



INSIDE

**MONEY 10**  
GOVERNMENT SCRAPS WINDFALL  
PROFIT TAX ON DOMESTIC CRUDE  
OIL, EXPORT OF FUELS

CHANDIGARH, TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹2

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PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

# Opposition, Treasury benches agree to discuss Constitution



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, JP Nadda, and others during the screening of the film 'The Sabarmati Report', at the Parliament in New Delhi

**DEEPAK KUMAR JHA**  
NEW DELHI

After a week of acrimony with no business or discussions held ever since the Winter Session of Parliament started last week, the Opposition and Treasury benches on Monday are believed to have resolved to break the deadlock, and “work for smooth functioning,” until a fresh provocation is bulldozed from either side.

On a day when a group of Parliamentarians, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, watched a special screening of the Bollywood movie ‘The Sabarmati Report’ in the Annex, leaders from both the sides came close to breaking the impasse in Parliament with a discussion on the

Kazhagam’s (DMK) TR Bалу and Trinamool Congress’ (TMC) Kalyan Banerjee among others besides Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijjiу expressed confidence that both Houses will function smoothly from Tuesday. Sources said the Lok Sabha will take up the discussion on the Constitution to mark its 75th year of adoption on December 13 and 14, and the Rajya Sabha on December 16 and 17. Asked about the Opposition raising other issues such as Sambhal violence and Manipur, Rijjiу said a decision will be taken in accordance with the rules. Congress said the Modi Government has accepted its request for a special two-day discussion on the Constitution and hopefully now it will “allow both Houses to function”. The party alleged the Government does not want Parliament to function as it is “running away” from a discussion on issues such as Adani indictment, Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest.

Proceedings in both Houses were adjourned for yet another day on Monday amid protests by Opposition members over the Adani indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh’s Sambhal and other issues.

# SC fumes after V Senthil Balaji returns to TN Cabinet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed concern over reinstatement of DMK leader V Senthil Balaji as a Cabinet minister in Tamil Nadu, just days after it granted bail in the money laundering case related to the cash-for-job scam, and agreed to examine a plea raising apprehensions on independence of witnesses in the case.

“We granted you bail and days after you go and become minister. Anybody will be bound to be under the impression that now with your position as a senior Cabinet minister, witnesses will be under pressure. What is going on?” A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Balaji. The Bench, however, refused to interfere with SC’s September 26 order granting bail to Balaji on a plea filed by one of the complainants seeking its cancellation. The Bench made it clear it would not recall the order as the law laid down by the SC was benefitting several other persons. Justice Oka further said the court would not issue any notice in the matter but limit the scope of enquiry to whether the witnesses would be “under pressure” to depose in the case.

“The apprehension is that considering the seriousness of allegations against the second respondent (Balaji) in the predicate offences, the witnesses may not be in the frame of mind to depose against the second respondent who is holding the position of Cabinet Minister. “This is the only aspect on which prima facie we are inclined to consider the application, and while making it clear that there is no reason to interfere with the judgement on merits and adjudication of the application remains confined to the aforesaid,” the Bench wrote in its order. It then asked Balaji’s counsel Ram Sankar to get instructions and posted the matter for further hearing on December 13.

# Delhi airport gears up for foggy days ahead

**RAJESH KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI

In a preemptive move foreseening the fog this winter, the Delhi airport, for the first time, has made elaborate arrangements for passengers, by making provisions for dedicated enclosures for their comfort in case the travellers’ flight is delayed.

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates and manages the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport with three (T1, T2, T3) terminals has set up special enclosures to accommodate passengers who shall be disembarked from flights delayed for over three hours to allow their faster return to board their respective flights.

According to DIAL, these enclosures will be located at the Bus Boarding Gates and certain aerobridges in Terminal 3, the transfer area in Terminal 2, and the bus boarding gate in Terminal 1. The facilities will serve both domestic and international passengers. The new plan will allow passengers to remain in a separate enclosure, saving time and reducing hassles for both flyers and airline staff.

The government has relaxed the security protocols at airports to allow passengers of flights delayed by over three hours or canceled due to fog, weather or technical issues to disembark and return to the terminal.

“Ranging from 250 to 450 square meters, these enclosures will be able to hold between 55 and 120 passengers at a time. They are intended to facilitate security screening, allowing passengers to smoothly re-enter the terminal’s Security Hold Area (SHA). These enclosures will have essential amenities like toilets and vending machines wherever feasible. The enclosures would only be utilized as a security processing area after which the passengers would enter the SHA which would give the passengers access to all the facilities available there. Only airline staff escorting passengers from stranded flights would be permitted to enter the enclosures for security reasons”, DIAL said in a statement.

To maintain safety and security, CISF personnel will be stationed in the enclosures to screen passengers returning from delayed or stranded flights before they are allowed to join other screened passengers in the SHA. Additionally, personnel from the Private Security Agency (PSA) will verify the documents of passengers affected by the fog/weather or technical issues.

# Tragic end to a promising life

**PNS**  
HASSAN (KARNATAKA)

A young Indian Police Service (IPS) officer died in an accident while he was on his way to take up his first posting in Hassan district, police said on Monday. Harsh Bardhan, (26), was a 2023-batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya Pradesh, they said.



The accident took place on Sunday evening, when the tyre of the police vehicle he was travelling in allegedly burst near Kittane in Hassan taluk, following which the driver lost control and the vehicle hit a house and a tree on the roadside, police said. According to police, Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to report on duty as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipur, police said.



# NCR in GRAP IV grip till Dec 5

**RAJESH KUMAR**  
NEW DELHI

The ban on driving BS-3 petrol or a BS-4 diesel cars in Delhi will continue till Thursday, as the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday refused to relax restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) amid high levels of air quality index levels. The SC observed that despite the alarming air quality levels, there has been a lack of serious enforcement of measures outlined under GRAP Stage IV, which is triggered when air quality deteriorates to hazardous levels, and it will take a call on a proposal for relaxation by the Commission for Air Quality Management on Thursday.

The SC stressed on finding a permanent solution to the issue of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR), saying a similar situation arose every year between October and December. It further directed the Delhi police to provide armed protection to those Court Commissioners who wish to continue monitoring implementation of GRAP IV measures in Delhi-NCR.

Notably, there was a slight improvement in Delhi’s air quality for the second consecutive day on Monday, even as it remained of “poor” quality with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 280 in the morning. According to data provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the National Capital recorded an AQI of 285 on Sunday, an improvement to the “poor” category, and a welcome relief following 32 consecutive days of “very poor” and “severe” air quality (AQI above 400).

A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih further directed the chief secretaries of NCR states to appear before it through video-conferencing on December 5 to inform whether or not any subsistence allowance was paid to the construction workers who went without work owing to the restrictions.

# Arak Takht declares Badal a ‘tankhaiya’



Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders of the previous SAD government during the hearing of ‘tankhaiya’ (guilty of religious misconduct) case by the Arak Takht

**PNS**  
CHANDIGARH

The Sikh clergy at the Arak Takht on Monday pronounced ‘tankhah’ (religious punishment) for Sukhbir Singh Badal for the “mistakes” committed by the Shiromani Arak Dal and its Government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, directing him to perform ‘sewa’ and clean utensils and shoes at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Pronouncing the order from the ‘faseel’ (podium) of the Arak Takht in Amritsar, Jathedar of the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, Giani Raghbir Singh, also directed the working committee of the Shiromani Arak Dal (SAD) to accept the resignation of Sukhbir Badal as party chief, besides forming a committee to hold elections for the post of SAD president and office-bearers within six months.

The Jathedar further announced to withdraw the title of ‘Fakhr-e-Qaum’ bestowed upon former Chief Minister late Parkash Singh Badal, father of Sukhbir Badal. The five Singh Sahibans (Sikh clergy) also pronounced religious punishment for other Sikh leaders who served as ministers in the Arak Cabinet during 2007 to 2017.

Giani Raghbir Singh said Sukhbir Badal, who was on a wheelchair because of a fractured leg, and rebel leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa have been asked to sit outside the Golden Temple dressed as ‘sewadars’ for one hour each for two days. They will also perform ‘sewa’ at Takht Kesgarh Sahib, Takht Damdama Sahib, Darbar Sahib at Muktsar and Fatehgarh Sahib for two days each. Both Sukhbir Badal and Sukhdev Dhindsa were asked to clean utensils and shoes of devotees at the Golden Temple for one hour, besides listening to ‘kirtan’.

Before the pronouncement of the edict, Sukhbir Badal admitted his mistakes, including pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case during the SAD regime. The punishment came nearly three months after Sukhbir Badal was declared ‘tankhaiya’ (guilty of religious misconduct) by the Arak Takht. The Jathedar also directed Arak leaders Sucha Singh Langah, Hira Singh Gambia, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, Daljit Singh Cheema and Gulzar Singh Ranike to clean washrooms for one hour at the Golden Temple, and then clean utensils at the community kitchen after taking a bath. They will also listen to ‘kirtan’ for one hour, the Jathedar said. Other Arak leaders, including Bibi Jagir Kaur, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Bikram Singh Majithia, Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal, Charanjit Singh Atwal, and Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, were also told to clean washrooms at the Golden Temple for one hour. The Jathedar had summoned the entire Arak Cabinet from 2007 to 2017, the party’s core committee, and the 2015 internal committee of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Badal was declared ‘tankhaiya’ after rebel party leaders, including Chandumajra, Kaur and others, appeared before the Arak Takht on July 1, and sought forgiveness for four “mistakes” during the SAD rule between 2007 and 2017, including failure to punish those responsible for the 2015 sacrilege incidents and pardoning Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case.

# China making Pak Navy stronger: Admiral Tripathi

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Monday said here Indian Navy is aware of “surprising growth” of the Pakistan Navy, that aims to become a 50-ship Navy in the next decade with the help of China. He also said Pakistan has chosen weapons over the welfare of its people.

Making this assertion here, the Naval Chief said given the state of its economy, Pakistan is strengthening its Navy. “They have chosen weapons over the welfare of their people,” he said and quipped “good luck to them.” “We are aware of the surprising growth of the Pakistan Navy which aims to become a 50-ship Navy,” he said.

On China helping Pakistan boost its maritime prowess, the Navy Chief said it showed Beijing’s interest in making that country militarily stronger.

“Many Pakistan Navy warships and submarines are being built with Chinese support showing that China is interested in making Pakistan’s Navy stronger,” he said. “Their eight new submarines will have significant combat potential for the Pakistan Navy but we are fully aware of their capabilities. That is why we are tweaking our concepts to be able to tackle all threats from our neighbours,” Admiral Tripathi added.

On China’s growing prowess, he said it has declared to have its rightful place and has resources to strive to become a world power. Once it does so, friction takes place with existing world powers and it is already being played out, the Navy Chief said, adding it will manifest in the Pacific region. As regards the Indian Ocean region, he said the Indian Navy is keeping a close watch.



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi addresses a press conference, ahead of Navy Day

Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

# Parking dispute fuels inferno

**SAUMYA SHUKLA**  
NEW DELHI

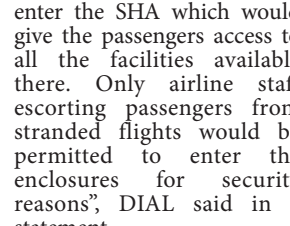
A routine parking dispute in Southeast Delhi’s Lajpat Nagar erupted into a shocking act of arson, as a man’s car was set ablaze, allegedly by his nosy-friendly neighbor. Police tracked down the 28-year-old suspect in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, over 600 kilometers away from the National Capital. According to the victim, this fiery attack was just the culmination of a string of threats, and he believes that if he had been at the scene, his life would have been endangered as well.

According to the victim, 48-year-old Ranjeet Singh, an Urdu poet, winner of a peace award from Pakistan, and the founder of a cultural



Car set on fire in Lajpat Nagar

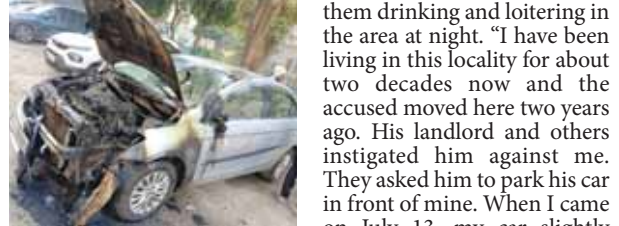
them drinking and loitering in the area at night. “I have been living in this locality for about two decades now and the accused moved here two years ago. His landlord and others instigated him against me. They asked him to park his car in front of mine. When I came on July 13, my car slightly touched his car in the parking lot. However, his brother quickly resolved the issue with me and I even agreed to pay for any damage,” Singh said. However, events took a turn for the worse after that when Bhasin damaged two of Singh’s parked cars with rods. An FIR was registered following which he was arrested on August 14 but released on bail in two hours, he said.



Damaged car in Lajpat Nagar

organisation ‘Jashn-e-Adab’, the accused has been harassing and threatening him for over two years. Despite multiple complaints to police, the authorities used to release the accused, identified as Rahul Bhasin, on bail, Singh said.

The issue came to a boil reportedly after some residents of the locality were not happy with Singh for complaining to the police over



Man near damaged car in Lajpat Nagar





PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for the information of General public that M/s. Srikanth Singh S/o Sh. Bir Singh R/o VPO-Tiloli, Distt-Rohatk (Hr-124001) has applied for transfer of her Flat No. 1771/SF in Housing Board Colony, Sector-9, Bahadurgarh District Jhajar in favour of Sh. Ramesh S/O Sh. Bir Singh R/O 1124, Titoli (88), Rohatk, Haryana-124001. Any person regarding transfer of this flat has any objection he/she should file objection with documentary proof in writing, in person, to this office within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objection is received from any person within stipulated period, the Permission for transfer of flat will be granted in favour of Sh. Ramesh S/O Sh. Bir Singh R/O 1124, Titoli (88), Rohatk, Haryana-124001, on the basis of documents submitted as per policy of the Board. No claim/objection shall be entertained that in this regard.

State Manager, Housing Board Haryana, Sector-9 Bahadurgarh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hereby inform to general public at large that Sh-Parkash s/o Pankaj R/o Village/Jawan, Tehsil & Distt Jind has secured loan on property from AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LIMITED for Rs. 15,00,000/-Lakh, vide RLOS No. 756745 having branch office at Jind, Haryana on the A. Property/Title/Deed No. 1103/2024 No. 609055025 having area measuring 170.520 Sq. Mtrs. Situated in Lal dora at Village/Jawan, Tehsil & Distt Jind Vidh. Regd. Title certificate No. 180 dated 27-09-2020. That the said Sh-Parkash s/o Pankaj R/o Village/Jawan, Tehsil & Distt Jind is an owner of above said land measuring 170.520 mtrs wide register sale certificate/170.520 executed by Gram Panchayat (Sarpanch) Smt. Savita and Abhimanyu (Gaur Sachiv) issued by SHO Jind, Sh-Parkash s/o Pankaj is sole owner of above property and there is no co-sharer in this property. Original Sanawiti Pattar collect BDDP at time of sale certificate if anybody have any right title/objection or claiming any prior rights or interest in any manner in above mentioned property as per register sale certificate, then must approach the undersigned and submit objection within 7 days from the date of this public notice. After the expiry of this period, this no claim shall be entertained and such claim shall be deemed to be false, fake, frivolous, fraudulent and baseless claim and shall have no value in the eyes of law.

Advocate Darshan Singh Chamber No.80 Distt Court Jind

पुस्तक विक्री/पुस्तक खरीद

पुस्तक विक्री/पुस्तक खरीद का कार्यक्रम 10/12/2024 को शहर के मुख्य मार्ग पर आयोजित किया जाएगा।

पुस्तक विक्री/पुस्तक खरीद का कार्यक्रम 10/12/2024 को शहर के मुख्य मार्ग पर आयोजित किया जाएगा।

THE CHANDIGARH DAYABAGH COOP. HOUSE BUILDING (FIRST) SOCIETY

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public and all concerned that Flat No. 1001 (Ground Floor), Category 'A', Sector 51-B, Chandigarh, situated in the premises of The Chandigarh Dayabagh Co-op. Hs. Society (Regd.), Sector 51-B, Chandigarh. The owner Mrs. Sunita Kapoor W/o Mr. Vinay Kapoor is going to sale above noted property to Mr. Harjeet Kumar W/o Mr. Varinder Singh, R/o House No. 3118, Near Uttam Sweets, Sector 46-C, Chandigarh 160047. If anybody has any objection upon the sale of the above property, they may file an application in shape of affidavit duly attested by the Executive Magistrate or Notary with an undertaking stating therein the right and interest in the said property in writing to the undersigned within 30 days of the Publication of the Notice.

It is informed to General Public that Sh. Rajesh Reddy S/o Sh. Om Parkash has lost his previous Sale deed No. 1131 dated 21/01/1999 in favour of Sh. Banwarji S/o Sh. Maniram, Sale deed No. 856 dated 07/20/2000 in favour of Sh. Pardeep Kumar S/o Smt. Sube Singh & Sale deed No. 910 dated 04/07/2005 in favour of Sh. Ramesh Singh S/o Sh. Ram Chandrar for Property i.e. House, Part of bearing Khata No. 1786/1182, Khata No. 2165, Khakra No. 527/10 (8-0), measuring 8.5M (248 Sq. Yards), Situated at T.P. Colony, Barwala Tehsil Barwala Distt. Hsr. If any person has objection then file replies along with proof of ownership within 15 days before the undersigned. After lapsation of stipulated period no claim will be accepted regarding the above said property.

Rajesh Jain, Advocate #19, 20, III Floor, R.D. City Centre, Red Cross Market, Railway Road, Hisar (9416044989)

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Rajbir s/o Late Partap Singh House No 307, Jyoti Nagar, Karnal, Haryana, declare that a House situated at Jyoti Nagar, Karnal inside Municipal Corporation Limit, Tehsil & District Karnal (Property ID: 1EM11DC9) measuring area 82.66 Sq. Yds. was owned by my wife Late Smt. Suresh as per the record of Sale Deed No. 4925/1 Dated 15/09/2015 S. R. Karnal, and my wife Smt. Suresh has expired on 10/03/2024. The legal heirs of the same given below: (1) Rajbir Singh, (2) Labh Singh, (3) Rani-Daughter (4) Surinder Dev. I, Rajbir Singh, declare that now in the record of Municipal Corporation Karnal I want to get updated the names of above-mentioned legal heirs being owners of the above property of my wife, if any general or special person have any objection in this respect then he/she can file his/her objection in Municipal Corporation Karnal within 30 days from the date of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Krishan Lal s/o Sh. Ram Parkash R/o 260/24 Ram Nagar, Rohatk is owner & in possession of Property/House No. 260/24 measuring 100 sq. yds. having MC id no. 114C29052 ward no. 12 situated at Ram Nagar Colony, within MC limit, Rohatk, Tehsil & Distt. Rohatk vide Transfer Deed No. 161431 dated 12/02/2019, transferred the said property to Sh. Rajinder Singh s/o Late Sh. Vikas Rathi & Late Sh. Rajinder Singh s/o Late Sh. Vikas Rathi. The legal heirs of the deceased allottee Smt. Sumitra Devi (mother-age 58 years), Smt. Pratibha (wife, Age 39 years) & Ms. Shanaya (daughter, age 12 years) through guardian transfer/transmit of his shares in their favour as a right of succession which needs to be regularized by the Corporation in due course. The Corporation has already granted the permission provisionally in this regard. Through this public notice, it is here by informed that any person having reservation/objection w.r.t. transmission/transfer of shares of Late Sh. Vikas Rathi as a right of succession in favour of legal heirs i.e. Smt. Sumitra Devi, Smt. Pratibha & Ms. Shanaya equally may file his/her objection in writing before the undersigned alongwith an affidavit within a period of 30-days from the date of publication of this notice. If no response is received within the aforesaid period, it will be presumed that nobody has any objection to transfer of the said share in the plot/shed and the Corporation shall go ahead with the transfer of shares of Late Sh. Vikas Rathi as a right of succession in favour of legal heirs i.e. Smt. Sumitra Devi, Smt. Pratibha & Ms. Shanaya as a right of succession.

For behalf of HSIIDC Ltd. Branch Office Industrial Estate Barhi, Distt Sonapat, Ph.0130-2474756, E-mail:contactus@hsiidc.org.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohatk Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account Number & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. Rows include borrowers like Karan Duggal, Andrew Jude Willis/Stephanie Willis, Ved Prakash Sharma/Pista Devi, etc.

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account Number & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. Rows include borrowers like Mohan Lal Verma/Suman Verma, Pardeep Kumar/Renu Bala, Bharat Bhushan/Pooja, etc.

These steps are being taken for substituted service of Notice. The above borrower(s) and/or guarantor(s) (as applicable) is/are advised to make the outstanding payment within 60 days from the date of publishing this Notice. Also, further steps will be taken as per the provisions of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

PUBLIC NOTICE BEFORE SH. NAVEEN, DANICS, ASST. ESTATE OFFICER U.T. CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE It is informed to general public that Smt. Kumari...

PUBLIC NOTICE BEFORE SH. NAVEEN, DANICS, ASST. ESTATE OFFICER, U.T. CHANDIGARH

PUNJAB & SIND BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Zonal Office: Panchukla

COURT NOTICE (U/o S Rule 20 CPC) IN THE COURT OF Ms. Aarti Sharma...

DEFENCE SCIENTISTS (TBRL) CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING (1ST) SOCIETY LTD, CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned...

PUBLIC NOTICE I jogender Singh deshalvi s/o balbir Singh r/o village mahawati...

Subject: Transfer of Ownership in respect of RESIDENTIAL Site No. 3043, SECTOR 28-D, Chandigarh...

It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned...

Subject: Transfer of Ownership in Respect of Residential Site No. 3075, Sector 19-D, Chandigarh...

Bank invites applications from reputed Vendor/Contractors for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of P4 (Outdoor) LED Digital Signage...

Public Notice It is informed to general public that 1st Ravinder Singh Johanshi...

It is hereby notified for the General Public and all concerned that Smt. Usha Gupta...

Public Notice It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned...

Public Notice It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned...

Public Notice Smt. Sanjay Lohia, Advocate-Hisar

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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Musical chairs

While the BJP-led Mahayuti emerged victorious in Maharashtra, the post-election scenario has been anything but smooth

The Maharashtra Assembly elections have delivered a decisive yet politically tumultuous mandate. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance scripted a powerful comeback in state Assembly elections by winning 230 seats in the 288-member House. Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP also performed well. Sena won 57 while NCP won 41 seats. It was indeed a big disappointment for Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The grand old party registered one of its worst performances in the state Assembly polls after it won only 16 seats. Sharad Pawar's NCP(SP) won just 10 seats, whereas Uddhav Thackeray's (UBT) won 20 seats. Despite this success, the post-election landscape has been anything but smooth, as a fierce tussle erupted between the two allies over the chief ministerial position. The post-election scenario has turned into a high-stakes political drama. Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP's chief minister candidate finally got the post as Eknath Shinde stepped aside and his son is likely to be deputy chief minister; allegedly on the pressure of the BJP central command. His leadership has been credited with delivering key infrastructure projects and steering the state through various challenges such as agrarian distress and urban expansion.



As the BJP's top leader in Maharashtra, Fadnavis was widely expected to retain the chief ministerial post. The Shiv Sena made significant contribution to the alliance's victory and wanted to retain the CM post for Eknath Shinde. But after days of negotiations he finally agreed to give way to Fadnavis while maintaining that his tenure saw exponential development in the state and he made it number one. The party has pointed out that its cadre worked tirelessly to mobilise grassroots support, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where the BJP's influence has traditionally been weaker. It is also understandable that the BJP should lead the government, citing the party's larger mandate but it will still need NCP and Shiv Sena support to remain in power. The impasse between the BJP and Shiv Sena created an air of uncertainty in Maharashtra's politics. As of now, Devendra Fadnavis appears poised to be the chief minister, backed by the BJP's central leadership. Though, for now the BJP has prevailed and got the plumb post for its man, make no mistake. Shinde's Shiv Sena is not very happy about it and knows once they are marginalised in the game the chances of their party splitting and merging with the BJP are rather high. It has happened in the past and could well be repeated in Maharashtra as well. It would be interesting to watch how Maharashtra politics shapes up. The decisions taken now, the composition of the cabinet and indeed the say Shinde has in the administration would not only shape Maharashtra's governance for the next five years but also redefine the dynamics of India's financial hub.

### PICTALK



Artistes perform during the 35th Konark Dance Festival 2024, in Puri

## The power of touch: A sense that defines us

Touch is the first sense we develop and one that shapes our lives in profound ways. It connects us to each other, fostering love, compassion and resilience

We have read the story of five blind men and the elephant. Each man touched a part and described the animal differently. They would have correctly visualised the pachyderm if they also had sight. There is no denying that all five senses combined define how we live from birth to death.



The absence of any will make us feel incomplete. Touch is probably foremost. Scientists say touch is the first of the senses we develop. It is not a single feeling. It consists of several distinct sensations communicated to the brain through neurons in the skin. Touch plays an important role in shaping us. It also conveys compassion from one human to another.

My earliest memories were those of my parents, their friends, or elders from the extended family, patting and even pinching my cheeks. I do not remember patting the cheeks of my younger siblings, probably because they came in quick succession, within three years of my birth. However, the emotions of my parents holding me in

loss. We are so conditioned to the societal norms of engaging the bereaved in an almost endless conversation, that we often forget their need to sit quietly with their thoughts to contemplate the life lived together and mourn the loss. A warm hug is all that the grieving person needs at that moment. I also visit the temple, not often, but occasionally.

A sense of peace pervades me when the priest touches my forehead in blessing. We have heard about the power of healing only through the touch of a saint or even the statue of a revered person. It is the faith people have in the power of touch.

It is not unusual to see people across the globe reaching out to their leaders or stars to touch them and shake hands with them. Leaders and stars also feel connected when they are physically close to people. Leaders from different countries, separated by geographies and language, are also seen hugging each other, indicating friendship and camaraderie. We see sportspersons hugging each other after an achievement.

It motivates them to perform better. COVID left us feeling bereft of several human emotions. Many lost their lives away from their loved ones. Both, the dead and those who survived missed the familiar touch. There were unanswered questions in everyone's mind. We were afraid of the unknown future. We did not know if touch, the most elementary of our senses that defines our personality, would be a thing of the past for future generations. We faced the unthinkable feeling of living and dying in the sterile 'Don't Touch Me' environment of social distancing.

'Touch keeps us alive. It imparts within us the ability to love and be loved. Emily Dickinson wrote in one of her poems, almost two centuries earlier. "He touched me, so I live to know... And now, I'm different than before."

(The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant. He conducts workshops on creative writing for young adults and corporate executives.; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA

ment. It motivates them to perform better. COVID left us feeling bereft of several human emotions. Many lost their lives away from their loved ones. Both, the dead and those who survived missed the familiar touch. There were unanswered questions in everyone's mind. We were afraid of the unknown future. We did not know if touch, the most elementary of our senses that defines our personality, would be a thing of the past for future generations. We faced the unthinkable feeling of living and dying in the sterile 'Don't Touch Me' environment of social distancing.

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# COP29: Stalemate on climate finance

The 29th annual Climate Summit in Azerbaijan reached an impasse as developed and developing nations remained divided over climate finance commitments



MANISH KUMAR SHRIVASTAVA

The negotiation process at the 29th annual Climate Summit (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan came to a halt as both developed and developing countries did not agree with the proposed quantum of climate finance, and its mobilisation approach. The COP29 Presidency had two quantitative targets before the negotiating countries. A USD 1.3 trillion of total annual climate investments in developing countries by 2035 and USD 250 billion of annual climate finance from developed to developing countries by 2035. These targets are to be met through a variety of sources and actors. While it is learnt informally that developed countries, after initial rejection, are willing to commit to USD 300 billion per year by 2035, developing countries rejected the Presidency proposal.



for a political compromise. Yet, the position taken by the developed countries during COP29 is a concern for developing countries in the next rounds of negotiations. Outsourcing Responsibility The reluctance of developed countries to commit to new, additional and predictable climate finance is not new. At COP29, this reluctance turned into an aggressive posture, shifting the responsibility to mobilise commensurate finance primarily onto emerging economies and other actors.



BY TRYING TO SHIFT THE BURDEN ON EMERGING ECONOMIES AND KEEPING THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ON MARGIN, DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE AGGRESSIVELY PUSHED TO OPEN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON EQUITY PRINCIPLES AT COP29

Throughout COP29, developed countries left no stone unturned to shift responsibility onto emerging economies, including China, India, Brazil, and South Africa. They pressed for emerging economies to be considered ineligible for receiving climate finance, except in the form of debt. Additionally, they suggested including emerging economies' domestic investments and climate-friendly South-South cooperation in accounting for climate finance, urging them to voluntarily contribute. Outside the negotiation process, a group of developed countries, including the UK and Australia, signed a pledge to have "no new unabated" coal-based power plants. This may

be a response to the ongoing energy crisis in some developed countries, indirectly pledging to continue using coal with expensive carbon capture and storage technologies, expecting emerging economies to do the same. Adaptation Marginalised The Second Needs Determination Report (NDR) by the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) estimates that more than USD 200 billion per year of adaptation finance is needed till 2030. So far, adaptation has received little finance from non-public sources.

Even if the developed countries agree to USD 300 billion per year by 2035 as some reports suggest, it will categorically leave the adaptation needs on the margins of global climate governance. On a parallel negotiation track on the Adaptation Fund, the USA and EU sparred with the Arab Group on the need to scale up mobilisation beyond USD 300 million. While the financial commitments to developing countries are likely to remain meagrely, the Global Goal on Adaptation negotiations expect the developing countries to develop, implement, track, and report their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) commensurate with the projected tempera-

ture rise. Equity Under Siege The principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR&RC) is the soul of global climate governance through the UNFCCC. The primary responsibility of creating enabling conditions for an equitable transition to a climate-resilient and low-carbon world, including through means of implementation, rests with the developed countries.

By trying to shift the burden on emerging economies and keeping the interests and needs of the vulnerable populations on margin, developed countries have aggressively pushed to open the negotiations on equity principles at COP29. Irrespective of the number finally agreed at the COP29, the intent made abundantly clear by developed countries is alarming.

It can potentially make any discussion on the quantum of finance irrelevant. It will certainly leave the vast vulnerable population unprotected—a marker of an unequal world. (The writer is a Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### TRUMP'S THREAT IS FOR REAL

Madam — This refers to the editorial, 'Trump's tariff threat'. Trump is an emotional activist. He decides his course based on his momentous decisions and emotions. Most of his decisions do not carry convincing logic or rationality. His earlier tenure had seen several such decisions, but none could help the people in terms of employment or faster economic recovery. Trump's challenges to finish the domination of China and the quixotic actions he took could not make anything tangible in the status. The Indian situation is vulnerable, with its export value being \$73 billion versus imports to the tune of \$119 billion. Any hostile imposition of tariffs will have serious adverse impacts on the balance of trade, which is already tilting against India's favour. Moreover, India needs political will and moral courage to face such a situation of Trump imposing tariff hurdles. As of now the leadership does not have such a shield. During the pandemic period, the US had placed orders for hydroxychloroquine with Indian manufacturers. But the Prime Minister banned the export of this medicine as it was recommended as one of the drugs to treat Covid. Having learnt this, Trump reacted sharply and said if India does not honour orders placed for this drug, the country will have to face the wrath. Immediately, without wasting any time, our Prime Minister revoked the ban and attended to the order. As known to all, the Republican Party is a party of the affluent in the US, Trump, being a Republican leader, would not have any sentiments in safeguarding the interests of the rich in America. He will go all out to re-establish the supremacy of America in terms of international affairs or the power of the US dollar. But he should realise that the world order is changing fast and undergoing sweeping changes in many respects.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

#### FADNAVIS WINS THE RACE

Madam — The selection of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra appears to be

#### Taj Mahal bears the brunt of pollution



The Taj Mahal, which is known for its stunning beauty, has suffered dramatically from the effects of air pollution over the years. Once a shimmering white monument, it now bears the marks of environmental degradation. This decline is primarily due to pollution from industrial activities and the increasing vehicle emissions in Agra, as well as the pollution of the Yamuna River, which runs behind this UNESCO World

Heritage site. Importantly, the toxic gas emanating from the Yamuna has been doing greater harm, and it is said to be the main culprit behind the discolouration of the Taj's glorious white marbles. For over two decades, various Indian research institutes have explored restoration methods to reverse the discolouration of the Taj and revive the monument to its past glory, but all their efforts proved unsuccessful. The 17th-century Mughal architecture, which is a symbol of India's rich history, needs swift and decisive action to get back its legendary lustre. Involving national and international experts can provide comprehensive solutions to safeguard this magnificent monument for future generations.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urpakkam

tougher than winning elections for the Bharatiya Janata Party while going by the race between Devendra Fadnavis and Eknath Shinde to occupy the CM's chair. The hunger for power by the BJP keeps Eknath Shinde in the second line over Fadnavis.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new government is likely to take place on December 5, though there's not yet any official report from Raj Bhavan on this issue. Meantime, Eknath Shinde had headed for his hometown after his meeting with the Home Minister Amit Shah with the Mahayuti members. The disappointment of Shinde is wide open and he is in consultation with the NCP leadership and likely to put forth his demands for a cream of portfolios. The BJP is learnt to have offered a Union Cabinet to Shinde if he is unwilling to be a deputy CM also, the speculation is doing the rounds. Whatever may be the reasons, the delay in forming the government for their own benefits shouldn't cost the man-hours. The welfare of the people is more important than witnessing warfare between the elected alliance part-

ners, which doesn't augur well for the centre to justify their action.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

#### PROTECT SEWER WORKERS

Madam — In India, the poor sewer system has dried the citizens' lives with spreading disease, stinks and even taking lives in the cleaning process. Over the last 15 years, across India, 1,288 sewer deaths have been recorded by the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis. Only in the capital city, Delhi, 95 deaths recorded so far. The desperate issue is yet not to halt; on the contrary, it is increasing dreadfully. In the era of access to technology and digital India, the government's failing to launch any well-designed resource to facilitate the way of cleaning is concerning; maybe, due to particular caste, the government is still giving the cold shoulder. It's not tolerable, at any cost. The authorities must address it and ensure the safety of citizens and cleaners.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



## FIRST COLUMN

## WORKPLACE GOSSIP: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

It thrives in organisational environments as a form of informal communication



SAKSHI SETHI

Workplace gossip is an enduring phenomenon in organisational environments, involving informal communication with others, often without their knowledge. While it is frequently dismissed as harmless chatter, workplace gossip can have profound implications for individuals, teams and organisational culture. It is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it can serve as a bonding tool and provide informal channels of communication while on the other hand, it can breed mistrust, damage reputations and create a toxic work environment. Determining whether workplace gossip is harmless, or harmful depends on the nature, intent and consequences of the gossip.

The term stems from various psychological and organisational factors. Human curiosity and the desire for social connection often drive employees to share information, even if it is speculative. In many cases, gossip becomes a way to establish or strengthen bonds within a team. Another cause is ambiguity or lack of transparency in communication. Employees feel uncertain about organisational changes, leadership decisions, or colleagues' actions, and may resort to gossip to fill information gaps.

Moreover, competitive workplaces can foster gossip to gain leverage or influence perceptions. Though often vilified, gossip is not inherently negative. Looking at the positive perspective, it can foster social cohesion by creating shared narratives and providing an outlet for



employees to express concerns informally. It can also act as an informal feedback loop, alerting leadership to potential issues like toxic behaviours or dissatisfaction that may remain hidden. However, the negative consequences of workplace gossip often outweigh the positives. Gossip can damage reputations, lower morale and lead to feelings of mistrust and resentment.

Employees who are the targets of gossip may experience stress, anxiety and a decline in productivity. Additionally, pervasive gossip can erode an organisation's culture creating a hostile work environment where collaboration and trust are undermined. It is very often that stressful work environments, complaining about coworkers, personality clashes, or misunderstandings stem from unmet expectations and a lack of effective communication channels. It can exacerbate the urge to vent frustrations informally.

While airing grievances may feel like a release or an attempt to bond with others, it rarely resolves underlying issues. Instead, it creates a cycle of negativity. Organisations and leaders can adopt proactive strategies such as promoting open communication, fostering a positive work culture, leading by example and moreover empowering employees can be a few steps to mitigate the harmful effects of gossiping. Today the term gossiping isn't limited to celebrities and family reunions. When discussing the workplace, it has become a way not to take responsibility for any actions or reactions they create. By focusing on someone else, an individual can shift the focus from the circumstances. Complaining about colleagues behind their backs is a detrimental habit that harms relationships, morale, and workplace culture. By choosing direct, empathetic communication and focusing on solutions, employees can foster a more positive and productive environment. Eliminating backdoor complaints is not just about professionalism rather it is about creating a culture of mutual respect where everyone feels valued and heard.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

## Reimagining governance in Punjab



A S MITTAL

Punjab must address longstanding bottlenecks and embrace digital transformation and foster public-private partnerships to create a model of excellence for the nation

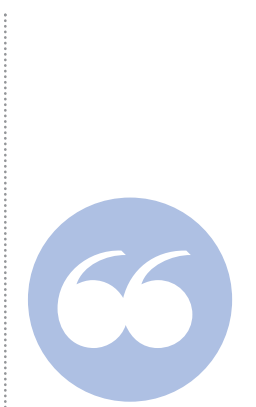
In a rapidly evolving world, governance demands agility, transparency, and citizen-centric solutions. Governments worldwide face the complex challenge of balancing bureaucratic structures with the need for efficiency and innovation. A case in point is the ambitious Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the United States, a high-profile initiative spearheaded by incoming President Donald Trump and the project led by entrepreneur leaders Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. This bold move aims to revolutionise public administration through structural reforms and entrepreneurial strategies to enhance government efficacy and improve the delivery of citizen services. With its rich legacy and robust potential, Punjab stands at a similar crossroads, where embracing transformative models could redefine governance.

The Governance Landscape: Punjab, with its educated workforce, vibrant agricultural economy, and dynamic MSMEs, has made commendable strides in governance reforms. However, bottlenecks in service delivery, resource misallocation, and policy execution often impede progress. Despite notable efforts, the state lags in efficiency metrics compared to leaders like Kerala, which excels in health, education, and welfare schemes, and Tamil Nadu, which is highly efficient in infrastructure, industry, and public welfare, as highlighted by the NITI Aayog's Good Governance Index 2024. Punjab's governance challenges are compounded by the sheer scale of its administrative machinery—50 parent departments, 163 affiliated organisations, and over 75 administrative secretaries.

This labyrinthine structure creates hurdles for citizens seeking essential services. Introducing the Punjab Efficiency Commission (PEC): Punjab can adopt a model akin to DOGE by establishing a Punjab Efficiency Commission (PEC) to address these challenges. Headed by an apex officer, ideally, of Chief Secretary rank, the PEC would operate as a centralised authority reporting directly to the Chief Minister. Its mandate would be to synchronise key departmental goals, oversee human resource operations, ensure seamless policy execution, and implement data-driven governance frameworks. This institution would embody accountability, transparency, and innovation—hallmarks of good governance. Key Pillars of Reform:

**Accountability and Transparency:** In the US, agencies like the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ensure effective resource utilisation and transparency. Punjab could establish its own state-level accountability office under the PEC. This body would audit departmental performance, monitor public expenditure, and publish actionable reports to foster trust and combat inefficiency.

**Digital Transformation:** Punjab has made progress in digital governance, but much more can be achieved by studying global benchmarks. For instance, USA.gov serves as a one-stop portal for citizens that revolutionises



THE JOURNEY TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE ISN'T MERELY ABOUT ADDRESSING INEFFICIENCIES—IT'S ABOUT SETTING BENCHMARKS FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. WITH BOLD REFORMS, PUNJAB HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRANSITION FROM A RESOURCE-RICH STATE TO A GOVERNANCE POWERHOUSE

how people interact with their government, showcasing the vast potential of technology to improve efficiency. Punjab could develop a unified digital platform for licensing, tax filing, and grievance redressal services. A dedicated state-run mobile application could provide real-time updates on service requests, enhance accessibility, reduce delays, and track the progress of their cases in real time.

**Performance Metrics and Dashboards:** An essential aspect of U.S. government efficiency is using performance metrics to inform decision-making. For instance, The Obama-era Performance.gov tracked federal projects and outcomes, creating a culture of accountability. Punjab could develop a similar dashboard to monitor critical sectors like healthcare, education, agriculture, industry and infrastructure. By leveraging big data and analytics, policy decisions can be based on measurable outcomes, driving impactful governance rather than guesswork.

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** PPPs have proven transformative in infrastructure and service delivery. These partnerships, from highways to healthcare and education, allow the government to use private sector expertise and funding to improve services and reduce costs. A case study from the USA illustrates the success in Tennessee. The government implemented a data-driven budgeting model, saving millions of taxpayer dollars while improving service quality in education and healthcare.

Similarly, New York City's innovation office streamlined procurement processes, cutting costs by 30 per cent. However,

Punjab has over 147 PPP projects worth Rs 60,000 crore in critical sectors like healthcare, education and infrastructure, leveraging private expertise for better resource management and infrastructure, accelerating projects through collaborative funding models. This model could be the key to unlocking sustained growth in the agriculture sector, partnering with tech companies for innovative farming solutions to monitor soil health, weather patterns, and crop performance can promote more sustainable practices and increase productivity.

**Investing in Human Capital:** A critical factor in the success of any government's efficiency efforts is its investment in human capital. Punjab must recognise that an empowered civil service is essential for good governance. The state can cultivate a workforce skilled in the latest management techniques, data analysis, and digital tools by establishing training academies or partnering with top institutions. This approach will enable the government to respond to the evolving challenges of governance and ensure that its public servants are accountable and well-equipped with the knowledge needed to drive meaningful change to perform their responsibilities effectively.

**Citizen Participation:** Finally, the US model of citizen participation in governance through public hearings and feedback mechanisms can be a valuable tool for Punjab. US citizens are encouraged to engage with the government, provide policy input, and hold officials accountable.

This fosters a sense of ownership and civic responsibility. However, the Punjab government has ini-

tiated 'Sarkar Tuhade Dwar' and 'Sarkar Vyapar Milni'. It must create more avenues for regular engagement with citizens to understand pain points and incorporate real-world insights into governance reforms. Punjab can bridge the gap between policymakers and citizens by making governance more inclusive and participatory, ensuring reforms resonate with public aspirations.

The way forward for a resurgent Punjab: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's vision for a dynamic Punjab can materialise by embracing these transformative practices.

The Punjab Efficiency Commission, supported by robust technology, accountability frameworks, and participatory governance, can usher in a new era of efficiency and transparency. The journey towards good governance isn't merely about addressing inefficiencies—it's about setting benchmarks for others to follow. With bold reforms, Punjab has the potential to transition from a resource-rich state to a governance powerhouse, leading India's states in delivering citizen-centric solutions. The time to act is now. Punjab's future lies in its ability to reimagine governance, ensuring every citizen experiences the transformative power of efficient and inclusive administration.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman (Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of Tractor and Mechanization Association (TMA); Views expressed are personal)

## Breaking the stigma: Prioritising mental health for a happier, resilient future

Depression, anxiety and other mental health challenges must be taken seriously. They affect one in five people worldwide

Depression in mental health is a feeling of low, sad and unhappy. Which can lead to loss of appetite, loss of sleep, loss of interest, and negative thoughts. Mental health is about how we think, feel and cope with life's challenges. Just like we take care of our physical health, looking after our mental health is equally important. Parents play a key role in creating a happy, supportive, and understanding environment at home.

Mental health issues such as anxiety, fear and depression are common, and they can arise due to bullying, family conflicts, changes in school or life, academic stress, or even harsh punishments. These challenges can make children feel isolated, angry, or lose



RESHMA A SANGODKAR

focus on their studies. It's crucial to understand that seeking help from counsellors, therapists, or trusted adults like parents or teachers is a sign of strength, not weakness. Today, one in five people faces mental health challenges. Professional support, such as therapy, can significantly improve emotional wellbeing. Activities like yoga, sports,

and meditation are also effective for calming the mind and reducing stress. Additionally, practising mindfulness—focusing on the present moment—can help children feel more peaceful and focused. Good habits, such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy food, and staying hydrated, support both mental and physical health. Engaging in enjoyable hobbies can boost happiness and reduce stress.

Schools and families need to work together to provide children with positive environments, where they feel safe and supported. In our society, mental health issues are often overlooked, and stigma prevents many from seeking help. Depression in mental health is a feeling of low, sad and

unhappy. Which can lead to loss of appetite, loss of sleep, loss of interest and negative thoughts. World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10 every year. Many people are affected by depression in the world. Very common in today's world. Campaigns like World Mental Health Day aim to break these barriers and encourage open conversations. And encourages those affected to seek help from a Psychiatrist. Teachers should be trained to identify early signs of mental health problems in children and provide guidance. Parenting is also a key factor in shaping a child's mental health. Parents should avoid unhealthy comparisons and ensure their children feel emotionally secure. Building a



strong, friendly relationship with children helps them share their feelings without fear. Simple practices like mindful-

ness, meditation and breathing exercises can also help children and adults stay calm and focused. As Lord Buddha said,

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."

This profound phrase highlights the essence of mindfulness—focusing fully on the present and giving your complete attention to whatever you are doing. Mindfulness means being fully present in the moment, whether eating, studying, or walking. Meditation, on the other hand, is about dedicating time to relax the mind and focus on breathing. Both practices help reduce stress and improve sleep, allowing children to perform better in school and other activities. Engaging in activities like participating in marathons, running 5 kilometres, or setting personal fitness goals can help reduce depres-

sion and improve mental wellbeing. Yogic exercises like Surya namaskars help in boosting our prana level to stave off depression.

Welcoming an idol of Lord Buddha into your home or workplace, reading positive affirmations each morning, and offering gratitude to those around you and God are wonderful practices to keep the mind happy and at peace. By creating supportive environments and normalising mental health discussions, we can ensure that children grow up to be emotionally strong, happy, and resilient individuals. The key is to break the stigma and make mental health a priority for everyone.

(The writer is an author and freelance writer; views are personal)

# 56 people killed in stampede following clashes at a Guinea soccer match

AP ■ CONARKY (GUINEA)

Fifty-six people were killed and several injured in a stampede at a soccer stadium in southern Guinea, following clashes between fans, Guinea's government said on Monday. Authorities are conducting an investigation to establish those responsible for the stampede on Sunday, Communications Minister Fana Soumah said in a statement read on national television. Among the victims are several children according to local media and a coalition of political parties. The stampede broke out on Sunday afternoon at the stadium in the city of Nzerekore

during the final of a local tournament between the Labe and Nzerekore teams in honour of Guinea's military leader, Mamadi Doumbouya, Guinea's Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah said on the X platform. "During the stampede, victims were recorded," Bah said, without giving details. The regional authorities are working to restore calm in the area, he added. Local media reported that security forces tried to use tear gas (two words) to restore calm after the chaos that followed a disputed penalty. "This (the disputed penalty) angered supporters who threw stones. This is how the security services used tear gas," Media Guinea, a local news website,

reported. It said several of those killed were children while some of the injured being treated at a regional hospital are in critical condition. Videos that appeared to be from the scene showed fans in a section of the stadium shouting and protesting the refereeing before clashes broke out as people poured onto the field. People were running as they tried to escape from the stadium, many of them jumping the high fence. Videos also showed many people lying on the floor in what looked like a hospital as a crowd gathered nearby, some assisting the wounded. The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy opposition coalition called for

an investigation. It said the tournament was organised to drum up support for the "illegal and inappropriate" political ambitions of the military leader. Guinea has been led by the military since soldiers ousted President Alpha Conde in 2021. It is one of a growing number of West African countries, including Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, where the military has taken power and delayed a return to civilian rule. Doumbouya, who ousted the president three years ago, said he was preventing the country from slipping into chaos and chastised the previous government for broken promises. He has, however, been criticized for not meeting the expectations that he raised.

# ISLAND NATIONS FEAR RISING SEAS

## Landmark climate change case opens at top UN court

AP ■ THE HAGUE (NETHERLANDS)

The top United Nations court took up the largest case in its history on Monday, when it opened two weeks of hearings into what countries worldwide are legally required to do to combat climate change and help vulnerable nations fight its devastating impact. After years of lobbying by island nations who fear they could simply disappear under rising sea waters, the UN General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice last year for an opinion on "the obligations of States in respect of climate change." Any decision by the court would be non-binding advice and couldn't directly force wealthy nations into action to help struggling countries. Yet it would be more than just a powerful symbol since it could be the basis for other legal actions,

including domestic lawsuits. "We want the court to confirm that the conduct that has wrecked the climate is unlawful," Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, who is leading the legal team for the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, told The Associated Press. In the decade up to 2023, sea levels have risen by a global average of around 4.3 centimeters (1.7 inches), with parts of the Pacific rising higher still. The world has also warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 Fahrenheit) since preindustrial times because of the burning of fossil fuels. Vanuatu is one of a group of small states pushing for international legal intervention in the climate crisis. "We live on the front lines of climate change impact. We are witnesses to the destruction of our lands, our livelihoods, our culture and our human rights," Vanuatu's climate change envoy Ralph Regenvanu told

reporters ahead of the hearing. The Hague-based court will hear from 99 countries and more than a dozen intergovernmental organizations over two weeks. It's the largest lineup in the institution's nearly 80-year history. Last month at the United Nations' annual climate meeting, countries cobbled together an agreement on how rich countries can support poor countries in the face of climate disasters. Wealthy countries have agreed to pool together at least \$300 billion a year by 2035 but the total is short of the \$1.3 trillion that experts, and threatened nations, said is needed. "For our generation and for the Pacific Islands, the climate crisis is an existential threat. It is a matter of survival, and the world's biggest economies are not taking this crisis seriously. We need the ICJ to protect the rights of people at the front lines," said Vishal Prasad, of

Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change. Fifteen judges from around the world will seek to answer two questions: What are countries obliged to do under international law to protect the climate and environment from human-caused greenhouse gas emissions? And what are the legal consequences for governments where their acts, or lack of action, have significantly harmed the climate and environment? The second question makes particular reference to "small island developing States" likely to be hardest hit by climate change and to "members of 'the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change.'" The judges were even briefed on the science behind rising global temperatures by the UN's climate change body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ahead of the hearings.

# Taiwan's president visits East-West think tank as China criticises his Hawaii visit

AP ■ HONOLULU



Taiwan's president visited a US State Department-funded think tank and educational institution Sunday on the second day of a two-day visit to Hawaii that's part of a Pacific island tour that has already triggered criticism from Beijing. Lai Ching-te met and exchanged gifts with the president of the East-West Center, which is on the University of Hawaii's flagship Manoa campus. He spoke to an audience at the center but journalists were escorted out of a conference hall before he began speaking. China's Foreign Ministry said it "strongly condemned" US support for Lai's visit and had lodged a complaint with the US. It also denounced a newly announced US weapons sale to Taiwan, a self-governing island that China claims as its own territory. "China will closely monitor the situation's development, and take resolute and forceful measures to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," said the statement.

Hawaii was Lai's first stop on a weeklong voyage that will later take him to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau. They account for three of the 12 countries that Taipei has formal diplomatic relations with. Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, president of the East-West Center, said her institution is the perfect place for Lai to visit because it promotes relations among the United States, Asia and the Pacific. She said it's not unusual for leaders from around the world to come to Hawaii given the state's location and what makes it special.

"There is something about Hawaii that allows us to really just see where we connect on a human to human level," Vares-Lum said in an interview. Lai's predecessor, Tsai Ing-wen, visited the East-West Center in 2019 and 2017. On Saturday, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green hosted Lai at the state's emergency management agency where they discussed disaster preparedness. Green, who was an emergency room physician before becoming governor, posted on social media that he and Lai discussed how their experiences in health care informed their govern-

ance. Lai is also a physician by training and obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University. "Together, we extended a warm aloha to Lai and his delegation, highlighting Hawaii's shared values of resilience and collaboration with Taiwan," Green said in an Instagram post. Lai also posed for photos with Hawaii congressional representatives and state lawmakers at a dinner banquet with the Taiwanese American community. US Rep. Ed Case, a Democrat who represents Honolulu in Congress, said on social media that he told the audience that "our ties endured on shared values and interests to advance mutual goals and meet shared challenges." It is unclear whether Lai will meet with any senior officials from the Biden administration or anyone from the incoming Trump administration during his Hawaii stay. President-elect Donald Trump said in an interview with Bloomberg in July that Taiwan should pay for its defense. The island has purchased billions of dollars of defense weaponry from the US.

# Indians stranded at Kuwait airport depart for Manchester

PTI ■ KUWAIT CITY

Several Indian passengers of a Manchester-bound Gulf Air flight were stranded at the Kuwait airport for nearly 20 hours and flown out of the city to their destination on Monday morning. The Gulf Air flight from Bahrain to Manchester was diverted to Kuwait due to a technical glitch. Gulf Air GF5 took off from Bahrain at 2.05 am local time on December 1 but a snag forced the plane to land in Kuwait at 4:01 am, as per reports. With several passengers complaining that they had been stranded at the airport for many hours, the Indian embassy in Kuwait took up the matter with Gulf Air, according to social media posts. In a series of posts on X, the embassy said its team reached the airport to assist the passengers and coordinate with the airline. Passengers were accommodated in two airport lounges. Food and water were made available for the stranded passengers at the lounges, as per the embassy. "Gulf Air flight to Manchester finally departed at 0434 hours today carrying stranded Indian passengers among others. The embassy team was on the ground till the flight departed," the embassy said in a post. A stranded passenger, on Sunday, took to X, alleging that Indian passengers were left without help.

# Nepal govt accepts US\$ 20m grant assistance from China

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Nepal government has accepted projects worth USD 20 million as grant assistance from China ahead of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's first official visit to the country after assuming office for the fourth time. Minister for Information and Communication Prithvi Subba Gurung talking to media persons on Sunday said the Council of Ministers meeting wished for the success of the prime minister's China visit and also decided to accept projects worth USD 20 million equivalent to Nepalese Rs 2.70 billion as grant assistance from China. Besides, the Cabinet also decided to accept 300 million Chinese Yuan (USD 4.13 million approximately) equivalent to Nepalese Rs 5.60 billion worth projects proposed by the government of China, according to government spokesperson Gurung. During Oli's China visit, various projects including Tokha-Khahare Tunnel Road, Special Economic Zone

construction at Corala border point of Mustang, road construction at Kimathanka of Shankhuwasabha, feasibility study of railway line in Rasuwagadhi, expansion of Kathmandu Ring Road second phase, starting bone marrow service at Chitawan Cancel Hospital will be discussed, Gurung said. Oli on Monday embarked on a four-day official visit to China, his maiden trip to any neighbouring country in this term, during which he is scheduled to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on various issues of mutual interest. Oli is visiting Beijing at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said. With the visit, Oli broke with the usual practice by Nepali prime ministers making India their first destination in the neighbourhood after assuming charge, except former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who visited China ahead of India in 2008.

# Biden pardons son Hunter despite previous pledges not to do so

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden pardoned son Hunter Sunday night, sparing him a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family members. The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after his convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House. It caps a long-running legal saga for the president's son, who publicly disclosed he was under federal investigation in December 2020 — a month after Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

In June, Biden categorically ruled out a pardon or commutation for his son, telling reporters as his son faced trial in the Delaware gun case, "I abide by the jury decision. I will do that and I will not pardon him." As recently as Nov 8, days after Trump's victory, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre ruled out a pardon or clemency for the younger Biden, saying, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no." In a statement released Sunday evening, Biden said, "Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter, alleging that the prosecution of his son was politically motivated and a 'miscarriage of justice.'" "The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said. "No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any

other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son." "I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision," Biden added, claiming he made the decision this weekend. The president had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts with Hunter and his family. Hunter was convicted in June in Delaware federal court of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. He was set to stand trial in September in the California case accusing him of failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes. But he agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor and felony charges in a surprise move hours after jury selection was set to begin. Hunter said he was pleading guilty in that case to spare his family more pain and embarrassment after the gun trial

aired salacious details about his struggles with a crack cocaine addiction. The tax charges carry up to 17 years behind bars and the gun charges are punishable by up to 25 years in prison, though federal sentencing guidelines were expected to call for far less time and it was possible he would avoid prison time entirely. Hunter Biden said in an emailed statement that he will never take for granted the relief granted to him and vowed to devote the life he has rebuilt "to helping those who are still sick and suffering." "I have admitted and taken responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction — mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," the younger Biden said. A spokesperson for special counsel David Weiss, who brought the cases, did not respond to messages seeking comment Sunday night.



President Joe Biden accompanied by his son Hunter Biden and his grandson Beau leave a book store as they walk in downtown Nantucket Mass., recently.

AP/PTI

# Scroll less, connect more: New study shows how to make social media work for you

THE CONVERSATION ■ VANCOUVER

We all know using social media is considered bad for you. A high social media diet is linked to anxiety, depression and FOMO (the fear of missing out). Even internal research data from Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, agrees. However, over the last decade, social media has become woven into the fabric of our daily lives. It's hard to imagine life without it. Young adults are especially vulnerable: 80 per cent of young adults use social media daily, spending close to three hours per day on it. For many, scrolling social media is the first thing they do when they wake up and the last thing before they go to bed. On the plus side, social media can also help people connect with

friends and family. This is especially true for people with minoritized or stigmatized identities: social media can help them find a community of similar others, who may live far away. So what should we do? Is the only answer for us to quit social media altogether? Or is it possible for us to learn how to use social media in smarter ways? A new study from our lab, the Promoting Equitable, Affirming Relationships Lab at the University of British Columbia, suggests that not only is it possible, but also, that using social media intentionally can actually improve well-being. The study's findings highlight the potential for social media to be a tool for good, rather than a source of stress. Multiple digital self-control tools like lockout mechanisms and timers exist to help us cut back on social

media, but we asked the question: what if simply using social media differently could maximise its positives and minimize its negatives in our lives? Using social media for maximum benefit: In our six-week study, 393 Canadian young adults with some mental health symptoms and concerns about social media's impact on their lives were split into three groups: A control group that continued their usual routines An abstinence group asked to take a break from social media entirely An educational programme group that was coached in intentional usage The educational programme showed people how to avoid the downsides — like feeling pressured to look or act a certain way online — and instead focus on the good stuff.

To do this, we emphasised quality over quantity in social media interactions. Participants built a healthier online environment by muting or unfollowing accounts that triggered envy or negative self-comparisons, and by prioritizing close friendships. Rather than passively scrolling, they were encouraged to actively engage with friends by commenting or sending direct messages — a behaviour that tends to deepen meaningful connections while helping users feel more socially supported. We also asked all participants to track their screen time and tell us about their well-being. The study found that participants who took a break from social media or participated in an educational program on intentional social media use experienced

improvements in their mental health. Feeling less lonely: Our results are promising. Those who took a break felt fewer depression and anxiety symptoms, while those in the educational program felt less lonely and experienced less FOMO. Our educational programme also inadvertently impacted social media habits. Although participants in this program didn't cut back on their social media use as much as those in the abstinence group, they still reduced their screen time relative to the control group. We suspect that as they started to use social media more intentionally, they cut out the type of use that made them feel bad but increased or maintained the type of use that made them feel good. Stopping social comparisons: Both groups — those who took a

break and those who completed the educational program — showed a decrease in the tendency to compare themselves to others online. This is a big step since social comparison is often touted as the root of all evil stemming from social media use. Overall, both approaches reduced unhealthy social media habits and improved well-being. Using social media in an intentional, connected way might be just as beneficial, and potentially more sustainable for some, than quitting altogether. Our results suggest that with the right guidance, young adults can curate a more positive experience, using social media to support their mental health instead of detracting from it. Looking for genuine connections: At the Promoting Equitable, Affirming, Relationships Lab, we

research how young people form supportive and lasting relationships — both online and in-person. Part of what we do is to find out and understand how social media can be harnessed to help people find community. Conversely, we are looking at ways to avoid the potential negatives of the online sphere. While our study offers some solutions, the bigger question remains: How can we continue to foster supportive and authentic connections in an increasingly digital world? Bottom line? Social media is here to stay and we need to find the healthiest ways to live with it. Through our research, we hope to start a conversation about how we can make social media a tool for genuine connection, rather than a source of stress, for a healthier online experience.



Romania's pro-Western parties win polls

AP ■ BUCHAREST (ROMANIA)

Pro-Western parties won the most votes in Romania's parliamentary election, data on Monday shows, and will look to form a coalition government as the European Union country sees a surge of support for far-right nationalists who made huge gains in the country's legislature.

through our common will, Romania is reborn," he said. "We are here ... generation after generation, proving that nothing can defeat a united nation."

In 2020, the AUR party went from relative obscurity to gaining 9 per cent in a parliamentary vote, allowing it to enter parliament. The party — which proclaims to stand for "family, nation, faith, and freedom" — doubled its support in Sunday's vote to 18.2 per cent.



Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu, of the Social Democratic Party or PSD, speaks after exit polls in the country's parliamentary elections, in Bucharest, Romania. AP/PTI

solve parliament if it is twice rejected. However, the prime minister is the head of the nation's government. Observers say that Georgescu's surprise win in the first round of Romania's presidential election indicates a sharp shift from Romania's mainstream parties to more populist anti-establishment parties, whose voices have found fertile ground amid high inflation, high cost of living and a sluggish economy. He polled at less than 10 per cent before the race.

Andrei, the consultant, said that the next government will have to make "unpopular decisions about taxes and budget cuts and stuff like that," which could further bolster the far-right over the next four years.

The success of Georgescu — who has praised Romanian fascist leaders and Russian President Vladimir Putin — has triggered nightly protests throughout Romania by those who oppose his past remarks and view him as a threat to democracy.

social media platform TikTok. According to a report by Expert Forum, a Bucharest-based think tank, Georgescu's account has had an explosion which it said "appears sudden and artificial, similar to his polling results". Without naming Georgescu, who declared zero campaign spending, Romania's top defense body said last week that "a presidential candidate benefited from massive exposure due to preferential treatment" granted by TikTok. Romania has become a "priority target for hostile actions" by Russia, it added. The Kremlin has denied meddling in the election. The Constitutional Court on November 28 requested a recount of all 9.4 million votes after a former presidential candidate who obtained 1 per cent, lodged a complaint alleging the reformist USR had violated electoral laws against campaign activities on polling day.

The court also postponed on November 29 a decision until Monday on whether to annul the vote.

Iraqi militias deployed in Syria to back gov't counteroffensive

AP ■ BEIRUT

Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have deployed in Syria to back the government's counteroffensive against a surprise advance by insurgents who seized the largest city of Aleppo last week, a militia official and a war monitor said on Monday.

reopening in the Middle East, at a time when US-backed Israel is fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both Iranian-allied groups. It also risks drawing Russia and Turkey — each with its own interests to protect in Syria — into direct confrontation.

Government troops built a fortified defensive line in northern Hama in an attempt to stall the insurgents' momentum while jets on Sunday pounded rebel-held lines. On Monday, Syria's military said that their airstrikes alongside Russia's killed 400 insurgents over the past 24 hours. It said that government forces were mobilising to encircle the rebels in the Aleppo, Hama, and Idlib countryside.

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New Okhla Industrial Development Authority. E-TENDER NOTICE. E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned.

Table with 4 columns: S. No., Jobs No., Name of the work, Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs). Includes jobs for drainage, pond beautification, and village development.

Indian Overseas Bank. SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, NHPC Branch, Faridabad...

Indian Overseas Bank. SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property) [Rule 8(1)]. Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, NHPC Branch, Faridabad...

PUBLIC NOTICE. It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Asha Rani and Mr. Nitin Sachdeva had acquired Property Bearing No. 2292, built on Plot No. 104, area 264 sq. yds.

PUBLIC NOTICE. This is to inform the general public that my General Power of Attorney (GPA) purportedly signed by my client Ms. Surbhi Gupta, in respect of the property situated at C-138, Upper Ground Floor, Mansarovar Garden, New Delhi-110015, shall be treated as null and void.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. Invitation of Applications. Applications are invited for allotment of available industrial plots in Integrated Industrial Estates of SIIDCUL, which can be filled online through https://siidcul.com/procure/home during 03/12/2024 to 17/12/2024, 17:00 Hrs.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi. TENDER NOTICE. Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:

PUBLIC NOTICE. On behalf of my client, Nareesh Kumar Narang S/o Late Sh. Gokul Chand Narang aged about 63 years R/o A-285, Meera Bagh Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087, be it known to all that my aforesaid client has severed all his relations with his son Sh. Rahat Narang.

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Mortgage Properties: ALL PLOT AND PARCEL OF BUILT-UP PROPERTY NO.14-A-1, MEASURING AREA 166 SQ. YDS, MEASUREMENT 30FT X 50FT. 1.E. 138.79 SQ. MTRS. PLINTH/COVERED AREA 111.03 SQ. MTRS.

Invitation of Applications. Applications are invited for allotment of available industrial plots in Integrated Industrial Estates of SIIDCUL, which can be filled online through https://siidcul.com/procure/home during 03/12/2024 to 17/12/2024, 17:00 Hrs.

BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi. TENDER NOTICE. Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:

PUBLIC NOTICE. To be known to all, SHUBH LATA GUPTA W/O LATE SH. DAVIDER GUPTA R/O FLAT NO.119-C, POCKET-D, DEEP ENCLAVE, PHASE-3, ASHOK VIHAR, DELHI-110052.

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

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BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi. TENDER NOTICE. Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:

PUBLIC NOTICE. That my client Harjit Singh S/o Ratan Singh aged about 64-year, R/o Flat no. 3, 1st Floor, Kharsa no. 14/4/1, Gali no. 1, D-Block, Hari Vihar, Baran, Dist: North, Baran, Delhi-110084, has severed all connections and relations with his son and declared also his Son Namgy Gurmehar Singh and his wife Kamna from my all movable and immovable properties due to their bad behaviour and habits.

verka Suppliers Invited. Inviting e Auction for the purchase of following items through NCDFI Portal. The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd, Chandigarh procuring Trance Minerals for Cattle Feed Plants.

PUBLIC NOTICE. Notice is hereby given on behalf of ANKUR GOVAL who is purchasing Property No. 52, Street No. HR-Block, area measuring 94.14 Sq. Meters, out of Kharsa No. 2392, situated at PulPahadpur M.B. Road, Delhi, from Mrs. Sunila Gang owner. The same vide Conveyance Deed Registered as Document No. 92 in Book No. 1 Volume No. 15368 on page no. 172-176 on dated 02.02.2022 in SR-N/2022/1003 executed by Mrs. Sunila Gang. The financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, that 1) Original Sale Deed dated 10.03.2006 executed by Mrs. Prem Wahi in favour of Mr. Ajay Kumar Goyal in respect of the Plot No.HR-52, area measuring 112.6 Sq. Yards i.e. 94.14 Sq. Meters, out of Kharsa No. 2392, Document No. 3609 in Book No.1 Volume No. 4795 on page no. 143-146 on dated 10.03.2005, in SR-V New Delhi/Delhi and 2) Original Notarized General Power of Attorney, Special Power of Attorney & Agreement to sell dated 19.05.2006 executed by Mr. Ajay Kumar Goyal in favour of Mr. Rohitas Kumar Bidhuri in respect of the Built up Property Bearing No. HR-52, area measuring 112.6 Sq. Yards i.e. 94.14 Sq. Meters, out of Kharsa No. 2392/12/19/are Lost/Misplaced/Not available. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Lucern LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS. CHANGE OF NAME.

I, Anamika Pandey W/o Rajnish Kumar Pandey R/o 614, Ground Floor, Shakti Khand-3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Anamika A Dubey. PD(1001)A

I, Pawan Kumar Gupta S/o Om Prakash Gupta Rio E-210, Shakurpur, Near Samrat Enclave, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034 hereby declare that Dravyansh and Dravyansh Gupta both are one and the same person. PD(1002)A

I, No.15583406Y SPR Nikure A. P. R/o- At Post- Shankarpur, Teh- Chimur, Dist- Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442903, have changed my daughter's name from Vedika to Vedika Arun Nikure, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1005)C

I, Pandurang, Father of No.15583406Y SPR Nikure A. P. R/o- At Post- Shankarpur, Teh- Chimur, Dist- Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442903, have changed my name from Pandurang to Pandurang Khatuji Nikure, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1006)C

I, Rikhma Pandurang, Mother of No.15583406Y SPR Nikure A. P. R/o- At Post- Shankarpur, Teh- Chimur, Dist- Chandrapur, Maharashtra-442903, have changed my name from Rikhma Pandurang to Sundar Pandurang Nikure, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1007)C

I, Sudeshna Mukherjee W/o- No.14849403F HAV Saurav Kumar, R/o- 6/1/2, Jogin Mukherjee Lane, Kadamtala, Howrah, W.B.- 711101, have changed my name from Sudeshna Mukherjee to Sudeshna Kumar, vide affidavit dated 02/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1008)C

I, Dinesh S/o Shri Yaad Ram R/o A-87/2 Bhalswa Dairy Delhi 42, that I have changed my name from Dinesh to Dinesh Kumar for all purposes. PD(1009)C

I, Khalid Nawaz S/o Shah Nawaz Ahmed R/o H.No.-M/63/B, Street No.-14, Brahmपुरi, Delhi-110053, declare that my son's name has been mentioned in his birth certificate as Arhaan Siddiqui alias Kabeer Siddiqui. In future his correct/changed name is Kabeer Siddiqui for all purposes. Hence my son's name Kabeer Siddiqui and Arhaan Siddiqui alias Kabeer Siddiqui belong to same and one person. PD(1010)C



# Max Verstappen wins Qatar Grand Prix

**AP ■ LUSAIL**  
From a smashed mirror and crashes to unusually severe penalties, there were plenty of hazards at the Qatar Grand Prix. Max Verstappen steered clear of them all to follow up his Formula 1 drivers' title with his ninth win of the year on Sunday. Lando Norris, Verstappen's closest title rival until he secured the championship last week in Las Vegas, was trying to overtake the Dutch driver for the lead until he was dropped to the back of the field by a penalty for failing to slow for yellow warning flags. Verstappen, who secured his fourth consecutive title in Las Vegas last week, has won two of the last three races but hadn't won in dry conditions since June. "It was a lot of fun out there," Verstappen said. "Very happy. It's been a while in the dry to be this competitive. Very proud of everyone within the team." Verstappen disposed of another

rival off the line, beating George Russell into the first corner. The Mercedes driver had been elevated to pole position in Verstappen's place after a contentious dispute in qualifying that got Verstappen a one-place penalty for driving too slowly. Charles Leclerc finished second for Ferrari and Norris' McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri was third. Penalties spark debate In a season of controversy over the rules and upheaval at the governing body, the stewards again played a crucial role. Norris had been chasing down Verstappen for the lead before his penalty. McLaren team principal Andrea Stella said Norris hadn't slowed down but argued the penalty was disproportionately harsh. "It's definitely material that the FIA should consider very seriously if we want fairness to be part of going racing in Formula 1," Stella said. "To me, it looks like somewhere there must be a book with a lot of



dust on the cover that was taken out. Let me see what it says, I apply this.' Seems a little too simplistic.' The stewards were busy, issuing a wide range of penalties for offenses like causing collisions, but also two for Lewis Hamilton for a false start and pit-lane speeding, and one for Russell, who was judged to have dropped too far back in a safety car period. Russell said later he didn't know "when or

how or why" he'd been penalized. The safety car came out three times, first for crashes at the back of the pack on the opening lap, then for debris from a smashed mirror, and again when Nico Hulkenberg's Haas ended up in the gravel. Constructors' title fight At one stage, it looked like McLaren could seal its first constructors' title since 1998 in Qatar as Norris and Piastri both eyed podium places. After Norris' penalty, Ferrari cut McLaren's lead from 30 points to 21 with Leclerc's second place and a solid sixth for Carlos Sainz Jr. After a puncture seemed to have wrecked his race. The constructors' title will now be decided at the final race of the season in Abu Dhabi next week. That's a boost to Ferrari's morale. "We knew it was going to be a very difficult weekend compared to the McLaren but we even managed to take some points away from them, so the fight will be all the way to the last race in Abu Dhabi next

week," Leclerc said. "It's going to be an exciting end to the year. Hopefully we can be strong but it's going to take everything we've got to seal the deal," Piastri said. Russell was fourth, ahead of Pierre Gasly continuing Alpine's recent good form, with Sainz sixth and Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso seventh. Zhou Guanyu picked up his and Sauber's first points in eighth, ahead of Kevin Magnussen for Haas in ninth and Norris 10th after having been dropped to 15th by the penalty. Hamilton and Sainz both picked up punctures shortly after a discarded wing mirror on the track was shattered by Valtteri Bottas' Sauber. Carbon fiber and glass were spread across the circuit, bringing out the safety car again, though it wasn't immediately clear if that or tire failure caused the punctures. It was a long, hard race for seven-time champion Hamilton, who finished 12th.



## Mbappé and Bellingham respond to unhappy fans with goals in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Getafe

**AP ■ MADRID**  
Kylian Mbappé made some peace with Real Madrid's fans. Mbappé scored in Madrid's 2-0 win over Getafe in the Spanish league on Sunday to help ease the pressure on the France star. Mbappé, who has been criticized by some supporters because of his disappointing performances since joining the Spanish powerhouse this season, found the net in the 38th minute to seal Madrid's victory at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. Mbappé was coming off a lackluster outing — which included a missed penalty kick — against Liverpool in the Champions League on Wednesday. The Jude Bellingham, also the target of some fans' criticism for recent poor play, had put Madrid ahead at the Bernabeu by converting a 30th-minute penalty. He also assisted in Mbappé's goal — a well-placed low shot from outside the area. Mbappé had scored only once in the team's last six matches across all competitions, and twice in the last nine games. "He played very well, was active and was as dangerous as always," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "He scored and created opportunities. He was very active, it's what we want from him." Mbappé was still far from his best, and he did not take the penalty kick which was converted by Bellingham.

Another penalty — which was overturned by VAR — was also set to be taken by Rodrygo. "The order for the penalties is Mbappé and Vinicius Júnior, but without Vinicius, it was up to Bellingham and Mbappé to choose," Ancelotti said. The win moved Madrid within a point of league leader Barcelona, which lost 2-1 to Las Palmas on Saturday. Madrid, the defending champion, has a game in hand. Madrid was one point ahead of city rival Atletico Madrid, which won 5-0 at Valladolid on Saturday. Madrid has lost three of its five Champions League matches but has won three straight in the league to cut into Barcelona's lead. The Catalan club is winless in three consecutive league games. "Things have been going well in La Liga since the last defeat, but we can't get sidetracked because this is what Real Madrid demands," Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger said. "We must continue and do better in the Champions League." Also Sunday, Villarreal drew 2-2 with visiting Girona after leading 2-0 and eventually conceding an equalizer seven minutes into stoppage time. Athletic Bilbao rallied to win 2-1 at Rayo Vallecano with a pair of second-half goals by Oihan Sancet, while Athletic's Basque rival Real Sociedad defeated Real Betis 2-0 at home.

## Edoardo Bove in medically induced coma after collapsing in Italian soccer game

**AP ■ FLORENCE**

Fiorentina midfielder Edoardo Bove is in a medically induced coma after collapsing on the field during his team's Serie A match at home to Inter Milan, with the game abandoned shortly afterward. Bove's teammates immediately called for medical help and both sets of players surrounded the 22-year-old while he was being treated before he was swiftly stretchered off to an ambulance near the pitch and taken to Careggi Hospital in Florence on Sunday. "Fiorentina and the Careggi University Hospital announce that the footballer Edoardo Bove ... is currently under pharmacological sedation and hospitalized in intensive care," Fiorentina said in a statement. "The first cardiological and neurological tests performed have ruled out acute damage to the central nervous system and the cardio-respiratory system. Edoardo Bove will be re-evaluated in the next 24 hours."



Sky Italia reported that the player regained consciousness while he was in the ambulance and was managing to breathe on his own. Bove's parents and his girlfriend have arrived at the hospital along with Fiorentina coach Raffaele Palladino and most of his teammates, as well as club directors and the city's mayor. Fiorentina fans have also gathered outside the hospital and displayed a banner with the words: "Forza Edoardo, Florence is with you." Fiorentina president Rocco

Comisso echoed that sentiment and the club said he and his family are in constant contact from the United States to support Bove and his family. "Forza Edoardo, we're with you," Comisso said. "You're a strong boy with a great character." More messages of support flooded in on social media from players and clubs. Inter midfielder Federico Dimarco, who was on the field at the time, wrote "Forza Edo, we are all with you and your family." The incident happened in the

16th minute of the match, with play stopped following a VAR check. Bove apparently bent down to tie the laces on his boot before he suddenly dropped to the ground. Fiorentina players were distraught on the field and were comforted by staff members as well as Inter players. Several were openly sobbing before the teams filed off the field. The Italian league match was immediately halted, before being abandoned. The score at the time of Bove's collapse was 0-0. Many at Fiorentina — as well as the fans — remember former captain Davide Astori, who was found dead in his hotel room in March 2018 before a match in Udine. It is the second incident this year of a player collapsing during a Serie A match. It happened to Roma defender Evan Ndicka during his team's match at Udinese in April. Bove is a product of the Roma youth academy and joined Fiorentina on loan in the offseason with the option to make the move permanent.



## World Chess Championship: Gukesh, Liren eye breakthrough after hat-trick of draws

**PTI ■ SINGAPORE**

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh and defending champion Ding Liren will be aiming to break the deadlock after three consecutive draws when they square off in the seventh round of the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday, having stayed on equal footing for most part of the interesting showdown. Hailed as the favorite to win by many chess pundits, the 18-year-old Gukesh, who is the youngest ever challenger to the title, has not been able to really show his class and has often depended on the Chinese to play safe or make mistakes in decent positions. The two are currently locked at three points each. If game one was a wake up call for Gukesh after a loss with white pieces, the second game was a confidence-booster for the Indian as Liren barely did anything and allowed an easy draw. Gukesh won the third game but only after Liren miscalculated from what may have been a promising position. In the fourth game Gukesh played solidly again when Liren gave nothing away out of an irregular opening and it was again a draw. At this point, it was clear that Liren was banking on Gukesh to make mistakes. Game five saw Gukesh fighting for the initiative yet again and went too far as he came under threat in the resulting endgame. Liren yet again failed to spot them and it was another draw. The sixth game of many world championship matches have massive history and this time too, it was not disappointing for the fans.

In the last World championship, Liren had beaten Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia in the sixth game and back in 1972, Bobby Fischer had beaten Boris Spassky in what is a favourite of many chess fans across the world even today. Gukesh turned down an early draw wide repetition and was worse. However, the nature of the position remained complicated and Liren did not risk things in the queen and rook endgame that was the fourth draw of the match out of six games. As far as the openings go, Liren has chosen three different moves with his white pieces to start the game while Gukesh has stuck to a Classical approach using only King and Queen's pawn in the beginning. "I think so far it has been good I still can improve my play, there are lot more games, considering I was trailing after the first game I am happy to be here, it is too early," Gukesh remarked when asked if he was satisfied with his play thus far at the end of the sixth game. On Tuesday, the Indian will play with white. Going by the proceedings so far, things are not particularly clear and as of now, there are no favourites. Gukesh has been his general ambitious self while Liren has shown aggression only when necessary, often missing out on key moments. The next three games wherein Gukesh will play with two whites and a solo black is perhaps the best opportunity for the Indian to go ahead in the match and put pressure. Liren, so far, has been better in defending the opening positions and might like the trend to continue.

## Guardiola hits 'reset' with Manchester City floundering in Premier League

Manchester (England), Dec 2 (AP)

For Pep Guardiola, the season starts now. Chastened. Relieved. Defiant. The Manchester City manager displayed a whole range of emotions after his latest ordeal at Anfield that plunged the out-of-sorts English champions to an unlikely low. Make that seven matches without a win for a team which, not so long ago, never lost. That's all in the past for Guardiola, though. "Reset," he said after a 2-0 loss to Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday. "There's a feeling we start from here this season." How he intends to move on from the worst run of results in his managerial career remains to be seen. But, it all starts Wednesday with a home game against Nottingham Forest. "We are not used to this," Guardiola said. "Many, many things are happening. The teams are good and we can't handle it right now. I have to find the solution to be stable and solid.



"These players gave me a chance to lead maybe the best years of my life. All I can do is find a solution — in the right moment, the club will make the decision what is needed for this club to continue to be there." Was he referring to making signings in the January transfer window? City's fatigued and injury-ravaged squad sure needs some, especially in midfield. Or was he referring to his future? It's not the first time in recent days that Guardiola brought up how fragile his position could quickly become if City

keeps losing. Moments before walking down the tunnel after the final whistle at Anfield, Guardiola held up an outstretched hand and an extra finger as a retort to taunts by Liverpool fans. It was a nod to six Premier League titles he has won in eight full seasons at City. No. 7 doesn't look likely this season. Not with City already 11 points behind Liverpool. "Call me delusional or something like that," Guardiola said, "but I have the feeling we will try to build back our confidence to win games." Indeed, Guardiola said he was taking some belief from recent training sessions. From the return to fitness of some players, such as Ruben Dias, Nathan Ake, Jack Grealish and Jeremy Doku. Maybe, from a second-half display against Liverpool that, while hardly vintage City, at least showed some spirit and resolve, even if Liverpool appeared happy to play on the break and never looked troubled.

## Greenwood's late penalty helps Marseille beat Monaco 2-1 and move into second place

**AP ■ PARIS**

Mason Greenwood's late penalty gave Marseille a 2-1 home win over Monaco and lifted the team over its rival into second place in the French league. Greenwood placed the ball into the bottom left corner in the 89th minute for his ninth league goal of the season on Sunday — level with Lille's Jonathan David and one behind Paris Saint-Germain's Bradley Barcola in the scoring charts. Marseille moved above Monaco on goal difference, with both sides seven points behind leader PSG. Monaco's defeat exposed shortcomings in coach Adi Hütter's young and talented yet error-prone team. Monaco lost 3-2 at home to Benfica in the Champions League

on Wednesday after leading that game 2-1 before conceding twice in the last six minutes. After going unbeaten in its first 11 games in all competitions this season, Hütter's erratic side has had four defeats in the past seven matches — including at home to strugglers Angers and away to Nice after again taking the lead. This time, Monaco scored first at Stade Velodrome when midfielder Aleksandr Golovin beat Gerónimo Rulli in the 41st minute with a slightly deflected strike after being set up by Brazilian winger Luis Henrique equalized for Marseille in the 53rd with a header from forward Neal Maupay's cross. Earlier Sunday, Arnaud Nordin grabbed the equalizer in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time as rock-bottom Montpellier



earned a 2-2 home draw with Lille in an ill-tempered contest. Moments after Nordin's goal, a player from each side was sent off. The incident happened when

Montpellier forward Tanguy in a foul against the ball against Lille coach Bruno Genesio when it had already gone out for a throw in, prompting pushing and

shoving from both sides. Montpellier midfielder Téji Savanier and TV images showed Cabella shoving his forearm into Savanier's face. Both players received a yellow card. A clumsy challenge from Jordan Ferri on Matias Fernandez-Pardo led to the first penalty, and David tucked it calmly into the left corner. Savanier's well-flighted corner from the right allowed defender Issiaga Sylla the chance to head the equalizer in the second minute of first-half stoppage time. Cabella argued with some home fans after being substituted midway through the second half and was asked to stop remonstrating by the fourth official. LACAZETTE HAT TRICK Veteran striker Alexandre Lacazette scored a hat trick as Lyon beat Nice 4-1 to move into

fifth place. Lacazette gave Lyon the lead and restored it later in the first half after midfielder Sofiane Diop had equalized for sixth-place Nice. Midfielder Jordan Veretout put Lyon 3-1 up before the break and Lacazette's penalty in the 70th put Lyon in total control. The 33-year-old Lacazette is in his second spell with Lyon, having spent five seasons in the Premier League with Arsenal, and now totals 190 goals for the club. Norway striker Joshua King and Vincent Sierrro scored in midtable Toulouse's 2-0 home win against Auxerre, and midfielder Himad Abdelli netted as Angers won 1-0 at Le Havre to move out of the relegation zone. PSG followed up its defeat against Bayern Munich with a tame 1-1 draw at home to struggling Nantes on Saturday.

