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Congress, BJP spar over Ambedkar legacy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A massive confrontation broke out between the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre and other ruling parties, and the Congress-led Opposition over Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on BR Ambedkar during his speech in Parliament on Tuesday, with the Congress and other opposition parties demanding resignation of the Home Minister on grounds of insulting the architect of the Constitution.



Congress SC ST cell workers stage a protest against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on BR Ambedkar in the Parliament, in Bhopal

Shah alleged that the Congress in the past has also misrepresented his and even PM Narendra Modi's comments to spread confusion and mislead people. "I condemn the Congress for twisting facts. Why did it happen? It happened because BJP leaders spoke on how the NDA governments upheld the Constitution and established with facts that the Congress is anti-Ambedkar, anti-Constitution and anti-reservation," Shah told the media.

notice to move a privilege motion against Shah in the Rajya Sabha where the Home Minister had said on Tuesday, evening that Congress leaders would have got a place in heaven had they chanted the name of God rather than following the fashion of repeating Ambedkar's name. In the Rajya Sabha, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress of misleading the country by using only a part of Shah's remarks made in the Rajya Sabha and asserted that the Home Minister had in very clear words mentioned how the Congress party had insulted Ambedkar. "You (Congress) cannot use an 11-12 second clip out of Shah's entire speech and mislead the nation," Rijiju said and stressed that for the BJP, Ambedkar is equivalent to God. Leader of the House JP Nadra too stood up in Shah's defence, saying that Kharge was trying to "mislead" the nation through Parliament and accused the Congress of treating Ambedkar with disdain and disrespect. Nadra rejected Kharge's claim and alleged that it was the Congress that had disrespected Ambedkar during his lifetime due to which he had resigned from the Union Cabinet. Modi asserted that the opposition party's "rotten ecosystem" and "malicious lies" cannot hide its misdeeds.

13 dead, in ferry-Navy speed boat collision off Mumbai coast

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major mishap, as many as 13 persons, including a Navy man, lost their lives, while more than 99 other tourist passengers on board a private ferry boat were rescued after it was hit by a speed boat belonging to the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea, off the Gateway of India in south Mumbai on Wednesday.



Passengers after being rescued in a joint operation by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard

Search and rescue efforts were immediately launched by the Navy in coordination with the Coast Guard and Marine Police. Four Naval helicopters, 11 Naval craft, one Coast Guard boat and three Marine Police boats are undertaking rescue efforts. Given that the collision between the two vessels was very intense, there were casualties from both the passenger boat and Navy vessel. Owing to the impact of the hit, 'Neel Kamal' broke down, overturned and sank with the passengers on board thrown into the sea. Before long, the videos of the tragedy, clicked by passengers from other ferries in the vicinity, showed ghastly shots of people screaming for help, throwing their arms and legs to remain afloat or attempting to hold their near and dear ones from sinking in chilly sea waters. The mishap took place off Uran-Karanja, which falls in



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

NCR's noxious numbers: AQI is over 445

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi woke up to yet another day of toxic air on Wednesday as the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) crossed a hazardous 445 (almost severe plus), landing in the 'severe' category. With a minimum temperature of 7.6 degree Celsius, dense fog enveloped the city, severely impacting visibility and making the already hazardous air quality even more dangerous. According to the Decision Support System for Air Quality Management, with 12.857 per cent transport sector is the key contributor to air pollution, followed by Industries (6.617 per cent), Road Constructions (1.85 per cent), Waste (1.23 per cent) and dust (0.913 per cent). Delhi has been experiencing toxic air quality for the past few days due to drop in wind speeds, allowing local pollutants to concentrate in the atmosphere, according to experts. On Tuesday the city's 24-hour average AQI was 433 at 4 pm, against 379 on Monday.



PTI

Katra locals resume protest against ropeway project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti, Katra, relaunched their agitation on Wednesday by observing a peaceful bandh in the township in protest against the proposed Rs 250 Crore ropeway project connecting Tarakote Marg to Sanjhi Chhat, which leads to the cave shrine nestled in the Trikuta Hills.

remained suspended making it difficult for the pilgrims to commute from one place to another. At the end of the first round of the four-day-long protests, the Sangarsh Samiti had given an ultimatum to the Jammu and Kashmir government to concede their demands by December 15, or else they would be left with no other option but to relaunch their agitation. In the absence of any concrete assurance or dialogue between the different stakeholders, the Sangarsh Samiti decided to observe a peaceful bandh. A large rally, backed by various organisations, was held by the Samiti from the Shalimar Park to oppose the ropeway project.

Outgoing US Govt relaxes H-1B visas rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/ WASHINGTON

Scores of Indian professionals seeking a career in the United States (US) are likely to benefit the most as the Government there has announced a new set of rules for H-1B visas that makes it easier for American companies to hire foreign workers with special skill sets. It also facilitates a smoother transition from F-1 student visas to H-1B visas. This positive development for highly qualified Indian professionals came late Tuesday in Washington by the outgoing Biden administration transferring power. Donald Trump will be the next president of the US after a swearing-in ceremony on January 20. The updated rule, which takes effect on January 17, 2025, will streamline the approval process, provide greater flexibility for employers to retain top talent, and strengthen the integrity and oversight of the programme. This move is likely to benefit Indians the most. In recent years, Indians have cornered a lion's share of H-1B visas. The update would also benefit Indian students on F-1 visas in the US as the new rules seek to help them transition to jobs. The rule, announced by the Department of Homeland



Security (DHS), aims to provide greater flexibility to employers and workers by modernising the definition and criteria for special positions and nonprofit and governmental research organisations that are exempt from the annual statutory limit on H-1B visas. The changes will help US Employers hire as per their business needs and remain competitive in the global marketplace, an official release said. According to the DHS, the rule also extends certain flexibilities for students on an F-1 visa seeking to change their status to H-1B to avoid disruptions in lawful status and employment authorisation for students holding F-1 visas. It also will allow US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to process applications more quickly for most individuals who had previously been approved for an H-1-B visa. It will also allow



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Kejriwal promises free medical treatment for senior citizens, post win

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant announcement ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has announced the Sanjeevani Scheme which promises free medical treatment in government and private hospitals for all senior citizens aged 60 and above, if his party returns to power in the National Capital. If implemented, the scheme could prove to be a game changer in the competitive political landscape and will arguably be one of its kinds in terms of the welfare measures announced by state governments or the Centre. The pre-poll announcement of the new health scheme can be seen as an effort to secure votes and drum up support for AAP which is eyeing a third consecutive term in power in the capital.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to restart? India-China talk peace

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Signalling a thaw between the two countries for the last four years, India and China on Wednesday agreed for cross-border cooperation and exchanges including resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, data sharing on trans-border rivers and border trade. They agreed on the salience of stable, predictable and amicable India-China relations for regional and global peace and prosperity. Announcing this, ministry of external affairs (MEA) said in a statement here, the 23rd meeting of the Special Representatives (SRs) of India and China, respectively Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, and Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, was held in Beijing on Wednesday. The SRs met in accordance with the decision taken during the recent meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping in Kazan for them to meet at an early date to oversee the management of peace and tranquility in border areas and



National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi before their scheduled meeting, in Beijing

to explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. The SRs reiterated the importance of maintaining a political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship while seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable framework for settlement of the boundary question, and resolved to inject more vitality into this process. This was the first meeting of the SRs since frictions had emerged in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas in 2020. The SRs positively affirmed the implementation of the latest disengagement agreement of October 2024, resulting in patrolling and grazing in relevant areas.

Had fun but it's time, says R Ashwin, announces surprise international retirement

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India's premier off-spinner R Ashwin, on Wednesday, stunned the cricketing world by bidding adieu to his international career in the middle of the ongoing Test series against Australia here despite having a "bit of punch left" in him. The 38-year-old retires from the game as the second highest wicket-taker for India in Tests with 537 scalps in 106 games, placing him only behind the great Anil Kumble (619 wickets) in the overall statistics. In the limited-overs format, being part of the 2011 World Cup and the 2013 Champions Trophy-winning teams would count among

the highlights of his career. He will continue to play club cricket, including the IPL, where he will return to compete for Chennai Super Kings next year. "Today will be the last day for me as an India cricketer in all formats," Ashwin said at the end of the drawn third Test here in a joint press conference with captain Rohit Sharma during which he declined to take any questions and left after making the announcement. The series is still alive with two more Tests to go in Melbourne and Sydney as the two teams are tied 1-1 after logging one win each. Ashwin who would be headed back to India on Thursday, was seen having an



emotional conversation with star batter Virat Kohli in the dressing room hours before the announcement, sending social media into a frenzy. Kohli had his arm around the senior bowler's shoulder and Ashwin was seen wiping his eyes before breaking into a chuckle. Ashwin played the day-night Test in Adelaide and picked up one wicket. He not being a sure starter in the playing eleven over the course of the three Tests prompted him to think about his future in the team and eventually call time on a remarkable career. Ashwin was not just the master of his craft, he was also considered one of the brightest minds in world cricket. The Chennai-based

player, who holds an engineering degree, usually does well to hide his emotions but sitting alongside longtime teammate Rohit, Ashwin left the stage for the fear of getting overawed by the occasion. "I do feel there is a bit of punch left in me as a cricketer but I would like to showcase that in club level cricket. I have had a lot of fun. I must have created a lot of memories alongside Rohit and several of my other teammates," he said. "I have lost some of them over the last few years (in the team). We are the last bunch of OG's left in the dressing room. I would be marking this as my date of having played at this level," he said,

referring to the likes of the currently out-of-favour Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara. Ashwin played 116 ODIs for India, claiming 156 wickets, while his 65 T20 International outings yielded 72 scalps. He expressed his gratitude towards the BCCI and other senior teammates for his career which began in 2010 in the one-day format before he made his Test debut a year later. "A lot of people to thank but I would be failing in my duties if I did not thank BCCI and fellow teammates. I want to name a few of them. Most importantly Rohit, Virat, Ajinkya, Pujara who have taken those hundred catches around the bat to give me those wickets I managed to get over the years. "Big thank you to the Australian cricket team, I have enjoyed playing against them." Ashwin also thanked the media for its support over the years. "It is an emotional moment. Please pardon me for that (not taking questions). Thanks for writing good things about me and some nasty things on occasions," said Ashwin on a lighter note as he left the room to a standing ovation. His retirement brought back memories of the 2014 series when the then captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni had quit Tests after conceding an unassailable lead to the home side.

River confluence to enhance land fertility in MP and Rajasthan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that water has always been a source of vitality and rejuvenation. He emphasized that the confluence of rivers not only enriches the land but also breathes new life into civilizations.

Yadav expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ending the 20-year-long wait of both states. He likened the Prime Minister to the modern-day Bhagiratha for his visionary leadership

Modi affectionately referred to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav as 'Ladla', highlighting the bond between the leaders. Prime Minister Modi said that the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal (PKC) project as a historic and remarkable milestone, Yadav expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for ending the 20-year-long wait of both states.

provide 3,000 MCM (million cubic meters) of water to Madhya Pradesh and 4,103 MCM (million cubic meters) to Rajasthan. The foundation stone of the first phase of the scheme was laid along with the MOA for the project on 17 December 2024 by officials of the Central Government and both state governments in the presence of Prime Minister Modi, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav, Chief Minister of Rajasthan Bhajanlal Sharma, and Union Jal Shakti Minister

C.R. Patil. The project is targeted to be implemented in the next 8 years. Districts of Madhya Pradesh to get benefits The PKC project will benefit 3217 villages from 22 projects in Guna, Morena, Shivpuri, Bhind, Sheopur, Ujjain, Sehore, Mandasaur, Indore, Dewas, Agar Malwa, Shajapur and Rajgarh districts of the state. Under the project, 21 water structures including 17 dams and 4 barrages will be constructed. 6.13 lakh hectares of land in Malwa and Chambal region will become green. Also, drinking water will be available to more than 40 lakh population.

approximately 60-year-old Chambal right main canal and distribution system will also be renovated and modernized. With this, water will be provided to farmers for irrigation in 3 lakh 62 thousand hectare area of Bhind, Morena, and Sheopur of Madhya Pradesh. Gift of Ken-Betwa project on 25th December Chief Minister Yadav said that on December 25, 2024, Prime Minister Modi will gift the Ken-Betwa river linking project to Madhya Pradesh. Prime Minister Modi will lay the foundation of the first phase of the scheme in Khajuraho (Chhatarpur). With this, the people of the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh will get irrigation and drinking water.



Speaker of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Narenbra Singh Tomar meets students of Shri Ramakrishna College of Law, Satna during the ongoing winter session of the state assembly in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



Tinsel lights decorate the Christian church at Mata Mandir ahead of Christmassin Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Termination of outsourced employees likely

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Caught between tightening purse strings on one hand and growing employee anger on the other, Hamidia Hospital may soon witness the termination of a large number of outsourced employees. The move, which the hospital management attributes to over-staffing during the COVID pandemic, follows protests by employees who have been seeking wages that the hospital has owed them for months.

of their salaries. At that point, the hospital and the contractor — responsible for sourcing workers for the hospital — blamed each other for the delay in the payment of wages. A truce was reached after the hospital management placated employees by releasing part of the salaries and topping it up with a bonus ahead of Diwali. Confidence-building measures, however, proved fragile in December when employees blamed the hospital administration for reneging on its promises and stopped work on two occasions in consecutive weeks.

details of the workings at the government-run facility. Unlike other large medical facilities in the state capital — AIIMS and the BMHRC — the hospital almost never addresses the media, which may be construed as an effort to keep its workings outside the public domain. Even if the striking employees have managed to swing public sentiment in their favour for now, patients and caregivers visiting the facility say they indulge in corrupt practices by charging tips for performing the smallest of tasks — which incidentally are paid for by the hospital and constitute a part of their duties.

Free health checkup on Dec 20 by Chirayu and Sewa Sadan Hospital

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the eve of the 19th death anniversary of Paramhansa Sant Hirdaram Sahib Ji, a 'free health checkup and consultation camp' will be organized for poor patients on Friday, December 20th, 2024. This camp will be jointly organized by Chirayu Hospital and Medical College and Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, in the Nav Yuvak Sabha School premises from 8 am to 4 pm. Camp coordinator Dr. Suresh Bhamhani informed that patients of heart disease, nose, ear, throat, gynecological disorders, birth of child through test tube method, pediatrics, cancer, skin, mental, kidney, urinary disorder, dental and

Police rescue 13-year-old abducted boy

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Raisen police have rescued a 13-year-old boy and arrested three accused involved in kidnapping the victim from Bareilly village; accused demanded extortion of Rs 10 lakh and threatened to kill the victim boy. The incident took place on the night of December 16 at around 9 pm, when the minor boy was kidnapped by unknown miscreants while returning from tuition in Bareilly. The miscreants called the victim's father and demanded a ransom of Rs 10 lakh and threatened to kill him. As soon as the information of the incident was received by police senior officials took prompt action and started investigation by forming three special teams and a reward of Rs 60000 was declared for providing the details of the kidnapers. The police team interrogated the local people at the scene, collected digital evidence and studied the language and dialect of the miscreants during the ransom. The police consoled the

Muslim youth booked on love jihad charges

Bhopal: Kolar police have booked a Muslim youth who met a girl by introducing himself as a Hindu and made a relationship with her by promising marriage, girl alleged that recently the accused pressured her to convert to Islam in the name of marriage. SHO of Kolar police Sanjay Singh Soni said that the accused has been booked under Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2021, Prevention of SC-ST Act and threatening the victim. The incident took place in Jahangirabad area due to which the case would be transferred to Jahangirabad police.

introduced himself as Rahul Sahil Khan. He is a resident of Jahangirabad and called the girl to meet him where he had sex with her and lured her into marriage. The victim was confident that the accused would marry her, so she did not protest. When the victim came to know the truth about the accused, she protested. Then the accused assured that he would change his religion to marry her. Later, the relationship between the two progressed. When the girl put pressure for marriage, the accused recently put a condition that he would

have to convert to Islam to marry her, the victim flatly refused to do so. The accused youth argued with the girl over a call two months ago. After this, he refused to marry her. Later, he switched off his mobile number. Somehow, the victim found out the address of the accused's house. When she went to talk to his family, they told her that they have broken all ties with Sahil Khan and will not have any relation with him in future. When the victim tried to talk to Sahil Khan, she found out that the accused is working in Delhi.

HDFC BANK advertisement with details of services and contact information.

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Table with columns: Sr. No., Loan Account Number, Borrower's Name, Outstanding Amount as on 16th Dec 2024 (In Indian Rupees), Date of Sale Notice.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Table with columns: S. No., Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor, Amount due to the bank as per notice, Details of Immovable Property of which possession taken by the bank, Demand Notice Date.

Dhar police crack down on drug smuggling, contraband worth Rs 5 cr seized

Dhar: Under the guidance of Dhar Superintendent of Police Manoj Kumar Singh, Dhar Police took strict action against illegal drug smugglers under the Nasha Mukti Abhiyan and succeeded in seizing a total of 6,879 kg of illegal drugs worth about Rs 05 crore by taking action against 165 accused in 144 cases in the year 2023 and 2024.



Under which, Khatla meetings were organized at various places in tribal dominated areas and the youth were counseled about de-addiction. Along with this, all the station in-charges of the district were ordered to arrest the gangs involved in the purchase / sale, transportation of illegal drugs. On which effective action was taken by Dhar Police

AIIMS Bhopal organises health camp at Chiklod

Bhopal: A joint awareness campaign on yoga, health, and matrivigilance was held at the Primary Health Center and Anganwadi Center in Chiklod Kala village on Wednesday. The event was organized in collaboration with the Departments of AYUSH, Pharmacology, and Community & Family Medicine of AIIMS Bhopal. The campaign featured two main health programs: a yoga and health camp by the AYUSH Department and an awareness drive on matrivigilance by the Pharmacology Department.

Expired edibles point at possible nexus in Bhopal

The confiscated goods will now be destroyed, said Dubey, while speculating on the possible source of these materials. The edibles included chocolates, cornflakes, aerated drinks, salt, biscuits, potato wafers, dals, spices, and namkeen. "It is possible that the vendor procured these goods from defunct stores that had failed to sell them before the expiry date printed on the packaging," said Dubey. While agreeing that the discovery and subsequent confiscation of the goods is worrying, he said that the Food Safety Administration will soon issue letters to large retailers ascer-

Indian Bank

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sec. 13 (2) of The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Table with columns: Sl. No., Name & Address of Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) & Branch Name, Loan Amount, Outstanding Amount As per Demand Notice, Demand Notice Date, Details of Mortgaged Properties.



FIRST COLUMN

THE POWER OF POSITIVITY

By embracing spiritual self-reflection and cultivating positivity, we can rise above turmoil



RAJYOGI BRAHM KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Nowadays there seems to be a crisis, disappointment and conflict of duality at every step of life. How do we deal with this? How do we prevent the self from becoming pessimistic or disheartened? Today the great modern disease of human consciousness is all about looking outward to find means to derive happiness without examining the inner self, values, attitudes and motives; relying and depending more on the external signals and hoping for the best. However, in practicality, life cannot be created with such hopes, as there are no shortcuts to achieving happiness. In today's world, no individual and nothing can create a permanent state of wellbeing within us, as it is our prerogative and responsibility. The external factors can contribute, guide and inspire us but ultimately our life is what we make out of it.

True happiness or a lack of it does not come from external things but from what is inside oneself. For example, money is not the means to happiness nor is it the cause of one's unhappiness. In reality, it is our attitudes and values that determine the use or misuse of external instruments, whether that is money, a person, an event or an object. A life that has value and is worthy of living is only possible when there is a reflective examination through which there can be illuminating change. So, to reorientate our consciousness, we would require a consciousness based on self-knowledge i.e the knowledge of the spiritual self which creates self-respect and positivity, enabling us to gain the right perspective on life which in turn would help us to deal with any kind of negativity in a balanced and less painful way. Accordingly, with positivity, we



experience inner strength to cope with external issues affecting the sense of balance in our lives. When we are more positive towards ourselves, obviously we express the same attitude towards others and in all situations. Inner strength also comes when we interact with others in such a way that love, peace and happiness are honestly expressed and experienced.

The pivotal point is "honesty" because there cannot be a sense of fulfillment through falsehood, imitation or duality expressed through attitude. Hence the need of the hour is to live a life based on "Eternal Spiritual Principles" that would allow us to keep a positive attitude towards the self and others, thereby making our life joyful rather than conflicting or a bundle of confusion. Spirituality is not a system or technique of worship or ritual, it is in essence, knowing how to lead a life and through this knowing there is happiness. A spiritual person has found that spark of eternal reference within, which gives him or her not only deep contentment but also a sense of purpose. The first prerequisite for spirituality is a life that functions appropriately and thinks and cares about one's self in the most decent way. Thinking and caring about one's self inappropriately creates too much dependence on others, too many needs, too many demands, too much possessiveness.

So the right way to proceed is to first examine oneself and then acknowledge the positive and the negative traits within us. By doing so, we get the courage to change whatever needs to be transformed without any kind of fear and, without pretence. The basis of successful change for betterment is to understand the attitudes, feelings and motives that drive us for the change by accepting the original positivity of the self, the immortal goodness of the soul. It is this goodness of the self that forms the foundation of our dignity as human beings. The expression of this original goodness in our life is what is called 'divinity' which makes us truly human. So let us awaken the expression of the divine within us to live a fulfilling joyful life amidst all the chaos & crisis around.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Education: From Kothari Commission to NEP-2020



J S RAJPUT

The educators and policymakers are called upon to transcend ideological divides and lead India toward inclusive progress and innovation



The most comprehensive initiative in education in post-independence India was the report of the National Commission on Education, usually referred to as the Kothari Commission. It submitted its report entitled "Education for National Development" on June 29, 1968. The first two sentences say it all: "The destiny of India is now being shaped in its classrooms. This, we believe, is no rhetoric." It was this report that led to the first national education policy of 1968. For the first time, science and mathematics became compulsory for both boys and girls up to tenth standard!

Yes, it was generally believed that only boys could handle the tough subjects of science and mathematics, and girls could opt for lighter options of spinning weaving, home science; and the like! The compulsory study of science and math was resisted and opposed as being unjust and unfair to girls! This one change transformed the lives of millions of girls and has brought global accolades to the Indian advancements in the world of science, technology, ICT and space research. Policies once formulated and formalised deserve support in vigilant implementation, persistent monitoring, and scrutiny based on their relevance 'in the great enterprise of national reconstruction'. India today has great challenges ahead, both national as well as global.

It has the manpower and enough experience to confront these successfully. In the third decade of the 21st century, it's the quality of education and skill acquisition that would equip India shall remain its prime contributory tool against every challenge. The content and process of education shall have to specifically equip itself against nurtured negativity, increasing mutual distrust and ballooning bitterness in public life. Solutions shall certainly not emerge from those that thrive only on negativity and are ill-equipped to see light and positivity around them.



THE CONTENT AND PROCESS OF EDUCATION SHALL HAVE TO SPECIFICALLY EQUIP ITSELF AGAINST NURTURED NEGATIVITY, INCREASING MUTUAL DISTRUST, AND BALLOONING BITTERNESS IN PUBLIC LIFE

Who must come forward and accept responsibility to normalise such an unacceptable socio-cultural environment? Why not ask the Gandhiji? Once, before independence, one Dr Mote posed a query to Mahatma Gandhi: what he thought was the greatest problem facing his country! The expected answer could have been, in those days, related to slavery, poverty, illiteracy, ill health, or in the social context.

While narrating it in his Gandhi Katha, Narayan Desai tells the audience: that the answer was the 'callousness of the intellectuals!' Narayan Desai Goes ahead: "Give it a thought. If we stand by and watch the poor blaming their poverty on fate, Gandhi is relevant today. If we can see the callousness of the intellectuals, then Gandhi is relevant today. What are the problems according to intellectuals?"

"Why X or Y has become Vice-Chancellor and not me! They think only of this and are unaware of other social issues". Their concerns for critical social, cultural, social cohesion and religious amity are minimal.

One's obvious inference would be that solutions to major national concerns shall - and must - emerge from institutions and the educated and the learned responsible for attaining their stated objectives. It includes the dilapidated structures running Sarkari schools, much sought-after private schools, and the universities. It also includes the glittering campuses of national institutions that have brought international repute to our educational enterprise.

So, mainly it points out to teachers; from primary schools to

professors of the universities, and researchers working in institutions of science, technology, psychology, social sciences and every other area.

One wishes each one of them recalls the assessment of Gandhi shuns away the dreaded callousness and strives to create centres of dialogue and discussions on improving the life and living standards of our people, particularly the 'last man in the line' who was so dear to the Mahatma! At first glance, the existing climate makes such a transformation rather impossible!

Despite all the odds, sincere attempts must be launched to create institutional think tanks with open boundaries that provide for healthy academic, scholarly and intellectual deliberations, not constrained but individual ideological affiliations. For an academic, who shapes the lives of numerous individuals, it is the well-being of others that must precede his own!

And this is no rhetoric or a cliché in the Indian context and culture. For a broad-minded person, this becomes a must, an integral part of his thought and action and hence, an achievable premise.

This is the main task of every teacher preparation institution, from where it shall percolate to schools via teachers trained there, and then to the establishment and the society. After the education policies of 1968, 1986 and 1992, and a gap of around three decades, another policy formulation comes before the nation in the shape of the National Education Policy; NEP-2020. It has been under implementation for the last four years. Having

been associated with the implementation and also policy formulations, one could venture to infer that the NEP-2020 was prepared with unprecedented enthusiasm from teachers, scholars academics institutions, organisations and individuals.

As the process was long overdue and rightly very extensive, it inspired active participation from practically every section of society. Unfortunately, its implementation stands hampered in certain states on grounds that may not necessarily be academic.

India has a developed well-knit interactive system of the national and state-level bodies and institutions that have learnt over the years how to arrive at a national consensus in the sectors of education and teacher education. This institutional strength of consultation, collaboration and cohesion need not be diluted in cases where the union and state governments belong to different ideological affiliations.

Intellectuals in education and research must convincingly internalize that they are making the future of individuals and creating the future of India. No one else is destined and better placed than them to reconstruct India. The moment each one of them expands his horizons, thinks holistically, and takes a long-term view, the road ahead would emerge very clearly; how to proceed individually and also collectively to sed the intellectual callousness and lead the nation on the right path.

(Professor Rajput works in education, social cohesion and religious amity. He is Atal fellow with the PMML, New Delhi; views expressed are personal)

Guarding digital India: The urgent need for cybersecurity in a rapidly evolving digital space

India has the potential to lead the world in cybersecurity innovation, but achieving this requires more than technological solutions

In the fast-evolving digital landscape of India, a silent battle is being fought—not with traditional weapons but through malicious code, complex algorithms, and increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks. As the country embraces its "Digital India" initiative, the rise of cyber threats demands immediate attention. Protecting the digital future requires strong cybersecurity frameworks, skilled professionals, and widespread public awareness. The call for "Digital Guards" or "Cyber Warriors" has never been more urgent.



VINAY PATHAK

2023, this number soared to an alarming 1.32 million—a twentyfold increase that exposes critical national vulnerabilities. Globally, the situation is no less concerning. Operations like INTERPOL and AFRIPOL's 2024 Operation Serengeti, which arrested over 1,000 cybercriminals across 19 African nations, underscore the scale of the problem. These operations identified over 35,000 victims and uncovered

financial losses nearing \$193 million, demonstrating the global reach and devastating impact of cybercrime. Phishing remains a primary weapon for cybercriminals, accounting for 22 per cent of all incidents. These attacks manipulate victims into revealing sensitive information or downloading malicious software. Credential theft, responsible for 16 per cent of incidents, further exposes individuals and organisations to system breaches, financial fraud, and corporate espionage. Emerging threats like mobile app malware are amplifying risks. For instance, 15 SpyLoan malware apps on Google Play, downloaded over 8 million times, went beyond data theft to harass and extort victims, underscoring cybercriminals'

growing ingenuity. The economic toll of these attacks is devastating. About 65 per cent of Indian enterprises have been forced to pay ransoms to recover critical data, with average demands reaching \$4.8 million. Recovery costs add another \$1.35 million per incident, straining even large corporations. Smaller businesses, lacking resources for robust cybersecurity measures, are particularly vulnerable. This systemic vulnerability has been termed the "cybersecurity poverty line," where approximately 60 per cent of Indian companies lack the infrastructure and expertise to defend themselves against cyber threats. High-traffic online shopping periods, such as Black Friday and Cyber Monday, are prime



targets for cybercriminals. During these events, fraudsters employ phishing scams, fake e-commerce websites, and malware to exploit consumers and businesses alike. Recent high-profile incidents highlight these vulnerabilities. In November 2024, a ransomware attack on Blue Yonder disrupted Starbucks' operations, forcing a return to manual processes. Similarly, McLeod Russel's system com-

promise sent shockwaves through the corporate sector, emphasising the interconnectedness of digital systems and the widespread disruptions that a single attack can cause. India's cybersecurity preparedness is worryingly insufficient. Only 4 per cent of Indian enterprises have robust infrastructure capable of withstanding advanced attacks. This shortfall is a national security concern, as cyberattacks transcend corporate interests, threatening essential services and critical infrastructure. Initiatives like the Cyber Challenge 2024, a joint effort by the Delhi Police and CyberPeace Foundation, offer hope. This programme engages developers, engineers, and cybersecurity experts to

craft innovative solutions using cutting-edge technologies such as AI, blockchain, and quantum computing. Collaboration with institutions like DRDO, MeITY, and the National Forensic Science University underscores the comprehensive approach needed to address these challenges. Experts emphasise that cybersecurity must move beyond being an IT department's responsibility to become a core component of every organization's strategy. This shift involves continuous employee training, regular security audits, investments in advanced technologies, and fostering a culture of vigilance. Drawing inspiration from global models like the European Union's GDPR, India could implement strin-

gent cybersecurity standards, offering subsidies for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to invest in security measures and penalising negligence in cyber protection. As digital transformation accelerates across sectors such as finance, healthcare, education, and government services, robust cybersecurity is no longer optional—it is a fundamental necessity. The path forward demands a collaborative effort. Government agencies, private enterprises, educational institutions, and cybersecurity professionals must unite to build a resilient digital ecosystem.

(The writer is Assistant Professor Indian institute of information technology sonapat Haryana; views are personal)

Vinicius Junior and Aitana Bonmati win FIFA best player of the year awards

Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior finally got his hands on a big global player award on Tuesday. Vinicius was named the men's player of the year at the FIFA's 'The Best' awards, where Barcelona playmaker Aitana Bonmati continued to clean up in the prizes for women's soccer.

here. I was a kid who only played football barefoot on the streets of São Gonçalo, close to poverty and crime. 'Getting here is something very important to me. I'm doing it for many children who think that everything is impossible and who think they can't get here.'



added 'I'll keep fighting.' Bonmati won the award for best women's player of the year



making it back-to-back prizes at FIFA's version of the older and more prestigious Ballon d'Or prize. The 26-year-old Spain midfielder has won the Ballon d'Or for two

straight years, and won the Spanish league, Spanish cup and Champions League with Barcelona in 2024. 'I am grateful to receive this award. As I always say, this is a team effort,' Bonmati said.

He also netted in the final, becoming the youngest player to score in two Champions League finals. Madrid teammate Jude Bellingham was third, ahead of Dani Carvajal and Lamine Yamal, with Lionel Messi — who had won the award the previous two years — sixth.



Six teams pick 48 players in draft for World Pickleball League

A total of 48 players were picked by six franchises in the player draft for the inaugural edition of the World Pickleball League which will be held here next month. While the players draft consisted of 75 players from 20 countries, the tournament will feature men and women players from 14 countries including India, Japan, Spain, South Korea, Australia and the United Kingdom.

The league format will comprise of a round-robin stage, where each team plays against the other resulting in 15 ties. Each tie featuring five games including men's singles, women's singles, doubles in each category and mixed doubles,' the league said.



India look to make all-round amends against West Indies

India will look to make amends in all areas and counter the West Indies' power game when the two teams face off in the decider of the women's T20I series on Thursday, with regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's participation still shrouded in uncertainty. A comprehensive 49-run win in the series opener helped India extend their domination in the format to nine consecutive victories but West Indies crushed the hosts by nine wickets to level the terms in the second game.

India to face Pakistan in opening match of inaugural Kho Kho World Cup on Jan 13

Hosts India will face arch-rivals Pakistan in the opening match of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup on January 13, the organisers announced on Wednesday. As many as 24 countries have confirmed their participation in the week-long event (January 13-19), which will be organised at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in the national capital and at the Noida Indoor Stadium.



quarterfinals will be held on January 17 and semifinals on January 18 and final on January 19. The tournament will see 21 men's and 20 women's teams competing for the top prizes. Dogra said the national camp for 60 men and 60 women is currently underway at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, and the Indian teams for the event will be selected from among these players.

including me, have played Kho Kho at one point in our lives,' Khan said in a message. 'It is a sport with non-stop action and relentless spirit that has already captured the global attention. Let's come together and celebrate the soul of Kho Kho on the global stage,' he added.

Will await with interest India's bid for 2029 World Championships: WA chief Coe

World Athletics President Sebastian Coe says his organisation will 'await with interest' India's expected bid for the 2029 World Championships but indicated that there will be tough competition from other countries to get the hosting right of the showpiece. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is set to formally express its interest to host the 2029 World Championships when the process is launched in the next few months, in line with the country's plan to stage a series of high-profile events to mount a serious bid for the 2036 Olympics.



in 2017 when the legendary Usain Bolt ran his last international race in London, has also done the same, though not formally. The bidding process for the 2027 World Championships will be held in Beijing, China, began in January 2023 and the announcement of the host city was made in March 2024. The 2025 World Championships will be held in Tokyo.

He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, besides AFI officials. 'I had a very good discussion with Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) and actually was comforted by the recognition that sport, particularly athletics, is probably the most or one of the most accessible sports,' Coe said about his discussion with PM Modi.

politicians and political leaders. I've rarely found such a commitment to that concept. I was very pleased to hear that commitment.'

Change of Name: This is to inform you that earlier my name was RAMESH. Now I changed my name to RAMESH BHAGWANDAS SHAH. From now and in future I will be known by my new name. RAMESH BHAGWANDAS SHAH

Office of the Recovery Officer-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR. NOTICE FOR SETTLING A SALE PROCLAMATION UNDER RULE 53 OF THE SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993

Change of Name: I Vikas Sharma, son of Basant Kumar Sharma address ward number 23, house number 187, Nazar Bag, Chhatarpur Madhya Pradesh and I truly state in my old passport (M6131005) the name mention Vikash Sharma is not correct my correct name is Vikas Sharma which mention in my all documents such as Aadhar card, pan card etc. I would like to change the correct name Vikas Sharma in my new passport.

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Third Test between India and Australia ends in a draw

PTI ■ BRISBANE
 India escaped with a crucial draw in the weather-hit third Test against Australia after intermittent rain wiped out majority of play on day five, leaving the five-match series tantalisingly locked at 1-1. Resuming the day at 252 for nine, India batted for 24 balls and were all out for 260 in their first innings. With limited time left in the day to force a result after majority of the morning session was rained out, the Australian batters came out all guns blazing and stuttered to 89 for seven in 18 overs before making a brave declaration, giving India at least 54 overs to chase down 275. Bad light and rain forced an early tea break soon after with India at 8 for no loss in 2.1 overs. The rain got heavier as the time passed and no play was possible thereafter. The absorbing series is nicely

poised going into the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. India would have fancied chasing 275 on day five but weather helped them immensely in the game controlled by Australia. Jasprit Bumrah (3/18) was brilliant as usual in the second innings with Mohammed Siraj (2/36) and Akash Deep (2/28) offering good support. Australia's approach in the second essay was brave and questionable at the same time. Nathan McSweeney (4) and Marnus Labuschagne (1) went after balls outside the off-stump and perished while Usman Khawaja (8) and Mitchell Marsh (2) fell to good deliveries. Wickets falling in a heap did not impact Australia's approach as they kept going for the big hits. Skipper Cummins chipped in with two sixes and as many fours before the declaration. In the morning session,

lightening and subsequent rain allowed only 24 balls to be bowled. The warning of severe weather was flashed on the digital scoreboard at the Gabba shortly after India were bowled out for 260 in their first innings, handing Australia a lead of 185 runs. Akash Deep (31) was the last man out, stumped off a Travis Head delivery, bringing an end to a 47-run stand with Jasprit Bumrah (10 not out). The duo had done well to avoid the follow-on on day four. Players were asked to remain in the dressing room and fans were requested to take shelter away from the fence after the visitors were all out. The forecast was largely clear for Brisbane from Thursday onwards but the entire game has been adversely impacted by bad weather with rain forcing multiple stoppages for four out of five days. Only day two of the game was not impacted by weather as



Australia coasted to 405 for seven on the back of memorable hundreds from Head and Steve Smith. Going into the fourth Test beginning December 26, India have major concerns in both batting and bowling department which they must address. Barring K L Rahul, who has been India's standout batter on the tour, the star-studded line up has not found a way to negotiate the threats posed by the Australian pace attack. Skipper Rohit Sharma has

been woefully short of runs and after the hundred in Perth, superstar Virat Kohli has struggled with ball outside the off-stump. Majority of the batters have been guilty of playing away from their bodies in challenging conditions. They will need to curb their white-ball instincts to make an impact at MCG. On the bowling front too, it has been effectively a one man show with Jasprit Bumrah doing the heavy lifting in all the games.

Mohammed Siraj bowled in the Brisbane Test with a niggler, leaving a question mark over his fitness ahead of the Melbourne game. Akash Deep, who played ahead of Harshit Rana, bowled well in the game but did not have a lot of luck, especially against Smith. He is expected to retain his place the eleven. India have picked three different spinners in the first three Test. It remains to be seen what strategy they adopt for the Boxing Day Test.



Will go to Melbourne with confidence: Rohit

PTI ■ BRISBANE
 Indian skipper Rohit Sharma hailed the resilience of the lower-order batters after his team managed to salvage a crucial draw in the rain-hit third Test against Australia here on Wednesday, saying the side it has given the side renewed confidence for the remaining series. With the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy now tied 1-1, Rohit believes the team's morale will be high during the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. "I mean, we will take that. Obviously to have interruptions like that wasn't great, but going to Melbourne at 1-1 pretty much gives us that confidence to go out there and pull things towards us," Rohit said at the post-match presentation. "The situation we were in just after lunch (on Day 4), needed someone to stand up and take us through, we knew with the weather, we knew it wasn't going to be a full game." Opener KL Rahul once again shone, top-scoring with 84 before Ravindra Jadeja (77) put up a lower-order resistance. Then the last duo of Akash Deep (31) and Jasprit Bumrah (10 not out) put on a gritty 47-run partnership to help India avoid follow-on

before they were all out for 260 in reply to Australia's big first innings score of 445. "Credit to (Ravindra) Jadeja, the way he played and (KL) Rahul, the way he played was magnificent at the top of the order, the fight that Akash Deep and Bumrah (gave) was great to watch, we have seen them work so hard at the nets (on their batting)." Despite the challenges posed by intermittent rain and lightning on the final day, India's bowlers held their own in the second innings. Bumrah was particularly brilliant, taking 3/18, while Akash Deep and Mohammed Siraj chipped in with two wickets each. Australia's bold approach in the second innings saw them declare at 89/7, setting India a target of 275 in 54 overs, but bad light and rain ensured no further play was possible after the early stages of the chase. "Coming to the bowling, Bumrah was outstanding, Akash Deep is a feisty cricketer, always wants to be involved in the game, very new to international cricket, he has worked hard at the nets, still new to international cricket, but he has put in the hard yards..." "There are people in the group to put their hand across and help him going forward. As he

showed with the bat, these are the sort of characters we needed in the team," Rohit added. Cummins rues not leading 2-1 Australia captain Pat Cummins lamented the impact of rain on the game's outcome. "Would be better to be 2-1, lot of rain, nothing we can do about it. We set a huge total and felt like we were right ahead of the game throughout," said Cummins. Australia also suffered a heartbreak with pacer Josh Hazlewood ruled out of the entire series with a calf strain. "Poor Josh, one of those things, few rain breaks probably helped, Starc and I were able to push through." "Day 5 here can be up and down, there wasn't much cricket played on it, felt challenging when the ball was new and hard." Cummins also highlighted the positives that his team could take from the match. "(Steve) Smith and Head's innings were fantastic, Alex Carey too... (Nathan) Lyon looked really good, Starc got wickets, just about ticked off every box." On the Boxing Day Test, Cummins said: "That will be amazing, one of those things here in Australia that you wake up and can't wait for."

Head confident he'll be 'fine' for Boxing Day Test in Melbourne

PTI ■ BRISBANE
 Australia's man in form, Travis Head, played down concerns over his fitness after appearing to struggle with a potential groin issue during the rain-marred drawn third Test against India at the Gabba here on Wednesday. Head said he expects to be "fine" for the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne. The five-match series is tied 1-1 going into the Boxing Day Test after the drawn affair. "Very pleased with the way I am batting at the moment. Just a little sore, but I should be fine (before the next game)," Head, who was adjudged the player of the match, said after the game. The 30-year-old, who has been in red-hot form with 409 runs at an average of 81.80 this series, noticeably struggled to run between the wickets during his brief innings of 17 on day five.

At times, he was seen clutching his groin, raising concerns among the commentators. Former pacer Brett Lee called the visuals "worrying signs", noting Head's limited movement, while Indian great Ravi Shastri also expressed concern, describing the potential injury as a "body blow" for Australia, given Head's big role in the batting lineup. Head did not take the field during India's second innings, fuelling further speculation. "Travis, he'll be fine. It's a bit of a tight quad. He'll be fine for Melbourne," asserted his captain Pat Cummins.

The left-hander further reflected on his approach this series, attributing his success to adapting well to challenging conditions and staying composed at the crease. "Challenging wicket. I had to work through the gears. I had different plans, pleased I could get through those. Good partnership with (Steve) Smith," he said on their centuries, contributing to their 241-run massive stand. "I just try to sum up the conditions well. What I've done well this series is assess the conditions. Pleased with the tempo I've batted with. Pretty relaxed communication. "Felt like he was back in his rhythm, and he gives me full freedom and confidence knowing he's going to be there for a long while. I feel like I am playing the situation in front of me," he added.

11 दिसम्बर - 26 दिसम्बर 2024

जनकल्याण पर्व

1 वर्ष

मोहन यादव सरकार
काम लगातार-फैसले अमरदार

केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना के तहत

किसान सम्मेलन

मुख्यमंत्री
डॉ. मोहन यादव
द्वारा

विकास कार्यों का भूमिपूजन एवं लोकार्पण

अपराह्न 1:00 बजे
स्टेडियम प्रांगण, सटई
जिला छतरपुर

जल कलश यात्रा

संत सम्मेलन

लोक कल्याण शिविर

अपराह्न 3:00 बजे
पॉलिटैक्निक ग्राउंड, पन्ना

19 दिसम्बर, 2024

विश्व की पहली नदी जोड़ी केन-बेतवा लिंक परियोजना से बुंदेलखंड के हर खेत को पानी मिलेगा, हर घर नल से जल पहुंचेगा और रोजगार के अवसर बढ़ेंगे। नदियों के जुड़ने से बुंदेलखंड के साथ प्रदेश की समृद्धि का मार्ग प्रशस्त होगा।

-डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

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