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INSIDE

WORLD 8

BIDEN COMMUTES ROUGHLY 1,500 SENTENCES, PARDONS 39 PEOPLE IN BIGGEST SINGLE-DAY ACT OF CLEMENCY



One Nation, One Election, One Decision

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's call for 'One Nation One, Election' inched closer to realise its dreams of simultaneous polls by paving the way to table the proposal in the Parliament next week after the Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two bills, including one to amend the Constitution to implement 'One Nation, One Election'. Sources said the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave nod to draft legislations to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies only. While a high-level committee led by former president Ram Nath Kovind had also proposed holding the municipality and panchayat polls along with the national and state elections in a phased manner, the Cabinet decided not to touch the subject currently.

The Constitution Amendment Bill to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the sources noted. Another Constitution Bill proposed by the Kovind panel was aimed at creating provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, by inserting a new Article 324A. It would have required ratification by half of the State Assemblies.



File photo: PTI

But the Union Cabinet has kept the local body polls out of its scope. The second Bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union Territories that have Legislative Assemblies, Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha as proposed in the Constitution Amendment Bill. The statutes it proposes to amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019. The proposed Bill will be an

ordinary legislation, not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states. The Government is keen on holding wider consultations on bills that are likely to be referred to a parliamentary committee. The sources said the Government also wants to consult the speakers of various state legislative Assemblies through the committee. Moving ahead with its 'One Nation, One Election' plan, the Government in September accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner. In its report submitted to the

Government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing 'One Nation, One Election' in two phases. While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies are pushing for simultaneous polls, several opposition parties have opposed the idea. The Government is of the view that simultaneous polls will reduce expenditure in the long run and different parts of the country will not be under the Model Code of Conduct throughout the year due to various polls. Simultaneous polls were held in the country between 1951 and 1967. The concept of simultaneous elections has featured in many reports and studies since

1983, essentially implying a return to the previous practice of conducting polls concurrently. Congress reiterated its opposition to the very idea of simultaneous polls and accused the Government of trying to divert attention from "questions being raised on the electoral integrity of the democratic system".

ELECTIONS FOR THE LOK SABHA AND ALL STATE ASSEMBLIES CAN BE HELD TOGETHER:

- For synchronising the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the President shall notify the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election as the "appointed date".
- Tenure of all State Assemblies formed via polls after the "appointed date" and before the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha will only be for the period ending up to the subsequent parliamentary polls. After this one-time transitory measure, all Lok Sabha and Assembly polls will be held simultaneously.
- Fresh elections could be held to constitute a new Lok Sabha in the event of a hung House or a no-confidence motion or any such event.
- Where fresh elections are held for the House of the People (Lok Sabha), the tenure of the House will be "only for the unexpired (remaining) term of the immediately preceding full term of the House".
- When fresh elections are held for state legislative Assemblies, then such new Assemblies — unless sooner dissolved — shall continue up to the end of the full term of the Lok Sabha.



AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal launches the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna' to give a monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to women in Delhi. Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Eye on Polls, Kejriwal announces Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With the Assembly polls drawing closer, after giving five 'revdis' (freebies) including free DTC bus rides to women, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced his sixth freebie, of giving monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to women in Delhi each month, under the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman' Yojna. He also promised the amount would be raised to Rs 2,100 if the AAP government returned to power. The scheme was approved by the Delhi Cabinet despite objections by the Planning Department and Finance Department. The scheme needs Rs 4,560 Crore annually for the year 2025-26. The scheme was initially announced in the 2024-25 Budget with an allocation of Rs 2,000 Crore. The scheme, however, seemed to have hit the bureaucratic

logjam with the Finance department flagging budgetary constraints. The scheme is on the lines of 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' in Maharashtra, 'Ladli Behna Yojna' in Madhya Pradesh, 'Grahalexmi' scheme of Kerala, 'Kalaigari Magalir Urumi' of Tamil Nadu and 'Laxmi Bhandar' of West Bengal that played a major role for the ruling party to defeat anti-incumbency factor. Addressing a press conference along with Chief Minister Atishi, Kejriwal announced the Delhi Cabinet has approved the scheme and women can begin their registration from Friday. However, he clarified the elections are likely to be announced soon and therefore the money could be credited in beneficiaries' accounts only after the polls as the date for the crucial polls will be announced in the next 10 to 15 days.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, meanwhile, said if the Model Code of Conduct comes into force after January 13, the first installment will be transferred into the bank accounts of eligible women before elections. The Planning Department in its noting said that as against the estimated Revenue Receipts of Rs 65034.69 Crore during 2024-25, total expenditure of Rs 77700 crore (including Expenditure on Programs/ Projects and Other Expenditure) is projected and the gap between receipts and total expenditure i.e. deficit is proposed to be covered by 'NSSF Loan' and unspent balance. As the opening balance is about exhausted, therefore, implementation of proposed new scheme involves huge amount of funds i.e. Rs 4560 crore through Loan is not appropriate and good for the financial health of the Government.

No surveys, suits related to Places of Worship Act till hearing over: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In an important development, the Supreme Court on Thursday restrained all courts from entertaining fresh lawsuits and passing any effective interim or final orders in pending cases seeking survey or to reclaim religious places, especially mosques and dargahs. Observing the court couldn't decide the matter without the Centre's response, the Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan asked the Government to file its reply to the pleas and cross petitions in four weeks. It also granted four weeks to other parties to file their rejoinder after the Centre filed its reply. "As the matter is sub-judice in this court, we deem it appropriate that no fresh suit would be registered and proceedings are undertaken till further orders of this court," the CJ-led Bench said. The order stalls proceedings in about 18 lawsuits filed by various Hindu parties seeking survey to ascertain original religious character of 10 mosques including Gyanvapi at Varanasi, Shahi Idgah Masjid at Mathura and Shahi Jama Masjid at Sambhal where four persons' lives were



snuffed out in clashes. The special Bench was hearing about six petitions, including the lead one filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay and BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, challenging various provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. The 1991 law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. However, the dispute relating to Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid at Ayodhya was kept out of its purview. There are several cross petitions which seek strict implementation of the 1991 law to maintain communal harmony and to preserve the present status of mosques, sought to be reclaimed by Hindus on the ground that they were temples before

invaders razed them. The Bench made it clear that it would be examining the "vires (legality), contours and ambit" of the 1991 Law and it was imperative to ask other courts to "stay off their hands" till it passed any further orders. "In pending suits, the courts will not pass any effective interim or final order, including order of survey, till further orders," the Bench said. Senior advocate J Sai Deepak, appearing for a Hindu party, opposed the order restraining all other courts and said the parties should have been heard before such a direction. The CJ said it was quite natural to ask courts to not to pass any order as the Supreme Court was hearing the larger issue. The Bench said if parties insisted then, the matter could be sent to a High Court. "Can the trial courts overreach the Supreme Court," asked the Bench and said the apex court was already dealing with the validity of the law. Notably, the Bench had issued notice to parties, including the Centre, on the lead petition in September, 2022. The Bench also appointed nodal counsel for assisting it in the hearing on the pleas which would be listed after eight weeks.

All is not well in the House

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a peculiar move, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday jumped to the Well, and aisle of the Rajya Sabha protesting against the Opposition, who too were on their feet, trading charges over a no-trust motion brought against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. While a legislative business was scheduled to be tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman when the upper house resumed post lunch, BJP MPs immediately raised slogans on the allegations of the Congress leadership's "links" with billionaire investor George Soros. Though Lok Sabha after morning two adjournments resumed post lunch and continued till late evening smoothly discussing a Bill on Disaster Management Amendment Bill, Rajya Sabha witnessed yet another 12th day of ruckus, and this time members of the Treasury Benches were more aggressive than the Opposition who until last week were on their feet. As Dhankhar rejected notices by the Opposition when the House started in the morning amidst sloganeering by the Congress. Leader of House Union minister JP Nadda rose to speak and strongly condemned Congress president, and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge for criticising the Chairman at a Press conference outside the House on Wednesday. Citing a rule, Nadda said questioning or criticising a ruling of the Chairman amounts to contempt of both the House and the Chair. "At a press conference on Wednesday, Khargeji criticised the Chairman. This is objectionable and condemnable. It sets a wrong precedent.



Union Minister Giriraj Singh staged a protest over Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's alleged links with an organisation funded by the George Soros Foundation. PTI

This needs to be condemned by one and all," Nadda said. Refuting Kharge's allegation made at the press conference that he was not given an opportunity to speak in the House, he said letters were written by the Chairman to the Leader of Opposition (LOP) time and again, asking him to participate and come to the Chairman's chamber. But Kharge did not go to the Chairman's chamber and also did not attend the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, he said. "The Congress has even tried to demean the constitutional post by criticising 'the Chair as a cheerleader' on its official social media handle", Nadda pointed out. Nadda then gave ammunition to the Congress as soon as he touched upon the relationship between George Soros and (Congress leader) Sonia Gandhi who were present in the House triggering a

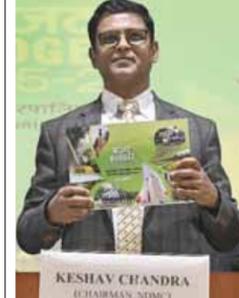
protest by the Opposition leaders. The Chairman gave the floor to Kharge to respond to Nadda's remarks but the Congress leader could not speak much as the members of the treasury benches were on their feet, sloganeering. "They want to divert attention from the main issue," Kharge said amid intense sloganeering from the treasury benches. Kharge urged the Chair to bring the House in order, but Dhankhar adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. As the House reassembled at 2 pm, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) sought permission to raise a point of order on the Bangladesh issue to which the Chair said it was not a point of order prompting the party members to raise slogans. Dhankhar then asked former prime minister HD Deve Gowda to speak, however his speech was lost in the din.

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NDMC presents surplus budget of ₹463.40 Crore

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to the residents of New Delhi, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) did not hike the property tax rate in Lutyn's Delhi. The NDMC budget proposal tabled in the council, proposes to 'setting up a 'Veerangna Museum' by Comprehensive Conservation of Gole Market Heritage Building and its adjoining areas, night/staggered timing of cleaning of public spaces, new design of school uniforms, tablets for students, smart parking, mist spray kits on poles for clean air and two



Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

foot over bridges at AIIMS Gate No.1, Aurobindo Marg and Delhi High Court near Gate No.5. Presenting a surplus budget of Rs Rs 463.40 Crore projected in 2025-26, the NDMC chairman Keshav Chandra announced that there will not be any hike in the current rates of property tax for the year 2025-26. The council is expecting to collect Property Tax of Rs. 1150 Crore in Revised Estimates 2024-25 and Rs. 1290 Crore in BE 2025-26. According to the budget document, the total receipts of the Budget Estimates (BE) 2025-26 are Rs. 5770.60 Crore against Rs. 5319.75 Crore provided in Revised Estimate 2024-25. The total actual receipts in 2023-24 were Rs. 5005.05 Crore. The BE 2025-26 for the revenue receipts are Rs. 5100.32 Crore against Rs. 4730.31 Crore provided in RE 2024-25 and actual of Rs. 4417.12 Crore in 2023-24.

Grandmaster D Gukesh is youngest-ever world champion

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh on Thursday became the youngest World Chess Champion at 18 years, after beating title-holder Ding Liren in the last game of a nerve-wracking showdown to herald a new era of dominance for the country's chess players. Taking forward the incredible legacy of the great Viswanathan Anand, Gukesh became only the second Indian to clinch the coveted prize after the iconic player, who owned the crown five times in his career. After settling into "semi-retirement", the 55-year-old Anand, incidentally, played a pivotal role in shaping Gukesh at his chess academy in Chennai. Gukesh secured the requisite 7.5 points as against 6.5 of his Chinese rival after winning the 14th and last classical time control game of the match that seemed headed for a draw for most part. As winner, he will walk away with a whopping USD 1.3 million (approx Rs 11.03 Crore) from the



India's D Gukesh reacts after beating title-holder China's Ding Liren in the 14th and last game of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024, in Singapore. PTI

2.5 million prize purse. "I was dreaming this moment for the last 10 years. I am happy that I realised the dream (and made it) into reality," the soft-spoken Chennai-lad told reporters after the historic triumph here. "I got a bit emotional because I was not expecting to win. But then I got a chance to press on," he added. The triumph was expectedly hailed across India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailing it as "historic and exemplary". "This is the result of his unparalleled talent, hard work and unwavering determination," PM Modi posted on X. The reticent teenager grinned widely and raised his arms in celebration after the victory, a stark contrast from the poker face he usually sports while playing. Even on Thursday, when the analysts had proclaimed that the match, in all likelihood, would go into a tie-breaker, Gukesh's face hardly gave anything away as he gained the upper-hand.

Centre needs 2,000 more IAS, IPS!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre, on Thursday, informed the Parliament about a shortage of Government officers at the top level, mentioning that there are 1,316 and 586 vacant posts of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS). Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that, out of the total sanctioned strength of 6,858 IAS, there were 5,542 officers in-position, as on January 1, 2024, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. There were 4,469 IPS officers working against their sanctioned strength of 5,055, Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel told the RS. Of the 1,316 vacant posts of

IAS, 794 were meant for direct recruitment, and 522 were promotion posts, he said. Of the 586 vacant IPS posts, 209 were of direct recruitment, and 377 were promotion posts, the Minister said. There are 2,151 Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers in-position, against their sanctioned strength of 3,193, Singh said. Of the 1,042 vacant IFS posts, 503 were for direct recruitment and 539 promotion posts, he added. The IAS, IPS and IFS officers are selected through the Civil Services examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) annually. The minister, also shared details of appointments made to IAS, IPS and IFS from General, Scheduled Castes

(SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last five years. During the 2022 civil services examination (CSE) year, 75 General, 45 OBC, 29 SC and 13 ST appointments were made in the IAS. Similarly, 83 General, 53 OBC, 31 SC and 13 ST were appointed in the IPS during the same period. A total of 43 General, 51 OBC, 22 SC and 11 ST appointments were made in the IFS during CSE 2024, according to the data shared by the minister. The Government also stated that Central ministries and departments are directed from time-to-time to fill up vacancies in a time-bound manner.

Gram Panchayats should be made active: Chief Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that Rs 5 lakh each will be given to dispute free Gram Panchayats. These gram panchayats will also be benefited from Vrindavan Gram Yojana and rupees five lakh cash reward as well. Chief Minister Yadav was interacting with the Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats of Ujjain South Assembly through VC from the NIC room of Ujjain on Thursday. Chief Minister Yadav said during VC that the Mukhya Mantri Jan Kalyan Abhiyan will run till 26 January 2025. In this, rural people will be made aware of various public welfare schemes of the government and benefits will be given to the beneficiaries. Chief Minister said that we

have to make all the Panchayats active. In a video conference, Ujjain Collector Neeraj Kumar Singh informed that as per the wish of the Chief Minister, camps are being organized regularly in 589 Gram Panchayats of the district. There is video conferencing facility in all the panchayats of the South Legislative Assembly. Chief Minister Yadav interacted with the Sarpanchs of Lakoda Gram Panchayat, Talod Gram Panchayat. It was told that the road from Talod to Fatehabad has been constructed. The Chief Minister said during the VC that Sarpanchs should make regular visits to the Gram Panchayats. They should interact with the beneficiaries and solve their problems within the time limit. It was informed in the VC that the work of

installing CCTV cameras in Gram Panchayats has also started. The Chief Minister interacted with the Sarpanch and Patwari of Tankariapant village. A guest room has also been built for Jain monks in Gram Panchayat Umari Khalsa. Chief Minister Yadav said that guest rooms should be built in all gram panchayats. The web series which are currently being made should also be shot in the Gram Panchayats of Ujjain. During the discussion with the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Karohan, the Chief Minister said that the Panchkoshi amount should be provided to all the Gram Panchayats on the Panchkoshi Yatra route. The Chief Minister said in the VC that all the Patwaris should remember how much the barren land, acreage land, and population land is in the Gram

Panchayats of their Patwari community. He directed that the records of the government land located in the Gram Panchayat should be taken out and projects should be made on what development work can be done there. A list of unemployed men and women should be made in all Gram Panchayats. Information about the number of educated and illiterate people, and the condition of police stations should be kept up-to-date. Yadav also asked to keep updated information related to progressive farmers, education of men and women, employment, information of meritorious children, hospitals, schools, area of land and crops. The Chief Minister instructed in the VC that mass marriages should be organized in Gram Panchayats. A mass marriage

should be organized on a grand scale during the upcoming Vasant Panchami. People should be made aware that they should not waste unnecessary money on marriages and funerals, but rather use them for the education of their children. A discussion was held by the Chief Minister with the Sarpanches of Gram Panchayat Panthapipalai, Khemasa. He said that local citizens should not face any kind of problem in rural areas. On being apprised in the VC that electric wires were breaking in Aslana Gram Panchayat, the Chief Minister gave instructions to get them repaired immediately. Yadav visited the exhibition of the Public Relations Department based on the achievements of 1 year in the Administrative Complex Building and praised the exhibition.



Children on their way to school on a winter morning as school timing has been changed following the district administration orders as no schools before 9 am due to cold weather, in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

School teacher accused of molesting girl child

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Massive protest was organised by parents of students against a molester teacher who was involved in indecent acts with the girl students of Rashidiya school in Barkhedi where he is posted for the past 20 years. Parents have accused teacher of molestation. After the complaint, the police have taken the accused teacher Ashutosh Pandey into custody. While taking the teacher out of the school, the crowd also tried to attack him. The parents of the children tried to beat him with slippers. In this case, the family members have reached Jahangirabad police station to lodge a complaint. So far, the families of three victim children have come forward in the case. They have accused the teacher of exploiting the chil-

dren and claim that the accused teacher has done lewd acts with many other children in the past. According to the information, teacher Ashutosh Pandey was in the school on Thursday. The sixth class student reached home crying, he told the family about the teacher's obscene act. The student claimed that he has blisters in his mouth due to the teacher's act. Angry family members reached the school with a complaint. The mother of a student said that her daughter studies in the sixth class in this school. The accused teacher asks the daughter to stand with her hands against the wall every day due to which her clothes slip down. He talks and does indecent things to the girl every day. The family was stopped from entering the school. When the other parents came to know

about this, they also reached the school. During this, a lot of ruckus was created demanding action against the teacher. Later, Principal KD Srivastava called the police and handed over the teacher to the police. The family is present outside the police station to register a complaint. They allege that they are not being allowed to go inside the police station. The accused teacher Ashutosh Pandey has been posted in the same school for the last twenty years. Earlier this school was known as Rashidiya School. Now it is called CM Rise School. The accused would retire next year. Jahangirabad police station in-charge Ashutosh Upadhyay said that the complaint has been received. Investigation is being done. Further action will be taken on the basis of the facts found in the investigation.

Amount extracted in digital arrest deposited to AAP leader's account

PNS ■ INDORE

The Indore crime branch has revealed that money cheated through digital arrest fraud from a woman was deposited in the account of the district secretary of Aam Aadmi Party in Maihar and then transferred to Malaysia. In Indore, Rs 10 lakhs out of cheated Rs 1.60 crore from a woman through digital arrest were tracked in the account of Rakesh Bansal and his father Chandrabhan Bansal in Dhatura, Maihar. Rakesh is the district secretary of AAP. Indore Crime Branch detained both father and son from Maihar and took them to Indore on December 6. However, during interrogation in Maihar, Rakesh told the name of the partner who

opened the account in this game as Arshlan a resident of Satna. During police interrogation, these accused told that they transferred the money to their account lured by 50% commission, the accused transferred the remaining amount to fraudsters sitting in Malaysia, now the police say that some more arrests will be made in this case. The two accused from Maihar who have been arrested are delivery boys. There are no serious cases against the accused. They have fallen prey to cyber fraudsters for the greed of money. The police are searching for this person. After investigating, the Indore Crime Branch has frozen more than 30 bank accounts of the suspects.

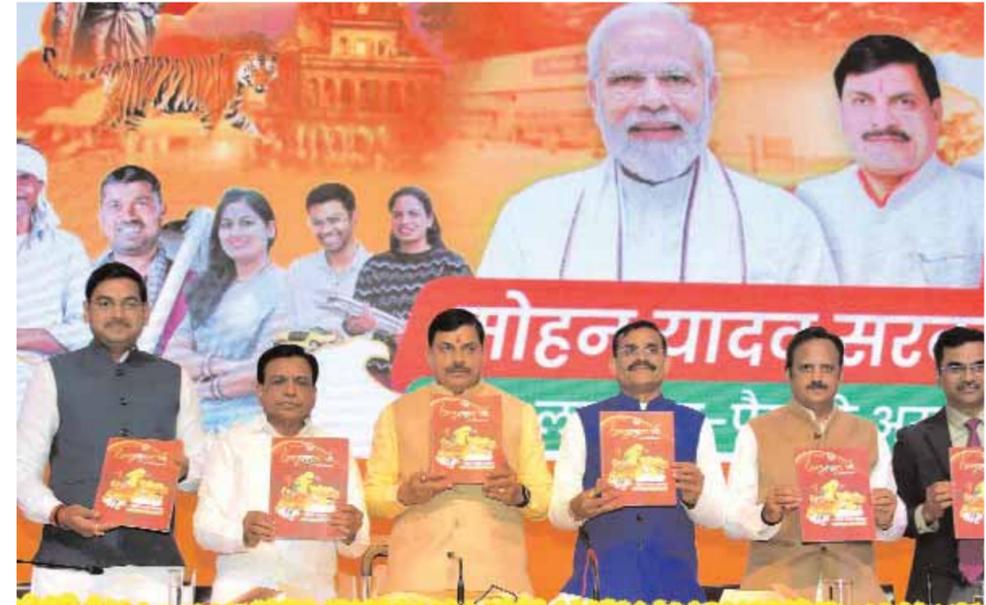
Bhopal shivers at 6.8 degree C, lowest in season

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The spell of extreme cold would continue as over 30 districts would witness cold day and cold wave conditions according to the warning issued by the Met. The nights are severely cold as the mercury is feeling and failing to rise above 10 degree celsius mark across the state. Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Rajgarh, Shajapur, Neemuch, Sidhi, Katni Districts would witness cold day and cold wave conditions. Cold wave conditions would be experienced in In Narmadapuram, Rewa, Mauganj, Satna, Shahdol, Umaria, Dindori, Jabalpur, Seoni, Mandla, Panna, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Maihar Districts. The cold day conditions

would be experienced in Betul, Ratlam, Agar, Narsinghpur, Mandsaur, Mandla Districts. The lowest night temperature was recorded (degree celsius) at Kalyanpur (Shahdol) 3.1 Piparsama (Shivpuri) 3.3 Pachmarhi (Narmadapuram) 3.4 Nowgong (Chhatarpur) 4.0 Amarkantak (Anuppur) 4.4 while places which recorded (degree celsius) lowest day temperatures are Kannod (Dewas) 12.0 Narmadapuram 10.7 Sagar 10.5 Seoni 10.0 Indore 10.0. Impact of Cold wave prevailed in (Girwar) Shajapur, (Kalyanpur) Shahdol, Jabalpur, Seoni, Nowgaon (Chhatarpur), Pachmarhi (Narmadapuram), Marukheda (Neemuch), Pipraundh (Katni). Impact of the Severe Cold wave prevailed in Raisen.

It was Cold day in Bhopal, Rajgarh, Khandwa, Ratlam, Shajapur, Sidhi, Narsinghpur, Betul, Marukheda (Neemuch), Pipraundh (Katni). No significant changes were recorded in day temperatures in all the divisions of the state and they dip significantly below normal in districts of Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Rewa, Jabalpur, Sagar divisions; fell below normal in districts of Narmadapuram, Gwalior, Shahdol divisions. Same was the case with night temperatures as no significant changes were recorded in all the divisions of the state. However, mercury at night fell significantly below normal in districts of Bhopal division; in districts of Indore, Narmadapuram, Ujjain, Gwalior, Rewa, Jabalpur, Sagar divisions and remained normal in all the remaining divisions of the state.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with BJP State President VD Sharma, Deputy Chief Ministers Jagdish Devda and Rajendra Shukla release a report of one year of achievement of the State Government during a press conference on the completion of one year of CM in office and launch of 'Jan Kalyan Parv' at Kushabhau Thackeray convention center in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

Pateliya community members can visit Jamnagar, Surat, and Panna

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced that under the Chief Minister's Pilgrimage Scheme, members of the Pateliya community can now visit Navtanpuri Dham in Jamnagar (Gujarat), Mahamangalpur Dham in Surat (Gujarat), and Mukti Peeth Padmavati Dham in Panna (Madhya Pradesh) for spiritual blessings. The announcement was made at the Lord Shri Krishna Pranami Dharma Mahotsav-2024, held in Ringol village, Alirajpur district. The Chief Minister paid homage to the land of freedom fighter Chandrashekar Azad and revolutionary Parthiya Baba. Yadav also announced the establishment of a police station in Barjhar, a power grid in Borkundia, and the construction of about 28 kilometres of roads in the Chandra Shekhar Azad



Nagar development block. Yadav expressed his joy in attending the divine atmosphere of the Lord Shri Krishna Pranami Dharma Mahotsav. He recalled that Maharaj Chhatrasal of Bundelkhand received a sword as a gift from Shri Prannathji, who founded the Lord Shri Krishna Pranami religious sect. He emphasized that each event in Lord Shri Krishna's life serves as an inspiration for humanity, teaching perseverance and truthfulness despite hardships.

Yadav stated that the peacock feather adorned by Shri Krishna symbolizes joy and serves as a representation of societal identity. He added that the state government has incorporated Krishna's life stories in school curricula and plans to establish Gita Bhavans in all urban areas of the state. He highlighted that the teachings of the Gita—Karma Yoga, Jnana Yoga, and Bhakti Yoga—have a profound impact on human life. During the event, Yadav visited the "Mool Milawa" memorial, established in honour of Gurujee Shri Natwarlal Dasji Bhatt (Harkundi, Gujarat). The "Mool Milawa" symbolizes the soul's union with the divine. Devotees recite texts such as the Swaroop Sahib, Vittak Sahib, and Brahmavani during the festival. Yadav also visited the Guru Gadi, received blessings, and was honoured with a traditional floral garland, turban, and silver bracelets

reflecting the cultural heritage of Alirajpur. The Lord Shri Krishna Pranami Dharma Mahotsav-2024 is being celebrated as the 46th memorial festival of Gurujee Natwarlal Dasji Bhatt under the guidance of Maharaj Rashmikant N. Bhatt. The five-day event (December 9-13) features programs such as Lord Shri Krishna Katha, Brahm Gyan, and Mahayagna. The event witnessed the participation of Rashmikant Bhatt Maharaj, Swami Rajdas Ji Maharaj, Mahendra Prasad Ji Maharaj, Minister for Scheduled Caste Welfare Nagar Singh Chauhan, Jobat MLA Sona Mahesh Patel, former MP Guman Singh Damor, former MLA Madho Singh Dawar, Janpad President Indeer Singh Dawar, Vishal Rawat, and village head of Ringol, Mahesh Bhuriya, along with a large gathering of the Pateliya community.

WCR GM Shobhana Bandopadhyaya reviews safety arrangements

PNS ■ JABALPUR

Top management of West Central Railway (WCR) discussed safety, punctuality, station redevelopment, infrastructure development works, and the safety inspection of trains during the winter season at a review meeting on Thursday. General Manager Shobhana Bandopadhyaya chaired the review, attended by Chief Mechanical Engineer Nitin Choudhary, Principal Chief Safety Officer Prabhat Kumar, and the principal heads of all departments at the headquarters. Additionally, the Divisional Railway Managers of the Jabalpur, Bhopal, and Kota divisions joined via video conferencing. Setting the tone for the meeting, at the beginning of the session, Bandopadhyaya said that safe and secure railway operations were a top priority. She instructed officials to expedite railway project works and station redevelopment projects. She underlined the need for a structured and planned approach to implementing safety

improvements and ensuring adherence to the guidelines prescribed by the Railway Board. The General Manager stressed the importance of monitoring train punctuality, addressing train speed issues, and focusing on safety. She issued instructions to accelerate ongoing infrastructure development projects, including new railway lines under construction on the West Central Railway. Progress on the doubling and tripling of railway lines was reviewed in detail, with discussions on their progress reports. Instructions were also given to expedite station redevelopment and infrastructure construction projects to ensure their timely completion. Bandopadhyaya issued specific guidelines to maintain punctuality and ensure seamless train operations during foggy winter conditions. She also reviewed the progress of station redevelopment works and other ongoing projects. Relevant officials from all three divisions were instructed to accelerate their work to meet the set timelines.

BMC cracks down on encroachments

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The civic body intensified its anti-encroachment drive on Thursday, removing illegal structures from roads, footpaths, and public spaces in several areas. Officials seized one truckload of materials, including metal frames, crates, and tarpaulin tents. In Bharat Nagar, an unauthorized shop constructed in front of an On-Door store was dismantled. Similarly, footpath vendors near Bittan Market's Tawa Complex were evicted, and their temporary setups were removed. On Raisen Road, between ITI and Anand Nagar, 30 roadside carts and stalls set up by vegetable vendors were cleared to restore public pathways and ease traffic. Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan directed the operations, ensuring a systematic approach across the affected areas. The drive has significantly improved accessibility for commuters, and the corporation reaffirmed its commitment to keeping public spaces free from encroachments.

28-year-old youth released on bail from police station dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 28-year-old youth died under mysterious circumstances after he was released on bail, he attacked his 6-year-old daughter with a sharp edged weapon and was arrested by police on Wednesday for the attack and was released on bail after 12 hours. Police said that the youth identified as Kamal Raikwar attacked his 6-year-old daughter with a knife and in a bid to save herself, the girl injured her 3 fingers, she also suffered head and neck injuries. The accused also stabbed and injured his elder brother who came to save her. Both have been admitted to Hamidia hospital. The incident took place in Chhola Mandir area on the night of Tuesday. Police took the accused into custody and took him to the police station. After getting bail around 12 hours later, he was also dropped at home on Wednesday evening. He died shortly after this. After the postmortem on Thursday afternoon, the police handed over the body to the family. Kamal Raikwar, a resident of

Chola Mandir area was an electrician by profession. Younger brother Sonu Raikwar said that Kamal's wife had committed suicide 5 years ago. His daughter Ishika studies in first grade in a private school. The brother was addicted to alcohol. Heavily drunk Kamal attacked his daughter with a knife. When his elder brother Mukesh tried to intervene, he was also stabbed and in the attack he has suffered serious head injuries. After the incident, the family informed the police. The police took the accused into custody and brought him to the police station. On the complaint of the brother, a case of assault was registered against Kamal. He was released after being kept in custody for 12 hours. Head constable Prahlad and constable Ashish dropped the accused home. The youth died within an hour after the police returned. On the death of the youth under mysterious circumstances, Chola police station in-charge Sureshchandra Nagar said that Kamal's short MP report has been received. It states that the death occurred due to liver failure. Both the policemen dropped him home and left. After this, Kamal died.



Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Umang Singhar addresses a press conference after the completion of one year of the alleged failure of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav led BJP State Government, at his residence in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo

BMHRC revises timings for 8 mini units in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) on Thursday revised the timings for its eight mini units in the state capital, which will now remain open from 9 AM to 5 PM. This decision has been made to provide better healthcare services to patients visiting the centres. Dr Manisha Srivastava, the Acting Director

at BMHRC, explained that until now, the operating hours for all health centres were from 8 AM to 4 PM, whereas the hospital itself operated from 9 AM to 5 PM. This sometimes caused confusion among the public regarding timings. Moreover, it was not convenient for patients to reach the health centres at 8 AM, which is why the OPD timings for the health centres and the main

hospital have now been unified. She further mentioned that from 9 AM to 5 PM, prescriptions will be issued at the health centres, and patients can visit at any time during these hours to consult with doctors. The eight mini units are located at Kainchi Chola, Station Bajaria, Chandbad, Teela Jamalpur, Ginnori, Itwara Road, Karond, and Bal Vihar.

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CM highlights achievements as govt completes 1 year

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav marked one year of his government, while talking to mediaperson here on Thursday, outlining its accomplishments. He highlighted the BJP's electoral success, winning six out of seven seats, and emphasized the implementation of the river-linking project envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Ken-Betwa project, set to benefit 11 districts of Madhya Pradesh, will be inaugurated on December 25, coinciding with the centenary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth. Additionally, the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal project is expected to begin soon, impacting districts from Sheopur to Agar. These initiatives, part of a Rs 70,000 crore investment, aim to

harness water resources and transform the region. Yadav noted that measures are being taken to collect and store rainwater to enhance the flow of the Shipra River, ensuring pilgrims can bathe in its waters during the Simhashta Kumbh, a tradition disrupted since 1980. He also pledged to resolve issues between workers and the government, streamline property registration through cyber tsehsils, expand irrigation facilities, and provide solar pumps to one lakh farmers in the state. In the realm of women's empowerment, the CM highlighted the Ladli Behna Yojana, under which Rs 19,212 crore has been transferred to the accounts of 1.29 crore women. Despite the financial burden on the government, efforts are underway to increase revenue. Women entrepreneurs have received Rs 275 crore, and 33%

reservation for women has been implemented. Plans include regional industry conclaves in January and a Global Industry Conclave on February 24, 2025, to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi. The state has issued four crore Ayushman Bharat cards, offering free healthcare to the elderly aged 70 and above. Focusing on agriculture and animal husbandry, the government aims to boost farmers' incomes by increasing milk production and providing incentives for those rearing over ten cows. Yadav emphasized Madhya Pradesh's strides in education, with agricultural and dairy courses introduced in colleges and improved facilities at PM Excellence Colleges. The state is also developing industrial corridors, attracting Rs 4 lakh crore in investments, and creating three

lakh job opportunities. On wildlife conservation, he announced plans for Ratapani Tiger Reserve, which will make Bhopal the only capital city near a tiger reserve. Challenges posed by elephants settling in the state will be addressed with dedicated management plans, including rescue centers near reserves. The CM revealed plans to redefine the boundaries of over 22,000 police stations and adjust district and division limits. Preparations for the Simhashta will include visits to Prayagraj for insights, and an OSD will be appointed to enhance rail connectivity in Madhya Pradesh. Under a 40-day action plan, 76 welfare schemes will be implemented, connecting beneficiaries to these initiatives. A "Government at Your Doorstep" campaign will also be launched to ensure broader outreach.

Health camps in city

Bhopal: Health camps, jointly run by the Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), district administration, and municipal corporation, continued late into the night on Wednesday as health practitioners provided crucial medical attention to hundreds of homeless people in the city. The camps were held at night shelters at Yadgar-e-Shahjahan Park, ISBT, Halalpur, Cancer Hospital Complex, near Hamidia Hospital, Nehru Nagar, DIG Bungalow, TB Hospital, Railway Station Platform No 6, Transport Nagar Kokta, and MP Nagar Zone 2. To accommodate the shelter residents, the camps were held from 7 PM onwards.



Chairperson of National Commission for Women Vijaya Rahatkar with district Collector Kaushendra Vikram Singh during a public hearing at district Panchayat office in Bhopal on Thursday. Pioneer photo



Members of Kushwaha Community stage a protest demanding to vacate the community's office from the possession of former state BJP Backward class morcha president Bhagat Singh Kushwaha, at Anjali Complex near 2nd stop in Bhopal on Thursday.

Two-day Youth Festival commences in Ujjain

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Opening of the two-day Youth Festival was held on Wednesday at Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Evam Vedic Vishwavidyalaya, Ujjain. Geeta Jayanti Festival and Indian Language Festival were also organized. Swami Parmarthdev Maharaj, Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar, present as a special guest, said in his address that India has always been a young nation and has led the world. India's ideas are the nourisher of world welfare. Nation upliftment is possible only with the upliftment of the youth. The youth who are awakened and bring awakening are the ones who are the best. He said that India is the world guru only with the power of yoga and

knowledge, a person always remains healthy with the power of yoga. Therefore, yoga should be included in the daily routine. Chief guest Shripad Joshi, senior theatre artist in his address appealed to the youth to read Gita. He said that Gita is the philosophy of our life, it contains the principles of human welfare, the youth must study Gita, it is the true guide. Presiding over the function Vice Chancellor Prof. Vijaykumar CG said that the development of the nation is based on the consciousness of the youth. With a positive outlook, the youth play an important role in bringing the country on the path of progress. He said that Ujjain is the center of knowledge and penance, the power of knowledge has been

here since time immemorial. India's youth is capable of leading the world. While extending his best wishes on Indian Language Day, he described languages as the crown of the country. The festival started with a procession in the morning in which the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, all the department heads, teachers and participating students participated. More than 15 competitions were organized on the first day. The welcome speech was given by Dean of Student Welfare Dr. Shubham Sharma and the introduction was presented by the program coordinator Dr. Tulsi Das Paroha. The vote of thanks was given by Registrar Prof. Dilip Soni and the program was conducted by Dr. Krishna Kumar Tripathi.

Knowledge sharing workshops at Transco

Jabalpur: A two-day workshop simplifying day-to-day technical work of field engineers in the state concluded at the headquarters of MP Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) with 30 young field engineers in attendance. The workshop was a part of a six-month long series organised by the company to help field engineers benefit from subject matter experts. Addressing the initial session of this two-day workshop, Managing Director of MP Transco said that while such workshops have proved to be very useful for the skill development of field engineers, these workshops have also brought about a qualitative change in the organisation. He expressed hope that young field engineers will now work proactively in a better way and

with full confidence amidst adverse conditions, limited resources and shortage of manpower. Superintending Engineer Sunil Yadav, coordinator of the workshops, said that in the last 6 months, 45 field engineers of the state benefited. Before this, knowledge sharing sessions were also conducted through 65 online classes. He said that the young engineers trained in this workshop are going to their respective areas and training lower level technical employees, which is a good sign for the company. The experts from the company who provided training in these workshops included Engineers MY Mansoori, Rajesh Shandilya, RC Sharma, RS Thakur, Narendra Patel, Deepak Kumar Patel, RS Yadav, GP Rai, Abhishek Gupta, Jitendra Tiwari, were included.

Spot fines add Rs 1.46 lakh revenue

Bhopal: The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) has found a fresh avenue for augmenting its revenue through spot fines, with staffers penalising citizens to the tune of Rs 1,46,600 on Thursday alone. The spot fines were recovered from a total of 103 violations, stemming from improper disposal of construction and demolition (C&D) waste, mishandling of building materials, and the absence of green net installations at construction sites. The health department conducted citywide inspections, imposing fines for various violations, including C&D waste dumping and the spreading of building materials on roads. Significant fines were collected across multiple zones: Rs 1,500 in 2 cases in Zone 06, Rs 4,000 in 3

cases in Zone 08, Rs 47,300 in 19 cases in Zone 10, and Rs 11,000 in 9 cases in Zone 13, which also included the seizure of a truck carrying sand and gravel. Additionally, Rs 41,100 was collected in 20 cases in Zone 14, Rs 19,000 in 13 cases in Zone 15, Rs 4,600 in 9 cases in Zone 16, Rs 1,500 in 11 cases in Zone 19, Rs 3,600 in 16 cases in Zone 20, and Rs 3,000 in 3 cases in Zone 21. In Ward 66, complaints about improper disposal of sewage tank waste in Shriram Colony prompted immediate action. The cleaning operation was halted, equipment was seized, and the colony president, CL Rai, was fined Rs 10,000. Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan said inspections would continue to ensure compliance and penalise violations.

Irreverence for rules driving up road fatalities in city

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh registers 13000 road fatalities each year at an average of over 35 deaths every day. Most of those losing their lives are young people, said Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday. Responding to a supplementary question in parliament, Gadkari said that a total of 1.78 lakh fatalities were recorded on the roads, with Madhya Pradesh accounting for nearly 13,000 (8%) of them. He informed the Lok Sabha that nearly 60% of those losing their lives in accidents belonged to the 18-34 age group. Though the minister did not get into the reasons, a cursory look at the traffic chaos in the state capital suggests that at least some of these fatalities are avoidable if youngsters can be convinced to follow traffic rules. Apart from the disregard for protective helmets, one of the most common breaches of traffic norms is the urge to 'jump' the signal. While some weave their way avoiding vehicles, others stop at the signal but keep revving their engines and zoom away before the light turns green. "What's the point of stopping (at the red light) if you'll cross before it changes (to green)?" questioned an elderly driver, but his query fell on deaf ears as the biker next to him took off before he could complete his sentence. Ostensibly, all signals are equipped with cameras to track violations, and e-challans are issued by the police to those jumping signals. However, how this fails to deter drivers who risk their own lives and those of pedestrians on the zebra crossing is anyone's guess. A fruit vendor at the Danish Nagar signal says he witnesses an average of 5-6 collisions every day. The crashes range from minor bruises to dents on

the vehicles. Crossing a signal without stopping invites a minimum fine of Rs 500 for two-wheelers, which could increase based on the seriousness of the violation. There are five traffic signals between Ashima Mall and Habibganj, and further to Prabhakar Petrol Pump. Police often check vehicles between Habibganj Railway Station and the Board Office Chowk near Pragati Petrol Pump, MP Nagar Zone 2. Some only follow rules to avoid fines. They stop at signals only when they see police officers and put on helmets or seatbelts just before a check post. In the absence of enforcers, safety precautions often take a back seat. This, despite the district administration's efforts to streamline city traffic, which is regulated through 66 traffic signals, most of which are equipped with cameras. Police officers monitor signals near New Market Chowk, Board Office, Jyoti Talkies, Bhopal Setu, and near the CM House. To improve public participation, the Madhya Pradesh Transport Department launched a WhatsApp number (9479925125) for citizens to report violations with photos,

videos, and vehicle numbers. The State Crime Record Bureau reports 42,396 accidents till 2020, resulting in 11,665 deaths (9,993 males, 1,672 females) and 41,782 injuries (35,069 males, 6,713 females). Data for 2021-2024 is yet to be published. The Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) modernises traffic management using CCTV, ANPR cameras, speed guns, and OSVD/RLVD devices to monitor violations. The data integrates with the eChallan Traffic Enforcement Solution for issuing challans. The Vehicle Location Tracking & Emergency Alerts System (VLEAS), based on the AIS-140 specification, tracks public service vehicles and establishes Command and Control Centres (C&CC) at the State level. NIC provides the solution and cloud infrastructure. As of March 31, 2024, vehicle registration exceeds 36.71 crore, and driving licence records surpass 20.26 crore. Though Gadkari said that he was embarrassed by the government's failure to arrest the large number of fatalities, one cannot help but wonder if government efforts alone will ever be enough to curb the deaths on the roads.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

It is notified for the information of general public that in connection with the commissioning of third line and electrification of Antari (Excl.)-Sandulpur-Sitholi A Cabin(Incl.) section, speed trial in this section is to be conducted on 13.12.24, speed trial has to be conducted by PCEE/NCR/PRYJ on 13.12.24 after that this third line section will be commissioned with electrification by 25000 Volt All the residents of the neighborhood are requested to stay away from OHE and electric pole, not to sit near the railway line or cross unauthorised and also keep their cattle away from the railway line. Doing so is a punishable offence under the Railways Act and may be punishable with fine and imprisonment or both.

Sr. D.S.O
Jhansi

2120/24 (D)

North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPNRNC

Certificates to first batch trainees of AC&ABC training programme

PNS ■ INDORE

Medi-Caps University, Indore, marked a significant milestone with the valedictory ceremony of the first batch of the AC&ABC training programme on 10th December 2024. Organized by the Nodal Training Institute (NTI) at the university, this 45-day training programme is an initiative by the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, aimed at empowering unemployed youth with agricultural education. The event, held in university and graced by the Chief Guest, Mr. Dinesh Patidar (Bhoot), a progressive farmer from Jamli village renowned for cultivating Indian and exotic fruits

such as dragon fruit, custard apple, mango, guava, and avocado using advanced agricultural techniques. Addressing the audience, Mr. Patidar encouraged the trainees to set ambitious goals and strive relentlessly to achieve them, emphasizing the importance of dedication and perseverance. In his presidential address, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof.(Dr) D.K. Patnaik highlighted the importance of positive thinking in achieving success. He urged the young trainees to remain honest and diligent as they embark on their professional journeys. "Positive thoughts lead to positive outcomes," he remarked. Dr. S.D. Upadhyaya, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, emphasized the need for intensive agriculture, particularly

horticultural farming, in light of diminishing average landholdings among farmers. He cited a recent statistic indicating that the average landholding of a farmer's family has reduced to just 0.74 hectares, underscoring the importance of adopting innovative farming practices to sustain agricultural productivity. Dr. Pawan Kalyan, consultant at AC&ABC MANAGE, Hyderabad, expressed satisfaction with the programme's success but advocated for a more practice-oriented approach in future iterations to enhance its effectiveness. Prof. Murlidhar Iyer, Training Coordinator of NTI Medi-Caps University, extended heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed to the programme's success, includ-

ing the university management, faculty members, and supporting agencies. He conveyed special thanks to MANAGE Hyderabad for their continuous guidance and support. The valedictory function, anchored by Prof. S.K. Chaurya from the Faculty of Agriculture, concluded with the distribution of certificates to the trainees, symbolizing the culmination of their rigorous training journey. The trainees departed with renewed enthusiasm, ready to implement their knowledge and skills in the agricultural sector. This training programme stands as a testament to Medi-Caps University's commitment to fostering innovation and empowering the next generation of agricultural professionals.

CM opens Jankalyan Shivir in Ujjain

Ujjain: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said we are working day and night to develop the state. The work being done for Ujjain will bring more honour to the entire state and the country. To facilitate the visit and stay of devotees from India and abroad, for Simhashta and public welfare, work is being done in the temple of Baba Shri Mahakal, one of the most important of the twelve Jyotirlingas. More than one crore saints, mahants and devotees from India and abroad visited Lord Shri Mahakaleshwar during the Sawan month of 2024. Development works in Ujjain are being done for the convenience of the large number of devotees.

One year of dedication to create progressive MP rooted in heritage

MOHAN YADAV

Madhya Pradesh, the heart of the nation, is famous for its glorious history and renowned across the world for its cultural traditions. From the dawn of creation until now, many signs of human civilization can be found on the land of Madhya Pradesh. The state is rich in natural resources, including land, forests, water and minerals. In the past year, we have progressed with the commitment to build a developed Madhya Pradesh while preserving the state's heritage. It is our good fortune that the state and its people are benefiting from the "double engine" government. This unique combination has enabled the state to set many development records through innovation. Currently, the "Jan Kalyan Parv" is being celebrated in the state. This is a

celebration of prosperity and holds the promise of shaping many future opportunities. With the collaboration of the government, administration and the people, this river of development will continue to flow. The government will reach the people, and the welfare programs will directly benefit the public, with many new initiatives to follow. I am pleased to inform you that under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the vision of former Prime Minister the late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's "Nadi-Jodo Campaign" has been realised in Madhya Pradesh. On December 17, Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation stone for the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project and on December 25, the Ken-Betwa Link Project. It is a matter of pride that Madhya Pradesh is pioneering

in the country where two river-linking projects are being implemented. This will elevate the groundwater level, making water more accessible to our villages and regions along with providing sufficient water to farmers for irrigation. With the ongoing developments in agriculture, industry, tourism and spiritual tourism, the state is set to experience an industrial revolution, a green revolution and a tourism revolution, eradicating poverty completely. Recently, the Regional Industry Conclave was organized with the aim of linking the rural regions of Madhya Pradesh to industrialization and modern products. In the future, industrial conclaves will also be held at the district level. Road-shows in Hyderabad, Coimbatore and Mumbai alongside inviting UK and German industrialists to invest in the state is part of an

effort to expand the industry. This is the first innovation of its kind, aimed at connecting industries both regionally and globally. Under Prime Minister Modi's vision for a developed India, the focus is on GYAN (Knowledge) for the underprivileged, youth, farmers and women. We have designed a comprehensive development roadmap centered around these four pillars. The state government is implementing the "Garib Kalyan" (Welfare of the Poor), "Yuva Shakti" (Youth Empowerment), "Kisan Kalyan" (Farmer Welfare) and "Nari Shakti" (Women Empowerment) missions. Our objective is to prioritize the well-being of the last person in the most neglected corner, ensuring that every individual has an opportunity to build a better future. The state government is taking care of every need

of the underprivileged, including education, healthcare, employment and food security. Through the "Garib Kalyan Mission," activities and programmes are aimed at improving the living standards of the underprivileged and contributing to the state's development. Our sensitivity towards the poor is reflected in resolving long-standing issues such as the 30-year-old dispute over the Hukamchand Mill and addressing worker-related problems, ensuring their rights. Additionally, an air ambulance service has been launched for poor patients with serious illnesses. The power to make the nation prosperous lies with the youth. It is essential that they be hardworking, thoughtful and connected to their traditions. (The author is Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh)

Office of District Archaeology, Tourism and Culture Council District Shivpuri (M.P.)

(Email- datccshivpuri@gmail.com) Shivpuri Date :- 09.12.2024

// Item Rates Tender Notice //

It is hereby informed to all the interested Businessmen/firms or Individual that signage with Retro Reflective Sign boards is to be made along the various major highways, public roads and tourist places and important routes of Shivpuri district under District Archaeology Tourism and Culture Council Shivpuri. The rates for installing signage at the said places/routes are to be obtained through open tender (quantity in sqmt.) Tenders are to be invited from interested individuals/firms for the work till 3.00 pm on 26-12-2024. Tender forms can be obtained by depositing Rs. 2000/- of D.D. in favour of Nodal officer DATCC Shivpuri. The details of tender is given below.

| NIT No. & Date | Name of work | EMD (Amount Rs.) | Cost of tender form | Time of completion | Date of purchase of tender form | Date of receive | Opening date |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| NIT No. 03/2024 Date 09.12.24 | Providing & fixing commuter navigation equipment writing a brief description of tourist places and main routes along with photographs in signage | Rs. 20,000/- | Rs. 2000/- | 120 Days | From 09.12.2024 to 26.12.2024 (2.00 pm) | 26.12.2024 (3.00 pm) | 20.12.2024 at (5.00 pm) |

For any other information contact mobile no. 9425165218 or Email datccshivpuri@gmail.com or DATCC Office Collectorate Campus Shivpuri in any office time.

Dy. coll./Nodal officer
District Archaeology Tourism and Culture Council Shivpuri (M.P.)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICI Home Finance (Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051)
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400059
Branch Office: 1st Floor, 116, Shekhar Central, Manorama Garden, Indore - 452001

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

| Sr. No. | Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number | Description of property/ Date of Possession | Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.) | Name of Branch |
|---------|---|--|--|---------------------|
| 1. | Sanjay Sharma (Borrower), Jyoti Sharma (Co-Borrower), Purushottam Sharma (Co-Borrower), LHZMG00001495962 | Na Property Is Situated At P H No. 05 Gram Gujri Vikaskhand Dharampuri Tehsil Dharampuri District Dhar MP Indore Na Indore Madhya Pradesh 452001. Bounded By- North: House of Mr. Kalyaanmal, South: Land of Mr. Rameshwar, East: Road, West: Road/ Date of Possession-10-Dec-24 | 19-09-2024 Rs. 25,99,491.44/- | Indore Main-MG Road |
| 2. | Sanjay Sharma (Borrower), Purushottam Sharma (Co-Borrower), Jyoti Sharma (Co-Borrower), LHZMG00001496144. | Na Property Is Situated At P H No. 05 Gram Gujri Na Property Is Situated At P H No 05 Gram Gujri Vikaskhand Dharampuri Tehsil Dharampuri District Dhar MP Indore Na Indore Madhya Pradesh 452001. Bounded By- North: House of Mr. Kalyaanmal, South: Land of Mr. Rameshwar, East: Road, West: Road/ Date of Possession-10-Dec-24 | 19-09-2024 Rs. 1,11,304.88/- | Indore Main-MG Road |

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: December 13, 2024, Place: Indore Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

India's air pollution cost 1.5 Million lives annually, claims new study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution, a significant environmental and health hazard across India, has claimed a staggering 1.5 million lives reported annually between 2009 and 2019, as per a recent study published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal. Highlighting the severe health impacts of toxic pollutants on the citizens, researchers found that the entire 1.4 billion population of the

country lives in areas with PM2.5 levels exceeding the WHO recommended threshold of five micrograms per cubic meter for a yearly average.

The study by the Consortium for Climate, Health, and Air Pollution Research in India (CHAIR-India) also highlighted that nearly 82 per cent of the population, or about 1.1 billion people, resided in regions where the PM2.5 levels surpassed the Indian National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which set a limit of 40 microns per cubic meter annually. PM2.5 refers to fine particulate mat-

ter measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter, and exposure to these pollutants is linked to a range of health problems, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. PM2.5 air pollution comes from the burning of fossil fuels and biomass in sectors such as transportation, residential homes, coal-burning power plants, industrial activities, and wildfires. These emissions not only impact people's health but also contribute to the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet.

The study observed a significant correlation between PM2.5 pollution



A commuter walks through their office amid low visibility due to smog in New Delhi.

levels and mortality rates, with a 10-micron per cubic meter increase in yearly pollution linked to an 8.6 per cent rise in annual deaths. The researchers from CHAIR-India, a global consortium of academic institutions including Ashoka University, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), Harvard University, and Ben-Gurion University (Israel) used data from satellite observations and over 1,000 ground-monitoring stations, and also gathered death statistics from the Civil Registration System.

PTI The findings underscore the wide-

spread nature of PM2.5 exposure across the country. While the lowest annual PM2.5 level recorded in Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh, at 11.2 microns per cubic meter in 2019, the highest levels were recorded in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, where PM2.5 concentrations soared to 119 microns per cubic meter in 2016.

The study reveals the pressing need for robust air quality monitoring and stricter pollution control measures in India, given the country's large and consistent exposure to harmful air pollutants.

Shah to visit Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh's Naxal-affected areas from December 14 during which he will review the law-and-order situation in the state and interact with surrendered Naxals and locals, sources said on Thursday. Last week, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai Shah here and conveyed to him that the Bastar and Kondaogon districts, once infested by Naxals, were completely free from the extremists and operations were on to wipe them out from other areas. The Union home minister will be on a visit to Chhattisgarh from December 14-16 during which he will participate in various programmes related to

security and peace, sources said.

Besides chairing a security review meeting in Raipur, Shah will also present the President's Colour Award to the Chhattisgarh Police. He will travel to Jagdalpur, where he will hold interaction with surrendered Naxals, locals and intellectuals, they said.

The Union home minister will also attend the closing ceremony of the Bastar olympics and pay tributes to martyrs in Jagdalpur besides meeting the families of the victims of left-wing extremism. Shah will visit security camps and oversee developmental works besides having lunch with jawans of security forces there. 'President's Colour' is expected to boost the morale of Chhattisgarh Police after their excellent work in tackling the Naxals over the years, the sources said.

This medal will give new impetus to the sense of duty of these police personnel who are committed to the service and security of the people of the state, they said.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, operations are being conducted against Naxalism with a 'Zero Tolerance' policy and ultra-modern methods," a source said.

Bihar registers officials on skill building platform

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Bihar government has boarded over 2.4 lakh officials on an online training platform, according to an official statement issued on Thursday. Under the Mission Karmayogi initiative, an MoU was signed on October 7 between the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Karmayogi Bharat (a special purpose vehicle), and the Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD). This agreement aims to strengthen the capabilities of government officials and employees in Bihar so that all public servants can become role-based instead of rule-based, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. This will be achieved through the iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi platform, which is a flagship digital initiative aimed at empowering government servants. It will also function as a robust e-learning hub, the statement said. development for Bihar's civil servants, ultimately ensuring better public service delivery, the statement said.

Road accidents on the rise, says Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said here "When I go to attend international conferences where there is a discussion on road accidents, I try to hide my face." He also underlined that he had set a target to reduce accidents by 50 per cent when he first took charge as the Road Transport and Highways Minister. During a discussion on road accidents in Lok Sabha, "Forget about reducing the number of accidents, I have no hesitation to admit that it has been increased. When I go to attend international conferences where there is a discussion on road accidents, I try to hide my face." He was replying to a supplementary question during the Question Hour. The minister said for things to improve



The minister added, "When I go to attend international conferences where there is a discussion on road accidents, I try to hide my face."

human behaviour in India has to change, society has to change and rule of law has to be respected. Gadkari said he and his family met with a major accident some years ago and he needed to be hospitalised for a long time. "By the grace of God, I and my

family were saved. So I have my personal experience of accidents." He said parking of trucks on road is a major cause for accidents and many of the trucks don't follow lane discipline. The minister said he has ordered for following international standards in

making bus body in India. There has to be a hammer near a bus window so that it can be broken easily in case of accidents, he said. Earlier, Gadkari said road accidents claim 1.78 lakh lives annually in the country and 60 per cent of the victims are in the age group of 18-34 years. He said while Uttar Pradesh leads the chart among states, Delhi tops the list for cities. In UP, over 23,000 people (or 13.7 per cent of the total deaths due to road accidents) died, followed by Tamil Nadu with over 18,000 (10.6 per cent) deaths. In Maharashtra, the figure stands at over 15,000 (or nine per cent of the total deaths), followed by Madhya Pradesh with over 13,000 (eight per cent) deaths. Delhi leads the city chart with over 1,400 deaths, followed by Bengaluru with 915 deaths. Jaipur registers 850 deaths due to road accidents.

CISF security personnel sanctioned for Noida and Navi Mumbai airports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union government has sanctioned a combined strength of more than 2,800 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel to guard two soon-to-be operational international airports in Noida and in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, official sources said Thursday. The ministry of home affairs (MHA), under whose command the CISF works, had sanctioned 1,840 posts for the Navi Mumbai airport and 1,030 for the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Uttar Pradesh. The total CISF manpower sanctioned for providing a counter-terrorist cover to the two upcoming airports is 2,870. The sanction of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) manpower is for the first phase of operationalisation of the two airports. The force's strength will be enhanced once these airports finish phase II, sources said. The security units, to be headed by Deputy Inspector General rank officers, will take charge once the infrastructure to install security gadgets and other logistics get ready at both the facilities. Being developed by the Adani

Group, the Navi Mumbai International Airport project will be completed in five phases and will have a total handling capacity of 9 crore passengers per annum. The first phase will have a capacity to handle 2 crore passengers per annum. Commercial operations at this airport, second in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region after the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, are expected to begin by March-April, 2025. The NIA greenfield facility is being built in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddh Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh, about 75 km from Delhi, and will be the national capital region's second international civil aviation facility after the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. It is also expected to get operational for passenger operations by April next year. The CISF is the national civil aviation security force that guards 68 airports at present. It provides a counter-terrorist cover to these facilities, thronged by lakhs of domestic and international passengers every day. The force frisks passengers, checks their baggage and undertakes anti-sabotage, counter-terrorist and counter-hijack checks in coordination with other agencies.

Sagarika moves privilege motion against Rijiju for derogatory remarks



Ghose said, "Mr. Kiren Rijiju, instead of doing his best to run Parliament smoothly, has chosen to repeatedly insult the Opposition."

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose on Thursday submitted a privilege motion notice against Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju for making a derogatory remark against opposition leaders in the Upper House. The notice has been signed by 60 leaders from opposition parties, a source said. "Yesterday in the house, addressing the opposition, Mr. Rijiju said you all are not worthy of being in this house... The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijiju,

instead of doing his best to run Parliament smoothly, has chosen to repeatedly insult the opposition," Ghose told reporters. "Rijiju has insulted opposition members and used personal terms both inside and outside Parliament. This is totally unbecoming of the high office he holds and amounts to total misuse of his position," TMC's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha said. She said she had moved a privilege motion against Rijiju for abusing his office with his "diatribes and unparliamentary language" against opposition. The motion has been signed by senior leaders of all

opposition parties, she added. Opposition MPs are "not worthy of being in the House", Rijiju said on Wednesday while hitting out at opposition parties over their attacks on Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. "If you cannot respect the chair you have no right to be a member of this House," Rijiju said. Sixty MPs from the opposition INDIA bloc on Tuesday submitted a notice in the Rajya Sabha for moving a no-confidence motion against Dhankhar. They have accused him of being "extremely partisan" in his role as the chairman of the Upper House.

TMC pitches for Didi to lead INDIA

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is more interested in dislodging the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre than leading the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). Close on the heels of some senior INDIA leaders advocating Banerjee's cause for leading the opposition alliance, senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said that "Mamata Banerjee has made it clear that she is not interested in any 'chair' in Delhi. She is more interested in building an alternative platform which can defeat the BJP." Curiously, instead of dwelling on

the Banerjee's cause that was recently upheld by her party MP Sagarika Ghosh and often discussed in the TMC mouthpiece Jago Bangla, Ghosh tended to shift the fulcrum of discussion on the Congress' failure to lead the Opposition in Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and more recently Maharashtra saying a time had come when the Congress party should start doing some self-introspection on the causes of its repeated failures. Incidentally the Bengal Chief Minister who has been touring East Midnapore earlier expressed gratitude to the senior INDIA leaders for reposing faith on her but avoided making any assertive statement on the contentious issue. "I am grateful to all the leaders

who have honoured me. I wish good health to all of them. May they be well, may their party be well. May India be well," she said in a brief statement. However voicing her frustration post INDIA's repeated defeats in a number of States as also in Delhi Banerjee had said "I created the 'INDIA' alliance. If those leading it cannot manage it well, then give me a chance. I am ready to lead the alliance from Bengal." Early this week senior INDIA leader and RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav once known for his unwavering faith in Rahul Gandhi said "Mamata Banerjee should be chosen as the leader of the 'INDIA' alliance. There's no point in Congress opposing this. She should be made the leader."

Fadnavis reaches Delhi for Cabinet expansion talks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis will undertake first-ever expansion of his new Cabinet during the weekend, ahead of the brief three-day winter session beginning in Nagpur on December 16. Ahead of the State Cabinet expansion, Fadnavis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh and National BJP president JP Nadda in New Delhi.

During his two-day visit to the national capital, Fadnavis made courtesy calls to President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. He also met Union Minister of State Murlidhar Mohol and BJP National General Secretary Vinod Tawde at Maharashtra Sadan.

During his meeting with Shah, Fadnavis is understood to have discussed matters relating to the impending State Cabinet expansion. "It was an absolute pleasure to meet and interact with Hon Union and Cooperation Minister Amitbhai Shah at his residence in New Delhi. Also presented him a 'murti' of Swatantrya Veer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar," Fadnavis wrote on "X". After his meeting with the Prime Minister, Fadnavis remarked on "X": "Extremely thankful to Hon PM Narendra Modi ji for your valuable time, guidance, bless-



ings and standing firm behind Maharashtra. In the last 10 years, with your support Maharashtra is Number 1 in almost every sector and now aims to take this journey of VIKAS to the next level under your leadership and guidance. You have always been an inspiration to crores of BJP Karyakarta like us to work even harder". Talking separately to the media, Fadnavis said: "I had a good meeting with the Prime Minister and issues related to Maharashtra were discussed. He extended full support to the state government". During the meeting with Shah, Fadnavis is understood to have discussed various issues relating

to Maharashtra, including the impending State Cabinet expansion and portfolio allocations. Interacting with the media, Fadnavis said: "Our list of ministers would be finalised by the BJP high-command. On the other hand, Shinde Saheb would take a call on Shiv Sena members to be inducted in the ministry. Ajit Dada Pawar will decide on who will be there from his party in the State Cabinet". Interestingly enough, Fadnavis and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar are in New Delhi. However, deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde has chosen not to accompany Fadnavis to the national capital. Sources close to Shinde attributed Shinde's decision to accom-

pany Fadnavis to New Delhi is that he is not happy with the portfolio allocations proposed by Fadnavis. For, the ruling BJP is not willing to give important portfolios like Home, Urban Development and Revenue to the Shiv Sena (Shinde), a thing that has not gone well with Shinde who was demanding one or two of the three major portfolios. Asked if Shinde had chosen not to accompany him to the national capital because he was upset with the portfolio allocations proposed by the BJP, Fadnavis said: "My purpose of visit is different...Ajit Dada's purpose and engagements are different...Shinde Saheb has some work in Mumbai."

On his part, Ajit Pawar said that he along with his wife and Rajya Sabha member Sunetra Pawar, NCP Working President Praful Patel and state party president Sunil Tatkar met NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and his wife Pratibha Pawar. "Today is (Pawar) Saheb's birthday... Tomorrow is Kaki's (Pratibha Patil's) birthday...we all wished them...some relations are beyond politics... (late Congress stalwart and first Chief Minister) Yashwantrao Chavan has taught us how to do cultured politics and we try to follow him," said Pawar. Queried if politics was discussed, Ajit Pawar said: "Pawar Saheb discussed issues related to Maharashtra... right from Parbhani violence to Parliament disruption, state cabinet expansion among others." Meanwhile, Fadnavis, Shinde and Ajit Pawar have reported arrived at a consensus on the size and division of the State Cabinet. Since the Maharashtra Assembly comprises 288 members, there will be a maximum of 43 ministers in the State Cabinet -- a number that accounts for 15 per cent of total members in the lower House of the State Legislature. In the normal course, the BJP will get 21 ministerial berths in the 43-member Cabinet, while the Shinde Shiv Sena is entitled for 12 ministers and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP will have to be satisfied with 10 berths.

Ajit Doval, Chinese counterpart to hold talks on border issue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor(NSA) Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, who is also foreign minister, will discuss later this month here all aspects of the boundary issue between the two nations. The likely meeting under the aegis of Special Representative(SR) talks, will take place a few weeks ago from the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in Ladakh after four years, sources said here on Thursday. The high-level talks between the two Special Representatives will mark the first parleys since the Galwan valley clash in 2020. The previous SR talks were held in December 2019. The upcoming dialogue comes in the wake of recent disengagement of troops from both the sides from friction points at Depsang and Demchok. The parleys may see a breakthrough in the broader resolution of the border dispute. The SR talks are expected to involve multilayered discussions aimed at defining and delineating the LAC more clearly, with the ultimate goal of achieving a lasting resolution. Sources indicate that the outcome of these talks will determine the timeline for the next Corps Commander-level meeting, which will focus on operational issues regarding the ongoing patrolling

and buffer zones to prevent further confrontations. India and China have engaged in a series of military and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the situation along the LAC since 2020. The SR level talks represent a crucial opportunity for both nations to address their differences, enhance trust, and establish a more stable framework for managing their contested border. The SR talks come days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 20 on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus. This was the first meeting of the two Defence Ministers following the recent disengagement agreements, and the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS summit. Rajnath highlighted the fact that amicable relations between India and China, the two largest nations in the world, would have positive implications for global peace and prosperity. Considering that both countries are and will continue to remain neighbours, he mentioned that "we need to focus on cooperation rather than conflict". Rajnath called for reflecting on the lessons learnt from the unfortunate border clashes of 2020, take measures to prevent recurrence of such events and safeguard peace and tranquility along the India-China border.

Mahakumbh 2025 aims to set four Guinness World Records

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Prayagraj Mela Authority has announced an ambitious plan to set four Guinness World Records during Mahakumbh 2025, the world's largest religious gathering, scheduled to begin on January 13. The proposed records include the largest synchronized sweeping drive, the largest e-vehicle parade, the most handprint paintings created in eight hours, and the largest river-cleaning campaign.

The first record attempt will involve 15,000 volunteers participating in a synchronized cleaning drive. ADM (Kumbh Mela) Vivek Chaturvedi said the effort symbolizes environmental stewardship and communal responsibility. "The drive will highlight the spiritual significance of cleanliness and environmental preservation," he added. The second initiative will feature a parade of 1,000 e-rickshaws and electric vehicles, promoting eco-friendly transport. "This initiative underscores Mahakumbh's commitment to sustainable transport solutions, reducing carbon emissions, and improving last-mile connectivity," Chaturvedi stated. The third record will involve 10,000 participants contributing their handprints on canvas, representing unity and diversity. Each print will symbolize the shared spiritual values and collective harmony of Mahakumbh. The final record attempt will



see 300 volunteers cleaning riverbanks at multiple locations. This drive highlights ecological conservation and the spiritual connection between humanity and nature, central themes of the religious gathering. To ensure compliance with Guinness World Records' stringent guidelines, a special coordination team will be formed in collaboration with the Prayagraj Mela Authority. The team will manage logistics, ensure accurate record-keeping, and oversee procedural adherence. "Our team will coordinate with Guinness World Records officials to finalize contracts, interpret performance guidelines, and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)," Chaturvedi

explained. He emphasized that all processes, from participant registration to event execution, will follow approved guidelines. The records, if achieved, will reinforce Mahakumbh's legacy as a globally significant cultural and spiritual event, combining tradition with environmental consciousness and community engagement. Mahakumbh Mela 2025 is set to be more than just a spiritual event; it promises to be a major economic driver for Uttar Pradesh. The upcoming Mahakumbh expected to generate ₹25,000 crore in revenue for the state. Covering approximately 4,000 hectares, the Mahakumbh is projected to attract 40-45 crore pilgrims, making it the largest religious gathering in the world. The

event's estimated budget stands at ₹6,382 crore, with ₹5,600 crore already allocated for event management and infrastructure development. The ghats of Prayagraj, a key site for devotees and tourists, are being given a grand makeover. On the lines of Kashi's ghats, the UP government is renovating seven prominent ghats along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers to offer a more refined and welcoming experience. The renovation focuses on creating an environment where visitors can comfortably spend time, reflecting the significance of the Kumbh Mela. The project is being carried out by the Construction and Design Division of Jal Nigam at a cost of Rs 11.01 crore.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone for river linking project in MP

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project in Madhya Pradesh on December 25, the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday. Yadav was speaking to reporters on the completion of one year of his government in the state. On December 11, 2023, Yadav was formally elected as the BJP legislative party leader and took oath as the CM two days later. "On the 100th birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who dreamt of inter-connecting the country's rivers to augment water resources, PM Modi will lay the foundation stone of the ambitious Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project on December 25 in MP's Chhatarpur district," said Yadav. The project to link the Ken and Betwa rivers will benefit Chhatarpur, Panna,



Tikamgarh, Niwadi, Damoh, Shivpuri, Datia, Raisen, Vidisha and Sagar districts of the state, he said. It will provide water for irrigation in 10.62 lakh hectares in the Bundelkhand region, spread across Madhya Pradesh (8.11 lakh hectares) and Uttar Pradesh (2.51 lakh hectares), besides supplying drinking water to 41 lakh population in MP and 21 lakh in UP, he said. MP has also decided to imple-

ment the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project which will benefit Guna, Shivpuri, Sehore, Dewas, Rajgarh, Ujjain, Agar-Malwa, Indore, Shajapur, Mandsaur and Morena districts of the state, said Yadav. This project will provide water for irrigation in 6.13 lakh hectares in MP and PM Modi will lay its foundation stone on December 17 in Jaipur, Yadav said. Yadav said MP will observe

2025 as the 'Industries Year' and Modi will inaugurate the Global Investors Summit, which will be held in Bhopal on February 24-25. Ahead of the investors' meet, the state government has been organising Regional Industry Conclaves across MP and conducting roadshows and conferences in the state and abroad, he said. Because of these joint efforts, the state has received investment proposals worth Rs 4 lakh crore which will generate 3 lakh jobs, he said. The CM said that on the completion of one year of the BJP government in MP, two programmes were launched to highlight the development works of his administration and link more eligible people with welfare schemes. 'Jankalyan Parv' (public welfare festival) and 'Mukhyamantri Jankalyan Abhiyan' (public welfare campaign) will run in December and January. During Janlakyen Parv, to be held between December 11 and December 26, foundation stones of several develop-

Ramlala's first anniversary to be celebrated over 3 days from January 11

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AYODHYA

Preparations for the first anniversary of Shri Ramlala's consecration are in full swing, alongside the accelerated construction of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple. Among the temple's five sanctum towers, the pinnacle of the Rang Mandap has been fully completed. Champat Rai, General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, announced that the temple's first anniversary will be celebrated as per the Hindu calendar on January 11, 2025, corresponding to Paush Shukla Paksha Dwadashi. He said that the consecration of Shri Ramlala was performed on January 22, 2024, according to the Hindu lunar calendar, and its first anniversary falls on January 11, 2025. "All major Hindu festivals such as Janmashtami, Ram Navami, Vivah Panchami, Shivratri, Mauni Amavasya,



Purnima, and Ekadashi are celebrated according to the Hindu calendar, and so will the first anniversary of Shri Ramlala's consecration, Rai said. He added: "To ensure smooth planning, the Trust has formed a four-member committee that will finalize the event details soon." Construction of several temples within the temple complex, including the Saptarishi

Mandir dedicated to Lord Shiva, Surya, Maa Durga, Devi Annapurna, Lord Ganesha, and Hanumanji, has also picked up pace. He added that 18 additional temples are being constructed within the temple complex, with work progressing steadily. The first-floor mandap is nearing completion, where the Ram Darbar will be established.

After ritual cancelled, bad luck follows Guruvayur temple priest

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The cancellation of Udayasthama Pooja at the age-old Lord Krishna Temple at Guruvayur has led to strange and unfortunate happenings. The ritual is a unique worship performed on Ekadashi Days from sunrise (Udaya) to sunset (asthamaana) without break and hundreds of thousands of devotees throng the temple considering it a privilege to offer prayers on that occasion. The Guruvayur Devaswom, the Kerala Government body packed with CPI(M) leaders that administers the temple, describes the Udayasthama Pooja as the most dearest and coveted of all offerings to Lord Krishna. It is believed that Sage Narada accompanied by Srimad Sankaracharya visited Guruvayur Temple on Ekadashi Day. The Bhagavad Gita was advised by Lord Krishna to Arjuna on this day. It is also believed that Melpathur Narayana Bhattathirippadu, Sanskrit scholar par excellence, whose life period was from 1560 to 1603 completed the composition of Narayaneeyam (a poetic work of tribute to Lord Krishna) on Shukla Paksha Ekadasi in the month of Agrayayana which makes it the most auspicious time to get Darshan of the presiding deity. Early this month, the Devaswam issued an order cancelling the Udayasthama Pooja citing problems associated with crowd control. The Government order drew widespread condemnation with Vedic scholars asking the Devaswam to withdraw the decision as the ritual has been observed from time immemorial. Thousands of people throng the temple from all over the country. "Hantha! Bhagyam Jananam" (Oh Lord, How fortunate it is to be born in this temple city) is the catchword in Narayaneeyam, the poetic work eulogizing the virtues of Lord Krishna. Parappanangadi Unnikrishnan Panickar, Kerala's ace Vedic scholar, in a release had



requested the Government not to meddle with the custom and allow the pooja to proceed without trouble. Pandappillil Gopala Menon, Tantrik scholar had sounded alarm bell by forecasting that untoward incidents were bound to happen. The Government's move to do away with the pooja had the concurrence of Chennas Dineshan Namboodirippadu, the Thanthri (chief priest) of the temple for reasons known to him only. The petition filed by a group of devotees was dismissed by a Division Bench of Kerala High Court on late Saturday. Though they approached the apex court challenging the division bench order, it was too late. But what happened on Tuesday turned out to be shocking. A close relation of the Thanthri, who was in the best of her health passed away all of a sudden on Tuesday making Dineshan Namboodirippadu ineligible to enter the temple premise for the next 12 days as he was the one to perform he last rites. "It is one thing that you believe or not in God. But one should never question or challenge age-old rituals as there are reasons behind every pooja performed in temples," said Dr M G Gireshan, an electronics scientist working in a defense laboratory at Hyderabad. Kizhiyedam Raman Namboodiri, second-in-command of the Thanthri, was weeping while he recounted the incidents that followed the post-Kerala High Court decision dismissing the petition by believers. All that Namboodiri could say was "Hantha! Bhagyam Jananam" and "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna".

CM Yogi reviews Mahakumbh preparations ahead of Modi's visit

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Prayagraj on Thursday to oversee preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's highly anticipated visit on Friday where PM is set to inaugurate projects worth thousands of crores for Mahakumbh 2025. During his visit, CM Yogi conducted a comprehensive ground inspection of Mahakumbh Nagar and key sites, including the Sangam Nose, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to perform rituals. He provided clear directives to officials to ensure smooth execution of the events and seamless arrangements for devotees and dignitaries. Mela Officer Vijay Kiran

Anand briefed CM Yogi on arrangements for the PM's cruise tour, and the Chief Minister provided essential guidelines while emphasizing the need to maintain the Ganga's cleanliness. The Chief Minister also visited several important locations, such as the temporary 100-bed hospital built in Sector One Parade. During his inspection, CM Yogi reviewed critical areas like the Emergency Ward, ICU, OPD, and the operation theatre. The hospital boasts advanced facilities, including AI-powered cameras in the ICU and a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pleased with the innovations, CM Yogi emphasized the need for proper staffing, availability of medicines, and enhanced ventilation to ensure top-notch care for devotees during the



Mahakumbh. The temporary hospital, built with support from the Cantt Board and Medanta doctors, is set to serve as a critical healthcare facility for Mahakumbh 2025, including a 10-bed ICU. CM Yogi expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, urging

officials to ensure efficient functioning. At the Akshay Vat Corridor within the Prayag Fort, CM Yogi inspected the ongoing Smart City development work. He appreciated the corridor's beautification and praised highlights such as the child form statue of Shri

Krishna and the Sapt Rishis' artwork. CM Yogi also visited the Bade Hanuman Mandir Corridor on the Sangam coast, where Phase-1 development is underway by the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA). After reviewing the progress, he performed aarti and prayed for the well-being of all citizens. He urged the PDA to accelerate work to ensure timely completion of the temple corridor. The CM also visited Akharas in Sector 20, inspecting arrangements at Shri Panchayati Akhara Bada Udasin, Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani, and Anand Akhara. He interacted with saints and assured them of his future visit. CM Yogi also reviewed external arrangements at other Akharas to ensure they meet expectations.

Finally, CM Yogi conducted a final inspection at Triveni Marg, Ganga Riverfront Road Jhansi, and Chhatnag Ghat, directing officials to ensure all necessary facilities are in place for the devotees during Mahakumbh 2025. Throughout his visit, CM Yogi was accompanied by Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, Jal Shakti Minister Swatantradev Singh, Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Tourism Minister Jaiver Singh, former minister and MLA Siddharth Singh, along with other leaders and officials. The meticulous inspections and directives issued by CM Yogi aim to ensure a seamless and spiritually enriching experience for the millions of devotees expected to attend the grand Mahakumbh 2025.

Need to prepare NRC like document to differentiate Indians, infiltrators: Assam CM

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

There is a need to prepare an NRC (National Register of Citizens) like document to differentiate Indians and infiltrators, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in Puri on Thursday. Speaking to media persons after visiting Jagannath temple at Puri, Sarma said the Assam government on Wednesday decided that one should have his/her name registered in the NRC for obtaining an Aadhaar card. If the applicant's name is not there in the NRC, he/she will not get an Aadhaar card, he said. "I desire that NRC-type documents should be prepared so that we can easily differentiate who are Indians and who are infiltrators," Sarma said. It is difficult to make fencing on the Bangladesh boundary in Assam and West Bengal because many such areas have rivers. However, the boundary can be secured using technology, he stated. "The government of India has introduced technological interventions in Assam and



Tripura. But, the West Bengal government is not fully cooperating. If Bengal cooperates, we can stop infiltration," Sarma said. On the alleged attack on Hindu community in Bangladesh, he said, "It is very unfortunate and a matter of concern. But, I am hopeful that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will definitely take some steps at a diplomatic level for the protection of the Hindu people in Bangladesh." He said the Prime Minister had recently sent Foreign secretary to Bangladesh and hoped that peace would be restored in the country with the efforts made by the PM in a diplomatic way. Slamming the Congress over

the issue, the Assam CM said, "Neither Rahul Gandhi nor the Congress party ever stood with the Hindu community. They will not stand with them in future too. Even many times, communal harmony was disturbed in the country for them." Speaking in favour of the 'one nation, one election' system, he said, "In Assam, the Assembly and Parliament elections are being held at different times. During elections, the developmental works usually hamper almost the entire year." So, the Prime Minister wants to have 'one nation, one election' so that development works would not hamper, he added. To implement it, there is a need to bring amendments to the Constitution with a 2/3rd majority in both houses of Parliament. And, the Prime Minister will surely do it, he claimed. When journalists asked him about the fate of Naveen Patnaik-led BJD, he said, "BJD's era has ended now and the BJP government will remain in Odisha for at least 50 years."

Widespread rains lash TN

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Widespread rains lashed parts of Tamil Nadu on Thursday, prompting authorities to declare a holiday for schools in Chennai and many other districts. With the water-level fast rising in the reservoirs in the state, the Public Works Department officials opened the shutters of two dams in Chennai suburbs and another in Thiruvannamalai district. About 13,000 cusecs water was released from Sathanur dam in Thiruvannamalai, while 3,500 cusecs water from Chembarambakkam dam, and another 1,000 cusecs water was discharged from the Poondi reservoir, as the level of water in these dams dangerously inched towards the full reservoir capacity levels. Following the heavy rainfall warning issued by the IMD, six NDRF teams have been alerted to swing into rescue and relief activity in case of emergency, the government said. It also urged the people in the low-lying areas in the state to remain vigilant and take appropriate action. Overnight rains lashed Chennai and the neighbouring Tiruvallur, Chengelpet and



Kancheepuram, besides Villupuram and some areas in the Cauvery delta region. Following sharp showers, authorities declared a day's holiday for schools in districts, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengelpet, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai and Cuddalore. The regional weather office has forecast more spells of rain in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengelpet and Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tiruvallur, Thanjavur districts in the state, besides the neighbouring union territory Puducherry. In Thiruvannamalai, the Sri Arunachaleswar temple staff and volunteers braved the

downpour to carry the 6.5 feet high copper cauldron (koparai) with the Lord's name on their lips, to place it atop the 2,668 feet high mountain to light the Maha Deepam on December 13 evening. The lighting of the deepam marks the conclusion of the annual 10-day Karthiga deepam festival at the renowned temple. The Bharani deepam will be lit at the temple on Friday morning. Wednesday's Well Marked Low Pressure Area over the Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal brought heavy rain in the southern districts as well. The interior districts in the state have also experienced a heavy spell since this morning.

Biden commutes roughly 1,500 sentences, pardons 39 people in biggest single-day act of clemency

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is commuting the sentences of roughly 1,500 people who were released from prison and placed on home confinement during the coronavirus pandemic and is pardoning 39 Americans convicted of nonviolent crimes. It's the largest single-day act of clemency in modern history. The commutations announced Thursday are for people who have served out home confinement sentences for at least one year after they were released. Prisons were uniquely bad for spreading the virus and some inmates were released in part to stop the spread. At one point, 1 in 5 prisoners had COVID-19, according to a tally kept by The Associated Press. Biden said he would be taking more steps in the weeks ahead and would continue to review clemency petitions. The second largest single-day act of clemency was by Barack Obama, with 330, shortly before leaving office in 2017. "America was built on the promise of possibility and second

chances," Biden said in a statement. "As president, I have the great privilege of extending mercy to people who have demonstrated remorse and rehabilitation, restoring opportunity for Americans to participate in daily life and contribute to their communities, and taking steps to remove sentencing disparities for non-violent offenders, especially those convicted of drug offenses." The clemency follows a broad pardon for his son Hunter, who was prosecuted for gun and tax crimes. Biden is under pressure from advocacy groups to pardon broad swaths of people, including those on federal death row, before the Trump administration takes over in January. He's also weighing whether to issue preemptive pardons to those who investigated Trump's effort to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and are facing possible retribution when he takes office. Those pardoned Thursday had been convicted of nonviolent crimes such as drug offenses and turned their lives around, White House lawyers said. They include

a woman who led emergency response teams during natural disasters; a church deacon who has worked as an addiction counsellor and youth counsellor; a doctoral student in molecular biosciences; and a decorated military veteran. The president had previously issued 122 commutations and 21 other pardons. He's also broadly pardoned those convicted of use and simple possession of marijuana on federal lands and in the District of Columbia, and pardoned former US service members convicted of violating a now-repealed military ban on consensual gay sex. Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., and 34 other lawmakers are urging the president to pardon environmental and human rights lawyer Steven Donziger, who was imprisoned or under house arrest for three years because of a contempt of court charge related to his work representing Indigenous farmers in a lawsuit against Chevron. Others are advocating for Biden to commute the sentences of federal death row prisoners. His attorney general, Merrick

Garland, paused federal executions. Biden had said on the campaign trail in 2020 that he wanted to end the death penalty but he never did, and now, with Trump coming back into office, it's likely executions will resume. During his first term, Trump presided over an unprecedented number of federal executions, carried out during the height of the pandemic. More pardons are coming before Biden leaves office on Jan. 20, but it's not clear whether he'll take action to guard against possible prosecution by Trump, an untested use of the power. The president has been taking the idea seriously and has been thinking about it for as much as six months — before the presidential election — but has been concerned about the precedent it would set, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions. But those who received the pardons would have to accept them. New California Sen. Adam Schiff, who was the chairman of the congressional committee that investigated the violent Jan. 6

insurrection, said such a pardon from Biden would be "unnecessary," and that the president shouldn't be spending his waning days in office worrying about this. A president has the power to both pardon, in which a person is relieved of guilt and punishment, or commute a sentence, which reduces or eliminates the punishment but doesn't exonerate the wrongdoer. It's customary for a president to grant mercy at the end of his term, using the power of the office to wipe away records or end prison terms. Before pardoning his son, Biden had repeatedly pledged not to do so. He said in a statement explaining his reversal that the prosecution had been poisoned by politics. The decision prompted criminal justice advocates and lawmakers to put additional public pressure on the administration to use that same power for everyday Americans. It wasn't a very popular move; only about 2 in 10 Americans approved of his decision, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research.

AP ■ KYIV

Russian forces edge closer to key eastern Ukraine city

Fighting around the key eastern Ukraine city of Pokrovsk is "extremely intense" after a monthslong Russian push, Ukraine's top military commander said, with analysts estimating Russian forces are now within just a few kilometres of the city. Ukrainian troops repelled nearly 40 Russian attempts to storm defences around Pokrovsk over the previous 24 hours, the General Staff said in a battlefield report Thursday. "Russian occupiers are throwing all available forces forward, attempting to break through the defences of our troops," Ukrainian army chief Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy said in a Facebook post late Wednesday. His forces are outnumbered, he said. Ukraine's stretched defences in Donetsk have been creaking since early this year under a fierce Russian drive to capture its neighbour's entire eastern Donbas region. Russian forces are trying to overwhelm Ukraine's battle-

field defences with sheer numbers of troops and powerful glide bombs that blast fortifications to smithereens. Pokrovsk, which had a population of about 60,000 before Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated goal of seizing the entire Donetsk region. But Ukraine's dogged resistance and Western military aid have rendered the gains costly for the Kremlin in losses of troops and armour. A major worry for the Kyiv government is that tens of billions of dollars of key US military support to hold Russia at bay may dry up under President-elect Donald Trump. The Institute for the Study of War estimated late Wednesday that Russian forces have moved to within about 6 kilometres of Pokrovsk, approach-

ing from the south. The Donetsk operation has had "a massive cost" for Russian forces, the Washington-based think tank said. Those losses "will temper their ability to translate these gains into more far-reaching offensive operations" in the months ahead, it said. Though the Russian push has been slow moving, it has recently accelerated in Donetsk and compelled Ukrainian defenders to make localised retreats. Major battlefield victories have eluded the Russians. Ukrainian media have reported tensions between Ukraine's commanders as the military pressure has built. Unconfirmed reports said Syrskiy, the military chief, had personally taken charge of some brigades around Pokrovsk. A renowned Ukrainian military officer, Serhii Filimonov, commander of the 59th Motorized Brigade, described Pokrovsk's defence as a "disaster."

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-II Phase-II" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 2.70 Acres under License No. 39 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 42 of 2021 Dated 27.07.2021, Extn. No. 16 of 2023 Dated 19.06.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Name | Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. | Standard Chartered Bank |
| IFSC Code | KKBK0000261 | SCBL0036025 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 8045100105 | 53105107551 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 8045100099 | 53105107578 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 8045951592 | 53105107586 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-II" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 8.26 Acres under License No. 39 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 45 of 2020 Dated 09.11.2020, Extn. No. 05 of 2023 Dated 20.03.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

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| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 8045951592 | 53105107586 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

Applications are invited from the general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide Notification No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Details available at the Department website i.e. www.tcp.haryana.gov.in).

| 1 | Project Approvals | Coloniser/Developer: Sniflex Projects Private Limited. Licence No./Year :133 of 2023 dated 26.06.2023, Building plans approved on 19.03.2024 vide Memo No. ZP-1862/JD(RA)/2023/41092 dated 05/12/2023. RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/14/546/2024/41 dated 15.04.2024. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---|--------|--------|-----|--|-----|---|---------|--------|----|----|-----|---|----------|--------|----|--|----|--------------|--|--|------------|-----------|------------|
| 2 | Location | Sector 4, Sohna, District - Gurugram, Haryana. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Provisions | Project land is 8.76875 Acre. However the same is developed phase-wise as per DTCP Phasing Approval ZP-1862/JD(RA)/2023/41092 dated 05/12/2023. Under the Phase I there were 1105 residential units however land admeasuring 1.9875 acre comprising 270 residential units was mortgaged with DTCP hence 835 units were allotted vide Draw of Lot held on 28/06/2024. Now balance 270 units are de-mortgaged vide release of mortgage deed dated 20.11.2024 bearing document no 11392 hence the present offer is for balance 270 units under Phase I, in the present offer of 270 units, 5% (13 units) are reserved for Management Quota and balance 95% (257 Units) are for general public. Community Facility - One Community Hall of more than 2000 sq. ft. and one Anganwad-cum-creche of more than 2000 sq. ft. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Apartment Details | Type I: 2 BHK - 108 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 99.67sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: 2 BHK - 95 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type III: 2 BHK - 54 no. of apartments of 637sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 93sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: MQ '2 BHK' - 13 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Unit Type</th> <th>Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)</th> <th>Total Units of General Category</th> <th>Total Units of Management Quota</th> <th>No. of Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Type-I</td> <td>644.65</td> <td>108</td> <td></td> <td>108</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Type-II</td> <td>644.65</td> <td>95</td> <td>13</td> <td>108</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Type-III</td> <td>637.00</td> <td>54</td> <td></td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total</td> <td>257</td> <td>13</td> <td>270</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | S. No. | Unit Type | Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.) | Total Units of General Category | Total Units of Management Quota | No. of Units | 1 | Type-I | 644.65 | 108 | | 108 | 2 | Type-II | 644.65 | 95 | 13 | 108 | 3 | Type-III | 637.00 | 54 | | 54 | Total | | | 257 | 13 | 270 |
| S. No. | Unit Type | Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.) | Total Units of General Category | Total Units of Management Quota | No. of Units | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Type-I | 644.65 | 108 | | 108 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Type-II | 644.65 | 95 | 13 | 108 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Type-III | 637.00 | 54 | | 54 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | | 257 | 13 | 270 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Allotment Rate of Apartment (All inclusive)+ Taxes & other charges as applicable will be extra | Type I: Rs.30,20,533/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. Type II: Rs.30,20,925/- per apartment +Taxes as applicable extra. Type III: Rs.29,78,100/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. The above rates are as per the rates prescribed under the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 of the Government of Haryana vide Notification No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 including the amendments thereof (Details available at Department website i.e. www.tcp.haryana.gov.in). However, possession charges and registration fees etc. are extra. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Payment Terms | i. With Application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Carpet area of apartment: Type I: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/- Type II: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/- Type III: Total amount of Rs. 1,43,325/- ii. 20% of total cost shall be payable on Allotment and the balance consideration amount shall be paid according to the construction-linked payment plan of the project duly approved by HARERA, as applicable in terms of construction stages at the relevant point in time. No interest shall accrue before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall attract interest at the rate specified in Rule 15 of the Rules 2017 by HARERA. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Board Specifications of the Apartment | Drawing Room/ Lobby Flooring: Tiles / IPS Drawing Room/ Lobby Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash Bedrooms Flooring: Tiles / IPS Bedroom Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash Toilet Walls Finish: Tiles Up to 4 feet and OBD/ Color wash in balance area Toilet Flooring: Tiles / IPS Kitchen Flooring: Tiles / IPS Kitchen Wall Finish: Tiles Up to 2 Feet high above stove/ Tile Counter and OBD / Color wash in balance area Fixture & Fittings: Single bowl steel sink & CP / PVC/ PTMT Fittings Balcony Flooring: Tiles / IPS Windows: MS-Z-section & Glass / Alu steels & Glass Door Frame / Doors: MS/ Fiber Door frames with flush Door/ Fiber Door Common Area Flooring: Stone / Tiles / IPS Lift Lobby: Stone / Tiles/ IPS Chinaware: Standard Fittings Electrical: ISI marked products for wiring, Switches and circuits Security: Gated Complex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Applications Timelines | i. Application form will be filled online by Registration on http://edraw.tcp.haryana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home ii. Booking start from 14/12/24 00:01 iii. Payment closure date 28/12/2024 23:59 iv. Last date of submission of application form is 30/12/2024 23:59 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Eligibility:

- The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
- Any person can apply, however, preference will be given to PMAY beneficiaries, including their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana, under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for All" program. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, preference will be given to persons, including their spouse or dependent children, who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed Colony/sector or any licensed colony in the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh, and NCT.
- Any applicant can submit only one application. A successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for the allotment of any other flat under this policy in another colony. In the event that he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have the choice to retain only one flat. Supportive affidavits and certificates suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded on the TCP website while submitting the application for allotment.

Allotment Criteria:

- The allotment of apartments shall be done through e-draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle Office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of colonizer concerned.
- After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers on which the original advertisement was issued.
- For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 including the amendments thereof notified vide No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Available at the Department website i.e. www.tcp.haryana.gov.in).

Disclaimer:

- The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 and the rules made thereunder have brought significant changes to the real estate sector. The Promoter/Developer is fully committed to comply with the provisions laid down under RERA. The promoter/developer urges every applicant to inspect the site where the project is proposed to be constructed and not rely merely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan, or sales brochure. Therefore, applicants are requested to exercise personal judgment prior to submitting an application for booking.
- The images shown on TCP Site / offer of Application are indicative designs and for illustrative purposes only. Further designs may vary in form and finish for the above project details. Specifications can also be accessed at the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website, i.e., <https://haryana.era.gov.in>.

Indian student dead, 4 injured in UK road accident

PTI ■ LONDON

A 32-year-old Indian student has died in a road accident in eastern England's Leicestershire while four other people were hospitalised with serious injuries, according to

police. Chiranjeevi Panguluri died on the spot as a passenger in a car that ended up in a ditch and three co-passengers, one woman and two men, and the driver were all taken to hospital, the Leicestershire Police

said of the accident which was reported on Tuesday morning. A 27-year-old man, arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, has since been released on bail. "Chiranjeevi Panguluri, 32, was

the passenger in a grey Mazda 3 Tamura, which was travelling county bound from Leicester towards Market Harborough, before leaving the road and coming to rest in a ditch," a police statement read.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Free Hold DDA Built-up MIG Flat No. 39-D, on First floor, Block-BB, Category-MIG. Situated at Janak Puri Residential Scheme, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, "hereinafter referred to as the 'Seller'". In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said property. The seller is further informed that the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mr. Veshnu Kumar Sharma vide Conveyance Deed executed by POI through DDA. The said Deed is registered as Document No. 11760 on 25.05.2022 (SRO-IIB-Janak Puri). Thus, Mr. Ajay Sharma and Mr. Rajeev Sharma (present seller) became the joint owners of the said property. The seller has also informed the purchaser that the said property is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property. Any person including Bank's, Financial Institution's, relative's having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intelective Law Offices A-74, LCF Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Deepak Kumar Talukadar S/o Late P. C. Talukadar, Flat No.-118-B, Pocket-B, MIG Flat Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have lost my DDA Possession Letter, Electricity and Water NOC issued by DDA against MIG Flat No.-118-B, Pocket-B, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 against File No. L022(1010)86/DG/NP. An NCR to this effect has been lodged in the police station Delhi (LR No.2376337/2024 Dated 07.12.2024) Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact me/us at the above address/phone : 9873922945 within 15 days from the publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to the this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director LAB or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Shiba Warsi had acquired Upper Ground Floor Front Side with roof rights area measuring 70 sq. yds., Built up property bearing No. J-74-75, Kharsa No. 54/6, situated in the area of Village Kharsa, above of J. Eden Laxmi Nagar, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi vide Regd. G.P.A dt 25.11.2019 along with ATS & Will executed by Mrs. Shalini Jain and Now Mrs. Shiba Warsi is the undisputed owner of the said property. OR Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publicly notified that E-286B, SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT- GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301 has been allotted in the name of DEEPAK SHARMA S/O BP SHARMA R/O B-4/28, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI and will be executed in favour of MR. RAMESH BEHAL S/O LATE SHRI H. BEHAL RESIDENT OF E-286B, SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT-GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301. If any one has any objection her/she may submit his/her, objection in the Housing Department of Noida. Authority alongwith sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice

कार्यालय नगर परिषद बदनावर, जिला-धार

बदनावर, दिनांक 11.12.2024

क्रमांक/ई-टेंडर/2197/2024

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (द्वितीय) -

एतद् द्वारा समस्त समक्ष श्रेणी पंजीकृत ठेकेदार/फर्म को सूचित किया जाता है कि, निम्नलिखित कार्य को निविदा ऑनलाइन ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in के माध्यम से आमंत्रित को जाती है।

| ई-टेंडर आई.डी. क्रमांक | कार्य का विवरण | कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु. एवं समयावधि | निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य एवं अमानत राशि रु. | निविदा द प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय |
|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 2024_UAD 387597_1 | Interception & diversion of Nallahs with STP works Project of Badnawar town for Balwari river under SBM 2.0 | 1111.00 लाख 18 माह | 30,000/- 5,55,500/- | 26.12.2024 5:30 PM |

नोट :- उपरोक्त कार्य के Amendments केवल वेबसाइट पर ही Corrigendum/addendum details अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित किये जावेंगे। अन्य विवरण उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर अथवा कार्यालय में कार्यालयीन समय पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

मौना शोकर यादव अध्यक्ष नगर परिषद बदनावर

राजेंद्र सिंह पवार (फुदा बापू) उपाध्यक्ष नगर परिषद बदनावर

अनिता टिपक जादव निर्माण सभापति नगर परिषद बदनावर

संतराम चौहान मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर परिषद बदनावर

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-I (1)" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 3.91 Acres under License No. 18 of 2021 dated 16.04.2021 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 62 of 2021 dated 11.10.2021.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from SBM Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Name | SBM Bank (India) Ltd. | Standard Chartered Bank |
| IFSC Code | STCB0000065 | SCBL0036025 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 20052021001867 | 53105107527 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 20052021001874 | 53105107535 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 20052021001881 | 53105107543 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-I (2)" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 1.09 Acres under License No. 18 of 2021 dated 16.04.2021 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 02 of 2023 dated 02.01.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from SBM Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Name | SBM Bank (India) Ltd. | Standard Chartered Bank |
| IFSC Code | STCB0000065 | SCBL0036025 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 20052021001867 | 53105107527 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 20052021001874 | 53105107535 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 20052021001881 | 53105107543 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-III (2)" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 1.5375 Acres under License No. 40 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 64 of 2021 Dated 13.10.2021.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

| Particulars | Previous Bank Accounts | New Bank Accounts |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bank Name | Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. | Standard Chartered Bank |
| IFSC Code | KKBK0000261 | SCBL0036025 |
| Master Collection Account No. (100%) | 8045100075 | 53105107594 |
| RERA Account No. (70%) | 8045100082 | 53105107608 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 8045951608 | 53105107616 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-III" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 4.74 Acres under License No. 40 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 40 of 2020 Dated 09.11.2020, Extn. No. 06 of 2023 Dated 20.03.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

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| RERA Account No. (70%) | 8045100082 | 53105107608 |
| Promoter Free Account No. (30%) | 8045951608 | 53105107616 |

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

GNPA of PSBs declines to 3.12 per cent in Sept: FinMin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gross non-performing assets (GNPA) of public sector banks (PSBs) have declined to a decade low of 3.12 per cent at the end of September 2024 from a peak of 14.98 per cent in March 2018 on the back of measures like the 4Rs - recognition, recapitalisation, resolution, and reform - taken by the government, the finance ministry said on Thursday.

Since 2015, the government implemented a comprehensive 4Rs strategy of recognising NPAs transparently, resolution and recovery, recapitalising PSBs, and reforms in the financial system to address the challenges faced by PSBs, it said.

Capital adequacy ratio of PSBs improved 393 bps to reach 15.43 per cent in September 2024 from 11.45 per cent in March 2015, it said. During 2023-24, PSBs recorded the highest-ever aggregate net profit of



Rs 1.41 lakh crore against Rs 1.05 lakh crore in 2022-23, it said, adding that the figure was Rs 0.86 lakh crore in the first half of 2024-25.

In the last three years, PSBs have paid total dividend of Rs 61,964 crore, it said. "PSBs continue to expand their reach to every nook and corner of

the country to deepen financial inclusion. Their capital base has strengthened and their asset quality has improved. Now they are able to go to market and access capital instead of depending on the government for recapitalisation," it said.

To deepen financial inclusion in the country, 54 crore Jan Dhan accounts and more than 52 crore collateral-free loans under various flagship financial inclusion schemes - PM-Mudra, Stand-Up India, PM-SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma - have been sanctioned, it said. Under the Mudra scheme, 68 per cent of beneficiaries are women and under PM-SVANidhi scheme, 44 per cent of beneficiaries are women, the finance ministry said.

The number of bank branches has gone up from 1,17,990 in March 2014 to 1,60,501 in September 2024. Of 1,60,501 branches, 1,00,686 are in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) areas, it said. KCC Scheme aims to provide the short-term crop loan to farmers, it said, adding that the total number of operative KCC Accounts as on September 2024 stood at 7.71 crore with total outstanding of Rs. 9.88 lakh crore.

The Government of India (GoI) has consistently supported the MSME sector in terms of flow of credit at affordable rates through various initiatives, it said.

"The MSME advances registered a CAGR of 15 per cent during the last three years. Total MSME advances as on March 31, 2024 stood at Rs 28.04 lakh crore, posted an annual growth of 17.2 per cent," it said. The gross advances of scheduled commercial banks, which grew from Rs 8.5 lakh crore to 61 lakh crore during 2004-2014, has significantly increased to Rs 175 lakh crore in March 2024, according to the finance ministry.

Besides, the government has also announced a slew of measures towards welfare of employees working in PSBs.

IIP growth slows to 3.5 per cent in Oct: Govt data

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's industrial production (IIP) growth slowed to 3.5 per cent year-on-year in October 2024, mainly due to poor performance of mining, power and manufacturing, as per official data released on Thursday.

The IIP recorded a growth of 11.9 per cent in October 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

However, on a sequential basis, the factory output in October 2024 rose to 3.5 per cent from 3.1 per cent in September and a contraction of 0.1 per cent in August this year.

The growth in the factory output, measured in terms of the IIP, in April-October period, worked out to be 4 per cent against 7 per cent in the year-ago period, the data showed.

As per the data, the mining output growth decelerated to 0.9 per cent in October from 13.1 per cent expansion in the year-ago month. The manufacturing sector's growth decelerated to 4.1 per cent in October from 10.6 per cent a year ago. Similarly, in power generation, the output growth slowed sharply to 2 per cent from a 20.4 per cent growth a year ago.

As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth decelerated to 3.1 per cent in October 2024 from 21.7 per cent in the year-ago period. In October this year, consumer non-durables output growth slowed to 2.7 per cent compared to a 9.3 per cent growth in October 2023. Consumer durable goods production grew by 5.9 per cent during the reporting month against a 15.9 per cent expansion in October 2023.



Auto component industry grows 11 per cent to ₹3.32 lakh Crore in Apr-Sept: ACMA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The automotive components industry grew 11 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3.32 lakh crore in the first half of the current fiscal, industry body ACMA said on Thursday.

The turnover of the automotive component industry in the April-September period of last fiscal stood at Rs 2.98 lakh crore.

"With vehicle sales across all segments reaching pre-pandemic levels and despite geopolitical challenges on the exports front, the auto components sector witnessed a steady growth in both domestic and international markets in the first half of FY2024-25," Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) President Shradha Suri Marwah said.

She said the festive season brought significant sales across most segments of the vehicle industry.

"However, reflecting on the past eight months of this fiscal year, while two-wheelers have shown promising growth, sales of passenger vehicles and commercial vehicles have been relatively moderate," she added.

On the exports front, with geological challenges, delivery time and freight costs have once again gone up, Marwah said.

"That said, in value terms, the industry remains in robust health, signalling stability and resilience amidst evolving market dynamics," she added.

The components industry continues to make investments for purposes of higher value addition, technology upgradation and localisation to stay relevant to both domestic and international customers, Marwah said.

ACMA Director General Vinnie Mehta said that with vehicle sales and exports displaying steady performance, the auto component industry demonstrated a growth of 11.3 per cent scaling a turnover of Rs 3.32 lakh crore in the first half of FY 2024-25.

Auto component supplies to all the segments - OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), exports as also the aftermarket remained steadfast, he added.

Exports grew by 7 per cent to USD 11.1 billion (Rs 93.34 lakh crore) while imports grew by 4 per cent to USD 11 billion (Rs 92.05 lakh crore) with USD 150 million in surplus, the industry body said.

The aftermarket, estimated at Rs 47,416 crore, also witnessed a growth of 5 per cent year-on-year, it added.

Similarly, component supplies to OEMs in the domestic market grew by 11 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2.83 lakh crore, ACMA said.

India, UK talks on proposed trade agreement may start in Jan: Official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and the UK are expected to hold the next round of talks for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in January to resolve the pending issues and close the negotiations, a senior official said on Thursday.

The talks for the proposed FTA began in January 2022. The 14th round of talks stalled as the two nations stepped into their general election cycles.

In November, an official statement said that the dates for the FTA talks in early 2025 would be finalised through diplomatic channels. The negotiations would resume the discussions from the progress achieved

as scotch whiskey, electric vehicles, lamb meat, chocolates and certain confectionary items. Britain is also looking for more opportunities for UK services in Indian markets in segments like telecommunications, legal and financial services (banking and insurance). The two countries are also negotiating a bilateral investment treaty (BIT). There are 26 chapters in the agreement, which includes goods, services, investments and intellectual property rights.

The bilateral trade between India and the UK increased to USD 21.34 billion in 2023-24 from 20.36 billion in 2022-23.

previously and seek to bridge the gaps for expeditiously closing the trade deal. The next round of talks is likely to start at January-end, the official said.

The Indian industry is demanding greater access for its skilled professionals from sectors like IT and healthcare in the UK market, besides market access for several goods at nil customs duty. On the other hand, the UK is seeking a significant cut in import duties on goods such

Cumulative capex of airports expected to grow 12 per cent at ₹60,000 Crore in three years: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The cumulative capex (capital expenditure) of Indian airports is expected to grow 12 per cent at Rs 60,000 crore in the three years through FY27 from Rs 53,000 crore during 2022-2024, to add required infrastructure for about 65 million passengers per annum, ratings agency CRISIL said on Thursday.

CRISIL said 70 per cent of this capex is expected to be funded through debt.

The ratings agency said its projections are based on a study of 11 private airports in the country that account for 60 per cent of the total passenger traffic in FY24.

In addition to the expected growth in passenger traffic, domestic traffic, which comprises over 80 per cent of overall volume, will ride on rising demand from the business and leisure segments and government push to increase penetration of air travel," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings.

As of July 2024, the government had operationalised 84 airports and 579 routes under its regional connectivity UDAN scheme to increase regional penetration, CRISIL said, adding that while the impact is small at present, with air traffic in these airports contributing around 2 per cent of domestic air traffic, these regional routes are important as they provide feeder traffic to the metro airports.

increase in tariffs and spending within the airport ecosystem will lift revenue of private Indian airports at an average growth rate of 17 per cent between FY25 and FY27, it said.

That, coupled with improved funding access and a predictable regulatory regime, will support the strong credit profiles of private airports.

"The number of passengers at Indian airports is expected to clock a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8-9 per cent over fiscals 2025-2027 from 376 million last fiscal. Growth in

Retailers urge FM and GST Council not to go for higher 35 per cent tax rate

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian Sellers Collective, an umbrella body of trade associations and sellers across the country, has urged the finance minister and the GST Council not to accept some of GST rate rationalisation suggestions, including the proposal for inclusion of a special rate of 35 per cent on some products.

The sellers body is of the view that a fifth GST slab of 35 per cent on demerit goods such as aerated beverages, cigarettes and tobacco, and pricing-based rate structure will materially and fundamentally alter the country's GST framework with devastating outcomes.

These recommendations violate both the letter and the spirit that it will be a 'good and simple tax', Indian Sellers Collective said in a statement on Thursday ahead of the 55th GST Council meeting to be held on December 21, 2024 at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

"On the contrary, it will hurt the profit margins of the retailers, lead to compliance nightmares and fuel a parallel economy. This move will primarily benefit Chinese producers who dominate the market of cheap products at the cost of Indian producers," it said.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BHOPAL
(An Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. of India)
Saket Nagar, Bhopal-462020, Madhya Pradesh, Tel: 0755-2982607/2985699
Email: info@aiimshbhopal.edu.in www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in

No. ADM-2 (4)/2024/AIIMS/BPL/Rec. CELL/MO Contractual/11301 Date: 12/12/2024

INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICER (GENERAL DUTY) & MEDICAL OFFICER (DENTAL) AT AIIMS, BHOPAL ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal will hold an Interview for engagement of Medical Officer (General Duty) & Medical Officer (Dental) on a fixed monthly remuneration, on purely contractual basis.

For details of essential eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of engagement, application form, application procedure etc. detailed advertisement may be referred on the Institute's website-www.aiimshbhopal.edu.in. Candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria and aspiring to attend the interview may submit their application in the prescribed format within 15 days of the publication of this advertisement on recruitment.contractual@aiimshbhopal.edu.in. The date of interview and document verification shall be notified separately on Institute's website. Sd/-
Dy. Director (Admin.)
AIIMS, Bhopal

CAN FIN HOMES LTD.
1st Floor, above central bank of India Gopalganj sagar- 470001
Ph: 07582-2220456, E-mail: sagar@canfinhomes.com
CIN No - L85110KA1987PLC008699

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule 8 (1)] (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of the powers under the said Act and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 29/08/2024 calling upon the borrowers **Mr Hari Shankar Patel (Applicant) Mr. Sohan Patel (Co-applicant) Mrs Mahima Patel (Co-applicant)** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 1859609/- (EIGHTEEN LAKH FIFTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINE ONLY)** with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 (of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) on this **11th day of DEC of the year 2024**

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

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Can Fin Homes Ltd for an amount of **Rs. 1859609/- (EIGHTEEN LAKH FIFTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINE ONLY)** and interest thereon.

Description of Immovable Property
Present Address: Kh No 213/5 And 217/20 Ri Circle Ward No 46 Tili Mafi, Sagar Near Diamond Petrol Pump Tili, Boundaries: North-Property Of Govind Singh, South-20 Ft Wide Road, East-Property of Govind Singh, West-Property of Govind Singh

Date : 11/12/2024
Place : Sagar

(Sd/-) Authorised Officer
Can fin Homes Ltd.

कार्यालय नगर परिषद खरगापुर जिला टीकमगढ़ (म.प्र.)
क्र० लोक निर्माण/निविदा/2024-25/2286 खरगापुर, दिनांक 11.12.2024

// निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीय ई-रजिस्ट्रेशन प्रणाली के पंजीकृत समस्त ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in पर पर देखा जा सकता है।

| क्र. | टेंडर क्रमांक जारी दिनांक | कार्य का नाम एवं स्थान | कार्य की समाप्ति अवधि एवं लागत | निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अमानत राशि | निविदा की अंतिम तिथि |
|------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2024 UAD 387725 12-12-2024 | बस स्टेण्ड खरगापुर में दुकानों का निर्माण कार्य | 1- 06 माह 2-141.36 लाख | 1-12500.00 2-71000.00 | 13/01/2025 |

नोट:- निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाईन www.mptenders.gov.in की वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जावेगा। पृथक से समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।
मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी
नगर परिषद खरगापुर, जिला-टीकमगढ़ (म.प्र.)

कार्यालय सेनानी, 25वीं वाहिनी विसबल, भोपाल
दूरभाष/फैक्स नं. :- 0755-2443748
Email :- co25bn_saf@mppolice.gov.in

क्रमांक :- 25वीं वाहिनी/विसबल/स्वस्ति पुलिस अस्पताल/4728/2024, दिनांक 09.12.2024

// खुली निविदा विज्ञापन सूचना //

वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में इकाई के नवनिर्मित 50 बेड पुलिस हॉस्पिटल, 25वीं वाहिनी एसटीएफ परिसर, भद्रभद्रा भोपाल के लिए मटेरियल सामग्री (स्पेसिफिकेशन अनुसार) के क्रय कार्य हेतु खुली निविदा म.प्र. टेंडर की ऑनलाईन <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है, विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

| स. क्र. | सामग्री की विवरण | निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क राशि | धरोहर राशि रूपयों में |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 01 | मटेरियल सामग्री का क्रय कार्य | 1000/- | राशि 25,000/- रूपये (धरोहर राशि ऑनलाईन https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app पर ही स्वीकार की जायेगी) |

खुली निविदा <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> पर प्रकाशन की दिनांक से मान्य होगी। निर्धारित दिनांक व समय के पश्चात् कोई भी निविदा/दस्तावेज/प्रमाण पत्र स्वीकार नहीं किये जावेंगे। यदि निविदा दिनांक में यदि कोई परिवर्तन किया जाता है, तो इसकी सूचना निर्वाहकर्ता को यथा समय दी जावेगी, खुली निविदा केवल ऑनलाईन <https://mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> के माध्यम से स्वीकार की जायेगी अन्य किसी माध्यम से निविदायें स्वीकार नहीं की जावेगी।

| स. क्र. | निविदा प्रक्रिया का विवरण | राशि/तिथि/समय |
|---------|---|-------------------------|
| 01 | निविदा जमा करने की प्रारंभ दिनांक एवं समय | 10.12.2024 के 10:30 बजे |
| 02 | निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक एवं समय | 24.12.2024 के 16:00 बजे |
| 03 | निविदा तकनीकी बिड खोलने की दिनांक एवं समय | 25.12.2024 के 16:30 बजे |
| 04 | निविदा की तकनीकी बिड में प्राप्त दस्तावेज सही पाये जाने पर ही फाइनल बिड दर खोली जायेगी। | |

सेनानी
25वीं वाहिनी विसबल,
भोपाल

G-20145/24

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustumjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069
Sagar Branch : 1st Floor, Sakhi Baba Matrix, Makronia road, Sagar - 470004 (Madhya Pradesh)

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:-

| S. N. | Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) | Demand Notice Date and Amount | Description of the Immovable property | Reserve Price (RP) | Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP) | Nature of possession |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| 1. | (Loan Code No. 02310000072 / Sagar Branch) Hemraj Ahirwar (Borrower), Neetoo N (Co-Borrower) | 06-09-2024 & ₹ 1,97,448/- | All that part & parcel of property bearing, Khasra No. 777/ 1/2 And 778/ 1/2 Situated At Village Banda Ph No. 43 RIC Banda Ward No. 5, Lal Bahadur Shastri Ward, Teh. Banda District Sagar M.P. Boundaries: East- Land of Patel, West- Land of Seller, North- Land of Fheran Singh, South - Land Left by Seller for Way | Rs. 1,87,200/- | Rs. 18,720/- | Physical |

- Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is **13-01-2025 within 5:00 PM** at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on <https://bankeauctions.com>. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.
- Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is **14-01-2025** on <https://bankeauctions.com> at **03:00 PM to 04:00 PM**.
- AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on "As is Where is Basis", "As is What is Basis" and "Whatever there is".
- The Demand Draft Should be made in favor of 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only.
- Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>. Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
- The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/S C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link <https://bankeauctions.com/registration/signup>, and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may have online training on E- auction from the service provider M/S C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website <https://bankeauctions.com>
- For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, Lokendra Rathore, (Contact : 9977783890) OR the service provider M/S C 1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: in@ctindia.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No. +917291981124/25/26 As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets.
- For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com.
- The Bid incremental amount for auction is **Rs.10,000/-**.

Place : Madhya Pradesh
Date : 13-12-2024

(Authorised Officer)
For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited



DEEP DIVE INTO KOLKATA'S PAST



Devasis Chattopadhyay takes you through nine compelling stories of forgotten lives that shaped the cultural and historical history of Kolkata, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

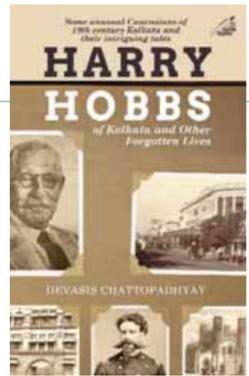


Harry Hobbs of *Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives* is a compelling and richly detailed collection of nine meticulously researched stories that uncover the hidden aspects of Kolkata's past, many of which are unknown even to the city's residents and historians. Drawing on obscure and forgotten sources such as dusty old files, yellowed newspapers, private family papers, memoirs, and government archives, this book brings to life the untold stories of Kolkata's lesser-known figures and the city itself.

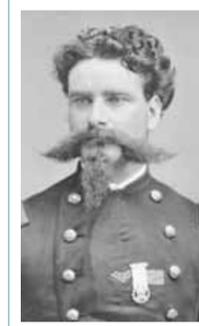
include an opera impresario, an entertainer, a piano tuner, a mercenary, a hotelier, a writer, a publisher, a lawyer, and even a real-life police detective turned crime writer. These characters, often forgotten by history, made remarkable contributions to the fabric of Kolkata during a time of upheaval and change. The book reflects on a significant period of transformation, when Kolkata's unique and syncretic

The book deep dives into the fascinating history of Kolkata, providing an unexplored jist of the city's origins. Some historians believe that Kolkata is mentioned in the Mahabharata, while others trace its roots back to the Mauryan and Gupta periods. The author, *Devasis Chattopadhyay*, then traces the transformation of the city into a metropolis, paying particular attention to its growth and changes in the 19th century. This period, marked by significant social, cultural, and economic shifts, is expertly and theoretically woven into the narrative.

Chattopadhyay focuses on the lives of protagonists who were often overlooked by mainstream history as the middle and junior civil or military officials, puisne judges, and a wide array of other fascinating individuals. These



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives by Devasis Chattopadhyay
Publisher: Niyogi Books Private Limited
Price: ₹595 Pages: 316



identity was shaped, in part, by European and American settlers. It was an era when many of the things we now take for granted like the social norms, institutions, and innovations that were still in their infancy. Yet, the individuals featured in the book were instrumental in creating the cultural and historical landscape of the city. *Chattopadhyay's* narrative uncovers these hidden histories, offering a fresh perspective on Kolkata's past.

One of the key figures in the book, Harry Hobbs, is also featured in the author's earlier work *Scoundrels and Scroungers*, where *Hobbs* noted that the principal cause of men's downfall up until the end of the 19th century was drinking. In his writings, he provides intriguing glimpses into a Kolkata of the past the one where European women worked as barmaids and a thriving but largely unspoken subterranean slave trade flourished. This was also a time when wealthy Bengali

Babus kept European concubines, and attending English theatre performances or listening to Italian opera was a common pastime among the city's elite. The book is divided into nine chapters, each focusing on a different historical figure: Major Harry H. Hobbs, The Shakespeare Family, Isaac Henry Townley Roberdeau, Richard Reid, Colonel Percy Wyndham, Shirley Tremearne, Henry Thoby Prinsep, David Nunez Cardozo, and others. Through these vivid and captivating stories, Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives provides a nuanced and fascinating portrait of Kolkata as a city in transition, shaped by diverse influences and inhabited by characters whose contributions to its rich history have long been forgotten. *Chattopadhyay's* work offers an enriching journey into the heart of Kolkata's past, illuminating the hidden lives that have shaped the city we know today.

Najma's journey through politics

By **ABHISHEK SONKAR**



personal reflections, making it engaging and balanced. This blend of warmth and clarity makes the book as much about Najma as person as it is about her as a politician.

What stands out in this book is how Heptulla personalises her experiences. She is not just recounting political events; she is showing how they shaped her life and decisions. Whether you are a political junkie or someone interested in peeking behind the curtain of Indian politics, this book offers a thoughtful mix of history and heartfelt storytelling.

Through her candid, no-nonsense style, Heptulla gives us an insider's view of what it is like to be a woman navigating Indian politics. Her journey from Congress to BJP and the challenges she faced along the way provide a unique perspective on party dynamics and leadership in India.

The book also touches on broader issues in Indian politics, such as the trust deficit between Sonia Gandhi and herself, and the treatment of figures like PV Narasimha Rao and Dr Manmohan Singh by the party bosses. By sharing these personal stories, Heptulla humanises the political landscape, making it easier to understand the complex relationships and motivations that shape decision-making at the highest levels.

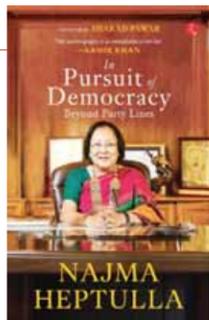
In Pursuit of Democracy Heptulla offers more than just political memoirs; she provides a nuanced, first-person account of her time in power, shedding light on the behind-the-scenes dynamics that often go unnoticed.

Whether you're a seasoned observer of Indian politics or someone who wants to understand the forces shaping the country's democratic processes, this book is a compelling read. It is not just about politics; it is about the life of a woman who has lived through some of the most transformative moments in Indian political history.



Heptulla's writing style is direct and conversational. It feels like she is talking to you, recounting her life over a cup of tea. She avoids heavy political

jargon, making the book a breeze even if you're not well-versed in politics. The narrative flows smoothly between her professional milestones and



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: In Pursuit of Democracy: Beyond Party Lines by Najma Heptulla
Publisher: Rupa Publications
Price: ₹695

A Transformative Journey

By **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

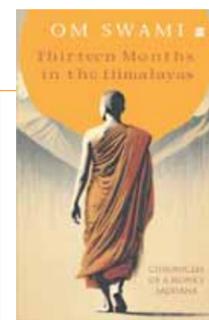
A Transformative Journey of Faith, Endurance, and the Divine Om Swami's *Thirteen Months in the Himalayas* is a spellbinding account of one man's relentless pursuit of spiritual truth and divine connection.

Om Swami's *Thirteen Months in the Himalayas* is an extraordinary account of one man's unwavering pursuit of spiritual truth and divine connection. Following his earlier memoir, 'If Truth Be Told', this book delves deeper into Swami's radical transformation from a successful entrepreneur to an ascetic devoted to discovering the Creator. Written with an almost poetic honesty, it presents a gripping narrative of discipline, endurance, and transcendence.

A Journey of the Soul: The Himalayas serve as more than just the backdrop for Swami's odyssey—they become a central character, mirroring the challenges and revelations of his inner world. The author's detailed descriptions of his austere lifestyle, rigorous sadhanas and encounters with celestial energies immerse readers in his spiritual journey. The book's raw and vivid prose captures the stark beauty of the mountains and the unforgiving nature of the terrain, where every moment is a test of will and faith.

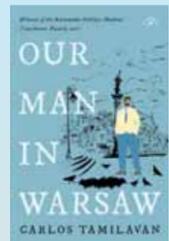
Spiritual Discipline Redefined: What makes this book especially compelling is its depiction of extreme spiritual discipline. Swami's daily routine of meditation, mantras, and fasting is as exhausting to read about as it is inspiring. His ability to persevere through physical deprivation, isolation, and moments of self-doubt speaks to an exceptional strength of spirit. His writing makes you feel the depth of his longing to encounter God, transforming what could have been a remote subject into something deeply relatable. At its core, *Thirteen Months in the Himalayas* is a meditation on faith and purpose. It challenges readers to reflect on their own lives and the sacrifices they are willing to make in pursuit of their truths. The book inspires by showing what is possible when one's commitment to a goal is absolute, even when the goal is as abstract and immense as experiencing the divine.

Accessible Yet Profound: Om Swami's journey is deeply personal, yet its lessons transcend individual experience. This book is a rare gem that inspires introspection, courage and hope. Highly recommended for anyone seeking inspiration to explore the limits of human potential and the boundless nature of the divine.



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: Thirteen Months in the Himalayas by Om Swami
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹499

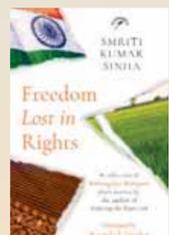
JUST READ



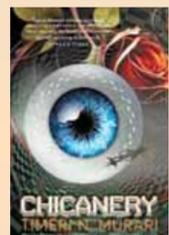
Book: Our Man in Warsaw
Author: Carlos Tamilavan
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹595



Book: Charles Correa: Citizen Charles
Author: Mustansir Dalvi
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹299



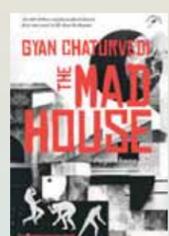
Book: Freedom Lost in Rights
Author: Smriti Kumar Sinha
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹395



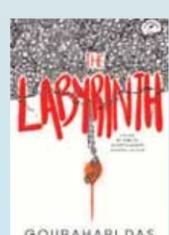
Book: Chicanery
Author: Timeri N. Murari
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹695



Book: Shyam Benegal: Filmmaker of the real India
Author: Arjun Sengupta
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹299



Book: Madhouse: Pagalkhana
Author: Gyan Chaturvedi
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹595

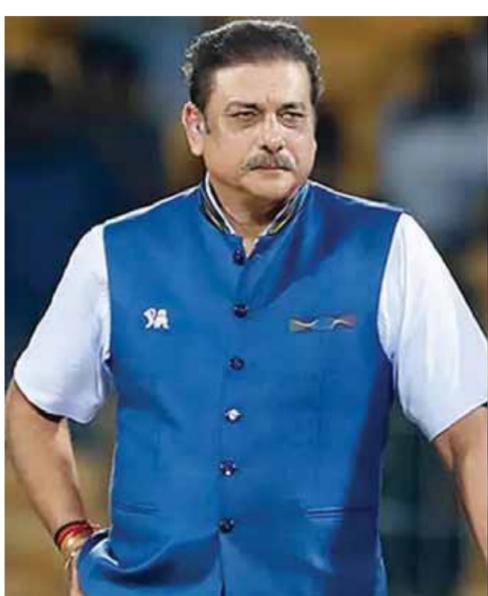


Book: The Labyrinth
Author: Gourahari Das
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹295

Rohit must return to opening if he has to throw the first punch: Shastri

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri, who knows a thing or two about winning Test rubbers in Australia, on Thursday asked India skipper Rohit Sharma to return to the opening slot "if he has to throw the first punch" on an opponent brimming with confidence. Shastri was serving as team director when India won their maiden Test series in Australia in 2017-18 and was the head coach when the side rallied brilliantly to stun the hosts in the last tour in 2020-21. The move to slot Rohit at number six did not yield the desired results for India and they were hammered by 10 wickets in the second Test at Adelaide, leaving the five-match clash locked at 1-1 and with everything to play for in what Shastri believes could decide the fate of the series. "That's where he's (Rohit) been at his best over the last eight or nine years," Shastri was quoted as saying by "The



The triumph of 2021 is considered one of the greatest in the history of Indian cricket and Shastri, while speaking at the first annual Usman Khawaja



Foundation lunch at the Gabba, said the unity showed by the team, despite restrictions due to COVID-19, played a big part in the historic win.

"In COVID, the first Test match you start with five bowlers and the same five bowlers don't play the last Test. That says it all, it's like Australia playing without these five bowlers in the last Test of the series, it's a different ball game. Plus you didn't have quite a few batsmen as well. So it's a tribute to the players. "You can only do so much as a coach from behind the scenes. At the end of it, it's the players who have to go out there and do their job and they were magnificent." Four years ago, after getting bundled out for their lowest Test total of 36 in Adelaide, India made a magnificent comeback to win two of the remaining three games and emerge winners. Shastri fondly recalled a conversation between Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill, who was helping out the latter with some useful tips right after his dismissal, as India went for the jugular to score 140 odd runs in the final session of play to shock the hosts at the Gabba, which was until then the home team's fortress. "I'll never forget it," Shastri said. "Last session, 140 runs to get. We had two different change rooms because of COVID. I went down from the coaches' room to have a chat with either Rishabh or (Chateshwar) Pujara. When I was about to reach the toilet, I heard a conversation between Gill and Pant. "Seventy-one overs bowled, Gill had got out for 91, and they were the two youngest players in the side, 21 and 22. "Nine overs left, they need the new ball, they'll bring (Marnus) Labuschagne on with his leg spin, you've got to score 45-50 runs there. "They are planning how they can reach closer to the end score, and no way was I going to stop them, I don't want to change that mindset. So I just walked past and said 'do what you have to do'. In the end, we chased down nearly 150 in that last session."



Virat Kohli addresses team ahead of 3rd Test in Brisbane

PTI ■ BRISBANE

He used to be the cynosure of all eyes at training sessions during his captaincy days and Virat Kohli was once again the centre of attention as he addressed his teammates here on Thursday. After the demoralising 10-wicket defeat in the Adelaide day/night game, the visitors needed a bit of inspiration going into the crucial third Test of the series, and the youngsters in the side couldn't have got a better mentor than 'King' Kohli himself to guide them with his words of wisdom. The team huddles before the start of the training session has been a constant feature for years now and Kohli used to do a lot of talking during his days in charge. He did take a back seat once he left captaincy but with skipper Rohit also under immense pressure after four straight defeats, the senior-most player (in terms of Test debut) had to take the initiative ahead of the match starting here on Saturday. With vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah by his side, Kohli was

Gujarat Giants appoint Pravin Tambe as bowling coach; Marsh takes over as batting coach

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Giants on Thursday appointed former leg-spinner Pravin Tambe as their bowling coach, while Australian Daniel Marsh joined the side as batting coach ahead of Women's Premier League 2025. Michael Klinger, who joined the team last season, will continue as the Giants' head coach. Tambe, who made his IPL debut at the age of 41 back in 2013 for Rajasthan Royals, brings substantial coaching experience, having worked with Kolkata Knight Riders and Lucknow Super Giants. "I'm eager to work with this talented group of players to sharpen their skills and help



them excel," said Tambe. Marsh carries loads of experience, having served as head coach of the Tasmania men's team from 2013 to 2017 and was appointed as the assistant coach of the Australian women's cricket team in 2022. "I look forward to developing a fearless approach to our batting with the aim of

making our team one of the strongest batting units of the WPL," said Marsh. Ahead of the WPL 2025 auction to be held in Bengaluru on Sunday, the Giants had retained players such as Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney. Gujarat Giants' retained players: Ashleigh Gardner, Beth Mooney, Dayalan Hemalatha, Harleen Deol, Laura Wolvaardt, Shabnam Shakil, Tanuja Kanwar, Phoebe Litchfield, Meghna Singh, Kashvee Gautam, Priya Mishra, Mannat Kashyap, Bharti Fulmali, Sayali Satghare. Released players: Sneha Rana, Kothryn Bryce, Trisha Poojitha, Veda Krishnamurthy, Tarannum Pathan, Lea Tahuu. **PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Prasar Bharati to broadcast Hockey India League

The upcoming Hockey India League, which is being revived after seven years, will be telecast live on the country's national broadcaster, Prasar Bharati. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard was signed in a ceremony between Abhishek Agarwal, Deputy Director General Sports, Prasar Bharati, and Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh. Set to commence on December 28 in Rourkela, HIL will be broadcast live across the nation through Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati's new OTT platform -- Waves. This edition of the HIL is path-breaking because it will feature the inaugural season of the women's league alongside the men's competition. While the men's competition will be played in Rourkela, a four-team maiden tournament for the women will be hosted at Ranchi. Navneet Sehgal, chairman Prasar Bharati, emphasised the importance of this partnership. "This is a proud moment for hockey, a sport that has captured the hearts of millions of Indians, and for Prasar Bharati, as we come together to bring the Hockey India League to every corner of the country. Our goal is to showcase this prestigious league to households across India, including remote towns and villages where future hockey stars are emerging. "With Doordarshan's extensive reach and our OTT platform, Waves, we will ensure that the Hockey India League becomes a national celebration, inspiring a deeper connection between the sport and its fans. Together, we aim to elevate hockey's prominence and turn it into a true festival for the entire nation," he said.

Momentum is with Australia after win at Adelaide, says Sunil Gavaskar

PTI ■ BRISBANE

The legendary Sunil Gavaskar feels Australia will have the momentum in the third Test against India starting on Saturday thanks to their victory in the Pink Ball Test at Adelaide last week. Australia levelled the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy 1-1 with a 10-wicket win in the day-night Test after losing the first Test at Perth by 295 runs. "The momentum that the Indian team got in Perth was lost during the 10-day gap. Now, the momentum is with Australia because they have won this Test match," Gavaskar told Star Sports. "After the Adelaide Test, a few days later, you are playing at The Gabba. So, the momentum is now with the



Australian team," he added. Speaking to the same channel, former spinner Harbhajan Singh said India should try to play their best cricket to register a win at the 'Gabba' before travelling to more favourable venues in Sydney and Melbourne. "Their best chances will be, I

think, in Sydney and Melbourne. Anyway, if you play your best cricket at The Gabba and win there, then you will definitely win one match out of Melbourne or Sydney," Harbhajan said. He said India have the ability to make a comeback into the series despite the heavy loss in Adelaide. "The equality of the first two Tests shows that both teams have the ability to come back. Australia has come back; now maybe it's India's turn to turn the tables," he said. The owner of 711 international wickets too agreed that the long interval between the first and second Test resulted in India losing the momentum. "This series is tough because both teams have had losses. What happened with Australia in Perth, maybe they didn't expect it. And what happened with India in Adelaide, maybe India also didn't expect it. "Although there was a very long gap in the middle between the two Tests, sometimes such a gap spoils the momentum, and it happened here," he said.

Manchester City crisis deepens with loss to Juventus in Champions League

AP ■ PARIS

Manchester City plunged deeper into trouble in the Champions League by losing 2-0 at Juventus, the latest setback in a scarcely believable run of poor results for the ailing English champions. City dropped to 22nd place in the 36-team standings, with only the top 24 advancing. Progressing to the next round of the new-look format looked a certainty before the season for a team that was European champion in 2023 and has won the last four Premier League titles. But not anymore as City manager Pep Guardiola battles injuries and an apparent loss of belief among his players. City has won just one of its last 10 matches in all competitions, with goals by Dušan Vlahovic and Weston McKennie inflicting the latest defeat and igniting Juventus' qualification hopes. City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan described the team's problem as a "mental issue." Opponents "are able to break our rhythm with the smallest of things," Gundogan said on Wednesday. "They don't even need to do much and it has such a big effect on us right now." Barcelona jumped into second place in the league standings, behind Liverpool, and is guaranteed to advance after a 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund. Raphinha and Ferran Torres, with two goals, scored for Barca. Arsenal beat Monaco 3-0 mainly thanks to two goals by Bukayo Saka to move into third place and be the highest of six teams on 13 points. The top eight qualify directly for the last 16 and the teams placed No. 9-24 go into a two-legged playoff. Danger for City City has two games to save its faltering Champions League campaign and the first is against Paris Saint-Germain, another giant in trouble in 25th place — one spot out of the qualifying positions. Vlahovic put Juventus ahead in the 53rd when he powered a header goalward straight at City goalkeeper Ederson, who could only parry the ball over his own line. Two American substitutes



sealed the win for Juve, with McKennie volleying home from Timothy Weah's cross. Juventus moved into 14th place. Super-sub Torres Ferran Torres came off the bench to inspire Barcelona to a fifth win in six games and push Dortmund, last season's runner-up, out of the top eight. Torres came on in the 71st to replace Robert Lewandowski, who had a quiet game against his former club. Just four minutes

Raphinha gave Barcelona the lead before Guirassy equalised from the penalty spot. Raphinha and Guirassy are tied for second place in the scoring chart on six goals, behind Lewandowski's competition-high seven. Home comforts for Arsenal Arsenal secured a third straight home win without conceding in the league stage, with Saka scoring in the 34th and 78th minutes and sending in a shot that was turned into the net by substitute Kai Havertz in the 88th. Arsenal is ahead of Bayer Leverkusen, Aston Villa, Inter Milan, Brest and Lille on goal difference. Lille won 3-2 at home to Sturm Graz on Wednesday. In-form Alvarez Man City could sure do with Julian Alvarez at the moment. With a brilliant curling finish to open the scoring, the Argentina striker helped Atletico Madrid beat Slovan Bratislava 3-1 and provide a timely reminder of what City is missing after selling him for more than USD 100 million in August. Alvarez has 12 goals for the season, with four coming in the Champions League. Antoine Griezmann scored

Atletico's other two goals at Metropolitan stadium as the Spanish team climbed to 11th place after a 10th straight win in all competitions. Tribute to grieving teammate When Lukasz Lakomy gave Young Boys the lead against Stuttgart, he ran toward the sideline and held up teammate Meschack Elia's jersey as others gathered around him. The gesture was a tribute after Elia's son died unexpectedly this week after a short illness. Elia wasn't playing as he was on his way to his native Congo, where his son died, to be with his family. Both teams wore black armbands and there was a moment of silence before the game, which was won 5-1 by Stuttgart. Late winner Tammy Abraham scored an 87th-minute winner as AC Milan beat Red Star Belgrade 2-1 to move one point off the top eight. Milan lost Alvaro Morata and Ruben Loftus-Cheek to muscle injuries in the first half. Benfica's five-match winning streak ended with a 0-0 home draw against Bologna, and Feyenoord had a 4-2 win over Sparta Prague.