# SULICE SHUBANESWAR, SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹4

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

n a move to check the potential misuse of postal ballot facility extended to voters on poll duty, electoral rules have been changed to ensure that such people cast their vote at designated facilitation centres only and do not keep the ballot papers with them for a long time.

Based recommendations of the Election Commission (EC), the Ministry of Law and Justice has amended an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain

electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as recordings candidates to prevent their

The amendment has earned severe criticism from the Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh, who hit out at the poll body saying it was a "vindication" of the party's assertion of the "rapidly eroding integrity" of the electoral process. "Why the poll panel was afraid of transparency", Ramesh questioned.

According to Rule 93, all vote thereon in accordance

September last year recommended to the Union law ministry to tweak the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to ensure that voters on poll duty cast their vote at voter facilitation centres located where they are deployed. The EC was of the view that if a postal ballot remains with a voter for a long time, the person could be highly susceptible to undue influence, threats, bribery and other unethical means by candidates or political parties. According to the Ministry of Law, a court case was the

same at the facilitation

centre as specified, in writing, by the returning

The poll body had in

officer.

behind the "trigger" amendment. Documents such as nomination forms, appointment of election agents, results and election account statements are mentioned in the Conduct of Election Rules, electronic documents such as CCTV camera footage, webcasting footage and video recording of candidates during the Model Code of Conduct period are not covered. "CCTV

webcasting stations are not carried out under Conduct of Election Rules but are the result of steps taken by the EC to ensure a level playing field,"

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

n a remarkable observation **⊥**which indicates increased economic opportunities across the country, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) has estimated the number of domestic migrants has lowered by around 12 per cent to 40.20 crore between 2011 and 2023.

"The overall number of migrants in the country, as of 2023, is 40,20,90,396. This is about 11.78 per cent lower as compared to the number of migrants enumerated as per Census 2011 [45,57,87,621]. Consequently, the migration rate which stood at 37.64% as per Census 2011 is estimated to have since reduced to 28.88% of the population," according to a working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

The paper titled '400 Million Dreams! Examining volume and directions of domestic migration in India using novel high frequency data, pointed out that West Bengal, Rajasthan and Karnataka are the States showing the maximum amount of growth in percentage share of the arriving passengers. Similarly, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are States where the percentage share of total migrants has reduced.

"At the state level, Uttar "At the out... Pradesh-Delhi; Gujara. Telangana-Gujarat-Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar-Delhi emerge as the primary dyads of the movement," it said. At the district level,



Murshidabad Paschim Bardhaman-Howrah; Valsad - Mumbai; Chittoor -Bengaluru Urban and Surat -Mumbai are the most popular routes for migration between districts. This has implications for urban planning as well as for planning of transportation networks. According to the report, April-June is the high month for migrant movement with November-December witnessing secondary highs. December-January September-October are the months with the highest inflows whereas May-June and January-February are the months with the highest outflows in Mumbai.

These are perhaps months where most migrant labour travel back to their places of origin. A secondary high in winter time is perhaps indicative of travel around the festival/marriage January, on the other hand, appears to be the month of lowest travel.

"Even prior to the pandemic related lockdowns, there were signs of the passenger growth, however after the pandemic, even the high months i.e. April-May are at a distinctly lower level as compared corresponding period before

lower than the corresponding number for May 2012. Further, it is interesting to note that a majority [>75%] of our predicted migration flows are within 500 kms of the origin. This is in line with gravitation effects and theories such as Ravenstein's Theory of Human Migration (1834 - 1913)," it "We hypothesize that this is on account of availability of improved services such as

the pandemic, passenger levels for May 2023 being 6.67%

health, infrastructure connectivity as well as improved economic opportunities in or near in major sources of migration and is an indicator of overall economic growth," noted the paper authored by former EAC-PM chairman Bibek

education,



The car that was crashed into a crowd at the Magdeburg

#### Five killed in attack on German Christmas market, 200 injured

AP MAGDEBURG (GERMANY)

Germans on Saturday both the victims and their shaken sense of security after a Saudi doctor intentionally drove into a Christmas market teeming with holiday shoppers, killing at least five people, including a small child, and injuring at least 200

Authorities arrested a 50year-old man at the site of the attack in Magdeburg on Friday evening and took him into custody for questioning. He has lived in Germany for nearly two decades, practising medicine in Bernburg, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Magdeburg. Officials

governor of the surrounding state of Saxony-Anhalt, Reiner Haseloff, told reporters that the death toll rose from two to five and that more than 200 people in total



#### **Govt still not T22 hazuhar** on health and life insurance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Goods and Services
Tax Council meeting on postponed decision on reducing taxes on health and life insurance, while the much talked- about GoM recommendation of rate rejig in 148 items was not tabled before the Council. Meanwhile, the GST Council agreed to issue a clarification on taxation of popcorn, saying that pre-packed and labelled ready-to-eat snacks will attract a 12 per cent tax while an 18 per cent GST will be levied if it is caramelised. There is no change in the tax rate of popcorn and the GST Council has only agreed that the Central Board of Indirect

Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will issue a circular clarifying the current taxation regime of "Ready-to-eat popcorn", which is mixed with salt and spices, and has the essential character namkeens currently attracts a 5 per cent GST if it is not prepackaged and labelled.

If it is supplied as pre-packaged and labelled, a 12 per cent GST is levied. However, when popcorn is mixed with sugar (caramel popcorn), its essential character changes to that of a sugar confectionary, and therefore classifiable under HS 1704 90 90 and attract an 18 per cent GST, as per the clarification.

Some members of the Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising her state counterparts, felt that more deliberations were required before a final decision could be arrived at with regard to insurance

#### **Delhi LG sanctions ED to prosecute Kejriwal**

'papers" related to elections

shall be open to public

inspection. The amendment

inserts "as specified in these

rules" after "papers". "In the Conduct of Elections Rules,

1961, in rule 93, in sub-rule

(2), in clause (a), after the

word "papers", the words "as

specified in these rules" shall

be inserted," the Ministry

said in a notification. A new

states

in the rules.

section 18A has been added

Notwithstanding anything

in this Part, a voter on

election duty shall receive

his postal ballot, record his

RAJESH KUMAR I NEW DELHI

In more trouble for former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has sanctioned the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to prosecute him in the alleged money laundering case linked to the liquor policy scam case. This comes elections in Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party, however, claimed that there was no such sanction and challenged the ED to show a copy of the sanction.

On its part, AAP leaders Saurabh Bharadwaj, Priyanka Kakkar, Atishi and Manish Sisodia claimed that ED is "spreading fake news". They said that a copy of the permission should be given to them if such an order has been passed. The liquor policy scam has been among the biggest allegations made by the opposition BJP against

the AAP government. According to officials, the ED had, on December 5, sought permission to prosecute Kejriwal, writing to Delhi Chief Secretary Dharmendra in his capacity as Chief Vigilance Officer in this A case under Prevention Money Laundering Act (PMLA) charges was earlier filed against Kejriwal, but the trial had not started. After the Supreme Court made the Lt approval Governor's mandatory to prosecute individuals holding government posts in money laundering cases, the ED wrote to the Chief Secretary



asking for permission, said

Citing a November 6 Supreme Court judgment, the ED sanction prosecution under Prevention Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, on December 5. In its letter to the Lt Governor, the ED said it found a "huge level of corruption in framing and implementation" of the excise policy.The Supreme Court on November 6 ruled that public cannot prosecuted money laundering without prior approval from government, as required under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Earlier, prosecution sanction was not needed for chargesheets (prosecution complaints) filed by the ED against public servants. It was mandated for other investigative agencies, like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and state

The ED in its note to Chief Secretary of Delhi, sought approval from the competent prosecute Kejriwal.

authority to prosecute former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal under section 197 (1) of CrPC (Section 218 of BNSS 2023) in a case related to liquor policy scam case.

Sanction may be required for prosecution to Kejriwal, for offence of Money Laundering under Section 4 of PMLA, 2002 read with Section 197(1) of Cr. P.C. (Section 218 of BNSS, 2023) in the case of ECIR No. ECIR/HQ14/2022 22.08.2022. Therefore, you are requested to grant sanction for prosecution to Sh. Arvind Kejriwal, Ex- CM, Govt, of NCT of Delhi in ECIR No. ECIR/HQ 14/2022 dated 22.08.2022, for the offence of money laundering as define under Section 3 of PMLA, 2002 and the offence is punishable under section 4 of PMLA Act, 2002," the ED

Meanwhile, the BJP doubled down on its charges against the AAP with Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva welcoming the sanction to

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

STAFF REPORTER IN NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued an order directing to carry out a drive to identify and verify illegal Bangladeshi migrants in municipal schools and those registered for birth certificates. The MCD has also directed all MCD zones to remove encroachments by illegal Bangladeshi migrants. An action taken report has been sought by the MCD deputy commissioner by December 31.

The directive comes days the Delhi ordered Secretariat crackdown illegal immigrants Bangladesh, with the issue becoming the flashpoint between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Assembly elections in Delhi due in

The decision follows a meeting held on December 12 with Delhi government's Principal Secretary (Home), the Commissioner represented by the Additional Commissioner (HQ) and Deputy Commissioner (HQ) Zonal heads have been instructed to implement preventive measures to address the issue of illegal Bangladeshi migrants.

#### **BLOOMS BANISH WINTER BLUES**



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

#### **Multistorey building collapses in Punjab's Mohali**



**PTI** CHANDIGARH

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

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

Senior Superintendent of Police (Mohali) Deepak Pareek, who reached the spot to take stock of the situation, said the rescue operation was underway in full swing.

#### Rainfall intensity to decrease from today tricts such as Malkangiri, the State in next 24 hours. The

Temp to fall again after 2 days

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $\mathbf{A}$ s the depression over the Bay of Bengal is likely to weaken now, the intensity of rains triggered by the system would decrease gradually in Odisha, the India Meteorological Depart-

ment (IMD) said on Saturday. As per the IMD, the depression is likely to move slowly east-northeastwards. After the well-marked low pressure intensified into a depression, many parts of Odisha have been experiencing incessant rains since Friday.

The Regional Office of the IMD here informed that Ranpur in Nayagarh district received the highest amount of rainfall in the State at 108.4 mm in the last 24 hours while Begunia recorded 84 mm and Khordha 75 mm.

The weather office said light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur at a few places over coastal districts and adjoining areas in districts include Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Dhenkanal, Khordha, Cuttack and Jharsuguda.

However, rainfall activity would be reduced in Malkangiri, Nuapada, Balangir, Nabarangpur, Bargarh and Subarnapur districts. Light rainfall is likely in south coastal and coastal disKoraput, Rayagada, Ganjam and Gajapati on Sunday.

The IMD forecasted dense Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Iharsuguda, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Koraput districts after the rainfall activity. There would be no large change in minimum temperature (night temperature) during next two days and thereafter fall by 2 to 4 degree Celsius during subsequent three days over the districts of the State, it added.

# 4 poachers arrested with help of Al

PNS BARIPADA

Four poachers were arrested by Forest Department officials with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

In Similpal —

in Mayurbhani district. The arrested were identified as Santosh Bhakta (28), Biswanath Bhakta (25), Simnath Bhakta (30) and Santosh Bhakta (50).

Official sources said highpower AI-enabled trap cameras have been installed at various places in the Similipal sanctuary to protect wildlife. On the basis of these trap cameras, the poachers were arrested in Boniada village under the Udala police station.

The accused were arrested on the basis of the photos cap-

tured by the AI cameras installed in the forest. Five country-made guns

along with a large quantity of gunpowder and iron pellets were seized from them. So far, a total of six guns, along with various illegal items, have been recovered. The arrested accused were produced before the Baripada SDJM Court and taken on a two-day remand.

All Bonda women to get Subhadra money

after visiting rea PNS BHUBANESWAR

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida, who recently visited Bonda Ghati in Malkangiri district, has announced that all the Bonda women will receive financial assistance under the Subhadra Yojana.

Parida met Bonda people and discussed the issues that hampered the disbursal of Subhadra money among them. She also promised to reassess 2,932 Subhadra applications that were previously rejected in the area.

She directed officials to ensure that all the tribal women



are benefitted under the Subhadra Yojana.

Moreover, she announced an additional Rs 50,000 to each Bonda family eligible under the housing scheme under

Grameen Awas Yojana in response to the rising construction costs in the area.

"CM Mohan Majhi had visited the district during Malyabanta Mahotsav. He came to know that Bonda Ghati residents are facing difficulties in taking house construction materials to their villages. Due to the rising expenses, they are not able to construct their houses. So, the government has decided to provide an additional assistance of Rs 50,000," Parida in-

The Deputy CM also informed that the fourth or last phase of Subhadra's first installment would be disbursed by the end of January next.

Hockey League opening on Dec 28
Sara Ali Khan among starstudded line-up in Rourkela

 $T_{
m he~2024\text{-}2025}$  edition of the Hockey India League (HIL) will kick off with an extravagant opening ceremony at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela on December 28 with a star-studded lineup including Bollywood sensation Sara Ali Khan and music artist King set to headline the evening with their performances, a press release from Hockey India stated on Satur-

In addition, the Shiamak Davar Dance Troupe will light up the stage with dynamic choreography while an inno-

Odisha are closely monitor-

ing the movement of the ti-

gress that has been roaming

the contiguous forest belt of

the three States since escap-

ing from Simlipal 10 days

Zeenat is currently be-

lieved to be in the Bengal ter-

ritory. Her movements are

being tracked via a radio col-

lar, and a special squad of

Bengal forest officials is on

Minister of State for Forest

Birbaha Hansda had said on

Friday, "The prey base is low

in the areas where Zeenat is

presently located. So, we hope

she turns back to the reserve

since there is more prey there."

constant watch.

vative floor projection mapping system will offer fans a visually immersive experience with 3D illusions on the stadium floor as the event aims to be a blend of sports, entertainment and technology under the banner of 'Hockey ka

Meanwhile, tickets to both the opening ceremony and all HIL 2024-25 hockey matches will be free for spectators in Rourkela as part of an initiative to make the league more accessible to fans across the country, allowing them to witness the world-class sporting spectacle live.

Chairperson of Hockey India League Dilip Tirkey said,

"Rourkela is a city with a deep love for hockey, and it's only fitting that we launch the league with such a grand cel-

ebration here." Highlights for fans in attendance include interactive experiences such as green-screen photo booths. Moreover, the matches will be available to stream on Ticketgenie's web

portal and app. The opening ceremony will be broadcast live on DD Sports, Waves and other channels on the Doordarshan Network with live streaming on Prasar Bharati's OTT platform, Waves. Matches will also be available on Sony Ten

channels and Sony LIV.

# DIC GM held taking bribe

PNS CUTTACK

 $T_{
m he\ Vigilance\ police\ on}$ Saturday caught Bipin Kumar Dehuri, General Manager (GM), District Industries Centre (DIC), Subarnapur, while he was taking a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a person.

Dehuri had demanded the bribe from the complainant to process and approve his loan application for sanction

of a loan under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in his favour.

.Following the trap, simultaneous searches were launched on the rented residential house of Dehuri at Sonepur, house at native village Jairampur in Baleswar district and his

Later, Dehuri was arrested and forwarded to court.

# Jewellery worth lakhs looted from shop

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Gold and silver ornaments worth lakhs of rupees were looted from a jewellery shop in the Mancheswar police station area of the capital city on Friday night.

According to reports, miscreants decamped with 20 grams of gold and two kilograms of silver ornaments from Subarna Jewellery and Workshop located at the Chakeisiani

Shop owner Brahma Sahoo, who lodged an FIR

disabled the CCTV cameras and also took away the Digital Video Recorder (DVR) of the CCTV with them."

He further added, "The miscreants fled with gold jewellery weighing approximately 20 grams and silver ornaments of two kilograms. The list of looted jewellery included necklaces, chains,

Based on Sahoo's complaint, the Mancheswar footage of nearby shops and

#### Amit Shah to visit Sambalpur on Dec 28

nion Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Sambalpur on December 28 as part of his upcoming tour of Odisha, according

to Sambalpur BJP MLA Jayanarayan Mishra.

"The Home Minister will inaugurate three to four projects, including the newly-established Super Specialty Hospital in Burla," said Mishra. Shah is

expected to attend a programme at the Gangadhar Meher University, where he will inaugurate various developmental projects. Mishra also mentioned that

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Union Education Dharmendra

opportunities for

Pradhan would join Shah at these events.

According to political analysts, the frequent visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to Odisha high-

light the BJP's focus on governance and BIP's organisational growth in the State.

Earlier month, Modi and Shah attended the Director General of Police (DG) Conference in Bhubaneswar, where

they stayed for three days. Notably, Modi addressed a public meeting near the Naveen Niwas on the first day of his visit, aiming to motivate party workers. He also held meetings with elected representatives and BJP office-bearers at the party's State headquarters.

Angul and M&R Complex in

This is a golden opportu-

nity for aspiring candidates in

Odisha to join one of the

country's leading public sec-

tor enterprises. Interested and

eligible candidates can apply

for the posts by visiting the

The application process

website

Damanjodi.

official

nalcoindia.com.

10 days after missing from Similipal

# Tigress Zeenat's whereabouts still unclear

A cloud of mystery surrounds the movements of tigress Zeenat, which was relocated from Maharashtra to Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve. After missing from Similipal, the tigress was seen roaming around in parts of Iharkhand before being traced to West Bengal. However, her exact location remains unclear, informed Baripada Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) Prakash Chand Gogineni on Saturday.

The three-year-old big cat has been frequently changing her locations, making it dif-

will begin on December 31,

2024 and will end on January

Recruitment details: SUPT

(JOT)-Laboratory: 37 posts;

SUPT (JOT)- Operator: 226

posts; SUPT (JOT)-Fitter: 73

posts; SUPT (JOT)- Electrical:

63 posts; SUPT (JOT)-Instru-

mentation (M&R)/Instru-

ment Mechanic (S&P): 48

posts; SUPT (JOT)-Geologist:

21, 2025.



ficult to pinpoint her current whereabouts. For security reasons, the Forest Department has decided not to disclose her precise location.

According to Gogineni, Zeenat recently moved from the Jamshedpur range in

4 posts; SUPT (JOT)-HEMM

Operator: 9 posts; SUPT

(SOT)-Mining: 1 post; SUPT

(JOT)-Mining Mate: 15 posts;

SUPT (JOT)-Motor Mechanic:

22 posts; Dresser-Cum-First

Aider (W2 Grade): 5 posts;

Laboratory Technician Grade

III (PO Grade): 2 posts; Nurse

Grade III (PO Grade): 7 posts;

and Pharmacist Grade III (PO

Grade): 6 posts.

Jharkhand to the Belpahari forest area in West Bengal. However, she is no longer there, and a dedicated forest team is now tracking her movements.

Forest personnel of West Bengal, Jharkhand and

NALCO announces 518 non-executive posts cation fee is Rs 100 for General, OBC (NCL), and EWS

> specific post requirements. Age limit: The age limit varies from posts to posts, check the official notification for more details about the eligi-

Educational qualification:

Candidates must possess

qualifications such as ITI, Di-

ploma, or B.Sc in the relevant

discipline, depending on the

bility criteria. Application fee: The appli-

candidates while SC, ST, PwBD, Ex-Servicemen, land ousted, and internal candidates are exempted from the fee. Payments can be made through a dedicated bank account, net banking or by us-

ing debit or credit cards. For more details, check the official notification.

# by the burglars, who

Market.

with police said, "The front grill of the shop was cut open earrings, bangles and rings."

police reviewed the CCTV initiated a probe into the burglary.

In Angul dist

Great

Odisha

candidates

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he National Aluminium

Company Limited (NALCO)

has announced a recruitment

drive for non-executive posi-

tions at its S&P Complex in

# Mines, industries keep rising despite 'severe' AQI

Environmentalists express grave concern

BIJAY MISHRA ■ ANGUL

While the Air Quality Index (AQI) of Angul has remained under "Severe" catagory for the last 15 days, people of this most affected area are suffering from acute respiratory diseases. Everyday hundreds of affected patients with symptoms like throat inflammation or trouble in breathing from Angul , Talcher and Meramundali areas are coming to hospitals and clinics for treatment.

Angul and Dhenkanal district are now in a poisonous zone and the lives of the people have been a hell due to ramunplanned industrialisation and mining activities leading to severe helth impact . Recently Angul has emerged as the No-1 polluted area of the country with AQ1 more than 340. Various AQI mapping agencies have recorded more than 300 points and displayed in their

A team of environmentalists including Greenpeace Environment Trust chairman Prakash Suryanarayan

When the air quality in Angul and Dhenkanal districts frequently worsens and pollution is continuing as a growing challenge, ironically the policy makers, politicians and vested interest people are continuously promoting uncontrolled mining and industrial activities in Angul -

The severe pollution poses acute health risks to residents. With 6 mega thermal power plants, 16 coal mines, mega steel and aluminium plants and 12 coal washery units, Angul -Talcher area has

and noted environmentalist Soumya Dutta, Green Nobel Laureate Prafulla Samantara, Er Sashmita Behera, advocate Rabindra Pattanaik, journalist Jagadananda Pradhan, Udayanath Behera, Jiten Sahu , Prof Golakh Nath, Rahul, Adarsh, advocate Gyanranjan Navak, Rajkishore Das, Behera, Nath, Bidyadhar Sahu and Dharani Garnaik visited the Talcher -Angul - Chhendipada polluted area and expressed grave concern over the disastrous health hazards of the people due to pollution.

the government with the support of some leaders allowed 12 coal mines to operate in the Apart from heavy coal dust and fly ash pollution, vehicular emission has added to the misery of the people. More Talcher -Meramundali area. than 30,000 trucks and heavy vehicles are running in the

> Angul and Talcher have been included in "National Clean Air Programme" along

emerged as an industrial

hotspot of the country. To

make the matter worse, again

narrow roads of Angul -

Talcher region causing severe

with 131 polluted cities of the country since 1920 and crores of rupees have been spent to minimise pollution. But the unplanned and uncontrolled mining and industrial activities have failed the mission.

The MoEFCC, through a notification dated September 5, 2022, stipulated timelines for thermal power plants to comply with sulphur dioxide (SO2) emission norms, with stringent environmental compensation in case of noncompliance. As per the MoEFCC, thermal power plants categorised as A, B and C (based on the plant's location) are required to be SO2 norm compliant by December 2024, December 2025, and December 2026, respectively. All thermal power plants are required to comply with the emission norms as notified by the MoEFCC and directions given by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) from time to time. The deadlines keep on extending without any anti-pollution measure. The environmental clearances are given on the condition that flue-gas desulfurisation

However recently, on the

(FGD) units would be in-

pressure of the industrial lobby, the Union Ministry of Power asked for extension for installation of FGD units. Seeking an extension is nothing but a technique to dilute

the norms. Due to dust and air pollution, diseases like tuberculosis, asthma, fluorosis, bronchitis, thyroid and stomach ailments have become endemic. Failure in implementing various action plans in the stipulated times and the negligence of the statutary bodies caused serious air pollution in Angul district.

Various action plans pre-

pared by the OSPCB have not been implemented by the industries and mines authorities. Action plans on planned transportation activities and fly ash management have not been fully implemented, leading to increase of severe pollution. Air pollution increased the health cost and economic burden of the people.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has identified a potential link for the migration of wild animals from the Similipal Tiger Reserve to the Satkosia Tiger Reserve and has proposed a corridor. It is a very long corridor, but is highly fragmented due to intense mining activities, power plants and transportation activities. According to a study by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, there are more than 250 villages in and around of the corridor. A part of the proposed corridor connects the Similipal National Park with the Hadgarh Wild-life Sanctuary through Satkosia reserve forests. The other corridor considered to be important for the movement of the animals is the Baula Kuldiha corridor, which is 15-16 km

the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary with the Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary through small hillocks in the Garsahi reserve forest, Gaguapahar, Balihudi and Baula hills. Thus a connection between the Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary forms a U-shaped path that provides a potential movement corridor to tigers and elephants. The movement of elephants has also been observed from Kuldiha to the Satkosia Tiger Reserve. The complete length of the proposed Similipal-Satkosia corridor is disturbed due to mining activities.

long. The corridor connects

In view of this, various environmentalists demanded habitat planning for Angul -Dhenkanal-Keonjhar region.

Sashmita Behera urged the government to do detailed impact study of the entire area.

She demanded, no further coal mining in the area and installation of flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD) technology in thermal power plants which could lead to a substantial 65 per cent reduction in sulphur dioxide (SO2) emissions.

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#### BHUBANESWAR I SUNDAY I DECEMBER 22, 2024

# 2 OGB Managers axed for loan fraud

Plaint lodged against 10 persons

**AKSHAY ROUT** ■ JAJPUR

T wo officials of the Odisha Gramya Bank (OGB) have been suspended in connection with a loan fraud of over Rs 42 lakh by mortgaging counterfeit gold in Jajpur, an official

The suspended officials

have been identified as former Manager Satabdee Pradhan and former Assistant Manager Pratibha Mishra of the Jaraka branch of the OGB.

The fraud came to light during a joint routine inspection recently, after which the bank authorities suspended the two officials and removed the gold appraiser for the offence, a bank official said.

The bank's Regional Manager Digbijay Bahadur Das filed a complaint with the Dharmasala police on Thursday. According to the complaint, seven people from local villages had taken a loan of Rs 42.67 lakh from the bank by mortgaging fake gold jewellery.

All the loanees were known to the branch's gold appraiser, who had recommended the loans. The Regional Manager of the bank has named seven loanees, a former Manager, a

former Assistant Manager and a former gold appraiser of the branch in his police complaint.

Based on the complaint, police have registered a case against 10 people under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and initiated a probe into it. "The matter is under investigation and the culprits will be arrested soon," Dharamsala PS IIC Tapan Kumar Nayak said.

# Man's wife, son get lifer for killing him

 ${f A}$ dditional Sessions Judge-III Sanjib Ranjan Samant on Thursday convicted a man's wife and his son on the charge of murdering him in Baleswar district. The court sentenced the duo to life and ordered then to pay a fine of Rs 50,000.

The convicts were identified as Jayanti Dalei and her son Padmalochan of Biriha under the Oupada police station. According to prosecution, Mangulu Charan Dalei (45) died in a fire mishap on June

The son of the deceased, Padmalochan had lodged an FIR with police alleging that his father committed suicide by setting him afire following a domestic feud.

Police, after seizing the body, sent it for postmortem and the autopsy report suggested that the victim had deep injury in his head. Following this, police intensified investigation and arrested the duo. The court pronounced the judgment after examining 17

**In Baleswar** 

Man gets 7-yr RI in dowry death case

PNS BALESWAR

21,2017. However, Sabita was

OPID Court Judge Biswajit Das on Friday, adjudicating a case of dowry death, sentenced a person to seven years' rigorous imprisonment (RI). The court also directed the convict to pay a fine of Rs 9,000 fine and in default another three years' jail

The convict Rupak Sethi, a resident of Bangalishai under the Remuna police station, married one Sabita Das, a resident of Koilisahi under the Basta police station on March

found hanging on November 11, 2023. The father of the deceased, Chandraketu Das lodged an FIR with police alleging dowry death.

According to the complainant, Sabita was tortured physically and mentally by the accused for want of more dowries. The accused Rupak was arrested and tried under Sections 306 and 498(A) of the IPC. The court after examining 10 witnesses and 18 exhibits pronounced the verdict, said the Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Kumar Panda.

### SMC Power's 8 induction furnace units sealed

PCB cites noncompliance with pollution norms JHARSUGUDA

he State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) sealed the induction furnace units of SMC Power Generation Limited at Hirma, Jharsuguda, on December 17, citing non-compliance with pollution control norms. Eight induction furnace units, numbered 1 to 8, were shut down during the operation

Officials involved in the sealing process included the Jharsuguda Tehsildar, a Deputy Environmental Scientist, an Assistant Environmen-

tal Engineer, the Executive Engineer of TPWODL, the Senior General Manager (HR and Administration) of the company, and the Badmal IIC.

According to sources, the action was initiated under Sections 25 and 33(A) of both the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. The move followed the district Collector's directive (letter no. 16424) issued on December 12.

Company representatives stated that Pollution Control Board officials visited their premises on December 17 to execute the sealing but alleged that no official closure notice was provided to them.

# 2 Textile Inspectors held taking bribe

▲ he Vigilance police on Friday caught Krushna Chandra Sahu and Adit Kumar Das, both Textile Inspectors, office of Assistant Director, Textile, Boudh, while they were taking a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a per-

The duo had demanded the bribe from the complainant who happens to be functiondistrict for processing the file and facilitating release of bill

from the BCCB Bank, Boudh towards supply of weaving

out on the rented residential house of Sahu at Rathasahi and Das at Jagannath Vihar in Boudh and parental house of Sahu at Ratnamanipur, Pattapur in Ganjam district and Das at Bilana, Tihidi in Bhadrak district and their of-

Later, both Sahu and Das were arrested and forwarded

Federation (AKF), will be offi-

cially working to conduct the

The decision of the court

KAI was accused of violat-

ing sports rules and adminis-

trative procedures. There have

been controversies and com-

plaints of irregularities re-

garding its functioning for

many years. KIO will ensure

that players and coaches can

participate in training and

competitions as per interna-

activities of Karate in India.

has brought clarity in the Ka-

rate community.

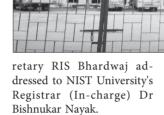
tional standards.

# NIST Univ, B'pur included in UGC 2F list

 $T_{
m he\ students,\ researchers}$ and teaching fraternity of NIST University have reasons to cheer as the name of the university at Brahmapur has been included in the UGC-2/F list by the University Grants Commission (UGC) on De-

It may be recalled here that the premier private institute established in 1996 here has so far produced more than 20,000 Graduates from across India and nearby countries.

NIST which previously had autonomous college status was granted university status in 2024 by the State Government by enactment of the NIST University Act. Thereafter, the name of NIST University has been included in the list of recognized universities (2F) of UGC. This has been confirmed by a letter received from UGC Deputy Secretary Dr Amol M Andhare and Sec-



As per the provisions of UGC rules, the university henceforth can exercise its full autonomy by following the applicable rules, regulations and guidelines thereof.

NAAC had earlier graded NIST Autonomous College with A-grade. Following the inclusion in 2F, now the path has been clear to apply for NAAC re-accreditation in the university category, said Vice Chancellor Dr Priyadaran Patra. Similarly, necessary AICTE approval has also been obtained for all the courses of the university, said Dean Dr Rajesh Kumar Panakala.

Upon being declared an university, several global innovation centres (GICs) are being set up in NIST to retain its unique position in the fields of education and research. These

Science & Technolog centers, set up in partnership with leading research institutions and companies across the world, shall employ dedicated teams of researchers. PG and PhD candidates can undertake research under their guidance and develop critical technology necessary for the nation. Through this, NIST will reinforce itself as a research-oriented university, said founder president of NIST Sukant

#### 6yrs on, Bheden river bridge work yet to finish Even as 10K tor abandoned the project,

residents face inconveniences in J'suguda RAJKUMAR SHARMA

**JHARSUGUDA** 

Residents of Malda and Patrapali panchayats in Jharsuguda Sadar Block continue to face significant commuting challenges due to the incomplete Hirma-Malda bridge over the Bheden river. Despite six years of delays, the bridge remains unfinished, forcing over 10,000 residents to travel an additional 15 km via Thelkolei Road and Khinda Chhak in Sambalpur district to reach their district headquarters town.

The bridge construction, initiated on November 28, 2018, under the Biju Setu Yojana, was aimed at solving decades-long connectivity issues in the region. The project was awarded to a private construction agency from Bhubaneswar with an initial budget of Rs 13 crore. However, after completing only leaving it in a limbo. Executive Engineer Binod

Bihari Chhuria of the Rural Construction Division revealed that Rs 3.97 crore had already been paid to the contractor before the work halted. Since then, the estimated cost has ballooned to Rs 20 crore, and a revised proposal has been sent for administrative approval. Once approved, a fresh ten-

der will be floated to reassign the project. The construction is expected to take another two years to complete. The unfinished bridge has left the residents of Malda and Patrapali in a perpetual struggle. During summer, when the Bheden river runs dry, locals attempt to cross the river with bicycles and motorbikes, risking their safety. Public dissatisfaction has been mounting over the prolonged delays and the lack of progress on a project critical to improving connectivity in the region. As the wait for administrative approvals and the selection of a new contractor drags on, residents remain hopeful for a timely resolution to the pressing issue.

#### ary of a weavers' cooperative society of Bounsuni in Boudh

#### **Delhi HC verdict** 'KAI not the nat'l federation for Karate

The Delhi High Court has recently banned Karate Association of India (KAI) from functioning as a National Federation. This decision was given on the petition of KAI Director Ambedkar Gupta who had launched a campaign against the illegal elections and illegal actions of KAI.

After this, only Karate India Organisation (KIO), which is the only recognized body of World Karate Federation (WKF) and Asian Karate material (sarees). Following the trap, simultaneous searches were carried

# BJP Morcha demands action against Rahul

Pratap Sarangi incident =

 $T_{
m he\ Ganjam\ district\ BJP}$ Yuva Morcha, led by its president Siba Sankar Nayak, staged a protest at Gandhi Nagar Square in Brahmapur on Thursday. The protesters condemned the alleged fatal attack on Baleswar MP and former Union Minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi in the Parliament premises. As part of the demonstration, the effigy of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was burned to express outrage over the incident.

The Yuva Morcha alleged that Rahul Gandhi assaulted MP Pratap Sarangi during a session in Parliament, leaving him severely injured. Calling it a disgraceful act in the "temple of democracy," they



demanded stringent action against Gandhi, including criminal charges such as attempted murder. The protesters also called for his immediate removal from Parliament,

citing the attack as a direct assault on democratic values.

Siba Sankar Nayak, addressing the gathering, warned that the Yuva Morcha would escalate their protests if no action is taken against

The protest witnessed participation from prominent leaders, including State Youth secretary Tutun Patra, State Executive member Kahnu Charan Pati, former MLA Siba Shankar Sahani, senior BJP leaders Sunil Kumar Sahu and Pitabas Panda. Other notable attendees included corporator Sabita Sahu, district secretary Prabhat Kiran Sarangi, vice president Ram Kumar Patra, and various activists and party workers.

#### PPA marathon to be held on Jan 3

Registration of participants from Jan 1, 2 PNS PARADIP

 ${f A}$  marathon will be flagged off by the Chairman, PPA as chief guest at 7.30 am on January 3 at the Hanuman Temple near Gate No. 5 and conclude at Gopabandhu Stadium passing through the designated route covering a distance of 14 km.

The route will be identified, marked and a route chart will be provided to all the participants. The participants must be above 18 years and below 40 years of age as on 31.12.2024 and have to submit fitness certificate from a government Medical Officer or PPA medical officer. A panel of doctors from the Port Authority will also be made available to check

the fitness of participants, incase of necessity.

All men participants have to deposit an entry fee of Rs 50 per head and Rs 30 each for women participants. The participants will be supplied with a set of banion and shorts and chest nos. in duplicate. All outstation participants will be provided with unfurnished accommodation and dinner i.e. on 02.01.2025. On the marathon day, breakfast will be provided to all participants after the event at

The application along with medical fitness certificate, undertaking, xerox copy of voter ID/Aadhaar Card and age proof certificate and entry fee in cash will be received at the time of registration. Registration of participants will be made on January 1 and 2 at Gopabandhu Stadium.

Gopabandhu Stadium.

# Workshop "Funding Landscapes" held at BU

Sponsored by Science and Technology Dept

KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA **BRAHMAPUR** 

he Berhampur University organised a week- long State level workshop on "Funding Landscapes" sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India on Saturday coordinated by the Department of Environmental Science of the university.

The two days' workshop brought together around 200 participants (faculty members and researchers) from different institutions of higher learning and Technical Education Institutions across Odisha (from the domain of STEM, i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine), providing orientation on the funding opportunities available in India

The workshop featured a series of technical sessions led by distinguished resource persons, from various institutions including the premier funding agency, i.e. DST, which shared insights and most valuable inputs on various topics, e.g. R&D Status in India and beyond, different R&D schemes of MoST, writing of winning grant proposals, defending R&D proposals effectively, common fellowship

portal for students and young

researchers, and collabora-

tion of State-level institutions

with national-level institu-

A key highlight of the event was the discussion on the growing need of collaboration with industry partners in academic funding, emphasizing the importance of partnerships between academia and the private sector for advancing research and develop-

The participants also engaged in dynamic discussions in each of the technical ses-

In the inaugural function a galaxy of dignitaries, resource persons, scientists and delegates including Prof Abhay Karandikar, Secretary DST, delivered the inaugural address. Among others, Dr Pratishta Pandey, Scientist G

and Head R&D Infrastructure Program, DST; Geetanjali Dash, Vice-Chancellor of BU; Prof SK Tripathy, Chairman, PG Council, BU; Prof B Anjan Kumar Prusty and Dr Saroj Kumar Sahu, coordinator and deputy coordinator of the workshop were The speakers in their ad-

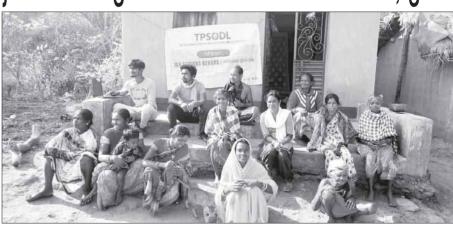
dress emphasized the need for continued efforts to build a robust research ecosystem in the region. The first day of the workshop witnessed productive engagements and discussions on India's funding land-

## 'Adhikaar' project a bridge between communities, govt KRUSHNA CHANDRA PANDA

BRAHMAPUR

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to inclusive growth and community empowerment, TP Southern Odisha Distribution Limited (TPSODL) has launched the 'Adhikaar' Project. The flagship initiative aims to uplift and serve as a bridge between communities and government welfare schemes, positively impacting lives across 50 villages in Koraput district.

The Adhikaar Project is dedicated to empowering rural and marginalised populations, the elderly and economically disadvantaged families by enhancing their access to government welfare programmes. The scheme focuses majorly on bringing various Government schemes to the last mile. The initiative enables individuals-many of whom rely on agriculture for their livelihoods-to understand their entitlements and overcome barriers to essential services.



At the core of the initiative is the Adhikaar Soochna Kendra in Boipariguda, a critical hub connecting communities with a wide range of government programmes such as the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY), Subhadra Yojana, CM Kisan, PM Kisan, and others. The center plays a pivotal role in simplifying application processes, facilitating identity documentation, and ensuring compliance with government requirements. Thousands of individuals are now benefiting from the

comprehensive initiative.

Malati Harijan, a woman farmer, successfully enrolled in the Krushak Odisha and CM Kisan Schemes with assistance from the Adhikaar Soochna Kendra. She expressed her gratitude, saying, "The TPSODL team informed us about these schemes and guided me through the application process. I am truly thankful to them."

In addition to the Adhikaar Soochna Kendra, TPSODL organizes regular enrolment camps across its operational areas, ensuring access to these

services even in the remotest corners. "Through the Adhikaar initiative, we are committed to uplifting socio-economic conditions for the people we serve. This is more than a programme; it is our pledge to build an equitable and inclusive future," said TPSODL CEO Amit Kumar Recognizing the importance

of identity verification in accessing government services, the 'Adhikaar' initiative also prioritizes essential documentation services, including PAN Card and Aadhaar Card facili-

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

engagements "It would be an opportunity Kuwait include a visit to an to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership for the Indian labour camp, an interaction with the Indian benefit of our people and the

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

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

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

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

"The historic visit by the prime minister is expected to open a new chapter in India-Kuwait bilateral relations," he "It will not only consolidate

the partnership in existing spheres but also unveil new avenues cooperation, reinforce our shared values and build a stronger and more dynamic partnership for the future," he added.

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

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

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

'I have the pleasure to appoint you, with immediate effect, as a member of the Internal Justice Council, in the capacity of chairperson, for a term ending on 12 November 2028, the communication dated December 19 said. "The other members of the Council (in alphabetical order) are: Ms. Carmen Artigas (Uruguay), distinguished external jurist nominated by staff; Ms. Rosalie Balkin (Australia), distinguished external jurist nominated by management; Mr. Stefan Brezina (Austria), staff representative; and Mr. Jay Pozenel (United States of America), management representative," it added.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

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

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

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

including its reform," the MEA said.

"Russia reiterated its support for India as a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council," it said. Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West) in the MEA, led the Indian delegation at the JWG on Counter Terrorism (CT) cooperation and consultations on UN related issues. The Russian side was headed by Sergey Vershinin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Representatives of respective departments and agencies from both sides also participated in the meetings. On December 19, Lal also held meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin and discussed current international and regional issues, especially the

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

region," he said.

nations," he added.

"I eagerly look forward to

meeting the Indian diaspora

immensely contributed to

strengthening of bonds of

friendship between the two

Kuwait who have

Ctrategists and business lead-Sers from the defence and space sectors will converge here next month to share experiences and deliberate on new opportunities in the area that has emerged as a critical link in securing the country's bor-The third DefSat Conference

and Expo, scheduled to be

held at the Manekshaw

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



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

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

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

Wargame 3.0, the conference unite defence practitioners, industry leaders and international experts to simulate realworld security challenges, showcasing the complexities operations and underscoring

the evolving space domain, Pannu said. Hosted by Satcom Industry Association-India India), the event is supported by the Department of Defence Production. Ministry of Defence, Defence

India's readiness to navigate

Research and Development Organisation, NewSpace India Ltd, Astronautical India, Aeronautical Society of India and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) as a knowledge partner. The conference will feature a

dedicated session Harnessing Technologies Comprehensive Homeland Security with senior officers from the Central Armed Police Forces, state police forces and paramilitary forces

interests of children suffering

under distress of such

disputes between the parents,"

Both parents share the duty of

ensuring the daughter's well-

being and future security, and

this financial provision will

matrimonia

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

Supreme Court on June 4,



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

Operations (Transport & Helicopter) reviewed the parade as the Chief Guest of the event. The Chief Guest congratulated the 'Garuds'

on their successful passing While addressing the young commandos, he emphasised the significance of rigorous training and honing Špecial Forces skills to keep pace with the fast changing security scenario. He presented Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge

and Special Forces Tabs to the successful 'Garud' trainees and gave away trophies to the awardees. The Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade is a moment of pride and achievement for the 'Garuds' marking the befitting culmination of an extremely demanding and schedule transformation into 'Young Special Forces Operators joining the elite Garud' force and adding strength to

the operational capability of

the past decade and found

an overall loss of 58.22 sq

During this period, very

km in forest cover.

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

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

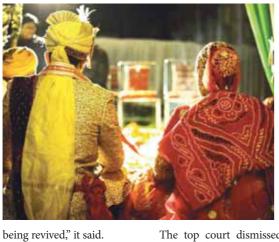
A Bench of justices Vikram

Nath and PB Varale said the length of separation and the evident animosity between husband and wife make it clear that there is no possibility of the marriage being revived.

"Marriage is a relationship built on mutual trust companionship, and shared experiences. When these experiences. essential elements are missing for an extended period, the marital bond becomes a mere legal formality devoid of any substance," the bench said. It added that the court has

consistently held prolonged separation, coupled with inability to reconcile, is a relevant factor in deciding matrimonial disputes.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

their relationship but also caused significant damage to his reputation and peace of

mind," it said. Justice Nath, who penned the verdict on behalf of the bench said, "In matrimonial disputes, this Court has emphasized the need to prioritize welfare and dignity of both parties. Forcing a marriage to continue when it has become a source of unhappiness and conflict undermines the very purpose of the institution of marriage." The bench further said in the present case, the interests of both the parties are best served "In view of the above, this

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

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

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

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

The bench noted that both

by allowing both parties to husband and wife are software daughter for these purposes. move on with their lives engineers and were earning. This is in line with the marriage more than two decades ago.

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

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

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

contribute to fulfilling that duty, it said. "For the reasons stated above, this court directs the respondent husband to pay a sum of Rs. 50 lakh to the appellant (wife) as permanent

prolonged

it said.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

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

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



Madhya Pradesh remains on by Arunachal

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

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

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

the country's geographical

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

This includes natural forests well as man-made plantations, orchards and tree patches in urban and to have 31.71 billion tonnes

legal status.

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

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said the most positive finding of the report is that India has already created an additional carbon sink of billion tonnes compared to 2005 levels.

India's carbon stock in 2023 is estimated at 7,285.5 million tonnes, which is an increase of 81.5 million tonnes compared to 2021. The fast-growing South Asian country is estimated

of carbon stock in forest and tree cover by 2030.

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

When considering forest cover as a percentage of the geographical Lakshadweep ranks first (91.33 per cent), followed by

Mizoram (85.34 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62 per cent). The FSI also analysed forest cover changes in the Western Ghats and Eastern

States Area (WGESA) over

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

northeastern region.

#### Mohan **Bhagwat** advocates education as a facilitator

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

changing times.
The RSS chief, who was speaking after inaugurating LokSeva E School in Baner here on Friday, emphasised that education is not a business but a "vrat" (pledge) to create fine human beings.

"The education system should

act as a facilitator, not a barrier, to learning. It must serve as a tool to empower students rather functioning solely regulator. The re regulation in education should on streamlining processes and ensuring smooth functioning, rather than enforcing rigid dos and don'ts' that can stifle the experimental spirit among students," he said.

National Hailing the Education Policy (NEP), the RSS chief said it may have been introduced recently, but discussions to have such a kind of system have been underway for many years, adding that several schools have been imparting "value-based" education for long.

The new education system will be implemented completely, and it will lead the country to the desired dream, he said. "We need to change ourselves

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

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

# Punjab municipal polls conclude amid allegations of fake voting



Visually-impaired people show their fingers marked with indelible ink after casting votes during elections in Punjab for five municipal corporations and 44 municipal councils and nagar panchayats, in Amritsar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ounting of votes for the Celections to five municipal corporations and municipal councils and nagar panchayats in Punjab is underway, officials said on

Polling began at 7 am and continued till 4 pm amid tight security arrangements. Till 3 pm, the average turnout was 55 per cent.

municipal five corporations that went to the polls are Amritsar, Jalandhar, Patiala and Ludhiana,

More than 3,300 candidates are in the fray and a total of 3,809 polling booths have been set up for the civic polls. A total of 37.32 lakh voters, including 17.75 lakh females, were eligible to cast their vote in the elections conducted voting electronic machines (EVMs).

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) alleged

casting of fake votes at the behest of the Aam Aadmi Party at many places in Patiala, a charge denied by the ruling

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

Among political leaders who exercised their franchise were BJP's Tarun Chugh, Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Ludhiana MLA Ashok Prasharand Lalandhan Cont. MLA and Jalandhar Cantt MLA Pargat Singh.

BJP leader Jai Inder Kaur alleged that some outsiders were roaming around in Patiala, demanding police action against them.

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

Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police Nanak Singh reached the spot, Kaur and BJP supporters were seen arguing with the officer, claiming that some people

were being allowed to enter polling booths without proper verification and they were casting fake votes.

"Nobody was stopping them. And who is responsible for it," asked a BJP supporter. "Videography of polling is taking place," the SSP

taking responded.

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

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

The BJP also claimed some miscreants targeted its party nominee from Ward No. 40 at AAP's behest.

Even SAD claimed that its booth in Ward No. 15 in Patiala was vandalised.

registration of an FIR against Mani Warring, brother of AAP MLA Garry Warring, and AAP supporters for alleged

bogus voting in Ward No. 9 at Amloh in Fatehgarh Sahib. The civic polls will be a litmus test for AAP, which would like its winning momentum to continue after securing victories in three of the four Assembly bypolls November.

The elections are also important as they will reveal the popularity of the ruling party among the urban voters. In the run-up to the elections, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held roadshows and for campaigned candidates.

It will also be the first test for Aman Arora after he was appointed AAP's Punjab unit chief. Arora took part in poll campaign and made several promises to the voters.

The stakes are also high for Congress, which has majority in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala municipal corporations.



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini pays last respect to the mortal remains of former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash

### Former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala cremated with State honours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $F_{\text{Minister}}^{\text{ormer}} \xrightarrow{\text{Haryana}} \xrightarrow{\text{Chief}} \\ \text{Prakash}$ Chautala was cremated on Saturday with full state honours in Teja Khera village in his native Sirsa district. Chautala, who was a five-time chief minister, died in Gurugram on Friday. He was

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

Many Haryana ministers, state Assembly Speaker Harvinder Kalyan, former Union minister Venod Sharma, SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, BJP's Manpreet Badal and Manjinder Singh Sirsa and several other leaders also reached Teja Khera to pay their last respects.

Political leaders cutting across parties laid floral wreaths to pay their last respects to the departed leader.

Earlier, Chautala's mortal remains were Saturday kept at the family's Teja Khera farmhouse here for people to pay their last respects to the departed Indian National Lok Dal chief. His body was wrapped in the Indian Tricolour and decked with garlands.

An INLD spokesperson said Chautala was rushed to a hospital after his health

worsened on Friday.
Om Prakash Chautala's younger son Abhay Singh Chautala, an INLD leader, elder son Ajay Singh Chautala, who heads the JJP party, and other family members, including former deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala, ex-CM Chautala's brother Ranjit Chautala, were present in Teja Khera.

The funeral pyre was lit amid chants of Vedic hymns by Congress leaders Randeep

Singh Surjewala and Kumari Selja had reached the Chautala farmhouse in the morning to pay their last respects to the five-time chief

Three streams of Ganga unified to enhance bathing facilities for Mahakumbh

Common gathered in the village in large numbers to attend the cremation.

The Haryana government declared a three-day state mourning on Friday. It has also declared Saturday a public holiday in all its offices as a mark of respect.

Shortly after laying a wreath Dhankhar, who was seated next to Chautala's younger son Abhay Chautala and SAD leader Sukhbir Badal, said, "Yesterday I got the news (of the demise). Five days back, I spoke to Chaudhary sahib and he was inquiring about my health. He was more concerned about me".

"Whenever I got the chance, I got his blessings," he said. The vice president added that farmers' issues and development of villages was farmers'

Chautala's priority. He made it clear the country's development, peace and progress is linked to the development of farmers and villages, Dhankar said.

Such an outspoken and a bold person, Chautala was dedicated to the rural system, he added.

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

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** 

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

Sambhal, Kasganj, Rampur, and Saharanpur, among other parts of western Uttar Pradesh. The protests reflected the SP's sharp criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of being "anti-Dalit."

created by him, Amit Shah

In their memorandum to authorities, SP leaders said, "Babasaheb is a God for the majority of society. If the Constitution had not been

various locations, attempting would not have been the Home to block traffic at key Minister today." They further to denounce Shah's remarks. Mayawati also highlighted the intersections. Reports of unrest criticized Shah's remarks, She announced plans for a growing anger across calling them und emocratic and unconstitutional. "The BJP must apologize for the Home Minister's comments," the SP stated. "Dr. Ambedkar is revered as God by backward communities, Dalits, and the underprivileged. His image is present in every village, where r mm as a justice and empowerment."

Meanwhile, BSP Chief Mayawati took to social media nationwide December 24, calling the comments deeply hurtful to the sentiments of millions who revere Ambedkar. "Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, is a God-like figure to Dalits, the deprived, and the neglected. Amit Shah's disrespectful remarks have caused immense pain to the people," Mayawati wrote. She demanded that Shah retract his statement and

remarks. "If the demand to take back his words is not met, the BSP will organize a peaceful nationwide dharna on December 24 at all district headquarters to express its dissent," she declared. She reaffirmed her party's reaffirmed her party's commitment to Ambedkar's emphasizing his legacy, lifelong struggle for the rights and self-respect of Dalits and marginalized communities.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

transactions between M3M India, Indiabulls Housing and other stakeholders had caused financial harm and involved undervaluation of property assets. Based on these FIRs, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) initiated an ECIR, adding to the legal challenges faced by M3M India. The High Court, after

extensive hearings, observed that the allegations raised in the FIRs were primarily commercial disputes, better suited for resolution through civil or arbitral proceedings than criminal investigations. The court highlighted that the petitioners, including M3M India, had been subjected to criminal proceedings despite the existence of ongoing arbitration related to the

contested transactions. The Judges also noted that the FIRs failed to establish prima facie evidence of criminal intent, instead revealing contractual disagreements that did not warrant the invocation of criminal law. Furthermore, the court acknowledged the unexplained delay in filing the complaints, further undermining the legitimacy

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



Home Minister Amit Shah with Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jyotiraditya Scindia and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha at the 'Bankers Conclave' organised as part of the North Eastern Council, in Agartala. PTI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the time has come for a change in approach of the police force with the end of insurgency in the northeast, in order to ensure that people get speedy

justice. Shah, addressing the 72nd plenary of the North Eastern Council (NEC) here, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought peace in the region by inking 20 peace accords in 10 years, leading to the surrender of 9,000 armed

militants. The police fought insurgency in the northeast for the past four decades. As insurgency has now ended, we need to change the approach of the force to ensure people get justice within three years of lodging FIRs," he said.

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

that PM Modi Asserting expedited development activities in the northeast, Shah said Union ministers "spent 700 nights" in states of the region since the BJP-led NDA assumed power at the Centre.

"After the exchange of enclaves (land boundary agreements) with Bangladesh, the whole world will open for the northeast. This will change the investment ecosystem in the region," he said.

The senior BJP leader also laid

emphasis on the upliftment of people in rural areas by promoting vegetable promoting vegetable cultivation, production of milk, eggs and meat.
"Only a hike in the GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) is not enough for everall development. There is a

overall development. There is a need to attain self-sufficiency in vegetables, milk, eggs and meat," he said.

Besides, the central government has been focusing on organic cultivation in the region, said Shah.

"The Centre has already constituted the National Organic Corporation Ltd to boost the sector. I urge all the CMs (in the northeast) to sign agreements with NOCL for packaging, marketing and exporting of organic products," he said.

said more efforts were needed to tackle narcotics smuggling in the region. Earlier in the day, Shah inaugurated the 72nd plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) at Prajna

Bhavan here. Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, along with governors, chief ministers of all the eight northeastern states, and senior officials, were also present at the event. BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

In a landmark initiative, the Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department has unified three divergent streams of the Ganga to ensure an uninterrupted and enhanced water flow at the Sangam—the sacred confluence of the Yamuna, Ganga, and the mythical Saraswati rivers. This effort aims to provide an improved spiritual and logistical experience for millions devotees anticipated to participate in Mahakumbh-2025, scheduled in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26. 'This initiative resonates with

The home minister, however, the mythological narrative of Bhagirath, who brought the Ganga to Earth through his austere penance, symbolizing the salvation of his ancestors. Similarly, this project secures a steady and pure flow of Ganga waters at Sangam, where over 400 million pilgrims are expected to take a holy dip," stated Vijay Anand, Nodal Officer for Mahakumbh.

Over time, the Ganga had deviated into three distinct

streams between Shastri Bridge and Sangam Nose, diminishing its sanctity and complicating preparations for Mahakumbh. bifurcation reduced expanse of the fairgrounds and disrupted pilgrimage arrangements.
In response, the Irrigation

Department has restored the river's original flow into a unified, cohesive stream, thereby expanding the bathing area and simplifying logistical arrangements. undertaking was complex but essential," remarked Anand. "It ensures an uninterrupted

spiritual experience for pilgrims, enhancing their connection to the sacred waters.

'With the successful unification, an additional 22 hectares of bathing space has been created," stated Manish Srivastava, a technical advisor to the project. "This expansion allows thousands of devotees to bathe simultaneously, mitigating congestion and ensuring a experience for all." seamless

The department utilized three large dredging machines

following an extensive survey. However, stabilizing the equipment against the swift Ganga currents and elevated water levels posed significant challenges. The powerful flow often destabilized the dredgers, bending discharge pipes and operations.

employed Engineers innovative solutions such as large anchors, pontoon bridges, and reinforced ropes to secure the machinery. Despite setbacks, including a damaged support pin and another dredger being displaced by the current, the persisted team determination.

"Restoring the river's original course was an arduous task, but the team's relentless efforts overcame every obstacle, added Srivastava.

Continuous dredging, carried out in three shifts, ultimately succeeded in merging the three streams into one cohesive flow. To prepare the expanded area, over five lakh metric tonnes of sand were strategically placed, ensuring the fairground is well-leveled and accessible to the public.

# Meditation transcends all borders, leaders | Ukrainian drones strike deep into Russia on 1st World Meditation Day at UN

**AP** UNITED NATIONS

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

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

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

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

to be from some religion or it is not taught in their religion. He underscored that meditation "transcends all religions, all geographical boundaries and age groups so it is very, very useful in many, many ways." President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly Philemon Yang said in his remarks that meditation "transcends borders, faiths, traditions and time, offering each of

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

inner selves.

us the opportunity to pause, to

listen and to connect with our

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client Smt. Chandee (aur owner of the SECOND FLOOR, WITHOL (DOF RIGHTS, PROPERTY BEARING, PLOT NO , AREA 100 SQ. YDS. MUSTATIL NO. 11, KILL

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CHANGE OF NAME

I. Lata Devi W/o- No.6497045A

Hav Rajanish Kumar Tiwari,

R/o- Vill- Purchain Tiwari, PO-

Ratapur, Dist- Amethi, U.P.-

227406, have changed my

name from Lata Devi to Lata

Tiwari, vide affidavit dated

21/12/2024 before Notary

I, Pushpa W/o- JC-473162F Nb

Sub Hemant Kumar Singh, R/o-

Vill+Po- Semari Kalan, Teh-

Tarabganj, Dist- Gonda, U.P.-

271402, have changed my

name from Pushpa to Pushpa

Singh, vide affidavit dated

21/12/2024 before Notary

Ramvati Mother of

10136546X Hay Narender

Singh, R/o- Khudana Ka Bass,

Khudana(41), Mahendragarh,

Haryana- 123029, have changed

my name from Ramvati to

Ramrati, vide affidavit dated

21/12/2024 before Notary

I, Prisha D/o Pranay Kumar

R/o C-902, Aditya Mega City,

Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram,

Ghaziabad have changed my

I, Jagdish S/o Mohan Lal R/o

House No. 200 Sector-04,

Rewari-123401, Haryana, have

changed my name to Jagdish

Kumar Gaba for all future

name to Prisha Kumar.

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Public Delhi.

Public Delhi.

Public Delhi.

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

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

Local authorities said there were no casualties. Flights were

mass gatherings cancelled on Saturday and Sunday.

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

Moscow sent 113 drones into Ukraine overnight into said. According to Ukraine's Air Force, 57 drones were shot down during the attacks. A further 56 drones were "lost,"

likely having been electronically jammed. The governor of Ukraine's Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said eight people were wounded Friday night in drone attacks on the regional

capital, also called Kharkiv.

#### Rocket fired from Yemen strikes Tel Aviv, 16 hurt

The Israeli military says a rocket fired from Yemen hit an area of Tel Aviv overnight, leaving 16 people slightly injured by shattered glass from nearby windows. A further 14 people sustained minor injuries as they

rushed to shelters when air raid sirens sounded before the projectile hit just before 4 am Saturday, the military said.

The attack comes less than two days after a series of Israeli airstrikes on Yemen's Houthi rebel-held capital, Sanaa, and port city of Hodeida killed at least nine people. The Israeli strikes were in response to a Houthi attack in which a long-range missile hit an Israeli school building. The Houthis also claimed a drone strike targeting an unspecified military target in central Israel on Thursday.

The Israeli military says the

Iran-backed Houthis have launched more than 200 missiles and drones during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

The Houthis have also been attacking shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden — attacks they say won't stop until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

Reg: Property Bearing No. K-40, Built or Plot of land measuring 29.26 sq.mtrs. i.e. 36 q.yds. out of 116 sq.yds., falling in Khasra

o. 569, Situated at Village-Ghonda tujran Khadar, in the abadi of K-Block angotri Vihar, West Ghonda, Delhi-11005

Hereinafter referred to as the

'Said Property").

Be it known to all that our clientess, Mrs

Munni, Attorney of Mrs. Neeru Goya hereinafter called the "Attorney holder Donor") intends to Gift the said property to Mr

huvnésh Tiwari (hereinafter calléd Donee"). In this connection, the Attorn

yal owned the said plot of land measurin

6 sq.yds.vide POA documents viz., GP/

S and Will dated 28/04/2008 executed b

ATS and Will dated 28/04/2008 executed b
Mr. Brijesh Kumar in her favour. The Attorne
holder/Donor has further informed that th
said property is not mortgaged anywhere an
there is no charge or dispute or any litigatio
pending regarding the said property.

pending regarding the said property.

Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property 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

of no response having been received to the

otice, the title of the attorney-holder/Donor i

espect of the said property shall be deeme to be clear of any charge or encumbrance or any nature whatsoever and any subsequen claim shall not bind our clientess, in any

Shivkant Arora, Advocate

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

#### STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/29/2024-25 Dated: 19-12-2024. E-tenders are invited by the

#### SN.1. Tender No. 30/24/1317B/OT/242/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 08-01-2025

Brief Description: Set of control arm for LHB bogies consisting of 1) Control Arm Lower Right, Drg No FIAT 1267717 Ver 00R2 or latest. 2) Control arm upper to FIAT Drg no. 1277122 Ver- 01R3 or latest, Mat Spec .:- 17.334 100 06/107/01 Amnd. 01, MDTS-166 Rev-02, IS:1865:91 SG 400/18L (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery) [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UVAM Linking:] [Item Type: Goods) 1) Qty-300 Set for Dibrugarh Town/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), 2) Qty-100 Set for Pandu/GSD, NFR (Assam), 3) Qty-156 Set for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), 4) Qty-50 Set for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), 5) Qty-30 Set for Katihar/GSD, NFR (Bihar), P.L. No- 33500149

#### SN.2. Tender No. 30/24/1306/OT/243/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 30-12-2024

Brief Description: Description of the Item is := Axle mounted Disc Brake system for LHB design Power car coaches Mat Spec.:-RDSO/2011/CG-04 REV.03 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UVAM Linking:] [Item Type: Goods], Qty- 03 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.- 33597753

#### SN.3. Tender No. 82/24/5948A/OT/244/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 03-01-2025

Brief Description: LAPAROSCOPIC INSTRUMENT SET (As per specification attached) 1) Qty- 01 Set for CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES, NFR (Assam), P.L. No-821203560020.

#### SN.4. Tender No. 77/24/5012/OT/245/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 26-12-2024 Brief Description: Supply and Apply of Anti-Graffiti clear Coating for Exterior of Coaches (LHB and ICF type), conforming to RDSO Specification No M&C/PCN/127-2020 (Rev.2.0) or latest. [Warranty Period:

30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UVAM linking:] [Item Type: Goods] Qty-400 Nos. For SSE/CPS/Dibrugarh workshop, NFR (Assam), PL No. 779005280021

#### SN.5. Tender No. 50/24/5161 A/OT/246/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 01-01-2025

Brief Description: Supply of PVC Insulated Armoured Unscreened Underground Railway Signalling cable 12 core x 1.5 sqmm as per IRS-S-63/2014(Rev.4.0) with latest Amendment/specification. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] (Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0) i) Qty-54 KM for Sr. Section Engineer/SIG/Fakiragram Jn., NFR (Assam), PL. No. 5611N028 (2) Supply of PVC Insulated Armoured Unscreened Underground Railway Signalling cable 12 core x 1.5 sqmm as per IRS-S-63/2014 (rez.4.0) with latest Amendment/specification. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0) i) Qty-46 KM for SSE/SIG/New Coochbehar, NFR (West Bengal, P.L No -539869050055. (3) Supply of PVC Insulated Armoured Unscreened Underground Railway Signalling cable 12 core x 1.5 sqmm as per IRS-S-63/2014 (rez.4.0) with latest Amendment/ specification. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages: 0] i) Qty-20 KM for SSE/SIG/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam), P.L. No- 539809941530. (4) Supply of PVC Insulated Armoured Unscreened Underground Railway Signalling cable 12 core x 1.5 sqmm as per IRS-S-63/2014 (rez.4.0) with latest Amendment/specification. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] i) Qty-15 KM for SSE/SIG/Rangiya, NFR (Assam), P.L. No.-539809941127. (5) Supply of PVC Insulated Armoured Unscreened Underground Railway Signalling cable 12 core x 1.5 sqmm as per IRS-S-63/2014 (rez.4.0) with latest Amendment/ specification. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages: 0] i) Qty- 62 KM for SSE/SIG/Tinsukia, NFR (Assam), P.L No.539804777313.

#### SN.6. Tender No. 30/24/1307/OT/247/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 02-01-2025

Brief Description: "Axle mounted Disc brake system for LHB design AC and NAC coaches Mat. spec:-RDSO/2011/CG-04 REV-03 or latest [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] i) Qty- 03 Nos for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L. No- 33801427

#### SN.7. Tender No. 60/24/5023C/OT/248/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 06-01-2025

Brief Description: Supply, Installation & commissioning of EOT Crane 65/10 Ton, along with DSL.120m each with installation, spares as per schedule IV, maintenance tools as per schedule V and preventive maintenance during two years of warranty period. [Warranty Period: 24 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] i) Qty- 02 Nos. for SSE/D/MECH/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal), P.L. No.- 664505720038. (2) Comprehensive AMC for 5 years after the delivery period (Cost will not be Included for evaluation purpose) [Warranty Period: Months after the date of delivery AMC period: 5 year. Rate Discounting: 10% start after year: 2] [Inspection agency: CONSG. Stage Insp.: NA Stages: 0] Qty: 02 Nos for SSE/D/Mech/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No. 66450572. (3) Lifting tackle 45 Ton [Inspection Agency CONSG, Stage Insp: NA, Stages: 0] Qty: 2 Nos. for SSE/D/Mech/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No- 66450573 (4) Four-legged wire rope slings 35 Ton [Inspection Agency: CONSG. Stage Insp: NA Stages: 0]. Qty-2 Nos. for SSE/D/Mech/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No. 66450574. (5) Four-legged chain with hook 10 Ton [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA Stages: 0]. Qty-2 Nos for SSE/D/Mech/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No- 66450575. (6) Two-legged chain rope with hook 10 Ton [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA Stages: 0]. Qty-2 Nos for SSE/D/Mech Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No- 66450576. (7) Dead man lever buttons [Inspection Agency. CONSG, Stage Insp: NA Stages: 0). Qty-1 Nos. for SSE/D/Mech/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No-66450577 (8) Drive unit [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp: NA Stages: 0] .Qty-1 Nos. for SSE/D/ Mech/Malda Town, NFR (West Bengal) P.L. No-66450578.

#### SN.8. Tender No. 30/24/1103/OT/249/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 07-01-2025

Brief Description: Secondary spring (INNER) for AC-Chair Car (LWFCZAC & LWSCZAC), hot buffet (LWCBAC), AC 2nd Class Sleeper/EOG (LWACCW), AC 1st class Sleeper/EOG (LWFAC), AC Three Tier Sleeper/EOG(LWACCN) as per Drg. No 1269513 ver-02R1 or latest Mat Spec:- RDSO/2017/CG-01 (Rev-2) or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0] i) Qty: 356 Nos for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam) ii) Qty-13 Nos. for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). iii) Qty-50 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam). iv) Qty- 10 Nos. for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal). v) Qty- 6 Nos. for Katihar GSD, NFR (Bihar) P.L. No. 33502468.

#### SN.9. Tender No. 10/24/5118/OT/250/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 09-01-2025

Brief Description: 6V,150 AH NI-CD BATTERY STORAGE UNIT (NI-CD BATTERY) EMD PART No.10609375, DLW PT NO. 17051472, RDSO SPECN. NO MP 0.51.01.02(Rev-02) June 2009 (Amendment-1) GM.PT.N0,10609375. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: No, Stages: 0] [UVAM linking:] [Item Type: Goods], Qty-40 Nos for SSE/D/New Guwahati, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-17051472.

#### SN.10. Tender No. 30/24/1105A/OT/251/2024-25

Closing/Opening date: 20-01-2025

Brief Description: Secondary Spring (OUTER) for Power Car (LWLRRM) Side-1 to DRG No 1277146 Ver. 01 Mat spec:- RDS0/2017/CG-01 (Rev-2) (Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery) [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp: Yes, Stages: 3], i) Qty- 36 Nos. for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam) ii) Qty-25 Nos. for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam). iii) Qty-177 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT NFR (Assam). iv) Qty-15 Nos. for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal) v) Qty-9 Nos. for Katihar GSD, NFR (Blhar), P.L. No.-33500381.

Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps. gov.in). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In Case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders

specified/earmarked location of tender over Katihar Division for a period of 3 years Participant/bidders are requested to visit e-Auction module on IREPS

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

DATED: 19-12-2024 My clients Sh. Jai Prakash Bansal S/ Bhagwan Dass R/o A-39, R.S.T. Enclave Johri Pur, North East Delhi-110094 hav No.: KIR/Engg/48 of 2024: dated : 21severed relations and debarred his wife Uma 1-2024 (Item no.03) against the work Bansal because his wife is not residing with t Katihar yard - Reconditioning of worr out 1 in 12 & 1 in 8.5 crossing body him and his son and daughter Kanishk witches etc. under the jurisdiction of Sr. Bansal and Komal Bansal alongwith from their movable-immovable properties due to their misconduct. My clients will not be DRM(W), Katihai responsible for their any acts. MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY RISHIKESH PODDAR (ADVOCATE) Off.:Ch. No. S. N

28, Gajanand Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Mrs. Neetu W/o Mr. Sunil owner of Residential House no. 353, with roof rights, area measuring 162 sq. yds. ie. 135.44 sq. mtrs. situated af Aundrun Abadi, in the area of Village Raispur, Pargana Dasna, Tehsil 8. District Ghaziabad, U.P. through Registered Girt Deed Dated 11.08.2023 executed by Mr. Sunil Yold Dhramweer in favour of Mrs. Neetu W/o Mr. Sunil Vide Reg. no. 8367, at SR-IV GZB U.P. the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank inancial Services Limited. If any person / bank / inancial institution having any claim / right, lien, any bjection whatsoever in regard to the above property ould notified to the undersigned/ Adv. Vishal Mehan E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Visha Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092

Mobile No. 9811215181 Form No.URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration
Under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act
ursuant to section374(b) of the Companies Act,201:
and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to
Register) Rules,2014]

Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of sub section (2) of Section 366 of the Companies Act 2013, an application is proposed to be made to the Registrar of Companies for the incorporation of SARAYU CIVILISATION FOUNDATION (a Section 8 company) under Part I of Chapter XX of the Companies Act, 2013, as a companies

The principal objects of the company are a

To provide accessible, Inclusive, and value-based education for all, with a special focus on the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. The trust will work towards establishing non-formal educational institutions, offering scholarships, vocational training, and digital learning resources. The aim is to empower individuals with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundations needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives. To preserve, promote, and revitalize the rich cultural heritage of India by exponention terrificianal art forms literature and revitatze the not cultural nertage or india sy supporting traditional art forms, literature, and indigenous knowledge systems. The trust will organize cultural programs, training workshops, and performances, particularly in classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam and Kathak, music, and other cultural practices. By fostering an appreciation for the arts and cultural history the trust aims to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, ensuring cultural continuity for future generations. To extend assistance to the economically disadvantaged by providing basic necessities, and livelihood support. The trust will ne in poverty alleviation efforts throu food distribution programs, housing support and initiatives aimed at improving living conditions for the poor and needy. These efforts will contribute towards creating a more equitable and compassionate society. To Conduc and compassionate society. To Conduct outreach programs to uplift underprivileget communities. Offer literacy and skill development programs for rural or marginalizer populations. To improve access to quality healthcare for underserved and economically weaker sections of society. The trust wi organize free medical camps, provide financia support for essential medical treatments, an will collaborate with healthcare professionals and institutions to offer affordable and sustainable healthcare services, focusing or

both physical and mental well-being. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles association of the proposed company may b inspected at the office at 9G. Vandana Building 11 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Dell

Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar of Companies, within twenty-one (21) days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company of the registered efficiency to the company at its registered office. Dated 16th December, 2024

Name(s)of Applican 2. Subhash Dewa

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Indra
Devi who is purchasing the Second Floor, South
Facing, without roof rights, area measuring 75
Sq. Yards, Built up on Plot no. 117, out of
Khasra no. 258, Situated in the village
Nawada, Majra Hastsal, Colony Known as
Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, New
Delhi-110059 from Mr. Mahesh owner vide
Notarized GPA dated 05.11.2012, Notarized
ATS dated 05.11.2012 & WILL dated 05.11.2012
Executed by Mr. Neeraj Kumar and same to be
finance & mortgage by Motilal Oswal Home
Finance Limited. To comply the requirements of
BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any
Person having any type of claim right/title/
interest/creating mortgage over the said property,
may inform in writing, at the address mentioned
below, about his objections, within 14 days
from today, failing which it shall be presumed
that the said property is free from all type of
Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP
B-938, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank
Sector 2 Notlay U-2013016 contact#10120-4269878

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that M Shamsher Singh and Mrs. Santosh Saini whare purchasing the Property bearing Plot No. Block-B, area measuring 200 sq.mtr, RO-0 Sector-36, Greater Nolda, Gautam Budh Nagutar Pradesh from Mrs. Promila Rewari whocame owner after the death of Mr. Satish Kum

ces, lien etc. Lucem Legal | B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI B

Decline owner after the declar on. Season them. Season th ewari vide Mutation Letter dated 13-07-20

Bhagwan Dass R/o A-39, R.S.T. Enclave Johri Pur, North East Delhi-110094 have severed relations and debarred his wife Uma Bansal because his wife is not residing with Bansal and Komal Bansal alongwith from their movable-immovable properties due to their misconduct. My clients will not be responsible for their any acts. RISHIKESH PODDAR (ADVOCATE) Off.:Ch. No. S. No

28. Gaianand Block. Tis Hazari Courts. Delhi-110054.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 AGAINST TENDER NO. N\_4\_HQ-

Name of work: Provision of Server Based IP EPABX system over N.F. Railway.

Section-III (Annexures & Attachments), Annexure-E Clause-3. Termination.

Modified as: This MOU is effective from the effective date and will terminate automatically on the completion of Five years Warranty period after completion and commissioning of project.

All terms & conditions will remain same as per tender documents published on www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.CSTE/HQ cum Tele & works NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Pre-Bid Conference against Deputy Chief Engineer/Bridge-Line, Maligaon's E-Tender No. DCBL322024MLG & DCBL332024MLG vide E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/15/2024/MLG dated 18-12-2024 will be held or

l.	The bluders are allowed to contact as per the follows.					
5	SN	Name	Designation	Email-id	Contact No.	Venue
	1	Aruj Kr. Sonowal	Sr. Axen/Br/ Lumding	sonowalaruj@gmail.com	9957550265	CBE/NFR office, CBE Building, NFR/HQ Campus
ľ	All other terms and conditions as laid down in the Tondor shall remain unchanged and will be followed as no					

Dy. CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaon

Date: 16.12.2024



Section-1

(Sewerage Project of Datia) (FIRST CALL) Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No. 3145

Online Lumpsum bid for the following AMRUT 2.0 works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria: Tender No.- 2024\_UAD\_389828\_1

S. No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract (in lacs)	Money	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs.)	Completio Period (in months
1	Survey, Soil Investigation, Design, Construction and commissioning of Sewerage System in Datia Municipal area including 1. Providing, laying, jointing, testing and comssioning of sewerage pipe lines. 2. Including construction of manholes and sewer appurtenances with road restoration works Complete. 3. Providing house sewer chambers and laterals for connecting sewer to consumer sewer lines.  4. Providing new and existing house, Public toilets, all Institutions of sewer connections. 5. Design, construction testing and commissiong of intermediate sewerage pumping station (ISPS), pumping main, main pumping station (MPS), wet well along with providing and installation of pumps in wet well and 1 no. 5.2 MLD STP with Rapid sand filter and 1 no. 300 KLD STP. 6. Providing and laying of HT feeder connection upto Sewege treatment plants. 7. Condition assessment of existing Sewerage Network. 8. Preparation of maps of existing and proposed sewerage network and property connection to be laid under the contract with GIS mapping. 9. PLC-SCADA and OCMS for monitoring and controlling of sewerage system. 10. Operation and Maintenance of the scheme for 10 years after completion of works.	Rs. 5995.73	2997869	50000/-	24 months including rainy season

Interested Bidder can apply on website http://www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpurban.gov.in The Bid Document can be purchased only Online from 10:30 Hrs of 21.12.2024 to 17:30 Hrs of 24.01.2025

Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on web, and not in Newspaper Shanti Prashant Dhengula

President, Nagar Palika Parishad Datia

SI. MPPGCL

Nagar Palika Parishad Datia



No. 511-0100/SGTPS/P&W/E-NIT-32/4068 Birsinghpur, Date: 20.12.2024

**E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE** 

M.P. POWER GENERATING CO. LTD. Invites Electronic tenders from manufacturer/reputed supplier. contractor, for the supply/works of following items for SGTPS, MPPGCL Birsinghpur Estimate (In Tender E.M.D. (In Last Date Due Date

No.	Tender-ID		Rs.)	Cost (In Rs.)	Rs.)	of Closing of Online Submission	of E-Tender Opening
1		Procurement of Collecting Electrode for ESP installed at unit No. 1 & 2, 2 x 210 Mw of PH-I at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.		5000/-	2,00,000/-	14.01.2025	17.01.2025
2	MPPGC_	Procurement of "Complete HP manual valves and motorize valves without actuator installed at boiler side of Unit 1 x 500MW unit at SGTPS, Birsinghpur.		2000/-	1,12,100/-	31.12.2024	03.01.2025
3	MPPGC_ 383917_1	"Procurement of Castable Refractory Whytheat Grade(A) , Firecrete(P) & Plastic refractories" for boiler of Unit No. 1 to 5 of SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur.	62,69,000/-	2000/-	1,25,400/-	06.01.2025	09.01.2025

These tenders are being invited through e-tendering system/For viewing detailed E-NIT, downloading tender documents and participating in Electronic Tender, for any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum, please visit the website www.mptenders.gov.in regularly/Any clarifications and/or due date extensions or corrigendum shall be issued on the website www.mptenders.gov.in only. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (P&W) M.P. Madhyam/117939/2024

// SAVE ELECTRICITY- SAVE POWER- SAVE MONEY //

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

#### E-AUCTION FOR ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT

Division, Details are as under: Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): 11:00 hrs. on 03-01-2025; Auction Close Date & Time: 11:50 hrs. or 03-01-2025; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Trips/Days: 1095.

Auction Catalogue No.: C-ADVT-NJP-24

eq o.	Lot No./Category	Description
V1	ADVT-KIR-NJP-OH-186-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Display of advertisement in shape of glow sign board or through wall painting at both side of boundary wall at new temporary parking & parallel to the entry road of New Jalpaiguri Station at specified/earmarked locations of tender for a period of three (3) years.
V2	ADVT-KIR-NJP-OH-189-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Provision of display of Advertisement in the shape of Glow Sign Board at New Jalpaiguri Station on Parcel Foot over Bridge's specified/earmarked location of tender over Katihar Division for a period of 3 years.
V3	ADVT-KIR-NJP-OH-188-24-1 (Advertising - Out of Home)	Provision of display of Advertisement in the shape of Glow Sign Board at New Jalpaiguri Station on Middle (New) Foot over Bridge's

website www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager (C), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

# FIFA's new super-sized tournament sparks revolt

**AP** MANCHESTER

One of the most striking moments of soccer in 2024 was when Rodri hobbled onto a stage in Paris on crutches to receive the prestigious Ballon d'Or for best male player of the year. The Manchester City and Spain midfielder had been one of the most outspoken against increasingly congested soccer calendar, warning that the lack of downtime was detrimental to players' performance and health. Then, just a month before the Oct. 28 award ceremony, he tore his ACL during a seemingly routine run in a Premier League game

against Arsenal.
Though such injuries have occurred throughout the history of the sport and aren't necessarily linked to overplaying, Rodri's seasonending injury became a visual representation of the physical toll of modern soccer at a time when the busy match schedule is facing legal challenges and the possibility of strike

Top footballers are now routinely playing more than 60 games per season for club and country, while the game is getting faster and more intense. Injuries are on the rise. Already pushed to their limits, some players say FIFA's newly expanded Club World Cup, to be held in the United States payt year is the United States next year, is the last straw.

Players say they are "at breaking point, that they are at the limit, that it's actually too much," Alexander Bielefeld, from global players' union FIFPRO, told The Associated Press. FIFA's new addition to the calendar

The new Club World Cup is a supersized version of what used to be a short tournament with only seven teams. The new edition

includes 32 teams from around the world and will be held every four years, starting next summer in the United States from June 14 to July 13. As its name suggests, it's envisioned to be club version of the World Cup for



tournament on top of their domestic league season three out of every four years. With more games also added to the Champions League in Europe this season as well as the next World Cup in 2026, the soccer calendar is filling

national teams.
That means top players will have a monthlong up quickly.

"It's something that worries us because we are the guys

who suffer," Rodri said in September, just days before he was injured. He said players may have no choice but to refuse to play if the trend continues. FIFPRO says a significant

number of players routinely play 60-70 matches a season. The union's recommended Last season Julian Alvarez played 75 games for former club Manchester City and Argentina in 10 different competitions spanning the Premier League, Champions League, Copa America and Olympics.

season Manchester United

played 70 times, including a run of 20 consecutive games. Injuries are a concern said players are unlikely to raise the issue with their clubs or national teams. run of 20 consecutive games. Injuries are a concern

The Men's European Football Injury Index, an annual report by global insurance broker Howden, found there were 4,123 injuries in the top divisions of England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France last season. Italy and France last season. It said the number of injuries had risen year-on-year since the index was first published in 2021 and that "it would be fair to expect a continuation of this upwards trajectory."
Tony Strudwick, medical director for West Bromwich

Albion and former head of performance for Manchester United, said injuries are on despite rise advancements in sports science and medicine. That to me looks like there's

the players can physically tolerate and what they've been exposed to," he told The AP. "During the last eight incidents seasons, hamstring injuries, particular, have increased." Strudwick said the risk of too many games was ultimately injury and burnout. But he

a mismatch between what

"Players are very reluctant to say they don't want to play and they're very, very tired. It takes a relatively brave person to do that," he said.

Manchester City played 61 games in the 2022-23 campaign when it won a trophy treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup.

and FA Cup.
This season that number could rise to 71 because of an expanded group stage and potential playoff in the Champions League and the Club World Cup.
A heavy workload is also an issue in women's soccer, FIFPRO said earlier this week, though it noted that while some top players have a packed schedule, others don't get to play enough. If successful, the Club World Cup could rival the Premier

Cup could rival the Premier League and Champions League as one of the most lucrative and watched tournaments in club soccer. lucrative and It has been backed by clubs and next year's event is set to feature many of the biggest names in the sport, including

Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius

Coming at the end of many leagues' regular season, FIFA said the dates would be "harmoniously aligned with the international match calendar" to ensure calendar" to ensure sufficient rest for players ahead of the start of

domestic campaigns. The governing body has also set up a player welfare task force to be led by former Arsenal manager Arsene

FIFPRO, which says it represents more than 66,000 players around the world, is not convinced. In October,

its European division teamed up with domestic leagues and filed a legal complaint in Europe against how FIFA adds new and bigger men's competitions bigger men's competitions

to the calendar.
FIFA hit back, noting that
European clubs often fill
their summer breaks with exhibition matches around the world. It accused some European leagues of acting with "hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone

# 1st Women ODI: In-form India hold all aces against WI | Ashwin's wife pens heartfelt

PTI VADODARA

India will be eager to exploit their recent form and a historical advantage to subdue the West Indies in the three-match Women ODI series, beginning here with the first contest on

India notched up their first home T20I series win in over five years with a 2-1 victory over the Caribbeans in Mumbai earlier this week. Dating back to 2017, India also hold a significant 4-1 head-to-head lead over the Windies in ODIs.

windles in ODIs.

The lone worry for India will be the fitness of regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who missed the last two T20Is with a knee niggle.

Sprift Mandhana led India Smriti Mandhana led India

in Harmanpreet's absence and she made a strong impression too in the T20Is,

striking three fifties in a row. The graceful left-hander will be keen to continue in the same vein in the onedayers as well. Her form in the last 10 ODIs is outstanding, scoring 599 runs at an average of 60 while striking at 98.

seasoned players.

Jemimah Rodrigues has shown signs of returning to her run-making ways, and Richa Ghosh showed her ability to rip apart a bowling unit with a breezy fifty in the

The addition of Tejal match.

But India's batting has more depth to it beyond these two Hasabnis and Harleen Deol will add some more meat to the middle-order.

> India's bowling unit has a fine blend of youth and experience and they could be a handy force in the newly-constructed Kotambi Stadium here, which is hosting its first international

The likes of Deepti Sharma, who has taken 15 wickets in her last 10 matches, Renuka Singh and Saima Thakor can rattle the West Indies on an unfamiliar pitch.

India will also have the option of fielding the impressive young pacer Titas Sadhu here.

West Indies' biggest hopes

to counter a strong Indian bowling unit will be skipper Hayley Matthews and veterans Deandra Dottin and Shemaine Campbelle.

Matthews' seven matches this season have produced 308 runs at an average of 45. But the visiting bowlers will have to raise their game several notches to stop a several notches to stop a strong Indian batting line-

strong Indian batting line-up.

Squads (from): India:
Harmanpreet Kaur (C),
Smriti Mandhana (VC),
Pratika Rawal, Jemimah
Rodrigues, Harleen Deol,
Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma
Chetry (WK), Tejal
Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma,
Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra,
Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu,
Saima Thakor, Renuka Singh
Thakur. Thakur.

West Indies: Hayley Matthews (c), Shemaine Campbelle (vc), 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.

# tribute after his sudden retirement

India's ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's wife Prithi Narayanan has penned a heartfelt tribute for her husband following his recent retirement from the game, saying "it is time to set the burden of being you down" and embrace life beyond the game.

Ashwin made a surprise announcement retirement after the drawn third Test at Brisbane. The veteran cricketer picked up just one wicket during the tour, including the 10-wicket loss at Adelaide.

The 38-year-old retired with a stellar record of 537 Test wickets at an average of 24, in runs, including six centuries. He also claimed 156 wickets in ODIs and 72 in T20Is. Describing her tribute as a

"Love letter from a fan girl", Prithi wrote on instagram: "Dear Ashwin, from not knowing how to put a kit bag together to following you to stadiums all over the world, against the West Indies,



and learning from you, it has been an absolute pleasure. The world you introduced me to gave me the privilege to watch and enjoy a sport that I love from close quarters.

"It also showed me how much passion, hardwork and discipline is needed to keep your head above water. And sometimes even that is not enough. I remember us talking about why you, R Ashwin, had to do all of this and a lot more to even stay relevant in the scheme of Ashwin, who debuted in 2011

earned a reputation for his relentless pursuit of excellence. His near-equal tally of 269 wickets against right-handers and 268 against left-handers highlights his versatility.

"How awards, the best of stats, the POMs, the accolades, the records didn't matter if you didn't sharpen your skill sets constantly and did not put in the work. Sometimes, nothing is enough," Prithi continued. "As you end your wonderful international run, I only want to tell you that it's all good. It is all going to be good. It is time to set the burden of being you down. Live life on your terms, make space for those extra calories, make time for your family, make time to do absolutely nothing,

Just do it all.' Prithi, who has been a constant companion on Ashwin's cricketing journey, reflected on his meticulous approach to his craft.

share memes all day, create a

new bowling variation, bug our kids out of their minds.

#### Head's in the form of his life, hard to contain him, says Shastri

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

Travis Head's ability to judge the short ball quite early is behind the Australian batter's phenomenal success in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar series, feels former India cricketer Ravi Shastri, while adding on a lighter note that the visitors would like to have a balm for the 'Headache'. Head, after being dismissed

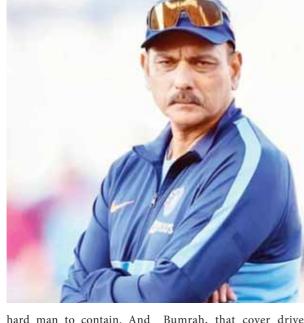
for 11 in his first innings of the series, has gone on to score 89, 140 and 152 in his next three outings. He played a pivotal role in the pink ball Test that Australia won by 10 wickets to level the five-match series 1-1. "I think he (Head) is very smart. From what I saw of

him three years ago, he has improved immensely. Especially with the way he plays the short ball. He's prepared to leave it. He has learned to leave it well at times," Shastri said on the ICC Review.

The former India coach added that Head's ability to judge the delivery's line and length quickly gives him time to play the right stroke. "It's not a big shot all the time off a short delivery angled at his armpits or something. He's prepared to either ride it or go for the

big shots. And if it is middle, middle and off, then he hits it in front of square as well," Shastri said

The Indian legend further said when on song, Head is difficult to stop. "He picks up length very well. That's one of his great strengths. And he has a flashing blade for the offside. So he's a



hard man to contain. And he's in the form of his life." On a lighter note, Shastri said India are looking for a balm for a 'headache' called

"Because his new surname is Travis Head'ache'," Shastri said."They are looking for balms in India. For foot problems, ankle problems (and) even a headache they are looking for a balm. He is ideal for that.

While Jasprit Bumrah has troubled virtually every Australian batter, Head has been an exception, playing the Indian quick with elan. Even as other Australian batters have struggled against Bumrah, who has 21 wickets at an average of 10.9 in the series, Head has scored 83 runs off 91 balls.

Bumrah, that cover drive, off the front foot. It was in many ways a little bit on the up, off a good delivery, decent delivery. It told me that this is a player in prime, prime form," said Shastri. cricketer-turned-

commentator said Head's batting prowess gave an insight into his uncluttered mind. "He went on to show exactly

that (clear mind). And the thing with him is there's no, his mindset is very clear. There's no clouded mindset He's very clear about the situation. This is my strength.

"I am going to play in that fashion. Yes, I will watch the state of the game. I might shift from fourth gear to third gear. But I will always "We all knew he was be in third and fourth gear dangerous, but that first once I get my eye on," shot he played off Jasprit Shastri added.

# Bundesliga sees quickfire scoring record as Bayern puts five past dismal Leipzig

Total No. of Works

Bid Identification No

Class of Contractor

Period of completion

a) Procurement Officer

b) Availability of Tender

c) Last date & time of

d) Date, time & place of

OIPR-32003/11/0011/2425

Opening of Bid

On-line for bidding

submission of bid docum

e) Date of Lottery (if required) : 15.01.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

Tender Cost

7. Other Details

Bayern Munich crushed Leipzig 5-1 and they broke a long-standing Bundesliga record for quickfire

Two teams had never scored in the opening two minutes of a Bundesliga match until Jamal Musiala gave Bayern the lead after 28 seconds and Benjamin Śeško equalised barely 60

GOVT, OF ODISHA

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES** 

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER. MAHANADI NORTH DIVISION-I, JAGATPUR, CUTTACK

E-mail ID :- exengr.mnd@gmail.com

'e' Procurement Notice No- MND-11/2024-25

completion, class of contractor, the set of term & conditions of contract and other necessary documents

can be seen in e- procurement portal www.tendersorissa.gov.in .The tender submission process will be

BIDDING PROCESS AFTER 31.12.2020 AS PER WORKS DEPTT. LETTER NO- 9100 DATED 17.07,2020.

: 15 (Fifteen) works

: "D" ."C" & "B" Class

: 17.30 Hours of 02.01.2025

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site "https://tendersodisha.gov.in"

Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur

The bid documents consisting of work, estimated cost, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of

BIDDERS REGISTERED THEMSELVES UNDER CDMS PORTAL ONLY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE

: Rs. 6.80 Lakh to Rs. 49.99 Lakhs

: Superintending Engineer, Mahanadi North Division-I, Jagatpur

email: exengr.mnd@gmail.com Ph:- 0671-2491546

: 10.00 Hours of 24.12.2024 to 17.30 Hours of 02.01.2025

: 03.01.2025 at 11.30 Hours in the O/o the Superintending Enginee

seconds later on Friday. The pace slowed after that frenetic start but not for long. Konrad Laimer put Bayern ahead against his old club in the 25th. Michael Olise found space on the right side and Laimer gave Péter Gulácsi no chance with a crisp

Nine minutes later, Joshua Kimmich lashed home from almost 30 meters to make it 3-1.



Leroy Sané added the fourth with 15 minutes remaining and Alphonso Davies got his first league goal of the season to complete the rout three minutes later.

Harry Kane returned and looked rusty after missing two games with a hamstring injury but played 87 minutes of a match that helped Bayern get back on track after a rocky run.



Bid No. SE PWD DGR No. 18 of 2024-25

The Superintending Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division, Deogarh, on behalf of Government of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in Single cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Road & Building No. of works : Road & Building works : Road 01 No. & Building 01 No. No. of works
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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRILL..), AGRICULTURE ENGINEERING DIVISION, KENDRAPARA E-mail ID- eeag-kendrapara@gov.in

Govt. of Odisha 'e' procurement Notice Bid Identification No.: E.E. (A), Kendrapara Division- 04/2024-25 The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agriculture Engineering Division, Kendrapara on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single cover system in ONLINE MODE, for 01 Numbers of Projects for Construction of

Vermi Composting unit at KVK, Jajpur

Estimated Cost- Rs. 13,48,064.00

2. Bid Cost: Rs. 6,000/- as Mentioned against each in Column - 04 Period of completion: Calendar Months Mentioned in Column - 06

4. No. of works (Tender): 01 nos.

5. Class of Contractor: As Mentioned in Column - 05

Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: from Dt.23.12.2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt.02.01.2025 at

Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt.02.01. 2025 at 5.00 P.M

Date of submission of documents: Dt.23.12.2024 at 10.00 AM to Dt.03.01.2025 at 5.00 P.M

9. Date & time of opening of online bids: Dt.04.01.2025 at 02.00 PM & onwards Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agriculture Engineering Division,

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersodisha.gov.in

**Executive Engineer Agril.** OIPR-01471/11/0004/2425

Agriculture Engineering Division, Kendrapara

# ınday pioneer

# MBKA

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

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

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

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

The opening evening saw the mesmerising Sufi performance by the ever-graceful Padma Shri Kailash Kher and his Kailasa band, setting the mood for an emotional journey through music and words. But the magic of Jashn-e-Rekhta didn't stop there.

Rekhta didn't stop there.

The second day of the festival paid tribute to the legendary poet Sahir Ludhianvi. Performances by the Qutbi Brothers and the stirring Dastangoi session by Himanshu Bajpayee and Pragya Sharma were particularly notable. Their narratives made the audience reminisce about the reminisce about the audience timelessness of Urdu poetry, while the theatrical production Jaun Elia ka Jinn brought forth the intensity and passion that marked the poet's life. Javed Akhtar's book launch of Kyon: Jaun Elia's Unpublished Poetry and Sanjiv Saraf's Wayward Verses led to a deeper understanding of how Urdu continues to shape the contemporary cultural landscape. As the final act, *Papon's* soul-

crisp,

evening at the Embassy of Finland set the perfect stage for the global premiere of All I Want for Christmas, a travel documentary produced by Travelxp and helmed by the nationally acclaimed, awardwinning filmmaker

winning filmmak Kamakhya Narayan Singh.

With its runtime of 42 minutes, the documentary masterfully captures the alluring spirit of Christmas while importing a moving

while imparting a moving message of hope and resilience to its audience.

As the holiday season approaches, bringing with it

the warmth of togetherness and the joy of celebrations,

All I Want for Christmas

unfolds as a story that goes beyond festivities, offering a

poignant glimpse into the human spirit. This magical narrative was born out of the

idea that travel, much like

happiness, connection, and

the celebration of life itself.

When global events stir emotions and challenge our

perspectives, it becomes

essential to remind ourselves

of the joy and wonder that

still exist in the world. With

this thought in mind, the

warming journey of a

and

Lapland, the land of Santa

Claus and snow-covered

The documentary chronicles

the story of Anastasia, a young Ukrainian refugee, and her mother, who embarks on this journey to rekindle the happiness that

seemed lost amidst the

chaos of displacement. Their trip to Finland's Lapland, a

breathtaking winter wonderland, turns out to be

more than just a holiday. It

becomes a journey

settling on the

ideas

symbolises

brainstormed

before

heart

daughter

Finland's

festivals,

makers

mother travelling

dreams.

countless

filmmaker



stirring performance brought the festival to a close.
The final day of Jashn-e-Rekhta added a

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







presented by Javed Akhtar. One of the most delightful aspects of

Jashn-e-Rekhta was the Rekhta Pavilion. From the Rekhta Food Festival - Aiwanwhich showcased subcontinent's culinary delights, to the Rekhta Bazaar and Books Bazaar, which made Urdu's literary treasures accessible

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

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

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



# Global Premiere of Hope and Joy

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



healing and resilience. From adventures through pristine snow-laden landscapes to the daring experience of swimming in the icy waters of Kemi, every moment captured in the film speaks to the enduring strength of the human spirit. The ultimate highlight, of course, is the magical moment when Anastasia meets Santa Claus himself, bringing to life the dreams countless children.

Director Kamakhya Narayan Singh, reflecting on his unique experience, shared with *The Pioneer* the challenges of filming in Finland's harsh winters with temperatures plunging to -18°C and only 2-3 hours of daylight. Despite these obstacles, Kamakhya's determination to bring this story to life remained unwavering.

unwavering.
Adding another layer of complexity was the fact that the documentary was originally shot in Russian, a first in a different language for the filmmaker. Yet, the ethereal beauty of Finland's snowy landscapes the joyful snowy landscapes, the joyful presence of Santa, and the thrill of sledding through its magical terrains make All Want for Christmas a visual treat that promises to leave

viewers enchanted.
Collaboratively organised by the embassies of Finland, Ukraine, and Norway, along with SIFFCY and the Smile Foundation, the premiere evening was not ojust a celebration of cinematic artistry but also a reminder of the universal message of hope and joy that Christmas brings to all. Whether it's the sparkling snowflakes or the heartwarming story of love and resilience, All I Want for Christmas will fill your heart with holiday cheer and would inspire you to believe in the magic of the season.

### րկլ ընդկումին անանական անականում անական անական անական անանական անանական անանական անական անական անական անական ա

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

laying the coffee angle yet again in the opening of Season 3, the new season of Mismatched, currently airing on the OTT platform Netflix has yet managed to keep the audience gripped but to some extent only. The series continues the journey of Rishi played by *Rohit Saraf* and Dimple acted by *Prajakta Koli* as they walk through the complexities of a long-distance relationship, new professional challenges, and personal growth. The season takes you into themos

growth. The season takes you into themes such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and personal loss, reflecting the evolving digital landscape and its impact on relationships, basically keeping up with tech from the first season. The makers have tried to keep season 3

distinguished from the other seasons but have failed to do so because of the same story and absence of the needed spark and twist.

The story feels to be unnecessarily stressed by revolving around the fights and then patch up repeatedly which is to be honest too boring. The series yet again revolves around the boring ups and downs of the relationships shown mainly of *Taaruk Raina* and *Ahsaas Channa*, *Prajakta Kohli* and *Rohit Saraf*.

The web series is a steal deal for Rannvijay Singha and Vidya Malvade as Sid sir and Zeenat. The evolving relationship of the two with ups and downs at the age touching around 40 has been conceptualised in a great way. Rannvijay has acted out brilliantly from opening a new college to planning an adoption and growing with his love interest. Zeenat's character has shown ample amount of support to Rannvijay's character and the series throughout.

The part that would excite you a bit would be the whole point of creating Betterverse and the story that revolves around that professional world of all the characters of the web series. The series shines in songs and background scores that make it a bit emotional. Ishq Hai song sung by Anurag Saikia, Romy, Amarabha Banerjee, Varun Jain, Madhubanti Bagchi; composed and produced By Anurag Saikia, Oblong Sioni and written By Raj Shekhar is soothing to the and has been collectively loved by the aundience.

To conclude, the review "Mismatched" Season 3 explores contemporary themes relevant to young adults, but opinions differ on its execution and character progression. There







could have been addition of twists and turns apart from passig away of Dimple's father to give it an emotional angle.

you are a mismatched fan you may appreciate the continuation of the story, while others might find it lacking in depth and

Rating: 3/5

# a Common the pioneer of the pioneer

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

— Judy Garland

# LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



#### AT BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN





BeeYoung Brewgarden ushered in the festive season with its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which drew an enthusiastic crowd who gathered to celebrate the magic of Christmas in the brewpub's signature European-style ambiance.

The evening's highlight was the countdown to the illumination of a stunning Christmas tree adorned with twinkling lights and elegant decorations, marking the official start of the holiday season at BeeYoung Brewgarden. There was a selection of bite-sized festive treats, signature holiday cocktails, and BeeYoung's renowned craft brews delighted the attendees, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. The evening concluded with a heartfelt toast to the spirit of togetherness.

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

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

At the heart of Christmas are the carols of melodic songs that embody joy,



nostalgia, and spiritual reflection. These timeless tunes, sung in homes, churches and streets, unite communities in celebration. Over time, these melodies became synonymous with Christmas, expressing devotion and cheer. From sacred hymns like "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night" to lively tunes such as "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells," carols range from reverent celebrations of Christ's birth to jubilant expressions of festive cheer.

Christmas is also about the excitement of children, their eager anticipation and the magic of Santa Claus. Every Christmas Eve, children hang their stockings with wishes, hoping that Santa will fulfil them. Santa Claus, with his jolly face, white beard, and red suit, stands as a global symbol of Christmas

magic. This beloved figure, transcending cultures, embodies joy and the spirit of giving. His story traces back to Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his acts of kindness and secret gift-giving. Over time, his legend evolved into the modern image of a merry, bearded man delivering gifts on Christmas Eve, riding a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Santa's presence in Christmas celebrations is symbolic of the spirit of giving, teaching children the joy of kindness and the magic of believing in something greater than themselves. Christmas decorations are more than just festive embellishments; they are heartfelt expressions of love and joy. From the glimmer of tinsel to the soft glow of fairy lights, these adornments transform homes and public spaces into magical places. The traditional colours of Christmas: pine green, snow white, and vibrant red symbolise life, purity and warmth.

and warmth.
When it comes to the Christmas table, one can't forget the classic Christmas cake. Rich with dried fruits, nuts, and spices, it represents the flavours of the season, often soaked in brandy or rum and matured for weeks before being served. Alongside this, candies which are especially the iconic candy canes add sweetness to the season. Many homes also offer platters of colourful, homemade candies, each bringing its festive joy to the celebrations.

Wishing you all merrier than before, A

AT CROWNE PLAZA MAYUR VIHAR

rowne Plaza Mayur Vihar showcased *Charkha: The Loom Tree*, a breathtaking 10-foot Christmas installation made entirely of Khadi, crafted in partnership with Vikara, a Khadi India initiative. This innovative display celebrated the essence of sustainability, self-reliance, and empowerment.

It was created by women artisans trained in traditional weaving, the tree featured natural dyes and zerowaste decorations made from upcycled fabrics and pearls. The installation paid homage to Gandhian principles and the Swadeshi Movement, blending artistry with ecological responsibility. Through its vibrant colours and handcrafted ornaments, *Charkha*: *The Loom Tree* served as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of conscious actions and a greener







#### AT SHANGRI-LA EROS NEW DELHI

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

chocolates and Santa Claus making it a complete vibe.





VE FLAVO

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

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

For vegetarians, the Vegetarians Delight Shepards Pie is pure comfort. A

delightful combination of plant-based meat, a medley of seasonal vegetables, meat, a medley of seasonal vegetables, and velvety potato, it's like wrapping yourself in a warm blanket on a chilly winter day. The garden-fresh salad on the side adds a refreshing crunch, making it a well-rounded dish. Another standout is the *Wild Mushroom Wellington*. Encased in flaky filo pastry, the shimeii mushrooms are earthy and the shimeji mushrooms are earthy and rich, while the mushroom jus and wilted kale bring depth and balance. It's the kind of dish that feels festive and hearty, perfect for the season.

For those craving non-vegetarian options, the menu pulls out all the stops. The Ballotine de Poulet, with tender chicken and a creamy mousse,

is elevated by the sweet-tart cranberry sauce. The Confit Duck Leg with Pomegranate Jus feels indulgent and festive, while the Lamb Ossobuco and Lobster Thermidor add a luxurious touch to the Christmas spread. Each dish is presented with elegance, making every bite feel like a celebration. celebration.

The dessert menu is where the magic really comes alive. The *Buche de Noel*, a mini yule log filled with chocolate truffle, is not just a treat for the taste buds but also a nod to the traditional Christman spirit. As you dies into it Christmas spirit. As you slice into it, the rich, velvety truffle filling and the soft, chocolatey sponge make you pause and soak in the moment. Paired with

playful chocolate mushrooms and fresh playful chocolate mushrooms and fresh berries, it feels like a whimsical Christmas story on a plate. If there's one dessert that can instantly make you feel like a kid on Christmas morning, this is it. Other desserts, like the *Sticky Date Pudding* with whiskey-laced brown butter toffee sauce and the *Old Fashioned Apple Crumble Pie*, deliver classic holiday flavours with a creative twist

The drinks menu is equally festive and brimming with seasonal charm. The Winter Wonderland, with its blend of gin, German liqueur, pineapple, oregano, and fresh strawberries, feels bright and refreshing. The *Christmas Cheer*, a mix of whiskey, pineapple,

cinnamon, and a touch of citrus Tabasco sauce, is warm and inviting, like sitting by a crackling fire. And then there's the *Lavender Snowflake*, with lavender vodka, thyme syrup, and a soft lavender foam, offering a calming and fragrant finish.
Dining at MKT feels like celebrating

Christmas in every sense. From the warm lights to the cheerful music and the thoughtfully crafted menu, it's a place where the festive spirit comes alive. Whether you're sharing stories over a hearty pie or raising a toast with a lavender foam-topped cocktail, every moment feels wrapped in holiday cheer. It truly makes Christmas taste and feel magical.







**Timings:** 12:00 pm to 1:00 am **Cost for two:** ₹3,000 + taxes



collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iran Culture Ĥouse, and the CD Foundation, Eros Hotel New Delhi played host to the Iranian Food Festival. This week-long culinary celebration brought the flavours and traditions of Iranian cuisine to the heart of the capital, creating a unique experience that highlighted the exchange of culture between India and Iran.

The festival showcased an authentic menu crafted by master Iranian chefs, presenting a journey of Iran's rich culinary heritage. Signature dishes such as *Ash Reshteh* which is a hearty noodle soup with chickpeas and beans, *Gheimeh* - a lamb stew infused with split chickpeas and cinnamon, and Berry Pulao saffron rice with tart berries graced the menu. Chef Diwas Wadhera, Executive Chef of Eros Hotel, described Iranian cuisine as "young, subtle, and simple compared to Indian cuisine, which is often complex and rich with multiple

# PLATES THAT TELEPORT TO 1

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



The menu's diverse offerings also included vegetarian favourites like Kuku Sabzi which is a medley of fresh greens and *Mirza Ghasemi* - a brinjal-based dish. Explaining brinjal's prominence in Iranian cuisine, *Chef Wadhera* remarked, "Brinjal is a favourite ingredient." They use it as a garnish, main ingredient, and even as an accompaniment."

A highlight of the festival was the *Indo-Iranian Cultural Show* which featured mesmerising performances celebrating the shared cultural ties between the two nations. This event culminated in a grand gala dinner, where representatives from the Iranian Embassy and Iran Culture elicitated participants of the Iranian Food Competition.

A food competition also brought together top chefs from both countries to showcase their culinary talents. Judged by an esteemed panel, including Mr Kazem Samandari, Chef Mostafa Samandari, Chef Mostafa Taheripour Isfahani, and Chef Diwas Wadhera, the competition crowned Chef Neda Tavakoli. Indian chefs also shone, with Hem Chandra Arya securing the first runner-up position and Chef Bharat Khemani the second runner-up.

The festival's ambiance transported diners straight to Iran at the Blooms Restaurant. Chef Wadhera added, "Despite language barriers, collaborating with Iranian chefs was seamless. Together, we breathed new life into traditional recipes, blending authenticity with a contemporary flair." He further added that *saffron* (kesar) played an important role in this cuisine and was not missed. Also, the Iranian rice, which you will taste in the pulao, uses pomegranate and plum

The *Iranian Food Festival* was a celebration of cultural heritage and culinary artistry between the two



By **TEAM AGENDA** 

have begun serving their winter menu that truly celebrates the season. With celebrating the warmth, comfort, and indulgence, the menu features a delectable selection of foods and beverages that will tantalise the senses and warm your soul. Café Delhi Heights is a cosy hideaway vibe from the moment you walk into the cafe. Apart from the offering of the menu, the winter meal at the cafe is a culinary wonder with dessert dishes for the winter lovers.

The Chocolate Bomb, in variants of hot chocolate and Marshmallow Chocolate Ball, with a mouth watering display of molten chocolate in that cosy environment.

You have a Red Velvet Baby Croissant, with a delicate layer of pastry or Dollop of Cream Cheese or Chocolate filled looking appealing to the eyes giving a Christmas Winter feel with its red colour.

The addition to the above is the Four Cheese Fondue, a sumptuous treat served with a variety of exquisite dips. For those looking for a more savoury choice, the *Bagel Sandwich*, which comes with either crumbled chicken or exotic vegetables, is a soothing and fulfilling nibble to try at the Café Delhi Heights.

The Moong Daal Crumble Tart is appealing where tart meets tradition, with a beautiful combination of flavours and textures. From comforting classics to decadent desserts, every bite promises to make your chilly days cosier and more delight. The hallmark of the winter menu would have to be the Chocolate Fondue, plated aesthetically by the Café Delhi Heights. The Chocolate Fondue comes to you with a chocolate dipping sauce to be taken with strawberries, marshmallows and muffins.

FACTSHEET

Availability of Winter Menu: 1st December to 10th January

Visit your nearest Café Delhi Heights outlet

### Savour the Spirit of Christmas!

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

#### YULE LOG

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

#### **Ingredients Sponge Cake:** 4 large eggs (separated); 1/2

cup (100g) granulated sugar; 1/3 cup (40g) flour; 1/4 cup (30g) cocoa; 1/4 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp vanilla extract Filling: 1 cup (240ml) heavy

whipping cream; 2 tbsp powdered sugar; 1 tsp vanilla extract

Chocolate Ganache: 1 cup (170g) dark chocolate; 1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream **Instructions:** Preheat oven

to 350°F (175°C); line a 10x15-inch pan parchment. Beat yolks with sugar until



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

sugar-dusted towel, peeling parchment. Roll cake with towel; cool completely.

Prepare filling: Whip cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until stiff. Unroll the cake, spread filling evenly, and re-

Make ganache: Heat cream until steaming; pour over chocolate. Stir until smooth and let cool slightly before spreading over the cake.

**Decorate** with powdered sugar, berries, and meringue mushrooms for a festive finish. Refrigerate before

#### FESTIVE CIRCUS & HERB ROASED TURKEY

AVRAJ SINGH MARWA, Corporate Executive Chef - Sarova Hotels

Ingredients: 1 whole turkey (about 6-7 kg); 100g unsalted butter, softened; 2

oranges, 2 lemons, zested and juiced; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tbsp fresh rosemary, 2 tbsp fresh thyme,2 tbsp fresh sage, chopped; Salt and pepper to taste Stuffing: 1 large onion, 2 celery stalks, chopped; 2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped; 200g breadcrumbs; 100g dried cranberries; 100g chopped walnuts; 1 egg, beaten; 100ml chicken stock; 1 tsp dried sage; 1 tsp dried thyme; Salt and pepper to taste

**Gravy:** Pan drippings from the turkey; 2 tbsp plain flour, 500ml chicken stock; Salt and pepper to taste **Method:** Prepare the Turkey: Preheat oven to 180°C (356°F) In a bowl, mix the softened butter with the orange and

lemon zest, minced garlic, and chopped herbs. Season

with salt and pepper. Carefully loosen the skin of the

turkey breast and rub the citrus-herb butter mixture under the skin and all over the turkey. Make the Stuffing: Combine onion, celery,

apples, breadcrumbs, cranberries, and walnuts. Mix in egg, stock, sage, thyme, salt, and

pepper. Stuff turkey cavity. Roast the Turkey: Place turkey on a rack in a pan.

Pour citrus juice over. Roast it in the preheated oven for 3.5-4 hours or until the internal temperature reaches 75°C (165°F) and baste occasionally with the pan iuices. Rest 20 minutes after cooking. Make the Gravy: Pour the pan drippings into a

saucepan, skim off excess fat, and whisk in the flour. Cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes, then add the chicken stock, whisking continuously. Season with salt and pepper. **Serve:** Carve the turkey and serve with the stuffing and gravy.

#### GINGERBREAD COOKIE SANDWITCH

**CHEF ADITI DIXIT, CYK Hospitalities** 

Ingredients for cookies: Flour - 250gms, Brown Sugar - 180gms, Salted Butter - 150gms (soft) Honey - 20gms, Clove powder - 3gms, Cinnamon powder - 10gms, Nutmeg powder - 5gms, Ginger powder - 12gms, Baking soda - 5gms

,Egg - 1 (whole), Vanilla Essence - 8ml Ingredients for fillings: Whipping cream -100gms, Powdered sugar - 50gms, Orange zest - 10gms, Clove powder - 2gms, Cinnamon powder - 5gms, Salt - 3gms,

Ginger powder - 5gms Instructions: Preheat oven: 160°C.

Cream butter and sugar until smooth, then whisk in honey, egg, and vanilla.

Sift dry ingredients (flour, spices, baking soda) and fold into the mixture. Chill dough for 15 minutes. Portion dough onto a baking tray (yields ~16-17 cookies). Bake for 11-12 minutes until tops crack and lightly brown. Cool completely. Whip cream with sugar to stiff peaks. Fold in spices and zest. Sandwich two cookies with cream, dust with icing sugar, and serve.



Celebration of Pet Love



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

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

Inside the venue, the atmosphere was lively, filled

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

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

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



experience for both pets and their parents.

association with the Cat Club of India,

feline

also

strong

designed specifically for cats. This

segment celebrated all cat breeds

and included fun activities and

competitions. Cats and their

owners participated in games, with participants vying for

trophies and certificates. It

was a joyous experience

for everyone involved,

showcasing the fun side

emphasis on pet adoption. Adoption

camps were set up to

encourage families to

adopt rather than

shop, in line with the

#AdoptDontShop

companionship. ine festival placed

Catapalooza, an event organised in

One of the standout segments of the festival was





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

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



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

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

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

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

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

#AdoptDontShop, encouraging everyone to give a second chance to animals in need, reminding us that

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

love is the best gift we can offer.







sunday, magazine the pioneer de la contraction d



















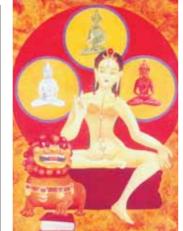




#### ARIES Nbsdi!32.Bqsjm!2:

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

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Plum Lucky day Tuesday



#### LEO Kvmz!34.Bvh!33!

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

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Gold Lucky day Thursday



#### **SAGITTARIUS** Opw!33.Efd!32

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

Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Peach Lucky day Monday



#### TAURUS Bqsjm!31.Nbz!31

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

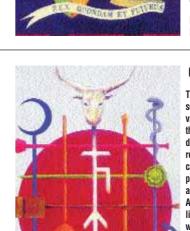
Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Sunday



#### VIRGO Bvh!34.Tfq!33

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

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Lilac Lucky day Saturday



#### CAPRICORN Efd!33.Kbo!2:

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

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Teal Lucky day Fridav



#### GEMINI Nbz!32.Kvof!31

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

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Cream Lucky day Wednesday



#### LIBRA Tfq!34.Pdu!33

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

Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Tangerine Lucky day Wednesday



#### AQUARIUS Kbo!31.Gfc!29

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

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Sunday



#### CANCER Kvof!32.Kvmz!33

This week starts with a flurry of activity, demanding your full engagement and refined skills. The early days bring an opportunity at work that requires immediate action. This may require adjusting your usual methods and clear communication to succeed. As the week progresses, you financial dealings increase, including acts of generosity and assistance to those in need. During these days, you may find your feelings intensifying, prompting a thoughtful reassessment of your financial obligations and relationships. As the week closes, you may enter into a significant agreement or partnership. This period also holds potential for deepening emotional connections. Whether strengthening existing bonds or forming new ones, you'll find a sense of fulfillment in these relationships. For those unattached, the chance to meet someone special presents itself, potentially leading to heartfelt exchanges and thoughtful gestures. Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Rose Lucky day Saturday



#### SCORPIO Pdu!34.Opw!32

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

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Jade Lucky day Sunday



#### PISCES Gfc!2:.Nbsdi!31

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

ucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gray

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# HELIFEGUID Seerat Kaur

Marwaha

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

#### ife is rarely a bed of roses. Each of us carries unique

struggles, often tied to complex karmic accounts from multiple lifetimes. We are born not just to live but to address these past debts and fulfill long-held desires. Our natal charts act as guides, revealing the trials we are destined to face and the lessons we are meant to learn on this As an astrologer, I can examine a natal

chart and, without personal details, identify difficulties in health, career, or relationships. This involves analyzing the placement of planets, each influencing specific aspects of life. The positions of planets are intentional; they align with individual karma from past actions. Life events we cannot control, such as our parents, siblings, birthplace, health, and spouse that are all predestined and can be seen in the natal chart. Even incidents beyond our control arise from this design. So what is in our control you may ask? While life's unexpected challenges may be out of our hands, how we react to these circumstances is in our control. A person's behavior often reflects the influence of a poorly placed planet. This unfavorable position is not random; it results from conscious actions in past lives. Even though the soul is reborn, its core nature and mentality remain



Transforming Life's Karmic Challenges

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

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

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

he can gradually undo negative karma and restore balance in his life. Even if you're not familiar with chart reading, the best way to improve your chart and life is simple: identify the problem area and make better choices. The more positive actions you take, the more you clear negative karma from your past.

The greater the planetary weakness, the more effort and time it takes to correct. A simple analogy is weight loss: someone who is 50 kilograms overweight needs more time and hard work to reach their goal than someone who is only 5 kilograms overweight. Similarly, the more poorly placed a planet, the more effort is needed to rectify its influence. The good news is that, no matter how weak a planet is, with dedication and consistent positive actions, it can improve, and the individual's life can be transformed. This understanding brings us to a vital concept: no action goes unnoticed. Every choice we make—good or bad sets in motion consequences we will face. Therefore, it is essential to be mindful of our actions, as they shape not only our present but also our future. Through awareness and conscious living, we can change the trajectory of

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