

No more public inspection of poll centre CCTV, webcasts, videos



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to check the potential misuse of postal ballot facility extended to voters on poll duty, electoral rules have been changed to ensure that such people cast their vote at designated facilitation centres only and do not keep the ballot papers with them for a long time. Based on the recommendations of the Election Commission (EC), the Ministry of Law and Justice has amended an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain

electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse. The amendment has earned severe criticism from the Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jai Ram Ramesh, who hit out at the poll body saying it was a "vindication" of the party's assertion of the "rapidly eroding integrity" of the electoral process. "Why the poll panel was afraid of transparency," Ramesh questioned. According to Rule 93, all

"papers" related to elections shall be open to public inspection. The amendment inserts "as specified in these rules" after "papers". "In the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, in rule 93, in sub-rule (2), in clause (a), after the word "papers", the words "as specified in these rules" shall be inserted," the Ministry said in a notification. A new section 18A has been added in the rules. It states that "Notwithstanding anything in this Part, a voter on election duty shall receive his postal ballot, record his vote thereon in accordance

with this Part and return the same at the facilitation centre as specified, in writing, by the returning officer." The poll body had in September last year recommended to the Union law ministry to tweak the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to ensure that voters on poll duty cast their vote at voter facilitation centres located where they are deployed. The EC was of the view that if a postal ballot remains with a voter for a long time, the person could be highly susceptible to undue influence, threats, bribery and other unethical means by candidates or political parties. According to the Ministry of Law, a court case was the "trigger" behind the amendment. Documents such as nomination forms, appointment of election agents, results and election account statements are mentioned in the Conduct of Election Rules, electronic documents such as CCTV camera footage, webcasting and video recording of candidates during the Model Code of Conduct period are not covered. "CCTV coverage, webcasting of polling stations are not carried out under Conduct of Election Rules but are the result of steps taken by the EC to ensure a level playing field," said an official.

Number of domestic migrants reduced by 12 per cent: EAC-PM

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a remarkable observation which indicates increased economic opportunities across the country, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) has estimated the number of domestic migrants has lowered by around 12 per cent to 40.20 crore between 2011 and 2023. "The overall number of migrants in the country, as of 2023, is 40,20,90,396. This is about 11.78 per cent lower as compared to the number of migrants enumerated as per Census 2011 [45,57,87,621]. Consequently, the migration rate which stood at 37.64% as per Census 2011 is estimated to 28.88% of the population," according to a working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The paper titled "400 Million Dreams! Examining volume and directions of domestic migration in India using novel high frequency data," pointed out that West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka are the States showing the maximum amount of growth in percentage share of the arriving passengers. Similarly, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are States where the percentage share of total migrants has reduced. "At the state level, Uttar Pradesh-Delhi; Gujarat-Maharashtra; Telangana-Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar-Delhi emerge as the primary dyads of the movement," it said. At the district level,



FILE PHOTO: PTI

Murshidabad - Kolkata; Paschim Bardhaman-Howrah; Valsad - Mumbai; Chittoor - Bengaluru Urban and Surat - Mumbai are the most popular routes for migration between districts. This has implications for urban planning as well as for planning of transportation networks. According to the report, April-June is the high month for migrant movement with November-December witnessing secondary highs. December-January and September-October are the months with the highest inflows whereas May-June and January-February are the months with the highest outflows in Mumbai. These are perhaps months where most migrant labour travel back to their places of origin. A secondary high in winter time is perhaps indicative of travel around the festival/marriage season. January, on the other hand, appears to be the month of lowest travel. "Even prior to the pandemic related lockdowns, there were signs of the passenger

movement showing little growth, however after the pandemic, even the high months i.e. April-May are at a distinctly lower level as compared to the corresponding period before the pandemic, passenger levels for May 2023 being 6.67% lower than the corresponding number for May 2012. Further, it is interesting to note that a majority (>75%) of our predicted migration flows are within 500 kms of the origin. This is in line with gravitation effects and theories such as Ravenstein's Theory of Human Migration (1834 - 1913)," it said. "We hypothesize that this is on account of availability of improved services such as education, health, infrastructure and connectivity as well as improved economic opportunities in or near in major sources of migration and is an indicator of overall economic growth," noted the paper authored by former EAC-PM chairman Bibek Debroy.



The car that was crashed into a crowd at the Magdeburg AP/PTI

Five killed in attack on German Christmas market, 200 injured

AP ■ MAGDEBURG (GERMANY)

Germans on Saturday mourned both the victims and their shaken sense of security after a Saudi doctor intentionally drove into a Christmas market teeming with holiday shoppers, killing at least five people, including a small child, and injuring at least 200 others. Authorities arrested a 50-year-old man at the site of the attack in Magdeburg on Friday evening and took him into custody for questioning. He has lived in Germany for nearly two decades, practicing medicine in Bernburg, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Magdeburg. Officials said. The governor of the surrounding state of Saxony-Anhalt, Reiner Haseloff, told reporters that the death toll rose from two to five and that more than 200 people in total were injured.



Govt still not reduced GST on health and life insurance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAISALMER

The Goods and Services Tax Council meeting on Saturday postponed a decision on reducing taxes on health and life insurance, while the much talked-about GoM recommendation of rate rejig in 148 items was not tabled before the Council. Meanwhile, the GST Council agreed to issue a clarification on taxation of popcorn, saying that pre-packed and labelled ready-to-eat snacks will attract a 12 per cent tax while an 18 per cent GST will be levied if it is caramelised. There is no change in the tax rate of popcorn and the GST Council has only agreed that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will issue a circular clarifying the current taxation regime of popcorn. "Ready-to-eat popcorn", which is mixed with salt and spices, and has the essential character of namkeens currently attracts a 5 per cent GST if it is not pre-packaged and labelled. If it is supplied as pre-packaged and labelled, a 12 per cent GST is levied. However, when popcorn is mixed with sugar (caramel popcorn), its essential character changes to that of a sugar confectionary, and would therefore be classifiable under HS 1704 90 90 and attract an 18 per cent GST, as per the clarification. Some members of the Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, felt that more deliberations were required before a final decision could be arrived at with regard to insurance taxation.

Delhi LG sanctions ED to prosecute Kejriwal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In more trouble for former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has sanctioned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to prosecute him in the alleged money laundering case linked to the liquor policy scam case. This comes just a month before Assembly elections in Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party, however, claimed that there was no such sanction and challenged the ED to show a copy of the sanction. On its part, AAP leaders Saurabh Bharadwaj, Priyanka Kakkar, Atishi and Manish Sisodia claimed that ED is "spreading fake news". They said that a copy of the permission should be given to them if such an order has been passed. The liquor policy scam has been among the biggest allegations made by the opposition BJP against the AAP government. According to officials, the ED had, on December 5, sought permission to prosecute Kejriwal, writing to Delhi Chief Secretary Dharmendra in his capacity as Chief Vigilance Officer in this regard. A case under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) charges was earlier filed against Kejriwal, but the trial had not started. After the Supreme Court made the Lt Governor's approval mandatory to prosecute individuals holding government posts in money laundering cases, the ED wrote to the Chief Secretary



asking for permission, said sources. Citing a November 6 Supreme Court judgment, the ED sought sanction for prosecution under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, on December 5. In its letter to the Lt Governor, the ED said it found a "huge level of corruption in framing and implementation" of the excise policy. The Supreme Court on November 6 ruled that public servants cannot be prosecuted for money laundering without prior approval from the government, as required under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Earlier, prosecution sanction was not needed for chargesheets (prosecution complaints) filed by the ED against public servants. It was mandated for other investigative agencies, like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and state police. The ED in its note to Chief Secretary of Delhi, sought approval from the competent authority to prosecute former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal under section 197 (1) of CrPC (Section 218 of BNSS 2023) in a case related to liquor policy scam case. "Sanction may be required for prosecution to Kejriwal, for offence of Money Laundering under Section 4 of PMLA, 2002 read with Section 197(1) of Cr. P.C. (Section 218 of BNSS, 2023) in the case of ECIR No. ECIR/HQ14/2022 dated 22.08.2022. Therefore, you are requested to grant sanction for prosecution to Sh. Arvind Kejriwal, Ex-CM, Govt. of NCT of Delhi in ECIR No. ECIR/HQ 14/2022 dated 22.08.2022, for the offence of money laundering as define under Section 3 of PMLA, 2002 and the offence is punishable under section 4 of PMLA Act, 2002," the ED said. Meanwhile, the BJP doubled down on its charges against the AAP with Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva welcoming the sanction to prosecute Kejriwal.

MCD drive to identify illegal B'deshi migrants in its schools

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued an order directing its departments and zonal heads to carry out a drive to identify and verify illegal Bangladeshi migrants in municipal schools and those registered for birth certificates. The MCD has also directed all MCD zones to remove encroachments by illegal Bangladeshi migrants. An action taken report has been sought by the MCD deputy commissioner by December 31. The directive comes days after the Delhi L-G Secretariat ordered a crackdown on illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, with the issue becoming the latest flashpoint between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Assembly elections in Delhi due in February. The decision follows a meeting held on December 12 with Delhi government's Principal Secretary (Home), where the MCD Commissioner was represented by the Additional Commissioner (HQ) and Deputy Commissioner (HQ). Zonal heads have been instructed to implement preventive measures to address the issue of illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

BLOOMS BANISH WINTER BLUES



Visitors at the 'All India Winter Rose Show' organised by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in association with The Rose Society of India, at India-Africa Friendship Rose Garden, Chanakyapuri PTI

Multistorey building collapses in Punjab's Mohali



PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Rescue operations were underway after a multistorey building collapsed in the Sohana village of Punjab's Mohali district on Saturday, officials said. Locals said some people were feared trapped under the debris. The district authorities launched a rescue operation. Two excavators were pressed into

service as part of the operation. A National Disaster Response Team (NDRF) team has reached the spot. The fire brigade is also participating in the operation, the officials said. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said, "Sad news has been received that a multistorey building near Sohana in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) has collapsed. The entire administration and other rescue teams have been deployed at the spot. I am in constant touch with the administration. "We pray that there is no loss of life, we will also take action against the culprits. Appeal to the people to cooperate with the administration," he added in his post on X. Senior Superintendent of Police (Mohali) Deepak Pareek, who reached the spot to take stock of the situation, said the rescue operation was underway in full swing.

A royal takeover: Erstwhile princely estate of Bettiah Raj, is now State property

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

Perhaps one of the last privy purses, the erstwhile princely estate of Bettiah Raj, one of the largest zamindari of Bihar, will now be assimilated in the property owned by the State government. According to a notification issued in the Bihar Gazette decks have been cleared for complete takeover of 15,358 acres of land belonging to the Bettiah princely State by the Bihar administration.

Out of a total of 15,358.60 acres of land, 15,215.33 acres is in Bihar and 143.26 acres is in Uttar Pradesh. According to officials, a large chunk of land that came under the erstwhile Bettiah Raj has been encroached upon over the years. The 'Vesting of Bettiah Raj Properties Act-2024's gazette notification dated December 11 followed a bill passed by the state legislature in the winter session last month. Earlier, properties of the estate were managed by the Court of Wards, Board of Revenue (Bihar Government). The last raja of Bettiah Raj, Harendra Kishore Singh, died heirless on March 26, 1893, leaving behind two widows, Maharani Sheo Ratna Kunwar and Maharani Janki Kunwar. Maharani Sheo Ratna Kunwar who succeeded to the estate of Raja Harendra Kishore Singh on his death as his senior widow died on March 24, 1896 and on her death Maharani Janki Kunwar became entitled to the possession of the estate. Since



it was reportedly found that Maharani Janki Kunwar was not able to administer the

estate, its management was taken over by the Court of Wards. Cities in Bihar where land belonging to Bettiah Estate are located include: 9758.72 acres in West Champaran, 5320.51 acres in East Champaran, 35.58 acres in Gopalganj, 7.29 acres in Siwan, 4.81 acres in Patna, 88.41 acres in Saran. Similarly, cities in Uttar Pradesh where land belonging to Bettiah Estate are located include: Kushinagar (61.16 acres), Maharajganj (7.53 acres), Varanasi (10.13 acres), Gorakhpur (50.92 acres), Basti (6.21 acre), Allahabad (4.54 acre), Ayodhya (1.86 acre). "All the existing properties, to the knowledge of the court and being looked after by the court, of the Bettiah Raj, located in or outside the state of Bihar, whether movable or immovable, shall stand vested with the state government from the date on which this Act comes into force. Bettiah Raj Properties means and includes all movable and immovable properties of the erstwhile Raja of Bettiah," says the Gazette notification.

Ratlam is creating a unique identity in the field of sports CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that we have provided a big budget of Rs 586 crore for sports in the state for the first time after independence. Madhya Pradesh is the only state that will have the maximum number of astroturfs for hockey. Sports have now been made a part of the curriculum as well. Sports teachers can also become assistant professors, professors, and vice-chancellors. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing the inauguration of the silver jubilee celebrations of the Khel Chetna Mela organized by the Chaitanya Kashyap Foundation in Ratlam on Saturday. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav hoisted the flag and declared the Khel Chetna Mela open. Micro,

Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Chaitanya Kashyap, MP Sudhir Gupta, MP Anita Nagar Singh Chauhan, District Panchayat President Lalabai Shambhu Lal Chandravanshi, MLA Alot Chintamani Malviya, MLA Ratlam Rural Mathura Lal Damor, Mayor Prahlad Patel, Pradeep Upadhyay, Municipal Corporation Chairperson Smt. Manisha Sharma and many public representatives were present in the programme. Yadav announced the construction of an astroturf for hockey and a saree cluster to give impetus to business in Ratlam. He said that in the saree cluster, women in the city should be associated with saree manufacturing on the lines of Maheshwar and Chanderi. He also announced the establishment of a cardiac branch for all

types of heart-related treatments and operations in Ratlam's Government Laxmi Narayan Pandey Medical College. Referring to the infrastructure development and availability of basic facilities for sports in Ratlam, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that the government is constructing an integrated sports complex in Ratlam for Rs 15 crore, in which indoor sports activities like judo, karate, badminton, wrestling, kabaddi, etc. can be organized. A synthetic track is also being built for a 400-meter race. Along with this, a pavilion with a capacity of 1200 people and a gym is also being constructed. Land has been allotted for sports in Alot of the district. Land is also being allotted in Piploda-Raoti. The Chief Minister said that Madhya Pradesh will be the

first state in the country to have the maximum number of 12 astro turfs for hockey. Praising the sports activities in Ratlam, the Chief Minister said that Ratlam, famous for sev, gold and sarees, is now establishing its special identity in sports as well. The Khel Chetna Mela being organized by Chaitanya Kashyap Foundation for the last 25 years has a special contribution in this event through which the sports talents of Ratlam are making their country and state proud. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that comprehensive efforts are being made for the development of sports in the state. The state has left its special mark in the Khelo India event held in Bhopal. The Chief Minister especially praised the Khel Chetna Mela being organized by Chaitanya Kashyap



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav greets the public in Ratlam Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Pioneer photo

Quilt-mattress warehouse gutted in fire at Peer Gate

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
A fire broke out on Saturday afternoon at a quilt and mattress warehouse located at Peer Gate, panic created among the locals as the place is a busy market and remains crowded. As the flames rose, people rushed to control the fire, fearing it would spread further. The fire brigade was immediately informed, and despite the challenges, the fire was extinguished within an hour. The warehouse, situated on the first floor of a building near the Curfew Wali Mata temple at Peer Gate, belongs to Mohammad Farid, also known as Guddu, who owns a quilt and mattress shop. The warehouse stored cotton, quilts, and mattresses.

The warehouse, situated on the first floor of a building near the Curfew Wali Mata temple at Peer Gate, belongs to Mohammad Farid, also known as Guddu

According to Mohammad Farid, the fire started due to a short circuit. The electrical line supplying power to the warehouse was directly connected to a pole, and when the fire broke out, the voltage fluctuated, sparking the flames. Fortunately, the fire was contained in time, but significant damage was caused. Many quilts and mattresses were destroyed, and cotton materials were soaked and ruined. During the fire, a large crowd gathered at the site. Two workers who had been in the warehouse moments before the fire

Inhuman act against woman in Rajgarh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
A case has been registered against a woman's neighbour, her own husband and in-laws after she accused them of singeing her and putting chilli powder in her private parts in Rajgarh district. The alleged crime was committed at a village under Karanwas police station limits on December 13, said an official. Biaora Sub Divisional Officer of Police Neha Gaur said a 32-year-old ASHA worker has complained that she was beaten and tortured by her in-laws in the village. Based on her complaint, the case was registered at Ruthiyai police station of Guna district, where her parents live. It was subsequently transferred to Rajgarh district on Friday, Gaur said.

According to the complainant, a 25-year-old neighbour entered the complainant's matrimonial home and began molesting her. Just then, her sister-in-law walked into the room. The sister-in-law abused her, raising questions about the woman's character. Soon, other family members also gathered, the complaint said. According to the woman, she was thrashed and her father-in-law inserted chilli powder in her private parts, while her mother-in-law branded her in several places on the body with a hot spatula. Karanwas police station in-charge Ramesh Jai said a case has been registered against the woman's husband, father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and a neighbour for assault, torture and rape. All accused are absconding and they will soon be arrested, the

Madhya Pradesh will be TB-free by the year 2025: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that extensive publicity is being done for the TB-free campaign in Madhya Pradesh. Necessary instructions have also been issued at the district level. Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh will be made completely free of TB. We are continuously working in this direction. Work is being done especially in dense settlements and other places. There are more than 2 thousand such Gram Panchayats in Madhya Pradesh that have become completely TB-free. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that today 56 gram panchayats of Ujjain district are also being declared TB-free. To make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mission a complete success in Madhya Pradesh, the state will be completely TB-free by 2025.

A meeting was held in New Delhi on Saturday under the chairmanship of Union Health Minister JP Nadda for a 100-day rapid TB elimination campaign and to make India TB-free. Yadav joined the video conferencing from Ujjain. Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers of Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan as well as other states also participated in this video conferencing. Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh ranks second in the country in distributing food baskets. More than 3 thousand camps have been organized in the state. Along with this, more than 122 public awareness rallies have also been taken out. Not only this, more than 5 thousand people have taken oath to become Nikshay Mitra. A comprehensive campaign is being run in Madhya Pradesh for which special TB screening campaigns are also being run in industries, factories, brick kilns, and dense settlements. Chief Minister Yadav said that along with the Mukhya Mantri Jankalyan Abhiyan, a special 40-day campaign will be run in the state, in which Nikshay Mitras are being created by giving comprehensive information about TB testing and its treatment. In the Jan Kalyan Abhiyan running till 26 January, work will be done with full force in Madhya Pradesh to make it TB-free. Union Health Minister Dr. Nadda said that on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has to be made TB-free by 2025. For this, all the states should work at their own level. TB patients are being found in 347 districts of the country, and they should be tested extensively. Along with arrangements for their treatment, health, and nutrition, extensive publicity should be ensured for public awareness.



IAS officers with their families at a water sports event during Civil Service Meet-2024, at Upper Lake in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

BMC apathy: Homeless in the city left out in the cold

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
A rise in the mercury over the past few days has failed to lift the spirits of the homeless poor, who continue to be cold-shouldered by Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) workers tasked with shifting them to night shelters. This year, the absence of free firewood for community bonfires, an annual BMC ritual during the winter, has added to the woes of these little-regarded cast-aways who live on the city streets. Even though municipal officials have not commented on the development, reports suggest that at least three of these destitutes perished due to the intense cold spell in the city over the last ten days. In a knee-jerk reaction to the reports, BMC bosses entrusted ward officials with the 'unpleasant' task of shifting these sometimes 'smelly' vagrants to night shelters, where they were told to use BMC vehicles for the job. Though a guarded state-

ment was issued to the media, sources in the civic body say that ward officials were told to ensure that no destitute deaths took place in their jurisdictions. In keeping with typical municipal ingenuity, photographs of ward officials surveying their precincts for the homeless have become a part of the daily media brief issued by the BMC in what is only partial compliance with the orders. Closer scrutiny suggests that ward officials are only shooing the homeless away and not transporting them to night shelters. Tina Yadav, the civic official in charge of the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), which is responsible for the homeless, said that she would look into the matter. The homeless in the city, who often beg for a living, mainly sleep on the sidewalks on VIP Road, around bus terminals, railway stations, and in the corridors of city markets, where they are sometimes paid tiny sums to keep a vigil.

Winter cricket tournament concludes

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
The RC Parakh Memorial Cricket Tournament - Winter Edition 2024 concluded on a high note, with Team DTG emerging as champions. Gautam Majumdar, GM (CMG, PMG, CC & DTG), and N P Sanodia, HOD (DTG), felicitated Team DTG for their exceptional team spirit both on and off the field. The tournament featured participation from 10 teams representing various departments, including Hydro, Transformers, Fabrication, Quality, Traction, Finance, DTG, WEX, and Switchgear, competing in thrilling 8-over-a-side matches. It was a vibrant event filled with excitement, enthusiasm, and closely fought contests. The grand finale was an intense and nail-biting match between Finance and DTG, with both teams showcasing incredible skill and sportsmanship. Avinash Chandra, GM (WEX, MOD, LGX & TCB-OPERATIONS) and President of the Officer's Club, along with Smt. Manita Chandra, Vice President of the BHEL Ladies Club, felicitated the players on the eve of the finals, appreciating their remarkable efforts and performances.

Crime Branch arrest man wanted for burglary from Banda

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
A joint team from the Crime Branch and Habibganj Police apprehended a wanted thief from Banda (UP) on Friday, who was involved in stealing valuables from the residence of Crime Branch TI Ashok Maravi. The accused, Rajesh Bajpai, has six criminal cases against him in Banda, including charges of murder and theft. He had been on the run after evading a warrant. During his escape, he first traveled to Indore with plans to commit theft but was unsuccessful. After two days, he moved to Bhopal, where he stayed at various night shelters and lodges while surveying potential targets. He identified TI Maravi's house, which was deserted, and took the opportunity to steal Rs 1.5 lakh in cash and jewellery worth Rs 1 lakh. The stolen items have since been recovered by the police. The accused is currently being interrogated in connection with other crimes. TI Ajay Kumar Soni confirmed that the accused, Rajesh Vajpayee, is from Banda, Uttar Pradesh, and has a history of

multiple crimes in the state. He was also sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering a relative over a land dispute. The police recovered Rs 1.5 lakh in cash along with gold and silver jewellery, valued at Rs 1 lakh. In his confession, Vajpayee revealed that he had arrived in Bhopal from Indore two days before the theft. During his stay in Indore, he attempted to rob several houses but failed. He finally targeted the residence of Crime Branch TI Ashok Maravi in Shivaji Nagar, taking advantage of the house being unoccupied. The police were able to catch the accused based on CCTV footage. Despite having a rod in his leg, which would have made climbing high walls difficult, Vajpayee sought out an easy target. He was arrested in Banda (UP) on Friday for the crime.

Surya Tratak and meditation sessions organized

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
The AYUSH department of AIIMS Bhopal organized World Meditation Day for the first time on Saturday, December 21, 2024. The event began at 7:00 AM and witnessed participation from doctors, nurses, patients, and others. On this occasion, AIIMS Bhopal ED Pro Ajai Singh stated, "The objective of World Meditation Day is to integrate ancient meditation practices into modern lifestyles. Techniques like Surya Tratak and meditation yield remarkable benefits for mental and physical health." The program's key highlights included Surya Tratak, meditation sessions, a human chain in the form of "Om," and yogic exercises combined with self-study (Swadhyaya). Participants practiced Surya Tratak during sunrise, absorbing the rays of the sun as it enters its

The program's key highlights included Surya Tratak, meditation sessions, a human chain in the form of 'Om', and yogic exercises

Uttarayan phase. This ancient yogic meditation technique, described in classical texts, is renowned for enhancing mental clarity, improving vision, and fostering spiritual growth. The benefits of Surya Tratak include improved eyesight, increased concentration, reduced stress, and heightened energy levels. During the meditation session, participants practiced pranayama and meditation for mental and physical well-being. Additionally, participants formed the shape of "Om" to emphasize the significance of meditation and also engaged

in yoga, pranayama, and self-study practices. According to a United Nations declaration, World Meditation Day will now be celebrated annually on December 21. This day, marking the sun's transition to the Uttarayan phase when days begin to lengthen, is considered auspicious for fostering positive energy and good health. Senior Medical Officer of the AYUSH department, Dr. Danish Javed, and yoga instructor Chanchal Suryavanshi shared their insights on the importance of meditation and yoga. They highlighted that regular meditation practice is a powerful way to control the mind, thoughts, and senses. This program not only marks the beginning of a new tradition but also underscores the vital role of meditation and yoga in promoting mental and physical well-being.

Campion School 1999 batch alumni meet on Monday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Campion School's Batch of 1999 will celebrate their 25th reunion on December 23, 2024. Alumni from India and across the globe, including the USA, Canada, Germany, the UK, Switzerland, and Australia, are returning to Bhopal with their families for the occasion. As part of the celebrations, a special ceremony will be held to honor the teachers, and alumni will gift various essential items to the school. The event will feature a range of activities, including a band and live music show, a roast act, experience sharing by batchmates, singing, a DJ session, and extempore performances. Alumni and their families will also participate in sports events organized during the reunion. The main program will take place on December 23 at 11:00 AM in the Campion School auditorium.



BJP MLA Bhagwan Das Sabnani felicitates Soha Naved Alam with Arijit Memorial Trophy for excellence in the field of environment at a ceremony organised by Lions Club Bhopal South, at Kolar Road in Bhopal on Saturday. Pioneer photo

102 cataract surgeries performed at Sewa Sadan camp

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL
Cataract surgeries of 102 patients were performed at Sewa Sadan on the 19th death anniversary of Sant Hirdaram Sahib ji today. These included 49 male and 53 female eye patients. Most of the eye patients

were from Bari and Bareilly areas. Every year, on the birth anniversary (21 September) and death anniversary (21 December) of Paramhansa Sant Hirdaram Sahib Ji, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital performs free surgeries. It is noteworthy that since its establishment in 1987, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital has examined eyes of about 3.5 million people and has performed about 3.50 lakh eye surgeries, out of which 70 percent are free. Soon this hospital will be shifted to its huge building located at Aasaram Babu Chauraha, Airport Road, where more eye patients can be served.

Govt consistently promoting investments and start-ups: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that India is creating a distinct identity on the world stage due to the hard work of young entrepreneurs.



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav is addressing young entrepreneurs at the Young Entrepreneur Summit-2024 in Ujjain on Saturday.

power. He said that Ujjain has become known across the country. Work to hold summits is being done even at small places to boost investment.

Pradesh. Entrepreneurship is the foundation of economic development and nurturing young talent is essential to drive change and innovation.



Minister for Sports and Youth Welfare Vishwas Kailash Sarang inspects under-construction road and drainage at Alpna trisection in Bhopal on Saturday.

Ujjain gets IT Park, a historic step towards digital future

PNS ■ UJJAIN

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that today is a moment of great pride for residents of Ujjain and the entire state.

Corporation Limited on Indore Road in front of the Government Engineering College for Rs 46 crore.

River Linking Project will prove to be milestone for Bundelkhand

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-anticipated Ken-Betwa Link Project worth ₹44,605 crore.

people of Bundelkhand are preparing to give a historic welcome to the Prime Minister.

Encroachments removed from near Hotel Palash

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a crackdown on encroachments, the district administration on Saturday removed nearly 45 sheds from the vicinity of Hotel Palash in the TT Nagar area of the state capital.

Freebies derail development by burdening national budget, says Bhagirath Prasad

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A host of distinguished guests participated in a seminar on the impact of populist promises on national development at the Administration in the state capital of Saturday.

media institutions take responsibility during elections, this is not seen in India.

National Bal Rang brings accolades for Madhya Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal: On the second day of the National Bal Rang, on December 21, children from all over the country gave spectacular performances of dances centred on the folk culture of 22 states at the Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Shyamala Hills.

studies. The children participating in Bal Rang will become a source of inspiration for other children by showcasing their talent.

Pandey and departmental officials were also present in the programme.

Jitu Patwari accuses State govt over corruption

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari raised serious allegations against the one-year-old BJP government of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

from individuals linked to BJP leaders and officials are surfacing.

than the people. He claimed the BJP's leadership, first under Shivraj Singh Chouhan and now under Mohan Yadav, has enabled widespread corruption.

Vehicular woes: Concerted efforts needed to end traffic menace

ANKUSH SINGH ■ BHOPAL

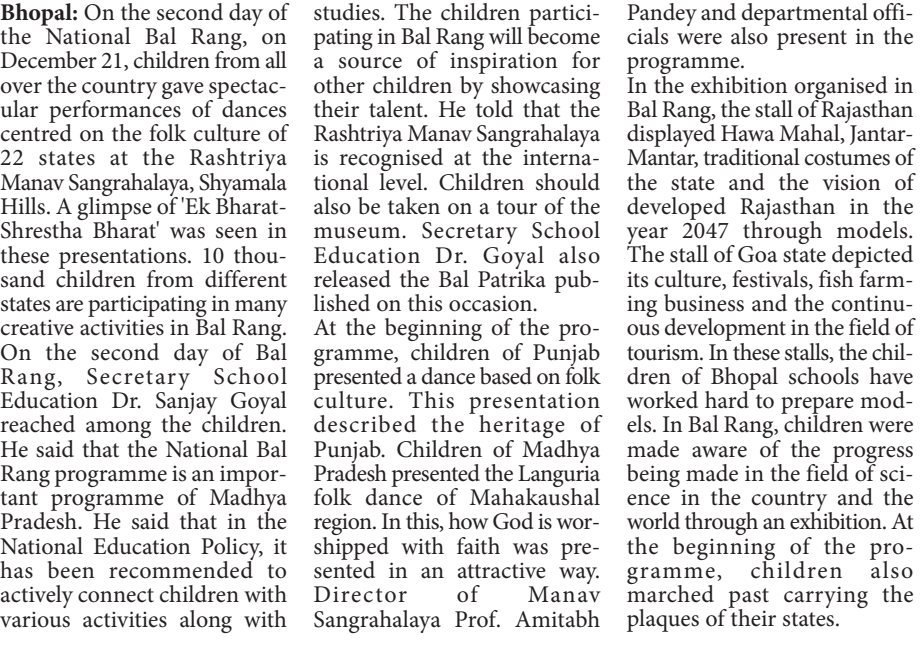
Even as heightened traffic police presence was witnessed at prominent intersections in the state capital, continuing traffic snarls underline the need for a more concerted effort to battle vehicular congestion.



that has been going on for months now also contributes by adding to traffic pressure, as motorists take alternate routes to avoid messy driving conditions.

home from college every day. Auto driver Mohammad Shakil agrees, saying that two-way traffic on the otherwise one-way street is one of the biggest issues in the area.

Rambabu Sen, proprietor of a hair salon, says that rush hour traffic jams are an everyday occurrence.



Students from New Delhi perform during the three-day National Bal Rang Festival-2024, at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (IGRMS) in Bhopal on Saturday.

Indian Bank Zonal Office, Civil Lines, Jabalpur, M.P. 482001. Includes details about a secured asset and a table with columns for S. No., Branch Name, Description of the Immovable Property, Date of Demand Notice, and Amount Outstanding.

कार्यालय जिला शिक्षा अधिकारी, जिला भोपाल. Includes details about a public notice regarding a recruitment process for a government job, with a table listing candidates and their details.

PM Modi's Kuwait visit first by Indian PM in 43 years, aims to strengthen ties and promote peace in West Asia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As he embarked on a two-day visit to Kuwait, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India and the Gulf nation have shared interest in peace, security and stability in West Asia.

Modi's visit to Kuwait, the first by an Indian prime minister in 43 years, comes two weeks after the collapse of Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria and amid signs of a possible ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. The last Indian prime minister to visit Kuwait was Indira Gandhi in 1981.

In a departure statement, Modi said his talks with the top Kuwaiti leadership would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership between India and Kuwait.

"We deeply value the historical connection with Kuwait that has been nurtured over generations. We are not just strong trade and energy partners but also



have shared interest in peace, security, stability and prosperity in the West Asia region," he said.

The prime minister is visiting Kuwait at the invitation of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. "I am confident that this visit will further strengthen and reinforce the special ties and bonds of

friendship between the people of India and Kuwait," Modi said.

The prime minister said he was looking forward to his meetings with the Emir, the Crown Prince and the prime minister of Kuwait.

"It would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership for the benefit of our people and the

region," he said.

"I eagerly look forward to meeting the Indian diaspora in Kuwait who have immensely contributed to strengthening of bonds of friendship between the two nations," he added.

Modi's engagements in Kuwait include a visit to an Indian labour camp, an interaction with the Indian

community and gracing the opening ceremony of the Gulf Cup football tournament.

"I express my gratitude to the leadership of Kuwait for the special gesture of inviting me to the inauguration ceremony of the Arabian Gulf Cup, a premier sporting event in the Gulf region," the prime minister said. "I look forward to being a part of this celebration of athletic excellence and regional unity," he said.

On Friday, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India and Kuwait are expected to focus on shoring up ties in a range of key areas including defence and trade during the prime minister's visit to the Gulf nation. Discussions are underway with Kuwait on a bilateral investment treaty and a defence cooperation pact, according to officials.

At a media briefing, Arun Kumar Chatterjee, Secretary (Overseas Indian Affairs) in the MEA, said a few bilateral documents are expected to be signed during the prime

minister's visit.

"The historic visit by the prime minister is expected to open a new chapter in India-Kuwait bilateral relations," he said.

"It will not only consolidate the partnership in existing spheres but also unveil new avenues for future cooperation, reinforce our shared values and build a stronger and more dynamic partnership for the future," he added.

India is among the top trading partners of Kuwait. The Indian community is the largest expatriate community in Kuwait.

The Gulf nation is among India's top trading partners, with bilateral trade valued at USD 10.47 billion in 2023-24. Kuwait is India's sixth largest crude supplier, meeting 3 per cent of the country's energy needs.

Indian exports to Kuwait reached USD 2 billion for the first time in 2023-24 while investments by the Kuwait Investment Authority in India exceeded USD 10 billion.

Former SC judge Madan B Lokur appointed as chairperson of UN Internal Justice Council



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur has been appointed as chairperson of the United Nations Internal Justice Council for a term ending on November 12, 2028. In a communication to Justice Lokur, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the retired top court judge would head the council which also comprises other distinguished jurists.

"I have the pleasure to appoint you, with immediate effect, as a member of the Internal Justice Council, in the capacity of chairperson, for a term ending on 12 November 2028," the communication dated December 19 said. "The members of the Council (in alphabetical order) are: Ms.

Carmen Artigas (Uruguay), distinguished external jurist nominated by staff; Ms. Rosalie Balkin (Australia), distinguished external jurist nominated by management; Mr. Stefan Brezina (Austria), staff representative; and Mr. Jay Pozenel (United States of America), management representative," it added.

The General Assembly of UN established the Internal Justice Council (IJC) as part of the new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the administration of justice system of the United Nations. The IJC is composed of five members consisting of a staff representative, a management representative and two distinguished external jurists, one nominated by the staff and one by management, and chaired by a distinguished jurist chosen by consensus by the four other members. The IJC members are appointed by the Secretary General. Born in 1953, Justice Lokur was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on June 4, 2012.

India, Russia to boost joint efforts against radicalisation, terror financing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Russia have decided to step up joint efforts in dealing with challenges of radicalisation and terror financing. Ways to deepen cooperation in tackling threats of terrorism were discussed at a meeting of the India-Russia joint working group (JWG) on counter-terrorism cooperation.

At a separate meeting on issues relating to the United Nations, Russia reiterated its support for India as a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council. The meeting took place in Moscow on December 19 and 20, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Saturday. "In the 13th JWG on counter-terrorism, both sides shared their experiences in countering

terrorism including cross-border terrorism, extremism and agreed to enhance cooperation to address problems of radicalisation as well as terror financing," MEA said. "They discussed current terrorist threats at the global and regional level and combating the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes," it said in a statement. The MEA said both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation in bilateral as well as multilateral platforms. India and Russia also held the sixth round of consultations on UN related issues in Moscow. "In the consultations on UN-related issues, both sides exchanged views on regional and global developments and issues pertaining to the UNSC (UN Security Council),

including its reform," the MEA said.

"Russia reiterated its support for India as a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council," it said. Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West) in the MEA, led the Indian delegation at the JWG on Counter Terrorism (CT) cooperation and the consultations on UN related issues. The Russian side was headed by Sergey Vershinin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Representatives of respective departments and agencies from both sides also participated in the meetings.

On December 19, Lal also held a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin and discussed current international and regional issues, especially the Ukraine conflict.

DefSat conference to explore synergies between defence modernisation and India's space ambitions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Strategists and business leaders from the defence and space sectors will converge here next month to share experiences and deliberate on new opportunities in the area that has emerged as a critical link in securing the country's borders.

The third DefSat Conference and Expo, scheduled to be held at the Manekshaw Centre here from January 8-10, is expected to provide a platform to explore the synergies between defence modernisation and India's expanding space ambitions. The theme of the three-day national conference is 'Integrated Space Capabilities for Multi-Domain Operations' and will highlight the strategic role of



disruptive space technologies in modern warfare across land, maritime, aerospace, cyberspace and homeland security domains.

"DefSat 2025 will spotlight next-gen military technologies, from quantum key distribution and non-kinetic space warfare to AI/ML-powered solutions, all designed to keep us at the forefront of future-ready

defence operations," Lt Gen PJS Pannu (retired), senior advisor, SIA-India, said.

With highlights like IndSpace Wargame 3.0, the conference will unite defence practitioners, industry leaders and international experts to simulate real-world space security challenges, showcasing the complexities of space operations and underscoring

India's readiness to navigate the evolving space domain, Pannu said.

Hosted by Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India), the event is supported by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Defence Research and Development Organisation, NewSpace India Ltd, Astronautical Society of India, and Aeronautical Society of India and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) as a knowledge partner. The conference will feature a dedicated session on Harnessing Space Technologies for Comprehensive Homeland Security with senior officers from the Central Armed Police Forces, state police forces and paramilitary forces as participants.

Successful completion of training for Air Force Special Forces 'Garud' operatives



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Maroon Beret ceremonial parade to mark the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces operatives of 'Garud' force was held on Saturday at Garud Regimental Training Centre, Chandinagar, IAF said here.

Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Transport & Helicopter) reviewed the parade as the Chief Guest of the event. The Chief Guest congratulated the 'Garuds' on their successful passing out.

While addressing the young commandos, he emphasised the significance of rigorous training and honing Special Forces skills to keep pace with the fast changing security scenario. He presented Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge and Special Forces Tabs to the successful 'Garud' trainees and gave away trophies to the awardees. The Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade is a moment of pride and achievement for the 'Garuds' marking the befitting culmination of an extremely demanding training schedule and their transformation into 'Young Special Forces Operators' joining the elite 'Garud' force and adding strength to the operational capability of IAF.

SC upholds divorce of estranged couple, citing irreconcilable differences and 20-year separation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

"Marriage is a relationship built on mutual trust, companionship and shared experiences," the Supreme Court has said as it upheld a Madras High Court decision granting divorce to an estranged software engineer couple.

A Bench of justices Vikram Nath and PB Varale said the length of separation and the evident animosity between husband and wife make it clear that there is no possibility of the marriage being revived. "Marriage is a relationship built on mutual trust, companionship, and shared experiences. When these essential elements are missing for an extended period, the marital bond becomes a mere legal formality devoid of any substance," the bench said. It added that the court has consistently held that prolonged separation, coupled with inability to reconcile, is a relevant factor in deciding matrimonial disputes.

"In the present case, the length of separation and the evident animosity between the parties make it clear that there is no possibility of the marriage



being revived," it said. The bench said that both husband and wife have been living separately for two decades now and this fact further reinforces the conclusion that the marriage is no longer viable.

It said that the top court has held that prolonged separation creates a presumption of the marriage having irretrievably broken down.

"In this case, the parties have not shared a marital life since 2004, and all attempts at reconciliation have failed," it added.

The top court dismissed the appeal of women who had challenged the June 8, 2018 decision of the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court granting a decree of divorce on the ground of cruelty.

The bench said the husband has provided sufficient evidence to show that the appellant (wife) was engaged in a pattern of behaviour that caused him immense mental and emotional distress.

"This included filing false and baseless criminal complaints against the respondent and his family, which not only strained

their relationship but also caused significant damage to his reputation and peace of mind," it said.

Justice Nath, who penned the verdict on behalf of the bench said, "In matrimonial disputes, this Court has emphasized the need to prioritize welfare and dignity of both parties. Forcing a marriage to continue when it has become a source of unhappiness and conflict undermines the very purpose of the institution of marriage."

The bench further said in the present case, the interests of both the parties are best served

by allowing both parties to move on with their lives independently.

"In view of the above, this court upholds the judgment of the high Court granting a decree of divorce to the respondent. The appellant's submissions are rejected as lacking in merit, both on procedural and substantive grounds," it said.

The bench reiterated that cruelty, long separation, and irretrievable breakdown of marriage, as established in this case, and thus, provide sufficient justification for dissolving the marriage.

It said that while granting the decree of divorce, the court deemed it appropriate to award permanent alimony to the appellant wife and the parties' daughter.

"Although the appellant wife has not specifically claimed any monetary relief or maintenance during these proceedings, it is trite and equitable to grant such relief, considering the financial status of the parties, their professional backgrounds, and the larger interest of justice," the bench added. The bench noted that both

husband and wife are software engineers and were earning handsomely at the time of their marriage more than two decades ago.

"It is reasonable to infer that their respective incomes must have increased substantially over the years. However, considering the dynamics of their separation and the financial burdens the appellant may have borne during the protracted litigation, this Court finds it necessary to award her a lumpsum permanent alimony of Rs 50 lakh to secure her financial independence and ensure that she can lead her life with dignity," it said.

The bench said further, this court recognizes the responsibility of both parents toward the well-being, education, and future prospects of their child.

"Although the daughter may be of an age where she is approaching independence, the financial support provided through this judgment will be instrumental in meeting her educational needs as well as expenses related to her future marriage. A sum of Rs. 50 lakh is, therefore, awarded to the

daughter for these purposes. This is in line with the principles of safeguarding the interests of children suffering under distress of such prolonged matrimonial disputes between the parents," it said.

Both parents share the duty of ensuring the daughter's well-being and future security, and this financial provision will contribute to fulfilling that duty, it said.

"For the reasons stated above, this court directs the respondent husband to pay a sum of Rs. 50 lakh to the appellant (wife) as permanent alimony and an additional Rs. 50 lakh to their daughter for her education and future expenses, such as her marriage. These payments shall be made within four months from the date of this judgment," it ruled. The parties had entered into the marriage on June 30, 2002 and a daughter was born out of the wedlock on July 9, 2003. The discord between the parties arose just after the birth of the child, when the wife refused to return from her parental home, where she had gone for the delivery of the child.

India's forest cover reaches 25.17% of total geographical area, adds 1,445 square kilometre since 2021

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Not only India's total forest and tree cover has increased by 1,445 sq km since 2021, reaching 25.17 per cent of the total geographical area in 2023, but it also achieved an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes compared to 2005 levels, as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023 released on Saturday.

In terms of the total area, Madhya Pradesh leads with the largest forest and tree cover (85,724 sq km), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km) and Maharashtra (65,383 sq km).



For forest cover specifically, Madhya Pradesh remains on

top (77,073 sq km), followed by Arunachal Pradesh

(65,882 sq km) and Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km).

The report also noted that as part of its climate plans or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the Paris Agreement goals, the country has committed to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

The country's total forest cover increased to 7,15,343 sq km in 2023, reaching 21.76 per cent of its geographical area, the report stated, adding that the tree cover increased by 1,289 sq km and now constitutes 3.41 per cent of

the country's geographical area.

Together, the forest and tree cover amount to 8,27,357 sq km or 25.17 per cent of India's geographical area. This marks an overall increase of 1,445 sq km from 2021, with forest cover alone rising by 156 sq km. According to the Forest Survey of India (FSI), forest cover refers to all land that has a tree canopy density of more than 10 per cent and spans over an area of one hectare or more, regardless of the type of ownership or legal status.

This includes natural forests as well as man-made plantations, orchards and tree patches in urban and

rural areas that meet the size and canopy density criteria. Tree cover is defined as patches of trees and isolated trees outside the Reserved Forest Area (RFA) that are less than one hectare.

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said the most positive finding of the report is that India has already created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes compared to 2005 levels. India's carbon stock in 2023 is estimated at 7,285.5 million tonnes, which is an increase of 81.5 million tonnes compared to 2021. The fast-growing South Asian country is estimated to have 31.71 billion tonnes

of carbon stock in forest and tree cover by 2030.

FSI Director General Anoop Singh said bamboo cover has also been estimated and included in the tree cover. India's total bamboo-bearing area is now estimated at 1,54,670 sq km, an increase of 5,227 sq km compared to 2021.

When considering forest cover as a percentage of the geographical area, Lakshadweep ranks first (91.33 per cent), followed by Mizoram (85.34 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62 per cent). The FSI also analysed forest cover changes in the Western Ghats and Eastern States Area (WGESA) over

the past decade and found an overall loss of 58.22 sq km in forest cover.

During this period, very dense forests increased by 3,465.12 sq km while moderately dense forests and open forests decreased by 1,043.23 sq km and 2,480.11 sq km respectively. In the hill districts of the country, the forest cover is 2,83,713.20 sq km, which makes up 40 per cent of the total geographical area of these districts. The latest assessment shows an increase of 234.14 sq km in forest cover in hill districts. However, the ISFR report showed a decrease of 327.30 sq km in forest cover in the northeastern region.



EMBRACING THE MAGIC OF URDU

“Jashn-e-Rekhta”, celebrated the beauty of Urdu with soulful music, heartfelt poetry and moments that deeply connected with everyone, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

In the delicate dance of words and melodies, there exists a beauty that can only be captured by the language of the soul, Urdu. The language has flourished in the hearts of poets, lovers and dreamers for centuries, finding its voice in the lyrical verses of **Faiz Ahmed Faiz, Mirza Ghalib, Allama Iqbal** and countless others. As one steps into the world of *Jashn-e-Rekhta*, a living celebration of this beloved language, it is as though you are immersed in a space where poetry is not merely recited, but experienced, felt in every beat of your heart.

“Dil-e-nadaan tujhe hua kya hai? Aur koi bhi, tujhe na samajh paaya”

These lines by **Mirza Ghalib** echoed throughout the festival, capturing the essence of *Jashn-e-Rekhta 2024* in a way no words could. Each verse, each melody, became a reminder of the timeless beauty and emotion embedded in Urdu poetry, and how it continues to bind hearts together across generations.

The opening evening saw the mesmerising Sufi performance by the ever-graceful **Padma Shri Kailash Kher** and his *Kailasa* band, setting the mood for an emotional journey through music and words. But the magic of *Jashn-e-Rekhta* didn't stop there. The second day of the festival paid tribute to the legendary poet **Sahir Ludhianvi**. Performances by the *Qutbi Brothers* and the stirring *Dastangoi* session by **Himanshu Bajpayee** and **Pragya Sharma** were particularly notable. Their narratives made the audience reminisce about the timelessness of Urdu poetry, while the theatrical production *Jaun Elia ka Jinn* brought forth the intensity and passion that marked the poet's life. **Javed Akhtar's** book launch of *Kyon: Jaun Elia's Unpublished Poetry and Sanjiv Saraf's Wayward Verses* led to a deeper understanding of how Urdu continues to shape the contemporary cultural landscape. As the final act, **Papon's** soul-



stirring performance brought the festival to a close. The final day of *Jashn-e-Rekhta* added a modern touch to the festivities with **Nisschal Zaveri's** “Chaand, Urdu aur Awaaz Unplugged,” a performance blending classical Ghazals with contemporary musical expressions. This performance bridged the timeless charm of Urdu poetry with modern acoustic instrumentation, providing an experience that resonated with every listener's heart. **Nisschal**, with his incredible talent and reverence for the art, captured the essence of what makes Urdu poetry so deeply moving, a delicate balance between tradition and innovation, an invitation to dive into the depths of emotion, where every word is a universe unto itself. The event concluded with a moving tribute- *Main Koi Aisa Geet Gaoom*, a celebration of the songs that have touched Bollywood's heart,



presented by **Javed Akhtar**. One of the most delightful aspects of *Jashn-e-Rekhta* was the *Rekhta Pavilion*. From the *Rekhta Food Festival - Aitwan-e-Zaiqa*, which showcased the subcontinent's culinary delights, to the *Rekhta Bazaar and Books Bazaar*, which made Urdu's literary treasures accessible

to all, every corner invited exploration. At its heart was the *Dial-e-Poet*, where visitors could listen to the timeless voices of legends like **Faiz Ahmad Faiz** and **Rahat Indori**, creating a deeply personal connection to their immortal words. Around these spaces, people of all ages gathered in spontaneous circles, reciting

shayari, sharing verses and singing ghazals. The soft glow of the lights created an atmosphere of unity, where the shared love of Urdu poetry connected everyone and the timeless melodies carried emotions that resonated deeply in the heart. *Jashn-e-Rekhta* celebrates the timeless

charm of Urdu, bringing its poetry, music, and legacy to life. It reminds us that Urdu isn't just inked on pages but lives in every song, verses and conversation, a celebration of life where poetry becomes a vibrant, living essence.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

The crisp, wintry evening at the *Embassy of Finland* set the perfect stage for the global premiere of *All I Want for Christmas*, a travel documentary produced by **Travelxp** and helmed by the nationally acclaimed, award-winning filmmaker **Kamakhya Narayan Singh**. With its runtime of 42 minutes, the documentary masterfully captures the alluring spirit of Christmas while imparting a moving message of hope and resilience to its audience.

As the holiday season approaches, bringing with it the warmth of togetherness and the joy of celebrations, *All I Want for Christmas* unfolds as a story that goes beyond festivities, offering a poignant glimpse into the human spirit. This magical narrative was born out of the idea that travel, much like festivals, symbolises happiness, connection, and the celebration of life itself. When global events stir emotions and challenge our perspectives, it becomes essential to remind ourselves of the joy and wonder that still exist in the world. With this thought in mind, the makers brainstormed countless ideas before settling on the heart warming journey of a mother and daughter travelling to Finland's Lapland, the land of Santa Claus and snow-covered dreams.

The documentary chronicles the story of Anastasia, a young Ukrainian refugee, and her mother, who embarks on this journey to rekindle the happiness that seemed lost amidst the chaos of displacement. Their trip to Finland's Lapland, a breathtaking winter wonderland, turns out to be more than just a holiday. It becomes a journey of



Global Premiere of Hope and Joy

All I Want for Christmas, the travel documentary has the magic of Christmas with resilience of human spirit, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**



healing and resilience. From exhilarating dog sledding adventures through pristine snow-laden landscapes to the daring experience of swimming in the icy waters of Kemi, every moment captured in the film speaks to the enduring strength of the human spirit. The ultimate highlight, of course, is the magical moment when Anastasia meets Santa Claus himself, bringing to life the dreams of countless children. Director **Kamakhya Narayan Singh**, reflecting on his unique experience, shared with *The Pioneer* the challenges of filming in Finland's harsh winters with temperatures plunging to -18°C and only 2-3 hours of daylight. Despite these obstacles, **Kamakhya's** determination to bring this story to life remained unwavering. Adding another layer of complexity was the fact that the documentary was originally shot in Russian, a first in a different language for the filmmaker. Yet, the ethereal beauty of Finland's snowy landscapes, the joyful presence of Santa, and the thrill of sledding through its magical terrains make *All I Want for Christmas* a visual treat that promises to leave viewers enchanted. Collaboratively organised by the embassies of Finland, Ukraine, and Norway, along with *SIFFCY* and the *Smile Foundation*, the premiere evening was not just a celebration of cinematic artistry but also a reminder of the universal message of hope and joy that Christmas brings to all. Whether it's the sparkling snowflakes or the heartwarming story of love and resilience, *All I Want for Christmas* will fill your heart with holiday cheer and would inspire you to believe in the magic of the season.

EXPECTATIONS AND STORYLINE MISMATCHED

The new season of *Mismatched* showcases long-distance relationships but struggles to break free from repetitive storytelling, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

Playing the coffee angle yet again in the opening of *Season 3*, the new season of *Mismatched*, currently airing on the OTT platform Netflix has yet managed to keep the audience gripped but to some extent only. The series continues the journey of Rishi played by **Rohit Saraf** and Dimple acted by **Prajakta Koli** as they walk through the complexities of a long-distance relationship, new professional challenges, and personal growth. The season takes you into themes such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and personal loss, reflecting the evolving digital landscape and its impact on relationships, basically keeping up with tech from the first season. The makers have tried to keep season 3 distinguished from the other seasons but have failed to do so because of the same story and absence of the needed spark and twist. The story feels to be unnecessarily stressed by revolving around the fights and then patch up repeatedly which is to be honest too boring. The series yet again revolves around the boring ups and downs of the relationships shown mainly of **Taaruk Raina** and **Ahsaas Channa**, **Prajakta Kohli** and **Rohit Saraf**. The web series is a steal deal for **Rannvijay Singha** and **Vidya Malvade** as Sid sir and Zeenat. The evolving relationship of the two with ups and downs at the age touching around 40 has been conceptualised in a great way. **Rannvijay** has acted out brilliantly from opening a new college to planning an adoption and growing with his love interest. **Zeenat's** character has shown ample amount of support to **Rannvijay's** character and the series throughout. The part that would excite you a bit would be the whole point of creating *Betterverse* and the story that revolves around that professional world of all the characters of the web series. The series shines in songs and background scores that make it a bit emotional. *Ishq Hai* song sung by **Anurag Saikia**, **Romy**, **Amarabha Banerjee**, **Varun Jain**, **Madhubanti Bagchi**; composed and produced by **Anurag Saikia**, **Oblong Sioni** and written by **Raj Shekhar** is soothing to the and has been collectively loved by the audience. To conclude, the review “*Mismatched*” *Season 3* explores contemporary themes relevant to young adults, but opinions differ on its execution and character progression. There



could have been addition of twists and turns apart from passig away of Dimple's father to give it an emotional angle. If you are a mismatched fan you may appreciate the continuation of the story, while others might find it lacking in depth and innovation. **Rating: 3/5**

Meditation transcends all borders, leaders on 1st World Meditation Day at UN

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

Meditation transcends all religions and borders and is also a powerful instrument of diplomacy in the current global landscape marked by escalating conflicts and deep-seated mistrust, top spiritual and UN leaders said on the first World Meditation Day commemorated here.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations organised a special event 'Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony' to mark the first World Meditation Day at the global body's headquarters on Friday.

"Today meditation is not a luxury, as it was thought, but it is a necessity," spiritual leader Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar said in his keynote address at the packed event attended by UN Ambassadors, officials, staff, civil society members as well as members of the Indian-American diaspora.

"Meditation is something you can do anywhere, everywhere, by everyone. In this sense, international Meditation Day plays a very important role and opens the door to those who have some reservations," he said. He added that for many people, the moment they hear the word meditation, they may

feel that the practice either has to be from some religion or it is not taught in their religion. He underscored that meditation "transcends all religions, all geographical boundaries and age groups so it is very, very useful in many, many ways."

President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly Philemon Yang said in his remarks that meditation "transcends borders, faiths, traditions and time, offering each of us the opportunity to pause, to listen and to connect with our inner selves."

Yang said that the world today needs peace more than ever before. "The tensions in the

world require that we embrace peace and anything that brings peace.... Let us build on the practice we have shared to bring about a safer, more just and equitable future for everyone, everywhere."

Earlier this month, the 193-member UN General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution declaring December 21 as World Meditation Day.

India was a member of the core group of countries that guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution titled 'World Meditation Day' in the UNGA. Andorra, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Nepal and Sri Lanka were the other members of the core group.

Ukrainian drones strike deep into Russia

AP ■ KYIV

Ukraine brought the war into the heart of Russia Saturday morning with drone attacks that local authorities said damaged residential buildings in the city of Kazan in the Tatarstan region, over 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) from the front line. The press service of Tatarstan's governor, Rustam Minnikhanov, said

that eight drones attacked the city. Six hit residential buildings, one hit an industrial facility and one was shot down over a river, the statement said. A video posted on local Telegram news channel Astra, verified by The Associated Press, shows a drone flying into the upper floors of a high-rise building.

Local authorities said there were no casualties. Flights were

halted at Kazan's airport and all mass gatherings cancelled on Saturday and Sunday.

The attacks, which Ukraine didn't acknowledge in keeping with its security policy, comes after a Ukrainian attack Friday on a town in Russia's Kursk border region using U.S.-supplied missiles killed six people, including a child.

Moscow sent 113 drones into Ukraine overnight into

Saturday, Ukrainian officials said. According to Ukraine's Air Force, 57 drones were shot down during the attacks. A further 56 drones were "lost," likely having been electronically jammed.

The governor of Ukraine's Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said eight people were wounded Friday night in drone attacks on the regional capital, also called Kharkiv.

Pak Military courts sentence 25 civilians for May 9 riots

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military courts sentenced 25 civilians to prison terms ranging from two to 10 years for attacking military installations during riots which erupted following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan in May last year, the Army announced on Saturday.

On May 9, 2023, Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters allegedly attacked several military installations, including the army headquarters in Rawalpindi and the ISI building in Faisalabad, to vent their anger against the arrest of their party founder in a corruption case.

Hundreds of suspects were arrested in the countrywide swoop and at least 103 were handed over to the military authorities for trial due to their involvement in attacks on military installations.

In a detailed statement, the military said that the nation on May 9 witnessed tragic incidents of "politically provoked violence and arson at multiple places, marking a dark chapter in the history of Pakistan" when building on a sustained narrative of hate and lies, politically orchestrated attacks were carried out on the Army installations and monuments of Shuhada (martyrs).

"These blatant acts of violence not only shocked the nation but also underscored the necessity of checking this unacceptable attempt of political terrorism to impose own perverted will through violence and coercion," it stated.

According to the statement, Field General Court Martial sentenced 25 individuals in the first phase, following a thorough review of evidence and the completion of proper legal procedures.

It said that the convicts were

awarded prison terms ranging from two to 10 years for attacking the military facilities. Fourteen individuals received 10-year sentences of rigorous imprisonment, while the others were given shorter terms.

The Army said that promulgation of the sentences of the remaining accused is also being done and will be announced shortly as and when the due process is complete.

The Army termed the development "an important milestone in the dispensation of justice to the nation" and a stark reminder to all those who are exploited by the vested interests and fall prey to their political propaganda and intoxicating lies, to never take law in their own hands ever in the future.

It also said that many accused are also being tried in various Anti-Terrorist Courts and their cases are being pursued as per the law.

Showing its intent to punish the "mastermind", it stated that "justice would truly be fully served once the mastermind and planners of 9th May Tragedy are punished as per the Constitution and laws of the land."

It said that Pakistan will vigorously pursue dispensation of justice to ensure the establishment of its writ to uproot this evil of violence-driven disruptive and destructive politics based on hate, divisiveness and baseless propaganda.

All convicts punished by the army retain the right to appeal and other legal resources, as guaranteed by the law and the Constitution.

The convictions, announced following the Supreme Court's directive conditionally allowing them, primarily relate to attacks on several key military sites including the Jinnah House, General Headquarters (GHQ), and Pakistan Air Force Base Mianwali.

Govt funding bill clears Congress and heads to President Biden, averting shutdown

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Facing a government shutdown deadline, the Senate rushed through final passage early Saturday of a bipartisan plan that would temporarily fund federal operations and disaster aid, dropping President-elect Donald Trump's demands for a debt limit increase into the new year.

House Speaker Mike Johnson had insisted Congress would "meet our obligations" and not allow federal operations to shut down ahead of the Christmas holiday season. But the day's outcome was uncertain after Trump doubled down on his insistence that a debt ceiling increase be included in any deal — if not, he said in an early morning post, let the closures "start now."

The House approved Johnson's new bill overwhelmingly, 366-34. The Senate worked into the night to pass it, 85-11, just past the deadline. At midnight, the White House said it had ceased shutdown preparations.

"This is a good outcome for the country," Johnson said after the House vote, adding he had spoken with Trump and the president-elect "was certainly happy about this outcome, as well."

President Joe Biden, who has played a less public role in the process throughout a turbulent week, was expected to sign the measure into law Saturday.

"There will be no government shutdown," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

The final product was the third attempt from Johnson, the beleaguered House speaker, to achieve one of the basic requirements of the federal government

— keeping it open. And it raised stark questions about whether Johnson will be able to keep his job, in the face of angry GOP colleagues, and work alongside Trump and billionaire ally Elon Musk, who called the legislative plays from afar.

Trump's last-minute demand was almost an impossible ask, and Johnson had almost no choice but to work around his pressure for a debt ceiling increase. The speaker knew there wouldn't be enough support within the GOP majority to pass any funding package, since many Republican deficit hawks prefer to slash federal government and certainly wouldn't allow more debt.

Instead, the Republicans, who will have full control of the White House, House and Senate next year, with big plans for tax cuts and other priorities, are showing they must routinely rely on Democrats for the votes needed to keep up with the routine operations of governing.

"So is this a Republican bill or a Democrat bill?" scoffed Musk on social media ahead of the vote.

The drastically slimmed-down 118-page package would fund the government at current levels through March 14 and add \$100 billion in disaster aid and \$10 billion in agricultural assistance to farmers.

Gone is Trump's demand to lift the debt ceiling, which GOP leaders told lawmakers would be debated as part of their tax and border packages in the new year. Republicans made a so-called handshake agreement to raise the debt limit at that time while also cutting \$2.5 trillion in spending over 10 years.

 HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015 Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010 Email - auction@hindujahousingfinance.com			
Appendix IV : Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property)			
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.			
Name of Borrower/ Guarantor / Co-Borrower	1. Demand Notice issued Date 2. Loan Account No, 3. Amount Due as on Notice Date	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)	Date & Type of Possession
Mr. ARJUN MOHANLAL (Borrower) Mrs. RINA RATHOR (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 20-09-2024 2. MP/INE/IDCT/A00000819 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 1252049/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh and Fifty Two Thousand and Forty Nine Only)	Description of The Property (With Boundaries), Plot No.R-136 Shri City,Village Mhowgaon, Tehsil Mhow, Dist. Indore, Madhya Pradesh , India - 452001 Total Area- 38.11 Sq.mt Bounded As - East - Other Colony, West - Colony Road,north - Plot No R 137, South - Plot No R 135	17/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. DHEERAJ BATRA (Borrower) Mrs. KAMLA BATRA (Co-Borrower) Mrs. SUMAN BATRA (Co-Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 05-08-2024 2. MP/HBD/HOSH/A00000066 & MP/HBD/HOSH/A000000348 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 9,42,876/- (Rupees Nine Lacs and Forty Two Thousand and Eight Hundred and Seventy Six Only)	Description of The Property (With Boundaries), Residential Plot Having Its Area of 354 Sq.Ft., From The Total Area of 709 Sq.Ft., On Which R.C.C. House is Situated Having An Area of 174 Sq.Ft., A Tin Shed is Constructed An Area of 100 Sq.Ft. & Remaining Area of Vacant which is Situated At Ward No.05, Lodhi Mohallah, Mouza Obedullaganj, Tehsil Goharganj, District Raisen (MP), India - 464993, Total Area - 354 Sq.Ft Boundaries - East - House Of Bablu Raikwar, West - Remaining House Of Seller (purchased by Gauri Batra), North - House Of Shyam Lal, South - Approach Colony Road	20/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. Mahesh Sitole (Borrower) Mr. Badri Sitole (Co Borrower) Mrs. Manisha Sitole (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 13-09-2024 2. MP/KHA/KHWA/A00000166 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 1213448.00/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Only)	Description Of The Property (with Boundaries), Khasra No.457 Sheet No 6/15 Plot No 01 As Colony Map Part Of Plot No 09 Property Situated At Khandwa Taraf Mankar Saint Vinoba Bhawe Ward Indrapuri Colony, Khandwa, Urban , Indore , Madhya Pradesh, India - 450001 Total Area - 450 Sq.Ft Bounded As - East - Land Of Kannalal Saraf, West - Colony Road, North - Remaining Part Of Plot No-09, South - Plot No-10	20/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. MAYANK VISHNOI (Borrower) Mrs. ASHA BAI (Co Borrower) Mrs. BARAMVIDHYA VISHNOI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 12-09-2024 2. MP/HBD/HOSH/A00000132 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 1011418.00/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eleven Thousand Four Hundred and Eighteen Only)	Description of The Property (With Boundaries), Khirkiya, PH. No.02, khasra no. 243, gram - Badnagar, Tehsil - Khirkiya, Hanuman mandir, Harda, Madhya Pradesh, 461331 Total Area - 697 Sq.Ft Boundaries As Per Sale Deed - East - Land Of Chetan Father Parsya, West - Road (nw), North - Temple And Road, South - Land Of Customer And School	20/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. SUBHASH SEN (Borrower) Mrs. RAJU BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 13-09-2024 2. MP/INE/IDCT/A00000679 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 1231448.00/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Thirty One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Eight Only)	Description of The Property (With Boundaries), Southern part No. 58, (part no.58-b), ward no. 16, Shree Kunj colony, village Bardari, tehsil & dist. Dhar, Pithampur, Urban Pithampur , Madhya Pradesh, India - 454775 Area - 89.19 sq.mt. Bounded As - East - Colony Road, West - Colony 10 Feet Road, North - Remaining Part Of Plot (private No. 58-a), South - Plot No 57	17/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. Vikram Kochale (Borrower) Mrs. Aruna Oswal (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 20-09-2024 2. MP/KHA/KHWA/A00000124 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 1033155.00/- (Rupees Ten Lakh and Thirty Three Thousand and One Hundred and Fifty Five Only)	Description Of The Property (with Boundaries), PH No. 24 Demand Panji No 680 Property Situated At Village Barud Th. & Dist. Khandwa MP, Demand Panji No. 680 India - 450771 Total Area - 89.2 Sq.mt Bounded As - East - Government School, West - House of Rameshwar Gambhi, North - Plot of Buyer, South - Aam Rasta	20/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. RAKESH NAGAR (Borrower) Mrs. RAJBALA NAGAR (Co Borrower) Mr. ANKIT NAGAR (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 02/02/2024 2. MP/INE/IDCT/A00000482 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.34,30,103 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Thirty Thousand and One Hundred and Three Only)	All that part and parcel of the property situated at : Survey No.8/2, Survey No.8/1/2, Patwari Halka No. 47(Saral No.851) , Punaji Nagar, Village Medkikhad, Tehsil & Distt. Dewas Madhya Pradesh 455001, Admeasuring Area 4500 Sq. Ft Bounded by: North: Open Land, South: Road, East: House of Munnalal, West: House of Rakesh nagar	19/12/2024 Physical
Mr. AASHISH DORWAL (Borrower) Mr. SHASHI KANT DORWAL (Co Borrower) Mr. SHUSHIL DORWAL (Co Borrower) Mrs. CHANDA DORWAL (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 28-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00000064 & MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000524 3. Total Amount Due - Rs. 40,81,779/- (Rupees Forty Lacs Eighty one Thousand Seven Hundred seventy Nine Only)	Northern Part Of House No 45 New Municipal No. 45/1 Situated At Baagpura Gali No. 3 Lalbadur Shashtri Marg Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh Total Area :- 46.46 Sq. Mtr. Bounded As - East - Open Land Of Trust, West - Remaining Part, North - 10 Ft. Wide Road & Plot No. 1, South - 30 Ft. Wide Road	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mrs. ANITA W/O DILIP SINGH (Borrower) Mr. DEELIP SINGH (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 16-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00001483 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.5,73,853/- (Rupees Five Lacs Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Three Only)	A House No. 50 Situated At Village Lakhaheda Ph. No. 50, Gram Panchayat Nipaniya Goyal Tehsil Ghatiya Dist. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Total Area: - 960 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - House Of Karan Prajapati, West - Common Road, North - Common Road, South - House Of Ratan Singh	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mrs. ANTAR SINGH (Borrower) Mrs. FULKUNWAR BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 16-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00001654 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.5,20,723/- (Rupees Five Lacs Twenty Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Only)	A House No. 110 Situated At Village Siddhipur Nipaniya Ph. No. 20, Gram Panchayat Siddhipur Nipaniya Tehsil Tarana Dist. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Total Area: - 1080 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - House Of Vikram Singh, West - Common Road, North - Common Road, South - Plot Of Ratan Singh	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. DAYARAM PATEL (Borrower) Mrs. BHAGVANTA BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00000872 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.5,02,841/- (Rupees Five Lacs Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty One Only)	Gram Panchayat House No. 23 Situated At Village Junapani Kheda Ph. No.22, Tehsil Tarana Dist, Ujjain Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 967 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - Common Road, West - House Of Mr. Mukesh Solanki, North - Common Road, South - Plot Of Mr. Devaji	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mrs. KAILASH BAI (Borrower) Mr. ROHIT (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 16-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00000837 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.8,70,054/- (Rupees Eight Lacs Seventy Thousand Fifty Four Only)	Plot No. 16 Situated At Village Sikandarkhed Ph. No.64, Tehsil Badnagar Dist, Ujjain Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 1332 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - Government Land, West - Common Road, North - Self Plot, South - Common Road	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mrs. KRISHNA KUNWAR (Borrower) Mr. VIJAYPAL SINGH (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00001123 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.10,32,880/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Thirty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eight Only)	A House No. 16/1 Situated At Village Guradiya Dongar Ph. No. 46, Tehsil Tarana Dist. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Total Area: - 219.70 Sq. Mtr. Bounded As - East - House Of Mr. Kalu Singh And Road, West - Common Road, North - Land Of Mr. Prem Singh Mandir, South - Common Road	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mrs. LAL KUWAR BHATI (Borrower) Mr. DARBAR SINGH BHATI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00000814 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.10,23,599/- (Rupees Ten Lacs Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Nine Only)	House No. 79 Situated At Village Ghudawan Ph. No.50, Tehsil Badnagar Dist, Ujjain Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 294 Sq. Mtr. Bounded As - East - Common Road, West - House Of Ganpatil Ji, North - House Of Mr. Chandaral Ji Choudhary, South - House Of Mr. Kalu Singh And Self Empty Place	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. PURAN SINGH (Borrower) Mrs. RASAL KUNWAR (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 28-09-2024 2. MP/UJJ/BDGR/A00000072 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.10,06,242/- (Rupees Ten Lakhs Six Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Two Only)	House No. 69 Situated At Village Dahrankhed Ph. No.51, Ward No. 04, Tehsil Badnagar Dist, Ujjain Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 1650 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - House Of Mr. Ranjit Singh, West - Government Land, North - Agriculture Land Of Rasal Kunwar, South - Common Road	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. ROADMAL S/O JAYSINGH (Borrower) Mrs. LILA BAI (Co Borrower) Mrs. JAY BHERU (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00001352 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.4,78,541/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Eight Thousand Five Hundred Forty One Only)	A House No. 266 Situated At Village Shankar Garh(siddhipur Nipaniya) Ph. No. 20, Tehsil Tarana Dist. Ujjain, madhya Pradesh, Total Area: - 150.50 Sq. Mtr. Bounded As - East - Common Road, West - Plot Of Bhadur Singh, North - House Of Jagdish Ji, South - House Of Jitendra And House Of Hokam Singh	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. SUNITA BAI (Borrower) Ms. CHANDAR SINGH (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00000954 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.8,23,293/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Three Only)	01, Gram Bhuki Itwarpur, patwari halka no. 47 Tehsil Tarana, Ram Mandir, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh - 456550 Total Area: - 750 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - Lane And House Of Balkrishna, West - Common Road, North - Temple And House Of Tejram, South - Common Road	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. SURESH S/O CHHITU (Borrower) Mrs. SANGITA BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/UJJN/A00001071 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.4,51,751/- (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty One Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty One Only)	House No. 142 Situated At Village Ganvadi Ph. No 76 Tehsil Nad Dist. Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, 456550 Total Area: - 1848 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - House Of Mr. Rajak Patel, West - Common Road, North - House Of Mr. Doulat Choudhary, South - House Of Mr. Vasudev Choudhary	18/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. AJAY SINGH RAJPUT (Borrower) Mrs. DHAPPU KUNWAR RAJPUT (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 16-09-2024 2. MP/MAN/MASR/A000000361 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.8,32,075/- (Rupees Eight Lacs Thirty Two Thousand Seventy Five Only)	A House No. 01 Located At Ward No 07 Village Dhakadi Ph. No. 26, Gram Panchayat Barkhed Ajay Singh Tehsil Malhargadh Dist. Mandausr, Madhya Pradesh, Total Area: - 1620 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - Owners Self Land, West - Common Road, North - House Of Shivpal Singh, South - Owners Self Land	21/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. ANKIT DATTA (Borrower) Mrs. SAKSHI DATTA (Co Borrower) Mr. HEMANT DATTA (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/INDR/A00001027 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.18,11,777/- (Rupees Eighteen Lacs Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Seven Only)	Flat No. 101, 1st Floor S.A. Plaza Building, plot No 303, Singapore Township, Gram Talawali Chanda, Near Entry Gate Of Singapore Township, Indore, Madhya Pradesh, 453771, Total Area: - 889 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - Flat No. 101 On Plot No. 304, West - Plot No. 302, North - Common Passage, South - Road	21/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. BHARAT SINGH RATHOUR (Borrower) Mrs. REKHA BAI RATHOUR (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 16-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/RTL/A00001027 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.5,83,800/- (Rupees Five Lacs Eighty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Only)	House No. 12 Situated At Village Pipipanda Ph. No.56, Tehsil Ratlam Dist, Ratlam Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 1296 Sq.Ft. Bounded As - East - Road, West - Road, North - House Of Ramlal, South - Open Land And Road	21/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. MUKESH DHANAWAT (Borrower) Mrs. TAMA BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 11-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/RTL/A00000894 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.5,31,060/- (Rupees Five Lakh Thirty One Thousand and Sixty Only)	House Bearing Panchayat Regd. No. 18 Situated At Ph. No.24, Banbani Tehsil Nagda Dist, Ujjain Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 560 Sq. Ft. Bounded As - East - House Of Ambaram S/o Badri, West - Road, North - House Of Ram Prasad S/o Kaniram, South - House Of Radheshyam S/o Kaniram	21/12/2024 Symbolic
Mr. PANKAJ RAVINDRA (Borrower) Mrs. NIRMALA BAI (Co Borrower)	1. Issuance Date - 16-09-2024 2. MP/IDR/RTL/A00000953 3. Total Amount Due - Rs.14,30,482/- (Rupees Forteen Lakhs Thirty Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Two Only)	Residential Diverted Land Bearing Survey No.753/1/situated At Village Kalialiya Ph. No.18, Tehsil Jaora Dist, Ratlam Madhya Pradesh Total Area: - 500 Sq. Mtr. Bounded As - East - Land Of Shyamal S/o Bhanwaral, West - Land Of Seller And Others, North - Land Of Dilip S/o Ramesh Pandya, South - Ringnod Kalialiya Main Road	21/12/2024 Symbolic
STATUTORY NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS			
Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time herein after by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (Interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002. Authorised Officer Mobile No. - Vaibhav Shivastav - 7987969803, Rajesh Chakotiya - 84355 71111, Sitaram Prajapat - 9584567867, Govind Chauhan - 8926816436, Ankita Patil - 7723055195, Place : Indore, Date : 22/12/2024			
Authorised Officer, Hinduja Housing Finance Limited			

FIFA's new super-sized tournament sparks revolt

AP ■ MANCHESTER

One of the most striking moments of soccer in 2024 was when Rodri hobbled onto a stage in Paris on crutches to receive the prestigious Ballon d'Or for best male player of the year. The Manchester City and Spain midfielder had been one of the most outspoken critics against the increasingly congested soccer calendar, warning that the lack of downtime was detrimental to players' performance and health. Then, just a month before the Oct. 28 award ceremony, he tore his ACL during a seemingly routine run in a Premier League game against Arsenal. Though such injuries have occurred throughout the history of the sport and aren't necessarily linked to overplaying, Rodri's season-ending injury became a visual representation of the physical toll of modern soccer at a time when the busy match schedule is facing legal challenges and the possibility of strike action. Top footballers are now routinely playing more than 60 games per season for club and country, while the game is getting faster and more intense. Injuries are on the rise. Already pushed to their limits, some players say FIFA's newly expanded Club World Cup, to be held in the United States next year, is the last straw. Players say they are "at breaking point, that they are at the limit, that it's actually too much," Alexander Bielefeld, from global players' union FIFPRO, told The Associated Press. FIFA's new addition to the calendar The new Club World Cup is a supersized version of what used to be a short tournament with only seven teams. The new edition includes 32 teams from around the world and will be held every four years, starting next summer in the United States from June 14 to July 13. As its name suggests, it's envisioned to be club version of the World Cup for national teams. That means top players will have a monthlong tournament on top of their domestic league season three out of every four years. With more games added to the Champions League in Europe this season as well as the next World Cup in 2026, the soccer calendar is filling up quickly. "It's something that worries us because we are the guys who suffer," Rodri said in September, just days before he

was injured. He said players may have no choice but to refuse to play if the trend continues. FIFPRO says a significant number of players routinely play 60-70 matches a season. The union's recommended limit is 55. Last season Julian Alvarez played 75 games for former club Manchester City and Argentina in 10 different competitions spanning the Premier League, Champions League, Copa America and Olympics. The season before, Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes played 70 times, including a run of 20 consecutive games. Injuries are a concern The Men's European Football Injury Index, an annual report by global insurance broker Howden, found there were 4,123 injuries in the top divisions of England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France last year. It said the number of injuries had risen year-on-year since the index was first published in 2021 and that "it would be fair to expect a continuation of this upwards trajectory." Tony Strudwick, medical director for West Bromwich Albion and former head of performance for Manchester United, said injuries are on the rise despite advancements in sports science and medicine. "That to me looks like there's a mismatch between what the players can physically tolerate and what they've been exposed to," he told The AP. "During the last eight seasons, incidents of hamstring injuries, in particular, have increased." Strudwick said the risk of too many games was ultimately injury and burnout. But he said players are unlikely to raise the issue with their clubs or national teams. "Players are very reluctant to say they don't want to play and they're very, very tired. It takes a relatively brave person to do that," he said. Manchester City played 61 games in the 2022-23 campaign when it won a trophy treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. This season that number could rise to 71 because of an expanded group stage and potential playoff in the Champions League and the Club World Cup. A heavy workload is also an issue in women's soccer, FIFPRO said earlier this week, though it noted that while some top players have a packed schedule, others don't



Manchester City players are seen on the field during a match, with one player lying on the ground, possibly injured.

get to play enough. If successful, the Club World Cup could rival the Premier League and Champions League as one of the most lucrative and watched tournaments in club soccer. It has been backed by clubs and next year's event is set to feature many of the biggest names in the sport, including Lionel Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Jr. Coming at the end of many leagues' regular season, FIFA

said the dates would be "harmoniously aligned with the international match calendar" to ensure sufficient rest for players ahead of the start of domestic campaigns. The governing body has also set up a player welfare task force to be led by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. FIFPRO, which says it represents more than 66,000 players around the world, is not convinced. In October, its

European division teamed up with domestic leagues and filed a legal complaint in Europe against how FIFA adds new and bigger men's competitions to the calendar. FIFA hit back, noting that European clubs often fill their summer breaks with exhibition matches around the world. It accused some European leagues of acting with "hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone else in the world."

Ashwin's wife pens heartfelt tribute after his sudden retirement



to have the privilege to watch and enjoy a sport that I love from close quarters. "It also showed me how much passion, hardwork and discipline is needed to keep your head above water. And sometimes even that is not enough. I remember us talking about why you, R Ashwin, had to do all of this and a lot more to even stay relevant in the scheme of things." Ashwin, who debuted in 2011 against the West Indies, earned a reputation for his relentless pursuit of excellence. His near-equal tally of 269 wickets against right-handers and 268 against left-handers highlights his versatility. "How awards, the best of stats, the POMs, the accolades, the records didn't matter if you didn't sharpen your skill sets constantly and did not put in the work. Sometimes, nothing is enough," Prithi continued. "As you end your wonderful international run, I only want to tell you that it's all good. It is all going to be good. It is time to set the burden of being you down. Live life on your terms, make space for those extra calories, make time for your family, make time to do absolutely nothing, share memes all day, create a new bowling variation, bug our kids out of their minds. Just do it all." Prithi, who has been a constant companion on Ashwin's cricketing journey, reflected on his meticulous approach to his craft.

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India's ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's wife Prithi Narayanan has penned a heartfelt tribute for her husband following his recent retirement from the game, saying "it is time to set the burden of being you down" and embrace life beyond the game. Ashwin made a surprise announcement of his retirement after the drawn third Test at Brisbane. The veteran cricketer picked up just one wicket during the tour, including the 10-wicket loss at Adelaide. The 38-year-old retired with a stellar record of 537 Test wickets at an average of 24, in addition to scoring 3,503 runs, including six centuries. He also claimed 156 wickets in ODIs and 72 in T20s. Describing her tribute as a "Love letter from a fan girl", Prithi wrote on Instagram: "Dear Ashwin, from not knowing how to put a kit bag together to following you to stadiums all over the world, rooting for you, watching you and learning from you, it has been an absolute pleasure. The world you introduced me

Canara Bank E-Auction Sale Notice. Appendix-IV-A (See provision to rule 8(6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer the Canara Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 09.01.2025 for recovery of bank dues to the.

MAHARAJA RAJIT SINGH PUNJAB TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY DABWALI ROAD, BATHINDA (PUNJAB)-151001. Admissions for Ph.D. (Semester: Jan-June 2025) are invited from research oriented prospective POST GRADUATE CANDIDATES for admission to full-time/part-time Ph.D program for various Disciplines in the following Faculties for the session 2024-25 (Winter).

Canara Bank E-Auction Sale Notice. Appendix-IV-A (See provision to rule 8(6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer the Canara Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 09.01.2025 for recovery of bank dues to the.

Canara Bank E-Auction Sale Notice. Appendix-IV-A (See provision to rule 8(6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer the Canara Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 09.01.2025 for recovery of bank dues to the.

Canara Bank E-Auction Sale Notice. Appendix-IV-A (See provision to rule 8(6)) SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer the Canara Bank (Secured Creditor) will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" & WHAT EVER THERE IS" on 09.01.2025 for recovery of bank dues to the.

Mohan Bhagwat advocates education as a facilitator

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PUNE

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat has said the education system should act as a facilitator and not a barrier to learning and asserted it was essential to remain rooted in "our basic foundational values" while adapting to changing times.

The RSS chief, who was speaking after inaugurating LokSeva E School in Baner here on Friday, emphasised that education is not a business but a "vrat" (pledge) to create fine human beings. "The education system should act as a facilitator, not a barrier, to learning. It must serve as a tool to empower students rather than functioning solely as a regulator. The role of regulation in education should focus on streamlining processes and ensuring smooth functioning, rather than enforcing rigid 'dos and don'ts' that can stifle the experimental spirit among students," he said.

Hailing the National Education Policy (NEP), the RSS chief said it may have been introduced recently, but discussions to have such a kind of system have been underway for many years, adding that several schools have been imparting "value-based" education for long. The new education system will be implemented completely, and it will lead the country to the desired dream, he said.

"We need to change ourselves according to the times, but while doing so, we must ensure that we are rooted in our basic foundational values. While sticking to those eternal foundational values, we need to lead ahead and face the future. We need to juxtapose the modern and ancient, for which all must contribute," he opined.

Education should not remain restricted to a framework but must be holistic that the entire society must preserve, Bhagwat added.

Punjab municipal polls conclude amid allegations of fake voting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Counting of votes for the elections to five municipal corporations and 44 municipal councils and nagar panchayats in Punjab is underway, officials said on Saturday.

Polling began at 7 am and continued till 4 pm amid tight security arrangements. Till 3 pm, the average turnout was 55 per cent. The five municipal corporations that went to the polls are Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala and Phagwara. More than 3,300 candidates are in the fray and a total of 3,809 polling booths have been set up for the civic polls.

A total of 37.32 lakh voters, including 17.75 lakh females, were eligible to cast their vote in the elections conducted using electronic voting machines (EVMs).

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) alleged casting of fake votes at the behest of the Aam Aadmi Party at many places in Patiala, a charge denied by the ruling party.

There were also reports of scuffles and heated exchanges between AAP and BJP supporters in Patiala.

Among political leaders who exercised their franchise were BJP's Tarun Chugh, Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Auja, Ludhiana MLA Ashok Prashar and Jalandhar Cantt MLA Prgat Singh. BJP leader Jai Inder Kaur alleged that some outsiders were roaming around in Patiala, demanding police action against them.

BJP candidate from Ward No. 34 in Patiala, Sushil Nayyar, threatened to self-immolate after alleging that fake votes were being cast at a polling booth.

After Patiala Senior

Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh reached the spot, Kaur and BJP supporters were seen arguing with the officer, claiming that some people were being allowed to enter polling booths without proper verification and they were casting fake votes.

"Nobody was stopping them. And who is responsible for it," asked a BJP supporter.

"Videography of polling is taking place," the SSP responded.

Earlier, Kaur, daughter of former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, alleged that AAP MLAs Chetan Singh Jauramajra and Gurlal Ghanaur were outsiders to Ward No. 40 yet they were present in the area.

The party also lodged a complaint against Jauramajra and Gurlal with the state election commission, seeking registration of an FIR against the duo for violating model code of conduct.

The BJP also claimed some miscreants targeted its party nominee from Ward No. 40 at AAP's behest. Even SAD claimed that its booth in Ward No. 15 in Patiala was vandalised.

The BJP also sought registration of an FIR against Mani Warring, brother of AAP MLA Garry Warring, and AAP supporters for alleged bogus voting in Ward No. 9 at Amloh in Fatehgarh Sahib.

The civic polls will be a litmus test for AAP, which would like its winning momentum to continue after securing victories in three of the four Assembly bypolls in November.

The elections are also important as they will reveal the popularity of the ruling party among the urban voters.

In the run-up to the elections, Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann held roadshows and campaigned for AAP candidates. It will also be the first test for Aman Arora after he was appointed AAP's Punjab unit chief. Arora took part in poll

campaign and made several promises to the voters. The stakes are also high for Congress, which has majority in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala municipal corporations.

Former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala cremated with State honours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SIRSA

Former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala was cremated on Saturday with full state honours in Teja Khera village in his native Sirsa district. Chautala, who was a five-time chief minister, died in Gurugram on Friday. He was 89.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal reached Teja Khera to attend the last rites of

the departed leader. Many Haryana ministers, state Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, former Union minister Venod Sharma, SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, BJP's Manpreet Badal and Manjinder Singh Sirsa and several other leaders also reached Teja Khera to pay their last respects. Political leaders cutting across parties laid floral wreaths to pay their last respects to the departed leader. Earlier, Chautala's mortal remains were Saturday kept at the family's Teja Khera farmhouse here for people to pay their last respects to the departed Indian National Lok

Dal chief. His body was wrapped in the Indian Tricolour and decked with garlands. An INLD spokesperson said Chautala was rushed to a hospital after his health worsened on Friday. Om Prakash Chautala's younger son Abhay Singh Chautala, an INLD leader, elder son Ajay Singh Chautala, who heads the JJP party, and other family members, including former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, ex-CM Chautala's brother Ranjit Chautala, were present in Teja Khera.

Protests erupt in UP over Amit Shah's remarks on DR BR Ambedkar

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Politics surrounding Dr. BR Ambedkar has intensified in Uttar Pradesh, with the Samajwadi Party (SP) staging statewide protests and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Chief Mayawati announcing a nationwide demonstration on December 24 to protest Union Home Minister Amit Shah's controversial remarks about the architect of the Indian

Constitution. SP workers clashed with the police at various locations, attempting to block traffic at key intersections. Reports of unrest emerged from cities such as Sambhal, Kasganj, Rampur, and Saharanpur, among other parts of western Uttar Pradesh. The protests reflected the SP's sharp criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of being "anti-Dalit."

In their memorandum to authorities, SP leaders said,

"Babasaheb is a God for the majority of society. If the Constitution had not been created by him, Amit Shah would not have been the Home Minister today." They further criticized Shah's remarks, calling them undemocratic and unconstitutional. "The BJP must apologize for the Home Minister's comments," the SP stated. "Dr. Ambedkar is revered as God by backward communities, Dalits, and the underprivileged.

ED ECIR against M3M quashed, allegations lacked substance: Allahabad HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NOIDA

In a significant legal development, the Allahabad High Court has quashed the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) and the two subsumed FIRs, being the predicate offense, filed against M3M India, marking a substantial victory for the real estate company. This ruling, delivered on Friday (December 20, 2024), effectively puts an end to the legal proceedings initiated against the company, affirming the court's view that the allegations lacked legal grounds and substance.

It is noteworthy that in the month of September 2024, the High Court had granted a stay on the PMLA proceedings against the group before the appellate authority. Moreover, in another highly positive development, the Trial Court has reserved orders on an application for stay of the trial proceedings and a favorable outcome is anticipated.

The two FIRs in question were registered in the year 2023, filed under sections of the Indian Penal Code (now known as Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita), claimed that the

transactions between M3M India, Indiabulls Housing Finance, and other stakeholders had caused financial harm and involved undervaluation of property assets. Based on these FIRs, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated an ECIR, adding to the legal challenges faced by M3M India. The High Court, after extensive hearings, observed that the allegations raised in the FIRs were primarily commercial disputes, better suited for resolution through civil or arbitral proceedings rather than criminal investigations. The court highlighted that the petitioners, including M3M India, had been subjected to criminal proceedings despite the existence of ongoing arbitration related to the contested transactions. The Judges also noted that the FIRs failed to establish prima facie evidence of criminal intent, instead revealing contractual disagreements that did not warrant the invocation of criminal law. Furthermore, the court acknowledged the unexplained delay in filing the complaints, further undermining the legitimacy of the FIRs.

Home Minister Amit Shah urges police reform and speedy justice in Northeast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AGARTALA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the time has come for a change in approach of the police force with the end of insurgency in the northeast, in order to ensure that people get speedy justice. Shah, addressing the 72nd plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) here, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought peace in the region by inking 20 peace accords in 10 years, leading to the surrender of 9,000 armed militants. "The police fought insurgency in the northeast for the past four decades. As insurgency has now ended, we need to change the approach of the force to ensure people get justice within three years of lodging FIRs," he said.

The home minister also said connectivity is no longer a problem in the region, as the Centre has spent Rs 81,000 crore for rail connectivity and Rs 41,000 crore for road network in the northeastern states.

11 दिसम्बर - 26 दिसम्बर 2024

जनकल्याण पर्व

मोहन यादव सरकार
काम लगातार-फैसले असरदार

केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ो राष्ट्रीय परियोजना के तहत

किसान सम्मेलन

मुख्यमंत्री
डॉ. मोहन यादव
द्वारा

लोक कल्याण शिविर

विकास कार्यों का भूमिपूजन एवं लोकार्पण

अपराह्न 1:30 बजे
जिला निवाड़ी

विकास कार्यों का भूमिपूजन एवं लोकार्पण

अपराह्न 3:00 बजे
जतारा, जिला टीकमगढ़

22 दिसम्बर, 2024

केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ो राष्ट्रीय परियोजना से बुंदेलखंड की धरा तर होगी, हर खेत पानी और हर घर जल होगा। इस परियोजना से बुंदेलखंड के साथ प्रदेश में औद्योगिक विस्तार और रोजगार के अवसर सृजित होंगे।

- डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

सीधा प्रसारण @Cmmadhyapradesh @jansampark.madhyapradesh @jansamparkMP JansamparkMP

D-11131/24

आगरा/टीकमगढ़/जतारा/निवाड़ी

आगरा/टीकमगढ़/जतारा/निवाड़ी

the pioneer agenda



"Have yourself a merry little Christmas. Let your heart be light"
— Judy Garland

LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



AT BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN

BeeYoung Brewgarden ushered in the festive season with its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which drew an enthusiastic crowd who gathered to celebrate the magic of Christmas in the brewpub's signature European-style ambiance. The evening's highlight was the countdown to the illumination of a stunning Christmas tree adorned with twinkling lights and elegant decorations, marking the official start of the holiday season at BeeYoung Brewgarden. There was a selection of bite-sized festive treats, signature holiday cocktails, and BeeYoung's renowned craft brews delighted the attendees, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. The evening concluded with a heartfelt toast to the spirit of togetherness.

From timeless carols to dazzling tree lighting ceremonies, the Christmas magic unfolds, writes ABHI SINGHAL

When a cold breeze begins to blow, the lights around you feel like home and the wind feels cosy, the spirit of Christmas starts to weave its magic. It's a time when families gather around crackling fires, the scent of freshly baked cookies fills the air and the sound of carollers stirs nostalgia. Though rooted as a Christian festival, Christmas is celebrated with immense joy by people of all faiths. This occasion, observed annually on December 25, marks the birth of Jesus Christ, but it transcends religious boundaries, becoming a cultural celebration of devotion and joy. Christmas is not merely a day, but a season of reflection, hope and togetherness. Through the years, Christmas has been known by various names in English. The Anglo-Saxons referred to it as "midwinter". Preparation for this grand occasion begins with Advent, the First Sunday of which marks the start of spiritual anticipation and reflection. For Christians, Advent is a time of introspection, leading to Christ's birth, which symbolises divine love and redemption. This culminates in the twelve days of Christmastide, a period rich with historical customs that concludes on Twelfth Night, adding layers of ritualistic meaning to the holiday. At the heart of Christmas are the carols of melodic songs that embody joy,



nostalgia, and spiritual reflection. These timeless tunes, sung in homes, churches and streets, unite communities in celebration. Over time, these melodies became synonymous with Christmas, expressing devotion and cheer. From sacred hymns like "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night" to lively tunes such as "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells," carols range from reverent celebrations of Christ's birth to jubilant expressions of festive cheer. Christmas is also about the excitement of children, their eager anticipation and the magic of Santa Claus. Every Christmas Eve, children hang their stockings with wishes, hoping that Santa will fulfil them. Santa Claus, with his jolly face, white beard, and red suit, stands as a global symbol of Christmas

magic. This beloved figure, transcending cultures, embodies joy and the spirit of giving. His story traces back to Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his acts of kindness and secret gift-giving. Over time, his legend evolved into the modern image of a merry, bearded man delivering gifts on Christmas Eve, riding a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Santa's presence in Christmas celebrations is symbolic of the spirit of giving, teaching children the joy of kindness and the magic of believing in something greater than themselves. Christmas decorations are more than just festive embellishments; they are heartfelt expressions of love and joy. From the glimmer of tinsel to the soft glow of fairy lights, these adornments transform homes and public spaces into magical places. The traditional colours of Christmas: pine green, snow white, and vibrant red symbolise life, purity and warmth. When it comes to the Christmas table, one can't forget the classic Christmas cake. Rich with dried fruits, nuts, and spices, it represents the flavours of the season, often soaked in brandy or rum and matured for weeks before being served. Alongside this, candies which are especially the iconic candy canes add sweetness to the season. Many homes also offer platters of colourful, homemade candies, each bringing its festive joy to the celebrations. *Wishing you all merrier than before, A Merry Christmas!*

AT CROWNE PLAZA MAYUR VIHAR

Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar showcased *Charkha: The Loom Tree*, a breathtaking 10-foot Christmas installation made entirely of Khadi, crafted in partnership with Vikara, a Khadi India initiative. This innovative display celebrated the essence of sustainability, self-reliance, and empowerment. It was created by women artisans trained in traditional weaving, the tree featured natural dyes and zero-waste decorations made from upcycled fabrics and pearls. The installation paid homage to Gandhian principles and the Swadeshi Movement, blending artistry with ecological responsibility. Through its vibrant colours and handcrafted ornaments, *Charkha: The Loom Tree* served as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of conscious actions and a greener future.



AT SHANGRI-LA EROS NEW DELHI

Shangri-la Eros New Delhi recently unveiled its *Enchanted Wonders* celebration, marked by the lighting of a beautiful and breathtaking 10-foot-tall Christmas tree. The Christmas tree symbolises the spirit of the season taking the centre stage at the entrance of the hotel. With a sophisticated green and gold palette, the tree exudes elegance, serving as the centrepiece of the festivities. Guests were invited to revel in its artistic charm and experience the magic of the holidays in a truly luxurious setting. The tree lighting ceremony at *Shangri-la Eros New Delhi* was kick started with a series of festive experiences, promising a memorable holiday season for all with Christmas carols, chocolates and Santa Claus making it a complete vibe.





UNWRAPPING FESTIVE FLAVOURS

This Christmas, MKT at The Chanakya invites you to savour the season with festive flavours and a cosy, cheerful atmosphere that makes you feel right at home, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



FACTSHEET
Address: Lower Ground Floor, The Chanakya Mall, Chanakya Park, Delhi-110021
Available: Throughout December
Timings: 12:00 pm to 1:00 am
Cost for two: ₹3,000 + taxes



Christmas is the season of joy, warmth and indulgence and what better way to celebrate than with a feast that brings festive vibes to life? At MKT, The Chanakya, New Delhi, the magic of Christmas unfolds the moment you step inside. The space is beautifully adorned with sparkling lights, a majestic Christmas tree and a cosy atmosphere that feels like stepping into a winter wonderland. Add to that their exclusive Christmas Menu for 2024, crafted with care and creativity, and you're in for a treat that truly feels like Christmas on a plate. For vegetarians, the *Vegetarians Delight Shepherds Pie* is pure comfort. A

delightful combination of plant-based meat, a medley of seasonal vegetables, and velvety potato, it's like wrapping yourself in a warm blanket on a chilly winter day. The garden-fresh salad on the side adds a refreshing crunch, making it a well-rounded dish. Another standout is the *Wild Mushroom Wellington*. Encased in flaky filo pastry, the shimeji mushrooms are earthy and rich, while the mushroom jus and wilted kale bring depth and balance. It's the kind of dish that feels festive and hearty, perfect for the season. For those craving non-vegetarian options, the menu pulls out all the stops. The *Ballotine de Poulet*, with tender chicken and a creamy mousse,

is elevated by the sweet-tart cranberry sauce. The *Confit Duck Leg* with Pomegranate Jus feels indulgent and festive, while the *Lamb Ossobuco* and *Lobster Thermidor* add a luxurious touch to the Christmas spread. Each dish is presented with elegance, making every bite feel like a celebration. The dessert menu is where the magic really comes alive. The *Bûche de Noël*, a mini yule log filled with chocolate truffle, is not just a treat for the taste buds but also a nod to the traditional Christmas spirit. As you slice into it, the rich, velvety truffle filling and the soft, chocolatey sponge make you pause and soak in the moment. Paired with

playful chocolate mushrooms and fresh berries, it feels like a whimsical Christmas story on a plate. If there's one dessert that can instantly make you feel like a kid on Christmas morning, this is it. Other desserts, like the *Sticky Date Pudding* with whiskey-laced brown butter toffee sauce and the *Old Fashioned Apple Crumble Pie*, deliver classic holiday flavours with a creative twist. The drinks menu is equally festive and brimming with seasonal charm. The *Winter Wonderland*, with its blend of gin, German liqueur, pineapple, oregano, and fresh strawberries, feels bright and refreshing. The *Christmas Cheer*, a mix of whiskey, pineapple,

cinnamon, and a touch of citrus Tabasco sauce, is warm and inviting, like sitting by a crackling fire. And then there's the *Lavender Snowflake*, with lavender vodka, thyme syrup, and a soft lavender foam, offering a calming and fragrant finish. Dining at MKT feels like celebrating Christmas in every sense. From the warm lights to the cheerful music and the thoughtfully crafted menu, it's a place where the festive spirit comes alive. Whether you're sharing stories over a hearty pie or raising a toast with a lavender foam-topped cocktail, every moment feels wrapped in holiday cheer. It truly makes Christmas taste and feel magical.



In collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iran Culture House, and the CD Foundation, Eros Hotel New Delhi played host to the *Iranian Food Festival*. This week-long culinary celebration brought the flavours and traditions of Iranian cuisine to the heart of the capital, creating a unique experience that highlighted the exchange of culture between India and Iran. The festival showcased an authentic menu crafted by master Iranian chefs, presenting a journey of Iran's rich culinary heritage. Signature dishes such as *Ash Reshteh* which is a hearty noodle soup with chickpeas and beans, *Gheimeh* - a lamb stew infused with split chickpeas and cinnamon, and *Berry Pulao* - saffron rice with tart berries graced the menu. Chef Diwas Wadhera, Executive Chef of Eros Hotel, described Iranian cuisine as "young, subtle, and simple compared to Indian cuisine, which is often complex and rich with multiple spices."

PLATES THAT TELEPORT TO IRAN

The Iranian Food Festival at the Eros Hotel New Delhi had authentic flavours of Iran with celebrating the culture of the two countries, writes **TEAM AGENDA**



The menu's diverse offerings also included vegetarian favourites like *Kuku Sabzi* which is a medley of fresh greens and *Mirza Ghasemi* - a brinjal-based dish. Explaining brinjal's prominence in Iranian cuisine, Chef Wadhera remarked, "Brinjal is a favourite ingredient. They use it as a garnish, main ingredient, and even as an accompaniment." A highlight of the festival was the *Indo-Iranian Cultural Show* which featured mesmerising performances celebrating the shared cultural ties between the two nations. This event culminated in a grand gala dinner, where representatives from the Iranian Embassy and Iran Culture House felicitated participants of the Iranian Food Competition. A food competition also brought together top chefs from both countries to showcase their culinary talents. Judged by an esteemed panel, including Mr Kazem Samandari, Chef Mostafa Taheripour Isfahani, and Chef Diwas Wadhera, the competition crowned Chef Neda Tavakoli. Indian chefs also shone, with Hem Chandra Arya securing the first runner-up position and Chef Bharat Khemani the second runner-up. The festival's ambiance transported diners straight to Iran at the Blooms Restaurant. Chef Wadhera added, "Despite language barriers, collaborating with Iranian chefs was seamless. Together, we breathed new life into traditional recipes, blending authenticity with a contemporary flair." He further added that saffron (kesar) played an important role in this cuisine and was not missed. Also, the Iranian rice, which you will taste in the pulao, uses pomegranate and plum paste. The *Iranian Food Festival* was a celebration of cultural heritage and culinary artistry between the two nations.

Winter Wonderland



By **TEAM AGENDA**

Café Delhi Heights, a refuge for discriminating palates, have begun serving their winter menu that truly celebrates the season. With celebrating the warmth, comfort, and indulgence, the menu features a delectable selection of foods and beverages that will tantalise the senses and warm your soul. Café Delhi Heights is a cosy hideaway vibe from the moment you walk into the cafe. Apart from the offering of the menu, the winter meal at the cafe is a culinary wonder with dessert dishes for the winter lovers. The *Chocolate Bomb*, in variants of hot chocolate and *Marshmallow Chocolate Ball*, with a mouth watering display of molten chocolate in that cosy environment. You have a *Red Velvet Baby Croissant*, with a delicate layer of pastry or Dollop of Cream Cheese or Chocolate filled looking appealing to the eyes giving a Christmas Winter feel with its red colour. The addition to the above is the *Four Cheese Fondue*, a sumptuous treat served with a variety of exquisite dips. For those looking for a more savoury choice, the *Bagel Sandwich*, which comes with either crumbled chicken or exotic vegetables, is a soothing and fulfilling nibble to try at the Café Delhi Heights. The *Moong Daal Crumble Tart* is appealing where tart meets tradition, with a beautiful combination of flavours and textures. From comforting classics to decadent desserts, every bite promises to make your chilly days cosier and more delight. The hallmark of the winter menu would have to be the *Chocolate Fondue*, plated aesthetically by the Café Delhi Heights. The *Chocolate Fondue* comes to you with a chocolate dipping sauce to be taken with strawberries, marshmallows and muffins.

FACTSHEET
Availability of Winter Menu: 1st December to 10th January
Visit your nearest Café Delhi Heights outlet

Savour the Spirit of Christmas!

EXPLORE FLAVORS AND DISHES WITH DIVYA BHATIA THAT PROMISE TO MAKE THIS CHRISTMAS AN UNFORGETTABLE CELEBRATION

YULE LOG

CHEF ASHISH SINGH, COO & Culinary Director at Café Delhi Heights

Ingredients Sponge Cake: 4 large eggs (separated); 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar; 1/3 cup (40g) flour; 1/4 cup (50g) cocoa; 1/4 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
Filling: 1 cup (240ml) heavy whipping cream; 2 tbsp powdered sugar; 1 tsp vanilla extract
Chocolate Ganache: 1 cup (170g) dark chocolate; 1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream
Instructions: Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C); line a 10x15-inch pan with parchment. Beat yolks with sugar until



pale; add vanilla. Sift and fold in flour, cocoa, and salt. Whisk egg whites to stiff peaks; fold into batter. Spread batter evenly in pan; bake 10-12 mins. Cool on a

sugar-dusted towel, peeling parchment. Roll cake with towel; cool completely.
Prepare filling: Whip cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until stiff. Unroll the cake, spread filling evenly, and re-roll.
Make ganache: Heat cream until steaming; pour over chocolate. Stir until smooth and let cool slightly before spreading over the cake.
Decorate with powdered sugar, berries, and meringue mushrooms for a festive finish. Refrigerate before serving

FESTIVE CIRCUS & HERB ROASTED TURKEY

AVRAJ SINGH MARWA, Corporate Executive Chef - Sarova Hotels

Ingredients: 1 whole turkey (about 6-7 kg); 100g unsalted butter, softened; 2 oranges, 2 lemons, zested and juiced; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tsp fresh rosemary, 2 tsp fresh thyme, 2 tsp fresh sage, chopped; Salt and pepper to taste
Stuffing: 1 large onion, 2 celery stalks, chopped; 2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped; 200g breadcrumbs; 100g dried cranberries; 100g chopped walnuts; 1 egg, beaten; 100ml chicken stock; 1 tsp dried sage; 1 tsp dried thyme; Salt and pepper to taste
Gravy: Pan drippings from the turkey; 2 tbsp plain flour; 500ml chicken stock; Salt and pepper to taste
Method: Prepare the Turkey. Preheat oven to 180°C (356°F) In a bowl, mix the softened butter with the orange and lemon zest, minced garlic, and chopped herbs. Season with salt and pepper. Carefully loosen the skin of the



turkey breast and rub the citrus-herb butter mixture under the skin and all over the turkey.
Make the Stuffing: Combine onion, celery, apples, breadcrumbs, cranberries, and pepper. Stuff turkey cavity.
Roast the Turkey: Place turkey on a rack in a pan. Pour citrus juice over. Roast it in the preheated oven for 3.5-4 hours or until the internal temperature reaches 75°C (165°F) and baste occasionally with the pan juices. Rest 20 minutes after cooking.
Make the Gravy: Pour the pan drippings into a saucepan, skim off excess fat, and whisk in the flour. Cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes, then add the chicken stock, whisking continuously. Season with salt and pepper. **Serve:** Carve the turkey and serve with the stuffing and gravy.

GINGERBREAD COOKIE SANDWICH

CHEF ADITI DIXIT, CYK Hospitalitys

Ingredients for cookies: Flour - 250gms, Brown Sugar - 180gms, Salted Butter - 150gms (soft), Honey - 20gms, Clove powder - 3gms, Cinnamon powder - 10gms, Nutmeg powder - 5gms, Ginger powder - 12gms, Baking soda - 5gms, Egg - 1 (whole), Vanilla Essence - 8ml
Ingredients for fillings: Whipping cream - 100gms, Powdered sugar - 50gms, Orange zest - 10gms, Clove powder - 2gms, Cinnamon powder - 5gms, Salt - 3gms, Ginger powder - 5gms
Instructions: Preheat oven: 160°C. Cream butter and sugar until smooth, then whisk in honey, egg, and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients (flour, spices, baking soda) and fold into the mixture. Chill dough for 15 minutes. Portion dough onto a baking tray (yields ~16-17 cookies). Bake for 11-12 minutes until tops crack and lightly brown. Cool completely. Whip cream with sugar to stiff peaks. Fold in spices and zest. Sandwich two cookies with cream, dust with icing sugar, and serve.





A Paw-some Celebration of Pet Love

Pet Fed 2024 celebrated the unconditional love between pets and their owners, creating unforgettable memories and promoting adoption, writes **SAKSHI PRIYA**



“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.” *Anatole France’s* profound words perfectly capture the essence of *Pet Fed 2024*, India’s largest pet festival. The event celebrated the special bond between pets and their owners, a connection built on trust, affection and unconditional love. Held at the NSIC Grounds in Okhla, New Delhi, the festival offered a spectacular experience for animal lovers, filling the air with joy and excitement. It wasn’t just a gathering; it was a celebration of pets, especially dogs, who truly shone as the stars of the show.

Pet Fed 2024, an annual highlight for pet lovers, buzzed with energy from start to finish. The venue was transformed into a world of fun, excitement and admiration for animals. Pets strutted around in custom outfits, many of them dressed as if for a Christmas getaway, complete with Santa hats and reindeer antlers. It was a sight to behold as dogs like *Bella*, *Leo*, *Goofy*, *Sheeru* and *Noddy* pranced by, each one adding its own personality to the event. The joy and love shared between the pets and their owners was evident, making it impossible not to smile.

Inside the venue, the atmosphere was lively, filled with laughter as people chatted, took photos and enjoyed the moment with their pets. The hall was a runway of fashionable dogs, each outfit designed to showcase the personalities of the pets and their owners. It felt like a holiday celebration where pets were treated with the love and attention they deserve.

However, *Pet Fed 2024* was about celebrating the deep bond between pets and their families. The festival featured masterclasses on pet health, nutrition and grooming, offering valuable advice for pet parents. These sessions helped owners ensure the best care for their furry companions. The event also included dedicated play areas and agility rings for dogs and cats to exercise and show off their skills. The agility ring, in particular, was a hit, with pets darting through obstacles and jumping with excitement, providing a thrilling

experience for both pets and their parents. One of the standout segments of the festival was *Catapalooza*, an event organised in association with the Cat Club of India, designed specifically for cats. This segment celebrated all cat breeds and included fun activities and competitions. Cats and their owners participated in games, with participants vying for trophies and certificates. It was a joyous experience for everyone involved, showcasing the fun side of feline companionship.

The festival also placed a strong emphasis on pet adoption. Adoption camps were set up to encourage families to adopt rather than shop, in line with the *#AdoptDontShop*

mantra. The festival partnered with NGOs to find loving homes for animals in need and it was heartwarming to see so many pets finding their forever homes. Several adoption stories unfolded during the event, highlighting the festival’s commitment to making a difference in the lives of animals.

For those seeking some friendly competition, *Pet Fed* offered engaging contests and activities. The *Official Pet Fed Premier League Award Ceremony* was a crowd favourite, while other events like *Temptation Alley* and *Bug Buster* had everyone cheering for their furry friends. Day 2 of the festival included even more thrilling events, such as *Trick Roulette*, *Kibble Craze* and the *Security Dog Show*. But the true

highlight of the day was India’s Biggest Pet Fashion Show, where pets and their owners walked the ramp in coordinated outfits, creating a spectacle that was unforgettable.

As I walked through the venue, I was captivated by the wide range of activities designed to keep pets entertained. The retail area, featuring over 100 stalls, offered pet parents the chance to shop for the latest products, accessories and food. From high-end pet clothing to innovative toys, there was something for every pet and every budget. The food and beverage stalls ensured that pet parents could relax and enjoy the event while their furry companions stayed by their side.

One of the most touching elements of *Pet Fed 2024* was its inclusivity. Indie pets, often overlooked, were given special attention with free entry for their parents. This gesture was a beautiful reminder of how important it is to support the adoption of all pets, regardless of breed. It was a sentiment that resonated deeply with attendees, showing that the festival wasn’t just about fun, but also about creating a compassionate world for animals.

Akshay Gupta, the Founder of *Pet Fed*, shared his excitement about the event, saying, “Wrapping up the 10th edition in Delhi has been an incredible experience. The love and support from Delhiites, along with the growing awareness about pet adoption, have been truly heartwarming. This event has shown us the deep bond that exists between pets and their parents, and it’s a privilege to create a platform that celebrates this connection.”

Pet Fed 2024 was a heartwarming celebration of the unconditional love our pets give us every day. It reminded us that animals, like art, have the power to inspire, bring joy and change our lives in ways we never imagined. The event created beautiful memories, showcasing the enduring bond between pets and their families. Most importantly, it carried a meaningful message, *#AdoptDontShop*, encouraging everyone to give a second chance to animals in need, reminding us that love is the best gift we can offer.





YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES Nbsdi!32.Bqsjm!2:

This week presents a significant opportunity for financial housekeeping. It's an ideal time to settle any outstanding debts or loans. You may also find yourself in a position to assist a friend or family member in need, possibly for a celebratory event. Your capacity to offer support isn't limited to financial means; emotional support could be just as valuable. Engaging in charitable activities could enrich your sense of well-being, enhancing your overall outlook on life. Midweek, be cautious of getting caught up in impractical dreams and avoid overindulging in lavish desires. Your tendency to fluctuate between various pleasures could lead to dissatisfaction. Staying grounded and setting clear objectives will be crucial to maintaining your contentment. Embrace a realistic approach to your aspirations.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Plum
Lucky day Tuesday



LEO Kvmz!34.Bvh!33!

You naturally exude a commanding presence and have high expectations, often seeking to steer things according to your preferences. Your environment is typically filled with dynamism and activity, traits that can sometimes lead to friction if not managed carefully. It's possible that your intensity might lead to misunderstandings or disagreements with peers, potentially causing them to keep their distance or openly disagree with you. These situations could escalate into disputes or clashes of opinion. Channeling your robust energy into constructive projects could be beneficial. You are blessed with robust health and significant authority, which positions you at the forefront of competition. It's important to foster a cooperative atmosphere, as this can enhance your already considerable achievements.

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Thursday



SAGITTARIUS Opw!33.Efd!32

This week might bring some health challenges requiring medical attention. Despite the physical discomfort, this period offers a valuable opportunity to deepen spiritual connections. Embracing spiritual practices can provide solace and strengthen your beliefs, aiding in emotional and physical recovery. The support of a loved one will be a crucial comfort, reinforcing your bonds and encouraging shared moments of introspection and faith. Family ties will grow stronger as you find comfort in shared spiritual interests and practices. Engaging with spiritual texts and devotional activities will be particularly comforting, helping you navigate through this period with grace. As the week progresses, a sense of peace and normalcy will begin to return, concluding with you regaining your usual pace of life.

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday



TAURUS Bqsjm!31.Nbz!31

This week, you may find yourself in a position of subtle influence where your ability to guide and manage will shine through in professional settings. Your knack for understanding and addressing the needs of those around you marks you as a natural leader. However, be aware that not everyone may appreciate your unique approach. Some may feel overshadowed or disagree with your methods, potentially leading to challenges. There could be scenarios where the efforts you've invested in particular projects or opportunities might not yield the expected rewards, possibly due to the covert actions of competitors or disagreements within the team. As the week progresses, the weight of responsibilities might leave you feeling exhausted. It's essential to consider distributing tasks among your team, as sharing responsibilities could enhance efficiency and reduce stress.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Amber
Lucky day Sunday



VIRGO Bvh!34.Tfq!33

This week heralds a period of flourishing prosperity for you, marked by both financial gains and emotional contentment. Resources seem to be flowing in, providing a sense of security and success in navigating a materially focused environment. You'll find joy in indulging in pleasures and fulfilling personal desires, contributing to a satisfying home life. As the week progresses, your focus may shift towards achieving emotional objectives. This could be a time of receiving positive news or deepening connections, possibly through romantic gestures or meaningful exchanges with a partner. However, a phase of uncertainty may soon follow, challenging your sense of stability and connection. You might find yourself grappling with a coldness or detachment in your interactions. As the week wraps up, you'll be motivated to restore balance and adapt to evolving perspectives.

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Lilac
Lucky day Saturday



CAPRICORN Efd!33.Kbo!2:

This week, you might find yourself feeling unusually sentimental and emotional. Challenges may arise across various aspects of your life, causing some frustration due to things not aligning with your desires. You may face emotional disturbances along with concerns over health issues that require your attention. It's advisable to manage your finances carefully, focusing on budget control to navigate through this period smoothly. Midweek calls for a strategic and organized approach to manage all spheres of your life effectively. Adopting a balanced diet and maintaining a disciplined lifestyle are recommended to support your well-being. As the week progresses, expect a positive shift in your professional life. You may experience an increase in financial gains from multiple sources, leading to greater contentment, joy, and overall well-being.

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Friday



GEMINI Nbz!32.Kvof!31

Recently, individuals may have experienced positive outcomes from their endeavors. However, the coming days call for increased vigilance as challenging interactions are likely to arise, particularly in professional settings. Expect to encounter opposition from a colleague who may seem to have an upper hand, potentially leading to a turbulent environment marked by criticism and competitive tensions. Mid-week could introduce an influence from a challenging individual, promoting a negative atmosphere and potentially pushing ethical boundaries. Despite these obstacles, your resolve remains strong. By the week's end, your perseverance and commitment to integrity will shine through, earning you recognition and elevating your standing among peers. This period will bring its own trials, but your steadfastness will lead to commendable achievements.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Cream
Lucky day Wednesday



LIBRA Tfq!34.Pdu!33

This upcoming week promises an abundance of luxury, romance, and harmony in your life. Positioned to enjoy the finer things, your efforts and virtues elevate you, making recognition and personal fulfillment highly accessible. Your hard work and perseverance, coupled with blessings, have led you to this prosperous phase. Known for your fairness and generosity, you naturally attract admiration and leadership roles both at home and in professional spheres. People often seek your counsel, drawn by your caring nature and wise decisions. However, as the week progresses, remain vigilant. There may be indicators pointing towards potential financial setbacks or health concerns. It's wise to approach such possibilities with caution, as taking preventative measures can often mitigate larger issues.

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Tangerine
Lucky day Wednesday



AQUARIUS Kbo!31.Gfc!29

At the start of the week, you'll find yourself faced with significant choices that require a firm and fair approach. Emotions must be set aside as your decisions could have profound impacts on your life or that of someone close. A power struggle may emerge in your professional sphere. It's best to steer clear of confrontations and adopt a more yielding attitude. Midweek, you might experience some setbacks or criticism from a superior, which could leave you feeling disheartened. This is a pivotal moment to engage in reflective practices such as meditation or exploring spiritual avenues to rebuild your confidence and maintain mental equilibrium. Recognizing your goals or ambitions is crucial during this period. As the week concludes, the atmosphere will shift positively.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday



CANCER Kvof!32.Kvmz!33

This week starts with a flurry of activity, demanding your full engagement and refined skills. The early days bring an opportunity at work that requires immediate action. This may require adjusting your usual methods and clear communication to succeed. As the week progresses, your financial dealings increase, including acts of generosity and assistance to those in need. During these days, you may find your feelings intensifying, prompting a thoughtful reassessment of your financial obligations and relationships. As the week closes, you may enter into a significant agreement or partnership. This period also holds potential for deepening emotional connections. Whether strengthening existing bonds or forming new ones, you'll find a sense of fulfillment in these relationships. For those unattached, the chance to meet someone special presents itself, potentially leading to heartfelt exchanges and thoughtful gestures.

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Rose
Lucky day Saturday



SCORPIO Pdu!34.Opw!32

It's a busy period for many, with increasing demands at work and in academic pursuits, particularly affecting those who are naturally dedicated and intense in their approach. This rising pressure necessitates a period of rest to maintain balance and wellness. Taking time to heal, rejuvenate, and restore your energy is crucial, especially as neglecting this can lead to emotional and mental imbalances, potentially causing irritability. Health should be prioritized, with attention to any recurring physical discomforts, and ensuring regular wellness checks can be beneficial. Tensions may also arise in professional settings, possibly leading to disagreements with those in authority. Managing emotions and dedicating time for self-care is essential during this period. It's important to find a balance between work and relaxation to navigate this busy time effectively.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Jade
Lucky day Sunday



PISCES Gfc!2:Nbsdi!31

This week highlights your dynamic energy and considerable potential. However, without defined objectives, your energy may scatter. Establish clear goals and apply your inherent creativity effectively. Attend to family obligations with care; they need your nurturing. Overlooking small health issues might lead to larger expenses, so proactive care is advisable. The middle of the week may bring certain challenges, possibly affecting your emotional and financial stability. However, your inner strength and determination will prove invaluable. As the week progresses, new prospects will arise, but you could miss them if too focused on yourself. Engage in deep discussions and meaningful explorations to boost your emotional health. Relationship dynamics will improve, enhancing personal harmony. Stay open to diverse avenues for achieving success, as prosperity could approach from various quarters.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gray
Lucky day Friday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 9873283331

Transforming Life's Karmic Challenges

THE LIFE GUIDANCE



Seerat Kaur Marwaha

The positions of planets are intentional; they align with individual karma from past actions

Life is rarely a bed of roses. Each of us carries unique struggles, often tied to complex karmic accounts from multiple lifetimes. We are born not just to live but to address these past debts and fulfill long-held desires. Our natal charts act as guides, revealing the trials we are destined to face and the lessons we are meant to learn on this journey. As an astrologer, I can examine a natal chart and, without personal details, identify difficulties in health, career, or relationships. This involves analyzing the placement of planets, each influencing specific aspects of life. The positions of planets are intentional; they align with individual karma from past actions. Life events we cannot control, such as our parents, siblings, birthplace, health, and spouse that are all predestined and can be seen in the natal chart. Even incidents beyond our control arise from this design. So what is in our control you may ask? While life's unexpected challenges may be out of our hands, how we react to these circumstances is in our control. A person's behavior often reflects the influence of a poorly placed planet. This unfavorable position is not random; it results from conscious actions in past lives. Even though the soul is reborn, its core nature and mentality remain



unchanged. For instance, a man with a weak Venus, which governs marriage and signifies the wife, is likely to face challenges in these areas. This weakness may indicate past mistreatment of women, leading to difficulties in

forming or maintaining harmonious relationships. It is also likely that he still struggles with treating women properly. While free will can weaken planets through negative actions, it also offers the chance to correct them.

Strengthening a weak planet involves positive actions in the affected area. For the man with a weak Venus, the remedy is to treat women with kindness, respect, and care, especially his wife. By acting with integrity and compassion,

he can gradually undo negative karma and restore balance in his life. Even if you're not familiar with chart reading, the best way to improve your chart and life is simple: identify the problem area and make better choices. The more positive actions you take, the more you clear negative karma from your past. The greater the planetary weakness, the more effort and time it takes to correct. A simple analogy is weight loss: someone who is 50 kilograms overweight needs more time and hard work to reach their goal than someone who is only 5 kilograms overweight. Similarly, the more poorly placed a planet, the more effort is needed to rectify its influence. The good news is that, no matter how weak a planet is, with dedication and consistent positive actions, it can improve, and the individual's life can be transformed. This understanding brings us to a vital concept: no action goes unnoticed. Every choice we make—good or bad—sets in motion consequences we will face. Therefore, it is essential to be mindful of our actions, as they shape not only our present but also our future. Through awareness and conscious living, we can change the trajectory of our lives.

— She is a Life Coach and Founder of Soulful Wellness