**DEHRADUN, WEDNESDAY** DECEMBER 25, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA



Light rainfall lashed several parts of Delhi on Tuesday evening, temperatures are expected to drop further in the next two days

## **AQI under 400, Grap-III** invoked in Delhi NCR

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

**¬**he Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday assessed the situation and lifted the restrictions of Stage-IV under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi and the neighbouring region, decline in following a pollution levels. However, the restrictions under GRAP Stage I, II and III will continue including curbs on construction and industrial activities remain in place to control pollution levels. The Stage-IV was enforced on December 16 in Delhi and NCR when it breached the 400 mark.

The decision comes after Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) improved to 369 ('Very WEATHER



Poor') at 4 PM on December 24, down from a peak of 401 ('Severe') recorded on improvement in air quality was attributed to favourable meteorological conditions, including improved wind speed, according to forecasts from India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Tropical Institute of (IITM). Meteorology Residents are urged to remain cautious and adhere to guidelines issued by the authorities to mitigate the

impact of air pollution on health and daily life.

Under Stage-IIÍ, classes up to five are required to shift to hybrid mode. Parents and students have the option to choose online education, wherever available. Stage III bans on non-essential dieseloperated medium goods vehicles with BS-IV or older standards within Delhi. The restrictions also include on plying of BS-III petrol and BS IV diesel LMVs (4 wheelers) in Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Persons Nagar. Disabilities shall be permitted to ply BS-III Petrol / BS-IV Diesel LMVs, provided that these are specifically adopted for them and are run only for their personal use.

### Rupee at fresh record low of 85.20 against US dollar

The rupee extended the slide for the A second straight session and depreciated 9 paise to settle at a fresh all-time low of 85.20 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, dragged by a strong greenback against major crosses overseas and subdued domestic equities.

According to analysts, increased demand of the dollar due to monthend payment obligations and the fear of an aggressive import tariff by the Donald Trump administration in the US strengthened the greenback. Besides, surging crude oil prices pushed the rupee down further, they

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.10 and touched

the lowest ever level of 85.21 against the greenback during intra-day. The unit finally ended the session at a fresh all-time low of 85.20 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a loss of 9 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee settled 7 paise lower at 85.11 against the US dollar.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee fell to a fresh all-time low on weak domestic markets and a strong US dollar due to increased demand from importers and surging crude oil prices. He said a hawkish tone of the US Federal Reserve and an improved US economy may further support the dollar. "FII outflows may also weigh on the rupee. However, any intervention by the RBI may support RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR \$ 1 USD = 85.20 INR\*

the rupee at lower levels. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 85 to Rs 85.40," Choudhary said.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.11 per cent at 107.93, amid soaring US Treasury yields and the fear of delayed interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.69 per cent to USD 73.13 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed lower by 67.30 points, or 0.09 per cent, at 78,472.87 points, while Nifty fell 25.80 points, or 0.11 per cent to close at 23,727.65 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Monday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 168.71 crore, according to exchange data.

#### **Former Home Secy Bhalla is** new Manipur Gov

PNS NEW DELHI

n a major reshuffle, former Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed as Manipur Governor amid ongoing trouble in the north eastern State. Some of the other States where change was effected according to a Rashtrapati Bhawan communique includes former Union Minister and army chief Vijay Kumar Singh was appointed as Mizoram Governor, while Arif Mohammed Khan was moved to Bihar as Governor.

In a surprise move following the resignation of Raghubar Das as Odisha governor, Hari Babu Kambhampati was appointed as the new man for the State's gubernatorial post. Das has served earlier as Chief Minister of Jharkhand and State Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President as well.

#### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Park street. Kolkata all decked up for Christmas eve

#### **Dalit boy dies** by suicide after being forced to drink urine

**BISWAJEET BANERJEE** 

n a horrifying incident from Uttar Pradesh's Basti district, a 17-year-old Dalit boy died by suicide after being subjected to brutal assault and humiliation during a birthday party. The boy was allegedly forced to strip, beaten, made to drink urine, and further humiliated by being forced to lick spit. The perpetrators also The perpetrators also recorded the abuse. Traumatised by the ordeal, the boy hanged himself at his maternal uncle's house on

Monday. The victim, a Class 10 student living with his maternal uncle in Kaptanganj, was invited to a birthday party on December 20 by a local youth. According to the complaint filed by his uncle, the boy was ambushed at the gathering, where four to five individuals forced him to strip and assaulted him. They urinated in his mouth and recorded the incident.

When the boy later demanded the deletion of the video, the accused humiliated him further by forcing him to lick their spit. Unable to bear the trauma and humiliation, the boy returned home, narrated the incident to his family, and later took his life by hanging. The family approached the police soon after the incident, but the initial response was reportedly lackluster. Two suspects were detained briefly but were released the same evening. This inaction prompted the grieving family to take the boy's body to the Superintendent of Police (SP) office, demanding justice. Amid public outrage, a case

was registered against four individuals under charges of criminal assault, intimidation, and abetment of suicide. Three accused-Vinay Kumar, Akash, and Prasad-have been arrested, while efforts are ongoing to nab the fourth suspect, Sonal. The boy's family revealed that he had been facing harassment from the accused for some time.

### **Delhi Police bust gang settling** illegal migrants, 11 arrested



SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

 $E^{\mathrm{ven}}$  as a high voltage political drama has been underway over the issue of Rohingyas and Bangladeshi immigrants staying illegally in the National Capital, the murder of a man, who used to push women in prostitution, led to the Delhi Police in busting a gang involved in settling these immigrants in Delhi. Police have arrested 11 people including four Bangladeshi nationals.

The accused involve seven people who were allegedly involved in making forged documents including card, Aadhaar certificates, caste certificates, matriculation certificates, COVID certificates, and certificates, income nominal prices starting from Rs 7, Aadhaar operators and

tech experts. A woman in the intervening night of October 20 and 21 came to Sangam Vihar police station to report that her husband, Santu Sheikh alias Raja, has been murdered which led to the police tracking down four people involved in his murder and subsequently busting the

gang. The Bangladeshi nationals, 26 years old Midul Miyan alias Akash Ahmed and 24 years old Fardeen Ahmed alias Abhi Ahmed along with their wives, were arrested interrogated connection with the murder of Sentu Sheikh alias Raja. Among the motives behind the murder, Raja used to push

the wives of the accused into

prostitution and also tried to make physical relations with them while also bullying them for minor issues. They all lived in close proximity. "However, the police learnt during interrogation that these accused had entered India illegally and had been residing in Sangam Vihar for several years," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan said. were found possession of Bangladeshi ID cards (chip-based NID cards) and birth certificates. Around 21 Aadhar cards, four voter ID cards, and eight PAN cards were also recovered from the victim's residence. Chauhan said, "Under the guidance Hon'ble

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, we formed a team to unearth the entire matter and conduct a thorough probe into the illegal immigration issue." These immigrants came to

India through the jungle route and then took bikes and taxis to reach the nearest town from where they took AC trains to travel to Delhi, Further questioning of the accused led to the arrest of 26

year old Sahil Sehgal who ran a 'Poonam Online Computer Centre' in Rohini Sector 5. "It was found that the centre was involved in preparing Aadhaar cards and other documents using fake IDs. Sehgal revealed that he was approached by illegal immigrants Bangladeshi through the deceased Sentu Sheikh alias Raja," the DCP

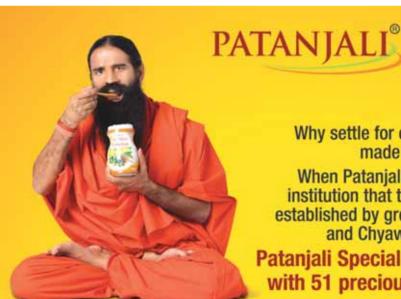
added. "Sahil used the fake website

'Jantaprints.Site' to generate fraudulent birth certificates and sent them to his associate Ranjit for Aadhaar card processing," the officer said. Ranjit, a resident of Sector 7 in Rohini, worked with 25 year old Afroz, an authorised Aadhaar operator at Karnataka Bank in Rohini Sector 5. Using fake birth certificates, Afroz facilitated the creation of Aadhaar

"Ranjit and Afroz were arrested, and investigations revealed "Jantaprints.Site" offered fake documents," he Payments documents were made via Paytm QR codes linked to a number registered under Mohammad Chand. technical on

28-year-old surveillance, Mohammad Chand, from Uttam Nagar, was arrested from Vikas Nagar, Delhi. He confessed to retaining a two per cent commission and transferring the remaining amount to Saddam Hussain. three-year-old Saddam Hussain, from Uttam Nagar, was arrested, leading to the discovery that the 'Jantaprints.Site' was operated by his associate, Deepak Mishra. Saddam transferred the payments to Deepak Mishra, retaining a 2 per cent share for himself.

Further questioning revealed that the accused initially created Aadhaar cards showing ages under 18, as such cards were easier to process at multiple centres in Delhi. Cards for individuals over 18 were limited to just four centres in Delhi



Why settle for ordinary Chyawanprash made with 40 herbs ?

When Patanjali, a supreme Ayurvedic institution that truly follows the tradition established by great sages Sushrut, Charak and Chyawan, offers the best

Patanjali Special Chyawanprash made with 51 precious herbs and saffron.

It protects against cough and cold, strengthens respiratory system and empowers you to fight hundreds of diseases.

Ayurvedic Superfood that boosts immunity, keeps diseases at bay, and keeps you young Ensure giving Balprash to children for providing complete nutrition, sharp memory and super immunity to them.

For diabetics, Chyawanprabha (With no added sugar) is available.



For the first time in the world reputed research journal 'Frontiers in Pharmacology' has published a research paper on only Patanjali Chyawanprash. This research paper verifies the Patanjali Special Chyawanprash as the best Chyawanprash that reduces inflammation and boosts immunity.

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8633414/

Shop Online- www.patanjaliayurved.net | Customer Care Number - 18001804108 Order Patanjali Products Online from ORDER ME APP





#### Light rain and snowfall continue, temperature to drop in Doon today

A day after light rain in the plains and lower reaches coupled with snowfall in the higher reaches, Uttarakhand witnessed light rain and snowfall in some parts on Tuesday with temperatures rising marginally in some locations including Dehradun. However, the mercury level is forecast to drop again by a few notches on Wednesday. The State Meteorological Centre has forecast that dry weather is likely to prevail in all districts today. It has also issued a yellow warning (Watch) regarding the possi-bility of ground frost likely to occur in the mountainous districts. The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly cloudy sky and mist in the morning. Thundercloud de-



velopment/very light rain is likely to occur in some areas while the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 20 degrees Celsius and five degrees Celsius respectively today. Meanwhile, the Char Dham shrines are covered in a blanket of white following snowfall on Monday and Tuesday. The maximinimum and mum temperatures recorded on

Tuesday were 18.6 degrees Celsius and 8.6 de-Celsius

respectively Dehradun, 22 degrees Celsius and 10.4 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 8.4 degrees Celsius and 1.6 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 11.2 degrees Celsius and 1.5 degrees Celsius in New

Tehri. While high altitude regions like Gangotri and Ya-munotri in Uttarkashi district and some other higher reaches witnessed snowfall on Tuesday, there was 7.5 millimetres rain each in Auli and Jankichatti, 6.5 millimetres in Pandukeshwar and 1.5 millimetres in Pratapnagar with trace rainfall in Dehradun and Mukteshwar.

### travel arrangements in Mussoorie

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Cince Mussoorie is expected Sto witness a significant influx of tourists during Christmas, New Year and the winter season, the Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal introduced special travel arrangements to ensure smooth traffic flow and maintain law and order till January 20. The district administration has implemented a winter travel management plan under section 163(1) of the Bharatiya Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). This initiative is the first such comprehensive system implemented in Mussoorie, the DM said. He informed that temporary satellite parking facilities have been set up at Hathipaon on George Everest Road, Bassaghat and Kuthal Gate while a permanent parking facility has been established at Kincraig. The responsibility for organising these parking zones and displaying proper vehicle classifications lies with officials from the Public Works Department, Regional Transport Office (Enforcement), Municipal Council of Mussoorie, district tourism development officer and traffic police. Bansal said that shuttle services will also operate from designated parking areas to facilitate the

movement of

tourists. The DM has directed

the RTO to maintain records

of passengers using the shut-

tle service and ensure ade-

quate availability of shuttles

The RTO will also monitor

service providers and overall management at parking locations. The police will see arrangements of traffic management at parking sites, including diverting vehicles to designated parking zones and ensuring systematic entry and exit, as per DM. He said that basic amenities such as lighting, mobile toilets and drinking water will be provided at parking sites to ensure a comfort able experience for visitors in Mussoorie. The officials concerned of Dehradun and Mussoorie municipal bodies will arrange sufficient rickshaws and golf carts for tourists commuting between the Library Chowk and Picture Palace areas. Bansal said that violations of these orders will result in legal action under Section 223 of the Bhartiya Nyay San hita (BNS). The directives are effective immediately and will remain in place until January 20, 2025, he added. Bansal said that these measures aim to enhance the overall experience for tourists while ensuring that the local law and order situation re-

PICICI Home Finance | Registered Office: ICICI E (East), Mumbai- 400051

vailable, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number

Borrower), Ramkali

Prem Chand

Prem Chand

(Borrower), Ramkali

#### DM introduces winter | Trio arrested for stealing jewellery and cash from moving vehicle

PNS DEHRADUN

Police apprehended three men on Tuesday on men on Tuesday on charges of theft of jewellery and cash worth about Rs 8.5 lakh. The accused allegedly stole from a moving vehicle while the victims were en route from Haridwar railway station to Rishikesh. The stolen items included several pieces of gold jewellery and Rs 40,000 cash. The police recovered all the jewellery worth Rs 8.5 lakh and Rs 5,000 cash from the accused, the Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said. He informed that the incident was reported by Dhalwala,

Munikireti resident Ankit Bisht who filed a complaint at the Rishikesh police station. According to the report, Bisht, his wife and mother had hired an autorickshaw from Haridwar railway station. Midway through the journey, the driver claimed a mechanical issue and directed them to another Vikram which already had three passengers on board. Under the pretext of limited space, the driver suggested that Bisht and his wife sit in the front while the complainant's mother remained at the back with their luggage. "As per the complainant, the three passengers in the back discreetly stole jewellery and Rs 40,000 cash from the family's suitcases. The theft came to light when the suspects disembarked, prompting Bisht to discover that their luggage had been tampered with," he said. The police registered an FIR and started an investigation. The SSP said that through extensive surveillance and intelligence gathering, the police identified and arrested the three accused, Mohammed Zakir, Wasim Ahmed and Mohammed Rashid, all residents of Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh.

#### Students taught about healing nature at nature training camp

PNS HARIDWAR

A nature training campaign Organised by the Union Ministry of Ayush under the joint aegis of the Vindhya Institute of Technology and Sci-



SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059 Branch Office: Showroom No. 301, 3rd floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradun Pin: 248009

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation

Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand

notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower

in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time

Description of property/ Date of Possession

Khata No 311 Fasli Year 1420-1425 Khasra No 965

Ashish Others./ Date of Possession- 23-Dec-24

Mauza Sewla Kalan Pargana Centraldoon

Khata No. 311 Fasli Year 1420-1425 Khasra No. 965

Dehradun Dehradun- Dehradun Uttarakhand 248171. Bounded By- North: 22 Ft Wide Road 16

Pt, South: Property of Chetan Giri 16 Ft, East: Property of Shri Karam Veer, West: Property of Ashish Others./ Date of Possession- 23-Dec-24

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

(Borrower), Ramkali (Co-Borrower), Dehradun Dehradun-Dehradun Uttarakhand LHDEH00001457472 248171. Bounded By- North: 22 Ft Wide Road 16

ence (VITS) and the University of Patanjali was held during which a professor of the University of Patanjali Ashish Goswami enlightened the

students on the importance of nature training campaign. Besides, the head of the Computer Science department of the same university K P Tripathi addressed the programme too, dwelling on enhancement of the

14-10-2023

Rs. 31,690/-

14-10-2023

Rs. 22,996.18/-

citizens' health on the basis of knowledge of nature. The principal of VITS P K Sukla also addressed the students.

#### THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS **PUBLIC NOTICE**

In my husband Army Record my recorded as BHAWNA and whereas her correct name is BHAWNA THAPLIYAL as mentioned in all other documents. KHEEMULI DEVI W/O LATE VIDHYA DATT Army No 14632895L RANK EX HAV Name LATE VIDHYA DATT R/O 44A GYAN VIHAR CO GURUDWARA ROAD DOIWALA DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I want to changed my daughter correct name in my husband army record vide IN ÚK64522935922678W Affidavit 24.12.2024 before

In my Husband army record my name mistakenly recorded as SMT SANGEETA whereas my correct name is SANGEETA DHASMANA as mentioned in other all documents. Army no 1485565K RANK EX NK Name RAJINDER KUMAR R/O H.NO. 8, ISWAR VIHAR, NALAPANI ROAD DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I have changed my correct name in my husband army record vide IN-UK64537395264422W Affidavit 24.12.2024 before Dehradun.

In my Husband army record my CHANDRA PAINDLY whereas my correct name is CHANDRA PAINULI as mentioned in other all documents. Army no 1444630P RANK EX HAV/ NB/SUB Name LATE SURENDRA DATT R/O 195, NESHVILLA ROAD DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I have changed my correct name in my husband army record vide IN-UK64524583734634W Affidavit

The general public is informed that I have changed my daughter's name from SHEETAL BISHT to SHEETAL. In future she should be known and recognized as Sheetal D/o Anup resident of Vill+Post Nathuawala, Dehradun Uttarakhand, vide affidavit IN-UK64649386330721W dated 24.12.2024 before Dehradun.

मेरे सैन्यभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा पुत्र का गलत नाम आरूश दर्ज है. सही नाम आरूश गजानन कांबळे आधार नं. 851251010048 S/o आर्मी नं. 18001179A नायक कांबले गजानन भीमराव, गाव आस्टुल, पोस्ट खानापुर, तह-पातुर, जिला-अकोला, महाराष्ट्र — ४४४५०१ है ।

#### PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby informed that M/s

UPES, Khata No 38, 53, 69, 106, 136, 194, 199, 200 and 217, Energy Acres Bidholi Via Prem Nagar, Tehsil -Vikasnagar, Dehradun has been accorded Environmental Clearance for Expansion by State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority Gauradevi Paryavaran Bhawan Third Floor, 46 B IT Park Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun (Constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India) Vide E.C. No. 345 8(62)/2024 Dated 21.12.2024.

#### NOTICE

My daughter's name mentioned as Vanica in her passport whereas her name is mentioned as Vanica Prashant in her birth certificate. The affiant wants to get the name in his daughter's passport corrected from to Vanica to Vanica Prashant. Prashant Chaudhary S/O Shri Sita Ram Chaudhary R/o Badowala, Gorakhpur, Premnagar, Dehradun

### MCD to launch 100-day campaign for Swachh Survekshan

In preparation for Swachh Survekshan 2024 (SS24), the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) has announced a comprehensive 100 Wards 100 Days campaign to raise awareness about sanitation and waste management among residents. The twomonth-long initiative aims to engage locals on crucial practices like waste segregation, recycling and composting, the Dehradun municipal commissioner Namami Bansal said. Talking about the campaign while interacting with media-persons on Tuesday, she said

that the Centre's Swachh Survekshan team is expected to conduct inspections in the city within the next two to three months. "The SS24 process got slightly delayed this year due to elections. The MCD will now focus on this extensive campaign across all 100 wards to ensure Dehradun performs well in the survey. The campaign will start soon after the nomination filing process for civic bodies elections will end," she said. Bansal said that the campaign will involve community outreach and educational programmes

to encourage better waste management practices and improve overall cleanliness in the city. She emphasised that active participation from locals is essential to enhance the city's sanitation standards and secure a higher ranking in the Swachh Survekshan assessment. Through this initiative, the MCD hopes to promote sustainable waste management habits, ensure cleaner public spaces and foster civic responsibility among residents, paving the way for a cleaner and greener Dehradun, she added.

#### booth operations for shuttle services and coordinate with

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) is planning to tackle the escalating issue of stray animals by making it mandatory to attach Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags to cattle and pet dogs. This initiative aims to monitor and track animals effectively, ensuring legal action can be taken against owners who abandon their animals in public spaces, the Dehradun municipal commissioner Namami Bansal said. The streets of Dehradun have become increasingly hazardous, not only due to stray cattle but also domesticated ones released by dairy owners. These animals are often left unattended on roads during early mornings, evenings and late-night hours, caus-

ing significant traffic disruptions and posing a danger to commuters. The cattle are typically retrieved later for milking, only to be released again, contributing to traffic jams, accidents and severe injuries or fatalities. Adding to the concern, several locals claim a rise in stray dog populations across the city, with numerous complaints of dog bite incidents. Addressing these issues, Bansal stated, "We are fully aware of the challenges posed by stray and abandoned animals. The corporation has already deployed teams to remove stray cattle from roads. However, we are now planning to implement RFID tagging for both cattle and pet dogs to hold owners accountable for abandoning their

MCD to introduce RFID tags to curb stray animal menace

animals after they reach a non-productive age or fall ill." Bansal said that the RFID tags will allow authorities to track the movement of animals and identify negligent owners. Strict legal action will be taken against those who abandon their animals in public areas, creating a safer and more organised environment for residents and commuters. She informed that the MCD is also working to expand the capacity of its cow shelters to accommodate more stray cattle and provide them with adequate facilities. "The process for the RFID tagging project is underway and we are working to ensure its effective implementation at the ground level," Bansal added.

smooth

### **Excessive screen time straining eyes, says governor**

**Chola** 

PNS DEHRADUN

Singh, stated that the excessive use of mobile phone, television and other electronic gadgets has increased the risk of eye strain and related ailments. He said this at the inauguration of eye disease awareness seminar and cataract operation week organised by HNB Uttarakhand Medical Éducation University (HNBUMU) at Raj Bhawan on Tuesday. Under the guidance of the governor, free eye disease screenings and cataract surgery camps will be held in 15 medical units across the State from December 25 to 31. These camps will offer free eye examinations, consultations, and cataract operations. Singh said that eyes are one of the most precious gifts from god and one should care for them. He pointed out that the modern lifestyle characterised by excessive use of mobile devices, television and digital screens,

The governor lieutenant has increased the risk of eye strain and diseases. As people CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND age, they are more likely to face challenges related to eye conditions, particularly cataracts. This campaign aims to provide eye health services and treatment to all segments of society, especially in rural areas and underserved communities. Singh further said that this initiative is a significant public service campaign, stating that it will not only assist in treating eye diseases but also enhance awareness of eye health. He commended the efforts of various health institutions and encouraged the public to take full advantage of the available camps. Further, the head of the ophthalmology department at AIIMS Rishikesh, Sanjeev Kumar Mittal informed about the eye diseases and preventive measures. He emphasised the importance of lifestyle improvements and timely treatment to avoid cataracts and other eye disorders.

#### Oikos range launched at Sirca India event

PNS DEHRADUN

Circa India, an Italian wood coatings and wall textures com-Opany, introduced an exclusive range of wall paints from Oikos at the fourth edition of its annual event, Jashn-e-Rang attended by a number of celebrities, including the Bollywood actors Sara Ali Khan and Nushrratt Bharuccha. Sirca India officials said that Oikos is known for its eco-friendly solutions and this new offering is a testament to that legacy. The premium wall paint range promises multiple USPs such as out-



exceptional washability, superior coverage and vapour permeability, offering much more for both interior and exterior solutions, they added. The chairman and managing director of Sirca Paints India Limited, Sanjay Agarwal, di-

standing durability

rector Gurjit Singh Bains, joint managing director Apoorv Agarwal and associate director from Sirca Paints India Chirag Goel along with the director of Oikos SPA Italy Alessandro

Balestri shared their vision and insights at the programme.

#### FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: Chola Crest , C 54-55, Super B-4, Thiru -Vi-Ka

Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600 001, Branch Office; 2nd floor, JJ Tower, 59-Raipur Road, Adjoining Ram Tirath Aashram, Opp. Sachivalaya Main Gate, Dehradun (UK)-248001 Contact : Mr. VARUN PARTAP VOHRA M. No. 9056555002, 8477000713

#### NOTICE (WITHOUT PREJUDICE)

1. Mr. SANDEEP AGGARWAL S/O Mr. BRAHAM NAND 2. Mrs. POONAM AGGARWAL W/O Mr. SANDEEP AGGARWAL

All residents of: House No. 94/91, Khurbura Mohalla, Block - 4, Dehradun 248001 Also at: Sarthak Engraving Opposite Sadhu Ram Inter College, Road Dehradun (UK) Also at: 65 Jhanda Modh, Prithvi Mandir Campus, Dehradun-248001 (Uttarakhand)
Also at: Moti Bazar, Hardik Cosmetic Laxmi Plaza, Dehradun-248001 (Uttarakhand)

It is hereby submitted as under:

1. I have been appointed as an Authorized officer, under Rule 2(a) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 framed under the SARFAESI ACT, 2002 for Cholamandlam Investment and Finance Co. Itd. having its branch office Dehradur (U.K.) at 2nd floor, JJ Tower, 59-Rajpur Road,, Adjoining Ram Tirath Aashram, Opp. Sachivalaya Main Gate, Dehradun (U.K.)-248001.

2. That the Physical possession of the secured asset has been taken on dated 27/05/2024 and the notice of which has been duly served on you with the request to vacate the premises on or before the mentioned day fixed for possession . That you including borrower and co-borrower have been duly served by the way of Regd. Post and Publication regarding E Auction Sale Notice dated 14-12-2024 as per which the auction date of the secured asset is being fixed for 07.01.2025 as per the rules of

That even after numerous request to vacate the secured asset as per rules of SARFAESI act, some of house articles are still there in the premises of secured property, the duly signed inventory have also been prepared accordingly. You are kindly requested to remove all your belongings goods and articles as per Inventory prepared and duly signed within 7 days of receiving the notice as till that date CIFCL is bearing all the expenses to preserve the articles and goods kept in the house. This notice shall be treated as last and final opportunity to remove your goods and articles

ou are requested to meet myself (Authorized officer) of CIFCL on working days during isiness hours to fix the schedule for the same

Date: 25/12/2024 Place: Dehradun (U.K.) AUTHORISED OFFICER- M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Shirdi Panel Industries Ltd. and its related concerns, having registered office at 'A' wing, 2nd floor, Mhatre Pen building, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar(W) Mumbai 400028, have issued a notice stating that all authorizations and Board Resolutions previously granted to its employees/ other individuals have been hereby withdrawn/revoked w.e.f the date of issuance of this public notice, except for following persons. The names of the following persons are as follows:-

"Rakesh Kumar H. Agarwal, Sarvesh H. Agarwal, Mukesh H. Bansal, Gaurav R. Agarwal, Vasu S. Agarwal, Rakesh G. Agarwal, S.N. Gupta, Vijay Khopade, Rohit Panchal, Kiran Bist, Hari Singh Rawat"

The company and its related concerns, along with their Directors, Management, and promoters, will not be responsible for any acts committed by any employees/ individuals using the aforesaid withdrawn/revoked Authority Letter or Board Resolution.

Sd/-For Shirdi Panel Industries Rakesh H. Agarwal Director

#### Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Date: December 25, 2024, Place: Dehradun अधिशासी अभियन्ता

पी०एम०जी०एस०वाई०, खण्ड लो०नि०वि०, नरेन्द्रनगर दूरभाष : 01378.227082 ईमेल : eepmgsynarendranagar@rediffmail.com

<sup>दिनांक−20</sup>∕12/2024 महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय, उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों की मोहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा दिनांक 26.12.2024 से 02.01.2025 तक किसी भी कार्यदिवस में 10:00 बजे पूर्वाहन से 5:00 बजे सायं तक स्तम्भ '8' में अंकित कार्यालयों से क्रय किये जा सकते हैं तथा दिनांक 03.01.2025 को अपराहन 12:00 बजे तक स्तम्भ '8' में अंकित किसी भी कार्यालय के निविदा बॉक्स में डाली जा सकती है। प्राप्त निविदायें दिनांक 03.01.2025 को अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में गठित समिति द्वारा अपराहन 03:00 बजे उपस्थित ठेकेदारों अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधियों के समक्ष खोली जायेंगी।

निविदा के साथ रू० 100 / – का नॉन ज्युडिशियल स्टॉम्प पेपर मात्र रू० 1.00 के रेवेन्यु टिकट पर हस्ताक्षर कर निविदा की दरों की वैधता के लिये संलग्न करना आवश्यक होगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी शर्ते प्रपत्र जी०पी०डब्ल्यू०–८, जी०पी०डब्ल्यू०–९ व निविदा प्रपत्र एम०एफ० ८३, ७९ / ९७ तथा मैन्यूअल फॉर्म–६९ / ७० एवं शासनादेशे संख्या—2611 / 111(2) / 07—75 (सा०) / 2000 दिनांक 26.10.2007 के अनुसार मान्य होगी ।

क्रo संo	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर धनराशि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा की वैधता अवधि	ठेकेदारों की पंजीकरण की श्रेणी	निविदा विक्रय हेतु निर्धारित कार्यालय
1	विकासखण्ड—फकोट में हिण्डोलाखाल— शिवपुरी (कुरीखाल) मोटर मार्ग के कि॰मी॰ 0.00 से कि॰मी॰ 10 के मध्य कि॰मी॰ 10 हे॰मी॰ 2–4 में क्षतिग्रस्त दीवार की मरम्मत / पुनःस्थापना का निर्माण कार्य।	20500.00	1000+ GST	02 माह	30 दिन		1) 1) 7)
2	विकासखण्ड—फकोट में ईठारना से कुखई मोटर मार्ग, लम्बाई 12.050 कि॰मी॰ के चौनेज 6/14 से 6/16 के मध्य क्षतिग्रस्त कार्यों का मरम्मत का कार्य।	21200.00	1000+ GST	02 माह	30 दिन	व्यतर	ऽY), नई टिहरी। SY), नई टिहरी। वि0, नरेन्द्रनगर।
3	विकासखण्ड—फकोट में कौडियाला — गगलसी मोटर मार्ग के कि॰मी० 1 से 9.625 के मध्य क्षतिग्रस्त दीवारों का पुनःनिर्माण कार्य।	22500.00	1000+ GST	02 माह	30 दिन	ाणी 'डी' एवं उन	खण्ड−1 (PMGSY), खण्ड−2 (PMGSY), Y खण्ड, लो0नि0वि0,
4	विकासखण्ड—फकोट में बनाली तल्ली से तलाई मोटर मार्ग, लo—12.00 कि०मी० के कि०मी० 3. हे०मी० 2—4 एवं कि०मी० 5, हे०मी० 8—10 के मध्य क्षतिग्रस्त कार्यों की मरम्मत का कार्य।	16600.00	1000+ GST	02 माह	30 दिन	पंजीकृत	अभियन्ता, सिंचाई खप अभियन्ता, सिंचाई खप अभियन्ता, PMGSY
5	विकासखण्ड—फकोट में लसेर — रणाकोट से पाली मोटर मार्ग के कि०मी० 2 के क्रास सेक्शन 1/10–12 के हिल साईड की ओर आवासीय भवन की सुरक्षा हेतु क्षतिग्रस्त भाग पर मरम्मत/सुरक्षात्मक कार्य।	14300.00	1000+ GST	02 माह	30 दिन	मार्ग क	1. अधिशासी अभि 2. अधिशासी अभि 3. अधिशासी अभि
6	विकासखण्ड—नरेन्द्रनगर के अन्तर्गत मठियाली—मजियाडी मोटर मार्ग के कि०मी० 1.00 से 14.00 के मध्य क्षतिग्रस्त दीवारों एवं पैच मरम्मत का पुनःनिर्माण कार्य।	33600.00	1500+ GST	03 माह	30 दिन		

नोट-समस्त शर्तें कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड में देखी जा सकती है अथवा प्राप्त की जा सकती हैं।

अधिशासी अभियन्ता पी०एम०जी०एस०वाई० खण्ड लो०नि०वि० नरेन्द्रनगर

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.





#### Shah reviews implementation of three new criminal laws in U'khand

PNS DEHRADUN

Union Home minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting to review the implementation of three new criminal laws in Uttarakhand in the presence of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in New Delhi on Tuesday. He reviewed the implementation and current status of various new provisions related to police, jails, courts, prosecution and forensics in . Uttarakhand.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the three new criminal laws are becoming the protectors of civil rights and the basis of 'ease of justice'. He asked Dhami to implement more than one forensic mobile the new criminal laws 100 percent as soon as possible. Shah said that the new laws are victim and citizen centric and they need to be implemented promptly with this spirit. He said that the Uttarakhand government should make efforts to fill the gaps in technology and other areas towards 100 percent implementation of the new place for video conferencing laws. The Home minister fur-



ther said that the Uttarakhand government should give priority to 100 per cent implementation of the new laws in all police stations and jails in areas where more FIRs are registered. Emphasising on the use of technology, he said that van should be available in every district of the State. Shah said that for forensic visits, teams should be divided into three categories - serious, normal and very normal - so that resources can be better utilised. Along with this, he also emphasised that a protocol should be made to decide the designated and the cameras installed at all

places should be of excellent quality. Shah said that there should be regular and continuous monitoring of how many of the total zero FIRs registered have been brought to justice and how many FIRs have been transferred to the states. He said that the CM should review the progress of implementation of the three new laws every 15 days and the chief secretary and director general of police once a week with the officials of all the departments concerned. Shah suggested that the DGP should ensure that all the superintendents of police investigate the cases within the prescribed timelines.

#### Dhami apprises Shah of winter Yatra facilitation | U'khand to become

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met Union Home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Tuesday. In the meeting the CM informed Shah about the winter Char Dham Yatra which is underway in the winter abodes of the Char Dham deities- Joshimath

(Badrinath), Ukhimath (Kedarnath) ,Kharsali (Yamunotri) and Mukhba (Gangotri).

He informed the Home minister about the steps taken by the state government for promoting the winter Char Dham Yatra. Dhami

also informed Shah about the works undertaken under the Vibrant Village programme in Uttarakhand. The duo also discussed the steps being taken for empowerment of the cooperative sector and better coordination with the

#### **Congress has always** insulted Ambedkar: Dhami

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that those engaging in divisive politics in the country are trying to grab headlines by manipulating a portion of speech of Home minister Amit Shah in the parliament on BR Ambedkar. Interacting with the media persons in New Delhi on Tuesday, Dhami said the Congress has always insulted Ambedkar. He said that Ambedkar's life was dedi-

cated to equality and nation building. The CM said that the Congress party is now engaging in fake sympathy towards Ambedkar but it has always insulted him. He said that the Congress should apologise for Jawaharlal Nehru and other Congress leaders insulting Ambedkar.

Dhami said that after his resignation from the Nehru cabinet, Ambedkar was not allowed to speak in parliament. He said that in his resignation letter, Ambedkar had said the SC and ST were ignored and the only concern of the government was for the Muslims. The CM said that the Congress party ensured the defeat of Ambedkar in the Lok Sabha elections in 1952 and 1954.

**SMFG** 

Grihashakti

### 100 % organic in next 2 years: Rawat

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Cooperation minister Dhan Singh Rawat has said that Uttarakhand will become completely organic in the next two years. He said that 62 out of 95 blocks of the State have become organic and 47 blocks have been certified.

The minister was addressing the fourth Rural Voice Agriculture Conclave and NACOF- 2024 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on Monday.

The minister expressed happiness at the Uttarakhand Silk Federation receiving the National Cooperative Federation (NACOF) award -2024. The award was received by the federation's managing director Anand Shukla. In his address, Rawat said that about 12 lakh farmers of Uttarakhand were given interest free loans of Rs one to five lakh which has

helped in augmenting their income. He said that not even a single loan to the farmers in Uttarakhand has become NPA. He claimed that Uttarakhand's model of cooperative committees is being adopted by every State. The minister said that Uttarakhand has taken many new initiatives in the field of cooperative sector which other States are emulating. He said that the development will occur only when the farmers become empowered. Rawat said that while the agricultural land is decreasing and the fertility of the soil is also getting reduced, the population of the country is continuing to decrease. The theme of the fourth Rural Voice Agriculture conclave was institution building for farmers. In the conclave one farmer, one cooperative body, one social organisation and one public organisation was awarded.

### **BJP** slams Congress for minority appeasement, challenges stance on reservation policies

PNS DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party State president Mahendra Bhatt accused ward classes. Bhatt alleged that the Congress has repeatedly sought to extend the Congress of spreading lies in the name of Bhim Rao Ambedkar while pursuing policies favouring minority appeasement. He criticised Congress leaders for attempting to mislead people, stating that the party prioritises its minority vote bank over the rights of Dalits and back-

reservation benefits to Muslims, even advocating for increasing the reservation limit beyond 50 per

He accused the party's leadership, particularly the Nehru family, of having a history of disrespecting Ambedkar, citing incidents



like opposing his inclusion in the Constitution's drafting committee and denying him recognition during his lifetime. He further claimed

implementing critical initiatives like the Mandal commission to suppress opposed minority appeasement policies like the Waqf Board and Muslim Personal Law, yet Congress continues to dilute reservation rights for political gain," Bhatt said. He alleged that Congress- limit.

that Congress delayed ruled States within the INDIA bloc have redistributed reservations meant for Dalits and backward the rights of backward classes to minority com-classes. "Ambedkar munities, undermining constitutional provisions.
Bhatt challenged
Uttarakhand's Congress leaders to clarify their stance on granting reservations to Muslims and

#### SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.

(Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)

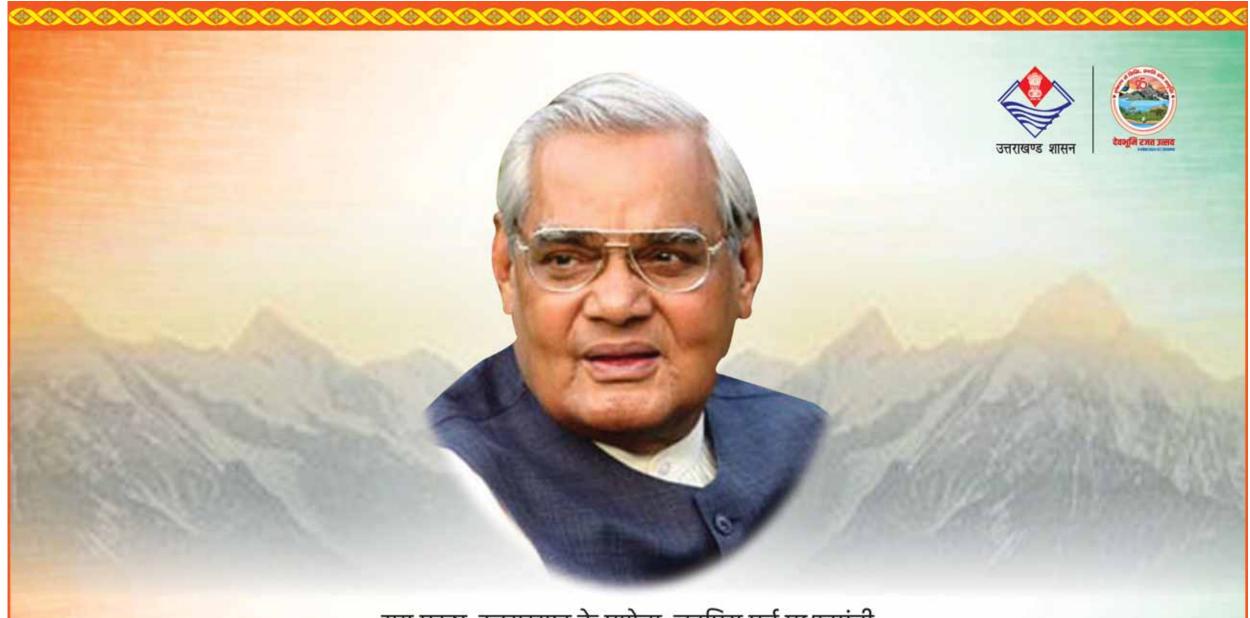
Corporate Off.: 503 & 504, 5" Floor, G-Block, Insipre BKC, BKC Main Road, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400051 Regd. Off.: Commerzone IT Park, Tower B, 1st Floor, No. 111, Mount Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai – 600116, TN POSSESSION NOTICE FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ((Appendix IV) Rule 8(1))
WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.) a Housing Finance Company [duly registered with National Housing Bank (Fully Owned)

by RBI)] (hereinafter referred to as "SMHFC") under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice dated mentioned below under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon you being the borrowers (names mentioned below) to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice and interes thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers mentioned herein below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned herein below and to the public in general that the undersigned has **Taken Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on me under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The borrowers mentioned here in above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "SMHFC" for an amount as mentioned herein under and interest thereon.

SI.	Name of the Borrower(s)	Description of Secured Assets	Demand Notice	Date of
No.	/ Guarantor(s) LAN	(Immovable Property)	Date & Amount	Possession
Г	LAN :- 611739511243431	A Property Plot of Land, Admeasuring Area 2490 Sq. Mtr.,	12.09.2024	
l	1. Abdul Quddous,	Bearing Khasra No. 248m, Situated At Village Chhaparpur	Rs. 61,80,993/- (Rupees	
		Sher Afganpur Pargana Bhagwanpur, Tehsil Roorkee,	Sixty One Lakh Eighty	20.12.2024
l '·	2. Kamrun Nisa,	Distt. Haridwar. Boundaries :- East :- Passage Common,	Thousand Nine Hundred	20.12.2024
l	W/o. Abdul Quddous	West:- Land Of Maksood, North :- Talab, South :- Land	Ninety Three Only) as on	
	3. Kamrun Nisa	of Maksood,	10.09.2024	

Place: Haridwar, Uttarakhand Date: 20.12.2024

Authorized Officer, SMFG INDIA HOME FINANCE CO. LTD.



युग पुरुष, उत्तराखण्ड के प्रणेता, जनप्रिय पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री

०० गारवा रत्वा

ख. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी

की जयंती पर समस्त उत्तराखण्ड वासियों की ओर से

शत-शत नमन

Congress to

commemorate

100th anniversary

of Belgaum session

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

ongress will commemorate

the 100th anniversary of the

Belgaum session of the party

that was presided over by

Mahatma Gandhi with an

extended session of the CWC

which will decide on an action

The opposition party asserted that the "insult" to B R

Ambedkar by Home Minister

Amit Shah will be strongly

taken up at Belagavi and

plan for the next year.

## **Congress approaches Supreme Court** against new Election Commission rules

The Congress on Tuesday filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the recent amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and expressed hope that the apex court will help restore the "fast eroding" integrity of the electoral process. The Government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their

general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who filed the petition, said, "The integrity of the electoral process is fast



Supreme Court will help restore it." "A writ has just been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the recent Commission, a Constitutional

amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961," he said in a post on X. Ramesh said the Election

unilaterally, and without public consultation, amend such a vital law in such a brazen manner. "This is especially true when that amendment does away with public access to essential information that makes the electoral process transparent and accountable, he said. Based recommendation of the

charged with the

conduct of free and fair

elections cannot be allowed to

Election Commission of India, the Union law ministry on Friday amended Rule 93(2)(a) of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, to restrict the type of "papers" or documents open to public inspection.

#### Home Minister Shah stresses use of biometrics to identify unidentified bodies, persons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Union Home Minster Amit Shah on Tuesday stressed the need for using biometrics technology to identify unidentified bodies and unidentified "found persons".

Chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the three new criminal laws with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) here, Shah also emphasised the use of technology in all criminal investigation matters.

He said alerts should be generated for all the cases at predefined stages and timelines should be fixed from the registration to disposal of the case - for the benefit of victims and complainants.

Biometrics technology should adopted to identify dentified bodies and unidentified unidentified found persons, Shah asserted. According to an official statement, Shah said regular

dispatch of alerts to investigating officers as well as senior officers as per predefined timelines will help expedite the process of investigation.

The meeting reviewed the implementation integration of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) 2.0 and Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS), the New Criminal Laws and National Automated Identification Fingerprint System (NAFIS), prisons, courts, prosecution and forensics with ICJS 2.0 at all India level.

During the discussion, the home minister asked the to facilitate the complete implementation of the new criminal laws in the ICIS 2.0, the statement said.

He emphasised the use of applications like eSakshya, Nyaya Shruti, eSign and eSummons in every state and Union Territory.

Shah said a team of officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs, NCRB should visit the states and Union Territories to increase the adoption of technical projects and assist them in all possible ways.

He emphasised regular interaction with senior police formations of states and Union Territories to monitor the progress of CCTNS and ICJS regularly and provide impetus to the project.
The NCRB should create a

data rich platform to benefit the investigation officers and other stakeholder of criminal justice system, he said. Shah appreciated the efforts of the NCRB in the technical implementation of the three

Addressing a joint Press along conference Congress general secretary organisation K C Venugopal and AICC media and publicity new criminal laws and the department head Pawan Khera, Congress general secretary in-charge

deliberated upon.

communications Jairam Ramesh said the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting on December 26 has been named 'Nav Satyagraha Baithak'

He said two resolutions will be passed at the meeting. Congress has been marking

Ambedkar Samman Saptah against the "insult" of B R Ambedkar by Home Minister Amit Shah, Ramesh said. He said there is only one solution that the home minister be sacked and must apologise for his remarks.

Ramesh said on December 27 a 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' rally will be held in Belagavi. Venugopal said the Congress has strongly taken up the issue of the "insult" of Ambedkar by the home minister and has been demanding the sacking of Shah as well as an apology from him. He said the issue would be strongly taken up in Belagavi and ways to take it forward in the future will also be deliberated upon, he said.

### Tragedy repeats: despite SC Guidelines, abandoned borewell accidents continue to claim lives

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

After over 14 years the Supreme Court framed guidelines to prevent accidents involving abandoned borewells, the frequent spate of such incidents highlight the gaps in enforcement and creating awareness of the top court's order.

The issue has come to the forefront again following the spate of such accidents leading to desperate and dramatic rescue operations. Most recently, a minor, Chetna, aged around three years fell into a borewell in the Kotputli-Behror district of Rajasthan, and the NDRF and SDRF were deployed to rescue her from the 150feet-deep borewell with efforts still underway at the time of filing this report. On December 9, Aryan, 5,



guidelines issued February 11, 2010, aimed to prevent such tragedies. The guidelines were issued after the bench led by former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan, took a suo occurred despite the top motu despite the top motu (on its own) comprehensive cognisance of a letter

petition bringing to its notice a spate of such accidents in the country on February 13, 2009. The guidelines included

setting up barbed-wire fencing around the well during construction, using a steel plate cover fixed with bolts over the well assembly and filling up of borewells from the bottom to the ground level among others. The top court had also asked the authorities to give wide publicity to its order. "It has been brought to the notice of this court that in a number of cases, children had been trapped and fallen into borewells and tube wells or abandoned wells. These reports have been coming from various states. Accordingly, we took suo motu initiative and issued notice to the various states to take immediate measures

to prevent such kinds of drilling agency at the time incidents," the top court of construction or said in its order dated February 11, 2010. Further, the owner of the land or the premises, before taking any steps to construct borewells or tube wells, was directed to intimate in writing to the authorities concerned district collector or district magistrate or sarpanch - or department officials of ground water or public health or municipal corporations at least 15 days in advance. It was directed that registration of all drilling agencies, government, semigovernment or private, should be mandatory. "Erection of a signboard at

the time of construction

near the well with the

following details: (a) Complete address of the

rehabilitation of well, (b) Complete address of the user agency or owner of the the apex court had said. The top court also directed the barbed-wire or any other fencing suitable barrier be erected around the well during construction, a cement or platform 0.5x0.5x0.6 concrete measuring metre (0.30 metre above ground level and 0.30 metre below ground) built around the well casing and the well assembly capped using welded steel plates or a similar cover fixed with bolts. It had said in case of a pump repair, the tube well not be left uncovered and mud pits and channels should be filled after completion of the work. "Fill up

abandoned borewells clay/sand/boulders/pebbles /drill cuttings, etc., from bottom to ground level," said the top court, adding on completion of the drilling operations at a particular location, the ground conditions would be restored to its original form. The guidelines above mentioned shall be given wide publicity through television national channels. A copy of this order be sent to the chief secretaries of all the states/union territories who shall forward the same to the district collectors of all districts of their respective state," the bench said. On August 6, 2010, a three-judge bench led by former CJI S H Kapadia slightly modified the February 11, 2010 order and disposed of the petition.

#### fell into a 150-foot-deep President Murmu to confer Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 children on December 26

a hospital. These instances



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

 $P^{\text{resident Droupadi Murmu}}_{\text{will on Thursday confer}}$ the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 children from 14 states and Union ter-

ritories. The Union Ministry of Child Development said in a statement that it would celebrate Veer Bal Diwas and Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar with nationwide activities, highlighting achievements and potential

of India's youngsters. This year, 17 children from 14 states and Union territories will be conferred with the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar by President Droupadi Murmu, it added.

award recognises exceptional achievements in seven categories - art and culture; bravery; innovation; science and technology; social service; sports; and environment.

The honourees - seven boys and 10 girls - will receive a medal, certificate and a citation booklet as part of the recognition. The centerpiece of the celebration, the national programme for Veer Bal Diwas, will take place at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present on the occasion, inaugurating the Suposhit Panchayat scheme that aims to bolster nutritional security at the grassroots. The event will also feature a march-past led children, representing diverse cultures. Union Minister of Women and

Development Annapurna Devi will deliver the opening address, setting the tone for a day dedicated to nurturing young minds and fostering creativity, the ministry said in its statement. Approximately 3,500 children, including the awardees, will participate in the event, which will feature performances heritage. Educational and creative activities will engage children around the country. Schools, childcare institutions and Anganwadi centres will host storytelling sessions, creative writing competitions, poster-making events, essay writing, poetry recitals and quizzes. Online platforms such as MyGov and MYBharat will also facilitate participation. Veer Bal Diwas is dedicated to inspiring young Indians to contribute to the nation's progress by upholding the values of courage, innovation and service. Through programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar and Suposhit Panchayat, the government reaffirms its commitment to empowering the next generation and fostering a culture of excellence, the

ministry said.

#### Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar calls removal notice a 'rusted tool'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said one should not use a vegetable-cutting knife for bypass surgery and asserted that the post was actually a "rusted"

tool In his first reaction on the notice submitted by the opposition INDIA Dhankhar said, "Just look at the notice against the vice president. Just look at the six links they have given. "You'll be shocked. Chandra Shekhar ji once said, 'Never use a vegetable-cutting knife for bypass surgery'. The notice wasn't even a vegetablecutting knife; it was rusted. There was haste." The notice was rejected by Rajya Sabha

Deputy Chair Harivansh. "When I read it, I was astonished. But surprised me more was that none of you read it. If you had, you wouldn't have been able to sleep for days," he told a group of women journalists. Dhankhar said any constitutional position has to vindicated

commitment to sublimity, qualities constitutionalism.

"We are not in a position to settle scores. Because for the success of democracy, two things are inalienable: expression and dialogue," he statement. Cautioning

orchestrated efforts to harm national interests, the vice president said these are fuelled in an orchestrated manner by forces that are determined to be inimical to the interest of the country. Their objective is to destroy by brick,

constitutional institutions, slur the presidency, and mind you, who is the president? The first tribal woman to become president of this country," he remarked.

Referring to parliamentary debates, Dhankhar said the two Houses are in the news for the wrong reasons. "Accountability must be enforced by media, the only conveyance to the people at large. Media can strike a chord with the people and generate pressure on public representatives," he said

#### Hospitals must treat victims of sexual violance and acid attacks: Delhi HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

In a significant ruling, the Delhi High Court recently said state-run and private hospitals cannot turn away survivors of sexual crimes, among others, and should treat them for free or face criminal action. A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma said a al establishment should not insist on identity proofs when such survivors are brought in an emergency and any medical professional refusing to provide necessary treatment would attract a complaint to be immediately registered by the police being a pun-

ishable offence. The court passed the directions in relation to survivors of rape, gang rape, acid attack and minor survivors of sexual offences, among others, and said despite the legal mandate, they faced difficulties in availing free medical treatment. "Whenever any victim/survivor of any of the said offences approaches a medical facility, diagnostic diagnostic lab, facility, home, hospital, nursing health clinic, etc., whether private and public/government, such victim/survivor shall not be



without turned away providing free medical treatment," said the bench in its judgment made available on December 21.

The High Court said denying requisite treatment survivors was a criminal offence and all doctors, administration, officers, nurses, paramedical personnel, etc., should be informed about the same. allowed The ruling

immediate examination of a survivor, who would be treated for sexually transmitted conditions such as HIV, if situation demands. The treatment would not only include first aid but also diagnosis, in-patient admission, continued outpatient assistance, diagnostic tests, lab tests, surgery,

counselling, psychological help, family counselling among other things.
The court clarified availing of

free medical treatment by such victims/survivors from either government or private hospitals was not dependent upon a referral by the state or district legal authority as it was a statutory right under Section 357C of CrPC, Section 397 of BNSS and Rule 6 (4) of POCSO Rules, 2020. Notably, every medical facility was directed to put up a board at the entrance, reception, counters and all prominent places, in both English and vernacular, declaring the availability of free out-patient and inpatient medical treatment for

such survivors

### Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision blooms: BJP's rise to power marks fruition of 1980 prediction

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delivering one of his more famous speeches at the BJP's inaugural convention at Shivaji Park in Mumbai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee predicted on December 30, 1980 with his signature flourish: 'Andhera chhatega, suraj niklega, kamal khilega' (darkness will end, the sun will rise, lotus will bloom).

As his birth centenary arrives, his words have aged well, with the BJP returning to power for a third straight term at the centre and lotus in full bloom

If Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the BJP's cultural agenda the centre of national politics, Vajpayee helped the party occupy this centre when its cultural agenda was

considered an anathema. A statesman politician and a peerless orator, India's first non-Congress prime minister to have served a full term



with his innate democratic spirit, honed through decades in opposition, in a politics crowded with powerful

three-time minister was the original builder of coalition politics at national level, successfully running an alliance government for a full

including the plane hijack in 1999 and the terror attack on Parliament in 2001, both with direct links to Pakistan. His government's measured

handling of the two incidents drew criticism from some quarters, including right wing organisations considered ideologically affiliated to the BJP but less than friendly to him for not pushing their cultural and economic agenda, but his term while navigating some standing ensured that he of the biggest national crises, faced no political threat or standing ensured that he

popular backlash. And even as he was still smarting from the fall of his government by one vote in the Lok Sabha in April 1999, his firm military and deft diplomatic response Pakistan's intrusion into Kargil as the head of a caretaker government earned him plaudits and powered the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance to a more stable majority, ensuring him a full term at the helm. Ashok Tandon, media adviser

to Vajpayee during his sixyear stint as PM, said besides an outstanding parliamentarian who did his bit in "strengthening the roots of parliamentary democracy" after entering the Lok Sabha for the first time in 1957, he brought "good governance" at the centre of agenda as the head

of government. "Good governance was his landmark contribution. He

policies which helped the country in every field," he told PTI, citing the launch of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, PM Gramin Sadak Yojna and the Quadrilateral Golden highway project under his stewardship. It was his boost to reforms, disinvestment and infra projects that made the idea of seven to eight per cent growth rate possible and his government legislated fiscal prudence through the FRBM Act in 2003.

However, the fruits of reforms came a little too late and this coupled with the BJP's political missteps, especially in the crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, and the Congress-led harnessing of rural distress delivered a shock defeat to Vajpayee in 2004 amid a

decline in his health. His public appearances were his public airing of views,

headed a diverse coalition of parties and kept them for his party in the 2007 together, while pursuing assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh before slowly fading away from the public eye as dementia hit him. He died in 2018. The Modi government began observing his birth anniversary as "Good Governance bestowed 1 5 anniversary bestowed Bharat Ratna on him in 2015.

An impressive mix of tradition and modernity in his world view, Vajpayee, a full-time RSS worker before being sent by the Hindutva organisation to the Jana Sangh in 1951 when the party was founded, maintained a lifelong adherence to the Sangh's values even though he at times resented its methods. Unlike lifelong companion L K Advani, who despite being an ideological hardliner and more invested organisational leader fell from the RSS's grace due to

including his ill-fated praise of M A Jinnah, that were bound to antagonise the Hindutva organisation, Vajpayee used his cultivated ambivalence and gifted articulation to shape his image of a moderate while never crossing swords with it. The only time he openly denounced a polarising Hindutva cause was when the Babri mosque demolished in 1992, but his stand was considered an act of political pragmatism necessary for the BJP to realise its political ambitions after fetching merely two seats in the 1984 polls.

With the moderate, poet-atheart and statesman-like Vajpayee as the BJP's prime ministerial face and the party agreeing to put a moratorium on its contentious ideological planks of the Rem temple construction, Article 370 repeal and the Uniform Civil Code, regional parties from across the country were drawn as he led them to poll wins. His passionate moves to improve ties with Pakistan resulted in his spectacular journey to Lahore in a bus in February 1999 and then hosting the Agra Summit with Pakistan's president Pervez Musharraf in 2001 but they met with little success. As the army chief before he deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Musharraf was behind his misadventure in Kargil, which followed months after Vajpayee's bus journey.

However, Vajpayee's famous invocation of 'Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat, Kashmiriyat' to resolve the issues afflicting Jammu and Kashmir won him lifelong admirers in the Muslim-majority Prime Minister Narendra Modi too recalled the phrase in his Independence Day speech in 2018 to reach out to people there.

## PM Modi to lay foundation stone for Ken-Betwa river-link project today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Wednesday lay the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project, the first such initiative under the national river interlinking policy, at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.

Nearly 44 lakh people in 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh and 21 lakh in Uttar Pradesh will get drinking water under the project, which is estimated to cost Rs 44,605 crore, MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav

said on Tuesday. Nearly 7.18 lakh farmer families of 2,000 villages will be

benefitted from the project, which will also generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar energy, he said. "Prime Minister Modi is coming to Khajuraho in Chhatarpur district on December 25 to lay the foundation of this project which will change the image and destiny of Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh," Yadav said.

The Ken-Betwa Link Project is a unique example of cooperation and coordination between the central government, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, he said. Prime Minister Modi has

the dream of former PM late Atal Bihari Vajpayee of the river linking campaign, Yadav

Through this project, farmers will get ample water for irrigation and it will also provide sufficient water for drinking and industrial uses. Along with the economic and

social development of the area, tourism will also be promoted and new employment opportunities will be created. The situation of groundwater in the droughthit Bundelkhand region will also improve, the CM said. Yadav said Ken-Betwa is the



largest irrigation project in the country, adopting an underground pressurised pipe irrigation system. Under the project, a 77-metre

high and 2.13 kilometres long Daudhan dam and two tunnels (upper level 1.9 km and lower level 1.1 km) will be constructed on the Ken river

in the Panna Tiger Reserve. The dam will store 2,853 million cubic metres of water, the chief minister said.

The surplus Ken water will be transferred to the Betwa river through the 221-km-long link canal from Daudhan dam, providing irrigation and drinking water facilities in

both the states, he said.
With the project, 8.11 lakh hectare area can be irrigated in 2,000 villages of 10 districts - Panna, Damoh, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Sagar, Raisen, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Datia. Nearly seven lakh farmer families will be benefitted from this, the chief

The Ken-Betwa project will provide an annual irrigation facility in 59,000 hectare area in Uttar Pradesh and stabilisation of the existing irriga-

tion in 1.92 lakh-hectare area, which will provide irrigation facilities in Mahoba, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Banda districts of UP, he said. The project also includes the work of saving the historical Chandela era heritage ponds

in Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh

and Niwari districts of MP,

where water can be stored during the rainy season. The Daudhan reservoir will provide drinking water to

Tiger Reserve throughout the year, improve the forest ecosystem and bring relief to UP's Banda district from the flood menace, Yadav

said. The water crisis prevalent in the Bundelkhand region will end and migration for employment will also be checked, he said.

A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on March 22, 2021 by the chief ministers of MP, UP and the Union Jal Shakti minister in the presence of PM Modi for the implementa-

### Two suspects killed in separate police encounters following bank heist in Lucknow

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

Two suspects involved in the high-profile Indian Overseas Bank locker heist in Lucknow were killed in separate police encounters, one in Lucknow and the other in Ghazipur. The heist, which took place at the bank's Chinhat branch, saw 42 lockers looted, resulting in losses worth crores of rupees.

The first encounter occurred late Monday night on Kisan Path in Lucknow, where the police confronted a suspect, Sobind Kumar. When intercepted, Sobind opened fire at the police. In the retaliatory firing, he was critically injured and later succumbed to his injuries during treatment at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

The second encounter happened at the Uttar Pradesh-Bihar border near Ghazipur. A team of Ghazipur police intercepted two suspects on a motorcycle during routine checks. When the suspects



tried to ram their motorcycle into the officers and escape, they opened fire at the police. One suspect, Sunny Dayal, a wanted criminal with a ?25,000 bounty, was injured in the exchange of fire. He was taken to a local hospital but was declared dead on arrival. The other suspect managed to escape into the darkness.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Ghazipur, Iraj Raja, confirmed the death of Sunny Dayal, a resident of Munger, Bihar. Police recovered a pistol, stolen jewelry, ?35,500 in cash, and the suspects' motor-

cycle from the scene. So far, two suspects have been killed, and three others were arrested earlier in the week. Two members of the gang remain at large, and efforts are underway to track them down.

The Indian Overseas Bank's Chinhat branch was targeted on Saturday night, where thieves broke into 42 lockers and made off with cash, gold, and silver worth several

crores. Early on Monday, three suspects were apprehended following an initial police encounter. Among them, Arvind Kumar, a resident of Munger, Bihar, sus-tained a gunshot injury during the operation.

The arrested suspects confessed to orchestrating the heist with four other accomplices. Police have identified the mastermind as Vipin Kumar, a resident of Chinhat, who provided logistical support and insider information to the gang from Bihar.

Police have so far recovered ?3 lakh in cash, 1,889 grams of gold, 1,240 grams of silver jewelry, and firearms, including pistols and country-made weapons. Additional stolen items were seized during Monday night's encounters. Joint Commissioner of Police Law and Order) Amit Verma stated that the bank's inadequate security measures facilitated the heist. The police are also investigating lapses in the bank's compliance with safe-

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The month of December

■ used to be a period of car-

ols and cribs in Kerala wayback in the 1960s, 70s and 80s

but not anymore. Carol

singers visiting the houses of

all communities in the State

have become a thing of the

past. There are no more drum

beats or saxophone music.

the village squares too have

fallen silent though they spot

Christmas stars, trees and of

"Nowadays we visit houses of

community members only

and the number of carol

nights too have come down.

Carol teams come alive only

on 23rd and 24th December,"

said K T Paily of Karipra, a

former Indian Railway offi-

This Christmas was marked

by the demonstration staged

by activists of Sangh Parivar

in front of a Upper Primary

School in Palakkad district

questioning the propriety of

holding a religious festival in

course the cribs.

### Congress has an anti-Ambedkar mindset, says CM Yogi Adityanath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath accused the Congress of harboring an anti-Ambedkar mindset and engaging in divi-sive politics. Speaking to journalists at his official residence, the Chief Minister launched a sharp critique against Congress and other political parties, particularly the Samajwadi Party (SP), for allegedly disrespecting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy.

"The Congress has a history of depriving Dalits of their rights. Jawaharlal Nehru opposed Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's inclusion in the Constituent Assembly and worked to defeat him in elections," CM Yogi alleged. He added that Congress not only sidelined Dr. Ambedkar during his lifetime but also refused to honor him with a memorial after his demise.

Recalling incidents from the UPA era, CM Yogi highlighted the controversy surrounding a caricature of Nehru whipping Dr. Ambedkar's portrait, which



had prompted an apology from then HRD Minister Kapil Sibal. He also pointed to Dr. Ambedkar's resignation from the Nehru cabinet, accusing Congress of prioritizing Muslim appeasement over Dalit welfare.

The Chief Minister praised Dr. Ambedkar as a visionary who overcame social barriers to make significant contributions to law, economics, and nationbuilding. "Dr. Ambedkar's work illuminated India's path forward, and his dedication remains an inspiration for gen-

Christmas Carols go silent in Kerala

Stanly Sebastian, a former

professor who does not hesi-

tate to speak his mind out was

blunt in his reply to the news

that carol team was attacked

and cribs were vandalized.

"Do you think the Sangh

Parivar will resort to such acts

when the party leaders are

trying to strengthen the ties

erations," CM Yogi stated. Turning his attention to the Samajwadi Party, CM Yogi alleged that the SP's history mirrors that of Congress in neglecting Dr. Ambedkar. He claimed that SP leaders removed Dr. Ambedkar's name from institutions in Kannauj and Saharanpur, accusing them of using similar tactics to create confusion over BJP policies. 'The Congress and SP have a history of misleading the pub-

lic. Both parties need to apol-

ogize to the nation for their

actions," CM Yogi demanded,

asserting that the public has consistently rejected their politics of appeasement and division. Highlighting BJP's initiatives, the Chief Minister said the party draws inspiration from Dr. Ambedkar's principles. He lauded the efforts of PM Narendra Modi's government to uplift marginalized communities through welfare schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, PM Awas Yojana, and Ayushman Bharat. He also noted the establishment of "Panch Teerth" sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar to honor his legacy.

'Unlike Congress, which denied Dalits their rightful opportunities, BJP has integrated the underprivileged into mainstream welfare initiatives. Our government is committed to Dr. Ambedkar's vision of equality and empowerment," CM Yogi emphasized.

The Chief Minister concluded by reaffirming the BJP's dedication to preserving Dr. Ambedkar's ideals and working tirelessly to uplift all sections of

He blamed a section in the Kerala BJP and the Marxist-

Mullah axis for the fake news.

Chief Minister Pinarayi

Vijayan on Monday con-demned the attack in harsh-

### NC MP, Opp protest outside CM Omar's house against reservation policy

**MOHIT KANDHARI** ■ JAMMU

Awar of words broke out On Tuesday between National Conference leaders a day after one of its Members of Parliament led the protest march outside the official residence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar the existing Reservation Policy in Jammu and Kashmir. The protest led by Aga Syed

Ruhullah Mehdi, National Conference MP from Srinagar, is being viewed, by many, as growing discord within the National Conference, as it was seen as defying the party's norms and discipline. Meanwhile, opposition party

leaders from the Peoples Democratic Party and Bharatiya Janta Party took a jibe at the National Conference government and demanded an early resolution of the issue. On the other hand, the

Congress party decided to bail out Omar Abdullah and termed Aga Syed Ruhullah's protest march a 'camera show' Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

had already set the record straight on Monday by ensuring the delegation of students that the channel of communication would remain open without any intermediaries or hangers-on.

On Tuesday speaking to reporters at the National Conference headquarters in Srinagar party MLA from Hazratbal, Salman Sagar clarified the National Conference had nothing to do with the protest over the Reservation Policy.

Referring to the presence of party MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, Salman Sagar made it clear if the MP believes that he can do it, then that's his prerogative, however, this was not the National Conference's initiative.

Salman said the protest was a platform for the party's adversaries. "It was a gathering of our adversaries, of our enemies. Unfortunately, one of our MPs was present there, allowing them to exploit the situation," Salman said, adding that such actions inadvertently strengthen the position of political rivals like the Peoples



Salman accused the organizers of failing to consider better ways to address grievances. "If grievances truly needed redressal, there were better ways to address them. What happened yesterday, in my personal opinion, was pure drama. It didn't benefit anyone," he said.

He also took a dig at political opportunism, stating that the protest gave a platform to individuals who have no real stake in the issue. "People with no mandate, those who have been rejected by the public with barely 200 votes, were speaking on behalf of thousands or even millions. This kind of behavior undermines genuine efforts," Salman said.

Reacting to the assurances given by the Chief Minister to the delegation of the Open Merit Students Association after holding the first round of talks Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday asked Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to find a way to resolve the issue of reservation saying leaving the matter for the courts was "very unfortunate".

Speaking to reporters Mehbooba Mufti said "We do not want any politics in it but we are pushing open merit students to the wall. The chief minister has sought six months' time. They (NC) have three MPs, including the Ladakh MP and 50 MLAs, why do they need six months? They think a court decision will come by and they will not have to do anything," Mufti said.

The former chief minister of the erstwhile state of J-K said the NC government could have brought an SRO to settle the issue of reservation like what she did in 2018 when she brought SRO-49 for 75

per cent reservation for open merit category in post-graduation.

In Jammu, BJP general secretary and in-charge of the party's Jammu and Kashmir affairs Tarun Chugh accused Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of trying to deprive the underprivileged classes of their rights in the name of rationalization of reservation policy.

Speaking to media persons, Tarun Chugh said, "Omar Abdullah Ji the country is run according to the Constitution and nobody will be allowed to fiddle with the rights of the Dalits, Gujjars, Paharis and other underprivileged classes of the society. INDIA bloc and the National Conference (NC) have deprived the underprivileged classes of their rights and they are again working on conspiracies to do the same. In Srinagar, the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Dooru and senior Congress leader, Ghulam Ahmad Mir said that the Member of Parliament (MP) from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency, Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, could have met the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directly instead of resorting to "camera show". Addressing a news conference at party headquarters here in Srinagar, Mir said that the

MP Ruhullah was just a five minutes away from CM Omar Abdullah and instead of opting for "camera show", the demands could have been raised with the Chief Minister directly. "It has become a fashion now to get the camera attraction, otherwise the responsible MP from NC, could have behaved

Reservation policy outside

CM's residence.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday attended the inaugural ceremony of the 'Atal Yuva Mahakumbh' here and said former prime minister and 'Bharat Ratna' recipient Atal Bihari Vajpayee's enduring legacy is a guiding light for the country. Addressing the event organised

to commemorate Vajpayee's birth centenary year, Singh reflected on the former prime minister's unique personality and shared personal memories of his association with him. "The sun that rose on the polit-

ical horizon of India on 25th December 1924 has not set even today. I feel so. Not only India but the whole world is familiar with the personality and deeds of revered Atalii," he

Sharing anecdotes from Vajpayee's life, Singh recalled an incident from the former seriously," he said while prime minister's visit to responding to a query on Ruhullah's protest on Pakistan. "A female journalist told Atal

ji she would marry him if he

gave her Kashmir as dowry.



"Respected Atal ji's personali-

ty was so towering that his leadership style and decisions garnered admiration across the world. Lucknow held a special place in Atal ji's heart, and the people here understood him deeply," he added.

Reflecting on his own experiences working with Vajpayee, Singh said, "I was privileged to receive his guidance and work

alongside him as a Cabinet colleague. When his government fell by a single vote, Atal ji's historic speech redefined patriotism and democracy. He famously stated, 'Governments

will come and go, parties will form and disband, but this nation and its democracy must remain eternal.' His words were a testament to his vision and unwavering principles." The defence minister also

appreciated the cultural programmes and tableaux presented by children during the event at the KD Singh Babu Stadium here highlighting

#### est of words and have ordered a high-level probe into the incident. "The Sangh Parivar elements are out to destroy the communal harmony and peaceful atmosphere prevailwhile addressing a public meeting near the capital city. Aisha Foucik Kadukkapilly, a young poet and budding lawyer at Kaladi said that there is a strange fall in the number of carol singers. But Stanly Sebastian attributed it to the decrease in Christian population over the last two in the State? The BJP has decades as many families

Zealand. An eerie of silence marks the Christmas festival in the State which once reverberated with the cacophony of shopping, partying and fun-making. Peaceful Christmas all over the World!

have migrated to Europe,

USA, Australia and New

#### spreading fake narrative. a school with students dressed between the two communities Rajnath attends inaugural ceremony of 'Atal Yuva Mahakumbh'

up as Santas. "Will they allow

Janmashtami festival with stu-

dents dressed up as Lord

Krishnas?," said R V Babu, leader, Hindu Aikyavedi.

Babu said there was no unto-

ward incident of any kind

during the demonstration.

He blamed the Marxist-

Mullah funded media for

Atal ji, with his signature smile, responded, 'I'm ready if you bring all of Pakistan as dowry.' His reply demonstrated his sharp intellect and effortless humour," the defence minister

#### **ED** attaches Dawood's brother related property in Mumbai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

included many influential

Christians in the party and

talks are underway with the

spiritual leaders of the church.

Last day we saw Prime Minister Modi visiting a

Church in the national capi-

tal and holding discussions

with the cardinals," said Prof

Sebastian.

 ■ Directorate (ED) has taken oossession of a flat worth Rs 55 lakh in Maharashtra's Thane, held in the name of an associate of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim's brother Iqbal Kaskar, as part of a money laundering probe. ED Officials said Tuesday that the residential dwelling in Neopolis Building located in Thane West was attached as part of a provisional order issued under the PMLA in 2022 against its owner Mumtaz Ezaz Shaikh.

The adjudicating authority of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) had approved this provisional attachment order paving way for the ED to take its possession. The procedure for taking possession of the flat was completed recently. The ED had earlier said in a statement that this flat was extorted by Kaskar and others from a Thane-based real estate developer Suresh

"Mehta was running the business of construction with his partner through his firm

Devichand Mehta.

Darshan enterprises. The accused Iqbal Kaskar, Mumtaz Shaikh and Israr Ali Jamil Saiyad due to close proximity with underworld gangster Dawood Ibrahim Kaskar managed to extort one flat in Thane in the name of Mumtaz Ezaz Shaikh," the agency had said. Besides the flat, it had then said, four cheques totalling Rs 10 lakhs "as demanded by them" were issued by the builder which has been "encashed" by the accused through cash withdrawals. The money laundering stems from a Thane Police FIR of September, 2017. The police had pressed charges under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MČOCA) against the accused.

Kaskar is currently in jail under

judicial custody. Dawood

Ibrahim has been declared ter-

rorist by India and is stated to

be based in Pakistan.

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

### **Adieu Shyam Benegal**

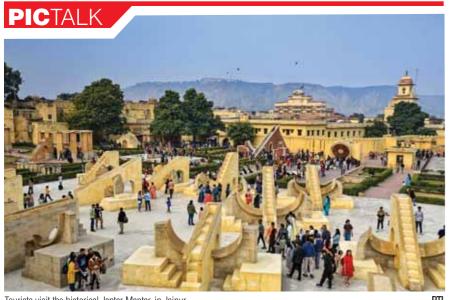
With passing of Shyam Benegal, Indian cinema has lost a luminary, but his films will continue to illuminate and educate

The curtains have fallen on one of the most illustrious chapters in Indian cinema. Shyam Benegal, the pioneering filmmaker who redefined storytelling in Indian cinema, passed away at the age of 90 on December 23, 2024. He succumbed to chronic kidney disease at Wockhardt Hospital in Bombay Central. Known as the father of Indian parallel cinema, Benegal's legacy remains etched in the heart of Indian filmmaking, his films celebrated for their realism, depth, and transformative impact on society. Born on December 14, 1934, Benegal celebrated his milestone 90th birthday just days ago, surrounded by close family and friends. Yet, even in his twilight years, the veteran filmmaker remained deeply connected to his art. Benegal's career was marked by his groundbreaking contribution to the Indian New Wave movement in the 1970s and 1980s. With films like 'Ankur' (1974), 'Nishant' (1975), 'Manthan' (1976), and 'Bhumika' (1977), he charted a new cinematic course that delved into realism and social

> commentary, a stark contrast to the formulaic escapism of mainstream Bollywood.

His films gave voice to the marginalised and explored themes of gender, class struggles, and rural India, bringing to light the unseen facets of Indian society. 'Nishant', a harrowing tale of oppression and resistance, and 'Manthan', inspired by Dr. Verghese Kurien's milk cooperative movement, became cult classics. The latter, crowdfunded by 500,000 farmers, stands as a testament to Benegal's ability to connect with grassroots realities. The film, India's official entry for the 1976 Academy Awards, exemplified his commitment to blending art with advocacy. Benegal's films also

became a platform for some of India's finest acting talents. Actors like Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah, Smita Patil, and Om Puri found their early footing in his films. Azmi, who debuted in Benegal's 'Ankur', recently shared a poignant moment from his 90th birthday celebrations, underscoring the indelible bond they shared. His collaboration with screenwriter Vijay Tendulkar produced narratives that were both poignant and thoughtprovoking, winning multiple National Awards. From 'Junoon' to 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero', Benegal's oeuvre showcased an unmatched versatility, spanning historical dramas, rural sagas, and contemporary commentaries. Earlier this year, 'Manthan' was restored and screened at the Cannes Film Festival under the Cannes Classics segment, reiterating the timeless relevance of Benegal's vision. Despite his declining health, the event underscored his enduring influence on global cinema. Benegal's storytelling was never confined to entertainment. His films were instruments of change, questioning societal norms and sparking dialogues. His pioneering approach laid the foundation for generations of filmmakers who sought to marry art with social responsibility. Rest in peace, Shyam Benegal, the maestro who showed us the soul of India through his lens.



India recalibrates The stakes are high for India, balancing its Act East policy, border security and



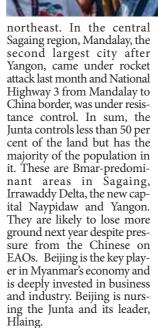
competition with China, all against the backdrop of a fractured Myanmar

fter four years of civil war in Myanmar, India has quietly changed its policy ∎towards the Junta from one of total and unfailing support following its coup against democracy to one of nuanced support. Junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing has been advocating holding elections for the last four years but only now with China's assistance, they are slated for 2025. China is playing with both sides: supporting the Junta as well as some EAOs (Ethnic Armed Organisations) especially in the north contiguous with its Yunan province. India too has shifted the goalposts but less perceptibly and engaging some EAOs and the National Unity Government (NUG) after the Junta lost its control in the Rakhine and Chin territories along India and Bangladesh bor-

Last week the Junta's control of the ground began crumbling further with the loss of Ann, Headquarters Western Military Command, the second military command to fall to resistance groups. Junta has lost two airports Thandwe (Rakhine) and Lashio and 75 towns and cities out of some 340 of them. It has also lost control of six border trading posts. 40 of 70 towns in Rakhine have been captured by the Arakan Army which is part of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, the other two being MNDAA and TNLA.

Two critical seaports on the west coast - India-operated Sittwe and Chinese-owned Kyaukphyu - are on AA's target list next year unless Beijing can dissuade it from attacking Kyaukphu though the loss of Ann has opened the gates to it. Magaung is the other target in Rakhine.

On the Thailand border, the Karen National Union took Manerplaw, the Junta losing possession after 30 years. A humanitarian corridor with Thailand has existed with the help of the Junta. In the North, TBA has been persuaded by China to go slow ainst the junta, and not support NUG and the People's Defence Force. The Kachin Independence Army has seized Bemo and Mansi, popular tourist areas in the The Chinese consulate in



He was invited to meet PM Li Qiang after attending the Greater Mekong Subregional Summit at Kunming last month. China is replenishing the Junta's military arsenal - so is Russia - including three fighter jets with assured ammunition supply. It wants to locate a private security company (like in Pakistan) for the protection of its strategic assets like China Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) containing oil and gas pipelines along with a railway link from Kunming to Kyaukphyu. Chinese Foreign Minister

wang 11 is a frequent visitor to Myanmar though most people resent Chinese support for the Junta and its presence.



JUNTA'S CONTROL OF THE GROUND **BEGAN CRUMBLING FURTHER WITH THE** LOSS OF ANN. **HEADQUARTERS** WESTERN MILITARY COMMAND, THE SECOND

**COMMAND** 

TO FALL TO

**GROUPS** 

with low turnout and rigging an election will be manipulated. ASEAN's problem is Myanmar after the failure of its five-point consensus peace formula. Many meetings have been held with and without Myanmar representation without any light at the end of the tunnel. During the 18 December talks in Bangkok, with Myanmar's neighbouring LAST WEEK THE countries, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, a former Ambassador in Myanmar, discussed prospects for elections with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Than There was a separate set of talks with stakeholders from

People's

**Protest Against** 

**Military Coup!** 

Mandalay came under attack

election could be held contin-

gent upon the ground situation

in November next year. Even

Theoretically, an

non-neighbouring countries. India's stakes are high given competition with China, a disturbed situation in its northeast and a troubling relationship developing with **MILITARY** Bangladesh. Myanmar is a pivotal land bridge for its Act East policy, the Asean Trilateral Highway and the security of its Eastern frontier. RESISTANCE The junta's loss of control in

Rakhine and Chin states has created an adverse situation along the border with Mizoram and a broken Manipur. While India is not roactive like Unina, its new policy pronouncement – old wine in a new bottle – is "immediate cessation of violence, peaceful resolution of

the ethnic issue through a genuine federal democracy where the process should be Myanmar-owned Myanmar-driven.

While Delhi has taken its time to engage resistance groups, it did organise one-and-a-half track meetings with select EAOs and Junta separately. In November, it first engaged Junta officials followed by EAOs who met the Joint Secretary (Bangladesh- Sri Lanka- Myanmar) at the Indian Council for World Affairs. In September, it had met representatives from Chin, Rakhine, Sagaing and Magwe who are already in refugee camps in Mizoram.

While India has not opened

humanitarian corridors to these areas it is providing food, fuel medicines across the border. But that is not enough as they also want weapons and cash. Delhi does not want to annoy the Junta with which it has little leverage, unlike China. NUG was not invited to Delhi though it is being engaged back channel. India has to get real; be proactive, take risks and support AA and Chin rebels as its Act East policy is pivoted in areas under their control. It can't dump the Junta as it will be a key con-

stituent of any outcome. (The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander. IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and jounaer memver oj tne Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal)

#### **STRENGTHENING INDIA- KUWAIT TIES** Madam -The two-day visit of PM

Narendra Modi to Kuwait will further boost the bilateral ties between two historically friendly nations. This is the first visit by any Indian prime minister to the Gulf nation in 43 years. Though India and Kuwait have enjoyed traditionally friendly relations, which date back to the pre-oil era of Kuwait when maritime trade with India was the backbone of its economy, India and most Arab countries, especially Kuwait, have enjoyed very cordial relations based on mutual trust and peopleto-people contact, nurtured over several millennia. Till 1961, the Indian rupee was the legal currency tender of Kuwait till it introduced its currency, the Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD). This was a symbol of enduring economic and cultural centuries between

two brother nations. PM Modi was conferred with Kuwait's highest civilian honour, the prestigious "Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer. The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer' is a knighthood order of Kuwait. It is awarded to heads of state and foreign sovereigns and members of foreign royal families in a sign of friendship and has been previously awarded to foreign leaders like Bill Clinton, Prince Charles, George Bush, King Salman Bin Saud, and King Hussein of Jordan. This visit of PM Modi holds great significance as current global volatility requires better cooperation and stability among nations, especially among regional players, for energy security, and India's desire for stability in the Gulf region, beside Kuwait, holds significant strategic importance. The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) has the world's oldest and fifth largest sovereign wealth fund, valued around US \$1 trillion, which has US \$969 billion in assets under its management. This visit of PM Modi has heralded a new era of friendship, which will further boost trade, cooperation, and peace at a time when economic con-

the foremost importance in the formation of political alliances.

cerns and regional stability dictate are of



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** 

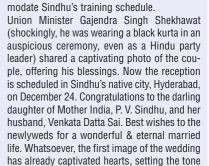
ndian badminton star Pusarla Venkata Sindhu a two-time Olympic (silver and bronze) medallist, is married to Venkata Datta Sai in Udaipur. Sindhu, a five-time World Championship medallist, a few days ago, clinched the Syed Modi India International title and announced her engagement via an Instagram post on December 14, 2024, that captured a memorable moment with the couple holding their rings and smiling from ear to ear. The wedding festivities began on December 20th

#### POPCORN PRICING DEBATE

Madam— The recent decision by the GST Council has turned popcorn from a simple snack into a focal point of economic debate. Under the new rules, salted popcorn is taxed at 5 per cent, packaged popcorn at 12 per cent, and sugar-flavoured popcorn at 18 per cent. This decision raises questions about the priorities of the tax structure while adding complexity to people's daily lives. Will samosas, tea, and water also be classified into tax categories based on taste and packaging?

The tax determination for popcorn signals that the government is exploring every possible avenue to increase revenue. The aroma of popcorn in cinemas might now bring concerns about tax slabs before the joy of taste. Popcorn, once a symbol of social equality, has now become a marker of class division due to the 5 per cent and 18 per cent tax differential. This decision could negatively impact the Rs 1,200 crore popcorn industry, pushing people toward cheaper alternatives. The government must recognise that such decisions Ramesh G Jethwani | Bengaluru add to the burden on citizens already grap-

in the lake city of Rajasthan at the reclusive and majestic Raffles Udaipur Resort. Pre-wedding festivities included sangeet, haldi, and mehendi ceremonies. The families, long-time acquaintances, planned the wedding swiftly to accom-



for the couple's happily ever after Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

pling with inflation. Popcorn is no longer

just a snack but a representation of the complexities of policymaking. RK Jain | Barwani

#### TRIBES PROTECT NATURE

Madam —It is a great irony that all the welleducated and better-placed-in-life populations are destroying nature and damaging the environment; it is the indigenous tribes across the world who are supposedly backward and primitive who are doing their best to protect it. The bond between nature and her people has all but broken down in all urban centres, and the city dwellers do not think twice about their lifestyles, which is slowly destroying the environment. After all, we, the human race, are not the sole inhabitants of the planet, and other living creatures are co-inheritors too. It is time for all the nations with tribal populations to learn from them on how to care for and protect the planet. **Anthony Henriques** | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com

### Across cultures and ages: The beauty of unexpected friendships



The unexpected joy of forging meaningful friendships in middle age defies the common belief that the best opportunities for connection are behind us

**7** our hat is fantastic. It makes you look more Bavarian than any of us, the concierge quipped as I entered the venue for the coffee-and-cake event at a resort in southern Germany. Although he was stretching the truth — I have neither blonde hair nor blue eyes — I accepted the compliment with a coy smile. "Danke schön," I said, tipping my woolen hat. Just then, another guest remarked, "That's a pretty pin on your hat," pointing to the delicate hand-crafted Edelweiss flower. A cherished gift from my friends, Wolfgang and Amelie, the pin symbolised a friendship that began just a year ago, in this very Bavarian town of Schliersee.

The Wolfgangs — a handsome, warm-hearted couple - are a testament to the unexpected joy of friendships made in middle age. Our bond didn't begin with shared childhoods or decades of history but with a simple "hello" and an open heart. The modest origins of our connection and the way it blossomed over the past year defy the notion that meaningful friendships are reserved

for youth. Our paths crossed serendipitously during an evening walk.

A casual exchange of pleasantries evolved into deeper months after. It is widely held our formative years are the superficial, or driven by

conversations about life, culture, and shared interests. What began as polite conversation in an Alpine countryside ended with an exchange of coordinates and it contin-

ued with texting in the that the friends we make in ones who stay, while those forged later in life are fleeting,

necessity. This belief may hold some truth; adulthood brings with it obligations, scepticism, and wariness. We become cautious in extending ourselves. The There is also a profound joy

innocence of youthful camaraderie gives way to guarded interactions, and we convince ourselves that the window for profound friendship has closed. Yet, the Wolfgangs remind me that this window is not sealed shut — it merely takes a little more effort to

Friendships formed in middle age are special not despite our life experiences, but because of them. We bring to these connections a deeper sense of self-awareness, empathy, and appreciation.

There's no rush to impress or to conform. The pressures of youthful identity-building are gone. In their place, we find sincerity, authenticity, and the willingness to value people for who they truly are. They remind us of the universality of human warmth and curiosity. Meeting someone from another country someone whose life, traditions, and language are different — can feel like discovering an entirely new world. And when such encounters lead to genuine friendship, they break down the invisible walls that geography and cul-

ture often build around us.

in the intentionality of these connections. In our younger years, friendships are often born of proximity — classmates, neighbours, or college roommates. As adults, friendships require deliberate effort. This intentionality infuses middle-aged friendships with a depth and resilience that can be even more rewarding than the bonds of our youth. I think back to the pin on my hat — that delicate Edelweiss — and I see it as a metaphor for these kinds of friendships. The Edelweiss, a rare Alpine flower, thrives in challenging conditions.

It symbolises courage, devotion, and the willingness to climb new heights. Like the flower, friendships made in middle age might take more effort to cultivate, but they are hardy, resilient, and precious. A year after that first meeting, I found myself once again in Schliersee last month, sharing coffee and cake with the Wolfgangs, laughing over our language blunders and cultural quirks. It is never too late to make friends.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai. Views are personal) facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

### **FIRST COLUMN**

#### THE ETERNAL WISDOM **OF SUNDAR KAND**

Sacred texts and mantras hold a timeless power to uplift the soul



RAVI VALLURI

he faithful recognise the profound benefits of chanting or reading sacred texts, mantras, and scriptures like the Hanuman Chalisa and Sundar Kand. These practices are especially embraced by large numbers on auspicious days such as Tuesdays and Saturdays. The vibrations generated by reading these sacred books and meditating on the mantras foster positive thoughts, beautify the mind, and empower us to overcome internal obstacles and dispel negativity clouding our perspective. Yet, many of us struggle to engage in these practices regularly, often citing demanding schedules and lack of time.

As spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar observes, "The time given to the Divine is the least." Consequently, we neglect to devote quality time to the Lord, remembering Him only in moments of distress. Even when time is found, many face difficulties focusing, maintaining clarity, or chanting with proper intonation. The mind frequently drifts into worldly con-



To aid this practice, here is a simple version of Sundar Kand Ram Ram Jai Ram

Ram Jai Ram Ram Peaceful, Compassionate, Sinless, One served by Brahma and Shambhu,

One who appears in human form by Maya,

O Raghuvar, I bow to you. You are my innermost Self.

Liberate me, O Lord,

Instill devotion within me.

O Lord Hanuman, epitome of strength, knowledge, and wisdom, emboldened by Jambavanth's counsel, set out to cross the mighty ocean in search of Sita. He triumphed over the demoness Surasa and reached Lanka under the cover of night. Guided by divine intuition, he discovered Sita and presented her with Lord Ram's ring, bowing at her feet and seeking her blessings. Hanuman then wreaked havoc in Ashok Vatika-eating fruits, breaking branches, and shaking trees

Allowing himself to be captured by the asuras, he was taken to Ravana's court. There, he urged Ravana to repent and return Sita to Lord Ram. Ravana, consumed by ego, refused and instead set Hanuman's tail ablaze. In response, Hanuman used the fire to destroy Lanka's golden city. Before departing, Hanuman comforted Sita and took her Chudamani (jewel) as a token for Lord Ram. On returning, he presented it to Ram, who embraced him, deeply moved by his devotion and bravery. When asked how he accomplished the task, Hanuman humbly replied that nothing is impossible with the grace of Lord Ram. Lord Ram then instructed Sugreev to assemble the army and seek the ocean's permission to cross into Lanka. Meanwhile, Mandodari, Ravana's queen, warned him of the dire consequences of his actions and implored him to release Sita, but he refused. Ravana's virtuous brother Vibheeshan also advised him to repent, cau-

tioning that even Lord Shiva would disapprove of his deeds Ignoring all advice, Ravana's stubbornness led Vibheeshan to abandon Lanka and seek refuge at Lord Ram's feet. Recognising his righteousness, Lord Ram crowned Vibheeshan as the future king of Lanka. Ravana sent spies disguised as messengers to gather information on Lord Ram's plans. They returned with alarming news and urged Ravana to free Sita, but he remained defiant. With the help of Nal and Neel, Lord Ram constructed the Setu bridge to cross the ocean. Along the way, he released the river Sarayu from its curse and advanced toward Lanka. This timeless Sundar Kand, penned by Tulsidas, continues to inspire and guide devotees on their spiritual journey.

(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd.and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He is a faculty of the Art of Living: views are personal)

## Atal ji: The statesman with vision and resolve



Today, as we mark the 100th Jayanti of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, we celebrate the life and legacy of a statesman whose vision and leadership continue to inspire generations



oday, 25th December is a very special day for all of us. Our nation marks the 100th Jayanti of our beloved former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. He stands tall as a statesman who continues to inspire countless peo-

Our nation will always be grateful to Atal Ji for being the architect of India's transition into the 21st century. When he took oath as PM in 1998 our nation had passed through a period of political instability. In about 9 years we had seen 4 Lok Sabha elections. The people of India were getting impatient and also sceptical about governments being able to deliver. It was Atal Ji who turned this tide by providing stable and effective governance. Coming from humble roots, he realised the struggles of the common citizen and the transformative power of effective gover-

One can see the long-term impact of Atal Ji's leadership in so many sectors around us. His era marked a gigantic leap in the world of Information Technology, telecom and communications. This was particularly important for a nation like ours, which is also blessed with a very dynamic Yuva Shakti. The NDA Government under Atal Ji made the first serious attempt to make technology accessible to the common citizens. At the same time, there was foresight in connecting India. Even today, most people recall the Golden Quadrilateral Project, which connected the length and breadth of India. Equally notable were the Vajpayee Government's efforts to enhance local connectivity as well through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Similarly, his Government gave a push to metro connectivity by doing extensive work for the Delhi Metro, which stands out as a world-class infrastructure project.

Thus, the Vajpayee Government not only boosted economic growth but also brought distant regions closer, fostering unity and integration. When it comes to



ATAL JI PRESIDED **OVER THE** CREATION OF THE NDA, WHICH REDEFINED **COALITIONS IN** INDIAN POLITICS. HE BROUGHT

TOGETHER AND MADE NDA A FORCE FOR DEVELOPMENT, NATIONAL PROGRESS AND REGIONAL **AMBITIONS** 

the social sector, an initiative like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan highlights how Atal Ji dreamt of build-ing an India where modern education is accessible to people across the nation, particularly for the poor and marginalised sections. At the same time, his government presided over many economic reforms which set the stage for India's economic surge after several decades of following an economic philosophy which encouraged cronyism and stagnation.

A wonderful example of Vajpayee Ji's leadership can be seen in the summer of 1998. His Government had just assumed office and on 11th May, India conducted the Pokhran tests, known as Operation Shakti. These tests exemplified the prowess of India's scientific

had done the tests and expressed defeated by 1 vote. their anger in no uncertain terms. Any ordinary leader would have buckled, but Atal Ji was made differently. And what happened? India stood firm and resolute with the government calling for another set of tests two days later, on 13th May! If the tests of the 11th showed scientific skill, the ones on 13th showed true leadership. It was a message to the world that gone were the days when India would buckle under threats or pressure. Despite facing international sanctions, the then NDA government of Vajpayee Ji stood firm, articulating India's right to safeguard its sovereignty while simultaneously being the strongest proponent of world peace.

Atal Ji understood Indian democracy and also the need to make it stronger. Atal Ji presided over the creation of the NDA, which redefined coalitions in Indian politics. He brought people together and

made NDA a force for development, national progress and regional ambitions. His Parliamentary brilliance was seen throughout his political journey. He belonged to a party with a handful of MPs but his words were enough to rattle the might of the all-powerful Congress Party that time. As Prime Minister, he blunted the criticisms of the Opposition with style and substance. His was a career spent largely in the Opposition benches but never carried any trace of bitterness against anyone, even though the Congress stooped to new lows by going to

the extent of calling him a traitor! He was also not one to cling on to power through opportunistic means. He preferred to resign in 1996 instead of following the path community. of horse-trading and dirty politics. The world was stunned that India In 1999, his Government was

> A lot of people told him to challenge the immoral politics happening then but he preferred to go by the rules. Eventually, he came back with another resounding mandate from the people. When it comes to commitment to protecting our Constitution too, Atal Ji stands tall. He was deeply impacted by the martyrdom of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Years later, he was a pillar of the anti-Emergency movement. In the run-up to the 1977 elections after the Emergency, he agreed to merger of his own Party (Jan Sangh) into the Janata Party. I am sure it would have been a painful decision for him and the others, but safeguarding the Constitution was all that mattered

It is also noteworthy how deeply rooted Atal Ji was in Índian culturé. Upon becoming India's External Affairs Minister, he became the first Indian leader to speak in Hindi at

the United Nations. This one gesture showcased his immense pride in India's heritage and identity, leaving an indelible mark on the global stage.

Atal Ji's persona was magnetic and his life was enriched by his love for literature and expression. A prolific writer and poet, he used words to inspire, provoke thought, and even offer solace. His poetry, often reflective of his inner struggles and hopes for the nation, continues to resonate with people across age groups. For so many Bharatiya Janata

Party Karyakartas like me, it is our privilege that we were able to learn and interact with a person like Atal Ji. His contribution to the BJP was foundational.

In those days to spear-head an alternative narrative to the dominant Congress showed his greatness. Alongside stalwarts like Shri L.K. Advani ji and Dr. Murii Manohar Joshi Ji he nurtured the party from its formative years, guiding it through challenges, setbacks and triumphs. Whenever the choice came between ideology and power, he always chose the former. He was able to convince the nation that an alternative world view from the Congress was possible and such a world view could deliver.

On his 100th Jayanti, let us rededicate ourselves to realising his ideals and fulfilling his vision for India. Let us strive to build an India that embodies his principles of good governance, unity, and progress. Atal Ji's unwavering belief in the potential of our nation continues to inspire us to aim higher and work harder.

(This tribute to the visionary statesman late former PM Atál Bihari Vajpayee has been penned by PM Narendra Modi)

### Dreaming of a White Christmas in New York City

The first snowfall and the twinkle of lights on the Rockefeller tree—there's a certain magic that makes Christmas in New York unforgettable

**¬**he first time I saw New York City during the holidays, I was 19, a college freshman on a whirlwind trip with my friends. It was my first real taste of winter-snow, bitter cold, and the kind of brisk air that turns your cheeks red. Coming from a place where Christmas meant palm trees with twinkle lights, the sight of NYC blanketed in snow felt like stepping into a new world. I didn't know it then, but that trip would spark a love affair with the city that would eventually bring me

back here five years later. My First Snow, My First NYC Christmas I still remember how the snow caught me off guard. It wasn't

the gentle, picture-perfect kind

I'd imagined from movies. It

was harsh, relentless, and



absolutely freezing. Walking through Times Square that Black Friday, bundled up in layers that still didn't feel like enough, I saw the city come alive in a way that felt electric. It wasn't just the towering billboards or the endless sales signs luring shoppers into as we stood there, taking it all stores at all hours of the night. in. For a moment, the crowds

It was the energy-the palpable hum of people chasing holiday deals while dodging each other in the snow. It was chaotic, overwhelming, and unforgettable. Somewhere in the madness of flashing lights and icy sidewalks, I knew I wanted to come back someday-not as a visitor, but as someone who belonged here.

The Magic of NYC's Holiday **Icons** 

During that trip, we did all the things you're supposed to do when you're experiencing Christmas in New York for the first time. We saw the Rockefeller Center tree, towering above the skating rink, every inch of it glowing like it had been plucked from a fairytale. The cold bit at my fingers and the cold faded away, leaving only the soft twinkle of the lights and the awe of standing in front of something so icon-

The Met was another world entirely. As someone who'd only read about it in books, stepping into its grandeur felt surreal. Wandering through the exhibits, I found myself captivated by the way history and art came alive here. Outside, the snow was falling again, but I was too caught up in the beauty around me to notice the cold.

The Broadway Moment That **Changed Everything** 

That trip wasn't just about the sights; it was about the moments that stayed with me long after I left. One of those moments was seeing Phantom of the Opera on Broadway.



ing the chandelier crash and the Phantom's haunting story unfold, I felt a kind of magic I couldn't quite explain. It was more than just a show-it was **Coming Full Circle** a moment that made me feel alive in a way I hadn't before. Walking out of the theater into

the orchestra still echoing in my mind, I felt a connection to the city that I couldn't shake. It was as if New York had opened its arms to me and whispered, "Come back."

Five years later, I did come back. I'd dreamed of living in the snowy night, the sounds of New York ever since that first There's something timeless

as a wide-eyed tourist, but as someone calling the city home. It's funny how those early memories still feel so vivid, like they're a part of me.

trip, and now here I was, not

Walking through Times Square today, I still think about that freezing Black Friday night when I braved the snow for the first time. Seeing the Rockefeller tree now brings back flashes of that first tripstanding in awe of its beauty and dreaming about a future that somehow feels like the present now. Even when I catch a Broadway show, I can't help but remember how Phantom of the Opera made me fall in love with this city in the first place.

The Spirit of a NYC Christmas

see it, the magic never fades. The snow still glistens, the lights still dazzle, and the city still hums with that unmistakable holiday energy. For me, it's not just about the sights or the snow-it's about how this city makes you feel.

about Christmas in New York.

No matter how many years

pass or how many times you

It's about the way it wraps you up in its chaos, its beauty, and its magic, and leaves you with memories that last a lifetime. A White Christmas in New York City isn't just a holidayit's a story. And for me, it's the story of a 19-year-old who fell in love with the snow, the lights, and the city that would one day become home!

(The writer is a researcher at Johns Hopkins University; views are personal)

# on Pak firms, says Shehbaz

**PTI** ISLAMABAD

rime Minister Shehbaz Prime Minister of Sharif on Tuesday defended Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme, saying the recent US sanctions against the country's four entities have "no justification".

His remarks came days after the US slapped sanctions on four Pakistani firms, including the state-owned flagship aerospace and defence agency

- National Development Complex (NDC) charges of contributing to ballistic missile programme. In addition to the NDC, the three other entities are Akhtar and Sons Private Limited, Affiliates International and Rockside Enterprise. All three are

based in Karachi, while the

NDC is in Islamabad

"The sanctions placed upon our National Development Complex and other entities have no justification," Prime Minister Shehbaz said while addressing a federal cabinet

"Pakistan has absolutely no intention for our nuclear system to be aggressive. It is 100 per cent for Pakistan's defence. It's just deterrence; nothing else," he added.

The prime minister also said that Pakistan's ballistic missile programme was for defending itself "if God forbid there aggression against

Earlier, the Foreign Office termed the US decision to impose sanctions on NDC and three commercial entities as "unfortunate and biased. Shehbaz noted that the FO had given a "comprehensive response" and said that the missile programme belonged to the entire nation.

"It's dearer to them (the public) than their hearts and there will be no compromise," he said, clarifying that the nation was united on the

Pakistan and the US have experienced an uneasy relationship in recent years due to issues related to human rights, terrorism, nuclear weapons and missile pro-

US expresses concern over sentencing of 25 civilians by Pakistan military court: Expressing concern over the sentencing of 25 civilians by a military court in Pakistan, the United States on Monday said that it lacked judicial independence, transparency and due process guarantees. The United States is deeply concerned that Pakistani civilians have been sentenced by a military tribunal for their involvement in protests on May 9, 2023. These mil-

son Matthew Miller 'The United States continues to call on Pakistani authorities to respect the right to a fair trial and due process, as enshrined in Pakistan's con-

itary courts lack judicial inde-

pendence, transparency, and due process guarantees," said

State Department spokesper-

stitution," he added. However, a close aide of President-elect Donald Trump described it as too little and too weak.

"You are late. And this is too little and too weak. Speak

normally. Free Imran Khan, said Richard Grenell, who served as acting director of national intelligence under President Trump in 2020 and was the US ambassador to Germany from 2018 to 2020. Indian American Congressman Ro Khanna

joined Grenell in seeking

freedom for Imran Khan.

'I agree with Richard Grenell It's time to free Imran Khan and allow the people of Pakistan to hold new democratic elections," Khanna said. Free Imran Khan. This is bipartisan. We need to not recognize the rigged election in Pakistan and the new government. We need a new election in Pakistan and Imran Khan needs to be out of jail," Khanna said in a video posted on a social

Former Trump envoy on Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, said it is time to put more pressure on Pakistan, especially the military, to facilitate reaching a balanced political agreement with PTI and the release

media platform.

### No justification in US curbs 'We should try again': Punjab Assembly Speaker on Vajpayee's failed India-Pak peace initiative

ven though the chance was missed, we should try again," says Punjab Assembly Speaker Malik Áhmad Khan when asked about Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 1999 'bus yatra', a bold attempt by the then Indian prime minister to put India-Pakistan relations on the peace

Vajpayee took a bus ride to Lahore on February 19, 1999. He and Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif signed the Lahore Declaration after a historic summit here. The agreement signalled a breakthrough, but just months later a Pakistani intrusion led to the Kargil War. Wednesday is Vajpayee's 100th birth anniversary.

'Vajpayee's visit to Lahore in 1999 was a defining moment. Even though the chance was missed, we should try again. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who follows Vajpayee's vision, leading India, and Shehbaz Sharif, Nawaz's brother, in charge in Pakistan, there is a real possibility of restarting the peace process," says Khan, who is a senior member of the Pakistan Muslim League-

Khan says the future of the region depends on free trade and unrestricted movement

between countries.

"Peace in the region is not just a good idea - it is necessary for growth and prosperity," the Punjab Speaker adds.

Another senior PML-N leader from Punjab, Mohammad Mehdi, describes Vajpayee's Lahore visit as historic. He believes the visit could have led to lasting peace if the Kargil conflict had not happened.

The Western media paid a lot of attention to Vajpayee's visit because it came just months after both countries became nuclear powers," Mehdi says, referring to nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan in May 1998

'There was excitement, especially within PML-N ranks, when Vajpayee arrived in Lahore in February 1999. His speech, saying 'Pakistan is a reality, and both countries now need to move forward and leave the past behind, gave hope to many," Mehdi recalls. Unfortunately, the Kargil conflict happened soon after, and the peace efforts were unsuccessful, he says.

Mehdi says Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) held protests during Vajpayee's visit, which many believe were organised by the military led by General Pervez Musharraf.

'Iamaat-i-Islami workers even attacked the Turkish ambassador's car near Lahore Fort, mistaking it for an Indian delegation," he says

Mehdi believes back-channel talks between Pakistan and India are still happening.

'Right now, relations between the two countries are at their lowest point. Neither country has an envoy in the other's capital. However, businessmen on both sides desperately want to restore ties to improve trade and use shorter routes through Pakistan to reach Central Asia and Europe," he says.

Political expert Brig (retd.) Farooq Hameed says Nawaz Sharif should have involved the powerful Pakistan Army in the peace process

"The initiative failed because the military was not consulted, which led to the Kargil conflict and ended the peace process. If Nawaz Sharif had taken the military on board before Vajpayee's visit, the chances of the peace talks being successful would have been higher." Hameed says Nawaz has repeatedly shown interest in improving ties with India, including his desire to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi after returning to Pakistan last year from a four-year selfimposed exile in London. However, he pointed out, that Nawaz's vounger brother, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. has not made any recent public statements indicating a similar desire.

"Nawaz should first consult Shehbaz, who enjoys the military establishment's favour, to determine if he shares this vision for improved relations with India," he says.

He also notes the lack of progress after Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar visited Pakistan recently.

"Most Pakistanis are not anti-India. Unlike in India, politicians here do not need to criticise India to win elections, Hameed says.

However, terrorism remains a major obstacle to reconciliation, he says. India has often accused Pakistan of supporting terrorism, while Pakistan now blames India for terror attacks

### Syria's new authorities 'very receptive' to probe of Assad war crimes

**AP** UNITED NATIONS

The UN organization assistling in investigating the most serious crimes in Svria said Monday the country's new authorities were "very receptive" to its request for cooperation during a just-concluded visit to Damascus, and it is preparing to deploy.

The visit led by Robert Petit, head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria, was the first since the organization was established by the UN General Assembly in 2016. It was created to assist in evidence-gathering and prosecution of indi-

viduals responsible for possible running out. There is a small war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide since Syria's civil war began in 2011. Petit highlighted the urgency of preserving documents and other evidence before it is lost. Since the rebel overthrow of Syria's President Bashar Assad and the rebel opening of prisons and detention facilities there have been rising demands from Syrians for the prosecution of those responsible for atrocities and killings while he

"The fall of the Assad rule is a significant opportunity for us to fulfill our mandate on the ground," Petit said. "Time is

window of opportunity to secure these sites and the material they hold."

UN associate spokesperson Stephane Tremblay said Monday the investigative team is preparing for an operational deployment as early as possible and as soon as it is authorized to conduct activities on Syrian soil." The spokesperson for the organization, known as the IIIM, who was on the trip with Petit, went further, telling The Associated Press: "We are preparing to deploy on the expectation that we will get authorization."
"The representatives from the

caretaker authorities were very receptive to our request for cooperation and are aware of the scale of the task ahead," the spokesperson said, speaking on condition of not being named. "They emphasized that they will need expertise to help safeguard the newly accessible documentation.

The IIIM did not disclose which officials in the new government it met with or the site that Petit visited afterward. "Even at one facility," Petit said, "the mountains of government documentation reveal the chilling efficiency of systemizing the regime's atrocity

### **Hong Kong police issue arrest** warrants, bounties for six activists

Hong Kong police on Tuesday announced a fresh round of arrest warrants for six activists based overseas, with bounties set at USD 1 million Hong Kong dollars for information leading to their arrests.

According to the warrants, the six are wanted for national security offences such as secession, subversion and collusion with foreign forces. They include Tony Chung, the former leader of now-defunct pro-independence group Studentlocalism. UK-based Carmen Lau, a former district councilor and current activist with the Hong Kong Democracy Council, as

well as Chloe Cheung, an activist with the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong, also had warrants issued against them. The latest round of warrants signals that the Hong Kong government is targeting vocal critics based abroad.

The government had previously issued two rounds of arrest warrants and bounties for more prominent activists, including ex-lawmakers Ted Hui and Nathan Law.

The increasing number of wanted individuals abroad come as Hong Kong continues to crack down on political dissent following massive anti-government protests in 2019 that resulted in a wave of pro-democracy movements. Many outspoken prodemocracy activists have since been jailed, with others fleeing abroad.

'The Hong Kong government's latest round of arrest warrants and bounties against six Hong Kong activists is a cowardly act of intimidation that aims to silence Hong Kong people," said Maya Wang, associate China director at Human Rights Watch.

The six — including two Canadian citizens — live in the UK and Canada. We call on the UK and Canadian governments to act immediately to push back against the Hong Kong government's attempts to threaten Hong Kongers living in their

Tuesday's arrest warrants take the total number of wanted people to 19.

Others on the list Tuesday are Chung Kim-wah, previously a senior member of independent polling organization Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute; Joseph Tay, co-founder Canada-based NGO HongKonger Station; and YouTuber Victor Ho.

Separately on Tuesday, the Hong Kong government issued orders for the cancellation of passports belonging to seven 'absconders", including ex-lawmakers Hui and Dennis Kwok, who are wanted under the secu-

## UK PM Keir Starmer hopes for peace in Middle East in Christmas message

eir Starmer has said he will Nbe hoping for peace in the Middle East, the birthplace of the Christmas story, and a brighter future for all in his first festive message since being elected British Prime Minister. In a video message released by Downing Street ahead of Christmas Day on Wednesday, Starmer attempts to strike an optimistic tone and encourages people to "look after those around us". He extended his special gratitude to the armed forces and frontline workers who will be helping people up and down the country

"This Christmas, I will be hoping for peace, particularly in the Middle East as the birthplace of the Christmas story," said "I'll be looking towards a better,

brighter future for every person and celebrating the joy and



wonder that Christmas brings," he said.

He said the festival was a reminder of what's really important, such as family, friendship and fellowship between all peo-

He added: "Being there for one another – in these celebrations, as well as the more difficult times. I'd like especially to thank those who will spend their Christmas serving others this Street following the July generyear. In our NHS [National al election. services, our Armed Forces and the churches and charities that will welcome every person this Christmas.

'Because I know that this is not

an easy time for everyone, and my thoughts are with all those who are lonely this Christmas. Having a tough time, missing a loved one. You are not alone, because as Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Christmas story reminds all of us to reach out to one another. To care for one another. And to look after those around us," he said. Earlier, Downing Street indicated that Starmer and his family would spend Christmas at the Prime Minister's country retreat of Chequers in Buckinghamshire. He is then set to travel abroad "for a few days" for his first family holiday since taking charge at 10 Downing

a new tradition for his customary Christmas Day message and chose Fitzrovia Chapel in London for its recording. It is understood that his speech will reflect on international, national and personal challenges and how they can be overcome by communities supporting one another.

"The living Christmas tree shown in this year's broadcast was decorated with sustainable decorations including pinecones, metal bells, twisted glass and glass baubles," Buckingham Palace said.

It added that 2024 marks the first time a British monarch's Christmas message has been filmed outside a royal residence since 2006 when the late Queen Elizabeth II filmed a message at Southwark Cathedral in London.



### Where does Santa live? It's a trickier question to answer than you may think

THHE CONVERSATION QUEENS-

Sending a letter to Santa can be difficult as no one can agree on where exactly Santa lives. Several countries are competing to claim Santa as one of their citizens. Finland's tourism industry suggests

Korvatunturi in Lapland is where Santa keeps his workshop, and the link between Santa and Lapland brings in hundreds of millions of tourist dollars Danes say Santa is in Greenland.

Sweden suggests Mora is the place, and has built the theme park Santaworld These places certainly look the part with white snow in winter and

North Pole. **Not so jolly traditions:** They also have old and often quite disturbing

reindeer. They're also close to the

folklore about the man in red. Pagan Finns celebrated St Knut's Day in wintry January by having men in furry jackets, the nuuttipukki, go from house to house with a Except the sack of presents.

They came demanding gifts and would curse bad luck to any household not handing over a present. Eventually the gift grabbing nuut-tipukki became the gift giving Joulupukki. Like other northern traditions such as the Yule Lads of Iceland, this visitor gave gifts but only to well behaved children.

By the 19th century, Santa Claus was settled in popular awareness more or less what we think of now: a jolly old man with a beard, a sleigh, reindeer and presents, living some-where northern and cold. That image built on but sanitised the more grotesque European folklores of elves, gnomes and other supernatural creatures who either brought or

demanded gifts. But standardising Santa's appearance did not settle where he actually lived and worked.

In the mid-19th century the illustrator Thomas Nast portrayed Santa as a jolly old man in Harper's Weekly, and the illustration and the archetype took off. But Nast just showed Santa in a wintry land-

nuuttipukki weren't giving gifts and would likely make children cry.

It could have been the North Pole, and no one in 1866 had actually



been to the Pole. No explorer reached there until 1926, leaving Santa, if he did live there, undis-

turbed in his workshop.

Santa and territorial disputes: The medieval and pagan mytholo-

gies in Finland and Scandinavia give some credibility to these countries' efforts to claim Santa as their

own. After all, these are old legends. Other countries take a more modern approach. The Canadian government makes sure Christmas happens each year by allowing Santa to travel through Canadian airspace. Taking that a step further, in 2013 the Conservative government of Stephen Harper issued Santa and his wife with Canadian passports.

That action might seem twee or whimsical or simply some Christmas fun for children, but it may also have shown that some governments want to claim a lot more than Santa. Harper's gesture came at a time of an international political dispute about ownership of the North Pole and specifically Canadian claims to Artic regions. Somewhere hotter than the Pole: But are all these countries wrong,

or being opportunistic? Despite what we think, where Santa really comes from is a lot hotter and a lot further east - and those red robes would be uncom-

fortable to wear. Santa Claus is a name derived from Sinterklaas or Saint Nicholas. Along with pagan elves and gnomes, another element in the long and very complex history of Santa is the Christian bishop St Nicholas of Smyrna. Or is that Nicholas of Myra?

Smyrna, now called Izmir in Turkiye, and Myra, now Demre in Turkiye, are both associated with Nicholas. Just as in northern Europe, different places in Anatolia compete to be associated with Santa.

Nicholas is patron saint of seemingly everything including archers and brewers but also children and sailors. The link with children explains the later association as Santa, especially as Saint Nicholas gave children gifts. The link with sailors is why his legend is known around the world.

A 2017 archaeological dig under the Church of Saint Nicholas in Turkiye was believed to have found the burial place and therefore the body of Saint Nicholas. A grave full of old bones is not very

Christmas-like, but it may be an authentic link between a place and a person which no amount of snow or reindeer in northern Europe could match.

### Bangladesh launches \$5 billion graft probe against Sheikh Hasina in nuclear power plant case

n anti-graft panel in ABangladesh has launched an investigation against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family in connection with the allegations of embezzling USD 5 billion in the Rooppur nuclear power plant, according to a media report. Indian companies are participating in constructing the Rooppur nuclear power plant which is being built by Rosatom, Russia's state-run corporation, in Bangladesh.

The first Bangladeshi nuclear power plant, the Russiandesigned Rooppur, is being built 160 km west of the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka.

Rosatom has refuted the "provocative statements" in the media about the Rooppur NPP project. Along with Hasina, her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, and Tulip Siddiq, her niece and the UK's Treasury minister, were also questioned, BDNews reported on Sunday.

There are accusations of embezzling USD 5 billion in the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, the report added.

The development came two days after the High Court issued a rule asking why the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) inaction over an alleged transfer of USD 5 billion from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project to a Malaysian bank by Ĥasina, Joy, and Tulip should not be declared illegal, the report added.

According to ACC documents, the allegations of corruption in the Rooppur Nuclear Power

THE PIONEER O

CHANGE OF NAME

I R Arkesh S/o Sh. Rama

Swami R/o H.No.- 353, Block-

16, Kalyan Puri, Delhi-110091

hereby declare that R Arkesh

and R. Arkesh both are one

and the same person. In

future I shall be known as R

I, Reshma Devi, Mother of-

Surendra Singh, R/o- Vill-

Khemana, Post- Dokwa, Teh-

Rajasthan- 331023, have

changed my name from

Reshma Devi (Old Name) to

Reshma (New Name) for all

purposes, vide affidavit dated

24/12/2024 before Notary

I, Deepa Rajan S/o- JC-

Thamilarasan, R/o- H.No.

W1/237, West Street, Vill-

Dharmapuri,

Kamatchipuram, Dist-Theni,

Tamilnadu- 625520, have

changed my name from

Deepa Rajan to T Deepa

Rajan, vide affidavit dated

24/12/2024 before Notary

I, KM. RACHNA KUMARIW/o

Rajesh Kumar R/o N-18/133,

L-Block, T-Huts, J.J. Colony,

Wazirpur, Ashok Vihar, North

West Delhi, Delhi-110052

have changed my name to

RACHNA for all future

Sub/MT

PD(1137)C

PD(1138)C

K

Hav/Clk

Arkesh for all purposes.

No.8432377H

675012N

Public Delhi.

purposes.

Rajgarh, Dist-

Plant project were brought to light by Bobby Hajjaj, chairman of the National Democratic Movement (NDM).

Hasina, 77, has been living in India since August 5 when she fled the country following a massive student-led protest that toppled her 16-year regime. Her sister Rehana accompanied

her. Joy resides in the US, while her niece Tulip is a member of the British parliament. Bangladesh-based International

Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet ministers. advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide'

They are also named in multiple murder cases filed in connection with the demonstrations.

Refuting the allegations, the Russian Corporation said that it is committed to a policy of openness and the principle of combating corruption in all its projects and maintains a transparent procurement system.

"Rosatom State Corporation refutes provocative statements about the implementation of the Rooppur NPP project that have appeared in the media," the statement said.

"Rosatom State Corporation is ready to defend its interests and reputation in court. We consider false statements in the media as an attempt to discredit the Rooppur NPP project, which is being implemented to solve the country's energy supply problems and is aimed at improving the well-being of the people of Bangladesh," it said.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the public at large that Jamm and Kashmir Bank Ltd., D-63, Basant Lok Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, is desirous of sanctioning housing loan facility in favour o /lrs. Saroj Kujur W/o Sh. Asit Wilson Kujur, fo purchase of Portion / Unit No. UGF-1, on Uppe round Floor (Front RHS South Eastern) asuring approx. 750 sq. ft., forming part o roperties bearing No.(S) 899-B, 892/A-6, and 892/A-3, situated at Ward No. 8, Village Tehrauli, Tehsil Hauz Khas, New Delhi. If anyone has any objection or claim, the title/ rights of the said property, please contact the undersigned within 5 days from the date of publication

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd., D-63, Basant Lok Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Mo. 9810293946

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Satya Educational Society

Princess Park, Sec- 86, Faridabad, Haryana - 121002 Ph.: 9811044317

hereas Mrs. Swati Yadav D/o Sh. Satyavir Singl adav & Mr. Satyavir Singh Yadav son of Sh. Begraj adav owns 1.20 Acres Primary School Land ituated at, Residential Group housing Colony lamely Countrywide Promoters Pvt.ltd. in Sector-86, Faridabad, Haryana - 121002. Existing Building Plan of the said Plot was approved with Memo No. 24552 Dated- 18/08/2022, Now Euro International School A Unit of The Satva Educational Society has requested Town and Country Planning Haryana/ HSVP to upgrade this Primary School Site to Senior Secondary School Site falling in the Residential Group housing Colony. There is no change in the plot area or Approved Building Plan of any kind. Whereas the office of Director Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has required eeking of objections / suggestions against the request mentioned above Memo No. ZP-143/PA(DK)/2024/40292 Dated 18/12/2024. Details of the same are available on our Website: euroschoolsec86fbd.com for reference. Details are also available at the site address mentioned above (Residential Group Housing Colony Namely Countrywide Promoters Pvt.ltd in Sector-86, Faridabad, Haryana - 121002) as well as the office Senior Town Planner, Faridabad, Haryana

Any Person related to this matter having any objection / suggestions may take clarification from the owner at its Registered Office or Site Office Euro International School A unit of Satya Educational cociety (Residential Group Housing Colony Namely Countrywide Promoters Pvt.ltd in Sector-86 Faridabad Harvana 121002) or may file his/her objection at the office of Senior Town Planner, Faridabad, Haryana- 121002 within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be

**Euro International School** A unit of Satva Educational Society

#### PD(1140)A

PD(1139)C

FEDDERS ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING LIMITED CIN: L29299UP1957PLC021118
Office: 6 and 6/1, UPSIDC Industrial Area, Sikandrabad, District-Bulandshahr-203205 (U.P.) India NOTICE TO MEMBERS

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that 02<sup>nd</sup> Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Company is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 03:00 P.M (IST) at the Registered office of the Company situated at 6 and 6/1 UPSIDC Industrial Area Sikandrabad Bulandshahr UP 203205, to transact the business as set out in the notice convening EGM. The Members of the Company are hereby informed that the Company has completed the dispatch of Notice of the meeting along with Explanatory Statement to the members by email to the Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant. Notice of the EGM along with Explanatory Statement for the year 2024-25 are also available on the website of the Company www.imcapitals.com/fedders-electric-engineering/

Pursuant to provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended by the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2015 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Administration J Amendment Kutes, 2015 and Regulation 4.9 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements), Regulations, 2015, the Company is pleased to provide members facility to exercise their right to vote at the Extra-Ordinary General Meetings (EGMs) by electronic means and the business may be transacted Inrough remote e-Voting Services. The facility of casting the votes by the members using an electronic voting system from a place other than venue of the EGMs ("remote e-voting") will be provided by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL).

e-voting ) will be provided by vacional securities Depository Limited (NSDL).

The e-voting for above Extra-Ordinary General Meeting commences on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 (9:00 am) and ends on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 (5:00 pm). During this period shareholder of the Company, may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall also be disabled for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the shareholder, the shareholder shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.

The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date of 20th December, 2024. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and the commember of the Company after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e., 09th January, 2025, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in. The facility for voting through ball of shall be made available at the EGMs and the members attending the meeting who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the meeting through ballot paper.

The detail procedure to login to e-Voting website and for e-voting is available in the Notes to the Notice of EGM. The Link of Notice of EGM along with Explanatory Statement is www.imcapitals.com/

The Board of Directors has appointed Ms. Chetna Bhola, Company Secretaries in Practice having Membership No. A41283 and C.P. No. 15802, as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the remote e-voting process, in a fair and transparent manner. in case of any queries, you may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the Downloads sections of https://www.evoting.nsdl.com or contact NSDL at the following toil-free no.: 1800 1020990 /1800 224 430

By order of the Board of Director FEDDERS ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING LIMITED

Vishal Singhal Managing Director DIN: 03518795

### impeach acting president US NSA Sullivan, Yunus

A mid growing outrage here about the large-scale attack on minority Hindus and their places of worship in Bangladesh, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Monday spoke with the interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and both leaders expressed commitment to protect human rights in the troubled South Asian nation.

discuss human rights' issue

'Both leaders expressed their commitment to respecting and protecting the human rights of all people, regardless of religion," the White House said in a readout of the call between Sullivan and

The call comes less than a month before the Biden administration passes on the power to Donald Trump, who would be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20 next

This comes days after Indian American Democratic Congressman Shri Thanedar urged the White House to strongly raise the issue of killing of Hindus and destruction of their temples in Bangladesh with the head of the country's interim government. The United States has a storied history of championing the oppressed and this issue should be no different. When we receive a global call for help, we must respond appropriately as the world's bellwether of human rights. We must urge Prime Minister Muhammad Yunus to fulfill his promise of restoring peace and rebuilding the nation on principles of equality and justice," Thanedar told reporters at the footsteps of the US Capitol last

South Korea's main opposition party said Tuesday it will seek to impeach acting leader Han Duck-soo after he

missed an opposition-set deadline to approve independent investigations into impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife. If realised, Han's impeachment

would further deepen South Korea's political tumult and worries by neighbouring countries caused by Yoon's stunning December 3 martial law declaration and ensuing impeachment. Han, the country's No. 2 official, has taken over presidential powers and duties since Yoon's impeachment. If he's impeached too, the finance minister is next in line.

The main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which holds a majority in parliament, has slammed Han for vetoing several opposition-sponsored bills, including a controversial agriculture bill. It also urged Han to quickly appoint justices to vacant seats on the Constitutional Court, which is

reviewing Yoon's impeachment and will determine whether to dismiss or reinstate him.

South Korea's opp party vows to

Filling the court's three empty posts could make conviction more likely, as it requires the support of six of the court's nine possible members. The Democratic Party also

demanded that Han approve by Tuesday bills calling for the appointments of special prosecutors to investigate Yoon for rebellion over his marital law decree, and his wife for corruption and other allegations. But Han didn't do so during Tuesday's Cabinet Council

meeting, calling for the ruling and opposition parties to nego-Democratic Party floor leader Park Chan-dae responded that there's no room for negotiations

and that his party would begin steps toward an impeachment at once. 'We've clearly warned that it's

about a Yoon investigation,

totally up to Prime Minister Han Duck-soo whether he would go down in history as a disgraceful figure as a puppet

LOST & FOUND

Atali

Faridabad Haryana-12004,

Satish Kumar S/o Umed Singh

Property document Lost on 5 Aug

2024 Where my builder buyer

Agreement was lost. My flat No.

907, D10 Tower, KLJ Platinum hight,

Sector-77, Faridabad HR-121004.

have Aread FIR that document So

Ph: 0129-4151209

ding as on

1.65.463.35

81,635.58

1,64,736,77

17.17

31.71

16.00

46.00

26.50

24.00

128.28

110.74

95.59

14.29

95.25

8.71

7.93

3.67

58.21

4.95

141 74

121.46

40.63

4.90

9.39

15.16

20.50

No.430/2014 LR No.

2070127/2024 Dated 29/08/24.

Teh-Ballabgarh,

Suk Yeol or a public servant that has faithfully carried out the orders by the public," Park told a televised party meeting. Korean prosecutors and other officials are separately probing whether Yoon committed rebellion and abuse of power, but he's ignored requests by

investigative agencies to appear

for questioning and allow

searches of his office. Yoon's defence minister, police chief and several other senior military commanders have already been arrested over the deployment of troops and police officers to the National Assembly, which prompted a dramatic standoff that ended when lawmakers managed to enter the chamber and voted unanimously to overrule Yoon's

decree. The governing People Power Party said that the opposition's impeachment threats are inter-fering with Han's "legitimate exercise of authority." Floor leader Kweon Seong-dong, a Yoon loyalist, said the Democratic Party's "politics of intimidation have reached their

An impeachment vote would face legal ambiguities. Most Korean officials can be impeached with a simple majority of parliament, but impeaching the presidents takes two-thirds. The rival parties differ on which standard would apply to an acting president.

The Democratic Party controls 170 of the National Assembly's 300 seats, so it would need support from members of other parties including Yoon's own to get a two-thirds majority.

The Constitutional Court has up to six months to determine Yoon's fate. If he's thrown of office, a national election to find his successor must take place within two months.

#### NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003 Corporate Identification Number- L40101DL1975GOI007966

The applicant above named has made an application before the Centra Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi for determination of tarif of Auraiya Gas Power Station (663.36 MW) from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2029. 1. The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

a) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Ltd. (UPPCL), Shakti Bhawan 14, Ashol Marg, Lucknow-226001.

b) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (TPDDL), Grid Substation, Hudson Road, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009

c) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL), BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, Nev Delhi-110019.

d) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL), Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma

e) J&K State Power Trading Company Ltd., (on behalf of Power

Development Department (PDD), J&K Civil Secretariat, Srinagar

f) Electricity Department (Chandigarh), Union Territory of Chandigarh, Addl Office Building, Sector-9 D. Chandigarh,

g) Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), Urja Bhavan Kanwali Road Capacity of the generating station

Authority which has approved the Capital Cos : CERC Scheduled date of commercial operation : Not Applicable

Actual date of commercial operation of station : 01.12.1990 Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station: Not Applicable Details of tariff:

Particulars Year-wise tariff sought to be determined 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2028-29 L Capacity 54750.40 42024.33 41905.01 39422.27 41157.09 43831.43 (Rs. Lakh year) 2. Energy

\*As per Petition for truing-up of tariff for 2019-24 period for Auraiya Gas Powe Station (663.36 MW) filed before Hon'ble CERC.

9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab "Notices"

10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Date: 02.12.2024 Addl. General Manager (Comml.) **Leading the Power Sector** 

**KSOLVES INDIA LIMITED** (CIN: L72900DL2014PLC269020)

Regd. Office: 317/276, Second floor, Lane no.3, Mehrauli Road, Saidulajab, Saket, South Delhi, New Delhi, India, 110030

Website: www.ksolves.com; Email Id: cs@ksolves.com; Phone No: 0120-4983851 POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE

Members of the Company are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 110, 108 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act") read with Rules 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (the "Rules"), read with the General Circular No: 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, the General Circular No: 17/2020, dated April 13, 2020, the General Circular No: 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, the General Circular No: 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, the General zazozo dateu durie 1, ozo, ilie erieria di ciuda in No. 30/zoz dateu September 20, 2029, ilie General Circular No. 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, the General Circular No. 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, Genera Circular No. 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021 General Circular No. 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, Genera Circular No. 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and General Circular No. 9/2023 dated September 25 2023 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") (including any statutory modification e-enactment thereof for the time being in force, as amended from time to time), if any, the Company has completed dispatch of Postal Ballot Notice dated December 24, 2024 ("Notice") along with explanator statement and remote e-voting instructions seeking consent of the Members for the below mentione esolutions. The postal ballot notice dated December 24, 2024 has been sent only through e-mail to a those Members whose e-mail address were registered with the Company or Registrar and Share Transfer
Agent or with their respective Depository / Depository Participant ("DP") and whose names appear in the
Register of Members of the Company or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on ("cut-off date") i.e. Friday December 20, 2024 in accordance with the MCA Circulars To approve Sub-Division/Split of 1 (One) Equity Share of INR 10/- (INR Ten Only) each into 2 (Two)

Equity Shares of INR 5/- (INR Five Only) each and the consequent amendment to the Memorandu of Association of the Company. The Notice is also available on Company's website (www.ksolves.com), Stock Exchange's website and or the website of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited and National Securities

n compliance with the requirements of MCA Circulars, physical copy of Postal Ballot Notice along with Postal Ballot Form and pre-paid business envelope will not be sent to the Members for this Postal Ballo

and Members are required to communicate their assent or dissent through the remote e-voting system only provided by NSDL. Voting period shall commence on Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (9:00 A.M. IST) and end on Thursday, January 23, 2025 (5.00 P.M, IST) (both days inclusive). The remote e-volting module shall be disabled for volting thereafter. Once the Member cast vote on a resolution Member shall not be allowed to change It subsequently. Detailed instructions for remote e-voting are provided in the Notice. Members are requested to read th

instructions carefully as set out in the Notice while expressing their assent or dissent and cast vote through remote e-voting by not later than the close of working hours at 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Thursday, January 23, 2025. The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Cut-off date. A person, whose name is recorded in the Registe of Members of the Company or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the Cut-off date (including those Members who may not have received this Notice due to non-registration of their e-mall address with the Company or the Depositories / Depository Participants) shall be entitled to cast their vote through remote e-voting. A person who ceases to be a member as on Cut-off date will not b entitled to vote and should treat this Notice for information purposes only.

The Board of Directors have appointed Mr. Vivek Sharma (Membership No. -F10663), Partner of MSV &

Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries, as Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot throug mote e-voting in a fair and transparent manner Any Member, holding shares as on the Cut-off date and who may not have received this Notice after the

date of electronic dispatch, may obtain the Login ID and Password by following the Instructions as mentioned In the Notice or sending a request to <a href="https://heb.es.org/lege-deleta-sending-deleta If you have not registered your e-mail/mobile no. with the company/depositories, you may please

For Demat shareholders - Please update your email id & mobile no. with your respective Depositor

For Individual Demat shareholders - Please update your email id & mobile no. with your respective Depository Participant (DP) which is mandatory while e-Voting through Depository

results of postal ballot will be announced not later than by 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Monday, January, 27 2025. The results declared along with the Scrutinizers Report would be communicated to stock exchanges, where the shares of the Company are presently listed. Additionally, the results will also be

If you have any query relating to remote e-voting facility, or issues regarding e-Voting from the CDSI -Voting System, you can write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact at 022-23058738

voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or cal

Company Secretary and Compliance Office

Date: December 24, 2024

ploaded on the Company's Website viz. <u>www.ksolves.com</u> and on website of NSDL.

If you have any queries or issues regarding e-Voting from the NSDL, you can contact NSDL helpdesk by sending a request at <a href="mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in">evoting@nsdl.co.in</a> or call at toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30. In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and

on: 022-4886 7000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre. Senior Manager at evoting@nsdl.com.

51 Lucky Sahni Sahni

**PUBLIC NOTICE** To be known to all that my client VISHAL ARORA S/O SH. MANMOHAN ARORA R/O HOUSE NO.614, SECTOR-11, PANCHKULA, HARYANA-134112, the Original Demand Letter of the DDA LIG FLAT MO.2, GROUND FLOOR, POCKET-1, ₽ CPJ

Applications are invited from Law aculty for teaching 3-year LLB course

Qualifications & Grade as per UGC/BCI & GGSIPU Rules.

Candidates having experience of at least 10 years for Professor & Associate Professor & 5 years for

Assistant Professor shall be preferred.

Apply within 10 days at

S&T WORK

invited by the undersigned for the

Safety enhancement in block working

Mukuria and replacement of Diado with

Katihar-Kumedpur in Katihar Division

Money: ₹4,34,300/-. E-tender will be

closed at 15:00 hrs. on 13-01-2025 and

opened at 15:30 hrs. on 13-01-2025.

The complete information with the

tender document of above e-tender

will be available upto 15.00 hrs of

13-01-2025 in website http://

DRM (S&T), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customark

www.ireps.gov.in.

E-Tender Notice No.: N-2024-K-28:

General Secretary

for the following positions

Associate Professor: 1

Assistant Professor: 4

careers@epj.edu.in

BLOCK-A5, SECTOR-34, ROHINI, DELHI premises las has been Lost/misplaced.An F.I.R to this effect has been lodged in the Police Station, Crine Branch Delhi Vide FIR/IR NO. 2427812/2024, Dated 23/12/2024. Any person(s) found in possession of original documents, FILE NO. L/353(218)2015/ DDA14/RO. may please contact at above address/ Mobile No.9815787766 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person(s) claiming any right/interest can personally inform or write to Dy. Director, (DDA 2014 Housing Scheme, (LIG), INA New Pelhi - 11 (DDZ).

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that one Mr. Shanki Gupta & Ms PriyaGupta (hereinafter referred to as the sai Mortgagers/Purchasers) have agreed to creat mortgage in respect of the Property more particular

avalled by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" basis through e-auction portal http://csbgold.auction on 6" January 2025 at 10.30 AM. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discreation of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further inform that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by private sale if the public auction is not successful and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrower/s for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. In case of diseased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs

NEW DELHI

ASHOK VIHAR - DELHI

GREATER KAILASH - II

4873647 001

4410654

4870158

7510052

GAUTAM NAGAR

4627791

7129414

4316528 001

4870782

7785201

7786223

7944517

4638378

4767406

4874322

4876864

4884237

4890121

7655506

7749050

4589317 001

7952557

4442172

7940236

7898963

7941423

MARBAGH

4507282

4625797

4870143

4885596

4890914

7943530

4878996

4879573

4887807

4890662

4915692

PATEL NAGAR

KHLA

7962032

DWARAKA

**ROHINI SECTOR 7** 

KAPURI

PALAM

7953773 002

4594318 001

L BAGH

7649647 001

001

001

001

003

001

001

005

001

001

001

001

002

001

001

001

001

001

002

001

001

001

001

001

001

003

001

001

001

001

**Account Name** 

1 Piyush Kumar Gupta

Vaibhay Singal

Aarti Ramesh Kumar

Balbir Kaur

Tara Chand

Yash Kumar

Manoi Verma

Pooja Verma

Kamal Verma

Mohd Salman

Gouri Shankar Gupta

17 Mumtaz

18 Usha Devi

Jyoti Jyoti

Anurag Gupta Om Prakash Jat

Anil Kumar

25 Gaurav Mudgil 26 Sandeep Soni

29 Harshit Kapoor

30 Amit Bhatia

32 Ashish Kumar

33 Saurabh Thata

37 Divya Mehrotra

38 Meenu Khera

Firdaus

Lokesh

46 Sahana Saifi

Arvind Singh

Vishal Kumar

Rajan Kumar

Rajender Kuma

44 Divya 45 Amit

Rahul Kuma

Simran Parashar

Divya Mehrotra

Navin Kumar Jha

Neha Sharma

Sukhvinder Singh

Kamal Mehrotra

27

Rani Sharma

Yogesh Kumar

Aniya Sharma

10 Babita Gautan

Purnima

5 Amit Kuma

4 Aarti

"as is where is" and "non-recourse"

Client ID No.of Acc. Bal.Outstanding as on 23/12/2024 Weight (grams)

34.312.52

1,81,299.18

1,31,708.57

48,693.86

1,14,298.96

16.80.214.17

8,17,072.56

15,525,17

1,96,916.38

6.51.296.99

8.18.597.08

21,45,349.48

8,26,324.79

52,206.95

14,191.08

1,28,085.07

31,234,41

1,72,472.96

1,87,440.10

19 24 067 56

23,85,298.80

55,624.08

8.30.869.92

7.01.269.61

5,23,367.73

7,28,782.58

2,14,103.37

39,90,489,16

33,44,653.97

6.21,444.14

3,10,219.02

99,552.57

83,297.92

48,425.78

54,777.40

1,64,116.81

3.64.876.85

19,96,047.06

19,122.61

19 686 54

2.00,181.45

44,012.14

47.264.18

1.85.393.85

10.905.74

003 3,15,832.98

003 6,01,607.63

43.85

25.43

123.52

13.12

394.76

165.00

3.13

115.76

145.53

418.16

160.91

2.61

6.30

2.30

33.55

396 99

661.00

153.24

128.57

158.11

761.66

119.98

59.01

19.30

9.95

31.45

70.16

399.96

4.05

35.37

9.58

92.60 97

Hans Raj Sukhua, F-36/40 2nd floor Lajpat Nagar-II, South East Delhi 110024 My First & Second Year Marksheet For the passing year bearing roll number 27/DPH/74 College of Pharmacy Pusa Campus New Delhi-11001 have Lost, have Aread FIR that document SO No. 430/2014, LR No. 2432094/2024 On Dated 15/12/24

LOST & FOUND

Ramesh Chander Sukhua S/d

Regd. Off: No. 29/1, 1st Floor,

Sir M N Krishna Rao Road, Near Lalbagh West Gate, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 Web: www.canfinhomes.com WANTED OFFICE PREMISES

Can Fin Homes Ltd. a Housing Finance Company requires space of 800-1000 sq. ft in Ground / First / Second Floor in a good locality on lease for 5 to 10 years at the following location: Contact Person & Contact No. Designation Mob. & Landline Mr. S.P. Srivastava Bulandshahar, Mob-96060 84363

Uttar Pradesh (Deputy General Manager) Interested Premises Owners may send their offers in a closed envelope to Can Fin Homes Ltd. Zonal Office-North Zone, 112A, Part-B, Second Floor NIT No.5, Nation HUT, Main Road (171 ft wide road), Faridabad, Haryana as per ou format in our website www.canfinhomes.com on or before 06th January, 2025.

brokers / intermediaries will not be entertained. Can Fin Homes Ltd. reserves the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. Canvassing in any form will disqualify the offer. No brokerage will be paid.

Premises should be ready for occupation with all facilities/ amenities. Offers from the

Deputy General Manager

Place: Harvana Date: 24.12.2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF** 

PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS

No.of Bal.Outstan- Weight The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-repayment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and recall/auction notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan 54 Sunil Sharma 487280 4882525 001 4885620 001

Ajit Kumar Sinha 7445565 3,38,015.93 001 62.28 001 7920471 8,18,863.51 161.97 60 Khalid Parwez 7937007 001 2.19.589.33 46.03 61 Lakhvinder Singh Gil 7950753 3,56,817.75 70.50 MAYUR VIHAR - NEW DELH 62 Mohd Kasim 4504169 4889595 001 3.46.233.46 72.96 63 Mahesh Singh 001 1,54,795.66 32.10 Naeem Abbas 4891016 001 83.562.65 17.20 65 Himanshu Gupta 7578756 001 8.95.366.44 199,30 GAR, NEW DELHI 66 Ashish Yadav 67 Ashish Yadav 1,49,489,88 4873145 001 1,93,131,19 34.75

4878189 48,680.76 69 Vikas Sharma 4879273 001 1,18,117,19 21.76 4885596 001 1,98,341.17 Lokesh 35.51 Kamal Mehrotra 7941423 1,41,077.94 72 Divya Mehrotra 7943530 001 54,611.70 9.64 AD GARDEN 73 Bandi Devi 14,583.00 001 74 Monti 4682617 001 1.08.996.72 21.43 Rohit Kumar 4874283 001 75,446.39 6,49,822.19 4882434 005 Sagar 4884463 002 49.718.79 10.44 Amir Khan 4885507 001 2.01,015.84 79 Nancy 7919042 003 4.79.540.81 92.15 86.71

4,52,675.14 80 Afzal Ahmed Sultan 7942909 001 RAJOURI GARDEN 3955732 81 Man Mohan Singh Dua Dua 005 41.88.167.05 Mahesh Kumar 4653814 001 80,915.88 Prabhat Singh Naga 4876903 1,64,898.79 84 Sahib Singh 4877372 001 2.16.566.51 Sunil Arora 4877615 1,38,395.52 001 001 1,25,300.22 4877663 4885409 003 6.85.577.25

86 Kaushiya 87 Varun Chandok 5,07,883.73 88 Harish Mittal 7947703 001 89 Rehana Khan 7955278 001 5,25,621.87 NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI 4,57,233.37 4743826 001 76.855.28 91 Raju Poddar 4890076 001 92 Sneha Gautan 7939518 001 5,58,454,78

93 Sangeeta Devi 94 Pammy 4643465 001 3,51,817.59 4740634 39,048.54 001 Poojan 1,10,372.89 Sunaina Devi 4872373 001 39.998.21 Manish Kumar 13,675.96 4881248 001 98 Sunil Kumar 001 2,67,833.89 7689496 99 Neha 7792576 001 3.04.519.66 7943902 002 6,22,197.97 100 Harsha

BHAJANPURA - NEW DELHI 101 Sapna 21,418.84 4554923 001 4869407 003 102 Nitin Kumar 1,59,380.64 103 Kasim Ali 7939730 001 6.84.999.49 104 Suhail Ali 7939875 001 5,52,039.38 SHYAM NAGAR - NEW DELH 105 Gurbir Singh 4627145 001 1,92,179.92 KALKAJI

106 Sandeep 25,965.94 **PUNJABI BAGH - NEW DELHI** 107 Karan Lakra 45,963.72 4878753 MODEL TOWN - NEW DELH 4433518 4871609 108 Naveen Nagpal 72.867.06 109 Rajeev Chhabra 003 7,50,696.71 NARAINA VIHAR - NEW DELH 93.058.23

For more details/account wise information borrowers/interested bidders may contact respective branches and for participating in the auction, please

36.61 NCT OF DELHI

110 Sanjay Kumar 4887399 001

visit/login to the e-auction portal http://csbgold.auctiontiger.net

Authorized Officer, CSB Bank

## **UPI transactions jump 33 per cent at** retail stores in India this year: Report

PTI NEW DELHI

PI transactions at retail stores have increased by 33 per cent in semi-urban and rural areas this year, reflecting the growing adoption of digital payments, says a report. Moreover, insurance policy

purchases and premium collections saw a 127 per cent increase in transaction volume and a 96 per cent growth in new customer adoption during the year, the report by branchless banking digital network PayNearby said.

"The data highlights the role digital retail stores play in overcoming the challenges of insurance penetration across Bharat," it stated.

The report is based on an analysis of real transaction data derived from over 10,00,000 small retailers stores, mobile recharge stores etc) offering financial and digital services



findings compare business from January to November 2024 with the same period in 2023.

Retail-Oreport, Nomics, stated that there has been an impressive 297 per

products, including business loans, gold loans, personal loans, and revolving credit in rural and semi-urban areas. This significant uptick reflects a growing awareness and demand for credit solutions at the grassroots Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AePS) withdrawals saw a decline in 2024. Both transaction volumes and the average cash withdrawal per transaction saw a slight decline, with the latter dropping from Rs 2,624

the report said.

AePS withdrawals surged by 35-45 per cent during DBT releases, particularly under schemes like PM Kisan Yojana, compared to the rest of the year.

"Cash withdrawals in Jammu and Kashmir recorded an impressive growth of 58 per cent in value and 74 per cent in volume," the report said. By equipping local retailers

with tools to offer diverse services like insurance, ecommerce, and lending, we are empowering them to become key enablers of financial access and economic progress at the grassroots," Anand Kumar Bajaj, Founder, MD & CEO,

PayNearby, said. PayNearby is a branchless banking and digital network that operates on a B2B2C model. It has more than 10 retail touchpoints comprising kirana stores, medical shops, travel agents

#### Govt launches AI-enabled consumer helpline, e-commerce giants pledge safety

shopping safety.

 $F_{
m Minister}^{
m ood}$  and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday launched several initiatives to strengthen consumer protection, including artificial intelligence-enabled helpline and tools to detect deceptive marketing practices, while major e-commerce players pledged to enhance online

Leading platforms, including Reliance Retail, Tata Sons and Zomato adopted a safety pledge as the government rolled out new consumer protection measures like the AI-enabled National Consumer Helpline, e-maap portal and Jago Grahak Jago mobile application.

'Significant progress has been made in expediting resolutions of consumer disputes," Joshi said at the National Consumer Day event.

The minister, who attended the event online, highlighted that out of 3,628 cases filed National Commission between January and November this year, disposed of through the country's three-tier consumer court system at district, state and national levels.

The government's e-Daakhil Portal, launched in 2020 and expanded nationwide in June 2023, has achieved 100 per cent adoption for online complaint filing in states like Karnataka, Punjab and Rajasthan, as well as several districts.

Addressing growing commerce concerns, Joshi said: "While this digital revolution offers incredible opportunities, the Indian government believes it is equally important for our

and make informed choices. The Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) is drafting new guidelines to regulate surrogate advertising and has issued notices to 13 companies compliance with existing rules, he added.

State for Minister of Consumer Affairs B L Verma, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti, All India Council for Education T G Sitharam and Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare were present at

### Puri, Varanasi, Haridwar top spiritual destinations in 2024, Hyderabad most-booked city: Travelopedia 2024 annual report

PTI NEW DELHI

 $P^{\mathrm{uri},\ Varanasi}_{\mathrm{Haridwar}\ \mathrm{are}\ \mathrm{the}\ \mathrm{most}}$ travelled spiritual Hyderabad is India's topbooked city this year, according to OYO's according 'Travelopedia 2024' annual report unveiled on Tuesday. The report delves into travel patterns and trends, with its findings based on the booking data of the travel tech major for the entire year. "In India, religious tourism continued to be a key focus, with Puri, Varanasi, and Haridwar dominating the

significant trend emerged with Deoghar, Palani, and and Hubli have shown Govardhan experiencing substantial growth, indicating a shift towards less explored spiritual destinations..."OYO stated.

Following Hyderabad, cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, and Kolkata rounded out the top spots for bookings, with Uttar Pradesh maintaining its position as the most popular state for travel. High volume of bookings were reported Maharashtra, Telangana, and Karnataka, which continue to be

contributors. Smaller towns like Patna, Rajahmundry, tremendous growth, with bookings increasing by as much as 48 per cent year-on-

The year also saw a surge in leisure travel, with Jaipur continuing to be a top tourist magnet, followed perennial favourites Goa, Pondicherry, and Mysore. Interestingly, Mumbai saw a drop in bookings, with travellers preferring nearby locations for leisure," OYO stated. Shreerang Godbole, Global Chief Service Officer,

a year of transformation in the global travel landscape. We've seen how travellers are embracing flexibility and adaptability, whether for business or leisure. As remote work trends continue to shape how people approach travel, the demand for both quick getaways and long stays has been a

this year". The fourth of July weekend saw the highest number of bookings, aligning with national celebrations, while the Christmas season was also notable for a sharp spike

significant driver of bookings

### Inflation continues to hit FMCG industry, urban growth expected to slow in H1/2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $H_{
m slowdown}^{
m eading}$ towards amid inflationary pressures, the FMCG industry's volume growth during August-October this year has dropped to 4.3 per cent from 6.4 per cent in the year-ago period, research and insight firm Kantar said in a report. Moreover, the FMCG volume was

sequentially also as in the May-July period, this was 4.5 per cent, according to Kantar's latest FMCG Pulse report. "We are in that last quarter,

the quarter ending October is 4.3 per cent. This number is a far cry from the 6.4 per cent growth seen in Q/E Oct '23, but is also a tad lower than 4.5 per cent we saw in the last quarter, i.E. Q/E Jul '24," it said. Volume growth in the urban market was at 4.5 per cent in the August-October period, down from 6.9 per cent in the same period of

However, the report added: "It is also true that a 4.5 per cent growth following a near 7 per cent growth in the previous term is extremely rare. In fact, over the last five

years, this has only happened in the quarters of 2024. Therefore, technically urban is in a slowdown, though "it is far from a slump".

About the inflation, the

said that perreport household average quarterly spending crossed Rs 6,000 for the first time in the August-October period of 2022, and two years since then, spending has seen a 13 per cent jump and is at Rs 6,761 during this quarter. In May-July 2024, shoppers were paying Rs 133 per KG of FMCG on average. Just one quarter since then, shoppers are paying Rs 137 per KG, a

jump of Rs 4 per KG in the August-October period. "In recent years, this kind of growth in a single consecutive quarter was only seen during the initial months of the 2022 inflation period," it said.

With no signs of food inflation relenting in the immediate future, where value growth rapidly draws away from volume growth for some more time, it's hard to see urban (market) growing more rapidly than the current levels. "We are expecting similar levels of growth to continue into the first half of the next year," it said.

#### Domestic air passenger traffic rises 12 per cent in November, IndiGo leads market share



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Indian airlines carried 1.42 crore passengers on passengers domestic routes in November, nearly 12 per cent more compared to the year-ago period, amid rising air traffic demand.

In terms of domestic market share, IndiGo topped the list with a 63.6 per cent pie, followed by Air India (24.4 per cent), Akasa Air (4.7 per cent)

and SpiceJet (3.1 per cent). While all these carriers saw their share rise, the share of Alliance Air was unchanged at

by

carried

domestic airlines during January-November 2024 were 1,464.02 lakh as against 1,382.34 lakh during the corresponding period of the thereby previous year registering an annual growth of 5.91 per cent and monthly growth of 11.90 per cent," the watchdog said in its monthly

"Passengers

report. Domestic air passenger traffic was at 142.52 lakh in November compared to 127.36 lakh in the same period

In October this year, domestic passenger stood at 1.36 crore. India completed the

merger of full service carrier Vistara with itself in November.

The On Time Performance 0.7 per cent in November, (OTP) of scheduled domestic according to the latest data airlines - computed for the from the Directorate General four metro airports at of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai - took a beating in November. IndiGo's OTP stood at 74.5 per cent while that of Akasa Air and SpiceJet touched 66.4 per cent and 62.5 per cent, respectively.

The OTP of Air India and Alliance Air were at 58.8 per cent and 58.9 per cent, respectively, the data showed. Further, the data revealed that 2,24,904 passengers were affected delavs November. Carriers shelled out nearly Rs 2.90 crore towards facilitation.

Last month, a total of 624 passenger-related complaints were received by the scheduled domestic airlines.

### Federation of retailer association of India urges government to empower kirana stores with enhanced tech platform

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Federation of Retailer Association of India on asked provide government to nhancec platform to Kirana stores to enable them to compete with quick commerce firms.

Such support would enable the kirana stores to remain competitive amidst the increasing encroachment into their space by quick commerce companies like Swiggy Instamart, Blinkit or Zepto," said Federation of Retailer Association of India (FRAI), which says that it represents about 80 lakh micro, small and medium retailers from across the country with a membership of 42 retail associations. Providing local kirana stores

with a technology platform

would allow them to compete on equal terms with Indian Sellers Collective. quick commerce players, effectively creating a level-

playing field, it added.
"With new technologies brought in by NDC ernment like Open Network for Digital Commerce), what is now required is a more focused approach in creating a specific solution for kirana stores that makes them as discoverable and accessible to customers, much like the quick commerce companies are operating," FRAI Honorary Spokesperson Abhay Raj

Mishra said. Essentially, the kirana stores should remain competitive by being empowered to tap into the growing digital market and meet new customer needs," said Mishra, who is also Member

& National Coordinator, Kirana stores are facing steep challenges due to the rise of quick commerce players, Lok Sabha member Praveen Khandelwal said. shopkeepers it is cru stay updated and embrace all channels to meet the evolving expectations of

customers," he added. FRAI said quick commerce platforms have Kirana advantage" over stores, which cannot match the heavy discounts offered by quick commerce giants who benefit from deep pockets, large warehouses and a huge customer base. The increased competition quick commerce from players has resulted in stagnant sales for kirana stores, particularly during high-demand periods such as

the festive season, it added.

#### Sensex, Nifty settle almost flat in highly volatile trade; metal, power stocks drag

laggards

**Q**enchmark equity indices Bensex and Nifty ended on a flat note in a volatile trade preferred to stay on the sidelines awaiting further triggers amid persistent

foreign fund outflows. After gyrating between highs and lows, the 30-share index declined 67.30 points or 0.09 per cent to settle at 78,472.87. During the day, it dropped 142.38 points or 0.18 per cent to 78,397.79.

The NSE Nifty dipped 25.80 points or 0.11 per cent to 23,727.65.

As many as 2,019 stocks declined, while 1,977 advanced and 96 remained unchanged on the BSE.

domestic market concluded flat ahead of the holiday, with metal and power stocks dragging performance while FMCG and auto sectors gained from corrections.

"The near-term market trajectory hinges on the outcome of Q3 results and the Union budget, but caution prevails due to a strong dollar, high bond yields, concerns over rate cuts. The rupee hitting an all-time low further evoked the caution," Vinod Nair, Head Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30 blue-chip stocks,

Power Grid, State Bank of India, Titan, Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports and Infosys were among the

In contrast, Tata Motors, ITC, Nestle, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC and Zomato were among the gainers. The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.37 per cent, and the

BSE midcap index rose 0.09 per cent. The Nifty index saw a

lacklustre start to the muchanticipated 'Santa Claus Rally Period, with the index closing at 23,728, down 26 points. The sluggish session was attributed to persistent selling by FIIs, concerns over India's slowing economic growth, and a weakening Indian

rupee, which hit a record low of Rs. 85.13 against the dollar. 'These factors weighed on investor sentiment, keeping the market directionless and choppy throughout the day. Our earlier call suggested a low-volume trading session, and that prediction held true as Nifty traded in a volatile range," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta

Among sectoral indices, metal slumped 0.93 per cent, power declined 0.73 per cent, utilities (0.52 per cent), consumer durables (0.50 per cent) and commodities (0.33 per cent).

Equities Ltd, said.

People For Animals (PFA), Noida, an animal welfare organization received an animal ambulance with hydraulic jack and a ventilator by Can Fin Homes Limited CSR initiative. On this occasion, Marketing Head of Can Fin Homes Limited Himanshu, Senior Manager Sameer flagged off the ambulance. Shilpi, Naveen, Jagmohan and Ravi Dubey from People For

### Indian IT hiring: 2025 promises rebound, Al/data science roles to dominate job market

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndian IT hiring landscape is ▲at a pivotal juncture as it transitions from a year of decline towards a more hopeful future. The focus on specialised skills, particularly in AI and data science, combined with geographical shifts towards Tier 2 cities. indicates a transformation within the sector.

in India in 2024 was marked by delayed onboarding and a decline in overall hiring activity, the outlook for 2025 appears promising with expectations of recovery and growth fuelled improvements in economic conditions and technological

While the IT hiring landscape

advancements. In 2024, the Indian IT sector experienced approximately a 7 per cent decline in hiring compared to the previous year, largely due to broader macroeconomic challenges and global uncertainties.

Chemmankotil. Country Manager of Adecco India, noted that while Global Capability Centres (GCCs) played a crucial role in boosting hiring -- accounting for 52.6 per cent of job openings for tech openings



this overall Despite contraction, certain areas showed resilience and growth. The demand for roles in

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) surged by 39 per cent, reflecting a shift towards more specialised skill sets as organisations prioritised these technologies, according to

Adecco research. There was notable growth in IT hiring within Tier 2 cities, which saw an impressive 48

indicating a trend of geographic diversification of job opportunities beyond

Hiring for professionals with senior-level midexperience increased by 35 per cent, suggesting that companies experienced candidates amid

per cent increase during the third quarter of traditional tech hubs.

market fluctuations. The hiring landscape for fresh graduates remained subdued, with growth rates ranging

from 2-15 per cent across

various tech sectors, data from

TeamLease Edtech showed.

Companies often delayed onboarding campus hires due to uncertain deal flows, which industry leaders believe was particularly influenced by the global political climate surrounding major elections. As India moves into 2025, there are encouraging signs that the IT hiring landscape may rebound significantly. According

M a n p o w e r G r o u p Employment Outlook Survey (MEOS) for first quarter of 2025, 53 per cent of the 3,150 employers in India surveyed expect an increase in hiring, the highest among the 42 countries studied.

"In 2024, fresher hiring remained muted in general with several companies also choosing to delay the onboarding of their campus hires. This may change as the deal flow for large projects is expected to return in early

The first set of deal flow will benefit the large players and as the buyer sentiment improves, the tier 2 and 3 players can expect a rise in orders, Jaideep Kewalramani, COO and Head of Employability TeamLease Business at Edtech, said.

As the macro headwinds slow down and the results of elections of large economies, the US being the last one in 2024 to come in, he said organisations will confident about the economic outlook and start to make some bets on the capital investments, which will help jump-start the deal flow in early 2025.

While fresh hiring may remain subdued initially, it is anticipated that as large projects commence in early 2025, there will be a notable increase in job opportunities new graduates, Kewalramani said.

Companies are expected to invest heavily in upskilling their workforce to meet evolving demands, particularly in areas such as AI and cybersecurity. Wipro CTO Sandhya Arun

believes enterprises are set to accelerate the integration of AI and other advanced technologies to unlock significant business value.

and presenting unprecedented

challenges. The future belongs

Year 2025 promises to be a of high-velocity technology disruptions, offering new opportunities

to enterprises that embrace technology and disruption..." Arun said.

The demand for specialised tech roles is anticipated to surge by 30-35 per cent, driven by an increasing on reliance emerging technologies.

"However, the shift towards AI and automation in India's IT sector has started and will continue to create increasing impact on recruitment AI-driven tools through machine learning, redefined job roles by automating routine tasks while creating demand for highly specialised roles," said Sanju Ballurkar, President (Experis ManpowerGroup India.

The sector is expected to rebound with projections indicating a 15-20 per cent growth in job opportunities across various industries, according to Chemmankotil. "Looking ahead, the combined hiring intent from GCC and IT services will be a welcome relief to job seekers. Employers are optimistic about recovery and growth as companies adapt to new technological landscapes and

market needs," he said.

## Senior National Badminton: M Raghu, Devika Sihag clinch men's and women's singles title

**PTI** BENGALURU

rnataka's M Raghu and Haryana's Devika Sihag Haryanas Deviane secured their maiden senior national badminton titles, emerging champions in the men's and women's sections respectively at the 86th edition of the tournament here on Tuesday.

Raghu, who won the Egypt international this year, saved three match points in the decider to beat former champion Mithun Manjunath 14-21, 21-14, 24-22 in the final that clocked just under an

For Devika, it was a befitting end to a successful season as she ended the giant killing run of Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-15, 21-16 in the women's singles summit clash.

The 19-year-old from Haryana had claimed Swedish Open and Portugal International, besides reaching final at International.



Junior National Champions Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat added the senior nationals title to their trophy cabinet as they upset top seeds

Naveen P and Lokesh V 12-21, 21-12, 19-21 in the men's doubles final. In doubles categories, Ayush

Agarwal and Shruti Mishra

defeated eighth seeds Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani G 21-17 21-18 to bag the mixed doubles crown, while second seeds Arathi Sara Sunil

everyone, please do not

Rana and Ramkishan the

ministry and the selection

committee for overlooking

her despite her monumental

However, the list is yet to be

finalised as per the sports

ministry, which said she is

likely to be there when the

names are finally revealed in

Singh and Paralympic gold-

umar l

Buhler, a German living in

consistent performances this

year, marking his biggest

achievement by securing his first FIM World

Championship race podium at Rally Raid Portugal, where

he finished second overall. At the 2024 Dakar Rally,

Buhler came close to winning

his first Dakar stage. Young Chilean rider Cornejo

boasts of an impressive

Dakar record, including a

fourth-place finish in 2020

and nine stage wins. The 47th Dakar Rally will

has

speculate on this," she said.

lambasted

achievements.

a few days' time.

winning high

Praveen

Portugal,

and Varshini VS won the women's doubles title with a 21-18 20-22 21-17 win over eighth seeds Priya Devi Konjengbam and Shruti

It was the men's singles final which provided the grand finale to the senior nationals as the two players from the state dished out a slugfest.

Mithun, who won the title two

editions ago, was first off the blocks as he clinched the opening game rather easily. Raghu forced a decider by racing through the second game. Raghu's control during the net exchanges made the difference as he forced his way back from 15-19 to level the

scores at 19-19. But Mithun stayed in the hunt by earning three match points but could not convert any of them.

In the women's singles final, Devika took control of the match tempo quickly and then maintained her dominance to win in straight games

### Inter Milan beats Como 2-0 to cement third place in Serie A

**AP** ■ FLORENCE (ITALY)

Inter Milan beat Como 2-0 to cement third place in Serie A and close the gap on top two Atalanta and Napoli on Monday.

Carlos Augusto got the opener when he headed home a corner kick in the 48th minute. Marcus Thuram scored the second in stoppage time with a potent strike into the roof of the net.

It was the first time these teams have played each other in the top division since 2003 and although Inter had lost only one league game all season it struggled to impose itself on 15th-placed Como.

However, it won without exerting itself and the three points were enough to take Simone Inzaghi's men within three points of leader Atalanta and within one of Napoli. Inter has a game in hand over both

Fiorentina missed a chance to go fourth when it lost at home to Udinese 2-1.

The Florence club won a record eight consecutive Serie

The result left Udinese in ninth games before losing to Bologna 1-0 on Dec. 15, and it looked to be back on track when Moises Kean converted a penalty after eight minutes to become the first Fiorentina player to reach double figures in the league since Federico Chiesa in the 2019-20 season. However, Udinese was a different prospect after the break.

Lorenzo Lucca equalized with the aid of sloppy defending four minutes into the second half and then Florian Thauvin found space on the edge of the box to curl in the second eight minutes later.

place and Fiorentina in fifth. The match was a special one for Edoardo Bove, the Fiorentina player whose collapse with a heart issue led to the suspension of its game with Inter Milan on Dec. 1. Bove was fitted with a defibrillator implant soon after and sat on the Fiorentina bench for the first time since

He is not allowed to play but his position on the sideline alongside coach Raffaele Palladino was seen as a step towards normality for the 22vear-old midfielder.

his collapse.

#### Valencia fires coach Rubén Baraja after setback in La Liga

**AP** ■ VALENCIA (SPAIN)

Valencia fired coach Rubén Baraja on Monday after another setback in La Liga left the club stuck in the relegation zone and sparked renewed protests against Singaporean owner Peter Lim.

Valencia said it "decided to bring to an end Baraja's time as first team coach" following a 2-2 home draw against Alaves on Sunday.

Valencia needed a stoppagetime equalizer to salvage the result that left the club second to last in the standings.

The home draw prompted more criticism from fans who have long complained about the administration of Lim, whom they accuse of using the club only as a business endeavor.

Baraja, a former Valencia player, took over the club in 2023. His replacement was not immediately announced.

'The club would like to publicly thank Baraja for the passion, dedication and commitment that he has shown from the first to the last day of his tenure," Valencia

Hero MotoSports Team Rally on Tuesday named

young Chilean rider Nacho

Cornejo as its new recruit

while announcing a three-

member team for the Dakar

Cornejo will team up with

Sebastian Buhler and 2024 FIM World Rally-Raid

This will be the team's ninth

appearance in the world's

toughest race, scheduled to

take place in Saudi Arabia

Rally-Raid

(W2RC)

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Rally 2025.

Championship

winner Ross Branch.

### There's been a lapse in filing nominations, may be on my part: Manu on Khel Ratna furore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $P_{\text{bronze-medallist}}^{\text{aris Olympics'}} \stackrel{\text{double}}{\underset{\text{Manu}}{\text{double}}}$ Bhaker on Tuesday admitted that "there has been a lapse may be on my part" while filing nominations for this National Sports year's Awards amid a raging controversy over her exclusion from the list of Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardees. A day after the sports

ministry had to do damage control by insisting that the list of awardees is yet to be finalised, the 22-year-old pistol ace took to social media to clarify her position on not being among those recommended for the country's highest sporting

'With regards to ongoing issue for my nomination for the most prestigious Khel Ratna award -- I would like to state that as an athlete my role is to play and perform for my country.

"I believe there has been a lapse, maybe on my part shall remain motivated to while filing for ch is being tion wh



corrected," Bhaker wrote on X. The Haryana shooter said her aim is to perform for the country and it would not change whether she gets an award or not.

This was after her father Ramkishan Bhaker and personal coach Jaspal Rana stated that the snub had affected her morale and drive to perform for the country. "Awards and recognition keeps me motivated but are

not my goal," she asserted. "Irrespective of the award I the win more medals for my country It is a request to

Hero MotoSports names Nacho Cornejo as new rider

MotoCorp the first Indian

manufacturer team to make

sports

committee is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Iustice V Ramasubramanian and also includes former women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, boxer Vijender Singh, and cricket great Anil Kumble among others. The committee is mandated

short-listed for the Khel Ratna along with 30 Arjuna

awardees, 17 of them from

selection

para disciplines.

awards

to consider those who file their applications but if required, it is also empowered to discuss names which do not feature in that

Manu's exclusion was a shock due to the fact that her Olympic historic performance came just a few months back and is still fresh in public memory.

The youngster is the first athlete from independent India to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics.

It is reliably learnt that men's She won her bronze medals in the 10m air pistol individual and 10m air pistol hockey captain Harmanpreet mixed team (with Sarabjot jumper Singh) events in Paris

five stages will have separate courses for FIM and FIA

vehicles, covering 45 per cent

Dakar 2025 will also be the

opening race of the fourth

edition of the World Rally

Hero MotoSports is a Rally

GP-class participant at the W2RC 2025, and will attend

its five rounds starting with the Dakar, followed by the

Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge (February), South African

Safari Rally (May), BP Ultimate Rally Raid in

Championship

of the timed distance.

(W2RC).



### Lindsey Vonn thinks her new titanium knee could start a trend in skiing

**AP** ■ ST MORITZ

When Lindsey Vonn last raced on the World Cup circuit nearly six years ago, the constant pain in her knee left her in tears and led to retirement.

Flash forward to Vonn's comeback race on a titanium knee at age 40 last weekend, and the American skiing standout couldn't have fe more different.

No more pain. No more swelling. No more tears.

'The last few years of my career were so much different than they are right now. I'm skiing without thinking about my knee, which I really haven't done since I first tore my ACL in 2013. So it's been a long time that I felt this good," Vonn said on Saturday after placing 14th in a super-G in St Moritz.

'I'm a little bit older, but honestly I'm a hell of a lot stronger than I once was." So much stronger that she's talking up her knee replacement surgery — the first of its kind in World Cup skiing — as a new frontier for the sport. In April, Vonn had a robot-assisted replacement performed by Martin Roche, a Florida-based South orthopedist specializing in complex knee disorders. Part

titanium pieces. A month later, she was planning her comeback.

"It's a lot better than my nonexistent cartilage," said Vonn, one of the most successful skiers of all time with 82 World Cup wins.

"I've talked to a lot of skiers already about it and I really think that it could be should something that considered.

"I feel amazing. I mean, obviously not everyone responds the same way to surgeries. For some reason, I bounce back pretty well from surgery. But I think it's something to seriously consider for athletes that have a lot of knee problems."

Knee replacements are usually reserved for older people Andrea Panzeri, the Italian Winter Sports Federation's

head physician and an orthopedist who has operated numerous times on Vonn's good friend and fellow downhiller, Sofia Goggia, said knee replacements are usually performed on patients older than 50.

"This is definitely the first time in World Cup history that such a young athlete has raced with

was cut off and replaced by two other elite-level athletes in other sports competing with one, either."

Panzeri performs knee replacements. But he had never even thought about doing one on a World Cup skier — until he saw Vonn competing with "Partial prosthetics, like the

half-knee ones, are definitely

the ones that offer the best

performance and we that (with Vonn)," Panzeri said. "I don't think her decision is going to change pro sports. But could provide more motivation for so-called normal' people to try a prosthetic."

Three-time Grand Slam tennis champion Andy Murray played with an artificial hip at the end of his career. Vonn's former skiing teammate Julia

Mancuso also redid her hip a few months after she retired in 2018 and maintains an active lifestyle. "I, for sure, would have

considered a comeback if I didn't have kids," Mancuso told The AP recently. "So I can totally relate to

Lindsey."

But Panzeri said that "hips have different biomechanics than a knee and many more people are able to play sports

#### kick off in Bisha, featuring a Portugal (September), and from January 3 to 17. days and remained at second it to the Dakar podium. It was memorable 2024 for prologue and 12 stages finally closing the season with the Rallye du Maroc Panzeri told The For Botswana's Branch, this for eight days, eventually finishing second will be his third Dakar outing Associated Press. with a hip prosthetic than a spanning 7,700 km across the the young team as it secured "And I'm not aware of any an overall second finish making Hero vast desert. For the first time, (October). of the bone in her right knee knee prosthetic."

Gukesh's triumph underlines India's status as global chess superpower **PTI** ■ BENGALURU

The image of a smiling D Gukesh standing with outstretched hands will forever be embossed in the memory of a nation of

billions. The moment, which came right after his victory over Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship in Singapore, was a bold signature on India's rise as a true global chess super power in the Viswanathan Anand era.

Year 2024 was a story of resurgence in Indian chess, crafted by Anand himself.

The fearless and ambitious teenagers or "Vishy's children" as Garry Kasparov "Vishy's calls them, now have a role model to emulate -- an 18year-old from Chennai, the youngest ever world champion in the long history

Candidates tournament in

In the 12-stage 2024 edition, Branch led the race for four

He emerged as the youngest ever winner of that tournament, setting up a title clash with 32-year-old defending champion Liren. The Gukesh moment

Gukesh was viewed as the favourite going into the title matches, consisting of 14 rounds. That tag itself might have been a pressure point. But with wins in Games 3, 11 and 14, the Indian managed to seal an epochal feat.

Gukesh showed immense presence of mind to carry an entire nation's hope on his tender shoulders.

But a crumb of credit should also go to a highly-efficient and varied support staff that included the Anand, the pioneer of chess revolution in India, and renowned mental conditioning coach

But the genesis of that Paddy Upton.

Chess Olympiad triumph

Before Gukesh, India showed its envious inventory of chess champions to the world in all its splendour at Budapest in September. The country walked away with six gold medals in team individual categories.

In the men's team category final, India defeated Slovenia their while counterparts subdued Azerbaijan to join China and erstwhile USSR as the only three nations to bag the men's and women's gold medals in the same edition of the event.

In the individual section, Gukesh (Board 1), Arjun Erigaisi (Board 3), Divya Deshmukh (Board 3) and Vantika Agarwal (Board 4) walked away with gold medals.

Siblings impress burgeoning cap. and Blitz formats.

The Rameshbabu household They are also the first But beating the world No. 1



have two Praggnanandhaa and Vaishali, who had crossed the 2500 ELO ratings last year. This year, they became the first siblings to play the Candidates, adding another

Grandmasters

feather to an already

siblings to achieve the GM norm Pragg fells Carlsen

How about having arguably the world's best player in knots? Magnus Carlsen is not an unfamiliar rival to Praggnanandhaa, whom he had beaten earlier in Rapid in the Classical version is a challenge different altogether. Praggnanandhaa achieved this feat during the Norway Chess, Carlsen's home tournament, in May. Milestone for Erigaisi, Divya

This is more technical but significant, nonetheless. Erigaisi became the second Indian, after Anand, of course, to cross the 2800 Elo rating points.

The Indian beat Russia's Dmitry Andreikin in the fifth round of the European Chess Club Cup 2024 to achieve this rare feat. He was also the 15th GM in the history of chess to go past this mark.

Currently, Erigaisi is world No.4 with 2801 points behind Carlsen (2831), Fabiano Caruana (2805) and Hikaru Nakamura (2802). Divya managed to cross the 2500 Elo rating barrier this

GMs.

Deep talent pool Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa, Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi and P Harikrishna are the frontline men's players, while D Harika, Vaishali, Divya, Vantika and Tanya Sachdev

form a formidable women's

line-up. But the real strength of Indian chess is elsewhere.

These are famous names because they have achieved several honours. But what makes India a strong chess nation is the fact that thousands of kids are now taking to chess. They have Gukesh seen

Praggnanandhaa climbing heights, and now they think: 'why can't we do this?"," says DP Anantha, Vice-President India All Federation.

"That increasing talent pool is our real strength. I don't year to join an elite club of think any other nation can

We will see many young names coming forward next year," he added Perhaps, it's apt to borrow a

match us now in that aspect.

catch line from the 80s to describe India's chess present chess landscape 'Neighbours Envy, Owner's Pride

Big 2025 loading

India are currently ranked fourth in the FIDE team rankings. The nation has 64 Grand Masters, logging an average Elo rating of 2668 and a good number of them are less than 25. Many of them will be seen in

as Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour, FIDE Women's GP, FIDE Women's World Cup in Georgia and Asian Championships in the UAE

action in tournaments such

So, keep those seat-belts fastened, more excitement is on the way!

could have possibly changed

in two days?" he countered

As usual, he didn't give away

anything about whether

playing two spinners while

factoring in the Melbourne

The inimitable Rohit was

back lacing everything with a

bit of humour when asked

what led to the selection of

Tanush Kotian over Kuldeep

Well Kuldeep didn't have

visa," he smiled before

informing that the wrist

spinner is still not hundred

'Axar couldn't travel as he has

had a baby. I am not saying

Tanush is bad but he is here

heat was feasible or not.

with a wry smile.

## Modern-day greats figure out their own path: Rohit backs Kohli

**PTI** MELBOURNE

captain Sharma on Tuesday down concerns around Virat Kohli's struggles outside the off-stump in Australia and backed his longtime teammate to the hilt, saying "modern-day greats figure out their own

Kohli's five innings in this series Down Under read 5, 100 not out, 7, 11 and 3 for a total of 126 runs at an average of 31.50, not something the team or the batting maestro himself had hoped for before embarking challenging tour.

But Rohit, who is also battling poor form, is not losing his sleep over the lack of runs and is confident of a turnaround. When a question about Kohli's struggles was posed to him with some sugar-coating, the skipper added a dash of his own

Do you say something or leave a modern-day great alone, the scribe asked.

"You only said he is a modern-day great. Modernday greats figure out their own path," said a smiling Rohit as others broke into a peal of laughter. Kohli was one of the earliest

to enter the nets at MCG and Rohit was last among the recognised batters to get a knocking. The India skipper played just two shots in the last 20 minutes and left everything else, as he tried to curb his natural instinct to push forward.

The desperation to control his conditioned reflex of moving hands towards the fourth stump delivery was evident.

"Harshit, is jagah se jaa rahi hai (the ball is landing here)?" he pointed out at an imaginary fourth stump line while trying to know from the young pacer about the



six inches outside off-stump.

line which looked just around This line has been Kohli's Achilles Heel in the ongoing

on, he was told to bowl on the 'channel" as he wanted to leave balls. Prasidh dug one short and he just about defended. Then, the lanky Karnataka man hit the channel, and the batter withdrew his willow in the nick of time.

The 500-odd people present inside would let out a collective sigh. They made noise and once Kohli was also seen telling them to keep quiet and let him concentrate. When Rohit batted, he was heard telling throwdown specialist Raghavendra, "Tappa sahi pakadna padega (get the length right)." He also got beaten by a throw that reared from length.

"Rohit bhai, pull maaro naa (play the pull shot)," yelled one of the demanding young fans from outside. Rohit just left the next delivery.
With the chatter about his

form gaining decibels and rumours about an imminent When Prasidh Krishna came retirement post Sydney

gaining traction, Rohit's answers about himself were short. When someone has one double digit score in five innings, he wants to be left alone but then commitments needed to be honoured.

Asked about his batting position, he was borderline irritated.

'Let's not worry about that. I think who bats where, we should be discussing that within ourselves and I shouldn't be answering this question in every press conference," the skipper said, trying to hold his composure. At the onset, he informed that his knee which was hurt while batting on an old practice track, was "fine".

Then next question was a "flighted query" on where he stood with regards to his batting form.

"After last Test (in Brisbane) we had two sessions. What

percent fit.

The five-match series is levelled at 1-1 with all to play for in the remaining two matches in Melbourne and

more as a cover," he said.

### Gill needs to back himself, he's changed things up too much: Ricky Ponting



**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

India top-order batter Shubman Gill has made far too many changes in his batting approach, which is hindering his run-scoring ability on away tours, feels former Australian captain Ricky Pointing, adding that the way out for the young cricketer is to trust his instincts.

Gill missed the opening Test of the Border-Gavasker Trophy in Perth due to a thumb injury he suffered during simulated training game. In the second Test at Adelaide, he failed to convert good starts into big scores as Australia levelled the series 1-1 The third Test at Brisbane saw

him getting out for one in the putting India in a spot of bother before KL Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja struck half-centuries to halt the slide. "I love watching him play. When you're watching him bat and bat well, he looks as good as anyone in world cricket. But the numbers don't really stack

up, do they, away from home?" Ponting said on ICC Review

Ponting said he had observed several changes in Gill's technique during the second Test at Adelaide, which were impeding his ability to score

"I watched him a little bit in Adelaide and it almost looked like he changed things up too

"Scott Boland was bowling and he changed his guard, he moved across to the off stump, presented his front pad to Boland, and Boland got him out with a full straight one," he

The Australian legend added that rather than making wholesale changes in his technique, Gill should fall back upon trusting his instincts to improve his batting. Gill's composed 91 at the

Gabba during the 2021 tour had helped India clinch a historic series win, but since then he has scored just one Test ton away from home - in Bangladesh in 2022.

Gill averages 23.8 across nine Tests in England, Bangladesh, the West Indies, South Africa and Australia but at home he has accumulated 1,177 runs and Tests at an average of 42.03.

"If anything, I think he needs to back himself a little bit more, needs to back his defensive technique a little bit more here in Australia and still find a way to be able to score and score quickly," Ponting said.

2000 MW

### McDonald defends dropping McSweeney for Konstas, says teenager will throw new challenge to India

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

Australia head coach McDonald on defended the Tuesday selection committee's decision to drop Nathan McSweeney in middle of the series for Sam Konstas, saying the talented teenager will post a "new challenge" for India.

McSweeney, a makeshift opener, was dropped because of a string of low scores in the first three Tests. Former Australia skipper

Michael Clarke was very critical of the decision to McSweeney. sideline However, McDonald said tough calls have to be taken at times.

We wanted to throw a new challenge at India. We believe Nathan is good enough for the Test level. We weren't sure about how the top order is functioning. So yeah we challenged ourselves with that decision," said the head coach ahead of the fourth

"Whether it works or not, time will tell. There will be debate around this should he or shouldn't he. Selections are highly debated." Konstas, 19, will become the

468th Australian men's Test cricketer to don the Baggy Green when he takes the field in the Boxing Day game beginning on Wednesday.

Konstas, 19, will become the youngest Test debutant for Australia since 18-year-old Pat Cummins broke into the squad in 2011.



"We wanted clarity for our batting unit before the team meeting," McDonald said. Selector Tony Dodemaide informed Konstas about his inclusion during training at the MCG here on Thursday. Dodemaide

Konstas about his inclusion

something we don't usually do because haven't had too many moving parts, but we thought we'd get that out of the way so everyone knows that he's in the team," said McDonald.

similar to what I've seen on the outside within (the team) his game. And what he's shown is an array of shots, the ability to put pressure back on to opponents and he gets his opportunity," he

Khawaja will get runs McDonald also brushed aside concerns over Usman Khawaja's form. "I think Usman is not a

concern. The way he is preparing runs will come. He knows his methods and any good player following methods will return among Head clear for coach but medical team nod needed

Head, one of the in-form batters in the series with two centuries, experienced "a small strain to the quad" during the last day of the third Test at the Gabba. The 'player of the match' in

the last two Tests faced only coach Brad Hodge rather able to bowl. But he (Boland) his teammates at the nets on role in this Test match with

"I thought he looked good previous ones."

obviously the skills are in good order. It will just be that," said McDonald.

with the bat in his hands so

the middle-order if Head fails to prove his fitness. The uncapped pair of Josh Inglis and Beau Webster are the stand-byes in the squad. However, pacer Scott Boland has been all-but confirmed to

more batter-friendly.

pick Scotty (Boland) here the eleven.

"We've got great depth in our

## MEJA URJA NIGAM (P) LIMITED

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex. 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003 Corporate Identification Number- U74900DL2008PTC176247

The applicant above named has made an application before the Centra Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi for determine tariff of Meja Thermal Power Station Stage-I (2x660 MW) from 01.04.2024 to

 The beneficiaries of the generating station are: a) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Ltd., Shakti Bhawan 14, Ashok Marg

Lucknow - 226001 b) Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (on behalf of DISCOMs of

Rajasthan), Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur 302005. c) Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd., The Mall, PSEB Head Office

d) Power Development Department (PDD) Govt. of J&K, Civil Secretariat

e) Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), Urja Bhavan, Road Dehradun-248001.

f) Electricity Department (Chandigarh), Union Territory of Chandigarh Addl. Office Building, Sector-9 D Chandigarh.

Capacity of the generating station Rs. 11976.33 Crore Authority which has approved the Capital Cost CERC

Scheduled date of commercial operation Not Applicable Actual date of commercial operation of station

Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station: Not Applicabl

Year-wise tariff sought to be determined

Tariff for 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2,03,548.00 | 2,19,368.27 | 2,29,865.93 | 2,23,566.71 | 2,21,706.71 | 2,35,995.35 \*As per Petition for truing-up of tariff for 2019-24 period for Meja Therma

Power Station Stage-I (2x660 MW) filed with Hon'ble CERC. 9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the

website of MUNPL, namely https://munpl.co.in/tariff-petition. 10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination

of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice. Place : Meja (Prayagraj, U.P.)

(Amit Arora) Dy. General Manager (Comml.)



Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Secutity Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules")

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited (TCHFL) under the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under ection 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Rules already issued detailed Deman Notice dated below under Section 13(2) of the Act, calling upon the Borrower(s)/Coforrower(s)/Guarantor(s) (all singularly or together referred to "Obligors")/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice, as per details given below. Copies of the said Notices are served by Registered Post A.D. and are available with the undersigned, and the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Obligor(s) /Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) to pay to TCHFL, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, the amount indicated herein below against their respective names, together with further interest as detailed below from the respective dates mentioned below in column (d) till the date of payment and / or ealisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any executed by the said Obligor(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the ollowing Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to TCHFL by the said

Obligor(s) respectively. Loan Name of Obligor(s)/Legal Total Outstanding Due Date of Demand

Account No.	Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Rs. as on below Dates	Notice & NPA
TCHHL07 310001001 11987 & TCHIN073 100010011 3332	Mrs. Raini	As on 18/12/2024, an amount of Rs. 9,81,604 /- (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred Four Only) is due and payable by you under the loan account TCHHL0731 000100111987 and an amount of Rs. 55,663/- (Rupees Fifty Five Thousand Six Hundred Sixty Three Only) is due and payable under the loan account no TCHIN07310 00100113332 by you i.e. totaling to Rs. 10,37,267/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Thirty Saven Thousand Two	18-12-20; & 04-12-20;

Description of the Secured Assets / Immovable Properties / Mortgaged Properties: All Piece & Parcels Of Residential House in Plot No. C-52, having total covered area 600 Sq. Ft or 55.76 Sq. Mtrs. (East 24'x West 24' and North 25' x South 25'), having three room, one kitchen, toilet, bathroom, with stair covered area 62.496 Sq. mt., comprised in Khasra no 107/1, Situated at Village Dabki Khurd Pargana Manglour Tehsil Laksar, District Haridwar with all common amenities mentioned in Sale Deed, Boundaries; East: Plot No C-51, West:- Passage 20Ft. wide, North:- Passage 30 Ft. wide, South:- Property

\*with further interest, additional Interest at the rate as more particularly stated in

Hundred Sixty Seven Only)

respective Demand Notices dated mentioned above, incidental expenses, costs, harges etc incurred till the date of payment and/or realization. If the said Obligor(s) shall fail to make payment to TCHFL as aforesaid, then TCHFL shall proceed against the above Secured Asset(s)/ Immovable Property(ies) under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Obligor(s)/Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset(s)/Immovable Property(ies), whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of TCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made

nereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act. DATE :- 25-12-2024, PLACE :- DEHRADUN Sd/- Authorised Officer For TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

## NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

NOTICE

Registered Office Address: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003 Corporate Identification Number- L40101DL1975GOI007966 The applicant above named has made an application before the Central

Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi for determination of tariff of Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station (2000 MW) from 01.04.2024 to 1. The beneficiaries of the generating station are

- a) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Ltd. (UPPCL), Shakti Bhawan 14, Ashok Marg,
- b) Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (RUVNL) (on behalf of DISCOMs of
- Rajasthan), Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur-302005 c) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd., Grid Substation, Hudson Road,
- Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009 d) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., 2nd floor, B-Block, BSES Bhawan, Nehru
- e) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma
- f) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (HPPC), Shakti Bhawan, Sector-VI,
- Panchkula, Haryana-134109. g) Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL). The Mall. Patiala-147001 h) Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), Urja Bhavan, Kanwali Road,
- Capacity of the generating station 3. Approved capital cost of the project : Rs. 1240.44 Crore Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CERC : Not Applicable Scheduled date of commercial operation Actual date of commercial operation of station Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station: Not Applicable

Particulars	Year-wise tariff sought to be determined						
	Tariff for the previous year*	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	
1. Capacity Charges (Rs. Lakh/ year)	129838.23	197218.64	176027.36	182548.46	161677.81	165130.65	
2. Energy Charges (Rs./kwh)	1.55						

\*As per Petition for truing-up of tariff for 2019-24 period for Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station (2000 MW) filed with Hon'ble CERC

- 9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the vebsite of NTPC, namely <u>www.ntpc.co.in</u> under the Tab "Notices"
- 10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Addl. General Manager (Comml.)

**Leading the Power Sector** 

### एनदीपीक्षी NTPC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office Address : NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex, 7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003 Corporate Identification Number- L40101DL1975GOI007966

The applicant above named has made an application before the Centra Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC). New Delhi for determination of tariff of Dadri Gas Power Station (829.78 MW) from 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2029.

The beneficiaries of the generating station are: a) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Ltd. (UPPCL), Shakti Bhawan 14, Ashok

Capacity of the generating station

Approved capital cost of the project

Marg, Lucknow-226001. b) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (TPDDL), Grid Substation, Hudson Road, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009.

c) BSES Raidhani Power Ltd. (BRPL), BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New

d) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL), Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma Delhi-110092. e) J&K State Power Trading Company Ltd., (on behalf of Power

Development Department (PDD), J&K) Civil Secretariat Srinagar f) Electricity Department (Chandigarh), Union Territory of Chandigarh, Addl

Office Building, Sector-9 D, Chandigarh g) Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), Urja Bhavan Kanwali Road Dehradun-248001.

Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : CERC Scheduled date of commercial operation : Not Applicable : 01.04.1997 Actual date of commercial operation of station Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station: Not Applicable

8. Details of tariff: Year-wise tariff sought to be determined 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 | 2027-28 | 2028-29 Tariff revious . Capacity 58,012.89 38,288.32 39,224.36 40,242.62 41,258.29 42,338.16 2. Energy

\*As per Petition for truing-up of tariff for 2019-24 period for Dadri Gas Power Station (829.78 MW) filed before Hon'ble CERC A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the

website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab "Notices". 10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination

of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Leading the Power Sector

Addl. General Manager (Commi

informing

was a departure from protocol as traditionally it's the Australian skipper who confirms the playing XI on match eve. 'It's (breaking the news)

He (Konsta

composed, relaxed, knows

: 829.78 MW

: Rs 992.37 Crore

NOTICE

Registered Office Address: NTPC Bhawan, Core-7, SCOPE Complex.

The applicant above named has made an application before the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), New Delhi for determination of tariff of Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Station Stage-I (420 MW) from

01.04.2024 to 31.03,2029.

a) Uttar Pradesh Power Corp. Ltd. (UPPCL), Shakti Bhawan 14, Ashok Marg,

b) Uttarakhand Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL), Urja Bhavan, Kanwali Road,

Road Kingsway Camp Delhi-110009 d) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (BRPL), BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New

Delhi-110092.

Panchkula, Haryana-134109.

h) Electricity Department (Chandigarh), Union Territory of Chandigarh, Addl.

Office Building, Sector-9 D, Chandigarh.

Secretariat, Srinagar. Capacity of the generating station : 420 MW Approved capital cost of the project : Rs. 962.65 Crore

Scheduled date of commercial operation Actual date of commercial operation of station Capital cost on date of Commercial operation of Station: Not Applicable

Details of tariff

Year-wise tariff sought to be determined 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2028-29 1. Capacity 2. Energy 4.45

website of NTPC, namely www.ntpc.co.in under the Tab "Notices"

of tariff contained in the petition may be filed by any person, including the beneficiaries through e-filing portal of the Commission, with a copy to the Petitioner within 30 days of publication of this notice

Leading the Power Sector

\*As per Petition for truing-up of tariff for 2019-24 period for Feroze Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Station Stage-I filed with Hon'ble CERC. 9. A copy of the petition made for determination of tariff is posted on the

what risk is associated with "But no concerns from my end, he's been able to do his running so I think he'll be functional come game time." The coach did not speculate on who could fill the spot in

replace Josh Hazlewood, who is nursing a calf strain. McDonald said temperatures expected to soar to over 40 degrees during the Boxing Day Test, the pitch could end up being

This wicket might offer the batters a little bit more in terms of the surface as the game draws on. If we didn't and I know I'm not allowed to declare the team because that's Pat's (Cummins) job tomorrow - but I don't think I'm coming to the ground Boxing Day if Scotty's not in

bowling, and (all-rounder) fast-bowling is ready to go and he'll play a the ball more so than the

एनदीपीसी NTPC Limited

7-Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New De Corporate Identification Number- L40101DL1975GOI007966

The beneficiaries of the generating station are:

c) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (TPDDL), Grid Substation, Hudson

e) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (BYPL), Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardoor

f) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (HPPC), Shakti Bhawan, Sector-VI, g) Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.(GUVNL), Vidyut Bhavan, Race Course,

i) Power Development Department (PDD-J&K) Govt., of J&K, Civil

Authority which has approved the Capital Cost : Not Applicable

34445.28 36609.94 36851.86 38785.90 41146.08 42044.75

10. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination

Addl. General Manager (Comml.