







# Congress responds to BJP's traitor barb with RSS, tukde-tukde gang taunt



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for accusing Rahul Gandhi of conspiring to destabilise India and calling him a traitor, saying the truth is that BJP-RSS is the "biggest tukde-tukde" gang of this country and is spreading the "poison of communalism".

some US-based agencies, investigative media platform Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), and Gandhi occupy three sides of a "dangerous" triangle trying to destabilise India and stoke public disaffection for a regime change. "I have no hesitation in saying he (Gandhi) is a traitor of the highest order," he said.

a traitor? The people of the country want to know where do you get so much shamelessness from? Accusing the BJP of spreading the "poison of communalism, violence and hatred", Nayak cited slogans by BJP leaders such as 'batenge toh katenge'.

tukde-tukde gang" of this country. She said Rahul Gandhi has always raised public issues and will continue to do so, asserting that the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha is not afraid of the BJP's threats and allegations.

you are a traitor. If the youth ask for employment, they will be beaten with lathis because they are also part of the conspiracy. Modi Ji, if there is so much international conspiracy going on in the country, then why don't you fire Amit Shah Ji?" she said.

# Opposition marches in Parliament in protest against Adani issue



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Wearing black masks with "Modi, Adani bhai-bhai" printed on them and holding a copy of the Constitution, several Opposition MPs led by the Congress held a protest march inside the Parliament complex on the Adani issue on Friday.

The Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party, which have so far stayed away from any denunciation of Adani, stayed away from Friday's protest as well. The decision has been seen by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as a "division" in the opposition bloc.

problem in discussion... Discussion happens in democracy only; they are afraid of it as well," she said.

## Delhi HC seeks MHA stand on Rahul's citizenship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday directed Union Ministry of Home Affairs to place its stand on Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Subramanian Swamy's plea seeking directions to the Ministry of Home Affairs to decide over the complaint on Rahul Gandhi's British Citizenship.

## Hashimpura massacre: SC grants bail to eight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to eight convicts in the infamous 1987 Hashimpura case involving the massacre of 38 persons by the Provincial Armed Constabulary personnel.

communal riots. They were fatally shot there, and their bodies were dumped in a canal. The incident resulted in the death of 38 persons, leaving only five survivors to recount the horror.

## Verify docs of government job candidates in six months: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) has directed police officials of all the states to check and verify documents pertaining to the character, antecedents, nationality, genuineness of the documents produced by the candidates selected for government jobs within six months from the date of their appointment.

of retirement. "The given factual matrix would also compel this court to issue a direction to the police official(s) of all the states to complete the enquiry and file report as regards the character, antecedents, nationality, genuineness of the documents produced by the candidates selected for appointment to the government service, etc., within a stipulated time provided in the statute/GO, or in any event, not later than six months from the date of their appointment," the top court said.

## Past governments didn't pay attention to Northeast: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Asserting that previous governments weighed development to votes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the progress of the North East was not given much emphasis earlier due to fewer population and votes in the region.



"For a long time, we have seen how development was weighed against votes. Northeastern states had less votes and low seats so previous governments did not pay attention to the development of the region," he said.

With its vibrant culture and dynamic people, the northeast holds immense potential to propel India's growth, he said. The prime minister said during the last decade his government tried to reduce the feeling among people about the gap of Delhi and 'Dil' with the northeast.

# C-section deliveries linked to income, private healthcare: study



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over one-fifth of deliveries in India are via caesarean section (C-section), with significant regional and socioeconomic disparities, according to a study published in The Lancet Regional Health-Southeast Asia.

rate of 60.7%, and Nagaland a much lower one at 5.2%. This regional discrepancy suggests differing levels of healthcare access, infrastructure, and perhaps cultural factors that influence birthing choices.

years across 28 states and eight union territories, collected during the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (2019-2021).

"The study concluded that both high-income and low-income individuals in India are more likely to receive caesarean deliveries in private rather than public facilities," the authors noted.

## Indira peace prize for ex prez of Chile

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 will be conferred on former Chile president and prominent human rights voice Michelle Bachelet, the international jury for the award chaired by former National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon announced on Friday.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Plunging into instability

France's political instability and economic crisis deepens as Prime Minister Michel Barnier ousted in a rare no-confidence vote

In a dramatic turn of events, French Prime Minister Michel Barnier was ousted in a no-confidence vote on December 5, 2024, marking a rare political upheaval in France's post-war history. The motion, which garnered 331 votes, united far-right and left-wing lawmakers against Barnier's government, plunging France into political instability at a critical juncture. At the core of the crisis lies the contentious 2025 budget. Facing a massive budget deficit, Barnier's government proposed a budget aimed at saving Euro 60 billion. The proposal included austerity measures that sparked widespread discontent across the political spectrum. Barnier's decision to bypass parliamentary approval for parts of the budget using special constitutional powers was a key trigger for his removal. Interestingly, both the Left and the Right united to oppose the budget. By forcing the no-confidence vote, opposition lawmakers saw an opportunity to challenge a government struggling to unite a fragmented parliament. The ouster is a significant blow to President Emmanuel Macron, who now faces daunting challenges in appointing a successor capable of navigating a polarised parliament.

Macron's leadership has been weakened, and his coalition has failed to maintain a majority, leaving his administration vulnerable to opposition maneuvers. France's political landscape is now marked by deep uncertainty. The immediate challenge is ensuring fiscal continuity, as the lack of an approved 2025 budget could further erode investor confidence. Right now Macron has limited options. Macron may try to quickly install a new leader, aiming for stability before symbolic events like the reopening of the Notre-Dame Cathedral.

However, finding someone who can secure cross-party support is a tall order. If the situation gets worse Macron could rely on emergency measures to extend the 2024 budget provisions or pass the 2025 budget by decree. However, such actions would carry significant political costs and might deepen the crisis. The turmoil comes at a precarious time for France and the European Union. With Germany grappling with its coalition government's collapse and the return of Donald Trump to the US presidency, Europe's political stability is increasingly in question. France, as the EU's second-largest economy, plays a critical role in the bloc's cohesion. Domestically, the crisis is a test of resilience for Marine Le Pen, whose National Rally party supported the no-confidence motion. While Le Pen seeks to position her party as a stable alternative to Macron's government, prolonged instability could expose vulnerabilities in her leadership. France faces a soaring budget deficit, high inflation, and growing public dissatisfaction over austerity measures. The fragmented parliament reflects a divided electorate, complicating governance and increasing the likelihood of legislative deadlock. The road ahead requires deft political maneuvering to restore stability and address the systemic challenges that threaten France's economic and social fabric.

### PICTALK



Tourists on an elephant safari at the Kaziranga National Park, in Golaghat

# India's maritime legacy: Lessons from history



ANOOP SHARMA

Revisiting India's maritime legacy can drive advancements in naval strength, trade security and regional cooperation, paving the way for a strong maritime future

India has a rich maritime history dating back to the Indus Valley civilisation. People of ancient Indian empires such as Mauryas and Cholas were active seafarers who undertook long and arduous voyages for trade, cultural, religious and political causes. Various regional powers and rulers such as Marathas, Marakkars and even Mughals tried to contest the ascendancy of European naval supremacy in Indian waters. The present-day Indian Navy was born out of the Royal Indian Navy in 1947, with already meagre assets divided between India and Pakistan. As a result, the Indian Navy was initially a coastal force responsible for coastal defence and protection of maritime trade. The Indian Navy proved its mettle during the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971.

The decisive and bold actions by the Navy in the 1971 war made the nation realise the potential of the silent, yet dynamic and effective element of the comprehensive national power. Commencing with the international humanitarian and disaster relief operations in the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami, the Indian Navy has significantly stepped up its operational tempo.

The recent successes of the Indian Navy in anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden protecting mariners of various nationalities, including Pakistanis, have been internationally appreciated. Indian Navy ships have evacuated personnel of the Indian diaspora and citizens of friendly foreign countries from conflict areas such as Lebanon (2006) and Yemen (2015).

**Ancient Indian Maritime Culture** As India strives for its rightful position on the global stage, we need to revive and study the historical and indigenous Indian maritime strategic thought. Our scriptures, treatises and literature reference the rich Indian maritime strategic culture. Other powers that arose in the Indian sub-continent such as Satavahanas, Pallavas, Pandyas, Cholas and many others continued the rich maritime traditions of the Indian civilisation well past the decline of the mighty



Mauryan empire. The adoption of a new naval ensign inspired by the spirit of Shivaji's maritime endeavours is a step in this direction that needs to be ingrained in the ethos of all maritime and naval endeavours of the nation.

**Shivaji's Maritime Endeavours:** The Marathas were the only Indian power between the 17th to early 19th centuries who successfully challenged the growing European influence in Indian waters. Shivaji, his son Sambhaji Maharaj and their able Admirals such as Mayank Bhandari, Dautat Khan, Sidhoji Gujar and legendary Kanhoji Angre raised and maintained a strong Navy of over 5000 personnel comprising over 300 vessels at its peak. Noted historian Jadunath Sarkar acknowledges that "Nothing proves Shivaji's genius as a born statesman more clearly than his creation of a navy and naval bases". The Maratha naval prowess was further consolidated under Maratha Admiral Kanhoji Angre from 1699 onwards. He effectively challenged the British maritime power on the West coast from his base at Vijaydurg in Ratnagiri. His tactics of attacking the



**OTHER POWERS THAT AROSE IN THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT SUCH AS SATAVAHANAS, PALLAVAS, PANDYAS, CHOLAS AND MANY OTHERS CONTINUED THE RICH MARITIME TRADITIONS OF THE INDIAN CIVILISATION WELL PAST THE DECLINE OF THE MIGHTY MAURYAN EMPIRE**

deep draught British ships with shallow water crafts, utilising the shelter of shallow natural harbour and fortress with mounted heavy guns were akin to typical sea denial and littoral warfare operations practised by modern navies. Such was the Maratha naval supremacy that even a combined Anglo-Portuguese assault on Kolaba island of Mumbai in 1772 failed to dislodge the Marathas. Strategic Maritime Culture of Cholas The earliest mention of Chola's naval prowess dating back to Roman records of the 1st century AD highlights the presence of a flourishing port at Kaveripattanam and the King's fleet escorting merchant ships into the harbour. The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea mentions the voyage of the early Chola ship 'Colandia' from Kaveripattanam to islands in the Pacific Ocean. The maritime power of Cholas reached its peak between the 9th and 10th centuries during which the Cholas developed a strong Navy with Blue Water capabilities and established robust trade links with China and South East Asia. The seafarers of the Chola empire had exceptional navigational skills and, an understanding of the seas, monsoons, winds and

currents. They were conversant with the use of a 32-point Arab-Tamil wind compass and as many as 56 stars in the Northern Hemisphere for navigation. Despite the lack of a rudder and magnetic compass, the Cholas seafarers could traverse the distance between India and Southeast Asia in twelve to fifteen days, indicative of their Blue Water capability. The maritime endeavours of the Cholas provide valuable insights for stakeholders of the contemporary Indian maritime strategy. The Indian maritime outlook for the Indian Ocean Region that has evolved from the 'Look East' to 'Act East' and the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) can draw inspiration from India's maritime legacy. Initiatives like anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden, HADR missions, Sagarmala and Port Led Development, SAGAR, Atma Nirbharta and Make in India etc. have common threads with the maritime practices of Cholas.

(The views expressed are solely those of the author and do not reflect the position of the Indian Navy or the Pioneer. The writer is currently serving as Director Staff at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Workplace woes for women



It is sad but true that the workplace can become a problem for young working women. Though most places are safe, there are a few exceptions. India has seen over 400 cases of sexual harassment at work every year since 2018, with an average of 445 cases being reported annually, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. Over 419 cases,

and order. This incident, involving a former terrorist armed with a sophisticated weapon, highlights glaring inadequacies in security protocols at one of India's most revered religious sites. While CM Bhagwant Mann has commended the police for averting a tragedy, it is evident that more robust measures are required to prevent such incidents. The fact that the attacker, Narain Singh Chaura, was allowed to enter the premises with a weapon exposes lapses in intelligence and ground-level vigilance. Although frisking at religious sites is a sensitive issue, safeguarding lives and ensuring the sanctity of such locations must be paramount. The opposition's call for Chief Minister Mann's resignation reflects widespread frustration over the perceived deterioration in law and order. This incident should compel the Punjab government to take immediate steps to review and strengthen security arrangements, especially at religious and public places. Failure to act decisively risks not only public safety but also the reputation of the state.

or about 35 per month, were reported in the country in 2023. There could be more unreported ones. That year, Himachal Pradesh recorded the highest number of sexual harassment cases at the workplace (97), followed by Kerala (83), Maharashtra (46), and Karnataka (43). The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH Act), was enacted to safeguard women and provide mechanisms for addressing sexual harassment. In 2023, companies reported 1,160 sexual harassment complaints, the highest number in the past decade. However, only slightly more than half of these cases were resolved, according to data from the Centre for Economic Data and Analysis, Ashoka University. On average, 49 sexual harassment cases were reported every day in 2022.

Jayanthy Subramaniam | Mumbai

#### CURBING CUSTODIAL CRIMES

Madam — Two recent judgements—one from the Delhi High Court and the other from a special court in Bengaluru—convicting policemen for custodial torture and death of the accused have sent a strong message on putting in place a robust mechanism to end the scourge once and for all. 687 persons died in police custody between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2023, a damning indictment of the police. Generally, custodial deaths go unreported but for vigilante organisations and proactive families that have a keen nose for suspecting foul play. The Supreme Court guidelines in all cases of arrest or detention are clear-cut. During custodial detentions, mandatory documentation and presence of legal counsel are compulsory. Additionally, every police station should have CCTV cameras installed in strategic points.

Ganapathi Bhat | Akola

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)

## From chaos to comfort: Reflecting on Delhi's transit transformation

Once reliant on rickety DTC buses plagued by poor service, Delhi now boasts a state-of-the-art metro network, revolutionising travel and making commuting a breeze

Can you drop me at the Dhaura Kuan Metro Station in your car? I must catch the 1800 hrs train from there!, requested my colleague, Madhu Jasrai, as we were leaving the office in the Bhikaji Cama Place complex. "Sure, why not!!!" I replied nonchalantly. "I have some work on the other side of town, and it is prudent to travel by the metro, instead of taking risks, and getting gridlocked in the peak traffic," she explained. I could not have agreed more.



exposure to this horrible service was limited, as I had the privilege of travelling on the school bus.

Although the situation changed when I moved to college, and then university, there remained a saving grace, the University Special, which, with a monthly all-route student pass for a measly Rs 12.50 was the lifeline of students. But, despite these safeguards, it was difficult to remain isolated from the scary DTC, where the drivers behaved as if they owned Delhi roads as if it were a grand prix track. And the less said about the frequency & punctuality of the service, the better it is, as quite often, one had to wait for hours on end before an overcrowded bus appeared on the horizon, heaving like a fatigued tortoise. Expectedly, even before it came to a halt, a virtual

stampede ensued. In the melee, there was an exchange of choicest Punjabi abuses, fisticuffs, an occasional physical altercation, lucrative business for pickpockets and chain snatchers, and worst of all, a field day for eve-teasers. It was while travelling on these buses that Delhi denizens earned most of their characteristics—of being brawny, insensitive to women and disorderly.

During this hullabaloo, the role of the crew was unpredictable. Sometimes they preferred to be mute spectators watching over the fracas with the serenity of a smiling Buddha. At other times, they were grumpy, with a short fuse, and embroiled in heated arguments with harassed commuters, with hard-to-imagine ferocity. Nevertheless, once the confusion sorted, as if by divine intervention, and there was no space for more passengers—on every nook and cranny, including the windows, footrests and the rickety bars at the rear of the bus had been gobbled—the driver pressed the accelerator, to bring the bus into painful motion. Hereon, the law of the jungle took over, as rules

were flouted with impunity, without fear of the law—seats reserved for women, the elderly and the physically challenged, hardly, if ever, went to those for whom these had been earmarked. Signs of 'no smoking', 'no tobacco', 'no litter' and 'no spitting' were ignored callously, without an iota of deterrence. Hygiene, well what is that? At the end of this mayhem, those who missed boarding the bus had to wait, patiently, for their next attempt. And the wheel started moving in the same pattern, once more. This long reverie concluded when I reached home and parked the car in its slot. As I walked towards my house, I thanked the stars (not any politician or bureaucrat) for the winds of change that have blown across the face of my city, transforming it in three decades, heralding the era when state-of-the-art Metro crisscrossed Delhi like an octopus spreading its tentacles, when radio cabs whizzed around, when CNG & electric buses is a common sight. Delhi's public transport system has indeed come of age. (The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)



APS MALHOTRA

#### SOUTH KOREA REJECTS MARTIAL LAW

Madam — South Korea escaped the martial law imposed by President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday night, within just 6 hours, for the first time since 1980, then I will not give the credit for this to the people who had gathered outside the Parliament building late at night, nor to the 190 MPs who overturned the President's crazy decision in just a few hours. The entire credit goes only to the South Korean army, who quietly watched this spectacle from a distance and did not interfere in any way. If the army wanted, it could have followed the President's orders and fired on the crowd of common people and also arrested the MPs who had reached the Parliament building. South Korea is one of the most developed and industrialised countries in the world. South Korea's economy is the 12th largest in the world and the fourth largest in Asia. No one is able to understand this decision of the President despite there being no unrest of any kind. Experts are even saying that President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife Kim Kyeon-hee must have taken such a step due to corruption charges against them. Now they will have to step down from their post themselves, or else they will be removed by bringing an impeachment motion against them in the Parliament. Just removing them will not work, but they should be put in jail. Since the founding of South Korea in 1948, several presidents have declared a military emergency. The most recent and perhaps the most infamous—occurred in 1979 after the assassination of President Park Chung-hee, a former general who had occasionally used martial law to crack down on political protests and opposition since seizing power in 1961.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

#### LAX VIP SECURITY IN PUNJAB

Madam — The recent brazen assassination attempt on former Punjab CM Sukhbir Singh Badal at the Golden Temple underscores a disturbing breach in security that raises serious concerns about the state's law



## FIRST COLUMN

### SURVIVING THE TECH-DRIVEN ERA

Amid rapid technological obsolescence, the need for reinvention has never been more critical



RAVI VALLURI

It would be worthwhile to examine how organisations are structured and articulated. In the long haul organisations blessed with individuals willing to experiment, innovate and embrace technology will be the ones that survive. At the pace that technology with its variants is fashioning itself, numerous applications unravelling virtually by the minute, and the level of obsolescence and attrition of equipment is becoming extraordinarily high. In such a scenario, humans and organisations will be subsumed by various products and their variants. The human mind can no longer remain in the typewriter mode. The garden of Organisational Theory and Behaviour is dotted with eminent scholars. Three pioneers, Adam Smith, Charles Babbage and Robert Owen provided the ballast and the basic groundwork. Adam Smith advanced the argument that countries and organisations would profit by adopting the tenets of division of labour, what is now termed as specialisation. Charles Babbage in his seminal work postulated: Through the division of labour, the time required for learning a job or skill gets drastically reduced. Right at the stage of infancy wastage of material gets minimised and diminishes. The mind is propelled to take up serious tasks upon attaining superior skills. Way back in 1789, Robert Owen at 18 went on to acquire a factory. He was a utopian, way ahead of his times. In 1825, he promulgated regulated working hours, child labour laws, public education and business involvement in various community projects – a precursor to CSR.



In today's wired world, individuals work from their dwellings. Places with the latest technology and gizmos at their disposal. Over the last decade, the entire paradigm of organisational behaviour has metamorphosed. Technology stares at organisations with peering eyes, the complexity and dynamics of structures having undergone a complete metamorphosis. Let us look at the Indian Railways. There was a time when the operating and manufacturing departments held sway in the decision-making process. Today, it is the technical departments that are the game changers. The concept of fixed work hours is history. The workforce must be alert 24x7. Thus, employees need to brush up on their skill sets to brace for the challenges of the virtual world. Let us examine the model of direct teaching through online classes – one-on-one, between the teacher and the tutee. The very paradigm may affect teaching techniques in schools and universities. Similarly, qualified doctors instruct their colleagues through Skype or other means during complex surgeries. In such a scenario, scores of organisational structures, government or those in the private sector must adapt radically in order to survive.

The workforce must continuously upgrade their skill set or face extinction. Perhaps emotions of warmth may be lost in the maze of technological evolution. The philosophy of an organisation, its goals and objectives and the behavioural pattern between the structure and the workforce have been stranded in a traffic jam of the kind one encounters in major cities of India like Gurugram. Stephen Hawking has in a rather depressing prognosis, predicted that life would be extinct on this planet on four grounds – nukes, global warming, man-made viruses or robots. Thus, the human mind should re-invent itself and current organisational behaviour and theories or prepare a blueprint to discover a sister planet to inhabit. Aeon ago, Aristotle wrote, "We are what we repeatedly do." This paradigm will have to change for organisations to survive.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living; views are personal)

# South Korea faces its gravest political crisis



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

Yoon's actions threaten the democratic foundations painstakingly built over decades, echoing a legacy of authoritarianism that South Korea has fought to overcome



President Yoon Suk-yeol has plunged South Korea into a political crisis that risks echoing the darkest chapters of the nation's history. As his administration teeters on the edge of a dramatic shift, Yoon has turned to martial law, invoking emergency powers in a desperate gambit to silence political opposition and maintain control. The implications of his actions are profound, not just for his presidency, but for South Korea's ongoing struggle with its totalitarian past, its relationship with foreign powers, and its own identity as a modern democracy. South Koreans fought so hard to build a democratic system. Under South Korea's Constitution, the president has the authority to declare martial law in the face of military threats or a national emergency. However, the reasons Yoon provided for his declaration—opposition-driven impeachment efforts, budgetary clashes, and an increasingly fractured political spectrum—hardly constitute a national crisis of the magnitude that would justify such a drastic measure. The events surrounding Yoon's attempt to invoke emergency powers are not isolated; they represent the continuation of a deeply ingrained political pattern, where martial law is not only a tool of governance but a reminder of a nation's struggle between democracy and repression. The debate surrounding Yoon's leadership has drawn comparisons to previous impeachments in South Korea, particularly those of Roh Moo-hyun and Park Geun-hye. Roh, in 2004, faced impeachment over election law violations, though the Constitutional Court reinstated him. Less than a decade later, Park was ousted through impeachment over a corruption scandal. Yoon, while not yet facing the same fate, is set to have his impeachment voted on today following his controversial declaration of martial law, which lasted only six hours and was rejected by lawmakers



THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS ACTIONS ARE PROFOUND, NOT JUST FOR HIS PRESIDENCY, BUT FOR SOUTH KOREA'S ONGOING STRUGGLE WITH ITS TOTALITARIAN PAST, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH FOREIGN POWERS, AND ITS OWN IDENTITY AS A MODERN DEMOCRACY

and the public. Whether or not he survives, South Korea remains trapped in a cycle of political crises, where democratic ideals clash with despotic impulses, reflecting a historical legacy that has shaped the nation for over a century. To understand the scope of South Korea's political turmoil, one must look at the country's history with martial law—a tool that has long been used by political elites to stifle dissent and assert control. South Korea's 20th century is defined by foreign intervention, division, and military rule. Following Japan's brutal annexation of Korea in 1910, martial law became a key instrument of colonial repression, aimed at quelling any resistance to Japanese imperial rule. The atrocities of this period, from forced labour to the sexual enslavement of women, left deep scars on the Korean psyche. It was a time when the very concept of Korean autonomy seemed impossible, as external powers sought to mould the country to fit their interests. The end of Japanese rule in 1945, after World War II, did not herald peace for the Korean Peninsula. Instead, Korea was divided into two zones of occupation: the Soviet-controlled North and the American-controlled South. The subsequent Korean War (1950–1953) left the country in ruins, its political and social fabric torn apart by the conflict. In the aftermath, South Korea was deeply reliant on American military protection, a dependency that would come to define the country's geopolitical position during the Cold War. But South Korea's reliance on foreign power

came at a cost. The U.S., though a key ally, often dictated the direction of South Korean politics, using its military presence to enforce stability while limiting the country's true political autonomy. By 1953, when the armistice was signed, the U.S. had established a major military presence in South Korea, which would grow over the coming decades. This military dominance, coupled with South Korea's internal political instability, created fertile ground for martial law to flourish as a means of maintaining control. One of the most infamous instances of martial law came in 1961 when General Park Chung-hee seized power in a military coup. Park's regime, which lasted for over a decade, was characterised by authoritarian rule, but also rapid industrialisation, transforming South Korea into one of Asia's economic powerhouses. His government used martial law to suppress political opposition and silence dissent, paving the way for further military interventions in South Korea's political life. Even after Park's assassination in 1979, his successors continued to rely on dictatorial measures to control the populace, with the 1980 Gwangju Uprising standing as a stark reminder of the brutality of military rule. It was only after the uprisings of 1987, following widespread protests, that South Korea began its transition to a more democratic system—though martial law remained an ever-present force in the background, a reminder of the fragility of its democratic institutions. The current political crisis, however, is not just about Yoon's leadership or the fractured state of

South Korea's political structure. It is also a reflection of the country's broader struggle with its geopolitical position. As the U.S. continues to view South Korea as a critical ally in its efforts to counter China's rise, the country's internal divisions risk undermining its role as a stable partner in the region. The growing U.S. military presence over the decades, with South Korea becoming home to the largest U.S. military base in a foreign country—Camp Humphreys—has been a key feature of this relationship. The presence of 28,500 U.S. troops, the THAAD missile defence system, and the constant military drills aimed at countering the threat from North Korea and China, have turned South Korea into a crucial outpost for American interests in East Asia. In this context, the political instability surrounding President Yoon and his administration is more than just an internal affair—it is a matter of global significance. The U.S. cannot afford to let South Korea's internal divisions spiral out of control, especially as tensions with North Korea and China continue to escalate. If South Korea cannot reconcile its internal political fractures, it risks becoming an unreliable ally in the eyes of its most important partner. This would have significant consequences, not just for South Korea, but for the broader geopolitical ramifications of NATO's eastward expansion and the "Pivot to Asia" strategy coined by former President Barack Obama, which continues to haunt Asian countries. (The writer is a journalist and author. Views expressed are personal)

# Hybrid model secures ICC Champions Trophy hosting rights

## Pakistan's government approves a hybrid hosting model proposed by India, ensuring its role in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025

A pragmatic and groundbreaking decision has emerged from Pakistan's government corridors, approving its cricket board's acceptance of India's proposed hybrid model for hosting ICC events. This strategic approach, which includes matches at neutral venues such as the UAE, is a lifeline for Pakistan cricket. It ensures the preservation of Pakistan's hosting rights for the prestigious ICC Champions Trophy, scheduled from February 19 to March 9, 2025. Ultimately, cricket itself emerges as the ultimate winner. Millions of cricket enthusiasts across India and Pakistan are celebrating the International Cricket Council's (ICC) successful mediation. This reso-



K S TOMAR

lution underscores the power of sports to bridge divides. The ICC had earlier warned of revoking Pakistan's hosting rights if it rejected the hybrid model. The enduring passion of fans-united by their love for cricket—remains unfazed by territorial boundaries. Matches between India and Pakistan, steeped in rivalry and emotion, transcend sports and become spectacles of patriotism and fervour.

In a parallel development, Jay Shah has been elected as the new ICC chief, marking a pivotal moment in global cricket governance. Shah's leadership promises transformative opportunities for the ICC, leveraging his vast experience as chairman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the world's wealthiest cricket body. His election sets the stage for significant milestones, particularly in organising high-profile tournaments like the Champions Trophy. For the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), this decision was a calculated move to avert potential isolation. Rejecting India's terms could have deprived Pakistan of the opportunity to showcase its hosting capabilities, particu-

larly given India's security concerns. The hybrid model, which splits matches between Pakistan and the UAE, provides a balanced solution. Pakistan retains its hosting rights while addressing India's apprehensions, thus averting reputational and financial losses. Accepting the hybrid model aligns with Pakistan's long-term vision for cricket. It ensures that Pakistan remains a credible host for international events and preserves the opportunity to solidify its reputation. Additionally, the agreement likely includes financial assurances from the ICC, compensating for any perceived compromises. Successful implementation could enhance Pakistan's image as a reliable cricketing



hub, following well-received tours by Australia and England. The hybrid model offers a win-win outcome, balancing security concerns with hosting ambitions. While India's matches will take place at neutral venues, Pakistan retains the opportunity to host other games on its soil. This arrangement allows local

fans to experience international cricket firsthand. Furthermore, the PCB's insistence on reciprocity for events in India until 2031 demonstrates strategic foresight, paving the way for equitable future agreements. Boycotting the Champions Trophy would have been a catastrophic misstep for Pakistan. Such a decision could have alienated the PCB from the ICC and key stakeholders, given India's significant influence in global cricket. The financial and reputational damage, coupled with diminished fan morale and strained sponsor relations, would have left lasting scars. By prioritizing long-term gains, the PCB has ensured its continued relevance on the international

cricket stage. Shah aims to introduce cricket to new markets such as the USA, China, and Africa, diversifying the audience and making the game truly global. His expertise in revenue generation could lead to record-breaking media deals, benefiting smaller boards through equitable revenue sharing. By integrating advanced technologies and data-driven strategies, Shah could modernize ICC tournaments, appealing to younger audiences and enhancing the game's global appeal. As an Indian, Shah might face allegations of favoring BCCI interests. Ensuring inclusivity and addressing member concerns will be crucial. Balancing the dominance of cricketing giants like India,

England, and Australia with the development of smaller nations will be a key test of Shah's leadership. The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 holds immense promise under Jay Shah's leadership, with the potential to set benchmarks in competitiveness, innovation, and fan engagement. Pakistan's pragmatic decision to embrace the hybrid model ensures its pivotal role in this journey, preserving its cricketing ambitions while fostering international collaboration. Together, these developments signify a new era for the sport, uniting fans and nations under the banner of cricket. (Writer is strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst; views are personal)

S Korea's governing party head supports suspending Yoon's powers, making impeachment more likely

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's governing party chief expressed support Friday for suspending the constitutional powers of President Yoon Suk Yeol for imposing martial law this week, in a bombshell reversal that makes Yoon's impeachment more likely.

During a party meeting, PPP leader Han Dong-hun stressed the need to suspend Yoon's presidential duties and power swiftly, saying he poses a "significant risk of extreme actions, like reattempting to impose martial law, which could potentially put the Republic of Korea and its citizens in great danger."

Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung and National Assembly speaker Woo Won Shik, said Kim Byung-kee, one of the lawmakers who attended the meeting, Kim said Hong told lawmakers he ignored Yoon's orders.

Workers' Union, one of the country's biggest umbrella labor groups, have started hourly strikes since Thursday to protest Yoon. The union said its members will start on indefinite strikes beginning on Dec. 11 if Yoon was still in office then.

Joint Chiefs of Staff will absolutely not accept it," Kim said. Kim became the acting defense minister after Yoon's office on Thursday accepted the resignation of Defense Minister Kim Yong Hyun, who has been hit with a travel ban and faces an investigation over his role in Yoon's imposition of martial law.

Taiwan's leader calls on China to refrain from threats

AP ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te called on China to "open its arms rather than raise its fists" as he wrapped up his first overseas tour since taking office in May.

Taiwan and China split in 1949 during a civil war that saw the victorious communists take control in Beijing and the Nationalists setting up a rival government in Taiwan, an island of 23 million people about 160 kilometers off China's east coast.

China. The Taiwanese leader played up the distinction between democracies such as Taiwan and the US and authoritarian governments, noting Russia's military cooperation with both China and North Korea, including the dispatch of North Korean troops to Russia for the war against Ukraine.

Gaza ceasefire talks resume, says Hamas official

AP ■ ISTANBUL

A Hamas official said Thursday that international mediators have resumed negotiating with the militant group and Israel over a ceasefire in Gaza, and that he was hope-

ful a deal to end the 14-month war was within reach. Ceasefire negotiations were halted last month when Qatar suspended talks with mediators from Egypt and the United States because of frustration over a lack of progress between

Israel and Hamas. But there has been a "reactivation" of efforts in recent days to end the fighting, release hostages from Gaza and free Palestinian prisoners in Israel, according to Bassem Naim, an official in Hamas' political bureau who spoke with

The Associated Press in Turkey. Another official familiar with the talks confirmed the return of Qatari mediators. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the negotiations with the media.

Since the talks broke down, there have been significant shifts in the global and regional landscape. Donald Trump won the US presidential election, and a ceasefire was declared last week between Israel and Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Russia will use 'all means' to defend its interests: Lavrov

AP ■ MOSCOW

Russia's top diplomat said in an interview with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson released Friday that Moscow doesn't want a war with the United States but will use "all means" to defend its interests.

they must understand that we would be ready to use any means not to allow them to succeed in what they call strategic defeat of Russia." Russian President Vladimir Putin has described the Nov 21 attack with Oreshnik as a response to Ukrainian strikes on Russian military facilities in Bryansk and Kursk regions with Western-supplied weapons.

the Western belief that Russia's red lines could be "moved again and again" is "a very serious mistake." Lavrov, the world's longest-serving foreign minister who has been on the job for 20 years, said that a recent Russian strike on Ukraine with a new hypersonic intermediate range ballistic missile called Oreshnik was a signal to the West that Russia is prepared to use all means to achieve its goals in Ukraine.

AXIS BANK LTD. PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS. THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH.

Table listing borrowers and their pledged assets. Columns include name, account number, amount, date, and weight. Includes entries for HARI GOVIND SINGH, PRAVEEN BHAWANIA, SUNIL KUMAR, etc.

NHPC Limited (A GOVT. OF INDIA NAVRATNA ENTERPRISE) NHPC Office Complex, Sector-33, Faridabad - 121003. SCHEDULE. [To be published in pursuance of Clause (7) of Regulation 23 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023]



China fine-tunes economic stimulus as it braces for new US administration

China is fine-tuning policies to rev up its economy as it braces for uncertain relations with the United States under President-elect Donald Trump...

although some components must just meet standards for a share of domestic-based production. Farm, forestry, minerals and fisheries products are excluded...

access to financing for e-commerce and small- and mid-sized "little giants" and "hidden champions". Shares in China have surged this week on expectations that the planning meeting will yield more support...

with heads of 10 major international organisations including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and World Trade Organisation...

Iran says it conducted successful space launch

Iran said Friday it conducted a successful space launch, the latest for its programme the West alleges improves Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

The United States has previously said Iran's satellite launches defy a UN Security Council resolution and called on Tehran to undertake no activity involving ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

programme expired in October 2023. Under Iran's relatively moderate former President Hassan Rouhani, the Islamic Republic slowed its space programme for fear of raising tensions with the West.

to offer strategy when it comes to Iran's ambitions in space. Intercontinental ballistic missiles can be used to deliver nuclear weapons. Iran is now producing uranium close to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers.

OFFICE OF THE REGULATED MARKET COMMITTEE, JUNAGARH

Table with columns: Sr. No., Item, Details. Contains tender notice details for Double/Single cover system in ONLINE MODE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Arandeep who is the owner of Property ID No. 12167PKP7, area measuring 85 Sq. Yards out of 200 Sq. Yards...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of our client, Mr. Gangaram S/O Mr. Sitaram R/O H. No. DZ-586/1, Palwal, Haryana, 121102. 'Owner' Mr. Sitaram was the owner of schedule property by virtue of Sale Deed which was duly registered with the concerned Sub-Registrar-Palwal as Document No. 3141, in Addl. Book No. 1, on 11.01.1979 is stated to have been lost, an FIR dated 05.12.2024 (Haryana Police Citizen Services) bearing Application No. 132607/2401656 was also lodged.

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह ( म.प्र. )

दमोह दिनांक 14.11.2024

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसम्पन्न श्रेणी में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों से अधोलिखित विवरण अनुसार प्रतियत दर पर ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

Table with columns: क्र. NIT No./Tender No., कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण, अनुमानित लागत, अमानत राशि, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य, समायावधि. Contains 3 tender items for RCC drains construction.

नोट :- कार्य क्र. 01 हेतु-निविदा प्रपत्र केवल ऑनलाईन ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in दिनांक 20.11.2024 को सुबह 10:30 बजे से दिनांक 26.12.2024 को शाम 17:30 बजे तक क्रय किये जा सकते हैं।

- 1. इच्छुक निविदादाता विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर Key-Date अनुसार देखी जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय किये जा सकते हैं।

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकाारी नगर पालिका परिषद दमोह

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that (1) Mrs. Waryam Kaur W/o S. Savinder Singh, (2) S. Banti Singh S/O Mr. Harmandir Singh Sethi & (3) Mrs. Jayanti Kaur are intending to sell their Floor with roof rights, on Eastern side built-up property bearing No. S-2222, bearing Plot No. 8/6, land area measuring 100 Sq. Yards out of 200 Sq. Yards, out of Khata No. 1 etc., situated in the area of village Bangli Jambh colony known as old Mahabhar Nagar, New Delhi-110018.

सर्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसम्पन्न को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरा सुविक्रित श्री फडिम अली पुत्र श्री बुनियाद अली निवासी मकान नं० 68, दूसरी मंजिल, श्रदानंद मार्ग, जी.बी. रोड, दिल्ली-110006 पर काबिज है। अगर कोई भी व्यक्ति उपरोक्त प्रॉपर्टी को खरीद फरोख्त करता है तो मैं अपने सुविक्रित द्वारा यह सर्वसम्पन्न को सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि लॉज की अवधि खत्म होने से पहले मेरा सुविक्रित प्रॉपर्टी खाली नही करेगा और न ही मैं सुविक्रित पर कोई कानूनी कार्यवाही हो सकती है। इसके बावजूद कोई भी व्यक्ति इस प्रॉपर्टी को खरीद फरोख्त करता है तो वह स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा।

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Azeem Khan had acquired Third Floor with roof rights, area measuring 75 sq. yards, part of property bearing No. 3447, situated at Dariba Pan, Paharganj, New Delhi vide G.P. Dt. 16.06.2022 along with AT&S Amp; Will executed by Mr. Rajender Singh, Mr. Tharvinder Singh & Mrs. Ranjana Arora and Now Mr. Azeem Khan is the undisputed owner of the said property.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Smt. Parwati wife of Late Shri. Meer Singh resident of A-286, Kusum Pur Pahari, Kusum Pur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110057, is disowning and disinherited their son namely Sanjay and daughter-in-law namely Jyoti from all my moveable & immovable properties and have also severed all their relations from them. Therefore my client shall not be responsible for any act and conduct done by them in future.

DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCULATING AREA

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/GSA/19 of 2024 Dated: 05-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Brief Description of work: ABSS: Development of circulating area, approach road, toilet unit, Portico, facade at Labha station of Kathar Division. Tender Value: ₹ 4,42,00,734.30. Earnest Money: ₹ 3,71,000/-.

सर्वजनिक सूचना

सूचना नगर निगम मध्यम के भवन कर रिफॉर्म में आईडिओ नो. ICSNAH22 विरसा पत्रा 11-B, Agora Tower, Tata Raisina Residency, Raisina, Gurugram, 122102 की सम्पत्ति कर रिफॉर्म में तब्दीली हेतु USHA AHLAWADI ने आवेदन किया है। यह रिफॉर्म समितिकर रिफॉर्मरस USHA AHLAWADI AND OM PARKASH AHLAWADI के नाम निम्नकार से करें है। OM PARKASH AHLAWADI की मूल्य विवरण 16-09-2024 को हो चुकी है। तदनुसार उनके कानूनी वारिसन Wife है। तदनुसार उनके Wife ने Registered Will की प्रति को सबूत के तौर पर शां कर उक्त सम्पत्ति कर रिफॉर्म में तब्दीली के लिये आवेदन किया है। उपरोक्त सम्पत्ति कर रिफॉर्मरस आईडिओ N o . ICSNAH22 को USHA AHLAWADI W/O OM PARKASH AHLAWADI के नाम दर्ज करने हेतु रिफॉर्मरस की भी व्यक्ति को कोई क्षति है तो वह प्रकशन को 30 दिन के अंदर अगला दस्तावेज अधोदस्तावेजी को प्रस्तुत कर सकता है। यदि 30 दिन के अंदर कोई आपत्ति इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त नहीं होती है तो उपरोक्त सम्पत्ति कर रिफॉर्म में आवेदन अनुसार तब्दीली कर दी जायेगी बिना किसी नगर निगम उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा। सहायक-कैप्टिव करताराम अकिरिटी-IV नगर निगम मध्यम

NOTICE

We M/s Alsiraa International, holding Registration Certificate, No. B-0992/DEL/PART/1000 PLUS/3/4781/96, Under the Emigration Act, 1983 for Export of Manpower, have closed our Business with effect from 01.04.2020. In the event there is any claim against us, the same may be referred with in 30 days of publication of this notice, copies of the complaint may also be sent to Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Dr. Jose P. Rizal Marg, New Delhi-110021.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/PHONE. Contains tender notice for repair and rehabilitation of structure falling in the MANESAR PALM SECTION FIRM.

Mehmood I.H Managing Partner 11-J, 11th Floor, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place New Delhi-110008

(Ombir Sangwan) Advocate Ch.No.5 Patiala House Court N.D.-110001

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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www.haryana.gov.in

www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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13/2025/40/30847N/2717

NHPC Office Complex, Sector-33, Faridabad - 121003 (CIN: L40101HR1975GOI032564) SCHEDULE

[To be published in pursuance of Clause (7) of Regulation 23 of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2023]

- 1. The Petitioner above-named has filed a petition before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for Salal Power Station, Tanakpur Power Station, Chamera - I Power Station, Uri - I Power Station, Chamera - II Power Station, Dhauliganga Power Station, Chamara - III Power Station and Parbati - III Power Station.

Table with columns: i) PSPCL - Punjab, ii) BRPL, BYPL & TPDDL - Delhi, iii) UPCL - Uttarakhand, iv) HPSEB - Himachal Pradesh, v) HPPC - Haryana, vi) Engg. Dept. - UT Chandigarh, vii) UPPCL - Uttar Pradesh, viii) JVVNL, JdVVNL & AVVNL - Rajasthan, ix) PDD - J&K

Table with columns: Capacity of the generating station, Approved capital cost of the project, Authority which has approved the capital cost, Scheduled date of commercial operation, Actual date of commercial operation, Capital cost on the date of commercial operation. Contains detailed financial and operational data for various power stations.

8. Details of tariff: (₹ in Lakh)

Table with columns: SI. No., Hydro Power Generating Station, Tariff for the previous year (2018-19), Year-wise tariff sought to be determined (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24). Contains multiple rows of tariff data for different power stations.

9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted under 'Commercial' on the website: https://www.nhpcindia.com

10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application to be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before through the e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place : Faridabad Date : 29.11.2024

(Ajay Shrivastava) General Manager (Comml.), Commercial Division





# A CREATIVE RENAISSANCE

The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art hosted CentreStage Weekend 2024, highlighting young talent with performances spanning dance, music and culture, says SAKSHI PRIYA

Art is the only way to run away without leaving home," said Twyla Tharp and the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art (KNMA) brought this idea to life through its CentreStage Weekend 2024. CentreStage Weekend truly brought this sentiment to life. The vibrant two-day festival was a celebration of youthful creativity, where tradition and innovation blended seamlessly, leaving the audience in wonder. With an eclectic mix of performances spanning genres like Kuchipudi, modern dance, jazz, Carnatic music, Welsh and Naga folk and Sufi traditions, the event was a powerful reminder of the incredible diversity within the performing arts.

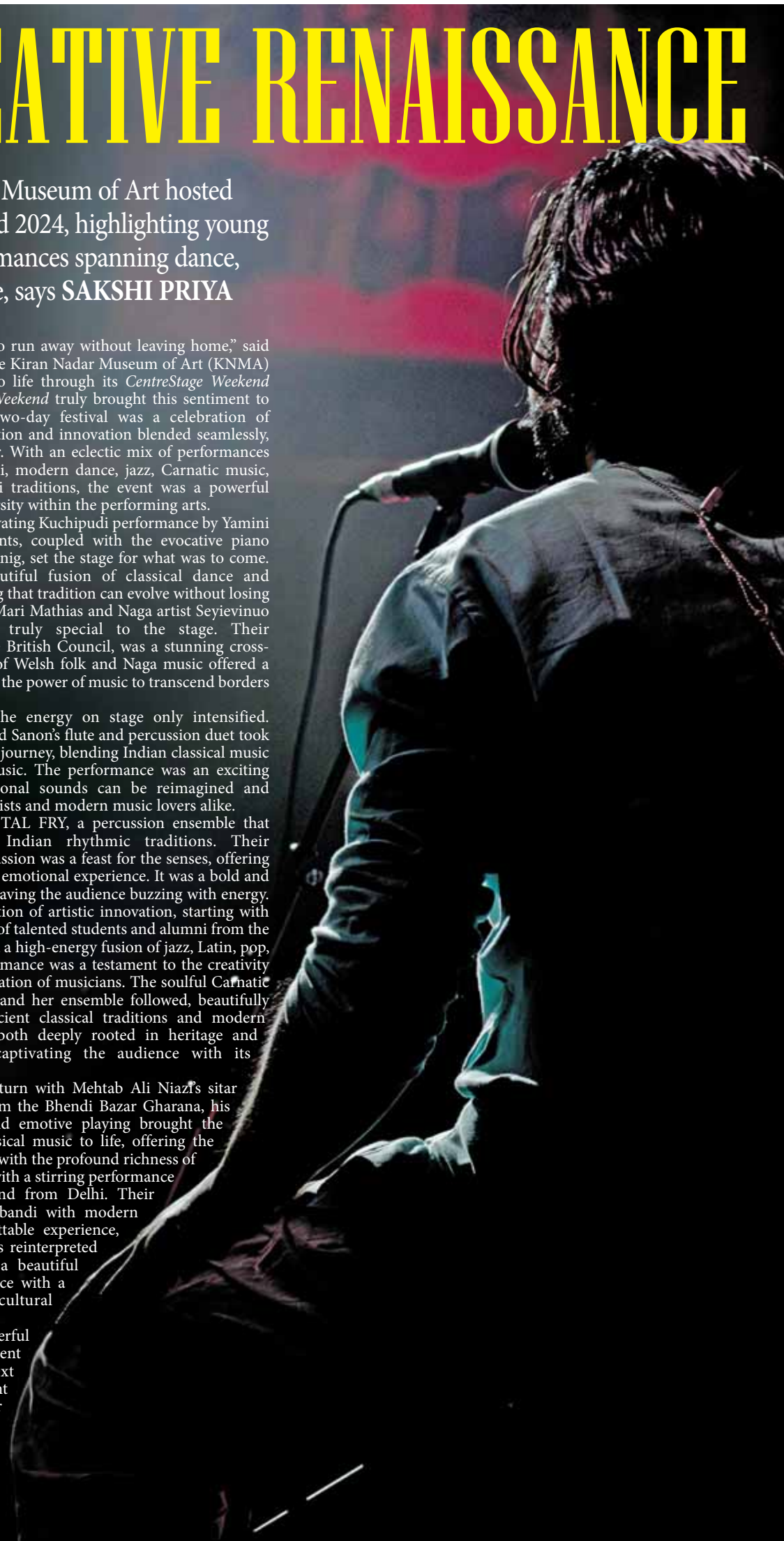
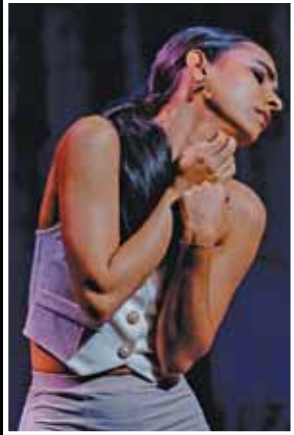
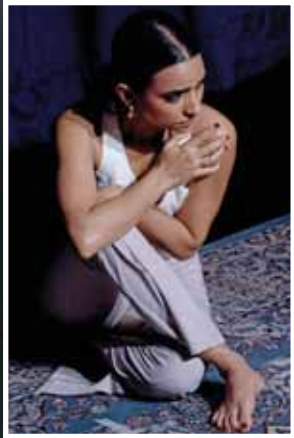
The first day began with a captivating Kuchipudi performance by Yamini Kalluri. Her graceful movements, coupled with the evocative piano accompaniment by Andreas König, set the stage for what was to come. The performance was a beautiful fusion of classical dance and contemporary elements, proving that tradition can evolve without losing its soul. Next, Wales musician Mari Mathias and Naga artist Seyievinuo Chuzho brought something truly special to the stage. Their collaboration, supported by the British Council, was a stunning cross-cultural exchange. The fusion of Welsh folk and Naga music offered a rare and refreshing glimpse into the power of music to transcend borders and create new connections.

As the evening progressed, the energy on stage only intensified. Kartikeya Vashisth and Makrand Sanon's flute and percussion duet took the audience on an exhilarating journey, blending Indian classical music with jazz, blues, and world music. The performance was an exciting demonstration of how traditional sounds can be reimagined and revitalised, captivating both purists and modern music lovers alike.

The first day concluded with TAL FRY, a percussion ensemble that pushed the boundaries of Indian rhythmic traditions. Their experimental approach to percussion was a feast for the senses, offering not just sound, but a visual and emotional experience. It was a bold and striking finale to the evening, leaving the audience buzzing with energy. Day two continued the celebration of artistic innovation, starting with the GMI Ensemble. This group of talented students and alumni from the Global Music Institute delivered a high-energy fusion of jazz, Latin, pop, and fusion genres. Their performance was a testament to the creativity and versatility of the new generation of musicians. The soulful Carnatic performance by Spoorthi Rao and her ensemble followed, beautifully bridging the gap between ancient classical traditions and modern sensibilities. Her music was both deeply rooted in heritage and refreshingly contemporary, captivating the audience with its emotional depth.

The evening took a reflective turn with Mehtab Ali Niaz's sitar performance. As a maestro from the Bhendi Bazar Gharana, his mastery of the instrument and emotive playing brought the timeless beauty of Indian classical music to life, offering the audience a chance to reconnect with the profound richness of tradition. The weekend ended with a stirring performance by Jashn-e-Sufiana, a Sufi band from Delhi. Their ability to blend classical jugalbandi with modern influences created an unforgettable experience, where the ancient art form was reinterpreted for today's audience. It was a beautiful closing act, leaving the audience with a sense of emotional and cultural richness.

CentreStage Weekend was a powerful reminder of the immense talent and creativity of the next generation of artists. The event provided a unique platform for young performers to experiment with new forms while staying rooted in their cultural traditions, making it a truly inspiring and unforgettable celebration of the performing arts.



## NATURE'S SPIRIT ON CANVAS

Sujata Dere's Earth Song explores the spiritual essence of nature, highlighting the strong connection between humanity and the natural world, says SAKSHI PRIYA



"In the quiet of nature, there is a song that speaks to the soul, A melody that moves gently, yet powerfully, through all living things."

Sujata Dere's *Earth Song*, recently showcased at the Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, beautifully embodies this concept. Through her paintings, Dere captured the serene yet powerful rhythms of nature, transforming horses, lotuses, and forests into symbols of spiritual connection. This exhibition invited viewers into a space where nature's essence was not only visible but deeply felt, echoing the sacred landscapes that inspired it.

shadow, adding texture and depth to each piece. The lotus, a symbol of perfection, was given new life through Dere's innovative techniques, blending tradition with a contemporary touch. The forest series, rooted in Dere's deep love for nature, focused on the subtle beauty of the natural world. These smaller works, rich in texture and tone, captured the mystique of the forest with an

*Earth Song* offered a captivating journey into the spiritual heart of nature. Dere presented her works through a meditative lens, where horses, lotuses, and forests each held significant symbolic meaning. The exhibition was a celebration of Dere's artistic growth and her bond with the natural world. The Equus series stood out as one of the most striking elements of the exhibition. In these pieces, Dere portrayed horses with dynamic brushstrokes that conveyed their powerful energy and their historical role in connecting cultures. The digital maps printed under the horses' forms added depth to the work, linking the creatures to a broader, more global story. Through earthy tones and glazes, Dere illuminated the horses with a glowing aura, giving them a sense of vitality and spirit that captivated viewers. Dere's lotus studies were equally captivating. The lotus, often a symbol of purity and spiritual growth, was rendered in compositions that evoked tranquility and reflection. The delicate interplay of acrylic paints and aquarelle pencils created an atmosphere of light and



organic quality. Dere's spontaneous approach, allowing the paint to drip and blend, mirrored the fluid, ever-changing nature of the forests themselves. *Earth Song* was a celebration of nature's mysticism, and Dere's mastery in capturing its essence was both enchanting and inspiring. The exhibition offered not just a visual experience, but an emotional and spiritual journey. Dere's work encouraged viewers to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the quiet rhythms of the earth.

### TEAM VIVA

The Delhi Classical Music Festival 2024 was a remarkable celebration of Indian classical music, held over three captivating evenings at the Shriram Centre, Mandi House. Organised by the Sahitya Kala Parishad in collaboration with the Government of NCT of Delhi, the festival brought together both legendary artists and rising stars, showcasing the depth and beauty of this timeless art form. The packed audiences each night reflected the lasting appeal of classical music in today's world.

The festival opened with Ojesh Pratap Singh, whose performances of Raga Bhoopali and Raga Nat-Bihag captivated listeners with their clarity and precision. Following him, Dr. Rindana Rahasya's presentation of Raga Kedar and Raga Kirwani brought a sense of tranquility to the evening. The night concluded with the legendary Padma Bhushan Pt. Ajoy Chakraborty, whose thumris and bhajans struck a chord with all who attended, leaving a lasting impression.

Day two of the festival continued to impress, with Kashish Mittal presenting Raagas Jhinjhoti, Sohni, and Adana. His Krishna Bhajan was a powerful way to end his performance. The audience was equally enthralled by Satayajeet Talwalkar, who performed a tabla solo full of intricate rhythms, demonstrating his exceptional skill. Deborshi Bhattacharya's performance of Raaga Abhogi and Raaga Jog was well



## MUSICAL MASTERY LIGHTS UP DELHI



received for its emotive depth and technical precision, earning him much praise.

The final evening closed the festival on a high note. Pandit Harish Tiwari's rendition of Raga Puriya Dhanashree was a blend of traditional compositions and a bhajan, creating a deep sense of connection with the audience. Shubhendra Rao's sitar performance of Kalyan Thaat Raga was both graceful and powerful, showcasing his technical mastery. The festival concluded with Vidushi Shubha Mudgal, whose performance was a fitting finale, leaving the audience mesmerised and filled with appreciation for the beauty of Indian classical music.

As the final notes of Vidushi Shubha Mudgal's performance echoed in the air, the Delhi Classical Music Festival 2024 drew to a close, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended. This three-day celebration not only showcased the talent of some of the most revered maestros but also served as a reminder of the timeless beauty of this rich tradition. With such an overwhelming response, one can only look forward to future editions of the festival, which continue to inspire, educate, and bring joy to music lovers across the capital and beyond.

PHOTO: PANKAJ KUMAR



Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

# INVEST MADHYA PRADESH GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT FEBRUARY 2025, BHOPAL



Dr. Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister

## Madhya Pradesh on a New Journey of Industrial Growth Regional Industry Conclave Narmadapuram

Inaugural by  
**Dr. Mohan Yadav**  
Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh

7 December, 2024 | 11:00 AM onwards  
ITI Campus, Itarsi Road, Narmadapuram



  
Inaugural  
Session

  
Round table  
Meeting

  
Sectoral  
Sessions

  
One to One  
Meetings

  
Networking  
Lunch

  
Exhibition

Website : [invest.mp.gov.in](http://invest.mp.gov.in)


 Knowledge  
Partner


 National  
Partner

**LIVE STREAM**

[Webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents](http://Webcast.gov.in/mp/cmevents)



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