the ploneer

decision intending to improve

the learning outcome among children "The Union

Education Ministry has taken a big decision and abolished

the 'No Detention Policy'. Students who fail the annual

examination in classes 5 and 8 will be failed," Sanjay Kumar,

Secretary, Department of

School Education & Literacy,

However, the Government has

clarified that no child shall be

expelled from any school till

the completion of elementary

education. According to a

gazette notification, after the

of

examination, if a child fails to

fulfil the promotion criteria,

as notified from time to time,

he shall be given additional

instruction and opportunity

for re-examination within a

period of two months from

the date of declaration of

regular

told The Pioneer.

conduct

results.

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## **Centre scraps no-detention** policy for primary class V, VIII



#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

n a major change in the primary education system, the Centre on Monday directed for ending the "nodetention policy" for fifth and

eighth class, which means that students in these classes who fail their annual exams shall not be promoted to higher grade and hence will need to repeat the same class. Failed students will h+ave a

within two months, but if they fail again, they will not be promoted. The school will not expel a student until the 8th grade.

Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar said that the Central chance to retake the test Government has taken this

Delhi Govt teachers to learn how to handle bomb threats

#### SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{I}^{n}$  a way replicating the training reportedly given to school teachers in United States of America (USA) on 'how to shoot a gun, and handle a weapon' due to the rampant problem of gun shooting in schools, the Delhi Police joined hands with the Delhi Education Department, for training teachers and school staff of all government and private schools on how to handle bomb threats even as the fear of such threats through emails continue to loom among the school



authorities in the National Capital since May

This comes as an extension of the Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's 'Samvaad' program where in a meeting with teachers, they raised the issue of Drug Abuse, Cyber Hygiene and recent Bomb threat emails. Multiple schools in Delhi have received hoax bomb threats in the last 10 days. The threats disrupted classes and triggered multi-agency search operations.

## **Three Khalistani terrorists** killed in Pilibhit encounter BISWAJEET BANERJEE

PILIBHIT

BHOPAL, TUESDAY DECEMBER 24, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

**Established 1865** 

In a major anti-terror operation, three militants belonging to the Khalistani Commando Force were gunned down in a joint operation by Punjab and Úttar Pradesh police in Pilibhit's Puranpur area early Monday morning. The encounter left two policemen injured, while the police recovered a significant cache of weapons, including two AK-47 rifles and two Glock pistols, from the spot.

The operation was carried out around 5 am near the Hardoi Branch Canal after Punjab police traced the location of the wanted militants to Pilibhit. The three militants, all hailing from Punjab's Gurdaspur district, were accused of orchestrating a grenade attack on a police outpost in Gurdaspur on December 19. According to officials, the militants were traveling on a motorcycle when they were intercepted by the joint police team. Upon being surrounded, the trio opened fire indiscriminately using their automatic weapons. In the ensuing exchange of gunfire, all three were neutralized. Two policemen sustained injuries during the operation. The sounds of gunfire in the early hours sent shockwaves through nearby villages, with residents initially unsure of the nature of the operation.

Bullet marks on police

vehicles and the seizure of a

indicated

the

the

motorcycle used by

intensity of the encounter.



This combo image shows arms and other items recovered at the site of an encounter of three terror suspects, allegedly involved in the grenade attack in Gurdaspur, by a joint team of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab police, in Pilibhit

### **Terror suspect planned** escape to Pak via B'desh PNS KOLKATA

The arrested member of the 'Tehreek-e-Mujahideen' terror outfit from Kashmir was planning to use the river route to travel to Bangladesh and eventually escape to Pakistan, a senior officer of the West Bengal Special Task Force (STF) said on Monday. Bengal STF officials also believe that the arrested person, identified as Javed Munshi, has close ties with the Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group. Investigators are working to decode the notes seized from his possession to uncover more details about his plans, the officer added.

Parganas district on Sunday. The 'Tehreek-e-Mujahideen' group is controlled from Pakistan and has connections with other terror outfits in the valley, as well as in Pakistan and Bangladesh, the officer added.

The 58-year-old man was considering multiple routes to reach Bangladesh, including traveling by road from Canning to Dhamakhali, and then using river routes through the Sunderbans

'There was no lapse (on part of the force)...By lapse if you mean some weapons were allowed inside, then I can tell you that no weapon was allowed...," CISF Deputy Inspector General (operations) Shrikant Kishore said at a Press conference.

MPs in

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Parliament Pratap Chandra Sarangi and Mukesh Rajput had got injured during scuffle between the Opposition and ruling BJP MPs on the premises of Parliament who were discharged from the RML Hospital on Monday.

Kishore said the force will choose to "keep quiet when the honourable members (MPs) make allegations' was asked about the counterallegations made by the parliamentarians on who pushed whom. He added the CISF was not conducting any inquiry into the incident that took place at the 'Makar Dwar' of the Parliament House Complex on December 19. Delhi Police had filed an FIR against Leader of the Opposition (LoP) and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi following BJP's complaint against him. Asked about complaints against the force since it took charge of Parliament security in June this year, the officer said the MPs, employees working in the complex and visitors are "very satisfied and happy" with their work. Kishore said the security department of Parliament will be competent to answer questions related to security, including recovery of cash from a seat in the House during the last session.



PTI 📕 DHAKA

 $B^{\mbox{angladesh}\mbox{'s}}$  interim government said on Monday that it has sent a diplomatic note to India to send back deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina to Dhaka. Hasina, 77, has been living in exile in India since August 5 when she fled the country amid the student-led protests that toppled her 16-year regime. Bangladeshternational Crimes Tribuna based has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide". "We have sent a note verbale to the Indian government saying that Bangladesh wants her back here for the judicial process," Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain told reporters at his office. Earlier in the morning, Home Advisor Jahangir Alam said his office has sent a letter to the foreign ministry to facilitate the ousted premier's extradition from India "We have sent a letter to the foreign ministry regarding her extradition. The process is currently underway," he told reporters in response to a query. Alam said an extradition treaty between Dhaka and New Delhi already exists and Hasina could be brought back to Bangladesh under it. Last month, in an address to the nation on the completion of 100 days of the interim government, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus said it will seek the extradition of Hasina. "We must ensure justice in every killing... We will also ask India to send back fallen autocrat Sheikh Hasina," he said.





militants

## **Gig workers need targeted** regulatory framework: NHRC

endure grueling shifts that can exceed 10 hours a day, while contending unpredictable incomes and the pressure of meeting unrealistic performance performance targets. However, things might change for the better for this workforce, which is estimated to be 65 lakh strong. At a recent session held by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), stakeholders from the sector recommended a slew of measures including the need for targeted regulatory frameworks, setting up rest points, and the creation of redressal grievance mechanisms, particularly for women workers. recommendations These which come amidst Union contractors, are individuals Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya announcement in October to put in place a framework for social security of gig workers, including health insurance and pension were presented as part of the employees



PNS NEW DELHI The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Monday said there was "no lapse" on its part when asked about the scuffle that took place among Parliament complex during the recently concluded Winter

Session and added it will choose to "keep quiet" when allegations are levelled by lawmakers. The CISF) is tasked to guard the Parliament House Complex.

Yunus, who assumed office on August 8, claimed that about 1,500 people, including

students and workers, were killed while 19,931 others were wounded during the protest against the Hasina government. In October, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul had reportedly said that Bangladesh would strongly protest if India tried to refuse Hasina's extradition by citing any provision in the treaty.

In an interview with PTI in Dhaka in September, Yunus had said that Hasina making political remarks from India is an "unfriendly gesture", asserting that she must remain silent to prevent discomfort to both countries until Dhaka requests her extradition."If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh (government) wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," he said. In recent weeks, Hasina accused the Yunus-led interim has government of perpetrating "genocide" and failing to protect minorities, especially Hindus, since her ouster.

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

meet on

The first meeting of the 1 3 9 - m e m b e rparliamentary panel on the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative is scheduled for January 8, marking the start of discussions on a major electoral reform proposed by the Bharatiya Janata Partyled National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Government. According to parliamentary sources, the Joint Committee on Bills for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, chaired by BJP MP PP Chaudhary, will likely have an introductory session where officials will brief the panel on two key Bills aimed at implementing the BJP's long-standing election reform agenda

addressing the meet challenges faced by gig workers.

The issue holds importance given that India's top think tank panel Niti Aayog has estimated 65 lakh gig and platform workers in the country, but the number is likely to be over two crore as the segment is growing rapidly. Gig workers, also known as independent who undertake temporary or short-term work primarily assignments,

within the service sector. They operate independently and are not regarded as the of

organizations. Hence, they do not typically have access to common employee benefits that full-time staff members receive.

zomato

However, irregular incomes, unexpected expenses, and limited access to credit have often left them at the receiving end. Taking serious note of their precarious condition, NHRC's acting chairperson, Vijaya Bharathi Sayani said that there is a "need for targeted efforts" through regulatory frameworks to worker's address gig challenges, including long working hours, financial strain, and physical exhaustion.

### No face cover allowed for women lawyers: J and K HC

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR

The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recently observed that the rules dealing with the dress code for women advocates prescribed by the Bar Council of India (BCI) do not say that women lawyers can appear before courts with a face covering. The Court made the observation after a lady lawyer appeared with a face cover and turned down the Court's request to remove the cover.

This led the Court to seek a report from the Registrar General on whether the relevant rules allow lady advocates to appear with their face covered.

#### TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Veteran filmmaker, Padma V Bhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke award winner Shyam Benegal, a pioneer of parallel cinema in India has died aged 90, after suffering from a chronic kidney disease. He will be remembered for his films like 'Ankur', 'Nishant', 'Zubeidaa', 'Manthan', 'Mandi' and 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose'.

Shyam Babu, as he was affectionately known in the film circles, breathed his last at the Wockhardt Hospital in Mumbai, just nine days after he celebrated his 90th birthday with his family and friends.

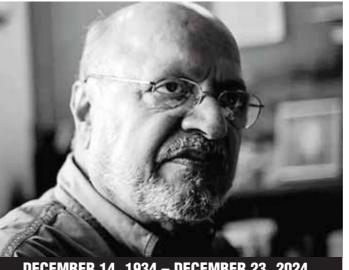
The legendary filmmaker is survived by his 85-year-old wife Nira Benegal, who has been into diverse fields of activities including films, literature, music architecture and design, and daughter Pia Benegal. Shyam Benegal, who made

Cinema, introduced parallel cinema in the seventies. Rated at one stage next only to the all-time great Satyajit Ray as a filmmaker who made meaningful films, he made films like 'Ankur' (1973), (1975), 'Bhumika' 'Nishant' 'Manthan' (1976), (1977),'Mammo' (1994), 'Sardari Begum' (1996), and 'Zubeidaa' (2001). He also made a children's film Charandas Chor (Charandas the Thief) in 1975. Born on December 14 1934 in a Konkani-speaking Chitrapur

Saraswat Brahmin family in Hyderabad, Shyam made his first film at 12 years of age, using a camera given to him by his photographer father Sridhar B. Benegal

significant contributions to India

He went on to earn a Master's degree in Economics from Osmania University, Hyderabad, where he also founded the Hyderabad Film Society. Having begun his career as a



Shyam Benegal, pioneer of parallel cinema in India, passes away at 90

**DECEMBER 14, 1934 – DECEMBER 23, 2024** 

copywriter with Mumbai-based advertising agency, Lintas Advertising, where he steadily advertising rose to become the creative head. Doorstep) in 1962.

Meanwhile, Benegal made his first documentary in Gujarati, 'Gher Betha Ganga' (Ganges at the

He also taught at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) between 1966 and 1973, and was the chairman of the FTII for two terms between 1980-83 and 1989-92. He began his career as a filmmaker by making documentaries. One of his early documentaries, 'A Child of the Streets' (1967), garnered him wide acclaim, and he went on to make over 70 documentaries. A versatile filmmaker, Shyam Bengal had made as many as 20 feature films during his illustrious career.

Known for spotting talent, Shyam Benegal introduced actors - many of whom from FTII and National School of Drama (NSD) like introduced actors Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, Anant Nag, Smita Patil, Shabana Azmi, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Amrish Puri.

Benegal was honoured by the Government of India with the Padma Shri in 1976 and the

Padma Bhushan in 1991. He has received several accolades, including eighteen National Film Awards, a Filmfare Award and a Nandi Award. In 2005, he was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema

Apart from making films for the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), he also served as the Director of the NFDC from 1980 to 1986.

With the financial support of actor Shashi Kapoor, Shyam Benegal made commercial films like Junoon (1978) and Kalyug (1981)

Benegal wrote the scripts and screenplays for his films, and authored three books based on his own films: 'The Churning with Vijay Tendulkar' (1984), based on 'Manthan'; 'Satyajit Ray' (1988), based on his biographical film, 'Satyajit Ray'; and 'The Marketplace' (1989), which was based on 'Mandi'.



## Shukla calls for leak-proof water distribution system in Rewa

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

eputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla stated that Israel is renowned worldwide for its expertise in water management. With their experience, efforts, and recommendations, better water management will be implemented in the Rewa Municipal Corporation area.

He emphasized that the planning should consider future needs and demands. Shukla stressed the importance of ensuring a leak-proof water distribution system in Rewa city, guaranteeing that pure water reaches every household. Along with water storage, water conservation is equally essential to meet future demands. Treating and reusing water is the need of the hour and aligns with environmental sustain-

He emphasized that the planning should consider future needs and demands. Shukla stressed the importance of ensuring a leakproof water distribution system in Rewa city, guaranteeing that pure water reaches every household

agement. Artificial pillars ability. Planning should be carried out with these aspects in include wastewater reuse, while focus. Deputy Chief Minister natural pillars involve rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, lake and groundwater Shukla discussed the expansion, management, and strengthening of water supply facilities in Rewa Municipal Corporation monitoring, and floodwater storage. Effective conservation with the Israeli delegation at his residence office in Char Imli. and recovery can ensure the sustainable use of water The Israeli delegation shared resources. The Israeli delegation included their expertise in efficient water Water Attaché Ms. Noa management, distribution, and strengthening water distribution

Amsalem from the Israeli networks. Identifying both arti-Embassy in India and Senior ficial and natural water sources Water Resources Specialist crucial for water resource man-Neeraj Gahlawat.

Dharmendra Tada, District and

leadership of Prof Manoj Kumar

Role of Israel's Water Attaché in India

In India, the Water Attaché focuses on strengthening partnerships between both countries in water resource management, technical cooperation, and research. They facilitate knowledge exchange in areas such as water conservation, recycling, and efficient irrigation technologies. Additionally, they contribute to water security, pollution con-trol, and policy development. The Water Attaché also pro-motes joint projects between academic and research institutions and helps develop longterm solutions to address water crises.

15,000 New Tap Connections and 450 km Distribution Network to be Ready in Rewa Within the Next Two Years Technical Advisor UADD Satish

Kumar Rao provided insights into the current status and proposed plans for water management in Rewa. Currently, 45,000 households are connected through a 550 km distribution network, with a storage capacity of 23 million KL and 58 MLD (Million Liters per Day) water treatment capacity. Under the AMRUT 2.0 project, by 2026, it is proposed to establish a 37 MLD water treatment plant, increase storage capacity to 18.7 million KL, expand the distribution network by 450 km, and provide 15,000 new water connections.

Additionally, repairing the old network system will be a key focus. The goal is to ensure 24x7 water supply in Rewa, with public awareness campaigns included in the proposal to promote responsible water usage.



#### letters for the job in the state government service, in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo Weather shifts in MP: Dense fog envelops Bhopal and several other districts

### DNLU inaugurates two-day boot camp on BNS

#### PNS JABALPUR

¬he Centre for Criminal Justice Administration and Research at Dharmashastra National Law University (DNLU), Jabalpur, in collaboration with the Centre for Legislative Research & Reforms, successfully inaugurated a Two-Day Boot Camp on New Criminal Laws: Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

The inaugural ceremony began with a welcome address by Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Kumar Šinha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of DNLU, who warmly welcomed the dignitaries and participants. Prof. Sinha highlighted the critical need for discussions around the newly enacted criminal laws and emphasized their impact on contemporary legal frameworks and societal reform

the Chief Guest, Justice Additional Sessions Judge, Bhopal, Avanindra Kumar Singh, Judge of Sameer Kumar Mishra, Civil Judge the High Court of Madhya Senior Division Jabalpur, Mr. Utkarsh Kumar Sonkar, Advocate Pradesh, lauded the initiative and congratulated the organizers M.P. High Court, Anubhav Jha, for hosting such an important Assistant Professor RGNUL, Harsh event. He underlined the signif-Singh Bahrawat, Registrar (Admin), icance of understanding and implementing these new legal Mr. Gautam Gupta Director CJAR, Sankalp Singh, Assistant Professor DNLU. The event attracted particframeworks and suggested legislative and executive measures ipation from over 100 attendees for societal betterment. from across India. Mukulita Vijayawargiya, Founder This initiative was meticulously CLRR also marked her presence planned and executed under the

Delivering the inaugural address,

during the inaugural session. The vote of thanks was delivered Sinha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, and Praveen Tripathi, Registrar by Manwendra Kumar Tiwari, (In-charge), SN Khare, Retired Associate Professor of Law, while District Judge with the dedicated Ms. Bhagyshree Agarwal, efforts of Gautam Gupta, Director Teaching Associate served as the CJAR, Mukulita Vijayawargiya, Master of Ceremony.

Spanning two days, from December Founder CLRR, Sankalp Singh, 23 to 24, 2024, the boot camp is Assistant Professor and Deepak being conducted in a hybrid mode. Gautam, Teaching Associate, The sessions are led by experts in Shashank Pathak, Assistant criminal law namely Mukulita Professor and Amit Mishra, Vijayawargiya, Founder CLRR, Teaching Associate, Vishal Tripathi.

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

he weather in Madhya Pradesh has changed once again, with clouds and fog covering many districts, including Bhopal, Dindori, Indore, Morena, Bhind, Vidisha, Sagar, Raisen, Narmadapuram, Betul, and Burhanpur.

Fog was dense particularly in Gwalior, Morena, and Bhind, causing commuters to travel with their vehicle headlights on.

According the to Meteorological Department, the night temperature in the state had risen over the past two to three days due to Disturbance. Western However, the mercury dropped again today, leading to a noticeable increase in cold conditions. The Met forecasted the first

Mawtha (winter rains) of the **Fog was dense** season from December 23 to 28, accompanied by rain and possible hail in some regions. Senior Met scientist explained erate rain and cloud cover across the state, with the poten-

tial for hailstorms in some areas. The induced Low Pressure Area lies over northwest Rajasthan & neighbourhood. Subtropical westerly Jet Stream with core winds continue to prevail over North India. An active western disturbance is likely to affect western Himalayan region & adjoining plains from December 27.

particularly in **Gwalior**, Morena, and Bhind, causing commuters to travel with their vehicle headlights on

December traditionally sees rain in the state, and this year will follow a similar pattern. While temperatures may rise by 2 to 3 degrees during the system's influence, the cold will intensify again once the system passes.

Meteorological The Department also reported a drop in temperatures across many cities during the night of Saturday and Sunday. Pachmarhi, recorded the low-

est temperature at 3.9 degree celsius. Other cities saw temperatures of 5.6 degree celsius in Khajuraho, 5.8 degree celsius in Rewa, and below 10 degree celsius in Nowgong, Raisen, Tikamgarh, Rajgarh, Satna, Mandla, Umaria, and Damoh.

In major cities, Bhopal recorded 7.9 degree celsius, Indore 13.9 degree celsius, Gwalior 7.3 degree celsius, Ujjain 11degree celsius, and Jabalpur 8.5 degree celsius in the night. During the last 24 hours the

weather remained dry in all the divisions of the state. No significant changes were observed in day temperatures in all the divisions of the state. The day temperatures were

recorded below normal in districts of Ujjain division; remained normal in all the divisions of the state. On the other hand, night tem-

peratures significantly increase in districts of Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Gwalior, Rewa divisions and no significant changes in the districts of remaining divisions. Night temperatures were

recorded above normal in districts of Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Ujjain divisions; while significant rise above normal was recorded in districts of Indore, Gwalior, Rewa, Shahdol divisions and remained normal in all the remaining divisions of the

state. The Met department has issued warning of shallow to Moderate Fog prevailed in Bhind, Datia, Morena, Gwalior Districts. Nowgong was the coldest place beating Pachmarhi which recorded night at 6.2 degree celsius while Pachmarhi recorded 7.9 degree celsius on Sunday night.

CM calls on Union

Minister Shivraj

**STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav called on Union

✓Agriculture and Rural

Development Minister Shivraj

Singh Chauhan on Monday

evening. Uttarakhand Chief

Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Madhya Pradesh

Legislative Assembly Speaker

### SPS Dwarka Dham organizes 'Pedal for Peace' cyclothon

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Cagar Public School, S Dwarka Dham has orga-nized the Cyclothon, themed "Pedal for Peace," an inspiring event that witnessed a remarkable turnout from the community. Focused on promoting peace, harmony, sus-tainability and physical fitness the initiative was a resounding success.

The Cyclothon commenced at Lalghati Square and concluded at Retghat, covering an exciting 4.5-kilometer route.

The cyclothon was graced with the presence of Bhagwan Singh Kushwaha an accomplished 'ikram Award



and community well-being. The school Principal Arti Khillan stated, "

Anant Singh Mehra, 2nd Prize: Abhishek Modanwal and 3rd Prize: Akshat Halbe. Dham continues to take meaningful initiatives like the Cyclothon, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to building a healthier, more connected, and harmonious society. The event stands as a testament to the school's dedication to community welfare and holistic development.

Narendra Singh Tomar, pre-sent on this occasion, also met Union Minister Chouhan. Yadav met Union Minister Chouhan and greeted him on the occasion of his return from the programme organized in Sagar. This coincided Minister Chouhan at the state airport on his return from Pune.



that the Western Disturbance will bring north-western winds, which will carry moisture from the Arabian Sea, while eastern winds from the Bay of Bengal will also con-tribute. This weather system is expected to bring light to mod-

Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durga Das Uikey poses for a group photograph with newly recruited job seekers after distributing them authority letters at a 'Rozgar Mela' organised in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

River linking campaign will take shape in a big way in State: CM

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that the ✔ honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Madhya Pradesh to give the gift of Ken-Betwa Link Project, he is warmly welcomed on the soil of the state.

CM Yadav said that the river linking campaign will take shape in a big way in the state. With this gift being given to the state on the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sagar, Datia and the entire Bundelkhand will get adequate irrigation and drinking water facilities.

CM Yadav said that Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla has also participated in the programme of providing gifts to the region on Sagar Gaurav Diwas and Jan Kalyan Parv.

These gifts will have a positive impact on the future of the entire region. CM Dr. Yadav said this in a discussion with the media at the state airport.

Chief Minister Yaday said that the state government has taken many tough decisions, among

### Farmers Day STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL hief

Mohan Yadav has extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the farmer brothers and sisters on the occasion of Kisan Diwas. CM Yadav while paying his humble tribute to former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Chaudhary Charan Singh on his birth anniversary said that Chaudhary dedicated his them is the decision to stop colwhole life for the protec-

CM greets people on

lection at toll barriers. The state government will not tolerate any kind of corruption. For this, tion of the interests of farmers, poor and deprived and their overall action will be taken by the government at whatever level is necessary. The state government is development. committed to good governance. Under the leadership and guiddedication to protect ance of Prime Minister Shri democracy during the Modi, we are constantly moving Emergency and efforts for farmer welfare and agriin the direction of development

cultural development will and public welfare. Chief Minister Yadav welcomed always inspire us. Uttarakhand Chief Minister It is noteworthy that the Pushkar Singh Dhani by prebirth anniversary of forsenting him a bouquet of flowmer Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh ers at the state airport before interaction with the media. He is celebrated as Rashtriya also presented Chanderi Kisan Diwas with the aim Angvastra and a statue of Raja of showing respect to the Bhoj. Uttarakhand Chief farmers and spreading Minister Dhami also greeted awareness among the gen-Chief Minister Dr. Yadav by preeral public about their senting a bouquet and a shawl. contribution.

Asst Prof from AIIMS Bhopal presents advanced techniques at AOMSI

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL Minister

ssistant Professor of the Department of **H**Trauma and Emergency Medicine, Dr. Babu Lal, showcased his expertise and innovations at the 48th National Conference of the Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons of India (AOMSI) held in India (AOMSI) held in Kolkata. This prestigious conference provides an opportunity for maxillofacial surgeons, students, and experts from across the country and abroad to deliberate on advancements in CM Yadav said that his this field.

On this occasion, Prof. Singh remarked, "It is a matter of pride for us that Dr. Babu Lal has brought recognition to AIIMS Bhopal at this esteemed conference. This not only fosters new thinking in the field of medicine but also reflects our commitment to providing better healthcare services.

Dr. Babu Lal played a significant role in the conference on two key topics. First, he shared his insights on "Benign Diseases of the

#### This prestigious conference provides an opportunity for maxillofacial surgeons, students, and experts from across the country

radiated enthusiasm and a

Face" as part of an expert panel. He highlighted the challenges in managing conditions like ameloblastoma and odontogenic keratocyst (OKC), emphasizing the need for molecular-level research to develop new drugs that could potentially save patients from undergoing complex surgeries. Additionally, he shared his experiences on "Post-Traumatic Rhinoplasty," where he presented costeffective techniques developed at AIIMS Bhopal for managing nasal bone injuries. Dr. Babu Lal discussed affordable splints made using urinary catheters and surgical strips, which have proven highly effective in resourcelimited settings.

promoting physical fitness but also about spreading a powerful message of peace and harmony. It is truly heartening to see the community come together for such a noble cause." The highlight of the day was prize distribution .

The winners of the Cyclothon were recognized for their stel-

> nder the shimmering lights and electrifying

> sounds, participants

showcased their confidence,

talent, and charisma in the

grand finale of Miss and Mrs. Central India Season-2. The

event, held at Hotel Radisson,

Trilanga, witnessed 50 partic-

ipants from across the country

and state competing for the

prestigious titles. The beauty

pageant aimed to provide a platform for aspiring individ-

uals to launch their careers in

Throughout the day-long com-

petition, participants impressed

the audience and judges with

their exceptional skills, secur-

ing their spots in the final

round. The event was graced by

Entertainment Managing

Director Hariom Jatia, actor

and show host Aman, and

actress Mahek Chahal. Show

coordinator Farah highlighted

the grandeur of the finale,

Time

fashion and modeling.

Excellency

and Monica Patil.

Miss Category

Winners Announced

Chief Minister Yadav expressed his gratitude to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Dhami for his participation in the programme at Sagar and bid him farewell on his return journey to Uttarakhand.

#### Grand finale of Miss and Mrs Central India Season-2 held STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL



Winner: Arundhati Saxena First Runner-Up: Ananya Pandey Second Runner-Up: Sophia Raza Khan **Mrs Silver Category** Winner: Priyesha Dubey First Runner-Up: Dr. Swati Jain Second Runner-Up: Ayushi Singh Mrs Gold Category

which featured an esteemed panel of judges, including Upasana B. Singh, Manisha Winner: Leena Raisinghani First Runner-Up: Aji Koshi Anand, Priya Tiwari, Neha Tiwari, Carl Mascarenhas, Second Runner-Up: Dr. Neha Rakka Madhu Trivedi, Kirti Verma, Special Titles Awarded

Several participants were honored with unique titles: Mrs. Central India Curvy 2024:

Priyanka Temburkar Mrs. International Queen of India: Jagruti Agarwal and Nikita Singh Mrs. Indian Ocean 2025: Dr. Swati Jain Mrs. Elite Celebrity India 2025: Aji Koshi Miss Asia and Oceania 2024: Priya Tiwari Mrs. India Asia International Global: Monica Patil Queen of Central India: Saloni Gharwal The finale was a grand celebration of talent, beauty, and

determination, setting a benchmark for future fashion and modeling events in the region.

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## Ken-Betwa Link Project set to transform Bundelkhand's future

have been done by the govern-

ment for the development of

Sagar, which includes the work

of restoration, redevelopment

Narayawali.

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

n the occasion of Sagar's Pride Day and Jankalyan Parv, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that a Cancer Hospital and Law Faculty will be started at Rani Avantibai University in Sagar. On Wednesday 25th December, the Ken-Betwa link project is going to be started on the 100th birth anniversary of Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, will change the picture and des-tiny of Bundelkhand.

Yadav said that he was happy to honour the personalities who brought glory to Sagar at the national and international levels. He said that Lakha Banjara provided relief to the people from the problem of drinking water by constructing a lake here. These great works of his are always remembered. I salute

Yadav extended congratula-tions and best wishes to the citizens on Sagar Pride Day and Jankalyan Parv. On this occasion, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami was present as a special guest. Yadav said that Bundelkhand is known for the bravery and sacrifice of Maharaja Chhatrasal and Alha-Udal. Now a new history of Bundelkhand region will be written when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lays the foundation of the Ken-Betwa

him for his greatness.

and beautification of Lakha Banjara Lake. With this, the water level of Sagar city will Link Project to realise the remain balanced. Yadav and his dream vision of former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late Shri Vajpayee on 25th December in Khajuraho of entire team provided a new direction to the development of the state. Uttarakhand Chief Chhatarpur district. Minister Shri Dhami said that The Chief Minister made the today the redevelopment and

people present at the probeautification work of develgramme take a pledge to come opment schemes worth more

to the Bhoomi pujan pro-gramme of the project. Chief than Rs 100 crore is being completed here. With all these Minister Yadav also announced works, Dr. Yadav's government to give Municipal Council stahas established a strong fountus to Gaurjhamar, Nagar dation for the bright future of Madhya Pradesh in its very first Panchayat to Banda Bara, and Nagar Panchayat status to year. I have full confidence that Madhya Pradesh will develop more rapidly under the leadership of Dr. Yadav in his Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami said that many rejuvenation works upcoming tenure.

Chief Minister Dhami said that when I received the invitation to participate in the programme with Chief Minister Yaday, I remembered my childhood days spent in Sagar. I have many memories of this place in my mind, today all those memories became fresh. He said I have come to my native place. Sagar is not just a city for me but an inseparable part of my life. My father was posted here in the Mahar Regiment and at that time his posting was in Sagar. I will have an unending rela tionship with this land. Chief Minister Shri Dhami said that today there is a double-engine government in the entire country, which is developing very fast.

Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar said that the presence of two Chief Ministers here on the occasion of Sagar's Gaurav Diwas is further boosting the pride of Sagar. Recalling the contribution of late Sir Harisingh Gour, a true son of this land, makes this moment even more important. This is a moment to remember his contribution and glorious history. Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Shri Govind Singh Rajput said that the present form of Sagar's identity "Lakha Banjara Lake" fills the hearts of Sagar residents with joy.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami during the foundation stone laying ceremony for various development projects during 'Sagar Gaurav Divas' celebration under Jan Kalyan Parv in Sagar on Monday



#### People buy gifts and home decorative items in the market ahead of Christmas in Bhopal on Monday.

#### 80-year-old woman dies of hunger Farmers Day programme organised at Dhar

#### PNS DHAR

n the occasion of Farmers Day, Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation organized a programme to commemorate the contribution of farmers in the socio-economic development of the nation. Farmers of NABARD assisted wadi project and Jogi Bhadak Farmer Producer Company Limited (FPCL) participated in the programme, held in Mewasamuniya village, in Nalchha block of Dhar district. Smt. Sagarika Chaphekar, DDM, NABARD, Dhar presided over the event along with Sarpanch of

three villages, Pappu Katare, President of the FPCL and Anoop Deshmukh and Pawan Devda from Lupin Foundation. The President of the FPCL shared the progress of the FPO and highlighted the need of farmers for collectivization and increasing the turnover of the FPO through different initiatives. DDM Dhar expressed gratitude towards the farming communi-ty for cultivation of crops and horticultural produce and thereby helping the nation in achieving food security. The various initiatives of the government like Soil Health Card, formation and promotion of 10000 FPOs,

Namo Drone Didi, Kisan Kavach, PMFBY were aimed at improving agricultural practices and raising the income of farmers. She elaborated on the importance of soil health, the need for soil testing and the role played by Horticulture in development of sustainable agricul ture. On the occasion, a kitchen gar-

den kit was distributed to all the farmers. In NABARD wadi project, fertilisers and pesticide were distributed to around 50 new wadi participants. DDM Dhar also visited new wadi pit digging site and interacted with the wadi farmers

Bhopal: An 80-year-old bedridden woman tragically died of hunger and thirst after being locked in a room by her son, who then left the city with his family.

Parliament from Indore.

The incident occurred in the Nishatpura area of Bhopal and came to light on Sunday, according to the police. The deceased, Lalita Dubey, lived with her son, Arun, who left for Ujjain with his wife and son after locking her inside the house.

Arun later called his brother, Ajay, who resides in Indore, and informed him of his departure to Ujjain. Concerned about their mother, Ajay requested a

Bigul CEO receives 'Jewel of MP' award at Pride of MP Function PNS INDORE efforts in fostering financial

inclusion across Madhya Bigul by Bonanza Portfolio Limited has been honored with the prestigious 'Pride of Madhya Pradesh – Dec 24 IT Pradesh.Speaking at the event, Parakh shared his excitement and gratitude, "This award means a lot to the entire Bigul family. & ITeS' award for its significant When we started our journey, contributions to the development our aim was to make stock marand promotion of the IT/ITeS ket trading easy and accessible industry in Madhya Pradesh. The for everyone. Today's recognition award was presented to Atul Parakh, CEO of Bigul, by Hon'ble affirms that we are on the right path. This honor motivates us to work even harder to help more Minister of Civil Aviation Shri people understand and benefit from the stock market. We are Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu in the esteemed presence of Shankar Lalwani, Member of proud to contribute to Madhya Pradesh's growth story and The ceremony was part of the InvestIndore and Sansad event, deeply grateful to receive this acknowledgment from Hon'ble organized by Workie, held on Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan December 22, 2024, in Indore. Naidu ji. We remain committed This accolade celebrates Bigul's to introducing innovative soluremarkable advancements in tions that simplify investing for technological innovation and its everyone."

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

accident tragic occurred on Monday Platinum Plaza at Mata Mandir, when a speeding car hit a bike, resulting in the death of a 20-year-old youth and leaving his mother with severe injuries. The car driver fled the scene, leaving the vehicle behind.

The victims, identified as Ankit Kushwaha and his mother Somvati Bai, were on their way home to Panchsheel Nagar after pur-chasing vegetables from Karond Mandi. Both were rushed to Hamidia Hospital, where Ankit was declared dead, while his mother, Somvati Bai, remains in critical condition. The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation.

This spot, near **Platinum Plaza**, has gained notoriety for being an accident-prone area as last month two youths were killed in a similar accident

mother ran a vegetable shop outside their home. Tragically, their bike was struck by a speeding car near Platinum Plaza while the driver attempted to overtake. Ankit died at the scene, and his mother was severely injured.

The family described Ankit as the primary financial support, as he was the eldest son of the family, which includes two younger brothers, Luv and Kush. Ankit's father is a

Tender Notice or and on behalf of President of India, the

Dv.CEE/WS/JHS, North Central Railway hansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-Tender No.: JHS-DvCEE-WS-T-06RT-24-25 Description of work: Electrical (Balance works for improvement of lighting in shed for proposed fire fighting road, rooms and cycle stand etc. at Rail Spring Karkhana Sithouli. Tender value: Rs. 935477/- only Bid Security: Rs. 18700/- only

Completion Period: 06 months Closing date of tender: 13.01.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs.) nderer will submit the tender

13.01.2025 (upto 15:00 Hrs.). Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website http://www.ireps.gov.in. 2162/24 (ADM) # www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in X@CPRONCF

**E-Auction** 

friend in Bhopal to check on her. Unfortunately, upon reaching 0 the house, Ajay's friend discovered Lalita Dubey had already passed away. Bhopal Police, alerted to the situation, arrived at the scene and sent the body for postmortem. The autopsy revealed "severe

demise.

Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for unintentional murder.

hunger and water loss" as the cause of death, confirming the distressing circumstances of her Following a formal complaint lodged by Ajay, police registered

a case against Arun under

L.No. JHS-DyCEE-WS-T-06RT-24-25 According to the police, Date: 20.12.2024 Ankit worked at a petrol laborer. pump in Ratibad, while his This spot, near Platinum NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-Auction Notice On behalf of President of India, The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, North entral Railway. Jhansi invites e-auction as per categories given as under Category: Misc- Static- Service - Water Vending Machines | PF : 01 Catalogue No. : WVM- ORAI-01- 2024 WVMs Unit Name : ORAI-02 Asset Details Allotment of Water Vending Machines (WVMs) at Orai Railway Station of Jhansi Divisio Cluster/Unit (Stations) : 02-Units- PF-01- (Orai Railway Station) Location : 1. Between pillar No. 1241/26 & 1241/24 CNB End. 2. Between Pilla 1241/20 & 1241/21, JHS End Auction Start : Dated 03.01.25 at 10:00 hrs Auction End : Dated 03.01.25 at 10:30 hrs Prospective bidder is requested to visit e-Auction Leasing Module (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein 2164/24(DG) F North central railways 🛛 🗮 @CPRONCR 🛑 www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in 20-year-old youth ends life by jumping into Upper Lake تزيرية العامة العامة المالية ال the name you can BANK upon

20-year-old biker hit by speeding car, dies Plaza, has gained notoriety for being an accident-prone area as last month, on November 12, two youths Bhavesh Sanghani (23) and Aryan Rai (24) were killed in a similar incident when their scooter was struck by an unidentified vehicle at the same location. In both cases, the drivers responsible for the

accidents fled the scene, leaving the authorities searching for them. The police have seized the car

capital 03

involved in Monday's accident and are actively searching for the driver. The ongoing investigations aim to hold the responsible individuals accountable and address the growing concerns about safety at this

dangerous location. NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Sehore: Kirloskar Brothers Limited (KBL) hassignificant ly enhanced water management for the ISP Parwati Micro LiftIrrigation Scheme, a project that supplies water from the Indira Sagar Reservoirto 268 villages across the Sehore and Shajapur districts.

KBL providing water in

Sehore, other districts

This initiative benefitsover 100,000 hectares of farmland, ensuring a reliable water supply for farmers.At the heart of this groundbreaking project are KBL's state-ofthe-art VerticalTurbine (VT) pumps, installed at the Parwati site pumping station for theNarmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA).

These pumps are engineeredfor optimal efficiency, vibration-free operation, and minimal water loss, makingthem highly durable and reliable for large-scale irriga tion systems.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

20-year-old employee of a bike show-Accom committed suicide by jumping into Upper Lake after parking his moped on VIP Road in the state capital; he left home for showroom but committed suicide mysteri-

oulsy. Police said that it could not was going to the showbe revealed why he committed suicide. The police have not found any suicide note. The police have registered a case and started an investigation in the matter. SHO of Talaiya police CB Rathore said that Mohammad Saad of Subhash Colony, used to work in a bike showroom. He lived with his grandfather as his parents died long ago. Like his every day

It could not be revealed why he committed suicide. The police have not found any suicide note

> morning and told that he room.

Instead of going to the showroom, he parked his vehicle near the statue of Raja Bhoj located on VIP Road. After this, he jumped into the Upper Lake. Police said that the real cause of death will be revealed only after the detailed statements of the family members. Meanwhile a man committed suicide by hanging from a tree near railway track routine, he had left in the under Bajaria police station

remains unclear. According to the police, a man was found hanging from a tree and was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. Police were informed and on the receipt of the information a police team

area, reason of the suicide

reached the spot and started investigation. During the investigation

police have not found anything to establish his identity. After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post-mortem. The police have registered a case under Section 194 of the BNC and have started further investigation. No suicide note has been recovered by the police in the investigation and nothing regarding the death has been estblsihed in the initial probe.

#### ...भरोसे का प्रतीक Sale Notice

(A Govt. of India undertaking) Dwarka Plot No.- 4, Sector- 10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE, CIRCLE OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, SANGAM PLACE, CIVIL LINES, PRAYAGRAJ- 211001 Phone: 0532-2560093, Email: cs8299@pnb.co.in

#### 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 proviso to Rule 8(6) and / or 9(1) 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 constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties

Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & Addresses of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (Mortgagors of property (ies))	A) Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	(A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs) (B) EMD (Rs. in Lakhs) (C) Bid Increase Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Date/ Time of E- Auction	Details of the encumbran ces known to the secured creditors
Chitrakoot (197610) Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Manav Seva Sansthan Borrowers:- (1) Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar	Seva Sansthan (6 Kita) at Mauza- Sapha, Tehsil- Kan ao Ambedkar District-Chitrakoot, Area-1.198 Hectare		A)(1) Rs.220.50 Lakhs (2) Rs.42.30 Lakhs (11.00 AM		
Chandrapal Singh), R/o- Shankar	Chandrapal Singh Boundaries:-East: Karwi-Rajapur Road via Ganjwa, West: Khet of Lal Bahadur, North:	charges incurred, minus recovery.	B)(1) Rs. 22.05 Lakhs (2) Rs. 4.23	1 1	Not Known
Chitrakoot, Karvi-210205 (U.P.) (2) Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh.			Lakhs C) Rs. 0.10 Lakhs		
Bhimrao Ambedkar Manav Seva	(2) Extension of Equitable Mortgage of Re 829Mi, Mauza-Bankat, Ward No. 5, Shanka				

Bh Sansthan), R/o- Shankar Bazaar, Near Bethel School, Shankarganj, Chitrakoot, Karvi-210205 (U.P.)

(3) Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh.

210205, Area: 260.00 Sq Mtrs, Owner: Sh, Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh, Chandrapal Singh Boundaries:- East: Plot K P Singh with foundation, West: Mukir Land etc., North: Khet Bhagwandeen, South: Kachha Rasta

Chandrapal Singh (Director: Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Manav Seva Sansthan), R/o- Shankarganj, Shankar Bazar, Ward No. 8, Karwi Chitrakoot-210205 (U.P.)

Guarantors/ Mortgagors:- (1) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Mahavidyalaya (Manager- Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Chandrapal Singh), R/o- Village- Sapha, Tehsil- Karwi, Chitrakoot-210205, (2) Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Chandrapal Singh, R/o- Shankar Bazaar, Near Bethel School, Shankarganj, Chitrakoot, Karvi-210205 (U.P.) (3) Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Chandrapal Singh, R/o- Shankarganj Shankar Bazar, Ward No. 8, Karwi, Chitrakoot-210205 (U.P.) (4) Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh S/o Sh. Chandrapal Singh, R/o- House No. 330/328, Kata No. 173, Khasra No. 829Mi, Mauza- Bankat, Ward No. 5, Shankarganj, Opposite Agrahari Dharmshala, Karwi, Chitrakoot-210205 (U.P.) (5) Sh. Vishnu Datt Singh S/o Sh. Bal Krishna Singh, R/o- Rehuntiya, Karwi, Chitrakoot-210205 (U.P.)

(6) Smt. Aarti Singh W/o Sh. Ashok Kumar Singh, R/o- Shankarganj, Shankar Bazar, Ward No. 8, Karwi, Chitrakoot-210205 (U.P.)

(7) Sh. Jago Prasad Singh S/o Sh. Shiv Mohan Singh, R/o- Khandehva, Post- Khandeha, Mau, Chitrakoot-210209 (U.P.)

(8) Sh. Nirdosh Singh S/o Sh. Chandrashekhar Singh, R/o- Khandehva, Khandehawa, Post-Khandeha, Mau, Chitrakoot-210209 (U.P.) (9) Sh. Siyaram Singh S/o Sh. Jagmohan Singh, R/o-540, New Gauri Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Indore-452010 (M.P.)

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

(1) The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:- (2) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". (3) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. (4) The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website:- (1) https://baanknet.com (2) www.pnbindia.in of on 10.01.2025 @ 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. (5) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.com and www.pnbindia.in, e-Auction will be provided by e-Auction service provider M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Helpdesk No. +91-8291220220, email id-support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com. **Authorized Officer** 

Statutory Sale Notice under Rule 8(6) and / or 9(1) of Sarfaesi Act, 2002 (Mob. No.- 7001728381)

Date : 23.12.2024, Place : Prayagraj Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank

## MP emerges as leader in drone technology: CM

#### STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

adhya Pradesh is moving towards becoming a leader in drone technology under the guidance of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. To develop a strong ecosystem for drone technology in the state and to discuss drone policy, a workshop was organized on Monday at Kushabhau Thackare Auditorium on 'Use of drones in governance and development of drone ecosystem in Madhva Pradesh'. Wide-ranging applications of drone technology were discussed in the workshop. Surveyor General of India Hitesh Kumar Makwana, Additional Chief Secretary Science and Technology Sanjay Dubey, and Managing Director MPSEDC Ashish Vashishtha inaugurated the workshop. On this occasion, Drone Center information portal drone.mp.gov.in was also launched.

Makwana said that India has made significant progress in drone technology in the last six years. From their initial limited use to their widespread use today, drones have emerged as versatile tools. The Government of India has made a drone policy for the widespread use of drone technology. Madhya Pradesh is a leading state in the use of drone technology. The state has made a special achievement by using drone technology to implement the Swamitva Yojana. Drone technology is efficient, accessible, and a low-cost technology. Sanjay Dubey said that the

Central Government has set a target of developing an ecosystem based on drone technology, In this, necessary rules, licensing procedures, period of operation, etc. have been prescribed for the operation of drones. Considering this policy inspiring, Madhya Pradesh is working for the practical and beneficial use of drones at the regional level. He

said that we aim to develop a emergency situations. Drone strong and holistic ecosystem in technology is also being used in the state. When we talk about excise, law & order, and condrones, it is not just a flying camstruction activities. Our objective era but a game-changing techis to make Madhya Pradesh the nology that is capable of prodrone hub of the country. viding services at different levels. There is a possibility of widespread application of this technology in the state, which will provide better facilities to the citizens. We aim to develop such an ecosystem through which drones

President of Drone Federation of India, Smit Shah said that drones have a transformative role in business expansion in urban and rural areas. He said that drones are being used extensively through can be widely used in various

initiatives like NaMo Drone Didi. The use of drone technology is not fields. This initiative will play an just an option but it is a necessiimportant role in realizing Prime ty of the future. NABARD GM Minister Narendra Modi's Oamar Javed said that remarkable Atmanirbhar Bharat and Makework has been done in drone technology in Madhya Pradesh. in-India vision. We aim to devel-Like cooperative institutions, the use of drones can be increased in PACS societies also. FICCI Drone Committee Co-Chairman and CEO Ankit Mehta said that drone technology is very useful in maintaining law & order and in surveillance areas. Drones with their multifunctional utility are prodrones play an important role in moting innovations and reshap

ing future technology.

op drone technology and also set up manufacturing units in the state. Ashish Vashishtha said that today drone technology is being widely used in the agriculture sector. Effective mining is being monitored with the help of drones in the mining area. Also,

providing medical facilities in



# **Congress running smear campaign against Shah, accuses BJP**

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $T^{he \ BJP \ on \ Monday}_{accused \ the \ Congress \ of}$ running a smear campaign against Union Home Minister Amit Shah and said, instead of indulging in such "drama", it should apologise for always "insulting and humiliating" B R Ambedkar.

It also accused the Congress of using out of context a small portion of Shah's recent speech in the Rajya Sabha in a bid to "establish its political identity"

The Congress has launched a weeklong nationwide cam-paign against Shah, alleging that he insulted Ambedkar with his remarks while participating in a debate on the Constitution in the Rajya Sabha last week.

As part of the "Ambedkar Samman Saptah", Congress workers and leaders will hold marches and readers will hold marches and press confer-ences to remember Ambedkar's legacy, the party

said on Saturday. Hitting back, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad minister Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged that the Congress, which "always" insulted Ambedkar during his life-time, was doing a "drama" of remembering his legacy. "The Congress, which always insulted B R Ambedkar, is holding press conferences

holding press conferences across the country... Stop this drama. Stop this hypocrisy," Prasad said in a press conference at the party headquarters.

"The Congress must tender an unconditional apology for all the insults and humiliations



done to B R Ambedkar during his lifetime and to his legacy after his death. First of all, publicly apologise and then hold press conferences," he added. The BJP leader asserted that the people of the country were very mature. "Its (Congress) efforts will not succeed."

succeed." Prasad said the BJP would hold press conferences around the country to "expose" the Congress by telling people how the party and its leaders insulted Ambedkar. "We have all the proof," he added.

The BJP leader also slammed Congress general secretary KC Venugopal for describing as a "badge of honour" the FIR against Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in connection with last week's face-off between

ruling and opposition MPs on the Parliament premises.

"A case was filed against Rahul Gandhi for pushing and shoving (BJP) MPs and a Congress general secretary, who is very close to him, said it was a badge of honour in their fight to honour the lega-cy of BR Ambedkar... What a bundle of lies," he said. Rahul Gandhi is wearing

"badge of dishonour for insulting and humiliating the legacy of Ambedkar", he charged.

Prasad said the BJP believed that all those who made "some honest efforts" to build the nation should be respected. "This is the difference (between the Congress and the BJP) .... We honour even our staunch rivals who have tried to build the nation in their own ways. We published a book on EMS

'We also see that there is a pro-

found shift in social norms and

family dynamics and work-life

balance is not desirable but

essential," the IG said. He said

"more and more women" were

joining the force and that "work-

ing couples" are increasing in the

force and hence the policy is

borne out after considering all

The IG said special care will be

taken to ensure that the educa-

tion of the children of the force

personnel does not suffer and

transfer orders will be issued in

such a time that the academic

cycle of their wards does not get

such issues.

affected.

Namboodiripad [CPI(M) leader and Kerala's first chief minister] when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was prime minister," he said.

nation 04

After the BJP assumed power under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Janshakti Party chief Ram Vilas Paswan was conferred with the Padma Bhushan and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) supremo Sharad Pawar the Padma Vibhushan, he added. Asked about Jawaharlal Nehru, Prasad said, "The biggest proof of honouring our rivals is the prime ministers' memorial and museum. Earlier, only Nehru's memorial was there. Now, there is (a memorial of) every prime minister. The country should remember all the prime ministers.

## Nearly 10 lakh Govt jobs provided in mission mode: PM Modi

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his government has provided nearly 10 lakh permanent government jobs to youths in the last one or one and a half years which, he asserted, is a record.

Addressing recruits at a Rozgar Mela through a virtu-al event, where over 71,000 people were given appoint-ment letters, he said never before in the tenure of any previous government were jobs provided in such a "mission mode".

The young population is at the centre of his government's policies and programmes, he said, adding honesty and transparency have driven the recruitment process.

The prime minister said 'Rozgar Melas' (recruitment drives) are empowering the youth and unlocking their potential. "The youth of India today is full of new confidence, succeeding in every sector.

Noting that a large number of recruits are women, Modi said it is the endeavour of his government that they become self-dependent in every field. The government's decision to grant 26-week maternity leave to women has helped them a lot in their careers, he said and



underscored that women are the majority owners of the house constructed under the 'PM Awas Yojana'. Women-led development is taking place in the country, he said.

Modi said making maximum use of the Indian youths' abilities and talent is a priority of his government, and that they are at the centre of a host of schemes, be it start-up India, digital India or reforms in space and defence sectors. The National Education

रोजगार प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा सरकारी नौकरियों में चयनित 71000 से अधिक युवाओं को नियुक्ति पत्रों का वितरण

category The backward classes recruit

ment has seen a 27 per cent rise under the Modi government compared to the UPA's 10 years in power, he said. The Schedules Castes and Scheduled Tribes accounted for 15.8 and 9.6 respectively for Monday's recruitments, Singh added.

In his address, Modi said the development of a country relies on the hard work, capa-bility, and leadership of its youth, and India is commit-ted to becoming a developed ted to becoming a developed nation by 2047 as its policies and decisions focus on empowering its talented youth.

world's fifth-largest economy and the third-largest startup ecosystem. Similarly, youths pursuing careers in sports have confidence that tĥey will not fail because they now are supported by modern training facilities and tour-

Modi said the country is undergoing a transformation across various sectors, becoming the second-largest in

Ing the second-largest in mobile manufacturing. India is also making strides in renewable energy, organic farming, space, defence, tourism, and wellness, creat-ing new opportunities and ing new opportunities and reaching new heights in each area, he added.

## CISF launches new transfer-posting policy to ensure 'better work-life balance'

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The CISF on Monday said it has unveiled a new organisational transfer and posting policy in order to ensure a "better work-life balance" for its per-sonnel who guard some of the most vital assets and infra-structure in the country.

The policy will "impact" over 98 per cent of the paramilitary force's about 1.70 lakh workforce with personnel to retire within two years being the first category to be given "choice or preference posting" followed by women staffers, working couples and the remaining falling in the fourth category.

The policy, to kick in from December 31, is meant for nongazetted officials (NGOs) in the ranks from constable to inspector, as grievances related to this issue is "higher" in these ranks, officials said.

'The policy is aimed to satisfy the force members when it comes to their transfer and posting, and place of work...Without compromising on the operational requirements of the force," CISF Inspector General (Administration) K C Samantaray briefed the media. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has replaced the last such policy that was enact-ed in 2017. "The policy has been



made after conducting extensive "Choice-based posting in CISF consultations on the ground. We has been made a rule as comaim to make the CISF a future pared to being an exception earready force to cope with emerglier. Personnel who want to get ing security challenges with a choice transfer or posting will training and building expertise have to opt for it," he said. in various security domains.

As per the CISF officials, personnel retiring within two years will be given the first preference while issuing posting orders followed by women personnel, then working couples and the rest will fall in the last category. The IG said "domain experts and personnel who are highly talented" will also get preference in their choice posting due to their skills and demanding nature of work.

The domain experts are those who are adept in areas like information technology, cyber security, data science, aviation security, anti-drone solutions, weapons and tactics, among others.

Policy has taken steps for the for the development of rural India and for the country's development of youngsters, he said, highlighting its emphasis on the use of mothprogress, Modi said his government has followed this by creating job and self-employment opportunities in vil-His government has ensured that language is not a barrier by ensuring that youngsters lages. It was his govern-ment's good fortune to bestow Bharat Ratna on Singh earlican take recruitment exams in er this year, he said. 13 Indian languages, he

Speaking at the event, Union Noting that former prime minister Jitendra Singh said minister Charan Singh, whose more than 29 per cent of the 71,000 recruited came from the Other Backward Classes birth anniversary is being observed on Monday, stood

naments.

He said India is now the

Committee. While evaluating the tableaux ideas presented by various states/UTs and ministries, key aspects like conceptual uniqueness and novelty, creative expression with a clear, communicable message, combining subtlety as well as directness, striking balance between Virasat and Vikas in each tableau, exclusion of repetitive ideas, special attention to details like colors, forms, textures, flow, rhythm, proportions and balance, ensuring a well-composed aesthetic experience of grand scale were taken into consideration for selection. Following 15 states/ UTs have been selected for showcasing their tableaux on Kartavya Path for RDC-2025: Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Dadar Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.



## pay tributes to Charan Singh on birth anniversary

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh(UP)Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday paid tributes to former prime minister Charan Singh on his birth anniversary. Dhankhar recalled Charan

Singh's contribution to the agri sector. Talking to reporters at Kisan Ghat here after paying tributes to Singh on his 122nd birth anniversary, Dhankhar said it is an occasion for everyone to take a resolve that agriculture is necessary for India's rise.

Agro sector and farmer welfare are fundamentals for a passage to a developed nation at 2047, he said. Dhankhar said as Singh was committed towards holistic development of farmers, it was time for all of us to "converge our energies and get into the job that these celebrations are festive occasions for the farmer and would be game changer for the country's economy

In his tributes, Prime Minister Modi described Charan Singh as a true well-wisher of the poor and farmers. In a social media post, Modi said Singh's dedication and spirit of service to the country will continue to inspire everyone.

Born in 1902 to a Jat family in western Uttar Pradesh, Singh went on to become a promi nent leader, especially in north India, and an axis of anti-Congress politics after he quit the Congress. He also served as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh

The Modi government bestowed the Bharat Ratna on him this year, acknowledging his contribution to public life. His grandson Jayant Singh is a minister in



decided as 'Swarnim Bharat: the BJP-led NDA government. Virasat aur Vikas,' it said. Since the beginning of this Chief Minister Yogi year, a consultative process has been adopted by the Adityanath said in a social media post "Humble tributes to former prime minister 'Bharat Ratna' Chaudhary Ministry of Defence to decide on various aspects related to Charan Singh ji on his birth tableaux. A meeting at senior official level was held in April anniversary. He dedicated his life to the upliftment of vil-2024 to deliberate on lages, poor and deprived and

farmer welfare! Heartiest greetings of 'Farmers' Day' to the people of the state and the farmers who provide food!" The chief minister also attended a programme marking the 122nd birth anniversary of the former prime minister. He said, "Chaudhary Charan

Singh's birth anniversary has been observed as 'Kisan Samman Diwas' in Uttar Pradesh since 2002."

He recalled Singh's belief that India cannot prosper if its farmers remain poor, emphasising that the prosperity of the nation is integral to the wellbeing of its 'Annadata' farmers. 'The initiatives launched in 2014 are now recognised globally as a model for agricultur-al development", he stated. Reflecting this vision, the dou-ble-engine government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been relentlessly working to uplift farmers, he added. Adityanath paid floral tributes

to Singh's statue at the Vidhan Sabha and distributed new tractors to 11 farmers under the Chief Minister Krishak Uphaar Yojana.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** improvement of tableaux NEW DELHI

said here on Monday.. Every year states/UTs and

Union government min-

istries/ departments show-

case their tableaux on

Kartavya Path as part of Republic Day Celebration

(RDC). For RDC-2025, the

er tongues.

added.

quality. Various suggestions received during meeting has Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas will be showcased been included in process. Theme for tableaux was also through tableaux at Kartavya decided based on suggestions Path during Republic Day from State/UTs. Parade 2025, defence ministry

There is a well-established system for selection of tableaux for participation in the Republic Day Parade as per which Ministry of Defence invites proposals for tableaux from all State/ UTs and central ministries/ departments.

theme for tableaux has been The tableaux proposals received from various State/ UTs and central ministries/ departments are evaluated in a series of meetings of the Expert Committee, comprising eminent persons in the field of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture, choreography etc.

Tableaux are one of the

reservation benefits.

arrest bail.

opposed the plea for pre-

The UPSC was represented by



important components of the overall duration of parade, Republic Day Parade. Due to shortlisting of tableaux is time allotted for tableaux in done by the Expert

In addition, 11 Ministries/ Department of Union government have also been selected for RDC-2025.

All the states/UTs, irrespec tive of their selection for Kartavya Path, are invited to display their tableaux during Bharat Parv in Red Fort (26th-31st January 2025).

The entire selection process is robust, fair, transparent, based on merit and free from any bias. The selected tableaux would showcase India's diverse strengths and its constantly evolving cultural inclusiveness marching into glorious future, showcasing Swarnim Bharat - Virasat aur Vikas' to the world audience.

#### NHRC questions TN Govt about Delhi HC denies anticipatory bail to death by electrocution of two labourers former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $D_{\text{Monday refused to grant}}^{\text{elhi High Court on}}$ anticipatory bail to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar in the criminal case lodged against her for cheating and wrongly availing of OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services examination. "Anticipatory bail plea is dismissed. Interim protection from arrest is vacated," Justice Chandra Dhari Singh said

while ruling on the plea. Justice Singh said a strong prima facie case was made out against Khedkar and investigation was required to unearth the conspiracy. It was a classic case of fraud committed on a constitutional body as well as society, the judge said. Khedkar is accused of misrepresenting



information in her application for the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2022, to get The counsel for the Delhi Police as well as the comfaking her identity. The Delhi Police registered plainant, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC),

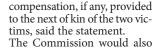
an FIR under provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Information Technology Act and Right of Persons with Disabilities Act.

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Taking suo motu cognisance **I** of a media report that two persons, working as contract labourers with the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) died due to electrocution, The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued notices to the State Chief Secretary and the Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu calling for a detailed report in the matter

within two weeks. The NHRC noted that while repairing a high-tension overhead power line near Olaiyur Ring Road in KK Nagar, Tiruchi in the Southern State on December 18.

The Commission has observed that the contents of the media report, if true, indi-



like to know the steps taken/proposed by the State government and Tangedco to ensure that such incidents do not recur, it added.

According to the media report, as per the preliminary investigations, the power supply to the cable was not fully turned off during the repair work. The workers were on the job without any protective gear.

In a similar incident, a worker was electrocuted to death while repairing a transformer in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu last year. Last month, a migrant worker was reportedly electrocuted during Cyclone Fengal and his body was found near an ATM in Muthialpet, pointed out the NHRC in a statement.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

> cate gross negligence on the part of the electricity depart-ment resulting in the death of two labourers," said the Rights body in a statement issued here. The Commission has also noted that such incidents have occurred earlier too in the state. This is a serious human rights violation and a matter of concern for the Commission, it further added.

The notice is expected to include the status of the FIR registered in the matter and

Vardhman Kaushik. The UPSC initiated a series of actions against Khedkar in

July, including lodging a criminal case, for availing attempts in the civil services exam by

senior advocate Naresh Kaushik and lawyer



## **Open merit aspirants protest outside J and K CM's** residence, demand rationalisation of reservation quota

#### MOHIT KANDHARI 📕 JAMMU

Demanding rationalisation of reservation quota in government jobs and scholarships, a large number of open merit aspirants led by a Member Parliament from Srinagar Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi Monday laid a siege to the official resi dence of Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for several hours.

Braving inclement weather conditions under sub-zero temperatures these aspirants staged peaceful holding demonstration placards which read 'Stop Genocide Against Open Meriť.

PDP legislator Waheed Ur Rehman Parra along with other party leaders including Umar Iltija Mufti also joined the peaceful protest outside the CM's residence.

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz

Farooq had also and Kashmir. extended support to a sit-in protest called to demand rationalisation in the should be addressed with reservation policy in Jammu justice and fairness by those at

the helm. While expressing concern, Mirwaiz said that the matter

Reacting to the developments taking place outside his residence, the Chief Minister invited a group of students.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A head of Christmas Day and New Year celebra-

tions the Gurugram Traffic

has assigned the duties of

traffic police officers to

celebrate Christmas Day and

guidelines to all the officers

posted in traffic to perform

their duties with more

vigilance during Christmas Day and New Year

safely

has issued

and

Year

New

peacefully. The DCP

celebrations.

GURUGRAM

After briefing them on various steps initiated by his newly formed government Omar the that promised student delegation the government would address the reservation issue within the period of six months. Omar 'Chief

Minister Abdullah assured the protesting student delegation that their demands would be addressed and the subcommittee would submit its report within 6 months", the Spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference posted on X(earlier Twitter). KNC MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi also termed the time frame given by chief minister Jammu & Kashmir a 'positive development'.

thankful to Chief "I'm Minister Omar Abdullah who listened to students over the reservation issue and gave a time frame of six months to

solve this grave and sensitive issue," MP Ruhullah said. He said the time frame set by CM Abdullah doesn't mean it will take a full six months. "It may take two or three months only. As one month has already passed, I'm hopeful that the matter will be resolved in the coming five months," he

said. Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi also that maintained the rationalisation of reservation quota should be ensured as per population proportion, and that he is not satisfied with the formation of the cabinet subcommittee, but satisfaction of students matters to him.

Earlier addressing a student gathering he said that there should be no discrimination in reservation policy, and the policy should be ensured as per the Supreme Court ruling or as per the population proportion.

Shimla receives second snowfall of the season, brings cheer to tourists and farmers alike

nation 05



PTI SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh's capital, Shimla, on Monday witnessed the second light snowfall of the season, bringing cheer to tourists, locals and farmers.

Residents cald in woolen clothes stepped out to enjoy the snowflakes under an overcast sky, as icy winds swept through the region. Tourists were seen reveling in the snowfall at The Ridge and mall road in town.

Snowfall was also occurred in nearby tourists spots of Kufri and Narkanda besides higher reaches including Kharapathar, Chaurdhar and Chanshal, the weather officer said.

local meteorological The department had forecast rain and snow in mid and higher reaches on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Snowfall, often termed "white manure" for apples, has raised hopes for good yields among farmers in the upper Shimla region. Apple farming contributes about Rs 5,000 crore to Himachal Pradesh's farming economy.

The snowfall is expected to boost tourist footfall in the state providing a fillip to local tourism business. A local hotelier Sushant Nag said that hotel occupancy is set to rise as snowfall draws tourists. Another Shimla-based

hotelier Rahul Chawla said that snowfall ahead of Christmas and predictions of more in the coming days could lead to a 50 percent increase in tourist arrivals. Shimla Hotel and Tourism Stakeholders Association president M K Seth had earlier said that that there are heavy bookings for Christmas and over 30 percent

advance booking for New Year. Meanwhile, intense cold wave persisted in the lower hills of

Himachal Pradesh, with Una, Hamirpur, Chamba and Mandi experiencing cold wave conditions and Sundernagar reeling under severe cold wave. Shallow fog was witnessed in Mandi and Sundernagar areas, the meteorological department said. The department on Monday issued an orange alert for severe cold in Bilaspur, Una, Hamirpur and Mandi districts till Thursday.

Tabo was coldest place in the state at minus 10.6 degrees while Celsius Sumdo, Kusumseri and Kalpa recorded lows of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, minus 3.7 degrees Celsius and minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, respectively, it said. A yellow warning for dense fog over parts of the Bakra Dam reservoir area and Balh valley in Mandi has been issued from Tuesday to Thursday. According to the

weather station. Thick ground frost is expected in isolated parts of the lower hills during this period, it

added. The weather office said an active western disturbance is likely to affect the western Himalayan region and adjoining plains from Friday. Light rain and snow are likely at isolated places over the state on Monday and Tuesday and at many places on Friday and Saturday, causing a gradual fall in temperatures, it said.

High-altitude tribal areas and mountain passes continued to experience biting cold, with temperatures 14 to 18 degrees below freezing point, the Met office said

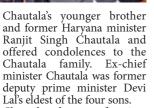
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh pays tribute to former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala only served people of the state,



#### PTI CHANDIGARH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday visited Teja Khera in the Sirsa district and paid tributes to former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala, who passed away last week.

Singh reached the Chautala family's farmhouse in the Teja Khera village and met the departed Indian National Lok Dal chief's sons Abhay Singh Chautala, who is an INLD leader and Ajay Singh Chautala, who heads the JJP party. He also met O P



Chautala, who was a five-time chief minister, died in Gurugram on Friday. He was 89. Speaking to reporters at Teja Khera, Singh recalled his association with O P Chautala and said he shared "deep relations" with him.

but the services which he rendered for the farming community can never forget that. "He was son of a great leader (Devi Lal), but in the political sphere, he carved out his own identity," said Singh about Chautala, whose party was part of the NDA earlier.

He said that Chautala was a flag-bearer of the anti-Congress front all his life. He also said that Chautala walked the path shown by Sir Chhotu Ram, Chaudhary Charan Singh and Chaudhary Devi Lal (all of whom were considered the messiahs of farmers).

On Saturday, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal were among prominent personalities who reached Teja Khera to attend the last rites of the departed leader.

demand

for

### Gurugram traffic police gear up for Christmas and new year celebrations, focus on curbing drunken driving

#### Meanwhile, a total of 57 people, including 06 traffic inspectors, 12 zonal officers, 33 ORS and 06 RSOs, have been deployed in the traffic police during Christmas Day, which also includes 6 traffic 83 ORS, and 11 other traffic employees, 10 includes checkpoints. would policemen deployed at ten traffic posts in Sector 29 and the MG Road, keeping arrangements in mind. Notably, there are more than 150 pubs in the city, where young men and women the New Year celebrations.

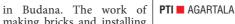
Cranes and ambulances have been put on standby in accident-prone areas, and arrangements have been made against drinking and

driving. Parking would be arranged along the Leisure Valley and adjacent areas. Also, concerned traffic official of the area will set up alcohol checkpoints in their respective areas so that Christmas Day and New Year

According to data released by the Gurugram traffic police, a total of 25,615 drivers, including 218 female drivers, who were driving after consuming alcohol, have been challened from 1 January 2024 to 22 December 2024.

"We requested people to celebrate Christmas Day and New Year celebrations celebrations peacefully and give their cooperation to the Traffic Police Gurugram. Traffic Police Gurugram is always ready for their service and security. Be careful and be safe. It is important to follow traffic rules

NCP's Chhagan Bhujbal meets | Brick kiln wall collapse kills four | BJP revamps Tripura leadership, appoints over children in Haryana's Hisar 90 per cent new faces as mandal presidents



to ST, 18 per cent to SC and 36 new 'mandal' presidents for The BJP has brought in over category," he told reporters. constituencies. Deb said almost all such "Congratulations to newly committees got new heads as appointed the party had put a restriction presidents. I firmly believe on the upper age limit at 45 that leadership, the party will be for the post of 'mandal' presidents. strengthened more," the chief

under your able

minister wrote on Facebook.

BJP's Tripura unit general

secretary Amit Rakshit said

the move to appoint new faces

as 'mandal' presidents was

instruction from Delhi to give

a fair chance to young leaders

introduced

to serve the party.

'mandaĺ'

following

CM Devendra Fadnavis amid

Mahayuti government row

#### He said that as chief minister of Haryana five times, he not

He also gave necessary directions to the traffic personnel to keep an eye on drinking and driving.

which also traffic Traffic be

traffic

attend in large numbers for

#### Police has made special prepacheck posts. Apart from this, a total of 105 traffic police officers will be appointed especially for the New Year, rations for smooth traffic operation in the city. Traffic officials said special attention would be kept on drinking and driving. For this, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Traffic Virender Vij, has assigned the duties of 2025 can be celebrated with joy as well as safely and peacefully. including 11 zonal officers,



Truck runs over

people sleeping on

footpath, killing three

#### PTI 📕 PUNE

Two toddlers and a man I were killed and six other persons injured after a truck ran over people sleeping on a footpath in Maharashtras Pune city in the wee hours of Monday, police said.

The incident took place at 12.55 am on the footpath in Wagholi area where several persons were sleeping, they said. The victims comprised labourers and their family members hailing from Amravati. The labourers had come to Pune a couple of days back in search of jobs, the police said. The truck driver, identified as Gajanan Totre (26), was arrested after the incident and his medical test was being done to ascertain if he was driving under the influence of alcohol, an official said

"There were many people sleeping on the footpath near Kesnand Phata area, most of them labourers. They were run over by a truck, leading to the death of three persons," a senior police official said. The deceased have been identified as Vaibhavi Pawar (1), Vaibhav Pawar (2) and Vishal Pawar (22), the police said

The six injured persons - Janki Pawar (21), Rinisha Pawar (18), Roshan Bhosale (9) Nagesh Pawar (27), Darshan Vairal (18) and Aalisha Pawar (47) - were admitted to the Sassoon General Hospital, they added. Additional

Pune

Commissioner of Police (East Region) Manoj Patil said the truck driver lost control over the wheels near Wagholi police station and rammed his vehicle into several people sleeping on the footpath at 12.55 am.

"Prima facie, the people who were injured and died were labourers and their family members from Amravati district.

PTI MUMBAI Senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal,who is sulking over not being included in the new

pertaining to OBCs. Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis 12 days," the NCP leader added. OBC leaders are here on Monday. Talking to reporters after the meeting, Bhujbal said he had

opposed to activist Manoj an elaborate discussion with Jarange's reservation for the Maratha the CM on the prevailing community in the Other Backward Class (Kunbi) political and social atmosphere in the state. category. Bhujbal has also been The former state minister was vocal about his opposition to the demand. Asked if he was accompanied by his nephew Sameer Bhujbal during the planning to switch over to the BJP, Chhagan Bhujbal refused nearly 30-minute meeting with Fadnavis at the latter's 'Sagar' bunglow in Mumbai. to elaborate and said he has "Fadnavis told me that the already spoken his mind on the issue of him being ignored Other Backward Classes have in the ministry expansion. played an important role in the landslide victory of the On Sunday, representatives of OBC organisations from Mahayuti in the assembly elections (held on November different parts of Maharashtra met him in the city 20) and he will take care that

the OBC community's interest is not harmed," Chhagan Bhujbal said. He also said Fadnavis has sought some time to think over the issues 'He (Fadnavis) said he would arrive at some decision in 10 to

PTI HISAR

Four children were killed when a wall of a brick kiln collapsed on them while they were asleep in Budana village of Harvana's Hisar district, police said on Monday.

A girl was critically injured in the incident that took place on Sunday night in the Narnaund police station area. The deceased were identified as Nisha (3 months), Suraj (9), Nandini (5) and Vivek (9), they said.

According to sources, many families of labourers from Uttar Pradesh work at the kiln

making bric pillars near the chimney is going on at the kiln. The children and some labourers were sleeping near the wall of the brick kiln when it collapsed on them. While Suraj, Nandini and Vivek died on the spot, Nisha succumbed on the way to the

hospital, said Superintendent of Police (SP), Hansi, Hemendra Kumar Meena.

The condition of a five-yearold girl, Gauri, is critical. She is undergoing treatment at Hisar Civil Hospital. All five children hail from Badhav village in Ambedkar Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, police said. SP Meena visited Hisar Civil Hospital after the incident and met the families of the deceased. The victims' families have not given any written complaint in the matter. If a complaint is received, action will be taken accordingly, he said.

90 per cent new faces as presidents of 'mandal' committees in Tripura, replacing old-timers, a party leader said on Monday.

level organisational set-up was introduced after the party's tally in the 2023 state elections had decreased to 32 from 36 seats.

Party's returning officer (RO) for the selection of 'mandal' presidents, Samarendra Chandra Deb on Monday Samarendra declared the names of 60 'mandal' presidents.

"During the selection of the 'mandal' presidents for 60 assembly segments, we ensured representation of all sections of people because the party believes in 'Sabka Saath Vikash'. Sabka Women constitute three per cent of the newly selected 'mandal' presidents, 23 per cent belong

BJP activists, who are below 45 years of age, are now ʻmandal eligible for presidents in Tripura as the party's central leadership instructed the state unit to bring new faces to strengthen the organisation in assembly segments. Those who had already completed two terms as 'mandal' presidents did not get another chance to lead the party at local levels, he said. Around 90 per cent of the 60 'mandal' presidents are new faces. The party has followed a proper guideline to bring

new faces to the forefront," he

Chief Minister Manik Saha on

Monday congratulated the

said.

According to him, over 11 lakh people have already enrolled their names online as BJP's primary and active members during a drive that commenced in October.

online Apart from membership, the BJP has received over 2 lakh applications offline, seeking enrollment as primary members of the party.

Kumbh Mela 2025: No more 'Kumbh mein bichchrey bhai' drama as UP gears up with tech-savvy systems

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE **PRAYAGRA**J

The age-old cinematic trope The age-old chiematic trope of loved ones getting separated in the chaotic crowds of

the Kumbh Mela is set to become a thing of the past. The Uttar Pradesh government is pulling out all the stops to ensure that the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj will be a secure and seamless experience for crores of pilgrims. Through meticulous planning

and cutting-edge technology, the state administration aims to eliminate the fear of separation at the mega event. The Prayagraj Mela Authority, in collaboration with the Police Department, is rolling out an advanced lost-andfound system that prioritizes prevention and rapid reunions. At the forefront of this

initiative are digital Khoya-Paya centers, which will



feature a robust digital registration system. Missing persons' details will be swiftly recorded and shared across multiple platforms, including popular social media channels like Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). Officials believe this tech-driven approach will replace heart-wrenching tales

of separation with reassuring stories of timely reunions. "Announcements at regular intervals and the use of digital platforms will ensure no family has to endure prolonged anxiety," said a senior official overseeing preparations. "Our aim is to redefine the Kumbh as a place

of safety and cherished memories. Special measures are being implemented to protect vulnerable groups, and especially women Any individual children. claiming a lost child or woman must provide verifiable identification.

will intervention be immediate, leaving no room for error or potential harm. This system eliminates the fears depicted in movies where lost individuals are taken away by the wrong people.

Instead, we are ensuring their safety through a secure and organized process," the official added.The theme of siblings or loved ones getting separated at the Kumbh has been a staple in Indian cinema, from the 1943 classic Taqdeer to the 1970s hit Mela. The Maha Kumbh 2025, however, is poised to rewrite this narrative with its tech-

In cases where a missing individual remains unclaimed for over 12 hours, authorities will step in to provide shelter and care. "The dramatized chaos of separations will give way to a reality of safety and In cases of uncertainty, police timely reunions," said a shelters, and access routes.

government spokesperson. For the first time, advanced face recognition (FR)cameras, powered by artificial intelligence, will be installed at key railway stations catering to Maha Kumbh pilgrims. The Prayagraj Railway

Division is spearheading this initiative, alongside the deployment of over 650 CCTV cameras and 100 FR cameras.

"With nearly 10 crore devotees expected to travel by train, these FR cameras will play a crucial role in monitoring crowded areas and identifying suspicious individuals. This ensures prompt action in case of anomalies," said Amit Singh, PRO of Prayagraj Railway Division. The cameras, which will be operational by January, will cover all nine railway Prayagraj, stations in monitoring platforms,

The comprehensive surveillance system is aimed at preempting security risks and ensuring the safety of pilgrims.

Uttar The Pradesh government's proactive measures are set to transform the Maha Kumbh 2025 into a modern, secure, anc unforgettable event.

With these advancements, pilgrims can enjoy a enriching spiritually experience without the fear of getting lost or encountering said mishaps," Rajesh Dwivedi, a senior police officer stationed in Kumbh

Nagari. The Maha Kumbh, a confluence of faith and tradition, is now also becoming a showcase of technology and meticulous planning, ensuring that the 2025 event is not just memorable but also worryfree.

powered approach.

The change in the assembly-

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

## Attack and aftermath

Christmas market attack in Germany reigniting polarising debates about immigration and national security

recent attack on a Christmas market in Magdeburg, Germany, has reignited contentious debates about immigration and national security, with far-right groups A tentious debates about miningration and national occurry, material bases and the tragedy, seizing the moment to push for mass deportation of immigrants. The tragedy, which claimed the lives of five individuals and left dozens injured, has sent shockwaves across Germany, leading to both solemn remembrances and polarising political rhetoric. On the evening of December 20, a car driven by Taleb al-Abdulmohsen, a 50-year-old psychiatrist originally from Saudi Arabia, careened into a crowded Christmas market. The attack lasted three harrowing minutes, during which over 200 people were struck, leaving 40 with critical injuries. Authorities arrested al-Abdulmohsen at the scene, and he now faces multiple charges of murder, attempted murder, and grievous bodily harm. Despite living in Germany for nearly two decades, the suspect's motives remain unclear. Investigators have yet to establish any ideological or



political motivations.

In the wake of the tragedy, far-right groups have amplified their calls for stricter immigration controls and mass deportations. On December 21, approximately 2,100 demonstrators gathered in Magdeburg to voice their outrage. Protesters, some wearing black balaclavas, carried banners with slogans like "Reimigration Now" and "migration kills." The term "reimigration" has become a rallying cry for far-right factions advocating the forced removal of immigrants and individuals deemed non-ethnically German. Chants such as "Anyone who doesn't love Germany should leave" and "We must take back our cities,

our villages, and our homeland" echoed through the streets. The incident has deepened divisions within Germany over immigration and integration policies. Critics argue that far-right groups are exploiting the tragedy to stoke xenophobia and advance their anti-immigrant agenda. Meanwhile, local communities have sought to counter the rhetoric of hate with acts of solidarity. A silent vigil was held at Magdeburg's Cathedral Square on the same evening as the protest, with participants lighting candles in memory of the victims. German authorities have called for calm and emphasised the need for a thorough investigation. Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed condolences to the victims' families and condemned both the attack and the use of such tragedies to spread divisive ideologies. The attack has reignited debates over Germany's approach to immigration and the balance between openness and security. While far-right voices call for stringent measures, advocates for multiculturalism warn against the dangers of collective punishment. This incident underscores the fragility of Europe's social cohesion in times of crisis. As Germany mourns, the challenge lies in addressing security concerns without succumbing to fear-driven policies that erode the values of inclusivity and tolerance that underpin the nation's democratic fabric.



# Macau: The glittering gem in Xi Jinping's China



SANTHOSH MATHEW

For the Chinese Communist Party, Macau is a beacon of controlled capitalism, showcasing the potential of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework

hen Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Macau, the world's gambling capital, the air was thick with anticipation. Macau, often dubbed the "Las Vegas of the East," is much more than a beacon of wealth and opulence. For Xi and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), it is a sparkling gem in the palm of China's vast and complex economic system—a model of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework that allows capitalist practices to thrive under the watchful eye of a socialist regime. Xi's visit underscored the stark contrasts between theory and practice in the CCP's governance and the lessons it offers not only for China's neighbours but for the world at large. Macau's significance lies in its

unique identity. A former Portuguese colony, it returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 under the promise of autonomy. Today, its glitzy casinos, luxury hotels, and sprawling Special Economic Zone (SEZ) generate billions annually, contributing substantially to China's GDP. But while the dice roll and fortunes are made on Macau's gaming tables, the CCP's control remains unyielding.

The irony is palpable. The CCP, a party built on anti-capitalist ideology, oversees the largest SEZ in the world in Shanghai, nurtures capitalism in Hong Kong, and allows gambling-once condemned as a moral vice-to flourish in Macau. This duality reflects the pragmatic philosophy first espoused by Deng Xiaoping: "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice." This approach has been pivotal in transforming China into the world's second-largest economy. Yet it also lays bare the contradictions at the heart of CCP rule.

Xi Jinping's Macau visit was not merely ceremonial. It was a reaffirmation of the CCP's ability to adapt and wield capitalist tools while maintaining a tight grip on wer. In Macau, Al emphasised stability and loyalty to the central government. This aligns with his broader strategy of tightening trolled capitalism. The success control over regions that might of these regions bolsters the



MACAU'S

Kong. The "One Country, Two Systems" model-once lauded as a masterstroke of governance-has increasingly become a tool for consolidating Beijing's authority. Hong Kong's story is a cautionary tale.

A vibrant hub of multinational corporations (MNCs) and transnational corporations (TNCs), it has been at the forefront of economic globalisation. However, its recent struggles with political dissent and Beijing's heavy-handed responses reveal the limits of the "Two Systems" promise. The CCP's crackdown on prodemocracy movements in Hong Kong has sent a clear message: economic freedom does not translate to political autonomy. Macau, in contrast, has largely avoided such conflicts, partly due to its economic dependence on Beijing and the absence of a robust prodemocracy movement. Yet, this does not make Macau immune to the inherent tensions of "One Country, Two Systems.

As Xi extolled Macau's success, he also warned against complacency and stressed the need for "long-term stability," a euphemism for unwavering allegiance to the CCP.For the CCP, Macau and Hong Kong are not just economic engines;

with Chinese characteristics can coexist with, and even benefit from capitalist mechanisms

The underlying contradictions are hard to ignore. The CCP's insistence on ideological purity clashes with its pragmatic embrace of market-driven policies. This duality is reflected in Xi's leadership, which combines Maoist centralisation with Dengist pragmatism

SIGNIFICANCE For Maoists, Naxalites, and LIES IN ITS urban Naxals in India, as well as other ideologues clinging to UNIQUE rigid dogmas, Macau stands as a testament to the power of IDENTITY. adaptation. The CCP's ability A FORMER to evolve, to reconcile its Marxist-Leninist roots with PORTUGUESE the demands of a modern, globalised economy, has been COLONY, IT the cornerstone of China's **RETURNED TO** rise. This is a far cry from the ideological purism that often paralyzes leftist movements CHINESE elsewhere

SOVEREIGNTY India, too, can draw inspiration from Macau. As the world's IN 1999 UNDER largest democracy grapples THE PROMISE with its development challenges, it must consider the OF AUTONOMY role of SEZs, MNC headquarters, and even industries like gambling in driving economic growth. While gambling remains taboo in much of India, the success of Macau transform India into a global economic powerhouse. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether ideology should dictate policy. The CCP's approach—that opinion is not an iron rod-offers a compelling case for pragmatism. Yet, the party's intolerance for dissent, as seen in its suppression of Mao's "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom" campaign, highlights the dangers of unchecked authority. The CCP's success in economic management is undeniable, but its human rights record and stifling of democratic aspirations serve as stark reminders of the cost of its iron-fisted rule.

As Xi Jinping departed Macau, the world was left pondering the paradoxes of modern China. Under his leadership, the CCP has doubled down on centralisation, curbing dissent while championing economic liberalisation. Macau's glittering casinos and towering skyscrapers are symbols of this duality, where capitalism thrives under the shadow of socialism. For Xi, Macau is more than a gem in China's palm; it is a symbol of the CCP's ability to adapt and endure. Whether in the neonlit streets of Macau or the corridors of power in Beijing, the CCP's experiment in controlled capitalism continues to

snows now regulated gaming can become a major revenue source. Similarly, expanding SEZs and

creating hubs for MNCs can

shape the future of Chinaand the world. (The writer is an associate

professor; views are personal)

People dressed as Santa Claus during Christmas celebration, in Chennai

## Navigating the intersection of technology, law and human rights



SHAINY SHARMA

In a world increasingly shaped by digital technologies, the concept of 'digital arrest' has emerged as a controversial tool in cyberspace

The term 'Digital Arrest' often referred to as the restriction, monitoring, or apprehen-sion of individuals through online mechanisms extends beyond the confines of traditional legal systems to encompass actions in cyberspace, such as freezing digital assets, blocking online accounts, or limiting access to certain platforms or limiting individual freedom in a virtual or online environment.

As technology permeates every aspect of life, the implications of digital arrest have grown even more sig-nificantly, offering both opportunities and challenges in governance, security, and individual rights in dismantling operations such as ransomware groups, hacking collectives, and online marketplaces for illegal activities. For instance, international efforts have led to the closure of dark web platforms such as Silk Road and the apprehension of their operators. Also, Cryptocurrencies and digital financial assets have brought about new forms of



ments or agencies freeze digital wallets associated with criminal activities thereby preventing the illicit flow of funds and supporting global financial regula-

tions While the concept is still evolving, digital arrest encompasses aspects of cybersecurity, legal frameworks, and the social consequences of living in a highly digitised world.

At its core, this kind of arrest involves leveraging technology to enforce restrictions or punish actions taken in the digital sphere. Various government agencies, corporations, and

participate in acts akin to digital arrest, raising questions about authority, power dynamics, and accountability in cyberspace.

To balance security and individual rights in the digital era, taking measures such as establishing transparent and enforceable regulations that define the scope of digital arrest; overseeing the use of digital arrest mechanisms to ensure accountability and prevent misuse; developing universal guidelines for promoting fairness and consistency across jurisdictions and most importantly raising public awareness about digdigital arrest, where govern- even individual users can ital rights and responsibili-

ties can equip individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effec-tively and securely in the digital world.

As the digital world continues to evolve, so too will the methods of enforcement and resistance. New technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, may influence how digital arrests are carried out and challenged.

Transparency in enforcement, the right to appeal, and global cooperation on ethical standards are essential steps in creating a just digital society. There is no denying that digital arrest represents the intersection of technology, law, and human rights in the digital age. While it offers tools for enforcing order and combating crime, it also poses risks

to freedom and privacy. As society becomes increasingly reliant on digital infrastructure, the concept of digital arrest will likely continue to evolve, demanding thoughtful and ethical approaches to its implementation.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **CONTROVERSY OVER AMBEDKAR**

Madam — The row over the insult to Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar is neither factual nor logical since the home minister never insulted Dr Ambedkar in his speech by words or intention; rather, the fact is that no leader from the BJP has ever insulted Dr BR Ambedkar publicly or in Parliament or state assemblies, whereas Congress has a documented history of opposition to Ambedkar. It is no secret that the first PM, JL Nehru, was never on good terms with Dr Ambedkar, and MK Gandhi too had an uncomfortable equation with Ambedkar, while it may be argued that the twin Congress leaders (Gandhi and Nehru) were right when it comes to national interest and the movement of Indian independence to oppose Dr Ambedkar.

Unfortunately, the national politics has reached the spot where Dr BR Ambedkar has been established as a godly figure, though he never participated in any struggle for Indian independence for which the Congress claims sole credit and abuses Bharatiya JanaSangh and BJP for their nonparticipation, never mentioning Ambedkar for his nonparticipation because that would be politically incorrect. Neither making Ambedkar the god nor considering the Constitution a heavenly document would be democratically or even constitutionally correct.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

#### **APATHY AT ITS WORSE**

Madam-This is our modern India. When a Jaipur gas tanker explosion left motor mechanic Radheyshyam Choudhary with 85 per cent burns. He bravely walked 600 meters while engulfed in flames, even calling his brother before succumbing to his injuries at SMS Hospital. Shockingly, by mid-morning, videos of the aftermath of the gas tanker explosion on the national highway were circulating online, with more than one showing a burning man struggling to stay

## Indian diaspora remits \$129 billion



n 2024. Indian expatriates achieved a historic milestone by sending \$129 billion in remittances. This amount not only surpasses India's vast defence budget and foreign direct investment but also exceeds the combined budgets of Pakistan and Bangladesh. This flow of funds symbolises not just economic support but also the hard work, dedication, and unwaver-

the cacophony unleashed by the accident, but bystanders just filmed his suffering rather than offering aid. Pathetic. People believe in publicity rather than providing succour and relief. No wonder, actually; these days people do anything for a short time of fame. They will upload such videos to garner views and likes, maybe monetise. They keep refreshing their page to see like and comment status anxiously.

It's more horrible that in the quest for social media, people have forgotten to be human! Shame on us. People want to know that this is the reality of our Sanskar. We have read many cases like these where precious lives could have been saved by the onlookers instead of taking useless videos. It's high time that YouTube and Instagram stop paying people for videos. Moreover, big vehicles like tankers and buses should be given a separate lane. It's there in all developed countries. It's important to react with improvements so that such foolish mishaps don't happen.

on his feet as he scampered for help amid Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

ing love of Indians for their homeland. Remittances have unlocked new avenues for development in rural and urban areas, fostering investment in education, healthcare, and infrastructure. It has provided stability to rural economies while empowering small and medium enterprises

Indians living abroad establish their identity on foreign soil through resilience and courage. By dedicating a significant portion of their income to the development of their families and nation, they exemplify cultural values and familial commitment. This inflow strengthens India's foreign exchange reserves and energises local businesses. With strong policy measures, the government can further enhance this success. Remittances are not merely economic contributions; they represent the collective effort and national pride of Indians across the globe. **RK Jain** | Barwani

**ACTION AGAINST MINING MAFIA** 

Madam — The operation of the mining mafia is a well-known fact for a long time to both the governments of Rajasthan and Haryana, including the efforts put forth by the general public in complaining against such acts with no stoppage of the bring-ing down of the Aravalli hills. However, a common man hesitates to lodge an FIR, as he is aware of the consequences he will face with negligible police protection for a limited time and the creation of animosity with the mafia, resulting in a threat to his life and discouraging him from fighting with such a large force. Sending inspecting teams to the blasted site from both the government is purely an eyewash in the eyes of the public until concrete action is taken at a national level involving the NIA. A strategic policy with amendments to the existing mining rules is required to be pondered upon to make it pragmatic and not theoretical to be effective.

R S Narula | Patiala

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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## **FIRSTCOLUMN SUCCESS THROUGH WORKPLACE INTELLIGENCE**

It is the ability to adapt to the work environment through emotional and cognitive intelligence



#### SAKSHI SETHI

In today's dynamic work environment, workplace intelligence has become a cornerstone for achieving personal growth, team cohesion, and organisational excellence. Workplace intelligence refers to the ability of individuals and organisations to navigate, adapt, and thrive in the professional environment through effective understanding, communication and decision-making. It encompasses emotional intelligence, social intelligence, and cognitive intelligence blended together with technological advancements thereby creating a comprehensive approach towards addressing the root causes of toxicity and fostering a positive workplace culture. There is no denying that such intelligence not only plays a pivotal role in creating a healthy, harmonious and productive professional environment but also equips individuals and organisations with the tools to identify, mitigate and prevent toxic behaviours that can undermine morale, collaboration and overall success.

It is often believed that employees with high workplace intelligence can manage their tasks efficiently and adapt to new challenges with minimal disruption. By leveraging cognitive and emotional intelligence, they can prioritize effectively and maintain focus, leading to improved productivity. Also, social and emotional intelligence enables them to work harmoniously with others, promoting effective communication and minimizing conflicts. Strong teamwork followed by leaders with workplace intelligence inspires trust, and motivation and navigate through complex challenges with clarity and empathy. It even enhances creativity, innovation and the achievement of their collective goals and even reduces stress, boosts morale, and contributes to overall job satisfaction. In an era of rapid technological advancements and shifting market dynam-



ics, workplace intelligence equips employees and organisations with the resilience and adaptability needed to stay competitive. By fostering emotional and social intelligence, workplace intelligence helps identify and mitigate toxic behaviours, thereby ensuring a positive and respectful work environment.

By promoting training and development, organisations can invest in training programmes that focus on emotional intelligence, communication skills and technological proficiency. Open and constructive feedback mechanisms help the employee grow and refine their workplace intelligence over time. Emphasising diversity and inclusion helps individuals develop social intelligence by interacting with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. Encouraging continuous learning and adaptability ensures that employees remain agile and open to new ideas and methods. Remember, a workforce with high workplace intelligence is more likely to generate creative solutions and drive innovation. Employees are more likely to stay in organisations where they feel valued, supported, and empowered. Today, companies such as Heineken, Cooley, Cruise Automation, Urban Company, Amazon, Chipotle and many more are known for fostering workplace intelligence to attract top talent and build trust with stakeholders. By investing in the development of workplace intelligence, organisations can create environments that promote collaboration, innovation, and sustainable success, ensuring they remain agile and competitive in an everevolving world. As organisations continue to navigate the complexities of globalisation and digital transformation, the importance of workplace intelligence will only grow. Artificial intelligence, remote work and diverse teams are shaping new paradigms that demand a more nuanced understanding of interpersonal and technological dynamics but organisations that invest in fostering workplace intelligence will gain a competitive edge, as their employees will be better equipped to adapt, innovate, and lead in an ever-changing world.

ndia Post, a vital lifeline in connecting citizens across the country, needs to undergo a comprehensive review of its services. This reform should focus on introducing innovation, ensuring greater revenue generation for the Department of Posts (DoP), and maintaining affordability for the public. As private courier services continue to gain traction due to their convenience and efficiency, India Post must adapt to remain competitive and relevant in a rapidly changing environment.

Rationalising Postal Tariffs and Eliminating GST on Select Services The current structure of postal services includes highly subsidised offerings, such as postcards priced as low as 50 paise. While such subsidies aim to make communication accessible, they are often exploited. For instance, during Lok Sabha elections in 2019, political parties used postcards extensively, resulting in significant costs to the public exchequer. Similarly, postcards are frequently misused for commercial purposes, such as reminders by chit-fund companies. These subsidised services, rarely used by the common man, burden taxpayers without corresponding benefits. To address this, printed or rubber-stamped postcards should be discontinued unless they are sponsored. The introduction of sponsored Meghdoot postcards priced at Re1 and printed postcards priced at Rs10 could ensure a sustainable revenue model. Similarly, the tariff for registered newspapers could be rationalised to Rs1, reflecting the increased cost of inputs for small newspaper production. Additionally, while normal postal services are exempt from GST, applying GST on premium services like Speed Post is counterproductive. It results in a redundant transfer of funds between government departments. Rationalising tariffs for Speed Post to Rs 20 or Rs 30 per 50gram weight slabs and aligning other domestic and international postal tariffs in multiples of Rs 10 would streamline the system and reduce inefficiencies. International postal rates could follow a consistent structure, with uniform tariff increases per weight slab for air and surface mail

Generating Revenue Through Sponsored Postal Stamps

To boost revenue, the DoP should introduce sponsored postal stamps. These stamps, carrying advertisements or approved messages, could be issued in bulk to sponsors at a fixed charge per printed stamp. This initiative could attract businesses, encouraging them to utilise postal services over private courier companies.

Additionally, a new series of definitive postal stamps and stationery could be launched annually on the first day of the financial year. These stamps should maintain consistent color schemes for specific denominations while showcasing new designs based on a selected theme. Commemorative stamps, previously issued in arbitrary denominations like Rs 12 and Rs 41, should be standardised to denominations in multiples of Rs 10. Furthermore, the practice of printing stamps of different denominations on the same sheet, except for miniature sheets, should

not only ensure better regulation but also offer a significant revenue stream.

#### Enhancing Consumer Convenience with Sticker Receipts

Currently, receipts issued by the Postal Department include a sticker only on the portion retained by the Department, leaving the consumer without one. Adding stickers to consumer receipts would eliminate the need for gum to paste them onto dispatch registers or documents. This small change could save public resources and improve the user experience, espe-

cially for organisations that rely heavily on postal services. Introducing RTI Stamps and Rationalising Postal Orders

Postal orders in low denominations such as Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, and Rs 7 were discontinued due to high handling costs. For example, the handling cost of a postal order in 2011–12 was Rs 37.45, far exceeding its value. To minimise losses, higher denominations like Rs 100, Ks 200, and Ks 500 could be introduced. Furthermore, RTI-specific stamps in denominations of Rs 2, Rs 10, and Rs 50 could replace postal orders for fees under the RTI Act, streamlining the payment process. This approach aligns with recommendations from the Central Information Commission and addresses the issue of unfeasible copying charges below Rs10 with due to the absence of lowertheir accounts or claimed matured deposits for over three years. If no response is received within three months, the funds should be frozen in fixed accounts and made accessible only after rigorous verification. Publishing details of such accounts could help legal heirs claim their rightful amounts, subject to stringent scrutiny. The introduction of successive nominations, as practiced by LIC of India, would further safeguard deposits and simplify inheritance process-

### Expanding Postal Services Through Bank Counters

The closure of post offices in key commercial areas, such as Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, has caused inconvenience for businesses that rely on Registered and Speed Post services. With banks increasingly adopting government savings schemes, their branches could be utilised for booking postal services. Offering banks a nominal commission for hosting these services would not only enhance accessibility but also integrate postal and banking ecosystems more effective-

# A roadmap for financial sustainability of India Post



07

analysis

India Post is at a crossroads. As private courier services continue to expand their market share with speed and convenience, it must adapt to stay competitive



(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

STAMPS, HAS be discontinued as it complicates BEEN MISUSED. usage Miniature sheets, being collectible

THE 'MY-STAMP

WHICH ALLOWS

**INDIVIDUALS TO** 

PRINT PERSONAL

INITIATIVE.

IMAGES ON

POSTAGE

items, should be priced higher than REPORTS the face value of the stamps they INDICATE contain. Such measures could not only enhance revenue through INSTANCES OF philately but also rekindle public interest in postal services. Replacing "My-Stamp" Sponsored Stamps NOTORIOUS INDIVIDUALS

The "My-Stamp" initiative, which **OBTAINING** allows individuals to print person-STAMPS WITH al images on postage stamps, has been misused. Reports indicate THEIR PHOTOS instances of notorious individuals obtaining stamps with their pho-tos, tarnishing the program's cred-TARNISHING THE ibility. Since no robust mechanism PROGRAM'S exists to screen applicants' back-CREDIBILITY grounds, the programme is susceptible to abuse. Discontinuing the "My-Stamp" concept in favor of

sponsored stamps could address this issue. Sponsored stamps would

denomination postal orders. Managing Inoperative and Matured Accounts

Unclaimed deposits in post office accounts often remain unnoticed due to deceased account holders failing to inform legal heirs. This creates a risk of fraud, as unscrupulous individuals may attempt to claim such funds in collusion with postal employees. To mitigate this risk, the Postal Department should send registered letters to account holders who have not operated

#### **Revamping the Postal Ecosystem** for Sustainability

India Post's transformation should emphasise efficiency, innovation, and customer-centricity. Rationalising tariffs, eliminating wasteful subsidies, and leveraging sponsored services are crucial steps toward financial sustainability. Additionally, addressing operational inefficiencies and improving service delivery will help India Post reclaim its position as a trusted and competitive communication medium.

By embracing these changes, India Post can not only secure its financial future but also continue serving as a cornerstone of India's communication network.

(The writer is a Guinness World Record holder and RTI *Consultant; views are personal)* 

## India's math geniuses shine bright in international math competition 2024

India, a nation with a rich legacy of mathematical brilliance, added another feather to its cap by triumphing at the UCMAS International Competition 2024

ndia has long been a land of great mathematicians, Lfrom Aryabhata to Ramanujan to Bhaskara, each leaving an indelible mark on the world with their mathematical ingenuity. Today, India continues to excel in the field, as evidenced by its stellar performance at the Universal Concept of Mental Arithmetic System (UCMAS) International Competition 2024 in New Delhi, where the country bagged both the highest individual and team trophies.

The competition, the world's largest event for Abacus and Mental Arithmetic, brought together over 6,000 students from nearly 30 countries. Participants faced the challenge of solving 200 arithmetic questions in just eight min



SARIKA JHA

utes, relying solely on the Abacus or mental math techniques—a feat that truly felt like magic. For the second time, the World's Largest Abacus & Mental Arithmetic Event- UCMAS International Competition 2024 was held in India at the Delhi University Multipurpose Hall. Students from across the world competed with each

tal prowess in solving a very large number of mathematics problems in the quickest pos-sible time to win the awards. This landmark event reaffirms its global significance in nurturing young minds in mathematics.

The competition aimed at promoting brain development, enhancing cognitive skills, and demonstrating the incred-

ible abilities students can achieve through Abacus and Mental Arithmetic. Presenting the trophies to top performers, former Union Minister Meenakshi Lekhi rightly said, "Smart brain produces smart solutions for every problem and prosperity is moving forward only when we have smart brains." Commending the efforts of the young par-

the importance of such initiatives and said, "UCMAS is enhancing cognitive skills and academic excellence." The blend of the ancient tool of the Abacus with modern teaching methodologies creates a unique educational experience Over 3 million children across

the world have benefited from the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic curriculum, which encourages creativity, visualisation, and focus while developing strong arithmetic abilities.

In today's competitive academic environment, maintaining mental wellbeing has become an uphill battle for many children. The relentless pressure to excel often leads to stress, anxiety, and even depression. other showcasing their men- ticipants, Lekhi emphasised In some heartbreaking cases,



it drives students to take extreme steps, as seen in recent reports from Rajasthan's Kota district—a hub for competitive exam preparations. However, innovative educational programmes like the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic course are emerging as a ray of hope, helping children manage stress while

#### self-confidence.

According to Dr Snehal Karia, CEO of UCMAS India, the course is designed to enhance children's mental stability by boosting their concentration, focus, and memory. It equips them with the confidence to understand and embrace their individuality, effectively reducing anxiety and depression. The Abacus & Mental Arithmetic program's key lies in its structured approach to building self-assurance through innovative teaching

methods. The encouragement and skills imparted during the training play a pivotal role in shaping a child's bright future. The program comprises eight levels, each lasting three to four months. Children attend fostering mental stability and weekly classes guided by

trained instructors, working through specially designed books and activities. Unlike conventional education, the course serves as a supplementary learning system to enhance cognitive abilities. There is an urgent need to complement the school's curriculum by focusing on brain development. The course improves memory, sharpness, and alertness.

As a result, students perform better academically and approach challenges with greater confidence. In a world where competition often overshadows creativity and selfworth, programs like Abacus & Mental Arithmetic provide children with the tools they need to thrive-mentally, emotionally, and academically. Alexan Wong, CEO of

UCMAS International Corporation, said, "The competition not only tests their skills but also serves as a platform to demonstrate their creativity, visual memory, and focus-all of which will shape their future success."The competition itself is a testament to the transformative power of such programs, where students not only test their math skills but also demonstrate the broader cognitive benefits that shape their academic and personal growth.

Ultimately, the world needs such initiatives to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to face the challenges of the future with confidence and creativity. (The author is a senior jour-

nalist. The views expressed are personal)



## Bethlehem plans another somber Christmas under the shadow of war in Gaza

AP BETHLEHEM (WEST BANK)

The Nativity Store in Manger Square has sold handmade olive wood carvings and religious items to people visiting the traditional birthplace of Jesus since 1927. But as Bethlehem prepares to mark its second Christmas under the shadow of the war in Gaza, there are almost no tourists, leaving the Nativity Store and other businesses unsure of how much longer they can hold on.

For the second straight year, Bethlehem's Christmas celebrations will be somber and muted, in deference to ongoing war in Gaza. There will be no giant Christmas tree in Manger Square, no raucous scout marching bands, no public lights twinkling and very few public decorations or displays.

"Last year before Christmas, we had more hope, but now again we are close to Christmas and we don't have anything," said Rony Tabash, the third-generation owner of Nativity Store.

Israel's war against Hamas has been raging for nearly 15 months, and there still is no end in sight. Repeated ceasefire efforts have stalled

25% in the past year.

this season

for these families.

Palestinian economy contracted by

income. But the streets are empty

2 million visitors per year in 2019 to fewer than 100,000 visitors in

2024, said Jiries Qumsiyeh, the

spokesperson for the Palestinian

tourism ministry Since the war began, tourism to Israel and the Israeli-occupied West According to the Christmas story, Mary was forced to give birth to Bank has plummeted. And after Iesus in a stable because there was Israel barred entry to most of the no room at the inn. Today, nearly all 150,000 Palestinians in the West of Bethlehem's 5,500 hotel rooms are Bank who had jobs in Israel, the

empty. The city's hotel occupancy rate plunged from around 80% in early 2023 to around 3% today, said Elias The yearly Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem — shared among Armenian, Catholic and Orthodox Al Arja, the head of Bethlehem Hoteliers Association. At his own hotel, the Bethlehem Hotel, he said denominations — are usually major boons for the city, where tourism he has laid off a staff of more than accounts for 70% of its yearly 120 people and retains just five employees.

The city hosts more than 100 stores Tabash said he continues to open the and 450 workshops dealing with trastore every day, but often an entire ditional Palestinian handicraft, Qumsiyeh said. But just a week week will go by without a sale. Tabash works with more than 25 before Christmas, when the city local families who create handshould be bursting with visitors, Manger Square was mostly empty save for a few locals selling coffee carved religious items out of the region's storied olive wood. But with no buyers, work has dried up and tea. Only two of the eight stores in the main drag of the square were Lots of room at the inn: The numopen for business. ber of visitors to the city plunged Oumsiveh worries that when the from a pre-COVID high of around

war ends and tourism eventually rebounds, many of the families that have handed down traditional skills for generations will no longer be making the items that reflect



Bethlehem area, including nearby Palestinian heritage and culture. Many are leaving the region entire-ly. "We have witnessed a very high villages, works in either tourism or in jobs in Israel. The unemployment rate in rate of emigration since the beginning of the aggression, especially Bethlehem is roughly 50%, said among those working in the tourism Salman. Unemployment across the sector," said Qumsiveh. West Bank is around 30%, accord

A Christmas without joy: Almost 500 families have left Bethlehem in Ministry. the past year, said Mayor Anton Salman. And those are just the families who moved abroad with offificult situation in Bethlehem and cial residency visas. Many others have moved abroad on temporary tourist visas and are working illegal ly, and it's unclear if they will return, Salman said. in the world having," said Salman.

Around half of the population in the

improvements.

'Panamanians may have differ

ent views on many issues" Mulino said. "But when it

comes to our canal, and our

sovereignty, we will all unite under our Panamanian flag."

The canal aside, Trump'

Land's dwindling population over the decade due to emigration and a low birthrate. Christians are a small percentage of

the population. There are about 182,000 in Israel, 50,000 in the West Bank and Jerusalem and 1,300 in Gaza, according to the US State Department.

It is another blow to the Holy

**Finding the light in the night:** Father Issa Thaljieh, the parish priest of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Church of the Nativity, said many families are struggling financially, leaving them unable to pay rent or school fees, much less buy Christmas presents or celebrate the holiday in other ways. The church's social services have tried to help, but the needs are great, he said.

Thaljieh said his Christmas message this year focused on encouraging Palestinians in Bethlehem to stay despite the challenges.

"A church without Christians is not a church," he said, as workers handpolished the ornate brass candelabras in the cavernous, empty church a week before the holiday. 'The light that was born when Jesus Christ was born here is the light that moves beyond darkness, so we have to wait, we have to be patient, we have to pray a lot, and we have to stay with our roots because our roots are in Bethlehem," he said.

Some families are finding ways to bring back pockets of joy.

Bethlehem resident Nihal Bandak, 39, gave into her three children's requests to have a Christmas tree this year, after not having one last year. Decorating the tree is the favorite part of Christmas of her youngest daughter, 8-year-old Stephanie.

Mathew Bandak, 11 was thrilled his family brought back some of their traditions, but also torn.

"I was happy because we get to decorate and celebrate, but people are in Gaza who don't have anything to celebrate," he said.

Rony Tabash, the third-generation owner of Nativity Store, said he will continue to open the store, because it's part of his family's history.

We are not feeling Christmas, but in the end, Christmas is in our hearts," he said, adding that the entire city was praying for a cease-fire and peace. "We have a big faith that always, when we see Christmas, it will give us the light in the night."

## Trump threatens to try take back Panama Canal Panama's president balks at the suggestion

#### AP PHOENIX

 $D_{\text{Sunday that his new}}^{\text{onald Trump suggested}}$ administration could try to regain control of the Panama Canal that the United States "foolishly" ceded to its Central American ally, contending that shippers are charged "ridiculous" fees to pass through the vital transportation channel linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

Panama's conservative president José Raúl Mulino, who was elected in April on a probusiness platform, roundly rejected that notion as an affront to his country's sover eignty

The Republican presidentelect's comment came during his first major rally since winning the White House on Nov. 5. He also basked in his return to power as a large audience of conservatives cheered along. It was a display of party unity at odds with a just-concluded budget fight on Capitol Hill, where some GOP lawmakers openly defied their leader's demands.

Addressing supporters at Turning Point USA's Turning AmericaFest in Arizona, Trump pledged that his "dream team Cabinet" would deliver a seal US borders and quickly settle wars in the Middle East and Ukraine. "I can proudly proclaim that the Golden Age of America is upon us," Trump said. "There's a spirit that we have now that we didn't have just a short while ago." His appearance capped a fourday pep rally that drew more than 20,000 activists and projected an image of Republican cohesion despite the past week's turbulence in Washington with Trump pulling strings from his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida as Congress worked to avoid a government shutdown heading into the holidays



bipartisan deal after Trump and Panama Canal Elon Musk, his billionaire ally, expressed their opposition on social media. Budget hawks flouted Trump's demand that they raise the nation's debt ceiling, which would have spared some new rounds of the same fight after he takes office on Jan. 20, with Republicans holding narrow control of the House and Senate. The final agreement did not address the issue and there was no shutdown. Trump, in his remarks in Phoenix, did not mention the congressional drama, though he did reference Musk's grow-

al revenue.

"We're being ripped off at the Panama Canal," he said, bemoaning that his country "foolishly gave it away." The United States built the canal in the early 1900s as it looked for ways to facilitate the

transit of commercial and military vessels between its coasts. Washington relinquished control of the waterway to Panama on Dec. 31, 1999, under a treaty signed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. The canal depends on reser-

voirs to operate its locks and was heavily affected by 2023 Central American roughts

fifth of that government's annu-

Still, Trump said, that, once his second term is underway, "If the principles, both moral and legal, of this magnanimous gesture of giving are not fol-lowed, then we will demand that the Panama Canal be returned to the United States of America, in full, quickly and without question."

"I'm not going to stand for it," Trump said. "So to the officials of Panama, please be guided

accordingly. He did not explain how that would be possible.

Callista Gingrich to be the US Shortly : ter Trum Mulino released a video declarthat forced it to substantially reduce the number of daily ing that "every square meter of slots for crossing ships. With the canal belongs to Panama fewer ships using the canal each and will continue to belong" to day, administrators also his country.

## Pak govt, Imran's party agree to continue talks to resolve contentious issues

#### PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

ing to the Palestinian Economy

Canceling Christmas festivities is

one way to draw attention to the dif-

across the Palestinian territories,

said Salman. "This year we want to

show the world that the Palestinian

people are still suffering and they

haven't the joy that everybody else

The Pakistan government and the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party in their maiden meeting on Monday agreed to continue talks to address contentious issues, including the release of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

The long-anticipated talks between the committees representing the government and the PTI were chaired by the National Assembly (NA) Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, who had last week announced to facilitate the two sides in their effort to defuse the prevailing political tension.

government side include Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, PM's political aide Rana Sanaullah, Senator Irfan

Parvez Ashraf, former minister Naveed Qamar, lawmaker Farooq Sattar and Privatisation Minister Aleem Khan.

PTI was represented by former speaker Asad Qaiser, Sahibzada Hamid Raza, and Senator Raja Nasir Abbas.

Sadiq thanked the govern-ment's leadership and senior leaders of the opposition for holding the talks. He announced that the next session would be held on January 2 and PTI's team would present a charter of their demands in

the next meeting. "We discussed things about past and present and I hope that if we work together for the country's betterment, it will strengthen the political stability, strengthen democracy and help in dealing with challenges faced by Pakistan," he said

after the meeting. Senator Irfan Siddiqui read out the communiqué regarding informed the members that several members of his committee could not attend due to court proceedings. It was agreed that both sides stand united in the fight against terrorism. A tribute was also paid to the martyrs for their sacrifice. There was also a declaration of support for standing

the talks that both sides described the talks as a positive

development and emphasised

the importance of keeping the

Both committees expressed

goodwill, saying that

Parliament is the appropriate

forum for resolving issues, the handout said. PTI's Qaiser

negotiations ongoing.

against terrorism. The talks began amidst the ongoing political tension between the government and PTI as the latter was demanding the release of all political leaders, including Imran Khan.

alongside the forces in the war

## Albanian prime minister says TikTok ban was not 'rushed reaction to single incident'

#### AP TIRANA (ALBANIA)

year in Albania is not a rushed demonstrates a failure to grasp but a carefully considered decision made in consultation with parent communities in schools across the country," said Rama on Sunday.

"The ban on TikTok for one didn't originate on the platform both the seriousne

appearance at Turning Point's annual gathering affirmed the growing influence the group and its founder, Charlie Kirk, have had in the conservative movement. Kirk's group hired thousands of field organizers across presidential battlegrounds, helping Trump make key gains among infrequent voters and other groups of people that have trended more

Democratic in recent decades, including younger voters, Black men and Latino men. "You had Turning Point's grassroots armies," Trump said. "It's not my victory, it's your victory." Trump on Sunday also announced several new mem-

Those who attended from the

Siddiqui, former premier Raja

world 08

House Republicans spiked a

is that ing power. To suggestic "President Trump has ceded the presidency to Elon," Trump made clear, "No, no. That's not happening." "He's not gonna be president,"

increased the fees that are Trump said. The president-elect opened the charged all shippers for reservspeech by saying that "we want ing a slot. With weather returning to normal in the later to try to bring everybody together. We're going to try. months of this year, transit on We're going to really give it a the canal has normalized. But shot." Then he suggested Democrats have "lost their confidence" and are "befuddled" after the election but eventually will "come over to our side because we want to have them?

price increases are still expected for next year. Mulino, Panama's president, has been described as a conservative populist who aligns with Trump on many issues. Panama is a strong US ally and

Atop a list of grievances the canal is crucial for its econsome old, some new — was the omy, generating about one-

Without mentioning Trump by name, Mulino addressed Trump's complaints over rising fees for ships crossing the canal, saying they are set by experts who take into account operational costs, and supply and demand factors.

"The tariffs are not set on a whim" Mulino said. He noted that Panama has expanded the canal over the years to increase ship traffic "on its own initiative," and added that shipping fee increases help pay for

Gingrich was US ambassador to the Holy See in Trump's first term. She is married to former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Separately, Australian billionaire Anthony Pratt announced he was donating \$1.1 million to Trump's inaugural fund to complement the \$14 million that he said he already had given to the Make America Great Again Inc. super political action committee - making him one of the presidentelect's top donors. Pratt is chairman of Pratt

bers of his incoming adminis-

tration, most notably: Stephen Miran, who worked at the Treasury Department in Trump's first term, to lead the

Council of Economic Advisers,

an executive branch agency

charged with providing objec-

tive economic advice to the

president

Industries, which uses recycled paper and boxes as a raw material in a process that produces new cardboard.

Asaid that the ban on TikTok his government announced on Saturday was "not a rushed reaction to a single incident".

A lbania's prime minister ha

Prime Minister Edi Rama said Saturday the government will shut down TikTok for one year, accusing the popular video service of inciting violence and bullying, especially among children.

Authorities have held 1,300 meetings with teachers and parents since the November stabbing death of a teenager by another teen after a quarrel that started on social media apps. Ninety per cent of them approve of the ban on TikTok.

Following Tirana's decision, TikTok asked for "urgent clarity from the Albanian government" in the case of the stabbed teenager. The company said it had "found no evidence that the perpetrator or victim had TikTok accounts, and multiple reports have in fact confirmed videos leading up to this incident were being posted on another platform, not TikTok". "To claim that the killing of the teenage boy has no connection to TikTok because the conflict

threat TikTok poses to children and youth today and the rationale behind our decision to take responsibility for addressing this threat," said Rama. "Albania may be too small to demand that TikTok protect children and youth from the

frightening pitfalls of its algo-rithm," he said, blaming TikTok for "the reproduction of the unending hell of the language of hatred, violence, bullying and so on?

Albanian children comprise the largest group of TikTok users in the country, according to domestic researchers.

Many youngsters in Albania did not approve of the ban.

## Israeli airstrikes on Gaza kill at least 20 people

er prime minister visits military positions

#### AP JERUSALEM

Palestinian medics say Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip have killed at least 20 people. One of the strikes overnight and into Monday hit a tent camp in the Muwasi area. an Israel-declared humanitarian zone, killing eight people, including two children. That's according to the Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, which received the bodies. Hospital records show another six killed in a strike on people securing an aid convoy and another two killed in a strike on a car in Muwasi. One person was killed in a separate strike in the area. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central

city of Deir al-Balah said three bodies arrived after an airstrike on a school-turnedshelter in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp. The Israeli military says it only strikes militants, accusing them of hiding among civilians. It said late Sunday that it had targeted a Hamas militant in the humanitarian zone. The war began when Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostage. Around 100 captives are still inside Gaza, at least a third of whom are believed to be dead. Israel's air and ground offensive has killed over 45,200 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry says women and children make up more than half the dead but does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its tally. The military says it has killed over 17,000 militants, with out providing evidence. Lebanon's caretakin the country's south: Lebanon's caretaker prime minister has begun a tour of military positions in the country's south, almost a month after a ceasefire deal that ended the war between Israel and the Hezbollah group that battered the country. Najib Mikati on Monday was on his first visit to the southern frontlines, where Lebanese soldiers under the US-brokered deal are expected to gradually deploy, with Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops both expected to withdraw by the end of next month. Mikati's tour comes after the Lebanese government expressed its frustration over ongoing Israeli strikes and overflights in the country. "We have many tasks ahead of us, the most important being the enemy's (Israel's) withdrawal from all the lands it encroached on during its recent aggression," he said after meeting with army chief Joseph Aoun in a Lebanese military barracks in the southeastern town of Marjayoun. Then the army can carry out its tasks in full." The Lebanese military for years has relied on financial aid to stay functional, primarily from the United States and other Western countries. Lebanon's cash-strapped government is hoping that the war's end and ceasefire deal will bring about more funding to increase the military's capacity to deploy in the south, where Hezbollah's armed units were notably present. Though they were not active combatants, the Lebanese military said that dozens of its soldiers were killed in Israeli strikes on their premises or patrolling convoys in the south. The Israeli army acknowledged some

of these attacks.

### Palestinian security forces man killed AP JENIN (WEST BANK)

he Palestinian Authority says a second I member of its security forces has been killed in the West Bank town of Jenin during clashes with Palestinian militants. Brig Gen Anwar Rajab, the spokesman for PA security forces, said 1st Sgt Mehran Qadoos was killed on Monday by "outlaws" in the volatile northern town, where the security forces launched a rare crackdown earlier this month. A member of security forces also was killed on Sunday.

An Associated Press reporter in Jenin heard heavy gunfire and explosions, apparently from a battle between the security forces and Palestinian militants. There was no sign of Israeli forces in the area.

Militant groups had earlier called for a general strike across the territory, accusing the security forces of trying to disarm them in support of Israel's half-century occupation of the territory.

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority is internationally recognized but deeply unpopular among Palestinians, in part because it cooperates with Israel on security matters. Israel accuses the authority of incitement and of failing to act against armed groups

## Biden gives life in prison to 37 of 40 federal death row inmates

#### AP WASHINGTON

**D**resident Joe Biden announced Monday that he is commuting the sentences of 37 of the 40 people on federal death row, converting their punishments to life imprison-ment mere weeks before President-elect Donald Trump, an outspoken proponent of expanding capital punishment, takes office.

The move spares the lives of people convicted in killings, including the slayings of police and military officers, people on federal land and those involved in deadly bank robberies or drug deals, as well as the killings of guards or prisoners in federal facilities.

It means just three federal inmates are still facing execution. They are Dylann Roof, who carried out the 2015 racist slayings of nine Black members of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, 2013 Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Robert Bowers, who fatally shot 11 congregants at Pittsburgh's Tree of life

Synagogue in 2018, the deadliest antisemitic attack in US history

'I've dedicated my career to reducing violent crime and ensuring a fair and effective justice system," Biden said in a statement.

Today, I am commuting the sentences of 37 of the 40 individuals on federal death row to life sentences without the possibility of parole. These commutations are consistent with the moratorium my administration has imposed on federal executions, in cases other than terrorism and hate-motivated mass murder.'

The Biden administration in 2021 announced a moratorium on federal capital punishment to study the protocols used, which suspended executions during Biden's term. But Biden actually had promised to go further on the issue in the past, pledging to end federal executions without the caveats for terrorism and hate-motivated, mass killings.

While running for president in 2020, Biden's campaign website

said he would "work to pass legislation to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level, and incentivize states to follow the federal government's example.

Similar language didn't appear on Biden's reelection website before he left the presidential race in July.

'Make no mistake: I condemn these murderers, grieve for the victims of their despicable acts, and ache for all the families who have suffered unimaginable and irreparable loss, Biden's statement said. "But guided by my conscience and my experience as a public defender, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, vice president, and now president, I am more convinced than ever that we must stop the use of the death penalty at the federal level."

He took a political jab at Trump, saying, "In good conscience, I cannot stand back and let a new administration resume executions that I halted."

Indeed, Trump, who takes

office on Jan. 20, has spoken frequently of expanding executions. In a speech announcing his 2024 campaign, Trump called for those "caught selling drugs to receive the death penalty for their heinous acts." He later promised to execute drug and human smugglers and even praised China's harsher treatment of drug peddlers. During his first term as president, Trump also advocated for the death penalty for drug dealers.

There were 13 federal executions during Trump's first term, more than under any president in modern history, and some may have happened fast enough to have contributed to the spread of the coronavirus at the federal death row facility in Indiana.

Those were the first federal executions since 2003. The final three occurred after Election Day in November 2020 but before Trump left office the following January, the first time federal prisoners were put to death by a lame-duck president since Grover Cleveland in 1889.



# at UN as conflicts persist

#### AP UNITED NATIONS

As the United Nations pre-pares to celebrate its 80th anniversary next year, India stressed that reform is "key" to the organisation's "relevance" in addressing current and future global challenges, as world leaders signed off on an ambitious pact in 2024 to transform global governance and drive sustainable action.

When world leaders descended at the UN Headquarters in September for the high-level 79th session of the General Assembly, they adopted by consensus the landmark 'Pact of the Future' - a document that covers themes from peace and security, sustainable development to climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and transformation of global governance.

Underlining the need for reform, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "We don't need a crystal ball to see that 21st Century challenges require problem-solving mechanisms that are more effective. networked and inclusive. We can't create a future fit for our grandchildren with systems built for our grandparents."

India has been at the forefront of years-long efforts calling for reform of the Security Council, including expansion in both its permanent and non-permanent categories, saying the 15-nation Council, founded in 1945, is not fit for purpose in the 21st Century and does not reflect contempo-rary geo-political realities.

Delhi has underscored that it rightly deserves a permanent seat at the horse-shoe table. A polarised Security Council has failed to deal with current peace and security challenges, with Council members sharply divided on conflicts such as the Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas war.

Guterres noted that many of today's pressing issues were not foreseen when the UN's multilateral framework was created 80 years ago. India's message to the interna-

tional community was that reforms in global institutions are essential for global peace and development. "Reform is the key to rele-vance... Global action must

match global ambition,"Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his address to the UN's Summit of the Future, where the Pact was adopted. Modi's clarion call for change

from the UNGA lectern came amid ongoing global conflicts, including the Ukraine war entering its third year, the Israel-Hamas war, and escalating global threats like terrorism, climate crises, economic inequality, and attacks on women's rights. Amid these global challenges,

India consistently advocated dialogue and diplomacy to arrive at solutions and resolve conflicts. When Modi met Ukraine's President Volodymyr

Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the Summit of the Future before wrapping up his threeday visit to the US, he reiterated India's willingness to play a constructive role in the quest for a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. Foreign Secretary Vikram

Misri emphasised Modi's commitment to finding a way forward and contributing in any way possible to a resolution of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The Modi-Zelenskyy meeting was the third in about as many months. Modi met the Ukrainian leader in Kyiv in August, just weeks after he met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in July. In June, Modi held a bilateral meeting with Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy. Modi held bilateral talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, expressing concern over the Gaza crisis and advocating a two-state solution for sustainable peace

in the region. Modi also met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia in October amidst heightened tensions between Iran and Israel. Modi emphasized the need for dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate tensions in the volatile region.

Terrorism continued to pose a significant threat to peace and security globally in 2024. External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar's General Assembly address in September marked a strong stance, explicitly condemning Pakistan's "crossborder terrorism policy"for the first time in six years from the UNGA lectern while delivering the national statement at the high-level General Debate.

He asserted that terrorism is antithetical to everything that the world stands for. "When this polity instils such fanaticism among its people, its GDP can only be measured in terms of the radicalisation and its exports in the form of terrorism,"Jaishankar said.

"Pakistan's cross-border terrorism policy will never succeed. And it can have no expectation of impunity. On the contrary, actions will certainly have consequences. The issue to be resolved between us is now only the vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory by Pakistan. And of course the abandonment of Pakistan's longstanding attachment to terrorism," he said.

His statement echoed late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's 2018 address which criticised Pakistan's continued glorification of terrorism. "Pakistan's commitment to terrorism as an instrument of official policy has not abated one bit... Pakistan glorifies killers; it refuses to see the blood of innocents," Swaraj had said in her powerful take-down of Pakistan from the UNGA podium.

## UN 2024: India calls for change **Internet rife with fake reviews;** will AI make it worse?

#### AP WASHINGTON

The emergence of generative artificial intelligence tools that allow people to efficiently produce novel and detailed online reviews with almost no work has put merchants, service providers and consumers in uncharted territory, watchdog groups and researchers say.

Phony reviews have long plagued many popular consumer websites, such as Amazon and Yelp. They are typically traded on private social media groups between fake review brokers and businesses willing to pay. Sometimes, such reviews are initiated by businesses that offer customers incentives such as gift cards for positive feedback.

But AI-infused text generation tools, popularized by OpenAI's ChatGPT, enable fraudsters to produce reviews faster and in greater volume, according to tech industry experts.

The deceptive practice, which is illegal in the US, is carried out year-round but becomes a bigger problem for consumers during the holiday shopping season, when many people rely on reviews to help them purchase gifts.

Where are AI-generated reviews showing up?: Fake reviews are found across a wide range of industries, from e-commerce, lodging and restaurants, to services such as home repairs, med-

Kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by PARVEEN KAUR

ical care and piano lessons. The Transparency Company, a

tech company and watchdog group that uses software to detect fake reviews, said it started to see AI-generated reviews show up in large numbers in mid-2023 and they have multiplied ever since. For a report released this month, The Transparency Company analysed 73 million reviews in three sectors: home, legal and medical services. Nearly 14% of the reviews were likely fake, and the company expressed a "high degree of confidence" that 2.3 million reviews were partly or entirely AI-generated.

'It's just a really, really good tool for these review scammers," said Maury Blackman, an investor and advisor to tech startups, who reviewed The Transparency Company's work and is set to lead the organisation starting Jan 1. In August, software company DoubleVerify said it was observing a "significant increase" in mobile phone and smart TV apps with reviews crafted by generative AI. The reviews often were used to deceive customers into installing apps that could hijack devices or run ads constantly, the company said.

The following month, the Federal Trade Commission sued the

kotak Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by MANREET SINGH

having address at 120, TAGORE

PARK DELHI-110009 with KOTAH

MAHINDRA BANK B-1

GUJRANWALA. NEW DELHI

110009 remains un-operated and

All the 3 letters earlier sent to

MANREET SINGH calling upor

him to clear dues and to operate

MANREET SINGH within 90 days

from the date of this notice, break

and he is not contactable.

the rent due for the last 4 years.

company behind an AI writing tool and content generator called Rytr, accusing it of offering a ser-vice that could pollute the marketplace with fraudulent reviews. The FTC, which this year banned the sale or purchase of fake reviews, said some of Rytr's subscribers used the tool to produce hundreds and perhaps thousands of reviews for garage door repair companies, sellers of "replica" designer handbags and other businesses.

It's likely on prominent online sites, too: Max Spero, CEO of AI detection company Pangram Labs, said the software his company uses has detected with almost certainty that some AIgenerated appraisals posted on Amazon bubbled up to the top of review search results because they were so detailed and appeared to be well thought-out. But determining what is fake or not can be challenging. External parties can fall short because they don't have "access to data signals that indicate patterns of abuse," Amazon has said.

Pangram Labs has done detection for some prominent online sites, which Spero declined to name due to non-disclosure agreements. He said he evaluated Amazon and Yelp indepen-

Many of the AI-generated comments on Yelp appeared to be posted by individuals who were trying to publish enough reviews to earn an "Elite" badge, which is intended to let users know they should trust the content, Spero said. The badge provides access to

dently

world 09

exclusive events with local business owners. Fraudsters also want it so their Yelp profiles can look more realistic, said Kay Dean, a former federal criminal investigator who runs a watchdog group called Fake Review Watch. To be sure, just because a review is AI-generated doesn't necessarily mean its fake. Some consumers might experiment with AI tools to generate content that reflects their genuine sentiments. Some non-native English speakers say they turn to AI to make sure they use accurate language in the reviews they write.

"It can help with reviews (and) make it more informative if it comes out of good intentions, said Michigan State University marketing professor Sherry He, who has researched fake reviews.

THE PIONEER ( LASSIFIED **CHANGE OF NAME** 

## NOTICE

kotak

Kotak Mahindra Bank

Locker Hired by KUNAL KHANNA having address at B-52 DERAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110009 with KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK B-1, GUJRANWALA, NEW DELHI 110009 remains un-operated and the rent due for the last 4 years.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to KUNAL KHANNA calling upon him to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and he is not contactable.

the locker has returned unserved It is hereby informed that despite It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and this notice, if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by

locker is not operated by KUNAL KHANNA within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on March 25, 2025 at around 12p.m.

07:50

SPECIAL In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Special Train as nor datails given below

		l Hazrat Nizamuddin-Thiruv uddin SF Reserved Special		
Train No. 04082		STATIONS	Train No.	04081
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Magdeburg mourns Christmas market attack victims as fears swirl of deeper social divisions

#### **AP** MAGDEBUG (GERMANY)

 $M^{\mathrm{ourners\,laid\,flowers\,near}}_{\mathrm{the\,scene\,of\,the\,deadly}}$ Christmas market attack on Monday as investigators puzzled over the motive of the suspect and fears swirled that the rampage could deepen divi-

sions in German society. The Johanniskirche, a church a short walk from the scene of the attack, has become a central place of mourning since the suspect drove a car into the busy market on Friday evening, killing five people and injuring 200. A carpet of flowers now covers the broad sidewalk in front of the church.

Authorities have identified the suspect as a Saudi doctor who arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received permanent residency. They say he does not

fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks. The man described himself as an ex-Muslim who was highly critical of Islam and in many posts on social media expressed support for the far-right. A picture has emerged of someone who had come to authorities' attention in the past for threat-

subject of tipoffs, but was not known to have committed any violence.

Nancy Faeser said Sunday that "the views and statements that the perpetrator expressed are being investigated, as are the tipoffs and proceedings with various authorities and the justice system." She said "the right conclusions" will then have to be drawn.

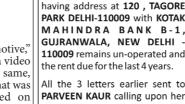
The country's vice chancellor voiced fears that the attack will fuel online misinformation ahead of a national election expected in late February. He urged people to "take time for yourselves be infected by hatred?

German Interior Minister know and a lot is unexplained,

including the exact motive," Robert Habeck said in a video posted Sunday. "All the same, I fear that the distrust that was immediately propagated on the net against Muslims, foreigners and people with a history of immigration will entrench itself deeper in soci-

On Sunday night, police in the port city of Bremerhaven said they detained a man who threatened crimes at a Christmas market there in a people of Arabic appearance there on Christmas Day.

#### ening behaviour and been the the truth" and said: "Don't let TikTok video. German news around 12p.m. agency dpa reported that he had said he would stab any There is still a lot we don't



to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and She is not contactable. It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and ocker is not operated by PARVEEN KAUR within 90 days from the date of this notice, break

#### open of the said locker will be done on March 25,2025 at around 12p.m. open of the said locker will be done on **March 25, 2025** at

PUBLIC NOTICE Change in Partnership Maruti Authorized Service Station M/s. Wig Automobiles, Delhi (Mass Code 8012) as below

Constitution: Partnership, Old

6. Mrs. Prem Kumari.

New Partners with Shareholding

1. Mr. Virender Nath Wig - 55%

2. Mrs. Alka Wig - 10%

3. Mrs. Pia Wig Kochhar -35%

NCR LAW ASSOCIATES

19:20 Hazrat Nizamuddin 06:45 Partners : 1. Mr. Jatinder Nath Wig 2. Mr. Bhola Nath Wig Thiruvananthapuram 19:45 ----Central 3. Mr. Virender Nath Wig Mrs. Renu Bala 5. Mrs. Alka Wig

I, Balbir Singh, son of Shri Jagat Singh, residing at Plot No. 31 B, Dilshad Garden, Near Flora Dale Public School, Delhi-110095,was previously known as Balbir Singh. However, I have now changed my name to Balbir Singh Jaswal. In the future, I shall be known and identified

by this name.

PD(1129)C

YOGESH. S/O, KANHAIYALAL VANI, R/O. J-75, JAHANGIRPURI DELHI, 110033, THAT, I. HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR

SON'S NAME FROM PIYUSH YOGESH WANI TO PIYUSH PERMANENTLY

PD(1130)C I. Kumari Menka Kanwar, W/o- JC-473046Y Nb Sub Amar Singh Rajput, R/o- Vill-Seemla, Teh- Baswa, Dist-Dausa, Rajasthan - 303315, have changed my name from Kumari Menka Kanwar to Menka kanwar, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1131)C I, Sadashiv, Father of- JC-857058X Sub(OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill+PO- Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Sadashiv to Sadashiv Bhuvi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

hina said a plan by the CPhilippines to deploy midrange missiles would be a provocative move that stokes regional tensions. The Philippines top army official told reporters in Manila earlier on Monday that the military plans to acquire a mid-range system to defend the country's territory amid tensions with China in the South China Sea. "Yes, there are plans, there are negotiations, because we see its feasibility and adaptability," Lt Gen Roy Galido said. The US deployed its Typhon

mid-range missile system in the northern Philippines in April and troops from both countries

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you, the public at large, that my clients Sh. Jitendra Singh (Aadhar card no 279814961719) S/o Sh. Padam Singh permaar Kohra, Bharatpur, Rajastnan - 321401and Smt Beena Singh (Aadhar card no.511681683343 W/o Sh. Jitendra Singh, both presently temporarily residing in Gurugram, Haryana, do hereby disowi their son namely Sh. Sanjeel Singh (Aadhar carn no. 755579153505), forever from all their movable and immovable propertierSayste and movable and immoviable properties/assets and they have no concern with any of his acts/itabilities whatsoever. Now onwards my clients does not have any relation with their said son namely Sh. Sanjeet Singh and his wife Smt.Devika Arora. Any person having any claim against Sh. Sanjeet Singh or his wife may contact them directly and my client shall not be responsible for their acts/deeds and further shall not entertain any query regarding them. It is further informed that said Sh. Sanjeet Singh and his wife are no more residing with my clients has severed all their relationship with them and we. ovable and immovable properties/assets lead a peaceful life in their elderly age

Rahul Kadyan Advocate Ch. No. 278, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-110054

#### SCHEDULED & NON SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE WORK

Tender Notice No.: RT\_EL\_TRD\_18\_ 24-25; Dated: 19-12-2024; E-Tender a invited by the undersigned for the followin vork; Tender No.: RT\_EL\_TRD\_18\_24 25: Name of Work: At Katihar Division PSI scheduled maintenance & Nor scheduled maintenance work for PS depot Dalkhola, Aluabari Road, Bagdogra and New Jalpaiguri under jurisdiction of Katihar division for two years (24 months Tender Value: ₹2,26,98,084.43/-; Earnes Money: ₹2,63,500/-; Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs.on16-01-2025 afte closing. For complete information with the ender document of above e-tender wi be available upto15:00 hrs. on 16-01-202 n website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE/TRD, Katiha NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

have been training jointly for "It is an extremely irresponsi- The army is work the potential use of the heavy weaponry. China opposes US militarv assistance to the Philippines and has been particularly

China warns Philippines over mid-range missile deployment plan

alarmed by the deployment of the Typhon system. Under President Joe Biden, the US has strengthened an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to counter China, including in any confrontation over Taiwan. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said that deployment of the weapon by the Philippines would intensify geopolitical confrontation and an arms race.

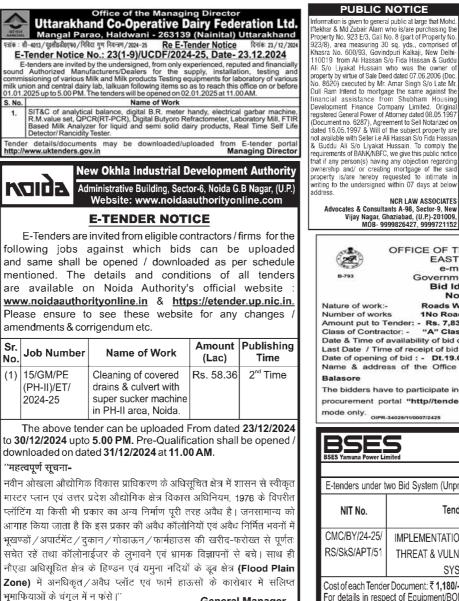
1. PUBLIC NOTICE Re: Entire Second Floor without Roof Rights along with 25% undivided share on Lowe Ground Floor referred to as "said floor of Property Bearing No. F-700, built on Plo Nos. 8 & 9, area measuring 102 sq. yds. falling in Khasra No. 40/1, situated in the area of Village Shakarpur, in the abadi of Sri Nagar New Delhi-110034, hereinafter referred to at "said property". of Village Shakarpur, in the abadi of Sri Nagar. New Delhi-110034; hereinafter referred to as "said property" Be it known to all that our clientess, Mrs. Nidhika Bathla (hereinafter called the "Purchaser) intends to purchase the said floor of the said property from (1) Mrs. Meetu Arora and Mrs. Dimple Agrawal (hereinafter called the seller). In this connection, the seller have informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floor. The seller have informed the purchaser that a Sale Deed was executed by Mr. Virnal Pruhi, Mrs. Neetam Alias Neelam Khurana; and Mrs. Shashi Bala in their favour in respect of Entire Vacant Roof of First Floor (un-built Second Floor) with roof rights of the said property. The said deed is registered as Document No. 2024/15//3089, Book No. 1, Vol No. 12878, pages 63-90, on 07.03.2024 (SRO-VIA Pitampura). The seller built up the second and third floor on the vacant roof of first itor. The second floor is still owned by the sale was durated been sold by them. The seller have aiready been sold by them. The seller have aiready been sold by them. The seller have aiready been sold floor with roof rights vide Sale deed dated 31.05. 2010 registered as document no. 7613. Subsequently, they demolished the entire structure and reconstructed the above said property. Thus shabi Bala and Mrs. Neelam alias Neelam Khurana owned the first floor with roof rights vide Sale deed dated 31.05.2010 registered as document No. 7612. Subsequently, they demolished the entire structure and reconstructed the above said property. Thus shabi Bala and Mrs. Neelam alias Neelam they became the joint owners of the said property and sold the vacant roof of first loor, as aforesaid, to the present seller. The seller have also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation said property Sr No. (1)

the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere a there is no charge or dispute or any litigati pending regarding the said floor. pending regarding the subject of any nigitial pending regarding the salid floor. Any person including Bank/s, Financia Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller in respect of the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. ents/Purchaser, in any manner whats

Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

ble choice for the history and people of itself and the whole of Southeast Asia, as well as for the security of the region," she told a daily briefing. The Philippines would not necessarily buy the Typhon system, Galido said.

with the United States but with other friendly countries on a long list of weapons platforms that it plans to acquire, he said The Philippines defence plan includes protecting its exclusive economic zone, which reaches 200 nautical miles (370 km).



General Manager (Public Health)

Noida.

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA** 

Days of Run : 04082 Ex Hazrat Nizamuddin on 28.12.2024 (Saturday) and 04081 Ex Thiruvananthapuram Central on 31.12.2024 (Tuesday)

Stoppages : Kota Jn., Ratlam Jn., Vadodara Jn., Udhana Jn., Vasai Road, Panvel, Roha, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavali, Thivim, Madgaon Jn., Karwar, Kumta, Mookambika Road Byndoor, Kundapura, Udupi, Mangalore Jn., Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikkode, Shoranur Jn. Thrisur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Kayankulam Jn., Kollam Jn. & Varkala Shivagiri stations Accommodation: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & General

For detailed information regarding stoppages and timings of above trains, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in RailMadad



WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE e-mail: - <u>seec\_bls@rediffmail.com</u> Government of Odisha "e" Procurement N Notice Bid Identification No.CCEEC- 10/ 2024-25 No: 4725 Dt: 20.12.2024 Nature of work:-Roads Works 1No Roads Work Number of works 1No Roads Work Amount put to Tender: - Rs. 7,83.58,657 Class of Contractor: - "A" Class & "Special" Class Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: - Dt.04.01.2025 at 10:00 AM Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal: - Dt.18.01.2025 up to 05:00 PM Date of opening of bid : - Dt.19.01.2025 at 11:00 AM Name & address of the Office inviting bid: - Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in." All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only. OIPR-34026/11/0007/2425 Chief Construction Enginee Eastern Circle (R&B) Balaso

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi					
	NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date: 24.12.2024				24.12.2024
E-tenders under t	E-tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited as per the following details:				
NIT No.	Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/24-25/ RS/SkS/APT/51	IMPLEMENTATION OF OT SECURITY "REAL THREAT & VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM" IN BYPL	6.75 Crore	6.75 Lakh	16.01.2025 15:00 Hrs	16.01.2025 15:30 Hrs
Costof each Tender Document: ₹1,180/- For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website <u>www.bsesdelhi.com</u> > BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD> Tenders> Open Tenders Head (Contracts & Materials)					
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032   CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 Website: www.bsesdelhi.com					

PD(1132)C

I, Subhadra, Mother of JC-857058X Sub(OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill+PO- Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Subhadra to Subadra Sadashiva Bhuyi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1133)C

I, Pratibha W/o- JC-857058X Sub(OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o-Vill+PO-Nanadi, Tal-Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my name from Pratibha to Pratibha Bhoi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

#### PD(1134)C

I, JC-857058X Sub (OPR) Arjun Bhoi, R/o- Vill+PO-Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist-Belagavi, Karnataka- 591244, have changed my son's name from Preetam to Preetam Bhoi, vide affidavit dated 23/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1135)C

I, SURENDER SINGH S/o Bhagot Singh R/o G-85 3rd Floor, East Vino Nagar, Delhi- 110091, hereby declare that in my son School documents my name wrongly mention as Surender Sing Rawat. My correct Name is Surender Singh.



### **Sensex climbs 500 points** Nissan, Honda announce plans to merge after five days of fall Tapanese automakers Honda and Nissan have announced

ended lower.

#### PTI MUMBAI

E<sup>quity</sup> indices Nifty benchmark Sensex and rebounded sharply on Monday after five days of steep decline amid value buying at lower levels and a rally in global markets. Besides, hectic buying in blue-chip stocks ITC, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries also helped in market recovery.

30-share BSF The benchmark Sensex jumped 498.58 points or 0.64 per cent to settle at 78,540.17. During the day, it soared 876.53 points or 1.12 per cent to 78,918.12 The NSE Nifty surged 165.95

points or 0.70 per cent to 23.753.45

From the 30 blue-chip stocks,



ITC, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Titan, State Bank of India and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers. settled in the positive New entrant Zomato, Maruti, territory while Shanghai

Nestle, HCL Tech, Bajaj Finserv and Tata Motors were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul Tokyo, and Hong Kong

independent

market regulations.

bid.

sessions last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 4,091.53 points or 4.98 per cent, and the Nifty slumped 1,180.8 points or 4.76 per cent.

European markets were

trading mostly lower. Wall Street ended higher on

Friday. In the past five

institutional Foreign investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,597.82 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.44 per cent to USD 73.26 a barrel 30-share BSE The benchmark tumbled 1,176.46 points or 1.49 per cent to settle at 78,041.59 on Friday.

The Nifty tanked 364.20 points or 1.52 per cent to 23,587.50.

plans to join forces, forming world's third-largest automaker by sales as the industry undergoes dramatic changes in its transition away from fossil fuels.

The two companies said they had signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday and that smaller Nissan alliance member Mitsubishi Motors also had agreed to join the talks on integrating

their businesses. "We anticipate that if this integration comes to fruition, we will be able to deliver even greater value to a wider customer base," Nissan's CEO Makoto Uchida said in a statement.

Automakers in Japan have lagged behind their big rivals in electric vehicles and are trying to cut costs and make up for lost time.

News of a possible merger surfaced earlier this month, with unconfirmed reports



saving that the talks on closer scale to compete with Toyota Motor Corp and with Germany's Volkswagen AG. collaboration partly were driven by aspirations of iPhone Toyota has technology Taiwan maker Foxconn to tie up with Nissan, which has an alliance partnerships with Japan's Mazda Motor Corp. And with Renault SA of France Subaru Corp. Even after a merger Toyota, which rolled out 11.5 million and Mitsubishi.

A merger could result in a vehicles in 2023, would behemoth worth more than remain the leading Japanese \$50 billion based on the market capitalisation of all automaker. If they join, the three smaller companies three automakers. Together, Honda and the Nissan would make about 8 million alliance with Renault SA of vehicles. In 2023, Honda made 4 million and Nissan France and smaller Mitsubishi automaker produced 3.4 million. Mitsubishi Motors made just Motors Corp would gain

over 1 million.

Nissan, Honda Mitsubishi announced in August that they would share components for electric vehicles like batteries and jointly research software for autonomous driving to adapt better to dramatic changes centred around electrification, following a preliminary agreement between Nissan and Honda set in March.

Honda, Japan's second-largest automaker, is widely viewed as the only likely Japanese partner able to effect a rescue of Nissan, which has struggled following a scandal that began with the arrest of its former chairman Carlos Ghosn in late 2018 on charges of fraud and misuse of company assets, allegations that he denies. He eventually was released on bail and fled

to Lebanon. Monday Speaking reporters in Tokyo via a video link, Ghosn derided the planned merger as a "desperate move".

#### Sebi to auction 28 properties |Claims ratio of non-life insurers dips to Gold climbs ₹570 to of five companies next month 82.52 per cent in FY24: Irdai report ₹78,700 per

#### PTI NEW DELH

Capital markets regulator Sebi will auction 28 properties of five companies, including Bishal Group and Sumangal Industries, on January 27, to recover money illegally collected from investors by these companies. The properties will be auctioned for a reserve price of Rs 28.66 crore. Ravi Kiran Realty India, Mangalam Agro Products, and Purusattam Infotech Industries are the other companies, whose properties will be auctioned. The properties that will go under the hammer include flats, residential property and flats, land parcels, plots, and land with building structures located in West Bengal and Odisha.

These properties will be auctioned at a reserve price of Rs 28.66 crore, according to a notice issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on December 19. The markets watchdog invited



bids for the sale of properties in the recovery proceedings against the five firms, along with their promoters/directors, it said. The move is part of Sebi's efforts to recover investors'

Further, Adroit convertible money. Technical Services has been appointed by the regulator to assist it in the sale of properties. Of the 28 properties being put on the block, 17 are linked to investment schemes (CIS). Bishal Group, 6 to Mangalam

Bishal Distillers had raised Agro Products, 3 are related to funds of Rs 4 crore, Bishal Sumangal Industries, and 1 Agri-Bio Industries and Bishal Horticulture and Animal each to Purusattam Infotech Projects mobilised Rs 3 crore and Rs 2.84 crore, respectively. Industries and Ravi Kiran Realty India.

#### PTI NEW DELHI Sebi said the auction will be

conducted online on January Net incurred claims to net earned premium (claims 27, 2025, from 11 am to 1 pm. The regulator has asked the bidders to make their ratio) of non-life insurance industry stood at 82.52 per cent during 2023-24 as against 82.95 per cent in the preceding fiscal year, as per the Irdai's annual report. enquiries regarding the encumbrances, litigations, title of the properties put on auction and claims before submitting their

According to the Annual Report 2023-24 of the These entities had mobilised Insurance Regulatory and money from the investors without complying with the Development Authority of India (Irdai), during 2023-24, Going by Sebi's earlier orders, insurance the non-life Mangalam Agro had raised Rs industry underwrote a total 11 crore from the illegal direct premium of Rs 2.90 issuance of secured nonlakh crore in India registering

a growth of 12.76 per cent debentures (NCDs) to around 4,820 from previous year. investors during 2011-2012, while Sumangal had collected The contribution of public sector general insurers increased 8.88 per cent from Rs 85 crore from investors through illegal collective Rs 82,891 crore in 2022-23 to Rs 90,252 crore in 2023-24. Private sector insurers including standalone health insurers, have underwritten Rs 1.88 lakh crore as against Rs 1.58 lakh crore in 2022-23.

The aggregate profit of the



non-life insurance sector was Rs 10,119 crore as against a net loss of Rs 2,566 crore in 2022-23. 2023-24, the

During aggregate net incurred claims saw a 15.39 per cent increase to Rs 1.72 lakh crore from Rs 1.49 lakh crore 'The incurred claims ratio (net incurred claims to net

earned premium) of the nonlife insurance industry was 82.52 per cent during 2023-24 as against 82.95 per cent of the previous year," the report

The incurred claims ratio for public sector insurers was 97.23 per cent for 2023-24 as against the previous year's incurred claims ratio of 99.02

per cent. The incurred claims ratio for general private sector insurers, standalone health insurers and specialised insurers were at 76.49 per cent, 63.63 per cent, and 66.58 per cent, respectively, for 2023-24 as compared to the previous year's ratio of 75.13 per cent, 61.44 per cent and 73.71 per cent, respectively.

The report also said that the life insurance industry paid total benefits of Rs 5.77 lakh crore in 2023-24, constituting 70.22 per cent of the net

premium. The benefits paid on account of surrenders/withdrawals increased 15.29 per cent to Rs 2.29 lakh crore in 2023-24 of which public sector life insurer accounted for 58.36 per cent.

During 2023-24, a total of 18 life insurance companies reported profits. Profits of the life insurance industry grew 10.79 per cent in 2023-24 with profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 47,407 crore as against Rs 42,788 crore in 2022-23.

Public sector life insurers reported an 11.75 per cent increase in profits while private sector life insurers reported a rise of 5.32 per cent in profit in 2023-24. Irdai said in 2023-24, the country's insurance penetration was at 3.7 per cent as compared to 4 per cent in 2022-23.

10 gm PTI NEW DELHI Gold prices recovered Rs 570 to Rs 78,700 per 10 grams in the national capital

on Monday amid value buying by stockists and investors following a firm global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal ended at Rs 78,130 per 10 grams on

Friday. Silver surged Rs 1,850 to reclaim the Rs 90,000 per kgmark on increased offtake by industrial units and coin

makers. The white metal finished at Rs 88,150 per kg in the previous trading session.

The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity also jumped Rs 570 to Rs 78,300 per 10 grams on Monday. It closed at Rs 77,730 per 10 grams in the previous session on Friday

Value buying by stockists and jewellers for the ongoing wedding season supported the uptrend in both gold and silver prices, traders said.

In futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Monday, gold ontracts delivery slipped Rs 48, or 0.06 per cent, to Rs 76,372 per 10 grams.

India's data centre capacity to more than double | Dhanuka Agritech hosts Farmers' by FY27, on rising digitalisation: Crisil Ratings Day programme to honour farmers

#### PTI MUMBAI

India's data centre capacity is set to more than double to 2-2.3 GW by 2026-27, led by increasing digitalisation as organisations increase their investments in cloud storage, Crisil Ratings said in a report on Monday.

Further, the report stated that rising penetration Generative Art 0 Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) will drive the demand over the medium-term.

To support the strong demand, the incremental capital expenditure would be supported by a higher proportion of debt funding, which will result in a moderate increase in debt levels, it said.



Data centres cater to the The other major factor is that increased accessibility of high-speed data has led to a computing and storage infrastructure demand as enterprises rapidly shifting surge in internet usage, including social media, overtheir businesses to digital platforms, including cloud, a the-top (OTT) platforms and digital payments, it added. trend that has accelerated Notably, mobile data traffic post Covid-19 pandemic, it logged a compound annual

growth rate (CAGR) of 25 per cent over the last five fiscals, standing at 24 GB per month at end-fiscal 2024, and is expected to rise to 33-35 GB by FY26, the Crisil Ratings report said.

In addition to the ongoing demand, it said that the rapid advancement of GenAI, which requires higher computational power and low latency than traditional cloud computing functions, will also provide tailwind to the data centre demand in India. "To meet the growing data centre demand, an investment of Rs 55,000-65,000 crore is required over the next three fiscals, primarily towards land power and building, equipment and cooling solutions.

PNS NEW DELHI

To honour farmers of the country on the occasion of KisanDiwas, Dhanuka Agritech Limited successfully hosted a Farmers' Day program at the Dhanuka Agricultural Research and Technology Centre (DART)

at Palwal. The eventaimed to provide insights into modern farming techniques to facilitate knowledge sharing and to discuss the future of Indian agriculture with leading scientists. event showcased The

Dhanuka's unwavering and continuous commitment to empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. It

included demonstrations and training sessions focused specifically on Rabi crops such as wheat, vegetables, and mustard. Farmers had the unique opportunity to learn advanced techniques and engage with experts in the agriculture field.

Speaking on the occasion, Vipul Goyal, Minister for Revenue & Disaster Management, Urban Local Bodies & Civil Aviation,

Cabinet Minister, Haryana inaugurated the program. The Guest of Honour Dr. P.K

Singh Agricultue Commissioner, Deptt. Of Agri & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of Indiawas elated to see the huge gathering of farmers and their willingness to learn new techniques. Their presence highlighted the significance of initiatives like these in supporting the agricultural community by making farmers aware of new and advanced farming

practices. also This program practical encouraged solutions that contribute to the growth and sustainability in agriculture, ultimately benefiting farmers and the broader farming ecosystem.

PNS NEW DELHI

KNational

However, silver contracts for March delivery climbed Rs 637, or 0.72 per cent, to Rs 89,029 per kg on the commodities exchange

Comex gold futures fell USD 6.70 per ounce, or 0.25 per cent, to USD 2,638.40 per ounce in the overseas markets.

"Gold and silver prices recovered from one-month and three-and-a-half month lows in a highly volatile session. The dollar index and the bond yields showed profit taking which supported precious metal," Rahul Kalantri, VP Mehta Commodities, Equities Ltd, said.

## FMCG industry expects consumption revival in 2025

#### PTI NEW DELHI

The FMCG industry hopes for а revival in consumption growth in 2025 with some 'green shoots' already visible, after having a challenging year amid escalating input costs and a double-digit rise in food inflation, which ultimately slowed down the pace of the urban market growth in the second half of 2024. Soaring prices of commodities such as palm oil, coffee, cocoa and wheat forced FMCG

players to go for a hike of 3 to 5 per cent or resort to shrinkflation by reducing pack sizes and grammage to retain attractive price points, fearing a volume loss

The makers also expect a shot in the arm in the upcoming annual budget, which would help the stressed middleincome group and stimulate consumption, besides a good monsoon and continued rejuvenation of the rural market.

A resurgence of high food Dabur India CEO Mohit customer is ready to pay extra

inflation once again in 2024 disrupted consumption patterns, particularly among mass-segment consumers, said Emami Vice Chairman & MD Harsha V Agarwal, adding elevated food inflation continues to pose a significant

challenge. "Consumption among the lower-middle and middle-class segments has remained subdued, with approximately 75 per cent of average retail spending directed towards food and grocery, leaving only 25 per cent for discretionary purchases," he said.

Agarwal, who is also the President of industry body FICCI, said 'positive signs' are emerging on the consumption front as food inflation has begun to ease.

"A revival in consumption growth looks promising, supported by a good crop and increased government spending on large-scale infrastructure projects and rural schemes in the December quarter," he said



Malhotra also said that rising food inflation and a squeeze in urban demand were the key concerns during 2024. "While rural demand has been growing quarter on quarter, we expect a recovery in urban demand as the new year progresses. Premiumisation is expected to continue, and this will help improve value growth in 2025," he said Moreover, the FMCG makers also expect the trends of premiumisation, where a

for better quality products, particularly in urban India along with a high growth coming from quick commerce channels, which has transformed the grocery market.

"Consumers are willing to pay a premium for products that offer better quality, unique features, or enhanced experiences. Premiumisation is expected to continue, and this will help improve value growth in 2025," said Malhotra.

Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) MD and CEO Sunil D'Souza said he is 'optimistic' about 2025 and maintains a sharp focus on driving profitable growth and building future-ready capabilities. "In India, consumer trends such as premiumisation, health & wellness and convenience are expected to gather pace. Quick commerce has seen exponential growth, but physical distribution continues to stay extremely relevant at the same time," said D'Souza. Gen Z and millennials are expected to contribute to an share increasing of consumption, by some estimates, 76 per cent of consumption by 2030. 'This presents an opportunity for cooking aids, packaged food, healthier and guilt-free snacking and mini-meal options, all of which we have added to our portfolio in the last few years. It will also require shorter innovation cycles," he said. Marico MD & CEO Saugata Gupta said shifts in consumer

behaviour have been profound, with sustainability premiumisation and personalisation emerging as key trends.

direct-to-consumer 'The ecosystem continues to thrive, with digital-first and premium demonstrating brands resilience and growth. The channels are undergoing a tremendous transformation with the consumer shifts that the industry is witnessing. The medium-term growth outlook for the industry is very much intact," he said.

Gupta expects rural consumption to steadily grow and urban consumption to revive in a couple of quarters. "Innovation, affordability, and availability will be key drivers of growth going forward," he said.

Godrej Consumer Products Ltd (GCPL) CFO Aasif Malbari said: "Despite these challenges, we remain committed to navigating nearheadwinds term while investing strategically for longterm growth."

### National Urja Mela eflecting the spirit of Energy Conservation Day, Tata Power

on Saturday hosted the National Urja Mela 2024 at New Delhi, bringing together 1000 + students and teachers comprising 150 schools from 10 states across India to champion innovation and Tata sustainability, while fostering the next generation of leaders to drive energy conservation efforts.

Tata Power Club hosts

This annual event is a flagship initiative under Tata Power's award-winning Club Enerji program, highlighted the pivotal role of youth in creating a sustainable future in line with the company's 'Sustainable is Attainable' movement.

The event featured an exciting array of activities, including competitions, workshops, and cultural performances designed to inspire students to become eco-conscious leaders. Mr. Himal Tewari, CHRO,



Chief-Sustainability & CSR at said Power, "Sustainability begins with awareness, and the National Urja Mela reflects our commitment to nurturing innovation and responsibility in young minds.

This initiative emphasizes the critical importance of energy conservation and environmental protection, empowering youth from across the country to drive a greener, more sustainable future. In collaboration with Tata Power, they will shape the new energy landscape, advancing a future centered on sustainability and the goal of achieving carbon net-zero."



## **Real Madrid's 4-2 win over Sevilla in the Spanish league**

#### AP MADRID

Kylian Mbappé added to his scoring streak with a superb strike in Real Madrid's 4-2 win over Sevilla in the Spanish league to finish the war on a positive pote after year on a positive note after hitting what he called "rock bottom" in early December. Mbappé sent a right-footed shot

into the upper corner 10 minutes into the match for his fourth goal in as many games with Madrid in all competitions. It was Mbappé's sixth goal in his last eight matches with Madrid.

He struggled early on with his new club, and Mbappé said his lowest point came when he missed a penalty kick in the team's 2-1 league loss at Athletic Bilbao on Dec. 4.

"I know I have a lot more to give," Mbappé said Sunday. "The last few games I've played better, I took a lot of positives from the Bilbao game, when I hit rock bottom?

The France star said that made him realize "I have to give my all for this jersey and play with personality?

Mbappé said he feels his period of adjustment with the club is finally over

"I think we now know each other better," he said. "I've joined the team and that changed a lot of things. The settling-in period is over, as the coach says. I feel very comfortable in the team and I play better with the others on the field. The team is playing much better.

Federico Valverde, Rodrygo and Brahim Díaz also scored in the

Brahim Diaz also scored in the comfortable home victory that allowed Madrid to finish the year one point behind Spanish league leader Atletico Madrid. Atletico rallied to shock Barcelona 2-1 Saturday with a stoppage-time goal by Alexander Sorloth. Third-place Barcelona is two points behind Madrid, having played an extra game. played an extra game.

Valverde scored in the 20th and Rodrygo in the 34th before Sevilla got on the board with Isaac Romero in the 35th. Díaz extended Madrid's lead in the 53rd and Dodi Lukebakio got the visitors' other goal in the 85th at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. "It was a well-played game, with



many scoring situations, a good what we wanted, to be near the top and get some good rest for 2025." end to the year," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "That was

Badminton

Madrid next faces Valencia on Jan. 3 in a match postponed because of the deadly floods that

hit Valencia in October. Sevilla, sitting in 14th place, had won two of its last two games in all competitions.

Navas' farewell</hl2>It was the Navas' farewell</hl2>It was the last game for Sevilla and Spain great Jesús Navas, who is officially retiring at the end of the year. The defender was honored by Sevilla and Madrid players and fans at the Santiago Bernabeu.

the Santiago Bernabeu. Players from both teams made a guard of honor for Navas before the match, lining up as he entered the field, and Madrid's veteran midfielder Luka Modric handed him a jersey of the club signed by players. Fans gave Navas a players. Fans gave Navas a standing ovation during the ceremony

Substitute Navas came on midway through the second half.

"What happened today was spectacular," the 39-year-old Navas said after the match, unable to hold back tears. "I had never seen anything like it in my life on a rival field. It was crazy. In those last few minutes I couldn't see anything. I was looking at the ground recalling all the moments I've went through and the joy I've been able to give to Sevilla and

the national team.

Navas helped Sevilla win four Navas helped Sevilla win four Europa League titles and Spain clinch the 2010 World Cup and the 2012 and 2024 European Championships. He was with Manchester City when it won the 2014 Premier League. "Navas really deserved it."

"Navas really deserves it," Ancelotti said. "Navas is an example for everyone." Valencia draws late

Second-to-last Valencia salvaged a 2-2 home draw with Alaves, thanks to a goal by Dani Gómez eight minutes into second-half stoppage time after the visitors had taken the lead with Joan Jordán in the 88th.

The setback drew more protests from Valencia fans who have been unhappy with the administration of team owner Peter Lim.

Other results

Thierno Barry scored a hat trick and Gerard Moreno and Pau Cabanes added one goal each as fifth-place Villarreal won 5-2 at Leganes, while Las Palmas won 1-0 against 18th-place Espanyol. Ninth-place Real Betis was held by 12th-place Rayo Vallecano to a 1-1 draw at home.



## Manu Bhaker missing from Khel Ratna nominees; Sports Ministry says no final list yet

selection

among the applicants.

#### PTI NEW DELHI

A mid reports that double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker has been shockingly ignored for this year's Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award, a top sports ministry source has asserted that the names are yet to be finalised and she is likely to be there when the list is unveiled in a week's time. In August, Bhaker became

independent India's first athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics with her bronze-winning show in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol mixed team events. Reports of her omission from the national

## Olympian PV Sindhu marries entrepreneur Venkat Datta Sai

#### PTI UDAIPUR

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu embarked on a new journey in life as she tied the knot with entrepreneur Venkata Datta Sai in a private

The 29-year-old shuttler from Hyderabad, who won a bronze at the 2016 Rio Olympics and a silver at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, married Datta, an executive director at Posidex Technologies, on Sunday in a traditional ceremony traditional ceremony attended by close family and

names which may not be Union Minister of Culture While the ministry claimed that Bhaker did not apply for the award, her father Ram on 'X' on Monday.

Kishan Bhaker, a chief engineer in Merchant Navy, said the youngster had followed the due process. "There is no worth of playing Olympic sports in India because despite winning two medals in an Olympics, Manu has been ignored for the Khel has been ignored for the Khel Ratna award. There is no point in playing and winning rewards for your country and in turn beg for recognition," Ram Kishan told PTI.

committee however, allowed to consider

ceremony here. friends.

and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, shared the first photograph of the wedding "Pleased to have attended the



wedding ceremony of our blessings to the couple for their new life Ċhampion Olympian PV Sindhu with Shekhawat tweeted. Venkatta Datta Sai in Udaipur last evening and conveyed my wishes &

featuring music and dance as the two families came together. This was followed by traditional rituals such as Haldi, Pellikuthuru, Mehendi, and other customs

Mehendi, and other customs on December 21. Sindhu's wedding news came close on the heels of her victory at the Syed Modi International in Lucknow earlier this month, ending a

country for the wedding reception, including the likes Sachin Tendulkar and of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**US Open doubles champion Max Purcell suspended** 

#### AP MELBOURNE

voluntary doping rules.

The International Tennis The International Tennis Integrity Agency announced the sanction in a statement on Monday after the 26-year-old Australian admitted to violating Article 2.2 of the Tennis Anti-Doping Program "relating to the use of a Prohibited Method".

The ITIA said the suspension and time served under Kenya, South provisional suspension will be credited against any future sanction. The length of time of the voluntary suspension was not specified by the ITIA. Men's: Bangladesh, Bhutan, "During the provisional suspension, Purcell is prohibited from playing in, coaching at, or attending any tennis event authorized or sanctioned by the members of the ITIA (ATP, ITF, WTA, Tennis Australia, Fédération Française de Tennis, Wimbledon and USTA) or any national association," the ITIA statement read. Purcell, with compatriot Jordan Thompson, won the

earlier this month, ending a long title drought. With five medals, including a gold, at the BWF World Championships, and two Olympic medals, Sindhu is widely regarded as one of India's greatest athletes. The couple has invited some of the top celebrities of the country for the wedding

ahead,

The celebrations commenced with a lively Sangeet ceremony on December 20,

Kho Kho World Cup to feature 21 men's and 20 women's teams

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Men's: Ghana, Kenya, South

Africa

Asia:

Women's:

Africa, Uganda

# for anti-doping breach



 $T^{\rm wo-time}_{\rm winning} \begin{array}{c} {\rm Grand} & {\rm Slam} \\ {\rm doubles} & {\rm player} \\ {\rm Max} & {\rm Purcell} & {\rm has} & {\rm entered} & {\rm a} \end{array}$ another Australian, Matthew Ebden, in 2022. He is currently ranked No. 12 in doubles. provisional suspension under tennis' anti-He also finished as a runner-

up in the Australian Open doubles final twice, in 2020 and 2022. Purcell, ranked No. 105 in singles, was not listed on the Australian Open entry lists released earlier this month and did not receive a wildcard or feature on the qualifying entries.

The ITIA did not say whether Purce draw of the tournament starting Jan. 12. Was due to the sanction.

Wimbledon with

honours evoked shock with her family insisting that application was duly submitted.

"There is no final list of nominees at this point. Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya will decide on the recommendations in a day or two and her name, in all likelihood, will be there in the final list," a ministry source said.

The award selection committee is a 12-member panel headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice V Ramasubramam. It includes former athletes like women's hockey captain Rani Rampal among others. The ministry norms allow self-nominate athletes to

instead of relying on other federations and institutions for it. The

"She had been applying for all awards, say Khel Ratna, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan for the last 2-3 years continuously and I have proof of that. This time too, I am confident she would have applied but I can't show anything as I am at sea right now.

"But even if she hasn't, the committee should consider her looking at achievements," he asserted. her He blamed bureaucracy for the mess-up. "We form a committee but it is

the bureaucrats who call the shots. This is not how sports function," he said. It is learnt that the committee has recommended India hockey captain Harmanpreet

Singh, who led the country to a second consecutive Olympic bronze medal, for the Khel Ratna.

total of 21 men's teams Atotal 01 21 ment and 20 women outfits will compete in next month's Kho Kho World Cup with the sport's governing body increasing the number of participating teams due to an overwhelming interest. India will host the inaugural

edition of the event at the IGI Stadium from January 13 to 19. Initially, 16 men's and 16 women's teams were scheduled to participate.

Teams from six continents --Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Oceania -- will feature in the much-anticipated tournament.

"We are keeping the facilities with the foreign delegates in mind. We have devised meals and diet plan for our guests as per their dietary requirements and we are also providing

entire logistics, stay, and transport facilities for them, so that they do not face any issues during their stay here, KKFI President Sudhanshu Mittal said in a release.

have also made "We provisions for all countries to stay till the end of the tournament, irrespective of the results?

The opening ceremony will

take place on January 13, followed by the first match of the tournament between India and Pakistan. The league stage will run from January 14 to 16, with the quarterfinals and semifinals scheduled for January 17 and 18. The final

will be held on January 19. Participating nations in Kho Kho World Cup 2025:

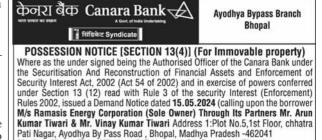
India (host), Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka Bangladesh, Women's: Bhutan, India (host), Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka Europe: Men's: England, Germany, Netherlands, Poland

Women's: England, Germany, Netherlands, Poland North America: Men's: United States of America South America: Men's: Argentina, Brazil, Peru Women's: Peru Oceania:

Men's: Australia

The latest doping violation in tennis comes just weeks after five-time Grand Slam Swiatek champion Iga one-month accepted a suspension after testing positive for the banned substance trimetazidine. Top-ranked men's player Jannik Sinner, winner of two

Grand Slams this year, was exonerated by the ITIA after twice testing positive for a trace amount of an anabolic steroid in March with the World Anti-Doping Agency appealing the ruling.



## Coaching crisis, heartbreaks and Olympic setbacks mark a disastrous year for Indian boxing

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Indian boxing endured a Lturbulent year marred by coaching turmoil, crushing defeats, and a medal-less Paris Olympics campaign, all of it made worse by the national federation's negligence that brought unprecedented embarrassment to the country.

There were very few positives to count in a year when, after a widely successful 2023, expectations were sky high. Yet no boxer was able to add to the three bronze medals -Vijender Singh (2008), M C Mary Kom (2012) and Lovlina Borgohain (2021) -that India had secured in the previous editions of the Olympics.

Nishant Dev, unlucky to miss out on an Olympic medal, was India's top performer but the likes of world champions Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina disappointed despite widely held belief that fortunes of

women's boxing were following an upward trajectory

Outside the ring, the Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) negligence cost India an Olympic quota even as administrators globally scrambled to retain the sport on the Olympic roster. Controversy and coaching

crisis The dismal performance at the first World Qualifying Tournament, where all nine boxers failed to secure a spot at the Paris Games, prompted High Performance Director Bernard Dunne to resign from his position while still in

Italy, less than four months before the Olympics. It wasn't just the defeats that were troubling, but the manner in which the boxers that was truly lost Frequent disheartening. knockouts and RSC outclassed defeats pointed to inherent technical flaws had not which



addressed. With the exception of Nishant, there was hardly any name in Indian boxing who could be spoken about as a success story. Adding to the woes, the country soon lost the women's 57kg Olympic quota, won by Parveen Hooda at the Asian Games last year, after the been boxer was handed a 22-

month suspension by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for three whereabouts failures within a

vear. 2022 World The Championship bronzemedallist failed to submit her whereabouts for the period between April 2022 and March 2023, as mandated by WADA regulations.

The BFI was also to blame for this unprecedented embarrassment given that federation is duly notified of such a lapse by the international body. The federation ought to have intervened to ensure that the

athlete submitted the required details on time. As a result, India had to fight afresh for qualification in the women's 57kg category, the spot ultimately going to Jaismine Lamboria in the final Olympic Qualifiers. There were wholesale changes

for this event with former Asian Games gold-medallist Amit Panghal replacing Deepak Bhoria in the 51kg category. Eventually Panghal and Nishant made the cut for the quadrennial spectacle along with Jaismine, adding to the three quotas won by Nikhat Zareen (50kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg) and Lovlina (75kg) last year.

In all, six boxers qualified for

Paris, a decline from the five men and four woman who represented India in the 2021 Tokyo Games.

Barren Olympics, Nishant's heartbreak

Heading into the big event on the back of two consecutive World Championship titles, Zareen was hailed as one of India's strongest medal contenders.

However, in the fiercely competitive 50kg category, the Telangana boxer was completely outclassed by China's Wu Yu in a brutally one-sided bout.

Zareen, unable to match the relentless pace of her opponent, later said that she had "not eaten for the last two days to maintain weight" and felt weak.

A win away from a second consecutive Olympic medal, Lovlina too went down to a Chinese boxer. The Tokyo Games bronze winner couldn't get past familiar foe Li Qian.

Mr. Arun Kumar Tiwari(Partner & Guarantor) S/o Bramhdeo Tiwari Address 2: MIG 87, Ayodhya Nagar, Sector-E, Tehsil-Huzur, Bhopal M.P. 462041 Mr. Vinay Kumar Tiwari (Partner & Guarantor) S/o Bramhdeo Tiwari Address 3: MIG 87, Ayodhya Nagar, Sector-E, Tehsil-Huzur, Bhopal M.P. 462041 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being Rs.40,69,504.40 (Rupees Forty Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four & Forty paisa Only) plus unapplied interest and charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general, that the under signed has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him /he under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this 21st day of December of the year 2024.

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 charge of the CANARA BANK, AYODHYA BI -PASS BHOPAL BRANCH (5104) for an amount of Rs.40,69,504.40 (Rupees Forty Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Four & Forty paisa Only) and interest thereon

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:

EMT of Flat No.C-112, admeasuring 364 Sq Ft .B/U Area on the 1st Floor, Building Known As Shiv Complex, In Om Shiv Complex Co-op. Hsg Soc. Ltd., Narmada Nagar, Cabin Road, Bhayander (E), Thane -401105, Constructed on land Bearing Old S.No.121, New S.No 106 Hissa No.13, At Village: Khari, Taluka & District -thane -in the Name of Shri Vinay Brahmdev Tiwari, Boundaries of the Property : North : Sai Jaisel Krupa Complex, South: Flat C/111 Of Same Building, East :flat C/114 Of Same Building , West: b Wing Of Omshiv Complex

#### **DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE PROPERTY:**

Plant Machinery & Furniture Fixture in the name of title holder M/s Ramasis **Energy Corporation** 

Through Its Partners: Shri Arun Kumar Tiwari S/o Bramhdeo Tiwari, Shri Vinay Kumar Tiwari S/o Bramhdeo Tiwari

Date : 21.12.2024	AUTHORISED OFFICER
Place : THANE	CANARA BANK



following the Brisbane Test.

said the BCCI in a release.

Monday.

## Shami not fully fit yet, ruled out of remaining two Tests in Australia

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

ndia pacer Mohammed Shami has been ruled out of the last two Tests against Australia as he is yet to regain full fitness, the BCCI said on Monday.

Shami, who last played for India in the ODI World Cup final in November, 2023, made a comeback from his right heel surgery during Bengal's Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh last month.

With calls for his selection growing, Shami played all nine games for Bengal in the subsequent Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy. He is also part of Bengal's squad for the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy but did not play the opening game on Saturday against Delhi.

His fitness has been a subject of intense debate and



and build his bowling loads needed to meet the demands of the longest format of the game. His participation in the Vijay Hazare Trophy will depend on the progress of his

The medical team said the veteran fast bowler has fully recovered from the heel injury that kept him out of action after the ODI World Cup. "The BCCI Medical Team at

"The BCCI Medical team in the Centre of Excellence has been working closely with fast bould Mohammed Shami on his recovery and rehabilitation after his right heel surgery. Shami has completely recovered from this heel problem.

However, his left knee has exhibited minor swelling due to increased joint loading from his bowling workload.

Play of the Match in the first

The swelling is on the expected lines, owing to the increased bowling after a prolonged period," the BCCI said.

sports 12

Shami bowled 43 overs in his comeback game in the Ranji Trophy.

Following that, he played in all nine games of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT), where he also "engaged in additional bowling sessions on the sidelines to build his on the sidelines to build his bowling volume in order to get ready for the Test matches."

The 34-year-old has taken 229 wickets in 64 Tests, 195 scalps in 101 ODIs and 24 wickets in 23 T20 Internationals.

With India relying heavily on Jasprit Bumrah in Australia, Shami's presence in the bowling attack would have provided a much needed boost.

## Strike rotation and solid defence key to face Bumrah, says Simon Katich

#### PTI MELBOURNE

Former cricketer Simon Katich has advised Australian batters to concentrate on rotating the strike and maintaining a solid defence to succeed against the peerless Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah. Katich noted that since Bumrah rarely bowls loose deliveries, the Australians must be strategically good in their approach. "I know all the talk is around

having more positive intent, and I think that's all well and and it is certainly

really positive intent, trying to score more quickly and look what happened, 7/80 in no time.

"It's not easy to do against the red ball that moves around off the seam in a wearing wicket which the Gabba was starting to become with cracks.

so good," he added.

"The top order has to be very you're trying to take him on For the remaining two Tests,

careful and mindful of how they go about it. You're not going to score many runs if off the length, because he is

since the white-ball tour of the UK in September. During the Perth Test, he bowled 17 overs in total,

taking two wickets on the opening day but later pulled up sore In Adelaide, he bowled four overs while in Brisbane he

rolled his arm for two overs. 'I've been saying for a couple Tests, Mitch Marsh has not been able to bowl the volume of overs that everyone expected of him. Given the conditions and given he is a wicket taker," Katich said on 'SEN Breakfast'. We saw that in

#### Momentum on their side, India **Indians unhappy** with 'used' eye series win against West Indies practice pitches

#### PTI VADODARA

Coming off one of their biggest wins in terms of runs, fancied India will look to guard against complacency when they take on a beleaguered West Indies side with an aim to bag the threematch series in the second Women's ODI here on

Tuesday. India will be entering the game on the back of a massive 211run victory over the visitors in the series opener in which the Harmanpreet Kaur-led team ticked almost all the boxes. Every match the teams play in

the coming months will be significant as the ICC World Cup is scheduled to be held in the country next year.

India, who have never won a women's World Cup, are desperate to end their ICC title drought at home and they are aware that a strong build-up is extremely important for them to head into the mega event as one of the contenders alongside the 'usual suspects', Australia and England.

Though India have not begun their preparations for the big tournament in earnest, having suffered a 0-3 whitewash in Australia, they bounced back in style, albeit against a much weaker opposition in the West Indies.

In between the ongoing ODI series and the one against Australia, India registered a 2-1 victory in a T20I rubber against the team from the Caribbean islands, which was their their first home series win in the shortest format in over five years, but their failure to qualify for the semi-final of the last T20 World Cup has left a lot to be desired. The team has been on a

experimentation spree since the debacle in the UAE and has handed international debuts to as many as seven players, including Titas Sadhu, Priya Mishra and Pratika Rawal.

Playing in her first ever international match, Delhi's Pratika impressed with a 40-run knock off 69 balls during a century-plus opening partnership with vice-captain Smriti Mandhana.

The lone worry for India before the series opener was the fitness of Kaur, who missed the last two T20Is with a knee niggle, but with her clean hitting and running between the wickets, the skipper has laid all concerns to rest

Mandhana, who led India in Kaur's absence and struck three fifties in a row in the T20Is, was again in her element in the first ODI and made a classy 91 off 102 balls while laying the foundation for an imposing total.

The left-handed opener will be keen to continue in the same vein in the remaining onedayers as well

#### Play of the Match in the first ODI, Renuka Singh will be high on confidence having returned a five-for and she will once again look to inflict maximum damage on the Windies with the new ball. As far as the West Indies are concerned, they will have to lift their game several notches and the likes of Hayley Matthews, Deandra Dottin, Shemaine Campbelle and Afy Fletcher, the squad's senior players with years of experience, will need to lead from the front. Teams (from):

Ieams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice captain), Pratika Rawal, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuia Kanwer Titas Sadhu Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Renuka Singh Thakur.

West Indies: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbelle (vice captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Nerissa Crafton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Shabika Gajnabi, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Rashada Williams

### The Indian team has expressed dissatisfaction with the practice pitches ahead of the fourth Test against Australia here, blaming their variable bounce for the hit that Rohit Sharma took on his knee but MCG curator Matt Page has defended the tracks by saying that "standard protocol" has been followed. Rohit developed swelling on

PTI MELBOURNE

his left knee as he tried to play a throwdown from support staff member Dayanand Garani and didn't take further part in the nets on Sunday. The side opted not to practice on Monday.

It was learnt the skipper needed icing at night and the team think-tank held the used pitch's uneven bounce responsible for the injury scare.

The Indian team had sent its training schedule two months ago but the MCG curator stuck to the standard operating procedure of giving a new practice track only three days prior to the Test match, which begins on December 26

in this case. "So for us, three days out, we prepare pitches for here. If teams come and play before that, they get what pitches we've had," Page told reporters about why India didn't get a pitch that would resemble the 'So today, we're on fresh pitches. If we needed to play this morning, they would have been on those fresh pitches. Stock standard procedure for us, three days out. We do our pitches that we're going to have for our Test match," Page defended the move.



something they have to be mindful of. But against someone like Bumrah intent is not about just blazing him for fours, because he doesn't bowl many bad balls," Katich told SEN 1116.

"So a lot of that intent has to be about rotating strike and being able to defend really well, because you're not gonna be able to play with any intent if you aren't there after the tenth over. That's the challenge for all of these guys," Katich added.

To illustrate his point, Katich made a reference to Australia's second innings in the third Test at Brisbane, where the hosts attempted an aggressive approach but ultimately lost their wickets. "We saw it in the second Brisbane. innings in Australians came out with

Australia has opt their trust in teenage sensation Sam Konstas, replacing opener Nathan McSweeney, who was given a maiden call-up ahead of the series.

"I know the young kid's (Konstas) got a lot of potential, and a lot of ability, but it'll be a challenge because not many guys around the world have been able to do that to that quality of bowling," Katich said. Marsh should make way for Webster

Katich also felt Mitchell Marsh's inability to bowl the expected volume of overs suggests he isn't "100%" fit and should be replaced by uncapped rookie Beau Webster for the Boxing Day Test against India. Marsh has been dealing with

bowled well on day one. Took some key wickets and then struggled to back up. I mean obviously the Aussie hierarchy know better then we do around where his

fitness is at. "But for him to bowl two overs the other day after Josh Hazlewood went down, that to me indicates something's not 100% right with him." After Marsh had pulled up sore, 30-year-old Tasmania all-rounder Webster was added to Australia's squad. "At the end of the day, Beau

Webster deserves to be in that squad," Katich said. "He's done very well for Tassie in the last few years, he's a genuine all-rounder given what his role is for fassie and he plays that dual role with bat and ball,"

recurring back stiffness Katich added. Tanush Kotian replaces recently retired Ashwin in India's squad

#### PTI MELBOURNE

 $M_{\mathrm{set}}^{\mathrm{umbai}\,\mathrm{off}}$ -spinner Tanush Kotian is set to join the India squad in Australia as a replacement for the recently retired Ravichandran Ashwin. It is understood that the 26 year old Kotian, who was part of India A's tour of Australia, has also been added as a cover for Washington Sundar.

"Kotian has been added as a safety net and also to keep the squad number intact for the last two games. He only comes into the picture if either among Washy or Jaddu (Ravindra Jadeja) gets injured," a senior BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

Kotian, who is currently in Ahmedabad for Vijay Hazare Trophy, is expected to leave Mumbai on Tuesday and will reach



Melbourne before the start of Boxing Day Test.

The bowling all-rounder picked two wickets and scored an unbeaten 39 for Mumbai in their Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Hyderabad on Monday.

Kotian has fond memories of the Melbourne Cricket Ground where he scored 44 batting at No. 8 for India A and looked the part.

He already has 101 wickets to his name and 1525 runs with two centuries in 33 first-class games.

Originally, Axar Patel was supposed to be summoned to Australia but as per sources, the left arm spinner had sought a break after first two matches of Vijay Hazare Trophy due to a family commitment.

Kotian has been added to the squad following Ashwin's surprise retirement from international cricket following the draw Test in Brisbane. The 38-year-old ended his glorious career as the second highest wicket taker for India behind Anil Kumble.

When asked if he has had the Indian schedule and BCCI had correspondence with Cricket Australia, he responded in affirmative.

"Yes, they gave us schedule. has There been correspondence between CA and Indian board and the extent of those conversations, I don't know," Page informed.

Pitch will help fast bowlers The iconic MCG won't have the bounce of Perth or the seam movement of Gabba but it will still be pace-friendly with 6mm of grass covering.

## The ability to take 20 wickets is not that good in Indian team: Cheteshwar Pujara

#### PTI MELBOURNE

The Indian team in Australia L lacks a bowling attack that is good enough to take 20 wickets in a Test, Cheteshwar Pujara said on Monday and called it the side's biggest concerns heading into the last two matches of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

The five-match series is currently levelled at 1-1 with everything to play for in the Tests in Melbourne and Sydney.

The visitors have been relying heavily on pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah to get them wickets and while he has been a great success with both the red and pink ball, the peerless fast bowler has not received enough support from the other end, something that has plagued India besides their toporder batting woes.

"My biggest question and the reason for a little bit of concern is that the Indian bowling is looking a little weak," Pujara told Star Sports.

"Batting is a little better, like the top five didn't do well, but the middle order and lower middle order, Ravindra Jadeja, Nitish (Reddy), and even tailenders, Bumrah and Akash Deep contributed with the bat.

'Now, there is a weakness in the bowling, so what will you feed the team? That is the biggest question, beçause you can't drop Nitish, you can't drop Jadeja, so what will be the team combination?"

Pujara felt that Nitish Reddy and Ravindra Jadeja are not able to do the job of being the side's fourth and fifth bowler.

"Ashwin has taken retirement, so two spinners, I don't think they will play in Melbourne. So, how will you strengthen the bowling? Because the three seamers are very good, but their supporting role, fourth and fifth seamer, Nitesh Kumar is the fourth seamer and Ravindra Jadeja is the fifth bowler. If you add both of them together, the bowling is not that good.

We will have to think about that, because if you want to win a Test match, then you have to take 20 wickets, and the ability to take 20



wickets is not that good, the supporting role of the other bowlers is not good, so we will have to improve that as soon as possible, and how that will be, I don't know, but that is a big question."

With the exception of opener KL Rahul, the top-order batting has also been a big letdown so far in the series, and Pujara said it has got to do a lot with their inability to see off Mitchell Starc's initial spells with the new ball.

"He has been the best bowler for them in this series. And the way Mitchell Starc has played in the last 1-1.5 years, he has brought a lot of improvement. And he has a lot of ability.

"If I talk about my personal experience, when he used to play in the last series in 2018 or 2021, I used to feel that if he plays against me, I will get runs.

"And now, it feels like he will take wickets. So what is the difference? The difference is that his line length, his accuracy has increased a lot. He is bowling very less loose deliveries. He is playing on the

stump. Every ball is hitting on the good length spot. He is getting swing?

Starc has so far taken 14 wickets in the series, the most by an Australian bowler and only behind Bumrah across two teams. Pujara observed, "The change he has brought in his game has made him a different player. And he is looking more dangerous than Cummins and Hazlewood. So we will have to take care of his game, especially from the new games.

"In the first five overs, his first spell, he has taken the most wickets there. So if there is a good batting in the first five overs, bring him for the second or third spell. Because he gets tired. So the batting of the top order so far, our top order has never played in the

third or fourth spell. "The ones who have played are the lower middle order and the tail enders. And there we saw that when Bumrah and Akash were batting, when Mitchell Starc was bowling, he was not that effective. So they will have to play their new game well."