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RANCHI, SATURDAY DECEMBER 28, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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

INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER LASHES DELHI

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

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

of rain in the evening.

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



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

146 flights delayed so far

146 delayed flights, three for cancellations, and an average information," delay of nearly 30 minutes Delhi. However, there were no major disruptions.

"Low visibility procedures are in progress at Delhi about their flight status. airport. All flight operations presently normal.

updated flight read the Despite advisory. the for departures and arrivals in challenges, most flights are operating on schedule, though passengers are advised to remain vigilant

Highlighting potential delays

due to rain, Air India urged

passengers to begin their airport journey early and monitor flight updates. IndiGo advised passengers to plan ahead, especially given the possibility of intermittent rain throughout the day. "We recommend checking your flight status before heading to the airport. Safe travels!" the

airline stated.

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

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

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

WEATHER



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

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

The IMD data showed that in

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

GRAP Stage-III lifted

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI**

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

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

The PPAC is levied as a

percentage of the base tariff

that includes the fixed cost

and energy charges (units

consumed) by the consumers. PPAC is a

surcharge provided by the

Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) to

cover fluctuations in power

purchase costs incurred by

the discoms. These costs are

read the order.

situation is predicted to improve further owing to favourable conditions.

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

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

made by IMD/IITM," read

Controversy over Manmohan's State funeral

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

controversy has erupted over the location Afor performing the last rites of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh following the Centre's announcement that his State funeral will be performed at Nigambodh Ghat crematorium, at 11.45 am on Saturday morning. The Congress has asked the ruling party to allot a place befitting the stature of the two-time Prime Minister.

The Congress party has approached the Centre seeking a memorial for Dr Singh, the party's stalwart leader. According to sources, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has conveyed the party's desire to Prime Minister



President Droupadi Murmu pays her last respects to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his residence

Narendra Modi. According to an order issued on Friday, by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the funeral will take place at Nigambodh ghat, located on the banks of the Yamuna river, and arrangements will be made by the Defence Ministry for a State funeral with full military honours.

Meanwhile, traffic is expected to be affected in Central Delhi till around 2 pm, as security arrangements will be in place. Several dignitaries including Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be there to pay their tributes. According to a senior police official, arrangements have been made accordingly with all protocols in place, since it is one of the busiest crematoriums in the city. The complex also has a CNG crematorium.

Commuters to and from Central Delhi will have to plan their journey on the weekend accordingly as security protocols and VVIP routes are in place for the last rites of the senior Congress leader.



World leaders condole Dr Manmohan Singh's passing

PTI WASHINGTON/SRI LANKA

and Sri Lanka have expressed grief Singh's passing and will always over the death of former prime remember his dedication to bringing minister Manmohan Singh and the United States and India closer contributions strengthening bilateral relations. Singh, the architect of India's

economic reforms, died at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Thursday night. He was 92. He is survived by his wife Gursharan Kaur, a history professor, and three daughters. Leaders from Afghanistan, Maldives, Mauritius, and Nepal also paid their tributes to Singh. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called him "one of the greatest champions of the bilateral strategic partnership."

"Dr Singh was one of the greatest champions of the US-India strategic partnership, and his work laid the foundation for much of what our countries have accomplished together in the past two decades," US Secretary of State Tony Blinken said.

Offering condolences to the people of India for the passing of Singh, Blinken said the leadership of the former prime minister in advancing the US-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement signified a major investment in the potential of the US-India relationship.

"At home, Dr Singh will be remembered for his economic eaders from across the world reforms that spurred India's rapid including, the US, Canada, France, economic growth. We mourn Dr Rlinken said together' President Emmanuel Macron on Friday said "India has lost a great man" and France a true friend, in the person of Dr Manmohan Singh. He had devoted his life to his country. Our thoughts are with his family and the people of India. Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara

Dissanayake issued a message of condolence and called the former prime minister "a visionary leader". "On behalf of the people of Sri Lanka and myself, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Republic of India, Dr Manmohan Singh's family, and his countless admirers worldwide," the message

"A visionary leader, Dr Singh's influence transcended national boundaries. As Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014, his transformative policies, like the Right to Education Act and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, reflected his steadfast commitment to equity and inclusivity.

Delhi's power bills get leaner

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a big relief to electricity **L**consumers, the Delhi Regulatory Electricity Commission (DERC) has reduced the Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC) imposed by the Discoms in the National Capital. The PPAC collected by BSES Rajdhani Power was 35.83, BSES Yamuna Power 38.12 and Tata Power 36.33.

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

calculations, a consumer in South Delhi (under BRPL) using up to 400 units of power will likely get relief of around Rs 285 in their monthly bill. Those using up to 600 units of power will likely get relief of around Rs 563 in their monthly bill. An East Delhi consumer using up to 400 units, will likely get relief of Rs 390 per month. Those using up to 600 units, will get relief of Rs 554 per month in their electricity bill. For a north Delhi consumer who uses 400 units, will likely get relief of Rs 281 per month. Those who use 600 units will likely get relief of Rs 554 per month in

their electricity billing.
"Presently, ongoing PPAC is 27.08 percent, which is applicable till 20/12/2024. PPAC of Q2 of FY 2024-25 to

be recovered works out to refund in their computation," 9.44%. In view of this, the Petitioner is allowed to recover PPAC of 9.44% for 3 months beyond 20/12/2024 i.e., from 21/12/2024 to 20/03/2025," the DERC said in its order on BSES Rajdhani Private Limited.

The claim of BRPL for the additional PPAC to the extent of 9.08% citing the ad hoc addition in the preceding quarter by the Commission has not been considered in line with DERC (Business

generally affected by coal and fuel prices, which have Plan) Regulations, 2023," it recently seen substantial rises

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

due to increased imports and

transportation expenses.

Delhi's power is distributed by four discoms: BSES Power BSES Yamuna Limited Rajdhani (BYPL), Power Limited (BRPL), Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power), and North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC). The PPAC varies by discom. The Delhi government provides free electricity to consumers using up to 200 units per month. A fifty per cent subsidy is provided to those having monthly consumption of 201 to 400



DGCA suspends two Akasa Air directors for training lapses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of L Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Friday suspended Akasa Air's Director Training, and Director Operations, for six lanses in pilot training. This action follows a regulatory audit in October and comes in the wake of a complaint by Akasa Air pilots which accused the senior management of favouritism and bias.

The DGCA audit had found that pilots were being trained in navigation approaches on a simulator which was not certified for the procedure. The DGCA said this was in violation of its rule and issued a show cause notice to the airline. As the response was found to be unsatisfactory the regulator ordered the suspension of the two directors of Akasa Air.

This is the second regulatory action against Akasa Air this week. Earlier the airline was fined Rs 10 lakh by the DGCA, for not compensating passengers who were denied boarding on a Bengaluru Pune flight in September.

Pilgrims wait in vain as Katra protests continue

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti extended the ongoing bandh call for another 72 hours on Friday in protest against the proposed Ropeway project. The extension of the Bandh call across Katra township is bound to aggravate the hardships faced by the pilgrims. On the eve of the New Year celebrations, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine witnesses a huge rush of pilgrims who usher in the New Year by offering prayers in the sanctum sanctorum.

Due to the ongoing agitation, pilgrims are already deprived of basic amenities, refreshments and transport facilities along the Yatra trek and in the Katra township, the base camp of the cave shrine. The local shopkeepers and other service providers have been observing a complete shutdown since December 25.

The Shrine board authorities have made some alternate arrangements at the Railway station and bus station to provide refreshments to the pilgrims reaching Katra via the rail/road network. Inclement weather conditions

have further compounded the miseries of pilgrims as it becomes difficult for them to trek the serpentine trek along with their luggage in the absence of pony wallahs and pithoos (men who ferry luggage, and children on their back). So far 93.60 lakh pilgrims have offered prayers inside the cave shrine this year.

The decision to extend the bandh call was taken after several rounds of consultations by the members of the sangarsh samiti in Katra. Meanwhile, family members of the

Pilgrims wait in a gueue at 'Darshani Deori', entryway to the main shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi temple, during the ongoing 72-hour shutdown called by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Sangarsh Samiti to protest against the proposed ropeway project, at Katra in Reasi district of J&K

arrested members of the Sangarsh Samiti, continue to sit on dharna along

with a group of youth observing an

indefinite fast amid adverse weather

conditions at Sridhar Chowk Katra. The arrested members of the Sangarsh Samiti have been shifted from Katra to Udhampur jail. Interacting with the media persons, some of the family members of arrested Sangarsh Samiti leaders claimed the high-handed approach of the administration and the stubborn behavior of the Shrine Board had triggered anger among the residents of Katra. People from all segments of the society have now joined hands to further intensify their protest till the time a final decision is announced. They also accused the local MLA and Member of Parliament of ignoring their hardships and maintaining stoic silence.

Last month, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board announced plans to install the ropeway to facilitate access to the temple for senior citizens, children, and others who find it challenging to trek the 13-km-long path to the cave

Man crawls out from train undercarriage, video goes viral

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL/NEW DELHI

In a bizarre incident, a poor man reportedly travelled about 300 kms, from Itarsi to Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. He is said to have clung under the train's bogie, placing himself between the wheels of the Patna bound Pune Express Danapur Thursday. The yet to be identified man

was caught during a routine 'rolling test' in which check personnel undercarriage, near Jabalpur railway station. The staff of the Carriage and Wagon department found the man hiding under the coach. Till the filing of this report the incident was being probed by the Railway Protection Force (RPF). The RPF and railway



officials said employees were conducting a routine under-gear check of the coaches when they found the man lying in the trolley beneath the S4 coach of Danapur Express. The identity of the man was not revealed who has admitted to board the train at Itarsi but he confessed to travel in that manner since

went viral on social media. The video has left the netizens perplexed, with some calling 'Bangladeshi' and 'Rohingya', and others questioning the need to undertake such a lethal stunt for want of money. Some of them even blamed the railways saying it is still unable to provide an affordable journey for a poor man. Some others recalled that people travelling on the roof of train coaches, hanging on doors, in between the couplers, in front of the engine and in the guard carriages have been noticed, but this was a first of its kind that a man has risked

genuinely to reach his

destination.

he had no money.

The video of the man coming

out from under the trolley

Dr. Manmohan Singh's centenary tribute lives on in Jamshedpur's Heart

The city of Jamshedpur mourns the loss of Dr. Manmohan Singh, former Prime Minister of India, whose passing marks the end of an era of visionary leadership. Citizens fondly recall his historic visit on April 22, 2008, when he graced the centenary celebrations of Tata Steel, an event etched in the memory of the city and the nation.

April 22, 2008, was a momentous occasion as Tata Steel marked its glorious journey (1907–2007). Dr. Manmohan Singh's presence at the celebration underscored the significance of Tata Steel's contributions to India's industrial landscape. The event began with the planting of a banyan tree by the Prime Minister, a



and sustainability, which he dedicated to the people of Jamshedpur.

In his welcome address, B. Muthuraman, Managing Director of Tata Steel, expressed heartfelt gratitude for Dr. Singh's participation, calling it a "rare honor" for Tata Steel and a "moment of pride" for all. Highlighting the company's legacy, he stated, "Tata Steel is not just a steel company but a vision... a symbol of sustainable development and nation-

Manmohan Singh's speech during the event resonated deeply with the audience. He paid tribute to Jamsetji Tata, the founder of Tata Steel, and acknowledged the dedication of its employees and workers, describing the company as a "temple of modern India." Reflecting on its centenary milestone, Dr.

Dr. Manmohan Singh's demise a great loss to India: Dr Ajoy

and senior Congress leader Dr. Ajay Kumar expressed profound sorrow over the passing of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh at the age of 92, calling it a significant loss for nation. Kumar described Dr. Singh as a visionary leader who fortified India's economy during challenging global economic

Singh remarked, "This day is a special occasion for the people of Jharkhand, for India, and for me personally. Tata Steel has always been a leader in steelmaking and must continue to lead in

times, ensuring the country's strong financial standing. Kumar highlighted Dr. Singh's remarkable contributions during his tenure as Prime Minister, including transformative laws such as the Food Security Bill, Right to Education, and Right to Information. He praised the implementation of MGNREGA, which provid-

ed employment to millions Dr. Singh's optimism for Tata Steel's future was evident when he declared, "I am confident that the best days of Tata Steel are yet to come. His words remain a source of inspiration for the company

family in this hour of loss. May God grant peace to his soul." As part of the centenary celebrations, Dr. Singh unveiled a special commemo-

tion on the global stage.
"Dr. Manmohan Singh's

decade-long tenure will be

remembered as a golden

period in India's history,'

said Dr. Kumar. Expressing

solidarity with the grieving family, he added, "All

Congressmen stand with his

rative postal stamp issued by Ministry Communications, marking the occasion as a significant chapter in India's industrial



Manmohan Singh's demise leaves behind a legacy of economic reform, visionary leadership, and a deep commitment to India's progress. His association with Tata Steel's centenary celebration serves as a poignant reminder of his role in recognizing and encouraging the growth of Indian industry. Jamshedpur, the "Steel City, and the nation at large bid farewell to a leader who truly believed in building modern

MMCH's vigil for boys and girls ahead of NY bash

SWEETY VERMA: DALTON- this newspaper said "Our

Medinirai Medical College Hospital is in for a makeover. Its principal Dr P N Mahto is against permissiveness. He wants boys and girls studying here to maintain a proper look in public instead of a boy

or a girl in the street.

No boy or girl medico of the Medinirai Medical College Hospital will be free now to go out of the campus after sunset. This new regulation has come into effect days ahead of this outgoing year fearing large scale 'slip' of them on the eve of the New

Principal of the MMCH Dr Prof P N Mahto speaking to

medical college boys and girls used to ride bikes and come as late as 10 at night to the

campus. This is now strictly

prohibited.

"The college management is not against boys and girls going out to buy essentials, but keeping late hours at night is not acceptable at all,"

said the Principal. "What I have noticed is that the main rider wears helmet while the pillion rider mostly girls don't wear helmet and bandy words with the college security guards if asked not to go late in the evening and without helmet.' added the principal.

"It's a zero tolerance for any act of indiscipline. Let the sanctity of this institution be kept intact," warned Dr Mahto.

On the faculty side too some stringent measures have been taken said the principal.

"I have written complaints about 3 or 4 such doctors of the MMCH Daltonganj who spend 90 per cent of their working hours in their private clinics or nursing homes they are attached to. This is a great crime against this noble profession," added the princi-"We are verifying and inquiring about the complaints. Prima facie the complaints about these 3 or 4 doctors appear to be true but nonetheless there is a set rule to proceed against such



errants," asserted the princi-

"How can it be tolerated that patients suffer in the government hospital while doctors mint money in their private clinics during the time they ought to be dis-

in 2005 for a public meeting

at Aam Bagan. During that

visit, the former Prime Minister had extended a spe-

cial invitation to him, then

the head of the Central

Gurudwara, for a personal

meeting.
Dr. Manmohan Singh's

demise marks the end of an

era of visionary leadership,

Strategy made for organizing 67th athletics meet in Lohardaga

and the city it calls home.

VINOD PRASAD: LOHARDAGA

An important meeting of the Lohardaga District Athletics Association was held at Rai Saheb Baldev Sahu Shiv Prasad Sahu Smriti Bhawan under the chairmanship of District President cum former MP Dheeraj Prasad Sahu. It was unanimously decided in the meeting that the 67th Athletic Meet will be organized at Lalit Narayan Stadium from 16th to 19th January. In the meeting, former Athletic District Secretary Sukhair Bhagat District was unanimously relieved of his post due to his inactivity. Four members Kishore Kumar Verma, STO Shayid Zahid Ahmed, FSTO Qayoom Khan and Ajay Kumar were nominated as Associate Secretaries. Besides, advocate Manoj Prasad and educationist Madan Mohan Pathak were given the responsibility of working as

coordinators. Meanwhile, in the meeting, the government and administration were requested to name Lalit Narayan Stadium after late Shiv Prasad Sahu. On this occasion, Sanjay Kumar Sahu said that Lalit Narayan Stadium is the heritage of the Athletic Association. The committee will be given the responsibility of the stadium, complete $construction \ .$

Tributes paid to Dr. Manmohan Singh in Bokaro

PNS : BOKARO

A two-minute silence was observed on Friday at the District Collectorate in honor of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The tribute Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav on the first floor of the Collectorate, with officials and employees from various departments participating.

Deputy Development Commissioner Girja Shankar Prasad, Additional Collector Md. Mumtaz Ansari, District Transport Officer Vandana Shejwalkar, District Supply Officer Shalini Khalkho, District Land Acquisition Officer Dwarika Baitha District Panchayati Raj Officer Md. Safique Alam, District Social Welfare Officer Dr. Suman Gupta, Assistant Public Relations Officer Avinash Kumar Singh, along with heads and staff of other departments, were present on the occasion.

Similar tributes were paid at the block and circle offices, where Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Circle Officers (COs) led the ceremonies, observing two minutes of silence in memory of the former Prime Minister.

BOKARO RURAL FOOTBAL

PNS: BOKARO

The Bokaro Rural Football Tournament for 2024-25, organized by Bokaro Steel Limited (BSL) under its CSR and Sports departments, concluded with Bharra XI defeating Jharkhand Group of Mines (JGOM) 3-2 in a penalty shootout during the final match on December 26.

The closing ceremony, held at Kumar Mangalam Football Stadium,

attended by BSL's Directorin-Charge Birendra Kumar Tiwari as the chief guest, along with senior executives and sports enthusiasts.

The tournament, running from December 8 to 26, featured 47 teams from BSL's operational villages, with 46 matches played in total. The winners were awarded trophies and praised for their performance, showcasing BSL's commitment to rural sports development.

Bank of India BOI

Requirement of Premises

Bank of India, invites application for desirous premises/property owners for ready to occupy premises for our Ratu Road Branch in Ranchi, preferably within perimeter of 500m from our existing Ratu Road Branch. Requirement of Carpet Area should be approximately 3500 Sq.Ft. (preferably either on Ground floor only/on first floor only with lift facility). If the premises is present in two different floors, then the tender will be rejected. There should be sufficent space for the parking of 5-6 four wheeler vehicles. In this regard, we invite offers in our Bank's format from our interested building/premises owners. Detailed notification inviting offers for premises for our Ratu Road Branch, Ranchi is available in our Tender Section of our Corporate website https://www.bankofindia.co.in or contact Zonal Office-Ranchi Zone, 2rd Floor, Pradhan Towers, Main Road, Ranchi-834001

during office hours. Prescribed format for submission of offer may be submitted upto 03 pm of 20.01.2025 to our office at above address. Any Application submitted/received in the office after the above mentioned time limit will not be considered by the Bank. A copy of the application can be obtained free of cost from the Bank's website/Bank of India, Zonal Office- Ranchi. The Bank reserves the right to accept/reject any application as per practicality/business situation/discretion. The owner applicant of the selected premises will be officially informed by the Bank and no written communication will be given to the owners/applicants of the rejected premises.

Vedanta ESL launches **Agarbatti Unit to** empower women

PNS: BOKARO

Vedanta ESL, in partnership with the Drishtee Foundation, inaugurated an Drishtee Agarbatti (incense stick) manufacturing unit in Madhuniya under its flagship Project Jivika. This initiative aims to empower rural women by providing skillbased training and creating sustainable livelihoods.

The agarbatti unit addresses the growing demand for incense sticks in India and promotes rural entrepreneurship Speaking at the event, Kunal Daripa, Head CSR, Vedanta ESL, said, "This initiative empowers women through skill development and entrepreneurship, fostering selfreliance and community progress." The inauguration was attended by dignitaries including Kunal Daripa. Rajeev Ranjan from Drishtee Foundation, and local leaders. Supported by the community, this project links beneficiaries to larger markets and aims to drive economic growth in the region.



Jharkhand Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee mourns death of Dr Singh also reminisced about Dr. PNS: JAMSHEDPUR Singh's visit to Jamshedpur

Sardar Shailendra Singh, president of the Jharkhand Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, expressed profound grief over the demise of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, remembering him as an honest and hardworking leader who served the nation with dedication for a decade.

Recalling Dr. Singh's significant contributions to the country, Sardar Shailendra Singh highlighted his efforts to uplift India's economic condition during a time of



was a period when the country's gold had to be mortgaged, but Dr. Manmohan Singh worked tirelessly to restore and strengthen the

integrity and leadership qualities, he stated, "No matter the political affiliations, leaders across party lines respected him, as he had no personal enemies in politics.'

and his contributions to the nation will forever be remembered. Shailendra Singh conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the late leader's family and prayed for the peace of his

January

hospitals to hire specialist doctors by

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

A meeting of the District Grievance Redressal Committee under the Health Department was conducted Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship ofDistrict Magistrate-cum-Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal. The meeting focused on reviewing treatment facilities and payment processes under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme and issuing necessary guidelines for improving healthcare services in the dis-

The facilities and payment issues in eight private hospi-

tals, nursing homes, and government health centers, including the Sub-Divisional Hospital Ghatshila and CHC Dumria, were discussed in detail. Specific attention was given to the challenges caused by uploading incorrect beneficiary documents under the Ayushman Bharat

Hospital representatives acknowledged that such errors occurred due to human mistakes and assured they were being addressed. Ananya Mittal directed the Civil Surgeon to verify documents and expedite the payment process after necessary investigations.



The Deputy Commissioner emphasized using Ayushman Bharat funds to secure the services of specialist doctors in government hospitals. He instructed the preparation of an action plan to hire at least two specialist doctors for each Sub-Divisional Hospital Community Health Centre (CHC) by January 15. This step aims to reduce referrals and enhance healthcare delivery at the district level.

Addressing the absence of Community Health Officers (CHO) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) at health

Mittal issued strict directives to all Medical Officers In-Charge (MOICs). He emphasized that health sub-centers are crucial for providing primary healthcare in rural areas and instructed MOICs to ensure the presence

of CHOs and ANMs.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need for better maintenance of government hospitals, focusing on cleanliness, drinking water, sanitation, and proper upkeep of medical equipment. He instructed officials to create a conducive environment for patients and address basic infrastructure needs sensitively.

Date: 24.12.2024 | Place : Dhanbad

Spring Fest at IIT Kharagpur on January 24-26

Spring Fest is the annual social and cultural lest of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.With an online reach of over 2million, SpringFest is one of Asia's largest cultural lest organized entirety by students. Enthusiastic partici pants from more than 800 major colleges of India throng to Kharagpur for this 3-day celebration of fun and frolic.SpringFest2025 celebrated its 66th edition of SpringFest on 24-26 January

SpringFest successfully executed" HitchHike ", the nationwide preliminary round for its diverse array of artistic events encompassing Dance, Drama, Music Fashion, etc. This exhilarating event unfolded across ten vibrant Indian cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad. Visakhapatnam, Lucknow,

Jaipur, and Chandigarh



Spring Fest extends a heartfelt gratitude to all the judges for their precious time. Fueled by the enthusiasm of participants and the dedicated organizing team, the atmosphere was charged with palpable excitement and enjoyment for the view-

Spring Fest is all set to move towards the eliminations round after the magnificent conduction of Prelims for Dance ,Drama, Music , Fashion ,and Literary events in another six cities ,namely Kolkata, Bhubaneshwar,

Patna, Ranchi, Guwahati, Raipur. All interested students or cultural academies can participate in the eliminations, visit the website eliminations.springfest.in and get yourselves early registered for your desired event.

The Battle of Bands, a premier rock band competition, Wildfire is coming soon to spread its magic in five major cities, namely Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, and Shillong with prize money worth 1.5 lakhs. All those bands who

want to showcase their talent and mark a name in the history of Springfest can register themselves on wildfire.springfest.in

Spring Fest hosts a wide array of events spanning 13 different genres, featuring over 130 competitions where the

finest talents in India com-

pete for a total cash prize of approximately INR 35 lakhs. This year, once again, a nlethora of new events have been introduced to stimulate your senses and unearth your hidden talents. These events serve as a platform for the very best, offering an opportunity for participants to relish the experience of a lifetime. Each year, Spring Fest also takes on a meaningful social initiative; in the previous year, it initiated "Prabal-Fighting Stronger,One Cell at aTimeto address and tackle the social, economic. and environmental challenges faced by communi-

ties, fulfilling unspoken

needs Star nights have always been an integral part of the Spring Fest charm. Artists like Shaan, Sunidhi Chauhan, Vishal Shekhar. King, Nucleya. Farhan Akhtar, Amit Trivedi, Shankar-Ehsaan-Lov, Salim-

Sulaiman , KK, Prateek

Kuhad, NikhiI D'Souza, The

RaghuDixitProject, Agnee,

Indian Ocean ,PineappleExpress Parikrama Euphoria, Pentagram ,TheLocal Train and many more monumental performances inclusive of a vibrant set of International shows like that of Dead by April, Monuments, Tesseract have happened at Spring Fest in the past years. With a history of rich culture, Spring Fest promises to be a grand extravaganza, a festi-val you would not want to

Visit the Spring Fest, IIT Kharagpur Facebook page or log on to our website at www.springfest.in to know

miss.

Jharia Branch

APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 14.02.2025, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned

Name of the Borrower: 1. Mr. Sumit Kumar Sharma, S/o Ramsevan Sharma, Qtr. No. 172/G, Traffic Colony, Ptherdih, Dhanbad- 828119, 2. Mr. Ramsevan Singh, S/o Suresh Singh, Qtr. No. 172/G, Traffic Colony Ptherdih, Dhanbad - 828119.

Amount Due: Rs. 5,96,445.73 with further interest and charges at the contractual rate from 30.11.2024

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Residential land in Plot No. 195. New Plot No. 104. Khata No. 48. New Khata No. 601, Mouza No. 04, Panderpata Dhanbad- 828130, belongs to Mr. Ramsevan Singh, S/o Suresh Singh. Bounded by: North: Plot No. 197, South: Phan Bhushan Pal and others, East: Road, West: Gopal Mahto and others

Date & Time of E-Auction: 14.02.2025 at 12:00 PM to 04:00 PM Reserve Price: Rs. 19,56,000/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Fifty Six Thousand only) Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 1,95,600/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Six Hundred only) Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only)

Contact Person: Authorised Officer | 08928493669

: For detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx and www.unionbankofindia.co.in For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit https://baanknet.com (Buyer Registration – link provided in the home page of the website).

Authorised Officer



JHARKHAND MOURNS DEATH OF FORMER PM DR MANMOHAN SINGH



Minister Dr. Former Prime Manmohan Singh passed away at the age of 92. After getting information about Singh's death, Governor Santosh Gangwar, Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Rabindranath Mahato, BJP State President Babulal Marandi and others have expressed condo-



said, "The news of the death of former Prime Minister of the country Dr. Manmohan Singh is very sad. His contribution as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Finance Minister and Prime Minister will always be remembered. In this hour of grief, I express my deepest condolences to his family members.

Jharkhand Assembly Speaker Rabindranath Mahato expressed condolences on the death of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The president said that he is saddened by the demise of former Prime Minister of the country Dr. Manmohan Singh. "He was the father of India's economic development. He will always be remembered for the kind of plans he made for the strengthening of the Indian econo-



my while being the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Finance Minister of India and Prime Minister of India," he

Former Chief Minister and the State Chief Minister Babulal Marandi said, "The mind is saddemise of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, a great economist, a simple, easy-going and gentle personality. His contribution to the economic reforms of the country will always be unforgettable. May God give peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this immense grief." Champai Soren said, "I am deeply saddened by the sad news of the demise of former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh ji. - May God give peace to his soul and strength to the family and supporters to bear this grief.'

Union Minister Annapurna Devi wrote that I am shocked by the news of the demise of former PM Dr. Manmohan Singh ji. "His contribution to Indian politics will always be remembered. I pray to



Lord Shri Ram to grant a place to the departed soul in his feet and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this shock. Om Shanti," she added.

Health Minister Dr Irfan Ansari wrote that with the demise of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh, the

simplicity. "His visionary leadership proved to be a boon for India during the economic crisis of 1991. His reforms improved the lives of crores of Indians," he The Congress leader further

wrote that as Prime Minister, he took historic steps like information revolution, MNREGA, farmers' loan waiver and right to education, whose benefits India is still reaping. Every Indian will always be indebted to his honesty, humility and national service. This is a historic loss. Humble tribute.

Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development Minister Sanjay Prasad Yadav wrote that the demise of former Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh is the end of an era. "His



simplicity, grasp on the economy and selfless service will always be an inspiration for the country. May his soul rest in peace," he added The minister has also reposted RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav's post. Apart from this, leaders of other political parties including Jharkhand Congress, BJP, JMM and common people paid emotional tribute on the demise of former PM Dr Manmohan Singh ji.

Govt postpones Maiya Samman Yojana function, other programmes

The Chief Minister Maiya Samman programme was to be organized on 28 December at the Army Ground located at Kutiaati Chowk in Namkum. But this proposed program has been postponed for the time being. The next date of the program will be released soon. Ranchi DC gave this information.

The decision to postpone the programme was taken after the Government of India announced seven days of state mourning on the demise of former Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh. In such a situation, no state function of any kind will be organized in Jharkhand from 26 December to 1 January. Therefore, the Maiya Šamman program has been postponed for the time being. The program can be organized any day after the state mourning.

The Government of India has announced seven days of state mourning on the demise of former Prime

Congress leaders paying tributes to former Prime Minister of the country Dr. Manmohan Singh in Belgaum, Karnataka. Karnataka Chief Minister Sidda Ramaiya, Deputy Chief Minister VK Shivkumar and other cabinet ministers were present on this occasion. Jharkhand's Agriculture, **Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Minister Shilpi** Neha Tirkey was also among those who paid tribute to the former Prime Minister. PNS

Minister of India Manmohan Singh. The Jharkhand government has also decided to observe seven days of state mourning. In such a situation, no state function of any kind will be organized from

26 December to 1 January. Also, all the buildings of the state, where the national flag is hoisted regularly, will remain half-mast. In this regard, the Joint Secretary of the Hemant Government has

issued a letter.

The Congress Working Committee in its resolution on Friday mourned the loss of a "true statesman", former PM Manmohan Singh, while pleding to honour his memory and to carry forward his enduring legacy. "Dr Singh's legacy as leader, economist, humble human being will live on, inspiring all to contribute to betterment of our great nation," the resolution stated. The CWC resolution also

committed to upholding Singh's values to build a "more prosperous, united India, just as he envisioned". Meanwhile, Congress Parliamentary Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, in a statement released Friday, called the former PM's demise "a deeply personal loss". "In Dr Manmohan Singh's passing, we have lost a leader who was the epitome of wisdom, nobility and humility, who served our country with all his heart and mind," Sonia said. Senior politicians pay

final tribute: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Union Home Minister Amit Shah BJP chief JP Nadda, among other senior leaders in the governreached

Manmohan Singh's residence on Friday morning to pay their final respects to the former prime minister. Dr Singh's last rites will take tomorrow Rajghat, before which his mortal remains will be taken to AICC headquarters.

Dr Manmohan Singh, two-time prime minister and architect of the landmark economic reforms of 1991, passed away at the age of 92. The former prime minister breathed his last on late Thursday evening in Delhi. His mortal remains were brought to his residence in the national capital, where senior political leaders paid their last respects for the veteran politician. Dr Singh's mortal remains will be taken to the AICC headquarters on Saturday morning, after which his last rites will be performed near Rajghat.

Health Minister inspects RIMS, orders to improve at the earliest

PNS : RANCHI

Health Minister Dr Irfan Ansari today inspected the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences and Hospital and said that the condition of Jharkhand's largest government hospital is very bad. During the inspection, the Minister found many closed rooms and faulty machines in the hospital. He reprimanded the hospital management and instructed to open these rooms and use the machines.

The Minister saw that the floors are broken in many places in the hospital and there are not enough beds available for the patients. He expressed deep displeasure over the situation.

Dr Irfan Ansari said that the Chief Minister has ordered to take several steps to improve RIMS. Under this, old equipment will be replaced, the number of beds in the emergency will be increased and the central lab will be started soon.

Dr Ansari said that RIMS is not just a hospital but it is a lifeline, where sick people from all over the state come



for treatment with great hope. Mostly poor people come to RIMS for treatment, so the Director should take care that they do not face any kind of problem.

He said that the state gov-

ernment is dedicated to serving the people of Jharkhand and the role of the health department is very important in this. While inspecting the wards he also talked to many patients and took their feedback on the treatment and facilities being provided in RIMS. Health Department

Secretary Ajoy Kumar Singh informed that at present there are only 40 beds in the emergency of RIMS, which will be increased to 80. He said that this work will be completed in the next 2 months.

In this regard, the RIMS director has admitted that patients face problems due to lack of beds in the hospital. He said that he will follow the instructions of the minister. Also, he will make every possible effort to improve the

'Govt exploring legal options on revocation of Singhal's suspension' However, she is still an accused in the money launed to Singhal by a special image sentence in the case in the case.



The suspension of the state's senior IAS officer Pooja Singhal, who was released from jail after about 28 months, may end soon. Legal aspects are being considered for this. According to the information, legal experts are being consulted to end the suspension of Pooja Singhal.

After getting an opinion on legal points, her suspension will end, after which she can be given big responsibility. Singhal has been released from jail on the 7th of this month under the BNS Act.

the legal provisions, her suspension can be ended while she is out of jail. Singhal, accused in the MGNREGA scam, was arrested by the ED on May 11. Earlier on May 5, 2022, the ED raided 25 locations of Pooja Singhal. In this raid, the ED got important information about unaccounted money and investments in other places. During the raid by the central agency, Rs 19.31 crore cash was recovered from the residence and office of Pooja Singhal's CA Suman Singh. Suspended IAS officer Pooja Singhal who has been in judicial custody for last 28 months in an alleged money laundering case, was granted bail by a Jharkhand court on

Laundering Act) court, where her plea was heard under provisions of a law regarding prolonged judicial custody. The court had earlier sought detailed from information Superintendent of Birsa Munda Central Jail regarding exact duration of Singhal's incarceration and her judicial custody status. Following this, the jail superintendent submitted a formal report to the court. Pooja who was arrested by ED on May 11, 2022 had spent nearly two-and-a-half years in jail. Her counsel argued for her release under the revised legal framework, which permits bail for accused whose judicial custody equals or

dering case. But according to Ranchi PMLA (Prevention of they face. A 2000 batch IAS officer, Singhal, was arrested by the federal probe agency for alleged embezzlement of crores of MGNREGA funds in Jharkhand. The Enforcement Directorate had also conducted raids on several properties linked to Singhal in connection with the money laundering case. The ED said it had seized over Rs 36 crore in cash linked to illegal mining operations during two separate investigations conducted by the agency. Apart from Singhal and her businessman husband, chartered accountant associated with the couple, along with several others, were raided by the ED as part of the money laundering probe. Singhal was suspended by the Union Public .

STATE MAY WITNESS RAIN ON DECEMBER 28 AND

PNS: RANCHI

The weather is change again in Jharkhand. December 28 and December 29, rain is expectin 17 districts of Jharkhand including the cap-According to the ital. Center Meteorological Ranchi, Jharkhand will be affected by the western disturbance, which will cause

On the other hand, fog will prevail after the rain on December 29. As soon as the clouds clear, the cold will increase in the state. The cold will once again trouble everyone. The Meteorological Department said that the 17 districts of Jharkhand in which rain is expected. Among them, Garhwa



Palamu, Koderma, Chatra, Giridih, Latehar. Lohardaga, Ramgarh, Gumla, Ranchi Simdega and Khunti district are on December 28. There will be light rain in these districts. Whereas on December 29, apart from Ranchi, there will be rain in Gumla, Khunti

East and West Singhbhum, Saraikela. However, moderate rain is expected on December 29.

Meteorologist Abhishek Anand Ranchi Meteorological Center said that the state will be affected by western disturbance, due to which it will rain continu-

ously for two days. He said in Santhal, it will rain in other places. He also said that as soon as the rain stops on December 30, there will be an effect of fog due to the winds coming from the north and the cold will also increase. He said that the effect of fog will be less in Santhal.

Talking about Friday's temperature, the minimum temperature in different cities of Jharkhand was 10 degrees above. At the same time, the minimum temperature in the capital was recorded at 12.6 and the maximum temperature at 26.1 degrees Celsius. After December 30, the temperature in the state will fall and the cold will increase

Seven Day Aqua World Carnival kicks off in city Padma Shri recipient Ashok Bhagat inaugurates the event

PNS: RANCHI

Padma Shri recipient Ashok Bhagat inaugurated the 7day New Year Carnival 2025 being organized by Aqua World, Machhali Ghar here on Friday. Padma Madhu Mansuri was also present as a special guest on this occasion. The carnival will be held from 27 December to 2 January from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm. There will be a lot of competitions and programs for all sections in it.

Addressing the people present, Bhagat praised the organization of the carnival and said that today the carnival will give a solace to the people in the life of rush and mobile. He said that this is a very commendable event by Aqua World. In this, the spirit of competition will also be awakened in a meaningful way among children and youth. He hoped that for the next 7 days in the carnival. social issues should also be

discussed along with entertainment.

Mansuri enthralled the people present with his folk song. In his address, he said that today's young generation should not forget their traditions along with modernity. Congratulating the organization of the carnival, he expressed hope that a large section of Ranchi will come here and enjoy various programs and competitions.

At the beginning of the carnival, the guests and the people present paid tribute to former Prime Minister Late Manmohan Singh.

Earlier, in his welcome speech, Pratul Shahdev, Managing Director of Aqua World, welcomed the guests and said that Aqua World has always provided healthy entertainment to the middle class of Ranchi. Through the carnival. full arrangements have been made for the entertainment of the people of Ranchi for the next 7



days. Pratul discussed the social contribution of both the guests and thanked them and said that the people present have got inspiration just by their presence. The

program was conducted by Dr. Vidya Jha. Today, on the first day also, there was a lot of competition. First of all, a painting competition was organized on the theme of

Clean India in which hundreds of children participated. In the 'Mera Juta Hai Japani' competition, people catwalked on the ramp showing the best shoes and

sandals. In the selfie competition, people took selfies at the Santa Claus booth. More than 100 children participated in the chips eating com-

petition. In the late evening, different competitions were organized for children in The Follow Up Show. The main attraction of the evening was the grand magic show of magician Prakash Bharti. In which the people present were amazed to see the tricks of magician Bharti. The team of today's best outfit competition was red. A large number of people came wearing red outfits.

On this occasion, carnival in-charge Lokesh Chaudhary, deputy in-charge Abhishek Giri, Anand, Saurav, Akash, Ayush, Khushboo, Shagun, Saumya, Piyush, Aditya, Shivesh, Prashant, Nitin, Aparajita Komal, Tanya, Sanya and all the members of the carnival organizing

BoB inaugurates its new Branch



Bank Regional Office Ranchi was inaugurated by Brig. Umesh A Parab Commander, Namkum Military Garrison in the presence of Jagjit Kumar, Deputy General

Manager & Regional Head, Bijay Kumar Sethi, Assistant General Manager & Deputy Regional Head, Medhavi Kumar Madhukar, Branch Head and staff members of the branch on 27 December 2024 at Bank of Baroda, Namkum Branch Bargawan, PS-Namkum, Ranchi 834010.

SBPS student shines in Maths Challenge

The students of Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi left their indelible mark in CBSE Aryabhata Ganit Challenge 2024-25. The primary focus of the challenge is to evaluate students' ability to utilize mathematical concepts through practical applications. The challenge is designed to

enhance crucial skills like problem-solving, logical reasoning, and quantitative aptitude, which are indispensable for success in various academic and professional fields. Several students from CBSE affiliated schools all over India participated in the competition. Samridh Kumar of Std X from our school featured in the top 100 students. Principal, Paramjit Kaur, lauded the incredible performance of Samridh Kumar and encouraged others to actively participate in such competency based

committee were present. competitions which boost their confidence and knowledge.

PM Modi leads nation in paying tribute to Manmohan Singh

his 3, Motilal Nehru Road,

residence that served as his

retirement abode for the last

over 10 years ever since he

relinquished charge as prime

Several leaders paid their last

respects to the former prime

minister in the presence of his

wife Gursharan Kaur and

Singh would be cremated on

Saturday and his final journey

will commence from the

AICC headquarters at 9.30

am on Saturday, Congress

general secretary K C

Modi said Singh's life would

always serve as a lesson for

the future generations on how

someone can rise above depri-

vation and struggles to attain

ious capacities in the govern-

ment, the prime minister said

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

other family members.

Venugopal said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

 $P_{\text{Murmu, Vice President}}^{\text{resident}}$ Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the top dignitaries who paid homage to former prime minister Manmohan Singh at his residence here on Friday.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Draped in the Tricolour, Singh put the country on a

minister in the government headed by P V Narasimha "As prime minister, his con-

new economic path as finance

tribution to the country's development and progress will always be remembered," he added. Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, and BJP president J P Nadda also paid their tributes to Singh

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Himachal Pradesh Chief

Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu and Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy also came to Delhi to pay their last respects to the former prime minister.

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

Born to Gurmukh Singh and Amrit Kaur on September 26, 1932 in Gah village of the Punjab province of undivided Índia (now Pakistan), Singh passed his matriculation examination in 1948. His family migrated to Amritsar after Partition in 1948 after living shortly in Haldwani.

Singh completed his intermediate and graduation in economics from the Hindu College here before moving out of the city to pursue higher studies in Panjab University's Hoshiarpur camHis academic career took him from Punjab to the University of Cambridge, UK, where he earned a First Class Honours degree in Economics. Singh followed this with a DPhil in Economics from Nuffield College of Oxford University. Singh's half-brother Surjit Singh Kohli said the former prime minister had deep affection for his grandmother, who raised him following his mother's death when he was very young.

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

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

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

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

Foreign envoys remember former PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Envoys of several countries, including Russia, China and the US, on Friday expressed condolences over the passing away of Manmohan Singh, describing the former prime minister as an "outstanding leader" and hailing his commitment to the progress of India.

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

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

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

during Singh's prime ministership changed India's overall engagement with the US as it paved the way for building the bonds of a strategic partnership, especially in areas of high-technology and defence. Expressing condolences in a post, Chinese envoy Xu Feihong said, "Deeply sad-dened by the passing of former Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, an outstanding leader who is widely revered by the Indian people. Heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.'

Many embassies in India also put out posts on social media along with photographs while remembering Singh.

Deepest condolences to the family and friends of former Prime Minister of India, Dr ManmohanSingh. A statesman admired worldwide, he leaves behind a legacy of compassion and progress. His leadership bolstered India's global standing and strengthened bonds with France," the French Embassy posted. The Embassy of Iran said Singh

played a key role in fostering historic ties between the two countries. "The Embassy of Iran in Delhi extends its heartfelt condolences to the government and people of India on the demise of Dr Manmohan Singh. He was a highly respected leader, who played key role in fostering Iran-India historic ties," it said in a social media post.

former Prime Minister's passing

RSS condoles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

S everal celebrities on Friday condoled the death of for-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh remembering him as a "visionary" and a "great financial reformer and statesman." Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan,

Manoj Bajpayee and other film stars were among the celebrities who paid their tributes to the former prime minister who died here on Thursday at the age of 92. In a social media post, actorpolitician Haasan said the nation has lost "one of its finest sons". "India has lost

Sunny Deol, Chiranjeevi,

Singh marks the end of an era in Indian polity. A man of quiet dignity, he reshaped the nation through his visionary economic and social policies. "Few have influenced the nation's trajectory with such far-reaching impact. His policies, both as Finance Minister and Prime Minister, empowered millions, strengthening the fabric of Indian democracy and uplifting the most vulnerable," Haasan posted. Rajinikanth was asked about Singh's demise at the Chennai airport and he said, "He was a great human being. Great financial reformer and states-

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

ous admirers," he added. Sunny Deol also hailed Singh

whose contributions in every aspect of our nation's growth

My heartfelt condolences to

#RIPDrManmohanSingh." Anil Kapoor recalled that he left "an indelible impression" on the actor. "He was a man of unparalleled humility and wisdom. His extraordinary

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

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

Veteran actor Anupam Kher, who played the role of the former Prime Minister in the 2019 film "The Accidental Prime Minister" based on the memoir of Singh's former media advisor Šanjay Baru,

more than a year for the

r, it felt that I actually spent that much time with him. He was inherently a good man. Sharing a photo of Singh on Instagram, Allu Arjun said, great economist and a very

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

Kajol said, "Tributes to Dr.

Mánmohan Singh Ji, a distions.'

nomic growth. He epitomised

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

dignity and humility. We will

Issued more than one million nonimmigrant visas for second year in row: US mission in India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

in 2025," it said. The US mission to India issued tens of thousands of



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

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

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

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

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

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

have U.S. Student visas. In 2024, India became the top sender of international students for the first time since the 2008/2009 academic year with more than 331,000 students overall studying in the US," it said.

It further added that India also remained the largest sender of international graduate students in the US for the second

Índian graduate student numbers increased by 19 per cent to reach almost 200,000 students, according to the details "Many exchange visitors will now be able to remain in the United States and not need to return home for two years after completing their programmes in the US, offering them more opportunities to further their careers and education," the embassy said.

The removal of India from the Exchange Visitors Skills List has provided greater flexibility for these Indian J-1 nonimmigrant visa holders," it said.

The US mission said it remains dedicated to fostering strong bilateral relations and providing exceptional consular services.

"These achievements over the past year are a testament to the hard work and dedication of the Mission's staff and the enduring partnership between the United States and India,'

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

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

once met the former PM who

contributions will forever be remembered. May his soul rest in peace," he said. Diljit Dosanjh shared a photo

said he is deeply saddened by his demise. "Having studied him for

#TheAccidentalPrimeMiniste

tinguished leader who served India with dedication & wisdom. May his legacy continue to inspire future genera-

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

Riteish Deshmukh called Singh one of India's "finest Prime Ministers". "The man who propelled India's ecocondoled Singh's death.
The team behind superstar
Salman Khan's upcoming
"Sikandar" has postponed the

release of film's teaser till Saturday in the wake of Singh's death.

SC expresses concern over condition of farmer leader Dallewal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

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



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

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

The Punjab AG informed the

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

demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price for crops.

On December 20, the top court left it to the Punjab government officials and doctors to decide on the hospitalisation of Dallewal. The court had said 70-year-old Dallewal could be moved to the makeshift hospital setup within 700 metre of the protest site at Khanauri border between Punjab and

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

Gurugram cyber police arrests two criminals cheating in name of loan recovery

STAFF REPORTER ■ **GURUGRAM**

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

cards were recovered from his possession, police said on Friday. According to the police, they have been identified as Kapil

of Charkhi Dadri and

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

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



Cyber Crime East Police

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

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

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

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

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

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

56 Cyber warriors to digitally safeguard devotees at Mahakumbh

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

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

Awareness campaigns are being launched to educate devotees about potential



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

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

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

websites, fraudulent links, and other cyber scams. Devotees can report suspicious activities, and prompt action will be taken. The government has also introduced a helpline number, 1920, for inquiries and support related to the Mahakumbh. Attendees

to local police. As part of its pre-emptive

are advised to rely on gov-

ernment websites with the

gov.in" domain for authen-

tic information, while any

fake websites can be reported

suspicious websites, and action against these is already underway. Mobile cyber teams have also been deployed to raise awareness among devotees and address online threats on a real-time

SSP Rajesh Dwivedi emphasized that the integration of technology with security will ensure a safe experience for all attendees. He added that the government's efforts, including setting up cyber help desks, screening infor-mational films, and taking strict action against cybercriminals, are aimed at making this Mahakumbh a seamless and secure event for devotees

This year's Mahakumbh is not only envisioned as a grand spiritual gathering but also a high-tech event, where tradition and modernity come together. With these measures, the Yogi government has set a benchmark for ensuring digital safety in large-scale religious gatherings, making this Mahakumbh a model for

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

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

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

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



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

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

I was earlier attacked by the CPIM and TMC ... now I hear that the terrorist outfits are targeting me but the people of Bengal have always responded against such actions ... Let the subversive activists do their job, and I will do mine... and if there is

an attack then the people will

give a reply," he said. Referring to the recent arrests of terror moles from Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas --- by the Assam and Jammu and Kashmir Police --- and subsequent revelations that they had acquired aadhar cards, pan cards and even passports and voter ID cards, Singh said that mos4t of the civic volunteers who had been appointed to assist the police by the Trinamool Congress of Jamaat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



cared deeply for the common

Asim Arun also shed light on the unique role he played in est security for the Prime Minister. As Assistant Inspector General of the Close Protection Team, I was never far from him. If only one bodyguard was allowed, it would be me. My responsibility was to stay with him like a shadow," Arun wrote.

Singh, known for his humility, intellect, and calm the age of 92. demeanor, served as India's The mourning period will 2014 and was widely celebrated as the architect of India's economic liberalization during his tenure as finance minister in 1991.

"His attachment to the Maruti 800 wasn't just about nostalgia—it reflected the essence of who he was: a leader deeply rooted in simplicity and a

Singh's life during those years. 'The SPG provides the clos-

beacon of hope for the mida middle-class person who dle class," Arun added.

Manmohan Singh's passing has left a wave of mourning across the country, but stories like these ensure his legacy of humility and service to the nation will endure for generations. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh

government has declared a seven-day state mourning to honor the demise of former Minister Dr. Prime Manmohan Singh, who passed away on Thursday night at AIIMS, New Delhi, at

and continue until January 1,

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

Panjab University organised condolence meet to pay homage to alumnus Manmohan

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

During the meeting, tributes were paid to Singh, as attendees reflected on his contributions to the nation and his associa-

tion with the university. Another condolence meeting was also organised jointly by the Department of Economics and the Panjab University Alumni Association.

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

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

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



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

"Dr Singh is our university's most distinguished alumnus," she said. Former Union Minister and Congress' sitting MP from Chandigarh, Manish Tewari said his association with Manmohan Singh goes back to the time when his parents and the ex-PM were neighbours in Panjab University here.

day I opened my eyes in this world," Tewari said.

"How strange are the ways of God. I was supposed to call on him tomorrow (Saturday) in the morning," Tewari posted on X, "Soft Spoken, Erudite, intelligent but firm he was an inspiration for millions of young people for whom he opened up

1991," he said.

Tewari said through all these vears he shared a personal relationship with him and also served as the Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting in his government. "I recall anchoring his Mega

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

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

five leaders like Dr Manmohan Singh in the world, it would be a different world." Bansal said the nation will

always be indebted to Singh for turning around the economy. 'I had the privilege to work in his councils of ministers. A great administrator, he was a superb human being with unparalleled humility," he said. Former Punjab deputy chief minister and Congress leader O P Soni also paid tributes to Manmohan Singh. "I had met him three to four

months ago at his Delhi home. He had so much love for Amritsar and Punjab. When he was PM, we got so much work done for Amritsar, its industry," Soni said.

When asked if Amritsar is also known for its rich food, did Singh, who spent his childhood days in the holy city, have any preference for any local dish, Soni said, "he always preferred to have simple food. However, he used to love Sarson Ka Saag."

part of Amritsar, said, "when my father passed away in 2015, he visited my house to offer condolence"

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

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

PTI MUMBAI

Anti-graft activist Anna Hazare on Friday condoled the death of former prime minister Manmohan Singh and said he was against corruption. Hazare, who had led a massive agitation against corruption during Singh's tenure in the early 2010s, said the former PM took swift decisions concerning his demands for the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act.

and their legacy behind. Singh gave a new direction to the country's economy," Hazare told PTI in his native village Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district.Recalling his protests against graft in the government

Those who are born have to

die, but some leave memories

led by Singh, the octogenarian activist said the former PM invited him for talks and took He was against corruption

and took immediate decisions regarding the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act. He always thought about the country and how best he could work for its people," Hazare said. He always prioritised the welfare of the country and society, said the

Gurugram Police Crime Branch arrests for killing youth over dispute

STAFF REPORTER
GURUGRAM

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

village of Gurugram, who was an auto driver. The accused have been identified as Brijesh alias Rinku, Umesh alias Nahne Arvinder Kumar, all residents of Uttar

Prades,h, and Siyasaran Sahu

Ashish a resident of Bhangrola

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A silent crusader

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

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



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

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

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



Why RSS chief's push for large families is out of step_



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

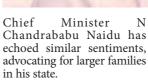
ashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent appeal for larger families, framed as a response to perceived demographic challenges, reveals a worldview rooted in traditionalism. This perspective clashes with the progressive social, cultural, and economic ethos of modern India. While presented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

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

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

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

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



However, such approaches seem out of step with modern India's aspirations. India is not experiencing a population decline but rather a slowdown in growth.

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

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

By advocating for larger families, Bhagwat inadvertently



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

EMPOWERMENT

dependency and limiting women's agency.

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

Resource Constraints With a population exceeding

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

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

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

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

Intervening in such choices

undermines personal free-

political agendas.

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

Policies empowering the youth and enhancing employability can transform India's demoapnic potentiai into an asset

quality of life.

(Writer is a senior political analyst and strategic affairs columnist; views are

Homeschooling: Affordable and holistic education option



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

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

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

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

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

other factors contributing to the rising popularity of homeschooling.

Parents hold the view that homeschooling can significantly enhance a child's personal and academic development. In contrast to conventional educational institutions, homeschooling offers remarkable flexibility, allowing lessons to align with a child's interests, learning pace, and preferred methods of engagement.

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

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

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

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

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

MANMOHAN SINGH PASSES AWAY

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

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

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

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

dling by both nations. Hasina's presence

ICC fines Virat Kohli

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

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

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

in Bangladesh

Bal Govind | *Noida*

EMPOWERING RURAL ECONOMY

Madam — The government is committed to revitalising the rural economy through cooperation, recently inaugurating 10,000 Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit

a treat to watch. It was an intentional act captured in-camera when Kohli appeared to be dashed against Konstas in the middle while walking across, which sparked an encounter. Watching this, the Aussie legend Ricky Ponting and England's Michael Vaughan were quick to voice their opinions, calling for ICC

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

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

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

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

R K Jain | Barwani

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FIRST COLUMN

HUNGER FOR POWER

Lure for power is a universal phenomenon but in the capital, it is at next level



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



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

Nonetheless, realizing that the man was getting increasingly exasperated at my manoeuvrings, I salvaged the situation by promising to cast my vote in his favour and profusely apologized to him for my failure to identify his 'Excellency', with the pretext that my better half is the face of our family for outside interactions, while I busy myself in mundane things, like reading and writing. Not too surprisingly, denizens of my beloved Dilli, sitting on the centre of power since the dawn of history, have a deeply ingrained fascination for posts and titles- which proliferate dime a dozen- and take a macho and perverse pride in flaunting them, with the same exuberance with which a child displays his or her toy, albeit not with

This fact is borne out in the form of roadside boards and car number plates, which often bear vague titles- such as 'Secretary, Youth Media Cell, ABC party, B-block, Village XYZ'. A carryforward from the era of the Mughals and British imperialists, this is a desperate shot to seek the much-desired VVIP status, at least in the circle one operates in. Thus, it is not unknown to find members of RWAs who run virtual fiefdoms in their associations, maybe as recompense for the voluntary service rendered in serving the community. The perks could include a free car wash and laundry facility, use of funds near the residence where the self-styled Maharajas live,

One can only speculate as to what would happen if this maniac lure of titles and appellations invaded the next, and perhaps the last bastion of community living, the home. Then, it would be no surprise to see name boards outside individual residences read like this: 1/103, Beverly Park: APS Malhotra, President; Sonia Malhotra Vice President; Dr. Mehak Malhotra, Secretary (in absentia). In families with matriarchal tendencies, the designations could be reversed. Well, worth a thought!

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

India must stand firm against Sheikh Hasina's extradition



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



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

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



SHEIKH HASINA HAS YET TO BE SENTENCED TO ANY PERIOD OF IMPRISONMENT OR DETENTION.

ALSO, SHE CAN VERY WELL CLAIM OPPRESSIVE" TO EXTRADITE HER BECAUSE THE **ACCUSATION** "GOOD FAITH IN THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE", AND ARE A RESULT OF **VINDICTIVENESS**

Awami League's leaders and ministers in the party's government. According to a report in The Daily Star carried under the headline, "No option but to succeed: Yunus" on August 18, 2024, Ced: Yunus on August 18, 2024, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus had said during a "Meet and Greet" session with foreign diplo-mats in Dhaka, "In their efforts to stay in power, the Sheikh Hasina dictatorship destroyed every institution of the country. Judiciary was broken. Democratic rights were suppressed through a brutal decade-and-a-half long crackdown. Elections were rigged blatantly. Generations of young people grew up without exercising their voting rights. Banks were robbed with full political patronisation. And the state coffer was plundered by abusing

Referring to a proposed Awami League rally on November10, 2024, Muhammad Yunus' press secretary, Shafiqul Alam, had written in a Facebook post on November 9, - I ne Awami League "UNJUST OR in its current form is a fascist party. There is no way this fascist party will be allowed to hold protests in Bangladesh. Anyone who would try to hold rally, gathering and processions by taking orders from the mass murderer and dictator Sheikh Hasina will face full force of the law enforcing agencies."

Leaders of the Students Discrimination Movement (ADSM), formed on July 1, 2024, to carry the students' struggle forward, and Jatiya Nagarik Committee (National Citizens Committee), formed on 8 September, 2024, to consolidate the movement's message and political goals, have spoken in a similar strident and denunciato-

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

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

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

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

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

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

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed

Unlocking economic potential: Bridging the gender gap in public procurement

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

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

immense. Yet, globally, women-owned enterprises still win only 1 per cent of this significant public actual gender budget expendi more resources are being allo-

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

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



ELIZABETH A VAZQUEZ

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

The Statement serves as a vital tool for ministries reviewing programmes from a gender perspective to ensure that

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

prises has risen from almost

zero in 2017-18 to 1.8 per cent

The number of women-owned (owned and controlled by women having the minimum financial interest of 51 per cent of the capital and with women constituting at least 51 per cent of generated employment) MSEs benefiting from public procurement grew from 1,410 (accounting for Rs 232.56 crore) to 21,128 (Rs 3056.4 crore) in six years.

While the evidence is encouraging, there are still gaps and This would enable them to in government departments.

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

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

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

Public authorities could also sensitise officials on the need to counteract gender biases that may influence the design of procurement processes. A strong starting point would be to appoint more women to oversee public procurement Public procurement from women-owned enterprises in India over the past six years has grown at an average annual growth rate of 70.5 per cent, while the number of beneficiary women entrepreneurs has increased at an average annual rate of 77 per cent because the baseline was close to zero. In 2023-24, total public procurement in India reached Rs 1.70 lakh crore, highlighting a growing opportunity for women to engage with the expanding public procurement market in the world's fastestgrowing economy.

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

Nearly 70 migrants killed as boat sinks en route to Spain

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

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

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

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

Interested parties are requested to download the details from our website www.sbimf.com available under 'Downloads - Tenders' and submit offers. The last date of receipt / submission of offer in the prescribed formats is January 06, 2025 at 4.00 P.M. The Company reserves the right to reject any or all



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

CANARA BANK केनरा बैंक Canara Bank 📣 **WEST R.O**

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]

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

Ref: CB1762/SARFAESI/MANSION/2024/1 1. M/S MANSION PARERGON DEVELOPERS (BORROWER)

Date: 19.12.2024

RAJASTHAN

2. M/S MANSION PARERGON DEVELOPERS (BORROWER)

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

3. Mr. NARESH SHARMA (PROP.)

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

4. Mr. NARESH SHARMA (PROP.)

ADD:- PLOT NO. G-186, INDUSTRIAL AREA EPIP, NEEMRANA, DISTRICT ALWAR RAJASTHAN Dear Sir / Madan

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

Assets & Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2022.

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, GANESH NAGAR Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter

referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under. That M/S MANSION PARERGON DEVELOPERS through its Proprietor Mr. NARESH SHARMA S/O Mr. KISHORI LAL SHARMA (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower/Co-Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said

financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.

That ... (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of with interest thereon. You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in

However, From SEPTEMBER 2024 the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to shows that the lability of the sorrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to Rs 1,51,64,239,66 (Rs. One Crore Fifty One Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine & Paisa Sixty Six Only), the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having falled to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/les having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/installment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 14.12.2024 in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issue

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

creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of Rs. 1,51,64,239.66 (Rs. One Crore Fifty One Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Nine & Paisa Sixty Six Only), together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of

which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue: 13(4)- In case the Borrower/ Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to

recover his secured debt, namely;

(a)Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer

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

of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt; royided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business

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

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not

transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business; the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secure creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income. This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other right or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due

and payable by you. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or a

other law in force Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Nor

compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and Thanking you

AUTHORIZED OFFICER

Thanking you.

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

SI No	Loan No	Nature of Loan/Limit	Date of sanction	Amount
1.	170002826875	TERM LOAN (MSME CAP)	15.12.2021	1,50,00,000.00
2.	125001443679	OD/OCC (MSME CAP)	15.01.2022	50,00,000.00
			TOTAL	2,00,00,000.00

SCHEDULE B [Details of security assets]

	IMMOVABLES					
S	l No	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	NAME OF TITLE HOLDER	CERSAI DETAILS		
	1	All the part & parcel of the property built on Commercial Land Situated at Plot no. G-186, EPIP Industrial area, Neemrana, Tehsil-Neemrana, District-Alwar, Rajasthan Measuring: 1500.00 Sq. Mtrs. Boundaries:-East:-Plot No. G-185 West:-Plot No. G-187 North:-Plot No. F-191 South:-Road 18.00 Mtr. Wide		Asset Id- 200059967598 Security Interest Id-400059408561		

MOVABLES

HYPOTHECATION OF EQUIPMENT & MIS MANSION PARERGON Asset IdMACHINERY DEVELOPERS 20006543 200065435561 (PROP. MR. NARESH Security Interest

SCHEDULE C

SHARMA) ld-400064555958

Yours faithfully,

AUTHORIZED OFFICER

		A TOP OF THE PARTY	COLUMN TO SERVICE STATE OF THE SECOND STATE OF	
SI No	LOAN NO	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON DATE 19.12.2024	RATE OF INTEREST
1.	170002826875	TERM LOAN (MSME CAP)	Rs. 1,00,00,000/- (Principal) + Rs. 14338.46/- (Interest)	9.95% + (PENAL INTEREST)
2.	125001443679	OD/OCC (MSME CAP)	Rs. 50,51,816.20/- (Principal) * Rs. 98,085.00/- (Interest)	11.65% + (PENAL INTEREST)
		TOTAL	Rs. 1,50,51,816.20/- (Principal) + Rs. 1,12,423,46/- (Interest)	

China sanctions 7 companies over US military assistance to Taiwan

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

The sanctions also come in

of the US government's annual defence spending bill, which a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said "includes multiple negative sections on China.

China objects to American military assistance for Taiwan and often imposes sanctions on related companies after a sale or aid package is announced. The sanctions generally have a

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg,
Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(3)

Whereas the Authorized officer of **CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED** (Clix), a Housing Finance Bank Company under the National Housing Bank Act., having its registered office Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi- 110008, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (\$4 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-ceiting (\$4.05 Section 13.65 Section 13.65 Act and with bule 8 of the Secretal Pages (Referement) Rules 2002 as 2002 section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on a per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "CLIX" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address of Bortower/Co-Bortower: 1. KAMAL BATRA S/O SURESH KUMAR BATRA, 2. MAHIMA BATRA W/O KAMAL BATRA, BOTH AT - C-31, C BLOCK MAHENDRU ENCLAYE AZADPUR, NEW DELHI-110033, ALSO AT: LIG FLAT BEARING NO.62-B, RIST FLOOR IN POCKET-B-4 ASHOR VIHAR PHSALD, DELHI-110052, ALSO AT: HONEY BAKERY, C-31C BLOCK MAHENDRU ENCLAYE, AZADPUR, NEW DELHI-110033

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

Details of Property: All Piece and Parcel of the Property dda built freehold l.i.g fiat bearing No.62-B on first floor in Pocket-B-4 along with Scooter Garage on Ground Floor, Situated at ASHOK VIHAR PHASE-II. DELHI- 110052.

Date: 24.12.2024. Place: Delhi

Authorised Officer, CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

\delta Indian Overseas Bank KABRI BRANCH

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

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

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, KABRI BRANCH, Panipat, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 or the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice date o6/09/2024 calling upon the borrower Mrs. Priti Garg, H.No. 0, Ward No.23, Arjun Nagar, Panipat, haryana and Mr. Nitin Garg H.No. 0, Ward no. 23, Arjun Nagar, Panipat, Haryana, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers' guarantors' mortgagors') to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 20,28,825.37 (Rupees Twenty Lakh, Twenty Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred Twenty Five and Paisa Thirty Seven Only) as on 06-09-2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 clays from the date of receipt of the said notice. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice

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

not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs 20,23,885.27 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five and Paisa Twenty Seven Only) as on 30.11.2024 with interest thereon at contractual rates & rests as agreed, charges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date of payment less repayments, if any, made after issuance of Demand Notice. The dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs 20,23,885.27 (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five and Paisa Twenty Seven Only) as on 30.11.2024 payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, charges etc., till date of payment. (3)The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

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

Bounded As :

On the North by : Rishikul School Street 30'-0" On the South by : Street 30'-0"

On the East by : House of Satish Kashyap 63'-0" On the West by - House of Pradeep 63'-0"

Dated: 24.12.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer Indian Overseas Bank

🟡 Indian Overseas Bank KABRI BRANCH

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

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

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Overseas Bank, KABRI BRANCH, Panipat, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 22/07/2024 calling upon the borrower 1. M/s. Anand Trading Co. Prop. Anand S/o Om Prakash, Khataoni No. 631, Khewat No. 493, Village Kabri, Panipat haryana 132103, (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers) 2. Vijeta w/o Anand, VPO Kabri Panipat, 132103 and 3. Rayinder Kumar S/o Desh Mitar, VPO Kabri, Panipat, 132103, (hereinafter referred as 'Guarantors) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 11,67,863.46 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand, Eight Hundred Sixty Three and Paisa Forty Six Only) as on 20.07,2024 with further interest at contractual rates and rests, charges etc till date of realization within 60 days from the date of receipt of the

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

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

5497 dated 03.11.2004 measuring (151.25 Sq Yards) 5 Marla comprising in Khewat no 694/624, Khatoni no 783 Khasra no. 281 (0-5) situated at village kabri, Tehsil and District Panipat Haryana 132103 Bounded As :

On the North by : Main Road 47"-3"

On the South by : Other Plot 47'-3" On the East by : House of Sunil 38'-1 1/2 On the West by - House of Maman Singh 38'-1 1/3"

Dated: 24.12.2024

Sd/- Authorised Office Indian Overseas Bank

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

Taiwan for its defence. The seven companies being sanctioned are Insitu Inc., Hudson Technologies Co., Saronic Technologies, Inc., Raytheon Canada, Raytheon Australia, Aerkomm Inc. and Oceaneering International Inc., the Foreign Ministry state-ment said. It said that "relevant senior executives" of the companies are also sanctioned,

without naming any. Any assets they have in China will be frozen, and organisations and individuals in China are prohibited from engaging in any activity with them, it said. US President Joe Biden last week authorised up to USD 571 million in Defence Department

material and services and military education and training for Taiwan. Separately, the Defence Department announced that USD 295 million in military sales had been approved.

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

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

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

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

Germany's president dissolves parliament; polls on Feb 23

AP FRANKFURT

Terman President Frank-GWalter Steinmeier on Friday ordered parliament dissolved and set new elections for February 23 in the wake of the collapse of Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition, saying it was the only way to give the country a stable government capable of tackling its problems. Scholz lost a confidence vote on

December 16 and leads a minority government after his unpopular and notoriously rancorous three-party coalition collapsed on November 6 when he fired his finance minister in a dispute over how to revitalise Germany's stagnant economy. Steinmeier said he made the decision because it was clear after consultation with party leaders that there was no agreement among Germany's political parties on a majority for a new government in the current parliament. thIt is precisely in difficult times

like these that stability requires a government capable of taking action and a reliable majority in parliament," he said as he made the announcement in Berlin. "Therefore I am convinced

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

Steinmeier warned about outside interference in the poll, saying it is "a danger to democracy, whether it is covert, as was evidently the case recently in the Romanian elections, or open and blatant, as is currently being practiced particularly intensively on platform X." A top Romanian court annulled the first round of the

country's presidential election, days after allegations emerged that Russia ran a coordinated online campaign to promote the far-right outsider who won the first round. The campaign is already well

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

bidding for the top job though his party is further back. If recent polls hold up, the likely next government would be led by Merz as chancellor in coalition with at least one other Key issues include immigra-

tion, how to get the sluggish economy going, and how best to aid Ukraine in its struggle against Russia. The populist, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany,

or AfD, which is polling strongly, has nominated Alice Weidel as its candidate for chancellor but has no chance of taking the job because other parties refuse to work with it. Germany's electoral system traditionally produces coalitions, and polls show no party any-

where near an absolute majority on its own. The election is expected to be followed by weeks of negotiations to form a new government. It's only the fourth time that the

Bundestag has been dissolved ahead of schedule under Germany's post-World War II constitution. It happened under Chancellor Willy Brandt in 1972, Helmut Kohl in 1982 and Gerhard Schroeder in 2005. Schroeder used the confidence vote to engineer an early election narrowly won by centreright challenger Angela Merkel.

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

AP KYIV

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

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

almost 3-year war. The casualty disclosure came as

the Biden administration was pressing to send as much military aid as possible to Ukraine before President-elect Donald Trump takes over in January. Ukrainian forces launched an incursion into the Kursk region in August, dealing a significant blow to Russia's prestige and forcing it to deploy some of its troops from eastern Ukraine, where they were pressing a slow-moving offensive. The Russian army has been

able to reclaim some territory in the Kursk region from Ukrainian forces, but has failed to fully dislodge them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Canadian ministers head to Palm Beach for talks with Trump administration

AP TORONTO

Two top Canadian Cabinet Beach to talk border security and trade with the incoming Donald Trump administration as Trump threatens tariffs on all Canadian products.

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

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

der as part of a bid to avoid the sweeping tariffs. Comeau said LeBlanc and Iolv

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

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

The Trump transition team did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. Trump keeps calling embattled Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau the governor of the 51st state and has threatened to impose sweeping tariffs if Canada does not stem what he calls a flow of migrants and drugs in the United States — even though far fewer of

each cross into the US from Canada than from Mexico, which Trump has also threatened. Canada has a billion-dollar plan to increase security at the border. LeBlanc last week he discussed parts of the plan with American officials and is optimistic, but said they have a lot of work ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The information provided to me is that the plane changed its

course between Baku and Grozny due to worsening weather conditions and headed to Aktau airport, where it crashed upon landing," he said.

Russia's civil aviation authority, Rosaviatsia, said that preliminary information indicated the pilots diverted to Aktau after a bird strike led to an emergency on Authorities in Azerbaijan,

Kazakhstan and Russia were

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



tight-lipped about a possible cause of the crash but a lawmaker in Azerbaijan blamed Moscow. Rasim Musabekov told the Azerbaijani news agency Turan that the plane was fired on while in the skies over Grozny and urged Russia to offer an official apology. "Those who did this must face criminal charges, Musabekov was quoted by Turan as saying, adding that compensations to the victims should also be paid. "If it doesn't happen, relations will be affected."

er drone attack on the region was fended off on Wednesday, although federal authorities didn't report it. Mark Zee of OPSGroup, which monitors the world's airspace and airports for risks, said that the analysis of the images of fragments of the crashed plane indicate that it was almost certainly hit by a surfaceto-air missile, or SAM.

'Much more to investigate, but at high level we'd put the probability of it being a SAM attack on the aircraft at being well into the 90-

Osprey Flight Solutions, an aviation security firm based in the United Kingdom, warned its clients that the "Azerbaijan Airlines flight was likely shot down by a Russian military airdefense system." Osprey provides analysis for carriers still flying into Russia after Western airlines halted their flights during the war.

Osprey CEO Andrew Nicholson

said that the company had issued

more than 200 alerts regarding drone attacks and air defense systems in Russia during the war. "This incident is a stark reminder of why we do what we do," Nicholson posted online. "It is painful to know that despite our efforts, lives were lost in a way that could have been avoided." Yan Matveyey, an independent Russian military expert, noted that images of the crashed plane's tail reveal the damage compatible with shrapnel from a small surface-to-air missiles, such as the

Pantsyr-S1 air defence system.

"It looks like the tail section of the

plane was damaged by some mis-

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

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

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

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mão Ning played down apprehensions over the massive project estimated to cost around USD 137 billion being built in the ecologically fragile Himalayan region located along a tectonic plate boundary where

earthquakes occur frequently. She said China has carried out in depth studies for decades and taken safeguard measures.

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

The project will not affect lower reaches, she said.

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

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

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

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

Mao said China's hydropower development in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Zangbo River aims to speed up the development of clean energy and respond to climate change and extreme hydrological disasters. The total investment in the dam could exceed one trillion vuan (USD 137 billion), which would dwarf any other single infrastructure project on the planet including China's own Three Gorges Dam, regarded as the largest in the world, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post

already China has Operationalised the USD 1.5 billion Zam Hydropower Station, the largest in Tibet in 2015.

reported on Thursday.

The Brahmaputra dam was part of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 adopted by Plenum, a key policy body of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2020.

Concerns arose in India as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities. India too is building a dam over Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh. India and China established the

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

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

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

Pak army accuses India of 25 LoC violations in 2024 an apparent reference mainly to

The Pakistan Army on Friday accused India of 25 violations of the Line of Control (LoC) during the past year and threatened a quick response if Indian forces attack. Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry levelled these accusations at an year-end press conference, while not offering details to substantiate the charges.

The spokesman said security forces killed at least 925 terrorists in 2024 and lost 383 of its own men in nearly 60,000 operations The Pakistan military is bat-

tling insurgency mostly in Balochistan and Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa provinces. The general claimed that India committed 25 LoC violations and also carried out several 'false flag operations'.

The term usually refers to fake military action so that the blame falls on the other side. The spokesman claimed that such operations were always announced through fake social media accounts linked with RAW (Research and Analysis Wing), India's foreign intelligence agency.

The Pakistan Army possesses the capability to deliver a decisive response to any Indian hostility," he said.

"Indian forces are using brutal tactics to suppress movements for independence," he alleged in Jammu and Kashmir. India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of fomenting terrorism in the territory. The Pakistan Army spokesman

also accused the Indian government of targeting minorities, including Sikhs, both within its borders and abroad. Chaudhry said that the num-

ber of terrorists killed by the country's security forces in 2024 was the highest in the last five years. He said that daily about 170

operations are being conducted that have helped to foil several terrorist attempts. A huge cache of arms and weapons were also recovered in these operations, he said.

Chaudhry said 73 "high-value targets" were also killed, including 27 Afghan nationals, while another 14 high-value terrorists surrendered to the authori-The spokesman accused the

patronising militants, especially those belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). He urged the Afghan authori-

Afghan Taliban regime of

ties to tackle the issue by denying the rebels the use of their 'The Afghan soil is being used

by TTP terrorists. The perpetrators of acts of terror in Pakistan go to the hideouts of terrorists in Afghanistan," he

China probes personal disputes after mass killings; many fear further infringement on freedoms **AP** BANGKOK the city of Yixing. The most link is, in my personal opinion, victims, 35 people, resulted every person has a feeling of Wu was fired from Tsinghua

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

Local officials were quick to vow to examine all sorts of personal disputes that could trigger aggression, from marital troubles to disagreements over inheritance.

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Entire First floor, without Roof Reg: Entire First floor, without Roof ferrace Rights along with One Mezzanine com between First & Second Floor feterad to as "said floor" of Entire freehold Property Bearing No. 86, Area Measuring 33.33 sq. yard. Shown in the layout plan of he State Bank of India New Delhi Staff Co-Operative House Building Society Ltd. Alsk fnown as State Bank Nagar, Situated a Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 hereinafter referred to as "said property".

Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Gurps Singh and Mrs. Karamjeet Kaur (hereinafte called the "Purchaser") intend to purchas the said floor from Mr. Harjas Singh an Mr. Gurcharan Singh (hereinafter called th the said foor from Mr. Harjas Singh anc Mr. Gurcharan Singh (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller have informed the purchaser that they are the join lowners of the said floor vide Sale Deed dated 05.04.2022 executed by Mrs. Rajni Beri in their favour. The said sale deed is registered as Document No. 1994, Book No. I, Volume No. 4463, Page No. 120-132 Registered on 05.04.2022 AND Partition Deed executed between 1. Mrs. Bindu Arora, 2. Mr. Sunil Arora (1st party). And Mr. Harjas Singh & Mr. Gurcharan Singh (2nd party). And Mr. Ashok Arora (3rd party). The said Deed registered as Document No. 2024/6/1/3730, Book No. I, Volume No. 5592, Page No. 159-198. Registered on 03.06.2024, The seller the said floor was owned by Mrs. Rajni Beri the said floor was owned by Mrs. Rajni Beri did er registered Will dated 03.02.2001 executed by Mrs. Sushil Kumari, registered as Document No. 774, Book No.III, Volume no. 537, pages 35-87, dated 03.02.2021 Mrs. Sushil Kumari expired on 11.03.2021 and Mrs. Sushil Kumari purchased the said floor vide sale deed dated 10.11.1997 executed by Mr. Harmet Singh, the said Deed is registered as Document No. 8896, pages 168-170, dated 10.11.1997. The seller have also informed the purchaser that the said floor informed the purchaser that the said floor informed the purchaser and there is no charge or dispute or urchaser that the said floor is not mortgag anywhere and there is no charge or dispute any litigation pending regarding the said floo Any person including Bank/s, Financia Institution/s. relative/s having any claim, righ Institution/s relative/s having any claim, right title or any interest of any nature whatsoeve into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereb called upon to make the same known, ir writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07days of publication of this notice and in the vent of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the seller to the said floo hall be deemed to be clear of any charge of noumbrance of any nature whatsoever an ny subsequent claim shall not bind ou

iénts/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoev Shivkant Arora, Advocate

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

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

there are individual factors, but we see there's a common link.' Wu Qiang, a former political

PUBLIC NOTICE

POSSESSION LETTER of the ab

To be known to all, KIRAN DEVI AIMERA W/C SH. MURARI LAL AIMERA R/O FLAT NO.34-A GROUND FLOOR,POCKET-C-III,BLOCK-A SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110088 purchaser, POCKET-C-III,BLOCK-A,SHALIMAR BAGH DELHI-110088,have applied for certifier copies freehold in DDA.The original document

i.e. POSSESSION LETTER of the above said flat have been lost. An IR No.2436255/2024 date 26/12/2024 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection of the objection of the objection of original documents may write/contact with above named persor at above Address/Phone No. 9212037284 with in 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest objection with respect to this property, car personally inform or write to Deputy Directo (Housing) or Director(Housing), Delhi Develority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023 ment Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023

"On the surface, it seems like

science professor, said. "This

injustice. They feel deeply that this society is very unfair and they can't bear it anymore."

Since 2015, Chinese police have targeted human rights lawyers and non-profit advocacy groups, jailing many, while keeping tight surveillance on others, effectively destroying the civil society that had been active from the early 2000s to 2010s.

JUMPERS IN LUMDING DIVISION

2024-25: Dated: 24-12-2024: E-Tende NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD-27; Name of Work: Provision of 160 sq.mm coppe jumper in place of 105 sq.mm coppe umper in isolators under Lumding Advertised ₹70.47.063.70/-: Earnest Money ₹1,41,000/-; Date & time of closing o tender at 15:00 hrs. on 20-01-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE/TRD, Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

🞊 Indian Overseas Bank

KUNDLI BRANCH

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

COMPLEX, KUNDLI, SONIPAT, HARYANA, PIN-

CODE - 131028Phone No. 8733030068,

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

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

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

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

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

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

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

Sd/- Authorised Officer

Indian Overseas Bank

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

said Rules on this 26" Day of December 2024.

Property Area: 31.69 Sq. Meters

31.69 Sq. Meters

Dated: 26.12.2024

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public at large that our client's customer, Sh. Vimal Sukhija is the owner of cuents customer, sn. vimal Sukhija is the owner of built-up property no. BV1145 area measuring area 60 scyds. With its roof rights out of khasra no. 392/361 situated at Abadi Multani Mohalla, Gandhi Nagar, in the area of village Seelampur, illaga Shahdara, New Delhi, who acquired the same Vide Sale Deed Dated 03.07.2013 bearing doc. no. 11357. However the title chain prior to year 2013 is not clear. And the said property is being mortgaged with Kotak Mahindra Prime property is being mortgaged with Kotak Mahindra Prime Limited. Plot No 7, Kotak House, Sec 125, Noida, UP-201301. Hence this notice is hereby given that any person or, bank/s or financial institution/s, or any party/les. having any claim, charge, interest, title, demand, rights, of whatsoever nature in respect of or against the said property by way of inheritance, share, transfer, mortgage, possession, howsoever nature, are hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary support to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication. Failing which the said claim ocumentary support to the undersigned within 10 da om the date of publication, failing which the said clai of such person/s, if any will be considered as waived an settled and not binding upon client's customer. MR. SAMIR KUMAR/LALIT KUMAR (ADVOCATE) n 3° Floor, Pocket-2, Sector-6, Dwarka, New Delhi; Mobile:8130395390/91.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Inderpreet Sokhi (hereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagor/ Borrower), is purchasing Apartment No. 304-A, 3rd Floor, Block No. 2. Sector 1, adm. 146) Sq. Ft., Panchsheel Wellington at GH 6, in the Township nown as Crossing Republik, Dundahera, Ghaziabad, U.P. (hereinafter referred to "said property") from Mr. Satyendra Kumar Garg, Moumil Garg & Mr. Sumit Garg who are its absolute owners vide Sale Deed dated 04.04.2012 bearing Doc. No. 3169 read with Surviving Members Certificate dated 27.11.2024 issued by ADM, Ghaziabad. The Borrower will create mortgage in respect of the said property in favour of our clients Axis Bank Ltd. Axis House, Sector 128, Noida.

Any person, body, individual, institution having any **PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

Ms. Shweta Garg, Advocate

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

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

E-Auction will be held on 09-01-2025 Kindly contact Mr. Pradip Yadav

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

Auctioneers: Seal The Deal having registered office at 148. Pocket C2. Sector 5, Rohini, Delhi - 110085

OF TELECOM GEARS E-Tender No. SNT-41

LMG-2024-25 Dated: 24-12-2024. E-Tenders are invited by works: Name of work: Restoration/ Maintenance of Telecom Gears in Aathori-Thekeraguri section of Lumding Division for a period of one year. Tender Value: ₹48.21.552.29/-. Earnest Money: ₹96,400/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 20-01-2025 & will be opened at **15.30 hrs. on 20-01-2025**. The complete information of the tender document of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (1) For any changes of tender Please check on internet website/News Paper/Corrigendum of the original tender notice.

DSTE. Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

Re: Property/Plot No. 10, land area measuring 520 sq. yds., "said portion" out fot total land areameasuring 6 Bighas 16 Biswas, falling in Khasra No. 11/17 (01-14 & 11/18 (04-16), Situated in the area of Village Kamalpur Majra Burari, abad known as Block-A, Kamal Vihar, Kamalpur Jurari, Delhi-110084, (hereinafter referred o as the "Said Property").

to as the Said Property). Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Divesh Garg and Mrs. Vaishali (hereinafter called the Prurchaser") intend to purchase the said portion from Mr. Brajesh Rana (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that he is the owner of the said portion vide GPA, Agreement to Sell and Will dated 24.06.2021 executed by Mr. Sanjay Bhatia in his favour and Mr. Sanjay Bhatia owned the said orpoperty vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Ram Kumar & Mr. Prem Kumar in his favour and the said deed registered as Document No. 5497, Addl. Book No. 1, Volume No.655, pages 139-154, on 05.12.2002. Thus, the present seller has also informed the purchaser that the said portion is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said portion. Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s. relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby called upon to make the samown in writing with documentary evidence. e it known to all that our clients. Mr. Dives

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

Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellective Law Offices 4-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

With reference to the public notice dated 13/12/2024 and 27/12/2024, published in the Affordable Group Housing Project, Sriflex City Sector 4, Sohna, District Gurgaon, Developer Sriflex Projects Private Limited, the following corrigendum is issued. It is hereby informed that the payment deadline of 28/12/2024 an the last date for submission of application forms of 30/12/2024 should be read as 29/12/2024, 23:59 Hrs. and 31/12/2024 23:59 Hrs., respectively. The author/develope

Apex Construction called in the Developer Articological ("confirming Party" with respect of said floor of the said property, (hereinafter called the "said document") have been lost/misplaced and in the traceable. An FIR to this effect has also been lodged with Delhi Police vide LR Ni—1695044/2024 dated 03.05.2024. SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE

Bhawan, Sector - 2, Panchkula vide their letter no. - SEAC/HR 2024/106 dated 20.12.2024 has accorded the "Environmenta Clearance" having EC Identification No. EC24B3812HR5331629N with Gold Rating to M/s. Tulip Infratech Pvt. Ltd. for Group Housing Scheme Under TOD Zone (9.16875 acres) at Sector-70, District Gurugram, Haryana in accordance with the Environment (Protection Act, 1986. General Public is further informed that copy of said Environmental Clearance letter is available with SEIAA, Haryana or the website http://environmentclearance.nic.in This public notice is issued in compliance to the Condition No. 10.1 o

Place: Gurugram

For Tulip Infratech Pvt.Ltd.

CORRIGENDUM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Entire Second Floor of Block A, area measuring approx. about 2530 Sq. ft., (the said floor) built-up at Plot no 14, Factory Road, Ring Road, New Delhi 110029, area measuring 2834 sq. mtrs., Hereinafter referred to as "said property".

NOTICE is hereby given to general public that our client, M/s EG Power Private Limited has informed us that they are the owner of the said floorvide Sale Deed executed by (1) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (14 Mr. C. P. Govil Govil, (3) Mrs. Parul Govil, (4) Mr. C. P. Govil Family Welfare Trust through trustees (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Shubh Shalin Rastogi, (5) Mrs. Somya Govil [now known as Mrs. Somya Salwan), (6) Mr. AK. Govil Family Welfare Trust through its Trustee (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Parul Govil, The Somya Salwan), (6) Mrs. A. Govil Family Welfare Trust through its Trustee (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Parul Govil, The Somya Govil [now known as Mrs. Somya Salwan), (6) Mrs. A. Govil Family Welfare Trust through its Trustee (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Parul Govil, The Somya Govil [now known as Mrs. Somya Salwan), (6) Mrs. Shubh Shalin Rastogi called as "Seller" AND M/s. Apex Construction called The Developer AND Confirming Party in his favour. The said Deed registered as Document No. 1202, Book No., 1520, Page No. 142-184 dated 24.01.2006. (SRO-V Delhi). In this connection, our client has further informed us that the said original Sale Deed dated 4.01.10 Anuaram Anuaram Cannel Construction of the Anuaram Cannel Cannel Construction of the Anuaram Cannel Can connection, our client has further informed us that the said original Salae Deed datale 24.01.2006 executed by (1) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil (HUF) through its karta Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (2) Mr. Abhishek Govil, (3) Mrs. Parul Govil, (4) Mr. C.P. Govil Family Welfare Trust through trustees (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (b) Mrs. Shubh Shalini Rastogi, (5) Mrs. Somya Govil (now known as Mrs. Somya Salwan), (6) Mr A.K. Govil Family Welfare Trust through its Trustee (a) Mr. Anupam Kumar Govil, (7) Mrs. Parul Govil, (7) Mrs. Nirmal Kumari, (6) Mrs. Shubh Shalini Rastogi called as "Seller" AND Mrs EG Power Private Limited through its Director Mr. Y. Private Limited through its Director Mr. Ganga Rao called as "Purchaser" AND M Apex Construction called The Developer AN

If the aforesaid original document (the sai in the aloresald brightal document (the said document) or any one of them is/are found on has/have been found by any person, the same may be returned and delivered to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below. Further, if any person, body, institution is having any claim and/or objection in respe of the said floor or any part thereof, he/the may raise his/ their objection/s, in writing, w documentary evidence, by Registered Al Post, to the undersigned at the addres mentioned herein below within 07days publication of this notice. Otherwise, aftexpiry of 07days from the date of publication this notice, no objection shall be acceptable. General Public may also take note that a leal or transaction done by anybody on t asis of the said document or any of t aforesaid document shall be illegal and n binding on our clients. The person doing s shall be liable to be prosecuted under the law

DEFENCE COLONY, NEW DELHI-110024 PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Haryana, Bays No.-55-58, Paryatar

the Environmental Clearance Letter.

Authorized Signator

CHANGE OF NAME ANJALI W/O

KUMAR, HOUSE NO-00 SHAHPIIR GOVARDHANPUR, SEC-128 Noida Gautam Budh Nagar UP-201304. Declare that in my passport documents. My mentioned name is Anjali Chauhan that is my correct name is Anjali and Anjali chauhan is one and both are

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

PD(1155)C I. Amaravati. Mother of-No.8431901Y Hav/Clk Dhirendra Singh, R/o- H. No.-284/1 Sajari Mod, Vill+PO-Sanigawan, Teh- Kanpur (Sadar), Dist-Kanpur (Nagar), U.P.- 208021, have changed my name from Amaravati (Old Name) to Amar Wati (New Name), vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1156)C

I Pitcha Ammal, Mother of-No.14684796X Perumal R/o-Vill+PO-Melakuttudankadu, Teh+Dist-Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu-628103, have changed my name from Pitcha Ammal to N Pitchammal, vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1157)C I, No.7431976A Hav Sandeep

Kumar, R/o- Vill- Brahmano Ki Dhani, Post- Pichanawa, Surajgarh, Rajasthan-333026, have changed my daughter's name from Gulika Gulika Chahar, vide

PD(1158)C

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

affidavit dated 27/12/2024

before Notary Public Delhi.

Jhunjhunu,

PD(1159)C

ATHE PIONEER A

I. Sundari Devi. Mother of-JC-769872A Sub Achchhe Lal Yadav, R/o- Vill-

Dilawerpur, Post/PS- Andar, Teh & Dist- Siwan, Bihar-841231, declare that in my son's service records, my D.O.B. is wrongly written as 01/07/1950 whereas my

D.O.B. 01/01/1952, vide affidavit dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1160)C I, Meena Devi, W/o- JC-769872A Sub Achchhe Lal R/o-Yadav, Dilawerpur, Post/PS- Andar, Teh & Dist- Siwan, Bihar-841231, declare that in my husband's service records, my D.O.B. is wrongly written as 01/02/1995

whereas my correct D.O.B.

is 18/04/1977, vide affidavit

dated 27/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1161)C I, Roslie Chingneihoi D/o Mr. Rajkumar R/o A-5, Solar House, IIT Campus, Hauz Khas, New Delhi -110016 declare that my father's name has been written in my pan card as Dongkhanmang Simte instead of Raikumar. His correct name is Rajkumar

accordingly. PD(1162)C I, Deepak Goyal S/o Kailash Chandra Goyal R/o Flat No. E-1002, 10th Floor, Tower E, Elite Homz, Sec-77, Noida, U.P.-201301 have changed my minor daughter name from Ariya to Ariya Goyal for all

amended

which may

future purposes.

PD(1163)C I, Deepti W/o Deepak Goyal R/o Flat No. E-1002, 10th Floor, Tower E, Elite Homz,

have changed my name to Deepti Goyal for all future purposes. I, hitherto known as KSHIPRA BAKUL GUPTA D/o BAKUL GOPAL GUPTA R/o A-

Sec-77, Noida, U.P.-201301

55, first floor, Sector 41, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP 201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KSHIPRA GUPTA.

PD(1165)C

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

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

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

of the tallest leaders.

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

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran called Singh one of the stalwarts who envisioned a new, liberalised India that is taking its rightful

place in the world.
"We mourn the passing away of former Prime Minister Dr



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

Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said with Singh's demise the nation has lost one of its tallest leaders and finest economists.

defining most contribution -- the epochal 91 reforms spurred a multidecadal economic boom and more importantly reshaped the calculus of possibilities for India and Indians," Birla

said in a statement. He further said, "Over several decades in public life, his intellect, wisdom, humility stood as exemplars, leaving an indelible mark on the nation's conscience."

Singh's extraordinary rise from humble beginnings to the Prime Minister's office epitomises the boundless potential of India and serves as an inspiration for generations of Indians, Birla added.

Indian industry, economy, entrepreneurs particular, owe a debt of gratitude to the liberalisation reforms that were ushered in early Manmohan Singh's leadership, Bharti Enterprises

Mittal said Mittal further said that as a Prime Minister, Finance Minister and an economist, Singh finds his place among

Founder and Chairman Sunil

India's tallest leaders. "I am deeply saddened by the passing away of Manmohan Singh. As a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

"Deeply saddened by the

of Mr. Osamu Suzuki, a legendary figure in the global automotive industry. His visionary work reshaped global perceptions of mobility. Under his said. leadership, Suzuki Motor Corporation became a powerhouse. global successfully

navigating challenges, driving innovation and expansion, Modi said in a social media

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

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

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

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

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

NBCC bags ₹368.75 Crore worth of projects, Including ₹300 Crore Varanasi commercial complex



State-owned NBCC has bagged a Rs 300-crore contract to develop a commercial complex Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

In a regulatory filing on In total, NBCC said it has Friday, the company said it secured the work order in order for "development of Jawaharlal Complex Commercial (JLNCC), Englishya Lines, Varanasi on self-sustainable

The company got the

contract from Varanasi Development Authority.
NBCC secured another work order worth Rs 24.38 crore to construct Mehta

Intelligence including internal EI,C, firefighting, fire alarm, lifts, audio visual system, CCTV and BMS installation development works at IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand.

Artificial

The company bagged another work order worth Rs 44.37 crore from Power Grid Corporation to construct and furnish 500bed multi-storey "Vishram Sadan" at AIIMS Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Family School of Data

Science and

normal course of amounting Rs 368.75 crore. NBCC is into Project Management Consultancy (PMC), Engineering, Procurement

Construction (EPC) and real estate businesses.

Rupee falls further 23 paise to hit fresh record low of 85.50 against US dollar

 $T^{\text{he rupee fell steepest in}}_{\text{almost two years to hit its}}$ lifetime intraday low of 85.80 before a suspected central bank intervention helped recover some of its losses and settled 23 paise lower at a record low of 85.50 (provisional) against the US record dollar on Friday due to a strong greenback amid increased month-end demand from banks and importers.

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

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

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened



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

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

The rupee's earlier sharpest one-day fall of 68 paise was recorded on February 2, 2023. The domestic unit has been day in the past couple of weeks. It had plunged 12 paise to 85.27 against the dollar on Thursday after declining 13 paise in the previous two sessions. "The central bank holds USD 21 billion in short-

side forward contracts set to traders may take cues from mature in December and January. Market speculation suggests that the RBI has refrained from rolling over these maturing forwards, leading to a scarcity of dollars and an oversupply of rupees. "Moreover, dollar liquidity in

the market remains very low, amplifying the upward momentum in the pair. This imbalance has propelled the USD-INR pair towards 85.8075 levels," said Amit Pabari, MD of CR Forex Advisors.

According Research Choudhary Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, the rupee hit a record low on dollar demand from importers towards the end of the month and investors (FIIs).

"Rising US treasury yields and crude oil prices also weighed on the rupee," he said and projected the USD-INR spot price in a range of Rs 85.30 to Rs 85.85, saying goods trade balance data from

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

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

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

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

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

The Reserve Bank on Friday Tallowed prepaid payment instruments holders to make and receive UPI payments through third-party mobile applications It has been decided to enable

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments from/to full-KYC prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) through third-party UPI applications, the central bank said in circular. "A PPI issuer shall enable holders of only its full-KYC PPIs to make UPI payments by linking its customer PPIs to its UPI handle. UPI transactions from PPI on the issuer's application shall be authenticated using the customer's existing PPI transaction will, thus, be preapproved before it reaches the UPI system. A PPI issuer, in its capacity as a payment system providers, should not onboard customers of any bank or any other PPI issuer, the



flexibility to holders of PPIs such as gift cards, metro rail cards, and digital wallets, among others. Currently, UPI payments

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

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

NCLT directs initiation of insolvency proceedings against Hero Electric

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

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



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

moonshine or feeble legal The objections raised by Hero Electric are not found "tenable in law" and have Tyres, which had supplied tyres and tubes to the company. facts and

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

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

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

Hero Electric had approached Metro Tyres, for the purchase of cycle tyres and tubes. Pursuant to that it supplied goods to Hero Electric and in lieu of that various invoices were raised from August 9, 2022 to December 3, 2022 amounting to Rs 3.69 crore out of which Rs 4.27 lakh was paid. However, Rs 1.85 crore was

due on Hero Electric, and Metro Tyres submitted that despite its several requests,

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

The insolvency tribunal also observed that Hero Electric had not raised any dispute over the quality of goods until nine months after the supply. "It is amply clear from the

Sebi clarifies rules on change in control for

investment advisers, research analysts, KRAs

records that the corporate debtor (Hero Electric) being the purchaser of goods never raised any quality issue or any sort of dispute in any manner whatsoever as per their own inspection/quality control policies immediately after the receipt of the goods and continued to purchase goods," said NCLT.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday said it has issued allocation order for a coal mine in Odisha to Aditya Birla Group firm Hindalco Industries Ltd. The government issued the vesting order for the Meenakshi coal mine that has a peak rating capacity of 12 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). This follows the signing of the agreement for development and production

of coal mine last month. The Meenakshi coal mine, a fully explored block, has geological reserves of 285.23 million tonnes (MT). The block is likely to generate an annual revenue of Rs 1,152.84 crore, based on its peak rated capacity (PRC), the coal ministry said in a statement. With an estimated capital investment of Rs 1,800 the mine will

significantly augment domestic coal production and contribute to strengthening energy security, it said. The development of the block is likely to provide employment to about 16,224 individuals, contributing to the economic growth in the region. "This initiative marks a significant step toward boosting the nation's coal production capacity, supporting economic development, and creating sustainable employment opportunities," the statement

Air India to see progress on key initiatives in 2025, working towards profitability: CEO Wilson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ir India will see progress An various key initiatives, including refitting of wide body and narrow body planes, in 2025 as well as tighten practices and processes to ultimately become profitable, the airline's chief Campbell Wilson said on Friday.

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

message to the staff on Friday,

Wilson said 2024 saw the



milestones, significant including the completion of the mergers of Air India Express and AirAsia India, and Vistara with Air India that "position us as the fourth largest business, by revenue, in the Tata group".

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

and around the world. While describing 2024 transformative year for Air India and Indian aviation in many ways, Wilson said 2025 will see progress on many more key initiatives of the airline such as refitting wide body and remaining narrow body aircraft with new seats

than 100 destinations in India

and services. Further, Air India's service standards will be elevated, raising the bar on what we consider 'good', and more consistently delivering to those new expectations, he added. Refitting of narrow body aircraft has commenced while that of legacy wide body planes is expected to start in

2025. Wilson, the CEO and MD of Air India, also emphasised the airline will strengthen and tighten its practices and processes so that we are not just consistent, we are also efficient and, ultimately, profitable". In the 2023-24 fiscal, Air India trimmed its losses to Rs 4,444.10 crore from Rs 11,387.96 crore in 2022-23. Its turnover rose 23.69 per cent to Rs 38,812 crore in the last financial year compared to the year-ago period.

Earlier this month, Air India placed an order for 100 more Airbus planes comprising 10 wide body A350s and 90 narrow body A320s. The total order books is 570.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets watchdog Sebi on Friday clarified the rules for transfer and transmission shareholding among immediate relatives for investment advisers, research analysts, and know your client (KYC) registration agencies (KRAs).

The move aims to streamline regulatory compliance and protect investor interests while ensuring transparency in the functioning of these intermediaries. With regards to transfer

among immediate relatives,

Sebi, in its circular, clarified

transferring shares

that



in control.

spouses, parents, siblings, and children. transmission

shareholding, the regulator whether to



Immediate relatives include

said transmission of shares, immediate relatives or others, will also not result in a change in among immediate relatives control for unlisted body

firms, any transfer inheritance of ownership will be considered a change in control. Legal heirs are required to seek Sebi's prior approval and obtain fresh registration in their name. For partnerships with more than two partners, transfer of ownership among partners

corporate intermediaries.

will not be treated as a change in control. However, If a partner passes away and the partnership deed allows legal heirs to join, the firm will be reconstituted

registration.

without requiring Induction of a new partner will require Sebi's approval.



Sculpting



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

culpture is a unique form of art that speaks to us and deep narratives embedded in the stone. not just through its visual appeal but also. His works spoke of tradition while being through its form, texture, and the materials used. At *The Forces of Imagination*, a groundbreaking sculpture exhibition at the India Habitat Centre, today's art world. this powerful medium was brought to life in all its glory. The event, curated by the renowned art critic Nanak Ganguly and organised by Chawla Art Gallery

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

Upon entering the gallery, the diversity of the works was immediately apparent. There was a remarkable blend of traditional craftsmanship and

contemporary innovation. The sculptures, created from materials such as bronze, marble, stainless steel, aluminum and wood, each told its own story. Whether they were smooth, polished surfaces or raw, textured designs, every piece invited a deeper engagement, requiring the viewer to

physically move around and truly immerse themselves in the art.

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

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

The exhibition successfully created a space for both established sculptors and emerging

talents. It was a platform where seasoned masters such as Tapas Sarkar and Ratan Krishna Saha, alongside fresh voices from the Calcutta Sculptors collective, could showcase their work. The diversity in and styles techniques was fascinating, piece added a new to laver the

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

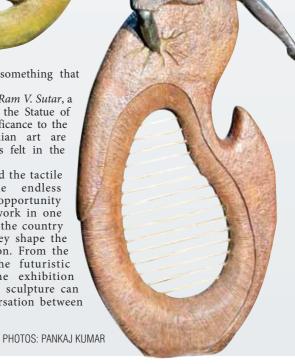
The curation of the exhibition was impeccable, with each sculpture given ample space to stand on its own while also contributing to the overall dialogue of the show. The lighting in the gallery was carefully considered, casting shadows and highlighting the

conversation,

material from something inert to something that seemed to have its own presence.

The presence of Padma Bhushan Shri Ram V. Sutar, a master sculptor known for creating the Statue of Unity, added an extra layer of significance to the event. His contributions to Indian art are monumental, and his influence was felt in the

The Forces of Imagination celebrated the tactile power of sculpture and the endless possibilities it offers. It is a rare opportunity to see such a diverse range of work in one place, where artists from across the country come together to show how they shape the world through their imagination. From the detailed marble works to the futuristic stainless steel creations, the exhibition captured the essence of what sculpture can be: a living, breathing conversation between artist and viewer.













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

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

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

gripping narrative that left the audience spellbound.

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

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

The final day was just as memorable. Trishna beautifully weaved themes of reincarnation and devotion, while Marnoprant and Digdarshak explored grief and the mentor-disciple relationship with deep emotional resonance. Trishna stood out for its poetic exploration of devotion and longing, while Marnoprant powerfully addressed complex emotions surrounding loss and relationships. Digdarshak concluded the event with a thought-provoking meditation on the sacrifices art demands.

In the end, the Bharatmuni Rang Utsav reminded us of the power of theatre to reflect life's complexities, emotions and stories. It was a reminder that, beyond the performances, it's the shared experience of theatre that connects us all, sparking conversations and inspiring

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

The Power of Her Canvas

By TEAM VIVA

omen's art has long been a space of untold stories, silent rebellions vibrant expressions of identity. Vama: Showcasing Women Artists from Delhi at the Shridharani Gallery, Triveni Kala Sangam, brings these narratives to the forefront, presenting a captivating display of works by 20 distinguished women artists from the city. Through this exhibition, Sahitya Kala Parishad not only honours their talent but also creates a platform for the celebration of women's creativity and their powerful voices in the art world.

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





experience with universal themes, offering viewers a chance to engage deeply with complex emotions. Meanwhile, Angelica Basak's Breathe series uses ceramic sculptures to embody the delicate balance between chaos and tranquility, while Rashmi Khurana's mixedmedia works delve into the power of tactile surfaces to evoke profound human emotions. Shampa Sircar's Mayura Series incorporates the peacock and lotus to symbolise the interconnectedness of life and spiritual growth. From the global themes explored in Durga Kainthola's Travelogue Diaries to Navani's Richa geometric abstractions addressing gender and ecology, Vama stands as a vibrant celebration of the depth, diversity and power of women's artistic

This exhibition is not only an artistic experience but a reminder of the essential role women play in shaping the cultural landscape. It encourages reflection on the everevolving role of women in art and society, offering a dynamic space for dialogue and empowerment.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR





expression.

Empowering Women through Skill Development

By ABHI SINGHAL

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

The annual event was graced by

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

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







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

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

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

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

In a space of barely five minutes,

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

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

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

run-out broke

concentration and for the first time after 85 balls, he poked a delivery bowled in the corridor of uncertainty and it was the end. Scott Boland repeated the dismissal that has been a norm for quite a while now. Akash Deep didn't have the technique to survive and the day ended in

Australia's favour just like it

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



a ripper from Pat Cummins.

Jaiswal was in regal form, as he cut, pulled, drove and lofted the

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

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

Test hundred ensured a very good total for hosts.

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

Jasprit Bumrah (4/99 in 28.4 oves) was once again brilliant despite the first spell thrashing from Konstas but Mohammed Siraj's ordinary showing (0/122 in 23 overs) was the primary reason for batters not being under any

Smith, who was unbeaten overnight on 68 off 111 balls, took another 56 deliveries in the second morning to complete a Test ton which placed him on even keel with the legendary Sunil Gavaskar (34).

The century came with a push drive through the vacant cover region and celebrations were pretty muted with a just vigorous head nod for his teammates in the dug-out.

Smith, who had a torrid run till the second Test of this series, played both days in contrasting styles. On Thursday, he was ready to be patient and waited for deliveries at the expense of

looking ugly. On Friday, the same batter was walking down the track to force the bowlers to alter their length.

He was ready to pull and hook,

getting two sixes off Bumrah and Siraj respectively. Despite a significant drop in temperature and some nip in the air, Indians failed to make use of the semi-new Kookaburra, with lines going all awry and length being short enough to be punished. Cummins was allowed to settle down and hit seven

boundaries.

The Indian ploy of playing two spinners backfired with Ravindra Jadeja (3/78 in 22 overs) and Washington Sundar (1/49 in 15 overs) never looking penetrative. For a change, Siraj didn't try and sledge an in-form batter, something that he did in Adelaide with some disastrous results.

But that didn't soften the Australian supporters, who constantly booed him and Kohli as and when the ball went to



India whitewash West Indies 3-0

PTI ■ VADODARA

Senior off-spinner Deepti Sharma did the star turn with career-best figures of 6/31 before doing her bit with the bat as India completed a 3-0 whitewash of the West Indies with a five-wicket victory in the final Women's ODI here on

Having bowled out West Indies for 162 after Deepti's superlative performance and pacer Renuka Singh's (4/29) excellent show with the new ball. India recovered after a top-order wobble to reach the target of 163 in 28.2

India were in a spot of bother in 48 balls) used all her experience to see the team through with plenty of overs

remaining.
S w a s h b u c k l i n g wicketkeeper-batter Richa Ghosh was unbeaten on an 11-ball 23 when the winning runs were scored.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who eased nerves with two boundaries after last match centurion Harleen Deol's (1) dismissal left India at 23/2, blazed away to a 22-ball 32 before getting bowled by Afy Fletcher.

During her breezy knock, smashed boundaries and looked good for a big one before getting dismissed. In-form opener Smriti

Mandhana (4) departed early Munisar Ashmini

completed a strange onehanded catch after appearing to have misjudged what should actually have been a straightforward catch off the bowling of Aaliyah Alleyne. Enjoying a good run of form in recent times, vice-captain Mandhana did not get to the pitch of the ball on the day

and paid the price.
One-down batter Deol followed suit, nicking for a Deandra Dottin delivery way outside off-stump and got a faint edge that was taken by faint edge that was taken by Shemaine wicketkeeper

Middle-order Jemimah Rodrigues chipped in with 29 off 45 balls.

Campbelle.

Earlier, Renuka Thakur fiery opening spell before Deepti got into the act to bowl out the visitors cheaply. Thakur and Deepti were relentless with the ball, taking all 10 wickets between them. Thakur's accurate line and length dismantled the top order, while Deepti deceived the West Indies batters with flight and guile, recording her third ODI fivewicket haul and second sixwicket performance.

West Indies fought back with a 97-run partnership between Chinelle Henry (61) and Shemaine Campbelle (46), helping them to cross 160. Without this stand, the visitors might have been bowled out for less than 100. Both batted really well and were aggressive against the

Tendulkar, Sindhu among sporting stars to pay tributes to Manmohan Singh PTI NEW DELH

Ctalwarts of Indian sports Spaid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, who died on Thursday, describing him as a visionary, who had quiet strength and humility.
Singh died here after losing consciousness at his home due

to age-related ailments. He was

"Rest in peace, Dr. Manmohan Singhji. His quiet strength, wisdom, and humility were truly inspiring. I had a brief interaction with him in 2013 - he was kind, gracious, and left a lasting impression. My heartfelt condolences to his family," wrote India's ace shuttler Sindhu on 'X'. Cricket great Sachin Tendulkar

termed Singh's demise as a huge loss for the country. 'Dr Manmohan Singh ji's demise is a profound loss for India. His contributions to our

nation shall always be remembered. My prayers are with his family and loved ones as we mourn his passing away." Legendary golfer Jeev Milkha Singh recalled Singh's



simplicity and humility, saying he was committed to national duty all his life.

"Dr Manmohan Singh was probably one of the most humble men I had met in my life - a simple and extremely intelligent man. His sense of duty and responsibility shone through. The world has lost a visionary," wrote Jeev. On Friday, both the men's and

women's cricket teams wore black armbands during their respective national assignments to pay homage to the former PM.

Earlier, World Cup-winning former cricketer Yuvraj Singh called Singh a "true statesman".

A visionary leader and a true statesman who worked tirelessly for India's progress. His wisdom and humility will always be remembered. My heartfelt condolences to his loved ones," Yuvraj Singh posted on X.

Similar sentiments were expressed by his former teammate and Aam Aadmi Party's Rajya Sabha member Singh, Harbhajan described Singh as a thorough gentleman and visionary leader.

'What truly set him apart was his calm and steady leadership in times of crisis, his ability to navigate complex political landscapes, and his unwavering belief in India's potential," he wrote.

It was during Singh's second term that India hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games in the national capital. It was the first international multisport extravaganza to be held in the country after the 1982 Asian Games, also hosted by

He had also inaugurated the National Football League's 11th edition in Kolkata back in 2005 when late Congress leader Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi was heading the All India Football Federation. Former wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who is now a Congress MLA in Haryana, called Singh a man of "extraordinary wisdom, simplicity and vision.

"Dr. Manmohan Singh was not just a Prime Minister, but he was a thinker, economist and a true patriot. His calm leadership style and economic vision gave the country a new direction, from the 1991 economic reforms establishing India's reputation on the global stage.



There's difference between being out of runs and out of form: Smith

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Australian batting
Mainstay Steve Smith always knew that he was "out of runs" but never "out of form" as he got back-to-back Test hundreds against India within a week of each other after 18 months of lull.

Having scored his 33rd ton in Brisbane, Smith equalled Sunil Gavaskar's then world record of 34 hundreds on the at the MCG on Friday.

Asked how did he chug along all these days when big runs were not coming that easily, Smith dived deep into his inner core.

"Sometimes you can be hitting the ball really nicely, which I think I said to all you guys when I wasn't scoring the runs. I actually felt like I was batting pretty well. And there's a difference, I think, between being out of form and out of runs. So, yeah, I thought I was hitting the ball nicely," Smith said at the dayend press conference here. "I mean, you've got to have faith. You've got to have a bit of trust in what you're trying to do. I've played the game for long enough now to know that you can have your

get to 10,000 Test runs before five-match concludes. "I think you need a lot of luck on these wickets to get big runs as well, the ones we're playing at the moment.

faith and confidence," said

the man, who is expected to

And last week I had my fair share. I think I got an umpire's call and got beaten on numerous occasions as to on other days, I would nick "So, yeah, you need a bit of

luck. But you've just got to have faith that you're going to turn it around." Australia's batting was a lot

more aggressive on the second day after resuming on overnight 311 for six but Smith said that while batting with Pat Cummins, there was no "general plan" as such.

'There wasn't really a general plan. It was just go out there and play. Yeah, there wasn't a real plan. It was just go out and play and see what's going on. I thought Patty (Cummins) played really nicely. Really good, positive intent.

'We were able to get a nice partnership together and take a bit of the momentum of the game from that point, I suppose.

aim to return to winning ways

PTI CHENNAI

hennaiyin FC will be aiming to Crebound to winning form and finish the year on a positive note when they face Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super league here on Saturday.

In the day's other game, Hyderabad FC will host East Bengal FC with an aim to turn things around and halt the visitors' momentum.

Chennaiyin and Bengaluru have played each other 15 times in the ISL, with the former winning four matches. This corresponding fixture last year produced a 2-0 win for the Marina Machans and head coach Owen Coyle will be eyeing the same this time.

However, the tactician will be without captain Ryan Edwards, who is suspended for the match, and is expected to field an all-Indian backline. Bengaluru come into the match as the



second-placed side in the league, and Coyle is wary of the threat they carry, especially with the team missing key personnel.

On the availability front, Coyle confirmed that he will take late calls on Wilmar Jordan Gil and Ankit Mukherjee, both of whom are back in

Elsinho, who left the pitch under medical care in the previous home match, is recovering in his native Brazil and will be rejoining the squad in the new year. Task cut out for HFC in Hyderabad This will be the ninth ISL meeting between the two sides, with East Bengal FC aiming to continue their recent

The head coach also revealed that

training after receiving knocks.

dominance over Hyderabad FC. East Bengal FC have won their last two ISL matches against Hyderabad FC, including a league double in the 2023-24

Meanwhile, Hyderabad FC will look to bounce back after a disappointing run that has seen them lose their last five

matches in the league on a trot. The Red & Gold brigade has managed a

turnaround in the previous five matches, winning four of those clashes.

ups and downs. Having some Arjun Erigaisi tied fifth after first day of World Rapid Chess Championship in New York

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi opened his opened campaign with four wins and a solitary loss in the World Rapid Chess Championship to be tied fifth even as defending champion Magnus Carlsen endured a frustrating day, managing to log just one

victory here. Carlsen of Norway could not find his mojo drew three games and a late loss against Russian Denis Lazavik. Another Indian to impress was 13-year-old Raunak Sadhwani, who provided glimpse of his promise by taking down one of pre-event favourites Alireza Firouzja of France on Thursday

With the first five rounds done

and eight more still to come in world champion Wenjun Ju of USD 550,000 championship, Murzin Volodar of Russia, Shant Sargsyan of Armenia and the American duo of Daniel Naroditsky and Lenier Dominguez Perez share the lead on 4.5 points apiece.

Arjun and Sadhwani are in the next group of 11 players who share the fifth spot on four points each. It is an impressive list that includes the likes of Hikaru Nakamura of United States, Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and Anish Giri of Holland.

In the Women's section being played simultaneously, local star Alice Lee stole the opening day thunder with four straight victories in as many games.

The American is challenged by

her Tan, China, compatriot Zhongyi Mammadzada of Azerbaijan, Nino Batsiashvili of Georgia and India's D Harika who all have 3.5 points to their credit. With seven rounds to come in the women's event, R Vaishali could also among the ones to watch out for from an Indian perspective as the Chennaibased is on three points.

Highest rated and former winner Koneru Humpy could manage only 2.5 points and has a lot of catching up to do in the remainder of the event.

Arjun, if he wins this championship, will be the first player to go through to the Candidates, a cycle that started early this year and will continue till December 2025.



Currently the Indian stands second behind Fabiano Caruana of United States who

is on 3.5 points. He got things pretty much right except the sole defeat he suffered against Samuel Sevian

of United States in the third round. With four victories under his belt, Arjun can be a real threat. The day, however, belonged to

Sadhwani who found his magical touch as early as in

round two when he tackled Firouza with the black pieces. The position seemed headed to equal when Sadhwani punched his way back keeping punched his way back keeping an eye on a weak white pawn with his centralised knight. The knight darted through the board creating another hole on the king side that forced a resignation.

Harika was the pick of the Indian women as she came up with a crushing victory against Nataliya Zhukova of Ukraine with the white pieces in her fourth-round game.

Harika picked up pawns at will in a Queen and opposite coloured Bishops endgame and registered a smooth victory in a game that lasted 70 moves.

The rapid event has a time

control of 15 minutes for the entire game with 10 seconds added after each move is played.

This will be followed by the blitz championship that will have three minutes for both players with just two seconds increment. The women's event is spread over 11 rounds while in the open section, 13 rounds will be played.

In blitz, the top eight will qualify and determine the medallists through a knockout

Standings after round 5 opens 1-4: Shant Sargsyan (Arm); Lenier Dominguez Perez (Usa); Daniel Naroditsky (Usa), Murzin Volodar (FID); 5-15: Arju Erigaisi, Raunak Sadhwani (both Ind); Javokhir Abdusattorov (both Uzb) Duda Jan-Kryzstof (Pol) Anish Giri (Ned); Levon Aronian, Hikaru Nakamura, Ray Robson, Samuel Sevian (All USA); NOgerbek Kazybek (Kaz) 3.5 each Indians: V Pranav (3.5); R Praggnanandhaa Aravindh Chithambaram (2);

Venkatramanan, Sandipan Chanda (1.5) each; Standings after round 4 Women: 1. 2-5Alice Lee (Usa, 4); 2-6: D Harika, (Ind); Nino Batsiashvili (Geo); Gunay Mammadzada (Aze); Wenjun Ju (Chn); Zhongyi Tan (Chn)

3.5 each: R Vaishali (3); Agarwal, Koneru Indians: Vantika (2.5 each); Sahiti Humpy Varshini, Divya Deshmukh (2 each); Padmini Rout (1.5).

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Printed and published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., and published at CMYK Printech Ltd., 304, Radha Kunj, Behind Reliance Mart, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834 008. Tel. 09234300233, e-mail: ranchipioneer@gmail.com. Printed at VRINDA MEDIA PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD. Plot No. 342, 344 Chiraundi Boreya Road Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand Editor-in-Chief: Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor: Anupam Sheshank, RNI Regn. JHAENG/2008/22930, REGD. No. RN-142/2008. AIR SURCHARGE of Re. 1.00 East: Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central: Khajuraho, 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.