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BHOPAL, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

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## BANGLADESH CHALLENGES INDIA Capital chaos continues

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh on Tuesday summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to the Foreign Affairs Ministry office here, a day after Dhaka lodged a strong protest against the alleged vandalism of its mission in the Indian state of Tripura.

Describing the India-Bangladesh relationship as "multifaceted" and one that cannot be reduced to a single issue or agenda, Verma told reporters after his meeting with acting foreign secretary Riaz Hamidullah that New Delhi remains interested in working with Dhaka "to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development."

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain said the Indian envoy was asked to come to the foreign office after the Agartala incident.

India on Monday described as "deeply regrettable" the incident of the breach of the premises of the Bangladesh consulate in Agartala in the northeastern state of Tripura, bordering Bangladesh, by a group of people protesting the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das here.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came hours after the protesters reportedly barged into the assistant high commission of Bangladesh and allegedly resorted to vandalism.

The envoy described the relationship as "multifaceted and wide-ranging," which could not sit with one issue or agenda and India is interested



Police officers stand guard outside Indian High Commission after a call for anti India protests AP/PTI

to work with Bangladesh government to fulfill the two countries' shared aspiration for peace, security and development. "We are working across so many issues. And we really want to build a positive, stable, constructive relationship," he said.

Verma also pointed out the many interdependencies and Delhi is keen to build on that "for mutual benefits."

India will keep ensuring that the mutual cooperation benefits the two peoples, and the number of positive developments that have taken place in the bilateral relationship in the last few months, "whether it is trade, it is power transmission, supply of essential commodities, we

have maintained lot of positive momentum in the relationship," he added. "We are willing to engage with the interim government of Bangladesh, and we remain interested in working with the Government of Bangladesh to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development," the envoy added.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh announced that all consular services at its Assistant High Commission in Agartala will remain suspended until further notice "because of security reasons" with immediate effect.

Earlier in the day, terming the vandalism at Bangladesh's diplomatic mission in Agartala as India's "failure,"

Law Affairs Adviser in the interim government Asif Nazrul asked New Delhi to reassess its neighbour afresh after the toppling of the Sheikh Hasina regime. "We believe in a friendship based on equality and mutual respect. While Sheikh Hasina's government followed a pro-India policy to cling to power without elections, India must realise that this is not Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Three days after Hasina fled to India following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system, Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the

interim government. The tension between the two neighbours simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India, aggravated further with the arrest of the Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das last week. Nazrul alleged an outfit named Hindu Sangharsh Samiti was responsible for what he described as "the disgraceful act" when Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala was vandalised, and "Bangladesh's national flag was set on fire."

He emphasised that Bangladesh is an independent, sovereign, and self-respecting nation driven by a "fearless and dynamic young generation."

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital's roads, known for their infamous traffic jams, are also notorious for rampant disregard of traffic rules, with official data revealing a massive 150 per cent jump in "wrong lane driving" violations, as compared to last year. While police credit this staggering rise in number of violations to better enforcement, the city's traffic congestion may also be pushing drivers to break rules, as they look for quicker ways to reach their destination.

According to official data, till December 2, 2024, the police issued 4,662 challans on vehicle owners for not plying in designated lanes as compared to 1,732 challans in 2023 and 1,829 challans in 2022. The fine for this violation is Rs 1,000 for private vehicles and Rs 10,000 for commercial vehicles.

Similarly, in the same period, 99,962 challans have been issued for driving against the flow of traffic marking a significant rise from the last year when 59,527 challans were issued in 2023 and 43,768 issued in 2022. Violations in this result in a fine of Rs 5,000 against the vehicle owners. Even for "no entry" restrictions, the city witnessed 1,37,318 challans this year while it was 1,14,646 in 2023 and 84,067 in 2022 even as a hefty fine of Rs 20,000 is slapped on drivers.

According to Special Commissioner of Police



PHOTO: PTI

(Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary, the rise can be attributed to special drives conducted by the Delhi Police and coordinated efforts of the department to curb such violations on the roads. The streets of the Capital are also constantly cramped with vehicles parked improperly with a total of 4,88,602 such violations seen this year, marking a rise from 4,70,771 challans in 2023 and 3,58,067 challans in 2022. A fine of Rs 500 is issued for such violations by the police. They also towed 1,78,108 vehicles for improper parking as against 1,60,799 vehicles in 2023, and 1,33,800 vehicles in 2022.

Additionally, a total of 4,56,189 vehicle owners have been slapped with challans, which amount to Rs 10,000, regarding non possession of Pollution under Control Certificate (PUC), as against 2,32,885 in 2023 and 1,64,638 in 2022. The police have impounded 8,231 End of Life vehicles (ELVs) while only 528 were impounded in 2023 and 1,147 in 2022.

In light of the air pollution in Delhi and the subsequent

pulling up of the Delhi Police by the Supreme Court for failing to implement the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) Stage 4 restrictions, police have also intensified its drive against non destined goods vehicles trying to enter the city. The police checked 2,28,235 such vehicles this year including 2,16,028 being checked when the GRAP came into force on October 15, marking a steep rise from 23,089 checked in 2023 and 12,268 checked in 2022. Out of the checked vehicles, 26,379 were returned in this year, 10,012 in 2023 and 3,274 in 2022.

Add/CP (Traffic) Satyaveer Singh Katara added that the police will continue its drive and ensure that tough measures are implemented on the roads. "Some people think they can take shortcuts to avoid traffic but we all need to develop basic road sense. We will ensure that we curb such violations and take strict measures against these offenders," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shashank Jaiswal said.

## Google continues to dupe its users

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ BAREILLY



In yet another mishap tied to digital navigation, a car carrying three passengers veered off the road and plunged into the Kalapur canal in Bareilly's Izzatnagar area on Pilibhit Road. The driver had been following a route suggested by Google Maps, once again raising questions about the accuracy and reliability of satellite-based navigation systems in India.

The accident occurred near Barkapur Tiraaha, where erosion has left the road dangerously damaged. The vehicle, a Tata Tigor, overturned into the canal but, fortunately, all three occupants emerged unscathed. The local police, led by Izzatnagar Station Officer Dhananjay Pandey, promptly reached the scene and recovered the car with the help of a JCB machine. The passengers, including Divyanshu, son of Mahendra

## Congress-led INDIA Bloc tumbling down?

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

Fissures are visible in the Opposition's Congress led INDIA Bloc, after the grand old party's massive defeats in the recent Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections and not much appreciated performance in the State polls of Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir where the party contested with its alliance partners, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and National Conference (NC), respectively. Rather one of the key allies in INDIA Bloc, Trinamool Congress (TMC), on Tuesday pitched for their party supreme West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee be made the Bloc leader for all practical purposes, as the woman leader has a "100 per cent record" to take the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Partners like TMC, Samajwadi Party (SP) have raised eyebrows as the alliance could not work in the bypolls of Uttar Pradesh other States and the defeats have been shouldered on Congress. Congress found itself without its key allies, including the SP and TMC during a joint Opposition protest in the Parliament complex on Tuesday.



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition MPs stage a protest during the Winter session of Parliament PTI

## House to meet on weekends, make up for lost time: Speaker

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday warned the members that if the business of the House is disrupted further due to adjournments, then he will have to convene the proceedings over the weekends to make up for the loss of time.

"The House will convene on Saturday, December 14 at 11 am. If you continue with adjournments,

then for the number of days it has been adjourned, you will have to attend the proceedings on Saturday and Sunday as well," Birla said soon after the Question Hour. Lok Sabha proceedings were washed out last week due to protests by opposition members over the Adani indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and other issues.

## Airport Authority lands show cause notice at Delhi International Airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has issued a show cause notice to Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's largest airport, seeking an explanation on certain structural weaknesses detected during the study by an IIT Delhi team following the roof collapse incident at the old departure forecourt of Terminal 1 in June this year. IGI Airport is operated under a public private partnership. Following the roof collapse incident at T1 on June 28 that also killed one person, the civil aviation ministry had asked structural engineers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi to carry out an assessment.

When asked, a DIAL spokesperson said that its team of experts is currently preparing a comprehensive response to the queries raised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). "Report of the study conducted by IITD has been shared with us. AAI wanted some clarifications on the points raised by them. Our team of experts is currently preparing a comprehensive response to these queries, and they will be submitted within the stipulated timeline," he said.



FILE PHOTO: PTI

The IIT Delhi in its report found weaknesses in the part of the terminal that was not impacted by the collapse and certain strengthening of the structure is required. Till then, old T1 cannot be opened for operations, the official added. "Alternate arrangements have been made around the new T1, and T2 and T3," the official said.

With the study finding certain defects, the official said AAI has issued a show cause notice to DIAL. Specific details about the show cause notice could not be immediately ascertained.

"Report of the study conducted by IITD has been shared with us. AAI wanted some clarifications on the points raised by them. Our team of experts is currently preparing a comprehensive response to these queries and they will be submitted within the stipulated timeline," the DIAL spokesperson said. There was no comment from AAI.

## Architect of infrastructure Nitin Gadkari Irked by New Delhi air

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Irked by increased pollution levels in Delhi, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who is a Member of Parliament from Nagpur, on Tuesday confessed that he does not feel like visiting the National Capital as he often catches an infection due to the high pollution levels here. Addressing an event, Gadkari said the city of Delhi is such that, "I do not like to live here. I get an infection due to pollution here. 'Har baar Delhi me aata hua, aisa lagta hain ki (Delhi) jaana chahiye ki nahi. Itna bhayankar pollution hai' (Every time, while coming to Delhi, I think whether I should go or not because pollution levels are so high)," he said.

As Delhi struggles with worsening air quality, Gadkari has proposed a shift to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) - powered transportation to combat the pollution crisis. Gadkari also

highlighted the importance of creating an "ethanol ecosystem to promote cleaner and greener alternatives. Gadkari noted that India imports fossil fuels worth Rs 22 lakh crore, which is challenging from the point of view of economy, environment and ecology. "We can reduce import of fossil fuels by encouraging alternative fuels," he said.

Meanwhile, a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) highlighted that Delhi's PM2.5 concentration soared to an average of 249 micrograms per cubic metre in November 2024, the highest since 2017, despite enforcement of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and a decrease in stubble burning incidents. Delhi's PM2.5 level in November reached its highest monthly average in eight years despite the implementation of GRAP measures, making it the most polluted city in the



world. In November 2016, the average PM2.5 level was recorded at 254 micrograms per cubic metre, the highest November reading, followed by 249 micrograms per cubic metre this year. PM2.5 are fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less, about the width of a human hair. These are so small that they can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, posing significant health risks. The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for formulating strategies to combat pollution in the region, implements anti-pollution measures under the GRAP.

In November 2016, the average PM2.5 level was recorded at 254 micrograms per cubic metre, the highest for the month, followed by 249 micrograms per cubic metre in 2024. In comparison, the average was 241 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023, 181 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022, 238 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021, 214 micrograms per cubic metre in 2020, 204 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019, 200 micrograms per



cubic metre in 2018, and 248 micrograms per cubic metre in 2017, the data said. These fine particles pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. The report highlights a concerning trend, with 159 out of 268 cities across India exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM2.5 levels in November. The NAAQS limit for PM2.5 is set at 60 µg/m³. Manoj Kumar, an analyst at CREA, said, "After 2017, this

November saw a continuous eight-day stretch in the Severe category (PM2.5 >250 µg/m³) from November 13 to November 20. This was due to the delayed implementation of stricter GRAP stages (3 and 4), despite IITM predicting a Severe AQI category on November 13."

Stubble burning contributed an average of 19 per cent to Delhi's PM2.5 levels in November, with the remaining pollution originating from year-round sources. This underscores the need for a long-term, airshed-based strategy to address emissions from perennial sources, rather than relying solely on short-term GRAP measures.

The report, published by CREA, an independent research organisation, further revealed that Delhi experienced 20 days in the "Very Poor" category (121-250 µg/m³) and 10 days in the "Severe" category (>250 µg/m³) in November. It added,

"GRAP's on-ground impact remained questionable, as transportation contributed over 20 per cent to the city's PM2.5 levels, mirroring pre-GRAP periods." Meanwhile, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Noida, and other cities in the Delhi NCR region also struggled with severe pollution, with 28 NCR cities surpassing the NAAQS threshold. Delhi residents received a respite from toxic pollution levels for the third consecutive day as the city's AQI remained in the very "poor" category on Tuesday, recording a reading of 268. In eight locations across the city, the AQI value stayed between 300 and over 400 -- 305 in Bawana, 307 in Jahangirpuri, 325 in Mundka, 304 in Nehru Nagar, 303 in RK Puram, 302 in Rohini, 342 in Shadipur, and 306 in Siri Fort. In the Delhi NCR area, Faridabad stayed at 255 points, Gurugram at 222, Ghaziabad at 181, Greater Noida at 195, and Noida at 162.



# Fairs are powerful medium to promote entrepreneurship: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the inspirational call for indigenous start-ups, Make-in-India and vocal-for-local has sparked a renaissance of entrepreneurship in the country. Today, India has become the 5th largest economic power in the world, leaving England behind. Yadav was addressing the Swadeshi Fair in Balaghat on Tuesday. Yadav also visited the exhibition of government departments at the fair. He also provided offer letters and disability certificates to the youth and interacted with the youth present. Swadeshi thinker Bhaiyaji Joshi attended as a special guest. The Chief Minister thanked Bhaiyaji Joshi for coming to the Swadeshi

Fair. Yadav said that the meaning of fair is interaction and it is important to promote cultural interaction along with trade. He said that the Swadeshi Fair has been organized continuously at various places since 1999. Small and big industries have been strengthened by the display and sale of indigenous products at the Swadeshi Fair started in Mumbai. This is not just a fair but the form of Mini India is being seen in the form of an indigenous fair. Here one gets an opportunity to see the folk art and craftsmanship of different provinces at one place and on one stage. Yadav said that earlier our country used to be a Sone ki Chidiya, we were the world's top economy, and our industries, businesses, spices, and miraculous textiles like silk and muslin were famous all over the world. It is said that

the muslin made in Dhaka could pass through a ring. The British weakened our indigenous strength. Chief Minister Yadav said that with the encouragement and inspiration of the Prime Minister, the youth of the country as well as the state understood the serious and visionary message of becoming job givers and not job seekers. Today we have more than 37 thousand indigenous start-ups active here. Our youth are becoming job creators by becoming entrepreneurs. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that we have also received encouragement from the Prime Minister to take forward the concept of a Regional Industry Conclave in the state. Our efforts were successful, we also successfully organized the Regional Industry Conclave in cities like Sagar, Rewa, Ujjain, Gwalior, and Jabalpur and now soon we are going to organize it

in Narmadapuram also. The 250 hectares of land reserved earlier for industry in Narmadapuram has been increased to 500 hectares. We will increase it to 750 hectares. Proposals for setting up renewable energy parks and other industries have also been received. Chief Minister Yadav said that investment proposals worth more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore have been received from the Regional Industry Conclave held so far and these are expected to create 2 lakh jobs. The Chief Minister said that we are ready to go to every level to make the policy industry-friendly to promote entrepreneurship. He said that to promote entrepreneurship, we are also giving initial assistance of Rs 5,000 per employee as remuneration to the industries. Yadav said that the state govern-

ment is committed to providing good health and medical facilities to every citizen of the state. There were 5 medical colleges in the state in 2003-04, which we have increased to 17. Not only this, the number of private medical colleges in the state has also increased to 13. 12 more government colleges will be established in the coming year. Besides, 13 new Ayurvedic colleges will also be opened, one of which will also be opened in Balaghat. Yadav praised the Swadeshi Fair and said that displaying Ayurvedic medicines for sale here is a good initiative. During Covid, the entire country understood the importance of the life-saving power of our indigenous Ayurvedic medical system. Ayurveda has immense potential, hence the state government is leaving no stone unturned to promote it.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav being felicitated during the 251 Kundiya Gayatri Maha Yagya at a Gayatri Parivar programme in Dungaria village, Balaghat district Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# Multi-faith prayer at BMHRC marks gas tragedy anniversary

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A multi-faith assembly marking the 40th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy was held at the Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre in the state capital on Tuesday. The interfaith assembly, which began at 8:30 AM near the 'Shraddhanjali and Asha' Memorial at BMHRC, saw religious leaders from various faiths reciting excerpts from their respective sacred texts. Following the assembly, 20 gas victims over the age of 85 were honoured. Among them was 108-year-old gas victim Mathura Bai. All the victims were presented with shawls, mementoes, and blankets. Health camps were also organised at all BMHRC health centres with the support of the Madhya Pradesh government's health department. These



campus provided health check-ups, free tests, medicine distribution, and screening for non-communicable diseases. The camps also facilitated the creation of Ayushman IDs and Aabha IDs. Rotary Club and Mahavir International donated blankets for underprivileged patients admitted to various wards of the hospital. To commemorate the contribution of BMHRC, which recently

entered its 25th year, the Indian Postal Department issued a special cover on the occasion. Special covers are unique postal items issued to commemorate important events, people, places, or topics of historical, cultural, social, or scientific significance. These postal commemoratives are also issued to raise public awareness about such themes.

# Follow zero-tolerance policy against Naxals: Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that a policy of zero tolerance should be adopted to combat Naxal activities. He gave instructions to strengthen the informer system through increased patrolling in Naxal affected areas. Chief Minister Yadav said that all special forces including 36th Battalion, Hawk Force should become active and work responsibly. Chief Minister Yadav on Tuesday met public representatives, police and administrative officials regarding effective action against Naxal activities in Balaghat. He also observed

the presentation of the plan prepared by IG Sanjay Singh and Superintendent of Police Nagendra Kumar to check Naxal activities in the district. Minister-in-charge of Transport and School Education and Balaghat district Uday Pratap Singh, Minister of State for Animal Husbandry and Dairy Lakhman Patel, MP Smt. Bharti Pardhi, MLA Gaurav Pardhi, MLA Rajkumar Karrahe, MLA Madhu Bhagat, MLA Vicky Patel, former Minister Ramkishore Kavre, former minister Pradeep Jaiswal, Divisional Commissioner Abhay Verma, Collector Mrinal Meena and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

# CM to transfer amount with single click today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will disburse assistance amount of Rs 225 crore to the families of workers in 10 thousand 236 cases of Anugrah Sahayata under Sambal Yojana in Bhopal on December 4 with a single click. Labour, Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Shri Prahlad Singh Patel along with local public representatives and beneficiaries will be present in the programme. Sambal Yojana is a very important scheme for lakhs of workers working in the unorganised sector in the state. Under the scheme Rs 4 lakh is provided in case of death in an accident and Rs 2 lakh in case of normal death under Anugrah Sahayata Yojana. Similarly, Rs 2 lakh is provided on permanent disability and Rs 01 lakh on par-

tial permanent disability and Rs 5 thousand as funeral assistance. In the Sambal Yojana, on one hand, 16 thousand rupees are given to the female worker as maternity assistance, on the other hand, free education is also provided to the children of the workers under the Shiksha Protasah Yojana. Lakhs of workers and platform workers of the state have also been included in the Sambal Yojana and their registration has been started. They are also being provided benefits under the Sambal Yojana. The Sambal Yojana is a very important scheme for lakhs of workers working in the unorganised sector in the state. In this, the worker gets financial assistance from birth to death. The Madhya Pradesh government has given top priority to the Sambal Yojana.

In the Sambal Yojana, the benefits of all schemes like funeral assistance, ex-gratia assistance on death or disability, education incentive scheme, maternity assistance, Ayushman Bharat, ration slip etc. are being given. The state government also runs many schemes for lakhs of construction workers of the state through the Nirman Mandal, which also includes ex-gratia assistance on death of construction workers and assistance on permanent and partial disability. All Sambal beneficiaries have been identified in the eligible category under Ayushman Bharat Niramaya Yojana. Now they are also getting free medical treatment worth Rs 5 lakh annually. So far, 1 crore 73 lakh workers have been registered under Sambal 2.0 scheme in the state.



Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel during an all-religion prayer meeting to pay tributes to victims on the 40th anniversary of the 1984 gas disaster in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

# ASI posted in Mandla stabs wife, sister-in-law to death at Aishbagh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Sensation prevailed in the Aishbagh area after a woman and her sister were stabbed to death by her Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) husband on Tuesday afternoon; the couple had estranged relationship for the past five years. Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Yogesh Marave, posted in Mandla, killed his wife and sister-in-law by stabbing them with a knife. When the ASI was attacking his wife and sister-in-law with a knife, the maid arrived in the house. She got scared after hearing screams from inside the house and immediately informed the neighbors about this and then neighbors informed the police. Before the police reached the spot, the accused fled the crime scene. When the police went inside the house the two women were found lying soaked in blood. The police searched the CCTV footage installed in front of the house, and the accused ASI was seen escaping from the spot. The police, along with the ESL team, searched the house. The police have collected necessary evidence from the spot. However, the knife which was

used in the crime was not found by the police. It is believed that the accused ASI has taken the knife with him. According to DCP Zone-1 Priyanka Shukla, "ASI Yogesh Maravi's wife Vinita Maravi lived in a rented house with her sister. ASI was having a dispute with Vinita for the last 5 years. The maid working at Vinita's house informed the police about the incident. The maid told that when she was coming to the house to work, Yogesh Maravi pushed her and entered the house and closed the door from inside. He committed the entire incident within about 5 minutes." According to the police, the maid also heard the sound of screaming. The accused escaped the spot within a few minutes. After this, the maid informed Vinita's family and neighbors. When the police opened the door of the house, the bodies of both were recovered in the bedroom. It is clear from this that Yogesh Maravi has murdered his wife and sister-in-law. The family members told that Vinita Maravi was married 10 years ago. The age of the dead women is between 30 to 35 years. Now the police are trying to trace the accused ASI.

# BHEL pays tributes to gas tragedy victims

Bhopal: A two minutes silence was observed by blowing siren at 9.30 am in BHEL Bhopal factory on Tuesday to pay tribute to the victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy. All the department heads/employees paid tribute by standing at their workplace. It is worth mentioning that like every year, this year also "Industrial Safety Week" is being celebrated from December 3 to 9. Various awareness and training programs will be organized during the Industrial Safety Week. In this sequence, awareness lectures on safety, safety talks, large safety inspections, safety related announcements at gates, display of safety related flex and banners at various places in the entire factory, firefighting training and other mock drills will also be organized in various manufacturing departments throughout the week. Learning from the horrors of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and assessing the potential disaster, BHEL Bhopal organized a "Mock Drill" in the Gas and Power Plant area to review its preparedness. After the mock drill, officials of all the involved departments - CISP-Fire, GPX and HSE department gathered at the assembly point where a detailed discussion was held on the deficiencies found during the mock drill and the possible improvements.

# Ratapani sanctuary declared TR area, MP now full-fledged Tiger State: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that with the declaration of Ratapani Sanctuary Tiger Reserve as buffer area, Madhya Pradesh has now become a real Tiger state. This is a big gift for Madhya Pradesh. After the approval of the Central Government, Ratapani has been declared the 8th Tiger Reserve area of Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, while thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said that he has always given priority to Madhya Pradesh for the conservation and promotion of wildlife, as a result of which, leopards in Kuno of Sheopur and then Ratapani have got the approval of tiger buffer area. Chief Minister Yadav said that the special thing about Ratapani Sanctuary Tiger Reserve Buffer Zone is that it is the only tiger reserve in the country which is very close to the capital (Bhopal). From this it can be assumed that the capital is part of this sanctuary. The areas of Raisen,

Bhopal, and Sehore districts will also come under the scope of this sanctuary. There are also more than 90 tigers and other wild animals here. He said that declaring Ratapani as a tiger reserve would encourage tourism. The entire core area of the tiger reserve is within the limits of the Ratapani Sanctuary. Chief Minister Yadav said that there will be no change in the present rights of the villagers, rather the local villagers will get new employment opportunities from tourism and they will also get economic benefits. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers and also tiger parks. Chief Minister Yadav said that with the declaration of Ratapani Tiger Reserve, wildlife can be managed in a better way with the budget allocated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Central Government, and the State. He said that this would give international recognition to Ratapani and the capital Bhopal would be recognized as the Tiger Capital.

# NFSU students academic tour at AIIMS Bhopal concludes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at AIIMS Bhopal hosted a delegation of students from the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) for an enriching academic visit from November 27 to 30, 2024. This initiative aimed to enhance the students' understanding of forensic applications within clinical and medico-legal contexts, fostering deeper insights into the practical aspects of forensic science. The academic visit was made possible with the strong support and patronage of Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, the Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal, whose leadership was instrumental in ensuring the successful execution of this valuable initiative. The visit concluded with a

commitment from both institutions for future collaborations, including joint workshops, research initiatives, and academic exchange programs. Both AIIMS Bhopal and NFSU are in the process of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize their academic and research collaboration. In his remarks, Prof Singh expressed his enthusiasm about the collaboration and the potential for future academic exchanges. "This initiative marks a significant step in strengthening the ties between AIIMS Bhopal and NFSU. Our goal is to ensure that students not only acquire theoretical knowledge but also gain hands-on experience, preparing them for future challenges in forensic science and medico-legal practice. Dr. Arneet Arora, Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at

AIIMS Bhopal, shared, "Such visits are vital in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and its practical application in the field of forensic medicine." One of the participants added, "This visit has broadened our perspective on how forensic medicine complements the judicial process and public health." The visit began with a formal welcome by Additional Professor Dr. Atul S. Keche, who emphasized the department's critical role in forensic investigations, medico-legal research, and its contributions to both healthcare and law enforcement. Senior Resident Dr. Divya Bhushan, along with Junior Residents Dr. Suhail, Dr. Sashikanta, Dr. Ajeet, Dr. Diksha, Dr. Abarnna, Dr. Krishna Gopal, and Arun of the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, conducted a series of practical demonstrations to illustrate the application of forensic science in medical investigations. Students were introduced to the integration of forensic science in autopsy procedures, focusing on injury identification and cause-of-death analysis. Modern toxicological analysis techniques, including the detection of poisons and drugs in biological samples, were also covered, highlighting their significance in solving medico-legal cases. The visit featured an interactive discussion between faculty and students, where emerging trends in forensic medicine, the role of advanced diagnostic tools, and interdisciplinary approaches to solving complex legal cases were explored.



Veterinarians and forest officials treat an injured Tiger 'Chhota Bheem' known to be the biggest Tiger of Bandhavgarh Tiger reserve after being rescued, at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on Tuesday. The Tiger was injured by the poachers at Bandhavgarh tiger reserve. Pioneer photo

# Mayank Aswani selected in MP team for WIBC

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Continuing its annual tradition, the Western India Bodybuilding Championship, organized by the Indian Body Builders Federation (IBBF), Mumbai, in association with the Municipality of Ujjain and the State Bodybuilding Association Ujjain, is set to showcase exceptional talent this year. The competition will witness participation from over 200 athletes representing five states: Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra. The Madhya Pradesh team has been officially selected for this prestigious event, and among the proud participants is young bodybuilding enthusiast Mayank Aswani from Khandwa. Mayank has earned his place in the state team in the 60 kg weight category, showcasing his dedication and skill in the sport. District Bodybuilding

Union Secretary Chetan Gohar and Senior Vice President Anand Shukla emphasized the significance of the event in promoting bodybuilding and fitness across Western India. Prominent personalities, including District Bodybuilding President Ritesh Goyal, Danny Yadav, Dheeraj Barole, Nanchan Mukesh Tanve, MLA Amar Yadav, District Olympic President, and District Sports Officer Ramgopal Bangaria, extended their heartfelt congratulations to Mayank.

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Weather changes in MP due to cyclone Fengal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Weather changes were witnessed in Madhya Pradesh due to the impact of Cyclone Fengal. On Tuesday, many districts in the state experienced cloudy weather, and the minimum temperature increased in all districts except for Tikamgarh and Naugao.

Rewa remained the coldest in the state at 10 degrees Celsius, while the state capital recorded the minimum temperature at 12.8 degrees. The picturesque mountain town of Pachmarhi also recorded a significant rise in the mercury, with the minimum temperature hovering close to 12.5 degrees.

In Gwalior, Chambal, and Ujjain divisions, where nighttime temperatures will drop. On the other hand, Indore, Bhopal, and Jabalpur will experience some relief from the cold. The Malwa-Nimar region will likely see more intense cold.

Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Large crowds were seen at picnic spots in and around Bhopal on Tuesday—a local holiday on account of the gas tragedy anniversary—as the weather continued to remain pleasant for outdoor activities.

CM pays tributes to gas victims

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav paid a heartfelt tribute to the deceased victims on the 40th anniversary of the Bhopal gas tragedy. He said that on the day of this disaster, I was on my way to Bhopal. Its pain can be felt only by those who have experienced it.



Surviving gas victims protest during a rally on the 40th anniversary of gas disaster in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo



Rice merchants take out a rally demanding declaration of an upgraded amount against MSP by the Paddy Millers Association in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo

Youth ends life by jumping in Upper Lake near Boat Club

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 19-year-old youth died due to drowning in the Boat Club located at Upper Lake on Monday evening, police suspect that youth jumped into Upper Lake after having a dispute with his friend. The elder brother of the youth Vansh Yadav told that he had gone to the Upper Lake with his friend.

mortem and the statement of the brother's friend. It is suspected that there was a dispute between the two. Due to which suicide is suspected. On Tuesday, Shyamala Hills police station got the postmortem done and handed over the body of the youth to the family.

Engineering student hailing from Andaman killed in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Andaman based 24-year-old engineering student died while one of two friends sustained grave injuries and one escaped with minor injuries after their bike was hit by a speeding truck near Salkanpur temple.

Near Salkanpur temple, three bike riders were hit by a truck carrying sand on Monday morning at 11 am

the bike, fell down and got hit by the tire. In the accident one leg of Praveen was completely damaged and amputated while the other was also broken. At the same time, both the legs of Basori Inwati were crushed. Dharmendra, who was driving the bike, got dragged along with the bike.

Two new IT Parks soon to be established in Ujjain and Rewa

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh is set to witness significant growth in its IT sector with the upcoming establishment of two new IT parks in Ujjain and Rewa. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav informed MPPost that the foundation stones for these parks will be laid in December.

Investment Promotion Policy-2023 to encourage investment in the IT, ITES, and data center sectors. Under the revised policy, eligible investors will benefit from single-window clearance, support for capital expenditure and rent, land at affordable rates, exemptions on stamp duty and registration, and assistance with marketing and quality control.

Spot fine against builder, action against wedding venues soon

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Acting against those vitiating the city air, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday said it had taken action against an errant builder for failing to cover civil work and also promised stringent measures against eateries and wedding venues persisting with the use of solid fuels.

Municipal pollution force has task cut out

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The newly constituted pollution task force of the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) had a field day on Tuesday, with workers responding to reports of bonfires and waste burning from various parts of the state capital.

gestions to civic body officials. Officials later said that warning letters would also be issued to eateries and wedding venues to curb the use of solid fuels—wood and coal—at their premises. Pollution control checks will be intensified throughout the city, and municipal workers will enhance the deployment of water sprinklers to reduce stagnating particulate matter levels.

gave strict instructions to intensify spot fines, remove dust from both central and side verges, and deploy 10 mechanised road-sweeping vehicles for road cleaning. On Tuesday, municipal workers responded to several complaints, including a tyre-burning incident reported from the vicinity of the Bhopal Junction railway station. Municipal workers reached the spot and put out the fire, which was releasing clouds of dark toxic smoke in the area.

न्यायालय कोलेक्टर एवं जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, जिला खण्डवा विभागा में एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, हिन्दू फाइनर्स लिमिटेड, शाखा-101 बी-फर्स्ट फ्लोर एन.आर.के. बिजनेस पार्क, विजय नगर इन्डोर ने उनके अधिवक्ता योगेश तंवर के माध्यम से दिनांक 30.09.2024 को Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 के तहत ऋणी श्री गजानंद त्रिलोचन पिता शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन, श्री सुभाष त्रिलोचन पिता शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन, श्री शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन पिता मयाराम त्रिलोचन एवं श्रीमती अनिता त्रिलोचन पति शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन सभी निवासी ग्राम मकान नं. 42 पिपल्या कर्ना पोस्ट बलवाडा, तहसील खण्डवा से बंधक संपत्ति तहसील खण्डवा स्थित प्लॉट 124 आबादी नं 0 भुखण्ड एवं निर्मित आवासीय मकान नं 0 पर पंचायत अम्ब्यापट की सिमाई पंजी क्रमांक 40 पर दर्ज क्षेत्रफल 918 वर्गमीटर अर्थात् 85.31 वर्गमीटर ग्राम पिपल्या कर्ना तहसील खण्डवा जिला खण्डवा जो कि श्री शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन पिता मयाराम त्रिलोचन श्रीमती अनिता त्रिलोचन पति शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन के नाम से है का अधिपत्य दिलवाने हेतु एक्ट की धारा 14(1) के अन्तर्गत अनुप्रेषण किया है। 2-इस विभागा के माध्यम से ऋणी श्री गजानंद त्रिलोचन पिता शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन, श्री सुभाष त्रिलोचन पिता शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन, श्री शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन पिता मयाराम त्रिलोचन एवं श्रीमती अनिता त्रिलोचन पति शिवशंकर त्रिलोचन सभी निवासी ग्राम मकान नं. 42 पिपल्या कर्ना पोस्ट बलवाडा, तहसील खण्डवा, को सूचित किया जाता है कि वह कोलेक्टर एवं जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, खण्डवा के न्यायालय में प्रकरण नं निवत तिथि 09.12.2024 को अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करने हेतु अनिवार्य रूप से उपस्थित होंगे। अनावेदक/ बकायादार की अनुपस्थिति की दृशा में एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर प्रकरण में निर्णय लिया जावेगा। (अनुप कुमार सिंह)

RB190 Quiz Zonal Round concludes

Indore: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted the fourth Zonal Round of the RB190 Quiz at Hotel Marriott, Indore, as part of its ongoing celebrations commemorating 90 years of the institution. The quiz, designed for undergraduate students across the nation, aims to promote financial literacy and awareness among the youth. Participants

from Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan competed in the zonal round with great enthusiasm. The winning team from Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, Maharashtra, comprising Priyanshu Mahar and Uday Tej Singh, secured their place in the National Round of the RB190 Quiz. The national finals will be held on December 6, 2024, in Mumbai, where they will com-

pete against teams from other zones. The second and third places were bagged by Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar and BITS Pilani - K K Birla, Goa, respectively. The top three teams received cash prizes of 75 lakh, 74 lakh, and 73 lakh. Speaking at the event, Shri Ajay Kumar, Executive Director of RBI, emphasized the importance of financial literacy among young people.

Bank of Baroda E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties. Includes details of the property, reserve price, and auction date.

Bank of Maharashtra [Rule-8(1)] Possession Notice (For Immovable Property). Includes details of the property, possession date, and contact information.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. E-Auction - Sale Notice. Includes details of the property, reserve price, and auction date.



# Committed to engaging with China for fair, mutually acceptable framework for boundary settlement: EAM

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said here India remains committed to engaging with China to arrive at a fair and mutually acceptable framework for boundary settlement. He also said the recent developments that reflect continuous diplomatic engagements have set India-China ties in the direction of "some improvement."

His statement in Parliament came two months after India and Chinese armies disengaged from friction points in eastern Ladakh. This process came about after nearly four years of stand-off between the soldiers of the two countries there after tension flared up in May 2020 leading to clashes in the Galwan valley. Twenty Indian army personnel including the commanding officer were killed. Nearly 40 Chinese soldiers were died in the clash. On its part, Beijing had stated after disengagement that a resolution had been reached on

"relevant matters" and that it would work alongside New Delhi to implement the terms of the agreement.

Jaishankar said India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of a clearly articulated approach. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, the minister said India-China ties have been abnormal since 2020 when peace and tranquility in border areas were disturbed due to Chinese actions.

"The amassing of troops by China in eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020 resulted in face-offs at a number of points. After the Galwan Valley clashes, we were addressing a situation that not only saw fatalities but events that needed heavy weaponry deployment," he said.

The recent developments that reflect continuous diplomatic engagements have set India-China ties in the direction of "some improvement", he said. "We remain committed to engaging with China to arrive at a fair and mutually acceptable framework for boundary



settlement... The government has maintained that India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of peace and tranquility in the border areas, the combination of a firm and principal stance on this situation and the border areas, as well as a clearly articulated approach to the totality of our ties," Jaishankar said.

"We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquility will be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward," he added.

Jaishankar credited the Indian forces, saying that despite logistical challenges and the Covid pandemic, they countered the Chinese troops rapidly. He said bilateral relations between India and China were on course of some improvement after the successful disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Our (India-China) ties have been abnormal since 2020 when peace and tranquility in the border areas were disturbed as a result of Chinese

actions. Recent developments that reflect our continuous diplomatic engagement since then have set our ties in the direction of some improvement," he said while briefing the Lok Sabha on India-China ties and the border truce reached in October.

Jaishankar also said in the months following the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, "we were addressing a situation that had not only seen fatalities for the first time in 45 years but also a turn of events serious enough for heavy weaponry to be deployed in close proximity to the LAC".

"While a determined counter-deployment of adequate capability was the government's immediate response, there was also the imperative of a diplomatic effort to defuse these heightened tensions and restore peace and tranquility."

The Minister went on to list a series of agreements reached in the past between India and China, including those signed in 1991, 1993, 1996, 2003, 2005, 2012 and the last one in

2013 to reach an understanding on border defence cooperation.

"The purpose of my recalling these agreements is to underline the elaborate nature of our shared efforts to ensure peace and tranquility and to emphasise the seriousness of what its unprecedented disruption in 2020 implied for our overall relationship," he said.

The current agreement pertains to patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok areas. Earlier, the militaries of the two countries had pulled back from four of six friction points in eastern Ladakh, including the Galwan Valley, after the clash.

In November, Indian and Chinese armies completed one round of patrolling in Demchok and Depsang and also agreed to carry out one coordinated patrol every week in the areas where tensions have persisted.

In an effort to maintain ongoing stability, talks will continue at the local commanders' level, involving brigadiers and officers of similar ranks.

## Recent violence in Sambhal figures in both houses of Parliament

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

Recent violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh figured in both house of Parliament on Tuesday. While Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in the Lok Sabha criticized the local administration, his uncle Ram Gopal Yadav claimed in the Rajya Sabha that violence was pre-planned.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav said violence part of a "well-planned" conspiracy and that the talk of "khudai" (digging) across the country by the BJP and its associates will end up hurting communal unity.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister squarely blamed the local police and administration for the recent violence in Sambhal.

He alleged that police personnel fired from official and personal weapons, killing five innocent people and injuring dozens after some locals pelted stones at them to protest their high-handedness.

The MP from Kannauj demanded the suspension of guilty officials and registration of a murder case against them to ensure that there is no such "violation" of the Constitution



again. Akhilesh Yadav, amid occasional interruptions from the treasury benches, suggested that the BJP's inner politics was also at work and claimed that it was a "battle" between Delhi and Lucknow.

Ram Gopal Yadav said in the Rajya Sabha Sambhal was converted into a police zone and people were baffled why it was being done.

At one point, water started flowing out of the mosque and people thought some mischief was happening inside. Peace was disturbed with police opening fire, in which five people were killed and several injured, he said.

Ram Gopal Yadav, however, failed to complete his speech and Chairman Jagdeep

Dhankhar said certain parts of his statement would not go on record. At this, the SP and some other opposition parties staged a walkout.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MP E T Mohammed Basheer described the Sambhal incident as shocking.

"The peaceful coexistence (of different communities) in this country is becoming more and more difficult. We have to preserve our secularism," he said. Basheer alleged the government is supporting the campaign aimed at targeting mosques and demanded a comprehensive inquiry by a judicial commission. Akhilesh Yadav also spoke outside Parliament and said the Uttar Pradesh government was behind the incident.

## Ensure ICC for sexual harassment at workplace in all Govt departments: SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

With a view to ensure a nationwide compliance of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all states and union territories to constitute an internal complaints committee in all government departments and undertakings.

Issuing a slew of directions, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh said that the POSH Act must be uniformly implemented across the country.

The top court therefore directed the states and UTs to appoint an officer in each district by December 31, 2024, who would constitute a local complaints committee by January 31, 2025 and appoint nodal officers at taluka levels. The apex court directed the deputy commissioners/district magistrates to survey the public and private organisations for ICC compliance under Section 26 of the POSH Act and submit reports. They would engage with private sector stakeholders to ensure ICC constitution and adherence to



statutory provisions, it said. The bench granted time till March 31, 2025 for the compliance of its directions and directed chief secretaries to oversee the execution. The direction came on a petition dealing with the implementation of the court's May 2023 order directing the Centre and the state governments to undertake a time-bound exercise to verify whether panels to probe sexual harassment allegations at workplace were constituted in all ministries and the departments.

The top court said it was "disquieting" to note "serious lapses" in the enforcement of the 2013 Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act despite such a long time. Calling it a "sorry state of

affairs", the apex court said it reflected poorly on all the state functionaries, public authorities and private undertakings. The court direction came on a plea filed by a former head of department at Goa University Aureliano Fernandes, who challenged an order of the Bombay High Court over allegations of sexual harassment against him. The high court rejected his plea against an order of the executive council of Goa University (disciplinary authority) which dismissed him from services and disqualified him from future employment. The top court set aside the high court order, noting procedural lapses in inquiry proceedings and violation of the principles of natural justice.

## Former CBI director Vijay Shankar breathes his last on Tuesday



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

Former CBI Director Vijay Shankar breathed his last on Tuesday after prolonged illness, his family said. He was 76. His mortal remains will be donated to AIIMS as per his last wish, they said. A 1969-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Shankar headed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005 to July 31, 2008.

During his tenure as CBI director, the agency took over the infamous Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case. As

Additional Director of CBI, he supervised the extradition of gangster Abu Salem and actor Monika Bedi from Portugal. He also supervised the investigation into the Telgi scam. Before being appointed CBI director, Shankar headed National Disaster Response Force, and Civil Defence and Home Guards.

He served as Inspector General in Jammu and Kashmir at the peak of militancy in the 1990s. A recipient of the coveted President's police medals for distinguished and meritorious service, Shankar also served in Uttar Pradesh Police and Moscow under the Ministry of External Affairs.

## President calls for empathy, inclusivity, equal opportunities for Divyangjan

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu, on Tuesday, underscored the importance of providing opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment for Divyangjan (people with disabilities), saying such avenues can significantly improve their lives, enabling them to live more meaningful and independent lives.

Speaking at the National Awards ceremony on World Disability Day on December 3, President Murmu highlighted the need for empathy, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities). She emphasised that persons with disabilities deserve empathy, not sympathy;

natural affection, not special attention; and, above all, they should experience respect. She urged society to foster an environment that treats Divyangjan with dignity and equality.

President Murmu pointed out that being differently-abled is not a limitation but a special condition that requires tailored support. "Special training, counselling, and facilities must be provided for their needs. While the government is prioritizing their welfare, society must also step forward to ensure their inclusion," she said.

The President also lauded the significant achievements of Divyangjan in various fields, especially sports and noted the remarkable improvement in India's performance in the



Paralympics. She said in 2012, India won only one medal, but by 2024, increased awareness and support for Divyangjan had led to a remarkable 29 medals.

"A truly sensitive society ensures equal opportunities and seamless access for everyone," she said. She also praised the collaboration among various ministries and departments under a whole-of-gov-

ernment approach to enhance accessibility and urged them to work more cohesively to advance the social and economic empowerment of Divyangjan.

At the ceremony, 33 individuals, institutions, and organizations were recognized for their significant contributions to the empowerment of persons with disabilities in various fields. Among the honorees were Iytha Mallikarjuna, recognized as the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan for his work in creating opportunities for persons with disabilities, and Prateek Khandelwal, a Bengaluru-based social entrepreneur, awarded for his efforts in making urban spaces accessible through his initiative Ramp My City. In a related event, the National Centre for Promotion

of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) Helen Keller Awards celebrated 25 years, honoring 17 individuals and organizations for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce. Notable awards included Role Model Persons with Disabilities to Basant Sahu (Chhattisgarh), Nishtha Thaker (Gujarat), Resham Talwar (Delhi), and Dilip Kumar Dahyalal (Gujarat). Role Model Supporters of Increased Employment for Persons with Disabilities: Ashish Verma (Hyderabad), Ameesha Prabhu (Mumbai), and Ajay Govind (Dehradun) while Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on Thilakam Rajendran, for her relentless dedication to disability inclusion.

## WCD Minister slams two BJP-Opp ruled States for not enforcing women's safety measures

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

A day after Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya rapped the Delhi and West Bengal Governments for failing to implement central flagship Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi pulled up the two BJP-Opposition ruled States for not enforcing crucial women's safety measures despite central funding and support.

Addressing the media, the Minister pointed out that the Delhi government had failed to pay the staff working at the One-Stop Centres (OSCs), which were set up under the Nirbhaya Fund to assist women in distress.

She emphasised that the Centre had consistently provided support through initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund, yet state-level delays in implementation were disappointing. The Delhi High Court had recently directed the Delhi government's revenue department to streamline payment processes for OSC staff and take action against the responsible officials.

"The Centre has consistently supported states through initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund, but it is disappointing to see delays in implementation at the state level," the Minister said. Minister Devi also took aim at the West Bengal government for its failure to operationalise Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) aimed at expediting cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)



Act, an initiative that received central backing.

In contrast, she highlighted the success of these programs on the national level, citing the 802 OSCs across the country that have supported over 10 lakh women and the 752 FTSCs that have resolved over 2.66 lakh cases. Devi further emphasized the central government's commitment to women-led development, noting the increase in the Gender Budget from Rs 97,000 crore in 2013-14 to over Rs 3 lakh crore in 2024-25.

Devi also referred to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, which reserves 33 percent of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies, as a landmark step toward empowering women. She reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that India's progress is closely tied to the empowerment of its women. Savitri Thakur, the Minister of State for Women and Child

Development, echoed Devi's sentiments, celebrating the progress in gender equality. She highlighted the election of 74 women to the Lok Sabha in 2024 as a record and noted the successes of programs like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, which have improved the national sex ratio.

Thakur also pointed to the significant number of women who have benefited from housing initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, as well as financial empowerment programs like Stand Up India and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

Former Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had on Monday vehemently criticised the Delhi and West Bengal Governments for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, saying that there should not be any politics over health schemes.

## NCPEDP marks World Disability Day 2024 with the launch of a Media Toolkit

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

As one of its vital institutions, media has enormous influence on society and societal values. It's a potent tool to influence behavior and challenge stereotypes. Acknowledging the role of media in transforming societal initiatives, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) in collaboration with O.P. Jindal Global University and EXL launched a Media Toolkit - A Guide to Reporting Disability. This toolkit would provide journalists with guidelines on respectful language, best practices, and strategies to engage with disability issues thoughtfully, ensuring that this invis-

ibilized topic receives accurate representation in media.

"This toolkit has been developed to equip journalists with the tools to report on disability with accuracy and respect, promote the use of empowering language that highlights rights and capabilities, not just challenges, serves as a resource for understanding the socio-political and legal framework that governs disability rights in India, such as the RPWD Act 2016 and the UNCRPD. I hope this initiative will contribute to building a media landscape where persons with disabilities are portrayed not as victims or heroes but as individuals with equal rights, aspirations, and contributions to make," remarked Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP, during a panel discussion held

on the launch of the toolkit on Tuesday.

The launch of the media toolkit was followed up by a panel discussion titled "The Role of Media in Shaping the Discourse on Disability," moderated by Prof. Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Professor & Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, O.P. Jindal Global University. The panelists included Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP; Dr. Navneet Anand, Founder Director, GreyMatters Communications; Bharat Sharma, Senior Assistant Vice President - Transformation and Solutioning, EXL; and Muskan Jain, Assistant Vice President - Global Corporate Social Responsibility Lead, EXL.

## PM Modi speaks to TN CM enquiring about flood situation

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday to enquire about the flood situation in parts of the state and assured him of all possible support from the Centre. Official sources said Modi called up Stalin regarding the flood situation. Villupuram district in north Tamil Nadu continued to reel under unprecedented flooding on Monday following extremely heavy rainfall, virtually blocking access to villages and residential colonies as bridges and roads were



submerged and inundating huge acreage of standing crops. In Tiruvannamalai, tragedy unfolded as five bodies were recovered from a house crushed by a boulder that rolled down a hilltop following a mud slip on the night of December 1 during rains.



# Maharashtra village cancels ballot-based repoll after police warning

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SOLAPUR/MUMBAI**

A section of villagers from Maharashtra's Malshiras Assembly segment seeking re-election using ballot papers gave up their plan on Tuesday after intervention by police and administration, NCP (SP) leader Uttam Jankar who won the seat said.

Nana Patole, state Congress president, alleged that officials used police to block villagers under the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) pressure, raising serious concerns about the credibility of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Earlier, residents of Markadwadi village under the Malshiras segment in Solapur district had put up banners claiming a repoll will be held on ballot papers on December 3.

The village is part of the Malshiras Assembly constituency, where Jankar defeated BJP's Ram Satpute by 13,147 votes in the November 20 polls.

Though Jankar won the seat, Markadwadi residents claimed the quantum of votes polled by the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) (NCP-SP) leader was less compared with Satpute, expressing doubt about EVMs.

The Malshiras sub-divisional magistrate on Monday imposed prohibitory orders, under section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, from December 2 to December 5 in the area.

Tehsildar Vijaya Pangarkar

rejected the villagers' plea seeking re-poll using ballot papers.

"The Assembly elections were conducted lawfully, and no objections were raised during voting or counting. Conducting a ballot paper poll now is illegal and beyond the scope of the election process," Pangarkar said on Tuesday.

Later, Narayan Shirgavkar, deputy superintendent of police (Malshiras division), said they had a detailed meeting with the villagers and NCP (SP) leader Jankar.

"We explained the procedures in the law to them and warned them that even if one vote is cast, cases will be registered," Shirgavkar said.

Jankar said after discussions with police officials and villagers, the repoll plan was cancelled.

The Congress, which won only 16 seats in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, has questioned the election process and EVM credibility. On Tuesday, Patole claimed that the people of Maharashtra suspect that the elections were not conducted transparently.

"Markadwadi villagers took a democratic step to address these doubts through a ballot paper poll. Instead, the administration, under BJP pressure, imposed restrictions and used police force to block them. This raises serious concerns about the credibility of EVMs and the government's intent," Patole tweeted.

If there were no irregularities

why is the administration afraid of a mock poll, Patole questioned.

"This was an opportunity to restore public trust in EVMs, but instead, the BJP's influence has eroded faith in the electoral system," the Congress leader stated.

NCP (SP) MLA from Ahilyanagar district, Rohit Pawar, also criticised the administration.

"The ballot paper poll decision by Markadwadi villagers was an opportunity for the Election Commission of India (ECI) to demonstrate EVM transparency. Instead, the administration acted in fear, imposing restrictions and deploying a massive police force. This raises questions about the state of democracy," he told reporters.

Ram Satpute, who lost the electoral contest in Malshiras constituency, accused BJP MLC Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil of orchestrating the unrest among villagers. "This was not a villagers' movement," Satpute said.

"Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil created a false narrative to malign the administration at the state level while targeting EVMs. The administration has rightly dismantled his plan. For the past three days, Mohite Patil's men have been threatening villagers, trying to instigate unrest. Uttamrao Jankar is merely a pawn, while Mohite Patil is the mastermind behind this scheme," Satpute alleged.

Earlier this year, Mohite Patil's younger brother and NCP (SP) leader defeated Satpute

in the Lok Sabha elections. Jankar said a meeting was held with police officials who warned of seizing the material at the polling station and filing cases.

"After meeting police, we discussed the matter with villagers. The villagers opined if the administration does not allow polling, there will be chaos and conflict between police and residents, which will deter people at the polling station," he said.

Considering the stand of the police and the administration, the villagers decided to stop the "polling" process, Jankar said.

Earlier, a villager Ranjit Markad claimed the village had 2,000 eligible voters on the polling day, and 1,900 of them exercised their franchise.

"The village always supported Jankar in the past, but this time, as per the counting of votes through EVMs, Jankar got 843 votes while BJP candidate Satpute polled 1,003 votes. This is not possible and we do not trust these EVM numbers, that is why we decided to conduct the repoll through ballot papers," said Markad.

In the recently concluded Maharashtra polls, the Mahayuti won 230 of the state's 288 seats, with the BJP emerging victorious in 132, Shiv Sena 57 and Ajit Pawar's NCP 41.

The Maha Vikas Aghadi, comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), managed to get just 46 seats.



Residents affected by cyclone Fengal in Villupuram block Chennai-Tiruchirappalli National Highway demanding relief from the government. PTI

# Stalin announces Rs 2,000 for families affected by Fengal

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI**

The families in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Kallakurichi districts which bore the brunt of damage caused by Cyclone Fengal would be provided a relief of Rs 2,000 each, Tamil Nadu Chief M K Stalin announced on Tuesday.

Chairing a meeting at the Secretariat here to assess the damage due to rain in the state, the chief minister directed the officials to provide a relief sum of Rs 2,000 on the basis of family ration cards to families whose livelihood was affected due to a very heavy rain in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Kallakurichi districts. These districts witnessed unprecedented rain for more than two days.

The meeting decided to extend relief assistance to the rain-hit people in Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Thiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, and extend Rs 5 lakh as compensation each to the families who lost their kin due to cyclone or floods.

The government has decided to provide Rs 10,000 as compensation for damaged huts, give priority to construct houses under the Kalaingar Kanavu Illam (housing scheme) for completely damaged huts, provide Rs 17,000 per hectare relief for rain-damaged paddy crops, including irrigated crops to farmers, and Rs 22,500 per hectare for perennial crops and trees damaged.

It also decided to give Rs 8,500 per hectare for rain-damaged (rain-fed) crops, Rs 37,500 as

compensation for the loss of cattle including oxen and cows, Rs 4,000 for the loss of goats and sheep and a relief of Rs 100 for the loss of chicken. Special camps would be conducted in the rain-affected areas for issuing certificates, voter's ID and other documents lost or damaged due to floods, the government said in a release here.

Textbooks and notebooks damaged due to rain would be provided for the affected students.

The chief minister himself visited Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts to assess the damage due to rain and to supervise the relief and restoration work, while Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and state ministers supervised the relief work in various other districts in the state.

# New laws protecting rights of citizens, claims PM

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHENNAI**

Chandigarh has become the country's first administrative unit where 100 per cent implementation of the three criminal laws has been done with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday saying these new legislations are becoming protector of citizen's rights and the basis of ease of justice. The laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam - came into effect on July 1, replacing the British-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively.

Chandigarh has become the country's first administrative unit where 100 per cent implementation of the three laws has been done. Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said the new criminal laws represent a concrete step towards realising the ideals enshrined in the Constitution for the benefit of all citizens.

He said the new laws came into effect at a time when country is moving ahead with the pledge of "Viksit Bharat" and 75 years of adoption of Constitution have been completed, thus the launch of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, rooted in constitutional values, is a significant occasion.



Members of the United Zou Organization (UZO) stage demonstration against the decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime and fence the India-Myanmar border. PTI

# Zou group protest border fencing, FMR

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHURACHANDPUR**

A demonstration was held in Manipur on Tuesday to protest the government's decision to scrap the India-Myanmar Free Movement Regime (FMR). Demonstration, led by the United Zou Organisation, started at the 'Wall of Remembrance' around 11.30 am. The demonstrators raised slogans against the government's decision to scrap FMR and fence the international border.

# Meity groups urge Center to secure Indo-Myanmar border

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL**

Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of Meitei civil society organisations, on Tuesday asked the central government to secure the Indo-Myanmar border and dismantle the infrastructure of armed militant groups.

COCOMI also called for transparent investigations into allegations of collusion between security forces and Kuki armed groups. The Centre needs to take

"decisive action to secure the Indo-Myanmar border and to dismantle the infrastructure of armed militant groups within the state in a stipulated time," COCOMI said in a statement.

A comprehensive strategy is required to address infiltration, illegal poppy cultivation, illegal arms smuggling and trafficking of drugs and also to restore the demographic balance in Manipur, it said.

COCOMI also alleged that the crisis in the northeastern state resulted from "Kuki aggression" and that the

India-Myanmar border has been "mismanaged deliberately".

Both the central and state governments have repeatedly claimed that infiltration from Myanmar is the root cause behind the violence between Imphal valley-based Meiteis and Kukis based in hill districts.

Manipur has remained gripped by recurring bouts of violence since ethnic clashes between the two communities first erupted in May last year. At least 258 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless since then.

# Newborn's body found in a box at Lucknow airport

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW**

A shocking incident unfolded at Lucknow's Amausi Airport on Tuesday morning when the body of a newborn was discovered in a courier box during routine cargo scanning.

The package, booked for Indigo flight 6E 2238 to Mumbai, triggered a security alert, prompting immediate action by the airport's cargo staff and authorities.

The discovery occurred when a scanning machine beeped unusually during the inspection of cargo items.

Upon opening the box, staff found the lifeless body of a month-old infant inside a plastic container. The matter was promptly reported to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which is responsible for airport security.

The courier agent who booked the parcel, identified as Shiv Baran Yadav, was detained and handed over to the CISF for questioning. However, Yadav reportedly failed to provide any explanation or documentation regarding the presence of the newborn's body in the courier package.

According to airport sources,

the cargo team, led by staff member Ankit Kumar, was conducting routine scans of goods booked for air cargo. The scanning machine flagged the package, and upon manual inspection, the body of the newborn was found. Shocked by the discovery, the cargo team immediately informed the CISF and local police, who took charge of the situation.

"We were shocked to find the infant's body inside," Kumar said.

The airport police confirmed the recovery of the body from the cargo premises and are probing the circumstances surrounding the incident. "It

appears that the body was being sent to Mumbai, possibly for some examination," said the airport post-in-charge. Authorities are investigating whether the courier company or the agent was aware of the box's contents. As of now, no official documents have been presented to justify the transportation of the body. The identity of the newborn and the circumstances of their death remain unknown, and police are working to uncover more details.

The incident has raised serious concerns over the misuse of courier services and airport security measures.

# Engineering seats scam, 10 arrested

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU**

Ten people, including a staff member of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA), have been arrested for their alleged involvement in an engineering seat-blocking scam, police said on Tuesday.

According to police, the matter came to light on November 13 when KEA officials lodged a complaint at the Malleswaram police station, reporting a suspected seat-blocking scheme during the 2024-2025 undergraduate engineering admissions.

A senior police officer said that during the investigation, three private engineering college managers were questioned based on the complaint, which led to the collection of evidence. "We have arrested 10 people, including a KEA staffer. The others include middlemen and staff members from some engineering colleges," the officer said. The arrests were made over some time, with three suspects apprehended on Monday.

# Students protest Waqf claim, chant Hanuman Chalisa in Varanasi College

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW**

Tensions flared at Uday Pratap College (UP College) in Varanasi as students staged a protest on Tuesday, reciting the Hanuman Chalisa near a campus shrine in defiance of police efforts to maintain order.

The demonstration was a direct response to the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board's contentious claim over the college premises. Hundreds of students gathered, raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and breaking through police barricades. A heavy police presence, led by Additional Police Commissioner (Law and Order) Dr. S. Channappa, was deployed to contain the unrest, but the students remained resolute in their demands.

Protesting students alleged that an increase in religious activities on campus was affecting the academic atmosphere. "The rise in such activities is spoiling the study environment. We cannot allow

this to continue," said one of the agitators.

The situation escalated further when a group of individuals attempted to offer namaz at the campus mosque. Police intervened, detaining one individual, identified as Mukhtar, for allegedly inciting religious gatherings.

Authorities clarified that no religious activity would be permitted on campus until ongoing exams were concluded.

Despite efforts by the police to prevent further demonstrations, students managed to breach barricades and continue their protest near the shrine.

The unrest stems from a 2018 notice issued by the Sunni Central Waqf Board, claiming the college land as its property. This notice, which has recently resurfaced, has sparked outrage among students and staff, who see it as an infringement on the institution's autonomy.

UP College spans over 100 acres and includes a mosque built by Nawab Tonk, along with the tomb of Kachnar Shah, occupying three biswas

of land. While the mosque has historically been frequented by four to five daily worshippers, over 500 people reportedly gathered for Friday prayers last week—an unusual surge that coincided with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's visit to the college. During the event, the CM announced plans to upgrade the institution to university status. The land dispute dates back to 2008, when Wasim Ahmed, a resident of Varanasi, filed a claim with the Waqf Board, alleging that the college administration had encroached on Waqf property. In 2018, the board issued a notice warning that the land would be registered as Waqf property if the college failed to respond.

Founded in 1909 by Maharaja Rajarshi Singh Judeo, Uday Pratap College is an educational hub comprising multiple institutions, including Uday Pratap Inter College, Rani Murar Balika Inter College, Uday Pratap Public School, a management college, and an autonomous college, catering to over 15,000 students.

# Fighting for justice, 40 years past midnight in Bhopal



Survivors of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy take out a torch rally to mark the 40th anniversary of the disaster. PTI

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHOPAL**

Organisations representing survivors of the Bhopal gas tragedy on Tuesday took out a protest march to mark the 40th anniversary of one of the biggest industrial disasters in the world and demanded an end to the "injustice" faced by them.

The rally participants, carrying an effigy of "corporate crime" at the now defunct Union Carbide factory site, denounced various regional, national and international leaders and relief organisations for their

continued involvement in the "denial" of justice and a life of dignity to survivors of the catastrophe.

A large number of women and men, holding placards, marched towards the abandoned factory site while raising the slogan "Bhopal Ka Insaaf Karo".

On the intervening night of December 2-3, 1984, the highly toxic gas methyl isocyanate (MIC) leaked from Union Carbide's pesticide plant, killing 5,479 persons and maiming more than five lakh others.

Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Stationery Karmchari Sangh

president Rashida Bee, alleged that successive US presidents have actively protected Union Carbide and Dow Chemical from prosecution in India. "We wish that US President-designate Donald Trump puts an end to the long history of injustice in Bhopal in his effort to make America great again. We hope Trump will take action against Union Carbide Corporation and the Dow Chemical company," she said.

Balkrishna Namdeo, from the Bhopal Gas Peedit Nirashrit Pensionbhogee Sangharsh Morcha, claimed all scientific studies were now pointing out

the ongoing illnesses and continuing deaths among the half-a-million survivors and health impacts on their children.

Bhopal Group for Information and Action representative Rachna Dhingra claimed the Union Carbide-owned Dow Chemical's business in India has increased more than 10 times under the present regime at the Centre.

In 10 years, the groundwater in Bhopal, which should have been cleaned up by Dow Chemical according to the polluter pays principle, has moved 3 kilometres into the city, she further claimed.

# Over 400 workers from Odisha died across India in last decade

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Over 400 migrant workers from Odisha died outside the state in the last 10 years, the assembly was informed on Tuesday. Replying to a question by BJP MLA Tankadhar Tripathy, Labour Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia said 403 migrant workers from Odisha died in other states between 2015 and November 27. The highest number of 59 migrant workers from Ganjam district died while working outside

the state during the period. It was followed by Kalahandi, 39, Bolangir, 35, Kandhamal, 32, and Rayagada, 28, districts. Singhkhuntia said the government issued 388 licenses to labour contractors under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service, Act for the migration of 26. In 2024, he said, Singhkhuntia said his government has set up a high-level task force led by Deputy CM KV Singh Deo to address the issue of distress migration.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Junta under siege

Myanmar's Junta is losing grip as rebel gains mount, raising fears of a balkanised future

After years of oppressive rule, human rights abuses, and atrocities against its own people, Myanmar's military rulers are now on the defensive. Their grip on power appears increasingly fragile as armed rebels gain significant ground. A year-long offensive has allowed anti-junta forces to seize much of the 480-km National Highway 3, connecting Mandalay to China, a critical route cutting through northern Myanmar's rugged terrain. This victory denies the military lucrative taxes, threatens its strongholds in the central plains, and boosts rebel morale as the civil war enters its fourth year. Myanmar is teetering on the edge of disintegration as the military junta, which seized power in a 2021 coup, confronts increasingly severe attacks from armed rebel groups across the country. Over the past year, ethnic armed organisations and local militias have intensified their offensives, capturing key regions and heightening the risk of Myanmar splintering into fragmented zones of control. The most biggest challenge to the junta has come from the alliance between the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Operating primarily in Shan State along the border with China, these groups have launched strategic, synchronised assaults, undermining the junta's control in this crucial region.



The Arakan Army's offensives in Rakhine and Chin States have yielded significant territorial gains, placing vast swathes of land and critical townships under their control. These advances threaten the junta's ability to project authority in regions vital for natural resources and strategic positioning. China, a key stakeholder with significant economic interests in Myanmar, has sought to balance its influence between the junta and rebel groups. As rebel forces secure near-total control over regions such as Rakhine and parts of Shan State, the junta's ability to govern the country as a unified entity is waning fast. This fragmentation could pave the way for the de facto partition of Myanmar into autonomous zones controlled by various factions. The war within has not been easy and the common people are paying the price. Entire communities have been displaced, particularly in the Rohingya-majority regions, where people face violence from multiple fronts. Basic services are scarce, and the humanitarian crisis is deepening. Prolonged conflict has devastated Myanmar's economy, deterring foreign investment and crippling key sectors. Infrastructure projects backed by China and other countries are at risk, compounding economic instability. The instability in Myanmar has broader implications for Southeast Asia, particularly for neighboring countries like Thailand and India. Cross-border violence, refugee flows, and the potential for illicit activities such as drug trafficking pose significant challenges for regional stability. The coming days will be critical in determining whether Myanmar can salvage its unity or succumb to a spiral of fragmentation and perpetual conflict.

holder with significant economic interests in Myanmar, has sought to balance its influence between the junta and rebel groups. As rebel forces secure near-total control over regions such as Rakhine and parts of Shan State, the junta's ability to govern the country as a unified entity is waning fast. This fragmentation could pave the way for the de facto partition of Myanmar into autonomous zones controlled by various factions. The war within has not been easy and the common people are paying the price. Entire communities have been displaced, particularly in the Rohingya-majority regions, where people face violence from multiple fronts. Basic services are scarce, and the humanitarian crisis is deepening. Prolonged conflict has devastated Myanmar's economy, deterring foreign investment and crippling key sectors. Infrastructure projects backed by China and other countries are at risk, compounding economic instability. The instability in Myanmar has broader implications for Southeast Asia, particularly for neighboring countries like Thailand and India. Cross-border violence, refugee flows, and the potential for illicit activities such as drug trafficking pose significant challenges for regional stability. The coming days will be critical in determining whether Myanmar can salvage its unity or succumb to a spiral of fragmentation and perpetual conflict.

### PICTALK



Bullock carts loaded with sugarcane head towards the Sugar Factory for crushing, in Karad

# How Nehru targeted his opponents

Nehru targeted Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Dr B R Ambedkar, leaders who had shaped India's Constitution but differed with his vision for the nation



ANIRBAN GANGULY

As the campaign for the first general elections in 1951-1952 played out, the Congress led by Nehru fiercely targeted two leaders. For the fledgling Jana Sangh and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Nehru came out in open abuse, vowing to 'crush Jana Sangh'. For Dr Ambedkar and the Scheduled Caste Federation, the Congress adopted a ruse.

Nehru deputed his trusted communist friends to ensure Babasaheb's defeat. Jawaharlal was essentially a petty man when it came to his political and intellectual opponents. It did not matter to him that they were his colleagues in the Constituent Assembly till the other day and had contributed to erecting the constitutional edifice of free India. He wanted both Ambedkar and Syama Prasad defeated. He was allergic to their parliamentary skills and to their vocal advocacy of a new polity for India. He wanted a new Parliament shorn of opponents, except communists, who, in any case, were his ideological co-travellers. Nehru did not put up a candidate against A K Gopalan in Kannur. This camaraderie overflowed especially after Sardar Patel's death. Despite Nehru's flame-throwing blitzkrieg Dr Mookerjee won his Calcutta south seat, with his Jana Sangh just about managing to stay afloat as a national party. Babasaheb lost from Bombay North seat, primarily because of the machinations of the communists who were outsourced by Nehru to carry out the hit-job against him.

It did not matter to Nehru that Dr Ambedkar's health was failing restricting his mobility. It did not matter to him that Dr Ambedkar had completely exhausted himself in the gargantuan task of putting together the Constitution and was therefore worthy of a noble gesture of support. Speaking of his defeat, Dr Ambedkar, one of his most authentic biographers Dhananjay Keer tells us, felt that it 'was due to the machinations of S.A. Dange'. During the campaign Dange had given out a vicious slogan, he said, 'Spoil your votes but don't vote Dr Ambedkar'. To Dr Ambedkar,



Communism, was 'like a forest fire; it goes on burning and consuming anything and everything that comes in its way'. Nehru deftly fanned that forest fire. Dr Savita Ambedkar, in her reminiscences of her life with Dr Ambedkar, recalling this first election writes how Nehru was 'keeping a sharp eye on the constituency' and of how 'S K Patil (Mumbai boss of the Congress) and S A Dange of the Communist Party had agreed'.

It emerged, writes Savita Ambedkar, that 'Nehru, S K Patil and Dange had decided that they would do all that was required, use whatever strategy suited the occasion, but they were determined not to let Dr Ambedkar win'. The Congress-Communist conspiracy, as Savita Ambedkar describes it, left 'the Constitution-making Doctor Saheb defeated'. It was a terrible psychological blow for Saheb...

It was Congress's manipulation that caused the defeat of the maker of the Indian Constitution. This first defeat, deliberately inflicted on Dr Ambedkar, deeply disappointed him since he was looking forward to returning to Parliament. Parliament, he felt, was his natural arena of work, a forum standing on which he



NEHRU AND CONGRESS ENGINEERED A SECOND ELECTORAL DEFEAT WHEN BABASAHEB LOST THE BY-ELECTIONS TO LOK SABHA FROM THE BHANDARA SEAT

could give his best to his country's regeneration in his remaining years. 'This horrendous defeat in the elections,' writes Savita Ambedkar, 'had an extremely harmful impact on his already debilitated health, melancholy, disappointment, depression and disability returned'.

Nehru and Congress engineered a second electoral defeat when Babasaheb lost the by-elections to Lok Sabha from the Bhandara seat. For this election, Babasaheb chose a young RSS pracharak Dattapani Thengadi as his election convener.

Thengadi would closely work as Babasaheb's understudy for the next two years and would go on to found the world's largest trade union movement Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. The Bhandara by-elections were a chance for the Congress to make amends and to give up its pettiness, but Nehru stuck to his blind opposition to Babasaheb.

Dr Savita Ambedkar, ruefully writes that the Congress 'should have displayed the largeness of heart to re-invite [to Parliament] the sculptor of the Constitution with due honour. For the sake of the welfare of the nation, if not for anything else, Nehru should have left the way open for Saheb to be elected to the Lok

Sabha. But quite to the contrary, the Congress shook hands with a person like Dange and applied all its strength and got into all kinds of machinations to defeat Saheb, which proves that Congress cared more for the party than for the welfare of the country'.

During the Bhandara elections, Dr Ambedkar writes Keer, was scathing of Nehru and Congress. He was fighting the elections, he said, 'so that he might give the people the other point of view from the Opposition. It would not have been difficult, he said, for him to be in Parliament if he was prepared to make a compromise with the Congress'. Babasaheb firmly chose not to compromise or succumb before Congress and thus faced political humiliation and insult in his last years.

When Nehru's heirs, thus, comically wield the Constitution today, they must be greeted with loud guffaws. Their action needs to be dismissed as the irrelevant and desperate posturing of the managers of a defeated political cartel.

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### POPULATION GROWTH RATE DECLINES

Madam — The Rashtriya Swayamsevak (RSS) Sarsanghachalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat raised concerns about declining birth rates, emphasising the importance of maintaining a birth rate of at least 2.1 to ensure the existence of social groups. He underscored unity despite differences and highlighted the inclusivity of Indian culture without caste discrimination. It is, however, true that birth rates are falling in every nation and in the developed West, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China.

Population is shrinking because of decreasing incidence of marriages among eligible young bachelors and spinsters and traditional marriages for life are fast getting replaced by live-ins, same-sex marriages, increasing rates of incidence of divorces, consensual/temporary affairs, and above all, spreading birth control measures irrespective of religious opposition to the same due to loosening of popular restraints or fear of religious tenets and prescriptions in all faiths. In India, Middle-class families are finding it difficult to provide better education for even two children and the value of rupees is decreasing and the purchasing power of rupees is going down. No educated person would like to have a third child. Just see how high the inflation is, GDP (gross domestic product) is down, the rupee is weak against the dollar, and we are having more children-who will feed them? Moreover, does Bhagwat have any solutions for real problems like poverty, jobs, and inflation? I feel this statement from Mohan Bhagwat is absurd and illogical.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

#### CONTROVERSY OVER EVM

Madam — The growing controversy over the performance of EVM shows the dire need for a thorough study of its tamper-proof quality. Only when one loses, finds fault with EVMs is it acceptable? Definitely, it is the loser who seeks

## Earth suffers from plastic pollution



Plastic has become the biggest headache for all living beings on the earth. Because of the chemicals present in it, this garbage is not only polluting the earth and water, but it is also causing problems for the animals in the sea. The talks held in the South Korean city of Busan to find a solution to plastic waste ended inconclusively on Monday. It has been said that all the countries will meet again next year i.e. in 2025. But the way the world has been divided into two parts on this subject in this meeting itself, it does

not seem that there is any scope for any kind of agreement after this. It is estimated that since 1950, more than eight billion tonnes of plastic have been produced worldwide, but less than 10 per cent has been recycled. Due to this, millions of tonnes of plastic have reached the oceans around the world, posing a serious threat to aquatic life and their environment.

While developed countries want a complete ban on its production. A group of 95 countries, including the UK, the European Union, the African Group and many South American countries, has emerged, calling for making Article 6 a legally binding pledge to reduce production levels. But a group of oil-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait and Russia, strongly opposed it. India too has expressed its concern about including any commitment to cut plastic production, as it could impact its right to development.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### COP29 FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

Madam — The COP29 conference held at Baku was disappointing to say the least. It would be an understatement to say that it has delivered a deadly blow to international efforts to restrict global warming and put extra pressure on developing nations that are already struggling to emerge from the economic slowdown due to ongoing wars in West Asia and Europe.

How can they put developed nations and developing nations at par and expect the latter to do the heavy lifting? And to make matters worse, we have US President-elect Donald Trump, who has completely different ideas on this critical issue. With developed nations shying away from their responsibilities of helping developing nations to fight climate change, the future outlook for global climate mitigation looks grim. Developed nations will have to stop behaving like big brothers now and accept the reality and responsibility.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

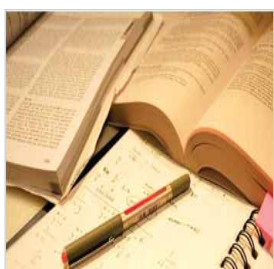
## One nation one subscription as a catalyst for equitable education

Access to quality academic resources remains a significant challenge for students and researchers, especially in India's remote regions



BIJU DHARAMPALAN

Access to quality resource materials remains a critical challenge for students and research scholars, particularly in the remote corners of India. While the digital age has transformed the way information is disseminated, physical libraries continue to be the cornerstone of academic excellence.



address this disparity and revitalize the educational landscape. Despite technological advancements, access to quality academic resources has not been democratised in India till now. Libraries in most colleges and universities face an alarming decline for various reasons. The lack of interest among younger generations in visiting libraries and shrinking funds has exacerbated this crisis. Unfortunately, in many public institutions, mainly in visiting libraries and shrinking funds has exacerbated this crisis. Unfortunately, in many public institutions, library staff often lack the enthusiasm and interpersonal skills to create a welcoming environment for readers. This, in turn, alienates even the most genuine readers who, despite the odds, make the effort to visit libraries. A

lack of support and an uninviting atmosphere can deter students and researchers from making libraries their go-to space for academic and intellectual pursuits, further eroding the library culture that is already under threat. The One Nation One Subscription initiative aims to address these challenges by providing nationwide access to high-quality academic resources through a centralized system. By negotiating bulk subscriptions to international and national journals, databases, and e-books, the initiative can ensure that every student has the same knowledge regardless of geographic or economic constraints.

What a student or scholar gets in a national institute will be available to a student in a university situated in a remote corner of the country. It's democratising the knowledge resource. However, the success of this initiative depends on more than just access. India needs a parallel effort to rejuvenate its library ecosystem. Even in the digital age, physical libraries are irreplaceable as spaces for reflection and collaboration.

The Government should provide adequate funds to modernise the libraries and also take steps to recruit skilled, motivated librarians who understand the evolving needs of readers and can effectively manage digital and physical resources. To ensure inclusivity, the One Nation One Subscription must provide individual login credentials to every registered student and scholar, enabling direct access to resources anytime, anywhere. This would bypass traditional institutional gatekeeping and foster a more reader-friendly environment. Policymakers must ensure this ambitious plan does not falter due to a lack of implementation or neglect of complementary measures. Knowledge is the cornerstone of progress, and access to it must be recognised as a fundamental right, not a privilege. To fully realise the potential of this initiative, it is essential that the government ensures access to these resources for every student.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)





## FIRST COLUMN

### THE ETERNAL JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

Life and death are interwoven in an eternal cycle of renewal, granting the soul opportunities for growth



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Very few humans know when death will come, how it will occur and where it will lead because death is inevitable and it keeps no calendar. Life may not be fair to all, but death deals equally with all, whether rich or poor, mighty or meek, deity or demon, saint or a sinner. Death has many shades to it. Dying for a noble cause such as for patriotism, or a social cause brings glory to the dead. Such deaths win over a lot of sympathy and goodwill for the soul.

Then some die a silent death without suffering much illness or pain. Such deaths happen to fortunate souls who perform good actions. There are also violent deaths such as accidents, murders, suicides, executions etc. Such deaths are preceded by suffering and bitterness and followed by more agony for the soul. So! Are there any happy deaths or can death be a rewarding experience? Well!!

To understand this, we have to first understand life. For this, we need to ask a few questions to ourselves as to what is it that lives when a human being is alive. What is it that ceases to exist when death occurs? On one hand, we say that a person has died and on the other hand, we talk of the body as the mortal remains. So what is mortal? The person or the body? In essence, life is a phenomenon that unfolds when a soul enters a body and death is simply a state when a soul leaves one body and enters a new one. Hence the person who passes away is the soul



that was living in the body. So, what is a soul? A soul is a sentient energy that manifests itself in three levels, the mind, intellect and sanskaras. A common saying goes that when you die the world is dead for you. Hence, what ends with death is the soul's connection or attachment to the limited world that it is related to whilst in the body, such as relationships, possessions, roles, etc. However, an amazing trait of the soul is that it carries over the karmic debts and sanskaras into the next life.

We all know that everyone has to die one day yet we never think about our death. This may be because as souls, we have been living in different bodies birth after birth for ages. Our attachment to the body is so strong that even in old age people buy bigger and better properties and continue to invest for the future so that they can live in comfort. Death is not the end of everything but it marks a major turning point in the journey of the soul in the human world.

Death also means newness. It fills the soul with freshness and renewed zest for life and broadens the scope for the soul to enrich itself and evolve with new experiences with different souls in different roles, bodies and places. This renewal is what makes the concept of eternity meaningful. The cycle of life and world drama could not go on eternally if there were no death. For a spiritually enlightened soul, death means final liberation from earthly bondages; it's an ascension to a higher realm of existence where the soul can experience total freedom and bliss because an enlightened soul takes rebirth in a golden age where it will not suffer untimely or painful death.

So, how does one get over the fear of death? For that, we need to understand that the root cause of our fear that leads us to sin & suffering is the consciousness and attachment of the body. Hence the awareness that we are eternal souls is the key to conquering the fear of death. Immortality is the awareness of our eternity and mastery over the body. It does not imply that we will go on existing in the same body forever. NO. A spiritually empowered soul becomes immortal by practising soul consciousness whilst living in the body. On the other hand, for sinful souls life itself is a living death for they die every day out of fear, remorse and suffering but those who die alive i.e. those who live in the world with no attachment to worldly matters are indeed liberated even in life.

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

# Delhi's pollution crisis: A call for sustainable solutions



RAJDEEP PATHAK

A comprehensive approach to urban mobility, affordability and infrastructure is the need of the hour to reclaim Delhi's air and ensure a healthier, sustainable future



As India aspires to emerge as the world's third-largest economy, it continues to grapple with the challenge of crafting a robust policy framework to combat the persistent environmental crises (read pollution) in its capital city, Delhi. Thankfully, the stubble-burning season officially concluded on November 30, 2024, and it is perceived as the end of the annual apocalypse of Delhi's air pollution. But, it needs to be seen that although the practice was outlawed in 2015, it continues unabated, contributing to approximately 35 per cent of Delhi's pollution. However, the core issue extends far beyond stubble burning, encompassing broader atmospheric and industrial factors. Decisive action in addressing these deeper challenges – and not prolonged silence – is the need of the hour. After weeks of smog and burning eyes and a high Air Quality Index (AQI), on December 2, 2024, Delhi's air quality showed marginal improvement for the second consecutive day, with the AQI that was recorded at 273 in the morning – though still within the 'poor' category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's 24-hour average AQI on December 1 stood at 285, providing a modest reprieve after 32 consecutive days of 'very poor' and 'severe' air quality (AQI levels exceeding 400). However, despite these minor improvements, the Supreme Court on December 2, 2024, refused to ease emergency restrictions under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for air pollution in Delhi. The Court emphasised that any relaxation of measures would depend on a consistent and substantial downward trend in AQI levels. The schools have nevertheless opened giving a fresh breath to the students from the online or hybrid mode. Although experts caution that pollution levels could potentially worsen, the past three days have seen clear skies and sustained, stronger winds from the northwest, which have facilitated the dispersion of pollutants. One of the most contributing factors of pol-



THE STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN DELHI REMAINS DEEPLY INADEQUATE. ACCORDING TO A REPORT DELHI CURRENTLY HAS APPROXIMATELY 45 BUSES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS, BASED ON DATA FROM THE 2011 CENSUS

lution, according to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), is 'vehicular pollution' which remains the most significant contributor to Delhi's air pollution, accounting for 51.1 per cent of emissions from all local sources, despite technical interventions aimed at reducing emissions. CSE's analysis highlights a persistent 'mobility crisis' in the city, characterised by systemic shortcomings in the public transport infrastructure despite years of investment. This crisis has driven a sharp increase in the number of private vehicles, which now play a substantial role in fuelling winter air pollution. Notably, even during periods of reduced stubble burning, Delhi's air quality frequently remains in the 'poor' or 'very poor' categories. CSE's report draws attention to several critical issues undermining public transportation, including its lack of reliability. For instance, instances of buses breaking down during transit rose significantly, from 781 in 2018-19 to 1,259 in 2022-23. Furthermore, high waiting times at bus stops reveal a fundamental inefficiency in the system: less than 1 per cent of bus stops offer waiting times of less than 10 minutes, while approximately 50 per cent require passengers to wait over 15 minutes. The state of public transportation in Delhi remains deeply inadequate. According to a report Delhi currently has approximately 45 buses per 100,000 residents, based on data from the 2011 census. This figure is significantly below the benchmark set by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which recommends a ratio of 60 buses per lakh of the population. In comparison, major global cities such as London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Seoul exhibit considerably higher ratios, ranging from 69 to 90 buses per 100,000

residents, highlighting a significant disparity in Delhi's public transportation infrastructure. While the Delhi Metro has been championed as a cornerstone of urban mobility, its impact remains constrained. With an average daily ridership of only 2,700 passengers per train, the Metro's limited capacity – that poor labourers aren't able to afford – and reach is evident, failing to address the broader needs of the city's commuters. According to The Economic Times, an unskilled daily-wage labourer in Delhi spend approximately 8 per cent of their income on travel via non-air-conditioned buses, 14 per cent on air-conditioned buses, and an alarming 22 per cent on the Metro. These figures underscore the economic burden placed on vulnerable sections of the population. The challenge is addressing the issue of 'affordability'. Data from the 'Economic Survey of Delhi 2023-24' further paints a stark picture of the city's growing vehicle population. Delhi currently has 7.9 million registered vehicles, with an additional 650,000 vehicles added in 2023-24, a figure that surpasses the pre-pandemic (COVID) annual average of 610,000. Moreover, the city experiences a daily influx and outflow of 1.1 million vehicles. The annual growth rate of two-wheelers and cars stands at 15 per cent, contributing significantly to transport-related pollution. Notably, according to the CSE, the transport sector accounts for 81 per cent of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the capital, further worsening its air quality challenges. There is a reports that the number of vehicles in the capital doesn't correspond to the size of its population, showing how a small proportion of the population has an outsized contribution to the air pollution crisis. According to data obtained in

the latest cycle of the National Family Health Survey, only a small proportion of families residing in Delhi own cars – 19 per cent in its rural areas and 28 per cent in its urban centres. Yet, Delhi streets are often congested by this small proportion of car-owners." However, an equally concerning factor lies in the extensive proliferation of industries across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), which persist as major and consistent sources of pollutants. These industrial emissions subject the residents of Delhi to a form of 'slow violence (read poison)'. Therefore, enhancing public transportation systems is a pivotal strategy for addressing the challenges posed by urban mobility and environmental sustainability in Delhi. Key measures such as improving last-mile connectivity, reducing fares to ensure affordability for a broader demographic, and expanding the public transport fleet to accommodate the city's growing population are essential for reducing the dependence on private vehicles. By prioritising these initiatives, it is believed that a significant decrease in traffic congestion and vehicular emissions can be achieved, contributing to a cleaner and healthier urban environment. Moreover, such measures would improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the city, enabling individuals without personal vehicles to navigate Delhi more efficiently. In the long term, a robust and affordable public transport network would not only promote environmental sustainability but also enhance the overall quality of life for all residents by fostering greater equity and mobility within the city.

*(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)*

# The impact of COVID-19 and lessons for preventing future pandemics

By strengthening healthcare systems and fostering global collaboration, we can minimise the risk of future pandemics write SUMER SINGH AHLUWALIA and SAISHA ANAND

COVID-19 has caused over 7,000,000 deaths worldwide, with countless others affected. These statistics barely begin to convey the immense impact of the pandemic, which brought loss to almost everyone. Wearing masks became the norm, schools transformed into virtual classrooms, and homes turned into makeshift workspaces. For a time, the world seemed to turn into a vast cemetery. Addressing and preventing future pandemics requires both personal behavioural changes and strict government regulations. These efforts can significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 and similar health crises in the future.

The origin of COVID-19 remains controversial, though it is widely believed to have stemmed from an animal sold at the Huanan Seafood Market in China. The consumption of meat, normalised for centuries, has often been linked to the emergence of infectious diseases. Diseases arising from the butchering of animals highlight the need for dietary shifts. Vegetarianism, for instance, is a proactive step that could reduce the likelihood of zoonotic spillovers and the spread of diseases like COVID-19. This also raises an ethical question: is it justifiable to kill animals merely to satisfy human taste preferences? **The Role of Vaccination** Vaccination has long been a topic of debate, and the

COVID-19 vaccines faced significant backlash. Many were hesitant due to concerns about the intentions of pharmaceutical companies and the fact that the vaccines did not provide sterilising immunity. However, vaccinations remain essential to eradicating diseases. According to the National Center for Immunisation and Respiratory Diseases, individuals who received the COVID-19 vaccine were 54 per cent less likely to contract SARS-CoV-2. Achieving herd immunity is crucial, requiring the transmission rate (Rt) to fall below 1, meaning each infected individual transmits the virus to less than one other person. The concept of the "socialism of the microbe" emphasises our responsibility to protect

others by safeguarding ourselves from infectious diseases. For instance, self-isolation, mask-wearing, and vaccination not only protect individuals but also shield vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated. **Preventative Measures** Personal precautions, such as wearing masks, self-isolating, and following hygiene protocols, are critical in containing the spread of viruses like SARS-CoV-2. A study in Bangladesh revealed that mask usage significantly reduced COVID-19 infections. As an RNA virus, SARS-CoV-2 evolves quickly, facilitating asymptomatic transmission. Research by Wang and Tong, published in the 'National Library of Medicine,' stresses the importance of strict quar-



antine measures for asymptomatic individuals to control the pandemic. **Government Interventions** Not everyone maintains the same hygiene standards, underscoring the need for government intervention. Investments in research and healthcare infrastructure are essential for pandemic preparedness. Projects like the

Global Virome Project and DEEP VZN aim to identify high-risk regions, animals, and viruses, enabling better predictions and preventive measures. India's 2021 healthcare crisis serves as a stark example of unpreparedness. A lack of oxygen, hospital beds, and essential facilities led to thousands of deaths daily. Despite this, the country still faces a deficit in healthcare infrastructure, highlighting the urgent need for increased healthcare budgets. Economic barriers also prevent many from accessing necessary care. A study published in the 'National Library of Medicine' found that one in six adults avoids healthcare due to cost. Governments could address this by subsidising

basic health insurance, covering vaccines, health check-ups, and screenings. This would ensure equitable access to healthcare and encourage public participation in disease eradication efforts. **Education as a Tool for Change** Education plays a vital role in fostering behaviour change. Courses like "Global Change and Infectious Disease," offered at Wesleyan University, teach valuable skills for reducing infection risks. Such courses should be mandatory to instill a lifelong sense of personal and social responsibility. Teaching hygiene practices, such as proper handwashing, should start at a young age, while mass educational campaigns can raise awareness about infectious diseases across all age

groups. Social media can amplify these messages, encouraging responsible behaviours and helping curb the spread of future diseases. **Conclusion** Minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics requires a combination of personal behavioural changes and robust government interventions. These pandemics are a wake-up call, reminding us of the harmful impacts of human activities on the planet. By promoting practices like vegetarianism, personal hygiene, and social responsibility, we can mitigate the dangers of pandemics and build a hopeful future. *(Ahluwalia & Saisha are studying economics at Wesleyan University; views are personal)*



# China retaliates, bans export of chip-making minerals to US

AP ■ BANGKOK

China announced Tuesday it is banning exports to the United States of gallium, germanium, antimony and other key high-tech materials with potential military applications, as a general principle, lashing back at US limits on semiconductor-related exports.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry announced the move after the Washington expanded its list of Chinese companies subject to export controls on computer chip-making equipment, software and high-bandwidth memory chips. Such chips are needed for advanced applications. The ratcheting up of trade

restrictions comes as President-elect Donald Trump has been threatening to sharply raise tariffs on imports from China and other countries, potentially intensifying simmering tensions over trade and technology.

China's Foreign Ministry also issued a vehement reproof. "China has lodged stern protests with the US for its update of the semiconductor export control measures, sanctions against Chinese companies, and malicious suppression of China's technological progress," Lin Jian, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in a routine briefing Tuesday.

"I want to reiterate that China firmly opposes the US over-

stretching the concept of national security, abuse of export control measures, and illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction against Chinese companies," Lin said. The minerals sourced in China are used in computer chips, cars and other products China said in July 2023 it would require exporters to apply for licenses to send to the US the strategically important materials such as gallium and germanium. In August, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said it would restrict exports of antimony, which is used in a wide range of products from batteries to weapons, and impose tighter controls on exports of graphite.

Such minerals are considered critical for national security. China is a major producer of antimony, which is used in flame retardants, batteries, night-vision goggles and nuclear weapon production, according to a 2021 US International Trade Commission report. The limits announced by Beijing on Tuesday also include exports of super-hard materials, such as diamonds and other synthetic materials that are not compressible and extremely dense. They are used in many industrial areas such as cutting tools, disc brakes and protective coatings. The licensing requirements that China announced in August also covered smelt-

ing and separation technology and machinery and other items related to such super-hard materials.

China is the biggest global source of gallium and germanium, which are produced in small amounts but are needed to make computer chips for mobile phones, cars and other products, as well as solar panels and military technology. China says it's protecting itself from US trade restrictions. After the US side announced it was adding 140 companies to a so-called "entity list" subject to strict export controls, China's Commerce Ministry protested and said it would act to protect China's "rights and interests." Nearly all of the companies affected by

Washington's latest trade restrictions are based in China, though some are Chinese-owned businesses in Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

Both governments say their respective export controls are needed for national security. China's government has been frustrated by US curbs on access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds but had been cautious in retaliating, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling developers of chips, artificial intelligence and other technology. Various Chinese industry associations issued statements protesting the US move to limit access to advanced chip-making tech-

nology. The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said it opposed using national security as a grounds for export controls, "abuse of export control measures, and the malicious blockade and suppression of China." "Such behaviour seriously violates the laws of the market economy and the principle of fair competition, undermines the international economic and trade order, disrupts the stability of the global industrial chain, and ultimately harms the interests of all countries," it said in a statement.

The China Semiconductor Industry Association issued a similar statement, adding that such restrictions were dis-

rupting supply chains and inflating costs for American companies.

"US chip products are no longer safe and reliable. China's related industries will have to be cautious in purchasing US chips," it said.

The US gets about half its supply of both gallium and germanium metals directly from China, according to the US Geological Survey. China exported about 23 metric tonnes (25 tonnes) of gallium in 2022 and produces about 600 metric tonnes (660 tonnes) of germanium per year. The US has deposits of such minerals but has not been mining them, though some projects underway are exploring ways to tap those resources.

# Hezbollah attack draws Israeli strikes on Lebanon, 11 killed

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel unleashed its largest wave of airstrikes across Lebanon since agreeing to a ceasefire with Hezbollah last week, killing at least 11 people on Monday after the Lebanese militant group fired a volley of projectiles as a warning over what it said were Israeli truce violations.

The projectiles were apparently the first time that Hezbollah took aim at Israeli forces after the 60-day ceasefire went into effect last Wednesday. The increasingly fragile truce aimed to end more than a year of war between Hezbollah and Israel — part of a wider regional conflict sparked by the devastating Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

In the United States, President-elect Donald Trump demanded the immediate release of Israeli hostages held by the Palestinian militant Hamas group in Gaza, saying on social media that if they are not freed

before he takes office in January there would be "HELL TO PAY."

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was threatening to directly involve the U.S. military in Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. The US has given Israel crucial military and diplomatic support throughout the nearly 15-month conflict.

**A new exchange of fire threatens Lebanon ceasefire:** Lebanon's Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the southern village of Haris killed five people and wounded two while another airstrike on the village of Tallousa killed four and also wounded two. Israel's military carried out a string of airstrikes late Monday against what it said were Hezbollah fighters, infrastructure and rocket launchers across Lebanon, in response to Hezbollah firing two projectiles toward Mount Dov — a disputed Israeli-held territory known as Shebaa Farms in Lebanon where the borders of

Lebanon, Syria, and Israel meet. Israel said the projectiles fell in open areas and no injuries were reported. Hezbollah said in a statement that it fired on an Israeli military position in the area as a "defensive and warning response" after what it called "repeated violations" of the ceasefire deal by Israel. It said complaints to mediators tasked with monitoring the ceasefire "were futile in stopping these violations."

Before the Hezbollah projectiles, Israel carried out at least four airstrikes and an artillery barrage in southern Lebanon, including a drone strike that killed a person on a motorcycle, according to Lebanese state media.

Another strike killed a corporal in the Lebanese security services. Israel has said its strikes are in response to unspecified Hezbollah violations, and that under the ceasefire deal it reserves the right to retaliate. Lebanon's parliament speaker,

Nabih Berri, accused Israel of violating the truce more than 50 times in recent days by launching airstrikes, demolishing homes near the border and violating Lebanon's airspace.

Officials in the US — which along with France helped broker the truce and heads a commission meant to monitor adherence to the deal — played down the significance of Israeli strikes. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said, "Largely speaking, the ceasefire is holding."

"We've gone from dozens of strikes down to one a day maybe two a day," Kirby told reporters, referring to Israeli strikes. "We're going to keep trying and see what we can do to get it down to zero."

Under the deal, Iran-backed Hezbollah has 60 days to withdraw its fighters and infrastructure from southern Lebanon. During that time, Israeli troops are also to withdraw to their side of the border.

# Plea to ban Indian TV channels in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A writ petition has been filed in the Bangladesh High Court seeking a ban on the broadcast of all Indian TV channels in the country citing provocative news aired on them, according to a media report.

Lawyer Ekhlas Uddin Bhuiyan filed the petition and confirmed the matter on Monday, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Bhuiyan said a hearing on the application may take place on the High Court bench, which will consist of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi.

The writ petition was filed in the High Court seeking a ban on the broadcast of all Indian TV channels in Bangladesh, the report added.

It further claims that these channels are not adhering to any

regulations. The secretaries of the Information Ministry and the Home Ministry, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), and others are named as respondents in the petition.

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country.

There has been a rise in violent attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh. Hindu minority groups have been frequently reporting atrocities against their

community members in different parts of Bangladesh, even after Yunus took charge.

The diplomatic row erupted between India and Bangladesh after Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das, a former member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on November 25.

Das, the spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was denied bail and sent to jail by the Chattogram's Sixth Metropolitan Magistrate court in a seditious case on November 26.

It triggered clashes between his supporters and the security personnel that led to the killing of a lawyer.

# UK Parliament raises concerns over attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh

PTI ■ LONDON

The British government continues to monitor the situation in Bangladesh as members of Parliament raised concerns over recent attacks on the minority Hindu community there and arrest of religious leaders, a senior minister said here.

During an urgent question tabled in the House of Commons by Labour MP Barry Gardiner on Monday, the Foreign Office Minister in charge of the Indo-Pacific, Catherine West said that she had been given assurances by the interim government in Bangladesh that support was available for minority com-

munities during her visit to Bangladesh last month. She stressed that the UK was one of the first countries with ministerial support to arrive in Dhaka to speak with Chief Adviser Professor Yunus and be "vocal" in support of minorities.

"We are aware of the statement of concern from the Indian government following the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a well-known Hindu leader, on sedition charges. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) desk is closely monitoring those developments," said West. "The UK government will continue to monitor the situation,

including making representations from this House, and will engage with the interim government in Bangladesh on the importance of freedom of religion or belief specifically as it affects the Hindu community," she said.

Tension between India and Bangladesh has been simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India. The situation aggravated further with Das' arrest last week. The Hindu community in Bangladesh has regularly faced attacks on its members and places of worship during the widespread protests against Hasina's Awami League-led government over a controver-

sial job quota system. The attacks have continued even after Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the interim government on August 8.

Gardiner, MP for Brent West in London with a large British Hindu population, described the situation as being "clearly on a knife edge" and raised concerns on behalf of the "large diaspora populations in the UK and large Hindu communities with strong links to the community in Bangladesh".

The shadow foreign secretary, Conservative MP Priti Patel, noted that the degree of escalation in the violence is "deeply, deeply concerning".

**THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS**

CHANGE OF NAME

**I, Tarannum Ara Wife of Maroof Raza R/o. 198, Tilak Khand, Giri Nagar, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019** have changed my name to Saba Tarannum Ara for all future purposes.

PD(1009)A

**I, Kusum Devi, Mother of- No.18004558F Hav Yogesh Chander Kholia, R/o- D-199, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi - 110008,** have changed my name from Kusum Devi to Kusum, vide affidavit dated 03/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1011)C

**I, Mahesh Chand Kholia, Father of- No.18004558F Hav Yogesh Chander Kholia, R/o- D-199, Punjabi Basti, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi - 110008,** have changed my name from Mahesh Chand Kholia to Mahesh Chander, vide affidavit dated 03/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1012)C

**I, Hairsh Chandra, S/o Sh. Lal Muni Fulara & F/o Komal, R/o A-40 Gali No.-6, East Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110091** solemnly affirm and declare that Harish Chander & Harish Chandra is one and same person.

PD(1013)C

**I, Shama Bhatam W/o Rajan Bhatam R/o House No. 50, Anup Nagar, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi-110059** have Changed my Name Shama for all future purposes.

PD(1014)A

**I, Rahisuddin, S/o, Farmuddin, House Number - 1118 , Gali Number, 18/5, Nehru Vihar, Dayalpur Delhi - 94 , That, I, have Changed My Name From Rahisuddin To Aryan, For All Purposes.**

PD(1015)C

**THANKSGIVING**

Thank you holly spirit for all the blessings Celine .

PD(1010)C



President Joe Biden is greeted by Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio as he arrives at Quatro de Fevereiro international airport in the capital Luanda, Angola long-promised visit to Africa. AP/PTI

# Thanks to peace, luxury housing most sought after in Kabul

AP ■ KABUL

In a town that has been through it all and is clawing its way back, a man named Omidullah is looking to hit paydirt.

The Kabul real estate agent is selling a nine-bedroom, nine-bath, white-and-gold villa in the Afghan capital. On the roof's gable, glittering Arabic script tempts buyers and brokers with the word "mashallah" — "God has willed it."

The villa is listed at \$450,000, a startling number in a country where more than half of the population relies on humanitarian aid to survive, most Afghans don't have bank accounts, and mortgages are rare. Yet the offers are coming in.

"It's a myth that Afghans don't have money," Omidullah said. "We have very big businessmen who have big businesses abroad. There are houses here worth millions of dollars."

In Kabul, a curious thing is happening to fuel the high-end real estate market. Peace, it seems, is driving up property prices.

**Many are coming home:** People who spent years living

and working abroad are returning home, keen to take advantage of the country's much-improved security and stability after decades of war, destruction and infrastructure decay. They include Afghans escaping deportation campaigns in Iran and Pakistan who are taking their cash with them.

Mortgages are rare because banks don't have the deposits to facilitate lending. Afghans buy in cash or use the "geerawi option" — when someone provides a fixed sum to a landlord in return for living on his property and staying there until the landlord returns the money. People were afraid to invest in Kabul before the Taliban takeover, according to another real estate agent, Ghulam Mohammed Haqdoost. But the country's rulers have created better conditions for the property market in more ways than one.

The city is less violent since the Taliban transitioned from insurgency to authority and foreign forces withdrew, although armored vehicles, checkpoints and militarized compounds remain common sights.

The Taliban, sticklers for an

intricate bureaucracy, have pledged to stamp out corruption and regulate legal and commercial matters. That means no more dealing with warlords or bribing local officials for land purchases or construction projects.

Haqdoost is happy with how easily and quickly things are getting done under the new administration.

"House prices have risen by almost 40%," he said. "In the last three years, we have sold almost 400 properties. It wasn't like that before."

**For builders, times are good:** Business is good for Haqdoost, who employs 200 people in administration, including women who deal exclusively with female customers, and then some 1,000 in the construction arm of his company. He said most customers bring their wives along to viewings. That's because it's women who call the shots when it comes to real estate purchases — even in a nation that critics say oppresses and disempowers women. "The power and authority of the house is in the hands of the women," Haqdoost said.

# Nepal, China sign nine-point pact during Oli's visit to Beijing

PTI ■ KATHMANDU/BEIJING

Nepal and China on Tuesday signed a nine-point agreement as Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met President Xi Jinping in Beijing when the two leaders discussed connectivity, industrial development, infrastructure development and trade and tourism among other issues.

Earlier, Oli — who is on a four-day official visit — held a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang in Beijing, the Prime Minister's Secretariat said.

The bilateral meeting with the Chinese president, at the

State Hall in Beijing, mainly dwelt on matters related to connectivity, industrial development, infrastructural development, medical cooperation, agricultural development, trade and tourism, investment, science and technology, sports, disaster management, people-to-people contact and poverty alleviation, Krishna Prasad Dhakal, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in Kathmandu.

Dhakal said that a nine-point agreement was also signed during the visit, including several memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

Agreements that were signed include an exchange of

letters regarding the construction of the Tokha-Chhahari tunnel road near Kathmandu; an MoU on Nepal-China trade promotion, and an exchange of certificates of completion of the renovation of the historic nine-storey palace situated in Basantapur in Kathmandu.

Also, MoUs on protocol relating to the export of thermally processed buffalo meat to China; on development and construction works; on economic and technical assistance; on Chinese language education, and on cooperation in communication technology between Nepal Television and China Media Group were signed. There was also an

exchange of letters relating to aid in cash, he said.

Prime Minister Oli is on a four-day official visit to China starting Sunday. He will return on December 5.

On Sunday, the Nepal government announced that it has accepted projects worth USD 20 million as grant assistance from China ahead of Prime Minister Oli's first official visit to that country after assuming office for the fourth time.

Besides, the Nepali Cabinet also decided to accept 300 million Chinese Yuan (USD 4.13 million approximately) worth projects proposed by the government of China, the government spokesperson said.

# Zimbabwe court allows abortion rights to marital rape victims, girls below 18

AP ■ HARARE

A law prohibiting abortion services for women raped by their husbands and girls under the age of 18 is unconstitutional, Zimbabwe's High Court has ruled. In his ruling handed down on November 22 and made public this week, Judge Maxwell Takuva said since Zimbabwe's laws already criminalise marital rape and sex with a minor, victims should be allowed to abort if they become pregnant.

The ruling is significant, given Zimbabwe's restrictive abortion laws that often lead women and girls into illegal and unsafe backstreet abortions that in many cases turn fatal.

Abortion is allowed in very few

circumstances in Zimbabwe, including such as if the pregnancy endangers the life of a woman, or if there is a risk of a physical or mental defect "of such a nature that (the child) will permanently be seriously handicapped." Women can also access legal abortion services in cases of unlawful sex such as incest.

Zimbabwe criminalised sex with any person below 18 in September following an earlier constitutional court ruling ordering parliament to raise the legal age of consent for sex to 18 from 16. But the highly restrictive Termination of Pregnancy Act still denied abortion services for girls under 18.

"There is no doubt that it is torture, cruel and degrading treat-

ment for a child to carry another child, for a child to give birth to another child or for a child to be forced to illegally abort because of cruel circumstances," said the judge. The government did not mount any opposition to the case, which was brought by a women's rights group, although the ruling must still be approved by the Constitutional Court to become effective.

The judge said providing access to safe and legal abortion services for underage girls "is significant in light of the massive instances of teenage pregnancies in Zimbabwe, and consequently illegal teen abortions and teenage mortalities."

The country of 15 million people records about 77,000 unsafe

abortions annually, but many others go unreported. Many girls and women die from abortion complications each year, according to the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF.

Teen pregnancies are rife in the southern African country because of lax enforcement of laws, cultural and religious practices and widespread poverty that also make it difficult for girls and women to access contraceptives and clinics.

Almost one of every four girls falls pregnant between the ages of 10 and 19, according to figures by the government and UNICEF. One of every three girls is wed before age 18 in the deeply conservative southern African country.



Palestinians say Hamas, Fatah close to agreement on committee to administer post-war Gaza

PALESTINIAN officials say Fatah and Hamas are closing in on an agreement to appoint a committee of politically independent technocrats to administer the Gaza Strip after the war. It would effectively end Hamas' rule and could help advance ceasefire talks with Israel.

There was no immediate comment from Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is dismantled and scores of hostages are returned.

Fire agreement with Israel, the Hamas official said. American and Arab mediators have spent nearly a year trying to broker such an agreement, but the negotiations have repeatedly stalled.

Floods wreak havoc in Malaysia, southern Thailand; over 30 dead



SEVERE floods caused by monsoon rains killed more than 30 people and displaced tens of thousands in Malaysia and southern Thailand, officials said Tuesday.

South Korean declares emergency martial law

SOUTH KOREAN President Yoon Suk Yeol declared an "emergency martial law" Tuesday, accusing the country's opposition of controlling the parliament, sympathising with North Korea and paralysing the government with anti-state activities.

Three climbers missing on New Zealand's highest peak

THREE mountain climbers from the US and Canada are missing after they failed to return from a planned ascent of New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki, authorities said Tuesday.

The Americans — Kurt Blair, 56, from Colorado and Carlos Romero, 50, of California — are certified alpine guides, according to the website of the American Mountain Guides Association.

Public Notice

Be it known to all concerned that my client KAPOOR CHAND S/O DEVI RAM R/O 13/290, BLOCK-13, KALYANPURI, DELHI-110091 and his entire family members have severed all his relations with his son Hemraj and debarred him from all his immovable and movable properties...

Public Notice

My client Mrs. Geeta W/o Mr. Balraj owner of built-up Property of Plot no. 86, area measuring 233 sq. yds. i.e. 194.818 sq. mtrs. Signal Storey with roof rights, out of Khirsa no. 109 min. situated in the area of Village Mayur Vihar, Delhi. Through registered gift deed dated 28.11.2024 executed by Mr. Balraj S/o Mr. Shripal in favour of Mrs. Geeta W/o Mr. Balraj Vide Reg. no. 2024/4/11784, at SR-VII Delhi the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fedbank Financial Services Limited...

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कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह ( म.प्र. )
क्र./लो.नि.वि./न.पा./2024/2433
--: निविदा सूचना --:
निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Seema had acquired Property bearing No. H-23/2, area measuring 23 sq. yards, Khirsa No. 665, situated at Village Chondia Gauran Khadar, in the abadi of H - Block, Gali No. 27, Jai Prakash Nagar, Ghonda, Ilaqa - Shadara, Delhi vide GA Dt. 19.03.2024 along with ATS &amp;amp; will be executed by Mr. Ved Prakash and Now Mrs. Seema is the undisputed owner of the said property.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भोपाल
विद्युत शाखा
प्रथम तल, आई.एस.बी.टी. भवन, होशंगाबाद रोड, हवेलीबगंज, भोपाल-462023
निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र

NOTICE
Applications are invited from reputed Vendor/Contractors for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of P4 (Outdoor) LED Digital Signage at Ajronda (Faridabad) & IBD Agra Branch under Punjab & Sind Bank, Zonal office Gurugram.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rajon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266.
Branch Office: First Floor, Vijaya Bank Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001

CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL AT GROUND FLOOR
E-Tender Notice No. 36 of 2024 Dated: 29-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. DCESTMLG-25-2024. Name of work & Location: At Maligaon (HQ): (1) Construction of PCEE Conference hall at Ground floor of West block (ii) At Nambari-Construction of CCTV control room at Nambari officer's colony. Tender Value: ₹23,04,023.66/- Earnest Money: ₹46,100/- Date & Time of closing of Tender: 13.00 hrs. of 23-12-2024 & will be opened at 13.00 hrs. of 23-12-2024.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

CONSTRUCTION OF ETP WASTE WATER RECYCLING PLANT
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-24-25; dated: 30-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-24-25. Name of work: Construction of ETP waste water recycling plant for reuse of discharge water of mechanized laundry /Kamakhyia at Coach Maintenance Depot Kamakhyia. Advertised Value: ₹2,37,65,900/- Earnest Money: ₹2,68,800/- Bidding Start Date : 07-12-2024; E-tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on 21-12-2024.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL
PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING
ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Indian Rajon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266.
Branch Office: First Floor, Vijaya Bank Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
DEMAND NOTICE (US 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT - 2002)

EXPRESSSION OF INTEREST
EOI Notice No. : C/470/AP/OSOP/2023-VIII dated : 29-11-2024. Applications are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Scope of work: Participation in One Station One Product Scheme by showcasing/selling indigenous/ local products at 37 Nos. Station over Alipurduar Division. Selected station of the project & commencement date: (1) Alipurduar Jn. (APDJ)=03 units, (2) New Alipurduar (NOQ)=04 units, (3) New Coochbehar (NCB)= 04 units, (4) Dhpuguri (DQG)=02 units, (5) New Mal Jn. (NMZ)=2 units, (6) Kokrajhar (KOJ)=02 units, (7) Hasimara (HSA)= 01 unit, (8) Falakata (FLK)= 02 units, (9) New Maynaguri (NMX)=01 unit, (10) Kamakhya (KAMG)=01 unit, (11) Gulma (GLMA)=01 unit, (12) Fakiragram (FKM)= 01 unit, (13) Binnaguri (BNV)= 01 unit, (14) Dalgao (DLG)=01 unit, (15) Dinhat (DHH)=01 unit, (16) Chalsa (CLD)= 01 unit, (17) Nagrakata (NKB)=01 unit, (18) Banarhat (BNQ)=01 unit, (19) Coochbehar (COB)=01 unit, (20) Bamanhat (BXT)=01 unit, (21) Tufanganj (TFGN) = 01 unit, (22) Mathabhanga (MHA)= 01 unit, (23) Gossaigaon Hat (GOGH)=01 unit, (24) Oodlabari (ODB)= 01 unit, (25) Hamiltanganj (HOJ)= 01 unit, (26) Golakganj (GKJ)=01 unit, (27) Bagrakot (BRQ)= 01 unit, (28) Madarihat (MDT)= 01 unit, (29) Rajabhatkhawa (RVK)= 01 unit, (30) Dewanhat (DWT)=01 unit, (31) Dhubi (DDB) =01 unit, (32) Altagram (ATM)=01 unit, (33) Salbari (SXX)=01 unit, (34) New Changrabandha (NCBD)=01 unit, (35) Ghokasadanga (GDG)=01 unit, (36) Salakati (SLKX)=01 unit, (37) Basugaon (BSGN)=01 unit total 49 units at 37 stations. Date of commencement of issue of EOI forms : 03-12-2024; EOI box will be available for dropping of applications at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial) Office/Sr.DCM/Chamber, Alipurduar Jn. at 15.00 hrs. of 26-12-2024 and EOI box will be opened at 16.00 hrs. of 26-12-2024. The EOI documents will also be available in N.F. Railway website www.nfr.indianrailways.gov.in during the above mentioned period.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot
Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236
Adv. No. BFU-24/26
VACANCIES
Online applications are invited w.e.f. 05-12-2024 to 24-12-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfufs.ac.in to the recruitment of 02-Professor, 04-Associate Professor and 16-Assistant Professor on regular basis at Tertiary Cancer Care Centre, Fazilka constituent institute of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALLING SYSTEM
E-Tender Notice No. S&T/APDJ/18; dated: 29-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SN.1. E-Tender No.: AP-ST-18-2024-25: Name of Work: Introduction of Automatic Block Signalling System for trainees at Operating Model Room at MDZT1 / Alipurduar Jn. Advertised Tender Value: ₹59,82,635/- Bid Security: ₹1,19,700/- E-tenders will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on 26-12-2024 and will be opened on 26-12-2024 after closing. The complete information with tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.irps.gov.in.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdaalm@rediffmail.com
Letter No. : 5461(i) Nivida-01/2024-25
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)
Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL AT GROUND FLOOR
E-Tender Notice No. 36 of 2024 Dated: 29-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. DCESTMLG-25-2024. Name of work & Location: At Maligaon (HQ): (1) Construction of PCEE Conference hall at Ground floor of West block (ii) At Nambari-Construction of CCTV control room at Nambari officer's colony. Tender Value: ₹23,04,023.66/- Earnest Money: ₹46,100/- Date & Time of closing of Tender: 13.00 hrs. of 23-12-2024 & will be opened at 13.00 hrs. of 23-12-2024.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot
Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236
Adv. No. BFU-24/26
VACANCIES
Online applications are invited w.e.f. 09-12-2024 to 31-12-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfufs.ac.in to the recruitment of Professor (Physiotherapy)-01 (UR) on regular basis at constituent colleges/ institute of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

Office of the Superintending Engineer
1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora
Phone/Fax: 05962-230295 Email: sepwdaalm@rediffmail.com
Letter No. : 5461(i) Nivida-01/2024-25
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering)
Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE
The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 04/12/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in



# Dharavi redevelopment project revolutionises slum mapping with drones and LiDAR technology

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In a first for any slum rehabilitation project in India, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) has embraced cutting-edge technologies to survey and document Asia's largest slum, officials said.

Drones and remote sensing technology Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) are being used to map the 620 acres densely populated Dharavi slums. This is to ensure accuracy, transparency, and efficiency in a redevelopment project of this scale and complexity.

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd, in which the Adani Group holds an 80 per cent stake along with the state government, plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three-quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About 7 lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums, close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats up to 350 square feet free of cost.

Officials said advanced digital tools are being used to map the entire area and



identify the beneficiaries. Traditionally, surveys for Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects relied on conventional methods such as total station surveys and manual collection of physical documents.

However, the modern tools such as drones, LiDAR technology, and mobile applications has been implemented to collect and evaluate data digitally. These tools are being used to create a 'digital twin' of Dharavi - a virtual replica that facilitates

better data analysis and decision-making, a Dharavi Redevelopment Project-Slum Rehabilitation Authority (DRP-SRA) official said.

LiDAR is an active remote sensing technology which plays a pivotal role in this project. Known for its ability to rapidly capture geospatial data, LiDAR uses laser light to measure distances and create highly accurate 3D representations of terrain, buildings, and objects. A portable LiDAR system, such as a backpack-mounted scanner, is being used to

navigate the narrow and congested lanes of Dharavi. Drone technology supplements this by capturing aerial images of the area, providing an overhead perspective that aids in mapping and planning.

On the ground, survey teams use mobile applications for door-to-door data collection. These apps ensure that information is gathered at the actual location of each slum dweller, with all data stored and evaluated digitally. This not only improves

accuracy but also reduces the scope for errors or data loss. "The creation of a digital twin - a virtual representation of Dharavi - marks a significant step forward," the official said.

According to him, this is the first time such advanced technologies are being used in a slum rehabilitation scheme in India. The digital model will allow authorities to evaluate data more effectively, especially when determining the eligibility of residents for rehabilitation at the end of the survey. It also enables faster resolution of disputes and reduces the chances of oversight.

While an estimated one million (10 lakh) reside in Dharavi, about 7,00,000 are thought to be eligible because of the resident definition of one having proof of living in the area prior to January 1, 2000. The Maharashtra govt had recently approved the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land for the Dharavi redevelopment.

The land will be used to build low-cost and affordable housing for residents of Dharavi. A survey of existing residents and businesses is being done to determine who

would be rehoused in Dharavi or be relocated. The survey process, however, is not without challenges. To address concerns of Dharavikars like fear of fraud or misuse of data, the P-SRA is conducting extensive information, education, and communication (IEC) activities.

These include meetings, pamphlet distribution, and the establishment of call centres to inform residents about the survey process. Most importantly, the residents are explained about P/SRA which is a government entity overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the project, including the smooth execution of the survey.

The field supervisors help residents by ensuring they provide the right documents. If the documents are complete, residents get an acknowledgement slip signed by the P-SRA officer and details about the next steps. Residents, who fail to furnish the correct documents at the time of the survey, are explained about the importance of the survey and are helped in retrieving them.

# Domestic air traffic to rise to 164-170 million in FY25: Ica

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic air traffic is projected to rise 7-10 per cent to 164-170 million in the current fiscal year, while the aviation industry's loss is pegged at Rs 2,000-3,000 crore during the same period, according to rating agency Ica.

In the first half of 2024-25, Ica said domestic air passenger traffic stood at 79.3 million, marking a 5.3 per cent annual growth that was partly impacted by the severe heat wave and other weather-related disruptions.

The international passenger traffic growth for Indian carriers increased and stood at 16.2 per cent in the first half of the current financial year.

On Tuesday, the rating agency said domestic air traffic is expected to jump 7-10 per cent on an annual basis to 164-170 million in FY25.

Ica maintained a 'stable' outlook on the Indian aviation industry, amidst continued growth in domestic and international air passenger traffic. Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head at Ica, said the industry is expected to report a net loss of Rs 20-30 billion in FY25 and FY2026 each, significantly lower than the losses witnessed in the past

supported by improved pricing power of the airlines. "The spread between revenue per available seat kilometre and cost per available seat kilometre saw some moderation in H1 FY2025 over FY2024 due to higher fuel prices and overall increased costs amid grounding of aircraft, while yields moderated marginally as airlines strove to maintain adequate passenger load factors.

"Nonetheless, the same is expected to pick up in H2 FY2025, amid healthy passenger traffic," Shah said.

Airlines' cost structure is typically driven by two key components - Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices and the INR-USD movement.

On a year-on-year basis, Ica said average ATF prices eased by 6.8 per cent to Rs 96,192/KL in the first eight months of FY2025, though exceeding the levels seen during pre-Covid period (first eight months of FY2020) of Rs 65,261/KL. Fuel costs account for around 30 to 40 per cent of an airline's costs, while about 35-50 per cent of the operating expenses, including aircraft lease payments, fuel expenses and a significant portion of aircraft and engine maintenance expenses are denominated in dollar terms.

# Tata Power-DDL and THDCIL sign MoU to develop skilled professionals for energy sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) and THDC India Limited (THDCIL) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a robust pool of skilled and qualified professionals to meet the needs of both the domestic energy sector and international markets.

The MoU was signed by Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resource, Industrial Relations, Facility Management & Health Services of Tata Power-DDL and Dr. A.N. Tripathy, General Manager (HR & A) of THDCIL in the presence of Anoop Nandi, Head (BD & Collaboration), Tata Power-DDL, Ravi Budhlakoti (HRD-THDCIL) and other senior

officials from both the organisations. The MoU aims to establish a mutually beneficial framework for collaboration between Tata Power-DDL and THDCIL to organize leadership, wellness & other training programs, workshops, seminars, research initiatives and consultancy projects with a focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in the energy sector.

This strategic partnership will leverage the infrastructure facilities of the HRD Takshshila - SLDC in Rishikesh and the Learning Centre of Tata Power-DDL in Delhi to develop and deliver advanced training programs in cutting-edge domains such as smart grids, grid automation, and complementary technologies.

Speaking about the partnership, Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resources, Industrial Relations, FM and Health Services, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said, "This privileged partnership with THDCIL - an institution of national importance, is indeed a landmark collaboration in the area of cutting-edge training programs for the energy sector.

Given the changing landscape of energy sector worldwide, we aim to prepare a highly trained and qualified resource pool both for India and international stakeholders. This initiative also underscores our commitment to enhancing skill development, empowering individuals to meet the dynamic demands of the industry effectively."

# Imposition of additional duty on steel imports to hit exports by MSMEs says Exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MSME exporters from the engineering sector on Tuesday said that any move to impose additional duties on steel imports would make domestic products uncompetitive and impact the country's outbound shipments from the sector.

Hand Tool Association Chairman S C Ralhan said that the MSME engineering exporters are already facing problems on the liquidity front and high prices of steel in the domestic market.

"Increasing prices of steel by domestic steel makers are hurting us and now we have seen in the media reports that the government is planning to impose a 25 per cent safeguard duty. This will severely impact MSME exporters," Ralhan said.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that if the government



imposes additional duty, they should ensure that the domestic steel companies do not increase the prices of the inputs.

"Increase in input prices will impact exports of value-added steel products," Sahai said.

The steel ministry has proposed for a 25 per cent safeguard duty on import of certain steel items into the country. The proposal came at a meeting between Union Minister of Steel H D Kumaraswamy and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here on

December 2. Domestic steel players are raising concerns over rising cheap steel imports from select nations like China.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report has claimed that thousands of containers carrying imported steel remain stranded at JNPT and other ports due to complex clearance procedures imposed by the Ministry of Steel (MOS).

"The Customs clearance delays have disrupted production lines and

tarnished India's global reputation, with even countries like Japan formally requesting the government to release stranded shipments," GTRI said.

India's steel imports are neither excessive nor unwarranted, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding half of these imports are critical raw materials for domestic production, while 40 per cent consist of specialised items that India does not produce in sufficient quantities.

He said that steel imports are just 6 per cent of domestic production and an estimated over 70 per cent imports are done by large steel firms.

An impression has been created that India's steel imports are high, lack quality and supplied at below market prices and hence need iron clad controls and data does not support high import theory, Srivastava said.

"In FY2024, domestic

production met 94 per cent of India's steel demand, with imports contributing just 6 per cent. Over half of these imports consist of steel scrap (33.8 per cent) and semi-finished steel (17.3 per cent), both of which support domestic steel production. Such imports are made by large steel producers," he added.

The remaining 43.4 per cent imports are of high-end flat-rolled steel products used in critical industries like automotive, construction, and household appliances.

"Domestic stainless steel prices are 25-30 per cent higher than comparable imported steel for certain thicknesses, even after accounting for duties. This price disparity, driven by import restrictions, significantly boosts the profit margins of large steel firms while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) bear the brunt," the think tank said.

# Hyundai Motor Group ties up with IITs to advance battery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor Group on Tuesday said it has tied up with three IITs to establish a collaborative research system in the fields of batteries and electrification entailing an investment of USD 7 million over five years.

The South Korean group, which has presence across multiple segments including mobility, has tied up with IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. Hyundai Motor Group plans to invest around USD 7 million over five years, from 2025 to 2029, to jointly conduct battery and electrification-related research with the IITs.

As part of the collaboration, Hyundai Center of Excellence (CoE), will be set up within IIT Delhi and would operate through sponsorships from Hyundai Motor Group, the

group said in a statement. The primary objective of the Hyundai CoE is to take the lead in driving advancements in batteries and electrification, specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of the Indian market, it added.

"We believe that Hyundai CoE will cultivate a strong network of talented individuals from India's academic landscape, driving innovation and future growth," Hyundai Motor Group Head of Research and Development (R&D) Planning & Coordination Center Naksup Sung said.

The Hyundai CoE will not only conduct joint research on a c a d e m i c - i n d u s t r i a l cooperation tasks but also facilitate technical and human exchanges between battery and electrification experts from Korea and India, the group said.

# Govt should leverage sports industry for economic growth: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth and frame policies to encourage more investment in sports infrastructure, events, and related goods and services, according to a report.

The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report, titled 'Future of Sports in India', also suggested that the government could provide incentives to the private sector to fund large-scale, holistic sports programmes to support talent development as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. CSR contributions could be leveraged to establish and run high-performance training centres with facilities,

including international coaches, nutritionists, and mental and physical trainers. It said that the government may formulate policies to establish and support comprehensive skill development programmes for sports coaching, sports management, and sports-related ancillary industries to boost employment generation through sports, especially in tier-2 and rural areas.

While the sports industry has seen remarkable advancements, challenges such as financial insecurity for athletes, underutilised infrastructure, and the need for greater inclusivity persist. Expanding financial aid programmes, developing robust career transition pathways, and fostering a culture of inclusivity can

address these issues, the report said.

"The Indian government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth, in addition to developing the capacity of Indian athletes to compete at higher levels," said the Future of Sports in India report.

The report also suggested that the government must actively bid for and host international competitions and sporting events.

It may also diversify sports offerings in multiple states by promoting winter and traditional sports, thereby also encouraging sports tourism.

The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report also said that the Indian sports industry is experiencing a period of dynamic growth, with

projections to expand from USD 27 billion in 2020 to USD 100 billion by 2027. This transformation is driven by various factors, including the commercialisation of sports leagues, technological advancements, and a growing emphasis on diverse sporting disciplines.

Sectors such as sports goods, apparel, and media rights are contributing significantly to this growth, with the sports media market alone expected to grow from USD 1 billion in 2020 to USD 13.4 billion by 2027.

Additionally, landmark achievements by Indian athletes at the 2023 Asian Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics highlight the nation's increasing competitiveness on the global stage, it added.

# Japanese firms keen to set up semiconductor units in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Japanese firms are keen to set up semiconductor units in India and they have all the expertise and specialisation to partner with domestic firms, Deloitte has said.

It also said that skilled workforce, funds and continuation of support measures are key to push growth of the semiconductor sector in India.

Japanese firms are "super enthusiastic" about India, Shingo Kamaya, Deloitte AP and SRT Leader, Deloitte Japan said.

In July, Japan became the second Quad partner after the US to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain.

The two countries signed the memorandum for semiconductor design, manufacturing, equipment research, talent development and to bring resilience in the semiconductor supply chain. With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem.

Japan houses companies that are global leaders in raw form of semiconductor wafers, chemical and gases, lenses that are used in chip manufacturing equipment, and display technologies.

India aspires to have 10 semiconductor manufacturing plants in 10 years.

"Given the technology, given the specialization, there is no better partner to get on to developing such an ambitious and a critical ecosystem of semiconductor than Japan," Rohit Berry, President - Strategy, Risk and Transactions, Deloitte India, said.

He said that the semiconductor story in the country is not just about setting up one factory, but it is about that entire ecosystem. "And that is where many Japanese companies who have set up such ecosystems in Japan or in any other places are going to be absolutely critical to set it up (in India). So this is the vision.

This is a grand plan. This is the investment. This is the commitment," he added.

Berry also said that developing the right kind of partnerships between Indian and Japanese firms are fundamental for the growth of the sector.

"This is not a one year game, it's not a two year game. This will basically benefit us and Japan for generations," he noted. He also emphasised that the government incentive program on a sustained basis will also be a key factor for the sector's growth in India.

When asked if Japanese firms are looking for any specific support measures from states, he said that a "centre-state partnership, together with the private and Japanese partnership, all four of them coming together will be a prerequisite to create a once in a lifetime setup".

# Mother Dairy to market co-operative society NCOL's organic products in Delhi-NCR



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with the National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL) to exclusively distribute the latter's organic

products under the 'Bharat Organics' brand in Delhi-NCR. In a statement, Mother Dairy said it has "signed up with 'Bharat Organics' as the exclusive distribution partner for their range of organic

staples to the Delhi NCR market." Under the initiative, Mother Dairy will ensure distribution of packed and certified brand 'Bharat Organics' produce for consumers across NCR through its network of booths across the region. The collaboration marks the launch of 'Bharat Organics Atta' and 'Bharat Organics Sweetener (Jaggery)' in the NCR market.

"With this partnership, Mother Dairy aims to build a healthier and more sustainable India. By combining NCOL's expertise in organic farming with our extensive distribution

network and deep consumer trust, we are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between premium organic products and affordability," Mother Dairy Managing Director Manish Bandish said.

Mother Dairy has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NCOL to distribute the 'Bharat Organics' brand across multiple channels and geographies.

The Bharat Organics range will be made available at 300 Safal stores and around 10,000 general trade outlets in Delhi NCR, as well as through modern trade and e-

commerce platforms. Vipul Mittal, Managing Director of NCOL, said "Atta is just the beginning. Our vision is to offer an entire basket of organic staples that cater to the daily needs, while ensuring fair returns for organic farmers."

Mother Dairy was commissioned in 1974. It is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Mother Dairy is a leading dairy player which manufactures, markets & sells milk and milk products including cultured products, ice creams, paneer, ghee, etc.

Under the 'Mother Dairy' brand. The company also has a diversified portfolio with products in edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand and fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables & snacks, unpolished pulses, pulps & concentrates, etc. Under the 'Safal' brand.

NCOL is a multistate cooperative society, supported by NDDB, NAFED, NCDC, GCMF Ltd, and NCCF. It has been formed to promote organic farming through the cooperative model, creating organic clusters, and ensuring fair trade practices.



नाम परिवर्तन में लता अग्रवाल (Lata Agrawal) पति स्व. श्री महेंद्र कुमार बंसल सर्वसाधारण को सूचित करती हैं कि मेरा पूर्व का नाम स्नेह लता बंसल एवं लता बंसल (Sneh Lata Bansal and Lata Bansal) था जो मेरे पति की भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम को पॉलिसी के नोमिनेशन (उत्तराधिकारी) में लिखा गया है...

Change of Name My old name was MUNZERA SHEHNAZ ALIAS MUNAWWAR JAHAN. Written in my Passport. Now all my present documents. My true & correct name written as MUNZERA SHEHNAZ W/O KHALID RASHEED KHAN. Resident 62-A/2, Azim House, Opp. Khushbu park, Civil Lines, Shamla Hills, Bhopal (M.P.) 462002

Change of Name I, Suresh Prakash Goyal S/o late Jagdish Prasad Goyal, hereby inform the general public that my previous name was Suresh Goyal S/o late Jagdish Prasad Goyal, which was recorded in the shares of JSW Steel Limited, other shares, mutual funds, fixed deposits (FDs), etc. and in the government and non-government documents of myself, my son and my daughters. Henceforth, I will be known and recognized as Suresh Prakash Goyal, S/o late Jagdish Prasad Goyal, as stated on my Aadhaar card and other documents.

न्यायालय कोलकाता एवं जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, जिला खण्डवा विनियम एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकृत अधिकारी, हिन्दू जा फाइनेंस लिमिटेड, शाखा-101 बी- फर्स्ट फ्लोर एन.आर.के. बिजनेस पार्क, विजय नगर इन्डोर ने उनके अधिकृत योग्य तंत्र के माध्यम से दिनांक 30.09.2024 को Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 के तहत ऋणी श्रीमती प्रियंका ठाकुर पति दीपक ठाकुर, श्री दीपक ठाकुर पिता मांगसिंह ठाकुर श्रीमती तुलसा बाई ठाकुर पति मांगसिंह ठाकुर एवं श्री मांगसिंह ठाकुर स्व. नरसिंह ठाकुर सभी निवासी वाई नं. 13 ग्राम धनगवां तहसील खण्डवा से बैंक संयुक्त तहसील खण्डवा स्थित प ह नं. 01 आबादी में आवासीय मकान जो ग्राम पंचायत धनगवां डिमांड पंजी क्रमांक 140 पर दर्ज क्षेत्रफल 1536 वर्गफुट अर्थात् 142.75 वर्गमीटर ग्राम धनगवां तहसील खण्डवा जिला खण्डवा जो कि श्रीमती तुलसा बाई ठाकुर पति मांगसिंह ठाकुर एवं श्री मांगसिंह ठाकुर स्व. नरसिंह ठाकुर के नाम से है का अधिपत्य दिवसेंदे हेतु एडवोकेट श्री 14(1) के अन्तर्गत अनुरोध किया है। 2-इस विनियम के माध्यम से ऋणी श्रीमती प्रियंका ठाकुर पति दीपक ठाकुर, श्री दीपक ठाकुर पिता मांगसिंह ठाकुर श्रीमती तुलसा बाई ठाकुर पति मांगसिंह ठाकुर एवं श्री मांगसिंह ठाकुर स्व. नरसिंह ठाकुर सभी निवासी वाई नं. 13 ग्राम धनगवां तहसील खण्डवा, जो सूचित किया जाता है कि वह कोलकाता एवं जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, खण्डवा के न्यायालय में प्रकरण में नियत तिथि 09.12.2024 को अपना पक्ष प्रस्तुत करने हेतु अनिवार्य रूप से उपस्थित हों। अनावकदक/बकायादार की अनुपस्थिति की दशा में एकपक्षीय कार्यवाही की जाकर प्रकरण में निर्णय लिया जावेगा। (अनु क्रमांक 15) खण्डवा दिनांक- 26-11-2024 कोलकाता एवं जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, खण्डवा

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015 Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010 Email - auction@hindujahousingfinance.com

DEMAND NOTICE

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT,2002 Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said act) read with rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002 (the said rules). In exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) of the said act read with rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of HHFL has issued demand notice under section 13(2) of the said act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s), to repay the amount mentioned in respective demand notice issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower & Guarantor to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated here in below. The detail of the Borrower & Guarantor, amount due and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under :-

Table with columns: Name of Borrower/Guarantor/Co-Borrower, Demand Notice issued Date, Loan Account No., Amount Due as on Notice Date, Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property). Rows include borrowers like Mr. ABHISHEK DUBEY, Mr. ARJUN DINESH KANDRA, Mr. ARUN SINGH, etc.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Tender No. : DY-CE-JHSW-66 Date : 30.11.2024 E-Tender Notice Dy. Chief Engineer/workshop/Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through On Line (E-Tendering) for the following work. Approx Cost Rs. : 31,50,716.70 Description of Work : Name of work-Zone No. 2 C-I Annual Sectional Contract for repair & maintenance, whitewashing, colour washing, distemper, painting, polishing, & varnishing of Rail Coach Naveenikaner Karkhana Jhansi in the jurisdiction of SSE/Works/RCNK under DYCE/Workshop/Jhansi for the year 2024-25. Earnest Money Rs. : 63000.00 Cost of Tender Form Rs. : NIL Date of Closing of Tender : 26.12.2024 at 15:00 hrs. Date of Completion/Period from issue acceptance letter : 12 Months

FORM NO. [See Regulation 33(2)] By Regd. A/D. Dasti falling which by Publication. OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR 797/2, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur-482001 NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 RC 165/2022 21-11-2024 CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA Versus M/S. BALAJI INFRATECH To (CD1) M/s Balaji Inftratech, Through its Proprietor Anuranjan Singh Chouhan, S/o Late Niranjn Singh Chouhan Near Sharda Mandir, Garg Colony, Betul, M.P.-460001 (CD2) Mrs. Bittan Bai, W/o Late Ranjeet Singh Garg Colony, Betul, M.P.-460001 (CD3) Anup Singh Chouhan, S/o Late Niranjn Singh Chouhan Near Sharda Mandir, Garg Colony, Betul, M.P.-460001 (CD4) Mrs. Rajkumari Chouhan, W/o Late Niranjn Singh Chouhan Near Sharda Mandir, Garg Colony, Betul, M.P.-460001 (CD5) Surendra Singh Gautam, S/o Ranjeet Singh Garg Colony, Betul, M.P.-460001 (CD6) Ramesh Rathore, S/o Shri Chironjilal Rathore House No.-174, Khediasawigarh, Tehsil & District-Betul (M.P.)-460225 Whereas you the M/S BALAJI INFRATECH was ordered by the Presiding Officer of DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR who had issued the Recovery Certificate dated 16/11/2022 in OA/678/2021 to pay to the Applicant Bank(s)/Financial Institution(s) Name of applicant, the sum of Rs 22041161 (Rupees Two Crore Twenty Lakhs Forty One Thousands One Hundred Sixty One Only) along with pendente lite and future interest @ 12% w.e.f. 16/08/2021 till realization and costs of Rs 150000 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Only), and whereas the said has not been paid, the undersigned has ordered the sale of undermentioned immovable/Immoveable property. 2. You are hereby informed that the 06/01/2025 at 10.30 A.M. has been fixed for drawing up the proclamation of sale and settling the terms thereof. You are requested to bring to the notice of the undersigned any encumbrances, charges, claims or liabilities attached to the said properties or any portion thereof. Specification of property. (1) Residential Plot at Part of Khasra No.-870/2 area 0.069 hectare after mutation Khasra No.-870/14, situated at Village- Bajpur, Ram Nagar, P.H. No.53, Jakir Hussain Ward No.24, Tehsil & District-Betul (M.P.) Property in the name of Smt. Rajkumari Chouhan W/o Late Shri Niranjn Singh Chouhan. (2) Commercial Land bearing Khasra No.-81/1 after mutation Khasra No.-81/5 hectare, Kashtra No.-81/1 after mutation Khasra No.-81/13 area 0.007 hectare, Kashtra No.-81/1 after mutation Khasra No.-81/24 area 0.039 hectare and Kashtra No.-81/1 after mutation Khasra No.-81/29 area 0.007 hectare Total Area 0.105 hectare situated at village- Khediasawigarh, PH No.-22/25 (New 25), N.B.-132, Tehsil & District-Betul (M.P.) Property in the name of Shri Ramesh Rathore S/o Shri Chironjilal Rathore. (3) Two Storey Residential Building on Part of Khasra No.-803 after mutation Khasra No.-803/2, situated at Jakir Hussain Ward No.24, P.H. No.53, N.B. NO.467, Tehsil & District-Betul (M.P.) Area admeasuring 1100 sq.ft. Property in the name of Smt. Rajkumari Chouhan W/o Late Shri Niranjn Singh Chouhan, Shri Anuranjan Singh Chouhan S/o Late Shri Niranjn Singh Chouhan and Shri Anup Singh Chouhan S/o Late Shri Niranjn Singh Chouhan. i) Part of Khasra No.-803 area 0.010 hectare (1100 sq.ft.) after mutation Khasra No.-803/2, situated at Jakir Hussain Ward, N.B.-467, Badnoor Dhana, Tehsil & District-Betul; belonging to Defendant No.-1, 3 & 4 ii) Part of Khasra No.-807 area 0.006 hectare (800 sq.ft.) after mutation Khasra No.-807/3, situated at Badnoor Dhana, Tehsil & District-Betul; belonging to Defendant No.-2 for mortgage OD loan; Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 21/11/2024 Vaatsalya Kumar, Recovery Officer Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur (M.P.)

Authorised Officer, Hinduja Housing Finance Limited



# Carey backs Australia's 'world-class' batters to counter Bumrah threat

**PTI ■ ADELAIDE**

Alex Carey on Tuesday maintained Australia are a "united group", confident that their "world-class" batters will come up with better plans to counter India's pace threat Jasprit Bumrah in the upcoming pink-ball Test here.

With their backs against the wall, India came out all guns blazing in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series opener at Perth to win by a massive 295 runs with Bumrah (5/30 and 3/42) ripping apart Australia's batting in each innings.

The heavy margin of defeat left Australia looking for answers as their batters flopped collectively, leaving their famed bowling attack with a lot to do.

"He's obviously a fantastic bowler; (he) has been for a number of years. Our batters are world class as well and always find ways to come up with solutions," Carey told the media.

"We've had a look at him now. Hopefully we can combat that first, second spell. Get him bowling a little bit deeper in the innings with an older ball."

"We saw Travis (Head) sort of counterpunch a bit (in the second innings). I trust our batters, we'll find a way not only (against) Bumrah. They played a couple of other debutantes who bowled well as well," Carey said.

After Australia were set an improbable 534 to win, Josh Hazlewood had invited the media to ask their batters how they planned to go about in the second innings, sparking rumours of a rift between the batting and bowling groups.

Carey, however, declined there was any tensions in the dressing room.

"If you ask the batters, we all want to perform better and (as) cricketers, you go out there to score a hundred and if you don't



do that, I think you're at times disappointed," Carey said.

"But we're a very united group. We all do get the opportunity to bat and we're all keen to continue to put those big runs on the board and I trust the guys to do that," he added.

Carey said Australia's resounding loss at Perth sparked a "big reaction externally" but maintained that the team will stick to its processes.

"It's quite a big reaction externally for one Test loss. Internally, we don't feel that. We didn't play the way we would have liked to have played."

"We know (that) over four or five Test matches, (if) we keep rocking up and playing our style of cricket we will have the success. We've had that success to, I guess, call upon the method does work."

"We're calm internally, we're excited to get back out and play a better style of cricket and we've got that opportunity come Friday."

Carey did not want to draw much attention to the last contest here in which India were shot out for their lowest-ever Test total of 36.

"There are obviously amazing days in cricketing history but we don't expect to go out there and do that again. We have a process and a plan that we try to execute and whatever happens, happens. I was not here for that Test match."

Australia have never lost a pink ball Test in Adelaide, in fact they have only lost once in day and night fixture.

"We are excited. We take a lot of confidence for our record in pink-ball cricket — it doesn't mean we will have the success but (with) our methods, our style of play and the experience we have in this group we'll bounce back from Perth," he added.

The two teams will take on each other in the second Test, starting here from Friday.

# Former England captain Alastair Cook Praises India for being 'Brave' in Perth Test

**PTI ■ LONDON**

Opting to go in without a proven performer like R Ashwin and batting first in an opening Test of a high-pressure series in Australia are reflections of an Indian team that is brave and supremely confident in its ability to win from any situation, feels England's all-time great Alastair Cook.

Cook, a former captain and the first England batter to make 10,000 runs in Test cricket, praised India for their remarkable comeback after getting bowled out for just 150 in the first Test at Perth.

"I thought India was so brave. I thought that first, you know, they win the toss and bat on that wicket, you look there, even though there's only 150 they got, the thought process to say, 'we're going to take Australia on there. We know it's going to be hard, but we think it's



going to be hard for both sides only, and then it'll be a one-innings game," Cook said on TNT Sports.

He added, "I think most captains would have bowled first, certainly would have done and probably got the end of a bad result, like normally in Australia. But India took it on brilliantly. It was just an all-round fantastic performance."

"You think... Bowled out for 150, you think we're struggling here, but to bounce back when you've got Boomer (Jasprit Bumrah) up with the new ball on those kinds of wickets, he's always going to be outstanding and backed up by team."

Captaining the team in the absence of Rohit Sharma, pace spearhead Bumrah came up with a magnificent performance to grab eight wickets, including a first-innings five-for, to lead India to a memorable win.

Speaking about India's move to exclude the senior off-spinner Ashwin from the playing XI, Cook said, "... Just think of how brave they were? They didn't bother playing Ashwin who has got 500 Test wickets. They've kind of played a couple of like, not makes you spinners, but you know, I thought Ashwin would have been outstanding, but you know, great thinking by them. And isn't it nice to see Australia get thrashed?"

Cook lauded the "classy" Yashasvi Jaiswal for the manner in which he dominated the formidable Australian pace attack and said he wouldn't have told the menacing Mitchell Starc he is bowling too slow even if he was.

After failing to open his account in the first innings of the series opener, Jaiswal adapted to the conditions

beautifully and played a brilliant 161-run knock in the second essay, his maiden century on Australian soil.

During the second day of the match, Jaiswal told Starc, "It's coming too slow", with his confidence attracting the attention of many in the cricket world, including the former England captain, who had been a prolific scorer in Tests for a prolonged period.

"We've seen his celebration enough here, but it's more enjoyable against Australia than England, certainly," Cook said, referring to Jaiswal's phenomenal run in the Test series against England, when he amassed over 700 runs.

He added, "And sledging Mitchell Starc, saying at a certain stage, I think he wasn't on 100, he wasn't on anything on a major score, but he's telling him you're bowling slow. And I've faced Mitchell Starc and he certainly doesn't bowl slow. And if he was bowling slow, I'd keep my mouth shut and not wind him up, but have the confidence to do that as a 22-year-old."

"I think he scored the most runs as any Indian player up to after 15 Test matches at the top of the order, which I'll keep saying it, no one else believes me, it's the hardest place to bat. What a classy player he is."

India thrashed Australia by 295 runs in the five-match series opener and Cook said he was pleasantly surprised by the result.

"I was surprised. I was surprised that India have gone there and hammered Australia in what normally is a very hard place to go and play cricket, Perth. I know it's not the WACA. I know it's the new stadium, but still, historically, Australia don't lose many games there," Cook said.

## मध्यप्रदेश सरकार बनी श्रमिकों का संबल

मुख्यमंत्री जनकल्याण (संबल) योजना अंतर्गत

# मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव

द्वारा

## 10,236 श्रमिक परिवारों को

## ₹225 करोड़ की अनुग्रह राशि का

## अंतरण

4 दिसम्बर, 2024 | मंत्रालय, भोपाल

नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

### संबल योजना में अब गिग वर्कर्स भी शामिल

- संबल योजना में 1 करोड़ 73 लाख से अधिक श्रमिक भाई-बहन पंजीयन करा चुके हैं।
- अब तक कुल 6 लाख 16 हजार से अधिक प्रकरणों में ₹5 हजार 626 करोड़ से अधिक का हितलाभ वितरण किया गया है।
- पंजीकृत श्रमिक की सामान्य मृत्यु पर ₹2 लाख, दुर्घटना मृत्यु पर ₹4 लाख की अनुग्रह सहायता।
- पंजीकृत श्रमिक की स्थायी अपंगता पर ₹2 लाख, आंशिक स्थायी अपंगता पर ₹1 लाख की सहायता।
- पंजीकृत श्रमिक व पंजीकृत श्रमिक के परिवार के सदस्य की मृत्यु होने पर ₹5 हजार की अंत्येष्टी सहायता।
- सभी संबल हितग्राहियों को आयुष्मान भारत निरामयम योजना अंतर्गत पात्र श्रेणी में चिन्हित किया गया है।
- संबल हितग्राहियों को रियायती दरों पर राशन की सुविधा।
- संबल हितग्राहियों के बच्चों को महाविद्यालय शिक्षा प्रोत्साहन योजना अंतर्गत महाविद्यालय (मेडिकल, विधि, इंजीनियरिंग, पॉलीटेक्निक आदि) में शिक्षा हेतु सम्पूर्ण शिक्षण शुल्क राज्य सरकार द्वारा वहन किया जाता है।
- पंजीकृत महिला श्रमिक व पुरुष श्रमिक की पत्नी को प्रसूति सहायता योजना अंतर्गत कुल 16 हजार की राशि की सहायता।

सीधा प्रसारण | Webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents

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