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WORLD 9
THOUSANDS CROWD NEW
ZEALAND'S PARLIAMENT GROUNDS
IN SUPPORT OF MAORI RIGHTS

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रोटी बेटी माटी की पुकार

झारखंड में भाजपा सरकार



कमल का बटन दबाएं
भाजपा को जिताएं

भारतीय जनता पार्टी, झारखंड प्रदेश

Vote counting exercise: Food items, mobile phones banned in hall

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

With the counting of votes for the upcoming elections approaching, the district administration has initiated extensive preparations to ensure a seamless process. As part of these efforts, training sessions for postal ballot and EVM vote counting staff were conducted in two shifts at Michael John Auditorium, Bistupur, under the supervision of District Election Officer Ananya Mittal.

The training aimed to familiarize personnel with the technicalities and sensitivities of the counting process while ensuring they perform their duties with accuracy and efficiency.

The first session, held from 10 AM to 1 PM, focused on the procedures for counting postal ballots. The second session, conducted from 2 PM to 5 PM, provided detailed instructions on EVM vote counting. The sessions were led by district-level master trainers who emphasized the importance of precision in every step of the process.

Addressing the trainees, ITDA Project Director Dipankar Chaudhary underscored the critical role of counting personnel in main-



taining the integrity of the election process. "Counting of votes is not just a procedural task but a responsibility that demands attention to detail and complete dedication. Ensure you clear all doubts during training and carry out your duties with utmost diligence," he stated.

Personnel were trained on the various forms, formats, and reports they will need to handle on the day of counting. They were also briefed on their specific roles and responsibilities. The following key instructions were emphasized: All counting staff must report to the Cooperative College Counting

Hall at 5 AM on the day of counting. Carrying food items, mobile phones, or any unauthorized objects into the counting hall will be strictly prohibited. Staff must adhere to the protocols and guidelines outlined during the training. The training sessions provided an interactive platform where the master trainers addressed the doubts and concerns of the staff. Practical demonstrations and detailed explanations helped clarify procedures, ensuring that personnel were fully equipped to handle their responsibilities.

With the training sessions completed, the district

administration has taken a significant step toward ensuring a transparent and error-free counting process. The detailed planning and meticulous execution reflect the administration's commitment to upholding the sanctity of the democratic process. "The preparations for vote counting are now in full swing, with counting personnel equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to carry out their duties effectively. The success of these efforts will play a crucial role in determining the smooth conclusion of the electoral process," said an official.

BSL sets up Model Polling Booths for polling today

R SHARMA : BOKARO

Bokaro Steel Limited Township is all set to celebrate democracy as a grand festival by participating in today's elections. Reflecting its commitment to ensuring a seamless and enthusiastic voting experience, the township has established a Model Polling Booth at its premises, symbolizing order, inclusivity, and readiness for the electoral process. Notably DIC BSL B.K Tiwari has consistently appealed to actively participate in the elections, underscoring the importance of every vote in strengthening democracy. Situated in a well-organized and illuminated setting, the model polling booth is equipped with modern facilities to accommodate voters comfortably. The entrance proudly displays the message "Adarsh Matdan Kendra" (Model Polling



Booth), welcoming voters with motivational slogans that encourage active participation in the democratic

left behind in this democratic exercise.

Bokaro Steel Limited, a symbol of industrial excellence, has seamlessly integrated its civic responsibilities into its ethos by promoting the importance of voting. Through its meticulous planning and model booth preparation, the township not only aims to facilitate smooth voting but also inspires surrounding regions to replicate such practices for enhanced participation. COC BSL M.K Dhan said today's elections mark a critical moment for the state, and the BSL township's efforts in showcasing an exemplary polling setup reiterate its role as a responsible stakeholder in nation-building. With facilities ready and enthusiasm palpable, Bokaro Steel Township is all set to join the nation in strengthening the roots of democracy today.

Hussainabad police recover 2 illicit arms, 3 held

PNS : DALTOGANJ

Hussainabad police in Palamu have seized 2 desi kattas along with 2 rounds of fire. A stolen bike was also recovered.

Giving this information the officer in charge of the Hussainabad police station Sanjay Yadav said "These two kattas and the two live rounds, one each, were in the possession of Manish Kumar Yadav, 20 and Indrajeet Kumar, 25."

One Chandan Kumar Paswan, 20, had sold these illicit arms and ammunition to Manish and Indrajeet for worth rupees 16,000 rupees together.

Police officer Yadav said "Chandan had procured these illicit arms and ammunition from another person under the Pandu police station."

Manish and Indrajeet just bought it which is itself an offence under the Arms act added police officer Yadav.

Indrajeet hails from Haidernagar police station while Manish and Chandan come from Hussainabad police station.

Police officer Yadav said the trio Chandan, Manish and Indrajeet were on the Imliya Bandh bridge on November 18.

Police were tipped off about their having some deal for the illicit arms.

Hussainabad police team led by the officer in charge Sanjay Yadav rushed to the location where the three seeing police tried to escape who were overpowered.

The three were arrested under sections of the Arms act and Bhartiya Nayaya Sanhita.

The trio were remanded to judicial custody today in DaltoGANj.



Bokaro Steel Plant conducts intensive cleanliness drive



PNS : BOKARO

As part of the Government of India's Swachhata Hi Seva 2024 Special Campaign 4.0, Bokaro Steel Plant and the Jharkhand Group of Mines successfully carried out an extensive cleanliness drive. During this campaign, over 60,000 square feet of space was cleared by disposing of recyclable metal and non-metal scrap. Additionally, over 2,000 physical files and nearly 2,000 e-files were reviewed as part of record management, with 950 physical files and 1,900 e-files

disposed of. The plant and township also organized 12 comprehensive cleanliness drives, ensuring a cleaner and more organized workplace. Several departments streamlined operations by reducing redundant regulations, contributing to process simplification.

The campaign extended beyond the plant premises, reaching 18 villages near the Gua Iron Ore Mines, where awareness drives were conducted in schools to educate students about the importance of cleanliness. Headmasters were provided

with cleanliness kits containing dustbins, buckets, brooms, cleaning materials, hand towels, soap, and other essential items.

This initiative underlines Bokaro Steel Plant's commitment to promoting cleanliness, sustainability, and operational efficiency, aligning with the goals of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The collective efforts of employees and community participation highlight the importance of maintaining hygiene and sustainability in workplaces and surrounding areas.

119th Foundation Day of Canara Bank celebrated

PNS : HAZARIBAG

Canara Bank's 119th Foundation Day was celebrated in Barkagaon Canara Bank branch located on Hazaribag Road. It was presided over by Manager Shashi Kumar Bage. During this, the Foundation Day was celebrated by paying floral tribute to the photo of Canara Bank's founder late Amable Subba Rao Pai. On the occasion, Barkagaon Branch Manager Shashi Kumar Bage said that Canara Bank has always lived up to the trust of its customers, many types of loans are available to customers through Canara Bank. Customers can avail the benefits by opening an account in Canara Bank in Barkagaon. On the occasion of Foundation Day, Canara Bank Barkagaon Branch Manager Shashi Kumar Bage, Nikki Sharma, Sameer Kumar Choudhary, Mritunjay Kumar, Mukhiya Sangh President Ranjeet Kumar, Shamsan Ghat Service Committee President Dinesh Sinha, Panchayat Committee members Malti Kumari, Pooja Kumari, Meawal Nag, Sahesh Kumar, Saroj Mehta, Mahesh Pathak, Ganesh Prasad, Binu Kumar and dozens of others were present.



Memorial lecture organised at XISS

PNS : RANCHI

Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS), Ranchi, hosted the Second Dr Kumar Suresh Singh Memorial Lecture on Tuesday at the Fr Michael Van den Bogaert SJ Memorial Auditorium, marking the 91st birth anniversary of Dr KS Singh. The event, organized by the Dr Kumar Suresh Singh Tribal Resource Centre, featured Prof Nandini Sundar from Delhi School of Economics, as the memorial lecture speaker. Chief Guest, Fr Ajit Xess, Chairman, XISS Governing Body, along with Director, Assistant Director, Dean Academics, Alumni Association of XISS Members, along with friends, and colleagues attended the memorial lecture to honor his legacy.

The Chief Guest welcomed everyone and congratulated XISS for organising the event and especially for setting up the Tribal Resource Centre. He thanked Prof Nandini Sundar for delivering the lecture and celebrating the life of Jaipal Singh Munda.

Dr Joseph Marianus Kujur, Director, XISS, opened the memorial lecture by highlighting Dr Singh's pivotal contributions to understanding tribal identities and socio-

economic issues, especially in Jharkhand. He also emphasized Dr Singh's advocacy for Adivasi rights, and the memorial lecture series organised by XISS every year continues to celebrate his lasting impact.

In his address, Dr Kujur said, "Dr Singh believed education was key to empowerment and fought for quality education for Adivasi children. He advocated for tribal communities' rights to land and natural resources, opposing displacement and exploitation. His efforts were instrumental in shaping policies and legal frameworks, including the Forest Rights Act, to protect tribal rights. The purpose of establishing this resource centre is to give recognition to the contributor and to encourage scholars across the country to consult his findings for further research in tribal development. This memorial lecture discusses the situation of tribals over different development indicators such as Tribal Sub-Plan, Health, Education, Poverty in the past decades. I sincerely hope that this memorial lecture will attract various scholars to the centre in future and XISS will be able to contribute to the literature on tribes at large."

Coal India Ltd receives Green World Awards 2024

PNS : RANCHI

Vinay Ranjan, Director (Personnel/IR), Coal India Limited (CIL), the state-owned coal mining corporate received the Green World Awards 2024 during the much-awaited presentation ceremony at the Orangery, Kensington Palace, London today. The award was given by The Green Organization, which began in 1994 and is an independent, non-political, non-profit environment group, dedicated to recognizing, rewarding and promoting environmental best practices and CSR around the world.

Vinay Ranjan said that "let's this moment inspire us all to take action, protect our environment, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come." He thanked everyone who supported him on this incredible journey.

The Certificate of Achievement was presented to Coal India Coal India Ltd in recognition of winning a Green World Award for their commitment to



environment best practice. CIL, living up to its Corporate Citizen role, is one of the largest spenders in the country under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Coal India as a corporate entity, contributes to the country economically and socially apart from its core role as energy provider.

CIL produces over 80% of India's overall coal production and contributes to 70% of the total coal-based power generation in the

country. The company contributes to 55% of total power generation and meets 40% of the primary commercial energy requirements of the country.

The company adopts multiple measures to improve the environment, expand green cover over its mined-out areas, creates eco-parks and tourism spots, and provides mine water to lakhs of villagers for domestic and agricultural use.

Training for vote counting given in Lohardaga



VINOD PRASAD LOHARDAGA

Counting of votes cast in 72-Lohardaga (ST) constituency under Assembly General Election, 2024 will be held on 23rd November (Saturday) at Agricultural Market Committee, Lohardaga premises. Regarding which, training of all the deputed micro observers, supervisors and assistants was organized in the Collectorate Hall on Tuesday. The training was

given by Deputy Election Officer Dheeraj Thakur in the dignified presence of District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner Dr. Waghmare Prasad Krishna. It was told in the training that votes have to be counted after withdrawal of the postal ballot from the special strong room and withdrawal of EVM-VVPAT from the storage room. 12 tables have been made for counting the postal ballot votes and 18 tables have been made for counting the EVM-

VVPAT votes. Counting of votes is to be done as per the protocol prescribed by the Election Commission of India. All forms have to be filled correctly. EVM-VVPAT votes will be counted from 8 am. Returning Officer, 72-Lohardaga (ST) cum Sub-Divisional Officer Amit Kumar, Assistant Returning Officer 72-Lohardaga, District Informatics Officer Akash Singh and all the personnel deputed for counting of votes were present in the training.

BJP AND CONGRESS CAMPS TURN HUBS OF ELECTION GUESSWORK

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The election fever continues to grip party workers in Jamshedpur even days after polling, as near the strong room at Jamshedpur Cooperative College (JCC) become hubs of political activity and speculation. With the fight for the Jamshedpur assembly seats seemingly narrowed to a contest between the NDA and INDI, these camps are alive with chatter about electoral calculations and outcomes.

Camps set up by the BJP, Congress, JDU, and independent candidate Shiv Shanker Singh have surrounded the strong room since Sunday. While the Deputy Commissioner and District Returning Officer, Ananya Mittal, has ensured smooth arrangements for vote counting, political parties are preparing for a grand "show of strength" outside the strong room on



November 23, the day of counting. Counting Arrangements for Six Constituencies: The vote counting for six constituencies—Baharagora, Ghatshila, Potka, Jamshedpur East, Jamshedpur West, and Jugsalai—will take place on November 23. Separate counting tables have been set up for each constituency to ensure a smooth process. The BJP camp near JCC is

bustling with activity, featuring arrangements for indoor games like carrom and ludo to keep workers engaged. Party leaders and workers are often seen strategizing and engaging in election-related discussions. "Our camp has become a lively hub these days. Senior leaders are regularly visiting to meet workers and discuss the elections. We are confident of reclaiming the seat. In

fact, we have already started planning celebrations for November 23 after the results. Our tent has even been set up following Vastu principles," said Rajesh Pathak, a BJP worker. The camp also offers snacks and water for its supporters.

The Congress camp has made provisions for drinking water and resting facilities, with chairs set up for supporters. Party workers remain engrossed in discussions about their prospects, which are locked in EVMS stored in the strong room.

"Based on reports from the Jamshedpur East, we are confident that Ajoy Kumar, our candidate from Jamshedpur East, will emerge victorious. Political analysts in the city have expressed similar confidence in his win, and we are assured of success," said a Congress functionary. He highlighted the hard work put in by party workers dur-

ing the campaign to mobilize voters. Across Jamshedpur, conversations about the fate of candidates in the Vidhan Sabha elections are in full swing. Political analysts and supporters are debating possible outcomes as the tension builds ahead of counting day.

"Ajoy Jee has given a tough fight to his opponents, and people have shown faith in Rahul Gandhi's leadership. We are confident that Congress candidates will perform well across the State," said another Congress leader, emphasizing their optimism about the results.

As the countdown to November 23 continues, the strong room camps are not just physical spaces but centers of excitement, speculation, and planning for what lies ahead. Both the BJP and Congress are leaving no stone unturned in their preparations for a crucial day that could define their political fortunes.



HAZE STAYS, IDEAS FLOAT

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

As the National Capital's air pollution crisis has reached an alarming level, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) consistently in the "severe plus" category on Tuesday, the Delhi government is now pressing for cloud seeding to artificially induce rain to dissipate the thick layer of smog, work from home facilities and considering bringing odd even scheme, that could help combat the worsening air quality. The Delhi government has also sought Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention in tackling the issue of air pollution.

Amid Delhi's worsening air quality, which has plunged into the "severe plus" category with an AQI consistently above 460, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai addressed a press conference accusing the Centre of not acting on their repeated request to allow artificial rain in the national capital. He said that he had written to Union government Bhupender Yadav for the fourth time seeking a joint meeting with stakeholders to get clearances for artificial rain to disperse Delhi's high pollution.

"Despite repeated requests through letters on August 30, October 10, and October 23, the Union Environment Minister has not taken cognisance of the situation or responded to the Delhi government's appeals," Rai said in his latest letter. He alleged that despite repeated reminders and requests, the Centre was yet to call a meeting to discuss the



option. Rai said while the GRAP-IV restrictions are being enforced to tackle the alarming levels of pollution, the thick smog layer engulfing the city can only be broken by wind or rain.

In his letter, Rai proposed that this meeting include the Delhi Government, experts from IIT Kanpur who have conducted research on artificial rain, and key Central Government ministries such as such as the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Ministry of Defence along with other relevant departments. Artificial rain is needed in Delhi as an emergency measure to reduce pollution and help citizens at this juncture. While the Delhi Government is willing to initiate the emergency measure, it needs a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Centre's Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and Defence Ministry among other agencies.

"After consulting several experts, we believe the time has come to use artificial rain to break this layer of smog in Delhi," he said. "Delhi cannot get relief from pollution unless we break the smog layer. Cloud seeding can help mitigate the crisis and provide immediate relief to citizens," Rai said. Emphasising the urgency of the current situation, Rai said in his letter, "I request the Union Environment Minister to convene an emergency meeting with all stakeholders, including IIT Kanpur and relevant central agencies, to fast-track the clearances required for artificial rain." This cloud seeding technique, which involves the aerial dispersion of salt particles like silver iodide or chloride into clouds to induce rain, is being

considered as a potential solution to the city's dire air quality issues. While the concept of cloud seeding is not new, its effectiveness in combating air pollution remains a subject of debate among experts. The method's success hinges on optimal atmospheric conditions, including adequate moisture and humidity in the clouds, and the presence of specific cloud types that grow vertically.

The high cost and uncertainty of outcomes also raise questions about the viability of this approach as a sustainable solution to air pollution. Additionally, concerns have been raised about the potential environmental impacts of altering natural processes through cloud seeding. Experts emphasise the need for more research to understand the long-term effects of this intervention and call for a multi-disciplinary

approach to policy formulation in this area. He also said that the government is in talks with experts to enforce emergency measures like odd-even and work-from-home options if the pollution levels in Delhi continue to remain in the severe-plus zone above 450 in the coming days. Delhi is not new to the odd-even vehicle rationing scheme. First implemented in 2016, the AAP government's initiative aimed to control vehicular emissions in the city by only allowing private vehicles whose registration number ends with an odd number to ply on odd dates and even registration numbers to ply on even dates. Vehicles with registration numbers ending in even digits (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) are allowed on the roads on even dates, while those with registration numbers ending in odd digits (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) are permitted on odd dates.

"A decision on implementing work-from-home measures and the odd-even scheme will be taken soon to tackle the city's worsening air quality," Rai said. He said, "People, including children and senior citizens, are struggling to breathe and we deeply regret this situation." On the possibility of implementing of this approach as a sustainable solution to air pollution. The minister added that the government has already imposed significant restrictions on vehicles under GRAP-IV. "We are analysing the impact of these measures. If the analysis shows a positive outcome, we will take further decisions accordingly," he said.



CJI asks judges to allow virtual hearings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday said all judges have been asked to allow virtual hearings wherever possible in view of the severe pollution levels in the National Capital Region. As soon as the Bench comprising the CJI and Justice Sanjay Kumar assembled, lawyers, including Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Kapil Sibal, referred to the worsening pollution in Delhi and NCR and sought immediate measures to deal with it. "We have told all the judges to allow virtual hearings wherever possible," the CJI said.

The CJI, however, did not allow the submissions that the SC should go online and reiterated that the lawyers have the option to appear online. Sibal said a message is needed to be sent to other courts and tribunals in the national capital in this regard as the "pollution is getting out of control." He was supported by various lawyers that also included Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Gopal Sankaranarayanan.

On poll eve Vinod Tawde's 'cashgate'



T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In what came as a major embarrassment for the ruling MahaYuti on the eve of the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Vinod Tawde found himself in a fierce controversy over the alleged distribution of cash to some people, following the claims by Bahujan Vikas Aghadi (BVA) that it had caught him red-handed in the act.

The controversy erupted after BVA founder and six-time Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Vasai, Hitendra Thakur and his son Kshitij Thakur, a three-time MLA from Nalasopara, alleged that their party colleagues and workers had seen Tawde distributing money to people. They alleged that Tawde had arrived with Rs 5 Crore for giving it to BJP candidate Rajan Naik for distribution to people in Vasai-Virar area of Palghar district. Cashing in on the allegations, leader of the Opposition in

Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of the Congress singled out Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an attack "Modiji, from whose safe did these Rs 5 Crore come? Who looted the public's money and sent you in the tempo?" Rahul asked.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Maharashtra Ramesh Chennithala demanded the arrest of Tawde. A BJP general secretary, Tawde has been caught red-handed while distributing money in Vasai-Virar. The allegation against him is that Tawde distributed Rs 5 Crore among people on the eve of elections. That being the case, Tawde should be arrested immediately," Chennithala said.

The controversy broke out when BJP's Tawde had gone to the deluxe Le Vivanta Hotel at Virar (East). The BVA leaders alleged that he was carrying Rs 5 Crore cash, along with some 'diaries'. The drama that unfolded in the morning lasted for more than eight hours.



Russian President Vladimir Putin likely to visit India soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Russian President Vladimir Putin is likely to visit India next year as part of a laid down structure between the two countries for reciprocal annual visits by their leaders, diplomatic sources said on Tuesday. The two sides are looking at the possibility of the visit but nothing has been finalised yet, they said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the Russian President to visit India when the two leaders held summit talks in Moscow in July. Prime Minister Modi visited Kazan in Russia last month to attend the BRICS summit. Earlier on Tuesday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov in a video interaction with senior Indian Editors referred to the strong bilateral relationship between India and Russia, and added Putin's visit is on the cards. He did not give any specific dates or make a definitive announcement of the visit. The interaction was organised by the Russian state-owned Sputnik news agency.

"We are looking forward to the visit. The dates will be mutually worked out soon," Peskov said. "Specific dates of President Vladimir Putin's visit to India will soon be announced and Russia will begin preparing for it," he said.

"I hope soon we'll work out the precise dates of his visit... Of course, after two visits of Prime Minister Modi to Russia, now we have a visit of the President to India, so we're looking forward to it," he added.

EAM meets Chinese counterpart

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/RIO DE JANEIRO

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi deliberated on the next steps in India-China ties at a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, in the first high-level engagement since the militaries of the two sides disengaged from Demchok and Dapsang at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The two leaders held the delegation-level talks on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro late on Monday.

The EAM said in a social media post both sides noted the progress in the recent disengagement of the border areas and exchanged views on the next steps in the bilateral ties. It is learnt that both sides are in the process of reviving various dialogue mechanisms including the special representative talks on the boundary question as decided at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of Kazan last month.

Days after the two sides reached an agreement on October 21 on disengagement in Demchok and Dapsang, Indian and Chinese militaries completed the process marking a virtual end to over four-year standoff in the two



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a meeting with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro PTI

friction points. The two sides also resumed patrolling activities in these areas after a gap of almost four-and-a-half years. "On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio, met CPC Politburo member and FCM Wang Yi of China," Jaishankar said, adding, "We noted the progress in the recent disengagement in the India-China border areas. And exchanged views on the next steps in our bilateral ties." "Also discussed the global situation." In his opening remarks at the talks, Jaishankar referred to the meeting between PM Modi and President Xi on

October 23 on the sidelines of the BRICS summit. "In Kazan, our leaders reached a consensus on taking the next steps in our relationship, bearing in mind the understanding of October 21. I am glad to note that on the ground, the implementation of that understanding has proceeded as planned," he said.

"Our leaders have directed that the Foreign Ministers and the Special Representatives should meet at an early date. Some progress, some discussions have happened in that direction," he said. Jaishankar and Wang discussed the next steps in the meeting.



End of the road for Himachal Bhawan?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SHIMLA/NEW DELHI

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has ordered the attachment of Himachal Bhawan located in Delhi for the recovery of Rs 150 Crore owed by the state government to Seli Hydropower Electrical Company following an arbitration ruling in favour of the power firm.

Passing the order on Monday, a single-judge bench of Justice Ajay Mohan Goel said the company may take appropriate steps for the auction of Himachal Bhawan located in central Delhi's Mandi House area thereof.

Advocate General Anup Rattan said the Himachal Pradesh government has filed an appeal against the initial HC order and it is likely to come up for hearing this month. The case pertains to the 340 MW Seli Hydropower Electric Project on the Chenab River in Lahaul and Spiti district.

Vintage cars not to be scrapped: LG

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst the crackdown on vehicles falling under scrap years, vintage car aficionados heaved a sigh of relief as Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena came to their rescue, directing the Delhi Transport Department that there should be no coercive action on the registered vintage vehicles. However, this has come with a rider that they are not to be driven on roads or used for commercial purposes. There are around 10,000 registered vintage cars in India.

LG Saxena has directed that bona fide vintage vehicles will no longer face coercive action by the Transport Department and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). According to Raj Niwas, the LG has asked the Commissioner Transport and Commissioner (MCD) to ensure that their enforcement wings desist from coercive action in case of such bona fide vehicles.

Acting on a representation made by the Heritage Moringing Club of India, highlighting that their vehicles are being impounded by the authorities and requesting for clarificatory orders in this regard, the LG had asked his Secretariat to issue appropriate directions. The transport department's data shows there are



Former Union Minister Vijay Goel with one his coveted vintage cars which he used to take out as part of the exhibition he started to mark the birthday of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Photo courtesy: Vijay Goel

60,14,493 such vehicles in Delhi. The enforcement teams of the Transport Department and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) impound diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years for scrapping. The Supreme Court in its order in 2019, banned plying of such end-of-life vehicles in Delhi.

"The LG has taken note of harassment being faced by the vintage car owners and directed the Transport and MCD to desist from impounding bona fide vintage vehicles for scrapping," said the note. The

notification issued by MoRTH on July 15, 2021, has enabled provision for the registration of vehicles that are 50 years old or more as vintage vehicles, the LG secretariat said.

Based on the notification of MoRTH, the Transport Department of Delhi government on December 2, 2021, ordered for allotment of common series "DLVA" "DLVA" for vintage vehicles. In further orders, the department specified the procedure for application and issuance of a certificate of registration as a vintage motor vehicle.

"Put up a board, Ganga is not fit to bathe in," NGT to Varanasi DM

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ VARANASI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) expressed strong displeasure over the administration's failure to maintain the cleanliness of the Ganga in Varanasi. In a scathing rebuke, the tribunal even suggested that a board be put up on the banks of the river, stating that Ganga water in the city is not safe for bathing.

The reprimand came during a hearing regarding the slow progress of the restoration of Asi and Varuna, two important tributaries of the Ganges. The NGT bench, led by Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi and Dr. A Santhil Vel, asked Varanasi District Magistrate

(DM) S Rajlingam whether the water of the Ganga in Varanasi was fit for drinking or bathing. When the DM remained silent, the tribunal remarked sharply, "If this is the case, why not place boards along the riverbank stating that the Ganga water in Varanasi is not suitable for bathing or drinking?" In response, DM Rajlingam said, "It's not within my jurisdiction. The District Magistrate acts in accordance with government directives." The NGT bench, unimpressed by the DM's reply, reminded him of the considerable power vested in his office, urging him not to appear "helpless" in the face of the situation. The tribunal

then directed the government's advocate to submit an affidavit detailing the current status of the restoration of Asi and Varuna and the condition of the Ganga by the next hearing, which is scheduled for December 13.

This marks the second time in recent months that the NGT has expressed its dissatisfaction with the Varanasi administration's efforts. Three months ago, the tribunal imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 on the DM for failing to comply with its orders concerning the Ganga's restoration.

During the hearing, petitioner Saurabh Tiwari highlighted that despite repeated meetings and official



discussions, no tangible progress had been made on the ground in terms of cleaning the Ganga and restoring the tributaries. The NGT was informed that the restoration of the Asi and Varuna rivers was moving at a slow pace, with 40 meetings

having taken place, but no visible work was evident. The bench questioned DM Rajlingam about his efforts since taking office in Varanasi in November 2022 and asked what measures had been implemented during his tenure. The tribunal also

noted that the renovation of the tributaries was meant to be completed within a 12-month deadline, set by the NGT in 2021. However, more than 33 months have passed, and the situation remains largely unchanged.

The government's lawyer, Bhanwar Pal Jadoun, presented the state's efforts, including the Pollution Control Board's initiatives to clean the Ganga. However, the bench found the explanations unsatisfactory, emphasizing the need for concrete actions.

The petition, filed on August 4, 2024, highlighted the slow progress of the restoration work for Asi and Varuna. The NGT had originally set a five-year deadline for the

completion of the restoration in 2021, but after over three years, little on-the-ground action has been seen. The restoration process officially began after a meeting of the Supervisory and Execution Committees in November 2021, but as per the petitioner, the project remains confined to bureaucratic processes, with no substantial work visible in the river areas.

As the December 13 hearing approaches, all eyes are now on the state government and district administration to provide accountability for the lack of progress and to step up efforts to restore the Ganga and its tributaries, which are crucial for the ecological balance of the region.

1.23 Crore electors to vote across 14218 polling station in final phase

DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

Campaigning for the second and final phase of the Jharkhand Assembly elections concluded on Monday evening. The fate of 528 candidates contesting across a total of 38 constituencies that are going to polls in this phase will be decided on November 20.

As per the data shared by the election commission, as many as 1.23 crore voters are registered to cast their vote in the second phase of the ongoing elections whereas in the second phase of the 2019 Jharkhand Assembly elections, the total number of registered voters were 1.09 crore. This time there are 62,89,974 male, 61,00,548 females and 145 voters are from the third gender.

In the age-group of 18-19 years, 550614 electors are registered. Amongst them 241769 are male, 308841 are female and 4 are transgender voters. In the age bracket of 20-29 years, there are 3158673



Polling officials carry election materials on the eve of the second phase of Jharkhand Assembly polls, in Ranchi on Tuesday. Pix by Ratan Lal

voters, 62 of them are from the third gender, 1618663 are men and 1539948 are women electors.

The second phase of the Jharkhand Assembly elections has a total of 176768 PwD (Persons with Disabilities) voters of which 96381 are male, 80384 are female and 3 are transgenders. As many as 51 overseas voters, 47 male and 4 female are also due to cast their franchise in this phase.

The total number of voters who are above the age of 85 years voters is 50224. Out of this, 21855 are male and 28369 are female. In this phase, the total number of centenarian voters or those above the age of 100 is 695 of which 398 are females and the remaining 297 are male. As many as 15544 service electors are also registered to cast their votes in the second phase, 14866 of them are males and 678 are females.

For the 1.23 crore voters, a total of 14218 polling stations have been set up- 2414 are in the urban areas while 11804 are in the rural areas. For the final phase of the election 335 special polling booths are also being made. Out of these, as many as 239 polling stations will be managed by women personnel and 26 by the youth. Persons with Disabilities (PwD) will man 22 polling booths while the remaining 48 fall under the



Polling officials being given the traditional welcome by tribal artists before they leave for their polling stations as they carry election materials on the eve of the second phase of Jharkhand Assembly polls, in Ranchi on Tuesday. Pix by Ratan Lal

category of unique polling stations.

Out of the seven constituencies in Ranchi district, two are due to go to polls in the second phase while the remaining five were part of the first phase. This includes Silli which has 279 polling stations all of which are located in rural areas whereas Khijri has 97 urban and 316 rural polling

booths, 6 will be managed by PwDs, 5 by the youth and four are unique polling stations. The constituencies of Gomia and Bermo in Bokaro district will have 4 PwD manned polling stations each.

Pukur has three unique Paharia polling stations. At the 64- Upgraded Middle School Tetulkuria 100 per cent voters belong to the

more than 85. Two polling booths, 89 Government UPG Middle School, Gondipani and 180, Government Upgraded Middle School, Dandgurda Mahadantoli have more than 50 Tana Bhagat electors while 153, St Bernard MS, Bonegra has as many as 22 voters who are 85 years and above and are also said to be unique polling stations.

Paharia primitive tribe whereas at 213- Upgraded Middle School Ramchandrapur 33 percent and at 17- Primary School Amlagachi 78 percent electors are from this tribe. Decorated along the lines of Paharia culture, these polling booths will also be managed by personnel belonging to this tribe.

Simdega will have a total of five unique polling stations. The stations 216- Government UPG MS, Bhalmanda and 89- Government UPG MS, Muramba, fall under the unique category as the number of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) electors here is

JMM misused officials by making tool kits in 5 years: BJP

PNS : RANCHI

State BJP spokesperson Pratul Shandev hit back at the press conference of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and said that seeing its certain defeat, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is busy making excuses. Pratul said that on November 23, the government led by Jharkhand Mukti Morcha will come to an end. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha does not want the blame to fall on Hemant Soren. That is why it is making excuses every day.

Pratul said that JMM workers are trying to create an atmosphere of terror in Barhet area. But to divert attention from that, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is making baseless allegations against the Leader of Opposition.

Pratul said that the Election Commission, which the JMM is accusing today, had won the election in 2019 in the elections held under the supervision of paramilitary forces and State police. But this time, the same



BJP State Spokesperson Pratul Shandev alongwith Media incharge Shivpujan Pathak during a press conference at media centre in Ranchi on Tuesday. Pix by Ratan Lal

Election Commission is being questioned to make excuses for the defeat. Pratul said that the ECI has also taken cognisance in many cases against the BJP. But the BJP never complained and complied with those orders. But the JMM keeps accusing the Election Commission.

Pratul said that some officers keep working as a tool kit in this government. When the Election Commission removed a District Magistrate from election work, he was made the District Magistrate

of the capital. JMM also has objection to this. BJP always says that officers should follow the rules and laws because governments keep coming and going. But the JMM-led government has tried to make the officers its agents.

Pratul said that those who are accusing Babul Marandi of buying Niranjan Rai should look into their own conscience. Niranjan Rai Ji supported Babul Ji against this corrupt government on the basis of policies.

This made JMM upset. But Jharkhand Mukti Morcha did not clarify how much was the deal for seating the JKLM party candidate in Gandey and Garhwa? Pratul advised that the blood pressure of the JMM candidate of Rajdhanwar should be checked from the health point of view, because he is bent on beating journalists on every small issue.

Pratul said that the government was accused of a scam of Rs 70,000 crores. But surprisingly this money was neither seen in the balance sheet of any member of the Soren family nor in the balance sheet of JMM. So was this money sent to another country through money laundering? This also needs a high level investigation.

Pratul said that JMM is accusing that BJP does Hindu-Muslim. BJP at least takes the name of both Hindus and Muslims. But in the last 5 years, JMM has only taken the names of the Muslim infiltrators. Not only did they take their names but also worked to settle them.

Financial empowerment of women is motto of BJP: Chouhan

PNS : RANCHI

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan today interacted with young women in Ranchi, and enquired about women empowerment. Interacting with women Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that, promoting women, better education of daughters, development of sisters and bringing change in the lives of sisters and daughters is the mission of my life. Shivraj said that, we are running a campaign to make every girl a millionaire through self-help groups. Lakhpati Didi means every sister's income should be more than 10 thousand rupees per month and more than 1 lakh rupees annually. Our resolution is to bring a new light by removing darkness from the lives of sisters.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, while interacting with the sisters, said that, since childhood, I had seen in my village and surroundings that, there was discrimination between son and daughter, if a son was born, there



was celebration and if a daughter was born, the mother's face would turn pale.

Apart from this, I had also seen the problems in the lives of sisters. Since then, I had this feeling in my mind that I have to do something for my sisters and daughters. I used to preach that, if there is a daughter, there is tomorrow, if you do not save a daughter, then from where will you get a daughter-in-law. When I became an MLA, I started getting poor daughters married and when I became the Chief Minister, I decided that a daughter is not a burden but a blessing and a daughter will be born on the land of Madhya Pradesh as a millionaire. After which, the Laddi Laxmi Yojana was first created in Madhya Pradesh and

today there are more than 50 lakh Laddi Laxmis in the state. Then in Madhya Pradesh, 50% reservation was made for women in local elections. Similarly, after seeing the problems of sisters, it came to my mind that every sister should have a bank account and money should come in it every month. After which the Laddi Bheha Yojana was made and today money is coming in the accounts of crores of sisters every month. This scheme has brought revolutionary changes in the lives of sisters.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan said that, in order to provide better and free education to daughters, we have decided in Madhya Pradesh that education from class 1 to PG will be free. Poor children are not able to pay the fees charged in private colleges, medical colleges, engineering colleges. Many children get selected in MBBS, engineering through different examinations, but due to the huge fees, they are not able to take admission. Therefore, we decided in Madhya Pradesh that we will

pay the fees of sons and daughters as well. Today, the government also pays the fees of medical colleges and engineering colleges in Madhya Pradesh, so that daughters can get higher education. Daughters are being given free books, free bicycles to go to other villages for studies. Then a scheme was made, Gaon Ki Beti Yojana, then Pratibha Kiran Yojana if they go to college. Many such schemes have been made. There is a need to make such schemes at many places for the development and welfare of daughters. We will work to improve the future of daughters by running these schemes in Jharkhand too.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan said that Jharkhand has immense possibilities for industries. This is a rich land of poor people, there is so much here, different types of minerals are here, there is forest here, there is water here, but the government here did not have the will power, so development could not happen.

IIM-R launches MDP for JNV Principals

IIM Ranchi inaugurated a five-day Management Development Programme (MDP) for the Principals and Vice-Principals of PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) from the Patna Region. The programme, held from November 19-23, 2024, aims to enhance the leadership and management capabilities of school leaders, equipping them with the tools to address contemporary challenges and promote holistic development in their institutions. Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Director IIM Ranchi, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of effective leadership in education. He highlighted that this programme is designed to provide participants with hands-on learning, enabling them to implement forward-thinking strategies and manage diverse stakeholders effectively.

Social Science Exhibition at SCS

Surendranath Centenary School hosted 'Pushp,' a Social Science Exhibition cum Competition, showcasing innovative projects from students of Classes IX to XII on the theme 'Vikshit Bharat' - Envisioning a Developed India by 2047. Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee University, Prof. (Dr.) Tapan Kr. Shandilya, inaugurated the event, emphasizing the pivotal role of social science education in shaping informed citizens. He stressed the importance of gender equality and achieving sustainable development as crucial pillars for realizing the vision of a 'Vikshit Bharat'. The exhibition showcased students' understanding of India's progress and their vision for a brighter future. Impressive projects were displayed across various disciplines: History, Geography, Economics and Commerce.

Man held after five years in murder case

The accused involved in the murder of notorious criminal Sonu Imroz has been arrested after five years. Kotwali DSP Prakash had received secret information that criminal Mohammad Imran involved in the Sonu Imroz murder case has come to a wedding procession in Hindipiri. After this, the police team led by Kotwali DSP Prakash took action and arrested Mohammad Imran. He was absconding since the murder incident. On November 4, 2018, notorious criminal Sonu Imroz was murdered in a gang war in broad daylight at the taxi stand on Main Road, a few steps away from the Daily Market police station.

57 leprosy patients in Jamtara to cast their vote for the first time



DIVYA MODI : RANCHI

Following the mantra, 'Not even a single voter should be left out' the District Administration of Jamtara has ensured inclusive voting for all in the great festival of democracy. To fulfill this objective, multi-dimensional efforts are being made by the District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner Jamtara, so that maximum voting can be ensured in the district. Under this, the District Election Officer cum Deputy Commissioner Jamtara, Kumud Sahay, during her field visit, while interacting with the residents of leprosy colony under Mihijam Municipal Council area, enquired about getting their names registered in the voter list.

The residents informed the official that they were unable to vote because the polling booth was far away while some did not even have a voter ID. Hearing this, the DC cum DEO decided to take the first initiative of getting their names registered in the voter list while a voter ID card was also made for the eligible voters.

Sahay further discussed about smooth voting of the leprosy affected electors and by following all the standard procedures, for the first time an auxiliary polling station was formed for the residents of this locality to ensure smooth voting of as many as 57 voters from here so that 100% of the voters can exercise their franchise easily.

A request to the Chief

Election Officer, Jharkhand for consent to set up an auxiliary polling station was made and the same was also granted by the Election Commission of India, New Delhi. This is for the first time that 57 leprosy affected voters will exercise their franchise and ensure their participation in this great festival of democracy.

For smooth voting of these voters at polling station number 362 'A' Snehpur Community Hall, Hansi Pahari, polling officers, security forces, ramps, wheel chairs, drinking water, electricity and other basic facilities will be made available. Volunteers will also be present at the polling booth to help the electors in casting their votes smoothly.

State ready for final phase of elections: CEO

Chief electoral Officer K Ravi Kumar holds a press conference in Ranchi on Tuesday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Electoral Officer, K Ravi Kumar today said that the second phase of voting will be held on November 20 at 14,218 booths in a total of 38 assembly constituencies. Out of these, voting will be held from 7 am to 4 pm at 31 booths only. He said that polling parties have reached their respective polling stations to conduct voting. He appealed to all voters to go to the polling station with their family, neighbours and friends and vote in a festive atmosphere. He was addressing a press conference at Nirvachan Sadan, Dhurva on Tuesday.

He informed that out of the 14,218 booths of the second phase, 48 booths have

been developed as unique booths. The number of polling stations operated by women is 239. 22 polling stations will be operated by Divyangjans, whereas, the arrangement of 26 polling stations will be in the hands of youth.

In response to a question, he said that whatever cases of violation of the code of conduct come to the notice of the Election Commission, the process of action is started by promptly registering a case on them. So far, action has been taken by registering 90 cases in violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

While responding to questions posed in the press conference, he also appealed to the journalists that if they too come across cases of viola-

tion of the Model Code of Conduct, they should share it with the Election Commission along with evidence, the Election Commission will ensure action as per the rules. He informed that since the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, illegal material and cash worth more than Rs 200 crore have been seized till now.

JMM writes to EC against BJP for MCC violation

PNS : RANCHI

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) held a press conference today. Accusing the BJP, it said that Wednesday is the voting day and there is a silent period right now. But even during this time, the BJP is creating confusion and violating the model code of conduct.

JMM General Secretary

cum National Spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said that many videos are running on BJP's social media platform even during the silent period. If seen, these posts are also a violation of the model code of conduct, he added. He said that a complaint has been made to the Election Commission regarding this matter and a complaint letter has been written.

Bhattacharya JMM further said that the Election Commission has not given any decision on our complaint. "No action is being taken on these complaints. Many complaints have been lodged so far. BJP leaders are campaigning on social media Twitter handles, which is a violation of silent periods. Election Commission should be asked to register a criminal case under the IT Act," he added.

JMM General Secretary also said that BJP people have shown hooliganism in Chandankhari. "It seems that BJP is working on the lines of Bengal in Jharkhand. Is the model code of conduct only for us? Abuse is being hurled at tribal identity but the Election Commission is silent.

nal case under the IT Act," he added.

JMM General Secretary also said that BJP people have shown hooliganism in Chandankhari. "It seems that BJP is working on the lines of Bengal in Jharkhand. Is the model code of conduct only for us? Abuse is being hurled at tribal identity but the Election Commission is silent.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Raj Kumar Verma S/o Late Munni Lal Verma R/o Harmu Road, Kishoreganj, Ranchi Jharkhand do hereby solemnly affirm and declare by affidavit no. 386 dated 12.11.2024 as follows:- (1) That my name is mentioned in tax receipt holding no. 0240001894000A1 of Punjab National bank a/c no. 290300100027536 as Raju Verma s/o Late Munni Lal Verma (2) Raj Kumar Verma & Raju Verma are same person & singular person ie, my self.

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BANK OF INDIA
बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India BOI
Relationship Beyond Banking

CORRIGENDUM
The following amendment should be made in the sale notice published on 19th October 2024 for e-auction issued by the Authorized Officer Recovery Department, Ranchi Zone:
(i) Property Details in SI No. 1 read as: 1. EQM of flat No-702 of 980 Sq. ft., 7th floor, 'OCEANIK EXOTICA' on R.S Plot No-2756, Khata No. 254, Village-Argora, P.S-Argora, P.S No- 207, Dist- Ranchi in the name of BMP Polymers a partnership firm represented through its partners namely- Raju Verma, Binod Kumar, Piyush Ranjan and Mahesh Chandra vide sale deed No- 8143 dated 25.11.2019 and its Present Outstanding Amount of Rs. 112.01 + interest and charges read as Rs. 93.88 + interest and charges.
(ii) In SI No. 3, for the Present Outstanding Amount Rs. 1434 + interest and charges, read as Rs. 67.10 + interest and charges. Other terms and conditions of E-Auction Notice will remain unchanged.
Sd/- Authorized Officer

70 per cent reduced violence in disturbed areas: HM Amit Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GANDHINAGAR

Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, on Tuesday said the BJP-led government at the Centre has successfully brought down violence in Jammu and Kashmir (J and K), North-East and Naxal-hit areas by 70 per cent in the last 10 years. Making this assertion at the inaugural event of the 50th All India Police Science Conference (AIPSC) at the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gandhinagar, he expressed confidence that the coming decade will make the Indian criminal justice system the most scientific and fastest in the world.

"For years, three regions were considered very disturbed-Kashmir, North-East, and Naxalite-affected areas. We have made significant improvements in the security of all these three regions. Comparing the data of the last 10 years with the period before that shows that we have been successful in reducing violence by 70 per cent," Shah said. "I believe this is a very big achievement. A large number of people have wholeheartedly supported the government's efforts to reduce this (violence)," he said.

Even in terms of controlling the narcotics trade, the seizure of drugs has increased six times in the last 10 years as compared to what it was a decade ago, he said. Shah said that following the implementation of three new criminal laws this year, justice will be delivered to people from the Supreme Court (SC) level within three years from the date of registration of an

FIR.

"The coming 10 years is the time to make India's criminal justice system the most modern, most scientific and fastest. Ever since I was born, I have heard taunts that one gets delayed justice from the court. I want to assure you that after the implementation of the three new criminal laws, one will get justice from the SC within three years of the FIR registration at any police station in the country," he said.

The three new criminal laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- came into force from July 1, 2024, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. India became the fifth largest economy from the 11th a decade ago, Shah said, adding that he was confident of India becoming the third largest economy before April 1, 2028. According to him, in the last 10 years, India progressed to lead the world in every area, whether in terms of economy, technology, security, education, research and development, or infrastructure and trade, and the progress has only increased the country's challenges.

He said that India conducted its elections smoothly and handled the COVID-19 pandemic well to the surprise of the world. "When the world recognises our strengths, our challenges grow. And we will have to prepare ourselves by keeping these challenges in mind," he said.



Space X launches ISRO satellite

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The country's latest communication satellite, GSAT-N2 was successfully launched by billionaire Elon Musk-founded SpaceX from Cape Canaveral in the US, ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has said.

The communication satellite will enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region, NSIL said.

As the satellite was heavier than ISRO's current launch capabilities, it had to opt for a

foreign launch vehicle, top space scientists and former chiefs of the country's space agency said.

K Sivan, former ISRO chairperson said, "The satellite was a heavier one beyond the capability of ISRO launch vehicles. That is why it has gone outside."

The 4,700kg GSAT-N2 High-Throughput Satellite (HTS) onboard a Falcon 9 rocket was injected into the desired orbit.

"NSIL's GSAT-N2 HTS communication satellite successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, USA on 19th November 2024."

GSAT-N2 weighing 4700 kg has been injected into the desired Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) and ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) has taken control of the satellite.

Preliminary data indicates satellite in good health," NSIL posted on X.

The second Demand Driven satellite of NSIL, GSAT-N2 is a Ka-band HTS that will enhance broadband services and in-flight connectivity across the Indian region, NSIL said. GSAT-24 was NSIL's first demand driven satellite and launched from

Kourou, French Guiana on June 23, 2022.

"This satellite (GSAT-N2) featuring multiple spot beams and wideband Ka x Ka transponders, aims to support a large subscriber base with small user terminals, boosting system throughput through its multi-beam architecture which allows frequency reuse," NSIL said.

The satellite has a mission life of 14 years and is equipped with 32 user beams, comprising eight narrow spot beams over the Northeast region and 24 wide spot beams over the rest of India.

Divisions lead to defeat: Rajnath Singh



PTI ■ HYDERABAD

Rajnath Singh, defence minister, stressed the importance of unity in the country, saying divisions have always led to defeat.

He also asserted that securing the country's culture is as important as keeping the borders safe.

"Whenever our unity has weakened, invaders have tried their best to destroy our civilisation and our culture," Singh said.

Therefore, a pledge of unity should be taken by learning from history, he added.

"Those who divide, they try to divide in many ways, including into different religions, castes and sects," the minister said.

"But, you should not get divided. You should neither divide nor divide others, the whole country has to stay together. We have to stay united. If we avoid division, we will move towards development and build a developed and strong India," Singh said.

He was speaking at 'Koti Deepotsavam', an event of mass lighting of 'Deepam' during the Hindu month of Kartik organised by a private TV channel here Monday night.

Quoting from ancient scriptures, he said unity is the

strength of society. By ensuring unity, the light should be spread not just in the country but the whole world as India sees the entire world as one family, Singh said.

"The government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also focused on cultural revival. Cultural development is also important for a country along with political, economic and social development, he said.

If a nation loses its culture, then that country suffers, Singh added.

"As the defence minister, it is my responsibility to ensure that the country's borders remain safe under our leadership. But, in my view, keeping the country's culture safe is as important as ensuring the safety of the borders," he said.

India is not just a political entity but it also has a cultural identity of thousands of years due to which we are known and accepted all over the world, the Defence Minister said.

No country is made up of just a piece of land and its people, rather a nation is made up of its culture, he said.

"If hatred is filled among the people of a country towards their culture, that country would get divided at some point in time," he said.

Bihar government seeks classical status for Maithili

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GANDHINAGAR

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar has written to Union home minister Amit Shah seeking the grant of classical language status to Maithili. The letter by state education minister Sunil Kumar, dated November 18, was shared on X by Janara Dal (United) (JD(U)) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, a close aide of the Bihar chief minister.

"I thank Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on behalf of residents of Mithila region for the formal request made by the Bihar education department, to the Centre, for grant of classical language (shastriya bhasha) status to Maithili," Jha wrote on the micro-blogging site.

The Rajya Sabha MP disclosed that he had broached the issue last month, with officials of the Union Ministry for Culture.

Giriraj Singh echoes BJP dog whistles in poll bound Jharkhand



PTI ■ BENGALURU

Attacking the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)-Congress coalition in Jharkhand, Giriraj Singh, Union textiles minister, on Tuesday claimed that Chief Minister Hemant Soren wants to turn the state capital, Ranchi, into Karachi.

Speaking to reporters in Patna, Singh urged the people of Jharkhand to vote for the safety of women.

"Hemant Soren and Congress

want to turn Ranchi into Karachi, and Dumka, Deoghar and Sahibganj districts into Bangladesh. The Congress and its allies want to divide us. I urge people, a day before the final phase of polling in Jharkhand, to vote for the safety of their bahu-beti," he said. Polling for 38 Assembly seats in the second phase will be held in Jharkhand on Wednesday.

Accusing the Congress and its allies of dividing the people, Singh said, "They are talking

about vote-jihad. Their basic motive is to divide the votes of the majority community. People must not allow this to happen."

Asked about Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge likening the BJP and RSS to poison, he said, "Although he is a puppet in the Congress, he should not use such unparliamentary and derogatory words. In fact, Congress leaders use poisonous words in their speeches with a motive to divide the voters into communal lines."

Addressing a rally in Sangli in Maharashtra on Sunday, Kharge said, "If there is anything which is politically the most dangerous in India, it is the BJP and RSS. They are like poison. If a snake bites the person (who is bitten) dies, such a poisonous snake should be killed."

On the allegations of religious conversions in Buxar, Motihari, Begusarai and Lakhisarai districts of Bihar, Singh said strict action must be taken against preachers indulging in such activities.

SP writes to ECI over burqa checks

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

A day before polling begins for nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party (SP) has written to the Election Commission (EC), raising concerns over alleged misuse of power by police officials during past elections.

The party has demanded that Muslim women voters not be subjected to burqa removal during the voting process.

The letter, submitted by the SP on Monday, requested the EC to issue a written directive to Returning Officers, District Magistrates, General Observers, and police officials to ensure that police personnel refrain from verifying voter ID cards on polling day. According to the SP, this responsibility lies solely with polling officers.

The SP alleged that during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, police officers at polling stations intimidated Muslim women voters by forcing them to remove their burqas for identification. The party claims this led to many voters leaving without casting their ballots, significantly reducing voter turnout in affected areas.



The by-election is being viewed as a battle of prestige for both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition SP. While the results will not impact the formation or collapse of the government, their political significance is immense. This is the first major electoral test for the BJP after the SP-Congress alliance inflicted a blow to the NDA in Uttar Pradesh during the general elections.

Campaigning for the nine assembly seats ended at 5 p.m. on Monday. Voting will take place on Wednesday,

November 20, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. These by-elections were necessitated by various reasons, and the notification for them was issued on October 18.

Despite the official announcement a month ago, all parties had been preparing for the contest for several months. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has actively overseen the BJP's campaign, delegating seat-wise responsibilities to ministers as early as July. The BJP has fielded candidates on eight of the nine seats, while its NDA ally Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD)

is contesting the Meerapur seat. The BJP has anchored its campaign on development and Hindutva, projecting its governance track record and ideological commitments. In contrast, the SP has focused on consolidating its PDA alliance, which targets backward classes, Dalits, and minorities.

As the state braces for polling day, political observers anticipate that the by-election results will carry significant implications for the BJP and SP ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Punjab by-poll a litmus test for sitting MPs, wives and AAP government

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) would like to register victories after its dismal performance in the Lok Sabha election while the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are also going all out for triumph in the by-elections to four assembly segments going to polls on Wednesday.

By-polls to the four Assembly segments -- Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbawal and Barnala -- will take place on November 20 from 7 am to 6 pm and counting will be held on November 23.

By-polls were necessitated after MLAs representing them were elected to the Lok Sabha. Of the four Assembly segments, Gidderbaha, Dera Baba Nanak and Chabbawal were earlier held by the Congress, and the Barnala seat by the AAP.

45 candidates, including three women, are in the fray for the by-polls and 6.96 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their

franchise at 831 polling stations.

More than 6,400 Punjab Police personnel and 17 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces have been deployed for peaceful elections, they said, adding that there will be 100 per cent webcasting of all polling stations.

Campaigning for the by-polls to four Assembly segments ended on Monday evening.

The bypolls will decide the fate of key contestants, including Manpreet Singh Badal, BJP nominee and former Punjab finance minister, Congress' Amrita Warring, Jatinder Kaur, AAP's Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon, Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbawal and BJP's Kewal Singh Dhillon, Sohan Singh Thandani and Ravikaran Singh Kahlon.

Amrita Warring is the wife of Amrinder Singh Raja Warring, Punjab Congress chief and Ludhiana MP while Jatinder Kaur is the spouse of Gurdaspur MP and former



Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa. The Gidderbaha constituency in Muktsar district is set to see a fierce three-cornered fight. The seat fell vacant after Raja Warring, who was a Congress MLA, was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Ludhiana seat in the 2024 Parliamentary elections. Congress' Amrita Warring, who is contesting

for the first time, BJP's Manpreet Singh Badal and AAP's Hardeep Singh Dimpy Dhillon are in the fray. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) (SAD) has also fielded Sukhraj Singh, son of one of the 2015 Behbal Kalan police firing victims. Raja Warring was elected Gidderbaha MLA in 2012, 2017 and 2022.

Manpreet Singh, who earlier represented this seat four times on SAD tickets, is looking to wrest this Assembly segment for BJP this time, after 12 years. His uncle and five-time Punjab chief minister late Parkash Singh Badal had represented Gidderbaha five times. Similarly, Hardeep Dhillon, who lost this seat twice to

Warring in 2017 and 2022, would also want to register victory. He had joined the AAP after quitting the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) in August.

The Barnala seat will see a multi-cornered contest with the AAP fielding Harinder Singh Dhaliwal, Congress nominating Kuldeep Singh Dhillon and BJP Kewal Singh Dhillon. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) has fielded Govind Singh Mann, who is the maternal grandson of former MP and party chief Simranjit Singh Mann, while AAP rebel Gurdeep Singh Bathi is fighting as an independent candidate. This seat fell vacant after Gurmeet Singh Hayer, who was an AAP MLA, was elected from the Sangrur Lok Sabha seat. He had won the Barnala seat in 2017 and 2022 assembly polls.

In the Chabbawal reserve Assembly segment, the AAP has fielded Dr Ishank Kumar Chabbawal, the son of AAP's Hoshiarpur MP Raj Kumar

Chabbawal. The BJP has fielded former Akali MLA and former minister Sohan Singh Thandani, who quit the SAD last month, while the Congress named Ranjit Kumar, who had unsuccessfully contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Hoshiarpur as a Bahujan Samaj Party candidate.

The Chabbawal by-election was necessitated after Raj Kumar Chabbawal, who was a Congress MLA but later joined the AAP, was elected to the Lok Sabha from Hoshiarpur.

The Dera Baba Nanak seat will witness a three-cornered fight with Congress' Jatinder Kaur, the wife of Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Randhawa, AAP nominee Gurdeep Singh Randhawa and BJP's Ravikaran Singh Kahlon, who switched over from the SAD, in the fray.

The Dera Baba Nanak is considered a Congress bastion as Sukhjinder Randhawa represented this seat in 2002, 2012, 2017 and

2022. The seat fell vacant after Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, who was the Congress MLA from here, was elected from the Gurdaspur parliamentary seat.

The SAD has opted to stay away from the by-polls. The party took the decision not to participate in the by-polls after Sukhbir Singh Badal, who has now resigned as the SAD president, failed to get any temporary relief from the Akal Takht, which declared him 'tankhaiya' (person guilty of religious misconduct), for the 'mistakes' committed by his party and government from 2007 to 2017.

The by-polls are being seen as a litmus test for Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann whose government has completed a two-and-a-half-year term.

The victory will be important for Mann given his party's dismal performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in which it could win just three of 13 Parliamentary constituencies.



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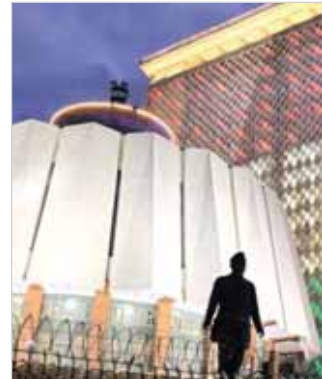
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Time for reckoning

Today Maharashtra will vote to decide its future leadership and political trajectory

Maharashtra, one of India's most politically significant states, votes for all 288 Assembly seats today. This election comes at a time of heightened political fragmentation and social unrest, making its outcome crucial for both state and national politics. A key issue in this election is the split within the Shiv Sena, a party long associated with Maharashtra's regional pride. The party is now divided into two factions: one led by Uddhav Thackeray, aligned with the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Congress, and the other by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, supported by the BJP. This division has significantly eroded the party's traditional voter base, creating uncertainty about its performance in this election. Adding to the complexity is the Maratha reservation demand. The Maratha community, constituting about 30 per cent of the state's population, is pushing for inclusion in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category to access job and educational quotas. Protests, led by figures like Manoj Jarange Patil, have brought this issue to the forefront, with the ruling BJP-Shiv Sena alliance attempting to address it through policy measures. However, the unresolved tensions could influence voter sentiment, especially in rural areas.



The BJP-led alliance faces further challenges from agrarian distress in regions like Vidarbha and Marathwada. Falling crop prices for key produce such as cotton and onions have caused financial strain on farmers, traditionally a significant voting bloc. The MVA has capitalised on this dissatisfaction,

highlighting the BJP's failure to protect Maharashtra's economic interests, including the recent relocation of major industrial projects to Gujarat. This election also reflects national-level dynamics. The results will test the BJP's ability to maintain its dominance amid growing opposition unity and could signal the strength of the Congress and its allies. A victory for the MVA might energise the national opposition, while a BJP win could consolidate its position. With a fragmented political landscape, Maharashtra's election promises to be closely contested. Its outcome will likely shape not only the state's future but also set the tone for national politics in the coming years. The political landscape of the state stands at a crossroads today. With a deeply fragmented Shiv Sena, intense debates over Maratha reservations, and agrarian distress weighing on rural voters, this election carries stakes far beyond the state's borders. The outcome would indeed be a pointer to the prowess of the BJP at the national level and the resilience of the INDI alliance. Besides the state is an economic powerhouse and whosoever rules the state also enjoys the support of corporate world to keep its momentum going.

PICTALK



Folk dancers perform during the celebration of the 297th foundation day of 'Pink City', Jaipur

West Bengal's lost opportunity

Tata Nano factory's relocation from West Bengal to Gujarat is a poignant reminder of how political myopia derailed a golden opportunity for Bengal's industrial revival



ANIRBAN GANGULY

In a moving tribute to late Ratan Tata, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of the many dimensions of the industrial icon's personality that endeared him to the people. Pursuit of excellence and empathy were among the most dominant traits in late Ratan Tata leading him to pilot the Tata conglomerate towards greater heights of success and expansion. Under his two decades of stewardship, the Tata group witnessed a phenomenal spread of its global footprints and established itself as a vibrant brand.

Perhaps like many others from West Bengal, Ratan Tata's passing brought to my mind the Singur - Tata Nano factory episode. Those dark days of lost opportunities, signified a major recul, for the hope of an industrial regeneration in the state. A party and government which had, for over three decades patronised, militant trade unionism had suddenly decided to reverse that trend. It was ironic to see it clamber for investment in a feverish pitch after having presided over the de-industrialisation of the state.

The destruction of Bengal's once formidable industrial might is a map of the CPI(M) rise in the state. Howrah, once famed as the 'Sheffield of the east', turned into West Bengal's principal industrial graveyard under the communists. As early as the 1920s Dr Ambedkar had seen through and realised the often-duplicious approach of the communist-led trade-unionism. In the pages of his Bahishkrut Bharat he wrote how communists were 'trying to capture the labour movement in the country' and that 'the main aim behind the strike' was 'not to improve the economic conditions of workers but to train them for revolution.' He could foresee the cancer that was trying to claw into India's industrial entrails.

Let us recall how then West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu had sanctioned protests against the Metro Rail project. The communist-driven frenzied trade-unionism destroyed several iconic public undertakings such as the Haringhata Milk



Dairy, set up by Dr BC Roy had created a milk supply chain across the state while generating thousands of jobs. Much like Mamata Banerjee who has refused to enlist West Bengal in the Centre's 'Aspirational District Project' and remains lukewarm to the 'Ekalavya Vidyalya' scheme, Basu in 1986, had forbade the setting up of Navodaya Schools in the state. In 1974, three years before he came to power as Chief Minister, Basu had organised a relay protest in front of the Hongkong Bank regional office in Kolkata to stall the installation of computers. Yet ironically the same Jyoti Basu in 1994, commissioned Arthur Anderson, a multinational business consultant, to carry out a study of the chances of West Bengal's industrial revival based on foreign investment. But progress was halting, it lacked a roadmap. Thus, when Ratan Tata decided to invest in the state it was a whiff of more than fresh air, it was a long-needed gush of wind for breathing fresh life into a dying industrial ethos. A hopeful Tata had then said that he had 'scanned the country and looked at various locations before deciding to locate this rather revolution-



MUCH LIKE MAMATA BANERJEE WHO HAS REFUSED TO ENLIST WEST BENGAL IN THE CENTRE'S FLAGSHIP 'ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT PROJECT' AND REMAINS LUKEWARM TO THE 'EKALAVYA VIDYALAYA' SCHEME, BASU IN 1986, HAD FORBADE THE SETTING UP OF NAVODAYA SCHOOLS IN THE STATE

ary project which will give India's truly people's car here in Bengal. It announced a new chapter, a historic opportunity for Bengal's industrial rejuvenation. But that did not happen. Political selfishness, and one-upmanship between the ruling CPI(M) and the opposition Trinamool Congress, leading a blind political opposition to the proposal led to its grounding. In trying to bolster her flagging political prospects, Mamata Banerjee, desperately and deliberately jettisoned the project. Her political arrogance and self-centeredness led to its sinking. In her last fifteen years at the helm, the state has failed to recover from that mindless assault and pushback. An epic opportunity was lost, with a beleaguered Tata announcing his exit from the state due to political reasons. The people of West Bengal lost out. Their hopes of a possibilities-filled future receded in a mist of uncertainty. Both the ruling dispensation then and the opposition were responsible for pushing the state into a dark alley. The alley remains dark even to this day. Ratan Tata announced that he was shifting the car plant to Gujarat's Sanand. It was a plant that would eventually

grow into a mega 1100-acre unit. Narendra Modi was then Chief Minister of Gujarat. As Tata was announcing his exit from West Bengal, Modi texted him 'Welcome', leading to the proposed Nano factory shifting to Gujarat. Modi told Tata that the project was not only his, but ours. Later he had observed, in a lighter vein, that his one-rupee SMS had brought about a major boost to Gujarat's industrial prospects. Ratan Tata later said that he would forever remain grateful to Modi for placing faith in him and inviting him to Gujarat during those difficult days. The saga of the Singur-Tata Nano factory's shift to Gujarat is a saga of petty political squabbles, acute selfishness, arrogance and lack of true commitment to West Bengal's future and progress. That mindset and outlook among the ruling dispensation in the state still dominate. It has to be thrown overboard. Only then will West Bengal's industrial rejuvenation appear to be a possibility.

(The writer is chairman Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and member National Executive Committee, BJP; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India tests hypersonic missile



India's hypersonic missile technology has received a shot in the arm after a long-range hypersonic missile was tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). With a range exceeding 1500 km, the missile is intended to carry wide-ranging payloads for all three services of the Indian armed forces. These indigenously developed missiles are special because they travel with a speed five

times that of sound at sea level, at approximately 6200 km per hour, and at a mile per second. Hypersonic missiles are extremely difficult to detect, making enemy radars nigh impossible to spot them before they are too close for comfort.

Their maneuverability and ability to fly at lower altitudes separate them from the ballistic missiles that follow a set path. Hypersonic missiles can also be partially projected into orbit via a glide vehicle through the fractional orbital bombardment system (FOBS) unlike the ballistic missiles, though the latter can travel faster. Till now, Russia, China and the United States possess full-fledged hypersonic capabilities, while Germany, France, Japan, Australia, Iran and Israel are on course to follow suit. India has, thus, joined the elite 'hypersonic group.' Kudos to ISRO for another feather in the cap.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

mobs. Education, health, development and civic administration are in peril. The elected government has turned dysfunctional and there are threats and possibilities of destabilising the state government. It is quite apparent that the efforts of peace in the first phase of violence have failed despite the newly elected state government post-violence.

Earlier, there were reports of missionaries inciting violence in the state. The Manipur violence has affected neighbouring states of Assam, Tripura and Nagaland. In fact, the Manipur violence has a secessionist motive and the disruptive and separatist forces behind the Manipur violence are based across the borders. It is, therefore, imperative that President Rule may be imposed in the state and the assembly may be suspended till normalcy returns and the political atmosphere is congenial for restoration of the assembly and the government. The Manipur mayhem should not be taken as political mileage by the opposition parties. The India-Myanmar border should be sealed with immediate effect,

though this is practically very difficult.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

KAILASH GAHLOT QUILTS AAP

Madam — Gahlot resigned from AAP, citing the party's shift from focusing on public welfare to prioritising political ambitions. In his resignation letter to AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Gahlot stated that instead of fighting for people's rights, the party had increasingly been focused on its own agenda. He also expressed dissatisfaction with controversies like the 'Sheeshmahal' row, questioning whether AAP still upheld its core identity as the party of the common man. AAP responded by alleging that Gahlot's resignation was influenced by pressure from central agencies investigating him, a claim Gahlot dismissed. The BJP believes that Gahlot's entry strengthens its position as it prepares to challenge AAP in the upcoming elections.

Akhilesh Krishnan | Vashi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Buddhas in the boardroom: How meditation can counter burnout



ISHAN SHIVANAND

Meditation, once reserved for monks, is emerging as a transformative practice for professionals, helping them fight burnout

With increased screen time, back-to-back meetings and the constant scramble of the hustle culture, we need to consider - whether are we running the show, or just running. Workplace burnout is the price often paid for juggling high expectations, tight deadlines and the need to be available for work all the time - while disregarding personal health and wellbeing.



Understanding workplace burnout: Burnout is beyond the feeling of tiredness at the end of a busy day. It's a state of chronic physical and emotional exhaustion, coupled with detachment, cynicism and reduced performance. The WHO officially recognised burnout as an occupational phenomenon, signifying its critical impact on modern work-life. It affects mental clarity and emotional resilience and can even have physiological repercussions on heart health and sleep patterns.

Why meditation: Amid the workday, meditation offers an oasis - a moment to pause, reflect, and realign. The practice, often associated with

monks and mountain retreats, is now being rediscovered in the boardroom. The reason is simple: meditation fosters the ability to be present, grounded and conscious of one's thoughts and actions. Research has shown that regular meditation can alter brain activity, shifting it from the limbic system (responsible for our fight-or-flight responses) to the prefrontal cortex (the centre for rational thinking and calmness). This neurological shift translates to a greater sense of control over stress, enabling clearer decision-making and enhancing focus. Yoga emphasises how yogic, breathing and meditation techniques can lead to transformative wellbeing. Studies on Yoga have reported a positive impact on holistic wellbeing, with participants reporting reductions in anx-

ety, stress, and burnout by 72-82 per cent. This makes it an effective, research-backed solution for integrating meditation into workplace wellness.

Transforming work culture through yogic practices

The tangible benefits of meditation go beyond stress relief. In practice, this means a more focused team, resilient in the face of challenges, and more open to collaboration. Some organisations are already creating environments where wellness isn't a perk but a pillar of their work culture. We need Buddhas in the boardroom.

How meditation rewrites your life script: Meditation is more than sitting in silence; it's about training the mind to be resilient. Techniques such as deep breathing, guided protocols and visualisation help individuals develop a heightened state of non-judgemental awareness, balance emotions, and build a strong mental framework to manage stress effectively. One standout programme is YOI, which has garnered attention for its multifaceted approach to wellbeing. Imagine being able to handle feedback with-

out feeling criticised or meeting a deadline without feeling panic - meditation offers a gateway to equanimity. As game-changers in the corporate world, meditative practices build the mental stamina to bounce back from setbacks, maintain composure under pressure, and approach situations with a growth mindset.

Meditation at work

Meditation in the workplace doesn't require a meditation mat or a designated room; it just requires an integration of intention, emotion and awareness. Here are some strategies to help you get started: A few minutes of breathing or focusing on your senses can help reset your mental state. Begin your meetings with a minute of silence or guided breathing. It helps everyone clear their minds and be more present. As the world continues to spin, meditation serves as a reminder - that the power to pause and find a balance lies within.

(The writer is, mental health researcher and the founder of Yoga of Immortals; views are personal)

UKRAINE TO USE LONG-RANGE MISSILES

Madam — If this news is true that finally, US President Joe Biden has given the green signal to Ukraine to use long-range American missiles against Russia, then it is very good news for Ukraine. Because for the last one and a half years, Ukrainian President Zelensky was asking for permission to use these long-range weapons. Otherwise, this weapon will remain just a showpiece and one day Russia will capture it and then it will start using it to capture some third country.

This decision is also necessary because the Biden administration is now a guest for only two months. The president who will come after him, Trump, has already announced that he will stop giving any kind of help to Ukraine. The second big reason for Biden's change of heart seems to be that with the support of Russia, about 10 thousand combat soldiers of North Korea have taken up the front against Ukraine. In such a situation, Ukraine should have gotten this permission at all costs. The news of Biden's decision came after meetings with the leaders of South Korea, Japan and China in the last two days. The inclusion of North Korean troops was the main topic of the talks, which took place during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Peru. Europe was already ready to give permission. But America was not ready. It is said that American missiles will be able to hit up to 300 kilometers inside Russia at three times the speed of sound, which even Russia's anti-missile equipment will not be able to intercept.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

VIOLENCE ESCALATES IN MANIPUR

Madam—Apropos of the headlines on Manipur violence (November 18), the resurgence of violence in Manipur goes unabated. The violence and sabotage look beyond control. The MLAs and ministers of different political parties are being attacked and their houses are ransacked. The democratic fabric in Manipur has been destroyed by the extremists and irate



FIRST COLUMN

A DIET FOR PEACE: KINDNESS OVER CRUELTY

The food we consume shapes not just our physical health but also our thoughts, actions and the world



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

It has been rightly said that we are what we eat because the kind of food that we eat has a direct impact on how we think and therefore it's crucial to what we become finally. Recent studies made by modern medical science have suggested that the human body is not naturally designed to digest and assimilate non-vegetarian food. That is why today most medical practitioners recommend a healthy vegetarian diet to their patients who are suffering from lifestyle disorders. Along with scientific studies, individual researchers made all over the world have also clearly pointed out that when an animal is killed for meat, it experiences fear, anxiety and pain. Its hormonal secretions are then passed on to its consumers.

Such a diet is therefore unhealthy both for the body and the mind. In many religions, a non-vegetarian diet is strictly forbidden not just because it causes pain and suffering to other living creatures but also because it is the source of vicious thoughts and attitudes to its consumers. In other words, non-vegetarian food is a gateway to a non-vegetarian lifestyle, a way of living where vices dwell comfortably. One must understand that human cruelty towards animals is nothing but a way of inviting cruelty onto the self. Also, the current trend of mass consumption of flesh by human beings highlights the way we look at other living beings and our desire to subjugate them.



From a broader perspective, the mass consumption of non-vegetarian food is a way of heaping sin upon the human community. No peace marches, diplomatic dialogues and conferences can bring peace to the planet when we are burdening it with the desperate cries of hapless creatures. For what we sow, so shall we reap. It is so ironic that the largely meat-eating developed countries of the world have stringent laws when it comes to treating a pet and it is ensured that if the pet is hurt, the owner can even be imprisoned. However, in these very countries, millions of animals are killed every day for food and yet no one goes to jail. Isn't it surprising that so many animal lovers continue to be non-vegetarians because they are unable to connect with the cruelty that goes behind, in the making of such food? Even more surprising was a weird recommendation to find humane methods of animal slaughter made by some so-called animal sympathisers. But the contention here is what can be more inhuman than nourishing an animal to kill it one day. It is a breach of morality by all standards. What is more cruel than subjecting generations of animals to a life of stifling captivity that only leads them to a merciless end? And what is more cruel than killing animals in front of each other? While one is bleeding to death, the other watches in horror and waits for its turn. It is a great pity that even sympathetic humans are left with such little kindness that all they can think of is designing a better way to kill. It's high time that all of us should ask ourselves a question: why does our conscience need a rational argument, sanctioned by a research institute in the West, to realise that killing other living creatures is a form of cruelty?

Why do we need facts and figures to understand that cruelty can never be a bringer of any form of health - be it mind, body or the environment & bring peace and harmony to the world? Can't we realise that a heart that heaves no sigh at the sight of violence cannot be a source of compassion for other fellow men? So how do we expect people who do not nurture the feeling of kindness for other living beings to nurture feelings of brotherhood and forgiveness for their community? Aren't we just walking on one path while seeking another's destination? Just give it a thought and then decide whether to Kill or Heal. Learn to live above self when life is precious to all. Let there be the right to live for all & not just Human Rights, then only world peace will descend.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

Delhi's air quality crisis: Action taken for now, but long-term solutions are crucial

The city faces an urgent need for sustainable, long-term strategies to tackle pollution at its root

The air quality in Delhi has recently deteriorated to dangerously high levels. To address this issue swiftly and effectively, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has implemented Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

This stage involves measures such as restricting bus services, pausing construction work and mining activities, and transitioning primary school classes to online learning. Although these steps are crucial in addressing the current pollution issue promptly, they alone cannot effectively address the underlying factors contributing to air pollution in the long term. It is crucial to prioritise short-term solutions for relief; however, we must not



EILIA JAFAR

overlook the factors that contribute to pollution in the long term as well. One significant factor is the dust produced during construction activities. While the temporary suspension of construction operations following GRAP guidelines is a move in the right direction, it also underscores the urgency of implementing more environmentally friendly building

methods. Germany and Sweden serve as examples of nations that have successfully implemented construction practices.

For instance, Germany prioritises the use of low-carbon concrete, whereas Sweden focuses on promoting energy-efficient structures with improved insulation and solar innovations. India has the opportunity to implement strategies to minimise dust and emissions from construction activities and promote sustainable development. The need for transformation in transportation is crucial to address the issue of pollution in Delhi caused by road dust and vehicle emissions. Although the metro system has advanced to some extent in Delhi, there are still areas

with connectivity that need attention.

Expanding the metro network and integrating buses can lead to a decrease in private car usage. Moreover, promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) could play a role in reducing emissions. Providing benefits such as tax incentives, toll discounts, and even offering parking for EVs could potentially increase their attractiveness to commuters. Biking is becoming more popular as an eco-friendly option in Delhi; however, the city's infrastructure doesn't fully support it yet. Although smart bikes are being introduced in some areas, which is a move forward, the absence of marked biking lanes and safety precautions deters many people from bik-



ing. Cities such as Copenhagen and Amsterdam serve as models for incorporating biking into urban environments. Delhi could take inspiration from its approach by investing in infrastructure for cyclists, such as bike lanes and bike-sharing services, to enhance the safety and convenience of cycling for its residents. Encouraging the use of sustainable building methods is crucial too!

Providing incentives for individuals who build energy-efficient homes or utilise eco-friendly materials could greatly support sustainability efforts in communities worldwide. Numerous nations offer tax advantages or financial aid to developers who embrace green building strategies. India could introduce perks like discounts on energy-saving devices, offers on solar panel setups, or financial assistance for homeowners undertaking eco-conscious improvements. These initiatives would not only lessen the burden on energy reserves but also encourage environmentally responsible construction practices. Another helpful way to decrease the number of cars on the road is through carpooling initiatives, such as carpool

lanes and discounts for vehicles with passengers, which have proven effective in countries around the world. Introducing strategies in Delhi, such as designated carpool lanes or toll reductions for cars carrying two or more passengers, could play a role in alleviating traffic congestion and decreasing harmful emissions levels. By implementing these measures, not only would pollution be reduced, but it would also enhance the daily commute experience for numerous residents in the area. The call for action is critical now. The air pollution crisis in NCR intensified on November 17, 2024, as Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) climbed to a hazardous 441 by 4 PM, classified as 'severe', up from

419 the previous day. The harmful pollutants are linked to health concerns, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases.

The Stage 4 actions outlined in the GRAP are crucial for providing relief; however, it is evident that a comprehensive long-term plan is essential to enhance the air quality in Delhi. By emphasising the enhancement of public transportation services, implementing infrastructure for cyclists, advocating for eco-friendly construction methods and encouraging carpooling, Delhi can strive to diminish pollution levels and establish a healthier and more sustainable environment for all residents. (The writer is humanitarian and development professional; views are personal)

Delhi discoms in crisis: Debt and regulatory gaps



UTTAM GUPTA

A convoluted tariff regime, under-recoveries, power theft, and unpaid subsidies are threatening the sustainability of the Delhi discoms



Delhi Government is looking at various options to address twin problems facing its three power distribution companies (discoms) namely BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL), discom for South & West Delhi; BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) — discom for Central & East Delhi; and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited or TPDDL - discom for North Delhi. These are (i) "Regulatory Assets" or RAs of Rs 27,200 crore lying in the books of these discoms; (ii) an equally staggering amount of Rs 26,500 crore they owe to power generation and transmission companies viz. Indraprastha Power Generation Co. Ltd (IPGCL), Pragati Power Corporation Limited (PPCL) and Delhi Transco Limited or DTL at the end of September 2024. The discoms are expected to sell electricity to the consumers at tariffs — duly approved by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) — that are set in a manner such that the revenue generated from sale at these tariffs fully cover the power purchase cost plus the cost of wheeling and distribution. The requirement is mandatory under the Electricity Act, of 2003. But, this is rarely complied with.

Under a highly convoluted regime, the tariff charged from households (HHs) consuming up to 200 units a month is Rs 3 per unit which is just about half of the average cost leading to an under-recovery of Rs 3 per unit. Including levies adding to 44.6 per cent, the shortfall comes to Rs 4.3 per unit (3x1.446). For HHs consuming between 201 and 400 units, the tariff is Rs 4.5 per unit implying an under-recovery of Rs 1.5 per unit. Including the levies, this comes to Rs 2.2 per unit. These under-recoveries are cross-subsidised by charging more from industries and businesses for which the tariff can go up to a high of Rs 16 per unit.

The irony is that despite charging exorbitant rates from industries and businesses, a good slice of under-recoveries from HHs consuming less than 400 units a month remains uncovered. Additionally, the Delhi government doesn't want the latter to even pay the small tariff of Rs



THE IRONY IS THAT DESPITE CHARGING EXORBITANT RATES FROM INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES, A GOOD SLICE OF UNDER-RECOVERIES FROM HHS CONSUMING LESS THAN 400 UNITS A MONTH REMAINS UNCOVERED

3 per unit (courtesy, of Kejriwal's freebies). Thus, discoms are told not to raise any bill on HHs consuming up to 200 units even as HHs consuming up to 400 units get a flat deduction of Rs 800 per month from the bill amount. Though the government promises to reimburse them for these subsidies from the state budget, this promise is held more in breach. This increases discoms' losses which are compounded by large-scale power theft.

Where do RAs fit in? RAs are created when state electricity regulatory commissions (in this case, DERC) accept that the tariffs don't cover discounts' purchase costs but don't raise rates. The gap between the cost and revenue generated from sales at tariffs (albeit unrevised) for supplied power, is booked by discom as receivable and classified as RA. This is contrary to the Electricity Act (2003) and the National Power Tariff Policy (NPTP) which says that "tariffs must reflect costs and regulatory assets should not be created". In December 2022, the Ministry of Power (MoP) even warned against creating a pile of RAs. But, all these regulations/warnings have fallen on deaf ears.

All losses incurred by discoms in Delhi during the last 11 years or so have been shown in their books as RAs. Regrettably, the RAs persist despite subsisting mechanisms to enable discoms to offset cost escalation by suitable increases in tariff. As per the order issued by MoP on November 9, 2021, discoms are allowed to impose a surcharge known as PPAC (Power Purchase Agreement Cost). Levied as a percentage of the 'total energy cost and fixed charge component' of the electricity bill, the surcharge is meant to compensate them for variations in the fuel and power procurement cost. Effective from July 2023, the DERC had last increased PPAC vide its order

dated June 22, 2023, by 9.42 per cent for BYPL, 6.39 per cent for BRPL and 2 per cent for TPDDL. The current PPACs for these discoms are 31.6 per cent, 27.08 per cent and 33 per cent respectively. Moreover, DERC has allowed discoms to levy a surcharge of eight per cent.

This is intended to plug any shortfall in revenue vis-à-vis the cost still left unplugged after collection of PPAC. Despite these two impositions, the discoms continue to report a substantial shortfall in their revenue from the sale of electricity which is manifest in cumulative monumental RAs of Rs 27,200 crore. It is a manifestation of several glaring pitfalls: (i) the Delhi government isn't reimbursing discoms for the subsidies they give to target consumers on its behalf; (ii) large-scale power theft continues unabated; (iii) discoms have been submitting inflated bills/claims and other financial wrongs; (iv) inefficiencies get full protection. Hesitant to sanction tariff hikes against these extra/unjustified costs, DERC chooses the easy option of putting all these under RAs.

The idea of creating RAs is flawed. When a discom petitions DERC to allow any cost increase in tariff, the latter can either reject or accept. In case of acceptance, it should take the process to its logical conclusion by sanctioning the requisite tariff hike and notifying it. It can't leave things hanging in the air by accepting but not 'approving' and 'notifying' the tariff hike. Unfortunately, this is what the DERC has been doing for over a decade. This has dangerous consequences.

First, once recorded in their books as RAs, discoms will leave no stone unturned in recovering the money say by getting sanction of a steep hike in tariff to make up for the entire cumulative deficit in revenue. Indeed, the matter had gone right up to the Supreme Court

(SC) which in an order given in early 2023 had directed the DERC to let discoms recover their RAs. This could lead to a 100 per cent hike in tariff.

So, the regulator decided to contest that order. Second, until such time the requisite tariff hike is actually sanctioned by the DERC, the RAs can't be treated as an asset. Hence, there remains every possibility of the loans taken from banks and financial institutions (FIs) for funding them becoming non-performing assets (NPAs). Moreover, the banks/FIs may not give more to discoms and their suppliers namely IPGCL/PPCL/DTL more loans. Third, the discoms can leverage the ambiguous classification (neither outright rejection of a claim for tariff hike nor approval) to present claims to the DERC which the latter may not be willing to accept.

This leads to substantial claims getting bogged down in legal disputes at the appeal level or in higher courts. To conclude, providing for RAs in the books of discoms is a bad practice. Apart from discoms, it also puts the power generators and transmission companies at serious risk. It can impair the balance sheet of banks and FIs who have given loans to them.

It could mean a steep hike in tariffs on supplies to industries/businesses besides HHs consuming more than 400 units a month. To cap it all, it provides a 'cover up' for financial irregularities and corruption. The practice must be shunned. As for the RAs already piled up, a thorough enquiry should be ordered to look into irregularities followed by recovery of money from those found guilty. The discoms should be 'unshackled' from the controls of the State government. If the latter wants to subsidize or provide free power to certain consumers, the money should be given to them directly.

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

45 pro-democracy activists sentenced in Hong Kong's biggest national security case

AP ■ HONG KONG
Forty-five ex-lawmakers and activists were sentenced to four to 10 years in prison Tuesday in Hong Kong's biggest national security case under a Beijing-imposed law that crushed a once-thriving pro-democracy movement. They were prosecuted under the 2020 national security law for their roles in an unofficial primary election. Prosecutors said their aim was to paralyse Hong Kong's government and force the city's leader to resign by aiming to win a legislative majority and using it to block government budgets indiscriminately. The unofficial primary

held in July 2020 drew 610,000 voters, and its winners had been expected to advance to the official election. Authorities postponed the official legislative election, however, citing public health risks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Legal scholar Benny Tai, whom the judges called the mastermind, received the longest sentence of 10 years. The judges said the sentences had been reduced for defendants who said they were unaware the plan was unlawful. However, the court said the penalties were not reduced for Tai and former lawmaker Alvin Yee because they are lawyers who were "absolutely adamant

in pushing for the implementation of the scheme". In the judgment posted online, the judges wrote that Tai essentially "advocated for a revolution" by publishing a series of articles over a period of months that traced his thinking, even though in a letter seeking a shorter sentence Tai said the steps were "never intended to be used as blueprint for any political action". Two of the 47 original defendants were acquitted earlier this year. The rest either pleaded guilty or were found guilty of conspiracy to commit subversion. The judges said in their verdict that the activists' plans to effect change through the

unofficial primary would have undermined the government's authority and created a constitutional crisis. The judges rejected the reasoning from some defendants that the scheme would never have materialised, stating that "all the participants had put in every endeavour to make it a success". The judges highlighted that a great deal of time, resources and money were devoted to the organisation of the primary election. "When the Primary Election took place on the 10 and 11 July, no one had remotely mentioned the fact that Primary Election was no more than an

academic exercise and that the Scheme was absolutely unattainable," the judgment read. "In order to succeed, the organisers and participants might have hurdles to overcome, that however was expected in every subversion case where efforts were made to overthrow or paralyse a government." Some of the defendants waved at their relatives in the courtroom after they were sentenced. Gwyneth Ho, a journalist-turned-activist who was jailed for seven years, said "our true crime for Beijing is that we were not content with playing along in manipulated elections" on her Facebook page.



Police officers stand guard outside the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts in Hong Kong on Tuesday. AP/PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that My Clients Anil Yadav S/o Bhadr Singh R/o B1/275 UG Floor Paschim Vihar New Delhi-110063 have debarred & disowned their Daughter Priyanka Yadav from their moveable and immovable properties. My Clients have also severed all their relationship with them. If anybody deals with them in any manner they do so at their own risk and responsibility. Ramesh Chander (Adv) Ch-48, Western Wings, Tia Hazari

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, AMREEN ALI D/O ASLAM R/O H.NO-332 B. GALI NO-16, BLOCK-H, GOPAL DAIRY, SANGAM VIHAR, TALIMABAD, PO PUSHPA BHAWAN, DISTT. SOUTH DELHI-110062 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MD ASLAM in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is ASLAM which may be amended accordingly. AMREEN ALI

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to the public at large that my client Shakuntla Devi, W/o Ramphal, both permanent residents of R/O S-83/7-238, Indira Camp Begumpur, Malviya Nagar, S.O. South Delhi, Delhi 110017, have debarred, disbar and disinherited his son namely Rohit S/o Ramphal and her wife Rachika from all their moveable and immovable properties and my client shall not be responsible for any immoral or moral activities from him and her wife, present or future from today. Anybody dealing with Sh. Rohit and his wife will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by Sh. Rohit. (JYOTI & VIVEK KUMAR SINGH) ADVOCATE CH NO. 274, SAKET COURT, LAWYERS BLOCK-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to declare that the legal heirs of Lt. Smt. Raj Dulari are her sons i.e. Sh. Manmohan Mehta and Sh. Anil Mehta only. Further Sh. Manmohan Mehta is the sole owner of the freehold property bearing no A-12, Pundrik Vihar Pitampura Delhi 110034 having absolute right vide registered Conveyance Deed dated 22.10.2024

Redhakhol
'e' Procurement NOTICE.
No. 2394 /NAC Dt. 11.2024
Bid Identification No. RDL NAC-2/2024-25
Tender ID- 2024_ORULB_107063
The Municipal Executive Officer on behalf of NAC Redhakhol invites tenders in Single Cover System. Bid documents consisting of specification the Schedule of Quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen the Govt. Website i.e. <https://tendersopdisha.gov.in>
1. Number of Civil works/Others : (20) numbers
2. Estimated Costs : 0.84 lakhs to 109.41 lakhs
3. Period of completion : As per NIT
4. Date and time of availability of the bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 A.M. of 18.11.2024 to 04.00 PM of 02.12.2024
5. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 04.00 PM of 02.12.2024
6. Bids will be opened on : 5:00 PM of Dt. 02.12.2024
7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid: Executive Officer, NAC Redhakhol
Sd/- Executive Officer NAC Redhakhol
OPR-131751100030245

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for public information that QRG Medicare Limited (Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad), Plot No. 1, Sector 16, Faridabad-121002 is destroying patient medical records (excluding MLC, Death, ongoing court cases and KTP, LTP patients and New born baby IPD files) from April 2018 to September 2018 as per the hospital policy and other regulatory norms.
Any patient/relative of the patients or any other person related to the patient who desires to preserve the indoor patient Medical Record for future references are requested to contact the medical record department of the hospital for the same at Basement, Block-C, QRG Medicare Limited (Marengo Asia Hospital, Faridabad), or on 9467816025, 0129-4330000 or email to mrd@marengoasia.com on or before 20th Dec 2024.
By Order : Medical Director
Dr. Navneet Singh Chhabra
QRG Medicare Limited
(Marengo Asia Hospitals, Faridabad)
Plot No. 1, Sector-16, Faridabad, Haryana 121002

ATS INFRABUILD PRIVATE LIMITED
REGD. OFF. : 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019
CIN: U45400DL2007PTC168922; Ph. No. 0120-7111500
Email: compliances@atsgreens.com
ANNEXURE I
[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]
(Amounts in INR Lacs except per share data and ratios)

S. No.	Particulars	For the Quarter ended		
		30.09.2024	30.09.2023	31.03.2024
		Unaudited	Unaudited (Restated)	Audited (Restated)
1	Total Income from Operations	1,158.94	3,469.24	13,407.51
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.28	(260.27)	(420.21)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.28	(260.27)	(420.21)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	79.10	(260.47)	(771.48)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	79.10	(260.47)	(775.08)
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(4,147.96)	(3,868.93)	(4,200.57)
8	Net worth	(4,146.96)	(3,867.93)	(4,199.57)
9	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	20,787.05	16,270.32	16,425.32
10	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
11	Debt Equity Ratio *	(0.59)	(0.59)	(0.58)
12	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -			
	1. Basic: (in Rs)	791.05	(2,604.68)	(7,714.76)
	2. Diluted: (in Rs)	791.05	(2,604.68)	(7,714.76)
13	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
14	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio *	0.03	(0.10)	(0.17)
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio *	-	(0.70)	(5.42)
17	Current Ratio	0.78	0.84	0.80
18	Long Term Debt to Working Capital Ratio	-	-	-
19	Bad Debt to Accounts Receivable Ratio	-	-	-
20	Current Liability Ratio	0.99	1.00	0.99
21	Total Debt to Total Asset Ratio	0.08	0.06	0.07
22	Debtor Turnover Ratio	11.23	69.94	178.29
23	Inventory Turnover Ratio	0.03	0.10	0.41
24	Operating Margin	6.62%	-8.85%	-4.19%
25	Net Profit Margin	6.83%	-7.51%	-5.75%

Note:
a)The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity.
b)For the items referred in sub-clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).
c)# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.
d)* - The pertinent items need to be disclosed if the said disclosure is required as per Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.
e)Previous periods figures have been reclassified wherever considered necessary

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of
ATS Infrabuild Private Limited

Sd/- Kashinath Jha
Director
DIN:09834435

Sd/- Santosh Kumar
Director
DIN:09835334

Place: Noida
Date: 14.11.2024

Putin signs doctrine that lowers threshold for using N-weapons

AP ■ MOSCOW
Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday signed a revised nuclear doctrine declaring that a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear power will be considered a joint attack on his country. Putin's endorsement of the new nuclear deterrent policy comes on the 1,000th day after he sent troops into Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022. It follows US President Joe Biden's decision to let Ukraine strike targets inside Russia with US-supplied longer-range missiles. The signing of the doctrine,

which says that any massive aerial attack on Russia could trigger a nuclear response, reflects Putin's readiness to threaten use of the country's nuclear arsenal to force the West to back down as Moscow presses a slow-moving offensive in Ukraine. Asked about whether the updated doctrine was deliberately issued on the heels of the US' decision to ease restrictions on Ukraine using its longer-range missiles to strike Russia, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said the document was published "in a timely manner" and that Putin instructed the government to update it earlier this year

so that it is "in line with the current situation". Putin first announced changes in the nuclear doctrine in September, when he chaired a meeting discussing the proposed revisions. The new version of the document states that an attack against his country by a nonnuclear power with the "participation or support of a nuclear power" will be seen as their "joint attack on the Russian Federation". It doesn't specify whether such an attack would necessarily trigger a nuclear response. It mentions the "uncertainty of scale, time and place of possible use of nuclear deterrent" among the key prin-

ciples of the nuclear deterrence. It spells out conditions for using nuclear weapons in greater detail compared to the previous version of the doctrine, noting they could be used in case of a massive air attack involving ballistic and cruise missiles, aircraft, drones and other flying vehicles. The wide formulation appears to broaden the triggers for possible nuclear weapons use compared with the previous version of the document, which stated that Russia could tap its atomic arsenal if "reliable information is received about the launch of ballistic missiles targeting the territory of Russia or its allies".

Canara Bank DELHI TAGORE GARDEN BRANCH (0391)
B 8, 9, 10 Tagore Garden Delhi-110027
E-mail: cb0391@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
Ref: CB 0391/SM/SARFAESI/02/2024 Date: 18.09.2024

To SUMIT C/O DEVENDER SINGH, B1-432 GROUND FLOOR JANAKPURI, WEST DELHI- 110058 & TO GAURAV ARORA S/O JAGDISH PRASAD ARORA, WZ-K-66 G FLOOR KRISHNA PARK EXTN, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018

Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Tagore Garden (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That Mr. Sumit (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That GAURAV ARORA (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of Rs. 1475000/- (Rupees Fourteen Lac seventy five thousand only) with interest thereon.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, From DEC-2023 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs. 1311443.53 (Rupees: Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty three and paise Fifty three only), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues.

The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 29-12-2023 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India. The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of as applicable, monthly compounded together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs.1311443.53 (Rupees: Thirteen Lac Eleven Thousand Four Hundred Forty three and paise Fifty three only) together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4) - In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely:

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization/income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non-compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

SCHEDULE - A
(DETAILS OF THE CREDIT FACILITY/IES AVAILED BY THE BORROWER)

Sl No	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1.	161001049082	VEHICLE LOAN	30-09-2022	Rs.1475000/-
				Total: Rs.1475000/-

SCHEDULE - B
(DETAILS OF SECURITY ASSETS)

MOVABLE ASSETS

Sl No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	Name of Title holder
1	REGI. No. DL 10 CU2504, MAHINDRA THAR LX D MT 4 WD 4S HT CHASSIS NO.MATUJ4YK2N2H41600, ENGINE NO.YKN4H79745	SUMIT

IMMOVABLE

Sl No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	Name of Title holder
1	NIL	

SCHEDULE - C
(DETAILS OF LIABILITY AS ON DATE)

Sl No	Loan No	Nature Of Loan/Limit	Liability With Interest As On Date 21-02-2024	Rate Of Interest
1.	161001049082	VEHICLE LOAN	Rs.1311443.53	9.55%
			Total Rs.1311443.53	

Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Brazilian police arrest five officers over alleged coup plot, plans to kill President Lula, others

AP ■ SAO PAULO
Brazilian police arrested five officers accused of a coup plot that included plans to overthrow the government following the 2022 elections and kill President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, authorities said. According to the investigation, the coup plotters also planned to kill Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes. Brazilian media said the five arrested included four military and one police officer. The police said that five arrest warrants have been carried out, as well as three search and seizure warrants along with other measures, including seizing the suspects' passports and preventing them from contacting others. Judge Alexandre de Moraes, who authorized the arrests, said a police investigation revealed the coup plot involved military personnel trained in the Army's Special Forces and a retired high-ranking official. "The objective was to prevent the inauguration of the legitimately elected government and undermine the free exercise of democracy and the authority of Brazil's judiciary," de Moraes said in the order. "These actions, peaking between November and December 2022, were part of a broader plan to carry out a coup d'etat," he added.

Several students hurt by vehicle outside school in China

AP ■ TAIPEI
Numerous children were injured by a vehicle outside an elementary school in central China's Hunan province on Tuesday, reports said. Hours after the incident, the casualty count was unclear and authorities had yet to clarify if it was an accident or a deliberate attack. The incident follows a series of recent killings or attacks in China by people in vehicles or wielding knives. Students were arriving for classes around 8 am at Yong'an Elementary School in the city of Changde when a small white SUV drove into a crowd of children and adults, according to state media. Few details were released, reflecting China's reflexive inclination to suppress news about crime, protests and major accidents that could erode public confidence in the ruling Communist Party's self-declared ability to maintain social order. Several adults were also injured, the official Xinhua News Agency said, adding that the driver was subdued by parents and security guards and some of the injured were immediately sent to the hospital. Police in the city's Dingcheng district, where the school is located, issued a statement saying no one had life-threatening injuries and identifying the driver as a 39-year-old man surnamed Huang, who was under detention. It said the incident was under investigation but gave no word on the cause or other details. Footage posted on Chinese social media showed the injured lying on the road while terrified students ran past the gate and inside the schoolhouse. Comments on Chinese internet sites reflected anger and frustration with recurring incidents of violence against citizens by those venting anger at society. While China has much lower rates of violence than many countries — personal gun ownership there is illegal — knifings and the use of homemade explosives still occur. Chinese schools have been subject to numerous attacks by people armed with knives or using vehicles as weapons.

Thousands crowd New Zealand's Parliament grounds in support of Maori rights

AP ■ WELLINGTON

As tens of thousands crowded the streets in New Zealand's capital, Wellington, on Tuesday, the throng of people, flags aloft, had the air of a festival or a parade rather than a protest.

ever protest in support of Maori rights — a subject that has pre-occupied modern New Zealand for much of its young history — followed a long tradition of peaceful cross-country marches that have marked turning points in the nation's story.

spread, which marchers said indicated rising knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi's promises to Maori among New Zealanders — and a small but vocal backlash from those who are angered by the attempts of courts and lawmakers to keep them. Maori marching for their rights is not new. But the crowds were larger than at treaty marches before and the mood was changed, Indigenous people said.

of Waitangi and prevent them from applying only to Maori — whose chiefs signed the document when New Zealand was colonised. But others read "proud to be Maori" or acknowledged the bearer's heritage as a non-Maori person endorsing the protest.

on the lawn for a vantage point; others perched in trees. The tone was almost joyful; as people waited to leave the cramped area, some struck up Maori songs that most New Zealanders learn at school.

Pakistan bans public gatherings ahead of protest by Imran's party

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan federal authorities have outlawed all sorts of public gatherings in the capital region for two months ahead of a planned protest by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party.

tranquility." Public gatherings of five or more people were banned, as they might "threaten public peace and tranquillity, cause public annoyance or injury, endanger human life and safety, pose a threat to public property, and ... lead to a riot or an affray including sectarian riot within the revenue/territorial limits of district Islamabad."

However, the banning of rallies may hardly have any impact on the PTI which in the past flouted Section 144 several times, political observers said, adding, the protesters usually invoke a constitutional provision that provides the right of peaceful assembly and protest to all citizens.

US envoy pushes for truce in Lebanon

AP ■ BEIRUT

A United States envoy returned to Beirut on Tuesday, where Lebanese officials have tentatively welcomed a proposal for an Israel-Hezbollah cease-fire. There was no such optimism in the Gaza Strip, where the mass looting of aid trucks by armed men worsened an already severe food crisis.

tarian aid over the weekend sent prices soaring and caused shortages in central Gaza, where most of the population of 2.3 million people have fled and where hundreds of thousands are crammed into squalid tent camps. An even more severe hunger crisis is underway in the north, where Israel has been waging a week-long offensive that has killed hundreds of people and driven tens of thousands from their homes.

men stole food and other aid from 98 trucks over the weekend, the largest single incident of its kind since the start of the war. It did not say who was behind the theft. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the convoy of 109 trucks was instructed by the Israeli military to take an "alternative, unfamiliar route" after the aid was brought in through the Kerem Shalom crossing, and that the trucks were stolen near the crossing itself.

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is public notice that the Flat No Z-376B, Sector-12, Noida, has been allotted in the name of Shri Vijendra Thapa S/O Shri Kharakwari R/O G-114, Sector-20, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar Uttar Pradesh, had sold the said flat, on the basis of GPA to the following persons:-

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, No.2897658P Hav Jasvir Singh, R/o- Vill- Bad, Post-Kakua, Dist-Agra, U.P-282009, declare that in my Army records, my daughter's name is wrongly written as Kumari Prity Chahar whereas her correct name is Preeti Chahar. It should be amended in Army Record.

PROVISION OF TRACK MACHINE & RENOVATION OF STAFF QUARTER

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/46 of 2024 Dated: 13-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. 1. Brief Description of work: Hatwar-Kumedpur-Provision of Track Machine siding- 5 Stations. (P Way Works and formation works).

UK farmers descend on Parliament to protest tax

AP ■ LONDON

With banners, bullhorns, toy tractors and an angry message, thousands of British farmers descended on Parliament on Tuesday to protest a tax hike they say will deal a "hammer blow" to struggling family farms.

Parliament Square after a rally addressed by speakers including former "Top Gear" TV host and celebrity farmer Jeremy Clarkson. Another 1,800 farmers were invited into Parliament for a "mass lobby" of lawmakers nearby organised by the National Farmers' Union.

people who have bought up agricultural land as an investment, driving up the cost of farmland in the process. "It's become the most effective way for the super rich to avoid paying their inheritance tax," Environment Secretary Steve Reed wrote in the Daily Telegraph, adding that high land prices were "robbing young farmers of the dream of owning their own farm."

Aro granite Industries Ltd.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY: Transfer of Equity Shares of the Company to Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPPA). This notice is published pursuant to the provisions of the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016, as amended (the "Rules").

PUBLIC NOTICE: The General Public is informed that Shri Dayanand Mishra S/O Late Shri L. N. Mishra R/O Village Gijhor Sector-53, Noida District-Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP (Aadhar No. 9954 0594 9773 and Mobile No. 9131107898), who died on 22.04.2018 (Death certificate issued date 15.05.2018). A residential lease hold vacant Plot No. 240, which has an area of 112.50 Sq. Mts. which is located in Block-A, Sector 47 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.

PROVISION OF CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM: Tender Notice No.: 09 of 2024-25. Open E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: E-Tender No. N-2024-25-09-Dy.CSTE-NW; Name of work: Provision of CCTV Surveillance system at STTC/PNO Training Centre, S&T Workshop/PNO and Microwave office/Maligaon.

ELECTRICAL WORK UNDER KATHIHAR DIVISION: E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/18_2024/K/948; dated: 14-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No: 18_2024; Name of work: Installation of "Grid Connected" (On Grid) Solar Photo Voltaic Modules at Kathihar Division (Phase-II).

STORES E-PROCUREMENT: Tender Notice No.: S/26/2024-25, Dtd: 14-11-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following works. Sl.No.:1; Tender No. : 50/24/0662A/OT/117/2024-25; Closing/Opening Date: 29-11-2024. Brief Description P.L. No. & Qty : Electronic LC gate Telephone system (Master) as per RDSO Spec.No RDSO/SPN/TC/51/2021(Rev.1.0) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0].

Agriculture Minister sounds alarm on soil degradation, calls for urgent action

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Agriculture Minister Shri Singh Chauhan on Tuesday expressed concern over soil degradation affecting 30 per cent of India's land and stressed the need for urgent measures to maintain soil quality for sustainable farming. Addressing a global conference on soil through video conferencing, Chauhan said improving soil health is crucial for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to zero hunger, climate action and life on land. "We are producing more than 330 million tonnes of foodgrains annually and exporting worth USD 50 billion.



This success however comes with concerns, especially regarding soil health," the minister said. According to Chauhan, about 30 per cent of India's land is experiencing degradation due to rising fertiliser consumption, imbalanced use of fertilisers,

exploitation of natural resources and wrong soil management practices. The minister highlighted various government initiatives, including the distribution of more than 220 million soil health cards to farmers and the promotion of micro irrigation, organic and natural farming methods. However, he emphasised that more focused efforts are needed, particularly in view of rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns and climate change challenges. A new programme on modern agriculture will soon be launched to bridge the gap between scientists and farmers, Chauhan added. Speaking at the event, Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand questioned the limited adoption of conservation agriculture and zero tillage methods in India and South Asia, despite their successful implementation in South American countries like Brazil and Argentina. While some NGOs and private companies are promoting regenerative agriculture and natural farming, these initiatives remain limited in scope, Chand told the conference, calling on the Indian Soil Scientists Society (ISSS) to spearhead larger-scale solutions. The conference was attended by ICAR Director General Himanshu Pathak, Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority Chairperson Trilochan Mohapatra, and ISSS President H Pathak.

FICCI reduces GST on EV batteries, charging services to boost affordability

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
In order to keep EVs competitive there is a need to reduce GST on batteries and charging services, FICCI Electric Vehicle Committee Chair Sulajja Firodia Motwani said on Tuesday. Speaking at the sidelines of FICCI National Conference on EVs here, she also exhorted the need to enhance PM E-Drive corpus to support enhanced sales of EVs. "We would be making a recommendation to the GST council to rationalise the GST taxation on EV-related areas," Motwani said. Elaborating on the demands, she noted, "Currently the GST on charging services is still 18 per cent which we would request to bring down to 5 per cent so that charging becomes more affordable to the consumers." Secondly, the GST on batteries should also come down to 5 per cent, she added. "While EVs attract a GST of 5 per cent, GST on batteries is



18 per cent. The request is to reduce it to 5 per cent so that when consumers buy replacement batteries, it is more affordable," Motwani said. Meeting that these two reforms on GST will help a lot in making EVs more competitive for the consumers, she stated. While welcoming the PM E-Drive scheme, Motwani said that with rising demand there is a need to review the incentive amounts. "We believe that because the demand is growing, perhaps the incentive amounts have to be reviewed so that the budget under the PM E-Drive scheme overall is enhanced to ensure that the total number of vehicles sold in the next two years are eligible for the incentive," she stated. She further said, "We do believe that PM E-Drive has great potential, and it will go a long way in further accelerating electric mobility." Motwani also emphasised that EVs should be part of priority sector lending. "We do believe there's a strong case to allow and to help having affordable financing for EVs that can make it more cost competitive for not just the classes, but for the masses," she said. FICCI President and Mahindra Group MD and CEO Anish Shah said electric four-wheelers currently have a 1.5 per cent penetration in India which indicates that "much work is needed". India has a history of leapfrogging other countries and the discussion shifts to the requirements for achieving this with EVs, he said.

Government addresses steel import issues amid rising concerns

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The government is working to address the issues related to steel imports, Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy said on Tuesday. The industry has apprised the ministry and it is aware of the issue, Kumaraswamy told PTI on the sidelines of FICCI's Conference - Accelerating E-mobility: Enablers and Imperative. "Some issues are there. They (steel players) are telling some substandard material is getting imported from some countries. For that we are working," he said. Domestic steel players have been consistently raising their concerns over rising cheap steel imports from select nations, affecting their competitiveness. Steel imports have risen by nearly 50 per cent in the first six months of FY25

compared to the same period last year, with China being the largest contributor, BigMint CEO Dhruv Goel said. "This surge is primarily driven by increased Chinese steel exports due to slowing domestic demand there. China's exports are projected to surpass 100 million tonnes in 2024, the highest in eight years," he said. Additionally, Vietnam has contributed significant incremental volumes to India. Exports from Vietnam benefit from the free trade agreement, which exempts them from import duties, Goel noted. According to BigMint data, India's steel imports were at 5.51 million tonnes (MnT) in April-September 2024-25, higher from 3.66 MnT in the year-ago period. Imports from China have surged to 1.85 MnT during that period from 1.02 MnT in April-September period of financial year 2023-24.

CCPA to bring regulatory framework for diamond industry to protect consumers interest

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will soon release guidelines on diamond sector to ensure explicit labelling and certification of all diamonds and prohibit the use of misleading terms in trade. The CCPA has organised a stakeholder consultation on consumer protection in the diamond sector to deliberate on the use of appropriate terminology for diamonds, an official statement said on Tuesday. The consultation, chaired by Nidhi Khare, Chief Commissioner, Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), brought together key industry stakeholders and experts. "The CCPA will soon release a robust framework to ensure transparency, accountability, and consumer protection across the diamond industry," the statement said. The meeting addressed critical concerns regarding



the lack of standardised terminology and inadequate disclosure practices in the diamond sector. "These gaps have resulted in consumer confusion and misleading practices, especially concerning the differentiation between natural diamonds and lab-grown diamonds," it pointed out. Industry consensus emphasised the need for ethical marketing practices and consistent terminology to enhance consumer protection. "Comprehensive guidelines were proposed to mandate: Explicit labelling and certification of all diamonds, specifying their origin and production method; prohibition of misleading terms like 'natural' or 'genuine' for lab-grown products; accreditation systems to regulate and standardise diamond testing laboratories, curbing the rise of unregulated entities," the statement said. The consultation was a significant step toward building a transparent and

consumer-centric diamond market. During the consultation, the broad key aspects and prevailing Legal and Regulatory frameworks were discussed in detail. Citing an example, the CCPA said that The Legal Metrology Act, 2009, under Section 12, provides the unit of mass for diamonds, pearls, and precious stones as the carat (symbol: c), equivalent to 200 milligrams or one five-thousandth of a kilogram, ensuring standardised measurements for consistency in commercial transactions across the diamond industry. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Standard IS 15766:2007 mandates that the term "diamond" alone must exclusively refer to natural diamonds. Synthetic diamonds cannot be labelled as "diamond" without qualification and must be explicitly referred to as "synthetic diamonds," irrespective of the production method or

'Her Comfort' campaign to promote menstrual health awareness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ GURUGRAM
Artemis Health Sciences Foundation (AHSF), in partnership with Pinkish Foundation, launched the 'Her Comfort' campaign to promote menstrual health awareness among adolescent girls in underserved areas of Gurugram. The initiative, launched at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Basai, aims to benefit 1,500 girls by providing hygiene kits and education to combat stigma and promote menstrual health. The kits include sanitary pads, undergarments, and educational materials for six months. Workshops will dispel myths and empower girls to manage their health confidently.

Coal India Ltd receives Green World Awards 2024



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
Vinay Ranjan, Director, Coal India Limited (CIL), on Monday received the Green World Awards 2024 during much-awaited presentation ceremony at The Orangery, Kensington Palace, London today. The award was given by The Green Organisation, which began in 1994 and is an independent, non-political, non-profit environment group. Vinay Ranjan said that let's this moment inspire us all to take action, protect our environment, and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. He thanked everyone who supported me on this incredible journey. The Certificate of Achievement was presented to Coal India Coal India Ltd in recognition of winning a Green World Award for their commitment to environment best practice. CIL, living up to its Corporate Citizen role is one of the largest spenders in the country under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Coal India as a corporate entity, it contributes to the country's economically and socially apart from its core role as energy provider.

Foreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds settles case with Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Foreign portfolio investor Emerging India Focus Funds has settled a case pertaining to the alleged violations of FPI rules with capital markets watchdog Sebi after paying Rs 64.35 lakh as settlement charges. In a corollendum to its settlement order, Sebi on Tuesday said that the case concerns to non-compliance with the 'fit and proper' criteria for the period from October 13, 2022, to April 11, 2023. The latest order came after the applicant filed an application with Sebi proposing to settle the proceedings initiated against it, "without admitting or denying the

findings of facts and conclusions of law" through a settlement order. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) initiated adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a show cause notice in February for the alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries Regulations. Pending adjudication proceedings, Emerging India Focus Funds filed an application with Sebi and paid Rs 64.35 lakh on November 13 to settle the alleged violations. "In view of the acceptance of the settlement terms and the receipt of settlement amount by Sebi, the instant adjudication proceedings initiated against applicant vide SCN (show cause notice) dated



February 29, 2024, is disposed of," Sebi said in its order passed on Monday. The SCN was issued to the applicant on account of revocation of license of its controlling shareholder - Emerging India Fund Management Ltd - by the Mauritius financial regulator Financial Services Commission

(FSC) after which the applicant was not in compliance with the 'fit and proper' criteria for the period from October 13, 2022 to April 11, 2023. Further, the applicant failed to forthwith inform Sebi and the Designated Depository Participant about the change in its eligibility status. EIFF replaced the controlling shareholder with a new fit and proper entity only in April 2023, sources said. Between April 2022 and April 2023, therefore, EIFF was in breach of Sebi regulations, and a show cause notice was duly served on them. This has now been duly settled. EIFF has only invested in mutual funds in India since November 2021. Emerging India Focus Funds was named in the Hindenburg Research report, which alleged that the fund was used to inflate the volume as well as price of the Adani Group companies. Sources close to the development said that the case that has been settled with Emerging India Focus Funds (EIFF) has nothing to do with the Adani or Hindenburg report related to enforcement actions undertaken by Sebi. Specifically, this case does not form a part of the 24 cases that were reported to the expert committee set up by the Supreme Court after the Hindenburg Report of January 2023.

IBL and BFIL sign MoU with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI
IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) and Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) on Monday announced a collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA & FW), Government of India, to launch the Bharat Sanjeevani Krishi Utthan initiative. This initiative aims to support the government's flagship program, "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) providing a robust framework to empower FPOs across the country. This collaboration has been driven through BFIL and IBL's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and aims to enhance agricultural productivity, promote

Indic Wisdom raises funds to boost wood-pressed oil production

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Indic Wisdom, a Mumbai-based manufacturer of high-quality wood-pressed oils on Tuesday raised funds in a Pre-series A round primarily led by Rockstud Capital along with other investors. A significant rise in consumer awareness about their health and a shift in preference towards natural, nutrient-dense food products is driving the demand for cold-pressed oils. These oils, renowned for their high nutritional content, including essential vitamins, antioxidants, and fatty acids, offer a superior alternative to refined oils, which often undergo processing that can strip them of valuable nutrients. Indic Wisdom Pvt. Limited traces its inspiration to India's egalitarian culinary traditions. Growing up with the belief that food should be natural and shared, Prajakta Khare & Kaustubh Khare founded Indic Wisdom to contemporise that



civilisational wisdom and invested in manufacturing to produce goodness at scale. It is strategically positioned to capitalize on the burgeoning market for premium cold-pressed oils. Their comprehensive product range, encompassing cooking oils, multipurpose oils, and specialty oils, caters to the diverse needs and preferences of health-conscious consumers. The founders bring over two decades of combined experience in digital transformation, artificial Intelligence, and onshore/offshore sales. Their expertise, honed through previous roles, is now dedicated to a singular mission: to modernize India's ancient culinary traditions through continuous innovation and knowledge expansion. By doing so, they aim to create products that promote global well-being. Prajakta Khare, co-founder of Indic Wisdom, says, "With Indic Wisdom, we want to take India's timeless tradition of prasad - food that is pure, sustainable, and meant for everyone - to the world. We are doing this by incorporating modern production best practices and quality standards in traditional food production practices."

INBRIEF

POWERGRID ACQUIRES FOUR MAJOR ISTS PROJECTS
Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has successfully acquired four Project Special Purpose Vehicles to execute Inter-State Transmission Projects related to transmission of renewable energy.

55TH FOUNDATION DAY OF GNDU
Guru Nanak Dev University has taken new steps in the field of higher education. On the occasion of the 500th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

HITS OPENS ADMISSIONS FOR 2025-26
CHENNAI: Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, a NAAC A+ accredited institution renowned for academic and research excellence, has announced admissions for the academic year 2025-26. Alongside, the institution has unveiled a Rs. 5 crore merit-based scholarship initiative to support deserving students.

GNDU'S MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PARTICIPATED IN SCIENCE FESTIVAL
AMRITSAR: The Department of Mechanical Engineering of Guru Nanak Dev University, participated in the Khalsa Science Festival, organized by the Society for Promotion of Science and Technology in India in collaboration with Khalsa College, Amritsar.

India beat Japan 2-0, to face China in final of women's ACT hockey

PTI ■ RAJGIR (BIHAR)

Defending champions India continued their unbeaten run and defeated Japan 2-0 to enter the final of the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Tuesday.

Vice-captain Navneet Kaur converted a penalty stroke in the 48th minute while Lalaremsiami struck from field play in the 56th minute for India, who had plenty of scoring chances including 13 penalty corners.

India will face China, whom they defeated in the league stages, in the final on Wednesday. Earlier, China beat Malaysia 3-1 in the first semifinal.

Malaysia will take on Japan in the third-fourth place match, while Korea finished fifth after beating Thailand

3-0 in the fifth-sixth place classification match.

The Indians continued their attacking game and put on early pressure on the Japanese defence, just like the last league game.

The play was mostly inside the Japanese half as the Indian defence was hardly tested.

India had the first shot at the goal inside the initial five minutes. Skipper Salima Tete's attempt was thwarted by Japanese goalkeeper Yu Kudo.

The Indians repeatedly penetrated the Japanese citadel and in the process secured two penalty corners in a span of two minutes but Kudo was alert under the bar to deny Navneet Kaur and Deepika.

Three minutes into the second quarter, India secured three back-to-back



penalty corners but failed to find the back of the net.

It was raining penalty corners for the hosts as they got back-to-back set pieces in the 21st minute but Kudo produced a brilliant save with her fully-stretched right leg to deny Deepika again.

In the 24th minute, India earned a penalty corner followed by another in the next minute but failed to get past Japanese goalkeeper Kudo, as they also lacked in execution.

A minute after the change of ends, India secured two penalty corners but wasted both. In the 35th minute, Kudo again denied Deepika from a set piece.

In the 41st minute, Deepika stole the ball just outside the Japanese circle, but shot wide from a one-on-one situation with Kudo.

Seconds from the end of third quarter, Kudo once again pulled off a brilliant save to deny Uditra from another penalty corner.

In the 47th minute, India secured their 12th penalty corner but failed to breach Kudo.

But a minute later, India broke the deadlock through a penalty stroke earned by Deepika and Navneet made no mistake.

The goal seemed to have rejuvenated the Indians as they scored a fine field goal in the 56th minute.

Lalaremsiami slammed into the back of the Japanese goal after she was brilliantly set up by Sunelita Toppo's terrific run from the right flank.

Japan got a penalty corner in the dying moments, but failed to get past a rock solid Indian defence.

Pulisic scores twice, US beats Jamaica 4-2 for 5-2 aggregate win in CONCACAF Nations League QF

AP ■ ST. LOUIS (US)

Christian Pulisic scored twice in the first half, Tim Weah got a goal in his return to the U.S. National team from a red card and the Americans beat Jamaica 4-2 for a 5-2 aggregate win in their CONCACAF Nations League quarterfinal.

Playing their first competitive matches under coach Mauricio Pochettino, the United States advanced to a semifinal on March 20 at Inglewood, California. The Americans won the first three editions of the tournament.

The U.S. Also qualified for next year's CONCACAF Gold Cup, while Jamaica will have to play a qualifier.

Pulisic put the U.S. Ahead in the 13th minute when he ran onto a long looping pass from Weston McKennie and kicked the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Andre Blake. Pulisic doubled the lead off a pass from McKennie that Tanner Tessmann dummied in the 33rd minute.

Pulisic's shot deflected in off Di'Shon Bernard for his 33rd international goal.

Ricardo Pepi, who scored off a Pulisic pass in the opening leg in Kingston on Thursday, boosted the lead to 3-0 in the 42nd with his 13th goal, a



right-foot shot from just outside the penalty area.

Demarai Gray scored the first of his two goals for Jamaica in the 53rd and Weah, who hit a post in the fourth minute, put the U.S. Ahead 4-1 in the 56th when he settled a pass from

Yunus Musah and sent a shot just under the crossbar for his seventh goal.

Gray got his second goal in the 68th.

Costa Rica took a 1-0 lead into its home match against Panama on Monday night. On Tuesday, Mexico is at home trying to overturn a 2-0 first-leg loss at Honduras and Canada is home with a 1-0 lead against Suriname.

Weah started in place of injured Johnny Cardoso after completing a two-game suspension for a red card against Panama in the Copa America last summer. That was the only change made by Pochettino from the first leg.

Defender Tim Ream, at 37 the oldest player on the roster, captained the Americans in his hometown of St. Louis.

Jamaica coach Steve McLaren, a former England manager, told the media that star Michael Antonio wasn't available because he lost his passport and couldn't get a U.

Croatia, Denmark qualify for Nations League quarterfinals with draws

AP ■ MADRID

Denmark and Croatia completed the Nations League quarterfinals lineup after both sides secured draws.

Denmark went 0-0 in Serbia, and Croatia came from behind to share 1-1 with visiting Portugal.

They joined France, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands in the last eight.

The quarterfinals will be held from March 20-23.

In Warsaw, Liverpool fullback Andy Robertson scored an injury time header to give Scotland a 2-1 win over Poland and send the host down into League B. Scotland has a playoff to secure its League A status.

Northern Ireland will step up to League B after topping its group. Northern Ireland let slip a two-goal lead but drew in Luxembourg 2-2. Romania hammered Cyprus 4-1.

San Marino will jump into Group C after beating Lichtenstein 3-1.

Scotland wins again

After going nine matches without a win, Scotland appeared rejuvenated as it condemned a Robert Lewandowski-less Poland to League B.

Scotland took just one point from its first four games in Group A1 but beat Croatia at home on Friday and was 1-0 up after three minutes in Warsaw.

Billy Gilmour's threaded pass found Ben Doak, who rolled the ball to John McGinn to score his second goal in four days.

Scotland hit the woodwork twice in the first half and its inability to open a greater lead almost cost it when Kamil Piatkowski lashed a stunning strike into the top corner of the net to equalize 14 minutes into the second period.

However, Scotland pushed forward for a winner and Robertson headed the decider in the third minute of stoppage time.

Croatia struggle

Croatia needed only a draw to secure qualification but it made the home fans in Split sweat before getting the point it needed against group winner Portugal.

With 32 minutes gone, João Felix brought down a superb 45-yard pass from Vitinha and slipped the ball under the advancing keeper to give the visitors the lead. When Andrej Kramaric hit the post and Josko Gvardiol had a 62nd minute goal ruled out for offside it looked like it might not be Croatia's night.

But Manchester City's Gvardiol got the equalizer just a few minutes later and Croatia held on to take the second quarterfinal spot from Group A1.

Spain beats Switzerland

There was little to play for in Tenerife, where Spain, top of Group A4, took on the already relegated Switzerland.

Coach Luis de la Fuente offered a first start to Barcelona midfielder Marc Casadó and gave debuts to Samu and Aitor Paredes in a much-changed Spain side.

But it was the two Bryans, Gil and Zaragoza, who got the goals that mattered for the European champions.

Pedri's first half penalty was saved but Yeremi Pino converted to put Spain ahead.

Joel Monteiro equalized for Switzerland after 63 minutes but Bryan Gil got Spain back in front five minutes later. Andi Zeqiri equalized again from the penalty spot with five minutes remaining but a stoppage time penalty from Bryan Zaragoza at the other end gave Spain all three points.

Denmark draws in Serbia

In Leskovac, Serbia controlled most of the game against Denmark but could not get the goal it needed to progress from Group A4. Dušan Vlahovic was in fine form for the home side but the Danes held out to take second spot, eight points

behind winner Spain but two ahead of the Serbs, for which Strahinja Pavlovic was sent off near the end.

Northern Ireland steps up

Northern Ireland finished on top of Group C3 even though it blew a 2-0 lead in Luxembourg. Isaac Price opened the scoring after 19 minutes and the Standard Liege midfielder set up Conor Bradley for the second five minutes into the second half. The opener was Northern Ireland's 100th under coach Michael O'Neill.

However, even though the home side scored twice in the last 18 minutes, Northern Ireland ended its campaign with 11 points, two ahead of Bulgaria, which drew at home with Belarus 1-1. Luxembourg finished last.

Romania and Kosovo win

Romania finished on top of Group C2 with a 4-1 win over Cyprus. Daniel Birligea put Romania ahead after two minutes and Razvan Marin scored twice before Florinel Coman made it four.

Ioannis Pittas got Cyprus' goal and the Cypriots' Konstantinos Laifis was sent off 13 minutes from time.

Kosovo beat Lithuania 1-0 with an early goal from Muharem Jashari, who was also sent off on the stroke of halftime.

Kosovo finished second, three points behind Romania, but an asterisk remains over the final placings following the abandonment of Friday's match between the teams in Bucharest.

The Kosovo players alleged they were victims of pro-Serbian chants by the home fans and walked off the field in the final minute. UEFA has opened disciplinary proceedings.



Mike Tyson-Jake Paul fight draws record betting for a combat sports event



AP ■ LAS VEGAS

Caesars Sportsbook, said the fight was on par with an NFL Monday night game.

"We knew there would be tremendous interest in the fight, as the betting suggested it was a generational matchup in customer demographics," Mucklow said. "Those old enough to remember a prime Mike Tyson got to live the nostalgia one last time, while those not old enough to know Iron Mike were firmly on the Jake Paul side of the counter."

DraftKings sports operations director Johnny Avello said the fight also was its most-bet boxing match.

"The bettors were yearning

for Tyson to return to the ring even at 58 years old, and wanted to be a part of this moment with one of the icons of the sport," Avello said. "We'll see who Jake Paul fights next, but his matches have proven to create immense buzz and unprecedented action on our platforms."

The amount of betting can't necessarily be used to draw a direct comparison with betting on big fights in the past since so many major bouts, including Tyson's biggest fights, occurred before sports betting was legalized beyond Nevada in 2018. It's still not legal in 38 states. But the fight at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, still drew an enormous handle.

Most of the wagers at BetMGM Sportsbook were on proposition bets, with the most popular being on Tyson to prevail either by knockout, decision or a first-round KO. Though Paul was a -175 favorite, 67% of the tickets and 53% of the money at BetMGM was on Tyson.

"Paul winning was a good outcome for the sportsbook," BetMGM senior trader Alex Rella said.

João Palhinha's year could be over early after the Bayern Munich midfielder was injured on Portugal duty.

Palhinha will "be sidelined for the coming weeks" after he tore a muscle in his right adductor, part of the hip and thigh area, Bayern said on Tuesday.

That kept Palhinha out of Portugal's 5-1 win over Poland in the Nations League on Friday and its 1-1 draw with Croatia on Monday.

He is set to miss tough games for Bayern including hosting Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League next week, facing Borussia Dortmund in



Bayern midfielder Palhinha faces weeks out after injury while with Portugal

AP ■ MUNICH

the German Klassiker on Nov. 30, and taking on defending champion Bayer Leverkusen in the German Cup on Dec. 3.

German media reported Palhinha was not expected to return until after the winter break. Bayern's last game before the break is Dec. 20.

Bayern could have to rely on Leon Goretzka, who has been a fringe player this season, because coach Vincent Kompany's other preferred defensive midfielder, Aleksandar Pavlovic, has yet to return following surgery on a broken collarbone last month.

Pavlovic has managed "some elements" of training with the rest of the team, Bayern said on Monday.

PGA Tour approves reduction to 100 players keeping cards off FedEx Cup list

AP ■ NEW YORK

The PGA Tour policy board have approved eligibility changes that eliminate 25 cards through the FedEx Cup in the first reduction of jobs since the all-exempt tour began in 1983.

Starting in 2026, only the top 100 in the FedEx Cup are assured full status the following year.

The board voted on proposals from the 16-member Player Advisory Council aimed at giving everyone who earns a full PGA Tour card a chance to get into enough tournaments to have a fair chance at keeping their cards.

It also approved smaller field sizes — a maximum of 144 players, down from 156 —

for tournaments on one course with ample daylight hours. Another change was eliminating the four restricted sponsor exemptions, allocating them to what amounts to the alternate list.

Open tournaments still get unrestricted sponsor exemptions (typically four) they can give to whomever they want. With changes not taking effect until 2026, that makes next year even more cutthroat with more than 170 players who have cards trying to finish in the top 100.

"The PAC discussions were based on a number of guiding principles, including our belief that PGA Tour membership is the pinnacle of achievement in men's professional golf," said Adam Scott, a player

director on the policy board who also serve on the competitions subcommittee of the PAC.

"The changes approved today will provide equitable playing opportunities for new young talent to be showcased, and positively refine the playing experience for our members."

It will be tougher than ever to get a PGA Tour card.

Along with players having to finish in the top 100 — tournament winners still get a two-year exemption — the tour will award only 20 cards to the Korn Ferry Tour, along with cards for the leading 10 players not already exempt on the European tour and five from Q-school.

Players who came through the Korn Ferry and Europe



fall behind the top 100 and tournament winners in the priority list. Previously, they often had to go weeks at a time without a spot for them to play.

Up until the early 1980s, only the top 60 were exempt and everyone else had to go through qualifying. Because players had a card that didn't guarantee starts, the PGA Tour switched to the all-exempt tour for the top 125 in 1983. That's been the

number ever since.

It's the latest significant adjustment to the tour since the disruption of Saudi-backed LIV Golf, which began in June 2022. In the last two years, the tour has created \$20 million signature events with limited fields and a postseason for only the top 70 players.

"The reality is that we're all playing under different circumstances than we were four years ago," PAC Chairman Camilo Villegas said in three weeks ago when the changes were proposed. "We had no competition. We were the best. All of a sudden we have competition and there are little shifts. The changes we're proposing make a better product. What does having a PGA Tour card mean?"

The tour also announced changes to the FedEx Cup points distribution that start in 2025, awarding more points to second place and decreasing points from 11th place and down. For signature events, the decrease starts after seventh place.

Monday qualifying will offer four spots only to 144-man fields, reducing the number to two spots for 132-man fields and none when only 120 players are in the field.

There also was the ongoing pace-of-play problem, which rules officials for years have argued was due primarily to too many players on the course. The field sizes would be 120 players before Daylight Savings Time, then up to 132 players and a maximum of 144 in the summer.

