

MP's glorious history in upholding parliamentary traditions: Tomar

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the occasion of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly completing 68 years of its remarkable journey, a special one-day session was convened.

taken numerous historic decisions that have contributed to the development of the state and the welfare of its citizens.

members, and Assembly staff. Tomar also emphasized the Assembly's efforts towards women's empowerment, noting the decision to include questions from women members and first-time legislators during every session's Question Hour on Tuesdays.

to be accepted on the same day they are submitted, setting a new precedent in the 16th Assembly. Another innovative step ensures that responses to pending questions are not nullified when the Assembly term ends, with a review process carried out by the Questions and References Committee.

uphold these resolutions both as citizens and representatives of the legislature. The Speaker emphasized collaboration between the government and opposition to ensure the smooth functioning of the House and called for more extensive participation in such special sessions in the future.



Health services paralysed following the strike of outsourced ward boys, computer operator and lab technicians over non-payment of their wages at Government Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal on Tuesday.



People wait for their turn to meet the Director General Police during a public hearing at Police Headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday.

AIIMS health camps in Bhopal, Gwalior

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Ajai Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhopal and initiative of Member of Parliament Shri Bharat Singh Kushwah, AIIMS Bhopal is set to organize a 3-day Mega Medical Camp in Gwalior to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

feature 25 specialty and super-specialty OPDs, offering consultations, diagnosis, and guidance across various medical disciplines including cardiology, cardiothoracic and vascular Surgery, nephrology, neurology, orthopedics, pediatrics, oncology, and general medicine.

Alert woman saves 4-year-old girl from ill-intentions

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Alertness of woman saved a four-year-old girl from bad intentions of the accused who lured her of chocolate and took to a forest near Indrapuri; Piplani police have started searching for the accused who was captured in CCTV footage.

Piplani police station in-charge Anurag Lal said that investigation is being done in the matter. The case has not been registered yet. Rakhi Mishra is a housewife. She was returning home after getting a checkup from AIIMS. The accused took the girl to the forest area in Indrapuri on the pretext of giving her chocolate.

girl to Piplani police station. From where the girl's parents were contacted. The girl's parents and Rakhi Mishra, who saved her, checked the girl thoroughly, they did not feel at all that something wrong had happened to the girl.

Step up anti-Rabies drive, Mayor tells officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Ahead of a possible surge in dog bite cases, which coincides with the winter, Mayor Malti Rai on Tuesday told officials to step up efforts to rid Bhopal of the dreaded rabies infection.

and incidents of dog bites during the cold weather. She emphasised the importance of capturing more stray dogs and sending them to sterilisation centres, as well as launching a campaign for the registration of pet dogs and strengthening the mechanism for administering anti-rabies shots to the canines.

each of the dog squads. Each team will now be responsible for capturing 30 strays and transporting them to Animal Birth Control Centres for sterilisation.

Ceremony to honour sports persons

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

'Felicitation and Encouragement Ceremony for Sports Talents' will be held on the occasion of Mukhya Mantri Jan Kalyan Parv at Taty Top Sports Stadium at 12:30 pm on December 18 under the chief hospitality of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

Arrangements for branding and boarding of the programme should also be ensured. A short film based on the achievements of the Sports Department so far will be screened which will show the development of sports in the state and the success of the players.

Cong moves House over mounting debt on State govt

Bhopal: On the second day of the winter session of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, the Opposition Congress targeted the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the mounting state debt, which has reportedly crossed Rs 4 lakh crore.

Between 2021 and 2024, the state government secured loans amounting to Rs 1.22 lakh crore from the RBI, Congress legislators stated.

the BJP government. "We will raise this matter in the House and urge the Speaker to direct the government to present a detailed report on the expenditures of the past year," Singhar told the media.

Revenue income from transport rises to Rs 3 thousand 54 crores

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Transport Department has earned revenue income of Rs 3 thousand 54 crores from April to November 2024 this year. This year, the state government has set a target of revenue income of Rs 5 thousand 500 crores from transport in the state.

have been started in faceless form through NIC's portal "Vahan" and "Sarathi". Now the applicant does not need to visit the office after applying online to obtain the service.

Piplani police arrest 4 vehicle lifters, 5 stolen vehicles seized

Bhopal: Four vehicle lifters involved in stealing nine stolen vehicles worth Rs 11 lakh from Piplani, Govindpura and Vidisha were arrested by Piplani police and recovered five stolen vehicles from their possession.

December this year were revealed by the accused. In the investigation Motorcycle Yamaha R 15 bearing vehicle registration number MP38ND8755, Motorcycle Royal Enfield Bullet bearing vehicle registration number MP04QR0103, Motorcycle TVS Apache bearing vehicle registration number MP33MV3602, Motorcycle TVS Rider bearing vehicle registration number MP04ZQ4370, Motorcycle Splendor bearing vehicle registration number MP04VM4190 were seized.

seizure is underway. In the process taken so far, a total of 05 motorcycles have been seized from the accused and there is a possibility of other stolen vehicles being revealed.

Entire western MP to benefit from river link project: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said Tuesday is a historic day for Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a trilateral agreement will be signed for the Parvati, Chambal, and Kalisindh river linking campaign today.

Shivpuri, Guna, Ashok Nagar, Agar, Indore, Dhar, Ujjain, Shajapur, Rajgarh, Sehore etc. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said this in his message issued before Prime Minister Modi left for the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project programme in Dadiya village (Jaipur) of Rajasthan.

through the modernization work of about 60-year-old Chambal right main canal and distribution system. The estimated cost of the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal link project is Rs 72 thousand crores, in which Madhya Pradesh will spend Rs 35 thousand crores and Rajasthan will spend Rs 37 thousand crores.

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Also, 172 million cubic meters of water will be reserved for drinking water and industries. 21 dams/barrages will be constructed under the project.

Advertisement for North Central Railway Open Tender Notice No. JHSM-M-NABL-2024-25-24. Details include tender type, work description, and contact information.

Advertisement for ICICI Home Finance E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets. Includes details of the auction, terms and conditions, and contact information.

A timely assurance

Sri Lanka assures New Delhi that it will not permit anybody to use its territory to threaten India's security

In what must come as music to the ears of the Indian government, the Sri Lankan President has said that his country will not allow anyone to use its territory to threaten India's security. This assurance comes at a time when China is aggressively pursuing 'Mission Indian Ocean' - which targets India. In a joint statement issued, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake made Colombo's position clear during his dialogue with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. This assurance is seen as a critical development in India-Sri Lanka relations, especially given China's use of Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port for docking its naval surveillance and spy ships, including the ballistic missile tracking ship Yuan Wang 5. China's growing footprint in the Indian Ocean has raised red flags for New Delhi. The Hambantota Port, now under a 99-year lease to China following Sri Lanka's inability to service its debt, has become a hub for Chinese naval operations. Over the past two years, Beijing has stationed the Yuan Wang

5, a 25,000-tonne satellite and missile tracking ship, at Hambantota multiple times. This vessel, equipped with advanced tracking and communication systems, has been closely monitoring satellite and missile activities in the region, creating strategic challenges for India. In 2022, Sri Lanka briefly delayed the docking of Yuan Wang 5 following Indian concerns but eventually allowed the vessel to dock under the guise of 'replenishment'. Since then, Chinese surveillance ships have regularly patrolled the Indian Ocean, adding to India's apprehensions about Beijing's strategic intentions in the region. The agreement between India and Sri Lanka ensures that Sri Lankan territory, including its waters,



will not be used in any manner that could harm India's security or regional peace. This is a welcome relief for New Delhi, which views such commitments as crucial for maintaining stability in the Indian Ocean Region. This of course hasn't happened overnight. India's steadfast support for Sri Lanka during its economic crisis in 2022 has further solidified the bond between the two nations. President Dissanayake expressed gratitude for India's timely assistance, which was instrumental in stabilising Sri Lanka's economy during one of its most challenging periods. As far as China is concerned it has been courting Sri Lanka for the sole purpose of encircling India and getting a foothold in Indian Ocean. China's influence in Sri Lanka has grown significantly, particularly after Colombo defaulted on its \$1.7 billion loan for the Hambantota Port project. India has consistently raised concerns about the strategic implications of Chinese investments and activities in Sri Lanka. In this background the assurance of Sri Lankan president signals Sri Lanka's intent to balance its ties with both regional powers while safeguarding regional stability. The agreement also underscores Colombo's recognition of the importance of India's security and regional stability and paves the way for a stronger, more strategic India-Sri Lanka alliance in the years to come.

Nepal embraces China's BRI

Nepal's deepening ties with China through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) have set alarm bells ringing in New Delhi

India has cause for extreme worry. In yet another indicator of China's growing sway over Nepal, the two are moving forward to implement Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in the Himalayan nation. India is not only opposed to this in principle on grounds of sovereignty but also fears it will enable China to increase its already considerable inroads into Nepal.

If 2017 marked Nepal's initial step to coming on board the BRI with an MoU, the year 2024 marks a giant leap for the Himalayan nation in that direction. A framework agreement for cooperation on the BRI was signed during Nepalese PM K P Sharma Oli's visit to China in early December, apart from nine other pacts. With the strategically located Himalayan nation having become a hub for Great Powers contestation, the US too would be uneasy with the latest Beijing-Kathmandu tango. While the US had managed to get Nepal on board its own Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Compact to fund Kathmandu's power and transport infrastructure, the BRI seems far broader. Kathmandu is trying to play down the framework as just a continuation of the 2017 MoU. The framework, however, underlines Kathmandu and Beijing's renewed push for the BRI, an initiative on which New Delhi harbours deep suspicions for what it perceives as China's hegemonic ambitions through debt-trap diplomacy. Sovereignty is another major concern, with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), another project under BRI, passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India is certainly worried about PM Oli-led Nepal once again moving into China's sphere of influence. The CPN-UML leader is widely seen as being pro-China, and bilateral ties with India were prickly during his previous stints as the PM. India has yet to host Oli since he took charge as PM in July



this year for the fourth time, with him first heading for Beijing, in a break from the tradition of visiting New Delhi. Also, showing scant regard for New Delhi's sensitivities, the Oli government recently allowed 220 Buddhist monks from China to travel to Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautam Buddha even as the Nanhai Buddhism Shenzhen roundtable was being held in Kathmandu. Oli delivered the inaugural address at this roundtable. There were also reports the China-appointed Panchen Lama would travel to Lumbini, though it did not eventually happen. The Oli government's encouragement of Beijing's concerted moves to claim Buddhism as a shared heritage will not go down well with New Delhi, which has been making its efforts to build on its shared Buddhist heritage with Nepal. Kathmandu's thrust on greater economic cooperation with Beijing - the BRI is part of this endeavour - would also whittle down India's influence over Nepal. The BRI framework agreement, incidentally, also envisages the opening of branches of Chinese banks and financial institutions in



WITH THE STRATEGICALLY LOCATED HIMALAYAN NATION HAVING BECOME A HUB FOR GREAT POWERS CONTESTATION, THE US TOO WOULD BE UNEASY WITH THE LATEST BEIJING-KATHMANDU TANGO

Nepal. India has traditionally had deep economic linkages with Nepal, nurtured in no small measure due to reasons of geography - the two neighbours share a long and porous 1,751-km-long border. This, along with the landlocked nature of Nepal, has helped India become its largest trading partner. During the 2022-23 fiscal, bilateral trade was pegged at \$8.85 billion. This included \$8 billion of exports from India to Nepal, with \$840 million of exports in the reverse direction. As per the Nepal Rastra Bank, India's share in Nepal's trade accounted for 64.1% in 2022-23. PM Oli sees cooperation on BRI as a means to forge closer economic ties with China, with the framework agreement resolving to deepen the economic partnership by "injecting new momentum to trade, infrastructure and connectivity cooperation". Not a single project under the BRI rubric has been executed in Nepal since the 2017 MoU. Nepal would be hoping that the 10 initial projects, including those meant to boost regional connectivity, will now see the light of day. India has its work cut out and should ensure it does not come across as overbearing. India's approach in the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura border dispute, where New Delhi ignored Kathmandu's request for foreign secretary-level talks, is a case in point. It led Oli, in his earlier stint as the PM, to cock a snook at New Delhi by changing his country's map showing the disputed territories as part of Nepal. Neither did New Delhi show respect due to a close neighbour when it decided to give a quiet burial to the joint 2018 Eminent Persons Group (EPG) report, which suggested that the 1950 Treaty of Peace And Friendship be replaced with a new one? Nepal has also been unhappy with India's refusal to give overflight rights for aircraft using the Chinese-built Gautam Buddha International Airport in Lumbini. India would do well to remember that its domineering approach only serves to alienate a close neighbour further and push it into China's ever-willing embrace. India should not lose sight of its strategic imperatives. (The writer is a senior journalist; views are personal)



PARUL CHANDRA

PICTALK



Tourists enjoy paragliding, in Manali

PTI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rural education needs reform



For a majority of Indian school children, especially from rural pockets, a feeling of uneasiness sets in when they hear something in English. They find it difficult to listen to and understand the English language. In a country like India, classes of mixed-ability

groups are a feature of every small village. While the teaching-learning process is done in the local language in rural villages, most of the competitive examinations are held in the English language. The rural atmosphere doesn't provide these students the opportunity to speak and learn English. In fact, in many northern villages, English becomes the third language, with the local language and Hindi as the first and second languages, respectively. The policymakers have to bridge the urban-rural divide when it comes to English teaching. An English teacher, teaching in rural schools, has to come up with innovative strategies in the classrooms. Skilled and committed teachers need to be appointed at the primary level, and they should be upgraded and trained to meet the problems faced by the learners.

R Sivakumar | Gandhi Nagar

HEALTHCARE REFORMS FOR PUBLIC

Madam - If the AAP government has done one good thing for society by making Mohalla clinics, the BJP has done another by making Jan Aushadi chemist shops. One can now get a free consultation from the AAP clinic and get medicines at nearly one-fifth the rate from a Jan Aushadi shop, thereby catering to the health aspect of a common man. The prominent good work visible on the ground needs to be applauded for both. The belief that a drug in a normal chemist shop is better than the generic drug being sold by a Jan Aushadi shop (popularly known as 'Modi ki Dukaan' in Patiala) is a myth that can be best removed by the doctors to their patients depending on the degree of moral courage they have to refuse obligations of pharmaceutical companies and give priority to generic rather than trademarked medicines to their patients. The fleeing private pharmacies need to be brought down to their knees in the interest of the public for their overinflated rates of medicines.

R S Narula | Patiala

PURCHASING POWER DECLINES

Madam - For the success of any economy, a vibrant market with sound and sustained demands is imperative, as production and market cannot flourish in a dry market. To vibrate the market, people's purchasing power should be increased by ensuring employment and a viable wage. The Indian economy is driven with an objective of enriching the rich, leaving the 81 crore poor in a lurch to manage sustaining life with 5 kgs of free rice per month. Even the small employed section is left without a reasonable increase in wage and faces the untamed inflation. The changes being pushed through in the name of labour reforms are going to pull down demands and create telling effects on the already volatile economy. Such a programme inevitably leads to dwindling demands. Course correction is inevitable to ensure bridging the gap between the poor and the affluent.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

INDIA STRUGGLES IN BRISBANE TEST

Madam - While Travis Head hits a century again in the Brisbane test, it was a surprising and grave omission of the crafty and successful off-spinner Washington Sundar for the third test at Gabba. While Sundar has been among the wickets in recent tests and also did well with the bat, the head coach and the out-of-form skipper Rohit Sharma couldn't realise the need for a quality off-spinner is a blunder at the moment. The need for the quality off-spinner is mandatory when the Aussies have two solid left-handers, Travis Head and Alex Carey. When Head is the consistent match winner for the Aussies, leaving Washington Sundar out will prove costly for India in this test. Whenever there were solid left-hand batters, the formulae of the Indian team in the past from the era of Skipper Ajit Wadekar used to play Erapaali Prasanna and S Venkataraghavan proved to be of great success. After Rohit won the toss and put the Aussies to bat first, the Aussies had scored 445, and now the pressure will be on the Indian batters, who may succumb to pressure again, as proved by losing the 4 top order for a paltry 51. After having won the first test under the standby skipper Jasprit Bumrah, Rohit Sharma seems to have not yet learnt the lesson that the composition of the right combinations is important to be in the match. Missing a clever off-spinner can never be an easy task for the team to come back once they lose the grip in the first innings, which is what's happening at present in Brisbane. Bumrah alone can't take the match away from the opponents; this needs to be realised by head coach Gautam Gambhir. By dropping down in the order, Skipper Rohit is unbeaten on zero, and Rahul, with 33 against his name, has been the only consolation for the fans while rain stopped play. Rain God can be the only saviour as it looks for the team to have a sigh of relief. Rohit and Kohli must take a voluntary exit rather than bringing the morale down of the team at this juncture.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai



BIJU DHARAMAPALAN

Why reading and writing matter more in the age of AI

As AI grows increasingly sophisticated, our commitment to these skills will determine whether we remain active participants in innovation—or passive consumers

In an era increasingly defined by technological innovation, reading and writing—cornerstones of human intellect—are facing a profound transformation. While artificial intelligence (AI) bots like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google Bard redefine the boundaries of information generation, the necessity of cultivating human literacy has never been more crucial. The transition from Neanderthals to modern humans (Homo sapiens) involved significant cognitive and cultural advancements, but Neanderthals themselves did not read or write. Reading and writing developed after modern humans became the dominant hominin species. These are not merely communication tools but exercises that keep our cognitive faculties sharp and resilient. When we read, our brains decode symbols, conjuring vivid images, emotions, and concepts. This intricate process activates the left temporal cortex, which is responsible for language processing, and strengthens neural connectivity. Studies



underscore that reading enhances memory, concentration, and analytical thinking. Engaging with diverse genres deepens empathy and broadens perspectives, fostering a nuanced understanding of the world. Writing, on the other hand, is an intellectual partner to reading. Crafting words—whether in a journal, essay, or story—requires us to organise thoughts, synthesise ideas, and express them clearly. This process activates the prefrontal cortex, the brain's hub for decision-making and problem-solving. Writing is more than an intellectual task; it is therapeutic. Research shows that expressive writing can alleviate stress, enhance mood,

and even bolster the immune system. The tactile act of writing also strengthens memory, embedding information deeply within our minds. Reading and writing foster neuroplasticity, enabling the brain to adapt and form new connections. They are antidotes to cognitive decline and shields against neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's. Regular engagement with these skills cultivates intellectual independence, creativity, and emotional depth—uniquely human attributes. Yet, as AI bots revolutionise the way we consume and produce information, there is an alarming decline in human literacy. Tools like Book AI, which transforms any book into a conversational chatbot, exemplify AI's capacity to digest and reproduce complex information effortlessly. AI lacks the intrinsic human qualities of creativity, empathy, and ethical judgment. As AI literacy surges, the stagnation of human literacy risks creating a dangerous imbalance. Over-reliance on AI can diminish critical think-

ing and communication skills, weakening the very attributes that distinguish humans from machines. While the fear of displacement is understandable, the answer lies in shifting our perspective. AI is not an adversary but a powerful partner that can amplify human capabilities and drive innovation. Individuals can leverage their unique strengths to complement AI capabilities by prioritising the development of reading and writing skills. In an environment controlled by artificial intelligence, these abilities are necessary to navigate complicated concepts, understandably articulate them, and affirm human importance. The development of artificial intelligence highlights the significance of human expertise rather than diminishing it. By committing to studying throughout our lives, we can ensure that technology will not replace our humanity but rather improve it. (The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

REDISCOVER HAPPINESS

Happiness is a state of mind that transcends life's adversities



RAVI VALLURI

A couple first met in an estimable business school in India where they were conferred reputable degrees in management.

The sojourn concluded the mother and twins were afloat on a flight back to their home. However, fate had other plans and a double whammy struck the family.



be achieved independent of material success.

As per ancient Japanese mythology, the light from Tsukuyomi, the Shinto God of the moon could induce illusions and delusions.

There once lived a farmer, who grew apples. He perpetually grumbled that there was not adequate produce to sustain the family.

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

Pesticides are poisoning the Punjab soil



AS MITTAL

Punjab's agriculture is facing a harrowing reality—its lifeblood, the soil, is being contaminated by toxic pesticide residues at alarmingly high levels



It's time to face the disturbing truth about Punjab's agriculture—and it's a nightmare. In districts like Bathinda, Mansa, and Ludhiana, up to 60 per cent of farm soil samples are infested with toxic pesticide residues—

including the deadly chemicals endosulfan and carbofuran—at levels far beyond what's even remotely safe.

On World Soil Day—December 5th—we're forced to confront the cold reality of a rapidly disintegrating agriculture system, while the world's been talking about "Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, and Manage!"

The Pesticide Management Bill, 2020: India's regulatory framework for pesticides, established in 1968, is woefully outdated and incapable of addressing the modern-day challenges posed by the rampant overuse of agrochemicals.



INDIA'S REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR PESTICIDES, ESTABLISHED IN 1968, IS WOEFULLY OUTDATED AND INCAPABLE OF ADDRESSING THE MODERN-DAY CHALLENGES POSED BY THE RAMPANT OVERUSE OF AGROCHEMICALS

Management Bill (PMB) 2020 was introduced to replace outdated legislation, but critical concerns must be addressed.

Farmers and rural communities often bear the brunt of chemical exposures, especially in agriculturally intensive regions.

A study by the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) revealed that 6.74 million hectares of land in India are affected by salinity,

A Call for Robust Regulation: Pesticides—insecticides, fungicides, or herbicides—play a vital role in modern agriculture.

Training and Awareness: A Neglected Imperative Over the past three decades, the indiscriminate use of pesticides has surged,

The limited scale of training initiatives highlights the need for more current efforts.

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) documents pesticide poisoning deaths only if they are registered as medico-legal cases,

Addressing Weak Grievance Mechanisms: One of the most glaring deficiencies in India's pesticide regulation is the lack of accessible grievance redressal systems.

Personal Protective Equipment: A

Forgotten Necessity: The Pesticide Management Bill 2020 neglects the safety of small-scale farmers, who often lack access to affordable, climate-appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Although the Consumer Protection Act theoretically covers farmers, legal recourse against manufacturers for misleading labels or substandard products is rarely pursued.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association. Views expressed are personal)

India@2024: A resilient economy on the fast track to growth But challenges such as persistent inflation, a slowdown in the banking sector and environmental concerns continue to pose hurdles

India has firmly established itself as the fastest-growing economy among the G20 nations, with a projected GDP growth rate of 6.5 per cent-7 per cent for the fiscal year 2024-25.



KAJLEEN KAUR

direct investment (FDI) has also shown a dramatic surge, rising 45 per cent year-on-year to USD 29.79 billion in the first half of 2024-25,

lion, driven by an \$87.6 billion increase this year alone.

India's fintech sector continues to shine on the global stage, ranking as the third-largest fintech economy after the USA and the UK.

UPI prowess on a global stage, introducing the system at the Eiffel Tower in Paris as part of a digital payments agreement with France.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue collection also reached unprecedented levels, hitting Rs 2.10 lakh crore—a substantial 12.4 per cent increase from the previous year.

Amid these promising figures, certain challenges continue to loom. Inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), remains persistently high, exceeding 5 per cent.



witnessed a slowdown, with credit growth declining to 11 per cent in November 2024 from 20.6 per cent the previous year.

last year. In response, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4 per cent in December to improve liquidity and stimulate credit growth.

Gender Inequality Index, highlighting significant strides in bridging the gender gap. It also improved its position on the Global Innovation Index, rising from 40th to 39th among 133 global economies.

ranking 176th out of 180 countries. Challenges such as air quality, biodiversity loss, and greenhouse gas emissions demand urgent attention.

(The writer is an assistant professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi. Views expressed are personal)

Political strife erupts over South Korean court as it is set to determine fate of impeached Yoon

South Korea's acting leader vowed Tuesday to convey to the world that things are back to normal following parliament's impeachment of conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol, but rival parties began squabbling over the mechanics of a court ruling to determine whether to formally unseat or reinstate him.

Yoon faces allegations of rebellion and abuse of power over his martial law introduction. Investigative authorities want him to appear for questioning later this week, but officials at Yoon's office and residence on Monday refused to receive requests for his appearance.

Judge rejects Trump's bid to dismiss hush money conviction because of SC immunity

A judge Monday rejected a President-elect Donald Trump's bid to have his hush money conviction dismissed because of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on presidential immunity. But the case's overall future remains unclear.

Trump's lawyers then cited the Supreme Court opinion to argue that the hush money jury got some improper evidence, such as Trump's presidential financial disclosure form, testimony from some White House aides and social media posts made while he was in office.

Taipei mayor urges China to lessen confrontation

The China-friendly mayor of Taiwan's capital, Taipei, on Tuesday called for less confrontation between the sides, even as Beijing continues to send warships and fighter jets to intimidate the self-governing island democracy.

Yoon faces allegations of rebellion and abuse of power over his martial law introduction

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SIGNAL & TELECOM WORKS IN KATHIHAR DIVISION. Tender Notice No. N-2024-K-27. Date: 13-12-2024.

CORRIGENDUM - 1 AGAINST E-TENDER NOTICE NO. : KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-24-25. DATED: 30-11-2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that my client Sushil Tandon is in process to sell the working capital against his property bearing No. XY, area measuring 80 sq. yds.

Office of the Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh. Email: sepwdpth@rediffmail.com

Earthquake causes damage in Vanuatu

A powerful magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck just off the coast of Vanuatu on Tuesday, causing widespread destruction in the South Pacific island nation as the injured began arriving at a hospital and unconfirmed reports of casualties emerged.

REBUILDING BRIDGE WORKS. E-Tender Notice No. 110/W-2/APDJ Dated: 13-12-2024.

STATION DEVELOPMENT WORKS. E-Tender Notice No. 113/W-2/APDJ Dated: 13-12-2024.

TRACK MAINTENANCE WORK AT KATHIHAR DIVISION. E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg/52 of 2024 Dated: 11-12-2024.

LOST & FOUND. I, HEMLATA W/o LATE SH. SURYA MOHAN THAKUR have lost my original Share Certificate of FLAT NO.B-502, SWAMI DAYANAND CGHS LTD., PLOT NO.5, SECTOR-6, DWARKA, NEW DELHI.

National Competitive E-Tender Notice table with columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Earnest Money (in Lac), Cost of Tender (in Rs.), Validity of Tender (day), Period of Completion (months), Contractor's Category of Registration.

MADHYA PRADESH JAL NIGAM (A Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking) "B" Arera Hills, Bhopal-462004

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER. Madhya Pradesh Jal Nigam (MPJN) intends to engage Unified Agency for Supervision and Quality Control (SQC) & Third-Party Inspection (TPI) for Multi Village Drinking Water Supply Schemes (MVDWSS) under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Madhya Pradesh on man-month basis through Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method.

Rahul, Jadeja fifties help India avoid follow-on in Brisbane Test



PTI ■ BRISBANE

KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja were determined to personify as their fighting fifties helped India avoid the follow-on on the fourth day of the weather-hit third Test against a menacing Australia that seems meandering towards a draw. Jadeja (77, 123b, 7x4, 1x6) and Rahul (84, 139, 8x4) were the heavy-lifters in India's 252 for nine when bad light forced an early close to the day. Jasprit Bumrah (10) and Akash Deep (27), who showed appreciable gumption, are holding the fort for India. The visitors trail Aussies by 193 runs. But they wouldn't mind that one bit as Australia

will now have to bat again and forcing a result in three sessions looks an improbable target, considering the Brisbane weather pattern. The city is bracing up for rain and a thunderstorm or two on Wednesday. A quick word of appreciation is also required for No. 10 Bumrah and No. 11 Akash Deep for knocking down the 33 runs required to go past the follow-on mark of 246. The much-awaited moment came when Akash crunched Pat Cummins over gully for a boundary. When these two joined forces, India were reeling at 213 for 9 after Jadeja was dismissed off a Cummins' snorter. But while resuming from a wafer-thin overnight score of

51 for four, India needed someone to offer fight, and Rahul, India's standout batter in this series so far, did precisely that. Rahul displayed admirable technical nous to withstand the stern test posed by the Australian bowlers to take the game deep into the day. A nine toes down Rahul and an equally feisty Jadeja added 67 runs for the sixth wicket, and it was the first sign of India's fight. There was a moment of massive fortune too for Rahul when Smith spilled a regulation catch at second slip off the first ball of the day from Cummins. Rahul was on 33 then. A quick look upwards and a silent prayer showed how much he valued that reprieve,

which he exploited to the hilt, notching his 17th Test fifty. Once he woke up from a bit of morning haziness, Rahul looked a class apart from the rest of his colleagues. The Aussies employed three slips and a gully, leaving the vast expanse of the ground to play his favourite shot -- drive through the cover or in front of the point. It was a dangerous proposition as there was enough movement and bounce for the Aussie pacers.

But Rahul was prudent enough to see through that ruse. He did not bring out that shot until the bowlers pitched the ball well up in his driving arc. The Bengaluru man's sagacity shone in how he defended too -- all soft hands and playing close to the body. Cummins tested him with that fifth stump line outside off, but Rahul either left the ball wisely or merely tucked his bat behind his pads. However, a remarkable

redemption catch by Smith at slip off Nathan Lyon ended his stay. But Jadeja carried on and he added 53 runs for the seventh wicket with Nitish Reddy to keep India afloat. The 36-year-old scored a good chunk of runs either down the ground or square of the wicket, enabling him to collect runs without the risk of getting caught behind or in the cordon. Jadeja brought up his 22nd fifty in Test cricket off 89

balls and the innings was also dotted with sweep shots that he effectively employed against off-spinner Lyon. Nitish should also be patted for giving some solid company to Jadeja as batting for time was more important than the volume of runs considering the weather situation in this Test. However, a slice of misfortune ended Nitish's stay as he dragged Cummins' climbing delivery back onto his stumps. Jadeja also soon

departed while trying to farm the strike with Bumrah. He looked to smash Cummins' rising delivery out of the ground but Mitchell Marsh settled nicely under the ball to give a heap of frayed nerves to Indian fans. But Bumrah and Akash added 39 runs to put the smiles back on their faces, as Aussies dearly missed the metronomical Josh Hazlewood, who was ruled out of the series with a calf injury.



New Zealand beat England by 423 runs in the 3rd test

AP ■ HAMILTON

Captain Ben Stokes was unable to bat because of a hamstring injury on Tuesday as England slumped to a 423-run loss to New Zealand before tea on the fourth day of the third cricket Test. Stokes strained his left hamstring while bowling on the third day and could not take the field as England was bowled out for 234 as it chased an impossible target of 658 for victory. New Zealand's winning margin matched its largest test win by runs of a 423-run win over Sri Lanka in 2018 and prevented England from completing a series whitewash. England had an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series after winning the first test by eight wickets and the second by 323 runs. "You can't fault any of the energies or efforts we put into this game, particularly in the field," Stokes said. "It's obviously not ideal to end the tour in this note but we've come here against a New Zealand team which is very strong and full of confidence after beating India in India 3-0. So to come here and lift that trophy at the end proves we played some very good cricket." England resumed its second innings Tuesday at 18-2 after losing the wickets of Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley late on day three after New Zealand, leading by 204 on the first innings, was dismissed for 453. Joe Root made 54 and Jacob

Bethell 76 in a 104-run partnership for the third wicket which briefly fanned England's hopes that it might somehow endure for two full days to draw the match. But dogged perseverance is not a feature of England cricket in the "Bazball" quick-scoring era and instead it maintained a policy of all-out attack before the final wicket fell midway through the second session. After lunch Gus Atkinson blasted 43 from 41 balls with seven fours and a six and Ollie Pope made 17 but wickets fell steadily and the result became inevitable. "I think anytime you finish a series with a win when you've been behind is pleasing," New Zealand captain Tom Latham said. "We weren't at our best in those first two games but the way we came here on a wicket that was slightly different to the first couple and we adapted was very pleasing." New Zealand's win owed a great deal to the contribution of Mitchell Santner in the first innings who made 76 batting at No. 8 and worked with Matt Henry, Tim Southee and Will O'Rourke to add 116 runs for New Zealand's three wickets. That allowed New Zealand to reach 347 after losing the toss and being sent in. Santner's last-wicket stand with O'Rourke which lasted 77 minutes at the end of the first day and the start of the second was a display of resilience which had been missing from New Zealand's

performances in the first two tests. Santner then took 3-7 while New Zealand's presumptive new-ball pairing of Henry and O'Rourke shared seven wickets as England was bowled out for 143 in a session and a half in its first innings. Southee has been the spearhead of New Zealand's attack for many years, mostly in combination with Trent Boult. But this was his 107th and final test before his retirement from international cricket and Boult no longer is contracted by New Zealand Cricket. That means Henry and O'Rourke likely will share the new ball from now on in a New Zealand pace attack which will be strengthened when Kyle Jamieson returns from a back injury. Kane Williamson scored 156, his 33rd test century and his fifth in consecutive tests in Hamilton, to anchor New Zealand's second innings of 453 in which Will Young and Daryl Mitchell both made 60 and Santner made 49. Santner took 4-85 in the second innings. Brook was named Player of the Series for his centuries in the first two tests which were vital in turning those matches in England's favor. He scored 171 in the first test and 123 in the second, both at times when England had lost early wickets. "I'm still trying to enjoy my cricket, work hard and get better every day," Brook said.



11 दिसम्बर - 26 दिसम्बर 2024

जनकल्याण पर्व



मोहन यादव सरकार
काम लगातार-फैसले असरदार

खेलों के विकास का उभरता केंद्र मध्यप्रदेश

खेल प्रतिभाओं का सम्मान एवं प्रोत्साहन समारोह

1300 खिलाड़ियों को ₹ 1 करोड़ की खेलवृत्ति का अंतरण एवं 1041 खिलाड़ियों को किट वितरण

मुख्यमंत्री
डॉ. मोहन यादव
द्वारा

18 दिसम्बर, 2024 | दोपहर 12:30 बजे
टी.टी. नगर स्टेडियम, भोपाल

- ₹ 846 करोड़ से भोपाल में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स का निर्माण प्रगति पर
- 18 खेलों की 11 खेल अकादमी (भोपाल, ग्वालियर, शिवपुरी एवं जबलपुर में)
- हर विकासखंड में स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स का होगा निर्माण
- 114 स्टेडियम निर्मित एवं 33 स्टेडियम निर्माणाधीन
- वन डिस्ट्रिक्ट-वन स्पोर्ट्स कॉम्प्लेक्स अंतर्गत प्रदेश के सभी जिलों में बनेंगे खेल स्टेडियम

D-11126/24

सीधा प्रसारण

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आवृत्ति : म.प्र. साप्ताहिक/2024