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**INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER LASHES DELHI** 

elhi's weather took a dramatic turn on Friday, with thunderstorms, moderate to heavy rainfall lashing the city. The waterlogging that ensued threw traffic out of gear in many places. Continuous rainfall compounded the coldwave conditions gripping Delhi and its surrounding areas. The frigid weather is expected to last longer and a yellow alert has also been issued as light to moderate rain, accompanied by thunderstorms, is likely to continue on Saturday, and Sunday.

With dense fog enveloping the National Capital, Delhi's Indira Gandhi İnternational Airport (IGIA) Airport has low-visibility activated procedures to ensure smooth operations. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast shallow fog on Saturday morning, with light to moderate spells

of rain in the evening. According to the IMD, the National Capital recorded its highest December rainfall in the last 15 years. The rain began on Friday around 2.30 am and continued throughout are



Photo: Ranian Dimri/The Pioneer

#### 146 flights delayed so far passengers to begin their

Flight-tracking platform Passengers are requested to contact the airline concerned 146 delayed flights, three cancellations, and an average delay of nearly 30 minutes for departures and arrivals in challenges, most flights are Delhi. However, there were no major disruptions. though "Low visibility procedures about their flight status. are in progress at Delhi Highlighting potential delays airport. All flight operations

normal.

presently

airport journey early and monitor flight updates. for upon information," read flight the IndiGo advised passengers the to plan ahead, especially operating on schedule, passengers are advised to remain vigilant

given the possibility of intermittent rain throughout the day. "We recommend checking your flight status before heading to the airport. Safe travels!" the

airline stated.

the day. The total rainfall for December stands at 42.8 mm, marking the highest rainfall this month in the last 15 to the India Meteorological years, based on data from Department (IMD), Delhi years, based on data from 2009 to 2024 available on the weather department's website. Meanwhile, the all-time highest December rainfall was recorded in 1884, when the city received 134.4 mm of rain.

For comparison, the city's December rainfall in 2023 was trace, while in 2022 it was 0.0 mm, 2021 saw 9.6 mm, and 2020 recorded just 1.6 mm. In 2019, Delhi recorded 33.9 mm of rainfall in December, which now stands as the second-highest in the last 15 years. Following the rain, the

maximum temperature was recorded 14 degree Celsius, six notches below the normal minimum while the temperature stood at 11 degree Celsius, four degree above the normal. The gap between the maximum and

#### WEATHER

AQI 337 MAX 14.6°C 11°C MIN

minimum dramatically, leading to cold wave conditions. According received 30.4 mm rainfall in the past 24 hours. IMD.

According to Safdarjung reported moderate rainfall of 30.1 mm (between 8.30 am to 5.30 pm), accompanied by moderate fog, with visibility at 350 metres as of 8 am. Other stations reported light to moderate rain, with Palam seeing 31.4 mm of rainfall, Lodhi Road 34.2 mm, Pusa 32.5 mm, Ayanagar 18.1 mm, Ridge 30.8 mm, Pitampura 30.5 mm, and Narela 31 mm of rainfall.

The IMD data showed that in 2023 the lowest daytime temperature drop in December was 15.9 degree Celsius. The rain caused disruptions to traffic in various parts of South, Central, and North Delhi. The highest rain was recorded at Delhi University's North Campus. Visuals shared on social media showed that waterlogging causing traffic congestion in the area as the rain continues to lash parts of the city.

## **GRAP Stage-III lifted**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A s Delhi gets some respite from toxic air and air quality improves, the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) has lifted stringent pollution curbs under Stage-III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the national capital and surrounding areas with immediate effect. As the GRAP-III was revoked, the Commission lifted a ban on non-essential construction work and plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel fourwheelers in Delhi-NCR. However, pollution restrictions under GRAP Stage-II and I, will continue in place in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Delhi's air pollution levels showed a declining trend and the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 324 at 7 pm. According to forecasts from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, the air quality

situation is predicted to improve further owing to favourable conditions.

"Owing to the favourable meteorological conditions and continuous rains since early morning, the AQI of Delhi has been continuously improving and has been recorded as 348 at 5:00 PM, 341 at 6:00 PM and 334 at 7:00 PM and the trend/forecast suggest the AQI levels to further go down," the CAQM

said in its order. "While GRAP Stage-III is being revoked, keeping in view the winter season when weather conditions may not be always favourable and in order to ensure that the AQI levels do not slip further, citizens are requested to strictly adhere to the citizen charter under GRAP Stages II & I.The Sub-Committee, shall be keeping a close watch on the air quality scenario and review the situation from time to time for further appropriate decision depending upon the Air Quality in Delhi and forecast made by IMD/IITM," read the order

MARKETS

Ahuja's tenure as CS extended for another yr PNS BHUBANESWAR

The tenure of Odisha Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja has been extended by one year, keeping him in office beyond the original deadline set for December 31, 2024.

A 1990-batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, Ahuja first took over the role following the conclusion of Pradeep Jena's term on June 30, 2024 after serving a deputation. Within a span of six months, he played a pivotal role in implementing a variety of government strategies and policies.

efforts Ahuja's have been particularly concentrated on bringing the BJP's campaign pledges to life. Under his leadership, the State has





due to rain, Air India urged

## World leaders condole Dr **Manmohan Singh's passing**

PTI WASHINGTON/SRI LANKA

and Sri Lanka have expressed grief Singh's passing and will always over the death of former prime remember his dedication to bringing minister Manmohan Singh and the United States and India closer to contr butions strengthening bilateral relations. Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Thursday night. He was 92. He is survived by his wife Gursharan Kaur, a history professor, and three daughters. Leaders from Afghanistan, Maldives, Mauritius, and Nepal also paid their tributes to Singh. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called him "one of the greatest champions of the bilateral strategic partnership." "Dr Singh was one of the greatest champions of the US-India strategic partnership, and his work laid the foundation for much of what our countries have accomplished together in the past two decades," US Secretary of State Tony Blinken said. Offering condolences to the people of India for the passing of Singh, Blinken said the leadership of the former prime minister in advancing US-India Civil Nuclear the Cooperation Agreement signified a major investment in the potential of the US-India relationship

"At home, Dr Singh will be remembered for his economic eaders from across the world reforms that spurred India's rapid Lincluding, the US, Canada, France, economic growth. We mourn Dr together' Blinken said French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday said "India has lost a great man" and France a true friend, in the person of Dr Manmohan Singh. He had devoted his life to his country. Our thoughts are with his family and the people of India." Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake issued a message of condolence and called the former prime minister "a visionary leader" On behalf of the people of Sri Lanka and myself, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Republic of India, Dr Manmohan Singh's family, and his countless admirers worldwide," the message read. 'A visionary leader, Dr Singh's influence transcended national boundaries. As Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, his transformative policies, like the Right to Education Act and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, reflected his steadfast commitment to equity and inclusivity.

## **Delhi's power bills get leaner**

#### RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

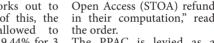
n a big relief to electricity Lconsumers, the Delhi Regulatory Electricity Commission (DERC) has reduced the Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC) imposed by the Discoms in the National Capital. The PPAC collected by BSES Rajdhani Power was 35.83, BSES Yamuna Power 38.12

and Tata Power 36.33. According to the DERC's order, PPAC will be reduced from 37.75 percent to 13.63 percent in areas under the BSES Yamuna; 35.83 percent to 18.19 percent in areas under BSÉS Rajdhani and 37.88 percent to 20.52 percent in Tata Power's areas from December 21, 2024 to March 20, 2025. It is estimated that 10 to 20 percent monthly

Open Access (STOA) refund be recovered works out to 9.44%. In view of this, the

Petitioner is allowed to recover PPAC of 9.44% for 3 months beyond 20/12/2024 i.e., from 21/12/2024 to 20/03/2025," the DERC said in its order on BSES Rajdhani Private Limited.

The claim of BRPL for the additional PPAC to the extent of 9.08% citing the ad hoc addition in the preceding quarter by the Commission has not been considered in line with DERC (Business Plan) Regulations, 2023," it prices, which have recently



percentage of the base tariff that includes the fixed cost and energy charges (units consumed) by the consumers. PPAC is a surcharge provided by the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) to cover fluctuations in power purchase costs incurred by the discoms. These costs are generally affected by coal and fue

seen substantial rises due to

Delhi's power is distributed

by four discoms: BSES

Power

BSES

Power Limited (BRPL), Tata

Power Delhi Distribution

Limited (Tata Power), and

North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC). The

PPAC varies by discom. The

Delhi government provides

free electricity to consumers

using up to 200 units per month. A fifty per cent

subsidy is provided to those

having monthly consumption

of 201 to 400 units.

transportation expenses.

imports

and

Limited

Rajdhani

increased

Yamuna

(BYPL),



79,100 78,900-78,700 The PPAC is levied as a 78,500; Prev close 78,472.48 78,400⊤ 12:00 pm

#### **DGCA suspends** two Akasa Air directors for training lapses PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

1 US\$ = 85.50 INR

3:00 pm

NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday suspended Akasa Air's Director Training, and Director Operations, for six lanses in pilot months training. This action follows a regulatory audit in October and comes in the wake of a complaint by Akasa Air pilots which accused the senior management of favouritism and bias. The DGCA audit had found that pilots were being trained in navigation approaches on a simulator which was not certified for the procedure. The DGCA said this was in violation of its rule and issued a show cause notice to the airline. As the response was found to be unsatisfactory the regulator ordered the suspension of the two directors of Akasa Air. This is the second regulatory action against Akasa Air this week. Earlier the airline was fined Rs 10 lakh by the DGCA, for not compensating passengers who were denied boarding on a Bengaluru Pune flight in September.

and a Director General of Police (DGP) Conference. Looking ahead, there are plans to conduct the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in the State.

Ahuja will have also a great role to play in the implementation of the upcoming planning and schemes of the BJP government.

After taking charge, Ahuja faced huge challenges like removing bureaucratic bloats of the previous government, wiping out the bitter feeling between the Odia and non-Odia officials and fulfilling all the assurances promised by the newly-formed BJP government in its election manifesto. He had a herculean task in hand to provide a new identity to the Odisha administration by improving its image and lending a balance between the Odia and non-Odia officials.

Ahuja is reportedly in the good books of Prime Minister Narendra Modi by working efficiently as a Secretary in the Union Agriculture Ministry

electricity bill will come down after the DERC's order. According to rough

calculations, a consumer in South Delhi (under BRPL) using up to 400 units of power will likely get relief of around Rs 285 in their monthly bill.

Those using up to 600 units of power will likely get relief of around Rs 563 in their monthly bill. An East Delhi consumer using up to 400 units, will likely get relief of Rs 390 per month. Those using up to 600 units, will get relief of Rs 554 per month in their electricity bill. For a north Delhi consumer who uses 400 units, will likely get relief of Rs 281 per month. Those who 600 units will likely get relief of Rs 554 per month in their electricity billing. "Presently, ongoing PPAC is

27.08 percent, which is applicable till 20/12/2024. PPAC of Q2 of FY 2024-25 to

use

said.

In the case of BSES Yamuna, the DERC said the ongoing PPAC is 30.34 percent at present, which is applicable till 20/12/2024. "PPAC of Q2 of FY 2024-25 to be recovered works out to 5.85%. In view of this, the Petitioner is allowed to recover PPAC of 5.85% for 3 months beyond 20/12/2024 from 21/12/2024 to 20/03/2025. There is variation in Short-term Power Sale quantum as submitted by BYPL and as provided by SLDC in their monthly power purchase report. b) BYPL has not considered the Short-term

## **On city outskirts** Burglars loot Rs 20L jewelleries from house

#### PNS BHUBANESWAR

In another case of burglary in Bhubaneswar, ornaments worth more than Rs 20 lakh were looted from a resident's house in Gangotri Nagar on the city outskirts on Thursday night.

The burglars entered the house by breaking open a window at midnight when the family members were asleep. They decamped with gold and silver ornaments and a large amount of cash.

The burglary was conducted with such precision

and stealth that the family members had no inkling about it till they woke up on Friday morning.

The house owner said, "The stolen ornaments included three gold necklaces, two gold chains, five rings, five gold earrings, five pairs of silver anklets and a silver waist chain.

The total cost of the stolen jewellery will be more than Rs 20 lakh.

Stating that they did not hear any noise the entire night, his wife said, "Around midnight, my son said he was feeling scared to sleep alone in his

room. So, I asked him to come to my room. In the morning, when I went to his room, I found the almirah was wide open and files were lying scat-

tered on the bed. I called others; and we noticed that the window grill was broken and our house was looted."

After the family filed a complaint at the Dhauli police station, cops reached the spot with a scientific team and initiated a probe. The police said they were trying to find clues about the burglars from CCTV footage of nearby areas



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi pays homage to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, who passed away on Thursday, at the Lok Seva Bhawan in Bhubaneswar on Friday.

## In State More rains predicted; farmers panicked

#### **PNS BHUBANESWAR**

Even as farmers across the State are already under severe mental duress after crop loss due to the unseasonal rains, forecast of more rains in the coming weekend has further added to their woes.

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday predicted more rains for two days, Saturday and Sunday. As per the weather office, light to moderate rainfall is expected in several districts, particularly in the northern and northwestern parts of the State.

The IMD said light to moderate showers are anticipated and attributed it to a western disturbance, which can result in precipitation on both the days.

The prospect of rains poses a critical challenge for farmers, who are already reeling under severe loss due to the untimely low pressure over the Bay of Bengal a few days back. The anticipated weather could impact crops and harvesting plans during a crucial period for farmers, who were waiting for favourable weather conditions.



## 40 lakh ghost ration card holders found so far 'Increase age limit to 43UR candidates'

#### **Reveals** Minister Patra

#### PNS BHUBANESWAR

There are more than 40 lakh ghost ration card holders in Odisha, informed Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra on Friday.

Speaking to the media, he said there are at least 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh ghost beneficiaries in each district said.

"During eKYC, it was found that each district has 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh ghost ration card holders. So far, more than 40 lakh ghost ration card hold-



ers have been found," Patra

"The eKYC process is on and it will take some more days for completion," he stated

based e-KYC verification was conducted for 2024-25 to bring transparency to the beneficiary list under the food se-

curity scheme in Odisha. As per the official data, the

government has received

6,19,836 applications for new ration cards under the food security scheme in the State. The government has reportedly fixed 10 parameters for enrolment and issuance of new ration cards.

Meanwhile, the process is already underway to delete the ghost ration card holders and add the eligible beneficiaries.

Earlier in November, Patra had informed that out of the total 3,36,35,918 PDS beneficiaries, the e-KYC verification process was completed for 2,69,23,830 beneficiaries while as many as 1,77,068 ghost ration card holders were deleted from the list.

### years for Appeal govt job aspirants to CM **PNS** BHUBANESWAR

A large number of aspirants of various competitive examinations have requested the Odisha Government to enhance the appearance age limit to 43 years for unreserved

(UR) category candidates. In a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the aspirants have stated that the inordinate delay in filling gov-

ernment vacancies by the previous government has led to a situation where examination results were declared after four to five years, causing many aspirants to exceed the eligible age limit.

Besides, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the government failed to announce any job vacancies, resulting in valuable time being lost. Consequently, not only did the opportune moment slip away, but the age of aspirants also exceeded the eligible criteria, they stated.

long advocating for an increase in the age limit to 42 years, the previous government had provided temporary relief by raising the age limit to 38 years for 2022-2024. If the previous government had accepted their appeal, they would have had the opportunity to appear for the

> stated. There are currently over 2 lakh vacancies in government positions, which have remained unfilled due to the in-

examinations, the aspirants

Though they have been action of the previous government. The current government has made a significant announcement in the State Assembly to fill up 1.50 lakh

capital 02

vacancies, they pointed out. The upper age limit to apply for SSB Lecturer Exami-

nation is 42 years while for OPSC Assistant Professor Examination it is 45 years. Already, States like Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Uttarakhand, Telangana and Haryana have increased he age limit for candidates, the aspirants further pointed out.

ter supply while some schools

operate with only one teacher

the recruitment of additional

teachers, alongside the em-

ployment drive in other sec-

tors, is seen as a crucial step

to enhance educational stan-

dards and provide job oppor-

tunities for young individuals.

has already started the initia-

tive for the employment pro-

Majhi said the government

"Earlier, it was difficult to

meet and discuss with the

Chief Minister. It was a dream

for a common man to meet the

Chief Minister with his griev-

ance and expect solutions to

their problems. After the new

government came to power,

thousands of people are meet-

ing the Chief Minister and in-

Under the circumstances,

or none at all.

cess

### Notably, the Aadhaar-Manmohan had special links with Odisha PNS 📕 BHUBANESWAR

he family of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, who passed away in New Delhi on Thursday night, has notable connections to Odisha, underscored by family ties and personal visits.

Dr Singh's daughter Daman Singh is married to Ashok Pattnaik, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Gujarat cadre, who hails from Odisha.

This link had been brought into focus in 2012 when Dr Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur made a visit to her daughter's home in Bhubaneswar. Their family home in Bhubaneswar not only represents familial warmth but also the blending of cultures that characterises much of India's social fabric.

This visit highlighted the connection between the family of the former Prime Minister and the culturally rich State of Odisha.

In Phulbani

This apart, Dr Singh was a huge admirer of Odisha, the land of Jagannath, and was attracted to Odisha's food, traditions and customs. He had visited Odisha both before and after taking the office of PM.

Like Dr Singh, the family of his son-in-law Ashok, a 1983batch IPS officer, also lives a very simple life. Ashok worked as the CEO of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). He was also the CEO of the Intelligence Grid Network. In 2007, Ashok received the President's Police Medal, which was bestowed on him by Dr Singh when he was the Prime Minister.



PNS 📕 BALESWA R he 4th Odisha Research Conclave (ORC) commenced

at the New Campus of Fakir Mohan University here on Thursday with the theme 'Unveiling the Future: A Showcase of Cutting-Edge Research and Innovation'

The inaugural session was graced by Prof Kshiti Bhusan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jharkhand, as guest of honour; Prof Santosh Kumar Tripathy, Vice-Chancellor, Fakir Mohan University, as the president; and Chairman, Post Graduate Council, Prof Bhaskar Behera.

instance, 'Dhana-Pana-Mina'. Prof Das laid stress on interdisciplinary research in tackling the complex challenges of the modern world. He also highlighted the

'Viksit Bharat' and 'Viksit Odisha' concept for achieving a really developed State. The first technical session was on the theme 'Research

Prof Tripathy thanked the

Government of Odisha for

choosing the FM University

for this auspicious congrega-

tion. He emphasised qualita-

tive and value education

along with the regional

place-based researches, for

and Innovation in State Uniand on Fakir Mohan.

versities of Odisha' which Berhampur University VC was chaired by Prof Tripathy Prof Geetanjali Dash spoke and attended by several about a need in funding for other eminent professors. improving the quality of re-Prof Tripathy emphasised search. She said State Unihow the roots of research versities can lead the way in grew from medieval period partnering with agencies for and how various instituimproving research quality. tions of Odisha have con-Prof Devi Prasad highlighted the lack of regular tributed to research since then. Odisha's scientific staffs at the Vikram Dev Unitemper is highlighted versity to pursue substantial through its architecture, research and how to develop metallurgy and astronomy, capabilities for making innovations in research, funding As part of Vocal for Local needs to be increased and and Odia Asmita, the uniunderstand research probversity has promoted relems at local level for Viksit search in 'Dhana, Pana, Mina Bharat 2036.

# Govt to generate 75,000 jobs in 2 yrs: CM

#### PNS BHUBANESWAR

L he Odisha Government would generate as many as 75,000 jobs in various sectors within two years, announced Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday.

The announcement brings promising prospects for the State's numerous jobseekers amidst concerns over unemployment. The plan also includes filling 20,000 vacant teaching positions.

"A total of 75,000 jobs across various sectors will be generated in the State within two years and the process in this regard has already been started. A total of 20,000 vacant teaching positions will also be filled up. The process will be conducted in a transparent manner," said Majhi.

forming him about their griev-Majhi highlighted the lack ances," claimed Majhi. of basic infrastructure in many villages of Odisha. He pointed out that several communities are yet to receive essential services including wa-

However, the BJD is vet to provide a counter-statement to Majhi's observations about the former government's performance.

As per reports, Biswa is an

engineer with a local IT com-

pany while Tapaswini was an

employee of the State Govern-

ment. Authorities are cur-

rently exploring various leads

to determine the circum-

stances surrounding her

several places PNS BHUBANESWAR

MLA's car set on fire in Circuit House premises

PHULBANI PNS

Town police station by the BJP. Getting information, the Kandhamal SP rushed to the spot and took stock of the situation. It was suspected that the incident might be fallout of political rivalry. Police recovered a bottle with petrol on the spot. Initially, the watchman had noticed the fire and informed the other staffs. Police are yet to identify and trace the miscreants. A few days ago, a large poster of Chief Minister Mohan Majhi was set on fire before the Kandhamal Collectorate. An FIR has been lodged in this connection.

to the fore.

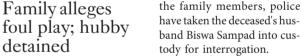
Will BJD crumble and Naveen be left alone? Intra-party rifts come to fore in

he said.

office. This comes amidst a flurry of political activity as leaders and their supporters navigate shifting alliances and agendas in the region.

At the same time, a separate ent took place near the

Woman found hanging in house the family members, police Family alleges



nidentified miscreants on Thursday set fire to Phulbani BJP MLA Umma Charan Malik's vehicle and a couple of two-wheelers in the premises of the Circuit House in Phulbani. The MLA's vehicle was damaged in the arson.

To make matters worse, the CCTV cameras installed in the Circuit House premises were defunct. The miscreants took advantage of it and dared to commit the arson in the highprofile area.

A complaint in this connection has been lodged at the The BJD is witnessing an unsettling fragmentation of its political landscape in several regions such as Paradip, Jatni in Khordha, Simulia in who have defected from the

Baleswar, and Korei in Jajpur. BJD. During the BJD foundation

The defections have intenday fest on Thursday, the insified internal divisions, parternal rifts in the party came ticularly apparent during the BJD's foundation day celebra-Korei which was once the tions in Jatni. There was a nostronghold of the BJD looks ticeable absence of BJD memto be crumbling. BJP's outbers at the event, with allegareach initiatives have reporttions of certain leaders not edly attracted over 300 leadbeing invited. However, ers, including sarpanches, Khordha district BJD presisamiti members, and more dent and Jatni MLA Bibhuti than 100 grassroots workers, Bhushan Balabantaray, at-

tributed it to adverse weather conditions and other reasons.

Paradip faces similar challenges, with separate and simultaneous programmes held by different factions, indicating deep internal schisms. In the bustling port town, a significant political event unfolded as supporters of local leaders, Bapi Sarkhel and Sambit Rautray, gathered to inaugurate a new party

iconic Biju statue in Atharbanki, where BJD local unit president Basant Biswal led another gathering.

Things were no different at Simulia as different factions celebrated the foundation day independently, signalling a lack of cohesive unity after MLA candidate Subhasini Sahu attended separate events at Simulia and Khaira while president district Panigrahi Jyotiprakash organised a foundation day event at another place with supporters.

detained PNS BHUBANESWAR

> ${
> m A}$  woman was found hanging under suspicious circumstances in her residence in the Patia area under the Infocity police station in Bhubaneswar on Fridav.

The deceased was identified as Tapaswini Mishra.

Tapaswini was found hanging in her residence, prompting her family members to allege foul play and accuse her husband of being responsible for her death.

death. The Infocity police are actively pursuing inquiries into all possible angles of the case. An officer involved with the investigation told reporters, "We are looking into every possible angle and will ensure a thorough investigation."

Acting on a complaint by

## **IIT-BBS's convocation fest today** DAV CSpur alumni assn holds meet

#### BHUBANESWAR PNS

L he Alumni Association of DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar (DAVAA) organised its 29th annual meet, MILAAP - 2024 in the school premises recently.

Chairperson of the association and Principal of the school Dr Sujata Sahu joined as the chief guest and lauded the endeavours of the former students who are either wellplaced or pursuing their studies at premier institutes. Dr Sahu termed them as precious assets and iterated that the alumni play a pivotal role in overall growth of the institution.



The former students exchanged pleasantries and shared their school days with nostalgia. The association decided to honour the budding athletes from both the cam-

puses, felicitate the teachers who completed 25 years of continuous services or were superannuated from the school, organise socially useful activities, enrich the

alumni fund and facelift the newsletter Alumzine. Among others, association president Prateek Sinha, vice president Anita Dash, secretary Preetam Raj Swain,

treasurer Dipti Shukla and office bearers of the School Cabinet coordinated the event. The meet also witnessed quizzing and cultural programmes.

Degrees for 1,388 students for two academic years PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar is all set to celebrate its 12th and 13th Combined Convocation on December 28.

Addressing a Press conference, institute Director Prof Shreepad Karmalkar said Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan will grace the occasion as the chief guest and will deliver the convocation address. Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secre-



tary, Department of Atomic Energy, Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty and Union Secretary, Science and Technology Department Prof Abhay Karandikar will be the guests of honour.

Chairman, Board of Governors (BoG), IIT Bhubaneswar Dr Rajendra Prasad Singh will preside over the function.

Prof Karmalkar will present the Convocation report and award the degrees to the students. During the event, the institute will confer degrees on 1,388 students for the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24. Out of these students, 8% are PhD, 19% MTech, 14% MSc, 14% Dual degree (B Tech and M Tech) and 45% B Tech.

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## Man trampled by elephant to death in S'pur

#### NIMAI CHARAN SAHU SAMBALPUR

 ${
m A}$  55-year-old man died following an attack by a tusker in Badakuda village under the Badbahal Forest Range in the district around 11 am on Friday.

The deceased, identified as Bipin Behera, had gone to his farmland near the village for the grazing of goats.

Following the incident, locals and the victim's family gathered at the site and agitated against the forest staffs. The Forest Department

In Ganjam

negligence has been cited as a major concern. Villagers allege that officials and guards often leave the range during evenings, failing to monitor elephant movements. "The department has ignored our safety despite repeated complaints about

the increasing elephant activity," said Kartik Behera, a villager. Badbahal Range Officer

Prajnya Paramita Deep said, "The incident was very unfortunate. The allegations they are making are false; my staffs have been doing their

duty 24/7. It was a single elephant coming from the Athmallik forest. The incident happened in a fraction of a second as the elephant started walking at a speed. As per my information, the deceased had hearing issues."

She added, "We have promised the family the government compensation of Rs 6 lakh after the official process of the postmortem report and investigation. Also, an immediate compensation of Rs 10,000 from the Red Cross fund will be sanctioned soon.

## **In Brahmapur** Electric vehicle showroom gutted in mishap brigade helped in containing

 ${
m A}$  major fire broke out at an electric vehicle showroom near Reddy Garage Square in Berhampur on Friday, causing significant damages to the two-storied building and the vehicles housed within.

The blaze, which was suspected to have been caused by an electrical short circuit, erupted suddenly, engulfing the premises in flames. Many vehicles, including both twowheelers and four-wheelers, were severely damaged in the mishap. Firefighters were

The AIOCD which repre-

sents all chemists and dis-

tributors of the States across

India has written a letter to

the Secretary, Union Ministry

of Health and Family Welfare

for the third time appealing to

revoke the notification pub-

lished in March 2020, on the

pretext that it was being

only under circumstances

wherein the movement of

public was restricted due to

the Covid pandemic threat.

Moreover, supply of medi-

The notification was issued

grossly misused.



promptly dispatched to the scene to extinguish the fire and ensure the safety of the area. The quick response by the fire

late the manufacture, sale and

distribution of medicines. Un-

der the above rule, the door-

step delivery of medicines was

allowed and the requirement

to stamp the prescription

for the sale of medicines un-

der Rule-65 was temporarily

set aside only under special

circumstances, said the

president of GPCDA Bishnu

Prasad Panda and secretary

P Satyanarayana in a joint

Press release here on Mon-

the blaze and preventing further damages.

As per the latest report, effort was underway to extinguish the fire fully. It was getting difficult to douse the fire completely due to the heavy smoke emanating from the building.

Investigations were ongoing to ascertain the exact cause of the fire. Local authorities have urged nearby businesses to review their fire safety measures to prevent fire mishaps. Fortunately, no casualties were reported in this incident.

immediately withdraw the

notification in public interest.

Similarly, AIOCD president JS

Shinde and general secretary

Rajiv Singhal also said that the

main purpose of the notification was to deliver medicines

at the door steps only in emergency situations through lo-

cal chemists which is being

misused by Swiggy and sev-

eral such digital platforms to

deliver medicines at home

without following necessary

## ASI found hanging from tree in N'rangpur

PNS NABARANGPUR

 ${
m A}$ n Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police was found hanging from a tree near the Raisingh Jodi canal at Mangaradora area under the Tentulikhunti police station in Nabarangpur district on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Renu Prasad Pradhan of the Tentulikhunti police station.

Pradhan was last seen on duty on September 23, when he set out for Nabarangpur but did not return. He was nearing the end of his career with his superannuation only two months away.

Authorities have yet to ascertain the circumstances surrounding his death. Police officials have launched an investigation into the incident.

**capital 03** 

'ASI Pradhan had last talked with his wife at around 9.30 am on Monday. Then, his mobile phone was switched off. Subsequently, his body was found hanging from a tree in a forest. From the preliminary probe, it is suspected that Pradhan might have committed suicide. However, it could only be ascertained following a postmortem and a thorough probe into the incident," said Nabarangpur SDPO Krushnachandra Bhatara.

## In Baleswar Rs 3L looted and spent in playing PUBG



### 3 held; Rs 2.5 PNS BALESWAR

ered a unique case where the perpetrators used money stolen from a medical shop to fund their online gaming activities, especially through

The incident came to light after a theft from a medical store owned by one Siddhartha Sarathi Das in Nialibag area under the Sahadevkhunta police on De-

The thieves reportedly accessed the premises by breaking through the skylight to decamp with Rs 3 lakh.



Legal Services Authority to pay Rs 5 lakh as compensation to the victim.

According to the informa-

#### Couple held over series of temple thefts Druggists' assn writes to Union Health Ministry for 3rd time PNS BRAHMAPUR The Ganjam and Phulbani Chemists' and Druggists' Association (GPCDA) has threatened to intensify its agi-

#### Cash, jewellery seized PNS BRAHMAPUR

 ${
m A}$  couple was by arrested by police in Ganjam district for allegedly stealing cash from donation boxes and other valuables of temples.

As per reports, the couple, who was on a scooty, was intercepted at Keshpur Square along National Highway-16 during a routine vehicle check by the Khallikote police.

As per sources, the accused, identified as residents of Rambha, had been masquerading as devotees but with a motive to commit the thefts. Following their arrest, the couple confessed to their involvement in the thefts.

Police seized Rs 30.000 in

Rambha areas.

added

DA case: Vig arrests Koraput ARI 17 plots, Rs 84L bank deposits detected



cash, gold ornaments, two silver chains and one of the stolen donation boxes from their possession. They admitted targeting temples in the Khallikote, Keshpur and

"Following regular thefts at temples in the Khallikote area, we carried out an investigation and got a CCTV video footage in the process. We found a couple riding a scooty from the footage. We became suspicious of them and intensified our investigation. After they were detained and interrogated, they confessed their crime," said Chhatrapur SDPO Gourahari Sahu.

"The couple has admitted to thefts at three temples in the Khallikote area and one temple in Rambha area," he

#### ting pharma companies/medicines was allowed on condithreat to public health in withdrawal of the government cine shops to deliver medicines mind, the AIOCD urged upon tions laid down under section notification required to mainat the doorsteps of the con-26-B of the Drugs Act to reguthe Central Government to tain public health and safety. sumers

BJP to spread Vajpayee's ideals across State: Samal PNS BRAHMAPUR

tation with 12.40 lakh mem-

bers if the government does

not revoke a notification, GSR

220 (E), issued during the

Covid-19 pandemic permit-

Marking the 100th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a grand statue of the statesman was unveiled at Ramalingeswar Park in Brahmapur on Sunday. The unveiling ceremony was led by BJP State president Manmohan Samal, who lauded Vajpayee's visionary leadership in promoting peace and harmony globally.

Speaking on the occasion, mal said that Vajpayee's



Atal statue unveiled in Brahmapur

day

Withdraw notification for online delivery of drugs

progress, urging everyone to draw inspiration from his life. Brahmapur MLA K Anil Kumar presided over the event, which also saw the pres-Deputy

Notable attendees included State spokesperson T Gopi, former MLA Siba Sahani, State executive member Babita Patra, and prominent BJP leaders Saroj Sabat, Bishnu Subudhi, Ashok Shukla, Pradeep Nayak, and Gauri Samantaray. The event

ence of Chhatrapur MLA Krishna Nayak, Chikiti MLA Manoranjan Dyansamantaray, former Speaker Ramachandra Panda, and sev-

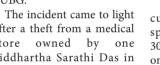
eral senior BJP leaders.

Phulbani Special Judge POCSO Court Rajesh Dash on Thursday, after hearing a

PUBG. governance, unity, and

regulatory safety measures. Keeping the misuse of ille-Now, the AIOCD, UCDA, gal online platforms and and GPCDA demanded for

cember 18.





in other activities. someone and lost Rs 30,000 in the online game PUBG.

#### lakh recovered investigation, they appre-Police on Thursday uncovhended two individuals linked

to the crime. Upon their arrest, als.

the cops recovered several items, including Rs 2,63,700 in cash, four mobile phones, a motorcycle and other materi-During questioning, the accused admitted to having

spent approximately Rs 30,000 of the stolen money on

online gaming and indulging

Baleswar SP Raj Prasad said, "The accused had deposited Rs 2,58,000 in a Canara Bank account, lent Rs 5,000 to

day arrested Surendra Kumar Tanti, an Assistant Revenue Inspector (ARI) posted at Borigumma Tehsil of Koraput district, after detecting massive assets amassed allegedly beyond his known income sources.

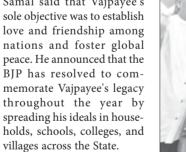
The arrest came a day after the Vigilance officials conducted simultaneous raids on the properties of Tanti at several places in Borigumma.

The Vigilance officials de-



tected three double-storied houses in Borigumma. They also detected 17 plots, bank deposits amounting to Rs 84 lakh and various luxury items in the names of Tanti and his family members.

Further enquiries disclosed the possession of 150 grams of gold, cash totalling Rs 1.5 lakh and three four-wheelers.



Brahmapur MP Dr Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy emphasized the significance of realizing Vajpayee's dreams of good

also saw participation from BJP mayoral candidate Sabita Souar and several other senior leaders and party activists.

Despite continuous rain, a large number of Brahmapur residents gathered to witness the ceremony. The swift and meticulous installation of the statue drew widespread praise, with MLA Anil Kumar receiving accolades from various sections of the public for his efforts.

minor girl rape case, on the basis of the statements of 12 witnesses and the medical report of the victim, convicted the accused Mahasek Mutha Majhi and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of Rs 45,000.

The fine is non-refundable and he shall have to undergo an additional 11 months in jail, the judge said in his verdict.

tion, a complaint had been filed at the Kotgarh police station in Kandhamal district on 8/5/2018 by the victim's family. According to the complaint, the Kotgarh police registered a case and arrested Mahasek Mutha Majhi, who was tried in the court.

The judge pronounced the verdict after hearing the case, which was handled by the government's Special Public Prosecutor Asim Praharaj.

## Inter Xavier's Talent Competition held in B'pur

#### Students from Odisha, other States participate RAJEEV RATHAN BRAHMAPUR

The Inter Xavier's Talent Competition, held for three days at the St Xavier's High School campus in Brahmapur concluded with the school's annual celebration on Tuesday. The final day saw participation from students of Xavier's Schools across Odisha, including Ganjam, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

Various competitions were held, with distinguished judges such as Sabana Das, Smriti Panda, Abha Panigrahi, Ashok Brahma, Karisma Khan, Yamini Kant Das, Dr Bandita Panda and Professor Agni Behera, playing key roles.

On the second day of the event, prominent guests included Minister Nityananda Gond, BeMC Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, Xavier's Director Dr PC Mohanty, CEO Mukesh Saraf, Secretary Priyambada Das and School Principal Professor KC Panda.

On the third and final day, the chief guest was DIG of South Odisha, Dr Sarthak Sarangi. Honourable guests included Ollywood Superstar Shubhasish Sharma, singer Anuradha Panigrahi, Sahitya

Akademi awardee Susmita Das and international trainer B Ramesh Pattnaik, among others

The event began with a welcome speech by school director Dr Gauri Shankar Panda, followed by an introduction to the event by chairman and event coordinator Dr GS Pattnaik. Master of Ceremonies Kunal Kaushik Panda provided insights into the event's objectives.

All faculty members, staff and students contributed to the success of the event. Cultural programmes followed.

SUGYAN CHOUDHURY BHUBANESWAR

A NAAC Peer Team visited Bengaluru.

The three-member team former Professor, Mahatma the Chairperson and also comprised Nangomaithem Rokendra Singh as Member Coordinator and Dr Subash Bhadange, former Principal, Sri Shivaji

Science, Akila, Maharashtra. scanner by the team in the seven-criterion matrixes like Technical Learning & Evaluation, Research, Innovation and Extension, Infrastructure

dent support and progression, grievances leadership and

## NAAC Peer Team visits Govindpur College remedial measures for im-

the Govindpur College, Govindpur, Cuttack, last week for the 1st Cycle Accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council,

> was led by Prof K Sabukuttan, Gandhi University, Kerala as Prof College of Arts, Commerce &

> The college was put under and learning resource, stu-

warm ovation by Principal Kailash Chandra Das, Chairman of PG Council Dr Gagan Beura along with IQAC Coordinator Subhankar Mohanty and members Dr Ratnakar Ray, Dr Pradipta Ku Panda, former Secretary of GB Kalandi Chandra Paikaray and former president of GB

values and best practices.

management and institutional Dijabar Sathua. The team undertook a mi-

The team was accorded a croscopic and a macroscopic verification of the college beginning with Administrative Departments, Accounts, Admission, Results, Examination System, Library and Reading Room facilities, provisions for students amenities, sports facilities, social extension services and outreach programmes both by the

teachers and students, availability of free wi-fi in the campus, adoptability of new technologies, innovation and incubation centres.

They interacted directly with all stakeholders like HODs of all teaching and non-teaching departments, conducted several meetings with the present students, meeting with parents and guardians, discussions with

alumni of the college. Besides, Prof Dr Rudra Narayan Mohapatra, HOD, PG Department of Odia, Utkal University and Dr. Pareswar Sahu of Utkal University along with GB members also joined the NAAC team and took part in the discussion at the luncheon meeting.

The members of team expressed their satisfaction in many fronts while suggesting provement in certain other sectors. The team was highly impressed by the cultural extravaganza performed by the students of the college.

In their second day inspection, the NAAC members examined the extension and the outreach programme by directly interacting with residents of a nearby Tardapada village and were apprised of the constructive endeavours of the NSS unit of the college that rendered a yeoman's job starting from the Covid pandemic times till date and were overwhelmed.

The team submitted their final report after which a farewell meeting was held by the college authorities on the concluding day. A wave of joyous enthusiasm pervaded the college as the team announced the accreditation of the first cycle of NAAC. The Principal of the college extended a vote of thanks to the team on behalf of all stakeholders.





## PM Modi leads nation in paying tribute to Manmohan Singh

relinquished charge as prime

Several leaders paid their last

respects to the former prime

minister in the presence of his

the future generations on how

someone can rise above depri-

vation and struggles to attain

ious capacities in the govern-

ment, the prime minister said

the heights of success. Noting that he served in var-

minister.

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the top dignitaries who paid homage to former prime minister Manmohan Singh at his residence here on Friday.

Several leaders cutting across party lines, including Union ministers and Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, also paid their tributes to the former two-term prime minister who died on Thursday night.

President Murmu and Vice President Dhankhar visited the residence of Singh and paid their last respects to him and met his wife and other family members.

Prime Minister Modi, who also laid a wreath, described his predecessor's death as a big loss to the nation, asserting that his commitment to the people and for the country's development would always be respected.

In a video message, Modi recalled Singh's life journey after his family migrated to India following Partition and noted that he left everything behind but his numerous achievements since then were no mean feat.

Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms and a consensus builder in the rough world of politics, died at AIIMS, Delhi, late on minister. Draped in the Tricolour, Singh put the country on a Thursday. He was 92. He is



survived by his wife and three daughters.

The Union cabinet at its meeting held under Prime Minister Modi also condoled Singh's passing and hailed him as an eminent statesman and a distinguished leader who left an imprint on national life.

During a meeting chaired by Modi, the cabinet observed a two-minute silence in honour of the departed soul and adopted a Condolence Resolution in the memory of Singh. "Dr Manmohan Singh has left his imprint on our national life. In his passing away, the Nation has lost an eminent statesman, renowned economist and a distinguished leader," the resolution read. The government has announced a seven-day State mourning as a mark of respect to the former prime

will always be remembered," he added. Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, and BJP president J P Nadda also paid their tributes to Singh Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Andhra Pradesh

Rao.

new economic path as finance

minister in the government headed by P V Narasimha

"As prime minister, his con-

tribution to the country's

development and progress

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also his 3, Motilal Nehru Road, came to Delhi to pay their last residence that served as his respects to the former prime retirement abode for the last minister. over 10 years ever since he

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Akhilesh Yadav also paid their last respects to Singh.

Born to Gurmukh Singh and wife Gursharan Kaur and Amrit Kaur on September 26, 1932 in Gah village of the Punjab province of undivided India (now Pakistan), Singh passed his matriculation examination in 1948. His family migrated to Amritsar after Partition in 1948 after living shortly in always serve as a lesson for Haldwani.

Singh completed his inter-mediate and graduation in economics from the Hindu College here before moving out of the city to pursue higher studies in Panjab University's Hoshiarpur camHis academic career took him PIONEER NEWS SERVICE from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he NEW DELHI

earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics. Singh followed this with a DPhil in Economics from Nuffield College of Oxford University. Singh's half-brother Surjit Singh Kohli said the former prime minister had deep affection for his grandmother, who raised him following his mother's death when he was very young.

After migrating to India, the Singh family settled in a small rented house in Amritsar till he graduated.

His passing also witnessed people from various fields sharing their anecdotes about him. The social media was flooded with pictures that people posted along with the former prime minister and shared their memories with fondness and nostalgia.

Uttar Pradesh minister Asim Arun, who served as Singh's close protection officer for nearly three years during his tenure as a Special Protection Group (SPG) officer, shared his experiences and insights into Singh's personality, emphasising his simple lifestyle and connection with the common man.

One anecdote Arun shared reflected Singh's simplicity -- his attachment to his personal car, a modest Maruti Suzuki 800. Despite having a fleet of high-security vehicles, including a luxurious BMW for official travel, Singh would often express his preference for the modest car.

## Foreign envoys remember former PM

and vision," the US envoy said

The civil nuclear deal signed

during Singh's prime minis-

tership changed India's overall

engagement with the US as it

paved the way for building the

bonds of a strategic partner-

ship, especially in areas of

high-technology and defence.

Expressing condolences in a

post, Chinese envoy Xu Feihong said, "Deeply sad-dened by the passing of former Indian Prime Minister Dr

Manmohan Singh, an out-

standing leader who is widely

revered by the Indian people.

Heartfelt condolences to his

Many embassies in India also

put out posts on social media

along with photographs while

'Deepest condolences to the

family and friends of former

Prime Minister of India, Dr

ManmohanSingh. A states-

man admired worldwide, he

leaves behind a legacy of com-

passion and progress. His lead-

ership bolstered India's global

standing and strengthened

bonds with France," the French

The Embassy of Iran said Singh

played a key role in fostering

historic ties between the two

countries. "The Embassy of

Iran in Delhi extends its heart-

felt condolences to the gov-

ernment and people of India

on the demise of Dr Manmohan Singh. He was a

highly respected leader, who

played key role in fostering

Iran-India historic ties," it said

in a social media post.

Embassy posted.

family and loved ones."

remembering Singh.

in a social media post.

 $E_{\rm including}$  Russia, China and the US, on Friday expressed condolences over the passing away of Manmohan Singh, describing the former prime minister as an "outstanding leader" and hailing his commitment to the progress of India.

In a social media post, the French Embassy in India said his leadership "bolstered India's global standing and strengthened bonds with France".

"It is a moment of poignant sorrow and grief for India and for Russia. Dr Manmohan Singh's contribution to our bilateral ties was immeasurable. His suave demeanour was always endearing as unquestionable was his expertise as an economist and his commitment to the progress of India," Russian envoy to India, Denis Alipov, said in a social media post. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Dr Manmohan Singh ji and the Indian people," he added.

US ambassador Eric Garcetti remembered Singh as a leader who set in motion a historic chapter in US-India relations". "Remembering the selfless con-tributions of our dear friend and former prime minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, who set in motion an historic chapter in US-India relations. His dedication to India's growth and prosperity continues to inspire us. Grateful for his leadership

### **RSS** condoles former Prime Minister's passing

nation 04

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh(RSS)chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Friday condoled the passing of former prime minister Manmohan Singh, saying his contributions to Bharat will always be remembered.

'The entire nation is extremely saddened by the demise of former prime minister of Bharat and senior leader of the country Dr Sardar Manmohan Singh. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh expresses its deepest condolences to his family and countless loved ones and admirers," they said in a joint statement.

Singh, despite coming from a humble background, adorned the highest post in the country, the statement said. "Renowned economist Dr Singh's contributions to Bharat will always be remembered and cherished. We pray the almighty to grant sadgati' to the departed soul," they said in the statement.

RSŚ joint general secretary Alok Kumar later paid floral tribute to the mortal remains of Singh at his residence on 3, Motilal Nehru Road, the sprawling bungalow in Lutyens' Delhi that served as his retirement abode for over 10 years.

Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, passed away on Thursday night at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). He was 92

## Celebrities remember Manomahan as 'visionary' and 'great financial reformer, statesman'

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $S^{\rm everal\ celebrities\ on\ Friday}_{\rm condoled\ the\ death\ of\ for-}$ mer Prime Minister Manmohan Singh remembering him as a "visionary" and a "great financial reformer and statesman." Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Sunny Deol, Chiranjeevi, Manoj Bajpayee and other film stars were among the

celebrities who paid their tributes to the former prime minister who died here on Thursday at the age of 92. In a social media post, actor-

politician Haasan said the nation has lost "one of its finest sons". "India has lost

statesmen and scholars. The Chiranjeevi said he is passing of Dr. Manmohan anguished by the passing away of Singh, who was a "highly educated, most graceful, soft spoken and humble leader". "His visionary and game changing contributions as the finance minister and then his highly successful tenure as the 13th Prime Minister of India for two successive terms will remain etched in history," he said. The actor said he was privileged and fortunate to have served as member of parliament and minister of state for tourism during Singh's second tenure as the Prime Minister. "I fondly cherish my interac-

2024, India became the top

sender of international stu

dents for the first time since

the 2008/2009 academic year

with more than 331,000 stu-

dents overall studying in the

now be able to remain in the

United States and not need to

return home for two years

after completing their pro-

grammes in the US, offering

them more opportunities to further their careers and edu-

The removal of India from

the Exchange Visitors Skills

List has provided greater flex-

ibility for these Indian J-1

nonimmigrant visa holders," it

The US mission said it

remains dedicated to fostering

strong bilateral relations and

providing exceptional con-

"These achievements over the

past year are a testament to the

hard work and dedication of

the Mission's staff and the

enduring partnership between

the United States and India,"

cation," the embassy said.

US," it said.

ear.

said.

it said.

sular services.

tions with him and the inspiration and wisdom I got from him forever. It is a tremendous loss to our country. My deepest condolences to his family and each of his numer-

ous admirers," he added. Sunny Deol also hailed Singh for playing a pivotal role in shaping India's economic liberalisation. "His wisdom, integrity & contributions to the nation's growth will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences. #RIPDrManmohanSingh," he said in a social media post. Bajpayee said, "Saddened by the passing of our former Prime Minister. A statesman whose contributions in every aspect of our nation's growth

will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

#RIPDrManmohanSingh." Anil Kapoor recalled that he once met the former PM who left "an indelible impression" on the actor. "He was a man of unparalleled humility and wisdom. His extraordinary contributions will forever be remembered. May his soul rest in peace," he said.

Diljit Dosanjh shared a photo of Singh on his Instagram Stories and captioned it, "Oh Waheguru". Anushka Sharma wrote on Instagram Stories, "Rest in peace Dr Manmohan Singh ji.

"His leadership and dedication to the nation will always be remembered. Rest in peace

Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who played the role of the former Prime Minister in the 2019 film "The Accidental Prime Minister" based on the memoir of Singh's former media advisor Šanjay Baru, said he is deeply saddened by his demise.

"Having studied him for more than a year for the 0 v #TheAccidentalPrimeMiniste r, it felt that I actually spent that much time with him. He was inherently a good man. Sharing a photo of Singh on Instagram, Allu Arjun said, great economist and a very

humble person. Some can say may be not an astute politician! My heartfelt condolences to his family," he said in a social media post.

Kajol said, "Tributes to Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji, a distinguished leader who served India with dedication & wisdom. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations.'

Sanjay Dutt posted, "Deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji. His contributions to India will never be forgotten."

Riteish Deshmukh called Singh one of India's "finest Prime Ministers". "The man who propelled India's economic growth. He epitomised

dignity and humility. We will forever be indebted to his legacy. May his soul rest in eternal glory. Thank you Shri Manmohan Singh ji," he said. Filmmakers Zoya Akhtar, Imtiaz Ali, actors Arjun Kapoor, Bhumi Pednekar, Vijay Varma, Ali Fazal, Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Shefali Shah, Ayushmann Khurrana, Randeep Hooda, Parineeti Chopra, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja also

condoled Singh's death. The team behind superstar Salman Khan's upcoming "Sikandar" has postponed the release of film's teaser till Saturday in the wake of Singh's death.

SC expresses concern over condition of farmer leader Dallewal

## Issued more than one million nonimmigrant

Singh marks the end of an era in Indian polity. A man of quiet dignity, he reshaped the nation through his visionary economic and social policies.

"Few have influenced the nation's trajectory with such far-reaching impact. His policies, both as Finance Minister and Prime Minister, empowered millions, strengthening the fabric of Indian democracy and uplifting the most vulnerable," Haasan posted. Rajinikanth was asked about Singh's demise at the Chennai airport and he said, "He was a great human being. Great financial reformer and states-

one of its most eminent

other family members. Singh would be cremated on Saturday and his final journey will commence from the AICC headquarters at 9.30 am on Saturday, Congress general secretary K C Venugopal said. Modi said Singh's life would

### visas for second year in row: US mission in India

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The US mission in India on Friday said it issued more than one million nonimmigrant visas for the second year in a row, including a record number of visitor visas, underscoring the huge demand of Indians for travel to the US.

Washington is also working to formally establish a US-based to renew H-1B visas in that country in 2025 that is expected to benefit a significant number of Indians.

In the past four years, visitor numbers from India have increased by five times, and more than two million Indians travelled to the US in the first 11 months of 2024, a 26 per cent increase over the same period in 2023, it said.

Over five million Indians already have a nonimmigrant visa to visit the US and each day the mission issues thousands more, the embassy said. "The US mission to India issued more than one million nonimmigrant visas for the second year in a row, including a record number of visitor visas, underscoring the huge demand of Indians for travel to the United States for tourism, business, and education," it said in a readout.

The embassy noted that the State Department completed a successful pilot programme to renew H-1B visas in the US States this year. This allowed many specialty occupation workers from India to renew their visas without leaving the

US. "This pilot program streamlined the renewal process for thousands of applicants, and the Department of State is working to formally establish a US-based renewal program in 2025," it said.

The US mission to India issued tens of thousands of



immigrant visas, facilitating legal family reunification and the migration of skilled professionals, according to the readout.

These immigrant visa holders became permanent residents upon their arrival, adding to the already rich and sizable Indian diaspora community in the US, it said.

The US mission to India also provided more than 24,000 passports and other consular services to American citizens living and travelling in India, it noted

A new version of the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) debuted in 2024, making it easier for the embassy and consulates to contact American citizens during emergencies and send them safety and security alerts, the embassy added.

It said increase in processing of thousands of interview waiver-eligible nonimmigrant visa applications each week made it quicker and easier than ever for Indians to renew their nonimmigrant visas.

"By streamlining operations and utilizing global consular resources, the US mission has been able to redirect its own resources to focus on in-person interviews, reducing wait times for all applicants," it said. The mission also provided details about visas issued to Indian students. "More Indian students than ever before now

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed concern over the condition of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on an indefinite hunger strike, and directed the Punjab Government to ensure he was given medical assistance. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Sudhanshu Dhulia issued a notice to the Punjab government on a contempt petition against its chief secretary and the director general of police (DGP) for noncompliance of an order directing medical aid to Dallewal. "If there is a law and order situation, you have to deal with it with iron hands. Somebody's life is at stake. You need to take

it seriously. Medical aid has to be given and the impression is that you are not following it," the bench said. The top court directed the State Government to file a compliance report by December 28, when it would again hear the matter and ordered the Punjab chief secretary and the DGP to virtually remain present during the hearing.

During the hearing, Punjab Advocate General (AG) Gurminder Singh submitted a delegation of eight cabinet ministers along with the Punjab DGP visited the protest site to convince Dallewal to move to a hospital but the farmers resisted it. "We have provided everything on site. If there is physical jostling, we cannot take that risk," he added.

The bench however responded, We have serious doubts about those farmers, those who are not conscious and aware and concerned about his life." The AG said the State Government was "very earnestly" following up on the issue. When the bench wondered if the Centre could offer assistance to the

State Government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said its interference might lead to complications. "Few people cannot keep him (Dallewal) hostage. One man's life is in danger. The State Government can take measures," said Mehta.

The Punjab AG informed the bench when the Ministers' delegation went to meet Dallewal on December 24, he gave a letter addressed to the Prime Minister. "He says, if some dialogue is opened up, only then he is willing to cooperate with medical assistance," Singh said. Mehta said Dallewal's admission in a hospital should be the top priority. Dallewal has been on an indefinite fast at the Khanauri border since November 26 to press the Centre to accept the farmers

demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops. On December 20, the top court

left it to the Punjab government officials and doctors to decide on the hospitalisation of Dallewal. The court had said 70-year-old Dallewal could be moved to the makeshift hospital setup within 700 metre of the protest site at Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana.

The bench on December 19 referred to civil rights activist Irom Sharmila continuing her protest for more than a decade under medical supervision and asked the Punjab government to convince Dallewal for a health examination. It had pulled up the state for not running medical tests on Dallewal.

#### It further added that India also Gurugram cyber police arrests two remained the largest sender of international graduate students in the US for the second criminals cheating in name of loan recovery Índian graduate student numbers increased by 19 per cent

#### STAFF REPORTER to reach almost 200,000 students, according to the details GURUGRAM "Many exchange visitors will

The Gurugram cyber police arrested two cyber criminals who allegedly used to cheat people in the name of recovering loans taken through a Chinese app by threatening and morphing their photos.

Four mobile phones with SIM cards were recovered from his possession, police said on Friday.

According to the police, they have been identified as Kapil of Charkhi Dadri and Himanshu of Hisar.

The team of Cybercrime East police station arrested the accused, Kapil, from U-Block DLF Phase-2, Gurugram and Himanshu from Rajiv Nagar Sector-13, Gurugram, on Thursday.

The police team took further action against the accused and registered a case under



Cyber Crime East Police Station.

During police interrogation, it was found that Himanshu used to get data and photos of loan takers from a Chinese person for recovery of loans taken through 'The Flaxy Loan Company App'.

"Himanshu used to provide that data and photos to his companion Kapil. Kapil used to commit the crime of fraud by morphing those photos and making them obscene and pressurizing people for

loan recovery," Priyanshu Diwan, ACP (cybercrime), said.

Himanshu used to do loan recovery work in the name of applications like Cash Fish Plus, Bajaj Broking, Cash Me, My Cash in Cash, Flexi Loan, Rich Cash Pro, U-loan, Flash Wallet, HD Loan Bazaar, Family Loan, Pokket Me, kredit Bee, Fair money, Finshell pay, HD Loan Bazaar, Money View etc.

Similarly, the Gurugram cyber police had also arrested a cyber fraudster in the privious month, who allegedy used to cheat people in the name of recovering loans taken through Chinese loan apps by threatening them

During police inquiry, it was revealed that the accused used to get the names and mobile numbers of people through the Telegram app to recover the loan taken from Chinese apps

### England link emerges in Khalistan terror case: Police detain two aides in Pilibhit encounter

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE PILIBHIT

Achilling international Aconnection has surfaced in the case of three Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) terrorists who were killed in a police encounter in Pilibhit. Local police investigations revealed that a call from England played a crucial role in arranging the terrorists' stay in Puranpur, where they were hosted with the help of local accomplices.

The incident has led to the detention of two individuals-Jaspal Sunny, a resident of Gajraula Japati village, and his associate Deepak-whose involvement came to light through CCTV footage obtained from Harji Hotel, where the terrorists were lodged. The police have also registered cases against the

two aides and the three deceased terrorists for using fake Aadhar cards to secure accommodations.

According to police sources, Jaspal received a call from England on Friday evening from a man named Sidhu, believed to be his friend. Sidhu instructed Jaspal to assist three individuals arriving in Puranpur. Acting on this request, Jaspal, accompanied by Deepak, traveled to Puranpur, where they met the three terrorists and took them to a dhaba for dinner before arranging their stay at

Harji Hotel. The terrorists were checked into Room 105 of the hotel using fake Aadhar cards, allegedly sent from England by Sidhu. The police have since sealed the room and initiated a detailed investigation into the case.



## nation 05

## **56 Cyber warriors to digitally** safeguard devotees at Mahakumbh

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE MAHAKUMBHNAGAR

The Yogi Adityanath government has implemented comprehensive cyber security measures to protect devotees attending the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. To ensure the digi-tal safety of an estimated 45 crore attendees, including international visitors, a team of 56 specially trained cyber warriors has been deployed. Superintendent of Police

(SSP) Rajesh Dwivedi, under the Chief Minister's directives, is overseeing the "Digital Mahakumbh" initiative, which aims to tackle cybercrime through a detailed action plan. Special cyber help desks are being established in all 56 police stations across Mahakumbhnagar. These help desks will be staffed by experts conducting round-the-clock cyber patrolling to prevent fraud and ensure a secure environment.

Awareness campaigns are being launched to educate devotees about potential



are advised to rely on gov-

to local police.

cyber threats. Films explaining cybersecurity measures will be displayed on 40 Variable Messaging Displays (VMDs) strategically installed across the fairgrounds and commissionerates. Social media platforms like

Facebook, X, and Instagram, along with advanced AI tools, are being leveraged to disseminate information and alerts, ensuring devotees remain vigilant against cybercriminals.

A dedicated cyber police station has been set up to measures, the state's cyber address threats from fake team has identified around 50

suspicious websites, and action against these is already underway. Mobile cyber teams have also been deployed to raise awareness among devotees and address online threats on a real-time basis. SSP Rajesh Dwivedi emphasized that the integration of technology with security will

ensure a safe experience for all attendees. He added that the government's efforts, including setting up cyber help desks, screening infor-mational films, and taking websites, fraudulent links, and other cyber scams. strict action against cyber-Devotees can report suspicriminals, are aimed at makcious activities, and prompt ing this Mahakumbh a seamaction will be taken. The govless and secure event for ernment has also introduced devotees

This year's Mahakumbh is not a helpline number, 1920, for inquiries and support related only envisioned as a grand spiritual gathering but also a high-tech event, where tradito the Mahakumbh. Attendees ernment websites with the tion and modernity come together. With these measures, gov.in" domain for authentic information, while any the Yogi government has set a benchmark for ensuring digifake websites can be reported tal safety in large-scale religious gatherings, making this Mahakumbh a model for As part of its pre-emptive future events.

## Didi wants to remove Suvendu thorn before polls, says BJP leader Arjun

#### SAUGAR SENGUPTA 📕 KOLKATA

Senior Bengal BJP leader and former Barrackpore MP Arjun Singh has refused to budge from his stated position accusing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of harbouring fundamentalist elements in the State for pursuing her vote bank politics. Singh who was on Friday

summoned by the State Police but evade appearance at the Jagaddal Police Station in North 24 Parganas reiterated his stance on Friday saying he had only expressed his views regarding the threat perception on State Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari accusing the Chief Minister of allowing fundamentalist elements to carve out dens in the State.

Singh had earlier said that "Mamata Banerjee has joined hands with the jihadi elements in order to get rid of her political opponents ... she wants to eliminate Suvendu Adhikari before the 2026 Assembly elections ... because she knows that once she can do that her road to victory will be clear."



ple of Bengal have always

responded against such

actions ... Let the subversive

activists do their job, and I

will do mine... and if there is

an attack then the people will

give a reply," he said. Referring to the recent arrests

of terror moles from Murshidabad and South 24

Parganas --- by the Assam

and Jammu and Kashmir

Police --- and subsequent

revelations that they had

acquired aadhar cards, pan

cards and even passports and

voter ID cards, Singh said that

mos4t of the civic volunteers

who had been appointed to

assist the police by the Trinamool Congress

five leaders like Dr Manmohan

Singh in the world, it would be

Bansal said the nation will

always be indebted to Singh for

He had so much love for

Amritsar and Punjab. When he

was PM, we got so much work

done for Amritsar, its industry,"

When asked if Amritsar is also

known for its rich food, did

Singh, who spent his childhood days in the holy city, have any

preference for any local dish,

Soni said, "he always preferred

Soni said.

a different world."

Singh's statement came almost in tandem with central intelligence reports that some extremist groups of Bangladesh were making plans to attack Adhikari for his "plain speak" against the fundamentalist elements who were daydreaming of dismembering India.

Adhikari however said that if there was any threat from the organizations like Lashkar e Toiba or Harkat ul Mujahideen then the people of Bengal and India would protect him.

I was earlier attacked by the CPIM and TMC ... now I hear that the terrorist outfits are targeting me but the peoGovernment were members of Jamaat.

You will find Jamaat terrorists in every police station. Ninety percent of the civic volunteers who check our passports are Jamaat supporters ... it is unfortunate that the Assam Police are capturing terrorists in Bengal. They work for the country whereas the Bengal Police only work for the State and the party," Singh said. Subsequently a police com-

plaint was filed against the former Barrackpore MP by a local TMC leader who alleged that Singh's defamatory comments had blemished the Chief Minister's image and caused injury to her.

Meanwhile, Bengal Minister Firhad Hakim once again accused Singh and other BJP leaders for trying to malign the Mamata Banerjee Government saying there was no terrorist in Bengal.

"There is no terrorist in Bengal ... it is the ploy of these BJP leaders who have been repeatedly defeated in the elections to malign the TMC Government," he said.

## Former SPG commando recalls Manmohan Singh's love for Maruti 800

#### BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

In a heartfelt tribute, Asim Arun, a former IPS officer and Special Protection Group (SPG) commando during Manmohan Singh's tenure as Prime Minister, reminisced about the late leader's deep attachment to his humble Maruti 800, a reflection of his unassuming nature and middle-class roots.

Now an MLA from Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj Sadar, Arun took to social media platform X to share his memories following Singh's demise at the age of 92 on Thursday night at AIIMS Delhi. Arun's poignant post captured the simplicity that defined Singh's personality, even during his time as the head of the nation. Reflecting on his time as Singh's bodyguard from 2004 onwards, Arun wrote, "Dr. Singh owned just one car-a modest Maruti 800. It was always parked behind the shiny BMWs at the Prime Minister's residence. Despite the grandeur surrounding him, his heart remained with

his Maruti. Singh often expressed his une ar, Arun recalled. "He would say to me, 'Asim, I don't like traveling in this car (BMW); my vehicle is this one (the Maruti).' I would explain that the BMW was equipped with essential security features, but whenever the convoy passed the Maruti, he would look at it fondly, as if reaffirming his identity as



beacon of hope for the mida middle-class person who dle class," Arun added. cared deeply for the common Manmohan Singh's passing

man. Asim Arun also shed light on has left a wave of mourning the unique role he played in across the country, but stories like these ensure his legacy of Singh's life during those years. humility and service to the 'The SPG provides the closest security for the Prime nation will endure for gener-Minister. As Assistant Inspector General of the ations. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Close Protection Team, I was never far from him. If only government has declared a seven-day state mourning to one bodyguard was allowed, honor the demise of former it would be me. My responsi-Prime bility was to stay with him like Manmohan Singh, who passed away on Thursday night at AIIMS, New Delhi, at a shadow," Arun wrote. Singh, known for his humil-

ity, intellect, and calm the age of 92. demeanor, served as India's The mourning period will me Minister fro 2004 to 2014 and was widely celebrated as the architect of India's economic liberalization during his tenure as finance minister in 1991. "His attachment to the Maruti 800 wasn't just about nostalgia—it reflected the essence of who he was: a leader deeply rooted in simplicity and a

## **Panjab University organised condolence** meet to pay homage to alumnus Manmohan

#### PTI CHANDIGARH

Panjab University Friday organised a condolence meeting to pay homage to former prime minister and distinguished alumnus Dr Manmohan Singh.

The gathering was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof Renu Vig, Registrar Y P Verma and faculty and other staff. During the meeting, tributes

were paid to Singh, as attendees reflected on his contributions to the nation and his association with the university.

Another condolence meeting was also organised jointly by the Department of Economics and the Panjab University

Alumni Association. Manmohan Singh did his Master's in Economics in 1954 from the university and came first in his class. He was a Senior Lecturer (1957-1959), Reader in Economics (1959-1963) and Professor of Economics (1963-1965) at PU. A Chair was established after



student at the university.

"Dr Singh is our university's most distinguished alumnus," she said. Former Union Minister and Congress' sitting MP from Chandigarh, Manish Tewari said his association with Manmohan Singh goes back to the time when his parents and the ex-PM were neighbours in Panjab University here. annost from day I opened my eyes in this world," Tewari said. "How strange are the ways of God. I was supposed to call on him tomorrow (Saturday) in the morning," Tewari posted on X, "Soft Spoken, Erudite, intelligent but firm he was an inspiration for millions of young people for whom he opened up

1991," he said. Tewari said through all these

vears he shared a personal relationship with him and also served as the Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting in his government.

"I recall anchoring his Mega Press Conference on 3rd January 2014 where he gave an exhaustive overview of his 10 years as Prime Minister," said

### Manmohan was against corruption, says **Anna Hazare**

#### PTI MUMBAI

turning around the economy. Anti-graft activist Anna Hazare on Friday condoled 'I had the privilege to work in his councils of ministers. A great administrator, he was a the death of former prime superb human being with unparalleled humility," he said. minister Manmohan Singh and said he was against corruption. Former Punjab deputy chief Hazare, who had led a massive minister and Congress leader O agitation against corruption P Soni also paid tributes to Manmohan Singh. during Singh's tenure in the early 2010s, said the former PM "I had met him three to four took swift decisions concerning his demands for the Lokpal and months ago at his Delhi home.

Lokayukta Act. Those who are born have to die, but some leave memories and their legacy behind. Singh gave a new direction to the country's economy," Hazare told PTI in his native village Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district.Recalling his protests against graft in the government led by Singh, the octogenarian activist said the former PM invited him for talks and took ck decisions He was against corruption and took immediate decisions regarding the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act. He always thought about the country and how best he could work for its people," Hazare said. He always prioritised the welfare of the country and society, said the

lives in the part of Amritsar, said, "when my father passed away in 2015, he visited my house to offer condolence" Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms, passed away on Thursday night at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). He was 92.

to have simple food. However, he used to love Sarson Ka Saag." activist.

She said her teacher Prof V K Gupta was Manmohan Singh's the Economic liberalisation in

and continue until January 1, 2025.

During this period, the national flag will fly at halfmast across government buildings in the state, and no entertainment programs will be organized by the state government, as per official orders issued on Friday.

Minister Dr.

the department

Smita Sharma, Associate Professor and chairperson of the Economics Department at PU, remembered him as the architect of economic reforms in the country.

Sharma, who also studied at PU, showed the media the room where Singh used to sit with other faculty

Former Union Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal said Singh used to have a free discussion with his cabinet colleagues and used to encourage junior colleagues a lot.Bansal, a Congress leader and former MP from Chandigarh, recalled former US President Barack Obama once saying: "If there were to be

## Gurugram Police Crime Branch arrests for killing youth over dispute

### STAFF REPORTER

crime branch team of the AGurugram police have arrested four accused for allegedly killing a 19-year-old youth over a dispute over a mobile phone, police said. The victim was identified as

Ashish a resident of Bhangrola village of Gurugram, who was an auto driver.

The accused have been identified as Brijesh alias Rinku, Umesh alias Nahne Arvinder Kumar, all residents of Uttar Prades,h, and Siyasaran Sahu alias Sibbu of Madhya Pradesh.

According to the police, on December 22, they received information that a body of a person was lying in the water filled in the green belt of Dwarka Expressway near the village of Harsaru.

On receiving the information, the police team reached the spot and discovered the body. The spot was also inspected by the police's scene-of-crime, FSL and fingerprint teams.

"After inspection of the deceased and the spot, efforts were made by the police team to identify the deceased, as a result of which the deceased was identified as Ashish,' Varun Dahiya, ACP (crime) said

The deceased's father told the police through a written complaint that his son Ashish used to drive an auto on rent. His son had injury marks on his head and his neck was tied with a muffler. Some unknown person has murdered his son. Based on his complaint, a case was registered under the relevant sections in Sector-10

police station, Gurugram. During interrogation, a police team of Inspector Jagveer Singh, Incharge Crime Branch Palam Vihar, Gurugram, nabbed the accused on Thursday from Kankarola Road, Gurugram.

During police interrogation, it was found that the accused lived on rent in Kankarola. Brijesh was acquainted with Ashish, the deceased.

"Ashish had forcibly taken the mobile phone of accused Brijesh. After this, on the night of December 21 and 22, Brijesh, along with his other companions, went to meet Ashish in Bhangrola village,e, and there they had an altercation with Ashish.

After this, the accused hit Ashish on the head with a brick and put him in the auto and strangled him with a muffler and killed Ashish and threw the body in the green belt of Dwarka Expressway and fled," Dahiya said.



BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2024 he pioneer



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#### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

## A silent crusader

Dr Manmohan Singh a reluctant politician yet a resilient leader and a gentleman is no more but his legacy lives on

he man with the vision and selfless dedication to the nation, Dr Manmohan Singh is no more. Dr Singh passed away on December 26, 2024, at the age of 92. Dr Singh, a towering figure in Indian politics and economics, breathed his last at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. His demise marks the end of an era defined by humility, intellect and steadfast dedication to nation-building. Dr Manmohan Singh's contributions to India's economic and political landscape are unparalleled. Widely regarded as the architect of India's 1991 economic reforms, Singh's tenure as Finance Minister under Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao was transformative. At a time when the Indian economy teetered on the brink of bankruptcy, Singh introduced a series of bold measures that liberalised the economy, dismantled the license raj and opened the doors to foreign investment. These reforms not only rescued India from an economic crisis but also set the stage for decades of robust growth and development. During his tenure,



Singh's policies prioritised the devaluation of the rupee, moderation of taxes, privatisation of public sector enterprises and encouragement of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). These initiatives catalysed India's transition into a globally integrated economy and solidified his reputation as one of the nation's most accomplished economists

Known as a reluctant politician, Dr Singh's foray into politics was driven by a profound sense of duty rather than ambition. When he assumed the role of Prime Minister in 2004, heading the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, he brought the same commitment and vision that had defined his

career as an economist. Serving two consecutive terms until 2014, Singh's leadership was marked by both humility and resolve. One of the most defining moments of his tenure was the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008, a landmark agreement that underscored his courage and conviction. Despite staunch opposition from the Left Front, which led to their withdrawal of support, Singh's government survived a vote of confidence, thanks to the support of the Samajwadi Party. The deal elevated India's status on the global stage and symbolised his unyielding dedication to the nation's strategic interests. Dr Singh was often described as a 'gentleman leader,' a man of integrity who preferred dialogue over confrontation. His humility was legendary, yet he was resolute when it came to principles. Throughout his career, he commanded respect across party lines, not just for his intellect but for his moral rectitude. His tenure as Prime Minister may have been criticised for perceived passivity, but his calm demeanour and quiet determination left an indelible mark on Indian governance. A seven-day period of mourning is a fitting tribute by the nation to a great visionary. His last rites will be conducted with full state honours. While his absence leaves a void, his contributions to India's progress and his example of selfless service will continue to inspire generations. Om Shanti.



## Why RSS chief's push for large families is out of step\_



By advocating outdated solutions to demographic trends, Bhagwat's vision risks deepening societal divisions and ignoring the socio-economic realities of today

ashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent appeal for larger families, framed as a response to perceived demographic challenges, reveals a worldview rooted in traditionalism. This perspective clashes with the progressive social, cultural, and economic ethos of modern India. While presented as a solution to counter declining population trends, Bhagwat's remarks have ignited debates over their communal undertones, potential to deepen gender inequality, and disconnection from contemporary realities. Bhagwat's remarks are part of a

larger discourse on demographic imbalances, often aimed at minority communities. This rhetoric fosters fear, undermines social harmony, and contradicts India's pluralistic traditions. Today's youth prioritise quality of life over larger families, influenced by rising living costs, career aspirations, and financial stability. Bhagwat's appeal appears disconnected from these realities, highlighting a gap between traditionalist agendas and contemporary Indian values.

The RSS chief's observations clash with India's family planning efforts from the late 1960s and 1970s when the emphasis was on small families. Even former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, during her tenure, highlighted the dangers of unchecked population growth, stressing the need for planned families.

Bhagwat's outdated stance ignores this historical context and the progress India has made in population stabilisation through education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. Bhagwat's proposal for families to have more children is based on the argument that declining fertility rates threaten the survival and dominance of certain communities.

This narrative, often accompanied by alarmist rhetoric about population imbalances, underscores divisive politics. Although demophic trends warrant attention, his suggested solution disregards socio-economic realities and entrenches regressive norms. reinforces these outdated Interestingly, Andhra Pradesh norms, perpetuating cycles of



Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has echoed similar sentiments, advocating for larger families in his state. However, such approaches

seem out of step with modern India's aspirations. India is not experiencing a population decline but rather a slowdown

in growth. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped to 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1. This trend reflects advancements in education, healthcare, and women's autonomy. While policymakers globally view such developments as markers of progress, Bhagwat's remarks frame this demographic shift as a cultural and religious issue, perpetuating communal narratives that risk deepening societal

divisions. Bhagwat's outdated stance ignores this historical context and the progress India has made in population stabilisation through education, healthcare, and women's empowerment. The RSS's vision aligns with traditional family structures, where women are expected to prioritise domestic roles By advocating for larger families, Bhagwat inadvertently

BHAGWAT'S OUTDATED STANCE **IGNORES THIS** HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND THE **PROGRESS INDIA** HAS MADE IN POPULATION **STABILIZATION** THROUGH EDUCATION, HEALTHCARE, AND

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT dependency and limiting women's agency. Central to Bhagwat's argu-

ment is a patriarchal notion that reduces women to their reproductive roles. His call for more children disregards women's aspirations, autonomy, and wellbeing, placing an undue burden on them.

**Resource Constraints** With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, India faces severe resource constraints, including food insecurity, water scarcity, and unemployment. Increasing family sizes would exacerbate these issues, placing further strain on public services and natural resources. India's youth population, often hailed as a demographic dividend, grapples with high unemployment rates. The Centre for Monitoring

Indian Economy (CMIE) reports that unemployment among those aged 15-29 exceeds 20 per cent. Without job creation, additional population growth risks turning this dividend into a liability. India is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. Global policymakers advocate for sustainable development, making Bhagwat's vision seem misaligned with contemporary

choice. Bhagwat's remarks dismiss these values, echoing authoritarian tendencies that clash with Indian democracy. Family planning decisions are deeply personal and should not be influenced by sociopolitical agendas.

Intervening in such choices undermines personal freedoms and contradicts the principles of modern India. In a country where maternal mortality remains a concern and reproductive healthcare is uneven, urging women to have more children intensifies existing vulnerabilities. Instead of alarmist rhetoric, India's leadership should focus on forward-looking policies to address demographic concerns constructively: Improved access to education, particularly for girls, is key to stabilising population growth. Educated women are more likely to make informed reproductive choices, contributing to sustainable demographics and enhancing Healthcare. enhancing Investing in maternal and child healthcare can reduce mortality rates and improve quality of life.

Policies empowering the youth and enhancing employability can transform India's demoaphic potential into an asset (Writer is a senior political analyst and strategic affairs columnist; views are personal)

iorities Cultural and Ethical Disconnect India's ethos is rooted in diversity, balance, and individual

#### ETTERS

## Homeschooling: Affordable and holistic education option



Homeschooling is transforming its image from an unconventional option to a widely accepted educational route as many parents opt for this affordable choice

ith the rising costs of living, an increasing number of parents are reevaluating the conventional approach to education. An increasing number of families nationwide are viewing homeschooling as a legitimate and empowering option compared to traditional education systems.

The choice is influenced not only by financial considerations but also by a commitment to nurture the child in a manner that aligns with their unique needs and the family's values. For many years, traditional educational institutions have been the cornerstone of childhood learning. However, nowadays, an ever-growing number of parents are questioning whether the significant expenses associated with private education, or even the costs of public schooling, truly justify the investment. The homeschooling movement presents a compelling argument: education can occur beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. The main factor driving this change is the expense involved. Education, particularly in private schools, often



presents a challenging list of costs: tuition, uniforms, transportation, extracurriculars, and supplies. Homeschooling greatly alleviates these financial burdens. Parents now have the opportunity to invest in essential resources such as top-notch educational materials, online courses, or tailored coaching—all designed to cater to their child's unique needs.

Moreover, homeschooling encourages families to tap into their creativity and resourcefulness. Libraries, free online resources, and community programmes provide abundant learning opportunities with minimal or no expense. In a time filled with numerous digital resources, parents have the ability to craft a curriculum that is both cost-effective and thorough. In addition to reducing expenses, there are numerous

other factors contributing to the rising popularity of homeschooling. Parents hold the view that homeschooling can significantly enhance a child's personal and academic development. In contrast to conventional educational institutions, homeschooling offers remarkable flexibility, allow-

ing lessons to align with a child's interests, learning pace, and preferred methods of engagement.

A student passionate about science, for instance, can dedicate additional time to experiments and practical activities, while those with a flair for the arts can unleash their creativity free from the limitations of a rigid schedule. Another key factor is the importance of comprehensive development. Homeschooling transcends traditional textbooks and offers genuine, real-world learning experiences. Cooking transforms into a blend of maths and chemistry; gardening embodies principles of biology and sustainability; a visit to the muse-

history and ecology. These activities, along with practical knowledge, foster

um or park imparts lessons in

family connections-something that seems rare in today's world. Certainly, homeschooling comes with its drawbacks. Concerns have been voiced by critics regarding socialisation and the stress it imposes on parents. Nevertheless, families who choose to homeschool have found innovative ways to address these issues, including forming co-op groups, engaging in community sports, and coordinating group field trips.

This signifies a movement towards appreciating costeffectiveness, adaptability, and personal expression in education-a tendency expected to expand as households adjust to financial circumstances. Ultimately, homeschooling transcends being merely an educational option; it embodies a declaration of empowerment. For parents aiming to reshape education in a way that resonates with their values, this journey offers not just information but a profoundly rewarding experience for both themselves and their children.

(The writer is a motivator and a freelance writer; views are personal)

#### **MANMOHAN SINGH PASSES AWAY**

Madam — The sad demise of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh is an irreplaceable loss to the nation. Singh will be remembered as the statesman who saved the Indian economy from going over the edge. When he took over as finance minister in the minority government of Narasimha Rao in 1991, the Indian economy was very close to sovereign default. Foreign exchange reserves were barely enough to cover a month of imports, and the country had to suffer the ignominy of having to ship its gold reserves to England.

All of that would change with the famous 1991 Budget which Manmohan Singh presented, and the industrial deregulation that accompanied the Budget. Hailed as an architect of India's economic liberalisation, he served as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014. During his tenure, he spearheaded transformative policies that shaped India's modern economic landscape. His leadership saw India achieve its highest GDP growth rates, and his role in the Indo-US nuclear deal significantly enhanced India's global stature. India is on its way to becoming the third-largest economy in the world in a couple of years, and the seeds of India's growth story were sowed during the economic reforms. More than three decades later, there is as big a consensus for reforms in India as there was opposition to it when the process started.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

#### **DIPLOMATIC CHALLENGE FOR INDIA**

Madam— A formal request by Bangladesh to India to extradite former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India after she was ousted by mass student-led protests, poses a severe diplomatic challenge for India. Dhaka has chosen her path, and it does not seem to be interested in normalising ties with India; hence this extradition path. The extradition request and the political developments around Hasina's asylum in India have the potential to influence India-Bangladesh relations significantly, and it requires deft diplomatic handling by both nations. Hasina's presence

## ICC fines Virat Kohli



rirat Kohli found himself in an awkward situation when he was in the midst of a controversy over an altercation with Australian debutant Sam Konstas. It was a lucky escape for Virat Kohli on day 1 of the fourth test at Melbourne, which otherwise would have ended as a typical 'Boxing' Day episode. The 19-year-old teenager has not spared the Indian bowlers, including Jasprit

in India and her public statements against the interim government have strained relations between the two countries, which have further been worsened by the persecution of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh

India is examining the request on legal grounds, but India can refuse extradition, citing political nature or justice-related concerns, but ultimately it is going to be for purely political reasons. The ball is firmly in India's court, and if India sends her back, we would seal her fate as she is bound to face the death penalty in Dhaka, and if it rejects this request, then we should be ready for more hostility from our neighbour, and our ties would go from bad to worse. Whatever India chose to do will have long-term ramifications on this whole region.

Bal Govind | Noida

#### **EMPOWERING RURAL ECONOMY**

Madam — The government is committed to revitalising the rural economy through cooperation, recently inaugurating 10,000 Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Bumrah, in his attacking 60 runs, which was a treat to watch. It was an intentional act captured in-camera when Kohli appeared to be dashed against Konstas in the middle while walking across, which sparked an encounter. Watching this, the Aussie legend Ricky Ponting and England's Michael Vaughan were quick to voice their opinions, calling for ICC action

Kohli has been slapped with a fine of 20 percent of his match fee and given one demerit point by the ICC as well. This is not the expected behaviour from a batter who played 121 tests, 295 ODIs, and 125 T20s. If Kohli was baffled by Konstas belligerence, he should have proved his worth as a batter in the middle rather than engaged himself with the intimidating tactics, which can be construed as cheap for all his calibre

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Societies (PACS). These societies not only generate employment but also ensure optimal resource availability and connect farmers' produce to international markets, aligning with the vision of "Prosperity through Cooperation."

PACS, as the cornerstone of the cooperative three-tier structure, play a pivotal role in rural upliftment by addressing needs like credit, fertilisers, storage, and water management. The government aims to establish 2 lakh PACS in five years, strengthening rural infrastructure and promoting unity, harmony, and self-reliance. To revive dormant PACS and establish new ones, a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed, targeting the setup of PACS in 15,000 villages. These societies are evolving into hubs of multifaceted services, including digital amenities like ticket bookings and financial inclusion via RuPay Kisan Credit Cards and micro-ATMs

**R K Jain** | Barwani

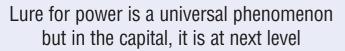
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## **FIRSTCOLUMN HUNGER FOR POWER**





APS MALHOTRA

have come to seek your support and valuable vote, as I have decided to stand for re-election, declared the bespectacled, heavyset, middle-aged man–dressed in an off-white safari suit–rather pompously, as he stood with folded hands at the door of my house, surrounded by a bevy of churches and churches, who suitably nodded their head in unison. "Vote for which re-election?" I muttered under my breath, irritated at the uncalled-for intrusion into my privacy on a rather lazy Sunday morning." I am the President" he replied sheepishly, maybe taken aback at my nonchalant reply. "I had decided not to stand for this year's election due to increased professional and personal commitments-actually I had desired to give someone younger a chance to bear the responsibility, and take a backseat- but had to relent under the immense pressure from fellow residents, who want my leadership for a further period of three years" he continued, his voice a cocktail of benevolence and beneficence for his 'supporters', and the seasoned politician's chicanery. "But isn't Mrs. Draupadi Murmu the President?" I retorted, further trying to pull his leg. "Malhotra jee, I am the President of our Resident Welfare Association (RWA) for the past several years," he said, flabbergasted, a tad angry and certainly deeply offended at my failure to recognize him, and worse, acknowledge his self-perceived exalted status. Although I had recognised him the moment he pressed the doorbell of my house, and I opened the front door to face him,



and flaunt uncalled-for appellations came forth with all its bitterness

Nonetheless, realizing that the man was getting increasingly exasperated at my manoeuvrings, I salvaged the situation by promising to cast my vote in his favour and profusely apologized to him for my failure to identify his 'Excellency', with the pretext that my better half is the face of our family for outside interactions, while I busy myself in mundane things, like reading and writing. Not too surprisingly, denizens of my beloved Dilli, sitting on the centre of power since the dawn of history, have a deeply ingrained fascination for posts and titles- which proliferate dime a dozen- and take a macho and perverse pride in flaunting them, with the same exuberance with which a child displays his or her toy, albeit not with the same innocence. This fact is borne out in the form of roadside boards and car number plates, which often bear vague titles- such as 'Secretary, Youth Media Cell, ABC party, B-block, Village XYZ'. A carryforward from the era of the Mughals and British imperialists, this is a desperate shot to seek the much-desired VVIP status, at least in the circle one operates in. Thus, it is not unknown to find members of RWAs who run virtual fiefdoms in their associations, maybe as recompense for the voluntary service rendered in serving the community. The perks could include a free car wash and laundry facility, use of funds near the residence where the self-styled Maharajas live, One can only speculate as to what would happen if this maniac lure of titles and appellations invaded the next, and perhaps the last bastion of community living, the home. Then, it would be no surprise to see name boards outside individual residences read like this: 1/103, Beverly Park: APS Malhotra, President; Sonia Malhotra Vice President; Dr. Mehak Malhotra, Secretary (in absentia). In families with matriarchal tendencies, the designations could be reversed. Well, worth a thought!

## India must stand firm against Sheikh Hasina's extradition



07

analysis

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

India faces a pivotal decision as it considers Bangladesh's request to extradite Sheikh Hasina, former Prime Minister and a steadfast ally



heikh Hasina must not be sent back to Bangladesh in response to the note verbale received from that country's interim government calling for her extradition. Dhaka's move has followed the issue of an arrest warrant by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) against her and a number of her former ministers, advisers, military and civil officials. The allegation? "Crimes against humanity and genocide". There are two broad reasons why India should not send her back. As prime minister of Bangladesh, she has been a steadfast friend of India whereas other heads of that country's government, except her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, have tended to be unfriendly. Second, she will, by no means, receive a fair trial in Bangladesh and perhaps even be lynched, given the intense hostility of the current rulers of Bangladesh harbour towards her.

There will be solid legal basis for India's stand. Article 8 (1) (a) of the 'Treaty Between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of Bangladesh Relating to Extradition, says that a person may not THAT IT WOULD BE extradited if he satisfies the



SHEIKH HASINA HAS YET TO BE SENTENCED TO ANY PERIOD OF IMPRISONMENT OR DETENTION. ALSO, SHE CAN VERY WELL CLAIM

Awami League's leaders and ministers in the party's government. According to a report in The Daily Star carried under the headline, "No option but to suc-ceed: Yunus" on August18, 2024, ceed: Yunus' on August18, 2024, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus had said during a "Meet and Greet" session with foreign diplo-mats in Dhaka, "In their efforts to stay in power, the Sheikh Hasina dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country. Iudiciary was broken Democratic Judiciary was broken. Democratic rights were suppressed through a brutal decade-and-a-half long crackdown. Elections were rigged blatantly. Generations of young people grew up without exercising their voting rights. Banks were robbed with full political patronisation. And the state cof-fer was plundered by abusing power." Referring to a proposed Awami League rally on November10,

under the headline "Nahid: Awami League will never be allowed back into politics in our lifetime," Md Nahid Islam, an ADSM leader who is now advisor, in charge of information and broadcasting and other min-istries, said at a discussion, that the Awami League's return to politics in the manner and ideology it previously adhered to would be tantamount to "a betrayal to the martyrs of the uprising. And certainly, as long as we are alive, we will not allow this to happen." Leaders of political parties like the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (Jamaat) have also denounced the Äwami League.

One can argue that the ICT, and any other court where Sheikh Hasina and other accused may be tried, will ignore such vituperations and pronounce its judgement on the basis of the evidence 2024, Muhammad Yunus' press secretary, Shafiqul Alam, had and arguments placed before it. written in a Facebook post on A horse would guffaw on hearing this. The judiciary has been brought to heel through forced resignations and dismissals. The process began as early as August 10, 2024, when chief justice Obaidul Hassan of the Supreme Court and five judges of the appellate division, resigned as hundreds of students affiliated to the ADSM gathered on the court premises demanding that they quit, and threatened to besiege their residences if they did not. On October 16, the new chief justice, Syed Refaat Ahmed, sent 12 High Court judges, appointed during the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League rule, on leave fol-lowing a demonstration in the court premises by adherents of the ADSM led by Hasnat Abdullah and Sarjis Alam. According to a report in Bangladesh's The Business

Abdullah, had written in a Facebook post on October 15, "In demand of the resignation of the fascist judges of the Awami League, we will besiege the High Court tomorrow (Wednesday) at 11am.'

The ICT itself was reconstituted on October 15, 2024, with Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumder from the High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court as its new chairman, and Justice Md Shafiul Alam Mahmud and retired District and Sessions Judge Md Mohitul Haque Enam Chowdhury as members of the panel.

The result is a pliant judiciary and the use of the justice system to persecute not only those associated with the Awami League but civil society activists, writers, journalists and human rights activists. A shocking example is the levelling of a false murder charge against a highly-respected senior advocate of Bangladesh's Supreme Court, ZI Khan Panna. Referring to the case, The Daily Star wrote in an editorial titled "This weaponisation of legal cases must stop" and published on October 21, 2024, "Over the two months and a half since August 5, we have published multiple reports and editorials on the indiscriminate filing of such murder cases without any evidence, mostly implicating the leaders, activists, and suspected supporters of the Awami League regime. Even journalists and rights activists were not spared. In many cases, fabricated FIRs were filed. There were also instances of the names of accused in cases predating August 5 being replaced. This is nothing but a weaponisation of the legal process for harassment and political vendettas." Will Sheikh Hasina get justice in such a situation?

(The author is a freelance writer; views are personal)

Requested State that it would, having regard to all the circumstances, be unjust or oppressive to extradite him" because, in the words of Article 8 (1) (A) (iii), the accusations against him "have not been made in good faith in the interests of justice." Besides Article 8 (2) reads, "A person who has been convicted of an extradition offence may not be extradited AGAINST HER HAD therefor unless he was sentenced to imprisonment or other form of detention NOT BEEN MADE IN for a period of four months or more." Sheikh Hasina has yet to be sentenced to any period of imprisonment or detention. Also, she can very well claim that it would be "unjust or oppressive" to extradite her because the accusation against her had not been made in "good faith in the interest of justice", and are a result of pure vindictiveness. That she would be justified in saying so becomes clear on considering the diatribes unleashed against her by the advisers of the interim government and the relentless persecution, including involving in hundreds of false cases, of

November 9, The Awami League "UNJUST OR in its current form is a fascist DEFSSIN/F" TO party. There is no way this fascist **OPPRESSIVE**" TO party will be allowed to hold party will be anowed to hold protests in Bangladesh. Anyone who would try to hold rally, gathering and processions by taking orders from the mass murderer and dictator Sheikh Hasing will force full force of the EXTRADITE HER BECAUSE THE ACCUSATION Hasina will face full force of the law enforcing agencies." Leaders of the

Anti Students Discrimination "GOOD FAITH IN Movement (ADSM), formed on THE INTEREST OF July 1, 2024, to carry the students' struggle forward, and Jatiya Nagarik Committee (National Citizens Committee), formed on 8 September, 2024, to consolidate JUSTICE", AND ARE A RESULT OF PURE the movement's message and political goals, have spoken in a VINDICTIVENESS similar strident and denunciatorv vein.

Áccording to a report by Ashibul Islam Rifat in the Dhaka Tribune Standard on October 16 itself, (23 October, 2024) appearing announcing the plan, Hasnat

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Unlocking economic potential: Bridging the gender gap in public procurement

In India, strides in gender budgeting and supportive policies are fostering greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs

ow much of the goods and services purchased by government departments and public sector enterprises come from womenowned businesses? This crucial question is rarely asked, and it underscores the need for gender-responsive procurement policies in India and across South Asia. With government procurement "accounting for an average of 12 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in OECD countries, and up to 30 per cent of GDP in many developing countries," the untapped economic potential for women entrepreneurs to contribute as suppliers of solutions to governments is immense. Yet, globally, women-owned enterprises still win only 1 per

procurement WEConnect International is gender inclusivity.

actively working to bridge this gap. Our efforts are making headway, especially in countries such as India, where policy frameworks are beginning to reflect a greater emphasis on The central government has

increasingly prioritised women-centric policies, evident from the substantial rise in gender budget allocations, which is another way to support women and girls in addition to buying their products and services. For example, in 2013-14, Rs 97,134 crore was earmarked for women's welfare and empowerment. By 2024-25, this figure had reached Rs 3.27 lakh crore, marking a 19

per cent increase over the



ELIZABETH A VAZQUEZ

ture of 2023-24 and a 218.8 per cent increase since 2013-14. For 2024, the Gender Budget accounts for 6.5 per cent of the Union Budget, the highest since the Gender Budget Statement was introduced in 2005-06.

The Statement serves as a vital tool for ministries reviewing programmes from a gender perspective to ensure that cent of this significant public actual gender budget expendi more resources are being allo-

cated to benefit women and girls. In the last year (2023-24), the actual expenditure on gender budgeting was 16 per cent higher (Rs 2.75 lakh crore) than the total budgeted amount (Rs 2.38 lakh crore). The Indian government's Public Procurement Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) Order, 2018, exemplifies this progress. The policy mandates that every central ministry, department, and PSU must procure at least 25 per cent of their needs from MSEs, with 3 per cent specifically reserved for womenowned micro and small enterprises. There has been progress

since the mandated 3 per cent procurement target for women-owned MSEs was introduced in 2018. Public procurement from these enter-



prises has risen from almost zero in 2017-18 to 1.8 per cent in 2023-24.

(owned and controlled by women having the minimum (accounting for Rs 232.56 crore) to 21,128 (Rs 3056.4 crore) in six years. While the evidence is encour-

challenges that, if addressed, could help India achieve a more gender-inclusive public procurement ecosystem. For example, there is currently no independent body to resolve complaints in the procurement system, leaving unhappy bidders with only two options: filing complaints directly with the purchasing entity or taking them to arbitration or court as outlined in the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017.

Generally, there is a pressing need for transparency, welldefined processes, and a robust mechanism for addressing grievances in tender and procurement procedures so that women-owned businesses receive constructive feedback if their bids are unsuccessful.

refine their future proposals and compete more effectively. Such measures would help mitigate biases in tendering and procurement processes that disproportionately disadvantage women-owned enter-prises. The government could also pass procurement legislation to standardise bidding processes using a central law that sets national standards and state laws that fit specific needs, with the central government providing comprehensive oversight.

Public authorities could also sensitise officials on the need to counteract gender biases that may influence the design of procurement processes. A strong starting point would be to appoint more women to oversee public procurement aging, there are still gaps and This would enable them to in government departments.

Public procurement from women-owned enterprises in India over the past six years has grown at an average annual growth rate of 70.5 per cent, while the number of beneficiary women entrepreneurs has increased at an average annual rate of 77 per cent because the baseline was close to zero. In 2023-24, total public procurement in India reached Rs 1.70 lakh crore, highlighting a growing opportunity for women to engage with the expanding public procurement market in the world's fastestgrowing economy.

(The writer is CEO and Co-Founder of WEConnect International. With inputs from Eroshan Alagaretnam, Regional Director for South Asia, WEConnect International. *Views are personal)* 

The number of women-owned

financial interest of 51 per cent of the capital and with women constituting at least 51 per cent of generated employment) MSEs benefiting from public procurement grew from 1,410



### Nearly 70 migrants killed as boat sinks en route to Spain

Bamako (AP): Nearly 70 migrants died when their boat sank as they tried to reach Spain earlier this month, Mali's Minister for Malians Living Abroad said. In a press release on Thursday, Mossa Ag Attaher announced that a migrant boat bound for Spain sank on December

19. The migrants in this boat "numbered 80 at the start, with only 11 survivors," according to the Ministry. The Malian authorities have identified nine Malians among the survivors, and "25 young Malians have unfortunately been formally identified among the victims," the minister added

#### TENDERS TOWARDS SELECTION OF CONTRACTORS FOR CIVIL / INTERIOR WORKS, NEW DELHI

Offers are invited for the selection of Contractors for Civil / Sanitary / Interior / Electrical / AC works/ Data cable/ Fire control works for our proposed 9th floor Zonal Office cum Main Branch at Gopal Das Building Barakhamba Road in New Delhi. The estimated project cost is Rs. 60.80 Lakh.

Interested parties are requested to download the details from our website www.sbimf.com available under 'Downloads - Tenders' and submit offers. The last date of receipt / submission of offer in the prescribed formats is January 06, 2025 at 4.00 P.M. The Company reserves the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons thereof.

SBI FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED

SBI Funds Management Limited (A Joint Venture between SBI & AMUNDI) (CIN: U65990MH1992PLC065289) 9th Floor, Crescenzo, C-38 & 39, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051.

Date: 19.12.2024

### केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 📣

#### DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

CANARA BANK

WEST R.O

#### Ref: CB1762/SARFAESI/MANSION/2024/1

1. M/S MANSION PARERGON DEVELOPERS (BORROWER) ADD:- PLOT NO. G-186, INDUSTRIAL AREA EPIP, NEEMRANA, DISTRICT ALWAR RAJASTHAN

ALSO AT.

2. M/S MANSION PARERGON DEVELOPERS (BORROWER)

ADD:- FLAT NO. 3103, 10" FLOOR, PLOT NO. 9, JAWAHAR LAL CGHS LTD, SEC-5 DWARKA, NEW DELHI, PIN CODE - 110075

3. Mr. NARESH SHARMA (PROP.) ADD:- FLAT NO. 3103, 10" FLOOR, PLOT NO. 9, JAWAHAR LAL CGHS LTD, SEC-5,

DWARKA, NEW DELHI, PIN CODE - 110075 ALSOAT

#### 4. Mr. NARESH SHARMA (PROP.)

ADD .- PLOT NO. G-186, INDUSTRIAL AREA EPIP, NEEMRANA, DISTRICT ALWAR RAJASTHAN

Dear Sir / Madan Sub: Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financia Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Assets & Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002. The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, GANESH NAGAR Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under. That M/S MANSION PARERGON DEVELOPERS through its Proprietor Mr. NARESH SHARMA

S/O Mr. KISHORI LAL SHARMA (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower/Co-Borrower/) has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements. That ... (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all

moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of with interest thereon. You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule 8 hereunder

However, From SEPTEMBER 2024 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to shows that the leanity of the borrower towards the secure creation as on date amounts to Rs 1,51,64,239.66 (Rs. One Crore Fifty One Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine & Paisa Sixty Six Only), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in setting the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/les having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debtinstallment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 14.12.2024 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issue by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of Interest as mentioned in Schedule C per annum together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues. Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Ra

1.51,64,239.66 (Rs. One Crore Fifty One Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine & Paisa Sixty Six Only). together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue: 13(4)- In case the Borrower/ Guarantor fails to discharge iiability in full within the period specified in

sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to (a)Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer

by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset; (b)Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way

of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset: Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where

the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt, rovided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the busi

## China sanctions 7 companies over US military assistance to Taiwan

The Chinese government placed sanctions on seven companies on Friday in response to recent US announcements of military sales and aid to Taiwan, the self-governing island that China claims as part of its territory.

The sanctions also come in

al defence spending bill, which a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said "includes multiple negative sections on China? China objects to American military assistance for Taiwan

or aid package is announced. The sanctions generally have a

of the US government's annu-

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(3)

Whereas the Authorized officer of CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (Clix), a Housing Finance Bank Company under the National Housing Bank Act., having its registered office Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-posterion (40 of Kertine 12 of Kerti section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on a per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. KAMAL BATRA S/O SURESH KUMAR BATRA, 2. MAHIMA BATRA W/O KAMAL BATRA, BOTH AT - C-31, C BLOCK MAHENDRU ENCLAVE FADOPUR, NEW DELHI-11003, ALSO AT: LIG FLAT BERRING NO.62-B, FIRST FLOOR IN POCKET-B4 ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-II, DELHI-110052, ALSO AT: HONEY BAKERY, C-31C BLOCK MAHENDRU ENCLAVE, AZADPUR, NEW DELHI-110033

Demand Notice Dated : 17-May-2024, Date of Possession : 24.12.2024 ount of Demand Notice : Rs. 1,05,79,779.68/- as on 16-May-2024

Details of Property : All PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY DDA BUILT FREEHOLD L.I.G FLAT BEARING NO.62-B ON FIRST FLOOR IN POCKET-B-4 ALONG WITH SCOOTER GARAGE ON GROUND FLOOR, SITUATED AT ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-II, DELHI- 110052,

Authorised Officer, CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Date: 24.12.2024. Place: Delhi

🚯 Indian Overseas Bank KABRI BRANCH (Address : Kabri, Near Painipat Co-operativr Bank (Haryana) Pin Code- 132103

Phone No. 9043153636 : & Email Id : iob3636@iob.in)

#### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, KABRI BRANCH, Panipat, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice date the security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (solide a demand holide dated 06/09/2024 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Priti Garg, H.No. 0, Ward No.23, Arjun Nagar, Panipat, haryana and Mr. Nitin Garg H.No. 0, Ward No.23, Arjun Nagar, Panipat, Haryana, (hereinafter referred as "borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 20,28,825.37 (Rupees Twenty Lakh, Twenty Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Twenty Five and Paisa Thirty Seven Only) as on 06-09-2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice (1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 24" Day of December 2024. (2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautio

not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 20,23,885.27 (Rupees twenty Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five and Paisa Twenty Seven Only) as on 30,11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 20,23,885.27 (Rupes Twenty Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five and Paisa Twenty Seven Only) as on 30.11.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates  $\delta$  rests, charges etc., till date of payment.

(3)The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the action 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redee

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY**

Residential property Sale deed no 14165 dated 19.03.2020, measuring (21 Sq yards) 4 Biswa 4 Biswansi i.e. 84/280 share of land measuring 10 Bige 1 Biswa Khewat no 68/61 Khatauni no 125 Khasra no 868/2(3-18) 869/(12-11 870/1(1-18) 870/2/0(0-16) 871 min (1-11) situated at Patti Rajputan with i nunicipal limit kuldeep nagar-2 panipat

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Sale deed no 14165 dated 19.03.2020, measuring (210 Sq yards) 4 Biswa 4 Biswansi I.e. 84/280 share of land measuring 10 bige 14 Biswa Khewat no 68/61 Khatauni no 125 Khasra no 868/2(3-18) 869/(12-11), 870/1(1-18) 870/2(0-16) 871 min (1-11) situated at Patti Rajputan with in municipal limit kuldeep nagar - 2 panipat

response to the recent approval limited impact, because American defence companies don't sell arms or other military goods to China. The US is the main supplier of weapons to Taiwan for its defence.

The seven companies being sanctioned are Insitu Inc., Hudson Technologies Co., Saronic Technologies, Inc., Raytheon Canada, Raytheon Australia, Aerkomm Inc. and Oceaneering International Inc., the Foreign Ministry state-ment said. It said that "relevant senior executives" of the companies are also sanctioned, without naming any.

Any assets they have in China will be frozen, and organisations and individuals in China are prohibited from engaging in any activity with them, it said. US President Joe Biden last week authorised up to USD 571 million in Defence Department material and services and military education and training for Taiwan. Separately, the Defence Department announced that USD 295 million in military sales had been approved.

The US defence bill boosts military spending to USD 895 billion and directs resources toward a more confrontational approach to China. It establishes a fund that could be used to send military resources to Taiwan in much the same way that the US has backed Ukraine. It also expands a ban on US military purchases of Chinese products ranging from drone technology to garlic for military commissaries.

Zhang Xiaogang, a Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson, said earlier this week that the US is hyping up the "socalled" threat from China to justify increased military

spending. "US military spending has topped the world and keeps increasing every year," he said at a press conference. "This fully exposes the belligerent nature of the US and its obsession with hegemony and expansion."

The Foreign Ministry statement said the US moves violate agreements between the two countries on Taiwan, interfere in China's domestic affairs and undermine the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Taiwan's government said earlier this month that China had sent dozens of ships into nearby seas to practice a blockade of the island, a move that Taiwan said undermined peace and stability and disrupted international shipping and trade. China has not confirmed

or commented on the report-

though his party is further back. If recent polls hold up, the

likely next government would

be led by Merz as chancellor in

coalition with at least one other

Key issues include immigra-

tion, how to get the sluggish

economy going, and how best

to aid Ukraine in its struggle

party.

against Russia.

ed military activity.

## **Germany's president dissolves** parliament; polls on Feb 23

#### AP 📕 FRANKFURT

rerman President Frank-GWalter Steinmeier on Friday ordered parliament dissolved and set new elections for February 23 in the wake of the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition, saying it was the only way to give the country a stable government capable of tackling its problems. Scholz lost a confidence vote on December 16 and leads a minority government after his unpopular and notoriously rancorous three-party coalition collapsed on November 6 when he fired his finance minister in a dispute over how to revitalise Germany's stagnant economy. Steinmeier said he made the decision because it was clear after consultation with party leaders that there was no agreement among Germany's political parties on a majority for a new government in the current parliament.

<sup>\*</sup>It is precisely in difficult times like these that stability requires a government capable of taking action and a reliable majority in parliament," he said as he made the announcement in Berlin.

"Therefore I am convinced that for the good of our country new elections are the right way.

Since the post-World War II bidding for the top job constitution doesn't allow the Bundestag to dissolve itself, it was up to Steinmeier to decide whether to dissolve parliament and call an election. He had 21 days to make that decision. Once parliament is dissolved, the election must be held within 60 days. Leaders of several major parties agreed earlier on the election date of February 23, seven months earlier than originally planned.

The populist, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, Steinmeier warned about outor AfD, which is polling strongly, has nominated Alice Weidel side interference in the poll, as its candidate for chancellor saying it is "a danger to democracy, whether it is covert, as was but has no chance of taking the evidently the case recently in job because other parties refuse the Romanian elections, or to work with it. open and blatant, as is current-Germany's electoral system traly being practiced particularly ditionally produces coalitions, and polls show no party any-

intensively on platform X." A top Romanian court annulled the first round of the country's presidential election, days after allegations emerged that Russia ran a coordinated online campaign to promote the far-right outsider who won the first round.

The campaign is already well underway. Polls show Scholz's party trailing the conservative opposition Union bloc led by Vice Friedrich Merz. Chancellor Robert Habeck of the environmentalist Greens, the remaining partner in Scholz's government, is also

where near an absolute majority on its own. The election is expected to be followed by weeks of negotiations to form a new government. It's only the fourth time that the Bundestag has been dissolved ahead of schedule under Germany's post-World War II constitution. It happened under Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1972, Helmut Kohl in 1982 and Gerhard Schroeder in 2005. Schroeder used the confidence

vote to engineer an early elec-

tion narrowly won by centre-

right challenger Angela Merkel.

## Ukraine's military intelligence says North Korean troops suffering heavy losses

and often imposes sanctions on related companies after a sale

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, Sth Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrowe which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act. Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of tim available, to redeem the secured assets

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secure creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other right or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or a other law in force

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

#### AUTHORIZED OFFICER

#### SCHEDULE A

#### [Details of the credit facility/les availed by the Borrower]

	il and the		-	Date of our	il and	
-	o Loan No	Nature of Loan/Lin		Date of sanc		the second s
1.	No. Contraction of the					,50,00,000.00
2.	12500144367	9 OD/OCC (MSME CAP	2	15.01.2022	-	60,00,000.00
				TOTAL	2	2,00,00,000.00
		SCHE		The second s		
_		[Details of se	-			
		IMMO				
-		ON OF THE PROPERTY				
1	built on Com Plot no. G-1 Neemrana, Tr Alwar, Rajast Measuring:- Boundaries:- East:-Plot No West:-Plot N North:-Plot N	1500.00 Sq. Mtrs. o. G-185 o. G-187	t S/C			Asset Id- 200059967698 Security Interes Id- 40005940856
_		MOVA	BIE	s		
10	HYPOTHEC/ MACHINERY	TION OF EQUIPMENT &	M/S DE (PF	S MANSION PAR VELOPERS ROP. MR. NARES ARMA)		N Asset Id- 200065435561 Security Interest Id- 40006455595
		SCHE [Details of liab				
SI No	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	INTE	REST AS ON E 19.12.2024	RAT	E OF INTEREST
1.	170002826875	TERM LOAN (MSME CAP)	(Prin Rs. 1	1,00,00,000/- icipal) + (4338.46/- rest)	9.95%	+ (PENAL INTEREST
2.	125001443679	OD/OCC (MSME CAP)	(Prin Rs. 9	50,51,816.20/- icipal) * 98,085.00/- rest)	11.65% + (PENAL INTERE	
		TOTAL	(Prin Rs. 1	1,50,51,816.20/- cipal) + 1,12,423.46/- rest)		
Than	king you,				Yours	s faithfully,
					A DE DE DE	a second provide a second s

#### Bounded As : On the North by : Rishikul School Street 30"-0" On the South by : Street 30"-0" On the East by : House of Satish Kashyap 63'-0" On the West by - House of Pradeep 63'-0" Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank Dated: 24.12.2024

ndian Overseas Bank

**KABRI BRANCH** (Address : Kabri, Near Painipat Co-operativr Bank (Haryana) Pin Code- 132103 Phone No. 9043153636 : & Email Id : iob3636@iob.in)

#### SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, KABRI BRANCH, Panipat, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 22/07/2024 calling upon the borrower 1. M/s. Anand Trading Co. Prop. Anand S/o Om Prakash, Khataoni No. 631, Khewat No. 493, Village Kabri, Panipat haryana 132103, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers) 2. Vijeta wo Anand, VPO Kabri Panipat, 132103 and 3. Ravinder Kumar S/o Desh Mitar, VPO Kabri, Panipat, 132103, (hereinafter referred as 'Guarantors) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 11,67,863.46 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixty Three and Palsa Forty Six Only) as on 20.07.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests. charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the

(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 24" Day of December 2024.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 8,47,010.82 (Rupees Eight Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Ten and Paisa Eighty Two Only) as on 30.11.2024 and Rs. 3,75,644.64 (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy ousand Six Hundred Forty Four and Paisa Sixty Four Only) as on 14.12.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 8,47,010.82 (Rupees Eight Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Ten and Paisa Eighty Two Only) as on 30.11.2024 and Rs. 3,75,644.64 (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Six Hundred Forty Four and Paisa Sixty Four Only) as on 14.12.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charger etc., till date of payment.

(3)The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the ection 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential Immovable Property sale deed no 5497 dated 03.11.2004 measuring (151.25 Sq Yards) 5 Marta comprising in Khewat no 694/624, Khatoni no 783 Khasra no. 281 (0-5) situated at village kabri, Tehsil and District Panipat Haryana 132103

All that part and parcel of the Residential Immovable Property sale deed no 5497 dated 03.11.2004 measuring (151.25 Sq Yards) 5 Marla comprising in Khewat no 694/624, Khatoni no 783 Khasra no. 281 (0-5) situated at village kabri, Tehsil and District Panipat Haryana 132103

#### Bounded As : On the North by : Main Road 47"-3" On the South by : Other Plot 47'-3" On the East by : House of Sunil 38'-1 1/2 On the West by - House of Maman Singh 38'-1 1/2" Dated: 24.12.2024 Sd/- Authorised Office Place: Panipat Indian Overseas Bank

#### AP KYIV

North Korean troops are suffering heavy losses in the fighting in Russia's Kursk region and facing logistical difficulties as a result of Ukrainian attacks, Ukraine's military intelligence has said. The intelligence agency, known under its acronym GUR, on Thursday said Ukrainian strikes near Novoivanovka inflicted heavy casualties on North Korean units. It said North Korean troops also faced supply issues and even short-

ages of drinking water. Ukrainian Pres President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this week that 3,000 North Korean troops have been killed and wounded in the fighting in the Kursk region. It marked the first significant estimate by Ukraine of North Korean casualties several weeks after Kyiv announced that North Korea had sent 10,000 to 12,000 troops to Russia to help it in the

almost 3-year war. The casualty disclosure came as the Biden administration was pressing to send as much mil-

itary aid as possible to Ukraine before President-elect Donald Trump takes over in January. Ukrainian forces launched an incursion into the Kursk region in August, dealing a significant blow to Russia's prestige and forcing it to deploy some of its troops from eastern Ukraine,

where they were pressing a slow-moving offensive. The Russian army has been able to reclaim some territory ities. in the Kursk region from Ukrainian forces, but has failed

to fully dislodge them. At the same time, Russia has sought to break Ukraine's resistance with waves of strikes with cruise missiles and drones against Ukraine's power grid and other infrastructure.

The latest attack on Christmas morning involved 78 missiles and 106 drones, striking power facilities, Ukraine's air force

said. It claimed to have intercepted 59 missiles and 54 drones and jammed 52 other drones.

On Thursday, Russia attacked Ukraine with 31 exploding drones. Twenty were shot down and another 11 didn't reach their target due to jamming, the Ukrainian air force said.

As part of the daily barrage, Russian forces also struck a central market in Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region with a drone, wounding eight people, according to local author-

Russian President Vladimir Putin threatened Thursday that Russia could again hit Ukraine with the new Oreshnik hypersonic ballistic missile that was first used in a Nov 21 strike on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

Speaking to reporters, Putin said Russia has just a few Oreshnik missiles, but added that it wouldn't hesitate to use them on Ukraine.

## Canadian ministers head to Palm Beach for talks with Trump administration

#### AP TORONTO

**T**wo top Canadian Cabinet ▲ ministers are visiting Palm Beach to talk border security and trade with the incoming Donald Trump administration as Trump threatens tariffs on all Canadian products.

New Finance Minister Dominic LeBlanc and Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly will be in Palm Beach, Florida on Thursday for the talks this week, said Jean-Sébastien Comeau, a spokesman for LeBlanc.

LeBlanc said last week he would meet with Tom Homan, Trump's incoming "border czar," after Christmas to discuss Canada's plan to secure the bor- added in a statement.

der as part of a bid to avoid the sweeping tariffs.

Comeau said LeBlanc and Iolv "look forward to building on the discussions that took place when the Prime Minister met with President Trump at Mara-Lago last month, as well as the positive call the Ministers held with Mr Tom Homan earlier this month."

"The Ministers intend to focus on Canada's efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking and illegal migration and the measures outlined in Canada's Border Plan, as well as the negative impacts that the imposition of 25% tariffs on Canadian goods would have on both Canada and the United States," Comeau

The Trump transition team did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. Trump keeps calling embattled Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau the governor of the 51st state and has threatened to impose sweeping tariffs if Canada does not stem what he calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the United States even though far fewer of each cross into the US from Canada than from Mexico, which Trump has also threatened. Canada has a billion-dol-

lar plan to increase security at the border. LeBlanc last week he discussed parts of the plan with American officials and is optimistic, but said they have a lot of work ahead.

## world 09



## **Aviation experts say Russia's air defence** fire likely caused Azerbaijan plane crash

#### AP 📕 BAKU

experts said viation AThursday that Russian air defence fire was likely responsible for the Azerbaijani plane crash the day before that killed 38 people and left all 29 survivors injured.

Azerbaijan Airlines' Embraer 190 was en route from Azerbaijan's capital of Baku to the Russian city of Grozny in the North Caucasus on Wednesday when it was diverted for reasons still unclear and crashed while making an attempt to land in Aktau in Kazakhstan after flying east across the Caspian Sea.

The plane went down about 3 km (2 miles) from Aktau. Cellphone footage circulating online appeared to show the aircraft making a steep descent before crashing into the ground and exploding in a fireball.

Other footage showed a part of its fuselage ripped away from the wings and the rest of the aircraft lying upside down on the grass Azerbaijan mourned the crash victims with national flags at halfstaff across on Thursday. Traffic stopped at noon, and sirens sounded from ships and trains as it observed a nationwide moment of silence.

Speaking at a news conference Azerbaijani Wednesday, President Ilham Aliyev said that it was too soon to speculate on the reasons behind the crash, but said that the weather had forced the plane to change from its planned course.

"The information provided to me is that the plane changed its

As the official crash investigation course between Baku and Grozny due to worsening weather conditions and headed to Aktau airport, where it crashed upon landing," he said. Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia, said that preliminary information indicated the pilots diverted to Aktau after a bird strike led to an emergency on

tight-lipped about a possible

cause of the crash but a lawmak-

er in Azerbaijan blamed Moscow. Rasim Musabekov told the

Azerbaijani news agency Turan

that the plane was fired on while

in the skies over Grozny and

urged Russia to offer an official

apology. "Those who did this

board.

started, some experts pointed out that holes seen in the plane's tail section could indicate that it could have come under fire from Russian air defence systems fending off a Ukrainian drone attack. Ukrainian drones had previously attacked Grozny, the capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, and other regions in

Authorities in Azerbaijan, the country's North Caucasus. An Kazakhstan and Russia were official in Chechnya said anoth-

er drone attack on the region was

fended off on Wednesday,

although federal authorities did-

n't report it. Mark Zee of

OPSGroup, which monitors the

world's airspace and airports for

risks, said that the analysis of the

images of fragments of the

crashed plane indicate that it was

United Kingdom, warned its clients that the "Azerbaijan Airlines flight was likely shot down by a Russian military airdefense system." Osprey provides analysis for carriers still fly the war.

ing into Russia after Western air lines halted their flights during Osprey CEO Andrew Nicholson said that the company had issued more than 200 alerts regarding drone attacks and air defense systems in Russia during the war. "This incident is a stark reminder

99% bracket," he said.

Osprey Flight Solutions, an avi-

ation security firm based in the

of why we do what we do," Nicholson posted online. "It is painful to know that despite our efforts, lives were lost in a way that could have been avoided." Yan Matveyev, an independent Russian military expert, noted that images of the crashed plane's tail reveal the damage compatible with shrapnel from a small surface-to-air missiles, such as the Pantsyr-S1 air defence system. "It looks like the tail section of the plane was damaged by some missile fragments," he said.

Matveyev added that it remains unclear why the pilots decided to fly hundreds of miles east across the Caspian Sea instead of trying to land at a closer airport in Russia after the plane was hit. "Perhaps some of the plane's systems kept working for some time and the crew believed that they could make it and land normally," Matveyev said, adding that the crew could also have faced restrictions on landing at another venue in Russia

## China defends plan to build dam over Brahmaputra River in Tibet; says will not affect lower reaches

respond to climate change and

extreme hydrological disasters.

The total investment in the dam

could exceed one trillion vuan

(USD 137 billion), which would

dwarf any other single infrastruc-

ture project on the planet includ-

ing China's own Three Gorges Dam, regarded as the largest in the world, the Hong Kong-based

South China Morning Post

has

Operationalised the USD 1.5

billion Zam Hydropower Station,

The Brahmaputra dam was part

of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-

2025) and National Economic

and Social Development and

the Long-Range Objectives

Through the Year 2035 adopted

by Plenum, a key policy body of

the ruling Communist Party of

Concerns arose in India as the

dam besides empowering China

to control the water flow, the size

and scale of it could also enable

Beijing to release large amounts

of water flooding border areas in

India too is building a dam over

China (CPC) in 2020.

times of hostilities.

the largest in Tibet in 2015.

already

reported on Thursday.

China

#### PTI BEIJING

hina on Friday defended its ↓ plan to build the world's largest dam on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet saying that the project will not affect riparian states and safety issues have been addressed through decades of studies.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning played down apprehensions over the massive project estimated to cost around USD 137 billion being built in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region located along a tectonic plate boundary where earthquakes occur frequently. She said China has carried out in depth studies for decades and

taken safeguard measures. China has always been responsible for the development of cross-border rivers, Mao told a media briefing here a question on the concerns related to the dam. She said the hydropower development in Tibet has been studied in an in-depth way for decades and safeguard measures have been taken for the security of the project and ecological and environmental protection.

The project will not affect lower reaches, she said.

China will continue to maintain communication with countries in the lower reaches through existing channels and step up international cooperation on disaster prevention and relief for the benefit of the people by the river, she said.

China on Wednesday approved the construction of the world's largest dam, stated to be the planet's biggest infra project on the Brahmaputra River in Tibet close to the Indian border, raising concerns in riparian states -India and Bangladesh.

The hydropower project is to be built in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River, the Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra, an official statement here said.

The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra River makes a huge U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

Mao said China's hydropower development in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River aims to speed up the develop-

Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

'false flag operations'.

gence agency.

hostility," he said.

The general claimed that India

The term usually refers to fake

military action so that the

blame falls on the other side.

The spokesman claimed that

such operations were always

media accounts linked with

RAW (Research and Analysis

Wing), India's foreign intelli-

The Pakistan Army possesses

the capability to deliver a deci-

sive response to any Indian

"Indian forces are using brutal

ment of clean energy and Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

> India and China established the Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006 to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers under which China provides India with hydrological information on the Brahmaputra River and Sutlej River during the flood seasons.

Data sharing of trans-border rivers figured in the talks between India, China Special Representatives (SRs) for border questions, NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, held here on December 18. The SRs provided positive directions for cross-border cooperation and exchanges" including data sharing on trans-border rivers, a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said. The Brahmaputra Dam presents enormous engineering challenges as the project site is located along a tectonic plate boundary

where earthquakes occur. The Tibetan plateau, regarded as the roof of the world, frequently experiences earthquakes as it is located over the tectonic plates.

Chaudhry said 73 "high-value

targets" were also killed, includ-

ing 27 Afghan nationals, while

## Pak army accuses India of 25 LoC violations in 2024

five years.

operations, he said.

#### PTI ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Army on Friday accused India of 25 committed 25 LoC violations and also carried out several violations of the Line of Control (LoC) during the past year and threatened a quick response if Indian forces attack. Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry levelled these accusations at an announced through fake social year-end press conference, while not offering details to substantiate the charges. The spokesman said security forces killed at least 925 terrorists in 2024 and lost 383 of its

own men in nearly 60,000 operations The Pakistan military is bat-

tling insurgency mostly in Balochistan and Khyber tactics to suppress movements for independence," he alleged in

#### **RESTORATION/ MAINTENANCE** OF TELECOM GEARS

E-Tender No. SNT-41 LMG-2024-25 Dated: 24-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: Restoration/ Maintenance of Telecom Gears in Aathori-Thekeraauri section of Lumding Division for a period of one year. Tender Value: ₹48.21.552.29/-. Earnest Money: ₹96,400/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 20-

CORRIGENDUM With reference to the public notice dated 13/12/2024 and 27/12/2024, published in the hewspapers The Pioneer (English & Hindi) ar Jeer Arjun (Hindi), inviting applications for th Affordable Group Housing Project, Sriflex City Sector 4, Sohna, District Gurgaon, Developer Sriflex Projects Private Limited, the following corrigendum is issued. It is hereby informed that the payment deadline of 28/12/2024 an the last date for submission of application forms of 30/12/2024 should be read as 29/12/2024, 23:59 Hrs. and 31/12/2024

apologizes for any inconvenience caused. PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Re: Entire Second Floor of Block A, area measuring approx. about 2530 Sq. ft., (the said floor) built-up at Plot no 14, Factory Road, Ring Road, New Delhi 110029, area measuring 2834 sq. mtrs., Hereinafter referred to as 'said property'. NOTICE is hereby given to general public that our client, M/s EG Power Private Limited has informed us that they are the owner of the said floorvide Sale Deed executed by (1) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil (HUF) through its karta Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (2) Mr. Abhishek Govil, (3) Mrs. Parul Govil, (2) Mr. C. B. Govil Family Welfare Trust through trustees (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Shubh Shalini Rastogi, (5) Mrs. Somy Govil (now nown as Mrs. Somya Salwan), (6) Mr. A.K. Govil Family Welfare Trust through its Trustee (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Shubh Shalini Rastogi called as 'Seller' AND M/s Apex Construction called The Developer AND 'colimer No. 5202, Page No. 142-184 dated 24.01.2006. (SRO-V Delhi). In this connection, our client has further informed us that the said original Sale Deed dated 24.01.2006. (SRO-V Delhi).

is having any claim and/or objection in respe of the said floor or any part thereof, he/the

may raise his/ their objection/s, in writing, w

documentary evidence, by Registered Al Post, to the undersigned at the addres

mentioned herein below within 07days publication of this notice. Otherwise, afth expiry of 07days from the date of publication this notice, no objection shall be acceptable.

General Public may also take note that an

leal or transaction done by anybody on t

asis of the said document or any of t

aforesaid document shall be illegal and n

binding on our clients. The person doing s shall be liable to be prosecuted under the law

FOR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR,

DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024

SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE

an apparent reference mainly to Jammu and Kashmir. India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of fomenting terrorism in the territory.

another 14 high-value terrorists surrendered to the authori-The Pakistan Army spokesman ties. also accused the Indian govern-The spokesman accused the

Afghan Taliban regime of ment of targeting minorities, patronising militants, especialincluding Sikhs, both within its ly those belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban borders and abroad. Chaudhry said that the number of terrorists killed by the Pakistan (TTP). He urged the Afghan authoricountry's security forces in

ties to tackle the issue by deny-2024 was the highest in the last ing the rebels the use of their He said that daily about 170 soil. operations are being conduct-'The Afghan soil is being used ed that have helped to foil sevby TTP terrorists. The perpeeral terrorist attempts. A huge

trators of acts of terror in cache of arms and weapons Pakistan go to the hideouts of were also recovered in these terrorists in Afghanistan," he said

**THE PIONEER** <u>ATHE PIONEER A</u> LASSIFIED LASSIFIED I. Sundari Devi, Mother of-CHANGE OF NAME JC-769872A Sub Achchhe ANJALI W/O SANIAY Lal Yadav, R/o- Vill-I. KUMAR, HOUSE NO-00 Dilawerpur, Post/PS- Andar, SHAHPUR Teh & Dist- Siwan, Bihar-GOVARDHANPUR, SEC-128 23:59 Hrs., respectively. The author/developed 841231, declare that in my Noida Gautam Budh Nagar son's service records, my UP-201304. Declare that in my D.O.B. is wrongly written as 01/07/1950 whereas my passport documents. My mentioned name is Anjali correct D.O.B. Chauhan that is my correct 01/01/1952, vide affidavit name is Anjali and Anjali dated 27/12/2024 before chauhan is one and both are Notary Public Delhi. same person. PD(1160)C

#### must face criminal charges, almost certainly hit by a surface-Musabekov was quoted by Turan to-air missile, or SAM. as saying, adding that compen-'Much more to investigate, but at sations to the victims should also high level we'd put the probabilbe paid. "If it doesn't happen, rela-tions will be affected." ity of it being a SAM attack on the aircraft at being well into the 90-China probes personal disputes after mass killings; many fear further infringement on freedoms

#### AP BANGKOK

The order came from the top. China's leader Xi Jinping wants the recent spree of mass killings that shocked the country not to happen again. He ordered local governments to prevent future "extreme cases". The attacks, where drivers mow down people on foot or knifewielding assailants stab multiple victims, are not new in China. But the latest surge drew attention. Local officials were quick to

vow to examine all sorts of personal disputes that could trigger aggression, from marital troubles to disagreements over

inheritance. into people's private lives raises concerns at a time when the Chinese state has already tightened its grip over all social and political aspects in the East Asian nation.

victims, 35 people, resulted from a man mowing down a crowd in the southern city of Zhuhai, supposedly upset over his divorce.

While pinpointing the exact motive of such attacks can be difficult, there is an overwhelming feeling of being pressured within Chinese society, experts say.

"On the surface, it seems like there are individual factors, but we see there's a common link.

Wu Qiang, a former political science professor, said. "This To be known to all, KIRAN DEVI AJMERA W/C SH. MURARI LAL AJMERA R/O FLAT NO.34-A GROUND FLOOR,POCKET-C-III,BLOCK-A SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088 purchaser/ POCKET-C-III, BLOCK-A, SHALIMAR BAGH DELHI-110088.have 10088, have applied for echold in DDA. The original do i.e. POSSESSION LETTER of the above said flat have been lost. An LR No.2436255/2024 datee Qc/12/2024 to this effect has been lodged in PS.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s)claiming any right, interest, having any objection found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named persor at above Address/Phone No.9212037284 with in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest objection with respect to this property, car personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director(Housing),Delhi Develop went Authority,VikaS Sadan,New Delhi-110023 POSSESSION LETTER of the ab

the city of Yixing. The most link is, in my personal opinion, victims, 35 people, resulted every person has a feeling of injustice. They feel deeply that this society is very unfair and they can't bear it anymore." Since 2015, Chinese police have targeted human rights lawyers and non-profit advo-

cacy groups, jailing many, while keeping tight surveillance on others, effectively destroying the civil society that had been active from the early 2000s to 2010s.

PROVISION OF COPPER JUMPERS IN LUMDING DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: TRD/LMG/15 of 2024-25: Dated: 24-12-2024: E-Tende are invited by the undersigned for th owing work: Tender No. : EL-TRD NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-27; Name of Work: Provision of 160 sq mm coppe jumper in place of 105 sq.mm coppe umper in isolators under Lumding Division. Advertised Value ₹70.47.063.70/-: Earnest Money ₹1,41,000/-; Date & time of closing o tender at 15:00 hrs. on 20-01-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in Sr. DEE/TRD, Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
 Serving Customers With A Smile

Wu was fired from Tsinghua University after conducting fieldwork during the 2014 Occupy protests in Hong Kong. He says police officers have been regularly stationed outside his home in Beijing since last year.

Keeping a tight lid on the killings: A decade ago, media outlets could report an incident as it developed and even share a suspect's name. Nowadays, it's rarely possible.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that our client's customer, Sh. Vimal Sukhija is the owner of ult-up property no. IX/145 area measuring area 60 sqyds. With its roof rights out of khasra no. 392/361 situated at Abadi Multani Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, in the studied at Avaid Mutanin Monana, Santonin Agai, In the area of village Seelanpur, Illaga Shahdrar, New Dehni, who acquired the same Vide Sale Deed Dated 03.07.2013 bearing doc. no. 11357. However the title chain prior to year 2013 is not clear. And the said property is being mortgaged with Kotak Mahindra Prime 01-2025 & will be opened at

**Revenge on Society Crimes':** This is how people in China label these attacks.

In November alone, three took place: A man struck people at an elementary school in Hunan province, wounding 30, after suffering investment losses. A student who failed his examination stabbed and killed eight at a vocational school in

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOT CE Reg: Entire First floor, without Roof ferrace Rights along with One Mezzanine room between First & Second Flooi Property Bearing No. 86, Area Measuring 133.33 sq. yard. Shown in the layout plan o he State Bank of India New Delhi Staff Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd. Alsc frown as State Bank Nagar, Situated a Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 hereinafter referred to as "said property".

Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Gurps Singh and Mrs. Karamjeet Kaur (hereinafte called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said foor from Mr. Harjas Singh an Mr. Gurcharan Singh (hereinafter called the "Celler") being expressione the order beau Ihe said floor from Mr. Harjas Singh anc Mr. Gurcharan Singh (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller have informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said floor vide Sale Deed dated 05.04.2022 executed by Mrs. Rajni Beri in their favour. The said sale deed is registered as Document No. 1994, Book No. I, Volume No. 4463, Page No. 120-132 Registered on 05.04.2022 AND Partition Deed executed between 1. Mrs. Bindu Arora, 2. Mr. Sunil Arora (1st party) And Mr. Harjas Singh & Mr. Gurcharan Singh (2nd party) And Mr. Ashok Arora (3rd party). The said Deed registered as Document No. 2024/6/1/3730, Book No. I, Volume No. 5592, Page No. 159-198 Registered on 03.06.2024, The seller the said floor was owned by Mrs. Rajni Beri vide registered Will dated 03.02.2001 executed by Mrs. Sushil Kumari, registered as Document No.774, Book No.11, Volume no. 537, pages 85-87, dated 03.02.2021. Mrs. Sushil Kumari expired on 11.03.2021 and Mrs. Sushil Kumari prochased the said floor vide sale deed dated 10.11.1997 executed by Mr. Harmeet Singh, the said floor kase 168-170, dated 10.11.1997. The seller have also informed the purchaser that the said floor is not mortgaged anywhere and there is not charge or dispute or urchaser that the said floor is not mortgage inywhere and there is no charge or dispute iny litigation pending regarding the said floo Any person including Bank/s, Financia Institution/s. relative/s having any claim, righ Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, righ title or any interest of any nature whatsoeve into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereb called upon to make the same known, i writing, with documentary evidence, b Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at th address mentioned herein below withi 07days of publication of this notice and in th vent of no response having been received t the notice, the title of the seller to the said floo shall be demend to be clear of any charce or hall be deemed to be clear of any charge c ncumbrance of any nature whatsoever an ny subsequent claim shall not bind ou ients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoev Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

rity, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023

KUNDLI BRANCH

(Address, SCO-24, PHASE- 1, HSIIDC INDUSTRIAL

COMPLEX, KUNDLI, SONIPAT, HARYANA, PIN-

CODE - 131028Phone No. 8733030068,

8925952193 : & Email Id : iob2193@iob.in)

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

(for immovable property) [(Rule 8(1)]

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, Branch, Kundli, under the Securitization and Reconstruction

of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in

exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the

Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 30/09/2024 calling upon the borrower Mr. Devender S/o Baleshar, C-946,

Mangol Puri, Northwest Delhi, Delhi, Cantoment, Delhi-110083

(hereinafter referred as "borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors") to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs 20,35,250.16 (Rupees Twenty

Lakh, Thirty-Five Thousand, Two Hundred Fifty and Paise Sixteen Only as on 30.09.2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges

etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said

(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to

the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken

possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to

the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 20,95,181.23

(Rupees Twenty Lakh, Ninety-Five Thousand, One Hundred Eighty One

and Paise Twenty Three Only) as on 26.12.2024 with interest thereon at

contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any,

made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date o

taking possession is Rs 20,95,181.23 (Rupees Twenty Lakh, Ninety-Five

Thousand, One Hundred Eighty One and Paise Twenty Three Only) as or

26.12.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges

(3)The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the

ection 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential Flat Situated at Entire Third Floor with Roof Rights, Property

Bearing No. 61, Block-A, Pocket-00, Sector-2, Rohini, Delhi-110085

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Residential Flat

Situated at Entire Third Floor with Roof Right, Property Bearing No. 61,

Sd/- Authorised Office

Indian Overseas Bank

Block-A, Pocket-00, Sector- 2, Rohini, Delhi-110085. Property Area

said Rules on this 26" Day of December 2024.

etc., till date of payment

Property Area: 31.69 Sq. Meters

ecured assets

31.69 Sq. Meters

Dated: 26.12.2024

Place: Kundli

property is being mortgaged with Kotak Mainiadra Prime Limited. Plot No 7, Kotak House, Sec 125, Noida, UP-201301. Hence this notice is hereby given that any person or, bank/s or financial institution/s, or any party/ies, having any clam, charge, interest, title, demand, rights, of whatsoever nature in respect of or against the said property by way of inheritance, share, transfer, mortgage, possession, howsoever nature, are hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary support to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication, failing which the said claim of such person/s, if any will be considered as waived and f such person/s, if any will be considered as waived ar settled and not binding upon client's customer. MR. SAMIR KUMAR/LALIT KUMAR (ADVOCATE) M/S. EXCEL LAW GROUP LLP, Office at Address: 87n 3" Floor, Pocket-2, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi; Inbile-8130395390/91 Mobile:8130395390/91.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Inderpreet Sokhi (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagor/ Borrower), is purchasing Apartment No. 304-A, 3rd Floor, Block No. 2. Sector 1, adm. 1450 Sq. Ft., Panchsheel Wellington at GH 6, in the Township known as Crossing Republik, Dundahera, Ghazlabad, U.P. (hereinafter referred to "said property") from Mr. Satyencra Kumar Garg, Mr. Soumil Garg & Mr. Sumi Garg who are ifs absolute owners vide Sale Deed dated 04.04.2012 bearing Doc. No. 3169 read will Surviving Members Certificate dated 27.11.2024 issued by ADM, Ghazlabad The Borrower will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients Axis Bank Ltd. Axis House, Sector 128, Noida. 👧 Indian Overseas Bank

Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 10 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Boundheitone cried after the completion of the 10 ons raised after the completion of the 10 days shall not be binding upon the said property or my client.

For Khaitan & Khaitan Ms. Shweta Garg, Advocate

#### **E AUCTION NOTICE**

FIRE AFFECTED APPROX 49,000 KG OF BUILDING HEAVY SHED STRUCTURE ETC & APPROX 11,000 KG OF ROOFING SHEETS

nterested Buyers are invited to participate i the e-Auction for the disposal of "Fire Affecte Approx 49,000 Kg of Building Heavy Shec Structure etc. and Approx 11,000 Kg of Roofing Sheets" on "Per Kg" Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where "Whatever There Is" and "No Complaint Basis and belongs to M/s. S L Comfor Products. The subject materials can be nspected at Khasra No. 311.313. Parson Jindal Nagar, Hapur, City - Pilkhauwa, Disi Ghaziabad, Near- Shree Bankey Bihari Denta College between 28-12-2024 to 08-01-2025 between 10 AM to 5 PM on working days only Kindly contact Mr. Lakshay Malik at 9873264485 for inspection.

#### E-Auction will be held on 09-01-2025

Kindly contact Mr. Pradip Yadav	
8591284406 to obtain the form containing	
terms & conditions of e-Auction or	
download from website	
https://www.sealthedeal.co.in/	

Aucti regist Sect

15.30 hrs. on 20-01-2025. The complete information of the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in Note: (1) For any changes of

tender Please check on internet website/News Paper/Corrigendum of the original tender notice. DSTE. Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
 Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE Re: Property/Plot No. 10, land area measuring 520 sq. yds., "said portion" ou of total land areameasuring 6 Bighas 11 Biswas, falling in Khasra No. 11/17 (01-14 & 11/18 (04-16), Situated in the area o village Kamalpur Majra Burari, abad snown as Biock-A, Kamal Vihar, Kamalpur Burari, Delhi-110084., (chereinafter referred o as the "Said Property"). e it known to all that our clients. Mr. Diver

Connection, our client has further informed us that the said original Sale Deed dated 24.01.2006 executed by (1) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil (HUF) through its karta Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (2) Mr. Abitsheke Govil, (3) Mrs. Parul Govil, (4) Mr. C.P. Govil Family Welfare Trust through trustees (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Shubh Shalini Rastogi, (5) Mrs. Somya Govil (now known as Mrs. Somya Salwan), (6) Mrs. Ar.Govil Family Welfare Trust through its Trustee (a) Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Arutel Govil, (7) Mrs. Nirmal Kumari, (8) Mrs. Shubh Shalini Rastogi called as 'Seller' AND M/s EG Power Private Limited, through its Director Mr. Y. to as the Sala Property ). Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Divesh Garg and Mrs. Vaishali (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said portion from Mr. Brajesh Rana (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that he is the owner of the said portion vide GPA, Agreement to Sell and Will dated 24.06 2021 executed by Mr. Sanjay Bhatia in his favour. and Mr. Sanjay Bhatia owned the said property vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Ram Kumar & Mr. Prem Kumar in his favour and the said deed registered as Document No. 5497, Addl. Book No. 1, Volume No.655, pages 139-154, on 05.12.2002. Thus, the present seller has also informed the purchaser that the said portion is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said portion. The seller Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s. relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatscover into crupon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the same Private Limited through its Director Mr. Ganga Rao called as "Purchaser" AND M Apex Construction called The Developer AN Apex Construction called the Developer ANU "confirming Party" with respect of said floor of the said property, (hereinafter called the "said document") have been lost/misplaced and i not traceable. An FIR to this effect has als been lodged with Delhi Police vide LR N ~1695044/2024 dated 03.05.2024. If the aforesaid original document (the sai In the aloresald original document (the said document) or any one of them is/are found on has/have been found by any person, the same may be returned and delivered to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below. Further, if any person, body, institution to be an undersigned by the same same same same below.

s hereby called upon to make the sam known in writing, with documentary evidence by Registered AD Post, to the undersigne the address mentioned herein below thin 07 days of publication of this notice an n the event of no response having been eceived to the notice, the title of the seller to he said portion shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequen slaim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in ny manner whatsoever.

Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellective Law Offices -74, LGF, Defence Colony,

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Haryana, Bays No.-55-58, Paryatar Bhawan, Sector - 2, Panchkula vide their letter no. - SEAC/HR 2024/106 dated 20.12.2024 has accorded the "Environmenta Clearance" having EC Identification No. EC24B3812HR5331629N ating to M/s. Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd. for Group Housing der TOD Zone (9.16875 acres) at Sector-70, District Haryana in accordance with the Environment (Protection General Public is further informed that copy of said tal Clearance letter is available with SEIAA, Haryana or http://environmentclearance.nic.in

notice is issued in compliance to the Condition No. 10.1 o nental Clearance Letter.

Authorized Signatory
For Tulip Infratech Pvt.Ltd.

#### PD(1154)C

I, Sunda Devi, Mother of- JC-769872A Sub Achchhe Lal Yadav, R/o- Vill- Dilawerpur, Post/PS- Andar, Teh & Dist-Siwan, Bihar- 841231, have changed my name from Sunda Devi to Sundari Devi, vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

#### PD(1155)C

I. Amaravati. Mother of-No.8431901Y Hav/Clk Dhirendra Singh, R/o- H. No.-284/1 Sajari Mod, Vill+PO-Sanigawan, Teh- Kanpur (Sadar), Dist-Kanpur (Nagar), U.P.- 208021, have changed my name from Amaravati (Old Name) to Amar Wati (New Name), vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1156)C I Pitcha Ammal, Mother of-No.14684796X Perumal U. R/o-Vill+PO-Melakuttudankadu, Teh+Dist-Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu-628103, have changed my name from Pitcha Ammal to N Pitchammal, vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1157)C I, No.7431976A Hav Sandeep Kumar, R/o- Vill- Brahmano Ki Dhani, Post- Pichanawa, Teh-Surajgarh, Dist-Rajasthan-Jhunjhunu, 333026, have changed my daughter's name from Gulika Gulika Chahar, vide to affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi PD(1158)C

I, No.7431976A Hav Sandeep Kumar, R/o- Vill- Brahmano Ki Dhani, Post- Pichanawa, Teh-Surajgarh, Dist-Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan-333026, have changed my daughter's name from Hunaya to Hunaya Chahar, from vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, Meena Devi, W/o- JC-769872A Sub Achchhe Lal R/o-Yadav, Vill-Dilawerpur, Post/PS- Andar, Teh & Dist- Siwan, Bihar-841231, declare that in my husband's service records, my D.O.B. is wrongly

written as 01/02/1995 whereas my correct D.O.B. is 18/04/1977, vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before

Notary Public Delhi. PD(1161)C

I, Roslie Chingneihoi D/o Mr. Rajkumar R/o A-5, Solar House, IIT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi -110016 declare that my father's name has been written in my pan card as Dongkhanmang Simte instead of Raikumar. His correct name is Rajkumar which may amended accordingly.

PD(1162)C

I, Deepak Goyal S/o Kailash Chandra Goyal R/o Flat No. E-1002, 10th Floor, Tower E, Elite Homz, Sec-77, Noida, U.P.-201301 have changed my minor daughter name from Ariya to Ariya Goyal for all future purposes.

PD(1163)C

I, Deepti W/o Deepak Goyal R/o Flat No. E-1002, 10th Floor, Tower E, Elite Homz, Sec-77, Noida, U.P.-201301 have changed my name to Deepti Goyal for all future purposes.

#### PD(1164)C

I, hitherto known as KSHIPRA BAKUL GUPTA D/o BAKUL GOPAL GUPTA R/o A-55, first floor, Sector 41, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP 201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KSHIPRA GUPTA.

New Delhi -110024

Date: 28.12.2024.

Idly contact Mr. Pradip Yadav	with Gold Rating to			
4406 to obtain the form containing	Scheme Under TO			
Is & conditions of e-Auction or	Gurugram, Haryan			
download from website	Act, 1986. Genera			
ps://www.sealthedeal.co.in/	Environmental Clea			
ioneers: Seal The Deal having	the website http://e			
tered office at 148, Pocket C2,	This public notice is			
tor 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085.	the Environmental			
t date of Submission of form	Place: Gurugram			

Last date of Sub nand Draft is 08-01-202

## India Inc. hails former PM Dr Manmohan Singh as architect of economic reforms

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

**B**illionaire Gautam Adani, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran and business tycoon Anil Ambani led India Inc. In paying tributes to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, describing him the architect of economic reforms and one of the tallest leaders.

Singh, who opened up the economy as finance minister and served as prime minister for two consecutive terms, died on Thursday at the age of 92.

"History will forever honour his pivotal role in the transformative 1991 reforms that reshaped India and opened its doors to the world. A rare leader who spoke but achieved softly monumental strides through his actions, Dr Singh's life remains a masterclass in leadership, humility and service to the nation and will inspire generations to come," Adani group chairman said in a post on X.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran called Singh one of the stalwarts who envisioned a new, liberalised India that is taking its rightful place in the world. "We mourn the passing away

of former Prime Minister Dr



most

intellect, wisdom,

as an inspiration for

contribution -- the epochal

defining

Manmohan Singh, one of the stalwarts who envisioned a new, liberalised India that is taking its rightful place in the world," he said in a statement. "Dr Singh will always be remembered for his visionary thinking and deep insights while always being humble and upholding his personal values," Chandrasekaran said. inspiring leadership His earned him respect across the world, he added. Aditya Birla Group Chairman

economists.

Science and

Intelligence

installation

Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

Grid Corporation to construct and furnish 500-

course of

ne pioneer

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2024

the nation's conscience." Singh's extraordinary rise Kumar Mangalam Birla said with Singh's demise the from humble beginnings to the Prime Minister's office nation has lost one of its tallest leaders and finest epitomises the boundless potential of India and serves

generations of Indians, Birla added.

in

91 reforms spurred a multi-Indian industry, economy, decadal economic boom and and entrepreneurs more importantly reshaped particular, owe a debt of gratitude to the liberalisation the calculus of possibilities for India and Indians," Birla reforms that were ushered in said in a statement. He further said, "Over several the early 90s under Manmohan Singh's leadership, Bharti Enterprises decades in public life, his Founder and Chairman Sunil and humility stood as exemplars, Mittal said leaving an indelible mark on Mittal further said that as a

Prime Minister, Finance Minister and an economist, Singh finds his place among India's tallest leaders. "I am deeply saddened by the

Dr passing away of Manmohan Singh. As a

Prime Minister, Finance Minister and an economist he finds his place among India's tallest leaders.

Indian industry, economy and especially entrepreneurs owe a debt of gratitude to the liberalisation reforms that were ushered in the early 90s under his leadership," Mittal said. Infosys

founder Narayana described Murthy Manmohan Singh as a gentleman, a scholar, and a value-based politician. "His leading the economic reforms, under the guidance

of Sri Narasimha Rao, is what laid a strong and durable foundation for the India's acceleration of economic growth. Indian Therefore, every

should be extremely grateful to this extraordinary individual for enhancing the prosperity of our country,' Murthy said.

Reliance Group head Anil Ambani said the former prime minister's life was a testament to humility, wisdom and service to India. "As the Guru Granth Sahib says, 'Nanak Naam Chardi Kala, Tere Bhane Sarbat Da Bhala' 'With the Divine -Name comes eternal optimism; by You will, may there be well-being for all'.

Legendary figure in automotive sector: PM Modi condoles Osamu Suzuki's demise



#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ondoling the demise of Global automotive industry legend Osamu Suzuki, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he had a profound affection for India and his collaboration with Maruti revolutionised the Indian automobile market.

Osamu Suzuki, the man who took a risk and bet on India when no one else believed in having a viable automobile company in the country, has died at the age of 94, according to information shared by Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation on Friday. He passed away on December 25 due to malignant lymphoma, it said

"Deeply saddened by the

passing of Mr. Osamu Suzuki, a legendary figure in global automotive the industry. His visionary work reshaped global perceptions of mobility. Under his leadership, Suzuki Motor Corporation became a powerhouse. global successfully navigating challenges, driving innovation and expansion, Modi said in a social media

post. Suzuki had a profound affection for India and his collaboration with Maruti revolutionised the Indian automobile market, the prime minister said.

<sup>\*</sup>I cherish fond memories of my numerous interactions with Mr. Suzuki and deeply admire his pragmatic and humble approach. He led by example, exemplifying hard work, meticulous attention

to detail and an unwavering commitment to quality Heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues and countless admirers," Modi said.

Suzuki, who took the risk of partnering with the then Indian government to form a joint venture, Maruti Udyog Ltd, in 1981 - at a time when India was still a closed economy under a licence regime - is widely regarded as the man who spurred the automotive industry in the country.

Maruti Udyog Ltd later on became Maruti Suzuki India Ltd subsequent to the government completing its exit in 2007 with Suzuki Motor Corporation holding a majority stake. Osamu Suzuki was the director and honorary chairman of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.

#### NBCC bags ₹368.75 Crore worth Rupee falls further 23 paise to hit fresh of projects, Including ₹300 Crore record low of 85.50 against US dollar Varanasi commercial complex



PTI NEW DELHI

State-owned NBCC has bagged a Rs 300-crore bed multi-storey "Vishram Sadan" at AIIMS Gorakhpur contract to develop a commercial complex in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. In a regulatory filing on In total, NBCC said it has

Friday, the company said it secured the work order in cured 300-crore normal

#### contract from Varanasi PTI MUMBAI

"His

Development Authority. NBCC secured another The rupee fell steepest in almost two years to hit its  $f_{25}$  so work order worth Rs 24.38 crore to construct Mehta lifetime intraday low of 85.80 Family School of Data before a suspected central Artificial bank intervention helped recover some of its losses and including internal EI,C, firefighting, settled 23 paise lower at a fire alarm, lifts, audio visual system, CCTV and BMS record low of 85.50 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday due to a strong greenback amid and development works at IIT increased month-end The company bagged another work order worth demand from banks and importers. Rs 44.37 crore from Power

According to analysts, the Reserve Bank's stance to hold on to its dollar payments in short-term forward contracts added to the shortage of greenback, with importers rushing to meet their month-

end payment obligations. Despite robust entimen



weak at 85.31 and plunged 53 paise to the lowest-ever intraday level of 85.80.

The unit finally ended the session at 85.50 (provisional) against the greenback, losing 23 paise from its previous closing level of 85.27.

The rupee's earlier sharpest one-day fall of 68 paise was recorded on February 2, 2023. The domestic unit has been hitting new lows almost every

mature in December and January. Market speculation suggests that the RBI has refrained from rolling over these maturing forwards, leading to a scarcity of dollars and an oversupply of rupees. "Moreover, dollar liquidity in the market remains very low, amplifying the upward momentum in the pair. This imbalance has propelled the USD-INR pair towards 85.8075 levels," said Amit Pabari, MD of CR Forex Advisors. According to Anuj

Research Choudhary Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, the rupee hit a record low on dollar demand from importers towards the end of the month and outflows from oreign

side forward contracts set to traders may take cues from goods trade balance data from

> the US Meanwhile, the dollar index. which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.04 per cent at 107.94, while the 10-year benchmark US Treasury yield rose 0.76 per cent, hitting its seven-month high level of 4.61 per cent.

> Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.15 per cent to USD 73.37 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 226.59 points or 0.29 per cent higher at 78,699.07 points, while Nifty went up 63.20 points, or 0.27 per cent to close at 23,813.40

RBI permits prepaid payment instruments holders to make UPI payments via third-party apps

#### PTI MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday I allowed prepaid payment instruments holders to make and receive UPI payments through third-party mobile applications

It has been decided to enable Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments from/to full-KYC prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) through third-party UPI applications, the central bank said in circular. "A PPI issuer shall enable holders of only its full-KYC PPIs to make UPI payments by linking its customer PPIs to its UPI handle. UPI transactions from PPI on the issuer's application shall be authenticated using the customer's existing PPI

it said



RBI said. The RBI's decision is aimed at providing more flexibility to holders of PPIs such as gift cards, metro rail cards, and digital wallets,

among others. Currently, UPI payments from/to a bank account can be carried out using the UPI application of that bank or of any third-party application provider.

However, UPI payments from/to a PPI can only be carried out using the mobile application prov bv the PPI issuer. UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India to facilitate inter-bank transactions through mobile phones.

order for "development of Jawaharlal Nehru Complex Commercial (JLNCC), Englishya Lines, Varanasi on self-sustainable model".

The company got the

amounting Rs 368.75 crore. NBCC is into Project Management Consultancy (PMC), Engineering, Procurement Construction (EPC) and real estate businesses.

in Uttar Pradesh.

domestic equity markets, the rupee was weighed down by sustained outflow of foreign funds and rising crude oil and prices, they added. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened

husiness

day in the past couple of weeks. It had plunged 12 paise to 85.27 against the dollar on Thursday after declining 13 paise in the previous two sessions. "The central bank holds USD 21 billion in short-

investors (FIIs). "Rising US treasury yields and crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee," he said and projected the USD-INR spot price in a range of Rs 85.30 to Rs 85.85, saying

Foreign Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets Thursday, as they on offloaded shares worth Rs 2,376.67 crore, according to exchange data.

transaction will, thus, be pre-Institutional approved before it reaches the UPI system. A PPI issuer, in its capacity as a payment system providers, should not onboard customers of any bank or any other PPI issuer, the

credentials

## NCLT directs initiation of insolvency proceedings against Hero Electric

#### PTI NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has directed initiation of insolvency proceedings against Hero Electric after admitting a plea filed by Metro Tyres, an operational creditor claiming a default of Rs 1.85 crore.

As per provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC), NCLT has appointed Bhoopesh Gupta as Interim Resolution Professional to run the company after suspending the board of Hero Electric. The Delhi-based bench of

PTI NEW DELHI



argument".

The objections raised by Hero

Electric are not found "tenable in law" and have

2024

many ways, Wilson said 2025

planes is expected to start in

as

NCLT rejected the contentions of Hero Electric of a pre-existing dispute with operational creditor the saying that it was "not just a

Tyres, which had supplied tyres and tubes to the company.

the facts "In and circumstances of the instant case, we are of the view that the corporate debtor has not been able to raise a plausible contention regarding the pre-existence of "dispute" between the parties. Hence, the present petition filed under Section 9 of the IBC, 2016 ought to be admitted," it said.

Besides, a two-member bench in its 16-page order passed on December 20, declared a moratorium, protecting the company from decree or

are also efficient and,

ultimately, profitable". In the

2023-24 fiscal, Air India

trimmed its losses to Rs 4,444.10 crore from Rs

11,387.96 crore in 2022-23. Its

turnover rose 23.69 per cent to

Rs 38,812 crore in the last

financial year compared to the

Earlier this month, Air India

Airbus planes comprising 10 wide body A350s and 90

year-ago period.

order books is 570.

been duly negated by Metro order of any court, tribunal or arbitration panel and ban on transferring, encumbering, alienating or disposing of its assets

Hero Electric had approached Metro Tyres, for the purchase of cycle tyres and tubes. Pursuant to that it supplied goods to Hero Electric and in lieu of that various invoices were raised from August 9, 2022 to December 3, 2022 amounting to Rs 3.69 crore out of which Rs 4.27 lakh was

paid. However, Rs 1.85 crore was due on Hero Electric, and Metro Tyres submitted that despite its several requests,

the payment was denied by Electric taking Hero 'moonshine defence' stating that in 90/90x10 tyre and 90/90x12 tyre supplied by it, there was issue of 'tread separation', 'bubbles' and 'air leakage'. It further contended that Hero Electric had never raised any quality issue or any sort of dispute in any manner and this was evident from the Balance Confirmation Letters by the corporate debtor.

The insolvency tribunal also observed that Hero Electric had not raised any dispute over the quality of goods until nine months after the supply. "It is amply clear from the records that the corporate debtor (Hero Electric) being the purchaser of goods never raised any quality issue or any sort of dispute in any manner whatsoever as per their own inspection/quality control policies immediately after the receipt of the goods and continued to purchase goods," said NCLT.

Hero Electric itself has declared in the user manual/warranty policy for its products that "tyres/tubes" are not covered under its warranty and the original manufacturer is liable for all or any claim for tyres and tubes.

**Govt issues allocation** order to Hindalco Industries for coal mine in Odisha PTI NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said it has issued allocation order for a coal mine in Odisha to Aditya Birla Group firm Hindalco Industries Ltd.

The government issued the vesting order for the Meenakshi coal mine that has a peak rating capacity of 12 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). This follows the signing of the agreement for development and production of coal mine last month. The Meenakshi coal mine, a fully explored block, has geological reserves of 285.23 million tonnes (MT).

The block is likely to generate an annual revenue of Rs 1,152.84 crore, based on its peak rated capacity (PRC), the coal ministry said in a statement. With an estimated capital investment of Rs 1,800 the mine will significantly augment domestic coal production and contribute to strengthening energy security, it said. The development of the block is likely to provide employment to about 16,224 individuals, growth in the region. "This initiative marks a significant step toward boosting the nation's coal production employment

### added.

Sebi clarifies rules on change in control for investment advisers, research analysts, KRAs corporate intermediaries. In the case of proprietary firms, any transfer inheritance of ownership will be considered a change in control. Legal heirs are shareholding among

> will not constitute a "change in control.

Immediate relatives include spouses, parents, siblings, and children.

of On transmission shareholding, the regulator said transmission of shares, whether to immediate relatives or others, will also not result in a change in among immediate relatives control for unlisted body

required to seek Sebi's prior approval and obtain fresh registration in their name. For partnerships with more than two partners, transfer of ownership among partners will not be treated as a change in control.

However, If a partner passes away and the partnership deed allows legal heirs to join, the firm will be reconstituted without requiring registration.

will require Sebi's approval.

Air India to see progress on key initiatives in 2025, working towards profitability: CEO Wilson PTI 📕 NEW DELHI 2025. Wilson, the CEO and MD of Air India, also emphasised the airline will Markets watchdog Sebi on Friday clarified the rules for transfer and transmission strengthen and tighten its practices and processes so that "we are not just consistent, we of

immediate relatives for investment advisers, research analysts, and know your client (KYC) registration

agencies (KRAs). The move aims to streamline regulatory compliance and protect investor interests

placed an order for 100 more narrow body A320s. The total that

while ensuring transparency in the functioning of these intermediaries. With regards to transfer

among immediate relatives, Sebi, in its circular, clarified transferring shares

or crore,

contributing to the economic capacity, supporting economic development, and creating sustainable opportunities," the statement



Induction of a new partner

ir India will see progress All mula win occ resolution various key initiatives, including refitting of wide body and narrow body planes, in 2025 as well as tighten practices and processes to ultimately become profitable, the airline's chief Campbell

Wilson said on Friday. After taking over the lossmaking Air India from the government in January 2022, Tata Group has been working ambitious on an transformation plan to turn around the airline, which recently also placed orders for 100 more aircraft. In his message to the staff on Friday, Wilson said 2024 saw the



will see progress on many more key initiatives of the airline such as refitting wide body and remaining narrow milestones, body aircraft with new seats and services. Further, Air India's service standards will be elevated, raising the bar on what we consider 'good', and more largest business, by revenue, in consistently delivering to those new expectations, he added. Refitting of narrow body aircraft has commenced while that of legacy wide body

realisation of some of the most significant including the completion of the mergers of Air India Express and AirAsia India, and Vistara with Air India that "position us as the fourth

the Tata group". Air India group operates 300 aircraft across both brands, flying over 60 million customers annually to more



than 100 destinations in India and around the world. While describing transformative year for Air India and Indian aviation in BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2024

www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

## ie pioneer 💦



At India Habitat Centre, Delhi, The Forces of Imagination brings sculpture to life, blending emotion, creativity and innovation, says SAKSHI PRIYA

through its form, texture, and the materials used. At *The Forces of Imagination*, a groundbreaking timeless material sculpture exhibition at the India Habitat Centre, today's art world. this powerful medium was brought to life in all its glory. The event, curated by the renowned art critic Nanak Ganguly and organised by Chawla Art Gallery

in collaboration with the Delhi Art Society and Calcutta Sculptors, featured over 100 sculptures from 14 talented artists, each pushing the boundaries of creativity.

Upon entering the gallery, the diversity of the works was immediately apparent. There was a remarkable blend of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary innovation. The sculptures, created from materials such as bronze, marble, stainless steel, aluminum and wood, each told its own story. Whether they were smooth, polished surfaces or raw,

textured designs, every piece invited a deeper engagement, requiring the viewer to

physically move around and truly immerse themselves in the art.

One of the highlights of the exhibition was Vibhor Sogani's stainless steel sculptures. These works, with their sleek and shiny surfaces, caught the light in a way that made them appear to change shape depending on the viewer's perspective. They felt alive and fluid, showcasing the artist's ability to push the limits of sculpture into a modern, dynamic realm. In contrast, Neeraj Gupta's unique textures of each piece. As you moved through marble sculptures had a classic feel, with intricate details the space, you could feel the transformation of the

distinctly contemporary, highlighting how timeless materials can still feel relevant in

seasoned masters such as collective, showcase their work. The diversity in and styles techniques was fascinating, each piece added a new to laver the conversation,

form, medium, or theme. This blending of generations and styles made for an incredibly

The curation of the exhibition was impeccable, with each sculpture given ample space to stand on its own while also contributing to the overall dialogue of the show. The lighting in the gallery was carefully considered, casting shadows and highlighting the



exhibition.

space of untold stories, silent rebellions and vibrant expressions of identity. Vama: Showcasing Women Artists from Delhi at the Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, brings these narratives to the



experience with universal themes, offering viewers a chance to engage deeply with complex emotions. Meanwhile, Angelica Basak's Breathe series uses ceramic sculptures to embody the delicate balance between chaos and tranquility, while Rashmi Khurana's mixedmedia works delve into the power of tactile surfaces to evoke protound human emotions. Shampa Sircar's Mayura Series incorporates the peacock and lotus to symbolise the interconnectedness of life and spiritual growth. From the global themes explored in Durga Kainthola's Travelogue Diaries to Navani's Richa geometric abstractions addressing gender and ecology, Vama stands as a vibrant celebration of the depth, diversity and power of women's artistic expression. This exhibition is not only an artistic experience but a reminder of the essential role women play in shaping the cultural landscape. It encourages reflection on the everevolving role of women in art and society, offering a dynamic space for dialogue and empowerment.



material from something inert to something that

The presence of Padma Bhushan Shri Ram V. Sutar, a

master sculptor known for creating the Statue of

Unity, added an extra layer of significance to the

event. His contributions to Indian art are

monumental, and his influence was felt in the

The Forces of Imagination celebrated the tactile

power of sculpture and the endless

possibilities it offers. It is a rare opportunity

to see such a diverse range of work in one

place, where artists from across the country

seemed to have its own presence.

## culpture is a unique form of art that speaks to us and deep narratives embedded in the stone. not just through its visual appeal but also His works spoke of tradition while being

The exhibition successfully created a space for both established sculptors and emerging talents. It was a platform where

> Tapas Sarkar and Ratan Krishna Saha, alongside fresh voices from the Calcutta Sculptors could

whether through

engaging experience.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

ART & CULTURE

vivacity 1



#### THE *BHARATMUNI RANG UTSAV* CELEBRATED THE POWER OF THEATRE TO REFLECT LIFE'S COMPLEX EMOTIONS, WRITES SAKSHI PRIYA

heatre has always had a unique power to bring stories to life, creating a shared space where emotions and experiences are felt deeply by both performers and audiences. The Bharatmuni Rang Utsav, a celebration of Indian theatre, truly captured this essence, offering a powerful display of storytelling. Each performance brought something distinct to the stage, reminding us of the magic of theatre and its ability to touch hearts.

The festival opened with three exceptional plays that set the tone for the days ahead. Asmanjas Babu, written by Satyajit Ray and directed by Utpal Jha, explored moral dilemmas with nuance and depth. This was followed by Aakhiri Hila, written by Munshi Premchand and directed by Durga Sharma, which brought to life the poignant storytelling of one of India's literary legends. Concluding the evening was Dhundh, written and directed by Amul Sagar, a

gripping narrative that left the audience spellbound.

Day two continued the festival's momentum with even more captivating performances. The acting was extraordinary, with each performer immersing themselves in their roles. Intzar, written by Saadat Hasan Manto and directed by Amar Sah, brought emotional depth through minimalistic dialogue and a raw, honest performance that made the audience feel the weight of existential despair. The voices, full of passion and subtlety, reached every corner of the room, ensuring that no emotion went unnoticed. Purush, The God of Few Inches, written and directed by Shuddho Banerjee, saw a remarkable solo performance that explored masculinity's evolving nature, engaging the audience with its sharp, reflective narrative. Qissa Aadmi Ka, written and directed by Abdus Salam Ansari, brought humour and thoughtprovoking commentary on societal norms, with the actors delivering their lines with

impeccable timing and depth, making the satire both enjoyable and insightful.

The final day was just as memorable. Trishna beautifully weaved themes of reincarnation and devotion, while Marnoprant and Digdarshak explored grief and the mentor-disciple relationship with deep emotional resonance. Trishna stood out for its poetic exploration of devotion and longing, while Marnoprant powerfully addressed complex emotions surrounding loss and relationships. Digdarshak concluded the event with a thought-provoking meditation on the sacrifices art demands. In the end, the Bharatmuni Rang Utsav reminded us of the power of theatre to reflect life's complexities, emotions and stories. It was a reminder that, beyond the performances, it's the shared experience of theatre that connects us all, sparking conversations and inspiring change.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

forefront, presenting a captivating display of works by 20 distinguished women artists from the city. Through this exhibition, Sahitya Kala Parishad not only honours their talent but also creates a platform for the celebration of women's creativity and their powerful voices in the art world.

The artworks on display offer a striking diversity of mediums and perspectives. Nilanjana Nandy's This Side-That Side stands as a poignant exploration of division and alienation, using grid-like spaces to depict the fragmentation of identity. Aditi Aggarwal's Dream 6 and 7 offers a surreal reflection on memory and change, encapsulating a personal journey through unsettling yet evocative imagery. Both works underscore how women's art often bridges personal



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



## **Empowering Women through Skill Development**

#### By ABHI SINGHAL

he Hyatt Centric in New Delhi saw the 26th anniversary of the International Women Polytechnic (IWP) Academy with the grand celebration of "Meraki 2024," an annual festival dedicated to empowering women through financial independence. The event featured various cultural performances including various fashion shows, dances, and dramas, showcasing the creativity and talent of women by different branches of IWP.

The annual event was graced by

Parliament, Lok Sabha, as the chief guest. Sehrawat, in her speech, said, If we want to take our country forward, there is only one mantra: skill development."

event showcased the The dedication to women's education. Students from IWP's Delhi branches showcased an impressive array of ethnic, Indo-western, and Western attire. What made the show particularly unique was that these students not only designed the clothes but were also deeply involved in every aspect of the

creation process starting from Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Member of fabric selection to stitching and



embroidery. This hands-on experience was a testament to the academy's commitment to providing practical skills that empower women in real-world settings.

The festival culminated in an award ceremony, where students were recognised for their achievements in various categories, further boosting their morale. Meraki 2024 delivered a powerful message: empowering women through skill development is crucial for shaping a self-reliant and developed India, aligning with the country's vision for a prosperous future by 2047.

## India collapse after Jaiswal's terrible run-out on day two of the fourth Test

#### PTI MELBOURNE

familiar collapse unfolded inexplicable run-out as India stared down the barrel at 164/5 against a menacing Australia on day two of the fourth Test here on Friday.

Jaiswal, who was quite fluent during his 118-ball stay that yielded 82 runs, was way short of his crease after a mix-up with Virat Kohli (36) while attempting a quick single, handing Australia the breakthrough that could prove decisive.

Îndia are still 310 runs behind Australia's first innings score of 474 and would need another 111 runs to avoid a follow-on that should never have been a consideration on a placid batting track.

It was 153 for 2 at one stage and in four overs, another three wickets fell with Gautam Gambhir's plan of sending a night watchman in Akash Deep turning out to be one of the many poor calls that the head coach has taken in this game.

In a space of barely five minutes,

cricket showed its fickle nature as Jaiswal pushed towards mid-on and called for a quick single with after Yashasvi Jaiswal's an assured Kohli (36) at the other end. Kohli took a step and half

the pioneer

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | DECEMBER 28, 2024

before retreating. Pat Cummins swooped the ball and threw at the striker's end with a frustrated Jaiswal seen telling his idol "my call". This recovert will be area for

This moment will be one for posterity as Kohli looked down and perhaps felt that he could have at least said a loud "No" to allow Jaiswal to sprint back.

his The run-out broke concentration and for the first time after 85 balls, he poked a delivery bowled in the corridor of uncertainty and it was the end.

Scott Boland repeated the dismissal that has been a norm for quite a while now. Akash Deep didn't have the technique to survive and the day ended in Australia's favour just like it started.

The Jaiswal-Kohli pair had added 102 runs and looked comfortable just like they did in the Perth second innings. The ball hardly did anything after Rohit Sharma (3) played a poor shot and KL



Rahul got a ripper from Pat Cummins. Jaiswal was in regal form, as he cut, pulled, drove and lofted the

Australian bowlers stamping his authority as the next megastar of Indian batting.

boos for Thursday's run-in with debutant Sam Konstas and battled his demons Kohli, at the other end, endured This was after Steve Smith's 34th

Test hundred ensured a very good total for hosts.

Starting the day at 311 for 6, Smith added 112 and 44 runs with Cummins (49) and Mitchell Starc (15) respectively, leaving the visitors searching for back-up plans

Jasprit Bumrah (4/99 in 28.4 oves) was once again brilliant despite the first spell thrashing from Konstas but Mohammed Siraj's ordinary showing (0/122 in 23 overs) was the primary reason for batters not being under any pressure.

Smith, who was unbeaten overnight on 68 off 111 balls, took another 56 deliveries in the second morning to complete a Test ton which placed him on even keel with the legendary Sunil Gavaskar (34).

The century came with a push drive through the vacant cover region and celebrations were pretty muted with a just vigorous head nod for his teammates in the dug-out.

Smith, who had a torrid run till the second Test of this series, played both days in contrasting styles. On Thursday, he was ready

to be patient and waited for deliveries at the expense of looking ugly.

On Friday, the same batter was walking down the track to force the bowlers to alter their length. He was ready to pull and hook, getting two sixes off Bumrah and Širaj respectively.

Despite a significant drop in temperature and some nip in the air, Indians failed to make use of the semi-new Kookaburra, with lines going all awry and length being short enough to be punished. Cummins was allowed to settle down and hit seven boundaries.

The Indian ploy of playing two spinners backfired with Ravindra Jadeja (3/78 in 22 overs) and Washington Sundar (1/49 in 15 overs) never looking penetrative. For a change, Siraj didn't try and sledge an in-form batter, something that he did in Adelaide with some disastrous results.

But that didn't soften the Australian supporters, who constantly booed him and Kohli as and when the ball went to them.

## India whitewash West Indies 3-0

#### PTI VADODARA

Senior off-spinner Deepti Sharma did the star turn with career-best figures of 6/31 before doing her bit with the bat as India completed a 3-0 whitewash of the West Indies with a five-wicket victory in the final Women's ODI here on Friday

Having bowled out West Indies for 162 after Deepti's Deandra Dottin delivery way superlative performance and pacer Renuka Singh's (4/29) excellent show with the new ball, India recovered after a top-order wobble to reach the target of 163 in 28.2

in with 29 off 45 balls. overs. in a spot of both India w



### There's difference between being out of runs and out of form: Smith

completed a strange onehanded catch after appearing PTI MELBOURNE to have misjudged what should actually have been a

Australian batting Mainstay Steve Smith batting always knew that he was "out of runs" but never "out of form" as he got back-to-back Test hundreds against India within a week of each other after 18 months of lull.

Having scored his 33rd ton in Brisbane, Smith equalled Sunil Gavaskar's then world record of 34 hundreds on the second day of the fourth Test at the MCG on Friday.

Asked how did he chug along all these days when big runs were not coming that easily, dived into h Smith

"I think you need a lot of luck on these wickets to get big runs as well, the ones we're playing at the moment. And last week I had my fair share. I think I got an umpire's call and got beaten on numerous occasions as to on other days, I would nick

"So, yeah, you need a bit of luck. But you've just got to have faith that you're going to turn it around.

Australia's batting was a lot more aggressive on the second day after resuming on overnight 311 for six but Smith said that while batting with Pat Cummins

## Tendulkar, Sindhu among sporting stars to pay tributes to Manmohan Singh

#### PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Ctalwarts of Indian sports **J**paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, who died on Thursday, describing him as a visionary, who had quiet strength and humility

Singh died here after losing consciousness at his home due to age-related ailments. He was 92

92. "Rest in peace, Dr. Manmohan Singhji. His quiet strength, wisdom, and humility were truly inspiring. I had a brief interaction with him in 2013 - he was kind, gracious, and left a lasting impression. My heartfelt condolences to his family," wrote India's ace shuttler Sindhu on 'X'.

Cricket great Sachin Tendulkar termed Singh's demise as a huge loss for the country. "Dr Manmohan Singh ji's

demise is a profound loss for India. His contributions to our nation shall always be remembered. My prayers are with his family and loved ones as we mourn his passing away." Legendary golfer Jeev Milkha recalled Singh Singh's simplicity and humility, saying he was committed to national

duty all his life. Manmohan

A



national assignments to pay homage to posted on X. the former PM Similar

Earlier, World Cup-winning former cricketer Yuvraj Singh called Singh a "true statesman". A visionary leader and a true statesman who worked tirelessly for India's progress. His wisdom and humility will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his

obcc

ଓଡିଶା ସେତୁ ଓ ନିର୍ମାଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ

nent of Odisha Undertaking

in times of crisis, his ability to navigate complex political iandscapes, and his unwavering belief in India's potential," he wrote.

It was during Singh's second term that India hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games in the national capital. It was the first international multisport extravaganza to be held in the country after the 1982 Asian Games, also hosted by Delhi.

He had also inaugurated the National Football League's 11th edition in Kolkata back in 2005 when late Congress leader Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi was heading the All India Football Federation. Former wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who is now a Congress MLA in Haryana, called Singh a man of "extraordinary simplicity and

"What truly set him apart was wisdom, his calm and steady leadership vision.

sentiments were

expressed by his former

teammate and Aam Aadmi

Party's Rajya Sabha member

described Singh as a thorough

gentleman and visionary leader.

Harbhajan

Singh,

**Office of the General Manager ODISHA BRIDGE & CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION Ltd.** Joda Division, Keonjhar e-mail:jodadiv1@obcc.in

who

No: D-2000	_1048		N	OTICE INV	ITING TEND	ER	Date:	26.12.	2024
	1 I sector menos	f the work	Bid Identifi cation No.	Date of availability of bid documents in e-	Approximate value of work	Cost of bid document (online)	Bid security EMD (online)	Period of comple tion	Class of Contr actor

at 73/4 but Deepti (39 not out in 48 balls) used all her experience to see the team through with plenty of overs remaining

Swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh was unbeaten on an 11-ball 23 when the winning runs were scored.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who eased nerves with two boundaries after last match centurion Harleen Deol's (1) dismissal left India at 23/2, blazed away to a 22-ball 32 before getting bowled by Afy Fletcher.

During her breezy knock, smashed Kaur seven boundaries and looked good for a big one before getting dismissed.

In-form opener Smriti Mandhana (4) departed early Munisar Ashmini spinners

#### Earlier Renuka tormented West Indies with a fiery opening spell before Deepti got into the act to bowl out the visitors cheaply. Thakur and Deepti were relentless with the ball, taking all 10 wickets between them. Thakur's accurate line and length dismantled the top order, while Deepti deceived the West Indies batters with flight and guile, recording her third ODI five-

straightforward catch off the

bowling of Aaliyah Alleyne.

Enjoying a good run of form

in recent times, vice-captain

Mandhana did not get to the

pitch of the ball on the day

followed suit, nicking for a

outside off-stump and got a

faint edge that was taken by

Jemimah Rodrigues chipped

Deol

Shemaine

batter

and paid the price.

wicketkeeper

Middle-order

Campbelle.

One-down batter

you guys when I wasn't scoring the runs. I actually felt like I was batting pretty well. And there's a difference, I think, between being out of form and out of runs. So, yeah, I thought I was hitting the ball nicely," Smith said at the day-end press conference here. wicket haul and second six-'I mean, you've got to have wicket performance.

West Indies fought back with a 97-run partnership between Chinelle Henry (61) and Shemaine Campbelle (46), helping them to cross 160. Without this stand, the visitors might have been bowled out for less than 100. Both batted really well and were aggressive against the

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inner core.

no "general plan" as such.

'Sometimes you can be "There wasn't really a general hitting the ball really nicely, plan. It was just go out there which I think I said to all and play. Yeah, there wasn't a real plan. It was just go out and play and see what's going on. thought Patty (Cummins) played really nicely. Really good, positive intent.

probably one of the most humble men I had met in my life - a simple and extremely intelligent man. His sense of duty and responsibility shone through. The world has lost a visionary," wrote Jeev.

On Friday, both the men's and women's cricket teams wore black armbands during their

R.W. Division, Bargarh

ଜଗତସିଂହପୁର ପୌରପରିଷଦ, ଜଗତସିଂହପୁର

OFFICE OF THE JAGATSINGHPUR MUNICIPALITY. JAGATSINGHPUR

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## Arjun Erigaisi tied fifth after first day of World Rapid Chess **Championship in New York**

#### PTI CHENNAI

hennaiyin FC will be Caiming to rebound to winning form and finish the year on a positive note when they face Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super league here on Saturday.

In the day's other game, Hyderabad FC will host East Bengal FC with an aim to turn things around and halt the visitors' momentum. Chennaiyin and Bengaluru have played each other 15 times in the ISL, with the former winning four matches. This corresponding fixture last year produced a 2-0 win for the Marina Machans and head coach Owen Coyle will be eyeing the same this time.

However, the tactician will be

without captain Rvan

Edwards, who is suspended for the match, and is expected to field an all-Indian backline.

Bengaluru come into the match as the second-placed side in the league, and Coyle is wary of the threat they carry, especially with the team missing key personnel. On the availability front, Coyle confirmed that he will take late calls on Wilmar Jordan Gil and Ankit Mukherjee, both of whom are back in training after receiving knocks.

The head coach also revealed that Elsinho, who left the pitch under medical care in the previous home match, is recovering in his native Brazil and will be rejoining the squad in the new year.

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