



the pioneer

Established 1865

RAIPUR, FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

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

INSIDE

WORLD 8

BIDEN COMMUTES ROUGHLY 1,500 SENTENCES, PARDONS 39 PEOPLE IN BIGGEST SINGLE-DAY ACT OF CLEMENCY



One Nation, One Election, One Decision

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre's call for 'One Nation One, Election' inched closer to realise its dreams of simultaneous polls by paving the way to table the proposal in the Parliament next week after the Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two bills, including one to amend the Constitution to implement 'One Nation, One Election'. Sources said the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave nod to draft legislations to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies only. While a high-level committee led by former president Ram Nath Kovind had also proposed holding the municipality and panchayat polls along with the national and state elections in a phased manner, the Cabinet decided not to touch the subject currently.

The Constitution Amendment Bill to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the sources noted. Another Constitution Bill proposed by the Kovind panel was aimed at creating provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, by inserting a new Article 324A. It would have required ratification by half of the State Assemblies.



File photo: PTI

But the Union Cabinet has kept the local body polls out of as of now. The second Bill will be an ordinary one to amend provisions in three laws dealing with Union Territories that have Legislative Assemblies, Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir, to align the terms of these Houses with other legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha as proposed in the Constitution Amendment Bill. The statutes it proposes to amend are the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act-1991, the Government of Union Territories Act-1963 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act-2019. The proposed Bill will be an

ordinary legislation, not requiring a change in the Constitution and will also not need ratification by the states. The Government is keen on holding wider consultations on bills that are likely to be referred to a parliamentary committee. The sources said the Government also wants to consult the speakers of various state legislative Assemblies through the committee. Moving ahead with its 'One Nation, One Election' plan, the Government in September accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee for holding simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner. In its report submitted to the

Government in March, just before the general election was announced, the panel recommended implementing 'One Nation, One Election' in two phases. While the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies are pushing for simultaneous polls, several opposition parties have opposed the idea. The Government is of the view that simultaneous polls will reduce expenditure in the long run and different parts of the country will not be under the Model Code of Conduct throughout the year due to various polls. Simultaneous polls were held in the country between 1951 and 1967. The concept of simultaneous elections has featured in many reports and studies since 1983, essentially

implying a return to the previous practice of conducting polls concurrently. Congress reiterated its opposition to the very idea of simultaneous polls and accused the Government of trying to divert attention from "questions being raised on the electoral integrity of the democratic system".

Continued on page 2

ELECTIONS FOR THE LOK SABHA AND ALL STATE ASSEMBLIES CAN BE HELD TOGETHER:

- For synchronising the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, the President shall notify the date of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after a general election as the "appointed date".
- Tenure of all State Assemblies formed via polls after the "appointed date" and before the expiry of the full term of the Lok Sabha will only be for the period ending up to the subsequent parliamentary polls. After this one-time transitional measure, all Lok Sabha and Assembly polls will be held simultaneously.
- Fresh elections could be held to constitute a new Lok Sabha in the event of a hung House or a no-confidence motion or any such event.
- Where fresh elections are held for the House of the People (Lok Sabha), the tenure of the House will be "only for the unexpired (remaining) term of the immediately preceding full term of the House".
- When fresh elections are held for state legislative Assemblies, then such new Assemblies — unless sooner dissolved — shall continue up to the end of the full term of the Lok Sabha.



AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal launches the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna' to give a monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to women in Delhi. Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

Eye on Polls, Kejriwal announces Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojna

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

With the Assembly polls drawing closer, after giving five 'revdis' (freebies) including free DTC bus rides to women, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced his sixth freebie, of giving monthly assistance of Rs 1,000 to women in Delhi each month, under the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman' Yojna. He also promised the amount would be raised to Rs 2,100 if the AAP government returned to power. The scheme was approved by the Delhi Cabinet despite objections by the Planning Department and Finance Department. The scheme needs Rs 4,560 Crore annually for the year 2025-26. The scheme was initially announced in the 2024-25 Budget with an allocation of Rs 2,000 Crore. The scheme, however, seemed to have hit the bureaucratic

logjam with the Finance department flagging budgetary constraints. The scheme is on the lines of 'Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' in Maharashtra, 'Ladli Behna Yojna' in Madhya Pradesh, 'Grahalexmi' scheme of Kerala, 'Kalaigari Magalir Urumi' of Tamil Nadu and 'Laxmir Bhandar' of West Bengal that played a major role for the ruling party to defeat anti-incumbency factor. Addressing a press conference along with Chief Minister Atishi, Kejriwal announced the Delhi Cabinet has approved the scheme and women can begin their registration from Friday. However, he clarified the elections are likely to be announced soon and therefore the money could be credited in beneficiaries' accounts only after the polls as the date for the crucial polls would be announced in the next 10 to 15 days.

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, meanwhile, said if the Model Code of Conduct comes into force after January 13, the first installment will be transferred into the bank accounts of eligible women before elections. The Planning Department in its noting said that as against the estimated Revenue Receipts of Rs 65034.69 Crore during 2024-25, total expenditure of Rs 77700 crore (including Expenditure on Programs/ Projects and Other Expenditure) is projected and the gap between receipts and total expenditure i.e. deficit is proposed to be covered by 'NSSF Loan' and unspent balance. As the opening balance is about exhausted, therefore, implementation of proposed new scheme involves huge amount of funds i.e. Rs 4560 crore through Loan is not appropriate and good for the financial health of the Government.

C'garh targets to hike GDP to Rs 10 trillion: CM



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Thursday said his government has set a target to increase Chhattisgarh's GDP to Rs 10 lakh crore (Rs 10 trillion) by 2028. He said this while addressing the media in Raipur on the completion of one year in office by his government, marked as 'Janadesh Parab'.

Sai said the period was a "Bharose aur Sushasan ka Ek Saal" and that the victory in the Raipur South by-election by a huge margin was a stamp on good

governance. Chhattisgarh BJP chief Kiran Singh Dev, Deputy Chief Ministers Arun Sao, Vijay Sharma and several cabinet ministers were present on this occasion. "I congratulate all the leaders and workers of the organization. I express my gratitude to the people, who have given us the opportunity to serve 'Chhattisgarh Mahtari' by giving a historic mandate," Sai said. Sai further said that Chhattisgarh will complete 25 years in November 2025 and his government was planning to mark the

occasion with a big show. On this occasion Sai also released a message for the public titled 'Vishnu Ki Paati' (Letter from Vishnu), describing the achievements of the BJP government in the last one year. He said they have given good governance, checked corruption, acted against criminals, done justice to farmers and provided various other facilities to the people. Arun Sao added: "I congratulate the Chief Minister and all my colleagues for a year full of achievements."

All is not well in the House

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI

In a peculiar move, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday jumped to the Well, and aisle of the Rajya Sabha protesting against the Opposition, who too were on their feet, trading charges over a no-trust motion brought against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. While a legislative business was scheduled to be tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman when the upper house resumed post lunch, BJP MPs immediately raised slogans on the allegations of the Congress leadership's "links" with billionaire investor George Soros. Though Lok Sabha after morning two adjournments resumed post lunch and continued till late evening smoothly discussing a Bill on Disaster Management Amendment Bill, Rajya Sabha witnessed yet another 12th day of ruckus, and this time members of the Treasury Benches were more aggressive than the Opposition who until last week were on their feet. Refuting Kharge's allegation made at the press conference that he was not given an opportunity to speak in the House, he said letters were written by the Chairman to the Leader of Opposition (LoP) time and again, asking him to participate and come to the Chairman's chamber. But Kharge did not go to the Chairman's chamber and also did not attend the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, he said. "The Congress has even tried to demean the constitutional post by criticising 'the Chair as a cheerleader' on its official social media handle", Nadda pointed out. Nadda then gave ammunition to the Congress as soon as he touched upon the relationship between George Soros and (Congress leader) Sonia Gandhi who were present in the House triggering a



Union Minister Giriraj Singh staged a protest over Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's alleged links with an organisation funded by the George Soros Foundation. PTI

This needs to be condemned by one and all," Nadda said. Refuting Kharge's allegation made at the press conference that he was not given an opportunity to speak in the House, he said letters were written by the Chairman to the Leader of Opposition (LoP) time and again, asking him to participate and come to the Chairman's chamber. But Kharge did not go to the Chairman's chamber and also did not attend the last meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, he said. "The Congress has even tried to demean the constitutional post by criticising 'the Chair as a cheerleader' on its official social media handle", Nadda pointed out. Nadda then gave ammunition to the Congress as soon as he touched upon the relationship between George Soros and (Congress leader) Sonia Gandhi who were present in the House triggering a

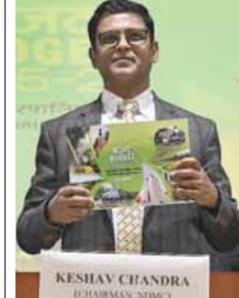
protest by the Opposition leaders. The Chairman gave the floor to Kharge to respond to Nadda's remarks but the Congress leader could not speak much as the members of the treasury benches were on their feet, sloganeering. "They want to divert attention from the main issue," Kharge said amid intense sloganeering from the treasury benches. Kharge urged the Chair to bring the House in order, but Dhankhar adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. As the House reassembled at 2 pm, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) sought permission to raise a point of order on the Bangladesh issue to which the Chair said it was not a point of order prompting the party members to raise slogans. Dhankhar then asked former prime minister HD Deve Gowda to speak, however his speech was lost in the din.

protest by the Opposition leaders. The Chairman gave the floor to Kharge to respond to Nadda's remarks but the Congress leader could not speak much as the members of the treasury benches were on their feet, sloganeering. "They want to divert attention from the main issue," Kharge said amid intense sloganeering from the treasury benches. Kharge urged the Chair to bring the House in order, but Dhankhar adjourned the proceedings till 2 pm. As the House reassembled at 2 pm, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) sought permission to raise a point of order on the Bangladesh issue to which the Chair said it was not a point of order prompting the party members to raise slogans. Dhankhar then asked former prime minister HD Deve Gowda to speak, however his speech was lost in the din.

NDMC presents surplus budget of ₹463.40 Crore

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to the residents of New Delhi, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) did not hike the property tax rate in Lutyn's Delhi. The NDMC budget proposal tabled in the council, proposes to 'setting up a 'Veerangna Museum' by Comprehensive Conservation of Gole Market Heritage Building and its adjoining areas, night/staggered timing of cleaning of public spaces, new design of school uniforms, tablets for students, smart parking, mist spray kits on poles for clean air and two



Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

foot over bridges at AIIMS Gate No.1, Aurobindo Marg and Delhi High Court near Gate No.5. Presenting a surplus budget of Rs Rs 463.40 Crore projected in 2025-26, the NDMC chairman Keshav Chandra announced that there will not be any hike in the current rates of property tax for the year 2025-26. The council is expecting to collect Property Tax of Rs. 1150 Crore in Revised Estimates 2024-25 and Rs. 1290 Crore in BE 2025-26. According to the budget document, the total receipts of the Budget Estimates (BE) 2025-26 are Rs. 5770.60 Crore against Rs. 5319.75 Crore provided in Revised Estimate 2024-25. The total actual receipts in 2023-24 were Rs. 5005.05 Crore. The BE 2025-26 for the revenue receipts are Rs. 5100.32 Crore against Rs. 4730.31 Crore provided in RE 2024-25 and actual of Rs. 4417.12 Crore in 2023-24.

Grandmaster D Gukesh is youngest-ever world champion

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh on Thursday became the youngest World Chess Champion at 18 years, after beating title-holder Ding Liren in the last game of a nerve-wracking showdown to herald a new era of dominance for the country's chess players. Taking forward the incredible legacy of the great Viswanathan Anand, Gukesh became only the second Indian to clinch the coveted prize after the iconic player, who owned the crown five times in his career. After settling into "semi-retirement", the 55-year-old Anand, incidentally, played a pivotal role in shaping Gukesh at his chess academy in Chennai. Gukesh secured the requisite 7.5 points as against 6.5 of his Chinese rival after winning the 14th and last classical time control game of the match that seemed headed for a draw for most part. As winner, he will walk away with a whopping USD 1.3 million (approx Rs 11.03 Crore) from the



India's D Gukesh reacts after beating title-holder China's Ding Liren in the 14th and last game of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024, in Singapore. PTI

2.5 million prize purse. "I was dreaming this moment for the last 10 years. I am happy that I realised the dream (and made it) into reality," the soft-spoken Chennai-lad told reporters after the historic triumph here. "I got a bit emotional because I was not expecting to win. But then I got a chance to press on," he added. The triumph was expectedly hailed across India with Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailing it as "historic and exemplary". "This is the result of his unparalleled talent, hard work and unwavering determination," PM Modi posted on X. The reticent teenager grinned widely and raised his arms in celebration after the victory, a stark contrast from the poker face he usually sports while playing. Even on Thursday, when the analysts had proclaimed that the match, in all likelihood, would go into a tie-breaker, Gukesh's face hardly gave anything away as he gained the upper-hand.

Centre needs 2,000 more IAS, IPS!

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre, on Thursday, informed the Parliament about a shortage of Government officers at the top level, mentioning that there are 1,316 and 586 vacant posts of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS). Union Minister Jitendra Singh said that, out of the total sanctioned strength of 6,858 IAS, there were 5,542 officers in-position, as on January 1, 2024, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. There were 4,469 IPS officers working against their sanctioned strength of 5,055, Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel told the RS. Of the 1,316 vacant posts of

IAS, 794 were meant for direct recruitment, and 522 were promotion posts, he said. Of the 586 vacant IPS posts, 209 were of direct recruitment, and 377 were promotion posts, the Minister said. There are 2,151 Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers in-position, against their sanctioned strength of 3,193, Singh said. Of the 1,042 vacant IFS posts, 503 were for direct recruitment and 539 promotion posts, he added. The IAS, IPS and IFS officers are selected through the Civil Services examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) annually. The minister, also shared details of appointments made to IAS, IPS and IFS from General, Scheduled Castes

(SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last five years. During the 2022 civil services examination (CSE) year, 75 General, 45 OBC, 29 SC and 13 ST appointments were made in the IAS. Similarly, 83 General, 53 OBC, 31 SC and 13 ST were appointed in the IPS during the same period. A total of 43 General, 51 OBC, 22 SC and 11 ST appointments were made in the IFS during CSE 2024, according to the data shared by the minister. The Government also stated that Central ministries and departments are directed from time-to-time to fill up vacancies in a time-bound manner.

General, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last five years. During the 2022 civil services examination (CSE) year, 75 General, 45 OBC, 29 SC and 13 ST appointments were made in the IAS. Similarly, 83 General, 53 OBC, 31 SC and 13 ST were appointed in the IPS during the same period. A total of 43 General, 51 OBC, 22 SC and 11 ST appointments were made in the IFS during CSE 2024, according to the data shared by the minister. The Government also stated that Central ministries and departments are directed from time-to-time to fill up vacancies in a time-bound manner.

City freezing at 4.5 degrees, lowest of season

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Cold-wave conditions have gripped north Indian states, including the national capital which is currently freezing at 4.5 degrees Celsius, the lowest of the season. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a 'cold wave' alert till Friday. The forecast predicts cold wave conditions to persist at isolated places until the weekend. The Safdarjung weather station recorded this low at 8:30 AM, which is four degrees below the seasonal average. This drop in temperature follows a 0.4-degree decrease in the 24-hour average, continuing a cold wave that has gripped the city for the second consecutive day. At the Palam weather station, the minimum temperature was recorded at 6 degrees Celsius, which

is three degrees below normal. This station also noted a slight drop of 0.2 degrees in the 24-hour average temperature. The minimum temperature at the Pusa and Ayanagar stations was reported to be 3.2 degree Celsius and 3.8 degree Celsius, respectively. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature during the day was recorded at 22.2 degrees Celsius, 0.8 degrees below normal, the IMD said. Delhi will continue to reel under cold wave conditions for the coming days, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast. The Met Office has issued a yellow warning for Friday and Saturday, and forecast that cold wave conditions will persist in isolated places in Delhi. Cold, northwesterly winds up to 16 kmph are likely to blow during the next two days.



According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the minimum temperatures in early December across the national capital have been recorded below 5 degrees Celsius for the first time in 14 years. IMD said the last time the minimum temperature dipped below 5 degree Celsius was on December 6, 1987, at 4.1 degree Celsius. On December 11, 1996, the minimum temperature was 2.3 degree Celsius. Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 4.9 degrees Celsius on Wednesday. IMD defines cold wave conditions to occur when actual temperatures dip below 4.1 degree Celsius or when departures are more than 4.4 degree Celsius in plains, provided the normal minimum is less than or equal to 10 degree

Celsius. The weather department has advised people to wear several layers of loose fitting, light weight; warm woolen clothing. It also advised to cover your head, neck, hands and toes adequately as majority of heat loss occurs through these body parts. It further stated that an increased likelihood of various illnesses like flu, running/stuffy nose or nosebleed, which usually set in or get aggravated due to prolonged exposure to cold. "Do not ignore shivering. It is the first sign that the body is losing heat. Get Indoors," it added. The Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) predicts that Delhi's air quality will remain in the "poor" category until at least Saturday. A bulletin released on Thursday evening stated: "The

air quality is likely to stay 'poor' from Thursday to Saturday, with the outlook for the next six days also indicating 'poor' air quality." A dip in temperatures prevents the dispersal of pollutants, while an increase in wind speed is favourable. Smog and mist are likely on Friday morning, with a mainly clear sky during the day. Smog and mist are expected again in the evening and night. Delhi's air quality remained in the "poor" category, with a 24-hour average AQI of 288. Out of 38 monitoring stations, 20 recorded AQI in the "very poor" category, while the remaining stations reported air quality in the "poor" category, according to data from the Sameer app. The cold wave has also hit other states like Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, and others.

Kejriwal is wizard of corruption: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP on Thursday launched a sharp attack on AAP Convener and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the 'Mahila Samman Rashi', calling it "biggest lie of this century". Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva labelled Arvind Kejriwal a "wizard of corruption," questioning why the AAP government in Punjab, which promised Mahila Samman Rashi before assembly elections, has failed to deliver even after two years in power. Sachdeva stated that before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Kejriwal collected forms from Delhi women and promised a grant of Rs1,000 starting September. "However, no funds have been distributed to date," he said, accusing Kejriwal of repeating the same tactics with yet another election approaching and calling it a



ploy to mislead women with false assurances. He questioned why Kejriwal delayed cabinet approval for 10 months after initially announcing the grant in February. Highlighting the BJP's achievements, he emphasized that the public trusts only Prime Minister Modi's guarantees. "We have successfully implemented the Women's Honor Grant in

sewage systems, and clean drinking water. He claimed that Kejriwal would likely blame the Lieutenant Governor for delays in disbursing funds, just as he did with the bus marshals issue. Sachdeva alleged that Kejriwal intentionally creates legal hurdles to play the blame game and avoid accountability. Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijendra Gupta stated that misleading the public with false promises before every election and then forgetting them afterward has become a habit for Arvind Kejriwal. Gupta mentioned that before the 2022 Punjab Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Kejriwal made false promises to women in Punjab of providing Rs1100 per month. "However, the Punjab government has yet to deliver any money to the women there, who are now running

around the offices of the Aam Aadmi Party-led government in frustration," he said. The BJP MLA said that on 4 November, he had written a letter to Chief Minister Atishi, reminding her of Kejriwal's earlier promise and demanding immediate financial assistance of Rs1000 for Delhi's women. "However, Atishi neither responded to the letter nor took any steps to provide the aid. Now, with elections approaching, Kejriwal has floated a new false promise of Rs 2100 in financial assistance to mislead women once again," he said. Gupta reminded that in March this year, just before the Lok Sabha elections, the AAP government announced Rs1000 per month for women. He questioned, "Why, despite the announcement, no money has been disbursed even after 10 months."

EC emphasises need for rigorous compliance with instructions while updating voter list in city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) told its poll machinery in Delhi on Thursday to ensure a revision and updating of the electoral rolls, in accordance with statutory provisions, with the involvement of political parties. The commission emphasised the need for rigorous compliance with its instructions while updating the voter list in Delhi, where elections are due early next year. The sources said the poll panel has told officials in Delhi that representatives of political parties should be involved in the electoral roll revision process with "fullest transparency and disclosures". It has said that all complaints and grievances from the political parties should be resolved promptly and factually. The Delhi chief electoral officer and other officials concerned were also instructed



that the lists of claims and objections must be shared with the political parties on a weekly basis and published on the CEO and district electoral officer websites. Additionally, no deletions are allowed without conducting a field verification and providing the electors with a notice to ensure that they have an opportunity for a hearing, the EC has told the CEO and his officials. The officials have been directed to look into the issues raised by the political parties

with regard to the revision of the electoral rolls and submit factual details for a further review by the commission. This comes against the backdrop of an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) delegation meeting the poll authority on Wednesday to urge it to halt any deletion of voters' names from the electoral rolls ahead of the Delhi Assembly election. The term of the Delhi Assembly ends on February 23 and the polls are likely to be held in February itself.

AAP convener writes to CEC hoping poll body would fulfill its 'assurances' with action

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after meeting the Election Commission officials over vote deletion issue, AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday wrote to Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar hoping the poll body will fulfil its "assurances" with necessary action. Earlier on Wednesday, Kejriwal led a delegation of the AAP in the meeting with the election commissioners to urge them for not undertaking any mass deletion of voters names before the Delhi Assembly polls. In his letter to the chief election commissioner, Kejriwal thanked the Election Commission for hearing concerns over "threat of mass deletions of voters names" in Delhi ahead of the assembly elections. "We were all reassured by your commitment to uphold the sanctity of the electoral



process and to safeguard the right to vote of each and every voter in Delhi," said Kejriwal citing "assurances", including "no mass deletion of votes in any assembly constituency until the Delhi Assembly polls", given to the delegation. He also cited various other "assurances", including no deletion based on lists furnished by individuals, field enquiry by the election officials in the presence of representatives of the political

All-women panel elected at JNU to three seats reserved for teachers in EC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a first at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, an all-women panel has been elected to the three seats reserved for teachers in the Executive Council (EC), the varsity's teachers body said on Thursday. Previously, these seats have seen one or, at most, two women representatives, the JNUTA said. "Women in all three posts is a first. Earlier, it was usually one or two," a member of the JNU Teachers' Association (JNUTA) said. The newly elected members include Professor Chirashree Das Gupta from the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Associate Professor Veena Hariharan from the School of Arts and Aesthetics, and Assistant Professor Santana Khanikar from the Centre for International Politics, Organisation, and



Disarmament in the School of International Studies. The election for Teacher's Representatives to the EC was held on December 9, with an impressive voter turnout of over 90 per cent, as 634 faculty members cast their ballots, as per the JNUTA. According to the results, Gupta secured 141 votes in the professor category, Hariharan won with 84 votes in the associate professor category, and Khanikar received 121 votes in the assistant professor category.

Representing the JNUTA, the all-women panel focused its campaign on key issues such as restoring and strengthening institutional norms and practices that respect teachers' dignity, acknowledge their contributions, and ensure their active participation in university governance. They have pledged to address concerns related to Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) promotions and probation, among other pressing matters. JNU's EC, the highest decision-making body of the university, comprises 14 members, including the Vice-Chancellor as Chair and the Registrar as Secretary. While four deans hold permanent positions, other members are selected by rotation. Three seats are reserved for teachers, with one each for a professor, associate professor, and assistant professor, elected through direct voting.

LG approves conversion of 11 temporary Welfare Officer/Probation Officer posts in WCD Department to permanent positions

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lt Governor (LG) V K Saxena has approved the conversion of 11 temporary Welfare Officer/Probation Officer posts in the Women and Child Development (WCD) Department to permanent positions, Raj Niwas said on Thursday. Giving details, officials said Saxena, a strong advocate for permanent jobs over temporary or ad-hoc positions in government, in a significant stride towards strengthening child protection services in Delhi gave this nod. These crucial roles, categorized as Group B posts under Level 6 of the pay matrix (Rs 35,400 - Rs 1,12,400), were established in 2018 to bolster the implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to address the complex



challenges faced by vulnerable children in the Delhi. The Finance Department, in accordance with OM dated 13.08.2020 had recommended 11 posts of Welfare Officer/Probation Officer for conversion into permanent posts. The WCD Department had initially sought the conversion of 12 temporary posts. However, after careful consideration, the Finance Department recommended the conversion of 11 posts, with one post being abolished due to prolonged vacancy.

LG addresses culmination of silver jubilee celebrations and foundation day at GGSIPU

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena said on Thursday that he has faced various allegations and personal attacks during his tenure, but these challenges have never deterred him from making strong decisions, even if they attract "unjustified" criticism. Addressing the culmination of the silver jubilee celebrations and the foundation day of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University in Delhi, he emphasised that his commitment to working for the city's betterment has remained steadfast, despite obstacles. "Remember, making decisions that positively impact society is not easy. You will encounter unjustified criticism and challenges from those with vested interests in maintaining the status quo. "There is a saying: 'When making big decisions, it is natural to feel afraid, but choosing not to act out of fear is the wrong move.'" Saxena told the



students. The L-G claimed that over the past two-and-a-half years, there have been "numerous attempts to stop me from doing the work I believe is good". "I was subjected to various allegations and personal attacks. But my commitment to working for the betterment of Delhi and its residents remained strong. That is why I never stopped and continued to work towards my goal." Emphasising the role of the youth in shaping the country's future, Saxena said, "You must be persistent and unwavering in your efforts to achieve your goals, always working in the larger interest of the people." "You carry the responsibility of contributing to the nation's growth and its standing on the global stage. Let us hope that this university remains a catalyst for hope and change." The occasion also saw the announcement of a dual degree programme in Master of Science in Digital Production for Sustainable Manufacturing, in collaboration with AGH University of Krakow, Poland, and plans

to establish GGSIPU's offshore campus in the Republic of Guinea. Highlighting the growth of the university, its vice-chancellor Mahesh Verma said the dual degree programme offers students the opportunity to pursue two semesters in Poland and two in India. Students will have to pay only the Indian fee for the programme, making international education accessible, the university said in a statement. Several infrastructure projects were also inaugurated during the ceremony, including an amphitheatre with 1,000 seating capacity, a health centre and a guest house for visiting faculty. Facilities such as an Industrial Robotics Lab, a state-of-the-art TV studio, a community radio station and an extension counter of Indian Bank at the East Campus were also launched. The event was also attended by the L-G's Principal Secretary Ashish Kundra and Nandini Paliwal, the secretary for higher education.

Police identifies more than 20 illegal Bangladeshi immigrants on second day of its verification drive

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Thursday identified more than 20 people on the second day of its verification drive against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the national capital, police sources said. The people reside in the Seemapuri area of east Delhi, they added. Teams from the different police stations are visiting slum areas and Delhi's Kalindi Kunj, Shaheen Bagh and Jamia Nagar to check voter IDs and Aadhar Cards of suspected Bangladeshi immigrants, an officer said. The Delhi LG Secretariat on Tuesday directed the chief secretary and police commissioner of Delhi to launch a two-month special drive to identify and take strict action against illegal Bangladeshi immigrants residing in the national capital. "Under our door to door verification, teams are collecting data like Aadhar card number, voter ID card numbers of the



suspected people. After data collecting, a record will be maintained which will be sent to Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for proper verification," a senior police officer said. The officer further said beside sending data to FRRO, police will also personally verify to know if the Aadhar card is fake or genuine and enrolled on which year. Police said some of the residents were identified as suspects and there are possibilities of sending them to the detention centre after the com-

pletion of their legal process. Another senior police officer said when teams are checking data by visiting personally, they are also recording the entire conversation using their mobile phones to keep proper record. "Beside checking their identifications, we are also checking if anyone is involved in criminal activities by checking police records," said the officer. Delhi has 15 police districts and the directions were issued to all the district heads to conduct the drive for two months, the officer said.

Seven Maoists gunned down in Abujhmad



STAFF REPORTER ■ BASTAR

Seven Maoists including two women were killed

on Thursday in a gun battle with security forces in Bastar division in Chhattisgarh. The gunfight ensued at around 3 am in the forest of

south Abujhmad on the Narayanpur-Dantewada border area, Bastar (Range) Inspector General of Police Sundarraj P said.

The Special Task Force (STF) and the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police from Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bastar and Kondagaon districts as well as the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were involved in the operation launched on Tuesday.

After the gunfight, the bodies of the seven Naxalites clad in Maoist uniforms were recovered. The slain Maoists are yet to be identified.

A total of 217 Maoists have been killed in gun battles in Bastar region between December 13 last year and December 12, 2024.

Amit Shah on three-day visit to C'garh from tomorrow



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh's Naxalite-affected Bastar region from December 14 during which he will interact with surrendered Naxalites and locals, informed sources said on Thursday.

Last week, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai met Shah in New Delhi and told him that Bastar and Kondagaon districts, once infested by Maoists, were free from the extremists.

Sai added that security operations were on to wipe out

the Naxalites from other areas.

Besides chairing a security review meeting in Raipur, Shah will also present the President's Colour Award to the Chhattisgarh Police.

In Jagdalpur, he will interact with surrendered Naxalites, local people and intellectuals.

Shah will also attend the closing ceremony of the Bastar Olympics and pay tributes to martyrs in Jagdalpur besides meeting the families of the victims of left-wing extremism. Shah will visit security camps and oversee developmental works. He will lunch with security personnel there.

'President's Colour' is expected to boost the morale of Chhattisgarh Police.

'Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, operations are being conducted against Naxalism with a zero tolerance policy and ultra-modern methods,' a source said.

IPS G.P. Singh reinstated in service



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR/NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Gurjinder Pal Singh has been reinstated by the Central government.

The home ministry issued the order on Wednesday. He was compulsorily retired during the tenure of the previous Congress government.

The development came following a Supreme Court order on Tuesday that dismissed the Centre's challenge to the setting aside of an order of compulsory retirement against Singh.

The Chief Secretary of Chhattisgarh has been asked to take necessary action in this regard.

With the reinstatement, the 1994-batch officer will soon get a new posting in the state.

Divisional level Bastar Olympics from today



STAFF REPORTER ■ JAGDALPUR

The division-level Bastar Olympics will be held in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur city from December 13 to 15.

The players from the seven districts of the Bastar division who

excelled at the district level will participate.

The competitions include athletics, races of various categories, disc throw, high jump, long jump, archery, badminton, football, karate, kabaddi, kho-kho, volleyball, weightlifting, hockey and tug of war.

NIA chargesheets 10 Maoists for 2023 blast

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

The National Investigation Agency has filed a chargesheet naming 10 members of the CPI (Maoist) for a blast at Badegobra during Assembly elections in Chhattisgarh in 2023, it was announced on Thursday.

Mohan Yadav, Bhupendra Dhruv and Lakhnau Yadav, all alleged underground workers of the CPI (Maoist), along with seven cadres of the banned outfit have been chargesheeted.

They have been charged with offences under the Indian Penal Code, Explosive Substances Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, the NIA said.

The blast triggered by an

improvised explosive device rocked Badegobra village in Gariyaband district on November 17, 2023, when a polling team accompanied by security forces was returning after voting got over.

A Head Constable of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) died later due to the grievous injuries he sustained in the blast.

A probe revealed that CPI (Maoist) central committee members Ganesh Uikey and Manoj had planned the attack along with special zonal committee member Satyam Gawade in response to the election boycott call given by the outfit.

Cadres of the proscribed outfit's Gobra Dalam carried out the blast with the support of OGWs from Badegobra and Chhotegobra villages.

Bilaspur gets development works of Rs 452 crore



STAFF REPORTER ■ BILASPUR

Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district received development works of Rs 451.25 crore on Thursday.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated 69 works completed at a cost of Rs 143.90 crore and laid the foundation stone for 65 works to be completed at Rs 307.35 crore.

He did this at an event at

the JMP Government School in the Takhatpur block of Bilaspur district.

Sai also distributed appointment letters to 142 selected employees of the Education and Health Department.

He announced the expansion of beds at the Takhatpur Community Health Centre to 50, Rs 1 crore for the construction of a Chowpatty and a fire brigade unit there.

11 Maoists surrender



STAFF REPORTER ■ SUKMA

Eleven Maoists on Thursday surrendered to security forces in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh.

Jogendra Yadav, Hemla Deva and nine others turned themselves in, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said.

Yadav was the head of the agriculture committee of a unit in the outlawed Maoist outfit. Hemla was the president of its public relations committee.

They will be provided facilities as per the state government's surrender and rehabilitation policy.

AIIMS-R's Dr Rathore teaches Yoga Asanas for cancer care

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Dr. Mritunjay Rathore, a faculty member at Chhattisgarh's AIIMS Raipur and an expert in yoga, showcased an innovative approach to teaching asanas at the International Conference in Yoga for Cancer Care held in Lonavala, Maharashtra.

The "Mindful Asana Practice for Cancer Survivorship" workshop received overwhelming appreciation from national and international participants.

Dr. Rathore highlighted the significance of Ustrasana (Camel Pose) for cancer survivorship, explaining its therapeutic benefits and underlying mechanisms.

He emphasized how specific asanas can contribute to physical and mental recovery during the



survivorship phase of cancer care.

In addition, Dr. Rathore elaborated on the role of asana practice in preventive cancer care, noting that regular practice helps reduce stress, improve immunity, enhance circulation and promote overall well-being—essential factors in lowering the risk of cancer development.

During the session, Dr.

Rathore also addressed the challenges faced while performing various asanas, including Triangle Pose (Trikonasana) and Ustrasana, offering practical insights to ensure proper technique and safety.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, SURAJPUR (C.G.)

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st CALL) System Tender No: 162645 NIT No.: 11/SAC/2024-25 Dated: 10.12.2024

Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 31.12.2024 (17.30 hours IST).

Name Of Work - : RENNOVATION OF MAHAVIRPUR TANK SCHEME INCLUDING REPAIR OF BUND, CONSTRUCTION C.C. LINING, 07 NOS VRB, 01 NO. CD AND 10 NOS. OUTLET.

Probable Amount Of Contract - Rs. 193.34 Lakhs

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) from Date 17.12.2024, at 17.31 Hours.(IST) onwards.

NOTE: 1. All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e- procurement portal (https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

2. Probable Amount of Contract (P.A.C.) is as per S.O.R. 01.08.2010. (As Amendments 01.08.2022).

Executive Engineer Water Resources Division, Surajpur (C.G.) For, Superintending Engineer, Syam Barnai Project Circle Ambhikapur, Distt. Sarguja (C.G.) G-242504503/7

Form No. CAA 2 (Pursuant to Section 230(3) and rule 6 and 7) IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL CUTTACK BENCH, CUTTACK COMPANY PETITION (CA) NO.13/CB/2024 CONNECTED WITH COMPANY APPLICATION (CAA) NO.13/CB/2024 IN THE MATTER OF: Application under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016 and other relevant Rules;

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अनियंता लो.नि.वि., राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मण्डल, रायपुर (छ.ग.) दिनांक: 10.12.2024 एकीकृत ऑनलाइन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सखन श्रेणी में फौजदार टेकदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) CIN : L6510TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai-600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES DIVISION, BAIKUNTHPUR, DISTT. KORIYA (C.G.) e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE eProcurement Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in (1st CALL)

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only.

Printed and Published by Vijay Budhia for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Limited, "The Pioneer Building", 11, Civil Lines, Near Raj Bhavan, Opp. Sanskriti Bhavan, Raipur-492007 Telephone(0771) 223260/70 and Printed at Kavya Prakashan, Express Tower, Adarsh nagar, Mowa, Raipur-492005, Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor: Sujet Kumar, Delhi Office: 100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Corporate Office:- 201-205, 208-210, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500, Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow 226016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

India's air pollution cost 1.5 Million lives annually, claims new study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Long-term exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution, a significant environmental and health hazard across India, has claimed a staggering 1.5 million lives reported annually between 2009 and 2019, as per a recent study published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal. Highlighting the severe health impacts of toxic pollutants on the citizens, researchers found that the entire 1.4 billion population of the

country lives in areas with PM2.5 levels exceeding the WHO recommended threshold of five micrograms per cubic meter for a yearly average. The study by the Consortium for Climate, Health, and Air Pollution Research in India (CHAIR-India) also highlighted that nearly 82 per cent of the population, or about 1.1 billion people, resided in regions where the PM2.5 levels surpassed the Indian National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which set a limit of 40 microns per cubic meter annually. PM2.5 refers to fine particulate mat-

ter measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter, and exposure to these pollutants is linked to a range of health problems, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. PM2.5 air pollution comes from the burning of fossil fuels and biomass in sectors such as transportation, residential homes, coal-burning power plants, industrial activities, and wildfires. These emissions not only impact people's health but also contribute to the greenhouse gases that are warming the planet. The study observed a significant correlation between PM2.5 pollution



A commuter walks to their office amid low visibility due to smog in New Delhi.

levels and mortality rates, with a 10-micron per cubic meter increase in yearly pollution linked to an 8.6 per cent rise in annual deaths. The researchers from CHAIR-India, a global consortium of academic institutions including Ashoka University, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), Harvard University, and Ben-Gurion University (Israel) used data from satellite observations and over 1,000 ground-monitoring stations, and also gathered death statistics from the Civil Registration System.

The findings underscore the widespread nature of PM2.5 exposure across the country. While the lowest annual PM2.5 level recorded in Lower Subansiri district, Arunachal Pradesh, at 11.2 microns per cubic meter in 2019, the highest levels were recorded in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, where PM2.5 concentrations soared to 119 microns per cubic meter in 2016. The study reveals the pressing need for robust air quality monitoring and stricter pollution control measures in India, given the country's large and consistent exposure to harmful air pollutants.

Shah to visit Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be on a three-day visit to Chhattisgarh's Naxal-affected areas from December 14 during which he will review the law-and-order situation in the state and interact with surrendered Naxals and locals, sources said on Thursday. Last week, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai Shah here and conveyed to him that the Bastar and Kondagaon districts, once infested by Naxals, were completely free from the extremists and operations were on to wipe them out from other areas. The Union home minister will be on a visit to Chhattisgarh from December 14-16 during which he will participate in various programmes related to

security and peace, sources said. Besides chairing a security review meeting in Raipur, Shah will also present the President's Colour Award to the Chhattisgarh Police. He will travel to Jagdalpur, where he will hold interaction with surrendered Naxals, locals and intellectuals, they said. The Union home minister will also attend the closing ceremony of the Bastar olympics and pay tributes to martyrs in Jagdalpur besides meeting the families of the victims of left-wing extremism. Shah will visit security camps and oversee developmental works besides having lunch with jawans of security forces there. 'President's Colour' is expected to boost the morale of Chhattisgarh Police after their excellent work in tackling the Naxals over the years, the sources said. This medal will give new impetus to the sense of duty of these police personnel who are committed to the service and security of the people of the state, they said. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, operations are being conducted against Naxalism with a 'Zero Tolerance' policy and ultra-modern methods," a source said.

Bihar registers officials on skill building platform

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Bihar government has boarded over 2.4 lakh officials on an online training platform, according to an official statement issued on Thursday. Under the Mission Karmayogi initiative, an MoU was signed on October 7 between the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), Karmayogi Bharat (a special purpose vehicle), and the Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD). This agreement aims to strengthen the capabilities of government officials and employees in Bihar so that all public servants can become role-based instead of rule-based, said the statement issued by the Personnel Ministry. This will be achieved through the iGOT (integrated government online training) Karmayogi platform, which is a flagship digital initiative aimed at empowering government servants. It will also function as a robust e-learning hub, the statement said. development for Bihar's civil servants, ultimately ensuring better public service delivery, the statement said.

Road accidents on the rise, says Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said here "When I go to attend international conferences where there is a discussion on road accidents, I try to hide my face." He also underlined that he had set a target to reduce accidents by 50 per cent when he first took charge as the Road Transport and Highways Minister. During a discussion on road accidents in Lok Sabha, "Forget about reducing the number of accidents, I have no hesitation to admit that it has increased. When I go to attend international conferences where there is a discussion on road accidents, I try to hide my face." He was replying to a supplementary question during the Question Hour. The minister said for things to improve



The minister added, "When I go to attend international conferences where there is a discussion on road accidents, I try to hide my face."

human behaviour in India has to change, society has to change and rule of law has to be respected. Gadkari said he and his family met with a major accident some years ago and he needed to be hospitalised for a long time. "By the grace of God, I and my

family were saved. So I have my personal experience of accidents." He said parking of trucks on road is a major cause for accidents and many of the trucks don't follow lane discipline. The minister said he has ordered for following international standards in

making bus body in India. There has to be a hammer near a bus window so that it can be broken easily in case of accidents, he said. Earlier, Gadkari said road accidents claim 1.78 lakh lives annually in the country and 60 per cent of the victims are in the age group of 18-34 years. He said while Uttar Pradesh leads the chart among states, Delhi tops the list for cities. In UP, over 23,000 people (or 13.7 per cent of the total deaths due to road accidents) died, followed by Tamil Nadu with over 18,000 (10.6 per cent) deaths. In Maharashtra, the figure stands at over 15,000 (or nine per cent of the total deaths), followed by Madhya Pradesh with over 13,000 (eight per cent) deaths. Delhi leads the city chart with over 1,400 deaths, followed by Bengaluru with 915 deaths. Jaipur registers 850 deaths due to road accidents.

CISF security personnel sanctioned for Noida and Navi Mumbai airports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union government has sanctioned a combined strength of more than 2,800 Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel to guard two soon-to-be operational international airports in Noida and in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, official sources said Thursday. The ministry of home affairs (MHA), under whose command the CISF works, had sanctioned 1,840 posts for the Navi Mumbai airport and 1,030 for the Noida International Airport (NIA) in Uttar Pradesh. The total CISF manpower sanctioned for providing a counter-terrorist cover to the two upcoming airports is 2,870. The sanction of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) manpower is for the first phase of operationalisation of the two airports. The force's strength will be enhanced once these airports finish phase II, sources said. The security units, to be headed by Deputy Inspector General rank officers, will take charge once the infrastructure to install security gadgets and other logistics get ready at both the facilities. Being developed by the Adani

Group, the Navi Mumbai International Airport project will be completed in five phases and will have a total handling capacity of 9 crore passengers per annum. The first phase will have a capacity to handle 2 crore passengers per annum. Commercial operations at this airport, second in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region after the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, are expected to begin by March-April, 2025. The NIA greenfield facility is being built in the Jewar area of Gautam Buddh Nagar district in Uttar Pradesh, about 75 km from Delhi, and will be the national capital region's second international civil aviation facility after the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. It is also expected to get operational for passenger operations by April next year. The CISF is the national civil aviation security force that guards 68 airports at present. It provides a counter-terrorist cover to these facilities, thronged by lakhs of domestic and international passengers every day. The force frisks passengers, checks their baggage and undertakes anti-sabotage, counter-terrorist and counter-hijack checks in coordination with other agencies.

Sagarika moves privilege motion against Rijiju for derogatory remarks



Ghose said, "Mr. Kiren Rijiju, instead of doing his best to run Parliament smoothly, has chosen to repeatedly insult the Opposition."

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose on Thursday submitted a privilege motion notice against Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju for making a derogatory remark against opposition leaders in the Upper House. The notice has been signed by 60 leaders from opposition parties, a source said. "Yesterday in the house, addressing the opposition, Mr. Rijiju said you all are not worthy of being in this house... The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijiju,

instead of doing his best to run Parliament smoothly, has chosen to repeatedly insult the opposition," Ghose told reporters. "Rijiju has insulted opposition members and used personal terms both inside and outside Parliament. This is totally unbecoming of the high office he holds and amounts to total misuse of his position," TMC's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha said. She said she had moved a privilege motion against Rijiju for abusing his office with his "diatribes and unparliamentary language" against opposition. The motion has been signed by senior leaders of all

opposition parties, she added. Opposition MPs are "not worthy of being in the House", Rijiju said on Wednesday while hitting out at opposition parties over their attacks on Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. "If you cannot respect the chair you have no right to be a member of this House," Rijiju said. Sixty MPs from the opposition INDIA bloc on Tuesday submitted a notice in the Rajya Sabha for moving a no-confidence motion against Dhankhar. They have accused him of being "extremely partisan" in his role as the chairman of the Upper House.

TMC pitches for Didi to lead INDIA

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is more interested in dislodging the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre than leading the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). Close on the heels of some senior INDIA leaders advocating Banerjee's cause for leading the opposition alliance, senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said that "Mamata Banerjee has made it clear that she is not interested in any 'chair' in Delhi. She is more interested in building an alternative platform which can defeat the BJP." Curiously, instead of dwelling on

the Banerjee's cause that was recently upheld by her party MP Sagarika Ghosh and often discussed in the TMC mouthpiece Jago Bangla, Ghosh tended to shift the fulcrum of discussion on the Congress' failure to lead the Opposition in Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and more recently Maharashtra saying a time had come when the Congress party should start doing some self-introspection on the causes of its repeated failures. Incidentally the Bengal Chief Minister who has been touring East Midnapore earlier expressed gratitude to the senior INDIA leaders for reposing faith on her but avoided making any assertive statement on the contentious issue. "I am grateful to all the leaders

who have honoured me. I wish good health to all of them. May they be well, may their party be well. May India be well," she said in a brief statement. However voicing her frustration post INDIA's repeated defeats in a number of States as also in Delhi Banerjee had said "I created the 'INDIA' alliance. If those leading it cannot manage it well, then give me a chance. I am ready to lead the alliance from Bengal." Early this week senior INDIA leader and RJD patriarch Lalu Yadav once known for his unwavering faith in Rahul Gandhi said "Mamata Banerjee should be chosen as the leader of the 'INDIA' alliance. There's no point in Congress opposing this. She should be made the leader."

Fadnavis reaches Delhi for Cabinet expansion talks

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis will undertake first-ever expansion of his new Cabinet during the weekend, ahead of the brief three-day winter session beginning in Nagpur on December 16. Ahead of the State Cabinet expansion, Fadnavis met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Amit Shah, Nitin Gadkari, Rajnath Singh and National BJP president JP Nadda in New Delhi.



ings and standing firm behind Maharashtra. In the last 10 years, with your support Maharashtra is Number 1 in almost every sector and now aims to take this journey of VIKAS to the next level under your leadership and guidance. You have always been an inspiration to crores of BJP Karyakarta like us to work even harder". Talking separately to the media, Fadnavis said: "I had a good meeting with the Prime Minister and issues related to Maharashtra were discussed. He extended full support to the state government". During the meeting with Shah, Fadnavis is understood to have discussed various issues relating

to Maharashtra, including the impending State Cabinet expansion and portfolio allocations. Interacting with the media, Fadnavis said: "Our list of ministers would be finalised by the BJP high-command. On the other hand, Shinde Saheb would take a call on Shiv Sena members to be inducted in the ministry. Ajit Dada Pawar will decide on who will be there from his party in the State Cabinet". Interestingly enough, Fadnavis and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar are in New Delhi. However, deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde has chosen not to accompany Fadnavis to the national capital. Sources close to Shinde attributed Shinde's decision to accom-

pany Fadnavis to New Delhi is that he is not happy with the portfolio allocations proposed by Fadnavis. For, the ruling BJP is not willing to give important portfolios like Home, Urban Development and Revenue to the Shiv Sena (Shinde), a thing that has not gone well with Shinde who was demanding one or two of the three major portfolios. Asked if Shinde had chosen not to accompany him to the national capital because he was upset with the portfolio allocations proposed by the BJP, Fadnavis said: "My purpose of visit is different...Ajit Dada's purpose and engagements are different...Shinde Saheb has some work in Mumbai."

On his part, Ajit Pawar said that he along with his wife and Rajya Sabha member Sunetra Pawar, NCP Working President Praful Patel and state party president Sunil Tatkar met NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar and his wife Pratibha Pawar. "Today is (Pawar) Saheb's birthday... Tomorrow is Kaki's (Pratibha Patil's) birthday...we all wished them...some relations are beyond politics... (late Congress stalwart and first Chief Minister) Yashwantrao Chavan has taught us how to do cultured politics and we try to follow him," said Pawar. Queried if politics was discussed, Ajit Pawar said: "Pawar Saheb discussed issues related to Maharashtra... right from Parbhani violence to Parliament disruption, state cabinet expansion among others." Meanwhile, Fadnavis, Shinde and Ajit Pawar have reported arrived at a consensus on the size and division of the State Cabinet. Since the Maharashtra Assembly comprises 288 members, there will be a maximum of 43 ministers in the State Cabinet -- a number that accounts for 15 per cent of total members in the lower House of the State Legislature. In the normal course, the BJP will get 21 ministerial berths in the 43-member Cabinet, while the Shinde Shiv Sena is entitled for 12 ministers and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP will have to be satisfied with 10 berths.

Ajit Doval, Chinese counterpart to hold talks on border issue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

National Security Advisor(NSA) Ajit Doval and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, who is also foreign minister, will discuss later this month here all aspects of the boundary issue between the two nations. The likely meeting under the aegis of Special Representative(SR) talks, will take place a few weeks ago from the Line of Actual Control(LAC) in Ladakh after four years, sources said here on Thursday. The high-level talks between the two Special Representatives will mark the first parleys since the Galwan valley clash in 2020. The previous SR talks were held in December 2019. The upcoming dialogue comes in the wake of recent disengagement of troops from both the sides from friction points at Depsang and Demchok. The parleys may see a breakthrough in the broader resolution of the border dispute. The SR talks are expected to involve multilayered discussions aimed at defining and delineating the LAC more clearly, with the ultimate goal of achieving a lasting resolution. Sources indicate that the outcome of these talks will determine the timeline for the next Corps Commander-level meeting, which will focus on operational issues regarding the ongoing patrolling

and buffer zones to prevent further confrontations. India and China have engaged in a series of military and diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the situation along the LAC since 2020. The SR level talks represent a crucial opportunity for both nations to address their differences, enhance trust, and establish a more stable framework for managing their contested border. The SR talks come days after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun in Vientiane, Lao PDR on November 20 on the sidelines of 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus. This was the first meeting of the two Defence Ministers following the recent disengagement agreements, and the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS summit. Rajnath highlighted the fact that amicable relations between India and China, the two largest nations in the world, would have positive implications for global peace and prosperity. Considering that both countries are and will continue to remain neighbours, he mentioned that "we need to focus on cooperation rather than conflict". Rajnath called for reflecting on the lessons learnt from the unfortunate border clashes of 2020, take measures to prevent recurrence of such events and safeguard peace and tranquility along the India-China border.

Mahakumbh 2025 aims to set four Guinness World Records

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
PRAYAGRAJ

The Prayagraj Mela Authority has announced an ambitious plan to set four Guinness World Records during Mahakumbh 2025, the world's largest religious gathering, scheduled to begin on January 13. The proposed records include the largest synchronized sweeping drive, the largest e-vehicle parade, the most handprint paintings created in eight hours, and the largest river-cleaning campaign.

The first record attempt will involve 15,000 volunteers participating in a synchronized cleaning drive. ADM (Kumbh Mela) Vivek Chaturvedi said the effort symbolizes environmental stewardship and communal responsibility. "The drive will highlight the spiritual significance of cleanliness and environmental preservation," he added. The second initiative will feature a parade of 1,000 e-rickshaws and electric vehicles, promoting eco-friendly transport. "This initiative underscores Mahakumbh's commitment to sustainable transport solutions, reducing carbon emissions, and improving last-mile connectivity," Chaturvedi stated. The third record will involve 10,000 participants contributing their handprints on canvas, representing unity and diversity. Each print will symbolize the shared spiritual values and collective harmony of Mahakumbh. The final record attempt will



see 300 volunteers cleaning riverbanks at multiple locations. This drive highlights ecological conservation and the spiritual connection between humanity and nature, central themes of the religious gathering. To ensure compliance with Guinness World Records' stringent guidelines, a special coordination team will be formed in collaboration with the Prayagraj Mela Authority. The team will manage logistics, ensure accurate record-keeping, and oversee procedural adherence. "Our team will coordinate with Guinness World Records officials to finalize contracts, interpret performance guidelines, and develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)," Chaturvedi

explained. He emphasized that all processes, from participant registration to event execution, will follow approved guidelines. The records, if achieved, will reinforce Mahakumbh's legacy as a globally significant cultural and spiritual event, combining tradition with environmental consciousness and community engagement. Mahakumbh Mela 2025 is set to be more than just a spiritual event; it promises to be a major economic driver for Uttar Pradesh. The upcoming Mahakumbh expected to generate ₹25,000 crore in revenue for the state. Covering approximately 4,000 hectares, the Mahakumbh is projected to attract 40-45 crore pilgrims, making it the largest religious gathering in the world. The

event's estimated budget stands at ₹6,382 crore, with ₹5,600 crore already allocated for event management and infrastructure development. The ghats of Prayagraj, a key site for devotees and tourists, are being given a grand makeover. On the lines of Kashi's ghats, the UP government is renovating seven prominent ghats along the Ganga and Yamuna rivers to offer a more refined and welcoming experience. The renovation focuses on creating an environment where visitors can comfortably spend time, reflecting the significance of the Kumbh Mela. The project is being carried out by the Construction and Design Division of Jal Nigam at a cost of Rs 11.01 crore.

PM Modi to lay foundation stone for river linking project in MP

PTI ■ BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project in Madhya Pradesh on December 25, the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday. Yadav was speaking to reporters on the completion of one year of his government in the state. On December 11, 2023, Yadav was formally elected as the BJP legislature party leader and took oath as the CM two days later. "On the 100th birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who dreamt of inter-connecting the country's rivers to augment water resources, PM Modi will lay the foundation stone of the ambitious Ken-Betwa National River Linking Project on December 25 in MP's Chhatarpur district," said Yadav. The project to link the Ken and Betwa rivers will benefit Chhatarpur, Panna,



Tikamgarh, Niwadi, Damoh, Shivpuri, Datia, Raisen, Vidisha and Sagar districts of the state, he said. It will provide water for irrigation in 10.62 lakh hectares in the Bundelkhand region, spread across Madhya Pradesh (8.11 lakh hectares) and Uttar Pradesh (2.51 lakh hectares), besides supplying drinking water to 41 lakh population in MP and 21 lakh in UP, he said. MP has also decided to imple-

ment the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal river linking project which will benefit Guna, Shivpuri, Sehore, Dewas, Rajgarh, Ujjain, Agar-Malwa, Indore, Shajapur, Mandsaur and Morena districts of the state, said Yadav. This project will provide water for irrigation in 6.13 lakh hectares in MP and PM Modi will lay its foundation stone on December 17 in Jaipur, Yadav said. Yadav said MP will observe

2025 as the 'Industries Year' and Modi will inaugurate the Global Investors Summit, which will be held in Bhopal on February 24-25. Ahead of the investors' meet, the state government has been organising Regional Industry Conclaves across MP and conducting roadshows and conferences in the state and abroad, he said. Because of these joint efforts, the state has received investment proposals worth Rs 4 lakh crore which will generate 3 lakh jobs, he said. The CM said that on the completion of one year of the BJP government in MP, two programmes were launched to highlight the development works of his administration and link more eligible people with welfare schemes. 'Jankalyan Parv' (public welfare festival) and 'Mukhyamantri Jankalyan Abhiyan' (public welfare campaign) will run in December and January. During Janlakyen Parv, to be held between December 11 and December 26, foundation stones of several develop-

Ramlala's first anniversary to be celebrated over 3 days from January 11

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
AYODHYA

Preparations for the first anniversary of Shri Ramlala's consecration are in full swing, alongside the accelerated construction of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple. Among the temple's five sanctum towers, the pinnacle of the Rang Mandap has been fully completed. Champat Rai, General Secretary of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, announced that the temple's first anniversary will be celebrated as per the Hindu calendar on January 11, 2025, corresponding to Paush Shukla Paksha Dwadashi. He said that the consecration of Shri Ramlala was performed on January 22, 2024, according to the Hindu lunar calendar, and its first anniversary falls on January 11, 2025. "All major Hindu festivals such as Janmashtami, Ram Navami, Vivah Panchami, Shivratri, Mauni Amavasya,



Purnima, and Ekadashi are celebrated according to the Hindu calendar, and so will the first anniversary of Shri Ramlala's consecration, Rai said. He added: "To ensure smooth planning, the Trust has formed a four-member committee that will finalize the event details soon." Construction of several temples within the temple complex, including the Saptarishi

Mandir dedicated to Lord Shiva, Surya, Maa Durga, Devi Annapurna, Lord Ganesha, and Hanumanji, has also picked up pace. He added that 18 additional temples are being constructed within the temple complex, with work progressing steadily. The first-floor mandap is nearing completion, where the Ram Darbar will be established.

After ritual cancelled, bad luck follows Guruvayur temple priest

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The cancellation of Udayasthama Pooja at the age-old Lord Krishna Temple at Guruvayur has led to strange and unfortunate happenings. The ritual is a unique worship performed on Ekadashi Days from sunrise (Udaya) to sunset (asthamaana) without break and hundreds of thousands of devotees throng the temple considering it a privilege to offer prayers on that occasion. The Guruvayur Devaswom, the Kerala Government body packed with CPI(M) leaders that administers the temple, describes the Udayasthama Pooja as the most dearest and coveted of all offerings to Lord Krishna. It is believed that Sage Narada accompanied by Srimad Sankaracharya visited Guruvayur Temple on Ekadashi Day. The Bhagavad Gita was advised by Lord Krishna to Arjuna on this day. It is also believed that Melpathur Narayana Bhattathirippadu, Sanskrit scholar par excellence, whose life period was from 1560 to 1603 completed the composition of Narayaneeyam (a poetic work of tribute to Lord Krishna) on Shukla Paksha Ekadasi in the month of Agrayayana which makes it the most auspicious time to get Darshan of the presiding deity. Early this month, the Devaswam issued an order cancelling the Udayasthama Pooja citing problems associated with crowd control. The Government order drew widespread condemnation with Vedic scholars asking the Devaswam to withdraw the decision as the ritual has been observed from time immemorial. Thousands of people throng the temple from all over the country. "Hantha! Bhagyam Jananam" (Oh Lord, How fortunate it is to be born in this temple city) is the catchword in Narayaneeyam, the poetic work eulogizing the virtues of Lord Krishna. Parappanangadi Unnikrishnan Panickar, Kerala's ace Vedic scholar, in a release had



requested the Government not to meddle with the custom and allow the pooja to proceed without trouble. Pandappillil Gopala Menon, Tantrik scholar had sounded alarm bell by forecasting that untoward incidents were bound to happen. The Government's move to do away with the pooja had the concurrence of Chennas Dineshan Namboodirippadu, the Thanthri (chief priest) of the temple for reasons known to him only. The petition filed by a group of devotees was dismissed by a Division Bench of Kerala High Court on late Saturday. Though they approached the apex court challenging the division bench order, it was too late. But what happened on Tuesday turned out to be shocking. A close relation of the Thanthri, who was in the best of her health passed away all of a sudden on Tuesday making Dineshan Namboodirippadu ineligible to enter the temple premise for the next 12 days as he was the one to perform he last rites. "It is one thing that you believe or not in God. But one should never question or challenge age-old rituals as there are reasons behind every pooja performed in temples," said Dr M G Gireshan, an electronics scientist working in a defense laboratory at Hyderabad. Kizhiyedam Raman Namboodiri, second-in-command of the Thanthri, was weeping while he recounted the incidents that followed the post-Kerala High Court decision dismissing the petition by believers. All that Namboodiri could say was "Hantha! Bhagyam Jananam" and "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna".

CM Yogi reviews Mahakumbh preparations ahead of Modi's visit

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Prayagraj on Thursday to oversee preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's highly anticipated visit on Friday where PM is set to inaugurate projects worth thousands of crores for Mahakumbh 2025. During his visit, CM Yogi conducted a comprehensive ground inspection of Mahakumbh Nagar and key sites, including the Sangam Nose, where the Prime Minister is scheduled to perform rituals. He provided clear directives to officials to ensure smooth execution of the events and seamless arrangements for devotees and dignitaries. Mela Officer Vijay Kiran

Anand briefed CM Yogi on arrangements for the PM's cruise tour, and the Chief Minister provided essential guidelines while emphasizing the need to maintain the Ganga's cleanliness. The Chief Minister also visited several important locations, such as the temporary 100-bed hospital built in Sector One Parade. During his inspection, CM Yogi reviewed critical areas like the Emergency Ward, ICU, OPD, and the operation theatre. The hospital boasts advanced facilities, including AI-powered cameras in the ICU and a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pleased with the innovations, CM Yogi emphasized the need for proper staffing, availability of medicines, and enhanced ventilation to ensure top-notch care for devotees during the



Mahakumbh. The temporary hospital, built with support from the Cantt Board and Medanta doctors, is set to serve as a critical healthcare facility for Mahakumbh 2025, including a 10-bed ICU. CM Yogi expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, urging

officials to ensure efficient functioning. At the Akshay Vat Corridor within the Prayag Fort, CM Yogi inspected the ongoing Smart City development work. He appreciated the corridor's beautification and praised highlights such as the child form statue of Shri

Krishna and the Sapt Rishis' artwork. CM Yogi also visited the Bade Hanuman Mandir Corridor on the Sangam coast, where Phase-1 development is underway by the Prayagraj Development Authority (PDA). After reviewing the progress, he performed aarti and prayed for the well-being of all citizens. He urged the PDA to accelerate work to ensure timely completion of the temple corridor. The CM also visited Akharas in Sector 20, inspecting arrangements at Shri Panchayati Akhara Bada Udasin, Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani, and Anand Akhara. He interacted with saints and assured them of his future visit. CM Yogi also reviewed external arrangements at other Akharas to ensure they meet expectations.

Finally, CM Yogi conducted a final inspection at Triveni Marg, Ganga Riverfront Road Jhansi, and Chhatnag Ghat, directing officials to ensure all necessary facilities are in place for the devotees during Mahakumbh 2025. Throughout his visit, CM Yogi was accompanied by Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, Jal Shakti Minister Swatantrdev Singh, Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, Tourism Minister Jaiver Singh, former minister and MLA Siddharth Singh, along with other leaders and officials. The meticulous inspections and directives issued by CM Yogi aim to ensure a seamless and spiritually enriching experience for the millions of devotees expected to attend the grand Mahakumbh 2025.

Need to prepare NRC like document to differentiate Indians, infiltrators: Assam CM

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

There is a need to prepare an NRC (National Register of Citizens) like document to differentiate Indians and infiltrators, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in Puri on Thursday. Speaking to media persons after visiting Jagannath temple at Puri, Sarma said the Assam government on Wednesday decided that one should have his/her name registered in the NRC for obtaining an Aadhaar card. On the alleged attack on Hindu community in Bangladesh, he said, "It is very unfortunate and a matter of concern. But, I am hopeful that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will definitely take some steps at a diplomatic level for the protection of the Hindu people in Bangladesh." He said the Prime Minister had recently sent Foreign secretary to Bangladesh and hoped that peace would be restored in the country with the efforts made by the PM in a diplomatic way. Slamming the Congress over



the issue, the Assam CM said, "Neither Rahul Gandhi nor the Congress party ever stood with the Hindu community. They will not stand with them in future too. Even many times, communal harmony was disturbed in the country for them." Speaking in favour of the 'one nation, one election' system, he said, "In Assam, the Assembly and Parliament elections are being held at different times. During elections, the developmental works usually hamper almost the entire year." So, the Prime Minister wants to have 'one nation, one election' so that development works would not hamper, he added. To implement it, there is a need to bring amendments to the Constitution with a 2/3rd majority in both houses of Parliament. And, the Prime Minister will surely do it, he claimed. When journalists asked him about the fate of Naveen Patnaik-led BJD, he said, "BJD's era has ended now and the BJP government will remain in Odisha for at least 50 years."

Widespread rains lash TN

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Widespread rains lashed parts of Tamil Nadu on Thursday, prompting authorities to declare a holiday for schools in Chennai and many other districts. With the water-level fast rising in the reservoirs in the state, the Public Works Department officials opened the shutters of two dams in Chennai suburbs and another in Thiruvannamalai district. About 13,000 cusecs water was released from Sathanur dam in Thiruvannamalai, while 3,500 cusecs water from Chembarambakkam dam, and another 1,000 cusecs water was discharged from the Poondi reservoir, as the level of water in these dams dangerously inched towards the full reservoir capacity levels. Following the heavy rainfall warning issued by the IMD, six NDRF teams have been alerted to swing into rescue and relief activity in case of emergency, the government said. It also urged the people in the low-lying areas in the state to remain vigilant and take appropriate action. Overnight rains lashed Chennai and the neighbouring Tiruvallur, Chengelpet and



Kancheepuram, besides Villupuram and some areas in the Cauvery delta region. Following sharp showers, authorities declared a day's holiday for schools in districts, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengelpet, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Mayiladuthurai and Cuddalore. The regional weather office has forecast more spells of rain in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengelpet and Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tiruvallur, Thanjavur districts in the state, besides the neighbouring union territory Puducherry. In Thiruvannamalai, the Sri Arunachaleswar temple staff and volunteers braved the

downpour to carry the 6.5 feet high copper cauldron (koparai) with the Lord's name on their lips, to place it atop the 2,668 feet high mountain to light the Maha Deepam on December 13 evening. The lighting of the deepam marks the conclusion of the annual 10-day Karthiga deepam festival at the renowned temple. The Bharani deepam will be lit at the temple on Friday morning. Wednesday's Well Marked Low Pressure Area over the Southwest and adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal brought heavy rain in the southern districts as well. The interior districts in the state have also experienced a heavy spell since this morning.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

Empowering young innovators

Prime Minister Modi highlights the role of young minds in tackling real-world challenges with creativity and technology

The best way to predict the future is to invent it, said Alan Kay. And indeed how true it is for a nation. A nation that invents and finds solution to its problems marches on the path to progress. Echoing the same sentiment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the pivotal role of innovation in nation-building during his interaction at the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024, emphasising how young minds are shaping the future through creativity and technological ingenuity. The event, which included participation from over 1,300 student teams across India, showcased groundbreaking ideas aimed at solving real-world challenges. The SIH is a testament to the transformative power of education and innovation in building a self-reliant India. The event not only bridges the gap between academia and industry but also fosters a culture of collaboration and problem-solving. At the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, which hosted the grand finale of the software edition for the first time, 25 exceptional teams from 21 states convened to present their innovative solutions.



The hackathon addressed 250 problem statements submitted by 54 ministries, departments, state governments, public sector units (PSUs), and industries, covering sectors like healthcare, sustainability, education, disaster management and agriculture. With a 240 per cent increase in participation compared to the previous year, SIH 2024 is the largest edition to date, involving over 86,000 teams at the institute level and 49,000 at the national level.

Among the standout participants was the 'Big Brains Team' from NIT Srinagar, led by Syeeda Aiemen D Saleem. The team worked on an AI-powered Virtual Reality Friend, a tool designed to assist children with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disabilities. The project, developed under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, aims to help children enhance social and interactive skills in a simulated environment. PM Modi lauded the team's empathetic approach, emphasising the global relevance of such solutions and their potential to transform lives. PM Modi's interaction with the participants highlighted his vision of leveraging local innovation to address global challenges. He stressed that solutions tailored for India's unique needs could resonate globally, contributing to the world's progress. "Every child has the right to grow and prosper, and innovative solutions like these ensure no one is left behind," he remarked. By providing a platform for young minds to explore, collaborate and innovate, the Smart India Hackathon is shaping the next generation of problem-solvers and leaders. As India aims to establish itself as a global innovation hub, initiatives like SIH play a crucial role in realising this vision, reaffirming the transformative power of education and technology in nation-building.

PICTALK



Young women visit a snow covered park after snowfall in Shimla

AI's boost to the spirit of service

From streamlining efforts to enhancing inclusivity, AI is reshaping how volunteers connect, contribute and make an impact



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Volunteering has long been a vital pillar of community development, social change, and global solidarity, offering individuals a meaningful way to contribute to society while fostering personal growth. In today's interconnected and fast-paced world, the concept of volunteering is undergoing a dynamic transformation, largely driven by advances in technology. The International Volunteer Day (IVD), celebrated globally on December 5, 2024, under the theme "Economic and Social Development," highlighted the pivotal role of volunteers in shaping a better world. Sub-themes emphasised their contributions to alleviating crises and supporting underprivileged populations affected by natural disasters, man-made crises, or socio-economic challenges. Volunteers have consistently been on the frontlines of crisis management, stepping in where governments and organisations often encounter limitations. Whether during pandemics, natural disasters, or humanitarian emergencies, their role remains indispensable, particularly for vulnerable populations. The advent of advanced technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), is significantly reshaping the landscape of volunteerism.

AI enhances the efficiency, inclusivity, and accessibility of volunteering initiatives, ensuring they have a far-reaching impact. By leveraging AI-driven tools, organisations are creating platforms that align volunteer skills with opportunities, reduce mismatches, and optimise efforts. This transformation not only improves the volunteer experience but also amplifies the positive outcomes for communities in need.

AI-powered platforms such as "HelpFinder" are revolutionising how volunteers are matched with organisations. By analysing data on individual skills, interests, and locations, these platforms ensure that volunteers are placed where they can make the most meaningful contributions. This precision reduces mismatches, boosts retention rates, and fosters a sense of accomplishment among volunteers. During crises, AI-powered systems can quickly



analyse data to identify affected areas and volunteer availability, enabling swift deployment to critical zones. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, AI-driven platforms like "OneRescue" coordinated volunteer initiatives for contact tracing, mental health support, and supply distribution, proving invaluable in mitigating the crisis.

Corporate social responsibility initiatives also benefit from AI. Tools like "Benevity" facilitate employee engagement by connecting them with volunteer opportunities that align with organisational goals. These solutions ensure streamlined coordination, impactful volunteering, and sustained enthusiasm among participants. AI-powered chatbots further enhance volunteer experiences by providing instant support, answering queries and assisting with training.

In India, a nation of 1.45 billion people, the ethos of service is deeply ingrained in its culture. Family values, religious teachings, and community traditions emphasise the importance of helping others. Today, AI is augmenting these efforts. Chatbots are used to handle volunteer queries related to vaccination drives, maternal health, women's and children's safety, and more. In the UK, AI-driven systems have optimised food bank logistics and facilitated grocery deliveries to vulnerable indi-

viduals, demonstrating how technology empowers volunteers to make a tangible difference.

Innovative applications like "Be My Eyes" enable volunteers to assist visually impaired individuals remotely, while platforms like "GoodSAM" connect trained volunteers with emergency services in real time. For example, volunteers alerted through GoodSAM can provide critical assistance such as CPR or use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) before professional help arrives. Virtual volunteering has further expanded opportunities for professionals to contribute their expertise remotely. Platforms like "Catchafire" and the UN's Online Volunteering Service facilitate mentoring, legal advice, language translation, and more, breaking geographical barriers and making volunteering more inclusive.

Digital tools have eliminated traditional obstacles to volunteering, such as physical distance, time constraints, and accessibility issues. People with disabilities, caregivers, or those in remote locations can now volunteer from their homes. This inclusivity aligns with the 2024 IVD theme, fostering collaboration among diverse communities toward the shared goal of economic and social development. By harnessing the right technology and resources, volun-

teers can work together to address pressing global challenges.

In natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods, volunteers equipped with drones and AI tools can map affected areas and deliver supplies more efficiently. Apps like "Zello" enable seamless communication during emergencies, transforming smartphones into walkie-talkies for coordination. In efforts to combat poverty and hunger, volunteers support food banks, organise community kitchens, and deliver resources. Digital tools like "ShareTheMeal," a United Nations World Food Programme crowdfunding app, empower individuals to donate meals with a simple tap, making a significant impact on global hunger.

Education is another critical sector where volunteering, supported by technology, has made remarkable strides. Online platforms have democratised access to education, reaching remote and underserved communities. Initiatives like "Code.org" empower volunteers to teach coding skills, equipping students with the tools needed for a technology-driven future. Gender-focused volunteer programmes address inequality by providing legal aid, counseling and advocacy for women's rights, further demonstrating the transformative power of volunteering.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)



AI ENHANCES THE EFFICIENCY, INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVES, ENSURING THEY HAVE A FAR-REACHING IMPACT. BY LEVERAGING AI-DRIVEN TOOLS, ORGANISATIONS ARE CREATING PLATFORMS THAT ALIGN VOLUNTEER SKILLS WITH OPPORTUNITIES, REDUCE MISMATCHES AND OPTIMISE EFFORTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INDIA'S SOFT POWER POLICY

Madam — The ongoing conflict in Gaza and Israel's military action against Hamas have drawn global attention. In this context, Israeli Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, praised India's soft power policy, underlining its relevance in international diplomacy. He acknowledged that Israel, due to its heavy reliance on military strength, has lagged in areas like information management and public relations. India has strengthened its global position through diplomacy, cultural influence, and dialogue as key tools of soft power.

Initiatives like yoga, cultural exchanges, and multilateral diplomacy have not only earned India international goodwill but also enhanced its global image. Despite its firm stance against terrorism, India has effectively combined dialogue and public relations to make its policies inspirational for the global community. In contrast, Israel's excessive reliance on military power weakens it in ideological battles, further complicated by adversarial propaganda from Arab media. Military strength alone is insufficient; tools of soft power, such as dialogue, empathy, and media management, are essential for long-term success. India's example demonstrates that balancing soft and hard power not only safeguards national interests but also garners global acceptance. Israel should take inspiration from India's strategy to refine its policies and strengthen its information and public relations framework.

R K Jain | Barwani

TACKLING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Madam — Apropos of the headlines 'Identify illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, orders LG' (December 11), it is welcome that prominent Ulemas and Muslim leaders have taken up the issue of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants with the government and thus depoliticised the issue in favour of the Muslim community, Delhi, and the entire country. There are countrywide agitations and

UNEP honours Madhav Gadgil



India's veteran ecologist and nature scientist Madhav Gadgil has been named as one of the six 'Champions of the Earth' by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for 2024. He is renowned for his seminal work in the ecologically fragile Western Ghats region of India, which is a unique global biodiversity hotspot. Gadgil made an extensive study on the Western Ghats region, chairing the Western

Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in 2011, and came out with a list of grim and grave findings for the Western Ghats region.

The panel's report, which is popularly known as the Gadgil report, recommended in 2011 that the entire hill range be declared an ecologically sensitive area and recommended a ban on mining, quarrying, industries, new thermal power plants, hydropower projects, and large-scale wind energy projects. Gadgil's bold and honest recommendations faced opposition from some of the state governments, political bigwigs, industries, and local communities. Braving all odds, he championed the protection of the earth and the environment. Gadgil's research has helped to protect marginalised people, promote community-driven conservation of ecosystems and influence policymaking at the highest level.

M Pradyu | Kannur

demonstrations against atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi illegal immigrants. The issue of illegal immigrants, whether from Bangladesh, African countries, or any other country, being detrimental to the integrity of the country, law and order, and social fabric and homogeneity poses potential challenges of demographic change, crime control, drug menace, security, and anarchy.

However, this is a very formidable challenge for the government to work out the strategy and implement it in view of the opposition from the immigrants and their local political harborers. A question will certainly arise why only in Delhi and why not in the entire country. There may be a spate of court cases as well in view of the large-scale illegal issue of identity cards of Aadhar, PAN, or BPL. It is, therefore, imperative that a nationwide strategy should be evolved and implemented firmly. Of course, the political parties following an appeasement agenda and vote bank politics will leave no stone unturned to disrupt it, but

it is a national priority and a security threat.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

VOTERS' NAME DELETED

Madam — The deletion of the eligible voter's name before the election has encroached about the entire country and is intensifying terrifically. The senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh highlighted an application for the deletion of 3,800 voters' names in just the RK Puram constituency. Such incidents are frequently observed before polls, which wrest the voting rights and thwart them to contribute to choosing preferred leaders. It's an out-and-out violation of the Universal Adult Franchise" in the largest democratic country. It's a grave issue that demands urgent action. The EC must not turn into a complaint tool instead of a neutral body and deploy every effort to address it and ensure the voter's right.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

The transformative role of interactive learning in education

This modern approach is not just a shift in teaching strategies but a leap toward preparing students for the dynamic demands of the future workforce

The landscape of education has evolved significantly, with technological advancements and the integration of AI, making interactive learning a favoured approach. Because interactive learning fosters engagement, critical thinking and long-term memory, it makes it possible for knowledge to be assimilated more thoroughly.

This is unquestionably an improvement over the conventional approaches, which mostly emphasise rote memory and depend largely on textbook-based techniques. The abilities needed in today's dynamic environment are better suited for interactive learning. Passively absorbing knowledge using conventional teaching approaches results in surface learning, which is ultimately counterproductive. According to National Training Laboratories research, passive learning techniques like reading and lectures only have recall rates of 5-10 per cent.

The Advent of Interactive Learning: A more hands-on approach is provided by interactive learning, which combines technology, teamwork,



and real-world problem-solving. This increases engagement and extends retention. Digital tools, project-based learning, and group discussions are all included in this approach's scope. Students in interactive classrooms outperformed those in traditional lectures by 6 per cent on examinations, according to Harvard University research. Here are some ways that interactive learning approaches work better than conventional strategies:

1. Enhanced Retention: According to National Training Laboratories research, active learning strategies like practice-by-doing and group discussions had higher retention rates, ranging from 50 to 75 per cent. Students may directly apply STEM principles

through hands-on experiences. According to research from the American Society for Engineering Education, pupils who participated in interactive STEM activities learned much more than those who received standard instruction.

2. Encouraging Critical Thinking: Interactive learning promotes creativity and critical thinking by allowing students to investigate other viewpoints and pose questions. According to a McKinsey & Company research, interactive learning environments foster critical thinking and reflection while increasing student engagement and fostering productive social interactions. Another immersive method of student engagement is gamification, which boosts students' incentive to tackle challenging issues and permits in-depth learning.

3. Real-World Application: Project-based learning, which links education to real-world issues and increases the applicability of information in practical contexts, is a crucial element of interactive learning. In contrast to students who studied using tradition-

al techniques, students who participated in project-based programs demonstrated superior application of information to real-life circumstances, according to a 2022 research by Edutopia.

4. Future Ready: Through more engaging and relevant instruction, interactive learning equips students to overcome obstacles more effectively than traditional approaches ever could. To educate students for the uncertain and constantly changing times, education must emphasise abilities like problem-solving, teamwork, and flexibility in today's competitive labor market.

Interactive approaches also boost motivation and encourage teamwork, which aids students in honing their communication and teamwork abilities. The global EdTech market is expected to grow to \$404 billion by 2025, according to EdTechXGlobal. Students that use an interactive learning technique not only perform better academically but are also better prepared to handle problems in the real world.

(The writer is Founder Zamit; views are personal)



AARUL MALAVIYA



FIRST COLUMN

INDIA SHARES ITS VISION FOR WEST ASIA

The Manama Dialogue provided India with a platform to outline its vision for regional stability



KUMARDEEP BANARJEE

Even as Syria was undergoing huge regime change, with a possibility of leaving a long-lasting impact on the geo-political mix of West Asia, India's external affairs minister was delivering a lecture on the changing dynamics of international cooperation at the Manama Dialogue. The Manama dialogue is a platform to bring policy makers, and ministers to discuss and debate the strategic defence, security and foreign challenges of West Asia. The dialogue happening against the backdrop of the fast-changing narrative in Syria provided India with a unique opportunity to weigh on its most pressing concerns in and for the region. Syria has been ruled by the Assad dynasty for nearly 50 years. However, this dynastic rule converted the country, on the border of Turkey and Jordan into a brutal police state. Russia and Iran had been supportive of the Assad dynasty, for strategic reasons. Iran supported the regime, to build its axis of resistance against Israel, while Russia, has air force and naval bases in Syria. Global leaders are watching the Syria theatre closely even as Israel continues its war in the neighbourhood. The storming of Israeli troops in Gaza and Ukraine, distracted Iran and Russia, which led to the exit of Bashar Al Assad last week. However, what is of concern to many would be, the rise of rebel leader Abu Mohammed al-Jawfani, an ex-Al Qaeda member.

Syria despite the dynastic rule managed to maintain a secular political outlook where minorities and diverse groups did not feel any discrimination. Many fear that the rebel leader with Al Qaeda credentials, may push the state to a hardline Islamist nation. Almost every nation in the neighbourhood including Israel is watching the unfolding situation care-



fully. Delhi has been agnostic to the regime change, even though the Assad dynasty has been supportive of India's position on Kashmir, and its stance with Islamabad. Any unfriendly regime in the region would weaken India's position and could be a security concern as well.

Against this backdrop, the Manama dialogue, with several leaders from the West Asia and the Indo-Pacific, provided an important platform for engagement. Mentioning the ongoing conflicts impacting the region S Jaishankar said, "And this today would extend from Gaza to Lebanon and now to Syria as well. But at the same time, we have to be realistic about competing interests in this region... The second political-diplomatic cooperation that we can think of is really at a time when the world is polarised if not downright violent, how do you prevent an escalation of tensions, how do you prevent conflict from spreading further. In recent times, for all of us, the relationship or absence of it between Israel and Iran has been particularly a source of concern, so some of our diplomatic efforts has focused on that particular aspect. There has been the situation in the Red Sea as well. On a more positive note, the third aspect of the political-diplomatic, I would say, we are also looking at certain trend lines coming out of this region. We have been a supporter of the Abraham Accords and some years ago, we started a grouping called I2U2, which involves India, Israel, the US and the UAE. It is still at a relatively early stage and we certainly hope that in the coming days that its a group that will grow."

India in the past decade, has a trade-oriented foreign policy outlook, where, it knows that nothing binds countries more than an economic partnership. Mr Jaishankar mentioned that India has nearly \$170- 180 billion with the ten-member Gulf Cooperation Council and significant economic relations with countries in the Mediterranean. A new US president from January would also be a key benchmark to watch out for days to come. The relationships are most likely to be economic and based on mutual interests.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

The dawn of a new era: Syria's path forward

As Syria comes to terms with Assad's departure, the road ahead promises opportunities for renewal but is fraught with risks that will test the resolve of its new leadership



NISHAKANT OJHA



The fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime and the appointment of Mohammed al-Bashir as Syria's Prime Minister on December 10, 2024, mark a watershed moment in the nation's history, offering a mix of promise and uncertainty. This transition signals the end of an era defined by authoritarian rule, civil war and foreign interventions, ushering in a period of both opportunity and immense challenge. Assad's departure, driven by a combination of Russian withdrawal and external pressures, has created a power vacuum with significant implications. Mohammed al-Bashir, a moderate politician known for his diplomatic acumen, has pledged to prioritise national reconciliation and reconstruction. His leadership represents a shift from the autocratic governance of the past toward a more inclusive and reform-oriented approach. However, stabilising Syria remains an uphill battle. Despite al-Bashir's efforts, large swathes of the country remain fragmented, with control divided among Kurdish forces, remnants of opposition groups, and radical elements. Moreover, millions of Syrians continue to suffer from displacement, poverty and inadequate access to basic services, underscoring the dire need for humanitarian aid and international support. Compounding these challenges is Syria's shattered economy, which demands both immediate stabilisation and long-term rebuilding strategies. The role of covert operations by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the fall of Assad's regime cannot be overlooked. Since the early years of the Syrian Civil War, the CIA has employed programmes such as Operation Timber Sycamore to train and arm select rebel factions, aiming to counter Assad's government, which had strong backing from Russia and Iran. These operations evolved



PRIME MINISTER AL-BASHIR HAS OUTLINED A ROADMAP FOR SYRIA'S RECOVERY, FOCUSING ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL REFORMS

to include intelligence gathering, cyberattacks, and psychological warfare. Although they played a critical role in destabilising Assad's regime, the complexities of such interventions also fueled unintended consequences, such as the empowerment of extremist factions. For the US, this strategy yielded key geopolitical advantages, including weakening Iranian influence, reducing Russia's foothold in the region, and bolstering counterterrorism efforts. Prime Minister al-Bashir has outlined a roadmap for Syria's recovery, focusing on political, economic, and social reforms. Politically, his plans include forming a transitional government representing Syria's diverse ethnic and political groups and drafting a new constitution that decentralises power and protects minority rights. On the economic front, his administration is prioritising infrastructure development, attracting international investments, and combating corruption to lay the foundation for sustainable growth. Socially, reintegration programs aim to facilitate the return of displaced Syrians and rehabilitate former combatants, while expanded healthcare and education services seek to address the needs of the war-affected population. The fall of Assad and the emergence of al-Bashir have far-reaching implications for the broader West Asia. Regionally, these developments could recalibrate power dynamics, reducing Iran's influence in Syria while opening avenues for normalisation with Israel, partic-

ularly in areas of border security and economic cooperation. On a global scale, Russia's diminished role in Syria marks a strategic loss for Moscow, while China may see opportunities to extend its Belt and Road Initiative into the region's reconstruction phase. Russia's longstanding support for Assad, which began with its military intervention in 2015, faced significant challenges in recent years. Strained by its involvement in Ukraine and Western sanctions, Moscow has grappled with resource constraints, prompting a recalibration of its Middle Eastern strategy. Domestic criticism of prolonged military engagements has further pressured the Kremlin to scale back its commitments in Syria, leaving Assad vulnerable to internal and external pressures. Globally, the Syrian transition carries profound security implications. The power vacuum left by Assad's fall risks a resurgence of extremist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda, which could exploit the instability to regain strength and pose threats beyond Syria's borders. The ongoing refugee crisis also looms large, with continued instability potentially driving more Syrians to seek asylum abroad, challenging neighboring countries and Europe alike. Additionally, proxy conflicts fueled by regional rivalries and superpower tensions threaten to entangle Syria in broader geopolitical frictions. The transition from Assad to al-Bashir represents a pivotal juncture in Syria's history, offering a chance for renewal amid deep-seated

challenges. While the road to stability and prosperity is fraught with obstacles, a coordinated international effort combined with meaningful domestic reform holds the potential to guide Syria toward a more peaceful and resilient future. The coming months will be decisive in determining whether this new chapter in Syria's turbulent narrative leads to lasting progress. The transition from Bashar al-Assad's regime to Mohammed al-Bashir's leadership marks a critical turning point in Syria's history, offering a glimmer of hope amid a legacy of conflict and instability. Al-Bashir's vision for political reform, economic recovery, and social inclusion aims to chart a new course for a nation shattered by years of war. However, the challenges are immense: fragmented control, a dire humanitarian crisis, and a collapsed economy require urgent attention and sustained international support. On the global stage, the fall of Assad has reshaped regional dynamics, reducing Iranian influence and opening new avenues for diplomacy while exposing Syria to the risks of renewed extremism and geopolitical competition. Whether Syria's new leadership can successfully navigate these complexities and steer the nation toward stability depends on the cohesion of its domestic efforts and the willingness of the international community to provide coordinated and meaningful support. (The writer is an eminent expert on counter terrorism and West Asian affairs; views are personal)

Bridging India's urban-rural divide: Empowering rural learners through skilling

India's vast diversity extends beyond culture and language, manifesting in unequal access to education, skilling and employment opportunities

India is a country with great linguistic, cultural, racial, social and economic diversity. People living in urban areas have access to opportunities for skilling, education and employment that are not easily available to people in semi-urban and rural areas. Over the last decade or two, there has been considerable growth and development in the skilling and education ecosystem due to a multitude of factors. Governments - both central and state - have realised that the only way India can benefit from its tremendous demographic dividend is by ensuring that individuals in the working age are equipped with the knowledge and skills required to thrive in increasingly global workplaces.



NAGESH SINGH

Central and state skilling entities have created massive systems that reach every district around India and make top-quality resources available to hitherto underserved audiences. The corporate sector, leveraging the prevalent Corporate Social Responsibility laws, has also contributed significantly to this by collaborating with government agencies and supporting them with co-

funding, content, certification and job opportunities. The Directorate General of Training (Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) manages a network of tens of thousands of institutions that collaborate with the corporate sector and civil society to make high-quality skilling available to hundreds of thousands of learners every year. All India Council for Technical Education, through its network of thousands of engineering institutions, offers cutting-edge training and internship opportunities to learners around India, irrespective of their location or socio-economic limitations. Edunet Foundation, for example, makes courseware and skills across the IT spectrum

available to learners across engineering colleges, National Skills Training Institutes and Industrial Training Institutes nationally, directly working with lakhs of learners every year. These programs are offered in blended mode, leveraging classroom learning, synchronous video, online content and hands-on project work. While there is availability of skilling and education opportunities, there are several issues that limit the benefits of these programs. The foremost problem is access to technology. Since the courses are offered in blended mode, learners need access to computers with high bandwidth internet connectivity and not just mobile phones. Almost every household in



India has access to mobile phones but larger devices that are more conducive to experiential learning in technology are not widely available. Both government and corporate stakeholders can make a huge difference by making current technology platforms available to learners in rural areas by donating and/or set-

ting up labs and digital libraries within the premises of existing educational institutions in these areas. The second issue is access to local employment. Most jobs - especially the technology-centric ones - are centred around major cities and towns. For learners who are unable to migrate to employ-

ment, this is a huge barrier. Additionally, of course, there are many problems associated with mass migration to urban areas. There is a need to create local career opportunities that allow people to gainfully work wherever they are, without the need to migrate to a larger city or town. This may be done by a steady focus on entrepreneurship that creates jobs locally and helps in the development of rural areas. Rural micro-entrepreneurship, especially focused on agriculture and associated areas, can solve many of the problems associated with mass-migration and lopsided economic development. Local businesses, thus created, will drive the local economy and create local

employment. A stronger focus on rural enterprise will help India by ensuring inclusive economic development. There are several programs by the government and the corporate sector that are trying to achieve this, but they need to be enhanced and made more potent with support from civil society. In an environment where rural learners have access to technology and employment opportunities, skilling initiatives by the government and the corporate sector will make a bigger impact. Learners will be able to learn and earn locally, thereby bridging the urban-rural divide. (The writer is chairman, Edunet Foundation; views are personal)

Biden commutes roughly 1,500 sentences, pardons 39 people in biggest single-day act of clemency

WASHINGTON ■ President Joe Biden is commuting the sentences of roughly 1,500 people who were released from prison and placed on home confinement during the coronavirus pandemic and is pardoning 39 Americans convicted of nonviolent crimes. It's the largest single-day act of clemency in modern history. The commutations announced Thursday are for people who have served out home confinement sentences for at least one year after they were released. Prisons were uniquely bad for spreading the virus and some inmates were released in part to stop the spread. At one point, 1 in 5 prisoners had COVID-19, according to a tally kept by The Associated Press. Biden said he would be taking more steps in the weeks ahead and would continue to review clemency petitions. The second largest single-day act of clemency was by Barack Obama, with 330, shortly before leaving office in 2017. "America was built on the promise of possibility and second

chances," Biden said in a statement. "As president, I have the great privilege of extending mercy to people who have demonstrated remorse and rehabilitation, restoring opportunity for Americans to participate in daily life and contribute to their communities, and taking steps to remove sentencing disparities for non-violent offenders, especially those convicted of drug offenses." The clemency follows a broad pardon for his son Hunter, who was prosecuted for gun and tax crimes. Biden is under pressure from advocacy groups to pardon broad swaths of people, including those on federal death row, before the Trump administration takes over in January. He's also weighing whether to issue preemptive pardons to those who investigated Trump's effort to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and are facing possible retribution when he takes office. Those pardoned Thursday had been convicted of nonviolent crimes such as drug offenses and turned their lives around, White House lawyers said. They include

a woman who led emergency response teams during natural disasters; a church deacon who has worked as an addiction counsellor and youth counsellor; a doctoral student in molecular biosciences; and a decorated military veteran. The president had previously issued 122 commutations and 21 other pardons. He's also broadly pardoned those convicted of use and simple possession of marijuana on federal lands and in the District of Columbia, and pardoned former US service members convicted of violating a now-repealed military ban on consensual gay sex. Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., and 34 other lawmakers are urging the president to pardon environmental and human rights lawyer Steven Donziger, who was imprisoned or under house arrest for three years because of a contempt of court charge related to his work representing Indigenous farmers in a lawsuit against Chevron. Others are advocating for Biden to commute the sentences of federal death row prisoners. His attorney general, Merrick

Garland, paused federal executions. Biden had said on the campaign trail in 2020 that he wanted to end the death penalty but he never did, and now, with Trump coming back into office, it's likely executions will resume. During his first term, Trump presided over an unprecedented number of federal executions, carried out during the height of the pandemic. More pardons are coming before Biden leaves office on Jan. 20, but it's not clear whether he'll take action to guard against possible prosecution by Trump, an untested use of the power. The president has been taking the idea seriously and has been thinking about it for as much as six months — before the presidential election — but has been concerned about the precedent it would set, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss internal discussions. But those who received the pardons would have to accept them. New California Sen. Adam Schiff, who was the chairman of the congressional committee that investigated the violent Jan. 6

insurrection, said such a pardon from Biden would be "unnecessary," and that the president shouldn't be spending his waning days in office worrying about this. A president has the power to both pardon, in which a person is relieved of guilt and punishment, or commute a sentence, which reduces or eliminates the punishment but doesn't exonerate the wrongdoer. It's customary for a president to grant mercy at the end of his term, using the power of the office to wipe away records or end prison terms. Before pardoning his son, Biden had repeatedly pledged not to do so. He said in a statement explaining his reversal that the prosecution had been poisoned by politics. The decision prompted criminal justice advocates and lawmakers to put additional public pressure on the administration to use that same power for everyday Americans. It wasn't a very popular move; only about 2 in 10 Americans approved of his decision, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Centre for Public Affairs Research.

Russian forces edge closer to key eastern Ukraine city

KYIV ■ Fighting around the key eastern Ukraine city of Pokrovsk is "extremely intense" after a monthslong Russian push, Ukraine's top military commander said, with analysts estimating Russian forces are now within just a few kilometres of the city. Ukrainian troops repelled nearly 40 Russian attempts to storm defences around Pokrovsk over the previous 24 hours, the General Staff said in a battlefield report Thursday. "Russian occupiers are throwing all available forces forward, attempting to break through the defences of our troops," Ukrainian army chief Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy said in a Facebook post late Wednesday. His forces are outnumbered, he said. Ukraine's stretched defences in Donetsk have been creaking since early this year under a fierce Russian drive to capture its neighbour's entire eastern Donbas region. Russian forces are trying to overwhelm Ukraine's battle-

field defences with sheer numbers of troops and powerful glide bombs that blast fortifications to smithereens. Pokrovsk, which had a population of about 60,000 before Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region. Its capture would compromise Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated goal of seizing the entire Donetsk region. But Ukraine's dogged resistance and Western military aid have rendered the gains costly for the Kremlin in losses of troops and armour. A major worry for the Kyiv government is that tens of billions of dollars of key US military support to hold Russia at bay may dry up under President-elect Donald Trump. The Institute for the Study of War estimated late Wednesday that Russian forces have moved to within about 6 kilometres of Pokrovsk, approach-

ing from the south. The Donetsk operation has had "a massive cost" for Russian forces, the Washington-based think tank said. Those losses "will temper their ability to translate these gains into more far-reaching offensive operations" in the months ahead, it said. Though the Russian push has been slow moving, it has recently accelerated in Donetsk and compelled Ukrainian defenders to make localised retreats. Major battlefield victories have eluded the Russians. Ukrainian media have reported tensions between Ukraine's commanders as the military pressure has built. Unconfirmed reports said Syrskiy, the military chief, had personally taken charge of some brigades around Pokrovsk. A renowned Ukrainian military officer, Serhii Filimonov, commander of the 59th Motorized Brigade, described Pokrovsk's defence as a "disaster."

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-II Phase-II" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 2.70 Acres under License No. 39 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 42 of 2021 Dated 27.07.2021, Extn. No. 16 of 2023 Dated 19.06.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	Standard Chartered Bank
IFSC Code	KKBK0000261	SCBL0036025
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	8045100105	53105107551
RERA Account No. (70%)	8045100099	53105107578
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	8045951592	53105107586

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-II" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 8.26 Acres under License No. 39 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 45 of 2020 Dated 09.11.2020, Extn. No. 05 of 2023 Dated 20.03.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	Standard Chartered Bank
IFSC Code	KKBK0000261	SCBL0036025
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	8045100105	53105107551
RERA Account No. (70%)	8045100099	53105107578
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	8045951592	53105107586

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING POLICY 2013 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

Applications are invited from the general public for booking of Residential Apartments in the Affordable Housing Project proposed to be developed as per terms and conditions of the policy prescribed by the Town & Country Planning Department, Government of Haryana vide Notification No.PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Details available at the Department website i.e. www.tcp.haryana.gov.in).

1	Project Approvals	Coloniser/Developer: Sniflex Projects Private Limited. Licence No./Year :133 of 2023 dated 26.06.2023, Building plans approved on 19.03.2024 vide Memo No. ZP-1862/JD(RA)/2023/41092 dated 05/12/2023. RERA Registration No. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/14/546/2024/41 dated 15.04.2024.																														
2	Location	Sector 4, Sohna, District - Gurugram, Haryana.																														
3	Provisions	Project land is 8.76875 Acre. However the same is developed phase-wise as per DTCP Phasing Approval ZP-1862/JD(RA)/2023/41092 dated 05/12/2023. Under the Phase I there were 1105 residential units however land admeasuring 1.9875 acre comprising 270 residential units was mortgaged with DTCP hence 835 units were allotted vide Draw of Lot held on 28/06/2024. Now balance 270 units are de-mortgaged vide release of mortgage deed dated 20.11.2024 bearing document no 11392 hence the present offer is for balance 270 units under Phase I, in the present offer of 270 units, 5% (13 units) are reserved for Management Quota and balance 95% (257 Units) are for general public. Community Facility - One Community Hall of more than 2000 sq. ft. and one Anganwad-cum-creche of more than 2000 sq. ft.																														
4	Apartment Details	Type I: 2 BHK - 108 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 99.67sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: 2 BHK - 95 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type III: 2 BHK - 54 no. of apartments of 637sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 93sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking. Type II: MQ '2' BHK - 13 no. of apartments of 644.65sq.ft. carpet area and balcony with an aggregated area of 145.74sq.ft. with a two-wheeler parking.																														
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Unit Type</th> <th>Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)</th> <th>Total Units of General Category</th> <th>Total Units of Management Quota</th> <th>No. of Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Type-I</td> <td>644.65</td> <td>108</td> <td></td> <td>108</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Type-II</td> <td>644.65</td> <td>95</td> <td>13</td> <td>108</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Type-III</td> <td>637.00</td> <td>54</td> <td></td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total</td> <td>257</td> <td>13</td> <td>270</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. No.	Unit Type	Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Units of General Category	Total Units of Management Quota	No. of Units	1	Type-I	644.65	108		108	2	Type-II	644.65	95	13	108	3	Type-III	637.00	54		54	Total			257	13	270
S. No.	Unit Type	Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)	Total Units of General Category	Total Units of Management Quota	No. of Units																											
1	Type-I	644.65	108		108																											
2	Type-II	644.65	95	13	108																											
3	Type-III	637.00	54		54																											
Total			257	13	270																											
5	Allotment Rate of Apartment (All inclusive)+ Taxes & other charges as applicable will be extra	Type I: Rs.30,20,533/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. Type II: Rs.30,20,925/- per apartment +Taxes as applicable extra. Type III: Rs.29,78,100/- per apartment + Taxes as applicable extra. The above rates are as per the rates prescribed under the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 of the Government of Haryana vide Notification No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 including the amendments thereof (Details available at Department website i.e. www.tcp.haryana.gov.in). However, possession charges and registration fees etc. are extra.																														
6	Payment Terms	i. With Application: Booking amount i.e. 5% of Carpet area of apartment: Type I: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/- Type II: Total amount of Rs. 1,45,046/- Type III: Total amount of Rs. 1,43,325/- ii. 20% of total cost shall be payable on Allotment and the balance consideration amount shall be paid according to the construction-linked payment plan of the project duly approved by HARERA, as applicable in terms of construction stages at the relevant point in time. No interest shall accrue before the due date of payment. Any default in payment shall attract interest at the rate specified in Rule 15 of the Rules 2017 by HARERA.																														
7	Board Specifications of the Apartment	Drawing Room/ Lobby Flooring: Tiles / IPS Drawing Room/ Lobby Wall Ceiling finish: OBD / Color Wash Bedrooms Flooring: Tiles / IPS Bedroom Wall Ceiling finish : OBD / Color Wash Toilet Walls Finish: Tiles Up to 4 feet and OBD/ Color wash in balance area Toilet Flooring: Tiles / IPS Kitchen Flooring: Tiles / IPS Kitchen Wall Finish : Tiles Up to 2 Feet high above stove/ Tile Counter and OBD / Color wash in balance area Fixture & Fittings : Single bowl steel sink & CP / PVC/ PTMT Fittings Balcony Flooring: Tiles / IPS Windows: MS-Z-section & Glass / Alu steels & Glass Door Frame / Doors: MS/ Fiber Door frames with flush Door/ Fiber Door Common Area Flooring: Stone / Tiles / IPS Lift Lobby : Stone / Tiles/ IPS Chinaware: Standard Fittings Electrical: ISI marked products for wiring, Switches and circuits Security: Gated Complex																														
8	Applications Timelines	i. Application form will be filled online by Registration on http://edraw.tcp.haryana.gov.in/tcp-dms/home ii. Booking start from 14/12/24 00:01 iii. Payment closure date 28/12/2024 23:59 iv. Last date of submission of application form is 30/12/2024 23:59																														

Eligibility:

- The applicant should not be debarred from entering into legally binding contract under any prevailing law.
- Any person can apply, however, preference will be given to PMAY beneficiaries, including their spouse or dependent children, identified by the Urban Local Bodies Department, Haryana, under the "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna for All" program. First priority shall be given to the identified beneficiaries of the state of Haryana. Thereafter, for the remaining flats, preference will be given to persons, including their spouse or dependent children, who do not own any flat/plot in any HUDA developed Colony/sector or any licensed colony in the urban areas in Haryana, UT of Chandigarh, and NCT.
- Any applicant can submit only one application. A successful applicant under this policy shall not be eligible for the allotment of any other flat under this policy in another colony. In the event that he/she is successful in more than one colony, he/she will have the choice to retain only one flat. Supportive affidavits and certificates suggesting eligibility are mandatory to be uploaded on the TCP website while submitting the application for allotment.

Allotment Criteria:

- The allotment of apartments shall be done through e-draw of lots in the presence of a committee consisting of Deputy Commissioner or his representative (at least of the cadre of Haryana Civil Services), Senior Town Planner (Circle Office), DTP of the concerned district and the representative of colonizer concerned.
- After fixation of date for draw of lots, an advertisement shall be issued by the Developer informing the applicants about the details regarding date/time and venue of the draw of lots in the same newspapers on which the original advertisement was issued.
- For detailed criteria and time-frame to be adopted for scrutiny and allotment, the applicants may also refer to the details in the Affordable Housing Policy, 2013 including the amendments thereof notified vide No. PF-27/48921 dated 19.08.2013 (Available at the Department website i.e. www.tcp.haryana.gov.in).

Disclaimer:

- The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016 and the rules made thereunder have brought significant changes to the real estate sector. The Promoter/Developer is fully committed to comply with the provisions laid down under RERA. The promoter/developer urges every applicant to inspect the site where the project is proposed to be constructed and not rely merely upon or be influenced by any architectural impression, plan, or sales brochure. Therefore, applicants are requested to exercise personal judgment prior to submitting an application for booking.
- The images shown on TCP Site / offer of Application are indicative designs and for illustrative purposes only. Further designs may vary in form and finish for the above project details. Specifications can also be accessed at the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority website, i.e., <https://haryana.era.gov.in>.

Indian student dead, 4 injured in UK road accident

LONDON ■ A 32-year-old Indian student has died in a road accident in eastern England's Leicestershire while four other people were hospitalised with serious injuries, according to

police. Chiranjeevi Panguluri died on the spot as a passenger in a car that ended up in a ditch and three co-passengers, one woman and two men, and the driver were all taken to hospital, the Leicestershire Police

said of the accident which was reported on Tuesday morning. A 27-year-old man, arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, has since been released on bail. "Chiranjeevi Panguluri, 32, was

the passenger in a grey Mazda 3 Tamura, which was travelling county bound from Leicester towards Market Harborough, before leaving the road and coming to rest in a ditch," a police statement read.

PTI ■ LONDON

REG: FREE HOLD DDA Built-up MIG Flat No. 39-D, on First floor, Block-BB, Category-MIG. Situated at Janak Puri Residential Scheme, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, "hereinafter referred to as the "Seller". In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that they are the joint owners of the said property. The seller is further informed the purchaser that the said property was owned by Mr. Veshnu Kumar Sharma vide Conveyance Deed executed by POI through DDA. The said Deed is registered as Document No. 11760 on 25.05.2022 (SRO-IIB-Janak Puri). Thus, Mr. Ajay Sharma and Mr. Rajeev Sharma (present seller) became the joint owners of the said property. The seller has also informed the purchaser 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/relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid 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 seller to 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 client/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intelective Law Offices A-74, LCF Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Deepak Kumar Talukadar S/o Late P. C. Talukadar, Flat No.-118-B, Pocket-B, MIG Flat Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have lost my DDA Possession Letter, Electricity and Water NOC issued by DDA against MIG Flat No.-118-B, Pocket-B, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 against File No. L022(1010)86/DG/NP. An NCR to this effect has been lodged in the police station Delhi (LR No.2376337/2024 Dated 07.12.2024) Any person claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact me/us at the above address/phone : 9873922945 within 15 days from the publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to the this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director LAB or Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Shiba Warsi had acquired Upper Ground Floor Front Side with roof rights area measuring 70 sq. yds., Built up property bearing No. J-74-75, Kharsa No. 54/6, situated in the area of Village Kharsa, above of J. Eden Laxmi Nagar, Ilaga Shahdara, Delhi vide Regd. G.P.A dt 25.11.2019 along with ATS & Will executed by Mrs. Shalini Jain and Now Mrs. Shiba Warsi is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H.No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is publicly notified that E-286B, SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT- GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301 has been allotted in the name of DEEPAK SHARMA S/O BP SHARMA R/O B-4/28, SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE, NEW DELHI and will be executed in favour of MR. RAMESH BEHAL S/O LATE SHRI H. BEHAL RESIDENT OF E-286B, SECTOR-22, NOIDA, DISTT-GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301. If any one has any objection he/she may submit his/her objection in the Housing Department of Noida. Authority alongwith sufficient proofs within 30 days of the publication of this notice

कार्यालय नगर परिषद बदनावर, जिला-धार

बदनावर, दिनांक 11.12.2024

क्रमांक/ई-टेंडर/2197/2024

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (द्वितीय) -

एतद् द्वारा समस्त समक्ष श्रेणी पंजीकृत ठेकेदार/फर्म को सूचित किया जाता है कि, निम्नलिखित कार्य को निविदा ऑनलाइन ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in के माध्यम से आमंत्रित को जाती है।

ई-टेंडर आई.डी. क्रमांक	कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत रु. एवं समयावधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य एवं अमानत राशि रु.	निविदा द प्रस्त करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
2024_UAD 387597_1	Interception & diversion of Nallahs with STP works Project of Badnawar town for Balwai river under SBM 2.0	1111.00 लाख 18 माह	30,000/- 5,55,500/-	26.12.2024 5:30 PM

नोट :- उपरोक्त कार्य के Amendments केवल वेबसाइट पर ही Corrigendum/addendum details अनर्गत प्रकाशित किये जावेंगे। अन्य विवरण उपरोक्त पोर्टल पर अथवा कार्यालय में कार्यालयीन समय पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

मौना शोकर यादव अध्यक्ष नगर परिषद बदनावर

राजेंद्र सिंह पवार (फूदा बापू) उपाध्यक्ष नगर परिषद बदनावर

अनिता टिपक जादव निर्माण सभापति नगर परिषद बदनावर

संतराम चौहान मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर परिषद बदनावर

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-I (1)" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 3.91 Acres under License No. 18 of 2021 dated 16.04.2021 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 62 of 2021 dated 11.10.2021.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from SBM Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	SBM Bank (India) Ltd.	Standard Chartered Bank
IFSC Code	STCB0000065	SCBL0036025
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	20052021001867	53105107527
RERA Account No. (70%)	20052021001874	53105107535
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	20052021001881	53105107543

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-I (2)" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 1.09 Acres under License No. 18 of 2021 dated 16.04.2021 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 02 of 2023 dated 02.01.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from SBM Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	SBM Bank (India) Ltd.	Standard Chartered Bank
IFSC Code	STCB0000065	SCBL0036025
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	20052021001867	53105107527
RERA Account No. (70%)	20052021001874	53105107535
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	20052021001881	53105107543

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-III (2)" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 1.5375 Acres under License No. 40 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 64 of 2021 Dated 13.10.2021.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	Standard Chartered Bank
IFSC Code	KKBK0000261	SCBL0036025
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	8045100075	53105107594
RERA Account No. (70%)	8045100082	53105107608
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	8045951608	53105107616

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SIGNATUREGLOBAL HOMES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U70100DL2008PTC176641)
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, Phone: 0124-4908200, 011-49281700
Email: Compliance@signatureglobal.in

Whereas M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing of an Independent Residential Floors namely: "Signature Global Park-III" situated at village- Dhunela, Sector-36, Sohna, District- Gurugram, Haryana over an area measuring 4.74 Acres under License No. 40 of 2019 dated 01.03.2019 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 40 of 2020 Dated 09.11.2020, Extn. No. 06 of 2023 Dated 20.03.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. to Standard Chartered Bank and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.	Standard Chartered Bank
IFSC Code	KKBK0000261	SCBL0036025
Master Collection Account No. (100%)	8045100075	53105107594
RERA Account No. (70%)	8045100082	53105107608
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	8045951608	53105107616

M/s Signatureglobal Homes Private Limited Place: Gurugram
Date: 13/12/2024



सुशासन का साल
छत्तीसगढ़
हुआ खुशहाल

25
इजत जयंतो वर्ष
छत्तीसगढ़



जनादेश परब

पर प्रदेश की जनता का
कोटि-कोटि आभार...

13 दिसम्बर 2024



श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण,
रसायन एवं उर्वरक मंत्री, भारत सरकार

श्री विष्णु देव साय
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

हमसे जुड़ने के लिए



QR स्कैन करें

हमने बनाया है, हम ही संवारेंगे



DEEP DIVE INTO KOLKATA'S PAST



Devasis Chattopadhyay takes you through nine compelling stories of forgotten lives that shaped the cultural and historical history of Kolkata, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

Harry Hobbs of *Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives* is a compelling and richly detailed collection of nine meticulously researched stories that uncover the hidden aspects of Kolkata's past, many of which are unknown even to the city's residents and historians. Drawing on obscure and forgotten sources such as dusty old files, yellowed newspapers, private family papers, memoirs, and government archives, this book brings to life the untold stories of Kolkata's lesser-known figures and the city itself.

include an opera impresario, an entertainer, a piano tuner, a mercenary, a hotelier, a writer, a publisher, a lawyer, and even a real-life police detective turned crime writer. These characters, often forgotten by history, made remarkable contributions to the fabric of Kolkata during a time of upheaval and change. The book reflects on a significant period of transformation, when Kolkata's unique and syncretic

The book deep dives into the fascinating history of Kolkata, providing an unexplored jist of the city's origins. Some historians believe that Kolkata is mentioned in the Mahabharata, while others trace its roots back to the Mauryan and Gupta periods. The author, *Devasis Chattopadhyay*, then traces the transformation of the city into a metropolis, paying particular attention to its growth and changes in the 19th century. This period, marked by significant social, cultural, and economic shifts, is expertly and theoretically woven into the narrative.

Chattopadhyay focuses on the lives of protagonists who were often overlooked by mainstream history as the middle and junior civil or military officials, puisne judges, and a wide array of other fascinating individuals. These



HARRY HOBBS
of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives
DEVASIS CHATTOPADHYAY

ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives by Devasis Chattopadhyay
Publisher: Niyogi Books Private Limited
Price: ₹595 Pages: 316



identity was shaped, in part, by European and American settlers. It was an era when many of the things we now take for granted like the social norms, institutions, and innovations that were still in their infancy. Yet, the individuals featured in the book were instrumental in creating the cultural and historical landscape of the city. *Chattopadhyay's* narrative uncovers these hidden histories, offering a fresh perspective on Kolkata's past. One of the key figures in the book, Harry Hobbs, is also featured in the author's earlier work *Scoundrels and Scroungers*, where *Hobbs* noted that the principal cause of men's downfall up until the end of the 19th century was drinking. In his writings, he provides intriguing glimpses into a Kolkata of the past the one where European women worked as barmaids and a thriving but largely unspoken subterranean slave trade flourished. This was also a time when wealthy Bengali

Babus kept European concubines, and attending English theatre performances or listening to Italian opera was a common pastime among the city's elite. The book is divided into nine chapters, each focusing on a different historical figure: Major Harry H. Hobbs, The Shakespeare Family, Isaac Henry Townley Roberdeau, Richard Reid, Colonel Percy Wyndham, Shirley Tremearne, Henry Thoby Prinsep, David Nunez Cardozo, and others. Through these vivid and captivating stories, Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives provides a nuanced and fascinating portrait of Kolkata as a city in transition, shaped by diverse influences and inhabited by characters whose contributions to its rich history have long been forgotten. *Chattopadhyay's* work offers an enriching journey into the heart of Kolkata's past, illuminating the hidden lives that have shaped the city we know today.

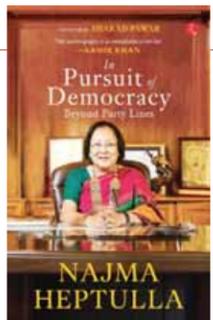
Najma's journey through politics

By **ABHISHEK SONKAR**



Heptulla's writing style is direct and conversational. It feels like she is talking to you, recounting her life over a cup of tea. She avoids heavy political

jargon, making the book a breeze even if you're not well-versed in politics. The narrative flows smoothly between her professional milestones and



ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: In Pursuit of Democracy: Beyond Party Lines by Najma Heptulla
Publisher: Rupa Publications
Price: ₹695

A Transformative Journey

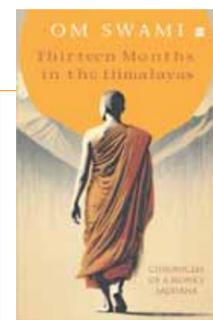
By **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

A Transformative Journey of Faith, Endurance, and the Divine Om Swami's *Thirteen Months in the Himalayas* is a spellbinding account of one man's relentless pursuit of spiritual truth and divine connection. *Om Swami's Thirteen Months in the Himalayas* is an extraordinary account of one man's unwavering pursuit of spiritual truth and divine connection. Following his earlier memoir, 'If Truth Be Told', this book delves deeper into Swami's radical transformation from a successful entrepreneur to an ascetic devoted to discovering the Creator. Written with an almost poetic honesty, it presents a gripping narrative of discipline, endurance, and transcendence.

A Journey of the Soul: The Himalayas serve as more than just the backdrop for Swami's odyssey—they become a central character, mirroring the challenges and revelations of his inner world. The author's detailed descriptions of his austere lifestyle, rigorous sadhanas and encounters with celestial energies immerse readers in his spiritual journey. The book's raw and vivid prose captures the stark beauty of the mountains and the unforgiving nature of the terrain, where every moment is a test of will and faith.

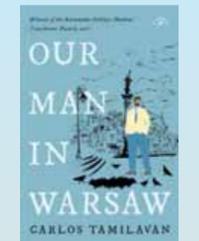
Spiritual Discipline Redefined: What makes this book especially compelling is its depiction of extreme spiritual discipline. Swami's daily routine of meditation, mantras, and fasting is as exhausting to read about as it is inspiring. His ability to persevere through physical deprivation, isolation, and moments of self-doubt speaks to an exceptional strength of spirit. His writing makes you feel the depth of his longing to encounter God, transforming what could have been a remote subject into something deeply relatable. At its core, *Thirteen Months in the Himalayas* is a meditation on faith and purpose. It challenges readers to reflect on their own lives and the sacrifices they are willing to make in pursuit of their truths. The book inspires by showing what is possible when one's commitment to a goal is absolute, even when the goal is as abstract and immense as experiencing the divine.

Accessible Yet Profound: Om Swami's journey is deeply personal, yet its lessons transcend individual experience. This book is a rare gem that inspires introspection, courage and hope. Highly recommended for anyone seeking inspiration to explore the limits of human potential and the boundless nature of the divine.

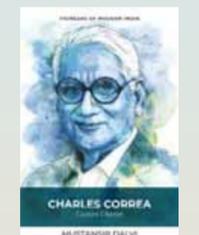


ABOUT THE BOOK
Book: Thirteen Months in the Himalayas by Om Swami
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹499

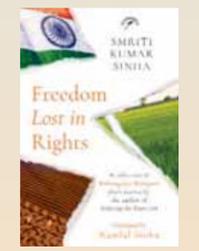
JUST READ



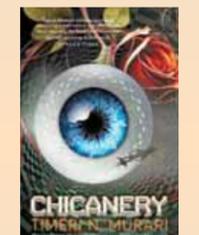
Book: Our Man in Warsaw
Author: Carlos Tamilavan
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹595



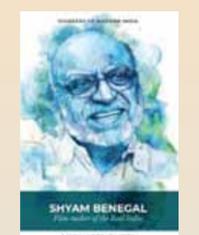
Book: Charles Correa: Citizen Charles
Author: Mustansir Dalvi
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹299



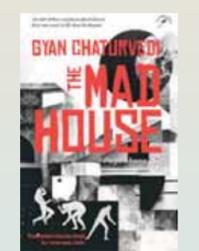
Book: Freedom Lost in Rights
Author: Smriti Kumar Sinha
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹395



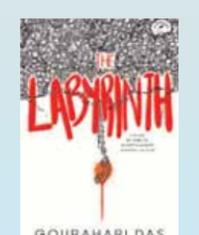
Book: Chicanery
Author: Timeri N. Murari
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹695



Book: Shyam Benegal: Filmmaker of the real India
Author: Arjun Sengupta
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹299



Book: Madhouse: Pagalkhana
Author: Gyan Chaturvedi
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹595



Book: The Labyrinth
Author: Gourahari Das
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹295



सुशासन का साल
छत्तीसगढ़ हुआ सुशहल

जनादेश परब

पर प्रदेश की जनता का कोटि-कोटि आभार...

13 दिसम्बर 2024



श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी
माननीय प्रधानमंत्री



श्री विष्णु देव साय
माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, छत्तीसगढ़

हमने बनाया है, हम ही संवारेगे

हमसे जुड़ने के लिए



QR स्कैन करें