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VOW TO SPEAK UP

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US imposes over 300 per cent penalty on companies who bribed HAL, Railways, IOC

J GOPIKRISHNAN ■ NEW DELHI

With controversies raging on the United States Department of Justice indicting Adani Group for bribing 265 Million Dollars to multiple solar energy companies in India, recent orders from the American authorities, shows that many US firms which gave the bribes in India and other countries, have settled the case by paying more than 300 per cent penalty to avoid prosecution. The US-based research and design firm Moog Inc was caught for bribery of more than half-a-Million Dollars to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Indian Railways settled their case with US Securities and Exchange Commission by paying more than 1.68 Million Dollars. The IT giant Oracle Corporation, caught for charges of corrupt practices and bribery of more than

6.8 Million Dollars in Indian Railways, and organisations in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Turkey, settled the case by paying a fine of 23 Million Dollars to the US Treasury as per the orders of US Securities and Exchange Commission. US-based chemical manufacturing company Albemarle Corporation was caught by the US Department of Justice for bribing Indian Oil Corporation and companies in Indonesia and Vietnam for more than 63.5 Million Dollars settled the case by paying a hefty fine of more than 198 million dollars to avoid prosecution. As per the orders on October 11, 2024, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Moog Inc through its Indian subsidiary Moog Motion Controls Private Limited (MMCPL) bribed officials in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), South Central

Railway and Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) under the Ministry of Railways to bag contracts. "In August 2020, shortly after engaging Agent A, Moog brand was added to the supplier list for an upcoming South Central Railway (SCR) tender notice... then tender notice listed Moog, along with one additional supplier for potential supplier for a specific part in the SCR tender..." In September 2020, Moog Inc's India subsidiary MMCPL won the SCR contract for \$34,323. In April 2022, Agent A invoiced MMCPL for "commission charges," which several MMCPL employees knew included the improper payments to Government officials to eliminate competition and win contract awards. The payments were falsely recorded as legitimate contractor services," says the SEC Order, adding that 10% was the

bribe commission in the Railways contract. The SEC order detailing bribery in HAL says in November 2021, Moog bagged \$ 1,399,328 valued contract for parts and services related to the April 2021 contract tender. Investigation found that 2.5% commission was received as a bribe by "a HAL official." As per the eight page order, Moog Inc paid more than 5,00,000 Dollars as bribe for getting contracts in HAL and Railways. The US Department of Justice's order dated September 28, 2023 says Albemarle Corporation bagged big contracts in Indian Oil Corporation and companies in Indonesia and Vietnam by corrupt practices and bribing of more than 63.5 million dollars. Albemarle is supplying refining solutions to more than 700 refineries across the world and dealing with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) from 2009

THE PUNISHED
Moog Inc caught for bribery of over a half a Million Dollars in HAL, Railways settled the case with United States Securities and Exchange Commission by paying a penalty of more than 1.68 Million Dollars.
Oracle Corporation, caught for bribery of more than 6.8 Million Dollars in Indian Railways, UAE and Turkey, settled the case by paying a penalty of 23 Million Dollars.
Albemarle Corporation caught for bribery in Indian Oil Corporation & companies in Indonesia & Vietnam for more than 63.5 Million Dollars settled the case by paying a penalty of more than 198 Million Dollars to avoid prosecution.

"Albemarle paid approximately \$1.14 Million in commission to India intermediary company relating to Indian Oil Corporation business and obtained approximately \$11.14 million in profits on that business between approximately 2009 and 2011," said the Order. Albemarle was caught for bribery by US authorities in 2017 for 63.5 Million Dollars and then settled the case in September 2023 by paying a hefty fine of more than 198 Million Dollars to avoid prosecution. The 46-page Order imposing fine on Albemarle says the US company also engaged in corrupt practices with an Indian private refinery. However the name of the private refinery is not mentioned in the Order. The September 27, 2022 dated Order of Securities and Exchange Commission says that the IT giant Oracle Corporation was engaged

in corrupt practices and bribery in India, UAE and Turkey. "In 2019, Oracle India sales employees also used an excessive discount scheme in connection with a transportation company, a majority of which was owned by the Indian Ministry of Railways..." One of the sales employees involved in the transaction maintained a spreadsheet that indicated \$67,000 was the "buffer" available to potentially make payments to a specific Indian SOE (State Owned Entity) official. "A total of approximately \$330,000 was funneled to an entity with a reputation for paying SOE officials and another \$62,000 was paid to an entity controlled by the sales employees," states the 10-page order of Securities and Exchange Commission imposing hefty fine of Rs.23 Million Dollars on Oracle, caught for bribery amount of 6.8 Million Dollars.



The tabla falls silent, Ustad Zakir Hussain passes away at 73

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tabla maestro Ustad Zakir Hussain passed away in the United States on Sunday. He was 73. Hussain was admitted to the ICU of a San Francisco hospital with heart related problems, his friend and flautist Rakesh Chaurasia had told PTI earlier on Sunday. Hussain is hailed as the maestro who took the tabla to the global stage. He had been having blood pressure issues, added Hussain's manager Nirmala Bachani. The eldest son of legendary tabla player Allah Rakha, Hussain followed in the footsteps of his father, becoming a marquee name in India and across the world. Hussain has received five Grammy Awards in his career, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year. In his career spanning six decades, the musician has worked with several renowned international and Indian artists, but it was his 1973 musical project with English guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L Shankar, and percussionist BH 'Vikku' Vinayakram that brought together Indian classical and elements of jazz in a fusion hitherto unknown. The percussionist, one of India's most celebrated classical musicians, received the Padma Shri in 1988, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.

Now Omar chips away at India Bloc

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

There seem to be further cracks developing in the Congress-led Opposition INDIA Bloc, as Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and head of National Conference Omar Abdullah on Sunday categorically rejected the grand old party's crying over Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after losing elections. Omar is one of the important ally of the INDIA Bloc and his resentment against Congress comes within one week which saw other constituents like Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC), Lalu Yadav-led Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) echoed similar views and called for Congress must rethink and give up its Big brother attitude after the party had dismal performance in the just concluded



Assembly polls in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and J & K where the party was outshined by their principle ally Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), respectively. "When you get a hundred plus members of Parliament using the same EVMs, and

you celebrate that as sort of a victory for your party, you can't then a few months later turn around and say... We don't like these EVMs because now the election results aren't going the way we would like them to," Abdullah, currently in Delhi, said. The J & K CM said political parties should not contest elections if they do not trust the voting mechanism. "If you have problems with the EVMs, then you should be consistent in those problems," he said. Going against the INDIA Bloc thought process, Omar also reiterated his stand for the New Parliament Building and the upcoming massive Central Vista. "Central Vista project is a good idea to develop in the Lutyens' and I also have read out my mind for a new Parliament building as the old one has outlived," he said.

BJP has no CM face, says poll ready Kejriwal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With a couple of months left for the Delhi Assembly polls, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) released its fourth, and final, list of 38 candidates on Sunday. AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal will contest from New Delhi constituency for the fourth consecutive time, while Delhi Chief Minister Atishi has been fielded from Kalkaji for the second time. In the fourth list, a total of 38 candidates have been announced, of which 36 are sitting MLAs. The AAP has now released names of its candidates for all 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly. The party has, so far, dropped 19 sitting MLAs. The party has given a chance to two new names- Ramesh Pehalwan from Kasturba Nagar and Naresh Balyan's wife Pooja Balyan. The upcoming polls are expected to be a litmus test for the party's governance model and its appeal to the electorate. Besides Kejriwal's bid for New Delhi, where he has won since 2013 the AAP faces



significant competition. The Congress has fielded former Member of Parliament Sandeep Dikshit, son of Sheila Dikshit, the city's longest-serving chief minister while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is expected to field former MP Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, son of former Delhi Chief Minister Sahib Singh Verma who was denied a ticket for the Lok Sabha polls.



Delhi AQI will rise as temp dips

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality worsened on Sunday as the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in the 'poor category' alongside a significant drop in temperature, intensifying cold conditions across the city. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), mercury dipped once again across the capital on Sunday, falling to 4.9 degree Celsius for the third time this winter season a sharp decline from Saturday's 9.4 degree Celsius while the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported Delhi's AQI was recorded at 294, deteriorating from 212 the previous day. With 15.005 per cent, the transport sector was the key contributor to air pollution, followed by Industries with 8.8 percent. Visuals from areas like Jama Masjid and

AIIMS showed individuals braving the cold under thick blankets, trying to rest amidst harsh conditions. No cold wave conditions prevailed, as per the data, the IMD said. Safdarjung, the representative station for Delhi's weather, recorded a minimum temperature of 4.9°C on Sunday, which is four degrees below normal for this time of year. Forecasts indicate that Delhi's minimum temperature is likely to hover around 5°C until Tuesday, maintaining the chill. Aya Nagar recorded 5.2 degree Celsius and Ridge 5.3 degree Celsius. The minimum temperature recorded at Palam Observatory at 8.30 am today was 6.2 degrees Celsius which is three degrees Celsius below the normal temperature of the season. The drop in temperature in 24 hours is 0.2 degrees Celsius.

Devendra Fadanvis expands Maha Cabinet

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In the first-ever expansion of this ministry undertaken by him ten days after he and two Deputy Chief Ministers were sworn in, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadanvis on Sunday inducted 39 ministers, including 33 ranked ones, into his Cabinet, while he dropped 10 senior MahaYuti leaders, including BJP's Sudhir Mungantiwar and Nationalist Congress Party NCP (Ajit Pawar) leader Chhagan Bhujbal, from it. In a swearing-in ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Nagpur for the second time since 1981, Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan administered oath of office to the 39 ministers, including six Ministers of State, ahead of the start of the Winter Session of the Maharashtra Legislature on Monday. Interestingly enough, as many as 25 new faces found place in the Devendra Fadanvis Cabinet. Late BJP leader Gopinath Munde's daughter Pankaja Munde, who has made a comeback as a State minister for the second time in her career, is among the four women ministers in the State Cabinet. With the induction of 39 ministers, the total number of ministers in the State Cabinet has gone up to 42, which is one less than the stipulated 43-member ministry which accounts for 15 percent of total



Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister Devendra Fadanvis, Deputy Chief Ministers Ajit Pawar and Eknath Shinde and others during the swearing-in ceremony of cabinet ministers amid State Cabinet expansion, at Raj Bhavan, in Nagpur

288 members in the State Assembly. Of the 39 ministers inducted into the State Cabinet, 19 are from the BJP, 11 from the Shiv Sena and 9 from the NCP (AP). Apart from Mungantiwar and Bhujbal, eight other senior leaders from the MahaYuti, comprising Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP (AP), who have been dropped from the Fadanvis Cabinet are Vijay Kumar Gavit, Suresh Khade, Tanaji Sawant, Abdul Sattar, Deepal Kesarkar, Dilip Walse-Patil, Anil Patil and Sanjay Bansode. What has come as a big surprise is the induction of 25 ministerial faces who were not in the earlier government include Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Ganesh Naik, Pankaja Munde, Ashish Shankar, Jaikumar Rawal, Nitesh Rane (all from the BJP), Pratap Sarneck, Sanjay

Rathod, Dada Bhuse, Sanjay Shirsat (all from the Shiv Sena), Makrand Patil, Hasan Murrar, Narahari Hirwal and Dattaraya Bhanre (all from the Ajit Pawar NCP). Apart from Pankaja Munde, the three other women who have made it into the State Cabinet are BJP's Madhuri Misal, Meghana Bordikar and NCP's Aditi Tatkare. The dropping of Sudhir Mungantiwar, a seven-time MLA from Ballapur in Vidarbha, has come as a big shock to the rank and file of the BJP. In fact, he was number two in the Devendra Fadanvis Cabinet that existed from 2014 to 2019. A seven-time MLA, two-term MLC and a former deputy chief minister, Bhujbal has surprised one and all. A senior OBC leader, Bhujbal is also the President of Akhil Bharatiya Mahatma Phule Samata Parishad.

Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav to appear before SC Collegium soon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, who made controversial statements at a Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) function, is likely to appear before the Supreme Court Collegium soon to explain his stand on the controversy. The SC on December 10 took note of news reports over the statements and sought a report from the Allahabad High Court on the entire issue. "The Supreme Court has taken note of newspaper reports of a speech given by Mr Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, a sitting judge of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad. The details and particulars have been called from the high court and the matter is under consideration," an official statement had said. As per the established practices, a judge, against whom a report is sought by the Supreme Court Collegium on any controversial issue from the High Court concerned, is given an opportunity to put forth his or her version before the top court Collegium headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI). The Allahabad High Court judge is likely to be asked to appear and put forth his version as per established practices, said many legal experts.



At a VHP function on December 8, Justice Yadav said the main aim of the uniform civil code was to promote social harmony, gender equality and secularism. He was addressing a provincial convention of the legal cell and high court unit of the VHP in Allahabad High Court. Supreme Court Bar Association President and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal initiated signatures from parliamentarians to initiate impeachment procedures against Justice Yadav. A day later, videos of the judge speaking on provocative issues, including the law working according to the majority, were circulated widely on social media, prompting strong reactions from several quarters, including opposition leaders who questioned his reported statements, labelling it as "hate speech".

Lucky escape for eight lions chilling on railway tracks

PTI N BHAVNAGAR

Alert loco pilots of a goods train and a passenger train applied the brakes in time to save the lives of eight lions that had wandered onto railway tracks in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district in the last two days, an official said Sunday. With the vigilance of the loco pilots of the Western Railway's Bhavnagar division and the help of trackers of the forest department, 104 lions have been saved so far in this financial year, said Mashooque Ahmad, senior divisional commercial manager, Bhavnagar. As per a release, loco pilot Dhavalbhai P, driving a goods train heading to Pipavav port from Hapa on Thursday, noticed five lions crossing the track near



Rajula city. The alert loco pilot applied emergency brakes to stop the train and provide safe passage to the big cats, it said. The release said the train was allowed to move after the forest guard reached the spot and found all the conditions normal.

Similarly, on Friday, loco pilot Sunil Pandit, driving a passenger train, noticed a lioness with two cubs crossing the track in the Chalala-Dhari section and stopped the train by applying emergency brakes. "On receiving the information, a forest guard reached the spot. He

saw that the lions had moved away from the railway track. When all conditions were found normal, the forest guard asked the loco pilot to depart," the release said. Asiatic lions have either died or been seriously hurt on the railway line connecting Pipavav Port with north Gujarat, with the Gujarat High Court raising concern and directing authorities to come up with a standard operating procedure (SOP) to avoid such incidents. The Bhavnagar Division has instructed loco pilots operating the trains to work with special vigilance while following the prescribed speed, the release said. The state forest department has also erected fences along the track at regular intervals to save lions from getting hit by train

WINTER WONDERLAND



Tourists visit a frozen waterfall at Drung area on a cold winter morning, in Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir

VP launches country's first Geo Science Museum in Gwalior

PNS ■ GWALIOR

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the country's first Geo Science Museum in Gwalior on Sunday. Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Union Communications and North Eastern Region Development Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey, Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar, Gwalior District In-charge and Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat and MP Bharat Singh Kushwaha were also present in the programme. Dhankhar's wife Smt. Sudesh Dhankhar was especially present on the occasion. Vice President Dhankhar inaugurated the country's first ultra-

modern Geo Science Museum by unveiling the plaque and cutting the ribbon at the museum's entrance. He also congratulated and wished the people of Gwalior for this unique gift. Accompanied by the guests while visiting the pictures, artifacts and information related to geology displayed in various museum galleries, the Vice President praised the museum. After the inauguration of the museum, Vice President Dhankhar also saw the historical buildings standing as excellent examples of architecture at Maharaj Bada. Chief Minister Yadav, Union Minister Scindia and Assembly Speaker Tomar appraised the Vice President of the craftsmanship and styles of the buildings of Maharaj Bada. The country's first ultramodern and amazing Geo Science museum, prepared by the National

Science Museum Council in collaboration with Gwalior Municipal Corporation, contains unique information related to the origin of the earth, the development of mankind, human civilization and the universe. Precious objects like dinosaur eggs can be viewed by tourists at the museum. The museum provides solutions to the geology-related queries of children and adults. Along with this, the museum is also informative from a scientific point of view. Rare geological samples related to earth science have been shown in the museum through multimedia display. The Geo Science Museum has attractively presented information about geology through two galleries with light effects. One gallery depicts the evolution of the Earth, which mentions how the Earth came into its original

form and what things made it what it is. What does the Earth look like today? How lava is formed inside the Earth and how mountains are formed by volcanic eruptions. All this information has been beautifully displayed in the museum. Tourists coming here will also be able to experience an earthquake. Apart from this, there is also a description about the atmosphere and the ocean. All this has been beautifully displayed with light effects and state-of-the-art mechanical technology. The development of mankind and human civilization has been displayed very well in the second gallery of the Geo Science Museum. It also shows the origin and extinction of dinosaurs on Earth. Also, how humans originated and how their life cycle progressed. This description of the changes in the lifestyle

of human civilization is also worth viewing. Director General of Geological Survey of India Asit Saha, Divisional Commissioner Manoj Khatri, Inspector General of Police Arvind Saxena, Collector Ruchika Chauhan, Superintendent of Police Dharamvir Singh, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Aman Vaishnav and officials of the Geological Survey of India were also present in the inauguration programme of the Geo Science Museum. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar arrived at Gwalior Airbase on Sunday. Governor Mangubhai Patel, the Chief Minister and Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar gave a warm welcome to the Vice President at the airport by presenting him with a bouquet of flowers.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurate the 'Geo Science Museum' at Maharajwada in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Auto-rickshaw driver killed in road accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 30-year-old auto-rickshaw driver died after his auto-rickshaw overturned and hit a road divider in a bid to save a bike rider moving on the wrong side near MP State Cooperative Dairy Federation (Sanchi Dugdh Sangh). After the accident, the driver was admitted to the hospital and later he died on Sunday morning during treatment. Family members said that this accident happened while trying to save a bike rider coming from the wrong side. At the same time, the police said that the matter is being investigated. The deceased identified as Pradeep Lodhi was a resident of Bagmugalia. He

After the accident, the driver was admitted to the hospital and later he died on Sunday morning

used to drive his loading auto rickshaw. He met with an accident while passing near Gate No. 5 of Sanchi Milk Union on Saturday morning. The deceased's maternal uncle Suresh said that a bike rider was spotted coming from the wrong side at a high speed. The bike rider had come very close. In an attempt to save him, Pradeep's auto went out of control and overturned after climbing the divider. Pradeep suffered serious

injuries in this accident. He said that immediately after the incident Pradeep was taken to JP hospital. There the doctors refused to admit him and advised to take him to Hamidia Hospital citing his critical condition. Although he was taken to Hamidia Hospital, he died during treatment. Police said that the investigation into the case is ongoing. CCTV footage will be checked so that the real cause of the accident can be revealed. Pradeep got married three years ago. He had a love marriage, but had no children from the marriage. Pradeep used to earn from his financed loading auto rickshaw, with which he used to pay the installments and also take care of family.

Gwalior region will benefit with Ken-Betwa Link and Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal projects

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the world's first Nadi Jodo project is set to take shape under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He described it as a monumental gift to the nation, with Madhya Pradesh, particularly the Gwalior region, standing to benefit significantly. Not one, but two major projects, the Ken-Betwa Link Project, with an estimated budget of ₹1 lakh crore, and the Parvati-Kali-Sindh-Chambal Link Project, are being implemented. Shivpuri will be the only district to benefit from both ambitious initiatives, marking a major milestone in the state's development. The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi, noting that these projects will pave the way for a new era

of progress, benefiting 8.5 lakh residents of the Bundelkhand region and setting Madhya Pradesh on course to become an ideal state for future generations. Addressing students at the Yuva Samvad program at Jiwaji University's Atal Bihari Vajpayee International Convention Center in Gwalior, Dr. Yadav spoke about the transformative impact of the new education policy. He remarked that while the education system introduced by Lord Macaulay hindered holistic mental development, the new policy fosters curiosity and offers opportunities for the comprehensive personality development of students. The Yuva Samvad initiative aims to nurture curiosity and provide students with the latest knowledge across various fields. During the session, Dr. Yadav resolved numerous student queries and engaged in discussions on a range of topics,

emphasizing the importance of education in shaping a progressive Madhya Pradesh. Yadav said that a unique museum of the world of science has been inaugurated, making this day a special one for Gwalior. Ujjain, the second capital of Scindia state, has been the centre of time calculation. In the world, time calculation has been linked to the Sun or Moon. Where as in India, the basis of time calculation has been the Nakshatras. This is the most subtle and most accurate calculation of time. On the basis of this tradition, the Panchang provides us with clear information about solar eclipse, lunar eclipse and other astronomical events. This method of Sanatan culture has helped the people of the country understand the calculation of time easily. Yadav interacted with students on geological activities, astronomy, the origin of the Earth, and

human life. During the interaction, he resolved the queries of students regarding the mutual relation between the moon and earth, the importance of planets and their impact on human life, the principle of the clock, and the traditions of the Sant Samaj. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said that youth is not only the future of the state and the country but also the future of the world. He said that Chief Minister Dr. Yadav is not only communicating with the youth but is also building every region of the state. He has the zeal and passion to make Madhya Pradesh a leader. He has initiated several schemes to encourage the youth, conclave for industrial development, and stipends for entrepreneurship. This young generation will be the glory, future, and architect of Madhya Pradesh. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the youth of Madhya Pradesh will

play their best role in building the country, state, and the world. Vidhan Sabha Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar said that Chief Minister Yadav has come to Gwalior today to interact with the youth, I welcome and congratulate him wholeheartedly. He said that we all know that be it any institution, area, state, or country, its future lies in its children. When we complete 100 years of independence and the whole world sees today's Vikasit Bharat, today's generation will be a witness to this growth. Prime Minister Modi's effort is to ensure that India emerges as a developed nation in the world for which all need to unite and contribute. Remembering Maharani Laxmibai, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, the Speaker said that most of our great warriors in the freedom struggle were also young, and sacrificed their lives for India's freedom.



Women riders participate in a bike rally 'Ride for Respect' for women's safety in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Uttar Pradesh govt showcases Prayagraj Mahakumbh in Madhya Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is committed to making Mahakumbh 2025 a global symbol of India's cultural unity. As part of this vision, a grand roadshow was organized in Madhya Pradesh, led by Cabinet Minister for Jal Shakti and Flood Control, Shri Swatantra Dev Singh, and Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Horticulture, Agricultural Marketing, Agricultural Foreign Trade, and Agricultural Exports, Shri Dinesh Pratap Singh. During the event, the ministers highlighted the Mahakumbh as a unique celebration of unity within India's diversity and extended an invitation to the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Mohan, and the people of Madhya



Pradesh to participate in Prayagraj Mahakumbh-2025. The Uttar Pradesh government aims to make the Mahakumbh a historic event with international participation and state-of-the-art facilities. Addressing the media, the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology emphasized that the event would embody the spirit of India's cultural and spiritual consciousness, symbolizing

"Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat, Samaveshi Bharat" (One India, Great India, Inclusive India). He added that significant efforts were being made to ensure the Mahakumbh becomes a global event of unparalleled magnitude. Recalling the success of the Prayagraj Kumbh in 2019, Cabinet Minister Swatantra Dev Singh highlighted the efficient management and global recognition the event

received. He assured that Mahakumbh 2025 would surpass the previous event in grandeur and spiritual essence. With preparations in full swing, the Uttar Pradesh government is making meticulous arrangements to accommodate an estimated 450 million pilgrims, saints, ascetics, and tourists. The Mahakumbh will be held from January 13 to February 26, 2025, on the sacred banks of the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers in Prayagraj. Recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Mahakumbh, held every 12 years, is a divine occasion that resonates with India's cultural and spiritual heritage. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mahakumbh 2025 is set to reaffirm India's cultural pride on a global stage.

Depressed over molestation, 14-year-old girl commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Depressed over molestation by youth a 14-year-old girl committed suicide by consuming poisonous substance at Eintkhedi, before death she revealed molestation by the accused to her mother. The girl died while undergoing treatment at Hamidia Hospital on Saturday night. The father said that a youth from the village had misbehaved with the daughter. Before committing suicide, the daughter had informed the mother about the entire matter. The girl consumed poison before the mother could tell anyone anything. Meanwhile, the police have registered a case and started an investigation in the matter. After the postmortem on Sunday afternoon, the body has been handed over to the family. The police said that further action will be taken after taking the statement. Victim's father said that on Friday morning, she went to the toilet near the house at 7.45 in the morning and while she was returning a youth from the village caught her and molested her. After returning home, the daughter told her mother the entire incident. Before the mother could

tell anyone, the daughter drank the pesticide kept in the house. Due to this, she started vomiting. She was immediately taken to the hospital. From where she was asked to go to Hamidia. She died late Saturday night during treatment at Hamidia Hospital. The minor's father said that he did not know why the daughter consumed poisonous substances but when they raised the alarm and hearing the screams, the father and mother of the accused also rushed to help and accompanied the family and victim to the hospital. After getting the girl admitted to Hamidia, we returned. On Saturday, the mother of accused informed that your daughter consumed the pesticide because of her son. He used to harass her. On Friday also, she was very sad after the molestation, that is why she took such a step. ASI Sher Singh, who is investigating the case, said that the father has told about Kunal, a youth from the same village, molesting his daughter. However, the father also said that his wife had told him this. The statement of the minor's mother has not been recorded yet. Further action will be taken after her statement. No suicide note has been found in the investigation.

CM for financial assistance to injured students

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has taken cognizance of the incident in which 8 students and a cook got injured in a cylinder explosion late at night in the Scheduled Caste and Tribe Hostel located in Naigarhi of Maunganj district and has directed the concerned officials to take immediate action. All the injured have been sent to Medical College Rewa by the district administration for proper treatment. Yadav has given instructions to provide Rs. 2 lakh to the student who was seriously injured in the accident, Rs 50,000 each to the seriously injured students, and financial assistance to other injured students as per rules. Along with this, the hostel superintendent has been suspended with immediate effect and an inquiry committee has been formed, which will submit its report in a week. Chief Minister Yadav has also directed to ensure 100 percent compliance with safety standards in hostels of all districts of the state. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has prayed to Baba Mahakal for the speedy recovery of all the injured.

30-year-old widow poisoned by in-laws over property dispute, dies

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Fuelled with property dispute a 30-year-old widow was forcibly poisoned by her in-laws in Nazeerabad area; four persons including a woman who absconded after the incident have been booked in the case. According to the police, 30-year-old Thappi Bai is a resident of village Jamila. Her husband died four years ago. Since the death of her husband, the woman was demanding her share in the property from her in-laws. Due to this land dispute she was forcibly poisoned by her in-laws on Saturday. The woman was admitted to the hospital for treatment in a critical condition, where her condition remains critical. The police have registered a case of attempted murder against the accused and started searching for them. There was a dispute over 20 acres of land of the woman's family. Regarding this, on Saturday, the woman's mother-in-law Nanni Bai Gurjar, father-in-law Kuber Singh, brother-in-law Meharban and uncle-in-law Inder forcibly held her and poisoned her. After the incident, all the accused fled. The people in the neighborhood admitted the woman to the hospital for treatment in a critical

condition. The hospital administration informed the police about the incident. The police reached the spot and registered a case against the accused on the basis of the woman's statements. At present, the police are conducting raids to arrest the accused. The police say that the accused will be caught soon. The investigation of the case is going on. In a separate incident of the same nature a 80-year-old man died after getting injured in a scuffle over land dispute in Gunga area. The elderly man Ramprasad fell on the ground in the fight and was taken to the hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. The police are waiting for the post-mortem report. After this, a case will be registered. Station in-charge Harishankar Verma said that Ramprasad was a resident of Maholi, and had land behind his house. The family living in front of him has land adjacent to it. There was a dispute going on between the two families for many days regarding the ridge built on it. On Friday also, both the families came face to face. The dispute increased so much that the neighbor living in front pushed Ramprasad due to which he fell on the ground and failed to get up for a long time.



A participant with her cat during the 78th and 79th Championship Cat Show, organised by Feline Club of India, in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

CM expresses grief over demise of 4 in tractor trolley accident

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has expressed grief over the untimely death of 4 residents of Kaith village in an accident caused by a tractor-trolley going out of control near Antari-Tilavali Tiraha under Ghatigaon development block of Gwalior district.

CM Dr. Yadav said that in this hour of crisis, the state government is with the families of the deceased. CM Yadav has given instructions to release financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased. As soon as the district administration received information about this accident on Saturday night, the injured were

immediately admitted to JAH Trauma Centre and the hospital management was directed to provide proper treatment to the injured. Chief Minister Yadav has prayed to Baba Mahakal to grant the souls of the deceased a place in his lotus feet and for speedy recovery of the injured and strength to the bereaved families to bear this profound loss.

World record of Hindustani classical music made in Gwalior

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

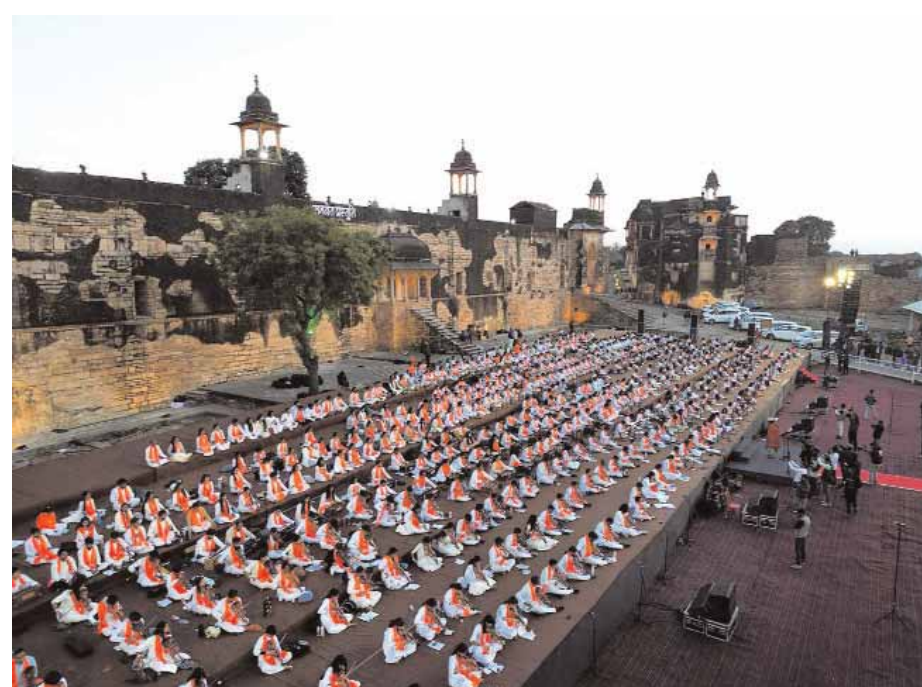
Chief Minister Mohan Yadav extended his best wishes and congratulated the Hindustani Classical Band artists for the record ensemble musical instrument presentation registered in the Guinness Book of World Records at the inauguration of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroha 2024. He said that this achievement of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroha and the world record is a medium to revive the long ancient heritage of music present in Indian culture including Sangeet Samrat Tansen, Maharani Lakshmi Bai, Mahadji Scindia, Late Rajmata Scindia and Jain Tirthankara. Notably, a world record of Hindustani classical music was created by the captivating presentation of 8 musical instru-

ments by 546 artists. Yadav was addressing the audience after inaugurating the Tansen Sangeet Samaroha 2024 and the ensemble performance in Gwalior. Yadav has said that Gwalior was Sadhana Sthal of Sangeet Samrat Tansen and the origin of Khayal singing. From Raja Mansingh Tomar to the Scindia family, every possible effort has been made to preserve the legacy of music. On the occasion of the 100th celebration of Tansen, Yadav greeted the artists for the performance given by the classical band on 8 classical instruments namely violin, harmonium, sarangi, flute, sarod, santoor, shehnai, pakhavaj and tabla. No musical instrument in the world can be out of Indian classical composition Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said

that music is present in every pore of this animate and inanimate world. Maharishi Patanjali has mentioned 5 main Pranas, 5 supporting Pranas as well as sub-pranas. In this, one sub-Prana is sensation, which connects us with music. Music experience and liveliness is identified from every pore. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, while referring to the colossal form shown by Lord Krishna to the Dhauhari Veer Arjun, said that the consciousness of life comes through every pore. The practice of classical music thrills every pore of a person. In Indian culture, the tradition of creating harmony with nature on the basis of classical instruments was started. No musical instrument in the world can be out of classical composition; this is the specialty of Indian classical music. Indian music tradi-

tion enables us to move forward on the journey of happiness by harmonizing with everyone. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the identity of all our gods and goddesses is associated with some musical instrument. The source of inspiration for the world's first musical instrument is a raindrop. The sound of the first drop of water falling in a pond or river connects with the sound of Damru. As a result, Damru is the world's first musical instrument associated with Lord Shiva. The Bansuri is the source of joy for Lord Krishna. Yadav inaugurated the Tansen Sangeet Samaroha by lighting the lamp. On this occasion, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar, Water Resources Minister and Gwalior in-charge Tulsiram Silawat, New

and Renewable Energy Minister Rakesh Shukla, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, MP Bharat Singh Kushwaha, Principal Secretary Culture and Tourism Sheoshakar Shukla and a large number of music lovers were present. 9 minutes of music with classical instruments dedicated. In a collective performance dedicated to music, 536 artists from the country and the state played 9 classical instruments together. It included 347 male and 189 female artists. Through the collective performance, a musical tribute was paid to the king of music Tansen. This performance was based on three ragas composed by Tansen, which include Malhar, Miyan ki Todi and Darbari Kanhra. The performance was coordi-



Artists with different musical instruments perform for an attempt to make Guinness World Records as largest Indian classical band during 100th International Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Piobner photo



Congress leader Manoj Shukla with party workers takes out a torch rally protesting against the anti-public policies of the State Government on the completion of one year of its rule, in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Traffic chaos in the Old City due to flea market

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Heavy footfall at the Bhopal Talkies Sunday Bazaar and Jtema Market at the Taj-ul-Masajid complex led to significant traffic snarls in various old city areas on Sunday. Weekend shoppers thronged the two markets in search of bargains, leading to significant traffic stress on Berasia Road and Sultania Road. Motorists caused traffic chaos in Shahjehanabad, Sindh Colony, and Kazi Camp as they tried to take alternative routes to avoid the messy traffic situation. The traffic situation on Berasia Road was exacerbated by the reinstallation of construction sheets, which

had been removed to facilitate the free flow of traffic during the Jtema congregation. Though the market at Taj-ul-Masajid is an annual affair, the second-hand market at Bhopal Talkies is a weekly nuisance that residents say has grown considerably since it first started with a few vendors selling shoes by the roadside. Now, the market attracts people from all walks of life, as vendors have expanded their offerings to include used electronics and computer hardware spares, in addition to the winter staples they sold earlier. Residents blame the civic body and the traffic police for allowing the market to

flourish despite the traffic nuisance it causes every week. The situation on Sultania Road was no different, as a large number of shoppers arrived at the Jtema Market in search of winter bargains. Vehicular traffic remained in disarray for several hours in the area, which houses a large number of medical facilities, including the mainstay Hamidia Hospital. Residents said the traffic situation was worsened by the partial closure of parts of the GPO-Taj Mahal Road, which has remained dug up for months due to the inexplicable abandonment of repair work on the crucial street.

400 kg eatables seized at Bhopal Talkies mkt

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The Food Safety Administration on Sunday afternoon seized 400 kilograms of expired food items from vendors at the Sunday market near Bhopal Talkies. The operation targeted sellers dealing in expired packaged food items despite their potential health risks, confirmed officials. They said the confiscation came after a caller informed the department of the illicit sale of unsafe edibles at the busy market. Authorities confiscated the goods, which will now be destroyed, and issued a warning to both vendors and shoppers. "We urge consumers to always check expiry dates before purchasing any products," said an

official from the Food Safety Department. "It is critical for public health that expired goods are not sold or consumed." Speaking of the source of the goods, Food Safety Officer Devendra Dubey said that the expired edibles had most probably been procured from retailers who had sold them to these vendors at throwaway prices. Dubey confirmed that Food Safety officials had responded to a complaint and confiscated the goods after confirming that the edibles were indeed unfit for consumption. He said that the department monitors markets to ensure the safety of food items and protect consumers from potential health hazards. Meanwhile, scores of bargain hunters at the market continued to buy unsafe edibles and cosmetics that were well past their expiry dates.



Members of the Bhai Welfare Society stage a protest over the suicide of a Bengaluru Techie Atul Subhash for allegedly harassment and judicial corruption, demanding for justice in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

Partial compliance of tandoor ban as debate smoulders

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ BHOPAL

Defying administrative orders and the subsequent spot fines by Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC), a section of eateries are refusing to comply with the tandoor ban, citing an adverse impact on taste and sales. Recently, the BMC placed a ban on the use of traditional tandoors after a rise in Air Quality Index (AQI) levels in the state capital. Experts say that the use of solid fuels (wood and coal) by these earthen ovens is responsible for adding to contaminants in the city's air. Unmoved by the ban, servers at a renowned eatery on Hoshangabad Road, Vrindavan Dhaba, say they are still using coal tandoors but have ordered gas tandoors, which will arrive in seven days' time.

On the other hand, Akash Khatri, the manager of Twist and Tadka, said the establishment transitioned to gas tandoors 1.5 years ago following a similar directive last year. Khatri, however, added that preparing dishes like paneer tikka poses a challenge, as electric tandoors can't replicate the smoky flavour of a traditional tandoor. "Even though the administration has banned coal-fired cooking, vendors selling peanuts and corn are still burning coal openly. While we support the government's efforts to reduce pollution, implementation seems inconsistent," he lamented. Shivani, the receptionist at Naveen Babu Ki Kutiyaa, also on Hoshangabad Road, stated that they immediately stopped using

tandoors after the directive. They are now serving tawa roti, without any impact on customer satisfaction or taste. The owner of Punjabi Touch, a non-vegetarian restaurant near Ashima Mall, noted, "In non-veg dishes, tandoors are essential. Due to the ban, we have temporarily halted our service. Yet, 90 per cent of establishments in Bhopal continue to use coal tandoors." Vikram Chauhan, owner of Chicken Kukdoo, shared, "We have stopped using tandoors, but this has significantly affected our sales and taste, forcing us to lay off tandoor staff. Regular customers demand coal tandoors, as gas tandoors fail to deliver the same flavour. Despite this, we appreciate the government's environmental efforts and stand with the administration."

Sharma and Vishnu Restaurants have also stated that they are using gas tandoors. From the customer's perspective, opinions are divided. Akashdeep, a student, remarked, "Tandoori and rumali rotis pair best with non-veg dishes. Without tandoors, the food feels incomplete, as it lacks the aroma and taste." Shahrukh, a bike repair shop owner, stated, "The government's stance is correct, but nothing beats the taste of food cooked in a coal tandoor." Gaurav Sharma, an employee at a private firm, warned, "Tawa rotis and food made without tandoors can still be delicious. Sacrificing the environment for taste is not right. If we don't act now, future generations will suffer." Sarthak, who works for a multinational company, shared his

experience as a tourist in Bhopal. "Most hotels and restaurants still use coal tandoors. While many claim to use gas tandoors, platforms like food delivery apps reveal otherwise. Banning tandoors isn't a solution." "The administration must explore alternative methods. Some dishes can only achieve their authentic flavour in coal tandoors. With inflation already high, how can hotel owners afford to alienate their customers?" he questioned. Caught between a rock and a hard place, both the district administration and the BMC are desperately trying to strike a balance in the fight for air quality and populism by not formalising the campaign, which will most likely be snuffed out at the end of winter, the peak pollution season in the city.

BMC moves homeless to shelters

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In the midst of an intensifying cold wave, the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) has stepped up efforts to protect homeless individuals from the extreme cold by relocating them to community shelters. The BMC move came after reports suggested that at least three homeless people have succumbed to the extreme cold over the last few days. Municipal staff are actively advising those found spending the night on streets, footpaths, and open spaces to move to Rain Basera night shelters. Municipal workers are even offering free rides to these facilities. BMC operates 15 permanent and temporary shelters across the city, equipped with beds, blankets, electric heaters, drinking

water, and toilet facilities for the comfort of those in need. BMC Commissioner Havendra Narayan has directed civic officials and staff to increase patrols at known homeless hotspots—VIP Road, Bairagarh Road, bus stands, and railway stations. The enhanced monitoring ensures that no one is left out in the cold, with municipal vehicles transporting individuals to nearby shelters during the ongoing cold wave. The initiative is part of the city's broader effort to provide relief and ensure the safety of vulnerable populations during the winter months. Earlier this week, three homeless deaths were reported from the Hanumanganj and Kotwali areas of the city. Though it was believed that the castaways had succumbed to the extreme cold, the civic body is yet to confirm or deny these speculations.

Jiwaji's dream coming true

Gwalior: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said that the Scindia family has made a significant contribution in the field of education. Today I have unveiled the statue of a great personality who has set records in many fields including education in independent India. Along with this, he has also given impetus to education through which a person develops the innermost feelings and a

human being is created. The Vice President said that this is a changing world, and changes will keep happening but education is very important. Vice President Shri Dhankhar said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi implemented the new National Education Policy in the country. Our country has gone far ahead in technology. It is expected that Jiwaji University Institute will also usher new technologies. As chief guest on the occasion,

Vice President Shri Dhankhar said at a function organized after the unveiling of the statue of Jiwaji Rao Scindia at the Jiwaji University campus. Governor Shri Mangubhai Patel presided over the function. Special guests on the occasion were Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Union Communications and North Eastern Region Development Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar and others.

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
 Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069
 Narmadapuram Branch - Khasara No.72/10, Mouza Kishanpur ward no.16, R.K.Shri tower, 2nd Floor, Itarasi Road, Near Meenakshi Square, opp. Gala Mandi, Hoshangabad-MP-461001
 Bhopal Branch - Office No.1, Plot No. 200, 1st Floor, Jyoti Cineplex, M.P. Nagar, Zone-1 Bhopal-462001, (M.P.)
 Sagar Branch - 1st Floor, Sakhi Baba Matrix, Makronia road, Sagar - 470004 (Madhya Pradesh)
 Shujalpur Branch - House No.17, Ward No.15, Panjabi Mohalla, Digambar Jain Mandir Road, Shujalpur, Shujalpur Mandi, Shujalpur Dist. Madhya Pradesh-465333
 Guna Branch - P. H. No. - 75, Building 1st Floor, in front of Hero Showroom, Near ICICI Bank, Mahaveerpura, AB Road, Guna - 473001 (M.P.)

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. (AHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the 'said Borrower(s)'), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured assets (immovable property)
1	(Loan Code No. 05610000058 / Narmadapuram Branch) Govind Singh (Borrower) Sunita Bai (Co-Borrower)	05-12-2024 ₹ 6,44,287/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Khasra No 164/34 Patwari Halka No 16, Situated at Mauja- VIII Shahganj The Budni Dist Sehore Madhya Pradesh Boundaries: East -Raghuveer Maharaj, West - Road, North - Rest Land of Seller, South - Mandir after seller Plot
2	(Loan Code No. 00600002621 / Bhopal Branch) Mohd Anvar (Borrower) Shabana (Co-Borrower)	07-12-2024 ₹ 22,72,337/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, NA Plot No 54 Kabitpura Shahjanabad Near Islami Gate farhan Majzid Right From Islami Gate, Bhopal, (M.P.) 462001. Boundaries: East -Gali, West - House Of Syeed Qureshi, North - House Of Mamod, South - House Of Farukhi Sahab
3	(Loan Code No. 05600000298 & 05600000541 / Narmadapuram Branch) Shameem Ahmad (Borrower) Shaista Bee (Co-Borrower) Kishore Kumar Yadav (Guarantor)	07-12-2024 ₹ 5,56,621/- ₹ 84,819/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, NA Plot Part Of Plot No 7, Ward No 06 Killapura Road, Killapura Ward Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, 461771. Boundaries: East - Road, West - Road, North - Plot of Jumman Kha, South - Plot of Seller
4	(Loan Code No. 0230000596 & 0230000121 / Sagar Branch) Ranjit Pal Yadav (Borrower) Anita Pal Yadav (Co-Borrower) Sikandar Khan & Anup Yadav (Guarantors)	07-12-2024 ₹ 3,12,821/- & ₹ 4,96,297/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Kh No 151 60 P H No 66, Vitthal Nagar, Ward Mouja Madhya Kabul A, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, 470002. Boundaries: East -Plot Of Salim, West - Plot of Fujjir, North - 12 Feet Wide Road, South - Plot Of Jadir
5	(Loan Code No. 02300001488 / Sagar Branch) Munnalalji Sahu (Borrower) Rukmani Sahu (Co-Borrower)	07-12-2024 ₹ 6,71,873/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Patwari Halka No.21, Nagar Palika, Bina (M.P.). Boundaries: East- Property of Ramratan Shrivastav, West- Road, North - House of Durgaprasad Namdev, South- Land Of Chandansingh
6	(Loan Code No. 09100000174 / Shujalpur Branch) Ashish Joshi (Borrower) Basanti Bai Joshi (Co-Borrower) Giriraj Kaseria (Guarantor)	07-12-2024 ₹ 3,05,594/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Survey No 166 2 13 Ph No. 31 10 Ward No 14 Sardar Patel Ward Opp Madhumilani Industries, Tehsil, Biaora Dist. Raigarh, (M.P.) 465674. Boundaries: East -vacat Land Of Laxman Singh, West - 20 Feet Wide Road, North - Plot of Thakur Sahab, South - Vacat Land of Laxman Singh
7	(Loan Code No. 09100000572 / Shujalpur Branch) Late Ratanlal Vishkarma (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Borrower) Kala Bai (Co-Borrower)	07-12-2024 ₹ 1,85,206/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, S No 453 1 Min 453 2 457 P H No 36 Gram Mahupura, Ward No 29 Shajapur Near Railway Fatak, Shajapur, (M.P.) 465001. Boundaries: East - Land Of Jitendra S/o Gokul Singh, West - Gov. Land, North - Public Way, South - Land Of Seller
8	(Loan Code No. 05800000651 / Guna Branch) Late Shamshad Khan (Represented Through The Legal Heir) (Borrower) Gulista Shamshad Khan (Co-Borrower) Nazneen Ali Khan (Guarantor)	06-12-2024 ₹ 23,20,869/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, House No 4 2 street No 02 Ward No 01 N ew 02 Ramlala Marg near Jama masjid, Raigarh, Madhya Pradesh 465674. Boundaries: East -Govt Gali, West - House of Gulrehman Khan, North - House of Nazir Jafri, South - Common way
9	(Loan Code No. 00610000591 / Bhopal Branch) Mo Shafiq (Borrower) Nasreen (Co-Borrower)	10-12-2024 ₹ 4,09,167/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Krishna Green Colony Village-Ghatkhedi Plot No. 61 Ghatkhedi, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh- 462001 Boundaries: East - Road, West - Plot No 51, North - Plot No 60, South - Plot No 62
10	(Loan Code No. 05810000067 / Guna Branch) Shrikrishn Ahirwar (Borrower) Mahesh Ahirwar (Co-Borrower)	10-12-2024 ₹ 4,05,925/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, New Sai City Colony Muhalpur Road, Kasba Guna Ward No.23 1026 Guna, Madhya Pradesh - 473001 Boundaries: East - Plot No 991, West - 18ft Wide Road, North - Plot No 1025, South - Plot No 1026 Rest Land Of Naventa Bai
11	(Loan Code No. 05610000335 / Narmadapuram Branch) Pradeep Shilpi (Borrower) Geeta Bai & Lakhan Lal (Co-Borrowers)	10-12-2024 ₹ 5,72,591/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Daal Mill Colony Bareilly Main Road Ward No.07 Bareilly Raisen Madhya Pradesh - 464668. Boundaries: East - Land of Karan Sath, West - 5ft wide road, North - Land of Bhara wala Waster, South - Rest land of seller

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Place: Madhya Pradesh
 Date: 16.12.2024
 Sd/- Authorised Officer
 For: Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Lawyers, activists call for extending POSH Act to political parties

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Legal experts and activists have voiced the urgent need to bring political parties under the ambit of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, known as the POSH Act, citing the need for gender equality and accountability. The reaction comes after the Supreme Court on Monday disposed of a plea seeking direction to political parties to follow the procedure for the protection of women in the workplace under the 2013 POSH Act.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Manmohan asked the petitioner to approach the Election Commission of India (ECI) with a representation for the application of the POSH Act. Sonal Mattoo, a lawyer and director of NGO Helping Hands, called for a shift in perspective, urging political parties to focus on the spirit of the law rather than its technical definition.

"The problem is they're looking at the letter of the law as opposed to the spirit of the law. If you look at the letter of the law, yes, you will struggle with who is the employer... But if you look at the spirit of the law, it's very easy to implement as every political party has a disciplinary committee," she told PTI.

Similarly, she said, this is a group of people who are entrusted with ensuring that



decorum is followed and no member does anything that brings disrepute to the party.

"Similarly, they can set up a committee that also looks at the behaviour related to inappropriate conduct of party workers and people within the party. So, if you look at the letter of the law and you look at who is the employer, you will struggle.

"But if you look at other bodies within political parties that look at discipline and their conduct or misconduct, it's very easy to create a similar pattern in terms of ensuring appropriate conduct with women colleagues that work with them I think the whole idea is to look at the spirit, rather than the letter of the law," Mattoo said. However, prominent lawyer Shilpi Jain expressed concerns over the internal committees' independence, given the immense power wielded

by politicians.

"An internal committee funded by a political group will lack teeth. For such bodies to function effectively, independence and courage are essential. Unfortunately, given the misuse of power by many politicians, achieving this remains a challenge," she told PTI.

Jain added that courts are better positioned to handle cases of sexual harassment involving politicians, given the inherent biases internal mechanisms might face. Activists argue that addressing harassment within political parties will set a precedent for improving gender equality across society.

Shabnam Hashmi, founder of NGO Anhad, called it a "progressive" move. "Politicians are expected to lead by example. If they continue to ignore gender equality, it sends the wrong mes-

sage to society. Establishing such mechanisms in political parties will bring gradual but important changes, just as we saw with women asserting themselves after the implementation of 33 per cent reservation in panchayats," she told PTI.

Yogita Bhayana, anti-rape activist and founder of People Against Rape in India (PARI) criticised the "irony" of Parliament exempting itself from a law it enacted.

"If an institution with more than 10 members is required to implement POSH, why are political parties excluded? Parliament itself brought in this law. Their inability to enforce it internally reflects their reluctance to confront harassment within their ranks," she told PTI.

Bhayana also pointed out the larger issue of poor implementation of the POSH Act across various sectors, stating, "We need a framework that is not only expansive but also effective in its enforcement." The legal definition of "workplace" under the POSH Act complicates its application to political parties.

A 2022 Kerala High Court ruling stated that political parties do not have a conventional employer-employee relationship and cannot be mandated to set up Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs).

This ambiguity, combined with the decentralised and informal nature of political party structures, has often

been cited as a reason for non-compliance. Still, many experts believe this should not prevent political parties from taking proactive steps.

"The lack of a traditional workplace structure cannot be an excuse. Political parties must adapt and lead by example," Hashmi emphasised. She added that even minimal initial progress would pave the way for systemic change in the long run.

Lawyers and activists have also highlighted how extending the POSH Act to political parties could improve the participation of women in politics.

Additionally, extending the Act's provisions would address the vulnerability of women working in political settings, who often find themselves in informal roles without clear channels for grievance redressal.

"These women face unique challenges because they are not officially employed. This makes them more vulnerable to harassment, and it's why political parties must implement systems to protect them," Bhayana noted.

While legal experts warn of challenges in implementation, activists stress that this is an opportunity to hold political parties accountable.

"This is not just about legal compliance but about sending a strong message that politics is not above the law," Hashmi said.

PM Modi invokes Nehru to distract nation's attention from his own failures, claims Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, alleging that defamation of Jawaharlal Nehru and minimum democratic governance was his model. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said PM Modi has an "obsession" with Nehru as he invokes the country's first prime minister to distract the nation's attention from his "own failures" and current challenges on which he maintains a "complete silence".

The Congress attack on the prime minister came a day after Modi attacked the party during the debate on the 'Glorious 75-year journey of India's Constitution'. "It was the famous French philosopher Voltaire who had first said that if God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent Him. For our self-anointed divinity -- if Nehru had not existed -- it would have been necessary to invent him," Ramesh said.

The Congress leader asked what would the prime minister do without Nehru, for whom he has a pathological obsession. "Nehru is necessary to distract the nation's attention from his own failures. Nehru is necessary to divert the nation's attention from current challenges on which he maintains a complete silence," Ramesh said. He also said that Nehru was necessary to deny the nation's many achievements before May 2014.



In another post on X, Ramesh said, "In his rant in the Lok Sabha yesterday, the PM attacked Nehru on the First Amendment to the Constitution of India -- which was carried out with effect from June 18th, 1951." Explaining why this amendment was brought, the Congress leader said, it was carried out for three reasons. "One, to deal with communal propaganda at a most sensitive time. Two, to protect Zamindari abolition laws that were being struck down by the courts. Three, to protect reservations in education and employment for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and OBCs that had been rejected by the courts" he said.

A select committee, in which Nehru, Rajagopalchari, and Ambedkar were among the members, examined the Bill in detail, Ramesh said, noting that even after the panel tabled its report, Nehru listened to his critics and modified his stance.

"Earlier on July 3, 1950, Sardar Patel had written to Nehru on the need for restrictions on freedom of speech, expressing his frustration with people like Syama Prasad Mookerjee. This letter reveals that Sardar Patel himself would have supported the First Amendment had he been alive.

"Granville Austin's masterly Working a Democratic Constitution tells the full story of the amendments carried out till 1980. It is too much to expect of MAs in Entire Political Science or his cheerleaders to have read it?" Ramesh posed while sharing the letter in his X post. Prime Minister Modi Saturday accused the Congress of repeatedly mutilating the Constitution, having "tasted blood" in its "greed" for power, as he asserted that his government's policies and decisions since 2014 have been aimed at boosting India's strength and unity in line with the vision of the Constitution.

Hakim asks Muslims to outnumber Hindus, TMC backs him

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has stood up for its senior Minister Firhad Hakim for calling upon the 'minorities' to grow and outnumber the 'majority' community so that "one day we can not only become majority but even more than majority."

Though the opposition parties have vehemently opposed Hakim who has still not explained his statement senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said that "he is being misinterpreted by some people why a majority of them have understood the real meaning of what he has said." Holding the bat for Hakim -

-- who apart from being a senior Cabinet Minister is also the Mayor of Kolkata -- Ghosh said that "what he meant is that the minorities (read Muslims) through their effort will one day contribute immensely in the uplift of the society and nation building... which is a fairly good statement and needs no censor."

Hakim while delivering a speech in a social gathering said "while in Bengal, we are 33 per cent in the entire country we are 17 per cent which is why we are called a minority... But we don't want to be called minorities," adding to a big round of applause that "we can become not only majority but even bigger than that if we have the

mercy of Allah."

Though he said that the minorities should work hand-in-hand with the other communities for the cause of nation building he clearly inspired them to achieve the majority status so that "we can wield so much power we don't have to hold candlelight marches for justice ... and that so that our voices are automatically heard, and calls for justice answered."

Curiously there was no comment on the issue from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee whose office remained as silent as it was when Hakim during an earlier occasion asked the members of his community to work for a situation when "all those who



'unblessed' have not received the mercy (rehmat) of Allah will one day be enfolded in our path."

Referring to Hakim's remarks

as "dangerous" Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari said, "some minority people have been asking the minority people to labour

hard to get better government jobs including those of judges etc but this mentality is quite dangerous ... if they become 50 per cent or more then the Constitution will stop working ... like in Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan ... they will unleash the Sharia laws."

Bengal BJP president and Union Minister Sukanto Majumdar said that Hakim's speech "smacked of Abrahamic religious trends." "They wanted to occupy a region and make it as their religion liked it to be" Majumdar said wondering why the Chief Minister who was talking big on Bangladesh a few days ago was silent on Hakim's statements.

Another senior BJP leader Sajal Ghosh said that the Muslims can walk Hakim's talk by replicating the Great Calcutta killings of 1946 or by allowing mass infiltration from Bangladesh which his Chief Minister is doing for vote bank politics and third by subscribing to another TMC minister Siddiqullah Chowdhury who recently asked the Muslims to follow "he hum do humare chaar" (four children for every couple) plan ... a time has come for the people to reply to this." While BN Chakrabarty a famed political analyst wondered "why I did not die before having to encounter such a statement," the Left tended to look into it through

a "larger conspiracy angle." Condemning Hakim's statement CPI(M) central committee member Sujana Chakrabarty said that it was a part of bigger ploy to polarize the people of Bengal. "They do not want the secular fabric of Bengal to stay ... so he has made this remark ... I don't think this statement has been made without the nod of RSS because such kind of statements will benefit them and the BJP the most in the present scenario ... Firhad Hakim is not a minnow of a politician not to understand the political implication of this statement in the elections ... it is clear that he has been making such statements as per some instructions."

Want RS to debate Constitution if BJP does not disrupt: TMC's Derek

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha Parliamentary Party Leader Derek O'Brien said on Sunday his party wants the House to run and the debate on the Constitution to be taken up "if the BJP does not disrupt Parliament". Blaming the ruling BJP for disruptions after the Upper House last week witnessed multiple adjournments and heated exchanges involving the opposition, treasury benches and the Chair, the TMC leader said they wanted people's issues to be discussed.

After the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is set to take up on Monday a debate on 75 years of the Constitution in the backdrop of a proposed no-trust motion against Vice President



and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar by Opposition parties which have submitted a notice for it. The debate on the Constitution has been the key demand of the opposition for the Winter Session of Parliament. Multiple adjournments over the Adani row, Soros issue and the no-trust notice had marred the proceedings of the House last week.

Asked about the debate scheduled to be taken in the House for Monday, O'Brien said, "We

want Parliament to run, we want to raise issues affecting people." "If the BJP does not disrupt Parliament again, we will take up the debate on the Constitution and expose them," O'Brien told reporters on Sunday. According to sources, 10-11 MPs will participate in the debate, and speak for 3-4 minutes each. They said it would also showcase the "diversity" of their party.

The MPs will highlight the essence of ten keywords from the Preamble of the Constitution, speaking on themes like equality, justice, sovereignty, independence, democracy and socialism. The TMC has 12 MPs in the Rajya Sabha. However, MP Sukhendu Shekhar Roy has been sidelined for his criticism of the party during the RG Kar protests.

Minister Sonowal launches Jalvahak scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The Union government on Sunday launched the 'Jalvahak' scheme to incentivise cargo movement via inland waterways, marking a major step towards promoting sustainable and cost-effective transportation across National Waterways 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak river).



Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off three cargo ships and inaugurated the fixed scheduled service of vessels. He said the scheme aims to unlock the trade potential of inland waterways while reducing logistics costs and decongesting road and rail networks.

Under the scheme, cargo owners transporting goods over distances exceeding 300 km via waterways will receive up to 35 per cent reimbursement on operating costs. The scheme will remain valid for three years and is designed to optimise supply chains for major shipping companies, freight

forwarders, and trade bodies. The scheme is jointly implemented by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Inland & Coastal Shipping Ltd (ICSL), a subsidiary of the Shipping Corporation of India. The cargo promotion scheme is

projected to facilitate a modal shift of 800 million tonne-kilometres with an estimated investment of Rs 95.4 crore by 2027, a statement said. The fixed-schedule sailing service will ply vessels between Kolkata-Patna-Varanasi and Kolkata-Pandu (Guwahati) routes, demonstrating the readiness of waterways for efficient and eco-friendly cargo transportation.

"The Jalvahak scheme incentivises long-haul cargo transport and ensures timely delivery through regular freight services. This initiative provides a positive economic value proposition to trade while advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transformation via transportation," Sonowal said. Sonowal flagged off three vessels - MV Trishul carrying

1,500 tonnes of cement to Guwahati via the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route, MV Aai with 1,000 tonnes of gypsum to Patna for a cement company and MV Homi Bhabha transporting 200 tonnes of coal to Varanasi.

Highlighting the sector's growth, Sonowal said cargo volumes on national waterways have increased from 18.07 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 132.89 million tonnes in 2023-24, registering over 700 per cent growth. He added that the government aims to achieve 200 million tonnes by 2030 and 500 million tonnes by 2047. Union Minister of State for shipping Shantanu Thakur told the media that there is no concern in bilateral trade despite ongoing Bangladesh unrest and government has been keeping a close watch.

Assam govt mulling to provide pulses, sugar through ration cards to stabilise price: Himanta

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

The Assam government is mulling to provide pulses and sugar through ration cards to help stabilise the prices of these items whenever there is a spike, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday. During the day, Sarma launched the first phase of distribution of new ration cards, covering 49 newly delimited assembly constituencies.

The chief minister, who participated in a launch programme covering Jalukbari and Central Guwahati constituencies, affirmed the government's commitment to working for an inclusive society. "Today, HCM Dr. @himantabiswa inaugurated the first phase of new ration card distribution in 49 newly designated assembly con-

stituencies, reaffirming the government's commitment to uplifting vulnerable sections of society," the chief minister's office (CMO) said in a post on X.

It said that by December, each beneficiary will receive 5 kg of free rice, ensuring food security for those in need.

"HCM emphasised that the collective support and cooperation will continue to inspire the government's efforts to build a prosperous and inclusive society for all," the CMO added.

Speaking to reporters later, Sarma said the state government had decided in September to provide new ration cards to 20 lakh beneficiaries.

"Today we are giving new ration cards to 7 lakh beneficiaries. Hopefully by December 28, about 18-19 lakh new beneficiaries will be covered," he said.



With the ration cards now linked to Aadhaar numbers, other benefits such as medical insurance and subsidised LPG

cylinders, are also provided through it, with the ration cards to gradually become a 'family identity document',

the CM said. Sarma said the government is discussing the idea of providing pulses and sugar through

ration cards when the prices of these items increase, as it will help in price stabilisation. "I have asked our department

minister Kaushik Rai to tour other states which have implemented it. We haven't tried it in Assam so far," he said, adding that states like Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh have been doing it.

Speaking on 'One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC), Sarma said, "It is an innovation of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The net result of the initiative is that if a particular family lives in two places within or outside the state, ration can be divided and drawn."

"It is through an Aadhaar-enabled, centrally governed portal and Assam is a part of it," he added.

Sarma, in a post on X, added, "Our Govt is driven by the principles of Antyodaya, where special emphasis is given to the needs of the poor and marginalised." "Karishma Kashyap is among

the 40 divyang brothers & sisters who have been given ration cards today assuring them of free healthcare and foodgrains," he said, sharing a photograph of the wheelchair-bound beneficiary receiving the ration card.

The chief minister said the distribution of ration cards is part of the government's '12 days of development' initiative, which will benefit 12 lakh people.

He said that in Assam, beneficiaries can avail of multiple benefits through ration card, which includes free foodgrains, free healthcare, subsidised LPG, assistance under Orunodoi scheme and free insurance.

"In this phase of extending ration cards to the people, another ~20 lakh people will be covered, encompassing 2/3rd of the state's population in this social security net," Sarma added.

Home Minister Amit Shah urges naxals to surrender, promises rehabilitation as government responsibility

PTI ■ JAGDALPUR/CHHATTISGARH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday appealed to Naxals to join the mainstream, or else they will have to face the strong action of security forces. He said the rehabilitation of the surrendered Naxals is the responsibility of the government.

Addressing a sporting event - 'Bastar Olympics' - in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur, Shah also said the country would be free of Maoists by March 2026.

"I appeal to Naxals, please come forward. Give up arms, surrender and join the mainstream. Your rehabilitation is our responsibility," he said. He said if the Maoists do not listen to the appeal of surrender, they will be crushed by the security forces. "Chhattisgarh Police is



committed to fulfilling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's resolve to make India Naxal-free by March 31, 2026," he said. The Union home minister said the Chhattisgarh government's rehabilitation policy is the best in the country. "If you surrender and join the mainstream, you will

contribute for the development of Chhattisgarh and India," he said. Shah said when the Congress was in power in Chhattisgarh before the BJP assumed charge a year ago, the action against the Maoists became slow. "But after our government came to power in Chhattisgarh, action against

the extremists speeded up resulting in killings of 287 Naxals in last one year, arrest of 992 Naxals and surrender of 836 others," he said. Shah said since the Modi government assumed charge, there has been a 73 per cent reduction in the casualties in security forces and 70 per cent decline in civilians' deaths.

"If Naxalism ends in Bastar (Chhattisgarh), it will attract more tourists than Kashmir due to its natural beauty," he said.

He further said those who know the process of change taking place within the society also know that it is not limited to only 1.5 lakh people participating in the Bastar Olympics.

"Everyone is saying that Bastar is changing. I assure you that when I will come to the 2026 Bastar Olympics, I will say that Bastar has changed," he said, adding that this change has been initiated by the Bastar Olympics. The Union home minister said this event will write a new saga of development of Bastar in the coming days and will become a strong basis for the complete eradication of Naxalism.

He also said many development works are being done, through which Naxalism is being defeated.

Intense debates expected as UP Vidhan Sabha winter session begins today

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The winter session of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha is set to commence on Monday, lasting four days during which the government plans to table 10 key ordinances approved by the working committee. Though the winter session will be brief, the political atmosphere is expected to be intense.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress have announced plans to confront the government on sensitive issues such as the Bahraich riots and Sambhal violence. They also intend to raise concerns over the by-election process, accusing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of misusing administrative machinery. Meanwhile, the BJP, emboldened by its recent electoral success, is prepared to counter the opposition's charges.

The ruling party is likely to highlight its achievements, including the Prayagraj Kumbh preparations and the



first anniversary of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at the Ram Jambhoomi temple in Ayodhya.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath may use the assembly platform to address allegations raised by Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Lok Sabha.

His government's victory chant "Batenge toh kateng" is expected to resonate within the House as a symbol of BJP's dominance.

SP Deputy Legislative Party Leader Kamal Akhtar said that a meeting for SP MLAs was held on Sunday evening while party president

Akhilesh Yadav will hold another meeting on December 17 to finalize the party's stand on key issues, including law and order, healthcare services, and the electricity privatization policy.

The Congress party is also gearing up for a robust debate. Senior leaders have vowed to expose what they describe as "appeasement politics" and "policy failures" of the Yogi government.

As the winter session unfolds, fiery debates and legislative maneuvering are expected to dominate proceedings.

While the government will push for swift passage of the ordinances, the opposition aims to put the administration on the back foot through pointed questions and public-interest motions.

The coming days will determine whether legislative business can move ahead or whether political drama will overshadow this crucial session in the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha.

Travellers beware, Kerala roads are graveyards



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Four more lives were lost in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district on early Sunday morning as a speeding car crashed into a bus carrying Sabarimala pilgrims. Nikhil and Anu, newly married couple who were returning home after a honeymoon trip to Malaysia and their fathers Mathai Eapen and Biju George respectively died on the spot. Nikhil and Anu who had got married on 30th November were returning after their Malaysian trip and their parents had picked them up from the international airport at Thiruvananthapuram. The accident occurred hardly seven kilometers from their residence.

This is the latest of the series of mishaps which shocked the people in the State as it was on Thursday four girls were crushed to death in Palakkad by a speeding lorry. Two days prior to the Palakkad accident, six students of Government Medical College, Alappuzha

died while the car in which they were traveling lost control and had a head-on collision with a bus. Over the years, Kerala roads have graduated into graveyards.

Travellers coming to Kerala from North India are advised to be doubly cautious while undertaking journeys in the roads. The State administration blames the Centre for every accidents even of the roads belong to the State Express Highways, said officials of State transport department.

Just two days before the death of the medics, five migrant workers from Tamil Nadu were run over by a speeding truck in Thrissur. "All these deaths were gruesome and there were many factors that contributed to these accidents," said Upendra Narayanan, advisor to the Road Safety Committee of Kerala Government. He told The Pioneer that enforcement system of road safety rules were weak in the State which is facing shortage of cops to monitor movement of vehicles.

More than 4,000 persons get killed in Kerala roads every year, according to the State Crime Records Bureau. "There are drivers related issues, and lack of road safety and etiquettes," said Narayanan.

Only accidents in which four or more persons get killed are reported by the media in the State while fatal accidents are the order of the day.

Speeding tipper trucks engaged in construction works are playing havoc in Kerala roads, according to P Venu Gopal, a former Group Captain in IAF.

"The boulders for construction works are brought to the State from neighboring Tamil Nadu. The owners of the tipper trucks make the drivers go for as many trips as possible to make fast bucks even at the cost of other people's lives," said Narayanan, who was a race driver for an international brand SUV. Most of the accidents occur in the wee hours of the day underscoring the fact that drivers of the ill fated vehicles were not trained to drive during the odd hours. "Liquor too plays a major role in these mishaps. Above all, the Kerala Government should give extra care in the construction of roads, especially those with curves and bends," said Narayanan. The chief minister and highways minister have expressed shock and sorrow over the accidents which mark the closure of the topic till the next accident happens.

Economic boon: Maha Kumbh 2025 promises spiritual and financial revival

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Mahakumbh Mela 2025 is set to be more than just a spiritual event; it promises to be a major economic driver for Uttar Pradesh. Historical records from the 1882 Kumbh Mela show that the event cost Rs 20,228 to organize while generating Rs 49,840 in revenue, resulting in a net profit of Rs 29,612. This legacy of economic gain continues, with the upcoming Mahakumbh expected to generate Rs 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 Rs 6,382 crore, with Rs 5,600 crore already allocated for event management and infrastructure development. In comparison, the government had spent Rs 3,700 crore in the 2019 Kumbh Mela.

"Mahakumbh 2025 is not just a spiritual gathering; it's a massive economic engine," said Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. "Our focus is on enhancing infrastructure, tourism, and job creation while ensuring a seamless experience for pilgrims." KV Raju, economic advisor to the UP government, claims that with an expected crowd of 45 crore pilgrims,



Mahakumbh could generate no less than Rs 2 lakh crore. Advisor to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and former IAS officer Awanish Awasthi provided an economic projection: "The worth of this financial activity could be an understatement of the actual figure. If one pilgrim spends Rs 8,000 during Mahakumbh, the total could surpass Rs 3.2 lakh crore based on the expected footfall." Experts, however, caution that the state's net economic benefit may be difficult to gauge, as much of the financial activity will occur in the informal sector, involving small transactions like renting boats, transportation, and street food. Still, individuals engaged in these services are likely to see significant gains.

The event's economic impact extends beyond Prayagraj, benefiting nearby religious hubs like Varanasi, Ayodhya, Mathura, and Vindhyavasini Dham, creating thousands of new jobs. The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department reports that preparations for the event

have already provided employment to 45,000 families.

Local vendors and service providers are equally optimistic. Rajesh Tiwari, a street food vendor in Prayagraj, said, "The Mahakumbh is a blessing for small businesses like mine. We earn what we typically make in six months during this event."

Similarly, Ramesh Kumar, a boat operator on the Ganga, shared his excitement: "With millions of tourists expected, our income will multiply. We are also receiving special training to enhance our services." The government is actively training service providers, including tour guides, street vendors, and drivers, through specialized programs conducted by the Manavara Tourism Management Agency in Lucknow and Prayagraj. "This training will improve our skills and help us provide better services to tourists," said Neha Mishra, a trainee

tour guide.

In a first, the temporary tent city at the Mahakumbh will be visible on Google Maps, thanks to a memorandum of understanding signed between Google representatives and the Mahakumbh Mela Authority.

"We are committed to using technology to improve the pilgrimage experience," said an official from the authority. Infrastructure development is at the heart of the preparations. Major projects completed include a six-lane bridge over the Ganga and a Rs 275-crore four-lane railway overbridge, aimed at improving connectivity and easing traffic flow.

Even after Mahakumbh 2025 concludes, Prayagraj is expected to remain a tourism hotspot. "We believe that the infrastructure and global visibility created during the event will drive tourism for years," said a senior tourism official. Common people also see this as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "I have attended several Kumbh Melas, but this time, it feels like the entire world will be watching," said Meera Devi, a pilgrim from Bihar. "We come for spiritual fulfillment, but we can see how it benefits the locals as well."

Mahakumbh 2025 promises not just spiritual enrichment but also lasting economic prosperity, creating a sustainable legacy for Uttar Pradesh and its people.

Bangladeshi Mukti Jodhas to attend Vijay Diwas celebrations in Kolkata

PIONEER NEWS SERVICES ■ KOLKATA

A small delegation of Mukti Jodhas from Bangladesh will arrive in the city on Sunday evening for the Vijay Diwas celebrations on Monday, which will be attended by West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a Defence official said.

Bangladesh delegation comprising Mukti Jodhas, who were part of the guerrilla resistance force in East Pakistan opposing the Pakistan rule there, and serving officers of the Bangladesh Armed Forces attend the Vijay Diwas celebrations held by the Indian Army's Eastern Command in Kolkata every year.

A small delegation of Mukti Jodhas will attend the Vijay Diwas celebrations in Kolkata on December 16, which marks Indian Armed Forces' historic victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, the Defence official said. He, however, did not give details of the size of the delegation of the Mukti Jodhas. Governor C V Ananda Bose will attend the wreath-laying ceremony in the morning at Eastern Command headquarter Fort William, said the official.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will attend the military tattoo, a display by the Armed Forces, in the afternoon at the Military Training Centre here, to honour the indomitable spirit of the 1971 war heroes defeating the Pakistani armed forces that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

The Defence official said that war veterans of the Indian Armed Forces who had taken part in the 1971 war will be attending the events on December 16, the day on which Pakistan's Eastern Army surrendered at Dhaka in 1971. The Eastern Army Command, which is headquartered at Fort William here, will hold a series of programmes on Vijay Diwas to mark the historic victory of the Indian Armed Forces

Man arrested for Parbhani violence dies in police custody: sparks call for Maharashtra bandh

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a disturbing incident, a 35-year-old man - who was arrested for his alleged involvement in the violence that took place at Parbhani last week over the vandalism of the replica of Indian Constitution - died in police custody on Sunday, prompting the Republican Sena call for a "Maharashtra bandh" on Monday.

The deceased - Somnath Veyankat Suryawanshi - died

at Parbhani district civil hospital where he had been rushed from the Parbhani jail after he complained of chest pain. Suryawanshi, who used to work as a labourer in Pune district, had come to meet his family members at Parbhani on Wednesday when mobs protesting against the desecration of the replica of Indian constitution resorted to large-scale violence, arson and stone-pelting, amid a bandh called by the Ambedkarite activists.

He was placed under arrest with the police in connection with the incidents of violence. He hailed from the Wadar community. The incident sent shock waves through the Ambedkarite circles.

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) founder-president Prakash Ambedkar and his brother and Republican Sena founder Anandraj Ambedkar came down heavily on the police for the circumstances leading to the death of

Suryawanshi. Prakash Ambedkar, who is the grandson of late B. R. Ambedkar said: "The custodial death of Somnath Suryawanshi - a Bhim Sainik belonging to the Wadar community - in Parbhani is gut wrenching, sickening and intolerable to say the least. What is more intolerable that his death happened in judicial custody despite his bail application being approved".

"Since his death happened in

judicial custody, our lawyers will be urging the Court that the post-mortem (CT scan, MRI, forensic and pathological) examination takes place in a government hospital which has a forensic department, and that the post-mortem is filmed and undertaken by both the forensic and pathology department," the VBA founder-president said. "Many Ambedkarite people were arrested after the Parbhani accident.

It is a shocking incident for Bhim Sainik. There should be immediate action against the concerned police personnel," Anandraj Ambedkar said.

Anandraj, who is the president of the Republican Sena, called for a bandh across Maharashtra to demand among other things adequate compensation for the family of the deceased, withdrawal of all cases against the Republican activists who staged protests

at Parbhani on December 11 against the vandalism of the replica of the Indian Constitution.

It may be recalled that a glass-encased replica of the Indian Constitution was vandalised by some miscreants near Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's statue located outside the local railway station, protesters resorted to large-scale violence, arson and stone-pelting, amid a bandh called by the Ambedkarite activists.

Mayawati slams Congress, Samajwadi Party on reservations, backs 'one nation, one election' bills

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

BSP chief Mayawati on Sunday attacked the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, saying they should not speak on reservations as they colluded in opposing legislation giving quota in promotions to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) when the Congress-led UPA was in power. Addressing a press conference, she also backed the Centre's bills on 'one nation, one election', stressing it will reduce expenses and ensure public

welfare works continue uninterrupted. She urged other parties to also support the measure.

Mayawati demanded that reservations for SC, ST and OBC be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to prevent any tampering. Central and state laws listed in the Ninth Schedule are exempt from judicial review.

During the discussion on the Constitution in Lok Sabha, the ruling side and the opposition, especially the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, to woo Dalit and OBC voters, have said a lot of "baseless" things about reservation issue in which

there is "not even an iota of truth", she told reporters.

"And it would have been better if these two parties (Congress, SP) had remained silent on this issue in Parliament, because during the time of the Congress party's government at the Centre and with the connivance of this party, SP had strongly opposed the Constitutional Amendment Bill related to reservations in promotion of SC and ST communities.

"This bill was torn and thrown away by SP in the Parliament itself and... Is still pending in the Parliament," she lamented.

Father of Bengaluru techie who died of suicide demands justice, refuses to immersed ashes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

The father of Bengaluru techie Atul Subhash, who died by suicide recently, on Sunday called for strict punishment for those who "harassed" his son, asserting that his ashes will not be immersed till justice is served. Subhash, 34, was found hanging in his house at Bengaluru's Munnekolalu on December 9. He left behind lengthy videos and notes, blaming his wife and in-laws for driving him to suicide through "false" cases and "persistent torture". "I thank the Karnataka Police for arresting them (Subhash's estranged wife and in-laws). All



those who harassed my son should be punished so that he gets justice, and his soul rests in peace. I will not immerse the ashes of my son till we get justice," Pawan Kumar told the media. "My son was being harassed and tortured for money, and humiliated by his

wife... I request Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all concerned... please give us justice," he said. Subhash's estranged wife Nikita Singhania was arrested in Gurugram, Haryana, while her mother Nisha Singhania and brother Anurag Singhania were picked up from Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, police said on Sunday. Kumar also sought the custody of his four-year-old grandson. "My son was broken from inside... Even after torture by his wife and in-laws, he didn't tell anyone about it. His suicide note also mentioned that his parents be given custody of his child," Kumar said. He said Subhash had also received a maintenance order for his son, amounting to Rs

40,000 per month. "She (Subhash's estranged wife) filed several false cases against us and my son. Strict action must be taken against all those who mentally tortured my son," Kumar said. Bikas Kumar, the brother of Subhash, also spoke to mediapersons in Samastipur, demanding that the "false cases" registered against them be withdrawn.

"The others behind this incident should also be arrested. We will not get justice till all false cases registered against us are withdrawn. We will not immerse the ashes of my brother till we get justice. Our fight will continue," he asserted. "I am equally concerned about my nephew (son of Subhash).

His safety is a matter of serious concern for us. We have not seen him in recent photographs. I want to know his whereabouts through the media. We want his custody as early as possible," added Bikas Kumar. Earlier in the day, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said Subhash's wife, mother-in-law and brother-in-law have been apprehended and are in judicial custody. The investigation will follow. Addressing reporters in Bengaluru, Parameshwara said, "He (Subhash) had left behind about a 40-page death note and he has raised several issues, most importantly about the misuse of provisions in the law that were meant for protection of women."



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Modi's mantra

PM Modi's resolutions give roadmap for progress but its realisation requires collaborative efforts from the government and civil society

During the Constitution debate in the Lok Sabha on December 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated 11 resolutions to guide India's future development. These resolutions, inspired by the spirit of the Constitution, aim to address critical aspects of governance, societal values and national development. PM Modi emphasised the need for citizens and government officials to uphold their duties. This aligns with the Constitution's emphasis on Fundamental Duties, but its implementation requires widespread public awareness and institutional accountability. The Prime Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to inclusive development through his vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas." While significant progress has been made in sectors like infrastructure and digital access, challenges like regional disparities and social inequality persist. Addressing these requires targeted policy interventions and efficient resource allocation. Corruption, which undermines public trust and economic efficiency, was also highlighted by PM Modi, who called for societal rejection of corruption. His stance complements ongoing measures like digital transparency and anti-corruption legislation. However, robust enforcement mechanisms and judicial efficiency are essential for achieving this goal. Fostering respect for laws and traditions was another critical resolution aimed at strengthening social cohesion. This requires not only stricter enforcement of laws but also cultural campaigns to educate citizens about the value of India's legal and cultural heritage.



In a similar vein, PM Modi's call to instill pride in India's heritage seeks to dismantle colonial-era mindsets. This involves promoting indigenous knowledge systems, decolonising education curricula and celebrating India's achievements globally. Modi also stressed the importance of respecting the Constitution and avoiding its exploitation for political gains. This underscores the need for political integrity and constructive discourse in legislative processes. Another pivotal resolution was the preservation of reservations without introducing religion-based quotas. PM Modi's emphasis on the importance of maintaining the status quo while opposing religion-based reservations. Balancing social justice with meritocracy remains a contentious issue, necessitating careful policy considerations to address evolving societal needs. The mantra of "development of the country through the development of states" underscores the importance of cooperative federalism. Strengthening state capacities and ensuring equitable resource distribution are critical for this resolution's success. The feasibility of these resolutions hinges on several factors such as upholding duties and require active citizen engagement. Effective implementation of these resolutions largely depends on robust institutions and governance mechanisms and efficient use of resources by the government itself along with a civil society which is alert and aware.

PICTALK



A woman protects her child from cold during a foggy winter morning, in Nadia

A forgotten crisis amid global turmoil



SUDHIR HINDWAN

In a world dominated by geopolitical rivalries, economic uncertainties and environmental degradation, food security concerns are relegated to background

World politics today faces a myriad of challenges, including cyber fraud, widespread corruption, transnational terrorism, and the relentless use of weapons of mass destruction in regional conflicts such as the West Asian crises and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war. These issues are compounded by a refugee crisis of enormous proportions, environmental degradation, and the growing frequency of natural disasters. Among these pressing concerns, food security remains a critical yet often overlooked challenge that affects nations worldwide.



Food security, as defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations at the 1996 Rome World Food Summit, exists when "all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." This definition underscores the importance of not only physical availability but also economic access to food, emphasising both quantity and nutritional quality.

According to the FAO's Food Insecurity Scale, over half of the population in low-income countries lives under food-insecure conditions, with about one-third facing severe crises. Globally, approximately 789 million people lack adequate food, and this number rises to an alarming 2.4 billion when micronutrient deficiencies are considered. Food security issues can be categorised into two broad areas: quantity and quality. These challenges encompass five key dimensions: food availability, price volatility, inclusive access, proper utilisation, and stability. Price volatility, particularly in low-income countries, exacerbates food insecurity as most people lack the resources to access nutrient-rich food.

Recognising the severity of global food insecurity, the United Nations included food security among its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2015 '2030 Agenda'. The second SDG aims to "end hunger, achieve food security and

improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." Complementary goals, such as SDG 6 ("Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all") and SDG 12 ("Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns"), further emphasize the need for sustainable practices in achieving food security. Governments worldwide have been urged to align their food and agriculture policies with these goals to ensure their populations receive adequate, nutritious food in a sustainable manner. Food insecurity leads to numerous problems at both household and societal levels. Household food insecurity, for instance, has been linked to suboptimal sleep patterns and reduced immunity against diseases.

To address these issues, the United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to safe and nutritious food access during the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development. This commitment was encapsulated in the 'Future We Want' document. The conference also saw the launch of the 'Zero Hunger Challenge' (ZHC) by then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, aiming to eliminate hunger and malnutrition globally by 2030. A cornerstone of the ZHC is the goal to make "all food systems sustainable," encompassing clean



ACCORDING TO THE FAO'S FOOD INSECURITY SCALE, OVER HALF OF THE POPULATION IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES LIVES UNDER FOOD-INSECURE CONDITIONS, WITH ABOUT ONE-THIRD FACING SEVERE CRISES

water, sustainable energy, responsible food consumption and production, and climate action—achievable through national policies and international cooperation. The 1987 Brundtland Report, titled Our Common Future, defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." India, since its independence in 1947, has made significant strides in building food security by establishing agricultural institutions such as the Indian Agricultural Research Institute under the guidance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Advancements in genetic engineering and biotechnology hold promise for addressing agricultural challenges, improving food quality, and increasing global food availability. However, concerns persist about biosafety risks posed by genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Proper handling, transfer, and disposal of these organisms, as recommended by global institutions like the World Bank, are critical to ensuring safety. The world is currently mired in geopolitical rivalries, with nations prioritising dominance over addressing pressing issues such as hunger, poverty, environmental degradation and

unemployment. Biotechnology, if harnessed effectively, can address these challenges by creating opportunities for producing higher-quality food, reducing pollution, generating jobs, and fostering economic growth. This, in turn, could promote international cooperation and reduce global tensions, paving the way for peace. Investments in research and development can yield innovative solutions to hunger, malnutrition and food adulteration, transforming biotechnology into a force for global good.

However, two major apprehensions regarding biotechnology persist. First, it may deepen the divide between developed and developing nations. Second, globalisation could threaten the survival of indigenous food industries. Despite these concerns, the potential benefits of biotechnology in transforming global food and energy systems into a philanthropic movement cannot be overlooked. Food security initiatives must rise above geopolitical rivalries, embracing inclusivity and shared responsibilities. India, with its emphasis on inclusive diplomacy, has the potential to play a pivotal role in this endeavor.

(The author, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award, is a professor, HOD, and an expert on strategic affairs. Views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

Madam — It will be the most precious gift to the nation amidst political anarchy and election extravaganza. The people will be stupendously relieved by single elections for multiple reasons. The Model Code of Conduct stalls development projects and decision-making of the governments. The alleged sale of party tickets, defections by politicians, experimenting with the disruptive agendas, noisy debates on TV channels, spoiling harmony in the country, poll violence, foreign interference, the game of opinion and exit polls losing credibility, betting on elections, saving billions of rupees for the government on election machinery including deployment staff and police forces, huge resource mobilisation by the political parties, and people's contribution for multiple elections, etc., are a few to quote in favour of one nation, one election. The former President, Ram Nath Kovind's recommendation of holding municipal elections along with the Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections should also be considered by the Union Government in the next phase.

It may also be contemplated by the government that those candidates who lose elections in parliamentary or Assembly elections and are rejected by the people should not get entry in the Rajya Sabha and legislative councils where only elected representatives are allowed to vote. In fact, the state assemblies don't need legislative councils. The number of Lok Sabha and state assembly seats should be optimally increased so that there is wider and appropriate representation of people. There should be a dedicated cadre of the Civil Services for elections. It will facilitate the continuity of updating electoral rolls, EVM maintenance, election reforms as and when required, create a data bank and an archive on elections, training, delimitation, dedicated teamwork to contest election-related litigation, and work on a constitutional framework for elections-related issues.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

SC says no survey of worship places



By halting the surveys of places of worship, the Supreme Court's recent order bars all courts nationwide from registering fresh suits or issuing any interim or final orders, including those permitting surveys in ongoing cases concerning existing structures, until the validity of the Places of Worship Act 1991 is decided. SC's order means that in pending suits such as those pertaining to the Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi mosque and Krishna Janmabhoomi-Ildgah dis-

putes, courts cannot pass any effective or final orders. The order is timely and a welcome move. The 1991 Act was enacted to prevent conflicts that may arise from disputes with historical ties and to protect the equality of faiths, a constitutional value.

The Act also prohibits converting a place of worship to a different denomination or section and mandates that history and its wrongs should not be used to oppress the present and future. But recently many petitioners have approached lower courts as well as the Supreme Court against the 1991 Act, alleging that the law has created an arbitrary and irrational retrospective cut-off date of August 15, 1947, for maintaining the character of the places of worship.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

REFORMING INDIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Madam — The Indian judicial system has long struggled with the issue of delayed justice, raising concerns about its credibility and effectiveness. The principle that "delayed justice is equivalent to injustice" emphasises the importance of timely and accessible justice. The backlog of cases, complex procedures, and delays in decision-making have caused significant mental, social, and moral harm to victims and society at large. Currently, around 44 million cases are pending in district courts, 6.1 million in high courts, and over 82,000 in the Supreme Court. This backlog has led to questions about the system's efficiency, impacting not just the legal system but also the democratic fabric of the country. The Nirbhaya case highlights the detrimental effects of delayed justice, eroding public trust in the system. To address these issues, the central government has introduced judicial reforms, including three new criminal laws aimed at improving timeliness, transparency, and efficiency. These reforms introduce fixed time limits for

resolving cases and create a framework for expediting the disposal of long-pending cases, offering relief to victims and ensuring justice.

R K Jain | Barwani

GUKESH DEFEATS DING LIREN

Madam — Carrying on chess dominance, hitting Gukesh displayed a high level and proved that he is not second in the FIDE World Championship 2024 in style. India's D Gukesh achieved the landmark in a crucial game and in a cliffhanger manner, beating titleholder China's Ding Liren in the 14th and last game of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024 in a clinical way. India's D Gukesh masters moves and makes them in a calculative way. He played to a plan to eat humble pie. The 18-year-old had Gukesh play a great game of chess. Three cheers for golden boy Gukesh.

C K Subramaniam | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Beyond the screen: The hidden truths of our social media lives

Social media is a tool to make life more connected and interesting, it is not a measure to judge worth and success of family and friends

Ever since social media sneaked into our lives, we have made it a shelf to display our lives' wares. We paint our digital walls with milestones, memories, smiles, and sorrows. It's a vibrant collage of life's varied hues, yet what we post is often a curated version of reality. The smiles are brighter, the love is deeper, the vacations are grander, and the heartbreaks are more dramatic. But behind this veneer of filtered perfection, the raw and unfiltered truth often lurks quietly, hidden from the world's gaze.



seeking validation? No, I was trying to reassure myself. I was reminding myself that happiness exists, that moments of beauty and joy still punctuate my life. Those posts were not deceit; they were lifelines. Glimpses of joy that I clung to as I navigated the storm within. And in sharing those moments, I was also hoping to pass on slivers of hope to others who might be fighting unseen battles. This is the duality of social media.

The laughter we see might be tears in disguise. The grand celebrations could be cloaked in anxiety. The tears shed publicly may be crafted for effect. What appears authentic can be artifice; what looks carefree can be layered with burdens. This is why we should not judge others based on what we see on their profiles. Why do people disguise their struggles and pre-

sent happy pictures? It's not necessarily deceit or a desire to mislead others. Sometimes, it's a way of keeping hope alive. When life's challenges weigh heavily, projecting happiness can feel like a self-fulfilling prophecy. By sharing joy, even when it feels out of reach, we try to manifest it. We tell ourselves that happiness is not an illusion—it's around the corner and within our grasp. We also do it for others. Social media can be a dark and overwhelming place filled with negativity, comparison, and distressing news. By sharing moments of beauty, love and humour, we offer small doses of positivity to those who might need them. But here lies the trap. When we view others' lives through the glossy lens of social media, we risk falling into the pit of comparison. We measure our own lives against the seemingly perfect lives of others and wonder where we went wrong.

We feel envious, resentful, or inadequate. But this comparison is unfair—because it's based on incomplete information. What you see on social media is a highlight reel, not a documentary. To compare your behind-the-scenes reality to someone else's carefully chosen highlights is to set yourself up for needless suffering. So, how should we approach social media with clarity and kindness? First, partake in others' happiness without envy. Celebrate their joys as you would want them to celebrate yours.

Let their happiness be a reminder that good things are possible, even if they haven't yet arrived in your life. Second, lend support in difficult times without judgment. If someone shares their struggles, resist the urge to undermine or dismiss them. Behind their words could be a pain far deeper than what they've expressed. Offer empathy, not assumptions. Be the steady presence that reminds them they're not alone. Finally, take social media for what it is—a tool to make life more connected, more interesting and occasionally more fun. It's not a measure of worth, success, or happiness.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal)

ASHA IYER KUMAR

FIRST COLUMN

BRIDGING DIVIDES IN THE WORKPLACE

This growing divide can hinder teamwork, erode trust and undermine organisational effectiveness



SAKSHI SETHI

With the advent of the 21st generation, the division of people into sharply opposing groups has increasingly infiltrated workplaces, reflecting the broader societal divides in politics, culture and values. In professional settings, it is often referred to as polarisation and can hinder collaboration, damage relationships, and undermine organisational effectiveness. Addressing workplace polarisation requires proactive leadership, open communication, and an emphasis on shared goals. Polarisation often stems from various sources such as divergent personal values where the employees bring their political, cultural and social identities into the workplace.

Differences in beliefs particularly on sensitive issues such as gender, race and political ideologies lead to conflicts. On the other hand, media coverage, political campaigns, or social movements heighten tensions among employees with differing viewpoints. A lack of open dialogue within teams fosters echo chambers, where employees interact only with like-minded individuals, reinforcing biases and misunderstandings. Also, differences in work styles, priorities and values between generations can create friction. Younger employees may prioritise social activism, while older colleagues might value traditional workplace norms.

The impact of this kind of polarisation on organisational health and employee wellbeing can be significant. It can hamper teamwork, as employees will become less willing to cooperate with those holding opposing views which will stifle innovation and productivity. Disagreements on personal or political issues can also lead to distrust among colleagues, creating a toxic work environment. Employees who feel alienated or marginalised due to their beliefs may seek opportunities elsewhere, result-



ing in talent loss. Workplace conflicts rooted in polarisation can lead to stress, burnout and decreased job satisfaction.

By encouraging respectful conversations that allow employees to express their perspectives without fear of judgment; by implementing structured initiatives, such as facilitated discussions or conflict resolution workshops; by emphasising organisational objectives that unite employees and by highlighting common ground, such as shared values or team missions, can be a few measures that can reduce the focus on divisive issues and can help bridge divides. Last but not least that play a crucial role in setting the tone for workplace interactions is that of the leader. There is no denying that inclusive leaders model respectful behaviour, encourage diverse viewpoints, and mediate conflicts effectively. Developing guidelines that outline acceptable workplace behaviour, particularly concerning discussions on sensitive topics; making policies that promote mutual respect while preserving freedom of expression or taking initiatives such as team-building exercises, mentorship programs, or cross-department projects can help reduce silos and foster connections between employees with differing viewpoints. Undoubtedly an organisation's culture significantly influences how polarisation manifests and is addressed. A culture that values respect, inclusivity, and open-mindedness can mitigate the effects of polarization.

Conversely, a culture that tolerates favouritism or discrimination can exacerbate divisions. Leaders must prioritise cultivating a culture where employees feel valued and heard, regardless of their beliefs or backgrounds. Workplace polarisation reflects the broader societal divides but has unique challenges and opportunities within professional settings. While it risks collaboration, trust, and productivity, it can also catalyse growth if managed effectively. By fostering a culture of respect, promoting open dialogue, and emphasising shared goals, organisations can navigate polarisation and create environments where diverse perspectives thrive.

(The writer is an educator; views expressed are personal)

Syria's collapse: Foreign meddling and economic ruin



NILANTHA LANGAMUWA

As allies like Iran pressured Assad for reforms, and Western nations explored conditional sanctions relief, Syria became a battleground of competing geopolitical manoeuvring



By the end of November, the situation in Syria was dire. Government forces were on the brink of exhaustion, stretched thin by an economic crisis that spiralled out of control. Soldiers earned a paltry \$7 a month, with even high-ranking officers receiving only \$40. This was in blunt contrast to militia fighters funded by external powers, who earned up to \$2,000 monthly. This glaring disparity revealed not just economic fault lines but the extent of foreign intervention sustaining these militias. Meanwhile, protests erupted across Suwayda province, historically a stronghold of Assad support, highlighting widespread famine, collapsing services, and the devaluation of the Syrian pound. Discontent was palpable, threatening to upend the regime's fragile grasp on power.

Iran, Syria's long-time ally, reportedly pressured Assad to address these challenges. Tehran's warnings accentuated the erosion of public trust and a crumbling economy, urging decisive action. Yet Assad seemed increasingly aloof, allegedly seeking new alliances with Gulf nations, hoping these relationships would secure his future. By December, reports emerged that the United States and the United Arab Emirates were considering lifting sanctions on Assad—but only if he severed ties with Iran and halted arms transfers to Hezbollah. This diplomatic manoeuvre was a calculated strategy to weaken Assad's regime further. Relief from Caesar sanctions was an unlikely prospect given Washington's decade-long effort to dismantle the Assad family rule. The outcome was preordained: Assad was isolated, and the geopolitical chessboard advanced. The trajectory of Assad's downfall mirrors a broader pattern in Western foreign policy. Leaders once celebrated as reformers—from Saddam Hussein to Muammar Gaddafi—are vilified when their geopolitical utility wanes. Assad, who was once lauded for fostering coexistence among Syria's religious and ethnic groups, became the West's pariah.

In 2010, Syria was a stable nation, ranked seventh on *The New York Times*'s "31 best places to visit." Assad met with Queen Elizabeth, hosted Nancy Pelosi, and welcomed Pope John Paul II. Yet the West's affection was



BY DECEMBER, REPORTS EMERGED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WERE CONSIDERING LIFTING SANCTIONS ON ASSAD—BUT ONLY IF HE SEVERED TIES WITH IRAN AND HALTED ARMS TRANSFERS TO HEZBOLLAH. THIS DIPLOMATIC MANOEUVRE WAS A CALCULATED STRATEGY TO WEAKEN ASSAD'S REGIME FURTHER

short-lived. As geopolitical calculations shifted, Assad's regime was recast as the antithesis of democracy, paving the way for intervention. The Syrian conflict was never just a civil war. It was a proxy war fueled by external actors. Over 100,000 jihadists were funnelled into Syria, backed by a coalition of nations. The United States, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar allegedly provided financial and logistical support. Turkey and Jordan facilitated arms shipments and fighter transport. Western media amplified anti-Assad narratives, while the UK-backed White Helmets shaped public perceptions. Each player pursued its agenda, yet all converged on a singular goal: regime change. The motivations driving this coalition were diverse. The United States and Israel sought regional hegemony, neutralising perceived threats while advancing the Greater Israel project. Qatar's pipeline ambitions clashed with Assad's preference for an Iranian alternative, further entrenching divisions.

These dynamics turned Syria into a battleground for competing interests, with devastating consequences for its people. By late 2013, the influx of foreign fighters intensified. Western nations grappled with their citizens joining extremist groups in Syria. The UK reported approximately 600 fighters, while France contributed around 1,200. Belgium, the Netherlands, and Sweden also faced significant outflows. However, the greatest contributions came from West Asia and North Africa, with Tunisia leading at 3,000 fighters, followed by Saudi Arabia at 2,500.

Russia's involvement, particularly from regions like Chechnya, underscored the conflict's global reach. The arms supply chain further exacerbated the war. Gulf states like Qatar and Saudi Arabia allegedly supplied weapons, supported by over 160 military cargo flights.

These arms, transported through Turkey and Jordan, sustained rebel factions. European nations, such as Croatia, indirectly contributed by routing surplus weapons through Jordan. This complex web of arms smuggling empowered extremist groups, further destabilising Syria. Western hypocrisy was stark. While denouncing Assad's regime, the United States supported "moderate rebels" aligned with Al Qaeda and ISIS. Declassified documents revealed this duplicity. In 2012, General Michael Flynn's memo to the Pentagon warned that the opposition included jihadist factions. Similarly, Hillary Clinton's advisor, Jake Sullivan, acknowledged in an email that "Al Qaeda is on our side in Syria." The West's support for these groups undercut its claims of promoting democracy, revealing a strategy rooted in destabilisation. Atrocity propaganda became a central tool in the anti-Assad narrative. Staged chemical attacks, amplified by the White Helmets, justified military intervention.

Western media perpetuated these fabrications, obscuring the reality on the ground. Idlib province, under "rebel" control, became a dystopian preview of Syria's potential future: public executions, forced veiling of women, and sectarian slogans. This grim reality highlighted the consequences of regime change. Operation Timber Sycamore, the CIA's covert programme, exemplified Western duplicity. Billions of dollars in weapons were funnelled to extremist factions, prolonging the war.

The irony was stark: the West, claiming to combat terrorism, empowered the very groups destabilising the region. Syria's devastation became a witness to the destructive nature of interventionist policies. Syria's collapse parallels other Western interventions. Iraq's 2003 invasion, justified by the false pretext of weapons of mass destruc-

tion, left the nation in tatters. Libya, once Africa's wealthiest country, descended into anarchy following Gaddafi's overthrow—these interventions, framed as humanitarian missions, unleashed chaos, empowering extremist factions and creating power vacuums. The broader motivations behind these actions lie in geopolitics.

Syria's strategic location, its role as a buffer between Iran and Israel, and its proximity to oil-rich regions made it a prime target. The West's desire to reshape the region's political structure has driven decades of intervention, often with catastrophic consequences. Meanwhile, allies like Saudi Arabia and Turkey, despite their human rights abuses, remain central to Western strategy, exposing the moral bankruptcy of interventionist policies. Syria's tragedy is a miniature of a global pattern. The collapse of nations like Iraq, Libya, and Syria reflects a broader system where sovereignty is sacrificed for strategic interests. Foreign interventions, far from promoting democracy or stability, have left legacies of destruction, displacement, and despair.

The narrative of "humanitarian intervention" serves as a veneer, masking the true motives of power and greed. As the 50th anniversary of Iran's 1979 revolution approaches in 2029, the stakes are higher than ever. Iran's defiance of Western hegemony remains a critical factor in the region's future. The forces shaping West Asia—Israel, Turkey, and Western powers—are poised to challenge Iran's resilience.

Syria's collapse serves as both a warning and a call to scrutinise the ethics of intervention. The legacy of these actions is clear: a world shaped by greed, ambition, and the devastating cost of unchecked power.

(The writer is a senior journalist and a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)

Can INDIA bloc resolve its leadership disputes and put to rest its internal strife

With Mamata vying for the leadership of the INDIA bloc supported by a number constituents, chances of the bloc succumbing to internal disputes are high

The INDIA bloc, a coalition of 26 ideologically diverse parties, was created to counter the BJP's electoral dominance. In the 2024 general elections, the bloc achieved a significant milestone, reducing the BJP's tally to below 240 seats. However, this success has been tempered by internal discord, which now threatens the alliance's fragile unity.



K S TOMAR

influence beyond West Bengal and play a decisive role in shaping national politics. Her assertive style has invigorated some allies but has alienated others, exposing the persistent challenge of reconciling regional ambitions with a unified national strategy. Earlier, Banerjee proposed Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge as the bloc's chairperson, a strategic move to diminish

the influence of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, one of the coalition's key architects. This proposal, supported by leaders like Akhilesh Yadav and Arvind Kejriwal, showcased Banerjee's ability to consolidate support. However, her growing clout has sparked unease among other leaders. For instance, Lalu Prasad Yadav, a staunch Congress ally, appears to be rethinking his loyalties. Such dynamics highlight the alliance's precarious balance and the potential for further fractures. Lessons from the Past: UPA2 The INDIA bloc's current challenges echo the struggles faced by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA2) during its tenure. In 2012, Mamata Banerjee's dramatic exit from the UPA over policy disagree-

ments underscored the inherent instability of coalition politics. Scandals and policy paralysis plagued UPA2, eroding its credibility and paving the way for Narendra Modi's rise. As Banerjee's ambitions take center stage, the INDIA bloc risks repeating history. If it fails to address its internal contradictions, it could suffer the same fate as UPA2, jeopardising its ability to present a united front against the BJP. BJP's Advantage Amid Opposition Discord The BJP stands to benefit from the INDIA bloc's internal strife. While Banerjee wields considerable influence in West Bengal, Congress retains a broader national presence. A fragmented opposition could split anti-BJP votes, a scenario that would play into the



saffron party's hands. Recent BJP gains in Maharashtra and Haryana underscore the bloc's challenges, particularly for Congress, which has struggled to maintain dominance in key states. Seat-sharing disputes within the bloc further illustrate its lack of strategic coherence. For instance, the Aam Aadmi Party's unilateral candidate announcements in Delhi and Haryana have fueled tensions,

revealing the alliance's inability to present a united strategy. Mamata vs Congress: Mamata Banerjee's leadership ambitions pose a paradox for Congress. Her energy and charisma could revitalise the bloc, but her assertiveness risks overshadowing Congress's central role. This tension is particularly pronounced in states like West Bengal and Kerala, where Congress directly competes with the TMC and the Left. Seat-sharing negotiations in overlapping constituencies could exacerbate divisions, straining the alliance further. For Congress, retaining relevance within the INDIA bloc will require a delicate balancing act: accommodating Banerjee's influence without

compromising its identity. Key Challenges for the INDIA Bloc The alliance faces several hurdles that could determine its survival. Leadership Struggles: The lack of consensus on a prime ministerial candidate risks deepening divisions. Unified Campaign Narrative: A focus on governance, economic policies, and social justice can resonate with voters more effectively than personal rivalries. Effective Coordination: Mechanisms for conflict resolution and decision-making must be strengthened. Balancing Regional and National Goals: Respecting regional aspirations while pursuing a cohesive national agenda is critical. A Test of Political Maturity:

Mamata Banerjee's ambitions underscore her political acumen and the complexities of coalition politics. While her leadership could energise the INDIA bloc, it also risks deepening divisions. Navigating this intricate web of regional and national aspirations will test the bloc's political maturity. The upcoming state elections and the 2029 general elections will be pivotal in determining whether the INDIA bloc can overcome its internal strife and emerge as a credible alternative to the BJP. Resolving leadership disputes, crafting a compelling narrative, and presenting a unified front are critical to its success.

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

Rebels try to bring normalcy as Syrians vow to speak up

AP ■ DAMASCUS

The new head of security arrived at Damascus' international airport with his men, a bearded fighter who marched with other rebels across Syria to the capital. The few maintenance staff who showed up for work huddled around Maj Hamza al-Ahmed, eager for answers about what happens next. They unloaded all their complaints, pent up for years during the rule of President Bashar Assad, which now, inconceivably, is over. They told him they were denied promotions and perks funneled to pro-Assad favorites, that bosses threatened them with prison for working too slowly. They warned him of hardcore Assad supporters among the airport staff, ready to return whenever the facility reopens. As al-Ahmed tried to reassure them, Osama Najm, an engineer, confessed: "This is the first time we talk." This was the first week of Syria's transformation after Assad's unexpected fall. Rebels, suddenly in charge, met a population bursting with emotions: excitement at new freedoms; grief over years of repression; and hopes, expectations and worries about the future. Some were overwhelmed to the point of tears.

The transition has been surprisingly smooth. Reports of reprisals, revenge killings and sectarian violence have been minimal. Looting and destruction have been quickly contained, insurgent fighters disciplined. On Saturday, people went about their lives as usual in the capital, Damascus. Only a single van of fighters was seen. There are a million ways it could go wrong. The country is broken and isolated after five decades of Assad family rule. Families have been torn apart by war, former prisoners are traumatized by the brutalities they suffered, tens of thousands of detainees remain missing. The economy is wrecked, poverty is widespread, inflation and unemployment are high. Corruption seeps through daily life. But in this moment of flux, many are ready to feel out the way ahead. At the airport, al-Ahmed told the staffers: "The new path will have challenges, but that is why we have said Syria is for all and we all have to cooperate." The rebels have so far said all the right things, Najm said. "But we will not be silent about anything wrong again." **Idlib comes to Damascus:** At a torched police station, pictures of Assad were torn down and files destroyed after insurgents entered the city Dec. 8.

All Assad-era police and security personnel have vanished. On Saturday, the building was staffed by 10 men serving in the police force of the rebels' de facto "salvation government," which for years governed the rebel enclave of Idlib in Syria's northwest. The rebel policemen watch over the station, dealing with reports of petty thefts and street scuffles. One woman complains that her neighbors sabotaged her power supply. A policeman tells her to wait for courts to start operating again. "It will take a year to solve problems," he mumbled. The rebels sought to bring order in Damascus by replicating the structure of its governance in Idlib. But there is a problem of scale. One of the policemen estimates the number of rebel police at only around 4,000; half are based in Idlib and the rest are tasked with maintaining security in Damascus and elsewhere. Some experts estimate the insurgents' total fighting force at around 20,000. Most of the bearded fighters hail from conservative, provincial areas. Many are hardline Islamists. The main insurgent force, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, has renounced its al-Qaida past, and its leaders are working to reassure Syria's religious and ethnic communities that the

future will be pluralist and tolerant. Syrians remain suspicious. "The people we see on the streets, they don't represent us," said Hani Zia, a Damascus resident. He was concerned by the few reports of attacks on minorities and revenge killings. "We should be fearful." Some restaurants have resumed openly serving alcohol, others more discreetly to test the mood. At a sidewalk café in the historic Old City's Christian quarter, men were drinking beer when a fighter patrol passed by. The men turned to each other, uncertain, but the fighters did nothing. When a man waving a gun harassed a liquor store elsewhere in the Old City, the rebel police arrested him, one policeman said. Salem Hajjo, a theater teacher who participated in the 2011 protests, said he doesn't agree with the rebels' Islamist views, but is impressed at their experience in running their own affairs. And he expects to have a voice in the new Syria. "We have never been this at ease," he said. "The fear is gone. The rest is up to us." **The fighters make a concerted effort to reassure:** On the night after Assad's fall, gunmen roamed the streets, celebrating victory with deafening gunfire. Some security agency buildings were torched. The public stayed

indoors. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham moved to impose order. It ordered a nighttime curfew for three days. It banned celebratory gunfire and moved fighters to protect properties. After a day, people began to emerge. Tens of thousands went to Assad's prisons to search for loved ones, mingling with rebels, some of whom were also searching. Amid celebrations, gunmen invited children to hop up on their armored vehicles, and posed for photos with women, some with their hair uncovered. Pro-revolution songs blared from cars. The transitional government urged people to return to work. The insurgents deployed men to act as traffic police. Volunteers picked up trash, since municipal workers haven't returned to their jobs. Officials say they want to reopen the airport as soon as possible and this week maintenance crews inspected a handful of planes on the tarmac. Cleaners removed trash, wrecked furniture and merchandise. One cleaner, who identified himself only as Murad, said he earns the equivalent of \$15 a month and has six children to feed, including one with a disability. He dreams of getting a mobile phone.

Sheikh Hasina involved in enforced disappearance: B'desh commission

PTI ■ DHAKA

An inquiry commission set up by the interim government in Bangladesh has said that it found evidence implicating deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina and top-ranking military and police officials from her regime in alleged incidents of enforced disappearance. The five-member Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances submitted an interim report titled "Unfolding Truth" to Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on Saturday. The commission estimated that there would be more than 3,500 enforced disappearances. "The commission has found evidence of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's involvement as the instructor in the incidents of enforced disappearance," the press wing of the office of Chief Adviser said in a statement on Saturday night. It said the deposed premier's defence adviser Major General (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre and sacked Major General Ziaul Ahsanand senior police officers Monirul Islam and Mohammad Harun-Or-Rashid and several other senior officials were found to be involved in those incidents. The ex-military and police officers are on the run, mostly believed to be abroad since the ouster of Hasina's Awami

League regime on August 5 following a student-led uprising. According to the statement, retired Supreme Court judge Mainul Islam Chowdhury, the chairman of the commission, told Yunus that during investigations they found a "systematic design" that allowed incidents of enforced disappearances to go undetected. "Individuals carrying out enforced disappearance or extrajudicial killing (even) lacked knowledge about victims," Chowdhury said. The report said the police's elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), which draws men from the Army, Navy, Air Force, regular police and other law enforcement agencies had collaborated with each other to pick up, torture and keep victims in detention and deliberately segmented the operations. The commission simultaneously proposed the abolition of the RAB alongside scrapping or thoroughly amending the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009. Rights activist and commission member Sajjad Hossain said they recorded 1,676 complaints of enforced disappearances and, so far, have examined 758 of them. Of these, 200 people or 27 per cent of the victims never returned while those who returned were mostly shown on records as arrested. Besides the chairman, the commission comprises Justice Farid Ahmed Shibli, rights activist Nur Khan, private

BRAC University teacher Nabila Idris and rights activist Sajjad Hossain. At a press conference earlier, the commission announced that they had found eight secret detention centres in Dhaka and its outskirts. The panel chairman on Saturday informed Yunus that they would deliver another interim report in March and would require at least another year to complete the scrutiny of all allegations they had received. "You are doing a really very important job. We are ready to give you all kinds of support that you need," Yunus was quoted as saying. TV channels and social media carried interviews with several victims of the alleged enforced disappearance, including former military officers and opposition activists who were active in opposing Hasina's regime. While receiving the report yesterday, Yunus said he would visit some of the joint interrogation cells and secret detention centres as he wanted first-hand knowledge about the sufferings of the victims. The report called for the creation of a new law criminalising enforced disappearances. Commission members also told the government to repeal laws under the Armed Police Battalions Ordinance that grants law enforcers indemnity for acts done in "good faith".

Constitution will be amended with consensus of all: Nepal minister

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal's Minister for Home Affairs Ramesh Lekhak on Sunday said a consensus of all political parties will be ensured to amend the Constitution, a media report said. Lekhak, speaking at a press meet, stressed on the need for the Constitution amendment for strengthening the federal democratic republic. The Himalayan Times newspaper reported. "The preliminary dialogue on this issue has commenced. But the constitution amendment will not be determined by two political parties," he said. Lekhak said that the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN UML), the largest parties in Parliament, had decided to form the incumbent coalition government to promote stabil-

ity, prevent corruption, strengthen good governance and economic activities and accelerate the pace of development. The minister further said that the existing political alliance between the NC and CPN (UML) has no issues and it will continue until the next general election. Responding to a question about the arrest of opposition leader Rabi Lamichhane, he claimed that the government is highly aware of the guarantee of human rights for each citizen. He added that the government has no feeling of "revenge" against Lamichhane, the chair of Rastriya Swatantra Party, as the current investigation against him is a legal issue. Meanwhile, Nepali Congress spokesperson Prakash Sharan Mahat advised the government to seek and accept foreign loans only on the need-basis as

it has been very challenging for the country to repay loans taken after Covid-19. In July, KP Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time to lead a new coalition government. The leader of Nepal's largest communist party was appointed as prime minister by President Ram Chandra Paudel to lead the coalition government with Nepali Congress (NC), the largest party in Parliament, apart from other smaller parties. Oli, 72, succeeded Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives (HoR), leading to the formation of the new government. Nepal has faced frequent political turmoil as the country has seen 14 governments in the past 16 years after the Republican system was introduced.

Pope Francis' makes 1st papal visit to France's Corsica awash in expressions of popular piety

AP ■ AJACCIO

Pope Francis on the first papal visit ever to the French island of Corsica on Sunday called for a dynamic form of laicism, promoting the kind of popular piety that distinguishes the Mediterranean island from secular France as a bridge between religious and civic society. Speaking at the close of a Mediterranean conference on popular piety, Pope Francis, as he is called in Corsican, described a concept of secularism "that is not static and fixed, but evolving and dynamic," that can adapt to "unforeseen situations" and promote cooperation "between civil and ecclesiastical authorities." The pontiff said that expressions of popular piety, including processions, communal prayer of the Holy Rosary, "can nurture constructive citizenship" on the part of Christians. At the same time, he warned against such manifestations being seen only in terms of folklore, or even superstition. During off-the-cuff remarks, the pope relayed his experience attending a festival in northern Argentina before his pontificate where he witnessed the importance of popular piety for the faithful "that seeks a healthy complicity." The visit to Corsica's capital Ajaccio, birthplace of Napoleon, is one of the briefest of his papacy beyond Italy's borders, just about nine hours on the ground, including a 40-minute visit with French President Emmanuel Macron. Francis was joined on the dais by the bishop of Ajaccio,



Pope Francis delivers the Angelus prayer inside the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption of Ajaccio on the occasion of his one-day visit in the French island of Corsica on Sunday. AP/PTI

Cardinal Francois-Xavier Bustillo, who organized the conference that brought together some 400 participants from Spain, Sicily, Sardinia and southern France. The two-day meeting examined expressions of faith that often occur outside formal liturgies, such as processions and pilgrimages. Often specific to the places where they are practised, popular piety in Corsica includes the cult of the Virgin Mary, known locally as the "Maddunuccia," which protected the island from the plague in 1656 when it was still under Genoa. Corsica stands out from the rest of secularized France as a particularly devout region, with 92 confraternities, or lay associa-

tions dedicated to works of charity or piety, with over 4,000 members. "It means that there is a beautiful, mature, adult and responsible collaboration between civil authorities, mayors, deputies, senators, officials and religious authorities," Ajaccio Cardinal Francois-Xavier Bustillo told The Associated Press ahead of the visit. "There is no hostility between the two. And that is a very positive aspect because in Corsica there is no ideological hostility." The visit was awash in signs of popular piety. The pope was greeted by children in traditional garb and was continually serenaded by bands, choruses and singing troupes that are central to Corsican culture

from the airport, to the motorcade route, convention center and cathedral. Thousands stood along the roadside to greet the pontiff and more waved from windows. René Colombani traveled with 2,000 others by ship from northern Corsica to Ajaccio, on the western coast, to see the pope. "It is an event that we will not see again in several years. It may be the only time that the pope will come to Corsica. And since we wanted to be a part of it, we have come a long way," Colombani said. The island, which Genoa ceded to France in 1768, is located closer to the Italian mainland than France. From the conference, the pope traveled to the 17th-century

cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta to meet with clergy, stopping along the way at the statue of the Maddunuccia. Francis will later celebrate Mass at the Place d'Austerlitz park, where it is said Napoleon played as a child. Around 7,000 faithful are expected. He will meet privately with Macron at the airport before departing for the 50-minute flight back to Rome. They are expected to talk about the world's crisis, including wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, and environment and climate-related issues, Macron's office said. The pontiff pointedly did not make the trip to Paris earlier this month for the pomp surrounding the reopening of the Notre Dame Cathedral following the devastating 2019 fire. The visit to Corsica seems far more suited to Francis' priorities than a grand cathedral reopening, emphasizing the "church of the peripheries." It is Francis' third trip to France, each time avoiding Paris and the protocols that a state visit entails. He visited the port of Marseille in 2023, on an overnight visit to participate in an annual summit of Mediterranean bishops, and went to Strasbourg in 2014 to address the European Parliament and Council of Europe. Corsica is home to more than 340,000 people and has been part of France since 1768. But the island has also seen independence violence and has an influential nationalist movement, and last year Macron proposed granting it limited autonomy.

Pakistanis celebrate Raj Kapoor's 100th birth anniversary

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Pakistani cultural enthusiasts and film lovers gathered at the iconic Kapoor House in Peshawar on Saturday to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of legendary Bollywood filmmaker and actor Raj Kapoor. A highlight of the event, reinforcing the significance of Peshawar's ties to cinematic history, was the cutting of a cake to mark the birth centenary of Kapoor — one of the most influential figures of Indian cinema. Participants also welcomed the World Bank's announcement to allocate Rs 100 million each for the restoration of the ancestral homes of Raj Kapoor and fellow Bollywood legend Dilip Kumar. Both homes, located near the famous Qissa Khawani Bazaar, are celebrated as symbols of Peshawar's deep ties to Indian cinema. The gathering, jointly organised by the Cultural Heritage Council (CHC) and the Directorate of Archaeology Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, called for larger-scale events to commemorate the legacy of Kapoor. The attendees emphasised Kapoor's connection to Pakistan, where he was born in Peshawar's Dhaki Nalbandi, and praised his enduring influence on cinema. Muhammad Hussain Haideri,

Secretary of the Pak-Iran Trade and Investment Council, was the chief guest of the event. Born on December 14, 1924, Kapoor was the son of stalwart actor Prithviraj Kapoor. He made classics like "Awaraz", "Barsaat", "Shree 420", "Sangam" and "Mera Naam Joker" during his illustrious 40-year career. He died in 1988. Ibrahim Zia, a renowned writer and researcher on the Indian film industry who has extensively studied film legends with roots in Peshawar and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, presented rare photographs of Raj Kapoor from his childhood and early adolescence years in Peshawar. He also shared insights into the actor's illustrious career, starting in the 1940s. Zia highlighted Kapoor's versatility across genres, from romance and comedy to tragedy, which solidified his status as the "Greatest Showman of Indian Cinema". The Kapoor House stands near the ancestral homes of Dilip Kumar and Shah Rukh Khan, connecting two generations of Indian film legends to Peshawar. Dilip Kumar, celebrated for his naturalistic acting, and Shah Rukh Khan, a modern-day Bollywood superstar, further underscore the city's historical contribution to Indian cinema.

Cyclone Chido leaves 11 dead

AP ■ CAPE TOWN

At least 11 people have died after Cyclone Chido caused devastating damage in the French territory of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean, France's Interior Ministry said Sunday. The ministry said it was proving difficult to get a precise tally of the dead and injured amid fears the death toll will increase. A hospital in Mayotte reported that nine people were in critical condition in the hospital and 246 others were injured. The tropical cyclone blew through the southeastern Indian Ocean, also affecting the nearby islands of Comoros and Madagascar. Mayotte was directly in the path of the cyclone and suffered extensive damage on Saturday, officials said. The prefect of Mayotte said it was the worst cyclone to hit Mayotte in 90 years. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said Saturday night after an emergency meeting in Paris that there were fears that the death toll in Mayotte "will be high." Chido brought winds in excess of 220 kph, according to the French weather service, ripping metal roofs off houses and destroying many small structures in Mayotte, which has a population of just over 300,000 spread over two main islands about 800 kilometres off Africa's east coast. In some parts, entire neighbourhoods were flattened, while local residents reported many trees had been uprooted and boats had been flipped or sunk.

Trump appoints Richard Grenell to serve as special missions envoy

AP ■ WEST PALM BEACH

President-elect Donald Trump announced Saturday that he's picked longtime foreign policy adviser Richard Grenell to serve as an envoy for special missions, tasking him with helping the incoming administration deal with some of the toughest foreign policy challenges. Grenell served as ambassador to Germany during Trump's first administration, special presidential envoy for Serbia and Kosovo peace negotiations, and did a stint as acting director of national intelligence. He was also a contender to serve as secretary of state, but Trump opted to nominate Florida Sen. Marco Rubio. "Ric will work in some of the hottest spots around the World, including Venezuela and North Korea," Trump said in a posting on his social media platform, Truth Social, announcing

the appointment. Grenell during Trump's first term developed a reputation for employing a sometimes contentious approach to diplomacy that rankled allies and the foreign policy establishment in Washington. But his style was appreciated by the president-elect who sees value in blunt talk with allies. Grenell remained close to Trump after he left office in 2021, serving at times as a key adviser on foreign policy. He was in the room when Trump met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in September. Grenell has advocated for a peace deal that would preserve Ukraine's territory while still allowing for "autonomous regions" where Russia could remain in control. He's also advised against expanding NATO to include Ukraine, saying — as Trump has — that the alliance shouldn't grow until current members

meet the alliance's defense spending targets. Members of the transatlantic alliance have committed for years to spending 2% of their GDP on defense, but several countries still fall short of the target. He was an early supporter of Trump's 2024 campaign and held multiple events for the Republican nominee focused on economics and national security. Speaking at the Republican National Convention, Grenell echoed Trump's mantra that "it's time to put America first" on the global stage and argued that China and Russia saw President Joe Biden's administration as weak. Trump raised concerns during the 2024 campaign when he said he would not defend NATO members that failed to meet defense spending targets, and warned he would "encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to alliance countries that he

considered "delinquent." Grenell has downplayed Trump's criticisms of NATO and said the only talk of leaving the alliance altogether "was really from the media." "What we're saying is, don't come to the wedding without a gift," Grenell said. Grenell was part of the Trump campaign's outreach to Arab American voters in Michigan, where the president-elect made gains with a traditionally Democratic constituency despite his history of banning immigration from several majority-Muslim countries. Grenell orchestrated pro-Trump events with Arab American voters, like a May meeting held in Troy, Michigan. A US spokesman at the United Nations during the George W. Bush administration, Grenell, like many other Republicans, has his own history of criticising Trump before embracing him.

Once an adviser to GOP moderates like 2012 presidential nominee Mitt Romney and a supporter of gay marriage, Grenell, who is openly gay, deleted social media posts blasting Trump as "reckless" and "dangerous" once the former reality TV star became the Republican nominee in 2016. Trump also announced Saturday that he's appointing Devin Nunes, the chief executive officer of the president-elect's Truth Social platform, to head a presidential advisory board that will keep tabs on the U.S. intelligence community. Nunes will continue leading Trump Media & Technology Group. Trump is the company's largest shareholder. The former California lawmaker chaired the House Intelligence Committee and was one of Trump's closest allies in Congress during the president-elect's first term.

South Korean leaders seek calm after Yoon is impeached

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's opposition leader offered Sunday to work with the government to ease the political tumult as officials sought to reassure allies and markets, a day after the opposition-controlled parliament voted to impeach conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol over a short-lived attempt to impose martial law. Liberal Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung, whose party holds a majority in the National Assembly, urged the Constitutional Court to rule swiftly on Yoon's impeachment and proposed a special council for policy cooperation between the government and parliament. Yoon's powers have been suspended until the court decides whether to remove him from office or reinstate him. If Yoon is dismissed, a national election to choose his successor must be held within 60 days. Lee, who has led a fierce political offensive against Yoon's embattled government, is seen as the frontrunner to replace him. He lost the 2022 presidential election to Yoon by a razor-

thin margin. He told a televised news conference that a swift court ruling would be the only way to "minimise national confusion and the suffering of people." The court will meet to discuss the case Monday, and has up to 180 days to rule. But observers say that a court ruling could come faster. In the case of parliamentary impeachments of past presidents — Roh Moo-hyun in 2004 and Park Geun-hye in 2016 — the court spent 63 days and 91 days respectively before determining to reinstate Roh and dismiss Park. Lee also proposed a national council where the government and the National Assembly would work together to stabilise state affairs, and said his party won't seek to impeach Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, a Yoon appointee who's now serving as acting president. "The Democratic Party will actively cooperate with all parties to stabilise state affairs and restore international trust," Lee said. "The National Assembly and government will work together to quickly resolve the crisis that has swept

across the Republic of Korea." It's unclear if Lee's proposed council will be realised. In a meeting with the parliament speaker, who touched upon Lee's idea, Han said he will closely cooperate and communicate with the National Assembly but didn't specifically say whether the government intends to join the council. Kwon Seong-dong, floor leader of the ruling People Power Party, separately criticised Lee's proposal, saying that it's "not right" for the opposition party acting like the ruling party. Kwon, a Yoon loyalist, said that his party will use existing PPP-government dialogue channels "to continue to assume responsibility as the governing party until the end of President Yoon's term." The Democratic Party has already used its parliamentary majority to impeach the justice minister and the chief of the national police over the martial law decree, and had previously said it was also considering impeaching the prime minister. Upon assuming his role as acting leader, Han ordered the military to bolster its security



South Korea's main opposition Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung speaks during a press conference on removal of President Yoon Suk Yeol from office, at the party office at the National Assembly building in Seoul on Sunday. AP/PTI

posture to prevent North Korea from launching provocations. He also asked the foreign minister to inform other countries that South Korea's major external policies will remain unchanged, and the finance minister to work to minimise potential negative impacts on

the economy from the political turmoil. On Sunday, Han had a phone call with US President Joe Biden, discussing the political situation in South Korea and regional security challenges including North Korea's nuclear programme.

Biden expressed his appreciation for the resiliency of democracy in South Korea and reaffirmed "the ironclad commitment" of the United States, according to both governments. Yoon's December 3 imposition of martial law, the first of

its kind in more than four decades, lasted only six hours, but has caused massive political tumult, halted diplomatic activities and rattled financial markets. Yoon was forced to lift his decree after parliament unanimously voted to overturn it. Yoon sent hundreds of troops and police officers to the parliament in an effort to stop the vote, but they withdrew after the parliament rejected Yoon's decree. No major violence occurred. Opposition parties have accused Yoon of rebellion, saying a president in South Korea is allowed to declare martial law only during wartime or similar emergencies and would have no right to suspend parliament's operations even in those cases. Yoon has rejected the charges and vowed to "fight to the end." He said the deployment of troops to parliament was aimed at issuing a warning to the Democratic Party, which he called an "anti-state force" that abused its control of parliament by holding up the government's budget bill for next year and repeatedly pushing to impeach top officials.

Law enforcement institutions are investigating Yoon and others involved in the martial law case over possible rebellion and other allegations. They've arrested Yoon's defence minister and police chief and two other high-level figures. Yoon has immunity from most criminal prosecution as president, but that doesn't extend to allegations of rebellion or treason. He's been banned from leaving South Korea, but observers doubt that authorities will detain him because of the potential for clashes with his presidential security service. South Korean media reported that prosecutors asked Yoon to appear at a prosecution office for questioning on Sunday but he refused to do so. The reports said prosecutors plan to ask him to appear again. Repeated calls to a prosecutors' office in Seoul were unanswered. Lee called for authorities to speed up their probes and said that an independent investigation by a special prosecutor should be launched as soon as possible. Last week, the National Assembly passed a law calling for such an investigation.

Alleged Chinese spy got close to senior British royal, met former PMs

PTI ■ LONDON

The scandal surrounding an alleged Chinese spy who managed to gain access to Buckingham Palace as a "close confidant" of Prince Andrew, the younger brother of King Charles III, intensified on Sunday as it emerged that he also met former prime ministers David Cameron and Theresa May. While Cameron and May distanced themselves from any knowledge of his espionage links, the row involving the businessman, known only as "H6" for legal reasons, continues to dominate the headlines after a tribunal judge noted that he had an "unusual" degree of trust from the senior royal. Earlier, Andrew, the Duke of York, said in a statement that he had "ceased all contact" with the alleged spy.

"David Cameron was leader of the Conservative Party for over a decade and PM for six years. He met thousands of people during that time at hundreds of functions and events. We don't have any further information about this individual," a source close to Cameron, now Lord Cameron, was quoted as saying by 'Sky News'. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for Theresa May said "as such, she doesn't remember when or where this particular photograph was taken or the man in question". The revelations come after it emerged earlier this week that H6 had been barred from entering the UK due to national security risks. A Special Immigration Appeals Commission (SIAC) went on to hear in July that the man was invited to Prince Andrew's birthday party in 2020 and was told by a royal aide that he

could act on the Duke's behalf when dealing with potential investors in China. According to SIAC case details, H6 was first excluded from entering the country in 2023 over national security fears by Suella Braverman, who was then home secretary. In July last year, the Home Office said H6 was considered to have engaged in "covert and deceptive activity" on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party. H6 denied the allegations and appealed that decision in the SIAC, which ruled against him on Thursday. In a statement, Prince Andrew's office said the Duke had met the man "through official channels" and there was "nothing of a sensitive nature ever discussed". The Chinese Embassy in the UK has denied the espionage allegations, saying "some individuals in the UK are always

eager to fabricate baseless 'spy' stories targeting China". "Their purpose is to smear China and disrupt normal exchanges between Chinese and British personnel," a spokesperson said. However, former Tory Cabinet minister Gillian Keegan said on Sunday that the UK should "always be vigilant", and it is "surprising that people are surprised" by China's activities because security advice has been given to people visiting China going back 30 years. "They are the biggest strategic threat we have. They're a much bigger strategic threat than Russia," she said. UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper laid out the Labour government's stance as ensuring that the country's security and intelligence agencies are "continually vigilant for any threat to UK national security".

Bolivia holds divisive popular vote for its top judges, offering lessons for region

AP ■ LA PAZ

Campaigning for Sunday's judicial election may be strictly forbidden, but look closer on the streets of Bolivia's capital, La Paz, and you'll find that some candidates have sneakily plastered their faces on packs of corn puffs and others have slipped subtle slogans into official voting manuals. After all, it's a popular vote, and even a bit of PR can work wonders when voters know nothing about the dozens of names on their sprawling ballot papers. Bolivia is the only country in the world that holds elections for top judicial posts. Soon Mexico will, too, after former President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pushed through a highly contentious overhaul of the justice system in the face of mass protests. As Bolivia's ex-President Evo Morales did when remaking the judiciary in 2009, López Obrador has championed the overhaul as a way to purge the corrupt elite and boost democracy. But apathetic Bolivian voters say the elections have had the opposite effect, turning their courts from neutral arbiters

into political prizes. "I'll flip a coin," said 25-year-old architecture student Marisol Nogales when asked how she would vote on Sunday. It's never easy to find supporters of Bolivia's system of electing judges, which, over a decade ago, replaced a nomination system rooted in qualifications and training. Across the world, academics, investors and judges have warned that judicial elections can cement the dominance of the ruling party and gut checks and balances. And across Latin America, from El Salvador to Honduras, experts have characterised politicised judiciaries as profound threats to democracy. In Bolivia, even senior judicial officials struggle to sound positive when asked to defend the election. "It should be a calm, easy and simple process, but it has become very litigious, very controversial," Francisco Vargas, the vice president of Bolivia's electoral tribunal, told The Associated Press from the court in central La Paz. This year in Bolivia, experts find it even harder than usual to praise the system. With the posts up for grabs every six

years, Sunday's vote was supposed to take place in late 2023. But as the deadline approached last year, the Constitutional Court — packed with allies of President Luis Arce — suddenly intervened to push the vote back a year, escalating his power struggle with his former mentor and current rival, Morales, over who will lead their long-dominant leftist party into Bolivia's 2025 presidential election. Both understand that whoever wins over the Constitutional Court ensures their own political survival. Arce cited the paralysis of their divided party in justifying the vote's delay. Morales' loyalists, who hold a majority in Congress and would have determined the shortlist of judicial candidates, accused Arce of illegally extending the mandates of friendly judges for fear of losing influence over the courts. "What happened was disorder, the kind that can lead us to a greater conflict," said Iván Lima, the former Minister of Justice. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights criticized the postponement of elections,

raising alarm about its "potential to undermine the effective functioning of the Bolivian justice system." Now, after many attempts to derail and further delay the vote, it is finally moving ahead Sunday. But there's a wrinkle: It's a partial election. Only four out of nine seats on the powerful Constitutional Court are up for grabs. The other five — the majority of sitting judges, as it happens — will stay in their posts. "The judges have turned the Constitutional Court into a sort of super power," said Bolivian political analyst Paul Coca. Sunday marks the third time that Bolivia has held judicial elections. If the past two rounds under then-President Morales, in 2011 and 2017, are any indication, turnout will be low. Both times, the majority of Bolivians, outraged or simply baffled by the notion of endorsing unknown judges pre-selected by Morales' allies with little transparency, voted null or blank. Critics questioned the legitimacy of the elected judges. But they nonetheless shaped the evolution of Bolivian democracy.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM says talks with Taliban govt only solution for peace in region

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Chief Minister of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province Ali Amin Gandapur on Sunday said negotiations with the incumbent Taliban government in Afghanistan is the only solution for maintaining peace and security in the region. The firebrand leader of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party said if the world could recognise the Taliban government in Kabul, "then we should also talk with them for the sake of peace and security in the region." "Our province has the longest border with Afghanistan and we face the most severe consequences. In provincial and federal apex committee meetings, I have discussed initiating talks with Afghanistan," he said. The federal government claims it will negotiate with Afghanistan but they have not taken any concrete steps so far, the leader said. "We are managing this long border with the sacrifices of our people. Our police and security forces are giving their lives

for peace. We are victims of terrorism but are ensuring it does not spread further," Gandapur stated. "Several terrorists have been neutralised in the southern districts over the past few months. We are fiercely combating terrorists," he added. Gandapur claimed that the law and order situation was completely stable during the tenure of Khan's government from 2018 to 2022, however, it deteriorated after the PDM (Pakistan Democratic Movement) government came to power in the wake of the no confidence motion in 2022. "Institutions have been tasked with dismantling PTI instead of focusing on other responsibilities. When I took office, the situation was dire, but my focus is on improving it," he said. The PTI leader claimed that the performance of his government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is best compared to other provinces. "We have met the IMF target, which no other province has achieved so far," he said. "No one has made as many sacrifices for democracy and true

freedom as we have," the chief minister said. Recently, Gandapur warned of launching more protests against the federal government to secure the release of the jailed former premier. "We will continue launching attacks like the battle of Panipat. We will conquer if demands are not met," Gandapur told reporters referring to a historic battle in the subcontinent. "We have launched just five

attacks and will continue to launch the rest," he said while referring to the PTI's march on November 24 in Islamabad to demand the release of Khan. Khan's party launched a protest on November 24 after he issued a "final call", demanding the restoration of his party's electoral mandate, the release of detained party members, and the reversal of the 26th Amendment which he said had strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that I, **W Sunil Kumar S/o Sardar Rajinder Singh. A/sro filing application in L&DO for substitution/mutation of the property No 3/146 Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi-110015.** Contact no: 9599355076 in the name of Sunil Kumar on the grounds of Will. If there are any objection/claims from the general public in this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at ldo@nic.in within 30 days of publication of this notice.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I Kamlesh Dua W/o, Shyam Lal Dua R/O. H. No. A-2, Gali No. 1, Bihari Colony, Shahdara, Delhi 110032 Have Changed My Name To Mamta Dua For All Purposes. PD(1085)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby notified that my client Mrs. Paramjit Kaur W/o Late Mr. Balvinder Singh R/o Flat No. A-3, UGF, Vidhya Apartment, Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, Delhi-110070 has separated and severed all relations with her daughter-in-law namely Reeta Majumdar due to her bad and disobedient behavior and Granddaughter namely Simit Saini. My client has disowned and disinherited both of them from claiming any right, title and interest, etc. in any of her movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with them in any respect will be doing so at his/her own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be responsible or accountable in any manner whatsoever. Karandeep Singh (Advocate) D(6885/2017)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that KG Health and Fitness Pvt. Ltd. is the sole and exclusive owner of the Kris Gethin Gyms brand in India. We hereby clarify that Kris Gethin Gyms does not have any authorised franchisee or operation in South Extension, New Delhi. Any individual or entity claiming to represent or operate a Kris Gethin Gym at this location is acting without authorization and is misrepresenting the brand KG Health and Fitness Pvt. Ltd. shall not be held responsible for any loss, damage, or inconvenience caused to the public by such unauthorised use of the Kris Gethin Gyms name. For official inquiries or to verify authorized locations, please contact us.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that a Will of Late Shri Doboom Tulku was executed and registered at Gurugram, Haryana, Will Reg. No. 1062 dated 05.12.2023. According to the aforesaid Will, Agricultural Land Comprised in Rect. No. 30, Killa No. 2/3(4-0), 3/8(0), 2/2(4-0), 19/2(2-11), 23 Min West [4-19] total measuring 23 Kanal 10 Marla Salam situated in the revenue estate of Village Sakatpur, Tehsil & District Gurugram, Haryana [herein referred to as the said land] belonged to the aforesaid deceased. Now this public notice is to clarify that as per revenue records, the said land belonged to Ven. Lama Doboom Tulku and that Ven. Lama Doboom Tulku and Doboom Tulku are the same person. It is also clarified that as per revenue records, Agricultural Land Comprised in Rectangle No. 21 Killa No. 19/2/2 (2-9), 22/2/2 (4-0), 23/1/2 (4-16), Rectangle No. 30 Killa No. 2/3 (4-0), 3 (8-0) total Rakba 23 Kanal 5 Marla situated in the revenue estate of Village Sakatpur, Tehsil & District Gurugram, Haryana [herein referred to as the said land] belonged to the aforesaid deceased. If any one has any objection or concern regarding the same, he or she may contact the undersigned for the same within 30 days of this public notice. ADVOCATE MANUL MITTRA P/6747/2018 DISTRICT AND SESSION COURT, GURUGRAM

5 heroin traffickers return to Australia from Indonesia

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Five Australians who had spent almost 20 years in Indonesian prisons for heroin trafficking returned to Australia on Sunday under a deal struck between the two governments, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said. The governments confirmed weeks ago that negotiations were underway for Matthew Norman, Scott Rush, Martin Stephens, Si Yi Chen, and Michael Czujag to be returned to Australia. Their return on Sunday was shrouded in secrecy. There was uncertainty about whether they could potentially serve out their life sentences in Australian prisons. However, Albanese confirmed in a statement Sunday the men

returned to Australia as free citizens. He also thanked Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto for the men's release. "Australia respects Indonesia's sovereignty and legal processes and we appreciate Indonesia's compassionate consideration of this matter," Albanese said. The five were among a gang of nine Australian smugglers arrested in the Indonesian tourist island of Bali in 2005 as they attempted to fly with heroin strapped to their bodies to Australia. Two convicted ring-leaders of the Bali Nine, Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran, were executed by a firing squad in 2015, causing a diplomatic furore between neighbours Indonesia and Australia.

Union Bank of India

POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

Whereas The undersigned being the authorised officer of Union Bank of India, NOIDA MAIN BRANCH (Brahmaputra Complex, Sector 29, Noida -201301) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) land in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 30.09.2024 calling upon the borrowers M/s. M. Techno, Proprietor and guarantor Mr. Pramod Kumar, Guarantor- M/s. Krishna Kumar, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 74,09,278.07 (Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs, Nine thousand, two hundred Seventy Eight and Seven Paise only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public to 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 10th day of the December year 2024. The borrower n 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 the Union Bank of India for an amount Rs. 74,09,278.07 and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Immovable Property

All that part of the residential property bearing No. DDA LIG Flat No 65A, Ground Floor, Pocket A 2, Mayapuri Phase III, Delhi 110096 measuring 463.00 Sq. Feet in the name of Shri Pramod Kumar and Smt. Krishna Kumar Bounded: On the North by Road On the South by flat no 65 B On the East by corridor and Flat No 66 A On the west by Flat No 59 A Date: 15.12.2024 Place: Noida

Authorised Officer For UNION Bank OF INDIA

PIRAMAL CAPITAL & HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amfit Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai-400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639. Website: www.piramalfinance.com

Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) - 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with the above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 13100001900 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Indira Lal (Borrower) Nisha Diwan (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 264384 /- (₹ Two lakh Sixty Four Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four Only) NPA (03-08-2024)	Municipal No. 232A, Plot No. 254(New), Second Floor, L.H.S Gali No.8, Padam Nagar Near Sai Mandir, Kishan Ganj North Delhi, New Delhi - 110007
(LC No. 2490000777 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Vikas Bhatt (Borrower) Geeta Bhatt (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 990169 /- (₹ Nine lakh Ninety Thousand One Hundred Sixty Nine Only) NPA (09-06-2024)	Plot No. G-1/1081, Upper Ground Floor Kharsa No-292, Village Chandrawali Alias Mangla Sarai Park, Shahdara West Delhi New Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 13100000851 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Ram Pramod (Borrower) Nand Kishor (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1633325 /- (₹ Sixteen lakh Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five Only) NPA (08-11-2024)	Flat No. 601,6th Floor, Jupiter Tower The Alien Court, Plot No. Gh- C-3/1 Industrial Area Tronica City Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh -201011
(LC No. 1410000625 of Karnal Branch) Amit Kumar (Borrower) Asha (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1778538 /- (₹ Seventeen lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Only) NPA (08-11-2024)	Khewat No. 35, Khata No 37, Vill 35/72/2 40 22/2, Vila Rakhsa Naji, NEAR BEHIND NAVTEEN SCHOOL MOHA Sonapat New Delhi Delhi :-110040
(LC No. 19000001745 of Ghaziabad Branch) Gulshan Kumar (Borrower) Hemlata (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 3084037 /- (₹ Thirty lakh Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Seven Only) NPA (03-11-2024)	Quarater No- 39, Second Floor, Block- 13, Jheel Road, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, Near Chaudh Chikhen Delhi New Delhi Delhi :- 110031
(LC No. 20000036204 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) MOHD SULEMAN (Borrower) Ibrahim Suleman (Co Borrower 1) Mamoona Suleman (Co Borrower 2)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1560840 /- (₹ Fifteen lakh Sixty Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Only) NPA (08-11-2024)	HL/FLAT No.G-201, FLOOR No. 2ND FLOOR, PLOT No. TOWER-G, EARTH COPIA, SECTOR. 112, VILLAGE. GURGAON GURGAON Gurugram Haryana :- 122001
(LC No. 18100000359 of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Sandeep Arora (Borrower) Anu Nagpal (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 364101 /- (₹ Three lakh Sixty Four Thousand One Hundred One Only) NPA (08-11-2024)	Flat No. 304 3rd Floor Tower A8 Type A Srs Palm Homes Sector 7 Palwal Faridabad Haryana :- 122102
(LC No. BLSA0001AA36 of Delhi Branch) Surendra Kumar Chauhan (Borrower) Hemlata (Co Borrower 1) Ankit Chauhan (Co Borrower 2)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 2098143.64 /- (₹ Twenty lakh Ninety Eight Thousand One Hundred Forty Three Only and Sixty Four Paise) NPA (03-11-2024)	Property Bearing No.248/43, Entire Building, Old Lal Dora (1908-1909) Fruit Mandi Masjid, Near Adarsh Hospital, Near Chand Masjid, Village Sarai Pipal Thala Delhi North West Delhi-110088
(LC No. M0167812 of Delhi Branch) Surendra Kumar Chauhan (Borrower) Hemlata (Co Borrower 1) Ankit Chauhan (Co Borrower 2)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 4285954 /- (₹ Forty Two lakh Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Four Only) NPA (03-11-2024)	Property Bearing No.248/43, Entire Building, Old Lal Dora (1908-1909) Fruit Mandi Masjid, Near Adarsh Hospital, Near Chand Masjid, Village Sarai Pipal Thala Delhi North West Delhi-110088
(LC No. HLSA0002AAA of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Irfan Ahmad (Borrower) Anjum Ara (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 398424.26 /- (₹ Three lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Four Only and Twenty Six Paise) NPA (03-11-2024)	Plot No. B-102, Ground Floor, Rear RHS, Kharsa No.1308, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad-201102, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. HLSA0002AAATU of Noida - Sector 2 Branch) Irfan Ahmad (Borrower) Anjum Ara (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1825038 /- (₹ One lakh Eighty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Only and Thirty Paise) NPA (03-11-2024)	Plot No. B-102, Ground Floor, Rear RHS, Kharsa No.1308, Pargana Loni, Ghaziabad-201102, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. HLSA0002F87D of Noida Branch) Rahul (Borrower) Sheela (Co Borrower 1) Vikram (Co Borrower 2)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 2734220.4 /- (₹ Twenty seven lakh Thirty Four Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Only and Forty Paise) NPA (03-10-2024)	Flat No.301, Second Floor Front Side Without Roof Right, Property No.27, out of Kharsa No. 235, Devi Charitable Hospital Village Nawada, West Delhi 110059
(LC No. HLSA000287DTU of Noida Branch) Rahul (Borrower) Sheela (Co Borrower 1) Vikram (Co Borrower 2)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1425912.62 /- (₹ Fourteen lakh Twenty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Twelve Only and Twenty Two Paise) NPA (03-11-2024)	Flat No.301, Second Floor Front Side Without Roof Right, Property No.27, out of Kharsa No. 235, Devi Charitable Hospital Village Nawada, West Delhi 110059
(LC No. M0191054 of Delhi - Dwarka Branch) Jagmohan Singh (Borrower) Bhooop Singh (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 2670207.28 /- (₹ Twenty Six lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Seven Only and Twenty Eight Paise) NPA (03-11-2024)	16,Ews, 2nd floor, Block-B, Sector-12, This Ram Prastha, Vill- Maharajapur, Loni, Ghaziabad-201011, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. BLSA00001245 of Delhi Branch) Upendra Malhotra (Borrower) Sita Devi (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1859946 /- (₹ Eighteen lakh Fifty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Six Only) NPA (03-11-2024)	H. No. X 1460, 3rd floor, Flat No.03, Gali No.04, Near Adarsh Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-110033
(LC No. M0099596 of Gurgaon Branch) Rakesh Kumar Gupta (Borrower) SAPANA (Co Borrower 1)	18-11-2024 / ₹ 1083207 /- (₹ Ten lakh Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven Only) NPA (03-11-2024)	Flat F/3, Ground Floor, Plot C 212, Kharsa 4208 & 429, Sadullabad paragona Loni, Near Power House Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201010

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 16 - 12 - 2024 Place: Delhi Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

FPIs make a strong comeback to Indian equities

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors have made a strong comeback to Indian equities with a net investment of Rs 22,766 crore in the first two weeks of December driven by expectations of rate cut by the US Federal Reserve. This revival follows significant outflows in the preceding months, with Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pulling out a net Rs 21,612 crore in November and a massive Rs 94,017 crore in October – the worst monthly outflow on record. Interestingly, September had marked a nine-month high for FPI inflows, with a net investment of Rs 57,724 crore, highlighting the volatility in foreign investment trends. With the latest inflow, FPI investment has reached at Rs 7,747 crore in 2024 so far, data with the depositories showed. Looking ahead, the flow of foreign investments into Indian equity markets will hinge on several key factors. These include the policies implemented under Donald Trump's presidency, the prevailing inflation and interest rate environment, and the evolving geopolitical landscape,



Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said. Additionally, the third-quarter earnings performance of Indian companies and the country's progress on the economic growth front will play a crucial role in shaping investor sentiment and influencing foreign inflows, he added. According to the data with the depositories, FPIs have made a net

investment of Rs 22,766 crore in this month (till December 13). This was driven by expectations of a US Federal Reserve rate cut. A shift toward monetary easing has improved global liquidity, drawing capital into emerging markets like India. These inflows reflect sustained interest in India as a growth market, Karthick Jonagadia, smallcase Manager and Founder of Quantace Research, said. Also, the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) enhanced liquidity by lowering the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) that boosted investors' sentiment, Vipul Bhowar, Senior Director - Listed Investments at Waterfield Advisors, said. Additionally, India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation dropped to 5.48 per cent in November from 6.21 per cent in October, enhancing investor confidence and raising hopes for potential monetary policy easing by the RBI, he added. Even though FPIs have turned buyers in December, they have been large sellers too on certain days. This indicates that at higher levels, they may again turn sellers since Indian valuations continue to be relatively high compared to other markets, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said. The rising dollar is another concern which might prompt FPIs to sell at higher levels, he added. On the other hand, FPIs invested Rs 4,814 crore in the debt general limit and pulled out Rs 666 crore from the debt Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) during the period under review. So far this year, FPIs have invested Rs 1.1 lakh crore in the debt market.

Coal imports up 4 per cent at 162 MT in Apr-Oct period

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The country's coal import rose by 4.2 per cent to 162.45 million tonnes (MT) in the April-October period of the current financial year compared to 155.87 MT in the year-ago period. Coal imports in October dropped by 14.4 per cent to 21.84 MT compared to 25.54 MT in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal, according to data compiled by mjunction services, a B2B e-commerce platform. Of the total imports in October, non-coking coal imports stood at 13.49 MT against 18.82 MT imported in October last fiscal. Coking coal imports stood at 4.45 MT, against 4.31 MT imported in October last financial year. In September, non-coking coal imports were 13.24 MT and coking coal at 3.39 MT. "There was a modest increase



(month-on-month) in non-coking coal volumes in October as buyers took fresh positions during the festive month, and ahead of the winter season. Going forward, demand is likely to be moderate due to the anticipated growth in domestic supply during the fourth quarter (Q4)," mjunction MD & CEO Vinaya Varma said. Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy had recently

urged the steel sector to reduce dependence on imported coal and make the required changes in technology. The minister had said that the import of coal should be reduced in a phased manner. The steel industry uses coking coal. The minister had also expressed hopes that the coal production target of 1,080 million tonnes for the current fiscal year would be met.

Markets to be guided by US Fed interest rate decision, WPI inflation, global trends: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The US Fed interest rate decision, inflation data and FIIs are the key factors that are expected to drive stock markets this week, analysts said. Also, global trends will also be tracked by investors for further cues, they added. "The Indian stock market's future trajectory will be influenced by a blend of global and domestic factors. Global trends, particularly the performance of US markets and the Fed's monetary policy decision, will play a significant role. Additionally, domestic economic indicators like inflation, will shape the



market sentiment," Pravesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. The flow of foreign and domestic institutional

investments will also be a key driver, he said. Gour further said the rupee's exchange rate and crude oil prices will be critical determinants of market

direction. From the domestic macroeconomic data announcement, WPI inflation will be in focus on Monday. "The key focus will be on the US Federal Reserve meeting, where a 25 basis point rate cut is already factored in. The Fed's commentary on future rate policy will hold significant importance," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 623.07 points or 0.76 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 90.5 points or 0.36 per cent. Investors will watch out for the domestic WPI inflation to be released on Monday, an expert said.

Five of top-10 most valued firms together add ₹1.13 lakh Crore in market valuation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Five of the 10 most valued firms added Rs 1,13,117.17 crore to their total market valuation last week with Bharti Airtel stealing the show. While Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank and Infosys were the gainers, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), ITC and Hindustan Unilever took a hit in their valuations. Last week, the BSE benchmark gained 623.07 points or 0.76 per cent and the Nifty advanced 90.5 points or 0.36 per cent. The market valuation of Bharti Airtel surged by Rs



47,836.6 crore to Rs 9,57,842.40 crore. Infosys added Rs 31,826.97 crore to its valuation at Rs 8,30,387.10 crore. HDFC Bank's valuation rose by Rs 11,887.78 crore to Rs 14,31,158.06 crore and that of ICICI Bank increased by Rs 11,760.8 crore to Rs 9,49,306.37 crore. The market capitalisation

(mcap) of TCS climbed Rs 9,805.02 crore to Rs 16,18,587.63 crore. However, the mcap of Reliance Industries declined by Rs 52,031.98 crore to Rs 17,23,144.70 crore. The valuation of LIC tumbled Rs 32,067.73 crore to Rs 5,89,869.29 crore and that of Hindustan Unilever slumped Rs 22,250.63 crore to Rs 5,61,423.08 crore. The mcap of State Bank of India dropped Rs 2,052.66 crore to Rs 7,69,034.51 crore and that of ITC by Rs 1,376.19 crore to Rs 5,88,195.82 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Infosys, State Bank of India, LIC, ITC and Hindustan Unilever.

India seeks strong WTO subsidy rules for high seas fishing

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India has pitched at the WTO for stricter regulations on subsidies granted by countries that are engaged in high seas fishing activities, an official said. Highlighting the stark disparity, an Indian document submitted at the World Trade Organization (WTO) has noted that it provides a modest USD 35 per fisher annually, compared to subsidies as high as USD 76,000 per fisher per year in some European nations. India also suggested that historical subsidisers should seek permission of the Committee on Fisheries Subsidies for grant of subsidies in future. The country has made these remarks in the meetings of the Negotiating Group on Rules (Fisheries subsidies), which are going on in Geneva. "India has pitched for strong disciplines for historical fisheries subsidisers which are engaged in distant water fishing (200 nautical miles from sea shore) and has asked for a moratorium on subsidies at the present level for 25 years," the official said. On these demands, India was supported by countries like Indonesia and other developing countries, the official added. "Blaming India for stalling the decision at the GC (General Council) is merely an excuse and a tactic to push for weak disciplines, allowing business as usual to continue," the official said adding WTO members engaged in distant water fishing should stop providing any kind of subsidies for 25 years as they provide significantly higher support measures and are indiscriminately exploiting the fisheries resources. The General Council is the WTO's highest-level decision-making body in Geneva, meeting regularly to carry out the functions of the WTO. It has representatives (usually ambassadors or equivalent) from all member governments and has the authority to act on behalf of the Ministerial Conference. India has also called for adopting a 'per capita distribution of subsidies' criteria to address concerns over overfishing and capacity under the WTO framework, according to the document.

India's import of Russian oil drops in Nov on shrinking discounts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's import of Russian crude oil dropped in November to its lowest level since June 2022 but the Kremlin continues to be the biggest source of oil for India, according to a monthly tracker report of a European think tank. India became the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022, with purchases rising from less than one per cent of the total oil imported to almost 40 per cent of the country's total oil purchases. The rise was primarily because the Russian crude oil was available at a discount to other internationally traded oil due to the price cap and the European nations shunning purchases



from Moscow. "India's imports of Russian crude oil dropped by a massive 55 per cent in November - the lowest figure since June 2022," the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) said its latest report. Russia remained India's top oil

supplier, followed by Iraq and Saudi Arabia. "China has bought 47 per cent of Russia's crude exports, followed by India (37 per cent), the EU (6 per cent), and Turkey (6 per cent)," CREA said without giving absolute numbers. In November, there was a 17 per cent month-on-month increase in the discount on Russia's Urals grade crude oil to an average of USD 6.01 per barrel compared to Brent crude oil. The discount on the ESPO grade narrowed by a massive 15 per cent and was traded at an average discount of USD 3.88 per barrel while that on the Sokol blend narrowed by 2 per cent to USD 6.65 per barrel, it said. Russia predominantly sells ESPO and Sokol grades of crude oil to India. Besides crude oil, India bought smaller quantities of coal from Russia. "From December 5, 2022 until

the end of November 2024, China purchased 46 per cent of all Russia's coal exports - India (17 per cent), Turkey (11 per cent), South Korea (10 per cent), and Taiwan (5 per cent) round off the top five buyers list," according to CREA. All fossil fuels taken together, "India dropped to third in the list of largest buyers of Russian fossil fuels in November, contributing 17 per cent (EUR 2.1 billion) to Russia's monthly export earnings from its top five importers. There was a significant 22 per cent drop in Russian revenues from crude oil exports to India in November," it said. While there was an 11 per cent month-on-month decline in the total volume of India's imports of crude oil in November, Russian volumes suffered the most, dropping by a massive 55 per cent. India imports more than 85 per cent of its crude oil, which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel refineries. In an attempt to restrict funds for Russia's war machine, The Group of Seven (G7) rich nations, the European Union and Australia put an embargo on Russian crude and introduced a USD 60 per barrel price cap in December 2022. Over the next 12 months, the price cap and embargo had a significant impact on revenues, and forced Russia to find new markets and ways to transport its oil.

Airlines are price takers, they do not have influence on prices they pay: IATA Chief Economist

PTI ■ GENEVA

Airlines are price takers as they do not have an influence on the prices they pay, IATA Chief Economist Marie Owens Thomsen has said and highlighted that carriers' need to diversify their revenues is complicated by slim profit margins as well as weak balance sheets. In a fast-growing aviation market like India where the air traffic demand is on the rise, there are persistent concerns about airfare trajectory and suggestions from various quarters to make air tickets more affordable. Discussing overall airfares and the costs of airlines, Thomsen said airlines do not have any influence on the prices they pay. "There are too few aircraft manufacturers and oil companies. Whatever supplies we are looking at



upstream, we are price takers and downstream, we have the hyper competitive environment where all customers can see all fares from all airlines at all times. So, we always compete in price," she told PTI in an interview in Geneva earlier this week. Thomsen, who is the Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Sustainability, said as airlines are price takers upstream and downstream, it leaves them with very little in the middle. A study published in November by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) showed that airfares have risen at a slower pace than consumer prices (measured by the Consumer Price Index, CPI) over the past decade. "This indicates that air ticket prices have not fully kept up with inflation, especially in comparison to jet fuel costs, which have significantly outpaced consumer inflation," the study said. Currently, jet fuel accounts for around 30 per cent of

airlines' operating costs. To a question on whether there can be more transparency in pricing of air tickets, Thomsen argued that if airlines were profiteering, the per passenger profit would have been much higher. "When you have high ticket prices and low airline profits, then the money is going somewhere else," she said, pointing out that a third and a 50 per cent of the airline industry's costs are administrative costs. "The rest (of the costs) is actually for services of flying people or cargo," Thomsen noted. As per IATA's latest outlook for 2025, airlines are projected to have a net profit of USD 1.8 per passenger while the overall net profit expected to be USD 3.6 billion. "You can have a lot of activity and a big market and make no profit because your cost base is too high. Lot of them come from various types of regulatory fees and charges levied on airlines," Thomsen pointed out. According to her, there is a need for revenue diversification by airlines but the situation is complicated by slim profit margins and weak balance sheets most airlines suffer from. IATA represents around 340 airlines globally, including Indian carriers. The member airlines account for more than 80 per cent of the global air traffic.

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.: 0755-2982607/2985569
Email: info@aiimshhopal.edu.in www.aiimshhopal.edu.in

No. Adm-2(4)/Rec/M_P_Con/AIIMS-BPL/2024/11381 Date 14/12/2024
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF MEDICAL PHYSICIST AT AIIMS, BHOPAL ON PURELY CONTRACTUAL BASIS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhopal will hold a Walk-in-Interview for engagement of 05 Medical Physicists (02 for UR, 01 for EWS, 01 for OBC & 01 for ST), on purely contractual basis for the Department of Nuclear Medicine & for the Department of Radiotherapy on 24/12/2024.

For details of essential eligibility criteria, terms and conditions of engagement and reporting time for walk-in-interview etc. AIIMS Bhopal website www.aiimshhopal.edu.in may be visited. The interested candidates fulfilling the eligibility criteria may come for document verification along with the duly filled application form in the prescribed format and with all documents in support of their eligibility (in original) and one set of self-attested photocopies, application fee etc. on 23/12/2024 at 09:00AM positively.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin.)
AIIMS, Bhopal

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Letter No.: Jhansi/S/106/Press Release Date: 14.12.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice related to third line and electrification of Antari (Excl.)-Sandalpur-Sitholi A Cabin(Incl.) section of Jhansi Division

It is notified for the information of general public that in connection with the commissioning of third line and electrification of Antari (Excl.)-Sandalpur-Sitholi A Cabin(Incl.) section, speed trial in this section is to be conducted on 17.12.2024, speed trial has to be conducted by CRS/NE Circle Lucknow on 17.12.2024 after that this third line section will be commissioned with electrification by 25000 Volt. All the residents of the neighbourhood are requested to stay away from OHE and electric pole, not to sit near the railway line or cross unauthorisedly 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.

Senior Divisional Safety Officer
North Central Railway
Jhansi 2133/24(A)

North central railways | @CFRNCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

OFFICE OF CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER HARPALPUR DISTT CHHATARPUR
Notice Inviting e-Tenders 4rd Call Harpalpur, Date- 10.12.2024

No./ NP/ PWD/ 2024 / 1879
Online Lumpsum bids for the following works under "SBM (U) - 2.0" (Estimated on UADD ISSR (w.e.f - 02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firms of reputed fulfilling eligibility criteria
Tender No.- 2024_UAD_388024_1

S. No.	Scope of the work	Probable amount of contract (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Time of Completion
1.0	1. Design and build sewage treatment plant of installed capacity 0.9 MLD and all appurtenant structures and allied works; 2. Survey, review the designs, redesign where necessary, and diversion works of Nallahs with interception sewer of about 0.37 Km length including survey, design, construction of 2 No. of Pumping stations and all appurtenant structures and allied works; 3. Providing, laying, jointing, testing, commissioning of Treated water pumping main having length of 590 m of dia 150 mm and of DI K-7 pipe from Treated Water Sump to nearby agriculture Land/River including excavation, refilling, road cutting/dismantling, restoration, providing valves and specials and fittings all complete. 4. Treated Water Sump with Pump House 5. Operation & maintenance of the complete works of sewage treatment plant, Intercepting sewer and/or interception & diversion works of Nallahs and pumping stations for a period of 05 years after completion of works, including defect liability period (DLP) of 1 year, starting from the date of commission of the project	361.04 Lacs	1,80,520	15,000	12 months including rainy season.

1. All details relating to the Bid Document(s) can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the website. Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpurban.gov.in.
2. The Bid can be purchased only online from 1130 Hrs of 14/12/2024 to 1730 Hrs. of 30/12/2024

CMO, NAGAR PARISHAD HARPALPUR

Auto Expo to see highest-ever participation of vehicle manufacturers: SIAM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

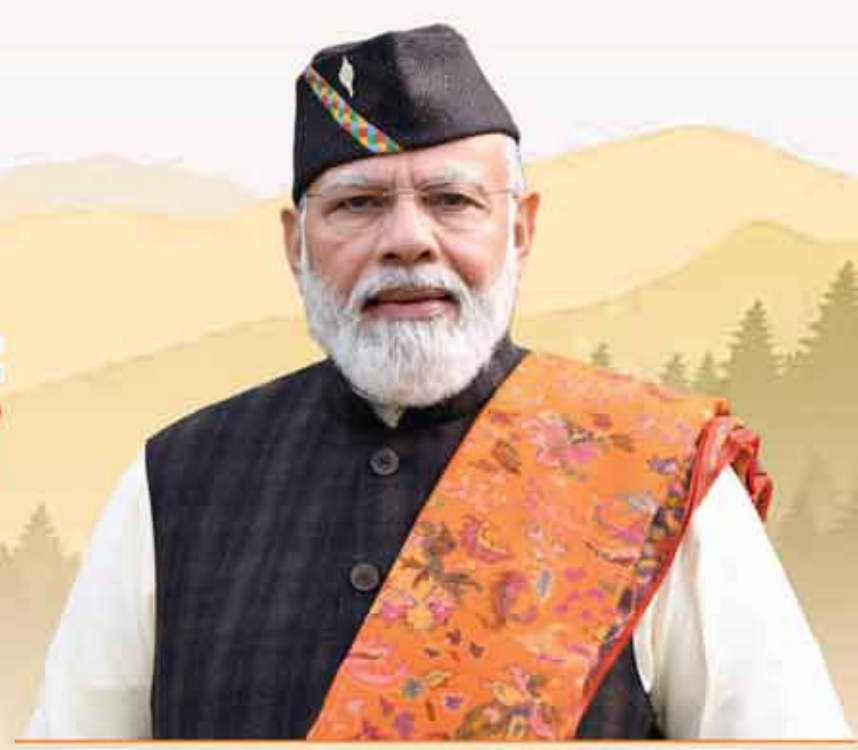
The upcoming edition of Auto Expo will see participation of 34 vehicle manufacturers, the largest number of participants till date, since the first edition of the marquee event in 1986. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) would be organising the 17th edition of Auto Expo, 'The Motor Show', under the aegis of the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 from January 17-22 at

Bharat Mandapam, in partnership with ACMA and CII. "Around 34 vehicle manufacturers would be participating at the exhibition and showcasing technologies with respect to multiple powertrains," SIAM Director General Rajesh Menon told PTI. It is the highest-ever participation in the history of the event so far, he added. Automakers participating in the event include Tata Motors, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Toyota Kirloskar

Motor, Hyundai Motor India, Kia Motor India, JSW MG Motor and Skoda Auto Volkswagen India, he stated. Luxury carmakers like BMW, Mercedes, Porsche India, and BYD would also be showcasing their products during the event. In the two-wheeler segment, there would be participation from TVS Motor Company, Bajaj Auto, Hero MotoCorp, Honda Motorcycle and Scooter India, Suzuki Motorcycle, and India Yamaha.



Viksit Bharat, Sashakt Uttarakhand



“ Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Uttarakhand is progressing steadily on the path of development. The state government is taking necessary steps to encourage tourists to visit not only for tourism but also to experience the holy shrines. This will allow tourists to enjoy the spiritual and touristic experiences, especially during the winter season. ”

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



देवभूमि रजत उत्सव
9 नवंबर 2024-25 | उत्तराखण्ड

“ There are two main pillars for the creation of a developed India in the 21st century – pride in our heritage and making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be the decade of Uttarakhand. ”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

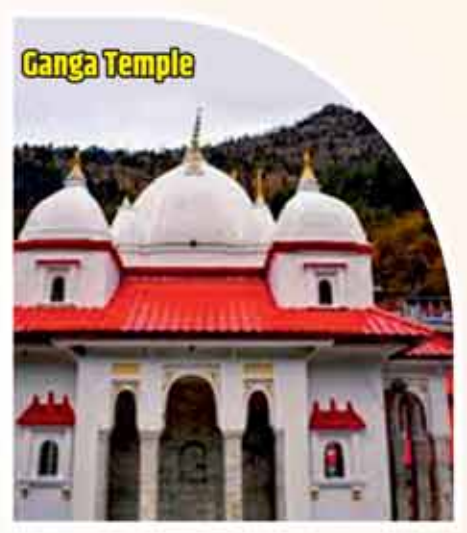
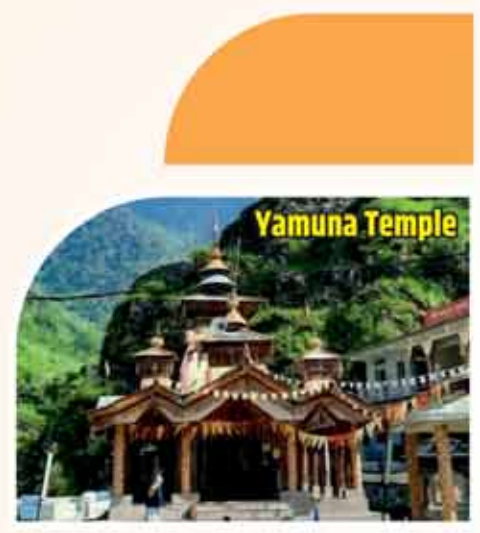
Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

WINTER YATRA



1 Shri Yamunotri Dham's winter stay **Yamuna Temple** Kharsali (Uttarkashi)

Yamunotri, the first stop of the Char Dham Yatra, is home to the Yamuna Temple. When the temple closes for the winter, the idol of Goddess Yamuna is brought to Kharsali, where she resides for the winter months, and during the winter sojourn, Maa Yamuna is worshipped in Kharsali. Here, the temple of Lord Shani Dev Ji, the brother of Yamuna Ji, is also located.

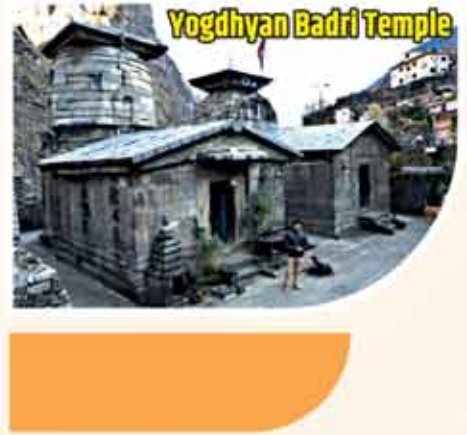


2 Shri Gangotri Dham's winter stay **Ganga Temple** Mukhimath, Mukhba (Uttarkashi)

The Ganga Temple in Mukhimath, Mukhba serves as the winter abode of Goddess Ganga. When the Gangotri Temple closes for winter, the idol of Goddess Ganga is brought from Gangotri to Mukba for winter worship.

3 Shri Kedarnath Dham's winter stay **Omkareshwar Temple** Ukhimath (Rudraprayag)

The Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath serves as the winter home of Lord Kedarnath. During the winter months, the idol of Lord Kedarnath is brought from Kedarnath and worshiped at this temple.



4 Shri Badrinath Dham's winter stay **Yogdhyan Badri Temple** Pandukeshwar (Chamoli)

When the Badrinath Temple closes for winter, the idol of Lord Badri Vishal is worshiped at the Yogdhyan Badri Temple in Pandukeshwar. The idols of Uddhav Ji & Kuber Ji are also brought to this temple for winter worship. Additionally, Adi Guru Shankaracharya's idol is placed at the Narsingh Temple in Joshimath for the winter.

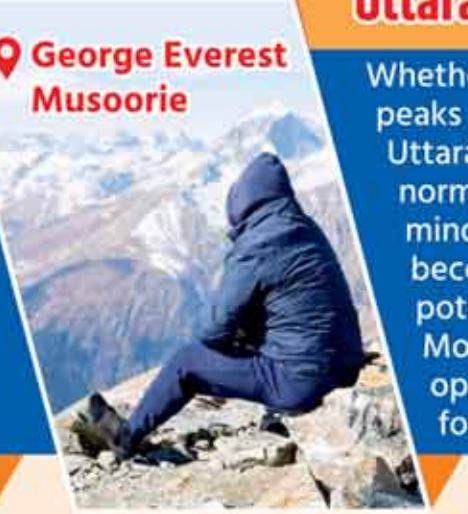
SUNSHINE TOURISM

While the many part of the country are covered with fog, on the other hand the mountains of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand offer the pleasure of basking in cheerful sunlight.

COME, EXPERIENCE SPIRITUALITY & TOURISM IN UTTARAKHAND

Uttarakhand: A unique, thrilling, and natural destination

Whether it's eco-tourism, wildlife tourism, or the thrill of unexplored snowy peaks with activities like skiing, mountain biking, paragliding, and trekking, Uttarakhand offers everything you could need for an adventure that would normally require travel to multiple countries. Known for green tourism, mindful travel, wildlife exploration, and natural tourism, Uttarakhand has become a popular destination. Due to improved tourism policies and high potential, there has been significant investment in tourism in recent years. Moreover, many big investors are now exploring tourism investment opportunities in the state. Uttarakhand is emerging as a prime destination for adventure activities



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Head dominates Indian attack for back-to-back centuries

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India's nemesis Travis Head smashed his second hundred in as many games to help Australia gain a distinct advantage in the third Test here on Sunday. Australia, who were put under pressure by India in the morning session, gathered 130 runs in the afternoon without the loss of a wicket. Head (103 batting off 118) made the difference in Adelaide and his successive hundred took the hosts to 234 for three at tea on day two. Returning to form, Steve Smith (65 batting off 149) stood solid at the other end as the duo shared an unbeaten 159-run stand for the fourth wicket. The southpaw, who made a match-winning 140 in the previous Test, once again



lorded over the Indian bowlers who ran out of ideas against him. Even the field placements were questionable with the visitors having a deep point and deep square leg early in Head's innings, allowing the explosive batter pace his innings. The short balls were attempted when Head was well set and he duly put them away with disdain. His unconquered effort comprised 13 runs. Akash Deep bowled well, especially to Smith, but could not get a breakthrough.

Struggling for runs, Smith reverted to his trademark exaggerated shuffle, to keep the Indians at bay. He found it tough to get going initially before gaining the confidence to go for horizontal bat shots. Earlier, India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah extended his dominance over the Australian openers before Nitish Reddy got into the act to leave the visitors at 104 for three at lunch. Despite the pressure exerted by the Indian pacer, Australia were able to muster 76 runs in the session.

With the majority of day one lost due to rain, play started half an hour earlier than scheduled time and it did not take long for Bumrah what he has done thus far in the series. Resuming at 28 for no loss, Australia lost Usman Khawaja (21 off 54) in the fourth over of the day when Bumrah had him caught behind with a ball that straightened slightly to take a faint outside edge. It was the third time Bumrah had got rid of the left-handed opener in the series. In the following over, Bumrah

sent back Nathan McSweeney (9 off 49) for the fourth time in three Tests, drawing a thick outside edge from an angle that travelled fast to Virat Kohli at second slip. India were able to maintain pressure after the early breakthroughs with under pressure Smith and Marnus Labuschagne (12 off 55) looking to occupy the crease. Smith, batting with a different stance for the third time in as many games, was tested by the Indian pacers repeatedly as they tried to target his stumps.

Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj did a pose a few questions to both Smith and Labuschagne but could not get the desired results. Reddy, who got the ball to swing, ended Labuschagne's vigil in the 34th over of the innings. The India all-rounder drew the Australian number three to drive off a full ball and Labuschagne took the bait only to be caught by Kohli at second slip, leaving Australia at 75 for three. Two overs later, there was a major scare in the Indian

camp as Siraj walked off the field after feeling discomfort in his left leg in the middle of his over. He was seen holding his left knee but returned to the field much to India's relief. The injury scare came after Siraj and Labuschagne shared a light moment as the Indian pacer walked towards the batter to swap the bails only for them to be swapped back. Runs started flowing with in-form Head joining Smith in the middle. His cover drive off Bumrah was easily the shot of the morning.

New Zealand leads England by 340 runs in the 3rd test

AP ■ HAMILTON

New Zealand showed off its presumptive new ball attack as it took control of the third test against England on the second day Sunday. Matt Henry and Will O'Rourke shared seven wickets as New Zealand bowled out England for 143 in a session and a half to take a 205-run first innings lead. O'Rourke then had to bat for the second time in the day as nightwatchman when Will Young was out for 60 within 20 minutes of the close. He couldn't last to stumps at which New Zealand was 136-3, having increased its lead to 340. Kane Williamson completed his 38th half century just before the close and was 50 not and Rachin Ravindra was 2. Henry and O'Rourke likely will become New Zealand's new ball attack when Tim Southee retires at the end of this, his 107th test. They previewed that partnership Sunday as Henry took 4-48 and O'Rourke took 3-33 in an outstanding New Zealand bowling performance. Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner took 3-7 including the wickets of Ollie Pope and Ben Stokes after leading a defiant last wicket stand with O'Rourke which occupied the first hour of the day until New Zealand's last wicket fell at 347. O'Rourke, a classic No. 11 with only 13 runs in nine tests at a strike rate of eight, gave Santner stalwart support in a partnership with frustrated England for 77 minutes at the end of the first day and the start of the second. Santner reached his fourth half century with a six from the last ball of the first day. He carried on, taking the majority of the strike, before being bowled by Matthew Potts with the first ball after the morning drinks break. O'Rourke faced 30 deliveries and was five not out, having



taken 25 balls to get off the mark and having hit his first boundary in international cricket, a leg glance from the bowling of Gus Atkinson. The duration of the partnership between Santner and O'Rourke was enough to cause England discomfort as it lifted New Zealand from 303-9 to 315-9 at stumps Saturday and on to 347. O'Rourke went on to play a key role as New Zealand dismantled England's first innings in 35.5 overs. He bowled at pace and found disconcerting bounce on a drying second day wicket at Seddon Park. O'Rourke took the wickets of Jacob Bethell (12) and Harry Brook (0) with consecutive deliveries, then removed Joe Root (32) in his next over. He first worked over Bethell with a series of short balls then offered him a full ball wide of off stump which Bethell sliced to Glenn Phillips in the gully. He then produced a 148 kilometer (93mph) ball to Brook which the batter could only fend onto his own stumps. Brook has been New Zealand's nemesis in this series, scoring 171 in the first test and 123 in the second, on both occasions rescuing England from poor starts. Finally, he cramped Root with a short, fast ball which the batter tried to cut but only spar to Young in the gully. England was 82-5. England has an unassailable

2-0 lead in the series after winning the first test by eight wickets and the second by 323 runs. The England innings had begun with an extraordinary onslaught from Zak Crawley who hit 16 runs from the second over, then was out when England was 32. He had hit 21 from 14 balls with five fours. Crawley has struggled in this series with scores of 0, 1, 17 and 8 and Sunday's opening partnership was England's largest of the series after previous stands of 12, 9, 9 and 1. Henry dived to take a catch at grass-top height from his own bowling to dismiss Crawley in the fifth over of England's innings, then trapped Ben Duckett (11) lbw four balls later. After O'Rourke's triple strike, Santer removed Pope (24) and Stokes (27) in consecutive overs. He undid Pope with turn and bounce, causing him to edge to first slip, then trapped Stokes lbw as he knelt to sweep. Henry returned to dismiss Gus Atkinson (4) and England crumbled to be all out four short of the follow-on which New Zealand didn't enforce. New Zealand lost Tom Latham early in its second innings for 19 by Young and Williamson added 89 for the second wicket.

India needs to get better with old ball between overs 50-80, accepts bowling coach Morkel

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Bowling coach Morne Morkel on Sunday accepted that Indian bowlers failed to execute plans against Australian century-maker Travis Head and exhorted them to tidy up their act with the old ball between overs 50 and 80. Head and fellow centurion Steve Smith helped the hosts to clobber 171 runs in 31 overs in the third session on the second day of the third Test here, adding to a wicketless post-lunch segment. Australia closed the day at a highly satisfying 405 for seven. "First of all, we can say he's (Head) in pretty good form. But I think for us with the ball, if you look at it from overs 50 to 80, even in the last game, is where we fall short, leaking (runs) a little bit. So, that's one area I think we need to get better at," Morkel said in the post-day press conference. Morkel said the Indian bowlers could not sustain the momentum after taking three

wickets in the morning session. "First up with the ball this morning, we were pretty good, at 3 for 70, but took nothing away from two world-class players, Smith we know, he's a guy who also can bat long and score runs. They (Smith and Head) put a partnership there and put us under pressure with a softer ball. "It's definitely an area that we need to focus on, maybe deeper in the innings. Yes, we've got the game plans, but are we executing those game plans with a softer ball from both ends? That's something we need to get better at," getting added. The former South African quick explained the pre-set plan against Head, though it eventually fell flat on its back. "Our plan going into this game was to bowl a little bit more over the wicket, a straighter line. We felt he played it quite nicely in Adelaide when we came around (the wicket). The margins to him are just so small and like I said, once he's in, what is the best way for the

team and for you (is) to maybe slow down the scoring rate because you know he's going to be aggressive. "The best way (of controlling Head) is bringing a little bit of control into the game and like I said, from over 50 with that softer ball, that's where we're leaking (runs). When Head comes on straight, the pitch kind of feels to (be favourable) a side," he added. "I'm not taking anything away from that, but it is a venue where getting used to bowling the right length and trusting that, it does take a bit of time." Pacer Jasprit Bumrah singlehandedly shepherded India's bowling with a fifer and Morkel did not read too much into the rather underwhelming efforts of the other seamers Mohammed Siraj and luck-less Akash Deep. "I thought Akash did really well, he bowled his heart out, same for Siraj. Siraj struggled, cramped, early on in the day, so, for him to still run in, close and bowl short balls and bowl that new ball spell for me, was great."

युवाओं के उज्ज्वल भविष्य के लिए प्रतिबद्ध मध्यप्रदेश सरकार

11 दिसम्बर - 26 दिसम्बर 2024

जनकल्याण पर्व

मोहन यादव सरकार
काम लगातार-फैसले असरदार

युवा संवाद

स्व-रोज़गार, रोज़गार केंद्रित कार्यक्रम

मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव

के साथ

दोपहर 12:00 बजे | बरकतउल्ला विश्वविद्यालय, भोपाल

एवं

पुलिस बैंड द्वारा प्रस्तुति

प्रदेश के सभी जिलों के पुलिस बैंड द्वारा एक साथ प्रदर्शन

अपराह्न 3:00 बजे | कुशाभाऊ ठाकरे सभागार प्रांगण, भोपाल

16 दिसम्बर, 2024

सशक्त भविष्य का निर्माण

- लगभग 1 लाख शासकीय पदों पर भर्तियां जारी। अगले 5 वर्ष में 2.50 लाख भर्तियों का लक्ष्य।
- गुणवत्तापूर्ण उच्च शिक्षा के लिए 55 जिलों में पीएम कॉलेज ऑफ़ एक्सीलेंस प्रारंभ।
- भोपाल, ग्वालियर, जबलपुर, इंदौर, उज्जैन और रीवा विश्वविद्यालय में इन्क्यूबेशन केंद्रों की स्थापना।
- स्टैंड-अप इंडिया में बिना गारंटी ₹ 1 करोड़ तक का ऋण।
- स्टार्ट-अप को राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय आयोजनों में सहभागिता के लिए ₹ 50 हजार से ₹ 1.50 लाख तक वित्तीय सहायता।
- प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना में स्व-रोज़गार के लिए बिना गारंटी ₹ 20 लाख तक का ऋण।

D-11123/24

मध्यप्रदेश सरकारके द्वारा जारी

सीधा प्रसारण

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आवृत्त : मध्यप्रदेश, भोपाल, 2024