



Established 1865 Sunday Pioneer



magazine

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024; PAGES 8+4 ₹5

www.dailypioneer.com

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



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



with this Part and return the same at the facilitation centre as specified, in writing, by the returning officer."

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

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

"CCTV coverage, webcasting of polling stations are not carried out under Conduct of Election Rules but are the result of steps taken by the EC to ensure a level playing field," said an official.

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PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse.

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

According to Rule 93, all

"papers" related to elections shall be open to public inspection. The amendment inserts "as specified in these rules" after "papers". "In the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, in rule 93, in sub-rule (2), in clause (a), after the word "papers", the words "as specified in these rules" shall be inserted," the Ministry said in a notification. A new section 18A has been added in the rules.

It states that "Notwithstanding anything in this Part, a voter on election duty shall receive his postal ballot, record his vote thereon in accordance

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



FILE PHOTO: PTI

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

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

"Even prior to the pandemic related lockdowns, there were signs of the passenger

movement showing little growth, however after the pandemic, even the high months i.e. April-May are at a distinctly lower level as compared to the corresponding period before the pandemic, passenger levels for May 2023 being 6.67 per cent lower than the corresponding number for May 2012. Further, it is interesting to note that a majority (>75%) of our predicted migration flows are within 500 kms of the origin. This is in line with gravitation effects and theories such as Ravenstein's Theory of Human Migration (1834 - 1913)," it said.

"We hypothesize that this is on account of availability of improved services such as education, health, infrastructure and connectivity as well as improved economic opportunities in or near in major sources of migration and is an indicator of overall economic growth," noted the paper authored by former EAC-PM chairman Bibek Debroy.

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The car that was crashed into a crowd at the Magdeburg AP/PTI

Five killed in attack on German Christmas market, 200 injured

AP ■ MAGDEBURG (GERMANY)

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

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

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

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Govt still not reduced GST on health and life insurance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAISALMER

The Goods and Services Tax Council meeting on Saturday postponed a decision on reducing taxes on health and life insurance, while the much talked-about GoM recommendation of rate rejig in 148 items was not tabled before the Council. Meanwhile, the GST Council agreed to issue a clarification on taxation of popcorn, saying that pre-packed and labelled ready-to-eat snacks will attract a 12 per cent tax while an 18 per cent GST will be levied if it is caramelised.

There is no change in the tax rate of popcorn and the GST Council has only agreed that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) will issue a circular clarifying the current taxation regime of popcorn.

"Ready-to-eat popcorn", which is mixed with salt and spices, and has the essential character of namkeens currently attracts a 5 per cent GST if it is not pre-packaged and labelled.

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

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

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Delhi LG sanctions ED to prosecute Kejriwal

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



asking for permission, said sources.

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

The ED in its note to Chief Secretary of Delhi, sought approval from the competent authority to prosecute former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal under section 197 (1) of CrPC (Section 218 of BNSS 2023) in a case related to liquor policy scam case.

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

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

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

The directive comes days after the Delhi L-G Secretariat ordered a crackdown on illegal immigrants from Bangladesh, with the issue becoming the latest flashpoint between the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Assembly elections in Delhi due in February.

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

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BLOOMS BANISH WINTER BLUES



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

Multistorey building collapses in Punjab's Mohali



PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

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

service as part of the operation. A National Disaster Response Team (NDRF) team has reached the spot. The fire brigade is also participating in the operation, the officials said.

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

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

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A royal takeover: Erstwhile princely estate of Bettiah Raj, is now State property

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PATNA

Perhaps one of the last privy purses, the erstwhile princely estate of Bettiah Raj, one of the largest zamindari of Bihar, will now be assimilated in the property owned by the State government. According to a notification issued in the Bihar Gazette decks have been cleared for complete takeover of 15,358 acres of land belonging to the Bettiah princely State by the Bihar administration.

Out of a total of 15,358.60 acres of land, 15,215.33 acres is in Bihar and 143.26 acres is in Uttar Pradesh. According to officials, a large chunk of land that came under the erstwhile Bettiah Raj has been encroached upon over the years.

The 'Vesting of Bettiah Raj Properties Act-2024's gazette notification dated December 11 followed a bill passed by the state legislature in the winter session last month. Earlier, properties of the estate were managed by the Court of Wards, Board of Revenue (Bihar Government).

The last raja of Bettiah Raj, Harendra Kishore Singh, died heirless on March 26, 1893, leaving behind two widows, Maharani Sheo Ratna Kunwar and Maharani Janki Kunwar. Maharani Sheo Ratna Kunwar who succeeded to the estate of Raja Harendra Kishore Singh on his death as his senior widow died on March 24, 1896 and on her death Maharani Janki Kunwar became entitled to the possession of the estate. Since



it was reportedly found that Maharani Janki Kunwar was not able to administer the

estate, its management was taken over by the Court of Wards.

Cities in Bihar where land belonging to Bettiah Estate are located include: 9758.72 acres in West Champaran, 5320.51 acres in East Champaran, 35.58 acres in Gopalganj, 7.29 acres in Siwan, 4.81 acres in Patna, 88.41 acres in Saran. Similarly, cities in Uttar Pradesh where land belonging to Bettiah Estate are located include: Kushinagar (61.16 acres), Maharajganj (7.53 acres), Varanasi (10.13 acres), Gorakhpur (50.92 acres), Basti (6.21 acre), Allahabad (4.54 acre), Ayodhya (1.86 acre).

"All the existing properties, to the knowledge of the court and being looked after by the court, of the Bettiah Raj, located in or outside the state of Bihar, whether movable or immovable, shall stand vested with the state government from the date on which this Act comes into force. Bettiah Raj Properties means and includes all movable and immovable properties of the erstwhile Raja of Bettiah", says the Gazette notification.

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Indian Army increases its footprints in Jammu region

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

After witnessing a series of targeted strikes on the army personnel in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch the Indian army has increased its footprints in the Jammu region to prevent similar strikes and also plug the gaps along the line of control with Pakistan to check any fresh infiltration bids. The deployment pattern was reviewed after the decision was taken to induct more troops in the Jammu region amid a sudden surge in incidents of terrorist violence. The twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch were the worst hit as they witnessed repeated ambushes on army trucks and patrol parties since October 2021. Later the Pakistan-based terrorists extended the arch of terror toward Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, and Kathua districts. On December 21,



2023, four army personnel sacrificed their lives and two others received critical injuries after their vehicles were ambushed by the hiding foreign terrorists in the general area of Dera ki Gali in the Poonch district. Nagrota-based General Officer Commanding (GoC), White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva Saturday visited Rajouri to strengthen civil-military ties and recognize the pivotal role of local communities and veterans in

maintaining peace and stability in the region. During the visit, Lt Gen Sachdeva praised the synergy between the civilian population and security forces, particularly in the sensitive border districts of Rajouri and Poonch. He highlighted the Indian Army's increased operational footprint in the region, including the strategic occupation of the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal Range, as well as its close

collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) and civil administration. He said that new posts have been set up in the upper reaches and the movement of security forces at night has been increased to improve security and peace in the region. "Helicopters, UAVs and several types of sensors are being used as a part of technology to ensure peace", he said. Acknowledging the contributions of veterans and local leaders, he credited their efforts for the improved security scenario in the region. The Corps Commander also participated in the Mendhar Cricket Premier League (MCPL) felicitation ceremony, applauding the youth's enthusiasm for sports as a unifying force. He emphasized the importance of such events in channeling energy positively and promoting community harmony.

AAP disrespecting Purvanchal community, questioning their social identity, claims BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

BJP MP and former Delhi BJP President Manoj Tiwari on Saturday accused AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh of disrespecting the Purvanchal community and questioning their social identity. He alleged during a news conference that AAP's show of respect for Purvanchalis is merely pretentious. The press conference, moderated by Media Chief Praveen Shankar Kapoor, highlighted Manoj Tiwari's contributions to strengthening the identity of the Purvanchal community in Delhi. Kapoor emphasized that Tiwari played a key role in getting declared Chhath Puja as a public holiday in the city, thus giving due respect to the major festival of Purvanchal. Tiwari challenged Arvind Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh to issue a clear response within 24 hours about whether votes of illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators in Delhi should be removed. "We raised this issue in Parliament, advocating for detaining and deporting illegal



infiltrators to their respective countries without subjecting them to violence," Tiwari asserted. He accused Kejriwal of insulting the Purvanchal community on several occasions, including in a 2019 statement in which Kejriwal allegedly claimed that Purvanchal residents travel to Delhi on Rs 500 tickets and avail free treatment worth Rs five lakh and go back. Tiwari criticized Kejriwal's handling of the COVID-19 crisis, alleging that instead of providing food and protection to migrant workers in Delhi, the AAP government forced

them onto buses to return to their states, endangering their lives. He attributed numerous COVID-era deaths to Kejriwal's negligence, citing how relief was finally provided only after intervention by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Uttar Pradesh government under Yogi Adityanath. Tiwari also stated that Kejriwal's government has worsened the living conditions of unauthorized colony residents over the past decade, 70% of whom belong to Purvanchal and Uttarakhand. Despite this, AAP failed to

address their concerns, he claimed. He alleged that during the construction of the Signature Bridge in East Delhi—completed under President's Rule—Kejriwal sent party "goons" to threaten workers. At the time, neither Kejriwal nor Sanjay Singh showed any concern for the Purvanchal community. Tiwari condemned AAP's efforts to divide Delhi along caste and religious lines, emphasizing that the city's status as the nation's capital requires unity and inclusive governance. Refuting Sanjay Singh's remarks during his press conference about an MCD letter, Tiwari clarified that the letter did not mention Purvanchal residents. However, Singh's repeated references to Purvanchal were aimed at promoting regionalism in Delhi, he said. Tiwari concluded by urging Arvind Kejriwal to address issues such as poor water quality in Delhi, which he claimed has led to over 21,000 deaths in the past decade, instead of fostering regional and communal divides.

Multistorey building collapses...

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"There is yet no figure whether someone is (trapped) inside or not. Our teams are working. Efforts are on to clear the debris as soon as possible. Lighting arrangements have been made for the rescue operation," he said. A local resident said a loud noise was heard when the building collapsed. Preliminary information suggests that the building collapsed after a basement was dug in a nearby area.

MCD drive to identify illegal...

From page 1

"The education department will take appropriate preventive measures to identify illegal Bangladeshi migrants while giving admission in municipal schools. It is also requested that proper identification and verification drives may also be undertaken to identify the illegal Bangladeshi migrant children in schools," the order by the deputy commissioner said.

Delhi LG sanctions ED...

From page 1

"We have been saying that Arvind Kejriwal took commission in liquor scam. As the investigation progresses, he would be trapped. He has spoiled Delhi, and looted crores of rupees, we welcome the investigation," said Sachdeva. Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia alleged that the move was to distract attention from Union home minister Amit Shah's statement on BR Ambedkar in Parliament. Chief Minister Atishi said the news was being spread to distract people from other issues and called on the ED to make the approval letter public. "If LG sahab has given permission to prosecute Arvind Kejriwal ji, then what is the problem for ED in making the copy of the approval public? This news is being spread only to mislead people and distract them from the issues. BJP, stop these conspiracies. Bring out the truth," said the CM on X. Calling it a bid to divert attention from the issue of the alleged insult to BR Ambedkar, former Delhi minister and AAP leader Manish Sisodia asked the ED to show the copy of the permission. "If the Lt Governor has given permission to prosecute Arvind Kejriwal, then why is the ED not showing the copy of that permission? It is clear that this news is false and misleading. Stop making false promises to divert attention from the issue of insult to Baba Sahab," Sisodia said. Delhi Congress president Devendra Yadav also lashed

out at the Kejriwal saying LG's nod has come at the time when Kejriwal was fooling the voters with many promises to cover up his tainted image on the eve of the Delhi Assembly elections. The Delhi High Court recently issued a notice regarding a plea from AAP leaders Kejriwal and Sisodia, contesting the trial court's decision to take cognisance of the ED's chargesheet in the excise policy case. Both leaders are currently out on bail in relation to cases filed by the ED and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) over the now-scrapped excise policy. The ED also alleged in the prosecution complaint that about Rs 45 crore from the proceeds of crime were used in the Goa elections for AAP campaigning with the collusion and concurrence of Kejriwal. The investigating agency alleged that AAP was the "major beneficiary" of the proceeds of crime, and Kejriwal, being the national convener and a member of the political affairs committee and national executive, was ultimately responsible for the utilisation of funds during the Goa elections. On the basis of an internal report of then chief secretary Naresh Kumar, the LG in July 2022 recommended a CBI inquiry into alleged procedural lapses and violations of rules and acts in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. Kejriwal was arrested in March this year on charges of money laundering. He was granted bail by the Supreme Court in Sept.

Kejriwal announces Ambedkar scholarship for Delhi's Dalit students

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the run-up to the assembly elections in Delhi, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced an Ambedkar scholarship for free foreign education of the city's Dalit students. Kejriwal said the Dr Ambedkar Samman Scholarship was a response to the BJP's "insult" of Ambedkar. Union Home Minister Amit Shah "insulted and made fun of Babasaheb Dr Ambedkar in Parliament. Crores of people who love Ambedkar were deeply pained," the former Delhi chief minister said at the AAP headquarters. Ambedkar had said education was the way forward and secured a PhD from the US against all odds, Kejriwal told reporters. The scholarship is a response to the insult meted out by the BJP to the chief



architect of the Indian Constitution, the AAP chief added. "Under the scheme, any Dalit student from Delhi will be able to receive education in foreign universities. If they get admission in any such university, the Delhi government will bear the entire cost of their education, travel and accommodation," Kejriwal said.

Children of government employees will also be eligible for the scheme, he added, without elaborating how and when the scholarships would be given. Ahead of the polls, due in February, the AAP supremo has promised Rs 2,100 per month to all adult women and free treatment of senior citizens at government and private hospitals if his party returns to power.

Five killed in attack on German Christmas...

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Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that nearly 40 of them "are so seriously injured that we must be very worried about them." Several German media outlets identified the suspect as Taleb A., withholding his last name in line with privacy laws, and reported that he was a specialist in psychiatry and psychotherapy. There were still no answers Saturday as to what caused him to drive into a crowd in the eastern German city of Magdeburg. Describing himself as a former Muslim, the suspect shared dozens of tweets

and retweets daily focusing on anti-Islam themes, criticising the religion and congratulating Muslims who left the faith. He also accused German authorities of failing to do enough to combat what he said was "Islamism of Europe." He has also voiced support for the far-right and anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party. Recently, he seemed focused on his theory that German authorities have been targeting Saudi asylum seekers. The two people confirmed dead were an adult and a toddler, but officials said additional deaths couldn't be ruled out.

Govt still not reduced GST on health...

From page 1

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, who heads the panel on GoM on insurance, said one more meeting is required to take a call on taxation of group, individual, senior citizen's policies. Later talking to the media, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the GST Council deferred the decision to cut tax on insurance premium as many inputs including IRDAI comments awaited. "Some (Council) members said more discussions required. We (GoM) will meet in January again," Chaudhary told reporters

here. Besides, the report of the GoM on rate rationalisation, which had recommended tweaks in 148 items, was not tabled before the Council. The Group of Ministers (GoM) on insurance had recommended exempting insurance premiums paid for term life insurance policies from GST. Also premium paid by senior citizens towards health insurance cover has been proposed to be exempted from the tax. The GoM earlier this month had arrived at a consensus to hike tax on sin goods, like aerated beverages, cigarettes, tobacco and related products, to 35 per cent from the present 28 per cent. Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman said that States did not agree on bringing aviation turbine fuel under the ambit of Goods and Services Tax. "States did not feel comfortable. They didn't want the ATF because they saw it as part of the crude petroleum diesel basket, and therefore they said that it alone cannot be taken out, and therefore that continues to remain where it is today," she said. Currently, GST is a four-tier tax structure with slabs at 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent. Luxury and demerit goods are taxed at the highest bracket of 28 per cent, while packed food and essential items are at the lowest 5 per cent slab.

MCD's Heritage Cell organises lecture on Dara Shukoh at Town Hall

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Heritage Cell of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Saturday organised a lecture on Dara Shukoh at the historic Town Hall building in Chandni Chowk. On this occasion, MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar, Additional Commissioner Jitendra Yadav, Zonal Deputy Commissioner, other senior MCD officers, historians and a large number of dignitaries participated. Executive Engineer of MCD and historian Sanjeev Kumar Singh threw light on the life of Dara Shukoh. Singh also presented the journey of finding the grave of Dara Shukoh to the audience in a systematic manner. Before the lecture, Commissioner Ashwani Kumar inspected the historic Town Hall building. He reviewed the historical background of various parts of the Town Hall. He also



inspected the current condition of the building and felt the need for immediate repairs. He reiterated his commitment to preserve the heritage of the Town Hall. Kumar said the Town Hall building is an integral and important part of Delhi's history. He said preserving its rich heritage is a sign of a conscious society. He said MCD will make every possible effort to preserve its

historical heritage. Describing about the research to find Dara Sukoh's grave, Executive Engineer Sanjeev Singh offered insights as to the methodology adopted by him to find the tomb of Dara Sukoh definitively. He mentioned about study of an array of books and travelogues of Mughal era as well as cenotaph architecture which guided him further in his research.

Number of domestic migrants reduced...

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The paper used three high-frequency and granular data sets, Indian Railway Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) data on passenger volumes; mobile telephone subscribers roaming data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and district level banking data to understand the likely impact of migration at the places of origin. Using TRAI's mobile phone roaming data, the report finds that April-June is the high month for movement with November-December witnessing secondary highs. The report said the total number of passengers carried

by the Railways in 2023-24 stood at 6,843 Million. This includes 3,852 Million Suburban passengers and 2,991 Million non-Suburban passengers. Indian Railways defines suburban services as those being up to 150 Kms. A secondary high in winter time is perhaps indicative of travel around the festival/marriage season. January, on the other hand, appears to be the month of lowest travel, it said. As per Census 2011, just five states, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, together account for about 48 per cent of the total outbound migrants, which includes within-state migrants as well. Similarly, just five

states, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, together account for about 48 per cent of all incoming migrants. This includes within-state migrants as well. In the period from 1991 to 2001, the compounded annual growth rate of the number of migrants was 2.7 per cent. This increased to 3.7 per cent during 2001 to 2011. Interestingly, in the period from 1991 to 2001, India's workforce grew from 3.17 crore to 4.02 crore (an annual average growth of 2.6 per cent), whereas from 2001 to 2011, the workforce grew from 4.02 crore to 4.82 crore (an annual average growth of 1.99 per cent).

No more public inspection of poll...

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"All such material is available to candidates, including footage. After the amendment, too, it will be available to them. But other people can always approach the courts to get such electronic records," said another functionary. Candidates already have access to all documents and papers. Nothing has been amended in the rules in this regard, the functionary added. An EC official said the misuse of CCTV camera footage from inside polling booths could compromise voter secrecy. He also said the footage could be used to generate fake narrative using AI. There have been instances where such electronic records have been sought, citing the rules. The amendment ensures that only papers mentioned in the rules are available for public inspection and any other document

which has no reference in the rules is not allowed for public inspection." Punjab and Haryana High Court, in the recent Mahmood Pracha vs EC case, had directed sharing all documents related to the Haryana Assembly elections, including treating CCTV camera footage as permissible under Rule 93(2), with Pracha. The rule mentioned election papers. The election papers and documents do not specifically refer to electronic records, the EC functionaries said. In order to remove this ambiguity, the rule has been amended to safeguard the misuse of CCTV camera footage of polling stations, an EC official explained. Criticising the move, Ramesh said the party would legally challenge the amendment. "If there was ever a vindication of our assertions regarding the rapidly eroding integrity of the electoral process managed by the Election

Commission of India (ECI) in recent times, this is it," Ramesh said in a post on X. Sharing a December 20 notification, the Congress leader said, "This move of the ECI will be challenged legally right away." Ramesh said sunlight was the best disinfectant and information would restore faith in the process, a reasoning Punjab and Haryana High Court agreed with when it directed the ECI to share all information it was legally required to with the public. "Yet, the EC, instead of complying with the judgment, rushes to amend the law to curtail the list of what can be shared," he said. "Why is the ECI so afraid of transparency?" the Congress general secretary asked. Transparency and openness are key in exposing and eliminating corruption and unethical practices and information restores confidence in the process, Ramesh noted.

A royal takeover: Erstwhile princely estate of Bettiah...

From page 1

"With the publication of gazette notification of the 'Vesting of Bettiah Raj Properties Act-2024', now the Board of Revenue of the state government is framing rules of the Act which will be further approved by the state Cabinet", Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Revenue and Land Reforms department, Dipak Kumar Singh told PTI on Saturday. The Act has been passed with a view to ensure effective protection and management of Bettiah Raj land, said the ACS.

According to office of the Court of Wards, Bettiah Raj (authority which used to manage properties of the estate earlier), details of properties were submitted to the Secretary, Board of Revenue, on September 9, 2021, total land-15,358.60 acres, worth Rs 7957.38 Crore belonging to the concerned estate are in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. After taking over the possession of all land of Bettiah estate, the department concerned may allot these land to other wings of the state for several

infrastructural projects, sources said. A large chunk of land may be allotted to the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) for developing townships, malls and parks in West Champaran district, an official said on the condition of anonymity. "The property of Bettiah Raj situated within the state of Bihar and state of UP in course of time has been subjected to numerous litigations, encroachment, unauthorized occupation, etc. The properties once vested with the State Government

cannot be subject to any succession under any law and all ongoing disputes, suits or proceedings relating to succession pending before any court of law on the date of commencement of this act shall stand abated. "The Court of Wards, consequent upon vesting, shall hand over all the papers, documents, records, maps and all relevant information to the concerned Collector of the districts where the properties of Bettiah Raj are located", says the notified Act. All existing leases or the existing privileges upon the

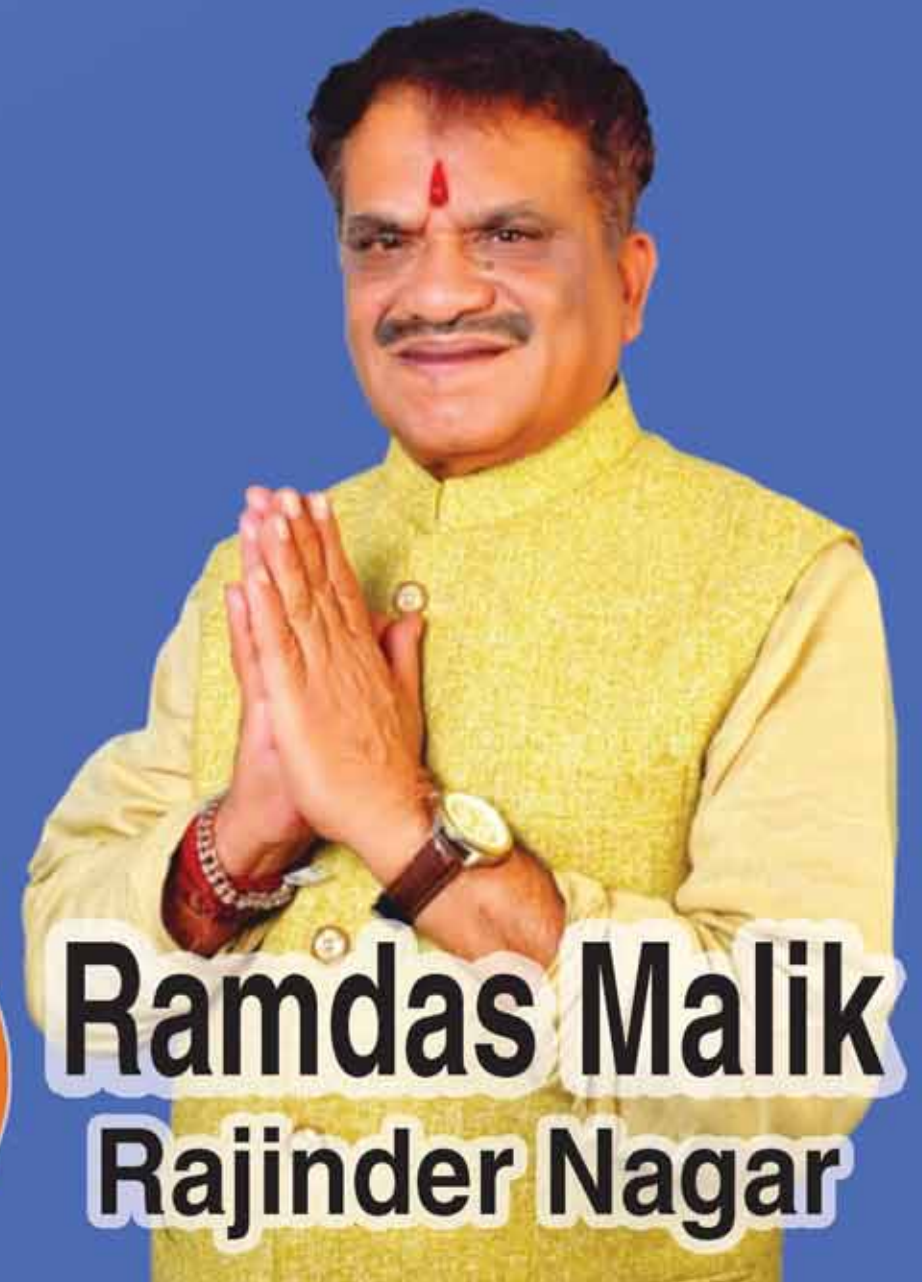
lands and properties of the Bettiah Raj Properties shall stand extinguished from the date of such notification, it said. All Bettiah Raj properties vested in the state under this act shall be free from all encumbrances and shall be exempt from attachment, seizure or sale. "All salami, rents, cess, royalties and revenues in respect of lands comprised in Bettiah properties or tenure on or after the date of vesting shall be payable to the state and any payment made otherwise shall not be binding on the state", it said.



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"It would be an opportunity to chalk out a roadmap for a futuristic partnership for the benefit of our people and the

region," he said.

"I eagerly look forward to meeting the Indian diaspora in Kuwait who have immensely contributed to strengthening of bonds of friendship between the two nations," he added.

Modi's engagements in Kuwait include a visit to an Indian labour camp, an interaction with the Indian

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

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

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

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

minister's visit.

"The historic visit by the prime minister is expected to open a new chapter in India-Kuwait bilateral relations," he said.

"It will not only consolidate the partnership in existing spheres but also unveil new avenues for future cooperation, reinforce our shared values and build a stronger and more dynamic partnership for the future," he added.

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

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

"I have the pleasure to appoint you, with immediate effect, as a member of the Internal Justice Council, in the capacity of chairperson, for a term ending on 12 November 2028," the communication dated December 19 said. "The members of the Council (in alphabetical order) are: Ms.

Carmen Artigas (Uruguay), distinguished external jurist nominated by staff; Ms. Rosalie Balkin (Australia), distinguished external jurist nominated by management; Mr. Stefan Brezina (Austria), staff representative; and Mr. Jay Pozenel (United States of America), management representative," it added.

The General Assembly of UN established the Internal Justice Council (IJC) as part of the new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the administration of justice system of the United Nations. The IJC is composed of five members consisting of a staff representative, a management representative and two distinguished external jurists, one nominated by the staff and one by management, and chaired by a distinguished jurist chosen by consensus by the four other members. The IJC members are appointed by the Secretary General. Born in 1953, Justice Lokur was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court on June 4, 2012.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

including its reform," the MEA said.

"Russia reiterated its support for India as a permanent member of a reformed UN Security Council," it said.

Tanmaya Lal, Secretary (West) in the MEA, led the Indian delegation at the JWG on Counter Terrorism (CT) cooperation and the consultations on UN related issues. The Russian side was headed by Sergey Vershinin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Representatives of respective departments and agencies from both sides also participated in the meetings. On December 19, Lal also held a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Galuzin and discussed current international and regional issues, especially the Ukraine conflict.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Strategists and business leaders from the defence and space sectors will converge here next month to share experiences and deliberate on new opportunities in the area that has emerged as a critical link in securing the country's borders.

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



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

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

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

With highlights like IndSpace Wargame 3.0, the conference will unite defence practitioners, industry leaders and international experts to simulate real-world space security challenges, showcasing the complexities of space operations and underscoring

India's readiness to navigate the evolving space domain, Pannu said.

Hosted by Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India), the event is supported by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, Defence Research and Development Organisation, NewSpace India Ltd, Astronautical Society of India, and Aeronautical Society of India and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) as a knowledge partner. The conference will feature a dedicated session on Harnessing Space Technologies for Comprehensive Homeland Security with senior officers from the Central Armed Police Forces, state police forces and paramilitary forces as participants.

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Transport & Helicopter) reviewed the parade as the Chief Guest of the event. The Chief Guest congratulated the 'Garuds' on their successful passing out.

While addressing the young commandos, he emphasised the significance of rigorous training and honing Special Forces skills to keep pace with the fast changing security scenario. He presented Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge and Special Forces Tabs to the successful 'Garud' trainees and gave away trophies to the awardees. The Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade is a moment of pride and achievement for the 'Garuds' marking the befitting culmination of an extremely demanding training schedule and their transformation into 'Young Special Forces Operators' joining the elite 'Garud' force and adding strength to the operational capability of IAF.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

A Bench of justices Vikram Nath and PB Varale said the length of separation and the evident animosity between husband and wife make it clear that there is no possibility of the marriage being revived. "Marriage is a relationship built on mutual trust, companionship, and shared experiences. When these essential elements are missing for an extended period, the marital bond becomes a mere legal formality devoid of any substance," the bench said. It added that the court has consistently held that prolonged separation, coupled with inability to reconcile, is a relevant factor in deciding matrimonial disputes.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

their relationship but also caused significant damage to his reputation and peace of mind," it said.

Justice Nath, who penned the verdict on behalf of the bench said, "In matrimonial disputes, this Court has emphasized the need to prioritize welfare and dignity of both parties. Forcing a marriage to continue when it has become a source of unhappiness and conflict undermines the very purpose of the institution of marriage."

The bench further said in the present case, the interests of both the parties are best served

by allowing both parties to move on with their lives independently.

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

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

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

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

husband and wife are software engineers and were earning handsomely at the time of their marriage more than two decades ago.

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

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

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

daughter for these purposes. This is in line with the principles of safeguarding the interests of children suffering under distress of such prolonged matrimonial disputes between the parents," it said.

Both parents share the duty of ensuring the daughter's well-being and future security, and this financial provision will contribute to fulfilling that duty, it said.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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



For forest cover specifically, Madhya Pradesh remains on

top (77,073 sq km), followed by Arunachal Pradesh

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

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

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

the country's geographical area.

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

This includes natural forests as well as man-made plantations, orchards and tree patches in urban and

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

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said the most positive finding of the report is that India has already created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes compared to 2005 levels. India's carbon stock in 2023 is estimated at 7,285.5 million tonnes, which is an increase of 81.5 million tonnes compared to 2021. The fast-growing South Asian country is estimated to have 31.71 billion tonnes

of carbon stock in forest and tree cover by 2030.

FSI Director General Anoop Singh said bamboo cover has also been estimated and included in the tree cover. India's total bamboo-bearing area is now estimated at 1,54,670 sq km, an increase of 5,227 sq km compared to 2021. When considering forest cover as a percentage of the geographical area, Lakshadweep ranks first (91.33 per cent), followed by Mizoram (85.34 per cent) and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62 per cent). The FSI also analysed forest cover changes in the Western Ghats and Eastern States Area (WGESA) over

the past decade and found an overall loss of 58.22 sq km in forest cover.

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

Mohan Bhagwat advocates education as a facilitator

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PUNE

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

The RSS chief, who was speaking after inaugurating LokSeva E School in Baner here on Friday, emphasised that education is not a business but a "vrat" (pledge) to create fine human beings. "The education system should act as a facilitator, not a barrier, to learning. It must serve as a tool to empower students rather than functioning solely as a regulator. The role of regulation in education should focus on streamlining processes and ensuring smooth functioning, rather than enforcing rigid 'dos and don'ts' that can stifle the experimental spirit among students," he said.

Hailing the National Education Policy (NEP), the RSS chief said it may have been introduced recently, but discussions to have such a kind of system have been underway for many years, adding that several schools have been imparting "value-based" education for long. The new education system will be implemented completely, and it will lead the country to the desired dream, he said.

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

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

Punjab municipal polls conclude amid allegations of fake voting



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

Counting of votes for the elections to five municipal corporations and 44 municipal councils and nagar panchayats in Punjab is underway, officials said on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

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

There were also reports of scuffles and heated exchanges between AAP and BJP supporters in Patiala. Among political leaders who exercised their franchise were BJP's Tarun Chugh, Congress MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Ludhiana MLA Ashok Prashar and Jalandhar Cantt MLA Pargat Singh.

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

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

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

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

"Nobody was stopping them. And who is responsible for it," asked a BJP supporter.

"Videography of polling is taking place," the SSP responded.

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

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

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

Even SAD claimed that its booth in Ward No. 15 in Patiala was vandalised. The BJP also sought

registration of an FIR against Mani Warring, brother of AAP MLA Garry Warring, and AAP supporters for alleged bogus voting in Ward No. 9 at Amlon in Fatehgarh Sahib.

The civic polls will be a litmus test for AAP, which would like its winning momentum to continue after securing victories in three of the four Assembly bypolls in November.

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

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

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



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Saini pays last respect to the mortal remains of former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala during his last rites at Teja Khera farmhouse, in Sirsa. PTI

Former Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala cremated with State honours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SIRSA

Former Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala was cremated on Saturday with full state honours in Teja Khera village in his native Sirsa district.

Chautala, who was a five-time chief minister, died in Gurugram on Friday. He was 89.

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

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

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

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

An INLD spokesperson said Chautala was rushed to a hospital after his health worsened on Friday.

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

The funeral pyre was lit amid chants of Vedic hymns by priests.

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

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

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

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

"Whenever I got the chance, I got his blessings," he said.

The vice president added that farmers' issues and development of villages was Chautala's priority.

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

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

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

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

various locations, attempting to block traffic at key intersections. Reports of unrest emerged from cities such as Sambhal, Kasganj, Rampur, and Saharanpur, among other parts of western Uttar Pradesh. The protests reflected the SP's sharp criticism of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of being "anti-Dalit."

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

would not have been the Home Minister today." They further criticized Shah's remarks, calling them undemocratic and unconstitutional. "The BJP must apologize for the Home Minister's comments," the SP stated. "Dr. Ambedkar is revered as God by backward communities, Dalits, and the underprivileged. His image is present in every village, where people worship him as a symbol of justice and empowerment."

Meanwhile, BSP Chief Mayawati took to social media

platform X (formerly Twitter) to denounce Shah's remarks. She announced plans for a nationwide protest on December 24, calling the comments deeply hurtful to the sentiments of millions who revere Ambedkar. "Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, is a God-like figure to Dalits, the deprived, and the neglected. Amit Shah's disrespectful remarks have caused immense pain to the people," Mayawati wrote. She demanded that Shah retract his statement and

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NOIDA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AGARTALA

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

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

"The police fought insurgency in the northeast for the past four decades. As insurgency has now ended, we need to change the approach of the force to ensure people get

justice within three years of lodging FIRs," he said.

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

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

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

The senior BJP leader also laid

emphasis on the upliftment of people in rural areas by promoting vegetable cultivation, production of milk, eggs and meat.

"Only a hike in the GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) is not enough for overall development. There is a need to attain self-sufficiency in vegetables, milk, eggs and meat," he said.

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

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

The home minister, however, said more efforts were needed to tackle narcotics smuggling in the region.

Earlier in the day, Shah inaugurated the 72nd plenary session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) at Prajna Bhavan here.

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

Three streams of Ganga unified to enhance bathing facilities for Mahakumbh



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

Over time, the Ganga had deviated into three distinct

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

In response, the Irrigation Department has restored the river's original flow into a unified, cohesive stream, thereby expanding the bathing area and simplifying logistical arrangements.

"This undertaking was complex but essential," remarked Anand. "It ensures an uninterrupted spiritual experience for pilgrims, enhancing their connection to the sacred waters."

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

The department utilized three large dredging machines

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

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

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

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

Meditation transcends all borders, leaders on 1st World Meditation Day at UN

AP ■ UNITED NATIONS

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

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

feel that the practice either has to be from some religion or it is not taught in their religion. He underscored that meditation "transcends all religions, all geographical boundaries and age groups so it is very, very useful in many, many ways."

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

Ukrainian drones strike deep into Russia

AP ■ KIVV

Ukraine brought the war into the heart of Russia Saturday morning with drone attacks that local authorities said damaged residential buildings in the city of Kazan from the front line.

that eight drones attacked the city. Six hit residential buildings, one hit an industrial facility and one was shot down over a river, the statement said.

halted at Kazan's airport and all mass gatherings cancelled on Saturday and Sunday. The attacks, which Ukraine didn't acknowledge in keeping with its security policy, comes after a Ukrainian attack Friday on a town in Russia's Kursk border region using U.S.-supplied missiles killed six people, including a child.

Saturday, Ukrainian officials said. According to Ukraine's Air Force, 57 drones were shot down during the attacks. A further 56 drones were "lost," likely having been electronically jammed.

Rocket fired from Yemen strikes Tel Aviv, 16 hurt

AP ■ TEL AVIV

The Israeli military says a rocket fired from Yemen hit an area of Tel Aviv overnight, leaving 16 people slightly injured by shattered glass from nearby windows.

rushed to shelters when air raid sirens sounded before the projectile hit just before 4 am Saturday, the military said. The attack comes less than two days after a series of Israeli airstrikes on Yemen's Houthi rebel-held capital, Sanaa, and port city of Hodeida killed at least nine

people. The Israeli strikes were in response to a Houthi attack in which a long-range missile hit an Israeli school building. The Houthis also claimed a drone strike targeting an unspecified military target in central Israel on Thursday.

Iran-backed Houthis have launched more than 200 missiles and drones during the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. The Houthis have also been attacking shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden — attacks they say won't stop until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

STORES E-PROCUREMENT E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/29/2024-25 Dated: 19-12-2024. SN.1. Tender No. 30/24/1317B/OT/242/2024-25 Closing/Opening date: 08-01-2025

CORRIGENDUM NO. 01 DATED: 19-12-2024 Corrigendum-01 for Tender Notice No.: KIR/Engg/48 of 2024, dated: 2-11-2024 (Item no.03) against the work-

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client, Smt. Chandrapur Kaur owner of the SECOND FLOOR, WITH ROOF RIGHTS, PROPERTY BEARING, PLOT NO. 1, AREA 100 SQ. YDS. MUSTATI NO. 11, KILLA NO. 7, 14, 17, AND 24, VILLAGE MATIALA, MANSA RAM PARK, NEW DELHI and Smt. Chandrapur Kaur purchase property from Smt. Kuldeep Kaur vide Notarized GPA, AT&S and will dated 08.09.1998 Now Smt. Chandrapur Kaur wants to sell aforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS CHANGE OF NAME I, Lata Devi W/o- No.6497045A

Form No.URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration Under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Amendment) Regulations, 2014)

PD(1123)C I, Pushpa W/o- JC-473162F N/S Sub Hemant Kumar Singh, R/o-Vill+Po- Semari Kalan, Teh-Tarabganj, Dist- Gonda, U.P.-271402, have changed my name from Pushpa to Pushpa Singh, vide affidavit dated 21/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1124)C I, Ramvati Mother of No.10136546X Hav Narendra Singh, R/o- Khudana Ka Bass, Khudana(41), Mahendragarh, Haryana- 123029, have changed my name from Ramvati to Ramrati, vide affidavit dated 21/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1125)C I, Prisha D/o Pranay Kumar R/o C-902, Aditya Mega City, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Prisha Kumar.

PD(1126)A I, Jagdish S/o Mohan Lal R/o House No. 200 Sector-04, Rewari-123401, Haryana, have changed my name to Jagdish Kumar Gaba for all future purposes.

PD(1127)A

E-AUCTION FOR ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT E-auction Catalogue for Advertisement Contract over Katihar Division. Details are as under: Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): 11:00 hrs. on 03-01-2025; Auction Close Date & Time: 11:50 hrs. on 03-01-2025; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Trips/Days: 1095.

PUBLIC NOTICE My clients Sh. Jai Prakash Bansal S/o Bhagwan Dass R/o A-39, R.S.T. Enclave, Johri Pur, North East Delhi-110094 have severed relations and debarred his wife Uma Bansal because his wife is not residing with him and his son and daughter Kanishk Bansal and Komal Bansal alongwith from their movable-immovable properties due to their misconduct. My clients will not be responsible for their any acts.

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Mrs. Neetu W/o Mr. Sunil owner of Residential House No. 353, with roof rights, area measuring 162 sq. yds. i.e. 135.44 sq. mtrs. situated at Antranik Abadi in the area of Village Pasipur, Pargana Dasra, Tehsil & District Ghazabad, U.P. through Registered Gift Deed dated 11.08.2023 executed by Mr. Sunil S/o Mr. Dharmvir in favour of Mrs. Neetu W/o Mr. Sunil vide Reg. No. 8367, at SR-IV GZB U.P. the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. If any person / bank / financial institution having any claim / right, ten, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/ Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Kankardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived.

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1. Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of sub-section 2(d) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made to the Registrar of Companies for the incorporation of SARAYU CIVILISATION FOUNDATION (A Section 8 company under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.

The principal objects of the company are as follows: To provide accessible, inclusive, and value-based education for all, with a special focus on the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. The trust will work towards establishing non-formal educational institutions, offering scholarships, vocational training, and digital learning resources. The aim is to empower individuals with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundations needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives. To preserve, promote, and revitalize the rich cultural heritage of India by supporting traditional art forms, literature, and indigenous knowledge systems. The trust will organize cultural programs, training workshops, and performances, particularly in classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam and Kathak, music, and other cultural practices. By fostering an appreciation for the arts and cultural history, the trust aims to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, ensuring cultural continuity for future generations. To extend assistance to the economically disadvantaged by providing basic necessities, and livelihood support. The trust will engage in poverty alleviation efforts through food distribution programs, housing support, and initiatives aimed at improving living conditions for the poor and needy. These efforts will contribute towards creating a more equitable and compassionate society. To conduct outreach programs to uplift underprivileged communities. Offer literacy and skill-development programs for rural or marginalized populations. To improve access to quality healthcare for underserved and economically weaker sections of society. The trust will organize free medical camps, provide financial support for essential medical treatments, and work towards promoting preventive healthcare. It will collaborate with healthcare professionals and institutions to offer affordable and sustainable healthcare services, focusing on both medical and mental health. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 9G, Vandana Building, 11 Toistoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Indra Devi who is purchasing the Second Floor South Facing, without roof rights, area measuring 75 Sq. Yards, Built up on Plot no. 117, out of Khastha No. 258, Situated in the village Nawada, Majra Hastal, Colony Known as Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 from Mr. Mahesh owner vide Notarized GPA dated 05.11.2012, Notarized AT&S dated 05.11.2012 & WILL dated 05.11.2012 Executed by Mr. Neeraj Kumar and same to be finance & mortgage by Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/ right/ title/ interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida. UP-201301 Contact No. 92263372

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Shamsher Singh and Mrs. Santosh Saini who are purchasing the Property bearing Plot No.06, Block-B, area measuring 200 sq.mtr, RO-01, Sector-35, Greater Noida, Gautam Budhi Nagar Uttar Pradesh from Mrs. Promila Rewari who became owner after the death of Mr. Satish Kumar Rewari vide Mutation Letter dated 13-07-2022 issued by GNDA and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. (1) Original Possession Letter dated 15-11-2007 issued by GNDA in favour of Mr. Satish Kumar Rewari & (2) Original Lease Deed dated 20-12-2005 (Document No.10724) executed by GNDA in favour of Mr. Satish Kumar Rewari are not available in the records. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/ interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida. UP-201301 Contact No. 92263372

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PUBLIC NOTICE Reg. Property Bearing No. K-40, Built on Plot of land measuring 29.26 sq.mtrs. i.e. 35 sq.yds. out of 116 sq.yds. falling in Khastha No. 569, Situated at Village-Ghonda Gujran Khadar, in the abadi of K-Block, Gangotri Vihar, West Ghonda, Delhi-110053 (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). Be it known to all that our client, Mrs. Mumtaz, Attorney of Mrs. Neeru Goyal (hereinafter called the "Attorney holder/Donor") intends to Gift the said property to Mr. Bhuvnesh Tiwari (hereinafter called the "Donee"). In this connection, the Attorney-holder/Donor has informed that she is the sole and absolute Attorney-holder in respect of the said property vide POA documents viz., GPA, AT&S and Will dated 06/10/2009 executed by Mrs. Neeru Goyal in her favour. The Attorney holder/Donor further informed that Mrs. Neeru Goyal owned the said plot of land measuring 116 sq.yds. vide POA documents viz., GPA, AT&S and Will dated 28/04/2008 executed by Mr. Brijesh Kumar in her favour. The Attorney holder/Donor has further informed that the said property is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property. Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the attorney-holder/Donor in respect of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clientless, in any manner whatsoever.

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PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Indra Devi who is purchasing the Second Floor South Facing, without roof rights, area measuring 75 Sq. Yards, Built up on Plot no. 117, out of Khastha No. 258, Situated in the village Nawada, Majra Hastal, Colony Known as Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 from Mr. Mahesh owner vide Notarized GPA dated 05.11.2012, Notarized AT&S dated 05.11.2012 & WILL dated 05.11.2012 Executed by Mr. Neeraj Kumar and same to be finance & mortgage by Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/ right/ title/ interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida. UP-201301 Contact No. 92263372

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Indra Devi who is purchasing the Second Floor South Facing, without roof rights, area measuring 75 Sq. Yards, Built up on Plot no. 117, out of Khastha No. 258, Situated in the village Nawada, Majra Hastal, Colony Known as Bhagwati Garden Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 from Mr. Mahesh owner vide Notarized GPA dated 05.11.2012, Notarized AT&S dated 05.11.2012 & WILL dated 05.11.2012 Executed by Mr. Neeraj Kumar and same to be finance & mortgage by Motilal Oswal Home Finance Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/ right/ title/ interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 14 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2, Noida. UP-201301 Contact No. 92263372

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Form No.URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration Under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Amendment) Regulations, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that, in pursuance of sub-section 2(d) of Section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made to the Registrar of Companies for the incorporation of SARAYU CIVILISATION FOUNDATION (A Section 8 company under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act, 2013, as a company limited by shares.

The principal objects of the company are as follows: To provide accessible, inclusive, and value-based education for all, with a special focus on the underprivileged and marginalized sections of society. The trust will work towards establishing non-formal educational institutions, offering scholarships, vocational training, and digital learning resources. The aim is to empower individuals with the knowledge, skills, and ethical foundations needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives. To preserve, promote, and revitalize the rich cultural heritage of India by supporting traditional art forms, literature, and indigenous knowledge systems. The trust will organize cultural programs, training workshops, and performances, particularly in classical dance forms like Bharatanatyam and Kathak, music, and other cultural practices. By fostering an appreciation for the arts and cultural history, the trust aims to bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, ensuring cultural continuity for future generations. To extend assistance to the economically disadvantaged by providing basic necessities, and livelihood support. The trust will engage in poverty alleviation efforts through food distribution programs, housing support, and initiatives aimed at improving living conditions for the poor and needy. These efforts will contribute towards creating a more equitable and compassionate society. To conduct outreach programs to uplift underprivileged communities. Offer literacy and skill-development programs for rural or marginalized populations. To improve access to quality healthcare for underserved and economically weaker sections of society. The trust will organize free medical camps, provide financial support for essential medical treatments, and work towards promoting preventive healthcare. It will collaborate with healthcare professionals and institutions to offer affordable and sustainable healthcare services, focusing on both medical and mental health. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at 9G, Vandana Building, 11 Toistoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001.

Pre-Bid Conference against Deputy Chief Engineer/Bridge-Line, Maligaon's E-Tender No. DCBL322024MLG & DCBL332024MLG vide E-Tender Notice No. DCBL/15/2024/MLG dated 18-12-2024 will be held on 23-12-2024 at 11.30 hrs. & 12.30 hrs. respectively. The Bidders are allowed to contact as per the follows:

Table with columns: SN, Name, Designation, Email-id, Contact No., Venue. Row 1: Aruj Kr. Sonowal, Sr. Axen/B/ Lumding, sonowalaruj@gmail.com, 9957550265, CBE/NFR office, CBE Building, NFR/HO Campus

All other terms and conditions as laid down in the Tender shall remain unchanged and will be followed as per Clause 17 of GCC-2022.

Dy. CE/Bridge-Line/Maligaon

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD DATIA, DIST DATIA (M.P.) (Severage Project of Datia) (FIRST CALL) Section-1 Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No. 3145 Online Lumpsum bid for the following AMRUT 2.0 works are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria: Tender No.- 2024_UAD_389828_1 Date: 16.12.2024

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

1. Interested Bidder can apply on website http://www.mptenders.gov.in and www.mpurban.gov.in

2. The Bid Document can be purchased only Online from 10:30 Hrs of 21.12.2024 to 17:30 Hrs of 24.01.2025

3. Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on web, and not in Newspaper.

Shanti Prashant Dhengula CMO President, Nagar Palika Parishad Datia Nagar Palika Parishad Datia

M.P. POWER GENERATING COMPANY LIMITED Superintending Engineer (P&W), Office of the Chief Engineer (Gen.) Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Station, Birsinghpur, Distt.-Umariya 484552 (M.P.) E-mail ID : sepnw.sgpls@mppgcl.mp.gov.in, Fax No. : 07655-260226 No. 511-0100/SGTPS/P&W/NE-NIT-32/4068 Birsinghpur, Date : 20.12.2024

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

M.P. POWER GENERATING CO. LTD. Invites Electronic tenders from manufacturer/reputed supplier/contractor, for the supply/works of following items for SGTPS, MPPGCL Birsinghpur.

Table with columns: Sl. No., MPPGCL No., Tender-ID, Particulars, Estimate (In Rs.), Tender Cost (In Rs.), E.M.D. (In Rs.), Last Date of Closing of Online Submission, Due Date of E-Tender Opening. Row 1: 2024_MPPGCL_378414_1, Procurement of Collecting Electrode for ESP installed at unit No. 1 & 2, 2 x 210 Mw of PH-I at SGTPS, MPPGCL, Birsinghpur. Row 2: 2024_MPPGCL_383939_1, Procurement of "Complete HP manual valves and motorize valves without actuator installed at boiler side of Unit 1 x 500MW unit at SGTPS, Birsinghpur. Row 3: 2024_MPPGCL_383917_1, "Procurement of Castable Refractory Whythead Grade(A) , Firecrete(P) & Plastic refractories" for boiler of Unit No. 1 to 5 of SGTPS, Birsinghpur.

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

M.P. Madhyam/117939 // 2024 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (P&W)

SAVE ELECTRICITY- SAVE POWER- SAVE MONEY //

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

FIFA's new super-sized tournament sparks revolt

AP ■ MANCHESTER

One of the most striking moments of soccer in 2024 was when Rodri hobbled onto a stage in Paris on crutches to receive the prestigious Ballon d'Or for best male player of the year. The Manchester City and Spain midfielder had been one of the most outspoken critics against the increasingly congested soccer calendar, warning that the lack of downtime was detrimental to players' performance and health. Then, just a month before the Oct. 28 award ceremony, he tore his ACL during a seemingly routine run in a Premier League game against Arsenal. Though such injuries have occurred throughout the history of the sport and aren't necessarily linked to overplaying, Rodri's season-ending injury became a visual representation of the physical toll of modern soccer at a time when the busy match schedule is facing legal challenges and the possibility of strike action.

Top footballers are now routinely playing more than 60 games per season for club and country, while the game is getting faster and more intense. Injuries are on the rise. Already pushed to their limits, some players say FIFA's newly expanded Club World Cup, to be held in the United States next year, is the last straw. Players say they are "at breaking point, that they are at the limit, that it's actually too much," Alexander Bielefeld, from global players' union FIFPRO, told The Associated Press. FIFA's new addition to the calendar. The new Club World Cup is a supersized version of what used to be a short tournament with only seven teams. The new edition includes 32 teams from around the world and will be held every four years, starting next summer in the United States from June 14 to July 13. As its name suggests, it's envisioned to be club version of the World Cup for national teams. That means top players will have a monthlong



tournament on top of their domestic league season three out of every four years. With more games also added to the Champions League in Europe this season as well as the next World Cup in 2026, the soccer calendar is filling up quickly. "It's something that worries us because we are the guys

who suffer," Rodri said in September, just days before he was injured. He said players may have no choice but to refuse to play if the trend continues. FIFPRO says a significant number of players routinely play 60-70 matches a season. The union's recommended limit is 55.

Last season Julian Alvarez played 75 games for former club Manchester City and Argentina in 10 different competitions spanning the Premier League, Champions League, Copa America and Olympics. The season before, Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes

played 70 times, including a run of 20 consecutive games. Injuries are a concern. The Men's European Football Injury Index, an annual report by global insurance broker Howden, found there were 4,123 injuries in the top divisions of England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France last season. It said the number of injuries had risen year-on-year since the index was first published in 2021 and that "it would be fair to expect a continuation of this upwards trajectory." Tony Strudwick, medical director for West Bromwich Albion and former head of performance for Manchester United, said injuries are on the rise despite advancements in sports science and medicine. "That to me looks like there's a mismatch between what the players can physically tolerate and what they've been exposed to," he told The AP. "During the last eight seasons, incidents of hamstring injuries, in particular, have increased." Strudwick said the risk of too many games was ultimately injury and burnout. But he

said players are unlikely to raise the issue with their clubs or national teams. "Players are very reluctant to say they don't want to play and they're very, very tired. It takes a relatively brave person to do that," he said. Manchester City played 61 games in the 2022-23 campaign when it won a trophy treble of the Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup. This season that number could rise to 71 because of an expanded group stage and potential playoff in the Champions League and the Club World Cup. A heavy workload is also an issue in women's soccer, FIFPRO said earlier this week, though it noted that while some top players have a packed schedule, others don't get to play enough. If successful, the Club World Cup could rival the Premier League and Champions League as one of the most lucrative and watched tournaments in club soccer. It has been backed by clubs and next year's event is set to feature many of the biggest names in the sport, including

Lionel Messi, Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Jr. Coming at the end of many leagues' regular season, FIFA said the dates would be "harmoniously aligned with the international match calendar" to ensure sufficient rest for players ahead of the start of domestic campaigns. The governing body has also set up a player welfare task force to be led by former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. FIFPRO, which says it represents more than 66,000 players around the world, is not convinced. In October, its European division teamed up with domestic leagues and filed a legal complaint in Europe against how FIFA adds new and bigger men's competitions to the calendar. FIFA hit back, noting that European clubs often fill their summer breaks with exhibition matches around the world. It accused some European leagues of acting with "hypocrisy, and without consideration to everyone else in the world."

1st Women ODI: In-form India hold all aces against WI

PTI ■ VADODARA

India will be eager to exploit their recent form and a historical advantage to subdue the West Indies in the three-match Women ODI series, beginning here with the first contest on Sunday. India notched up their first home T20I series win in over five years with a 2-1 victory over the Caribbeans in Mumbai earlier this week. Dating back to 2017, India also hold a significant 4-1 head-to-head lead over the Windies in ODIs. The lone worry for India will be the fitness of regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who missed the last two T20Is with a knee niggle. Smriti Mandhana led India in Harmanpreet's absence and she made a strong impression too in the T20Is, striking three fifties in a row. The graceful left-hander will be keen to continue in the same vein in the one-dayers as well. Her form in the last 10 ODIs is outstanding, scoring 599 runs at an average of 60 while striking at 98.



But India's batting has more depth to it beyond these two seasoned players. Jemimah Rodrigues has shown signs of returning to her run-making ways, and Richa Ghosh showed her ability to rip apart a bowling unit with a breezy fifty in the third T20I. The addition of Tejal

Hasabnis and Harleen Deol will add some more meat to the middle-order. India's bowling unit has a fine blend of youth and experience and they could be a handy force in the newly-constructed Kotambi Stadium here, which is hosting its first international match.

The likes of Deepti Sharma, who has taken 15 wickets in her last 10 matches, Renuka Singh and Saima Thakor can rattle the West Indies on an unfamiliar pitch. India will also have the option of fielding the impressive young pacer Titas Sadhu here. West Indies' biggest hopes

to counter a strong Indian bowling unit will be skipper Hayley Matthews and veterans Deandra Dottin and Shemaine Campbelle. Matthews' seven matches this season have produced 308 runs at an average of 45. But the visiting bowlers will have to raise their game several notches to stop a strong Indian batting line-up. Squads (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (C), Smriti Mandhana (VC), Pratikha Rawal, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Renuka Singh Thakur. West Indies: Hayley Matthews (c), Shemaine Campbelle (vc), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Nerissa Crafton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Shabika Gajani, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Rashada Williams.

Ashwin's wife pens heartfelt tribute after his sudden retirement

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India's ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin's wife Prithi Narayanan has penned a heartfelt tribute for her husband following his recent retirement from the game, saying "it is time to set the burden of being you down" and embrace life beyond the game. Ashwin made a surprise announcement of his retirement after the drawn third Test at Brisbane. The veteran cricketer picked up just one wicket during the tour, including the 10-wicket loss at Adelaide. The 38-year-old retired with a stellar record of 537 Test wickets at an average of 24, in addition to scoring 3,503 runs, including six centuries. He also claimed 156 wickets in ODIs and 72 in T20Is. Describing her tribute as a "Love letter from a fan girl", Prithi wrote on Instagram: "Dear Ashwin, from not knowing how to put a kit bag together to following you to stadiums all over the world,



rooting for you, watching you and learning from you, it has been an absolute pleasure. The world you introduced me to gave me the privilege to watch and enjoy a sport that I love from close quarters. "It also showed me how much passion, hardwork and discipline is needed to keep your head above water. And sometimes even that is not enough. I remember us talking about why you, R Ashwin, had to do all of this and a lot more to even stay relevant in the scheme of things." Ashwin, who debuted in 2011 against the West Indies,

earned a reputation for his relentless pursuit of excellence. His near-equal tally of 269 wickets against right-handers and 268 against left-handers highlights his versatility. "How awards, the best of stats, the POMs, the accolades, the records didn't matter if you didn't sharpen your skill sets constantly and did not put in the work. Sometimes, nothing is enough," Prithi continued. "As you end your wonderful international run, I only want to tell you that it's all good. It is all going to be good. It is time to set the burden of being you down. Live life on your terms, make space for those extra calories, make time for your family, make time to do absolutely nothing, share memes all day, create a new bowling variation, bug our kids out of their minds. Just do it all." Prithi, who has been a constant companion on Ashwin's cricketing journey, reflected on his meticulous approach to his craft.

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

AP ■ MUNICH

Bayern Munich crushed Leipzig 5-1 and they broke a long-standing Bundesliga record for quickfire goals. Two teams had never scored in the opening two minutes of a Bundesliga match until Jamal Musiala gave Bayern the lead after 28 seconds and Benjamin Šeško equalised barely 60 seconds later on Friday. The pace slowed after that frenetic start but not for long. Konrad Laimer put Bayern ahead against his old club in the 25th. Michael Olise found space on the right side and Laimer gave Péter Gulácsi no chance with a crisp volley. Nine minutes later, Joshua Kimmich lashed home from almost 30 meters to make it 3-1. Leroy Sané added the fourth with 15 minutes remaining



and Alphonso Davies got his first league goal of the season to complete the rout three minutes later. Harry Kane returned and looked rusty after missing two games with a hamstring injury but played 87 minutes of a match that helped Bayern get back on track after a rocky run.

After winning eight games in a row from late October to late November, the Bavarian giant lost two and drew one of its next five, including a 2-1 defeat to Mainz last week, its first loss in the Bundesliga. Friday's result bumped its lead over titleholder Bayer Leverkusen to seven points.

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

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Travis Head's ability to judge the short ball quite early is behind the Australian batter's phenomenal success in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar series, feels former India cricketer Ravi Shastri, while adding on a lighter note that the visitors would like to have a balm for the 'Headache'. Head, after being dismissed for 11 in his first innings of the series, has gone on to score 89, 140 and 152 in his next three outings. He played a pivotal role in the pink ball Test that Australia won by 10 wickets to level the five-match series 1-1. "I think he (Head) is very smart. From what I saw of him three years ago, he has improved immensely. Especially with the way he plays the short ball. He's prepared to leave it. He has learned to leave it well at



times," Shastri said on the ICC Review. The former India coach added that Head's ability to judge the delivery's line and length quickly gives him time to play the right stroke. "It's not a big shot all the time off a short delivery

said when on song, Head is difficult to stop. "He picks up length very well. That's one of his great strengths. And he has a flashing blade for the offside. So he's a hard man to contain. And he's in the form of his life." On a lighter note, Shastri said India are looking for a balm for a 'headache' called Travis. "Because his new surname is Travis Head'ache'," Shastri said. "They are looking for balms in India. For foot problems, ankle problems (and) even a headache they are looking for a balm. He is ideal for that." While Jasprit Bumrah has troubled virtually every Australian batter, Head has been an exception, playing the Indian quick with elan. Even as other Australian batters have struggled against Bumrah, who has 21 wickets at an average of 10.9 in the series, Head has scored 83 runs off 91 balls.

"We all knew he was dangerous, but that first shot he played off Jasprit Bumrah, that cover drive, off the front foot. It was in many ways a little bit on the up, off a good delivery, decent delivery. It told me that this is a player in prime, prime form," said Shastri. The cricketer-turned-commentator said Head's batting prowess gave an insight into his uncluttered mind. "He went on to show exactly that (clear mind). And the thing with him is there's no, his mindset is very clear. There's no clouded mindset. He's very clear about the situation. This is my strength. "I am going to play in that fashion. Yes, I will watch the state of the game. I might shift from fourth gear to third gear. But I will always be in third and fourth gear once I get my eye on," Shastri added.

I've got a few plans against Indian bowlers, claims Sam Konstas

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Young Australian opener Sam Konstas cannot wait to take on the Indian bowlers in the Boxing Day Test and says he already has a "few plans" for Jasprit Bumrah and Co if he gets the nod in the fourth game of the Border-Gavaskar series here. "I'm just going to react to the ball and show a bit of intent and put a bit of pressure back on the bowlers," he added. If Konstas, who turned 19 on October 2, is selected in the playing XI for the Boxing Day Test, he would become Australia's youngest Test debutant since captain

Australian top-order in the first three Tests, especially McSweeney. "I've got a few plans against those (Indian) bowlers. Feeling like I'm moving really nice and hopefully I get that opportunity," Konstas told Fox Cricket. "I'm just going to react to the ball and show a bit of intent and put a bit of pressure back on the bowlers," he added. If Konstas, who turned 19 on October 2, is selected in the playing XI for the Boxing Day Test, he would become Australia's youngest Test debutant since captain



Pat Cummins, who was 18 years and 193 days old when he made his debut against South Africa in Johannesburg in 2011. "It will be a huge honour debuting. A dream come true. I think it's a sellout already (at the MCG)," he said. "I'm very excited (to take on India). I want to be challenged." Konstas was in the nets when Australian chairman of selectors George Bailey called him to break the news of his inclusion for the final two Tests. "I was so thrilled. Called my parents straight away..."

Mum was in tears so I was telling her not to cry. Dad was super proud. "It's been an amazing journey. All the ups and down - very grateful for their sacrifices. They've been great support to me." Konstas said McSweeney, the player he replaced in the squad, had congratulated him after hearing the news of his inclusion. "Nathan McSweeney is a very good player in all three formats - he actually congratulated me this morning so we're very close mates. I wish him all the best." McSweeney has admitted to

feeling "devastated" after being dropped for the last two Tests of the BGT Tests but vowed to work hard to reclaim his spot in the national team. Konstas cannot recall when he started playing cricket but admitted his father had played a huge role in his success in the sport. "I think from memory (I started playing) maybe four or five years old. Dad would always train me with my older brother Billy and Johnny my twin. "He's retired now my dad. I think I've hurt his shoulder!" said Konstas.



EMBRACING THE MAGIC OF URDU

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

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

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

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

The opening evening saw the mesmerising Sufi performance by the ever-graceful Padma Shri Kailash Kher and his Kailasa band, setting the mood for an emotional journey through music and words. But the magic of Jashn-e-Rekhta didn't stop there. The second day of the festival paid tribute to the legendary poet Sahir Ludhianvi. Performances by the Qutbi Brothers and the stirring Dastangoi session by Himanshu Bajpayee and Pragna Sharma were particularly notable. Their narratives made the audience reminisce about the timelessness of Urdu poetry, while the theatrical production Jaun Elia ka Jinn brought forth the intensity and passion that marked the poet's life. Javed Akhtar's book launch of Kyon: Jaun Elia's Unpublished Poetry and Sanjiv Saraf's Wayward Verses led to a deeper understanding of how Urdu continues to shape the contemporary cultural landscape. As the final act, Papon's soul-



stirring performance brought the festival to a close.

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



presented by Javed Akhtar. One of the most delightful aspects of Jashn-e-Rekhta was the Rekhta Pavilion. From the Rekhta Food Festival - Aiwane-Zaiqa, which showcased the subcontinent's culinary delights, to the Rekhta Bazaar and Books Bazaar, which made Urdu's literary treasures accessible

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

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

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

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

The crisp, wintry evening at the Embassy of Finland set the perfect stage for the global premiere of All I Want for Christmas, a travel documentary produced by Travelxp and helmed by the nationally acclaimed, award-winning filmmaker Kamakhya Narayan Singh.

With its runtime of 42 minutes, the documentary masterfully captures the alluring spirit of Christmas while imparting a moving message of hope and resilience to its audience.

As the holiday season approaches, bringing with it the warmth of togetherness and the joy of celebrations, All I Want for Christmas unfolds as a story that goes beyond festivities, offering a poignant glimpse into the human spirit. This magical narrative was born out of the idea that travel, much like festivals, symbolises happiness, connection, and the celebration of life itself. When global events stir emotions and challenge our perspectives, it becomes essential to remind ourselves of the joy and wonder that still exist in the world. With this thought in mind, the makers brainstormed countless ideas before settling on the heart warming journey of a mother and daughter travelling to Finland's Lapland, the land of Santa Claus and snow-covered dreams.

The documentary chronicles the story of Anastasia, a young Ukrainian refugee, and her mother, who embarks on this journey to rekindle the happiness that seemed lost amidst the chaos of displacement. Their trip to Finland's Lapland, a breathtaking winter wonderland, turns out to be more than just a holiday. It becomes a journey of healing



Global Premiere of Hope and Joy

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



and resilience. From exhilarating dog sledding adventures through pristine snow-laden landscapes to the daring experience of swimming in the icy waters of Kemi, every moment captured in the film speaks to the enduring strength of the human spirit. The ultimate highlight, of course, is the magical moment when Anastasia meets Santa Claus himself, bringing to life the dreams of countless children. Director Kamakhya Narayan Singh, reflecting on his unique experience, shared with The Pioneer the challenges of filming in Finland's harsh winters with temperatures plunging to -18°C and only 2-3 hours of daylight. Despite these obstacles, Kamakhya's determination to bring this story to life remained unwavering.

Adding another layer of complexity was the fact that the documentary was originally shot in Russian, a first in a different language for the filmmaker. Yet, the ethereal beauty of Finland's snowy landscapes, the joyful presence of Santa, and the thrill of sledding through its magical terrains make All I Want for Christmas a visual treat that promises to leave viewers enchanted. Collaboratively organised by the embassies of Finland, Ukraine, and Norway, along with SIFFCY and the Smile Foundation, the premiere evening was not just a celebration of cinematic artistry but also a reminder of the universal message of hope and joy that Christmas brings to all. Whether it's the sparkling snowflakes or the heartwarming story of love and resilience, All I Want for Christmas will fill your heart with holiday cheer and would inspire you to believe in the magic of the season.

EXPECTATIONS AND STORYLINE MISMATCHED

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

Playing the coffee angle yet again in the opening of Season 3, the new season of Mismatched, currently airing on the OTT platform Netflix has yet managed to keep the audience gripped but to some extent only.

The series continues the journey of Rishi played by Rohit Saraf and Dimple acted by Prajakta Koli as they walk through the complexities of a long-distance relationship, new professional challenges, and personal growth. The season takes you into themes such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and personal loss, reflecting the evolving digital landscape and its impact on relationships, basically keeping up with tech from the first season.

The makers have tried to keep season 3 distinguished from the other seasons but have failed to do so because of the same story and absence of the needed spark and twist.

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

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

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



soothing to the and has been collectively loved by the audience. To conclude, the review "Mismatched" Season 3 explores contemporary themes relevant to young adults, but opinions differ on its execution and character progression. There could have been addition of twists and turns apart from pass away of Dimple's father to give it an emotional angle. If you are a mismatched fan you may appreciate the continuation of the story, while others might find it lacking in depth and innovation.

Rating: 3/5

Get in touch at vivacity@dailypioneer.com

the pioneer agenda

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



LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT



AT BEEYOUNG BREWGARDEN



BeeYoung Brewgarden ushered in the festive season with its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which drew an enthusiastic crowd who gathered to celebrate the magic of Christmas in the brewpub's signature European-style ambiance. The evening's highlight was the countdown to the illumination of a stunning Christmas tree adorned with twinkling lights and elegant decorations, marking the official start of the holiday season at BeeYoung Brewgarden. There was a selection of bite-sized festive treats, signature holiday cocktails, and BeeYoung's renowned craft brews delighted the attendees, enhancing the celebratory atmosphere. The evening concluded with a heartfelt toast to the spirit of togetherness.

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

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



nostalgia, and spiritual reflection. These timeless tunes, sung in homes, churches and streets, unite communities in celebration. Over time, these melodies became synonymous with Christmas, expressing devotion and cheer. From sacred hymns like "O Holy Night" and "Silent Night" to lively tunes such as "Deck the Halls" and "Jingle Bells," carols range from reverent celebrations of Christ's birth to jubilant expressions of festive cheer. Christmas is also about the excitement of children, their eager anticipation and the magic of Santa Claus. Every Christmas Eve, children hang their stockings with wishes, hoping that Santa will fulfil them. Santa Claus, with his jolly face, white beard, and red suit, stands as a global symbol of Christmas

magic. This beloved figure, transcending cultures, embodies joy and the spirit of giving. His story traces back to Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian bishop known for his acts of kindness and secret gift-giving. Over time, his legend evolved into the modern image of a merry, bearded man delivering gifts on Christmas Eve, riding a sleigh pulled by reindeer. Santa's presence in Christmas celebrations is symbolic of the spirit of giving, teaching children the joy of kindness and the magic of believing in something greater than themselves. Christmas decorations are more than just festive embellishments; they are heartfelt expressions of love and joy. From the glimmer of tinsel to the soft glow of fairy lights, these adornments transform homes and public spaces into magical places. The traditional colours of Christmas: pine green, snow white, and vibrant red symbolise life, purity and warmth. When it comes to the Christmas table, one can't forget the classic Christmas cake. Rich with dried fruits, nuts, and spices, it represents the flavours of the season, often soaked in brandy or rum and matured for weeks before being served. Alongside this, candies which are especially the iconic candy canes add sweetness to the season. Many homes also offer platters of colourful, homemade candies, each bringing its festive joy to the celebrations. *Wishing you all merrier than before, A Merry Christmas!*



AT CROWNE PLAZA MAYUR VIHAR

Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar showcased *Charkha: The Loom Tree*, a breathtaking 10-foot Christmas installation made entirely of Khadi, crafted in partnership with Vikara, a Khadi India initiative. This innovative display celebrated the essence of sustainability, self-reliance, and empowerment. It was created by women artisans trained in traditional weaving, the tree featured natural dyes and zero-waste decorations made from upcycled fabrics and pearls. The installation paid homage to Gandhian principles and the Swadeshi Movement, blending artistry with ecological responsibility. Through its vibrant colours and handcrafted ornaments, *Charkha: The Loom Tree* served as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of conscious actions and a greener future.

AT SHANGRI-LA EROS NEW DELHI



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





UNWRAPPING FESTIVE FLAVOURS

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



FACTSHEET
Address: Lower Ground Floor, The Chanakya Mall, Chanakya Park, Delhi-110021
Available: Throughout December
Timings: 12:00 pm to 1:00 am
Cost for two: ₹3,000 + taxes



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

delightful combination of plant-based meat, a medley of seasonal vegetables, and velvety potato, it's like wrapping yourself in a warm blanket on a chilly winter day. The garden-fresh salad on the side adds a refreshing crunch, making it a well-rounded dish. Another standout is the *Wild Mushroom Wellington*. Encased in flaky filo pastry, the shimeji mushrooms are earthy and rich, while the mushroom jus and wilted kale bring depth and balance. It's the kind of dish that feels festive and hearty, perfect for the season. For those craving non-vegetarian options, the menu pulls out all the stops. The *Ballotine de Poulet*, with tender chicken and a creamy mousse,

is elevated by the sweet-tart cranberry sauce. The *Confit Duck Leg* with Pomegranate Jus feels indulgent and festive, while the *Lamb Ossobuco* and *Lobster Thermidor* add a luxurious touch to the Christmas spread. Each dish is presented with elegance, making every bite feel like a celebration. The dessert menu is where the magic really comes alive. The *Bûche de Noël*, a mini yule log filled with chocolate truffle, is not just a treat for the taste buds but also a nod to the traditional Christmas spirit. As you slice into it, the rich, velvety truffle filling and the soft, chocolatey sponge make you pause and soak in the moment. Paired with

playful chocolate mushrooms and fresh berries, it feels like a whimsical Christmas story on a plate. If there's one dessert that can instantly make you feel like a kid on Christmas morning, this is it. Other desserts, like the *Sticky Date Pudding* with whiskey-laced brown butter toffee sauce and the *Old Fashioned Apple Crumble Pie*, deliver classic holiday flavours with a creative twist. The drinks menu is equally festive and brimming with seasonal charm. The *Winter Wonderland*, with its blend of gin, German liqueur, pineapple, oregano, and fresh strawberries, feels bright and refreshing. The *Christmas Cheer*, a mix of whiskey, pineapple,

cinnamon, and a touch of citrus Tabasco sauce, is warm and inviting, like sitting by a crackling fire. And then there's the *Lavender Snowflake*, with lavender vodka, thyme syrup, and a soft lavender foam, offering a calming and fragrant finish. Dining at MKT feels like celebrating Christmas in every sense. From the warm lights to the cheerful music and the thoughtfully crafted menu, it's a place where the festive spirit comes alive. Whether you're sharing stories over a hearty pie or raising a toast with a lavender foam-topped cocktail, every moment feels wrapped in holiday cheer. It truly makes Christmas taste and feel magical.



In collaboration with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iran Culture House, and the CD Foundation, Eros Hotel New Delhi played host to the *Iranian Food Festival*. This week-long culinary celebration brought the flavours and traditions of Iranian cuisine to the heart of the capital, creating a unique experience that highlighted the exchange of culture between India and Iran. The festival showcased an authentic menu crafted by master Iranian chefs, presenting a journey of Iran's rich culinary heritage. Signature dishes such as *Ash Reshteh* which is a hearty noodle soup with chickpeas and beans, *Gheimeh* - a lamb stew infused with split chickpeas and cinnamon, and *Berry Pulao* - saffron rice with tart berries graced the menu. Chef Diwas Wadhera, Executive Chef of Eros Hotel, described Iranian cuisine as "young, subtle, and simple compared to Indian cuisine, which is often complex and rich with multiple spices."

PLATES THAT TELEPORT TO IRAN

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



The menu's diverse offerings also included vegetarian favourites like *Kuku Sabzi* which is a medley of fresh greens and *Mirza Ghasemi* - a brinjal-based dish. Explaining brinjal's prominence in Iranian cuisine, Chef Wadhera remarked, "Brinjal is a favourite ingredient. They use it as a garnish, main ingredient, and even as an accompaniment." A highlight of the festival was the *Indo-Iranian Cultural Show* which featured mesmerising performances celebrating the shared cultural ties between the two nations. This event culminated in a grand gala dinner, where representatives from the Iranian Embassy and Iran Culture House felicitated participants of the Iranian Food Competition. A food competition also brought together top chefs from both countries to showcase their culinary talents. Judged by an esteemed panel, including Mr Kazem Samandari, Chef Mostafa Taheripour Isfahani, and Chef Diwas Wadhera, the competition crowned Chef Neda Tavakoli. Indian chefs also shone, with Hem Chandra Arya securing the first runner-up position and Chef Bharat Khemani the second runner-up. The festival's ambiance transported diners straight to Iran at the Blooms Restaurant. Chef Wadhera added, "Despite language barriers, collaborating with Iranian chefs was seamless. Together, we breathed new life into traditional recipes, blending authenticity with a contemporary flair." He further added that saffron (kesar) played an important role in this cuisine and was not missed. Also, the Iranian rice, which you will taste in the pulao, uses pomegranate and plum paste. The *Iranian Food Festival* was a celebration of cultural heritage and culinary artistry between the two nations.

Winter Wonderland



Café Delhi Heights, a refuge for discriminating palates, have begun serving their winter menu that truly celebrates the season. With celebrating the warmth, comfort, and indulgence, the menu features a delectable selection of foods and beverages that will tantalise the senses and warm your soul. Café Delhi Heights is a cosy hideaway vibe from the moment you walk into the cafe. Apart from the offering of the menu, the winter meal at the cafe is a culinary wonder with dessert dishes for the winter lovers. The *Chocolate Bomb*, in variants of hot chocolate and *Marshmallow Chocolate Ball*, with a mouth watering display of molten chocolate in that cosy environment. You have a *Red Velvet Baby Croissant*, with a delicate layer of pastry or Dollop of Cream Cheese or Chocolate filled looking appealing to the eyes giving a Christmas Winter feel with its red colour. The addition to the above is the *Four Cheese Fondue*, a sumptuous treat served with a variety of exquisite dips. For those looking for a more savoury choice, the *Bagel Sandwich*, which comes with either crumbled chicken or exotic vegetables, is a soothing and fulfilling nibble to try at the Café Delhi Heights. The *Moong Daal Crumble Tart* is appealing where tart meets tradition, with a beautiful combination of flavours and textures. From comforting classics to decadent desserts, every bite promises to make your chilly days cosier and more delight. The hallmark of the winter menu would have to be the *Chocolate Fondue*, plated aesthetically by the Café Delhi Heights. The *Chocolate Fondue* comes to you with a chocolate dipping sauce to be taken with strawberries, marshmallows and muffins.

FACTSHEET
Availability of Winter Menu: 1st December to 10th January
Visit your nearest Café Delhi Heights outlet

Savour the Spirit of Christmas!

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

YULE LOG

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

Ingredients Sponge Cake: 4 large eggs (separated); 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar; 1/3 cup (40g) flour; 1/4 cup (50g) cocoa; 1/4 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
Filling: 1 cup (240ml) heavy whipping cream; 2 tbsp powdered sugar; 1 tsp vanilla extract
Chocolate Ganache: 1 cup (170g) dark chocolate; 1/2 cup (120ml) heavy cream
Instructions: Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C); line a 10x15-inch pan with parchment. Beat yolks with sugar until



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

sugar-dusted towel, peeling parchment. Roll cake with towel; cool completely.
Prepare filling: Whip cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until stiff. Unroll the cake, spread filling evenly, and re-roll.
Make ganache: Heat cream until steaming; pour over chocolate. Stir until smooth and let cool slightly before spreading over the cake.
Decorate with powdered sugar, berries, and meringue mushrooms for a festive finish. Refrigerate before serving

FESTIVE CIRCUS & HERB ROASTED TURKEY

AVRAJ SINGH MARWA, Corporate Executive Chef - Sarova Hotels

Ingredients: 1 whole turkey (about 6-7 kg); 100g unsalted butter, softened; 2 oranges, 2 lemons, zested and juiced; 4 cloves garlic, minced; 2 tsp fresh rosemary, 2 tsp fresh thyme, 2 tsp fresh sage, chopped; Salt and pepper to taste
Stuffing: 1 large onion, 2 celery stalks, chopped; 2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped; 200g breadcrumbs; 100g dried cranberries; 100g chopped walnuts; 1 egg, beaten; 100ml chicken stock; 1 tsp dried sage; 1 tsp dried thyme; Salt and pepper to taste
Gravy: Pan drippings from the turkey; 2 tbsp plain flour; 500ml chicken stock; Salt and pepper to taste
Method: Prepare the Turkey. Preheat oven to 180°C (356°F) In a bowl, mix the softened butter with the orange and lemon zest, minced garlic, and chopped herbs. Season with salt and pepper. Carefully loosen the skin of the



turkey breast and rub the citrus-herb butter mixture under the skin and all over the turkey.
Make the Stuffing: Combine onion, celery, apples, breadcrumbs, cranberries, and pepper. Stuff turkey cavity.
Roast the Turkey: Place turkey on a rack in a pan. Pour citrus juice over. Roast it in the preheated oven for 3.5-4 hours or until the internal temperature reaches 75°C (165°F) and baste occasionally with the pan juices. Rest 20 minutes after cooking.
Make the Gravy: Pour the pan drippings into a saucepan, skim off excess fat, and whisk in the flour. Cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes, then add the chicken stock, whisking continuously. Season with salt and pepper. **Serve:** Carve the turkey and serve with the stuffing and gravy.

GINGERBREAD COOKIE SANDWICH

CHEF ADITI DIXIT, CYK Hospitalitys

Ingredients for cookies: Flour - 250gms, Brown Sugar - 180gms, Salted Butter - 150gms (soft), Honey - 20gms, Clove powder - 3gms, Cinnamon powder - 10gms, Nutmeg powder - 5gms, Ginger powder - 12gms, Baking soda - 5gms, Egg - 1 (whole), Vanilla Essence - 8ml
Ingredients for fillings: Whipping cream - 100gms, Powdered sugar - 50gms, Orange zest - 10gms, Clove powder - 2gms, Cinnamon powder - 5gms, Salt - 3gms, Ginger powder - 5gms
Instructions: Preheat oven: 160°C. Cream butter and sugar until smooth, then whisk in honey, egg, and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients (flour, spices, baking soda) and fold into the mixture. Chill dough for 15 minutes. Portion dough onto a baking tray (yields ~16-17 cookies). Bake for 11-12 minutes until tops crack and lightly brown. Cool completely. Whip cream with sugar to stiff peaks. Fold in spices and zest. Sandwich two cookies with cream, dust with icing sugar, and serve.





A Paw-some Celebration of Pet Love

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



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

Pet Fed 2024, an annual highlight for pet lovers, buzzed with energy from start to finish. The venue was transformed into a world of fun, excitement and admiration for animals. Pets strutted around in custom outfits, many of them dressed as if for a Christmas getaway, complete with Santa hats and reindeer antlers. It was a sight to behold as dogs like *Bella, Leo, Goofy, Sheeru* and *Noddy* pranced by, each one adding its own personality to the event. The joy and love shared between the pets and their owners was evident, making it impossible not to smile. Inside the venue, the atmosphere was lively, filled with laughter as people chatted, took photos and enjoyed the moment with their pets. The hall was a runway of fashionable dogs, each outfit designed to showcase the personalities of the pets and their owners. It felt like a holiday celebration where pets were treated with the love and attention they deserve. However, *Pet Fed 2024* was about celebrating the deep bond between pets and their families. The festival featured masterclasses on pet health, nutrition and grooming, offering valuable advice for pet parents. These sessions helped owners ensure the best care for their furry companions. The event also included dedicated play areas and agility rings for dogs and cats to exercise and show off their skills. The agility ring, in particular, was a hit, with pets darting through obstacles and jumping with excitement, providing a thrilling

experience for both pets and their parents. One of the standout segments of the festival was *Catapalooza*, an event organised in association with the *Cat Club of India*, designed specifically for cats. This segment celebrated all cat breeds and included fun activities and competitions. Cats and their owners participated in games, with participants vying for trophies and certificates. It was a joyous experience for everyone involved, showcasing the fun side of feline companionship. The festival also placed a strong emphasis on pet adoption. Adoption camps were set up to encourage families to adopt rather than shop, in line with the *#AdoptDontShop*

mantra. The festival partnered with NGOs to find loving homes for animals in need and it was heartwarming to see so many pets finding their forever homes. Several adoption stories unfolded during the event, highlighting the festival’s commitment to making a difference in the lives of animals. For those seeking some friendly competition, *Pet Fed* offered engaging contests and activities. The *Official Pet Fed Premier League Award Ceremony* was a crowd favourite, while other events like *Temptation Alley* and *Bug Buster* had everyone cheering for their furry friends. Day 2 of the festival included even more thrilling events, such as *Trick Roulette*, *Kibble Craze* and the *Security Dog Show*. But the true

highlight of the day was *India’s Biggest Pet Fashion Show*, where pets and their owners walked the ramp in coordinated outfits, creating a spectacle that was unforgettable. As I walked through the venue, I was captivated by the wide range of activities designed to keep pets entertained. The retail area, featuring over 100 stalls, offered pet parents the chance to shop for the latest products, accessories and food. From high-end pet clothing to innovative toys, there was something for every pet and every budget. The food and beverage stalls ensured that pet parents could relax and enjoy the event while their furry companions stayed by their side. One of the most touching elements of *Pet Fed 2024* was its inclusivity. Indie pets, often overlooked, were given special attention with free entry for their parents. This gesture was a beautiful reminder of how important it is to support the adoption of all pets, regardless of breed. It was a sentiment that resonated deeply with attendees, showing that the festival wasn’t just about fun, but also about creating a compassionate world for animals. *Akshay Gupta*, the Founder of *Pet Fed*, shared his excitement about the event, saying, “Wrapping up the 10th edition in Delhi has been an incredible experience. The love and support from Delhiites, along with the growing awareness about pet adoption, have been truly heartwarming. This event has shown us the deep bond that exists between pets and their parents, and it’s a privilege to create a platform that celebrates this connection.” *Pet Fed 2024* was a heartwarming celebration of the unconditional love our pets give us every day. It reminded us that animals, like art, have the power to inspire, bring joy and change our lives in ways we never imagined. The event created beautiful memories, showcasing the enduring bond between pets and their families. Most importantly, it carried a meaningful message, *#AdoptDontShop*, encouraging everyone to give a second chance to animals in need, reminding us that love is the best gift we can offer.





**YOUR
WEEK
AHEAD**

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

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

**Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Plum
Lucky day Tuesday**



LEO July 23-Aug 22

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

**Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Gold
Lucky day Thursday**



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

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

**Lucky number 19 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Monday**



TAURUS April 20-May 20

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

**Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Amber
Lucky day Sunday**



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

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

**Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Lilac
Lucky day Saturday**



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

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

**Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Teal
Lucky day Friday**



GEMINI May 21-June 20

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

**Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Cream
Lucky day Wednesday**



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

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

**Lucky number 1 | Lucky colour Tangerine
Lucky day Wednesday**



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

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

**Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Sunday**



CANCER June 21-July 22

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

**Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Rose
Lucky day Saturday**



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

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

**Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Jade
Lucky day Sunday**



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

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

**Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Gray
Lucky day Friday**

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Transforming Life's Karmic Challenges



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

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

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

he can gradually undo negative karma and restore balance in his life. Even if you're not familiar with chart reading, the best way to improve your chart and life is simple: identify the problem area and make better choices. The more positive actions you take, the more you clear negative karma from your past. The greater the planetary weakness, the more effort and time it takes to correct. A simple analogy is weight loss: someone who is 50 kilograms overweight needs more time and hard work to reach their goal than someone who is only 5 kilograms overweight. Similarly, the more poorly placed a planet, the more effort is needed to rectify its influence. The good news is that, no matter how weak a planet is, with dedication and consistent positive actions, it can improve, and the individual's life can be transformed. This understanding brings us to a vital concept: no action goes unnoticed. Every choice we make—good or bad—sets in motion consequences we will face. Therefore, it is essential to be mindful of our actions, as they shape not only our present but also our future. Through awareness and conscious living, we can change the trajectory of our lives.

— She is a Life Coach and Founder of Soulful Wellness

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Seerat Kaur Marwaha

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

Life is rarely a bed of roses. Each of us carries unique struggles, often tied to complex karmic accounts from multiple lifetimes. We are born not just to live but to address these past debts and fulfill long-held desires. Our natal charts act as guides, revealing the trials we are destined to face and the lessons we are meant to learn on this journey. As an astrologer, I can examine a natal chart and, without personal details, identify difficulties in health, career, or relationships. This involves analyzing the placement of planets, each influencing specific aspects of life. The positions of planets are intentional; they align with individual karma from past actions. Life events we cannot control, such as our parents, siblings, birthplace, health, and spouse that are all predestined and can be seen in the natal chart. Even incidents beyond our control arise from this design. So what is in our control you may ask? While life's unexpected challenges may be out of our hands, how we react to these circumstances is in our control. A person's behavior often reflects the influence of a poorly placed planet. This unfavorable position is not random; it results from conscious actions in past lives. Even though the soul is reborn, its core nature and mentality remain