandated to display potential downsides prominently, promoting informed decision-making. Structural Adjustments: Limiting weekly expiries to one per exchange curbed excessive speculative activity

These steps exemplify a bal-

anced approach—relying on nudges and incentives rather than bans. SEBI recognised that heavy-handed policies could undermine broader goals, such as increasing equity market participation.

India's gaming sector can ben-efit from SEBI's measured approach to F&O regulation. Policymakers must embrace strategies that balance innovation, consumer protection, and industry growth. Here are three actionable recom-

1. Nudges and Incentives Over Mandates: Rather than micromanaging user behavior, regulators can incentivise responsible gaming through voluntary measures. For instance, gaming platforms could offer rewards for adhering to healthy gaming limits.

2. Transparent Education Over Stigma

Policymakers should prioritise honest disclosures about gaming's potential downsides instead of messaging that fosters shame. Clear and factual communication can empower gamers to make informed choices without demonising the industry.

Consideration of **Unintended Consequences:** A tunnel-vision approach risks stifling innovation and creating barriers to growth. Policymakers must evaluate how restrictive measures might deter investment, hinder creativity, or drive users to unregulated platforms.

(The writer is Founder & Principal, Black Dot Public Policy Advisors; views are

Hollywood Hills fire breaks out as deadly wildfires burn out of control across Los Angeles

fast-moving fire broke out Ain the Hollywood Hills on Wednesday night, threatening one of Los Angeles' most iconic spots as firefighters battled to get under control three other major blazes that killed five people, put 100,000 people under evacuation orders and ravaged the city from the Pacific Coast to inland Pasadena.

The Sunset Fire was burning near the Hollywood Bowl and about a mile (kilometer) from the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The streets around Grauman's Chinese Theatre and Madame Tussauds were packed with stop-and-go traffic as sirens blared and low-flying helicopters soared by on their way to dump water on the flames. People toting suitcases left hotels on foot, while some onlookers walked towards the flames, recording the fire on their phones

More than 1,000 structures, mostly homes, have been destroyed, and more than 130,000 people are under evacuation orders in the metropolitan area. Winds eased up some Wednesday, a day after hurricane-force winds blew embers through the air, igniting block after block, and hundreds of firefighters from other

states have arrived to help, but the four fires burning out of control showed the danger is far from over.

More than half a dozen schools in the area were either damaged or destroyed, including Palisades Charter High School, which has been featured in many Hollywood productions, including the 1976 horror movie "Carrie" and the TV series "Teen Wolf," officials said. Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said air operations were dousing flames. She warned they still faced "erratic winds," though not of hurricane force like Tuesday evening, when much of the destruction occurred.

In Pasadena, Fire Chief Chad Augustin said between 200 and 500 structures have been damaged or lost from the Eaton Fire that started Tuesday night. He said the city's water system was stretched and was further hampered by power outages but even without those issues, firefighters would not have been able to stop the fire as embers blown by the intense winds ignited block after block. "We were not stopping that fire last night," he said. "Those erratic wind gusts were throwing embers for multiple miles ahead of the fire.

On the Pacific Coast west of downtown Los Angeles, a



Los Angeles Fire Department firefighters work to extinguish a house fire as the Palisades Fire ravages a neighborhood amid high winds in the Pacific Palisades neighborhood of Los Angeles

major fire leveled entire blocks reducing grocery stores and banks to rubble in the Pacific Palisades, a hillside area along the coast dotted with celebrity homes and memorialized by the Beach Boys in their 1960s hit "Surfin' USA."

More than 1,000 structures were destroyed in the Palisades fire, the most destructive in the modern history of LA. Many people were hurt, including first responders, LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone

The scope of the destruction was just becoming clear: Block after block of California Mission Style homes and bungalows were reduced to nothing but charred remains dotted by stone fireplaces and blackened arched entryways. Ornate iron railing wrapped around the smoldering frame of one

house. The apocalyptic scenes spread for miles.

Swimming pools were blackened with soot, and sports cars slumped on melted tires. As flames moved through his neighborhood, Jose Velasquez sprayed down his Altadena home with water as embers rained down on the roof. He managed to save their home, which also houses their family business of selling churros, a Mexican pastry. Others weren't so lucky. Many of his neighbors were at work when they lost their homes.

"So we had to call a few people and then we had people messaging, asking if their house was still standing," he said. 'We had to tell them that it's not." Beyond the burned areas. residents worked wearing N95 masks, unable to escape the toxic smoke wafting over huge

sections of the city. **Actors lost homes:** The flames fire station for a briefing with marched toward highly popu-Gov Gavin Newsom, who dispatched National Guard troops lated and affluent neighborhoods, including Calabasas to help. Several Hollywood and Santa Monica, home to studios suspended production, and Universal Studios closed its California's rich and famous. Hollywood stars. Mandy theme park between Pasadena Moore, Cary Elwes and Paris and Pacific Palisades. Hilton are among the stars who said Wednesday they had lost homes. Billy Crystal and With an estimated 1,000 structures destroyed and the fire still active, the Palisades Fire is by his wife Janice lost their home far the city's most destructive in modern history, topping the of 45 years in the Palisades Fire. Sayre fire in 2008 that destroyed just over 600 struc-'We raised our children and grandchildren here. Every inch of our house was filled with love. Beautiful memories that tures, according to statistics kept by the Wildfire Alliance, a partnership between the city's can't be taken away," the Crystals wrote in the statement. department and In Palisades Village, the public library, two major grocery stores, a pair of banks and several boutiques were destroyed. 'It's just really weird coming

MySafe:LA. Structures refers to homes and other buildings. Southern California Edison shut off service to thousands because of safety concerns related to high winds and fire risks. More than 1.5 million customers could face shutoffs depending on weather conditions, the utility said.

Several Southern California landmarks were heavily damaged, including the Reel Inn in Malibu, a seafood restaurant. Owner Teddy Leonard and her husband hope to rebuild. "When you look at the grand scheme of things, as long as your family is well and everyone's alive, you're still winning, right?" she said.

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To Whomsoever It May Concern

My clients (1) Smt. Lata Mittal, W/o Sh. Susheel Mittal, R/o F-395, Sudarshan Park, New Delhi-15 and (2) Mr. Shrey Mittal, S/o Sh. Susheel Mittal, R/o F-52, Bali Nagar, New Delhi-15 are registered owner of a PROPERTY known as C-101, area measuring 152 sq. yards, part of Khasra no. 732 Min., situated in the estate of Village NAWADA, New Delhi-59 abadi known as Block-C, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.

This PROPERTY was purchased by them from Shri Pradeep Dahiya and Shri Navcen Dahiya both sons of Shri Prem Singh Dahiya, R/o B-82, Teachers Colony, Samaipur, Delhi-42 vide regd. Sale Deed as document no. 5816, Book no. 1, vol. no. 4178 on pages 41 to 49, regd, on 19-03-2019 regd, in the office of The Sub-Registrar IIB, Janakpuri, New Delhi. Since then this PROPERTY is in the possession of my clients. Pradeep Dahiya and Naveen Dahiya acquired the same from their sister Smt. Sunita, D/o Sh. Prem Singh, R/o B-82. Teacher Colony, Samaipur, Delhi-42 through registered GPA in blood relation. It has come to our notice that some previous documents/chain of the PROPERTY documents are lost/misplaced by Smt. Sunita. The details of original

1. Original Agreement and Affidavit both dated 19.11.1998 executed by Shri Kali Ram, S/o Sh. Risal Singh in favour of Smt. Sunita, D/o Sh. Prem Singh. 2. Original GPA, Agreement to Sell and Affidavit, all dated 27.11.1990 executed by Smt. Ram Ratti, W/o Sh. Jai Pal Rathi in favour of Sh. Kali Ram, S/o Sh. Risal Singh, 3, Original GPA, Agreement to Sell, Affidavit and WILL, all dated 04.03.1987 executed by Sh. Shori Lal, S/o Sh. Ram Chand in favour of Smt. Ram Ratti, W/o Sh. Jai Pal Rathi. 4. Original GPA, Agreement to Sell, Affidavit and WILL, all dated 22.12.1986 executed by Sh. Sewa Ram, S/o Sh. Chaman Lal in favour of Sh. Shori Lal, S/o Sh. Ram Chand, 5. Original Sale Deed dated 03.07.1972 executed by Sh. Subey Singh, S/o Sh. Tulsi Ram in favour of Sh. Sewa Ram, S/o Sh. Chaman Lal.

A Police complaint for above said missing/lost documents is registered under FIR / LR No.2030806/2018 dated 22-08-2018.

If anyone has these documents with him/her or have any information regarding these lost documents, he/she may inform to my client at 9871394810 or 9871394811. If anyone has any claim on the said property, the same is informed to me at the below given address by regd, post within 15 days from the date of appearance of this Notice in the Newspaper

I request all concerned parties to take note of this public notice and not to deal with any person claiming to be the owner of the said property without the written consent of my clients.

— Sanjay Rana, Advocate (Mob.: 98110 31327) Enrl. no. D-2803/08, Delhi High Court Add.: Plot no. 15, Gali No. 1, Mahavir Vihar Colony Near SDM/DC Office, Kanjhawala, Delhi – 110081



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Name of the Share Holder /

Regd. Office: The Galleria, DLF Mayur Vihar, Unit No. 236 & 237, 2nd Floo Mayur Vihar Place, Noida Link Road, Mayur Vihar Phase I Extn. Delhi-11009 Corporate Office: Block-C, Sector 45, Gurugram, Haryana-122 003 Tel. No (Read office): (+91-11) 49482870; Fax: (+91-11) 49482900 E-mail: cs@srf.com, Website: www.srf.com; CIN: L18101DL1970PLC005197

NOTICE

NNotice is hereby given that Share Certificates pertaining to shares of the Company detailed below have been reported lost and request(s) for issue of duplicate Certificates in lieu thereo have been received by the Company :-

No.		Legal Heir (Claimant)			Shares
1	SRF0110547	RAMESH KUMAR GUPTA: Deceased	4748	1273681-730	50
		SUDHA GUPTA: Claimant	10876	1602351-400	50
			61539	3296730-79	50
			1131258	310540442-1241	800
			90244621	1214181-220	40
			90244621	3659437-46	10
2	SRF0032649	RANJANA SEHGAL: Deceased	1136606	296154130-529	400
		DEEPAK SEHGAL: Claimant	90069192-4	9027126-225	100
3	R 0006357	RAM SWAROOP:Deceased	142523	5759082-99	18
		PRAVEEN MITTAL: Claimant	976765	18596283-318	36
			1138723	296594822-5037	216
4	M 0004306	MOOL CHAND:Deceased	19679	1855901-25	25
		MRS KAUSHALIA DEVI: Deceased	50481-2	2716426-75	50
		SHAKTI RANI DHALL: Claimant	51065	2732126-50	25
			70159	3462137-80	44
			132266-7	5477741-812	72
			1138316	296502266-3769	1504
			90112201-4	7126614-773	160
5	R 0002771	RAJSHREE TAPURIAH: Shareholder	140544-5	5711766-856	91
			1137764	296399994-400357	364
6	C 0000717	CHINUBHAI VADILAL HEMCHAND:Deceased	100368	4236528-39	12
		KAMLESH CHINUBHAI NAWAB:Claimant	307076-9	15840541-613	73
			456076-9	23860333-405	73
			975336	18551237-61	25
			1132642	295348014-9105	1092
			90015558	6308430-69	40
			90154199	10541835-84	50
7	R 0002991	RENU SHARMA: Shareholder	140623	5713118-35	18
			976630	18591667-702	36
			1134045	295645750-965	216
8	SRF0032126	VASANT S MAHAJAN : Shareholder	1136242	296092954-3353	400
		MANDAKINI MAHAJAN: Joint Shareholder	90068199-201	8997406-505	100

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Place: Gurugram

Date: 09-01-2025

for SRF LIMITED RAJAT LAKHANPAL Sr. VP (Corporate Compliance & Company Secretary

Body of Israeli hostage found in Gaza, possibly alongside his son's remains

Tsraeli soldiers recovered the ■body of a 53-year-old hostage in an underground tunnel in southern Gaza, the military said Wednesday, and the army was determining if another set of remains belongs to the man's son. The discovery of Yosef AlZayadni's body comes as Israel and Hamas are considering a ceasefire deal that would free the remaining hostages in Gaza and could halt the fighting. Israel has declared about a third of the 100 hostages dead, but believes as many as half could be alive.

Yosef and his son Hamzah AlZayadni were thought to still be alive before Wednesday's announcement, and news about their fate could ramp up pressure on Israel to move forward with a deal.

The military said it found evidence in the tunnel that raised "serious concerns" for the life of Hamzah AlZayadni, 23, suggesting he may have died in captivity. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli military spokesperson, said the circumstances behind Yosef AlZayadni's death were being investigated.

AlZayadni and three of his children were among 250 hostages taken captive after Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing 1,200 people. AlZayadni, who had 19 children,

worked at the dairy farm at Kibbutz Holit for 17 years, said the Hostages Families Forum, a group representing the relatives of captives. AlZayadni's teenage children, Bilal and Aisha, were released along with about 100 hostages in a weeklong ceasefire deal in November 2023.

The family are members of the Bedouin community, part of Israel's Palestinian minority who have Israeli citizenship. The traditionally nomadic community is particularly impoverished in Israel and has suffered from neglect and marginalisation. Palestinians make up some 20 per cent of Israel's 10 million population, and millions more live in Gaza and under Israeli military occupation in the West Bank. Eight members of Israel's Bedouin minority were abducted in the October 2023 attacks.

Yosef AlZayadni appeared on a list of 34 hostages shared by a Hamas official with The Associated Press earlier this week who the militant group said were slated for release. Israel said this was a list it had submitted to mediators last July, and that it has received nothing from

Hamas. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday that a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas is "very close" and he hopes "we can get it over the line" before handing over US diplomacy to President-elect Donald Trump's administration later this month.

back to somewhere that does-

n't really exist anymore," said

Dylan Vincent, who returned

to the neighborhood to retrieve

some items and saw that his

elementary school had burned

down and that whole blocks

had been flattened. The fires

have consumed a total of about

42 square miles (108 square

kilometers) — nearly the size of

the entire city of San Francisco.

Landmarks get scorched and

studios suspend production:

President Joe Biden signed a

federal emergency declaration

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed sorrow at the news of AlZayadni's death, and said in a statement he had "hoped and worked to bring back the four members of the family from Hamas captivity." Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz earlier said the bodies of both Yosef and Hamzah AlZavadni had been recovered, but the military said the identity of some remains were not yet determined.

The Hostages Families Forum said the ceasefire deal being negotiated "comes far too late for Yose who was taken alive and should have returned the same way." "Every day in captivity poses an immediate mortal danger to the hostages," the group said in a

The bodies of around three dozen hostages have been recovered in Gaza, including the two on Wednesday, and eight have been

statement.

rescued by the army. Many of the families fear their loved ones' fate is at risk as long as the war in Gaza rages on. Israeli forces are pressing their air and ground war against Hamas, and Palestinian medics said Israeli airstrikes killed at least five people in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, including two infants and a woman. Israel's military says it only targets militants, accusing them of

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Prahalad Singh, Father of-JC-472773K Sub Udai Singh, R/o- VPO- Pritampuri Via hana, Dist- Sikar, Rajasthan-332708, have changed my name from Prahalad Singh to Prahlad Singh vide affidavit dated 09/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1218)C

I, Kamala Devi, Mother of-JC-472773K Sub Udai Singh, R/o- VPO- Pritampuri Via Kanwat, Teh- Neem Ka Thana, Dist-Sikar, Rajasthan-332708, have changed my name from Kamala Devi to Kamla Kanwar vide affidavit dated 09/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1219)C

I, Joginder Lal Narang S/o-Om Parkash Narang, R/o- D-87, Lord Krishna Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi- 110033, declare that Krishna Narang is my son, in his documents, my name is erroneously written as Jugender Narang & Jugender Lal Narang, whereas my correct name is Joginder Lal Narang, all these names pertain to one and same person, i.e. myself.

PD(1220)C

I, Tejas Makhija S/o- Pratap Makhija, R/o- Flat No. 328, Sanskriti Apartments, DDA Multistorey, Sector- 19 B, Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi- 110075, declare that in my Passport (No. C6639300), my name is erroneously written as Tejas, whereas my actual name is Tejas Makhija, which may be amended accordingly.

PD(1221)C JC-736560K Nb/Sub

Obbalareddi Manga Raju, D.No-17-1-112/1, Velama Veedhi, Revenue Ward Narsipatnam, No.- 12. Anakapalli, A.P.- 531116, have changed my mother's name from Varahalu to Varahalu Obbalareddi for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 09/01/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi Cantt.

PD(1222)C

Obbalareddi Manga Raju, R/o-D.No-17-1-112/1, Kanwat, Teh- Neem Ka Velama Veedhi, Revenue Ward No.- 12, Narsipatnam, Anakapalli, A.P.- 531116, have changed my father's name from Sanvasi to Sanyasi Obbalareddi for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth is wrongly mentioned as 15/06/1956 instead of his correct D.O.B. as 25/12/1956, vide affidavit dated 09/01/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi

PD(1223)C

I, hitherto known as Manjeet Kaur alias Manjeet Kaur Tuli D/o Jageer Singh, and W/o Gurdeep Singh Tuli R/o A-86, Second Floor, Chander Nagar, Janak Puri New Delhi, Janakpuri B-1, West Delhi, Delhi-110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manjeet Kaur Tuli.

PD(1224)C I, RAINA GUPTA W/o

Dwarika Prasad Gupta R/o RZ-179, Gali No.4 Dabri Vaishali Dabri South West Delhi-110045 have changed my name to RITU GUPTA for future purposes PD(1225)CI, RAINA GUPTA W/o Dwarika Prasad Gupta R/o RZ-179, Gali No.4 Dabri Vaishali Dabri South West Delhi-110045 have changed my name to RITU GUPTA for all future purposes

PD(1225)C

PD(1226)C

I, Rajesh Sharma S/o Manoj Sharma R/o House No.RZ-26, Gali No.3 Phase-2, Nangloi Raod Najafghar Jai Vihar South West Delhi-110043 have changed my minor daughter name ARCHNA alias KHUSHI KUMARI aged 16 year to KHUSHI KUMARI

hiding among civilians. **Impeached President Yoon's lawyers** warn detention may spark 'civil war'

PTI SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

Couth Korean opposition parties for an independent investigation into impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol's brief martial law declaration, as thousands of his supporters and critics held tense rallies near his residence ahead of his potential detention.

The bill, jointly submitted by six par-

ties, including the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, proposes that a special prosecutor investigate whether Yoon's martial law decree on December 3 constituted an attempted rebellion. The bill also calls for an investigation into opposition claims that Yoon sought to provoke a clash with North Korea by allegedly flying drones over Pyongyang or discussing the possibility of shooting down trash-laden balloons launched from North Korea across the border, to justify a power grab at home. Yoon's lawyers and the South Korean military have denied the suspicions. Yoon remained holed up at his official residence in the capital city of Seoul, where the presidential security service has fortified the grounds with barbed wire and rows of vehicles blocking the roads, anticipating anotheffort.

High-Ranking Officials, leading a joint investigation with police and the military, has pledged to work with police to make a more forceful effort to detain Yoon. It has warned that members of the presidential security staff could be arrested if they obstruct attempts to apprehend the embattled president.

Yoon's lawyers argued against bringing him to custody, claiming he isn't a threat to flee or destroy evidence. They claimed that images of him being dragged out in handcuffs could spark a "civil war" in the divided country. At a news conference Thursday, Seok Dong-hyeon, a lawyer on Yoon's legal team, highlighted the fervent protests by Yoon's supporters and claimed that the anti-corruption office's "reckless" attempts to detain Yoon would "provoke a significant backlash from outraged citizens?

"It would essentially be a civil war situation," he said, claiming that attempts to detain Yoon are aimed at humiliating him by displaying him in handcuffs. Separated by police lines and fences, thousands of Yoon's supporters and crit-

er attempt by law enforcement to ics continued their daily rallies near his detain him after last week's failed residence, shouting passionate slogans either vowing to protect him or calling exchanged verbal insults, though there were no immediate reports of major clashes. The opposition has claimed that an independent investigation is crucial because separate investigations led by the country's anti-corruption agency and public prosecutors have been hindered by Yoon's unwillingness

> to cooperate. The new bill proposes that the Supreme Court's chief justice recommend two candidates to Yoon, who would then select one as the special prosecutor. If Yoon refuses to appoint anyone, the elder of the two candidates would automatically assume

> the role. The opposition's earlier bill proposing an independent investigation was rejected by the National Assembly on Wednesday, as members of Yoon's conservative party opposed a clause allowing only opposition parties to recommend special prosecutor candidates. That bill was voted down by just two votes, and the Democrats were hopeful that the new bill would get through.

China concerned over new Syrian regime appointing Xinjiang Uygur militants to top military posts

PTI ■ BEIJING

hina said it is greatly concerned Over the new Syrian government appointing foreign terrorist fighters, especially from the banned Uygur militant group 'the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, to senior military ranks. The East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) is active in China's volatile Xinjiang province. These remarks were made by Fu Cong, China's permanent representative to the UN, at the UN Security Council Briefing on Syria on Wednesday. China is greatly concerned about the

reports that said the Syrian Army has recently granted senior military ranks to a number of foreign terrorist fighters, including the head of Council, a listed terrorist organisation, the Turkistan Islamic Party, also known as the ETIM, Cong said. He called on Syria to fulfil its

counter-terrorism obligations and to

prevent any terrorist forces from using Syrian territory to threaten the security of other countries, according to official media reports here. Reports from Syria say that the new Syrian regime headed by de-facto leader Ahmed al-Sharaa has appointed 50 new military officials of which six were foreign fighters, including that of ETIM.

The Army is being re-organised by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the Islamist group that is now effectively in charge of the country following the overthrow of former President Bashar al-Assad earlier this month. Based on the names that have been published, they are said to include Chinese Uyghurs, a Jordanian and a Turkish national. All are said to have been given high-ranking positions as colonels or brigadier-generals, BBC reported. China has supported the Assad regime and was caught unawares by its sudden fall. Assad himself fled to Russia where he was granted asylum. Thousands of fighters from many different countries joined the uprising against Assad as it became an all-out armed conflict when mass protests were met with violence by the security forces. The new appointments appear to have

been made in order to reward those fighters – whether from Syria or elsewhere – who played a significant role in the final triumph over the regime. The issue is just one of many that could complicate any successful transition to a new political and social framework in Syria, the BBC report said. For China, ETIM is a red rag as it blames the Uygur militant group for a number of militant strikes in different cities in China and Xinjiang where the Uygur Muslims who constituted the majority were restive over the large-scale settlements of ethnic Hans from other provinces. For over a decade China has deployed thousands of security forces to control the militancy.

Zelenskyy, Austin say military aid to **Ukraine must continue under Trump**

PTI RAMSTEIN AIR BASE (GERMANY)

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin used their final meeting Thursday to press the incoming Trump administration to not give up on Kyiv's fight, warning that to cease military support now "will only invite more aggression, chaos and war." "We've come such a long way that it would honestly be crazy to drop the ball now and not keep building on the defense coalitions we've created," Zelenskyy said.

"No matter what's going on in the world, everyone wants to feel sure that their country will not just be erased of the map. Austin also announced the US would send another \$500 million in security assistance to Ukraine, including missiles for fighter jets, sustainment equipment for F-16s, armoured bridging systems and small arms and ammunition.

The weapons are funded

through presidential drawdown authority, meaning they can be pulled directly from US stockpiles, and the Pentagon is pushing to get them into Ukraine before the end of the month. This latest package leaves about USD 3.85 billion in funding to provide future arms shipments to Ukraine; if the Biden administration makes no further announcements, that balance will be available to President-elect Donald Trump to send if he

"If Putin swallows Ukraine, his appetite will only grow," Austin told the approximately 50 member nations who have been meeting over the last three years to coordinate weapons and military support for Ukraine. "If autocrats conclude that democracies will lose their nerve, surrender their interests, and forget their principles, we will only see more land grabs. If tyrants learn that aggression pays, we will only invite even more aggression, chaos, and war."

Austin leaves a consortium that now has more than a half dozen independent coalitions of those countries who are focused on Ukraine's longerterm security capabilities and who have committed to continuing to stand up those needs through 2027.

Globally, countries including the US have ramped up domestic weapons production as the Ukraine war exposed that all of those stockpiles were woefully unprepared for a major conventional land war.

The US has provided about \$66 billion of the total aid since February 2022 and has been able to deliver most of that total between 80% and 90% already to Ukraine.

"Retreat will only provide incentives for more imperial aggression," Austin told the group. "And if we flinch, you can count on Putin to push further and punch harder Ukraine's survival is on the line. But so is the security of Europe the United States, and the

Taiwan demonstrates sea defences against potential Chinese attack

PTI KAOHSIUNG (TAIWAN)

Taiwan on Thursday demonstrated its sea defences against a potential Chinese attack as tensions rise with Beijing, part of a multitiered strategy to deter an invasion from the mainland. The island's navy highlighted its Kuang Hua VI fast attack missile boats and Tuo Chiang-class corvettes in waters near Taiwan's largest port of Kaohsiung, a major hub for international trade considered key to resupplying Chinese forces should they establish a beachhead on the island. The Kuang Hua VI boats, with a crew of 19, carry

indigenously developed Hsiung Feng II anti-ship missiles and displayed their ability to take to the sea in an emergency to intercept enemy ships about to cross the 44-kilometer (24-nautical mile) limit of Taiwan's contiguous zone

within which governments are permitted to take defensive

China routinely sends ships and planes to challenge Taiwan's willingness and ability to counter intruders, prompting Taiwan to scramble jets, activate missile systems and dispatch warships. Taiwan demanded on Wednesday that China end its ongoing military activity in nearby waters, which it said is underining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and disrupting international shipping and trade. Mountainous Taiwan's strategy is to counter the much larger Chinese military with a relatively flexible defense that can prevent Chinese troops from cross-

ing the strait. Landing sites are few on Taiwan's west coast facing China, forcing Beijing to focus on the east coast. Hsiao Shun-ming, captain of a Tuo Chiang-class corvette, said his ship's relatively small size still allows it to "deliver a formidable competitive power" against larger Chinese ships.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I, RAJESH KUMAR
SAXENA S/o SH.GANESHI LAL SAXENA, allottee of JANTA FLAT NO.223.SECON allottee of JANTA FLAT NO.223, SECOND FLOOR, BLOCK-D, POCKET-11, JASOLA, NEW DELHI have applied for Certifiec Copies of the atoresaid 'lat vide File No.J/321[1549] 2004/JIHS/JL in DDA. The original documents i.e. DEMAND-CUM-ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER and NOC to water and electric of the above said flat has been lost. An NCR/IR No.2451374/2024 dates 31.12 2024 bits of fice has her her least of 10.55 Circus the control of 10.55 Circus and 10.55 Circus the control of NCR/LR No.2451374/2024 dated 31.12 2024 to this effect has been looged in PS.Crime Branch, Delhi Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original occuments, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.6396141059 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this properly, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (H) or Director (H), D Block, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi

No./SSCL/2025/11

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

BANK OF INDIA

Applicant Defendants

M/S SWADESHI ALUMINIUM CO P LTD

SOMNATH BHUTANI, 50: 114/5. SUVIDHAKUNU, PITAMPURA, DELHI - 110088 SHYAM NAGPAL, A-2/48, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110057 3) KANTA BHUTANI, 50, H4/5, SUVIDHA KUNJ. PITAMPURA, DELHI- 110088

Whereas the above-named applicant (s) has instituted a case for recovery or Rs. 34,02,04,309.88/- (Rupee Thirty Four Crore Two Lakh Four Thousand Three Hundred Nine and Eighty Eight Paise Only) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registra on 17.03.2025 At 10.30 A.M. (for lurther details kindly visil DRT Website www.tribunal.gov.in.Phone.Number:011-23748473).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above-mentioned before this Tribuna he case will be heard and decided in your absence. All the matters will be taken up through video Conferencing and for that purpose:

 All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/software ii) "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the nex date a DRT Official Portal i.e. "https://drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head (iii) In any exigence Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal this the 02nd Jan, 2025.

Respondent may contact under mention Phone number for further enquiry. Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi, Phone No: 011-23748473, Email; drt1delhi-dfs@nic.in



Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Ph.d SECTION)

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT Ph.D ENTRANCE TEST (PHDET)- Jan 2025

Online fresh applications in the prescribed format are invited through Universit rebsite w.e.f from 10/01/2025 to 30/01/2025 for admission to Ph.D Courses in faculties of Medical /Allied Health/Dental/ Nursing/ Physiotherapy Pharmaceutical Sciences, alonwith fee of Rs. 3000/-+ 18% GST through University payment gateway. The date of Entrance Examination will be notifie on University website later on. For eligibility/ detail/ updates visit at University at: www.bfuhs.ac.in

00/12/341/2023/40600 Dated CHD :- 1/10/2025



Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadig Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER ARE INVITED FOR THE PROCUREMENTS OF FOLLOWING ITEMS UP TO 23/01/2025

1) Sign the rate contact for supply of Radiopharmaceuticals in Nuclea dicine department 2) Tender for supply and Installation of NCT Machine 3) Tender for supply and Installation of Electrocautery machine 4) Patien Bath Trolley 5) OCT machine 6) Special repair of old pharmacy Block(Shed) GGSMC, Faridkot 7) Tender for procurement and Installation of leurosurgical Electric Drill E-TENDER ARE INVITED FOR THE PROCUREMENTS OF FOLLOWING

TEMS UP TO 30/01/2025

1) Diagnostic Middle for analyser 2) Computerized Speech Laboratory with Speech 3) Digital Stroboscope with swallowing (Fees) workstation 4) Nasometer 5) Books and Journals for Central library GGS Medical col lege 6) procurement of Implants material at GGSMCH. Faridkot 7) Providing Fire Fighting & Fire Detection Service for Super Speciality Block in GGS Medical College & Hospital Faridkot 8) Providing 11KV Substation Including DG Set, Transformer and Electrical Works for Super Specially Block at GGS Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot 9) Construction of Sarai and Main Entrance Gate Opposite Emergency Block of GGS Medical Hospita Faridkot 10) Supply of different electrical; material under rate contract with BFUHS for its constituents College for day to day repair. 11)Testing 8 Commissioning of 4 Nos. lifts in Super Speciality Block in GGS Medical College, Faridkot. 12) Providing & fixing Automatic Sprinkler System of Fire Safety in Mother Block of MCH Building at GGS Medical Hospital, Faridko Following tenders have pre-bid meeting. Regarding pre-bid meeting date and venue please see tender document. Last date for submission of E-tender is 30/01/2025

1) Hysteroscopy (with pre-bid meeting) 2 Automatic Tissue Embedding Station (with pre-bid meeting) 3) Radiant heat warmers (with pre-bi meeting) 4 Modular OT (with pre-bid meeting) 5 Fully Automatic Online RC Plant with Hot feet 1000 I.P (with pre-bid meeting)

Terms and conditions can be downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website www.bfuhs.ac.in

Registra 00/12/342/2023/40601 Dated CHD :- 1/10/2025

SAGAR SMART CITY LIMITED, SAGAR

Registered Office : Sagar Smart City Office, 2nd Floor, ICCC Building New Collectorate Premises, Sagar, M.P.-470002 Phone: 07582-242850, E-mail: smartcitysagarmp@gmail.com

CIN: U75100MP2017SGC044372

Sagar, Date: 04.01.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sagar Smart City Ltd. (SSCL) invites online Bids from eligible Bidders for "Selection of an Agency for Construction and Development of Road- Tilli Junction to Girdharipuram Sagar under Smart Cities Mission". Tender No. 2025/SSCL/143

S. No.	Work	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Completion/ Implementation Period (Months)	Last Date to Purchase Tender (Online)
1.	Selection of an Agency for Construction and Development of Road- Tilli Junction to Girdharipuram Sagar under Smart Cities Mission.	20,000/- + GST	2 Months	18.01.2025 (On 17.00 Hrs.)

Tender Document and other details shall be available on Website: http://www.mptenders. gov.in & http://sagarsmartcity.org. Sagar Smart City Limited, reserves the rights to accept/ reject any/all bid(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR M.P. Madhyam/118237/2025

Mamata Tiwari, w/o Sh. Shyam Narair Tiwari is the only legal owner of the property measuring 200 Sq. Yards comprising Plot Nos. B-178, and B-179, Shyam Kunj, Near Gcyla Village, New Delh-110071 and she has not Transferred/Sold nor has authorized any person to Sell or Transfer or to do any kind of transaction or agreement with any person with regard to said plots of land or ner behalf, if any person is dealing with the said property lit shall be at his/her own risk and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for the same. Amilabh Kumar Verma, Advocate

526 Lawyer's Chambers, Dwarka Cour Complex, New Delhi-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE This is lo inform the general public that Flat No. 8–10/107 - B. Udayagin - 2 Sector-34, Noida District Gautam Buddha Nagar whose GPA older is Mr. Sunny Mathew S/o K.C. Mathew esident of Flat No. B 10/107 B, Udayagiri Sector-34, Noida District Gautam Buddha lagar. GPA is in the AD Book No. of Sub Registrar-IV, Noida. Registered on 25.06.1993 And the sale contract has not been registered low the transfer application of the said building is being submitted through GPA in lavor of Shri Rajesh Das S/o Ganga Prasad resident of Flat No. B 10/ 107 B, Udaygiri 2 Sector-34, Noida District Gautam Buddha Nagar, If any concerned person has any objection, he/she can register his objection long with evidence in the Residential Building Department of Noida Authority within 15 days

from the date of publication of this information

PUBLIC NOTICE My Client Mrs. Pinki w/o Mr. Rajcev owner of Double Storey House area measuring 120 sq. yds i.e 100.33 sq. mtrs, out of Khasra no. 215, situated a: Village Saim Pargana & Tehsil Dadin District Gauram Budh Nagar U.P. Through Registerec Gift Deed Dated 07:01:2025 executed by Mr. Rajeev Vide Reg. no. 681 at SR-DADRI U.P. the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank Financial Services Umited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim/right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan E-713, Karkarcooma Court, Delin-110092 along with doc.,mentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. **Adv.** Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, De hi 110092:Mob.: 9811215181

CONSTRUCTION, P. WAY AND FORMATION WORKS IN KATIHAR DIVISION

Tender Notice No. : KIR/Engg./01 of 2025; Dated: 03-01-2025; E-Tender are nvited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. 1; Brief Description of Work: At New Jalpaiguri: Constructio of one coach length sick line - 2 Coach holding (Extension - 1). Tender Value ₹4,79,07,958.84/-; Bid Security ₹3,89,500/-; <u>Tender No. 2;</u> Brie Description of Work: Katihar Teznarayanpur - Provision of RGM Siding 2 stations under the jurisdiction o Sr.DEN/IV/Katihar. (P.Way works and ormation works). Tender Value ₹1,75,27,465.42; Bid Security: ₹2,37,600/ Date & time of closing of above tenders at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. or 03-02-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender wil be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 03-02-2025

DRM (W), Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY PUBLIC NOTICE PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT e-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. AD/0E/GL-07/13(Vol. VI))2787 Otd 31.12.2024 ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT

AD/0F/GL-85/2016(Pt.HI)/2788 Dtd.31.12.2024 Name of the work :- "Providing Secretaria Name of the work:- "Service contract for office management and allied works in various and other assistance for orible works. Administrative Department*. Estimater cost put to tender ₹ 1,95,50,947.0((excluding GST @ 18% & Contractor*. Commission). The last date & time o submission of bid is 20.01.2025 upto 1700. departments / divisions and operational areas of PPA". Estimated cost put to tender ₹4,15.09.150.00 (excluding GST @ 18% & Contractor's Commission). The last date 8 time of submission of bid is 20.01 2025 upto Hrs. for details please refer our websi www.paradipport.gov.in/https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app 1700 Hrs. for details please refer our website www.paradipport.gov.in/ https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Asst. Secretary (Admn.)
Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/ 57/2024-2025

REGD. OFFICE: ESAF Bhavai Mannuthy, Thrissur- 680 651, Kerala.

Sd/- Asst. Secretary (Admn.),

Paradip Port Authority

PPA/PR/56/2024-2025 dtd.09.01.202

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with ESAF Small Finance Bank and not redeemed by borrowers, despite repeated reminders and notices, of our branches are listed below. This will be auctioned as per the details given below: **DATE OF AUCTION: 20-01-2025** TIME: 2 PM TO 5 PM

AUCTION ADDRESS: https://egold.auctiontiger.net Contact Number: 9099013705/6351896640

AUCTION VENUE: THROUGH E-AUCTION

To register as bidder for the e-Auction with terms and conditions, and full details of e-Auction please visit the above site

BRANCHES & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBERS Faridabad: 75240001213933, 1600854.

Customers who are interested to release the ornaments by paying the total due amount may do so, at the respective branches, on or two days before the date of the auction.

Bidders who wish to participate in the auction shall produce their KYC documents. GST No. is mandatory for registered firms/companies. Bidders shall deposit a sum of Rs.50,000 as EMD before participating in the auction.

Thrissur

Authorized Signatory



छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल

अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002 Email- hocecb@gmail.com

// सर्व संबंधित को सूचना //

भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत् सर्व संबंधित को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स हाई टेक सुपर सीमेंट एण्ड स्टील प्राईवेट लिमिटेड, ग्राम-बिल्हा व मोहभट्ठा, तहसील-बिल्हा, जिला-बिलासपुर स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 302/1/क, 302/1/ग, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327/2, एवं 17 (पार्ट), कुल क्षेत्रफल-7.22 एकड़ (2.92 हेक्टेयर) में पूर्व में जारी पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति अनुसार स्टैंड एलोन सीमेंट ग्राईडिंग यूनिट क्षमता-1,000 (2 गुणा 500 टन) टन प्रतिदिन में परिवर्तन किये बिना '90 प्रतिशत से अधिक रॉ मटेरियल एवं 100 प्रतिशत उत्पाद का परिवहन रेलमार्ग' के स्थान पर 'रॉ मटेरियल एवं उत्पाद का परिवहन सड़क एवं रेलमार्ग से किये जाने' के पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 10/01/2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे, ग्राम-मोहभट्टा, प०ह०नं० 10, रा०नि०मं० बिल्हा, तहसील-बोदरी, जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) में स्थित भूमि ख0नं0 322, 325 में नियत की गई है, जिसे अतिरिक्त कलेक्टर, कार्यालय कलेक्टर जिला बिलासपुर (छ.ग.) के आदेश क्रमांक /144/स.व.लि./ लो.सु. / 2025 बिलासपुर, दिनांक 08/01/2025 के अनुसार आयोजित होने वाली लोक सुनवाई को अपरिहार्य कारणों से आगामी आदेश तक स्थगित

सदस्य सचिव छत्तीसगढ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल नवा रायपुर अटल नगर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)



OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHOPAL,

DIST BHOPAL (M.P.) (Sewerage Project of PACKAGE-1) (FIRST CALL) Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No. 04/SEW/AMRUT-2.0/BMC/2025 Date: 09.01.2025 Online Lump sum bid for the following AMRUT 2.0 works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria

Probable Completion amount of Period Contract (Rs) (in months 13051.53 36 months

Survey, Design, Construction and commissioning of Sewerage network in 161.37 | 2025_UAD Km of in West-South of Bhopal Municipal area including construction of sewage | _394330_1 | treatment plants and intermediate pumping stations including under package 1

Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website http://www.mptenders.gov.in The Bid Document can be purchased only Online

Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on website only GST shall be payable as per Govt. rules.

SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER (Sewage) MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHOPAL

※ Equinox India

Tapir Constructions Limited (CIN: U70200DL2014PLC267441)

Extract of Unaudited Financial Results

for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024

Previous year Quarter Corresponding **Particulars** 31 December 2024 31 March 2024 (Unaudited) (Unaudited) (Audited) Total Income from Operations Net (Loss) / Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (45.0)(17.5)(71.5)Net (Loss) / Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (45.0)(17.5)(71.5)Net (Loss) / Profit for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) (17.5)(71.5)(45.0)Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising (Loss) / Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] (45.0)(17.5)(72.0)Paid up Equity Share Capital 0.5 0.5 0.5 Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) (2,199.1)(2,078.3)(2.117.5)Securities Premium Account 9 Net Worth (2,198.6) (2.077.8)(2,117.0)10 Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt 4,360.0 3,232.0 3,540.5 11 Outstanding redemption preference share 12 Debt Equity Ratio (2.02)(1.56)(1.70)Earnings per Share (EPS) (Face value Per Share ₹10 each) - Basic (Amount in ₹) (901.76) (350.00) (1,430.52) Diluted (Amount in ₹) (901.76)(350.00)(1,430.52)14 Capital Redemption Reserve 15 Debenture Redemption Reserve 16 Debt Service Coverage Ratio (0.60)(0.10)(0.06)Interest Service Coverage Ratio (0.60)(0.32)(0.35)18 Current ratio (In times) 1.03 0.78 0.92 19 Total debts to total assets 0.74 0.68 0.71 Long term debt to working capital (In times) (0.54)13.06 (3.79)Bad debt to account receivable ratio (In %) Current liability ratio (In times) 0.70 0.89 0.76 23 Debtor turnover ratio (In times) 24 Inventory turnover ratio (In times) 25 Operating margin (In %) 18.61 (640.48)26 Net profit margin (In %) (857.01)(288.53)

1 The above results have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors ('the Board') at its meeting held on 09 January 2025.

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52(8), read with 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://equinoxindia.com/tcl/) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com)

Office No. 202, 2nd Floor, A-18, Rama House, Middle Circle Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110 001. Place: Mumbai

Abhishek Rajninath Surve **Executive director**

BEFORE THE ADDITIONAL SUB COURT AT CHENGALPATTU IN STATE OF TAMIL NADU I.A. NO. 3 OF 2024

O.S. No. 86 of 2024 M/s. CENTURY LEATHERS (P) LIMITED REP BY ITS AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE MS. GEETA MOHANTY.

.....PETITIONER/PLAINTIFFS -72-

....RESPONDENTS/DEFENDANTS Respondent-1/ Defendant-1 Mr.Balwinder Singh, S/o

Sh.Baburam R/o 351, Nangloi Jat Village, Delhi-110041

and decided in your absence. M. ANANDEESWARAN

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF

COURT AT CHENGALPATTU IN STATE OF TAMIL NADU O.S. No. 86 of 2024 M/s. CENTURY LEATHERS (P) LIMITED REP BY ITS AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE

.....PETITIONER/PLAINTIFFS **BALWINDER SINGH & OTHERS** TO RESPONDENTS/DEFENDANTS

MS. GEETA MOHANTY

Defendant-1 Mr.Balwinder Singh. S/o Sh. Baburam, R/o 351, Nangloi

Suit, filed for Declaration, Permanent njunction and for Interim Reliefs, the lon'ble Additional Sub Court at Chengalpattu, was pleased to Order to ffect Paper Publication to 1st Defendant, for effecting Service and posted the above case on 27.01.202; for your appearance. Hence enter appearance either personally o hrough Your Advocate at 10.30A.M in the above mentioned Court without

> M. ANANDEESWARAN. COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF PH. 98402 03800

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, M/s Vatika Seven Elements Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly known as Strong nfrabuild Pvt. Ltd. & Others) is developing a Residential Group Housing Colony over an area measuring 14.30 acres in the revenue estate of Village Harsaru & Hayatpur, Sector-89A, Gurugram, Haryana, in accordance with the provision of License no. 41 of 2013 dated 06.06.2013 granted by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh.

And whereas, several individuals have made bookings / entered into purchase agreement for allotment of property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees).

And whereas, the earlier approved building plans vide Memo no. ZP 929/AD(RA)/2014/24303 dated 17.10.2014 are now proposed to be revised. for which DTCP. Harvana has granted in-principle approval for the revision in building plans vide Memo no. ZP-929/JD(RA)/2025/980 dated 08.01.2025.

Accordingly, vide this Public Notice, objection/suggestion, if any are hereby invited from any of the allottees on the revised building plans. The earlier approved building plans & revised building plans (approved in principle) are available for perusal on our website www.vatikacollections.com and at our site office and in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector-14, Gurugram, Haryana.

In case of any objection on the revised building plans, the allottee may file his/her objection/suggestion in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector 14 Gurugram, Haryana and in the office of the undersigned at Unit no.-A-002, Ground Floor, Block A, Vatika INXT City Centre, Sector 83, Gurugram Haryana within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the

Place: Guruqram Date: 10,01.2025

For Vatika Seven Elements Pvt. Ltd

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED ManiBha

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)

Whereas the Authorized officer of **ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd.**, a (hereinafter referred to as "MBHF"). MBHF, which has duly been Authorised by the Central Government, vide a notification dated 17.06.2021, to be treated as a Financial Institution, for the purposes of the "The ring its registered office at:- 2nd Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi- 110049, und nterest Act, 2002 (54 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers confer Inder Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issue lemand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the otice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 on as per under mentioned Date.The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereb cautioned not to deal with the properly and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge or "MBHF" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sul.

ection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset. Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. SONI DEVI W/o- PRADEEP, 2. PRADEEP S/o JAYVEER, BOTH R/O- H.NO. 235, KACHAIDA, VARSARAD-4, MUNDA MOHALLA, P.S. BADALPUR, TEHSIL-DADRI, DIST GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR-203207, **ALSO AT**: H.NO. 235, KACHAIDA, VARSABAD-4, MUNDA MOHALLA, P.S.BADALPUR, TEHSILDADRI, DISTI GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR UITAR PRADESH-203207, **ALSO** MOMALER, F.S.BADALFUR, TENSILOZAR, JOSTI GALIAM BUDUPHA NAGAN GITHAR FRAUESH-203207, ALS AT: PLOT AREA 419 SQYD, VILLAGE-KACHERA VARSABAD, PARCANA TEHSIL DADRI, GAUTAM BUD NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-203207, SR NO. 2 ALSO AT: LOTUS VALLEY SCHOOL, NR, D-MART, 4 MURT GREATER NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH-203207

emand Notice Dated: 10.10.2024, Date of Possession: 07.01.2025

Details of Property : "All That The Piece of Parcel of Property, admeasuring 419 sq. yds, i.e. 350,92 sq. mtrs. Out of Khasra no. 488, situated at Village- Kachoda, warsabad, pargana 8 Tehsil Dadri, district gautam buddha nagar, uttar Pradesh. As Doc no. 2434, yol no. 26035 SR-DADRI), BOUNDED AS:- EAST: HOUSE OF RAJ SINGH, WEST: HOUSE OF JAY PAL

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. MANJU W/O-RAJESH KUMAR, 2. RAJESH KUMAR S/O-NEPAL SINGH, BOTH R/O - VILLAGE- BISHNOOLI, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-203207, ALSO AT: KHASRA NO. 377, VILLAGE-BISHNOUL, PARGANA & TEHSIL- DADRI, DISTRICT GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH- 203207, ALSO AT: CV-VILLAGE-BISHNOOLI, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, NR GOVT SCHOOL UTTAR PRADESH-203207, ALSO AT: KUNAL DUDH BANDHAR, VILLAGE BISCANLIN DO VITANDITU HOSCANTIA. 302307.

mand Notice Dated: 04.10.2024, Date of Possession: 06.01.2025

IISRAKH, NR YATHARTH HOSPITAL-203207

Details of Property: "ALL THAT THE PIECE OF PARCEL OF PLOT SITUATED AT VILLAGE BISHNOLI PARGANA TEHSIL DAORI DISTRICT GAUTUM BUOH NAGAR RAKBA ADMEASURING 344 SQ, YDS. I.E 287.61 SQ LOCATED KHASARA NO. 377. BOUNDED AS.- EAST: ROAD 9FT., WEST: HOUSE OF HARVEER, NORTH: HOUSE OF MUKHRAJ, SOUTH:HOUSE OF DESHRAJ"

Date: 10.01.2025. Place: Noida, U.P. Authorised Officer, ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. unity Centre Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Phone: 011-25611042, 25611043, 25611044

E-mail: legal@kangrabank.com, legal1@kangrabank.com Website: www.kangrabank.com APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at. C-29.Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its egistered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The ecuritisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 10-09-2024, calling upon the borrower Sh. Charanjeet Singh S/o. Late Sh. Parmeshwar Yadav R/o. D-10, Gali No.4, South Anarkali, Jagatpuri, Delhi-110051 also at Sh. Charanjeet Singh S/o. Late Sh. Parmeshwar Yadav C/o. M/s. Sai Impex, A-3, Ground Floor, Garg Complex, Guru Nanakpura, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092, and calling upon the ortgagor & surety Smt. Amanpreet Kaur W/o. Sh. Charanjeet Singh R/o. D-10, Gali No.4, South Anarkali, Jagatpuri, Delhi-110051, Smt. Amanpreet Kaur W/o. Sh. Charanjeet Singh, C/o. Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya, Kanti Nagar West, Delhi-110051, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.11,71,909- (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Seventy One Thousand Nine Hundred and Nine Only), together with further interest, penal interest and other

the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice. The above mentioned borrower, mortgagor & surety having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor, surety and the public in general that the Bank has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of The Security

charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the notice till

terest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 07thday of January' 2025. The borrower, mortgagor & surety in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", for an amount of Rs.11,71,909/- together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred

by the Bank in realizing the said amount. The borrower, mortgagor & surety attention is also been invited towards provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below nentioned mortgaged property/Secured Asset.

The property under consideration is a Built up Property, Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor with roof

rights, area measuring

30 Sq. Yds.

All that part and parcel of the ONE BUILT UP PROPERTY BEARING NO.D-10, AREA MEASURING 30 SQ. YDS. ALONGWITH ITS WHOLE OF THE STRUCTURE OF GROUND FLOOR, FIRST FLOOR, SECOND FLOOR WITH ROOF RIGHTS, WITH THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT UPTO LAST STOREY THEREON, OUT OF RECT.NO.17, KILLA NO.16/1, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE KHUREJI KHAS, ABADI OF SOUTH ANARKALI, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI-110051. Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar VIII, Delhi.

WHICH IS BOUNDED AS UNDER: EAST: REMAININF PORTION. WEST: PROPERTY OF OTHERS. NORTH: PROPERTY OF OTHERS. SOUTH: GALI.

(HARISH SHARMA) **AUTHORISED OFFICER** THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

PLACE : DELHI HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58, Phone No.9013568418,9013568419.

Date : 09 January 2025

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

BALWINDER SINGH & OTHERS

Kindly take Notice, in the above Main Suit filed for Declaration, Permanent Injunction and for Interim Reliefs, the Hon'ble Additional Sub Court at Chengalpattu, was pleased to Order to effect Paper Publication o 1st Respondent/1st Defendant in I.A.NO 3 OF 2024 for effecting Service and posted the above case on 27.01.2025, for your either personally or through Your Advocate at 10.30A.M. in the above mentioned Court without fail or else the matter will be heard

PH. 98402 03800

Jat Village, Delhi-110041

Kindly take Notice, in the above Mair fail or else the matter will be heard and

decided in your absence.

India has potential to increase organic products' exports to ₹20,000 Crore in 3 years: Goyal

India has the potential to increase exports of organic products up to Rs 20,000 crore in the next three years, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursdav.

He said this while releasing the eighth edition of National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) with new regulations aimed at enhancing clarity and transparency in organic product standards as well as aligning with global standards.

"Currently, our organic product exports are at Rs 5,000-6,000 crore. In the next three years, we can easily achieve Rs 20,000 crore exports, about 3-3.5 times increase from the current level," Goval said at an event organised in partnership with industry body Ficci

He said the global demand for these products is about Rs 1 lakh crore, which can grow up to Rs 10 lakh crore

in the coming years, a unique opportunity India should not miss. India already has one of the largest numbers of farmers in the world undertaking organic farming.



enhanced

He also asked startups to come out with solutions that help in growth of

The NPOP has undergone several revisions since its inception in May 2001. The eighth edition marks a significant update to the regulatory governing framework products in India, with the last revision occurring in 2014. Key features of the eighth edition of

include farmer-friendly regulations, streamlined certification, transparency

revamped traceability system. The eighth edition aims to bolster India's organic export sector, with an ambitious target of reaching USD 2 billion in organic food exports by

Ministers of State for Cooperation Krishan Pal Gurjar and Murlidhar

Mohol, Minister of State for Commerce Jitin Prasada and Cooperation Secretary Ashish Kumar Bhutani were also present at the

NPOP plays a crucial role in enhancing the credibility of organic products in both national and international markets. It ensures that agricultural products labelled as 'organic" meet stringent standards, thereby protecting consumer interests and promoting agricultural practices. sustainable

It is overseen by the Commerce Ministry, with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) managing its implementation.

TraceNet 2.0, an upgraded traceability platform of NPOP for seamless operations and enhanced tools for regulatory oversight, was also launched.

On the occasion, a dedicated NPOP portal was launched for more visibility and ease of Operations for Organic stakeholders. An upgraded redesigned APEDA portal as well as an agri exchange portal were also unveiled.

Govt to soon launch new credit guarantee scheme for MSME sector

 $F_{
m M}^{
m inancial}$ Services Secretary Nagaraju on Thursday said the government would soon launch a new credit guarantee scheme for the MSME sector covering loans up to Rs 100 crore.

'We are likely to come up with which a scheme, by Finance announced Minister in her last Budget, that could provide loans up to Rs 100 crore without guarantee, if they are already having the enterprise," he said at the concluding day of Grameen Bharat Mahotsav.

The scheme is expected to be placed before the Union Cabinet soon for its approval. 'For facilitating term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment without collateral or thirdparty guarantee, a credit guarantee scheme will be introduced. The scheme will operate on pooling of credit risks of such MSMEs. A separately constituted selffinancing guarantee fund will provide, to each applicant, guarantee cover up to Rs 100



The borrower will have to provide an upfront guarantee fee and an annual guarantee fee on the reducing loan balance, she had said.

2024-25...

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector employs 50 million people, he

MSMEs exports witnessed a remarkable rise, increasing from Rs 3.95 lakh crore in 2020-21 to Rs 12.39 lakh crore in 2024-25, underscoring their critical role in boosting India's economy and strengthening global trade. The MSME sector in India has consistently demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, significantly contributing to the nation's GDP over the years. The Gross Value Added (GVA) by MSMEs in India's GDP was 29.7 per cent in 2017-18, rising to 30.1 per cent in both 2022

To promote entrepreneurship in rural India, Nagaraju said, the government is very keen to lend more to rural areas through its various schemes. As the country surges ahead, he said, there is need to focus on four things, quality, linkages for exports, capacity building, and support to achieve the vision of Vikshit Bharat.

Inflows into mutual funds' equity schemes | Government to give ₹35,000 Crore increase 14 per cent in December

 $I_{\text{equity schemes increased by}}^{\text{nflows into mutual funds'}}$ over 14 per cent on-month to Rs 41,156 crore in December, even as market volatilities continued.

The small and midcap schemes of mutual funds continued to attract investor interest with inflows touching record highs during the month, despite the concerns being expressed about the two segments for the risk they portend, industry body Amfi said. systematic

Inflows into investment plans came at Rs crore, up from November's Rs 25,320 crore. The SIP assets under management stood at Rs 13.63 lakh crore, which is around a fifth of the overall.

The overall assets under management of mutual funds came at Rs 66.93 lakh crore as on December 31, 2024, which was down from Rs 68.08 lakh crore in the month-ago period.

chief Chalasani, executive of the Association of Mutual Funds of India (Amfi), attributed the decline to markto-market losses corrections as well as outflows of Rs 1.27 lakh crore in debt

out at the end of a quarter. Responding to a question on the continued interest in equity funds and what to expect in the Chalasani

schemes, which is in line with

previous experience of a pull

acknowledged that there are uncertainties which may

influence the market, like the change administration with Donald Trump as the President in January, but added that Indian investors continued to repose faith in the equity market.

Pointing to the continued interest in SIPs, Chalasani said these inflows illustrate the optimism of the investors in the Indian markets over a long

Asset management companies launched a total of 33 new fund offers during the month

through which over Rs 13,643 crore of money was mobilised, Amfi said, adding that this was higher than the 18 schemes that collected over Rs 4,000 crore in November.

"Culmination of NFOs, SIPs and lump sum purchase led to an increase in net sales numbers. Investor confidence on mutual funds are an efficient tool for investments continue to remain strong," Kotak Mahindra AMC's national head for sales, marketing and digital business Manish Mehta said.

Within the equity schemes, sectoral or thematic category attracted investors with the highest net inflow at Rs 15,331 crore, which is almost double of the Rs 7,658 crore in November.

The midcap category saw inflows of Rs 5,093 crore in December 2024, while the smallcap category saw inflows of Rs 4,667 crore, Amfi said, adding that these are record

LPG subsidy to IOC, BPCL, HPCL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is likely to The government is man, provide a subsidy of Rs 35,000 crore to state-owned Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) to make up for losses they incurred on selling the fuel this fiscal, sources said. The three fuel retailers have

kept the price of domestic LPG unchanged at Rs 803 per 14.2kg cylinder since March 2024 despite a rise in input raw material cost. This led to under-recoveries on LPG sales, and the resultant drastic fall in their earnings in the April-September (first half of current 2024-25 fiscal year).

The total under-recovery on LPG sales for the industry in the current fiscal is estimated at about Rs 40,500 crore. Against this, the government is likely to provide Rs 35,000



financial years, two sources with knowledge of the matter

likely to get Rs 10,000 crore during the current 2024-25 fiscal and the remaining Rs 25,000 crore in the next, they said, adding that provision of the subsidy is likely to be made in the Union Budget for 2025-26 that Finance Minister Sitharaman Nirmala present on February 1. Sources said there is an under-

240 per 14.2-kg cylinder that the state-owned fuel retailers sell to domestic households at IOC, BPCL and HPCL are the current price of Rs 803. Prices of domestic LPG are

> regulated by government to insulate domestic households from high market rates. Regulated prices are lower than the Saudi CP - the international benchmark used to price domestic LPG. This is domestic because production is not sufficient to meet the local demand and the

fuel has to be imported. This leads to under-recoveries and consequent losses to the fuel retailers. Government from time to time

compensates IOC, BPCL and HPCL for these losses. The three were previously paid Rs 22,000 crore compensation for 2021-22 and 2022-23 fiscal year. This was against Rs 28,249 crore of underrecovery.Of the Rs 40,500 crore under-recovery estimated for the current fiscal, IOC is likely to account for Rs 19.550 crore HPCL Rs 10,570 crore and BPCL Rs 10,400 crore, according to sources. Domestic LPG prices have

remained unchanged since March 9, 2024, when they were cut by Rs 100 per 14.2-kg cylinder just before general elections were announced. Sources said international LPG remained

moderately high in 2024, even during summers, leading to

Software migration caused error in gold import computation; issue largely rectified: Sources

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government's initiative I to migrate SEZ data from NSDL software to ICEGATE system for streamlined reporting of import data caused double counting of gold imports, resulting in inflated figures and the issue has now been largely rectified, government sources said.

The downward revision has provided the actual picture of trade deficit (difference between imports and exports), which was earlier looking very high. The deficit for November will now be revised downwards from USD 37.84 billion to about USD 32.8 billion. Similarly, there

will be a revision in overall import numbers as well.

On account of the correction, the commerce ministry has revised downwards the gold import data for November by USD 5 billion to USD 9.84 billion and for the first eight months of the current fiscal by USD 11.7 billion to USD 37.38 billion. The double counting occurred

as imports into the country and the clearances from SEZs (special economic zones) to domestic tariff area (DTA) were counted twice due to technical glitches.

The double counting which occurred on account of migration of NSMDL to ICEGATE has now being

largely rectified, but the migration is still underway, the sources said.

> "Correction and revision of data is part and parcel of framework of statistics world over. The data compilation is a complicated process as it involves collection of data from over 500 locations and over 2.5 lakh transactions take place every day," they said.

> They added that corrections and revisions of data is a standard practice and an integral part. 'Revision and corrections do

happens in data. This is a normal drill of statistics," they said.

Exports and imports take place mainly from two places



— airports and seaports. SEZ (special economic zones) numbers were earlier counted separately (on NSDL system) as these zones are treated as foreign entities in terms of provisions related to customs. In May last, it was decided to migrate from NSDL to ICEGATE.

India's trade data compilation process starts with exporters

and importers filing Shipping Bills (for exports) and Bills of Entry (for imports) through Electronic Interchange (EDI) system at Customs. All the data comes to the server of ICEGATE.

The Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE) is the national portal of Indian Customs of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) that provides e-filing services to trade, cargo carriers and other trading partners electronically.

Customs officials verify these documents for compliance assign a unique transaction number upon clearance. The verified data is then transmitted to the DGCIS in real-time. DGCIS validates the data to correct errors and aggregates it by commodity, trade

partner, port, and mode of

The data is standardised into a consistent format, with trade values converted to USD for global comparability

transport.

The Kolkata-based DGCIS prepares a preliminary monthly trade report, which is reviewed and shared with government departments. After further validation, the final data is published in reports such as Monthly Trade Statistics, Annual Reports, and Country-wise Trade Data. This data is disseminated

DGCIS through releases, government websites, and the Export-Import Databank, and is also shared with global agencies like (World Organisation) and IMF Monetary (International Fund)

Trade data is periodically revised to incorporate updates from Customs. Key agencies involved in this process DGCIS, include (Customs), the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

This comprehensive process ensures accurate and reliable trade data for policymaking and analysis.

TCS Q3 net profit rises 11.95 per cent to ₹12,380 Crore, employee base dips

PTI MUMBAI

ndia's largest IT services **★**company TCS on Thursday reported an 11.95 per cent jump in net profit at Rs 12,380 crore in the December quarter while the overall workforce reduced by over 5,000 employees

The Tata Group company had reported a net profit of Rs 11,058 crore in the year-ago period, and Rs 11,909 crore in the preceding September quarter.

The company's revenue grew 5.6 per cent to Rs 63,973 crore as against Rs 60,583 crore a vear earlier. However, it was down from Rs 64,259 crore in the September

quarter. New order bookings came at USD 10.2 billion in what is termed as a seasonally challenging quarter due to the holiday season.

Executive Krithivasan said the new orders were across industries,



geographies and service lines. which lends a "good visibility to long-term growth".

He said the banking, financial services and insurance, along with consumer businesses are returning to growth and there are early signs of a revival in discretionary spend in some

verticals. These two trends, along with continuing strong growth in regional markets makes the company confident for the future, he added.

The operating profit margin came at 24.5 per cent as against 24.1 per cent in the quarter-ago period, but still lower than the aspirational



The overall workforce reduced by over 5,000 employees during the three months under review, and the overall base stood at 6.07 lakh as of December this year. The IT services attrition stood at 13 per cent.

Chief Human Resources Officer Milind Lakkad said campus hirings are going according to plan and the company is preparing to onboard a higher number of campus hires next year.

The company announced a dividend of Rs 76 per share, including a special dividend of Rs 66 per

TCS also announced the acquisition of land bank in Bengaluru from a Tata Group company for Rs 1,625 crore. The TCS scrip closed 1.72 per cent down at Rs 4,036.65 apiece on the BSE on Thursday, as against a 0.68 per cent correction on the benchmark.

Rupee recovers from record low to settle four paise higher at 85.87 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered slightly I from its record low and settled with a gain of 4 paise at 85.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday amid firm American currency and elevated level of crude oil prices.

According to forex analysts, relentless selling in domestic equities and outflow of foreign capital kept the local unit under pressure, while dollar strengthened on improved macroeconomic prospects in the US.

to trade restrictions ahead of change in administration under President Donald Trump continued to fuel dollar demand, while concerns over Federal Reserve's move to delay interest cut kept the

They said, uncertainties related

country's benchmark treasury vields elevated. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at its historic low level of 85.94 and touched an intra-day peak



of 85.84 before ending the session at 85.87 (provisional) against the greenback, 4 paise higher from its previous close. On Wednesday, the rupee plunged 17 paise to settle at its all-time low closing level of 85.91 against the dollar.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the surge in US bond yields and FII outflows pressured the rupee. The US macroeconomic data was mixed, with weekly unemployment favouring the greenback while

non-farm employment data was disappointing. "We expect rupee to trade with a negative bias on weak

domestic markets, strong dollar and rising US treasury yields. Elevated crude oil prices and FII outflows also put downside pressure on the domestic currency. However, any RBI intervention may support rupee at lower levels. Investors may watch out for non-farm payrolls report. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 85.75 to Rs 86.10," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.05 per cent higher at 108.98. The 10-year US bond yields also remained elevated at 4.67 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.03 per cent to USD 76.14 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex declined sharply by 528.28 points, or 0.68 per cent, to settle at 77,620.21 points, while the Nifty dropped 162.45 points, or 0.69 per cent, to 23,526.50 points.

INBRIEF

POWERGRID SIGNS MASTER AGREEMENT EPRI, USA FOR STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' Public Sector Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has taken a significant towards step collaborative technical research by signing a 'Master Agreement' with independent, non-profit energy research and development organization EPRI, USA.



BIMA SAKHI CROSSES 50,000 MARK

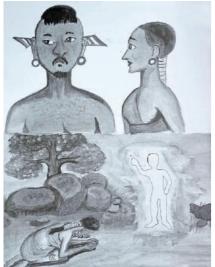
Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched LIC's BIMA SAKHI Yojana at Panipat, on December 9, 2024. Bima Sakhi Yojana is a step towards Viksit Bharat through women empowerment which will provide social security to the families. LIC of India is proud to be a partner in Viksit Bharat by including women as partners in the nation's progress by providing them with opportunity of becoming BIMA SAKHI and self-reliant.

UNITING HEARTS, BRIDGING CULTURES: THE LEGACY OF SYCORIAAN MATRIMONIAL SERVICES

LUCKNOW: Sycoriaan Matrimonial Services is proud to celebrate 28 years of excellence in matchmaking, connecting people across cultures and continents to create lasting relationships. With a focus on personalised services, Sycoriaan has become a trusted name in the matrimonial industry, blending tradition and modern technology to foster meaningful connections

the pioneer

A GLIMPSE INTO WANCHO CULTURE JANUARY READS







yth, Memory & Folktale of tendency to view nature as a resource to be the Wancho Tribe of exploited, making it especially relevant in Arunachal Pradesh by Tara today's environmentally conscious world. Douglas and Jatwang
Wangsa is a remarkable The authors also offer a historical perspective that highlights the tribe's warrior culture, especially the practice of headhunting and its role in the tribe's work that provides readers with a rich and insightful exploration of the Wancho tribe, a prominent indigenous community from the defense against external threats. One of the hilly regions of Arunachal Pradesh, India. most compelling historical accounts in the book is the detailed retelling of the Nyinu This book serves as a vital document of the tribe's deep-rooted cultural heritage, values massacre of 1875, where the Wanchos and social dynamics. The authors combine ambushed British surveyors and killed 80 of thorough research with a nuanced them. The authors provide a balanced view narrative, bringing to life the tribe's of the event, contextualising it within the traditions, worldview and their historical tribe's broader resistance to colonial forces. context in a way that resonates with readers Rather than painting the tribe as "savage" or 'violent," the book reframes the incident as A standout feature of the book is the an act of self-defense and an effort to authors' deep dive into the animistic belief protect their land and way of life. This system of the Wancho tribe. The book nuanced portrayal is an important illustrates how the Wanchos view nature not contribution, as it challenges reductive and

> in history. In addition to the grand myths and historical narratives, the book also provides intimate stories that offer a glimpse into the everyday lives of the Wancho people. These personal tales of love, sacrifice and family serve to humanise the tribe, making their culture more relatable and accessible. For instance, the stories of tribal elders, who hold deep connections to the land and community, underscore the importance of kinship and collective memory within the

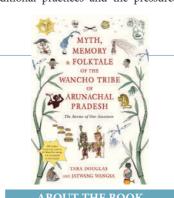
one-sided portrayals of indigenous people



Myth, Memory & Folktale of the Wancho Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh explores the cultural heritage, myths and challenges of the Wancho community, says SAKSHI PRIYA

Wancho society. These stories are not only culturally enriching but emotionally engaging, as they capture universal themes that resonate with readers on a personal

Moreover, the book does not shy away from addressing the challenges the Wancho tribe faces in the modern world. One of the more poignant aspects of the book is its examination of the tensions between traditional practices and the pressures of



ABOUT THE BOOK Wancho Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh by **Tara Douglas and Jatwang** Douglas

Publisher: Niyogi Books **Price**: ₹599

modernisation. As younger generations drift away from their ancestral ways, the tribe's rich oral traditions and cultural practices are at risk of being lost. The authors acknowledge this tension and highlight efforts within the community to preserve its heritage. This theme of cultural preservation is one of the book's most powerful messages, as it calls attention to the fragility of indigenous cultures in the face of rapid societal changes. The book emphasises the importance of safeguarding these cultural traditions, which offer valuable lessons for the contemporary

A key strength of the book is how it bridges the gap between academic research and cultural preservation. The authors not only provide anthropological study but also offer a platform for the voices of the *Wancho* people themselves. The book does not present the tribe through the lens of an outsider, but rather allows the Wanchos to tell their own stories in their own words. This respectful and inclusive approach ensures that the cultural heritage of the Wancho tribe is portrayed authentically, ving readers an opportunity to engage directly with the community's worldview. This is a refreshing departure from many studies that tend to objectify indigenous communities as subjects to be studied rather than active participants in their own representation.





In terms of writing style, the authors strike a delicate balance between scholarly rigor and engaging storytelling. The book is accessible and enjoyable to read, making it suitable for both academic audiences and casual readers with an interest in indigenous cultures. The authors work the myths, histories and personal stories together in a way that is both informative and captivating, ensuring that readers stay engaged while gaining valuable insights into the Wancho culture. Myth, Memory & Folktale of the Wancho Tribe stands as a comprehensive and insightful portrayal of the Wancho people, their beliefs, traditions and struggles. Through meticulous research and a compassionate understanding of the tribe's way of life, Tara Douglas and Jetwang Wangsa have created a significant contribution to the documentation of indigenous cultures in India.

The book provides not only a deeper understanding of the Wanchos but also a broader perspective on the importance of preserving cultural diversity in a rapidly changing world. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in anthropology, folklore, indigenous studies or the preservation of cultural heritage. It is a valuable resource that offers both academic insight and emotional resonance, making it an important read for those who seek to understand the depth and richness of indigenous Cultures.

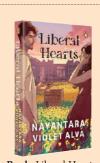




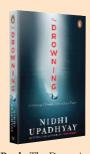
Book: Muffin: A Love Story Author: Rahul Sharma Publisher: OM International Books **Price: ₹**295



Book: Ex Object: The art of Holding on, Letting go Publisher: OM International Books **Price: ₹**695



Book: Liberal Hearts Author: Nayantara Violet Alva Publisher: Ebury Press



Book: The Drowning **Author:** Nidhi Upadhyay Publisher: Ebury Press **Price:** ₹299



Book: Maupassant and a Cigar **Author:** By Tho Mu Ragunathan Publisher: Niyogi Books Price: ₹620

LOVE, LOSS AND PSYCHE

BY TEAM VIVA

from various backgrounds.

simply as a physical environment, but as an

interconnected and spiritual entity. In the

tribe's worldview, animals, plants and

natural features like rivers and mountains

possess spirits that are integral to the tribe's

existence. This perspective is explored

through a variety of captivating myths, such

as the story of Ganghan, the sun and his

younger brother Katgong. These stories

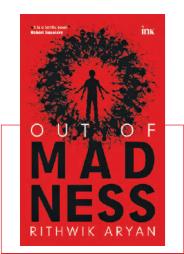
embody the tribe's philosophy of balance

between humans and nature. The authors

succeed in conveying the depth of this

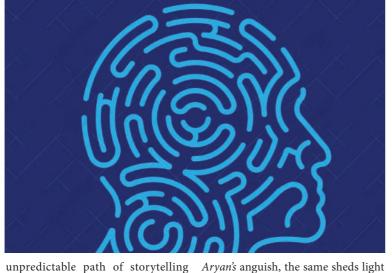
belief, which challenges the modern

ithwik Aryan's Out of Madness is a riveting debut that masterfully intertwines themes of mental health, love, loss and the fragility of human sanity. It is a novel born from an extraordinary journey of self-discovery, research and lived experience, offering readers an unfiltered glimpse into the into the complexities of the human psyche. Aryan's path to writing Out of Madness is as unconventional as the book itself. A dropout from Harvard Extension School, Aryan chose the



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Out of Madness by Rithwik Aryan Publisher: Occam (an imprint of **Price**: ₹499



unpredictable path of storytelling over academia, immersing himself for over a year in the raw and unsettling environment of India's most notorious mental asylums. This decision infuses the novel with an authenticity that is rare and striking. The narrative follows Mason Moron, a psychology professor at Nalanda University who stages his death after discovering his wife's infidelity. He and Bahubali, an eccentric politician who is bent on shooting a cult adult film, get sucked into the tornado of insanity that compels their trip to a mental hospital, alongside a man blighted by normalisation, Mr. Staci, who is also trying to face her inner

demons. Critiques of Aryan are equally accompanied by Aryan's own ability to navigate through and critique on how men are coerced into hiding feelings. Using Aryan masculinity and its portrayal through character of Mason and Barbrugio, Aryan contemplates on how masculinity comes with grief and vulnerability, wherein, Aryan poses those males do not have to stoically conform to societal gender norms. Aryan in a more sensitive manner showcases the effect of societal pressures and expectations in suppressing feelings in men.

What can be termed as one of Aryan's strongest suit shines in this very novel, the other novels that Aryan has penned encapsulate emotion through extremely fact-based and observational lens. Aryan unlike many others who idealistically view and comment on other's pain, stayed in a mental asylum while conducting empirical research, the combination of these two polarising views helped him stably sit in the middle.

Aryan's characters are multifaceted, each grappling with their own struggles. *Mason's* existential crisis, *Bahubali's* delusional ambition and Staci's haunting past create a web of intersecting narratives that challenge readers to reflect on the nature of obsession, love, and redemption.

The book's philosophical undertones deepen its impact, as Aryan delves into profound questions about freedom, identity and the human condition. The interplay of grief and desire, sanity and insanity, creates a narrative that is as thought-provoking as it is emotionally charged.

The novel is not without its quirks. Its wild plot twists, dark humor and sometimes surreal narrative might alienate readers seeking a more conventional storyline. However, these elements make Out of Madness stand out as a fearless work that refuses to

Out of Madness is a bold debut that challenges societal norms and delves deep into the human psyche. Aryan's unflinching honesty, coupled with his evocative prose, makes this a mustread for those interested in mental health, emotional complexity, and the chaos of human existence.

Rithwik Aryan has crafted a tale that is as much a reflection of his own journey as it is a story of his characters. With its raw emotion, intricate storytelling, and philosophical depth, Out of Madness cements Aryan's place as a writer to watch.

The Essence of Indian Life

ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Mad(E) In India

by Tarika Roy and Soumya Gupta

Publisher: Om Publishers

Price: ₹499

BY GYANESHWAR DAYAL

ad(e) In India penetrates the rich and amusing psyche of Indianness and Indian people. More than the politics of the nation, it presents the very essence of a nation - its people, its peculiarities, its various cultures and religions, and even the multitude of caste systems, languages, everyday life and the unique approaches to

bigger multitude of Gods and Goddesses worshiped. It provides a vivid illustration of the chaotic nature of the Indian metropolitan areas, the obsession inherited by its people with movie stars and their characteristics, and the Indian concept of optimisticallywhatever it takes to solve or fix a problem, termed

superstitions, and an even

'jugaad'. Ít also underlines Indian culinary art, the diversity of the cultural and traditional practices of society, and the various forms of art present in the nation, showcasing how the integration of such diversity unifies the country, even in terms of conflicted domains. Out of a combination of

satirical humour, perceptive and nuanced an interesting read even for those who merely observations, and a repository of Indian expressions, the authors have come up with an engaging and illuminating account of the intricate web that is India. This, in turn, makes the book very interesting and highly recommended for someone who wants to discover the informatic and spiritual side of

Mad(e) In India humorously and cleverly depicts what it is to be Indian and how it is to live in this country. The authors of the book discuss Indian life and its various aspects, such as the panoply of languages spoken, the

solving problems, also known as jugaad, as per Indian traditions.

The book takes note of the idiosyncratic lifestyles of people living in different metropolises of the nation, their compulsive fandom for movie stars, and the motley of food, customs, and ethnic handicrafts within the country. The authors demonstrate how one thread generalises the millions of complexities that exist in the Indian fabric - the ability of India to hold within itself so many differences. One can sense that the

authors are writing in a conversational humorous way, which in many places comes laced with Indian expressions, making Mad(e) In India

seek entertainment. In case you have ever wondered how the Hindi film industry has always had a glamorised image of this country, Mad(e) In India is fun and informative, providing a comprehensive look at how such misconceptions arise and helping to clear them.

Tottenham beats Liverpool 1-0 in English League Cup semifinals

PTI ■ LONDON

ucas Bergvall's first goal for Tottenham secured a 1-0 win over Liverpool in the Wednesday in a first-leg match notable for a seriouslooking injury to Rodrigo Bentancur and the first instadium announcement by a referee in the English game. The 18-year-old Bergvall slotted home the winner in the 86th minute following a pass from Dominic Solanke, who thought 10 minutes earlier that he had given Tottenham the lead. That goal was ruled out after a VAR check for offside and referee Stuart Attwell communicated the decision via a wireless microphone to spectators inside Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and to TV

In the sixth minute, Bentancur — the Uruguay midfielder who plays for Tottenham — fell to the ground and lay prone after landing awkwardly when

attempting a header from a corner. He was carried off on a stretcher, to applause from around the ground, after around the ground, after receiving treatment during a 10-minute delay and Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou confirmed after the game that Bentancur was "conscious" and talking. The second leg is at Anfield on Feb 6

on Feb. 6. Newcastle leads Arsenal 2-0 after the first leg of the other

semifinal match.
Liverpool, the defending
League Cup champion, saw
its 24-match unbeaten run in

all competitions come to an end and there was a hint of controversy about only the team's second loss of the season.
Visiting players and manager

Arne Slot were unhappy that Bergvall was on the field to score what proved to be the winning goal after he escaped collecting a second yellow card for a foul on Kostas Tsimikas moments earlier. Indeed, Tsimikas was off the field, waiting to come



back on having received treatment following Bergvall's tackle, when the Sweden midfielder tucked home his finish.

Slot earned a yellow card himself for his protests, though he shook Attwell's hand after the final whistle. 'The decision he made had a

lot of impact on the result tonight," Slot said.

Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk said it was "quite obvious" that Bergvall deserved a second yellow

"And a minute later he scores the winner," Van Dijk said. "He (Attwell) made a mistake, in my opinion. And I told him that.'

It was a busy end to the match for Attwell, who took center stage after there was a video review following Solanke's strike in the 76th minute. After being notified that Solanke was offside, Attwell used the public address system to declare the goal had been ruled out, in an NFL-style announcement.

The League Cup semifinals were chosen to pilot a process in England that has been widely used in other sports, and in soccer at the Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand in 2023 and other FIFA events.

Kinsky's dream debut

Three days after signing from Sparta Prague, Antonín Kinský – a 21-year-old goalkeeper from the Czech Republic — was handed his debut by Tottenham and he kept a clean sheet after producing a string of great saves, notably from Liverpool substitute Darwin Nunez.

His parents and sister were in the crowd to watch him play his first match in English soccer and he was emotional after the game. "I have never dreamed this," Kinský said.

Tottenham signed the highly rated Kinský with firstchoice goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario currently



Aiming for hat-trick of SA20 titles: Markram

Sunrisers Eastern Cape Skipper Aiden Markram says his side is pumped up to make it a hat-trick of titles at the SA20 as it faces MI Cape Town in its opening game. Markram's team has won both

editions competition so far. The tournament begins days after South Africa blanked Pakistan in a Test series at

"Definitely still really pumped to try and get a third one this year. Obviously, (there are) no guarantees and it's a hugely competitive tournament, so hopefully in a month's time something cool can happen," Day Captains'

conference here. Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis said his side Joburg Super Kings haven't got the ideal weather to finalise its preparations as it has rained for the last few days in Johannesburg, but his players are surely up for a

fight.
"From my side, the weather has been a bit of a downer down in Joburg, it's been pretty wet. But from a squad perspective, some great signings in Joburg too, and you know the likes of Jonny Bairstow, Devon Conway, (Matheesha) Pathirana," du Plessis said.

"Those three guys and

(Tabraiz) Shamsi, obviously, have a lot of experience that comes with them. So, all in all our squad are looking very balanced. Two injuries, that wasn't ideal for our pace attack for Nandre Burger and Lizaad Williams. But we still feel we have enough options to put out a well balanced team," he added.

MI Cape Town's Rashid Khan said his side was determined to put a better show in the third edition.

"I think from the first year we had some really close games and it just didn't go our way. We had some great cricket last year as well, some wonderful cricket," he said.

"But it was just more about way. In the fresh year, we'll go with a fresh mind. We have some new faces in the team. We're looking forward to the new challenges and hopefully this year it won't be the same in the last few years."

Paarl Royals' captain David said competitiveness in the league has benefitted South African cricket to a major extent.

"It's been two special years for but also for the competition itself. playing with the competitive juices that we have, all the games are really fun to be a part of, as well as having incredible overseas players, all the coaches are around," he

I think he will be the next captain: Gavaskar on Jasprit Bumrah

The legendary Sunil Gavaskar is in awe of Jasprit Bumrah's leadership qualities and reckons the peerless fast bowler will succeed Rohit Sharma as the next captain of the Indian team following his extraordinary display in the Border-Gavaskar

Bumrah recently produced one of the best-ever bowling performances by an overseas pacer in Australia and picked 32 wickets over five Tests.

He was also captain during India's only victory in the series, helping the visitors to a convincing win at the Optus Stadium in Perth in the opener. "He could be the next man. I think he will be the next man. Because he leads from the front, he has got a very good air about him, the air of a leader but not somebody who is going to pressure on you," Gavaskar



aired his views on Channel 7. The batting great added, "Sometimes, you have captains who put a lot of pressure on you. With Bumrah you can see that, he expects the others to do what their job is, why they are in the national team, but it doesn't seem to pressurise anybody.

Bumrah spearheading the Indian pace attack for some years now and his guidance has helped the likes of Mohammed Siraj to grow as a fast bowler.

With the fast bowlers, he has been absolutely brilliant, standing at mid-off, mid-on and every time just being at hand to tell them. I think he was absolutely brilliant and I won't be surprised if he takes over very soon.

Bumrah took his wickets at an incredible average of 13.06 and an even better strike rate of 28.37 before pulling up injured midway through Australia's first innings at the SCG in the

In Bumrah's absence, the home team chased down 162 on the third day to win the series 3-1. The lead pacer was handed the captaincy in the final Test after the out-of-form Rohit Sharma "entd. each of the series and the series are the series and the series are the series and the series are th "opted out" but a back spasm prevented Bumrah from bowling on the crucial third

Bumrah destroyed Australia in Perth with eight wickets, grabbed six wickets in the first innings at the Gabba, and nearly turned the Boxing Day Test on its head with his exploits on the fourth afternoon at MCG.

In the series decider at SCG, Bumrah sent back Usman Marnus Khawaja and Labuschagne Australia's first innings but could only bowl one over after lunch on the second day when



McSweeney returns to Australia squad for Sri Lanka tour

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Nathan McSweeney was recalled to Australia's test squad on Thursday to tour Sri Lanka, less than three weeks after being dropped from the top order.

Australia's selectors announced their squad Thursday for the two-tes \bar{t} tour, with several fresh faces added to the group that played India in Sydney last played India in Sydney last week. Australia won the five test series 3-1 a nd clinched a spot in the World Test Championship against South Africa at Lord's in June. Steve Smith will lead the squad

to Sri Lanka while regular skipper Pat Cummins is on leave as his wife awaits the birth of the couple's second child. Australia's selectors

concentrated on spin for the two Sri Lanka tests, with uncapped 21-year-old Cooper Connolly among the seven full or part-time slow bowling options in the 16-man squad. left-arm Connolly, allrounder, has represented

Australia in limited-overs cricket and has been called up for his maiden test campaign along with specialist spinners Todd Murphy and Matthew Kuhnemann. McSweeney scored 72 runs at

an average of 14.4 in his first three tests against India, before being replaced by Sam Konstas for the Melbourne Cricket Ground test starting Dec. 26.

has batted at No. 3 for South Australia state this season averaging 97 — but has previously batted further down the order. Cricket Australia also said

The 25-year-old McSweeney

Cummins was "focusing on an ankle issue which was managed through the test summer" and fellow paceman Hazlewood continuing his recovery from a calf injury. Mitchell Marsh was omitted for the tour, joining Hazlewood in focusing on the 50-overs Champion's Trophy in Pakistan which immediately follows the test tour.

The first test begins Jan. 29 and the second Feb. 6, both at spinfriendly Galle International international is scheduled for Feb. 13, also at Galle.

"Sri Lanka is a challenging and exciting place to tour given the different conditions players may be presented with," selector George Bailey said. "This squad provides several ways to structure the XI depending on what type of wickets we may encounter in each match."

Australia squad: Steve Smith (captain), Sean Abbott, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cooper Connolly, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Sam Konstas, Matt Kuhnemann, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Nathan McSweeney, Todd Murphy, Mitchell Starc, Beau Webster.

Mandhana-led India eye dominant show in first-ever bilateral series against Ireland

 $R_{\text{performance against the West Indies,}}^{\text{iding high on a dominant}}$ India under Smriti Mandhana will look to carry forward their winning momentum when they take on Ireland in the first-ever women's bilateral series, with the opening ODI scheduled here on

India had swept the West Indies 3-0 in the ODI series, following a 2-1 triumph in the T20 series. Mandhana emerged as the top run-scorer across formats, scoring 148 runs in the ODI series, including two half-centuries, and 193 runs in the T20s, with three successive

Notably, she scored five consecutive halfcenturies, only missing out in the final ODI and Mandhana will look to bring the same form as she leads the team in the absence of regular captain Harmanpreet



Kaur, who has been rested alongside fast

bowler Renuka Singh. With Kaur and Renuka missing, the responsibility shifts to the rest of the batters, including Harleen Deol, Pratika Rawal, and Jemimah Rodrigues, to step

Deol was the top scorer in the ODI series with 160 runs, including a brilliant 115, while Rawal and Rodrigues also had solid

respectively, with a fifty each in the ODIs. In the bowling department, Renuka's absence will be felt as she was the leading wicket-taker with 10 wickets in the ODI series against the West Indies. The onus will now fall on newcomers

Titas Sadhu and Saima Thakor to make their mark. Sadhu, 20, who has three wickets in ODIs

and 13 wickets in T20Is, will be expected to provide early breakthroughs, having impressed with her pace and swing in domestic and recent international cricket. Saima, 28, will also look to continue her good form after taking seven wickets in eight ODIs so far. Vice-captain and off-spinner Deepti

Sharma will be crucial, especially after her career-best bowling performance of 6 for 31 in the third ODI against the West Indies. Priya Mishra and Tanuja Kanwar will play key roles in supporting Deepti.

Australian Open 2025: Cases involving Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek make doping a top topic

pretty abstract sometimes and hard to understand," Swiatek

PTI MELBOURNE

t is a topic that shadowed It is a topic that shall a tennis in 2024 and is still a talking point as the 2025 Grand Slam season opens at the Australian Open on Sunday (Saturday EST): doping and the cases involving Jannik Sinner which actually is still not fully resolved — and Iga Swiatek. Both spent much of last year

at No. 1, and Sinner still will hold that spot in the ATP rankings when he steps on court at Melbourne Park to begin the defense of his championship, one of two major trophies he won over the past 12 months.

Swiatek, a five-time Slam champ and the woman leading the WTA rankings most of the past three seasons, is currently No. 2 behind Aryna Sabalenka, who will be chasing her third consecutive title in Australia.

"Obviously, there are going to be some negative comments," Swiatek said. "You're not going to avoid that."

Most current players prefer to remain silent when asked about the cases. But there are those who have been happy to weigh in, including 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic, raising questions about whether Sinner and Swiatek were treated the same as other players facing similar circumstances and why their situations were kept under wraps for months.

"I sit and wonder, Why such a big difference in treatment and judgment?" was two-time major champion Simona Halep's reaction to Swiatek's punishment. "I can't find, and I don't think there can be, a logical answer."

Halep initially was banned for years after testing positive for the banned drug Roxadustat at the 2022 U.S. Open, then had that penalty reduced to nine months on appeal — although she already had been off the tour longer than that. She was supposed to compete at Melbourne Park for the first time in three years, but withdrew from qualifying because of knee and shoulder pain. No one has been louder about

the subject lately than Nick Kyrgios, the 2022 Wimbledon runner-up who missed nearly all of the past two seasons because of injuries. He has been commenting regularly, in real life and online, even taking a jab (that he said was in jest) at Cruz Hewitt after the 16-year-old son of Australian Davis Cup captain Lleyton posted a photo with



Sinner from a practice session. "It's been handled horrifically in our sport. Two world No. 1s, both getting done for doping, is disgusting for our sport," Kyrgios said at the Brisbane International, the first event of his comeback. "It's a horrible look."

Where do things stand with Jannik Sinner's positive drug

Sinner was the dominant player in men's tennis last year, and there's little reason to think that won't continue. In 2024, he went 73-6 with eight and a final determination is titles, including at the Ŭ.S. expected after the Australian

Open, and led Italy to the Davis Cup. He heads into the Australian Open on a 14match winning streak.

Hanging over it all is this: Two positive tests for a trace amount of an anabolic steroid in March were made public in August; the International Integrity Agency determined he shouldn't be suspended because the exposure to Clostebol was considered accidental — the result of a massage from a trainer who used the substance after cutting his own finger.

The World Anti-Doping Agency was not entirely convinced about exoneration and thinks a ban of one to two years would be appropriate. Its appeal, lodged in September, is still pending,

Open ends. "It's in (my) head a little bit," Sinner said, adding that he is confident everything will go

What happened with Iga Swiatek's failed doping test? Swiatek accepted a one-month suspension in late November after testing positive for a banned heart medication known as TMZ. She failed an out-of-competition test in August, and the ITIA accepted her explanation that it was caused by the contamination nonprescription medication, melatonin, that Swiatek was taking for jet lag

and sleeping issues. She missed three tournaments - although the real reason wasn't revealed at the time and finished serving her punishment after the season

was done. "This whole process was

said, surely speaking for many observers.

Which is why, perhaps, Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis said what he did after his team lost to Sinner's Italy in the Davis Cup finals. "Jannik, in my personal opinion, is an unbelievably

nice guy (and) great player," Haarhuis said, "but we (might) never know what happened."

Are there other noteworthy cases in tennis? While Sinner and Swiatek will

compete in Melbourne, another player involved in a recent ITIA case won't: Max Purcell, who won men's doubles titles at the U.S. Open in September and Wimbledon in 2022 and was a two-time runner-up at the Australian

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