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AMRIT BHARAT USHERS IN 2025



Pak opens Shaheed Bhagat Singh Gallery at Poonch to tourists

PTI LAHORE

Pakistan's Punjab government has opened to tourists the Bhagat Singh Gallery at the historical Poonch House here, where the independent freedom fighter's trial was conducted some 93 years ago.

The gallery houses historical documents, including pictures, letters, newspapers, details of trial and other memorial articles related to his life and freedom struggle. Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman inaugurated the gallery on Monday

"Tourists will have access to the gallery under an agreement between the



departments of industry, commerce and tourism of the Punjab government," Zaman said, adding that the historical building of Poonch House has been restored to its original form

"The gallery showcases Bhagat Singh's struggle for independence," he said. Pakistan's Punjab Archives Department in 2018 for the first time had displayed

some records of the legendary freedom fighter's case file, including his execution certificate, letters, photographs and newspaper clippings and other material. Singh, 23, was hanged by British rulers on March 23, 1931 in Lahore, after being tried under charges for hatching a conspiracy against the colonial government. The case was filed against Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru for allegedly killing British police officer John P Saunders.

Manipur CM says sorry for the ethnic conflict; Opp asks to quit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI/IMPHAL

anipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Tuesday apologised to the people of the state for the ethnic conflict occurring there since May 2023 and appealed

to "forgive and forget" the past. He also said "Peace is being restored in Manipur, and the only solution lies in discussion and dialogue, which the Central government has already initiated," while addressing a news conference in Imphal.

However he came under attack of the Opposition leaders who said the CM failed to safeguard lives and livelihood of people and should, therefore, resign. Nearly 250 people, so far, have died in the violence.

The CM's regret came couple of days after former Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla was appointed as Governor of Manipur.

This entire year has been very unfortunate. I want to say sorry to the people of the state for what's been happening today, since last May 3. Many people lost loved ones. Many people left their homes. I feel regret. I apologise. But now, I hope, after seeing the last three to four months progress towards peace, normalcy will be restored in the state in 2025," Singh said.

sporadic violence since May 3, 2023, between the majority Meiteis and the Kukis over quotas and economic benefits. The ongoing violence has killed over 200 people and displaced thousands.

The Centre has deployed forces in vulnerable zones bordering the hill and valley districts, leading to a dip in incidents of firing in peripheral areas.

The Chief Minister said 2,058 displaced families have been resettled in their original homes in Imphal West, Imphal East, Kangpokpi, and Churachandpur. To curb violence along the national highways, the government has deployed 17 and 18 additional companies of security personnel along NH-2 (Imphal-Dimapur) and NH-37 (Imphal-Silchar via Jiribam), respectively.

"Whatever happened has happened... I want to appeal to all communities to forgive and forget our past mistakes and start life afresh by living together in a peaceful and prosperous Manipur," he said.

Singh said firing incidents have declined in the



Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh addresses a press PTI conference

state over the last 20 months since the ethnic conflict began in May 2023.

From May to October, 2023, 408 firing incidents were reported. From November 2023 to April 2024, there were 345 firing incidents, whereas from May this year till now, 112 firing incidents were reported," he said. He said that of all the looted weapons, 3,112

have been recovered and 2,511 explosives have been seized during the period. The chief minister further said that 625 people have been arrested and 12,047 FIRs registered so far.

More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

Meanwhile, Manipur, which has been witnessing prolonged ethnic violence between majority Meitei and tribal Kuki communities, accounted for about 77 per cent of the total violence in the entire northeastern region in 2023, according to the latest annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In 2023, Manipur witnessed an increase in violent incidents owing to the prevailing ethnic strife and the resultant increase in the casualties of civilians and security forces personnel as compared to 2022.

The state accounted for about 77 per cent of the total violent incidents in Northeastern region in 2023, according to the MHA annual report. Among the total 243 violent incidents occurred in the Northeast, 187 took place in Manipur.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndia on Tuesday said it is Lextending all possible help to explore relevant options in the case of an Indian nurse facing death sentence in Yemen.

Nimisha Priya, hailing from Kollengode in Kerala's Palakkad district, has been reportedly handed capital punishment for allegedly murdering a Yemeni citizen. Ainistry Extern (MEA) official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said New Delhi is extending all possible help in the matter. "We are aware of the sentencing of Nimisha Priya in Yemen. We understand that the formula of Priya that the family of Priya is exploring relevant options,' Jaiswal said. "The "The government is extending all possible help in the matter," he added. Jaiswal was

Congress to file cases against Delhi CM, says Sandeep Dikshit RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Former MP and senior Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit on Tuesday lashed out at Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal, calling him a "pathological liar" and said he will file defamation cases



LG confront Atishi's temples demolition 'act'

In yet another round of confrontation between the AAP-led dispensation and the Raj Niwas, chief minister Atishi on Tuesday raised concerns over the order for the demolition of multiple religious structures including temples and Buddhist places of worship in the city, and urged iente



Punjab farmer to comply

AQI MAX 17.7°C(-3) MIN 9.6°C(+3)

SENSEX

78,400

78,200

78,000

77,800

77,600

77,400

India ready to support its

12:00 pm

3:00 pm

the pioneer

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Delhi chief minister Atishi and AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh over their allegation against him of taking money from the BJP.

"A few days ago, the Delhi CM said that we took money from the BJP. After this Press conference, I will file a criminal and civil defamation case against (CM) Atishi and Sanjay Singh. I will ask for Rs 10 crore and out of that money, I will donate Rs five crore to Yamuna cleaning and the remaining half will be donated to clean the polluted air in Delhi," he said.

They used to say that they have increased sewage treatment by 1.5 times in Delhi. "When the Congress lost the elections, the sewage treatment capacity was at 604 MGD and it remains the same today. The former chief minister lies that he has increased sewage treatment work," Dikshit alleged.

The Lieutenant Governor took a review in 2023 and it was found that the pollution effluent going into Yamuna has doubled in the last seven

Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

to eight years, he said. The worship Congress leader said they have also claimed that they have saved money in construction of flyovers.

Dikshit is son of former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit who served as CM from 1998 till 2013. In 2013, Dikshit lost to Arvind Kejriwal in the New Delhi constituency in the election that witnessed a Congress rout.

'The initial estimate of Madhuban to Mukarba Chowk flyover by Sheila Dikshit's government was Rs 422 crore, but we built it at Rs 297 crore. The former government estimated the construction of Mangolpuri to Madhuban Chowk at Rs 423 crore, we built it at Rs 323 crore," Dikshit said, adding that they have given five to seven examples.

Kumar Saxena to reconsider the orders. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant

Governor's office refuted the any

allegations saying neither are mosques, temples, churches or any other place of being broken/demolished, nor has approval any file to this effect come. In across Delhi. a statement, the Lieutenant Governor's office said the chief

minister is playing cheap politics to divert attention from her's and her predecessor Chief Minister's failures. The latest exchange of letters comes amid growing political tensions between Atishi and the Lieutenant Governor. Earlier, in a separate letter, Atishi had criticised the LG's office for acting as a proxy for the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) in Delhi. In a letter addressed to Saxena, Atishi said that the Religious Committee had decided to demolish several temples and Buddhist structures across Delhi, including those held dear by the Dalit community and demolition of these structures would hurt the religious sentiments of communities. Atishi wrote, "It has been decided by the Religious Committee - on your directions, and with your to demolish multiple religious structures

Atishi, in her letter, said, "It has been brought to my attention that the Religious Committee has ordered the demolition of numerous religious structures all across Delhi, in a meeting on 22nd November. Until last year, all decisions of the Religious Committee would be sent to you, via the CM and the Minister (Home), Delhi. As elected representatives who are constantly in touch with the people of Delhi, we would ensure that no religious sentiments were hurt."

However, in an order issued last year your office stated that demolition of religious structures is a matter related to 'public order', and does not fall under the purview of the elected government and will be

directly under the purview of the Hon'ble LG. Since then the work of the Religious Committee has been directly monitored by you. All files of the Religious Committee are routed from the Home Department to the LG, completely bypassing the CM and Minister (Home), the letter said.

She further said, "It has been decided by the Religious Committee on your directions, and with your approval to demolish multiple religious structures across Delhi. As you can see the list of religious structures to be demolished includes many temples, and Buddhist places of worship that are revered by the Dalit community. These included temple situated near Nallah Market at West Patel Nagar, temple at Dilshad Garden, satue at Sunder Nagri, temple at Seema Puri, temple at Gokal Puri and temple in side of New Usmanpur MCD flats near.

with SC, as per condition

directions.'

concerned

Centre

The bench said, "We will not

comment on what's going on as

far as negotiations or your law

and order is concerned. If

something happens, which is

acceptable to both sides and all

stakeholders concerned, we

will be equally happy. At the

compliance of our orders. If

you want more time, we in

peculiar circumstances are

inclined to grant you some

time." Singh agreed with the bench on the point that no

comments should be made on

the negotiations at this stage

Solicitor General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the

have any instructions on this

issue. Punjab AG said the intervenors and negotiators

had tried complying with the

court directives by engaging

with the farmers in a dialogue.

and government, said he did not

and sought some time.

with

only

the

Harvana

moment, we are

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Punjab Government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite fast for over a month, has agreed for medical aid given the Centre accepted his proposal to hold talks. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Sudhanshu Dhulia took note of a plea moved by Punjab government seeking an additional three days to comply with SC's December 20 order.

"...As per the negotiators there is a proposal given by the farmers to the Central government that in case they get an invite for a talk, Dallewal is ready to take medical help as desired," Punjab advocate general Gurminder Singh said, 'therefore, the state government was seeking some more time and work positively towards compliance of the

replying to a media query. Reports said Priya was handed capital punishment by a trial court in 2020 and Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council upheld the verdict in November 2023. Yemen's President Rashad al-Alimi has reportedly approved Priya's death sentence. She is in prison since 2017.

Priya was arrested for the alleged murder of Yemeni national Talal Abdo Mehdi in July 2017. A trial court in Sana'a sentenced her to death in 2020 and her appeal was dismissed by Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council in November 2023.

Anji Khad bridges the Kashmir-Kanniyakumari gap

MOHIT KANDHARI 🗖 JAMMU

With the successful load tests with freight trains and trucks on Indias first cable stayed Anji Khad railway bridge, all eyes are set on the visit of the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) to conduct a final inspection of the 17-km long Katra-Reasi section ahead of connecting Kashmir valley with the rest of the country. The bridge is a part of the 326-km rail line connecting Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar. More than two decades in the making, the delayed construction of the Anji Khad bridge in Jammu's Reasi district is a major rail link to seamlessly connect Kashmir to rest of India.

The final nod to launch the train services will be given by the Commissioner of Railway Safety after the inspection. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to inaugurate the first Vande Bharat train from Delhi to Srinagar. The much-awaited inspection visit will likely be scheduled in the second week of January 2025.

With the launch of the Vande Bharat train services the accessibility to the beautiful Kashmir Valley will improve further.

The Vande Bharat Sleeper train will cover a distance of over 800 kilometers, in under 13 hours



Last week, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw also posted videos of the load tests with freight trains and trucks on the Anji Khad cable-stayed brought to the cable bridge

bridge on X (earlier Twitter). According to official sources, a freight train loaded with 3,300 tons of weight was

from the Reasi railway station while later 57 dumpers (trucks) were placed on an additional route built along

dumper loaded with 9 tons of boulders, totaling 513 tons. The freight train and dumpers were on the cable the railway track with each bridge for nearly two hours

with a combined weight of over 33,500 tons. After two hours, all the dumpers were removed completing the necessary safety protocol. The most challenging task between the 17 km long Katra Reasi section was the completion of T-33 tunnel. The last leg of the 17 km long section of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link was completed on December 13.

"Historic milestone; final track work on the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link is complete. The ballastless track work for the 3.2 km-long Tunnel T-33, located at the foothills of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and connecting Katra to Reasi,

was completed", Railways Minister said in a statement. Considered an engineering marvel, next to the world's highest rail bridge over the Chenab River in Reasi's Kouri village, the cable-stayed rail bridge has 96 cables. The total length of cable strands is 653 km weighing 848.7 MT.

The bridge connects the T2 tunnel on the Katra side and the T3 tunnel on the Reasi side and has a single-line railway track and a 3.75 metres wide service road. The bridge is 725 metres long, including a 473 metres long cable-stayed asymmetric bridge balanced on the axis of a central pylon of height 193 metres from the top of the foundation.





uttarakhand 02

Weather gods appeased for now, weather to remain normal

PNS DEHRADUN

fter a spell of light to \mathbf{A} moderate snowfall and rain in parts of the State, the weather has cleared for now and is likely to remain so during the larger part of the first week of the new year. Light rain is likely in some parts of the State on January 4. However, the

centre has issued a vellow warning (Watch) regarding the possibility of moderate to dense fog likely to occur over Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts during the morning hours.

Various parts of the State witnessed a rise in temperatures on Tuesday, provid-ing some relief from the cold. The maximum and minimum temperatures recorded on Tuesday were 18 degrees Celsius and 10.2 The provisional State degrees Celsius respectively

capital Dehradun is forein Dehradun, 15.8 degrees



The Himalaya glisten in white after fresh snowfall as seen from Naintal Afzal Hussain Fauji/Pioneer photo

grees Celsius.

New Year celebrations are likely to be sans rain or snowfall. The State Meteorological Centre has forecast that dry weather is likely to prevail in all districts of the State on Wednesday. The

cast to witness a mainly Celsius and 11.7 degrees clear sky. Shallow to mod-Celsius in Pantnagar, 17.5 erate fog is likely to occur degrees Celsius and 5.3 deduring the morning hours. grees Celsius in Muktesh-The maximum temperature war and 17.2 degrees is likely to be about 20 de-Celsius and 4.8 degrees Celsius in New Tehri.

campaign at the hospital. In addition to cataract surgery, the administration has successfully conducted a variety of eye surgeries as part of this campaign. She further added that she has also noted that due to the changing weather conditions, including the onset of the rainy season, and in light of the favourable success rate, the administration has opted to extend the campaign for an additional seven days. During this extension, the hospital team will provide a range of eye surgeries and

PNS DEHRADUN

ing the governor's directive,

nearly all medical colleges

throughout the State have

launched the campaign at

cataract surgeries and eye ex-

aminations are being pro-

vided at no cost. The

campaign initially com-

in approximately 90 eye sur-

where

hospitals,

their

The Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital has extended the free screenings for eye diseases and cataract surgery camps campaign by seven days, as initiated under the leadership of governor lieutenant general (retd) Gurmit Singh, the GDMC prin-cipal Dr Geeta Jain said. Addressing the media on Tuesday, she said that follow-

> eye treatments at no cost, cient and provided services along with necessary medical in an exemplary manner. facilities. She emphasised

that by December 31, numerous eye surgeries have been performed at the hospital. Further, individuals from various states have travelled the operation, with no injections required for anesthesia. He further emphasised that this approach enhances patient comfort and safety.

GDMC extends free eye screening &

cataract surgery campaign by seven days

the staff at GDMC was effi-

menced on December 25 and continued till December 31. here for these procedures, The GDMC hospital also parshe stated. Senior eye speticipated in this initiative cialist at the hospital, Dr Sushil Ojha said that nearly during the said period. She further noted that the entire all types of eye surgeries have eye department team has been carried out through made significant efforts to topical methods during the ensure its success, resulting campaign. He explained that topical eye surgery involves the application of a drop to geries completed under this numb the eye area prior to

> Notably, patients who have received surgical services under this initiative have shared their experiences. Many of these individuals travelled from Bareilly, Delhi and other locations to undergo eye surgeries at the GDMC. They reported that

THE HANDLOOMS AND HANDICRAFTS EXPORTS CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO PROVE THEIR CLAIMS

Date: 01.01.2025

NOTICE is hereby given to the Creditors of THE HANDLOOMS AND HANDICRAFTS EXPORTS CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED (hereinafter referred as "HHEC") having its registered office at 5th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Annexe-1, Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001 that they are required to submit their claims with proof against HHEC by delivering at the registered office of HHEC within 30 days of the date of this advertisement i.e. on or before 30th day of January 2025 or sending by post to the abovetnentioned address so as to reach the office not later than the said date. Each claim should provide full details of the nature of the debt, the amount claimed, and all the relevant documentation to substantiate their claim. The format of claim application, along with all requisite documents, is detailed on the official website of the Ministry of Textiles and can be accessed at www.texmin.nic.in/advertisements.

CBC 41127/12/0001/2425

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Signal and Telecom engineer/Co./Moradabad for and on behalf of President of India invites Open tenders through E Tendering system for the following works

S. No.	Tender No. & Description of work	Approx. Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of Tender form Rs.	Last date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	01R-SANDT-Tele-AMC-MB-23-24 Annual maintenance contract of 12 Channel Voice Data Logger over Moradabad Division for Two year.	766256.74	15300.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.
2	01-SNT-TELE-AMC-MB2023-24 AMC of Passenger Amenities at MB, HW & YNRK station Over Moradabad Division.	5710589.80	114200.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.
3	01R-SNT-Sig-Fire-Detectio Fire detection and suppression system in remote relay huts over Moradabad Division	9098757.67	182000.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.
4	04-SNT-Sig-SSDAC-MSDAC20 Provision of SSDAC/MSDAC in lieu of overaged Universal axle counters in NBD (Ex)-SRE section of Moradabad Division	39068629.22	345400.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.
5	05-SNT-Sig-SSDAC-MSDAC2 Provision of SSDAC/MSDAC in lieu of overaged Universal axle counters in CH-BE section of Moradabad Division	14552199.59	222800.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.
6	01-DRM-SNT-EXCH-2021-22 Replacement of old exchange with I.P based centralized telecom exchange over Moradabad Division & augmentation work at connecting station	18922623.63	244600.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.
7	03RT-SNT-MB-SMC-ADSTE-NBD S&T work in c/w Sectional Maintenance Contract in section of ADSTE/NBD over MB Division.	12762920.04	213800.00	Nil	27.01.2025 15:00 hrs.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

<u>THE PIONEER</u> GUASSIGIED **PUBLIC NOTICE**

In My Military Records, My Daughter's name is MILI THAPA, date of birth are recorded as 20.01.2003 whereas Her correct name is MILLI THAPA and correct date of birth is 22.10.2003. 5348464H Ex HAV Sukh Lal Thapa S/o Sher Bahadur Thapa, R/o Dummet, PO Ashok Ashram Chiliyon, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

I have changed my name from Ankit Singh Rauthan (old name) to Ankit Rauthan (new name) In future I would like to be known as Ankit Rauthan (new name) S/o Shri Mangal Singh Rauthan. Address: 148, Lane No. C, Shastripuram Aamwala Tarla,

IN BRIEF

CM directs administration to ensure trouble-free NY celebration

DEHRADUN: Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami chaired a high level meeting at his residence on Tuesday with senior officers concerned to discuss how to ensure hassle-free New Year celebration across the State with tourists pouring in here in their hordes. Dhami said that appropriate measures should be taken as regards security of the tourists and congestion-free traffic system. He also stressed on an accident-free celebration through controlling drunk and reckless driving. He said additional police personnel should be deployed during the festivities.

15,314 visit winter abodes of Char Dham deities

DEHRADUN: Following the inauguration of the winter Char Dham Yatra at Ukhimath on December 8, over 15,000 pilgrims have visited the winter abodes of the four deities. Braving the cold weather, pilgrims are arriving in considerable numbers at Omkareshwar temple, the winter abode of Lord Kedarnath; Pandukeshwar temple, the winter abode of Lord Badrinath; Mukhba temple, the winter abode of the deity of Gangotri temple and Kharsali temple, the winter abode of the Yamunotri temple deity As per the administration sources, till December 30, 15,314 pil grims visited the four temples: 6482 for Omkareshwar, 5104 for Pandukeshwar, 3114 for Mukhba temple and 614 for Kharsali temple. The administration said it had taken all possible steps to ensure hassle-free Winter Char Dham Yatra.

Beggars shift to bylanes due to increased vigilance

MANSI BHAMBRI 🗖 DEHRADUN

In order to evade surveillance and Laction, beggars in Dehradun have shifted from main roads to colonies and bylanes in Dehradun to pky their trade. The beggars likely took this step after the authorities started preventing beggars from begging at intersections and main roads in Dehradun. Many local residents have expressed their concerns regarding the disturbance caused by beggars frequently visiting their neighbourhoods. The locals state that they spend the entire day monitoring their front doors, as some beggars visit their area and knock on their doors every hour or so. Local resident Sapna Chamoli expressed her concerns about the noticeable increase in beggary in residential areas and

the disturbance faced by residents. "Beggary has increased in the bylanes and residential areas of Dehradun. This trend can have a negative impact on the community environment, particularly affecting children, senior citizens and individuals of all ages," local resident Juhi Jain said.

She further noted that earlier, individuals seeking alms were observed (Impact Financing). mainly at crossroads, a situation that was more manageable than their current presence in residential neighbourhoods, which has become a source of disturbance. The authorities must implement strict measures to address this issue, she emphasised. Senior citizen Manmohan Yadav said that begging has been an aspect of the city honoured by National Skill Development Corporation. and, by extension, the country for many years. He noted that mere direc-National Skill Development Corporation disclaims any tions or surveillance are insufficient to deter individuals from begging. Re-Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh post October 14, 2024. cently, in an effort to avoid detection by authorities, individuals have begun For any inquiries or assistance, please contact us at to engage in begging in more secluded areas. To effectively address this mathr@nsdcindia.org ter, a comprehensive and stringent ac-CBC -63113/12/0008/2425 tion plan from the rele-NORTHERN RAILWAY vant officials TENDER NOTICE is essential, he Sr.DEN/IV/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice, closing date and time are mentioned against each column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through payment** said. modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Bi cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This notice serves to inform the general public, Sector Skill Councils as well as our valued Training Partners that National Skill Development Corporation w.e.f. October 14, 2024, has ceased all employment relations with Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh, previously employed as Executive Vice President

Please note that Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh is no longer authorized to represent, engage or transact on behalf of National Skill Development Corporation. Any interaction, transaction, communication or agreement made with Mr. Sanjeeva K Singh after October 14, 2024 shall be done at your own legal risk, cost and consequences and will not be acknowledged or

All Govt buildings to be green buildings

DEHRADUN: While addressing an expenditure and finance committee meeting at the secretariat, the chief secretary Radha Raturi directed the officials concerned to take steps to ensure that all the upcoming State government buildings across the State are built as green buildings equipped with solar panels, rain water harvesting and water recycling systems. She, in particular, stressed the introduction of water recycling in every water supply scheme.

colonies, which were previously confined to intersections and main roads in Dehradun. She said that this recent development has become a source of annovance for residents, including herself. Chamoli pointed out that a significant portion of the day is now spent monitoring the entrance to her home, as individuals associated with begging tend to knock on doors approximately every hour. This behaviour appears to be a strategy to evade surveillance by authorities, allowing them to continue their activities unimpeded. She said that local officials should address the issue of begging in residential areas in order to alleviate

responsibility for agreements or commitments made by

Tender No.	281-DRM-MB-24-25 Date: 27.12.2024	282-DRM-MB-24-25 Date: 27.12.2024	283-DRM-MB-24-25 Date: 27.12.2024	284-DRM-MB-24-25 Date: 27.12.2024					
Name of work	Safety work related misc. track works in the section of SSE/P.way/ AMRO under ADEN/GJL	nisc. track works in the misc. track works in r ection of SSE/P.way/ the section of SSE/P.way/ MRO under SSE/P.way/GJL F		Misc. bridge work in the section of ADEN/NBD under Sr. DEN/IV/MB.					
Tender Closing24.01.2025Date/Time(16:00 hrs.)		24.01.2025 (16:00 hrs.)	24.01.2025 (16:00 hrs.)	24.01.2025 (16:00 hrs.)					
Advertised Value(₹)	₹84,64,373.71	₹84,38,258.00	₹94,31,850.25	₹59,19,943.87					
Earnest Money(₹) ₹1,69,300.00		₹1,69,800.00	₹1,88,600.00	₹1,18,400.00					
Period of Completion	12 Months	12 Months	12 Months	06 Months					
Bidding Start Date 10.01.2025		10.01.2025	10.01.2025	10.01.2025					
Tender No.: Sr. DEN-I	//Publication/24-25 Dat	Tender No.: Sr. DEN-IV/Publication/24-25 Dated: 31.12.2024							

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY **E-TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. DEN/HQ/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tenders Nos. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed

Tender No. Date	285-DRM-MB-24-25 dt. 30.12.2024	286-DRM-MB-24-25 dt. 30.12.2024	287-DRM-MB-24-25 dt. 30.12.2024						
Name of Work	Special repair to improve the running room at CH and MB under Sr.DEN/ HQ/MB	ZONE 02 (2024-25) from CH-MB, CH-HGJ, RJK-SHTS section (excluding ZRTI, CH & MB) for staff qtrs & service building under ADEN/CH.	ZONE 03 (2024-25) for staff quarters and service buildings in ZRTI/CH underADEN/CH.						
Tender Closing Date Time	24.01.2025	24.01.2025	24.01.2025						
Advertised Value (Rs.)	67,63,034.54	79,99,974.52	51,99,987.58						
Earnest Money (Rs.)	1,35,300.00	1,60,000.00	1,04,000.00						
Tender Cost (Rs.)	0.00	0.00	0.00						
Bidding Start Date	10.01.2025	10.01.2025	10.01.2025						
Period of Completion	06 Month	06 Month	06 Month						
No. 75-W/2/3/WA/Public	ation, Dated: 30.12.2024		3984/2024						
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मेरे पुत्र	के सैन	य अभि	लेखोंनु	सार,
रा गलत	नाम	किरन	लता	दर्ज

र्ज है,सही नाम किरन देवी आधार नं. 717436587975 M/o आर्मी नं. 18001781A हवलदार उपेन्द्र सिंह, गांव–दुल्हापुर, पोस्ट– ई गोपालपुर, तह.–मैंनपुरी, जिला –मैनपुरी, उत्तर प्रदेश— 205263 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम जए सिंह दर्ज है, सही नाम जय सिंह आधार नं. 204467480105 F/o आर्मी नं. 18001781A हवलदार उपेन्द्र सिंह. गांव– दुल्हापुर, पोस्ट– ई गोपालपुर, तह.–मैनपुरी, जिला– मैनपुरी, उत्तर प्रदेश— 205263 है।

NOTICE

It is informed that my client Smt. Vijava Devi Bartwal wife of Manvendra Bartwal resident of Saypuri Rudraprayag had purchased a plot of land khata No. 07 Khasra No. 2116 Mia area 188.20 from owner Shri Puran Singh son of Shri Mangeram, and Shri Puran Singh had received the said land as gift from his wife Smt. Karuna, that Smt. Karuna had purchased the said land from Smt. Priyanka Gaur wife of Shri Pravee Priyanka Gaur whe of Snn Praveen Gaur, whose registration is duly registered in Sub-Registrar Dehradun in Book No. 1 Volume 132 pages 137 to 160 on document No. 965 dated 02.04.2011. The said original sale deed document no. 965 dated 02.04.2011 has been actually lost by the applicant on 19.12.2024 and its missing report has been lodged at Raipur Police Station, Dehradun. LICHFL is giving loan on the property of this. If anyone has any objection, please contact within 15 days. Mukesh Singh Rana Advocate Chamber No.50 Block 2 District Court DehradunPhone 9997722404

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Maintain balance between meals and workouts

sequences. During the winter

PNS DEHRADUN

Tndividuals should strive to main-L tain a balance in their meals and physical activity, particularly during the winter months, the doctors said. Many people believe that winter is a favourable season for digestion but many tend to consume dry fruits and oily foods excessively in an effort to stay warm. Doctors have cautioned that indulging in such foods bevond a healthful limit during this season may lead to health issues, including diabetes and acidity.

Senior physician at the Deen Dayal Upadhayay district hospital Dr Praveen Panwar said that physical activity often decreases in winter due to cold weather and increased lethargy. Further, there is a widespread conception among the people that winter is a particularly healthy season for eating and digestion. However, individuals often overlook the fact that exceeding certain limits can lead to negative con-

months, many tend to consume gajar halwa, dry fruits, fatty foods and spicy dishes in excessive amounts. It is important to note that water intake tends to decrease during this period, which can hinder digestion. Overindulgence in dry fruits and other meals can lead to health issues such as elevated cholesterol, diabetes and acidity. To mitigate these risks, it is advisable for individuals to establish a routine of drinking water every two hours. Additionally, those who are already experiencing diabetes and high cholesterol should refrain from condried fruits, while suming individuals who do choose to eat them should prefer almonds and walnuts, as they are more beneficial for health. Further, it is recommended that people focus on physical activity, particularly by taking walks not in the early morning but during the afternoon hours, specif-

ically between 3 PM and 4 PM, he added. "The winter season is often regarded as a conducive time for digestion. However, many individuals forget that the crucial role that exercise plays in this process. Neglecting physical activity while consuming meals and snacks, including dry fruits can lead to various health issues such as elevated blood pressure and diabetes," sen-ior Ayurveda consultant JN Nautiyal said. He emphasised the importance of maintaining fitness during the winter months by establishing a balance between dietary intake and physical activity. Nautiyal recommended a daily walk of one kilometre within the home, prioritising a light meal and early dinner. Further, he advised moderation in the consumption of dry fruits and suggested focusing on almonds and walnuts, which are beneficial, while limiting the intake of cashews.





CM wishes citizens well in the new year

PNS DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has wished the people of the State on the eve of the New Year. In his message, the CM wished happiness, peace and prosperity to all the people of the state. The chief minister said that Uttarakhand is celebrating its 25th year of statehood.

He said that Uttarakhand has established many new dimensions in its development journey so far. The CM said that the concept of holistic and balanced development of Uttarakhand was at core of the statehood movement. To give concrete shape to this sentiment the State government has taken an initiative to write a new history of development with transparency, public participation and a new work culture. He



identity in the country through innovative and farreaching efforts in the areas like tourism, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, conservation and promotion of environment and culture and is identifying new sectors for rapid economic develop-

The CM said that an said that the State has suc- attempt has been made to ceeded in creating its own connect the difficult geo-



index.



NITI Aayog. Consequentially the State has got the first place in the country in the sustainable development

and provide exceptional

Offers & discounts galore at outlets for **New Year celebration**

PNS DEHRADUN

Many café owners in service for the New Year Dehradun have festivities. This year too, introduced a range of he has introduced multiple promotions for December offers and discounts for the two-day New Year cel-ebration this year. 31 and January 1, includ-ing a 20 per cent discount However, several café and on specific items.He furrestaurant owners stated ther added that some that advance bookings for establishments offer comparties are lower this year due to religious factors observed by sone on plimentary beverages. A restaurateur near Patelnagar Mahesh Arora Tuesday. Apart from this, the businesses are offering said that people enjoy din-ing out to celebrate the attractive offers and dis-New Year. To attract cus-

counts for customers. Café owner Sanjeev Rai celebratory experience, stated that he consistentthey have launched differly launches various disent types of discounts on counts and offers each food bills. year to draw in customers

due to these promotions, he has noticed an increase in advance reservations for New Year celebrations.t

> Various other café and restaurant owners are also providing similar discounts and offers to customers. Local resident

Heena Bisht said that prior to the New Year, she and her friends utilise social media to find appealing discounts available at specific cafés. Based on this approach, they select one each year for their New tomers and enhance the Year celebration. This year, they continued with the same practice, she indicated.

He further stated that,

108 ambulance service put on alert for New Year celebration

PNS DEHRADUN

The 108 ambulance ser- and technical arrangements ▲ vice has put its entire fleet of ambulances into alert mode in view of the celebrations on the New Year eve. The data of the service shows that the number of accidents related to emergencies increased on the night of December 31. The enterprise also cancelled leaves of its entire staff on December 31 and January 1.

The general manager (Projects) of the service, Anil Sharma took a meeting with the officials of the service on Tuesday and directed them to prepare the service to meet any exigency. He said that the fleet of ambulances should be kept on high alert as people celebrate on the eve of New Year. He said that the service has made all preparations

so that the ambulances don't get stuck in traffic jams. Sharma said that the ambulances will be stationed at Survey Chowk, Clock Tower, Jakhan, Raipur, Ballupur Chowk, Prem Nagar, Vidhan Sabha and Race Course in Dehradun for quick response on the New Year eve.

The data available with the service the calls related to road accidents increase on December 31 and January 1. In view of expected increase in the number of calls made to the emergency service, additional staff would be deployed in the central call centre of the service. The service has also deployed 18 ambulances as backup to the field ambulances.

Mahara asks dissidents to respect party's decision in candidate selection

PNS DEHRADUN

A mid controversy sur- consideration her track rounding the selection record and offered her tickof mayoral candidate in et. On the question of Pithoragarh, the Pradesh resentment expressed by Congress Committee vice president of State (PCC) president Karan Congress Mathuradutt Mahara has said that the Joshi, the PCC president party has taken the correct said that Joshi is a very decision in nominating senior leader and the party Anju Lunthi. He said that has always given him key the party high command responsibilities in the party



the issue and everyone ues to be in the position of should respect the deci- number two in the State sion. Mahara said that unit, he added. Lunthi had contested the Pithoragarh Assembly by-0.10 whinecessitated after the death as mayoral candidate has of Prakash Pant as senior Congress leader and the current MLA Mayukh Pithoragarh MLA Mayukh Mahar declined to contest the by-election.

has taken the final call on organisation. Joshi contin-

of 5,888 personnel, including reserve personnel, were ran-It is pertinent to mention domised for a total of 1,071 here that selection of Lunthi

Will work to make **Dehradun clean & free** of traffic woes: Pokhriyal

PNS DEHRADUN

The Congress party's may-oral candidate of Dehradun, Virendra Pokhriyal have no vision and plan to has said that if elected he will work for making Dehradun city clean and free from traffic clean and free of polythene is congestion. Interacting with the media persons on Tuesday, Congress mayoral candidate Pokhriyal said that traffic issues said that the roads in all wards

are the biggest problem in of the city are replete with pot-Dehradun and the authorities holes and the people are continuing to suffer while commanage traffic in the city. He muting on the city roads. said that making the capital city Pokhriyal said that he will work to correct the wrongs also on his agenda. The done by the BJP in the last 15 years in the city.

Randomisation of 5,888 personnel complete for ULB polls in Dehradun

PNS DEHRADUN

ence of district magistrate

Bansal informed that a total

Savin Bansal.

To facilitate the successful **L** conduct of the urban local body election in Dehradun, the first randomisation of 5,888 personnel was completed on Tuesday, with the pres-

To provide more details, with 192 personnel for 30 booths of municipal council Bansal noted that there would be 1,135 polling parties with Mussoorie, 35 polling parties



Villagers start building road not constructed years after approval

PNS NEW TEHRI

A t a time when the Delhi-Dehradun expressway is slated to be inaugurated soon, residents of some mountain villages in the interior of the State are struggling for basic facilities like roads. Tired of official apathy residents of two villages in the Jaunpur block of Tehri district have started work to build a road themselves.

The residents of Bangsheel and Odarsu villages have taken up pickaxes and shovels to construct the road. Due to lack of road, the villagers have to travel upto 20 kilometres to reach neighbouring villages and if this road is constructed the distance will be reduced to four kilometres. A large number of villagers including women, the elderly and youngsters are working to build this road. They even work at night with torches,



ish you a

Villagers now face accusations from what they call pseudo-environmentalists and NGOs, who they claim are spreading misinformation about forest smuggling and tree cutting. The district administration has taken cognisance of the situation, directing officials con-cerned to find a solution. However, the delay in the work means another day of isolation from healthcare, education and economic opportunities for the villagers.

He said that despite all odds and the sympathy factor for the BJP candidate, vice president Joshi too has Lunthi put up a commendable contest and lost the election by only 2,400 votes. The PCC president said mayoral ticket for his wife that the party has taken into Rukmani Devi.

Mining revenue filling coffers of **U'khand Govt**

PNS DEHRADUN

I is expected to go past the figure of Rs 1,000 crore in the current financial year. The data of the mindepartment in the FY 2023-24. The data shows that the Singh Dhami the depart-

The revenue from mining hoping for an increase of 50 per cent in the revenue this vear.

ing department shows that view that the increase in the it has collected revenue of revenue from mining Rs 686 crore till December occurred due to the 2024. This is more than the changed strategy by the total revenue earned by the department. On the orders of chief minister Pushkar

The experts are of the

ended on Tuesday, the BJP government of Uttarakhand led by chief country for its decisions



397 crore in the FY 2019-20 and it increased to Rs 646 2022-23. The department is itself.

cation for the law was issued on March 12, 2024 mining revenue stood at Rs ment handed over the task after the assent of the of monitoring to a private President of India. The agency which has yielded Dhami government then crore in the FY 2023-24. positive results. Earlier the constituted a nine member The revenue increased by work of monitoring mining committee headed by for-36.86 per cent in the year activities was done at the mer chief secretary 2023-24 as compared to level of the department Shatrughna Singh for

booths across two municipal corporations, four municipal evoked dissension in councils and one Nagar Pithoragarh Congress. The Panchayat in the district. This includes 20 pink booths under Mahar has termed the selection of candidate wrong and is openly supthe Municipal Corporation Dehradun (MCD) and five for Municipal Corporation of porting the candidature of Rishikesh (MCR).

Monika Mahar. The state He further directed the offiopened a front against the cers to promptly provide the party leadership on the information of the personnel issue. He was demanding a appointed for the election to the relevant department heads. This is to ensure that personnel are relieved from their current duties in time for

ing, he said.

4,540 personnel assigned to 845 booths for Municipal Corporation Dehradun (MCD). For MCR there would be 118 polling parties with 472 personnel assigned to 86 booths. Additional allocations include 89 polling parties with 356 personnel for 59 booths necessary election duty trainunder municipal council Doiwala, 48 polling parties

UCC, anti-riot law & anti-

this committee handed

over the draft of the reg-

January

encroachment drive of Dhami

with 140 personnel for 22 booths of municipal council Vikasnagar, 23 polling parties with 92 personnel for 14 booths of municipal council Herbertpur, and finally, 24 polling parties with 96 personnel for 15 booths of municipal Panchayat Selaqui, he added.

determined to build the road. The villagers stated that they have been approaching the government seeking the con-struction of this road for a long time. The construction of this road had been approved in a Panchavat meeting in 2019, attended by village heads from 13 communities along with Forest department and Public Works Department officials. The approval included efforts to protect valuable deodar trees by following traditional pathways.

💮 year filled with happiness

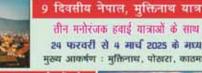
VIMAL CHAUDHARY National Vice President Cycling Federation of India, Nainital

नव वर्ष की हार्द्रिक ग्रुभकामनाओं के साथ YTDO Tour & Travels की रोचक एवं रोमांचक यात्राएँ विगत ४१ वर्षों से सुविधाजनक यात्राओं के दोत्र में उत्तराखण्ड का एकमात्र अनुभवी संगठन

१६ दिवसीय दक्षिण भारत यात्रा

द्वितीय दूर - ४ फरवरी से २० फरवरी के मध्य मुख्य आकर्षण : त्रिवेन्द्रम, कोचीन, कोवलम, कन्वाकुमारी, रामेश्वरम धाम, मदुरई, मैसूर, तिरुपति बालाओं, मदास एवं मात्रबलिपुरम





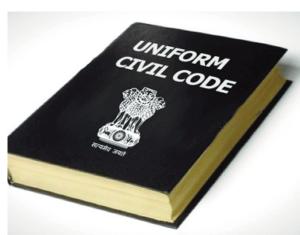




नुख्य आकर्षण - डिजर्ट सामरी, मुर्ज खलीका ,मिरेकल मार्डन एवं युबई और अबूधाबी में नवनिर्मित हिन्दू भनिदर। अबूधाबी कि सांज शेख जायद मरिजद।

TDO Tour & Travels The Mall, Nainital. Ph. 05942-23555 VMS Khati - M. 9412085088, Umesh Rautela - M. 9411197147 Ramesh Tiwari - M. 9411197085, BS Padiyar - 8006399064

Mr. Vinay Bisht, Shanti Tower, Shop No. 2, Durga City Center, Haldwani, Mob- 9412086566, 9759237565



CM has announced that template of the central law the UCC will be impleon the issue. mented in the State from

In February 2024, a riot 2025.preparing the regulation of Considering the assertion broke out in Haldwani

ernment on UCC, it is damaged government and public property. Taking very likely that the UCC of ulations to the CM. The Uttarakhand will act as a lessons from the riot, the Dhami government brought a strict anti riot law. In this law there is a provision to recover the damage caused to

public and civil proper-

ty in riots from the riot-

ers.

The Women of Uttarakhand were given 30 per cent reservation in government jobs while the provision of 10 per cent reservation to the statehood activists was restored this year. Dhami government also undertook a massive campaign to free the government land from the encroachers and about 5,000 acres of the land was freed this year.

Govt grabbed attention in 2024 PNS DEHRADUN T n the year 2024 which the UCC. On October 18, of the Narendra Modi gov- town in which the rioters

minister Pushkar Singh Dhami drew the attention of the people across the

on Uniform Civil Code

(UCC) and implementa-

tion of a stringent anti riot

law in the State. The UCC act was passed by the Vidhan Sabha on February

7, 2024. The Act was based

on the report of the expert

committee headed by

Justice (retd) Ranjana

Prasad Desai. The notifi-





DD to screen 4k restored version of Manthan on Jan 1

PNS NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{N}_{ ext{Doordarshan on Tuesday}}^{ ext{ational broadcaster}}$ announced that it will ring in the new year by screening the 4K restored version of Shyam Benegal's film "Manthan" as homage to the veteran filmmaker.

Benegal, the pioneer of the parallel cinema movement in Indian cinema in the 1970s and 1980s, died on December 23 at a hospital here due to chronic kidney disease. He was 90.

Film Heritage Foundation (FHF), which restored the 1976 classic film for its premiere in the Cannes Classic section at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, shared the update

on its official X page. According to FHF, "Manthan" will be broadcast on Doordarshan on Wednesday at eight pm. "To pay tribute to the Benegal, Shyam late Doordarshan will begin the new year with a screening of

Naxals violence declined by 48%: Ministry of Home Affairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The latest report from Union Home Ministry, facing tough action from the security forces, the Naxals are making efforts to seep into new areas along inter-state borders but without any notable success. The Government's multipronged approach anti-Naxal operations by paramilitary and state police and simultaneous development initiatives in Maoist-affected areas -- has resulted in a 48 per cent reduction in violent incidents, from 1,136 in 2013 to 594 in 2023, the report said. A 65 per cent reduction was also noticed in the deaths of civilians and security forces, which came down from 397 to 138 in 2023 as compared to 2013, it said. Home Minister Amit Shah has said that the country would be free of Naxalism by March 31, 2026. The geographical spread of

Manthan" narrates the story of how a young veterinary doctor (Girish Karnad) fights against Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) violence has shrunk considerably. In 2023, 171 oppressive forces to establish a milk cooperative that empowpolice stations in 42 districts ers rural farmers. It also starred reported such incidents, compared to 328 police Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah,

The BJP spokesperson noted

that the AAP government has

also promised a similar

amount to imams but has not

paid them for 17 months.

There has been no bigger

fraud and deceitful politician

in India than him," he alleged.

Asked about the Congress'

charge that the BJP govern-

ment at the Centre has disre-

spected former prime minis-

ter Manmohan Singh, the BJP

leader hit back at the opposi-

tion party's "insult" of former

PM P V Narasimha Rao, say-

cremation in the national cap-

ital.

memorial

the ex-PM

ing it did not even allow his

the Union Home Ministry's report said. "The arc of has violence been considerably restricted with just 25 districts accounting 91 per cent of the LWE violence," it said.

According to the Ministry's annual report 2023-24, the CPI (Maoist) continues to be the most potent among the various LWE outfits in the country, accounting for more than 90 per cent of total violent incidents and 95 per cent of resultant deaths. "Amidst increasing reverses, the CPI (Maoist) has been making efforts to expand to new areas along inter-state borders, albeit without any significant success," the report said. They wish to keep the population in their areas of influence marginalized to perpetuate their outdated ideology, it said.

"Consequently, the process of development has been set back by decades in many parts of the country under LWE influence," it said. Various measures adopted by (state) governments anḋ the developmental outreach by the Union government have

stations in 76 districts in 2013, seen an increasingly large The overall improvement in number of LWE cadres shunning the path of violence returning to the and mainstream.

Continued operations and crackdowns in the "core Maoists' areas" have slightly increased the number of resultant deaths and casualties to security forces when compared with the corresponding period in 2022, the report said. Noting that improvised explosive devices cause the majority of casualties to security forces in anti-LWE operations, the Home Ministry issued a Standard Operating Procedure to promote best practices in IED management besides putting in place extensive counter-IED capacity building of CAPFs and state police forces, it said. "During the first half of 2024, the LWE situation has witnessed quantum positive jump (1.7 times) in security forces-initiated operations (59 103), which have to consequently resulted in a more than five-fold increase in the neutralization of Maoists (30 to 159) as compared to the corresponding period of 2023," the report said.

the LWE scenario can be attributed to a greater presence and increased capacity of the security forces across the LWE states, affected better operational strategy and better monitoring of development schemes, it said. In addition, beefing up intelligence coordination has also played a major role in planning action

against the Naxals. Round-the-clock intelligence sharing through Multi Agency Centre (MAC) at the Central level and State Multi Agency Centre (SMAC) at the state level, setting up of Joint Command and Control Centre at Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh) and Gaya (Bihar), and strengthening of technical and human intelligence have helped in action against Naxals, the report said. Besides, thrust on the generation of real-time intelligence and creation as well as strengthening of State Intelligence Bureaus (SIBs) in the LWE affected states for which central assistance is provided through the SIS have also helped security forces take action against Naxals, it added.

CBI cancels medal of officer caught accepting bribe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $T^{he}_{"forfeited"} Government has$

Home Minister's medal for

Excellence in Investigation

awarded to CBI Inspector

Rahul Raj in 2023 who was

later caught by the agency red-

handed, allegedly receiving Rs

10 lakh bribe and dismissed

from the service, officials said.

The action comes on the

recommendation of CBI

Director Praveen Sood who

has cracked down on corrupt

elements detected in the

agency's internal vigilance

Raj, a recipient of a prestigious

medal in 2023, was caught

"red-handed" on May 19 while allegedly accepting an illegal gratification of Rs 10 lakh

from Malay College of Nursing

chairman Anil Bhaskaran and

his wife Suma Anil, an official

alleged. The couple were also

arrested. The CBI swung into

action after inputs and

surveillance by its internal

vigilance unit indicated that

one of the support teams

constituted on the orders of

the Madhya Pradesh High

Court to examine the

infrastructure in nursing

colleges in the state was

developments said that CBI

indulging in corruption. Officials in the know of

process.

clear in no uncertain terms that "internal vigilance is prerequisite to external They said that, action". following its policy of "zero tolerance to corruption and misdemeanours," the CBI dismissed its officer under Article 311 of the Constitution within days of his arrest. The CBI also recommended cancelling his medal, which the home ministry has accepted.

Director Sood had made it

nation 04

'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation-2023 awarded to Rahul Raj, Inspector of the Central Bureau of Investigation vide Ministry's notification No. 11024/05/2023-PMA dated 17/11/2023 published in...Gazette of India on November 17, 2023 is hereby cancelled and the medal forfeited under Rule-9 of the Rules governing the award of Union Home Minister's Medal Excellence in for Investigation," the notification

issued by the Ministry on Monday said. Following its zero-tolerance

policy towards internal corruption, three CBI officers were dismissed without enquiry under Article 311 of the Constitution while five were compulsorily retired under 56J rule in 2023-24, officials said.

BJP accuses AAP of using kids for poll gains

'Manthan' (1976) restored by

FHF with support from the

Gujarat Co-operative Milk

Marketing Federation Ltd.

(Amul) on Jan 1, 2025 at 8 p.M. On Doordarshan," the foun-

"Manthan" was inspired by the

groundbreaking milk cooper-

ative movement by Dr

Verghese Kurien that trans-

formed India into one of the

largest milk producers in the

The Hindi film, titled

"Churning" in English, was

financed by 5 lakh farmers of

Gujarat 48 years ago who con-

tributed Rs 2 each. The open-

ing credits of the movie read:

"500,000 Farmers of Gujarat

dation said.

world

present.

and Amrish Puri.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DFI H

¬he BJP on Tuesday accused TAam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal of using children for political gains, charging him with practising "petty, cheap and dirty" politics. Addressing a press conference, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said Delhi's ruling party has not taken down a post, which shows some children raising pro-Kejriwal slogans, despite the National Human Rights Commission raising serious concerns on the matter.

Such a depiction of children is a violation of the Juvenile Act and the Election Commission guidelines, he said. "Kejriwal and Chief Minister Atishi are not sparing even children. They are violating the dignity of children. Is it because Kejriwal knows that he is losing the elections in Delhi," Bhatia asked.

He asked why Kejriwal was "playing with young and

impressionable minds for his petty, cheap and dirty politics".

The BJP, he claimed, will ensure that the "destroyer of children and a hater of children" is thrown out of power. He accused the AAP government of converting school toilets into classrooms for children and deliberately failing students in Class 9 and Class 11 to ensure higher pass percentages in Class 10 and Class 12. He added that people will cel-

ebrate "Happiness Utsav" -- a Delhi government initiative to commemorate the 'Happiness Curriculum' in its schools -by teaching the AAP a lesson in the upcoming polls.

The AAP government opened no new school despite promising over 500 of them, and is behind the vacancy of almost 80 per cent post of teachers, he alleged. Bhatia dubbed Kejriwal's announcement of Rs 18,000 monthly honorarium to temple and gurudwara priests as yet another "false promise" by the AAP, claim-

disposed in governance drive ing the former chief minister knows that his "political life is coming to an end. Until recently his government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE was opening liquor shops out-NEW DELHI side religious places, he said.

N early three crore service delivery applications were disposed of during a recently concluded campaign aimed at further ensuring ease of governance mainly at the grassroot level, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

He said through the nationwide "Prashasan Gaon ki Ore" campaign conducted from December 19-24, the government has tried to implement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and made the eco-system transparent, faster by simplifying procedures and processes at every level.

Through various citizen cen-There has been a bitter war of tric initiatives, including redressal of public grievances, words between the Congress and the ruling BJP over disposal of service delivery arrangements at Singh's funerapplications, the government expanded the outreach of seral and over the setting up of a to vice delivery mechanisms and made them more effective,"

said Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) Secretary V Srinivas.

Three Crore applications

He said the emphasis is on projecting the immense potential of technology to bring citizens and government closer, as a powerful tool to empower citizens as well as a medium to optimise transparency and accountability in day-to-day functioning.

The Prashasan Gaon ki Ore campaign was conducted in 700 + districts across India, said Srinivas, a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Rajasthan cadre. A total of 2,99,64,200 applica-

tions were disposed of under service delivery category and – 18.29 lakh public grievances were redressed (14.84 lakh raised on state portals and 3.44 lakh on the Centre's CPGRAMS), he said.

"The campaign represents a milestone for doorstep delivery

In Uttar Pradesh, the Prashasan Gaon ki Ore was conducted in all 75 districts, in Madhya Pradesh (55 districts), Rajasthan (50 districts), Bihar (in all 38 districts), in Assam (all 35 districts), in Maharashtra (in 33 of the 36 districts), in Gujarat (in 32 of the 33 districts), in Chhattisgarh (in all 33 districts), in Karnataka (in all 31 districts), in Odisha (all 30 districts), in Jammu and Kashmir (all 20 districts) and in Jharkhand (in 23 of 24 districts), he said.

The campaign was spearhead-ed by the chief secretaries, principal secretaries of Administrative Reforms and district collectors across the nation, the senior bureaucrat said.

Gurugram Police resolve 97,896 complaints, 5,759 pending

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

The Gurugram Police have received a total of 1,03,655 complaints through various means, out of which 97,896 complaints have been resolved by the district police and 5,759 pending complaints are being investigated this year so far, police said. According to the police, these complaints were received by the Gurugram Police through various channels including a total of 693 complaints received in the Police Commissioner's Office, Gurugram through various com-missions (NHRC, HHRC, NCW, HSWC, NCPCR, HCPCR, out of which 664 complaints have been resolved and 29 complaints are being investigated.

Similarly, a total of 1642 complaints were received in the Gurugram Police Commissioner's Office, through the office of the Director General of Police, Haryana, out of which 1635 complaints have been resolved, and 07 complaints are being investigated. A total of 8390 complaints were received in the office of Commissioner of Police, Gurugram all these 8,390 complaints have been resolved by the police.

Likewise, a total of 12,559 complaints through e-mail were received all these complaints have been resolved by Gurugram Police, the police said. The city Police have also received a total of 919 complaints during public hearings in the police commissioner's office, out of which 829 complaints have been resolved.

of services on a size and scale that makes it India's largest people centric campaign for good governance," Srinivas said.

Suvendu Adhikari threatens Mamata with jail

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $B_{\rm Suvendu}^{\rm engal \ Opposition \ Leader} \\ {}^{\rm Constant}_{\rm Suvendu \ Adhikari \ on}$ Tuesday said that his party would institute a commission on atrocities against women in Sandeshkhali when it comes to power and send Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to jail for the alleged offences she had committed. Adhikari, who was addressing a "reply rally" at Sandeshkhali a day after the CM held her own, stated, "Mamata Banerjee has accused the BJP of misleading the villagers and asked the women not to fall into the trap of 'mischievous' people. I must say that the biggest mischievous person is Mamata."

Quad celebrates 20 years of cooperation PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

to take place in the second half Tndia and other Quad memof 2025 The foreign ministers of the four ber nations on Tuesday reaffirmed the grouping's steadfast nations said the Quad will work

commitment to work towards a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific amid China's increasing military muscle-flexing in the vision of a free and open Indo-

The foreign ministers of the member nations of the grouping made the pledge in a joint statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of "Quad cooperation".

region.

India, the US, Australia and Japan came together 20 years ago to extend assistance in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, and that coalition subsequently took form of the Quad. In the last few years, the Quad has

rolled out a number of initiatives addressing some of the most pressing needs and challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, including in areas of maritime securi-

the Indian Ocean Rim ty, infrastructure and connectivity. India is scheduled to host the Association, the region's premier next Quad Summit that is likely organisation," they said.

The Quad foreign ministers also referred to the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and how the four countries came together in responding to the together to respond to the chalfuture needs of the Indo-Pacific. lenges.

"The tsunami was one of the "As four partners, we share a worst disasters in history, claim-Pacific that is peaceful, stable ing the lives of nearly a quarter million people and displacing 1.7 million across 14 countries," and prosperous, underpinned by effective regional institutions," they said.

"Together our four countries contributed over 40,000 emergency responders, working with other partners across the Indo-Pacific region to support mil-lions of people affected by the catastrophe.

"We reaffirm our unwavering In the statement, the ministers support forEAN's centrality and unity as well as mainstreaming further noted that the foundaand implementation of the EAN tional commitment of the four nations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief remained strong.

"We continue to work side-byal architecture, foremost the Pacific Islands Forum. We are side to prepare for and respond also steadfast in our support for quickly and effectively to disas-

ters across the region," they said.

"In 2024, our four countries collectively supported disaster preparedness and life-saving relief efforts across the Indo-Pacific and we continue to build on those efforts to identify new ways to respond rapidly to humanitarian crises and disasters," they added.

The ministers also briefly highlighted the Quad's focus on addressing complex challenges in the Indo-Pacific. "What began as an emergency response to a catastrophe has grown into a full-fledged partnership delivering positive outcomes for the people of our region," the statement noted.

It said the Quad countries now work together and with partners across the Indo-Pacific to address complex challenges -from fighting climate change, cancer and pandemics, to bolstering quality infrastructure, counter-terrorism efforts, critical and emerging technologies, and cyber security.

Fake cancer and diabetic drugs seized in Kolkata raid

PNS NEW DELHI

Ajoint investigation con-ducted by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Drugs Control Directorate, West Bengal at the premises of a wholesale firm in Kolkata recently led to the seizure of spurious drugs estimated to be worth Rs 6.6 crore.

The investigation has led to the arrest of a woman identified as the proprietor of the wholesale firm who was taken into custody by the Drugs Inspector of CDSCO, East Zone, the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

The raid, carried out at the firm 'Care and Cure For You' in Kolkata resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, and other drugs suspected to be spurious.

The drugs, labelled as being manufactured in various countries including Ireland, Turkey, the USA, and Bangladesh, were found without any supporting documents to prove their legitimate importation into India, it said.

In the absence of such documentation, these drugs are deemed to be spurious, the ministry said.

The investigating team also discovered several empty packing materials, further raising concerns over the authenticity of the seized products, the statement said.

The total market value of the drugs seized is estimated at approximately Rs 6.60 crore, it said.

To ensure proper investigation, samples of the drugs have been sent for quality testing. The remaining seized quantity is being kept in safe custody by the CDSCO, the statement said

A court granted judicial custody of the arrested proprietor for 14 days and permitted further interrogation. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing. "The Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the public. The seizure and ongoing investigation underscore the government's zero-tolerance policy towards the circulation of counterfeit and substandard drugs in the market," the statement stated. The CDSCO and state authorities will continue to work in close coordination to combat the threat posed by spurious drugs and to safeguard the interests of consumers, it stated.

Unnao startup honours Jimmy Carter with peanut butter tribute

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

housands of miles away from his home in Georgia where he breathed his last, former US president Jimmy Carter will live on - in the form of two will live on – in the form of two new varieties of peanut butter dedicated to the "champion of peanut farming" from Unnao-based startup Nutty Village. Carter, who was elected in the wake of the Watergate scandal and the Vietnam War, died at his home in Plains, Georgia on Sunday at the age of 100. Nutty Village has decided to honour Carter for his "commitment to agriculture", Aman Kumar, who started the com-

pany in 2020, told PTI. As a tribute to the former pres-

ident of the United States of America, considered a champion of peanut farming and rural development, we will be dedicating our upcoming range of coffee-flavoured peanut butter and barbeque-flavoured peanut butter in his honour," the 29year-old entrepreneur said. The two new flavours -- coffee and barbeque -- are being added to the existing dark chocolate,

jaggery and unsweetened varieties. Carter was the third American

president to visit India. A village Gurugram district, Daulatabad Nasirpur, was named Carterpuri at the sug-

gestion of the then Indian prime minister Morarji Desai.

the joint statement said.

Pacific.

The Quad foreign ministers

also talked about the centrality

of 10-nation grouping

Association of Southeast Asian

Nations (ASEAN) in the Indo-

Outlook on the Indo-Pacific,"

'We respect Pacific-led region-

the ministers said.

According to The Carter Center, he was the only one with a personal connection to India as his mother, Lillian, had worked there as a health volunteer with the Peace Corps during the late 1960s.

Kumar said the Nutty Village's tribute acknowledges Carter's life-long commitment to agriculture and sustainable development.

Nutty Village, co-founded with Sushant Berma, was inspired by small farmers around Ganga, who cultivate peanuts but struggle to receive fair prices due to dependence on intermediaries and lack of market linkages, he



said. "Observing this challenge, we designed a solution to empower these farmers by ensuring better price realisation through direct market access." "Nutty Village works with around 50 farmers and purchases groundnuts from 5-6 farmers for its peanut butter. It is working with the women self-help groups to do both the primary and secondary processing to make peanut butter, creating livelihood opportunities as well at the grassroots level," added Kumar, who has a Master's in Social Entrepreneurship from Tata

Peanut farmers also benefit from

the almost triple purchase price Nutty Village offers them, he said.

Fourteen-fifteen villages in Unnao district have around 10,000 farmers who grow peanuts, 2,000 of whom use

organic farming techniques. Manish Singh, a 36-year-old farmer from Unnao, said, "We first met Aman when he want-

ed to discuss how we could all work together for better profits. He brought us seeds and we worked on figuring out the best farming methods."

Chandkali, a 60-year-old member of a self-help group, said being involved in the secondary processing of the peanuts gets her good money.



UP Politics 2024: A Year of tumult, transformation, and tough battles

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

s the curtain falls on 2024, AUttar Pradesh stands as a microcosm of India's shifting political winds. This year has been nothing short of a rollercoaster for the state, often described as the cradle of Indian politics. The BJP, once dominant, found itself grappling with a severe blow in the Lok Sabha elections, only to stage a dramatic recovery in the assembly by-elections. On the other side, the Samajwadi Party (SP) surged ahead during the national polls but faltered in maintaining its momentum when it came to the state elections, reflecting the ever-changing allegiances of the electorate.

The year began with Uttar Pradesh brimming with anticipation. It was the first general election after the completion of the Ram temple in

Ayodhya, a project deeply intertwined with the BJP's identity. Yet, the saffron party, which had been riding high on its Hindutva and development narratives, faced unexpected challenges. The Lok Sabha elections dealt the BJP a crushing defeat in the state, reducing its tally from 62 to 33 seats. This marked one of the party's most significant electoral setbacks in recent years, with defeats in key constituencies like Ayodhya, Kannauj, and Amethi. The opposition INDIA alliance, spearheaded by the SP, capitalized on this vulnerability, securing 43 seats and emerg-ing as the dominant force in the state.

The BJP's losses in Ayodhya and Amethi were particularly symbolic. Ayodhya, considered the centerpiece of the BJP's Hindutva agenda, rejected its candidate, Lallu Singh, in favor of SP's Avdhesh



Prasad. Voter dissatisfaction over local issues, coupled with resentment over the demolition of small temples during the construction of the Ram

temple, played a significant role in this outcome. Similarly, in Amethi, Congress candidate Kishori Lal Sharma defeated BJP stalwart Smriti

Irani by a significant margin, signaling a shift in public sentiment despite Irani's highprofile campaigning. However, just as questions

began to surface about the BJP's future in Uttar Pradesh, the party made a resounding comeback in the assembly by-elections held later in the year. Contests were held for nine seats, and the BJP won six, with ally RLD securing one. This recovery was driven by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's assertive leadership and a wellassertive leader sinp and a real coordinated campaign strategy. Yogi's slogan, "Batenge To Katenge" (If divided, they will be cut), struck a chord across caste divisions, consolidating Hindu votes and neutralizing the oppo-sition's efforts to build alliances based on caste arithmetic.

The Kundarki constituency, with its Muslim-majority population, became a symbol of the BJP's ability to transcend traditional vote banks. BJP candidate Ramveer Singh campaigned aggressively in Muslim-dominated areas, presenting a message of inclusivity that resonated even in a

fragmented field. This success, combined with victories in other critical seats, underscored the party's adaptability and resilience.

For the SP, which had basked in the success of the Lok Sabha elections, the by-poll results were a reality check. Akhilesh Yadav's strategy of focusing on a coalition of backward classes, Dalits, and minorities (PDA) had worked well in the national elections but failed to replicate the same impact in the state contests. The loss in Kundarki and other key seats highlighted the limitations of this approach against the BJP's aggressive narrative and organizational strength.

Meanwhile, the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) continued its downward spiral, unable to reclaim its traditional vote bank, which is increasingly gravitating towards newer players like Chandrashekhar

Azad's Azad Samaj Party. Mayawati's party appeared adrift, further diminishing its relevance in the state's political landscape. The turbulence of 2024 has set

nation 05

the stage for an intriguing contest in the years to come. Uttar Pradesh remains a battleground where strategies are tested, alliances are forged, and leaders are defined. For Yogi Adityanath, the year ended on a high note, solidifying his position as a Hindutva icon and a key play-er in the BJP's national politics. For Akhilesh Yadav, the challenge lies in translating his Lok Sabha successes into sustained gains at the state level. As Uttar Pradesh heads towards the 2027 assembly elections, the lessons of this year will shape the strategies of all political players, ensuring that the state remains at the heart of India's political drama.

Ayodhya, Varanasi, Mathura packed with devotees for New Year celebrations ISKCON devotees pray for safety of Hindus in Bangladesh

PTI AYODHYA /MATHURA /VARANASI

As the New Year approach-es, Uttar Pradesh's iconic religious destinations --Ayodhya, Varanasi and Mathura -- are experiencing an overwhelming influx of devotees.

With enhanced security measures and detailed crowd management plans in place, these holy cities are prepared to accommodate the huge number of pilgrims flocking to temples and sacred sites for a spiritual start to 2025.

Ayodhya is witnessing a massive surge in devotees ahead of the New Year, particularly with the newly consecrated Ram temple attracting thousands eager to seek blessings from Lord Ram.

The hotel accommodations in Ayodhya and nearby Faizabad are fully booked and the temple trust has extended the darshan" hours to manage

the expected crowd. "We are ready to welcome the devotees and all our rooms have been reserved through January 15," said Ankit Mishra, the owner of a hotel. While the Hindu New Year is



celebrated around March-April, many devotees opt to visit on the first day of the English calendar year for a glimpse of Ram Lalla. They wish to start the year with blessings from the deity,'

explained Ramakant Tiwari, a local priest. This New Year marks the first since the Ram temple's consecration, making it a particularly significant occasion. Ayodhya Senior

Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajkaran Nayyar confirmed robust security arrangements across key religious sites like the Ram temple, Hanumangarhi and Guptar Ghat.

Varanasi is also bracing for an unprecedented number of visitors this New Year.

To handle the influx, the Kashi Vishwanath Temple has banned "sparsh (touch) darshan" from December 31 to January 1. The visitors will be allowed to view the deity from a distance to avoid overcrowding.

The police have implemented extensive security measures, with 45 duty points across major locations, including Assi Ghat and Sankat Mochan Temple.

Deputy Zone Kashi Commissioner of Police (DCP) Gaurav Bansal said the NDRF, Water Police and PAC

teams have been deployed at key points.

With an estimated five to seven lakh visitors, the temple area has been divided into five sectors and 12 quick reaction teams are on standby to handle any emergency. Mathura-Vrindavan is also seeing an enormous crowd of devotees. The temple author-ities have urged the elderly, sick and children to avoid visiting during peak time. "We advise the devotees to

assess the crowd before visiting to prevent inconvenience," said Munish Sharma, the manager of Banke Bihari Temple.

The temple has implemented a strict one-way entry and exit system to prevent jostling. To manage the influx, the security personnel have been increased and heavy vehicles

Vrindavan. E-rickshaws have been introduced to transport the visitors to the temples. The police have set up barriers and deployed officers to ensure smooth movement and safety, with special parking arrangements for the vis-

itors arriving from different routes

PTI KOLKATA

ISKCON devotees on Tuesday joined in prayers in Kolkata for the safety of Hindus and a peaceful 2025 for the minority community which has been facing attacks in Bangladesh since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government.

Hundreds of followers of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) chanted 'Hare Krishna' and sang songs to express solidarity with the

Hindus in Bangladesh. Holding placards seeking the safety and security of Hindus and a peaceful 2025 in the neighbouring nation, the devotees joined in the prayers at the Albert Road centre on the eve of the new year, led by ISKCON Kolkata spokesperson Radharamn Das.

"We are praying to God that the Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh can live in peace every day in 2025," Das said.

Maintaining that life has been terrible for Bangladeshi



Hindus in 2024, he said "We hope that they will get justice and peace in 2025.

Bangladesh's minority Hindus, who constitute only about 8 per cent of the 170 million population, have faced hundreds of attacks in 50-odd districts of the country since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5.

Das had earlier demanded that the interim government in Bangladesh take strong action against the fundamen-talists fomenting trouble in

that country and arrest them so as to build confidence among the minorities. They have also demanded

the immediate release of jailed Hindu spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das and other monks arrested in Bangladesh. Das is scheduled to be produced before a Bangladesh

provisions have also been made University vice chancellor

rooms, laboratories, libraries happy as the central govern-

and hostels and making the ment approved the much-

court on January 2. The ISKCON Kolkata spokesperson said that he is hopeful that Das and the other three monks in jail in Bangladesh will get justice.

Odisha universities alloted Rs 676.70 crore under PM-USHA scheme Amity University contributes to biological payload aboard Spadex



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE





The Union government has

have been banned from

launched its first Biological Payload from India into space by ISRO through PSLV C60 Spadex Mission, from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, ISRO, Sriharikota, on Monday night. This was part of POEM-4 and the payload is Callus of Spinach (Spinacia Oleracia). According to a statement from the university, the colour changes and the lateral growth will be studied through onboard cameras and sensors. "This experiment is a first step towards space grown food which will be helpful in future

for manned missions and Bhartiya Antariksh Station. This important scientific research is headed by Dr. A. W. Santhosh Kumar, Dr. Sneha Gokani, Dr. R. Selvakumaran and Dr. Ravi Shankar from Amity University," the statement said.

Before the Gaganaut is placed

experiments.



in space, this biological payload addressing challenges related to will study the effect of microspace exploration and ensuring the success of future space gravity of growth and morphology of plant Callus. To missions.", said Dr. W. Selvamurthy, President, Amity support human exploration in Science, Technology & Innovation Foundation space, we need to provide fresh food as well and hence cultivation of plant needs to be (ASTIF). addressed through a series of

Amity Plant Experimental Module in Space (APEMS) is a Sharing his views, Dr. Ashok K. cutting-edge experimental Chauhan, Founder President of module designed to monitor how plants adapt to space con-Amity Education Group, remarked that this historic ditions, such as gravitational stress, and regulate their launch signifies Amity University's unwavering comgrowth direction in response to stimuli like gravity and light. It mitment to scientific innovaaims to explore the potential for tion and its contribution to make India, a Viksit Bharat. food and nutrition sustain-'The launch underscores the ability during prolonged space role of academic institutions in missions.

for infrastructural develop ment of various universities and colleges in Odisha under Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), state Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj

said here on Tuesday. Speaking to reporters here Suraj said that of Rs 676.70 crore, the state would bear Rs 268 crore (40 per cent) while the Centre would provide the remaining Rs 408.70 crore (60 per cent).

The fund has been approved under different components, including Multi Disciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERU), Grants to Strengthen Universities (GSU), Grants to Strengthen Colleges (GSC) and Gender Inclusion and Equity Initiatives (GIEI), and Management Monitoring Evaluation and Research (MMER), he said



He said Rs 100 crore each has been approved for Berhampur University; Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Éaripada; Ravenshaw University, Cuttack; and Sambalpur University, under the MERU component of the scheme. Similarly, under the GSU com-

ponent, Vikram Dev University, Jeypore, Odisha ponent, State Open University, Sambalpur, Kalahandi University, Bhawanipatna, Rajendra University, Bolangir

and Gangadhar Meher University, Sambalpur would get Rs 20 crore each for development of infrastructure, Suraj said.

The education ministry has also sanctioned Rs 5 crore each for 24 colleges under the GSC component, while five dis-Kandhamal, tricts Mayurbhanj, Bhadrak, Nabarangpur and Sambalpur would get Rs 10 crore each for carrying out gender inclusion and equity initiatives, he added. Under the PM-USHA scheme,

sons with disabilities, he said. Besides, the higher educational institutions can procure software and hardware to enhance digital education, the minister said.

for the development of class-

To attract more women students, the higher educational institutes can offer skill development, career buildings and self-defence training under the gender inclusion and equity initiative component of the central scheme.

With the implementation of the scheme, the NAAC ranking of the higher educational institutes would improve in coming years, he hoped.

The minister said that the government is working to implement the National Education Policy 2020 to make the educational institutions multi-disciplinary and students compatible with global standards. Meanwhile, Berhampur Berhampur

needed project development of the university." "The fund will help the university have better infrastructure and increase research output, putting the university on the map as a top-tier institution," she said, adding, the fund will be utilised over the next five years.

Geetanjali Dash said, "We are

Describing MERU as a big gift from the central government to the Berhampur University, which will celebrate its foundation day on January 2, local MP Pradeep Kumar Panigrahy thanked Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan for giving his nod to the release of much-needed fund to the university.

"We hope the university will use the fund to meet the goals in research, ranking and infrastructure and to make the institute competitive on the international level," the MP said

SpaDeX mission: Spacecraft placed in right orbit, ISRO eyes another feat

PTI SRIHARIKOTA, (ANDHRA PRADESH)

wo spacecraft that would aid ISRO in demonstrating space docking, a critical technology for future space missions, got separated successfully and were placed into the desired orbit late Monday, the country's space agency said. "PSLV C60 Spadex mission is accomplished with respect to Spadex A&B satellites," said

Mission Director M Jayakumar. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief S Somanath said the rocket has placed the satellites in the right orbit of 475 km circular orbit, after over 15 minutes of flight. "So, as far as we are concerned, the rocket has placed the spacecraft in the right orbit and the SpaDeX satellites have moved one behind the other, and over the period of time, it will pick up further distance, travel

about 20 km away and then the

rendezvous and docking process will start. And we hope that the docking

process can happen in another week and the nominal time is going to be approximately January 7," he said in his address from the Mission Control Centre.

tant part is the POEM-4 with 24 payloads from startups, industries, academia and also from ISRO centres, he said. These are scheduled to be fired on Tuesday morning. Scientists would work through the night to ensure that the POEM-4 reaches the desired orbit level to perform the operation, Somanath said.

Later, talking to reporters at the

In this mission, the very impor-

Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Somanath said the PSLV-C60 mission placed the two SpaDeX satellites weighing 220kg in a circular orbit and 475 km as against the projected 470 km and this mission also has the

POEM-4 which has 24 payloads to perform research and development.

"They are payloads and are not satellites. They are going to be attached to the fourth stage (of the PSLV rocket) for conducting experiments over the next two months. The upper stage of the PSLV rocket will be brought down to a lowered orbit to 350 km and that process is currently going on. After that, we will have many activities to continue," Somanath, also the Secretary, Department of Space, said.

On the Space Docking Experiment, he said the scientists would have many operations from December 31 at the ISTRAC Bengaluru and he expected that the docking condition 'possibly on January 7'. "So, we will be able to see that from the Control Centre, ISTRAC, Bengaluru. All those activities of docking, including telecasting of the onboard



images from the camera of the docking processes," he said. Somanath, flanked by SpaDeX Project Director N Surendran, Javakumar and Directors of the various Centre said ISRO was "very proud" of this accomplishment and expressed hope that the SpaDeX mission's objective can be achieved in the coming days.

"Really important mission for us, this you know, with the space sector reforms, and expansion of space activities. Then we have human space flight programmes, building space stations etc. This (Monday's) mission is so critical for us to work on future missions like the Chandrayaan-4, missions to the Moon as

well," he said.

"I believe this is not the first SpaDeX and there will be many more SpaDeX varieties including complex versions of docking systems in the coming days," he said.

"We had two launches of the PSLV from the same launch pad that is the first launch pad in December. So, after the first launch (on December 5 for PSLV-C59/Proba-3 mission), the Satish Dhawan Space Centre team was quick in raising to the occasion (for Monday's mission)," he said. Surendran said, "I would like to congratulate the PSLV team for the successive successful launch of PSLV in a month, it is a record, we have also placed our twin babies in a perfectly circular orbit, as per our requirement."I am happy to say that our solar panels are successfully deployed and the spacecraft are on their journey and holding their wings towards the docking and it is expected to happen around January first week," ĥe said.

As you are aware the space sector is going through a phase to enable private players to meet the growing demands, as per the policy guidelines, SpaDeX was assembled and integrated here for the first time, he said. Dubbed as a prelude to the ISRO setting up its own Space Station by 2035, the PSLV-C60 mission would also make India join an elite club in achieving this feat which is expected to take place in the coming days.

The 44.5-metre-tall rocket carried two spacecraft --Spacecraft A and B, each weighing 220 kg which would help in space docking, satellite servicing and interplanetary missions

After the culmination of the 25-hour countdown which commenced on Sunday, the rocket lifted off at 10 pm from the First Launch Pad at this spaceport, emanating thick orange-coloured fumes and thunderous sound in the island, located about 135 km east of Chennai. According to ISRO scientists,

the two spacecraft-Spacecraft A (SDX01) or the 'Chaser' and Spacecraft B (SDX02) or the Target' would be merged together later at an altitude of about 470 km after travelling at the same speed and distance. By mastering the docking technologies, ISRO is set to enhance its operational flexibility and also expand its mission hori-

zons This technology is essential for some of India's space ambitions like Indian on the Moon, getting samples from the Moon (Chandrayaan-4 mission), and building and operating the Bharatiya Antariksh Station. The others to achieve this technological feat are China, Russia and the US.

the pioneer

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A wish list for 2025

As we reflect on the year that has passed and welcome the new

one, let us resolve to make this a year of progress and unity

s we welcome year 2025, the world stands at the cusp of opportunities and challenges. The new year offers a chance to reflect, reset, and reimagine the future. Amidst the advancements and setbacks of recent years, 2025 should be a time for hope, action and collaboration. Here is a wish list for a better world and an earnest appeal to global and Indian leaders to strive for transformative change. The urgency of addressing climate change cannot be overstated. We hope for concrete actions to reduce carbon emissions, promote renewable energy, and protect biodiversity. Let 2025 be the year when words transform into impactful deeds. The pandemic underscored the disparities in healthcare access. A global commitment to equitable healthcare systems, and increased investments in public health are essential. Bridging the digital divide, improving infrastructure and making quality education accessible to marginalised communities should be a universal priority. As AI and other technologies advance, their applica-



tion should focus on solving pressing global issuesfrom poverty to climate resilience-rather than exac-

erbating inequalities. The crises we face are interconnected and so must be our solutions. A concerted effort is required under the UN to bring an end to wars raging in Ukraine and West Asia. The untold misery of Gaza people must end. All involved must work to deescalate tensions and bring about a lasting peace in the region which has seen enough misery and human tragedy. Policies should reflect empathy and foresight, ensuring that no one is left behind. India, with its diversity and potential, holds a unique position in shaping the global future. As we

step into 2025, Indian leaders must focus on rural development, job creation and support for small businesses to bridge economic disparities. They should invest in vocational training and innovation to prepare the youth for a competitive global market. Ambitious climate targets must be implemented, alongside enhanced urban planning for sustainable cities and promotion of water and energy conservation. Transparency, accountability and citizen participation must remain central to policy-making, fostering trust and unity. The fringe elements must be brought to mainstream and efforts must be stepped up in places like Manipur to bring about a lasting peace. The government and the citizens alike must work to have a country which is as per the wishes of our Constitution makers—a country which ensures dignity, liberty and freedom for all and no section of society is alienated. The people on the fringe-tribals and dalits need to be given their due and efforts must be made in that direction. The minorities must not feel alienated and targeted. They deserve their due respect and dignity. All religious issues must be settled amicable as per the law. The democratic institutions must be strengthened and parliamentary democracy must work for the people in the right earnest. Wishing all our readers a very happy new year!



A turning point in Taliban politics



NISHAKANT OJHA

The assassination of Maulvi Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, a key leader in the Haggani network, has sent shockwaves across Afghanistan and the region

he assassination of Maulvi Khalil-ur-Rahman Haqqani, the Taliban's Minister for Refugees and a senior figure in the Haqqani network, has exposed significant fractures within the Taliban leadership and deepened the complexities of regional geopolitics. Claimed by the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (ISKP), the attack not only highlights the Taliban's internal divisions but also reshapes the broader strategic landscape, especially for India. On December 11, 2024, Khalil Haqqani was killed in a highprofile suicide bombing in Kabul. This incident underscored the Taliban's failure to ensure internal security and revealed growing tensions between its Kandahar faction, led by Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, and the Haqqani network, headed by Sirajuddin Haqqani. These tensions have been fueled by the Haqqanis' perception of neglect or even sabotage by the Kandahar faction. In response to this crisis, Sirajuddin Haqqani convened an emergency meeting in Gardez with key network leaders to address security breaches and the escalating threat posed by ISKP. This development points to potential fragmentation within the Taliban, which carries significant implications for regional stability and India's security. A fragmented Taliban could

destabilize Afghanistan, creating fertile ground for extremist groups like ISKP. This faction's hostility toward both the Taliban and regional actors, including India, raises the specter of increased attacks targeting Indian interests. The resultant instability might also spill over into Pakistan, indirectly affecting India's border security, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir.

Another concern lies in the potential strengthening of the Pakistan-Taliban nexus. alliance could align with akistan's historical ties to the Haqqani network could enable it to leverage this faction against Indian activities in Afghanistan, including infrastructure and

development projects. Such a scenario could escalate cross-border terrorism, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir, and erode India's strategic influence in Afghanistan. Indian investments in key infrastructure projects like the Zaranj-Delaram Highway and the Chabahar Port route may face heightened risks amidst this instability.

India also faces an increased terror threat as ISKP may collaborate with groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which are active in Pakistan. Such alliances could intensify attacks on Indian targets, while prolonged conflict in Afghanistan might radicalize vulnerable populations across the region, including within India.

Regionally, these developments complicate India's diplomatic landscape. Iran, for instance, might shift its focus to countering Afghan instability, potentially undermining its collaboration with India on projects like Chabahar Port. Similarly, a stronger Pakistan-Haqqani Chinas ambitions under the Belt and Road Initiative, further sidelining India in the region. Globally, Pakistan's backing



FOR INDIA, THE ASSASSINATION OF

KHALIL HAQQANI SIGNIFIES A CRITICAL MOMENT TO RECALIBRATE ITS APPROACH. INDIA MUST **BOLSTER ITS** INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES AND BORDER SECURITY,

PARTICULARLY IN ations SENSITIVE AREAS LIKE JAMMU AND KASHMIR

of the Haqqani network provides it with a lever to influence Afghan politics but risks alienating the Kandahar faction and exacerbating internal Taliban conflicts. ISKP's growing power, meanwhile, poses a direct challenge to South Asian security, threatening to destabilize the region and affect India's geopolitical interests. For India, the assassination of Khalil Haqqani signifies a critical moment to recalibrate its approach. India must bolster its intel-

ligence capabilities and border security, particularly in sensitive areas like Jammu and Kashmir. Strengthening partnerships with Iran, Central Asia, and Russia could counterbalance Pakistan's influence in Afghanistan. Coordinating with international allies to combat ISKP and other extremist groups will also be vital. Furthermore, India must protect its investments in Afghanistan through global partnerships and maintain diplomatic efforts via multilateral platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the United for regional destabilization. For India, this evolving scenario demands vigilance, proactive diplomacy, and strengthened security measures to safeguard its interests amid shifting geopolitical realities.

For India, the implications are profound, ranging from the potential rise of terrorism to a weakening of its strategic foothold in Afghanistan. The escalating instability could embolden extremist groups like ISKP, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Jaish-e-Mohammed, increasing the risk of attacks targeting India. To address these chal-

lenges, India must adopt a multi-pronged strategy. Enhancing intelligence capabilities, securing its borders, and deepening ties with Iran, Central Asia, and Russia are crucial steps. Engaging multilateral platforms to combat the ISKP threat and protect investments is equally vital. The situation demands vigilance and proactive measures to safeguard India's interests in an increasingly volatile region, ensuring its strategic and security objectives remain intact amidst snifting dynamics. (The writer is an eminent expert on counter terrorism in West Asia; views are personal)

The killing of Khalil Haqqani has revealed the fragile balance within the Taliban and underscored the potential

THE EDITOR

New year resolutions: Small steps, lasting change



O P SINGH

A meaningful new year vow isn't about dramatic reinvention; it is about mindful reflection, small adjustments and cultivating habits that truly last

n every new year eve a lot of people take a vow to make a new beginning. Families come together, friends exchange greetings, and bold resolutions quietly take shape. "I'll wake up at 5 a.m.," someone might vow, or "This year, I'll get back in shape." However, by February, alarms are snoozed, fitness goals abandoned, and life returns to its

familiar rhythm. Why do resolutions often fail? They are usually ambitious yet unrealistic, conceived more in the excitement of the moment than with a long-term perspective. A meaningful New Year doesn't demand grand reinvention; it thrives on small, deliberate adjustments-holding on to what works, letting go of what doesn't, and fostering habits that last.

The New Year feels unique due to the "fresh start effect," a concept psychologists use to describe how temporal milestones—such as January 1, birthdays, or even a new week—create a mental reset. These milestones give the illusion of starting afresh, prompting us to buy planners or sign up for gym member-



ships. But enthusiasm alone doesn't guarantee success. Without reflection and structure, even the most wellintentioned plans falter.Reflection is the starting point-not the kind that dwells on failures but one that evaluates life with curiosity. What brought joy or progress last year? Perhaps it was reconnecting with family, starting an evening walk routine, or improving time man-

agement. What left you feeling drained? Overcommitting to work, excessive screen time, or trying to please everyone might top the list. Psychologists recommend "self-distanced reflection," where you analyse your life as if observing someone else's. Why did this person abandon their plans? Why did they agree to activities they didn't enjoy? This detached perspective helps pinpoint habits to retain and those to discard. Even with clarity, life is seldom linear. Setbacks are inevitable, but resilience-the ability to adapt and recover-makes all the difference. Resilience isn't innate; it can be nurtured through practices like gratitude, mindfulness, and

reframing challenges. Gratitude shifts focus to what's working. Recognizing small positives rewires the brain to spot opportunities over obstacles. Mindfulness, on the other hand, anchors the mind in the presentwhether during a heartfelt conversation or a quiet morn-

> These practices reduce stress and enhance focus. Reframing failure is equally crucial. Unmet resolutions aren't defeats; they're feedback. Adjusting goals is far more effective than abandoning them altogether. Strong relationships are another cornerstone of happiness.

This insight resonates deeply in India, where family bonds and social networks are integral. However, maintaining

these connections in today's fast-paced world requires conscious effort. Being present is challenging in a world of constant notifications, endless emails, and overflowing to-do lists. Yet studies show that mind-wandering-even toward pleasant thoughtscorrelates with reduced happiness. The richest moments are those we fully engage in, whether during a family meal, a morning walk, or a simple act of kindness. Adaptability is another essential skill. Life rarely unfolds as planned, and the ability to pivot determines how well we navigate change. After reflection and building resilience, action must follow. Instead of sweeping declarations like "I'll meditate for an hour daily" focus on creating systems. Systems grounded in routine, rather than fleeting motivation, are more sustainable. The New Year isn't magical. It's a psy-

chological cue to pause and reassess, but its real value lies

in how you use it. Progress,

not perfection, is the key to a

(The writer is author and

DGP and head, Haryana

Bureau; views are personal)

State Narcotic Control

fulfilling year.

in the 5-match series. The match played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground saw Australia take seven wickets after tea on day five to secure a famous win. Despite a valiant effort from Yashasvi Jaiswal, İndia's batting collapse on the final day sealed their defeat. Meanwhile, Australia has bettered their chances to face South Africa in the WTC Final at Lord's next year with the win. The Proteas have booked their spot in the WTC final after a thrilling two-wicket win over Pakistan on Sunday. Interestingly, the Australian last wicket fought hard for adding more than 60 runs, whereas after the final day tea break India's last seven wickets tumbled for just 34 runs in 20.3 overs.

AUSTRALIA DEFEATS INDIA

Madam -- India's hopes for the World Test

Championship final took a major hit with

a big loss to Australia in the Boxing Day

Test at Melbourne, when Australia beat

India by 184 runs in the fourth Test of the

Border-Gavaskar series to take a 2-1 lead

Wicket had no devils. This fragile nature of the Indian team is very discouraging. Fighting till the last ball - spirit is missing. And we are now blaming the third umpire for Jaiswal's out to malign the Aussies victory and India's shocking performance. But the true cricket lovers are completely agreeing with the Indian skipper Rohit Sharma about Jaiswal's controversial dismissal at the post-match press conference: 'Look, I really don't know what to make of that because the technology didn't show anything. With the naked eye, it seemed that he did touch something. I don't know how the umpires want to use the technology, but in all fairness, he did touch the ball? Now it is the time to assess Team India's performance. Actually, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja passed their prime sometime ago but they won't gracefully retire like Ashwin. Please drop them out to build a future team. We only do hero worshipping- only to be disappointed by our so-called heroes. Indian fans and media need to immediately stop making celebrities of hero worship. Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Elon Musk stands with immigrants



rift has emerged among the supporters of US President-elect Donald Trump over the contentious issue of immigration. The faction spearheaded by billionaire Elon Musk and fellow entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy contrasts sharply with Trump's MAGA (Make America Great Again) base, which firmly endorses his stringent anti-immigration policies. Amid the simmering row, the President-elect seems to be aligning with

STOP POLITICAL BLAME GAME

Madam- It is indeed a matter of concern to one and all that rape being predominantly a social issue is playing in the hands of political parties to settle political scores over the other parties. The recent incident in Anna University abjectly exposes again the lapses in handling such a serious issue by the government, university authority, the police department and also the political parties. As a matter of fact, for most of the political parties addressing rape and prevalence of drugs, especially in the educational institutions, it is not in their active agenda. BJP sits muted on the shabby happenings in Manipur but cries foul over such incidents taking place in the states ruled by other parties.

Manipur has even seen women being paraded nude in public. Such incidents must have taken place during the tenure of the other parties also, who are now out with fierce protest programmes. Every criminal claims support of some political party or the other to escape punishments. The existing system of dealing with such shabby incidents needs reconsideration to

Musk and other supporters in the tech industry over the immigration visa issue. Those who claim to be 'natives' of the country themselves have foreign roots

It is meritocracy that has thrived in that country over the centuries and that has made America the world's most powerful nation by attracting top talents in many fields from across the globe. However, many people may claim that the next century belongs to China or some other country, the fact is that behind all modern day tech innovations and inventions have all been the products greatly attributable to the 'American Dream.' That dream will keep the United States of America as the land of opportunities for a long time to come. That is what will attract the best brains from across the world to sail the oceans to reach the shores of America and create new ideas and inno-

vations that the world will need to use N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

make them more foolproof. More than deterrent acts combined efforts of all institutions and socially conscious individuals, irrespective of political lenience should make sustained efforts to tide over this menace.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

JIMMY CARTER PASSES AWAY

Madam - The 39th president of the United States has died at age 100. Jimmy Carter was a peanut farmer and US Navy lieutenant before going into politics, eventually serving one term as governor of Georgia and as president of the United States from 1977 to 1981. He was the only former US president to reach 100 years old. He championed the human rights at the centre of US foreign policy, Carter forged a still-standing peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. He will always be remembered for his key policy decisions making and action-driven blueprint into the execution. Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur Nagar

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the pioneer

FIRSTCOLUMIN EMPOWERING ADOLESCENTS WITH SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Spirituality can help adolescents face life's challenges with resilience



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

e all know that as per the laws of nature, we live our lives through various stages such as infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. Of these life stages, the most adventurous and interesting stage is adolescence which represents an inner emotional upheaval, a struggle between the eternal human wish to cling to the past and the equally powerful wish to get on with the future. It's indeed a very critical phase in the life of every human being because, in this phase, there is intense growth not only physically but also morally, cognitively, emotionally and intellectually.

Hence, in this stage of life, parents elders or peers must provide adolescents with proper guidance, and support and create an environment to facilitate their holistic development. The primary goal of every adolescent is to achieve complete independence, for which they often seek a lot of space and freedom. They start to think more rationally and abstractly as they form their moral code. In the process, they may often become assertive, rebellious, non-conformist, sell-opinionated and aloof. Therefore, they need to be guided and supported with great sensitivity and maturity.



To attain a well-integrated maturity, a series of factors need to be addressed for adolescents, like they need to acquire self-certainty, be ready to try out new roles, strive for achievement, acquire a self-identity, balance their rights with responsibilities and identify personal goals and ideals. One should understand that while dealing with the problems of adolescents, one should try and step into the young person's world and treat them with discerning respect rather than suspicion. It always helps when we share their joys and sorrows and genuinely address their questions whilst engaging them in moral and spiritual discipline.

It is so unfortunate that in the formative stage of adolescence when children need a strong sense of direction & guidance, there is no source for them to get it. The family is no longer the strong institution it used to be. Hence, under this scenario, adolescents try to find support from other means such as their peer group, TV, internet, books etc.

Tempted by the glamour and gloss that is promoted by the media, there is a constant conflict that adolescents go through to measure up to their peer group's values and to cope with the ideals and the reality of life. Unfortunately, in the absence of proper guidance, it is natural that many adolescents are pulled into crime, abuse and drug addiction. While family, educational institutions and social groups do have a major role to play in guiding and supporting adolescents, spirituality lends a deeper and stronger basis for forming a clear identity and value system upon which the edifice of a strong character can be raised. Since spirituality touches on the core goodness of every human being, it is the most potent tool for guiding all sections of society. The process of empowering adolescents begins with the practice of treating them with respect and facilitating their growth in such a way that they can realise their hidden potential. So, instead of looking at them as helpless or ignorant beings who need to be chastised and controlled, spiritual treatment calls for accepting them as potential carriers of higher wisdom, pure values, fresh ideas and skills that need to be channelised in the proper direction. Such a growth process is driven by their inner self, gently guided by wisdom and love rather than a forced development compelled by insecurity, fear and false expectations. Remember! If adolescents are motivated to explore spirituality at their age they will be equipped with excellent powers to cope with any life situation and excel in their chosen roles, thereby living a quality life.

Capitalising on 'China Plus One': Will India step up?



analysis 07

As global trade dynamics shift under Donald Trump's policies, India stands to gain from the move by multinational companies to diversify supply chains beyond China

eleasing a report the 'Trade Watch', on December 25, 2024, NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has suggested that trade policies under US President-elect Donald Trump could result in a potential economic boom for India, driven by significant trade diversion in global trade. He said 'Whatever Trump has announced so far, which is likely to come up... there are opportunities. We are the man at first slip. The ball is coming in our direction. Whether we hold the catch or drop it is for us to decide. There will be huge disruption, and if we prepare for it, there will be a massive boom due to trade diversion?

This comes after Trump announced additional tariffs on imports from its biggest trading partners - 25 per cent on Canada and Mexico if they fail to check illegal immigration and drug trade. He also announced a general 10 per cent tariff by the US on all imports and a 60 per cent tariff on imports from China. Meanwhile, the US has also announced restrictions on the export of computer chip-making equipment, software, and high-bandwidth memo-ry chips to China. Trump has also threatened to impose 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries if they try to undermine the US dollar. The US is the biggest importer in the world with a mammoth import valued at US\$ 3200 billion during CY 2022. During that year, its import from China alone was US\$536.3 billion which works out to 16.7 percent of total goods imports.

US goods imports from Canada and Mexico were US\$436.6 billion and US\$454.8 billion or 13.6 per cent and 14.2 per cent respectively. În sharp contrast, US goods imports from India during 2022 were US\$85.5 billion or a meagre 2.6 per cent of its total goods import. Now, if Trump executes his threat of imposing a 60 per cent additional tariff on imports from China, this will lead to an exorbitant increase in the cost of the latter's goods to American consumers thereby rendering them uncompetitive vis-à-vis similar goods coming from other exporting countries such as India. This should help India capture a big slice of the US import bas-ket currently served by China. This should be possible even if Trump imposes a 10 per cent additional tariff on all its imports including from India. As for Trump's threat to impose 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS countries (India is one of them) in the event of the latter putting into action their so-called 'de-dollarization' plan (De-dollarization is a process of moving away from the world's reliance on the U.S. dollar as the chief reserve currency), this is theoretical At the 16th summit held on 22-24 October 2024 in Kazan, BRICS leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, publicly voiced their commitment to jointly introduce an alternative payment system that wouldn't be dependent on the U.S. dollar. The feasibility of implementing this idea anytime soon is suspect. Second, the US is also hell-bent on taking measures that will undermine the capabilities of China to



boost the production of its goods such as electronics (including smartphones), automobiles etc in which it has a comparative advantage. So, it has imposed restrictions on the export of computer chip-making equip-ment, software, and high-band-width memory chips to China. As a result, China not have much surplus to send to the US (and other countries), and India will have more space to boost its export of electronics, automobiles etc.Third, European Union (EU) countries have also imposed tariffs on Chinese EVs (electric vehicles) and solar equipment. Moreover, the multinational companies (MNCs) headquartered in the US and EU countries are shifting their factories away from China, thanks to growing geopolitical uncertainties, the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, cyber-security, and rule-of-law concerns, ris-ing labour costs in China etc.

ing to substantial surge in their exports especially in high-growth sectors, India has lagged. Although India has achieved production gains, they have not significantly contributed to domestic value addition, unlike

its peer economies. In India's high-tech sector, while exports surged by 350 per cent between 2017 and 2023, domestic value-added output fell by 18 per cent. In manufacturing, by contrast, during this period, even as domestic value-added grew at 26 per cent, it still trailed behind merchandise export growth of 44 per cent.In electronics, India's share in US imports has grown from 0.2 per cent in 2017 to 2.1 per cent in 2023, courtesy of, the government's push toward hightech exports. However, competi-tors like Vietnam, Taiwan,

Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) etc which help the country to better integrate into the global economy and benefit from expanded trade opportunities by facilitating access to mar-kets of their member countries duty-free or at close to zero tariffs. Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute nearly 40 per cent of exports. But, India not being a part of such trade alliances, they are denied an opportunity to boost exports. At the same time, they suffer due to high protective tariffs on the import of basic materials such as steel. A 25 per cent hike in import duties on steel products asked by the Ministry of Steel - will impart a deadly blow to the MSMEs.

There are four major reasons as Malaysia, and Thailand domi- to why costs in India are high. First, businesses in basic materi

(Writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal) COMING IN OUR DIRECTION IS A HIGH-COST DOMESTIC ENVIRONMENT WHICH MAKES

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OVERARCHING

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CATCH DESPITE

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AND THE BALL

FIRST SLIP

REASON

BEHIND

INDIA

OUR PRODUCTS UNCOMPETITIVE IN THE EXPORT

AS WELL AS DOMESTIC MARKET

All of this reinforces a case for 'China Plus One', a potent business strategy that involves diversifying manufacturing and sourcing away from China aimed at reducing the risk of over-reliance on China for manufacturing and sourcing. Is India ready to capitalise? None other than NITI Aayog's

This opens up opportunities as

these MNCs can relocate their

production bases to India.

'Trade Watch' report says that even as many Asian countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, table a proposal for a 25 per cent Cambodia, and Malaysia have hike in steel import duties. It is emerged as bigger beneficiaries also a major factor behind India's of the 'China Plus One' strategy reluctance to join major multilateral trade agreements, such as the - enabled by factors such as cheaper labour, simplified tax Regional Comprehensive laws, lower tariffs, signing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) – lead-Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Comprehensive and

nate, with each holding a sub-stantially higher market share in US electronics imports.

als and feedstock such as copper, zinc, aluminium, oil and gas, An overarching reason behind chemicals, petrochemicals etc are natural monopolies enabling India 'dropping the catch despite the man at first slip and the ball them to set high prices. Second, coming in our direction' is a tax rates are pretty high particularly when it comes to petrolehigh-cost domestic environment (this is despite a host of incenum products which are still taxed under the pre-GST regime. By tives given under the Production increasing movement costs, these Linked Incentive or PLI schemes to industries) which makes our increase the cost of all goods products uncompetitive in the across the board. export as well as domestic market. It also explains why our industries demand high protective tariffs and government yields; for instance, it has on the

Third, power tariffs are exorbitant thanks to excessive State controls on power distribution companies. Finally, industries operate in highly interest-rate environments. India can catapult itself to the position of fully leveraging the 'China Plus One' strategy only if it effectively addresses the present high-cost

syndrome

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

a unified currency represent

De-dollarisation: A bold step toward economic equity or a path fraught with uncertainty

The global economy stands at a crossroads as the concept of 'de-dollarisation' gains momentum, sparking debates about the future of international trade and finance

◄he global economy is currently rife with discussions surrounding a potential 'de-dollarisation, which pertains to the anticipated transition away from the supremacy of the US dollar in international trade and finance.

Advocates argue that it could stabilise economies, reduce inflation, and ultimately relieve financial pressure on everyday individuals. However, is this change truly the solution to the world's economic problems, or does it introduce a new set of challenges?

De-dollarisation refers to the reduction of dependence on the US dollar in the realms of global trade, investments, and reserves. For many years, the dollar has held its posi-



RACHNA LAKHPATI

tion as the leading reserve currency globally, influencing markets and moulding economic strategies across nations. Nevertheless, numerous countries have begun to challenge this reliance on the dollar. The drive towards de-dollarization arises from a combina- could offer a pathway to sta-

dependence on the dollar.

tion of elements: an increasbilise prices for traded goods through a singular global ing yearning for financial independence, the unpre-dictability of US policies, currency unit.

Countries that rely on and the necessity for a differimporting oil or other essenent system that is more tial items ought to engage in resilient against sanctions and market instability. negotiations for fixed prices, free from the influence of Several nations, particularly market fluctuations driven by those within economic the volatility of the dollar alliances like BRICS (Brazil, rate. Inflation, frequently Russia, India, China, and influenced by fluctuations South Africa), have put forth the concept of establishing a in local currency, could, in principle, be mitigated withnew shared currency to facilin a cohesive framework. itate trade and lessen their The reasoning is straightforward: when trade and pricing Undoubtedly, a significant appeal of a unified currency frameworks are synchronised with a single currency, fluclies in its potential to mitigate tuations in the dollar will inflation. By minimising the likely exert a diminished volatility of exchange rates impact from external shocks. and reducing reliance on Having more stable prices for fluctuations in the dollar, it essential items would alleviate the financial strain on



them to provide savings to

Nevertheless, the transition

to a unified currency faces

several challenges. A cohesive

monetary system requires

customers.

families. A unified currency could simplify many aspects their of daily life for the average person. Crossing border lines may appear quite effortless, as there will be no need for currency exchange. Global enterprises will thrive in an exceptional coordination among countries with diverse environment where stable economic priorities, growth financial conditions enable rates, and fiscal strategies.

Creating confidence and setting up governance frame-works for the currency would present a significant challenge.

currency could unfairly benefit more robust economies, putting smaller or developing countries at risk. Without the ability to modify their currency values, nations may find it challenging to address specific economic crises effectively. In the immediate term, this may unsettle global financial systems, leading to instability as markets adjust. Although the dollar's strength might not be flawless, it serves as a stabilising force in a tumultuous global economy. The ideas of de-dollarisadaring approaches to addressing enduring eco-nomic challenges. The outcome of lower inflation and an improved quality of life hinges on the ability of nations to collaborate effectively and create frameworks that prioritise fairness and stability. However, the journey towards this transformation is set to be long and complex. The discussions it has ignited suggest a more equitable economic future. Whether they evolve into genuine transformation is something only time will reveal-or if the world navigates towards fresh financial horizons is yet to be determine.

(The writer is a freelance tion and the potential rise of writer; views are personal)

Critics contend that a unified

world 08



officers into Seoul streets.

with North Korea.

him.

determine whether to dismiss

Yoon as president or reinstate

Experts said Yoon is likely to

ignore the warrants. He's

South Korean court issues warrants to detain impeached President Yoon, search his office

South Korean court issued warrants on Tuesday to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol and search his office and residence over his short-lived

declaration of martial law. The country's anti-corruption agency said it is investigating whether his declaration amounted to rebellion. But experts still say there is little chance of detention or searches unless Yoon is formally removed from office.

The Seoul Western District Court issued warrants to detain Yoon and to search the presidential office and residence in central Seoul, according to a statement from the Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and military authorities.

Under South Korean law, the presidential security service has blocked attempts to search leader of a rebellion can face the death penalty or life imprishis office and residence citing onment if convicted. Yoon has a law that bans raids on sites presidential immunity from with state secrets. A lawyer for Yoon rejected the most criminal prosecution, but the privilege does not extend to anti-corruption agency's allegations of rebellion or trearequest for warrants on

Yoon's powers have been sus-

pended since the opposition-controlled National Assembly lion charges.

The anti-corruption agency said it has no immediate plans voted to impeach him on December 14 over his imposion how to proceed with the tion of martial law, which drew warrants. hundreds of troops and police

"Unless Yoon voluntarily lets them detain him, there is no way to detain him," said Choi Yoon has argued his decree was a legitimate act of governance, Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership. "Should investicalling it a warning to the main liberal opposition gators have hand-to-hand Democratic Party, which he has called "a monster" and "antifights with the security serstate forces" that has used its vice?

Choi said that investigators were still likely to visit Yoon's legislative majority to impeach top officials, undermine the residence to show they are government's budget, and strictly and fairly carrying out which he claims sympathises their work. The Constitutional Court is to

Park Sung-min, president of Seoul-based political consult-ing firm MIN Consulting, said the push for an arrest warrant is likely an attempt to pressure Yoon to cooperate with investigations.

ignored repeated requests by Former President Park Geuninvestigative authorities to appear for questioning, and the hye, who was thrown out of office in 2017 following an impeachment over a corrup tion scandal, also refused to meet with prosecutors while in office. She underwent questioning by them and was arrested after the Constitutional Court removed her from office. Monday, arguing it lacked legal Yoon's imposition of martial authority to investigate rebellaw lasted only six hours but

martial law enactment Yoon has claimed he wasn't try ing to stop the functioning of the assembly, saying that the troops were sent to maintain inside".

Supporters of impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol stage a rally near the presidential residence in Seoul. South Korea. The letters read 'Oppose Impeachment', and 'Arrest Lee Jae-myung'. AP/PTI

triggered huge political turmoil, halting high-level diplomacy and rattling financial markets.

troops and police, enough lawmakers managed to enter the

Despite Yoon's deployment of assembly chamber to overturn it unanimously. Yoon's defence minister, police

chief and several top military commanders have already been arrested over their roles in the order, and also denied planning to arrest politicians. But comments by now-arrested commanders of military units sent to the assembly have contradicted this claim. Kwak Jongkeun, the commander of the Army Special Warfare Command, testified at the National Assembly that Yoon called on troops to "quickly knock down the door and drag out the lawmakers who are Kwak said he did not carry out Yoon's orders.

The country's political crisis deepened last Friday, when the Democratic Party and other small opposition parties voted to impeach acting President Han Duck-soo as well over wrangling over his refusal to fill in three justice seats at the Constitutional Court. Observers say adding more justices could affect the court's ruling on Yoon's impeachment

The deputy prime minister and finance minister, Choi Sang-mok, has become South Korea's new interim leader

healthcare in north-west

England; Nandini Das, Professor of Early Modern

Literature and Culture and

Tutorial Fellow at Exeter

Elon Musk softens stand on H-1B visa programme, calls for 'major reforms'

PTI WASHINGTON

After vowing to "go to war" Ato defend the H-1B visa $% \left({{{\rm{T}}_{{\rm{T}}}} \right) = {{\rm{T}}_{{\rm{T}}}} \right)$ programme, tech billionaire Elon Musk has softened his stand on the issue by calling for reforms in the "broken" system used to bring skilled foreign workers to the US.

Musk, along with Indian-American tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, has been tapped by Trump to lead his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Last week, Musk argued that foreign workers were needed for tech companies like Musk's SpaceX and Tesla

"The reason I'm in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla and hundreds of other companies that made America strong is because of H-1B," Musk last

week wrote on X.

Musk, however, appeared to retract his earlier statement in response to a post by an X user who said America needed to be a destination for the world's most "elite talent" but argued the current H-1B system was the US. not the solution.

'Easily fixed by raising the minimum salary significantly and adding a yearly cost for maintaining the H-1B, making it materially more expensive to hire from overseas than domestically. I've been very clear that the programme is broken and needs major reform," Musk on Sunday said in a post on X.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

Technology companies depend backing from president-elect on it to hire tens of thousands Donald Trump whose first of employees each year from administration restricted the countries like India and China. programme in 2020, arguing The tech industry has long called for more H-1B visas to that it allows businesses to replace Americans with lowerattract highly skilled workers to paid foreign workers. However, Trump recently said:

Musk, who was once on an H-'I've always liked the visas, I 1B visa and whose electric have always been in favour of the visas. That's why we have vehicle company Tesla has hired workers using the pro-gramme, defended the tech them? Musk has been consistently posting on X in favour of the industry's need to hire foreign programme. workers. There is a permanent shortage "Anyone - of any race, creed or nationality - who came to of excellent engineering talent. It is the fundamental limiting America and worked like hell factor in Silicon Valley," Musk to contribute to this country wrote on December 25 on X. will forever have my respect America is the land of freedom Several of Trump's supporters

and opportunity. Fight with every fibre of your being to keep it that way!" he wrote on X on December 28.

Musk's statement also received immigration.

PTI 📕 LONDON

ommunity leaders, cam-Cpaigners, academics and medics are among over 30 Indian-origin professionals to be recognised in King Charles' 2025 New Year Honours List released in London in time for New Year's Eve.

Conservative member of Parliament of Sri Lankan and ical and public service along with recently resigned England men's football team manager Gareth Southgate, for services

London Mayor Sadiq Khan and former West Midlands Mayor Andy Street are also among those receiving Knighthoods among more than 1,200 recipients on the 2025 honours list released on

Indian-origin 'unsung heroes' on King Charles' 2025 New Year Honours List

dation to role models in sport, healthcare, academia and voluntary service. "Every day, ordinary people go out and do extraordinary things for their communities," UK Prime Minister Keir

Starmer said. Ranil Malcolm Jayawardena, a

The list, released annually by to the game. the Cabinet Office in the name of the British monarch, includes Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBEs) for Satwant Kaur Deol for services to further education, Charles Pritam Singh

Dhanowa OBE for services to Monday night across all sectors, with particular commen-Competition Law, and surgeon Professor Sneh Khemka for services to healthcare, science and innovation and tech-

> nology. Others of Indian heritage receiving CBEs include Leena Nair, Global Chief Executive Officer of Chanel, for services to the retail and consumer sector; Mayank Prakash, President of the British Computing Society, for services to the advancement of technology professionals; and Purnima Murthy Tanuku OBE, chief executive of the National Day Nurseries Association, for services to early years education.

Among the 2025 Indian-origin Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBEs) include cardiologist Professor Sanjay Arya for services to black and minority ethnic doctors and

College, University of Oxford, for services to interdisciplinary research in the humanities and to public engagement; Tarsem Singh Dhaliwal, CEO of Iceland Foods, for services to the Welsh economy, retail and charity; Jasmine Dotiwala for services to broadcasting, music, equality, diversity and inclusion; Monica Kohli, President of Women's International Shipping and Trading Association UK and Chair of the Indian Maritime Association UK, for services to promoting diversity in the maritime industry; and Soumya Majumdar from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for services to law and order.

Bangladesh's interim govt to announce 'proclamation of July uprising'

PTI DHAKA

and immigration hardliners

have been increasingly pushing for scrapping the H-1B visa

programme amid debate over

The interim government in be based on the views of

Central

Yunus' official Jamuna resi- mation of the July uprising on destroyed the aspirations of the ing an absolute majority. dence, Alam said the declaration Tuesday afternoon at Dhaka's people and exactly how we want The party won 160 of the 162 The platform leader said the proclamation was expected to Pakistan. declare "irrelevant" the deposed premier's "Nazi Awami League" in Bangladesh as well.

women's seats in then-East

They represent the very best of the UK and that core value of service which I put at the centre of everything this gov-Indian heritage, has been con-ferred a Knighthood for politernment does. The New Year Honours List celebrates more of these unsung heroes, and I thank them for their incredible contribution," he said.

workstations, documents: US Treasury

Chinese hackers remotely accessed

AP WASHINGTON

hinese hackers remotely ⊿accessed several US Treasury Department workstations and unclassified documents after compromising a third-party software service provider, the agency said on Monday.

The department did not provide details on how many workstations had been accessed or what sort of documents the hackers may have obtained, but it said in a letter to lawmakers revealing the breach that "at this time there is no evidence indicating the threat actor has continued access to Treasury information".

The hack was being investigated as a "major cybersecurity incident", it added. 'Treasury takes very seriously all threats against our systems, and the data it a department holds," spokesperson said in a sepa-

rate statement. "Over the last four years Treasury has significantly bolstered its cyber defence, and we will continue to work with both private and public sector partners to protect our financial system from threat actors." In Beijing, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson gave China's standard response to hacking allegations.

"We have repeatedly stated our position on such groundless accusations that lack evidence, Mao Ning said at a daily brief ing. "China consistently opposes all forms of hacking, and we are even more opposed to the dissemination of false information against China for political

purposes? The incident comes as US officials are continuing to grapple with the fallout of a massive Chinese cyberespionage cam-paign known as Salt Typhoon that gave officials in Beijing access to private texts and phone conversations of an unknown number of Americans.

▲ Bangladesh has announced that it will prepare a "proclamation of July uprising", a day after it distanced itself from a proposed declaration with an identical title by the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement that led to the ouster of then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina four months ago.

"We hope within few days the proclamation will be prepared with the participation and consensus of all and presented before the nation," Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to the chief adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, said in a midnight press conference on Monday.

Addressing reporters in front of

all participating students, political parties, and stakeholders, including the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement that led to the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5.

Alam said the government took the initiative to prepare the proposed charter to "consolidate the people's unity, anti-fascist spirit and desire for state reform developed through the July uprising". The Anti-Discrimination

Students Movement along with National Citizens the Committee, another grouping led by the students, two days ago in a surprise development said it would announce the procla-

However, the students' platform hurriedly called an emergency meeting around 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday and told the media that instead of the proclamation they would rather stage a "march for unity" at the same venue and time.

'The Mujibist '72 constitution will be buried (in the proclamation) in the very place where the one-point declaration was made during the July uprising," the platform's convener Hasnat Abdullah told a press conference on December 29.

Abdullah at that time said that "Indian aggression was initiated through the principles of the 1972 constitution (and) the proclamation will make it clear how the Mujibist constitution

"We believe the way our revolution was embraced by all antifascists, this proclamation will also contain everyone's hopes and aspirations," said Sariis Alam, anti-discrimination students' movement leader and National Citizens' Committee chief organiser. The 1972 constitution was framed a year after the emergence of independent Bangladesh by representatives elected in the 1970 elections in line with their "mandate" as "constitute assembly" members with Awami League under

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gain-

However, Pakistan's then-military junta under General Yahya Khan eventually launched a sudden army crackdown leading to the Liberation War.

The interim government visibly distanced itself from the "proclamation" with Yunus' press secretary saying "the government has nothing to do with it" and "wants to see it (proclamation) as 'private initiative."

Awami League has not been seen in the public sphere since the August 5 ouster of the regime as many of its leaders have been arrested or are on the run at home and abroad, limiting their activities on social media platforms occasionally.

Cities welcome New Year in celebrations tinged with local traditions

AP WELLINGTON

Tities around the world are ready-Cing to ring in the New Year with celebrations highlighting local cultures and traditions, after a year roiled by ongoing conflict and political instability.

Countries in the South Pacific Ocean will be the first to welcome 2025, with midnight in New Zealand striking 18 hours before the ball drop in Times Square in New York.

In New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, thousands were expected to throng the downtown or climb the city's ring of volcanic peaks for a fireworks vantage point and a light display recognizing Auckland's Indigenous tribes. It follows a year marked by protests over Maori rights in the nation of 5 million.

Two hours later in Australia, more than 1 million people are expected at Sydney Harbor for the traditional fireworks. British pop star Robbie Williams will lead a singalong and Indigenous ceremonies and performances will acknowledge the land's first people.

Snake: Much of Japan has shut down ahead of the nation's biggest holiday, as temples and homes underwent a thorough cleaning, including swatting floor mats called "tatami" with big sticks.

The upcoming Year of the Snake in the Asian zodiac is heralded as one of rebirth — alluding to the reptile's shedding skin.

Stores in Japan, which observes the zodiac cycle from January 1, have been selling tiny figures of smiling snakes and other snake-themed products. Other places in Asia will start marking the Year of the Snake

later, with the Lunar New Year. In South Korea, celebrations were cut back or cancelled as the country observes a period of national mourning following the Sunday crash of a Jeju Air flight at Muan that killed 179 people.

West's rivals exchange goodwill: Chinese state media covered an exchange of New Year's greetings between leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in a reminder of growing closeness between two leaders who face tensions with the west.

Xi told Putin that their countries will "always move forward hand in Asia gets ready for the Year of the hand", the official Xinhua News

Agency said Tuesday. China has maintained ties and a robust trade with Russia since the latter's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, helping to offset Western sanctions and attempts to isolate Putin. Midnight Mass, with bubbles: Rome's tradi-

tional New Year's Eve festivities have an additional draw: the start of Pope Francis' Holy Year, the once every quarter-century celebration projected to bring some 32 mil-

lion pilgrims to the Eternal City in 2025

On Tuesday, Francis will celebrate a vespers at St. Peter's Basilica, followed by Mass on Wednesday, when he is expected to once again appeal for peace amid wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East. Meanwhile, in the United States, the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Minnesota will host an 11 p.m. Mass followed by a champagne reception with toasts. January 1 is a day of obligation for Catholics, marking the Solemnity of Mary, and many churches will hold vigil Masses on Tuesday afternoon and evening. Paris recaptures the Olympic spirit: Paris will cap a momentous 2024 with its traditional festive countdown and fireworks extravaganza on the famed Champs-Elvsées.

The Summer Olympics and Paralympic Games hosted in the French capital from July to September transformed the city into a site of joy, fraternity and astonishing sporting achievements, and marked another major mile-

stone in its recovery from deadly Islamist extremist attacks in 2015

Britons will brave wintry weather: London is due to ring in the New Year with a pyrotechnic display along the River Thames and a parade through the city centre on Wednesday featuring 10,000 performers. The fireworks will explode against the backdrop of the London Eye, the massive Ferris

wheel across the river from Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament.

With a storm bringing bitter weather to other parts of the United Kingdom, however, festivities in Edinburgh, Scotland including the Hogmanay Street party, garden concert and castle pyrotechnics show — were already cancelled.

Rio to see 2 million revellers: Rio de Janeiro will throw Brazil's main New Year's Eve bash on Copacabana Beach, with 10 ferries offshore bearing 12 straight minutes of fireworks. Thousands of tourists in six cruise ships will witness the show up close.

Rio's City Hall was closely guard-ing its plans for a display of lights and sounds. More than 2 million people are expected at the Copacabana, hoping to squeeze in to concerts by superstar Brazilian artists such as pop singer Anitta and Grammy-award winner Caetano Veloso.

American traditions old and new: In New York City, the organization managing Times Square has tested its famous ball drop, and inspected 2025 numerals, lights and thousands of crystals, as part of a tradition going back to 1907. This year's celebration will include musical performances by TLC, Jonas Brothers, Rita Ora, and Sophie Ellis-Bextor.

The party, covering multiple blocks around the city's main tourism and theatre hub, is expected to draw large crowds despite rain and chilly weather.

Meanwhile, Las Vegas will bid farewell to 2024 with old — and some new - traditions. Its annual eight-minute pyrotechnic show will be on in the Las Vegas Strip, with 340,000 people anticipated as

fireworks are launched from the rooftops of nine casinos.

Nearby, the massive Sphere venue will display for the first time countdowns to midnight in different time zones.

Country music, football and a midnight race: In Pasadena, enthusiastic Rose Parade spectators were to camp out on the cold streets and ring in the New Year hoping for prime spots for the iconic Southern California tradition. The parade precedes the Rose Bowl football game between the Ohio State Buckeyes and the

Oregon Ducks on January 1. Thousands are to participate in a midnight 5K race following the parade route.

Some 200,000 people will flock to a party in Nashville, Tennessee, featuring a five-hour show by some of country music's biggest stars. At midnight — an hour after New York's — a 16-feet tall music note weighing 400 pounds will drop as

fireworks light the sky. Celebrations will echo around the globe as the New Year arrives in different time zones, with American Samoa among the last to welcome 2025 a full 24 hours after New Zealand.





US, Boeing investigators examine site Russian missiles, drones attack on Ukrainian targets of deadly South Korean plane crash AP KYIV the city of Sevastopol, Mikhail Russia launched an aerial attack on Ukraine on

AP SEOUL

team of US investigators Ateam of commentatives from Boeing have examined the site of a plane crash that killed 179 people in South Korea while authorities were conducting safety inspections on all Boeing 737-800 aircraft operated by the country's airlines

All but two of the 181 people aboard the Boeing 737-800 operated by South Korean budget airline Jeju Air died in Sunday's crash. Video showed the aircraft, without its landing gear deployed, crash-landed on its belly and overshoot a runaway at South Korea's southern Muan International Airport before it slammed into concrete fence and burst into a flame

The plane was seen having an engine trouble, and preliminary examinations also say the pilots received a bird strike warning from the ground control centre and issued a distress signal as well. But many experts say the landing gear issue was likely the main cause of the crash. The South Korean government has launched safety inspec-tions on all the 101 Boeing 737-800s in the country. The Transport Ministry said authorities are looking at maintenance and operation records during five days of safety checks that are to run until

Friday. The ministry said that a dele-gation of eight US investigators one from the Federal Aviation Administration, three from National Transportation Safety Board and four from Boeing — made an on-site visit to the crash site on Tuesday. The results of their examination weren't immediately available.

Kim E-bae, Jeju Air's president, told reporters Tuesday that his company will add more maintenance workers and reduce flight operations by 10-15 per cent until March as part of efforts to enhance the safety of



sionally do overshoot runways

barrier over there was really

very bad luck for this particu-

South Korean officials have

said they will look into whether

the Muan airport's localiser –

a concrete fence housing a set

of antennas designed to guide aircraft safely during landings

with lighter materials that

would break more easily upon

The crash was the deadliest dis-

aster in South Korea's aviation

history in decades. A seven-day

should have been made

lar airplane," he said

impact.

"Having such a big concrete

aircraft operations.

John Hansman, an aviation expert at MIT, said the crash was most likely the result of a problem with the plane's hydraulic control systems. He said that would be consistent with the landing gear and wing flaps not being deployed "and might indicate a control issue which would explain the rush to get on the ground". The Boeing 737-800 — an ear-

lier version of 737 than the Max — is a widely used plane with a good safety record, according to Najmedin Meshkati, an engineering professor at the University of Southern California who has studied aviation safety.

He said the failure of the plane's system for broadcasting location, operating its landing gear and extending the wing flaps to slow down indicate a wide-spread problem that affected electrical and hydraulic systems. He is confident that investigators will learn what went wrong by analysing information from the flight data and cockpit voice recorders. These are really the two pillars for accident analysis and acci-

dent reconstruction," Meshkati said. Like other aviation experts, Meshkati also questioned the location of a solid wall just a few hundred feet (metres) past the end of the runway, given that planes occa-

ple missiles and drones. Ukraine's air force reported a ballistic missile threat at 3:00 a.m. (0100 GMT), with at least two explosions heard in Kyiv minutes later. Another missile

Tuesday, striking the capital

and other regions with multi-

alert was issued at 8:00 a.m. followed by at least one explosion in the city. Missile debris fell in the Darnytskyi district of the capital with no reports of casualties or damage, the local administration said.

Authorities in the northeastern Sumy region reported strikes near the city of Shostka, where the mayor, Mykola Noha, said 12 residential buildings had been damaged as well as two educational facilities. He said some "social infrastructure objects" were destroyed, without providing detail.

The air force also reported missiles and drones targeting several other regions of Ukraine

Around half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure has been destroyed during the war, and rolling electricity blackouts are common and widespread.

Kviv's Western allies have provided air defense systems to help Ukraine protect critical infrastructure, but Russia has



A Ukrainian serviceman cries upon seeing his daughter after returning from captivity during a POWs exchange between Russia and Ukraine, in Ukraine AP/PT

sought to overwhelm its air defences with combined strikes involving large numbers of missiles and drones Russian attacks come as uncer-

On Monday, President Joe Biden announced that the United States will send an additional USD billion in weapons to Ukraine as his administration works quickly to spend all the money it has available to help Kyiv fight off Russia before Trump takes

Ukraine has struck back at Russia with a steady barrage of missile and drone attacks

Razvozhayev, said that Russian defenses downed four aerial drones attacking the city and sank two uncrewed boats near the shore

world 09

Meanwhile, Ukraine's Military Intelligence Directorate, known under its acronym GUR, claimed that one of its naval drones on Tuesday shot down a Russian helicopter with a missile, marking the first time when an aerial target was destroyed by an uncrewed vessel.

It said a MaguraV5 naval drone downed a Russian Mi-8 helicopter with an R-73 missile near Cape Tarkhankut, the westernmost point of Crimean peninsula. Another Russian helicopter was damaged but managed to reach an airfield, GUR said.

Russia has held the initiative this year as its military has steadily rammed through Ukrainian defences in the east in a series of slow but steady offensives.

Still, in August, Ukraine launched a raid into Russia's Kursk region that caught Moscow by surprise, dealing a significant blow to the Kremlin's prestige. The Russian army has been able to reclaim some territory of the area there from Ukrainian forces but has failed to fully dislodge them.

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ince of Mobile and Web Application to provide seamless information and se

China Russia ties advancing to higher levels, says President X

PTI BEIJING

hina and Russia are mov-Uing forward hand in hand along the "right path" of nonalliance, non-confrontation and have advancing towards "higher levels," Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Tuesday in his New Year message to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin. Xi and Putin exchanged New Year greetings highlighting their burgeoning strategic ties in recent years. "In the face of the accelerated transformation unseen in a century and a volatile international landscape, China and Russia always move forward hand in hand along the right path of non-alliance, non-confrontation, and not targeting any third party," Xi said in the message Putin in his message said both countries have advanced the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era to new heights. The mutually beneficial cooperation between China's and Russia's economy, trade, energy, transportation, science, and

technology is progressing in an eral relations and major int orderly manner, the Russian national and regional issues president according to China's state-run Xinhua news agency.

common concern. "The political mutual trust a Both leaders exchanged greet- strategic coordination betwee ings ahead of the January 20 the two sides have be President-elect advancing toward higher lev

tainty looms over the course of the nearly three-year conflict. US President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office next month, has vowed to end the war and has thrown into doubt whether vital US military support for Kyiv will continue.

throughout the year. Early Tuesday, Russia's Defence Ministry said that air defences shot down 68 Ukrainian drones Tuesday

> western Russia, Vasily Anokhin, said drone fragments fell on the territory of an oil depot, sparking a blaze.

over several regions early Head of the Smolensk region in

In Russia-occupied Crimea, the Moscow-appointed head of

office.

Pak govt, Imran's PTI to meet to resolve political differences

PTI ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan government and opposition Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) negotiators are scheduled to meet for a crucial in-camera meeting to resolve sticky political differences, a report said on Tuesday.

The meeting on Thursday has been called by National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq who has been facilitating the talks between the two sides.

The Express Tribune reported the meeting will take place at Parliament House at 11 a.m. and is expected to build on the discussions that began on December 23. Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan founded PTI, following internal consultations, is set to present two key demands in writing during the upcoming session.

(MWM) leader Allama Raja These demands include the for-Nasir Abbas.

Donald Trump who threatened to impose punitive tariffs on Chinese exports to the US besides hardening American policy towards China and hinted at a strategic shift of warming up to Putin to end the Ukraine war.

Since taking power in 2012, Xi has elevated China's ties with Russia to a higher level as part of Beijing's efforts to build strategic alliances to ward off increasing adversity towards China in the US and EU countries

aring_in of

China followed a guarded policy as it refused to condemn Moscow over Russia's war in Ukraine even while maintaining ties with Kyiv. In his message to Putin, Xi recalled their meetings in the

last three years in Beijing, Astana, and Kazan apart from their periodic communication through phone calls, exchanges of letters, and other means to reach broad consensus on bilat-

mation of a judicial commission

to investigate the violent events

of May 9, 2023, and the

November 26 crackdown on

PTI workers in Islamabad, as well

as the release of all political pris-

oners, including 72-year-old

Assembly Speaker and PTI leader

Asad Qaiser reiterated these

demands and said the party was

firm on the need for a commis-

sion to investigate the May 9 and

November 26 incidents. He also

stressed the need for Khan's

release. The first round of talks

on December 23 was described

as positive, with both sides agree-

Representing the PTI in the pre-

vious meeting were Qaiser, Sunni

Ittehad Council (SIC) Chairman

Sahibzada Hamid Raza, and

Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen

ing to continue the dialogue.

Former National

Khan.

under the strategic guidance of the two leaders," Xi said. Putin in his message said looking ahead to 2025, he stands ready to maintain close communication with Xi to jointly promote the development of bilateral relations and cooper-

ation in various fields, and further strengthen coordination and cooperation on multilateral platforms such as the United Nations, BRICS, the SCO and the G20.

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Mr. Tarun Goyal, Ms. Sneha Goyal and Miss. Pakhi Goyal owner of Freehold Residential Building, Total area measuring 155.54 sq. yards i.e. 138.41 sq. meter, Total Covered area 415.23 sq. meter, put of Kiasra no. 1531H. situated at Village Dankaur Dehat (Dankaur Inner Town Area), Mohalla Prempuri, Town and Pargana-Dankaur, Hohsl and District Gautam Budh Nagar. U.P., Hrough Registered Gift Deed Dated 22.07.2024 executed by Smt. Shyam Lata Devi W/o Late Sh. Ved Prakash. Vide Reg. no.22150 at SR-Sadar Greater Nida, Gautam Budh Nagar, the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim /right, lien, Any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned / Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived **Adv. Vishal Mehan**, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mob.: 9811215181 PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Surendr Mohan Sharma claims to be owner and in possession of First Floor, Prop No. 4, Raj Block, Naveen Shahdara, Shahdara Delhi 32 (herein after called the said property) by virtue of Sale Deed Dated 10.06.2013 regd. vide Doc No. 2901 r/w Relinquishment Deed executed by Kirar Issar, Suman Sharma and Archana Thapar in favor of Surendra Mohan Sharma (legal Heirs of Murari La Sharma) Regd vide doc. No. 2024/23/I/ 8999 & said Surendra Mohan Sharma has agreed to sell the said Property to Nama Aggarwal & said Naman Aggarwal agreed

create a mortgage in favour of our clients IDFC First Bank Ltd. ITO Branch, any person/s having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien o otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the

address mentioned below within 7days from the date hereof, failing which the clair or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof Vishal Diwan (Advocate For Diwan and Company LLP House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D-19

Mobile No. 9818399999

डिलिजेंट बिल्डर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (अंतरिक्ष वैली) 34/C-8, सेक्टर-8, रोहिणी, नई दिल्ली, 110085

पब्लिक नोटिस

यह सूचित किया जाता है कि डिलिजेंट बिल्डर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (अंतरिक्ष वैली) द्वारा बनाए गए आवासीय परिसर में निम्नलिखित यूनिट/फ्लैट का आरक्षण/बुकिंग निर्धारित भुगतान न करने और संपर्क में न रहने के कारण रद्द कर दिया गया है:

ग्राहकों के नाम

1- श्री नितिन उपाध्याय पुत्र - पीO एनO उपाध्याय यूनिट -B -2009 2- श्रीमती नीतू कुमारी पत्नी - मनीष कुमार यूनिट - B- 708 3- श्री वसीकुर रहमान पुत्र - श्री ख़लीकुर रहमान यूनिट - B 1201B

डिलिजेंट बिल्डर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड ने उपर्युक्त ग्राहकों से संपर्क करने के लिए सभी प्रयास किए हैं, लेकिन वे ग्राहकों से संपर्क स्थापित करने में असफल रहे इस कारणवश, यह नोटिस सार्वजनिक किया जा रहा है। उपर्युक्त बुकिंग रद्द होने पर संबंधित व्यक्ति या पार्टी के लिए कोई दावा या कानूनी अधिकार नहीं होगा। सभी ग्राहकों से निवेदन है कि वे अपने द्वारा जमा की गई राशि को डिलिजेंट बिल्डर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड से 15 दिन के अंदर प्राप्त करें। आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करने के लिए धन्यवाद।

डिलिजेंट बिल्डर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (अंतरिक्ष वैली) 34/C-8, सेक्टर-8, रोहिणी, नई दिल्ली, 110085

Public Delhi.

PD(1181)C I, Gaurav S/o- JC-303758P Sub(DMT) Raj Kumar, R/o-Vill-Bagpur PO- Sahpau, Teh-Sadabad, Dist- Hathras, U.P.-281307, have changed my name from Gaurav to Gaurav Kumar, vide affidavit dated 31/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1182)C I, JC-356836H Nb/Sub Vitthal Eknath Dange R/o- At- Nele, Post- Kidagaon, Teh+Dist-Satara, Maharashtra- 415015, have changed my daughter's name from Shradha Vitthal Dange to Shraddha Vitthal Dange, vide affidavit dated 31/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1183)C

I, hitherto known as Arora Prabhjot S/o- Iqbal Singh, R/o-175, 3rd Floor, Ambika Vihar, Paschim Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi- 110087, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Prabhjot Singh.

PD(1184)C I, Ajay Dubey S/o Dinesh Chandra Dubey R/o B/1606, Apex The Florus, Sector-18, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad (U.P) have changed my daughter's name from Arshi Dubey to Aarshi Dubey for all future purposes.

PD(1179)A It is for general public information that Ι, SREENIVASULU K alias KADIYALA SREENIVASULU S/0 ANJAPPA K born on 21 July 1981, R/o 146/801, SEKHON VIHAR PALAM, DELHI CANTT, NEW DELHI-110010 inform that I have changed my name from SREENIVASULU K to KADIYALA SREENIVASULU vide affidavit dt 31 Dec 24, which may be amended accordingly.

PD(1180)A

without any further intimation. Folio No. SRF0033658, Name of Shareholder : Vec Parkash Chachra, No. of Shares : 264 Distinctive Nos. From / To : 308308726 308308989 Certificate Nos. From / To 1125553/1125553 Date : 1/1/2025 Name of Shareholder(s Place : New Delhi Rachna Mehta

ELECTRICAL GENERAL WORKS IN KATIHAR DIVISIO

Tender Notice No: EL_GEN_25_24-25 Dated: 27-12-2024; E-Tender are invite by the undersigned for the following work Name of Wok : Electrical General wor in connection with "At New Jalpaiguri Construction of one coach length sick Line 2 coach Holding (Extention-1)". Approx Value: ₹67,12,799.31/-; Earnest Money ₹1,34,300/-; Last Date & time for closin of tender at 15:00 hrs and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 28-01-2025. For complet information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:0 hrs. on 28-01-2025 in the website www.ireps.gov.in



PUBLIC NOTICE

t is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Bir had acquired Double Storey Built-up Property N NW/198-A, area measuring 25 sq. yrds., Khas No. 3/17, situated in the area of Vill. Khyala, colo Roown as Vishnu Garden, New Delhi vide Reg IGPA Dt. 24.05.2011 along with ATS & W executed by Mrs. Gurbachan Kaur and Now Mr Bimla is the undisputed owner of the said propert OR

Anv person / firm / institution / company havi any claim or right in respect of the said Property way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, leas license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is here required to intimate in writing to the undersign within 07 days from the date of publication of the notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with a supporting documents at below mentione address. After expiration of notice period, th claims, if any, of such person shall be treated i ind void and also treated as waived and n indig on our client.

Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H.No. 26/161, Baseme Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -11002

PUBLIC NOTICE

Manpreet Kaur D/o Daljee ingh R/o 61A, Ground Floo Pocket-B, Hari Nagar, New Delh 110064, has severed all relation with my brother, Avinder Sing S/o Daljeet Singh, having hi Aadhar No. 5640-9087-0448 & m sister-in-law, Japmeet Kaur havin her Aadhar No.5044-9283-4693 with immediate effect. I declar that Avinder Singh and Japmee Kaur have been disowned an debarred from my movabl and immovable properties. The have no rights, claims, or intere in my properties, under an circumstances. Any person dealin with them shall do so at his her own risk and responsibility.

holders by creating a platform where chosen processes of BBSSL can be automated Interested Agencies must submit their EOI in sealed envelop by not later than 15:00 hours (IST) on 10th January, 2025. The consultancy firm/organization shortlisted based on this REOI and ToR will be eligible to submit Request for Proposal (RFP) upon request Managing Director Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)

	(Under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 3 (Insolvency Resolution Process	s fe	or Corporate Persons) Re	gulations, 2016)
1.	Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN & CIN/ LLP No.	H P C	PARTICULARS II TECH FERROUS & N RIVATE LIMITED IN: U28112UP2009PT AN: AACCH2609D	
2.	Address of the registered office	1	06, Chander Puri Ghaz radesh	iabad-201001, Uttar
3.	URL of website	+	ttps://hitechwires.com	/
4.	Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located	1	he Corporate Debtor ha . Bawal, Haryana and . Murad Nagar, Ghazia	
5.	Installed capacity of main products/ services	N	lot known as the suspe ot yet provided the rec	ended management has
6.	Quantity and value of main products/ services sold in last financial year	N	lot known as the suspe ot yet provided the rec	ended management has
7. 8.	Number of employees/ workmen Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, lists of creditors are available at URL:	L tł	IIL (Except those hired ast available Balance S le FY 2021-22. Further rovided by the suspend	heet as per ROC is for details have not been
9.	Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at URL:		Parameters Refundable Earnest Money Deposit (non- interest bearing) along with Resolution Plan Tangible Net Worth	Eligibility Rs. 2,00,000 (Throug Demand Draft) along with Expression of Interest Rs. 50,00,000 (Through Demand Draft) along with Resolution Plan Rs. 3,00,00,000
10.	Last date for receipt of expression of interest	2	1.01.2025	
11.	Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	3	1.01.2025	
12.	Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	0	5.02.2025	
13.	Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants		5.02.2025	
14.	Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	2	0.02.2025	
15.	Last date for submission of resolution plans	2	2.03.2025	
16.	Process email id to submit Expression of Interest	N	irp-hitech@efficaxindia lote: Communication to ot be entertained.	
	: 31 December, 2024 e: New Delhi For M/s	Hi		RAKESH KUMAR JII ESOLUTION PROFESSIO errous India Private Lin



vious close.

Rupee falls 13 paise to all-time closing low of 85.65 against US dollar

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 13 L paise to close at fresh record low of 85.65 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday, ending the year with a sharp 3 per cent loss on significant foreign fund outflows and a strong greenback in global markets.

Forex traders said the rupee has been under continued pressure amid the Federal Reserve's cautious stance on rate cuts and the "Trump factor" driving up the dollar index (DXY) and US 10-year 2024.

bond yields. Additionally, slowing domestic macroeconomic growth, widening trade deficit and persistent foreign fund outflows have further fuelled the rupee's depreciation.

At the interbank foreign nearly two years. exchange, the rupee opened at According to



Choudhary – Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Choudhary Sharekhan, the rupee is expected to trade with a neg-ative bias on elevated crude oil prices, overall strength in the US dollar and month-end dollar demand from importers.

Moreover, persistent selling pressure by foreign funds added further strain on the currency. Foreign currency. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded Rs 1,893.16 crore in the capital markets on net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.

In 2024, foreign investors sig-nificantly scaled back their investments in Indian equities, with net inflows amounting to a little over Rs 5,000 crore, as elevated domestic valuations, coupled with geopolitical uncertainties prompted investors to adopt

a more cautious stance. In 2023, Rs 1.71 lakh crore net investment was made in the domestic equity market. "However, any intervention by

the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. Volumes may remain thin due to the New Year holiday. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 85.40 to 85.85, Anuj Choudhary – Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan - said.

India's external debt rose to USD 711.8 billion as of September this year, up 4.3 per cent over June 2024, as per the data released by the Finance Ministry. At the end of September 2023, the external debt stood at USD 637.1 billion.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower

by 0.11 per cent at 108.01. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged 0.57 per cent to USD 74.41 per barrel in futures trade.

money 10

On the domestic equity market front, the 30-share benchmark index Sensex closed 109.12 points, or 0.14 per cent lower, at 78,139.01 points. The Nifty settled on a flat note at 23,644.80 points. On the domestic macroeco-nomic front, India's current account deficit (CAD) mod-erated marginally to USD 11.2 billion or 1.2 per cent of

GDP year-on-year in the July-September quarter of 2024-25, according to Reserve Bank data. The CAD, an indicator of the country's external payment

scenario, was USD 11.3 billion or 1.3 per cent of GDP during the second quarter of 2023-24.

Reliance spends USD 13 bn on acquisitions in five years

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $B_{\rm Ambani's}^{\rm illionaire}$ Mukesh Reliance Industries Ltd has spent USD 13 billion on acquisitions in the past five years across new energy, telecom, retail and media business to script a pivot away from core oil and petrochemicals business to clean energy and consumer facing verticals. Last week, Reliance bought

oncology platform Karkinos Healthcare for Rs 375 crore, adding another stack to its diagnostic and digital healthcare ecosystem, Morgan Stanley said in a report.

"Over the past five years, RIL has announced USD 13 billion in acquisitions with 14 per cent in new energy, 48 per cent in technology, media and telecommunications (TMT), 9 per cent in retail, and increasingly more in healthcare," it said.

Of this, USD 6 billion was in acquisition of companies and assets in media and education business and USD 2.6 billion in telecom and internet ver-



ticals. It spent USD 1.7 billion on acquisitions in new energy and USD 1.14 billion in retail, according to Morgan Stanley.

RIL's biggest acquisition in the last five years has been buyout of local cable TV and internet service providers Hathway Cable and Datacom Ltd for USD 981 million. It spent USD 771 million on buying Norwegian-head-quartered solar panel maker REC Solar Holdings and another USD 767 million on

buying search and database firm JustDial, the report said.

Last week, it acquired a 100 per cent stake in Karkinos Healthcare, increasing its exposure to the diagnostic and healthcare ecosystem following previous investments like HAGI, Netmeds and

Strand Life Science. Karkinos provides technology driven, innovative solutions for early detection, diagnosis and management of cancer, according to Morgan Stanley

It acts like a care partner during a patient's cancer treatment.

Other investors in the com-

pany have included Tata Group, Rakuten, Mayo Clinic, and Hero Enterprise.

"RIL aims to leverage its tech-nological expertise and vast distribution networks to create more integrated healthcare system-digital health platforms, telemedicine services and advanced healthcare delivery models," the brokerage said

Karkinos was incorporated in India on July 24, 2020 and is in the business of providing technology-driven, innova-tive solutions for the early detection, diagnosis, and management of cancer. It had a turnover of about Rs 22 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Karkinos has cancelled the existing outstanding 30,075 equity shares held by the erstwhile shareholders of the company. Its previous prominent investors included Ewart Investments Ltd (100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Sons), Reliance Digital Health Ltd (a subsidiary of Reliance Industries), Mayo Clinic (US), Sundar Raman (Director at Reliance Foundation Youth Sports and former COO of Indian Premier League since 2008), and Ravi Kant (ex-MD of Tata Motors).

The company is focused on providing end-to-end ser-vices relating to early detec-tion and effective treatment of cancer at substantially lower than prevailing rates, while still generating healthy profitability. In order to meet this vision, Karkinos started partnering with hospitals to provide oncology services (testing, radiation therapy,

etc.). The company has partnered with around 60 hospitals till December 2023. It is through a subsidiary setting up a 150bed multispecialty cancer hospital at Imphal, Manipur. Going forward, its source of income was said to be via Advanced Cancer Care Diagnostics and Research (ACCDR), Distributed Cancer Care Network (DCCN), tie-ups with corporates for early diagnosis of cancer, and cancer care hos-

 $B_{\text{and Nifty ended lower in}}^{\text{enchmark indices Sensex}}$ the final session of 2024 on Tuesday amid persistent foreign fund outflows and weak

> tle at 78,139.01. Intra-day, it tanked 687.34 points or 0.87 per cent to 77,560.79. The NSE Nifty dipped marginally by 0.10 points to set-

tle at 23,644.80. In the entire 2024, the Sensex jumped 5,898.75 points or 8.16 per cent, and the Nifty surged 1,913.4 points or 8.80 per cent.

The BSE benchmark Sensex hit its record peak of 85,978.25 on September 27 this year, and the NSE Nifty also reached the lifetime high of 26,277.35 on the same day. From the 30 blue-chip pack, Tech Mahindra, Zomato, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys,



ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever and HCL Technologies were the major laggards on Tuesday.

Kotak Mahindra Bank, ITC, UltraTech Cement and Tata Motors were among the gainers.Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,893.16 crore on Monday, according to exchange data.

In Asian markets, and Shanghai settled lower while Hong Kong ended in the pos-

A fitting saying for the current

situation of the Indian startup

ecosystem could be: "In the

ended lower on Monday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.46 per cent to USD 74.34 a barreĺ. The 30-share BSE benchmark tumbled 450.94 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 78,248.13

itive territory. Markets were

closed in Tokyo and Seoul for

European markets were trad-

ing mostly higher. US markets

New Year holidays.

on Monday. The Nifty declined 168.50 points or 0.71 per cent to 23,644.90.

After rough ride in 2024, Indian startups look for a promising new year

PTI NEW DELHI

The Indian startup ecosys-tem experienced a rollercoaster ride in 2024, characterised by a slight-yet-concerning decline in funding activity and a shift in investor lighting ongoing innovation Swiggy Instamart, and promis-ing newcomers Dunzo, Swish,

and Farmako. sector. The overall funding trend reflects a cautious-yet-optimistic approach from investors, the angel tax on investments in as they navigate a more selec- startups to provide a more tive funding environment, conducive environment for ognising the potential of high-growth startups in India. A slight shift towards earlystage investments was evident during the year, with seed and Series A rounds gaining traction, as investors sought to back innovative ideas with longterm potential. Businesses that could demonstrate robust underlying unit economics found greater favour this year, Dushyant Singh, Managing Partner at Playbook Partners, noted. Gig economy, retail, and enterprise applications stood out as top-performing sectors, according to Traxcn. Quick commerce emerged as a high-growth sector, with 40 active companies, including unicorns Zepto, Blinkit, and aries.

In July, the government announced the abolishment of "By eliminating this tax, the government has provided a much-needed boost to investors and entrepreneurs, enabling greater liquidity and more flexible funding options for startups. However, fewer funding rounds, high operaditional boundaries, seeping tional costs, and infrastructure into colleges, schools, and even Tier 2 and 3 towns. Founders challenges remain ongoing factors that need attention," said from these regions are bringing Jeenendra Bhandari, fresh perspectives, solving Chairman, JITO Incubation hyperlocal problems, and creand Innovation Foundation ating opportunities that were previously untapped. (JIIF). There was an encouraging rise in women entrepre-"There's a noticeable rise in neurs and founders from Tier women entrepreneurs, signalling a positive shift in inclu-2 and 3 towns. Ninad Karpe from 100X.VC said the entresivity and diversity within the startup ecosystem," he said. preneurial culture has tran-According to official data, scended its traditional bound "The entrepreneurial India has more than 73,000 culture has transcended its trastartups with at least one



ons by existing investors or bridge rounds aimed at extend-ing the runway rather than dri-ving growth. The focus has shifted from valuation-driven funding to sustainability and profitability," FAAD Capital CEO Aditya Arora said.

midst of adversity, hope is the seed from which resilience grows." Despite a rough patch in recent years, the Indian startthese technologies will likely be at the forefront of funding conversations. Deloitte's Chirag Agrawal said

AI is enabling efficient operations and supporting data-driven decision-making.

AI-focused startups are attracting particularly in high-impact

trends in the global markets. Falling for the second straight day, the 30-share BSE bench-mark Sensex declined 109.12 points or 0.14 per cent to set-



lining with several startups achieving unicorn status.

Despite facing global economic challenges, India's startups showcased remarkable resilience, adeptly navigating changing market conditions, while continuing to attract investments.

According to data from Tracxn, Indian startups raised a total of USD 30.4 billion in funding throughout 2024, a 6.5 per cent decline from the USD 32.5 billion secured in 2023.

Despite this dip, the Indian startup ecosystem demonstrated resilience, with several companies achieving unicorn status this year. Noteworthy entrants to the unicorn club include Rapido, Ather, Perfios, Porter, and Money View, high-

woman director that have been recognised under the Startup India Initiative

Despite the positive trends, challenges persist. Global economic uncertainties

have a direct impact on investor sentiment and funding availability

"While the number of deals has seen a quarterly increase of 10-20 per cent... Deal values have declined significantly. This reflects a cautious investment climate, with most funding rounds being either follow-

e growth in ventu this year was mainly driven by increase in mid and late-stage investment, Singh seconded. Startups continue to grapple with rising operational costs, which can strain their financial sustainability. Several Indian startups have gained fame and achieved unicorn status despite not being profitable.

Many startups still face challenges related to inadequate physical infrastructure, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. This can hugely affect logistics, supply chain man-agement, and overall operational efficiency.

Moreover, navigating compliance requirements can be cumbersome for new businesses. diverting resources away from innovation and growth.

ape has shown remarkable buoyancy.

The increasing trend of Indians returning from abroad to establish businesses is also expected to invigorate the ecosystem with global expertise, Bhandari believes.

Cautious optimism in 2024 is expected to continue into 2025, broader market recovery may still be two years away, with significant improvements anticipated by 2026, Arora said.

"In the interim, the ecosystem is expected to witness an increase in SME IPOs, unlocking real value for investors and startups alike," he said.

The rise of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and blockchain technologies is expected to attract significant investment. Startups leveraging areas such as healthcare, finance, and sustainability, he said "For 2025, India's entrepreneurial ecosystem is poised for continued growth, driven by technological advance-

ments, government reforms, and a favourable macroeconomic environment. "Emerging trends include sig-

nificant investments in Deep Tech, Electric Vehicles, Clean Tech, Defence Tech, and Space Tech. These sectors are expected to attract substantial funding, particularly in AI, sus-tainable technologies, and space commercialization, posi-tioning India as a global leader in these high-potential areas,"

Gold set to extend record run; may hit Rs 90,000 in 2025 on global cues

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

old, a safe-haven bet, is Glikely to continue its record-smashing journey in the New Year, rising to Rs 85,000 per 10 grams and even Rs 90,000 level in domestic markets if geopolitical tensions and global economic uncertainties continue.

Also aiding the run is a dovish tilt in monetary policy and buying by central banks, but if the geopolitical crisis eases, the precious metal will turn weak on depreciating rupee. Gold price is hovering at Rs

79,350 per 10 grams in spot markets at present, and Rs 76,600 per 10 grams in futures trade on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

The precious metal capped off 2024 on a strong note with its best performance, notching 23 per cent returns in the domestic markets. The yellow metal hit an all-time high of Rs 82,400 per 10 grams on October 30 this year. Silver mirrored this stellar performance with a 30 per cent gain, surpassing the Rs

1 lakh level per kg level Globally, Comex gold futures

started the year at around USD 2,062 per ounce and rallied to a peak of USD 2,790 per ounce on October 31, giving returns of up to 28 per cent, reinforcing their appeal amid global uncertainties

Experts believe that precious metals remain strong performers in 2025 as well, buoyed by geopolitical tensions, central bank purchases, and a pivot towards lower interest rates by major central banks.

The outlook for gold in 2025 remains positive, though the pace of growth may moderate compared to 2024, LKP Securities VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency,

Jateen Trivedi told PTI. "Domestic gold prices are expected to reach Rs 85,000 as modest targets, with a best-case scenario of Rs 90,000 and silver expected to deliver bit higher gains towards Rs 1.1 lakh on modest and even hit Rs 1.25 lakh, if geopolitical tensions persist or escalate," he said. He noted that interest rate



cycles are also pivotal as a global shift toward lower interest rates would inject liquidity into markets and weaken the US Dollar, bolstering gold prices.

However, the US Federal Reserve's cautious approach to rate cuts may temper the pace of price increases. Additionally, sustained gold purchases by central banks, driven by diversification strategies and concerns over currency stability will provide strong support to bullion, Trivedi added. Several factors have shaped the demand demand and supply

dynamics of gold in 2024, including a turbulent geopolitical landscape. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and tensions in West Asia have spurred safe-haven demand for bullion, thus impacting its prices this year.

"Gold and silver markets have been directly impacted by a turbulent geopolitical environment. These geopolitical crises have typically caused an immediate 2-3 per cent spike in prices, reaffirming investors' preference for precious metals as a shield against uncertainty,' Trivedi said.

However, Commtrendz Research co-founder and CEO Gnanasekar Thiagarajan told PTI that gold prices are struggling to keep up the momentum as the geopolitical uncertainty and economic uncertainty premium have started fading away. "Market participants are now taking into consideration US President-elect Donald Trump's tariff era, economic policies and their potential future impact on the Fed's mandate to bring inflation down to 2 per cent. Higher inflationary expectations could undermine the appeal for bullion."Furthermore, we would not be surprised to see the Fed opt for a cut from May onwards, as it could allow for a clearer picture to be formed on the new administration's actual economic policies rather than comments made potentially to gain negotiation leverage with foreign counterparts," he stated.

The outlook is bearish for gold in the first half of 2025, with the possibility of testing USD 2,455 (MCX: 73,000-73,500), he said.

The rupee is expected to depreciate further, which could arrest the fall in local prices relative to international prices in the coming year, he added.

In the domestic markets, the government's decision in July this year to cut gold import duty by 6 per cent led to a sharp 7 per cent correction in gold prices, equivalent to Rs 5,000 per 10 grams.

The price drop spurred physical demand for gold during the festive and wedding seasons. The reduction not only made gold more affordable but also boosted increased buying, supporting robust consumption by the jewellers and consumers. 'Gold jewellery consumption grew by 17 per cent in 2024, primarily driven by volatility in gold prices, along with festive and marriage-related demand. Additionally, the sharp 900 basis points reduction in import duty announced in the Union Budget of July 2024 spurred demand for jewellery, bars, and coins," Rahul Kalantri, Vice President of Commodities at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.



he said.

Gurugram: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power, has handed over a project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle). viz, Rajasthan IV 4A Power Transmission Limited to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited on 30th December, 2024 at Gurugram. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited emerged as the Transmission Service Provider (TSP) through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) process conducted by RECPDCL, the Bid Process Coordinator, for development of the transmission project on Build, Own, Operate & Transfer (BOOT) basis. The transmission scheme is planned for evacuation of 3.5 GW of RE power from Rajasthan Renewable Energy Zone, which covers establishment of 765/400 kV, 2 X1500 MVA S/s near Ghiror (Uttar Pradesh), Augmentation of Barmer -I Pooling Station, 283.05 Kms of 765 kV line and 43.28 Kms of 400 kV line along with associated works. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 5378.03 Crores

RECPDCL HANDOVERS SPV TO POWER GRID CORPORATION



Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali wins World blitz finals qualifier

PTI NEW YORK

ndian Grandmaster R Vaishali surprised herself with a stellar L performance to enter the quarterfinals of the World Blitz Championship here, even as recently-crowned rapid champion Koneru Humpy made an early exit. Following Koneru Humpy's stellar performance in Rapid, which earned her the gold medal and a prize of USD 60,000, it was Vaishali's turn to impress her fans. She triumphed in the women's section, scoring 9.5 points out of a possible 11 with three draws.

"I'm very happy with today's performance. Tomorrow will be a big day. Honestly, it (performance) was completely unexpected. I was not expecting the result like how it went today. Tomorrow, I have to be ready and prepare well and then see," she said

Russian Kateryna Lagno came closest to Vaishali, scoring 8.5 points, while the remaining six qualifiers finished with an identical eight points. Despite meeting the points criteria, Humpy was eliminated due to the worst tiebreaker, finishing ninth.

In the Open section, 10 players were tied for first place, including world number one Magnus Carlsen. The Norwegian scored when needed and drew six of his 13 games, finishing among the co-leaders at the end of the qualifiers. Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi won the qualifier with 9.5 points, benefiting from the best tiebreak, while Fabiano Caruana of the United States finished second ahead of Carlsen, who was placed third

Surprisingly, none of the Indians made the top eight, despite some early promising performances.

Arjun Erigaisi played brilliantly at the start, securing victories in the first five rounds but faded away to finish with a sub-par seven points. R Praggnanandhaa was the bestplaced Indian, with 8.5 points, but a last-round loss to Russian Daniil Dubov cost him a spot in the quarterfinals

In the women's quarterfinal, Vaishali will face Chinese Chinese Grandmaster Zhu Jiner.



Vaishali's back-to-back victories against GMs Nana Dzagnidze of Georgia and Valentina Gunina of

Russia in rounds 7-8 provided the necessary boost for the Indian player to top the event with ease.

The 23-year-old Indian played a dramatic match against Gunina, where she found herself under

Cup mixed teams tennis quarterfinals

extreme time pressure and played 23 moves with hardly any time to think

"You have nothing to think, you keep playing your moves. That was a very bad time management in that game (by me). She (opponent) was ahead on the clock and on the board, she was a full pawn up but I kept playing," said Vaishali, who virtually had seven second for each of her 23 moves.

"Towards the end, I offered a draw with the rook-knight 3 versus 3. I think she wanted to play but her clock fell and that's how I won the

Vaishali said there were many players stronger than her in Blitz and that she was just lucky to have led the field by one full point. "I don't think I'm a great blitz player, honestly. There are many

more strong players here. I think, today, I was lucky in many games and it just worked out." Talking about the knockout round, Vaishali said: "I haven't thought

about it t all. The last few days I've been sick, not gone out much," she said, adding that she would any day

prefer classical games to Rapid chess.

'I prefer classical any day... Rapid is fun to play but lots of emotions Like, so many games you are playing in a day and it's hard to deal with sometimes. I think that's the major difference (between classical and Rapid)." Indian standings:

Open: R Pragnanandhaa (8.5) – 23; Raunak Sadhwani (8) 46; Arjun Erigaisi (7) 64; Aravindh Chithambaram (7) 68; V Pranav (7) 67;

Women: R Vaishali (9.5) 1; K Humpy (8) 9; Divya Deshmukh (7) 18; Vantika Agarwal (7) 19; D Harika (7) 22.

Qualifiers: Open: 1-8; Ian Nepomniachtchi, Volodar Murzin (Both Fide); Fabiano Caruana, Hans Niemann Moke, Wesley So (all USA); Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Duda Jan-Kryzsztof (Pol); Alireza Firoujza (Fra).

Women 1-8: R Vaishali (Ind); Lei Tingjie, Wenjun Ju, Zhu Jiner (all Chn); Kateryna Lagno, Valentina Gunina (Both Fide); Carissa Yip (Usa) Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz).

Former US Open Champion Emma Raducanu | Gauff, Fritz qualify the US for the United withdraws from Auckland tennis classic

 $F_{\rm champion}^{\rm ormer}$ U.S. Open Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from the Auckland tennis classic, saying a back injury she has been nursing in recent weeks had not improved as

much as she hoped. The 22-year-old British player was seeded sixth for the tournament and was due to play her opening match of the new season on Tuesday against Robin Montgomery of the United States.

"I've tried my best to be ready. I love Auckland and the fans here. But unfortunately I've picked up a back niggle and I won't be ready in time," Raducanu said. Second-seeded Elise Mertens

of Belgium also withdrew on Raducanu Tuesday from the tournament which is a tune-up for the Australian Open beginning

Jan. 12 in Melbourne. "I am sorry not to play my



singles due to an injury," Mertens said. "I wish the 'So that's like a good stepping stone after three surgeries the tournament all the best and year before," Raducanu said. 'And I think this year I'm just hope to be back next year." In a pre-tournament news ready to push on and build on and I've really kind of taken conference on Monday measures and steps to do that expressed optimism for the new season. with my team and how I'm operating and how I'm feeling She finished her 2024 season about things. So, I'm looking on a high, winning all three of her singles for Britain at the Billy Jean King Cup. forward to this year." Raducanu's career has been

hampered by regularly injuries and she recently hired Yutaka fitness coach Nakamura to join her team. Nakamura accompanied her to Auckland.

The 2021 U.S. Open champion returned to tennis last year after undergoing surgery on both wrists and an ankle.

But she was sidelined for several weeks late in the season by a foot injury. Raducanu fell out of the top 300 during her injury struggles but fought her way back to 56th through 2024. The Auckland event would have marked the first time in almost two years she has been seeded in a tournament.

"I haven't been seeded in a while," Raducanu said. "It doesn't really make a difference though. I feel like everyone and the depth of the women's game right now is so strong that literally anyone can win any tournament.

Bologna in Serie A

AP PERTH

The top-seeded pair of Coco Gauff and U.S. Open finalist Taylor Fritz of the United States are into the United Cup mixed teams tennis quarterfinals.

Fritz beat Borna Coric 6-3, 6-2 Tuesday as the American team needed to win only one match to top Group A. For good measure, Gauff beat Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-2 in the later women's singles. The world No. 3 lost to Vekic at the Paris Olympics but

Bencic was no match for Gauff on Tuesday. "Really happy with how I played today," Gauff said. She's a great player. The Olympics loss hurt so I definitely was thinking about

my team through. opening match.



set for Wednesday, with the U.S. Taking on China, which qualified as the best runnerup, and group winners Kazakhstan and Germany playing each other.

In Sydney, Italy also moved quarterfinals into the Tuesday with a 3-0 win over France at Ken Rosewall Arena. Flavio Cobolli claimed a 6-3, 6-7 (8), 6-2 upset singles win over

The Indian Olympic Association has given France's Ugo Humbert. Jasmine Paolini beat Chloe Paquet 6-0, 6-2 to give Italy its winning margin before also winning the mixed

doubles. Winners of the past two Davis Cups and runners-up two years ago to the U.S. In the inaugural edition of the season-opening mixed teams' event, Italy won Group D without world No.

recognition to the Indian Golf Union (IGU) led by Harish Kumar Reddy while declaring the other body, headed by Brijinder Singh, void. A letter signed by IOA president PT Usha issued on Monday stated that the National Olympic Committee had "reviewed the facts" and

IOA chief PT Usha

recognises golf

body headed by

Harish Reddy

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

"examined the procedural adherence" before recognising the body headed by Reddy.

Slovakia beats Kazakhstan 5-4 in overtime at the world junior hockey championship

AP OTTAWA

Strbak scored



AP ROME



PTI AHMEDABAD

to score 150 in List A cricket

He was a part of the Irani Cup-

winning Mumbai side which defeated Rest of India to win

the trophy after a gap of 27 years in October. On his Ranji

Trophy debut, Mhatre scored a fine 71-ball 52 but Mumbai

lost the season opener to

back after the loss in the first

Ranji game, Mhatre led the charge with a brilliant 176 off

232 balls, which was studded

with 22 fours and four sixes

against Maharashtra. Mumbai

won the game by nine wickets.

He had a couple of quiet

outings against Tripura and

defending

Baroda in an away game.

the champions looking to bounce

With



it just as motivation to do better and I'm happy to send

The U.S. Beat Canada in its The Perth quarterfinals were Verona wins 3-2 at 10-man | Mhatre becomes youngest

IVI 2:55 into overtime to lead Slovakia to a 5-4 win over Kazakhstan at the world hockey junior championship. Slovakia hled a 4-2 lead with

less than five minutes remaining in regulation and Kazakh forward Asanali Sarkenov was assessed a 5minute major and a game misconduct for crosschecking Slovak forward Frantisek Dej.

Kazakhstan scored twice while short-handed, sending the game into overtime. Davlat Nurkenov scored at 16:37 of the third period and Kirill Lyapunov tied it with

just 29 seconds left. Dalibor Dvorsky and Juraj Pekarcik each scored twice for Slovakia, which twice held a three-goal lead. Goaltender Samuel Urban allowed four goals on 17 shots.

Sarkenov and Artur Gross also scored for Kazakhstan. Vladimir Nikitin, a prospect



with the Ottawa Senators, made 37 saves, including four in OT, for Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan earned its first point in the tournament after opening with two lopsided losses, moving last-place ahead of Switzerland in Group B. The teams meet Tuesday with a spot in the quarterfinals on the line on the final day of preliminary round action. Slovakia finished t the

points on a regulation win, an overtime win and two losses. The Slovaks were guaranteed to finish third in

Group B and advance to the quarterfinals. In Group A, Latvia secured a berth in the quarterfinal round by beating Germany 4-3 in overtime. Eriks Mateiko had two goals

for Latvia, including the winner at 3:23 of OT. Bruno Osmanis and Olivers preliminary round with five Murnieks also scored.

Bscored a brace for Bologna but a red card for Tommaso Pobega and a late own-goal by Santiago Castro sent the host team crashing to a 3-2 defeat against Verona in Serie A. Domínguez scored in the 20th and 58th minutes, either side of a Verona double from Amir Sarr and Casper Tengstedt. But Pobega's red card, shown for striking an opponent in an off-the-ball incident early in the second half, hampered the home side and with three minutes left on the clock, a free kick from Ondrej Duda hit Castro to wrong-foot his own goalkeeper and give

Verona all three points. The result was a blow to Bologna's hopes of securing a European place and leaves it in seventh place, four points behind Juventus

Verona moved four points clear of the relegation zone. Como beats Lecce 2-0Nico Paz missed a first-half penalty earlier Monday but made amends in the second period



with the goal that sent Como on its way to a 2-0 win over

Lecce in Serie A. The 20-year-old Argentine international saw his weak spot kick saved by the legs of Wladimiro Falcone after half an hour but he was on target in the 50th minute when he side-footed home from just outside the box.

Patrick Cutrone, who hit the bar early in the game, got a second goal with 10 minutes remaining when he seized on a rebound in the box and slotted home. It was Como's first league win over Lecce since 1994 and lifts it into 15th place, two points

and one spot above its season.

IVIon Tuesday set a new world record for the youngest player to score 150+ in List A cricket during the Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Nagaland here, bettering compatriot Yashasvi Jaiswal's effort.

At 17 years and 168 days, Mhatre broke the previous record set by India batter Jaiswal, who was 17 years and 291 days when he achieved the feat while playing for Mumbai against against Jharkhand in 2019.

Mhatre, who made his debut for domestic giants Mumbai earlier this season, clobbered 11 sixes and 15 fours to make 181 off only 117 balls while powering his side to an imposing 403 for seven in their 50 overs.

Mhatre, who hails from the Virar suburb in Mumbai, has been a regular fixture for the domestic heavyweights across formats ever since he broke into the squad earlier this

Odisha but slammed his second first-class ton - 116 off 149 balls with 12 fours and three sixes - against Services and went on to represent India in the U-19 Asia Cup. The right-handed batter

carried his form by scoring fifties (54 and 67 not out) against Japan and UAE, but fell for a single digit score in the tournament's final which India lost to Bangladesh.

Having missed Mumbai's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title triumph, Mhatre returned to the premier domestic 50-overs competition with a 78 in a high-scoring contest against Karnataka.

Dismal Manchester United loses again at home as Ipswich upsets Chelsea in Premier League

opponent.

AP LONDON

lexander Isak scored for the Alexander Isak scored A game as Newcastle beat Manchester United 2-0 at Old Trafford to condemn Ruben Amorim's side to its worst home run in the top tier since the 1970s. Relegation-threatened Ipswich beat Chelsea 2-0 to win at home for the first time this season, and Aston Villa and Brighton drew 2-

Newcastle's commanding display marked the first time since February 1979 that Man United has lost three home league games in a row. It was also the first time since 1962 that United has lost five league matches in the same calendar month.

Isak started the misery for home fans with his eighth goal in six matches. The Sweden striker put Newcastle ahead with a header entertain the possibility of a top-

after four minutes and Joelinton doubled its lead 15 minutes later when he rose above Lisandro

Martinez to head in a second. effort Isak had another disallowed after half an hour and Sandro Tonali hit the woodwork seconds later as Newcastle threatened to run riot.

Amorim withdrew Joshua Zirkzee for Kobbie Mainoo before halftime but United looked toothless — and clueless — in

what was a dismal display. "We suffered a goal and then it was hard to come back," Amorim said. "They were the better team, plain and simple."

The defeat was the fifth in eight league games since Amorim joined from Sporting Lisbon in November and left United in 14th place, seven points above the relegation zone.

Newcastle is fifth and starting to

four finish.

'There is still a long way to go but the team is improving," Joelinton said. "Time will tell how good we are but we are enjoying football right now. We have to be humble and keep our feet on the ground." Ipswich savors home winChelsea started the day with the best away record in the league after leader Liverpool but it was trailing at Portman Road after just 12 minutes thanks to a mistake from goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen. The Scandinavian rer

Scandinavian replaced Robert Sanchez in the Chelsea goal but he was adjudged to have fouled Liam Delap in the box and Delap got up to convert the penalty with aplomb. Chelsea pushed forward in search

of an equalizer but it was Ipswich that doubled its lead early in the second half.



Chelsea defense and his pass set up Omari Hutchinson to score against his former club.

A poor pass from Axel Disasi It was the first time this season into second. allowed Delap to stretch the that Chelsea has lost two games in Ipswich moved up to 18th place

a row. It remained in fourth place after missing a chance to go above Arsenal and Nottingham Forest

in the 20-team division. It was the first home win in the Premier League for promoted Ipswich since 2002 and coach Kieran McKenna praised his side. "It was everything it needed to be," McKenna said. "We McKenna outstanding defended, organization throughout the game."

There has been hope in the performances in general, we have been competing in almost every game. If you do that, you always have a chance."

Brighton scores late to salvage 2-2 draw at VillaAston Villa was unbeaten in its last eight games at Villa Park but went behind after just 12 minutes against a lively Brighton side.

With the Villa defense all at sea, Simon Adingra gathered a loose ball and curled a right-footed shot past Emiliano Martínez. Villa came roaring back and got the Day program.

an equalizer in the 36th through birthday boy Ollie Watkins. The 29-year-old Watkins, who returned to the side to replace the suspended Jhon Duran, converted a penalty after Morgan Rogers was adjudged to have been fouled.

It was Rogers who put Villa in front early in the second half and once again Watkins was involved. His cute chip released Rogers, who chested the ball down and scored his sixth goal of the season.

However, Tariq Lamptey fired home with eight minutes left to give Brighton a share of the points.

The result leaves Villa in ninth and Brighton in 10th.

"We've been in that position a few times this season and we've failed to see it out," a disappointed Watkins told the BBC's Match of



fact.

Indian cricket has depth to fill Rohit, Virat's void: Lehmann

PTI MELBOURNE

ndian cricket has produced a generational superstar in ▲Yashasvi Jaiswal and will remain in good health even when Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma decide to call time on their careers, feels former Australia head coach and two-time World Cup winner Darren Lehmann. The 54-year-old, who played 27

Tests and 117 ODIs during his decade-long career, is also captivated by Jasprit Bumrah's skills, claiming to have never seen any player have more impact in a single series.

Talking about impending retirements of Rohit and Kohli following their poor show in the ongoing series where India trail 1-2, Lehmann was empathetic and practical about the transition in Indian cricket.

"Look whenever they decide to give it away and whatever happens in next few days they have been great players for India

over a long period of time," Lehmann, a member of 1999 and 2003 ODI World Cup-winning

teams told PTI. "Now actually we see younger players starting to step up for India and play well at next level. There is so much depth in Indian cricket I won't worry too much," Lehmann was pretty matter of

"Whenever these two guys decide to retire, there are so many talented youngsters that Indian

cricket will be in good stead." Having watched Jaiswal emerge as the flagbearer of Indian batting in the series, Lehmann made a bold prediction about the southpaw, who has scores of 161, 82 and 84 in this series.

"Oh, superstar. One of the best I have seen," Lehmann said quickly, before the question was finished. "He (Jaiswal) and Harry Brook are two next generation players. They are the ones that people will sit back and say they are good players. He played very well in



Melbourne and was outstanding in Perth. He has come up leaps and bounds on this tour," the beefy left-hander of vestervears said. But Lehmann reserved his highest praise for Bumrah, equating him with all-time greats such as Wasim Akram and Glenn McGrath.

"I presume he (Bumrah) is the next captain when Rohit finishes. He did a really good job in Perth. He is the best bowler I have ever seen live.

"I have seen Wasim Akram, Glenn McGrath and all but I have not seen a bowler have impact like him in a single series like Jasprit Bumrah has since Mitchell Johnson in 2013-14 Ashes win. "This is very similar as Bumrah already has 30 wickets. He has

been outstanding to watch. He will do well when he gets a chance to lead India? about transition, Talking

Lehmann noted that Australia's batting could be a concern, rather than the bowling, even though

Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Scott Boland, and Michael Neser are all in their early to mid-30s.

"I am not so worried about bowling as lot of good kids are coming up. Lance Morris, Xavier Bartlett from Brisbane Heats, so there are plenty of them. Spinners are okay but it is the batting that is being tested at the moment," said Lehmann.

"There will be some changes with greats retiring but fast bowling will be good enough. How long Cummins and Starc survive time will tell, but hopefully, they will get to till next Ashes?

Lehmann has had a decent reputation as a coach but when asked if he would consider coaching the Indian national team, the answer was negative.

"It would have been an honour to work with Indian national team but I am done with international cricket. I just want the young guys to get better," Lehmann signed off.

Warner wants Australia's

seniors to follow Konstas'

mindset against India

PTI MELBOURNE

LSam

Monday.

avishing praise on young Sam Konstas, former

opener David Warner has

urged Australia's senior

players to adopt a similar

aggressive approach when

facing Indian pace spearhead

Jasprit Bumrah, who has

been a dominant force with

the ball in the ongoing series.

The 19-year-old Konstas

played some stunning scoops

and laps off Bumrah en route

to a 65-ball 60 on his Test

debut during the fourth Test

at Melbourne, which the Aussies won by 184 runs on

"It was very special. People

are going to criticise him as

well. That's the nature of the

beast, that's the way he is

Travis Head explains 'finger on ice' celebration after dismissing Pant

PTI MELBOURNE

ustralia batter Travis Head Ahas explained his unusual celebration after dismissing Rishabh Pant in the Boxing Rishabh Pant in the Boxing Day Test, stating it signifies "finger on the ice," a quirky gesture that he first showed during the tour of Sri Lanka. After batting through an entire session, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant appeared poised to guide India to a draw on the final day of the Boxing Day Test

Boxing Day Test. However, Head turned the game on its head by dismissing Pant, which triggered a dramatic Indian collapse and paved the way for a 184-run Australian victory, giving the hosts a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Pant mis-timed a pull shot and was caught at long-on, after which Head celebrated the moment with his distinctive gesture of folding the fingers of his left hand into a circle and dipping the forefinger of his right hand approaches, it shouldn't take into it.

shift the momentum. "Smudge (Steve Smith) tried a million different things. But it shouldn't take someone to come out there and be brave to get that momentum shifting. You have experience at the top of the order, experience in that whole line Warner said. up,

"Him being brave at the top of the order, you've got guys who have played 50 Tests, they could have been brave

as well, they could have

played different shots, they

could have moved out of their crease and batted

Warner added that while

players like Steve Smith had experimented with various

newcomer's boldness to

different?

going to play," Warner told "Travis Head took the game way from them in A with that magnificent hundred. It shouldn't take that guy just to come and do that. It's the way the Australians played but other people can be braver as well." Bumrah is a genius Bumrah on Sunday became the second fastest Indian along with Ravindra Jadeja to complete 200 Test wickets and the first bowler ever to reach that milestone with a sub-20 average during the



the ice and be ready to go for the next one," Head told 'Triple M Radio' after the

"I didn't expect to be bowling. I thought Galle would be my next bowling. I'll go put it down in a little cup of ice, be ready to go up there next," he added, referring to Australia's upcoming tour of the island

Head's celebration quickly gained attention and went

viral on social media. After the match, Australian captain Pat Cummins was asked about it and he offered

lighthearted explanation. can explain it. It's his finger so hot hes got to put in a cup of ice. Yeah that's what it is, Cummins told reporters. "So, that's normally the

(Nathan Lyon)...Just like that (he) thinks it's very funny. So that's what it would have

been, nothing else." However, Head's celebration didn't sit well with former India cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu, who demanded "stringent action" against the Sidhu, Australian player, calling it 'obnoxious"

Travis head's obnoxious behaviour during the course of the Melbourne test doesn't auger well for for the gentleman's game...Sets the worst possible example when there are kids, women, young & old watching the game. ...This caustic conduct did not insult an individual but a nation of 1.5 billion Indians...Stringent punishment that would serve a deterrent for the future generations needs to be slapped on him so that no one dares follow suit !!!" Sidhu posted on X.

The two teams will play the pivotal final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground, starting

PTI DUBAI India off-spinner Deepti Sharma climbed a spot to enter the top 5 in the latest ICC women's ODI ranking for

home.

Marizanne Kapp (677 rating points). The headlines, taking eight wickets in two matches, including 6/31 in the last game as India completed a clean sweep in the threematch series in Vadodara. Among batters, Jemimah Rodrigues (537 rating points) is closing in on a top-20 as she has jumped four spots to 22nd thanks to scores of 29 and 52 during the series. The big-hitting Richa Ghosh

(13 not out and 23 not out) has moved seven spots to 41st (448 rating points), with

PCB retains Aaqib Javed on selection committee despite interim head coach role interim head coach for both national selector while the time the Champions

Trophy is completed,"

bowlers following her matchwinning performances in the recently-concluded series against the West Indies at Deepti, who is fifth now, has 665 rating points and is marginally behind fourth-placed South Africa's Chinelle Henry's half-century

27-year-old made

Deepti jumps to fifth

spot in ICC ODI rankings

in the third ODI leading to a 21-spot leap to 65th (349 rating points).

However, charismatic India opener Smriti Mandhana (720 rating points), who scored two half-centuries in the series, has dropped one place to third and trails South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt (773)and Chamari

Athapaththu (733). Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has dropped three places to 13th. Hayley Matthews' seventh

ODI century in Vadodara has helped the West Indies opener climb six places to seventh in the ICC Women's Batting Rankings

running joke. It was in the Gabba or somewhere he got a wicket as well and just straight to the fridge, grabs a bucket of ice, puts his finger in and just walks in front of Lyno January 3

AP KARACHI

 $T_{\text{Board (PCB)}}^{\text{he Pakistan Cricket}}$



there was initial confusion coaching role. among the other selectors "The PCB has every However, he also said that regarding his authority. The intention of appointing one the chances of the PCB

white and red-ball formats, taking on the interim

nation.

"Finger on the ice. I started in Sri Lanka. I put my finger on Melbourne Test.

like "When someone Bumrah is bowling to you, you have to try and execute somehow. They put a thirdman in and fine leg to him and bowled him through the gate (in the second innings). "He will look back on that and go 'what a great experience in the Boxing Day Test'. He now gets to come here for New Year's Test."

Konstas had scored 107 off 97 balls against India for the Prime Minister's XI. He had also scored an unbeaten 73 at the MCG against India A, besides making two centuries in the Sheffield Shield and a record-breaking 50 on debut for the Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League.

"What he did in the Prime Minister's XI shows he has that talent. But it also shows he is brave.

fourth day's play of the fourth Test. The India speedstar has taken 30 wickets at an average of just 12.83 this series, including nine wickets in Melbourne.

You're also hoping Bumrah gets it off that handkerchief, he's a genius. He is averaging under 20. His record is incredible," Warner said

pacer Aaqib Javed from the national selection committee, despite him accepting the position of interim head coach for both the white and red-ball national squads.

According to sources within the PCB, since Aaqib's role as head coach is temporary, he will remain a part of the selection committee. However, one insider noted that Aagib's influence as a

selector had diminished. especially after he assumed the role of red-ball head coach following Jason Gillespie's resignation before the South Africa Test series. Since then, other selectors have gained more authority

in decision-making. 'Aaqib's role as selector has been minimal in recent times with the team playing its test series in South Africa. As the other selectors, Azhar Ali, Asad Shafiq, Aleem Dar, Hasan Cheema have been more authoritative and had their say on Shaheen Shah Afridi being sidelined for the two tests in SA after the white ball series," he said. Earlier this year, the PCB had appointed South Africa's Gary Kirsten and Australia's Jason Gillespie as head coaches for the white and red-ball teams. Both were granted selection committee membership and given the

final say in team selections. "But after Pakistan fared poorly in the World T20 Cup followed by the two nil whitewash by Bangladesh in the test series at home, the PCB decided to bring selection revamp the committee by adding Aaqib, Azhar and Aleem to the mix and also stripped Kirsten and Gillispie of considerable powers they enjoyed including being members of the selection committee and final say in team selections," the insider said.

When Aaqib was appointed

McDonald backs under-fire Marsh, remains optimistic about Starc's availablity for Sydney Test

Abbott stepping in to fill

confident.

the void.

Very

PTI MELBOURNE

ustralia head coach Andrew McDonald conceded that Mitchell Marsh has fallen short of expectations with the bat against India but remained optimistic about Mitchell Starc's availability for the pivotal fifth Test in Sydney. Starc's fitness remains the primary worry for the hosts after the pacer battled through sore ribs from day three of the Boxing Day Test but still managed to bowl effectively, including claiming the prized wicket of Virat Kohli on the final day.

"Any time you get through the game, it's always a good indicator that you've a chance at the next game," McDonald told reporters after the hosts picked up memorable victory at the

MCG to take a 2-1 lead in Border-Gavaskar trophy the series.

"It didn't stop him (Starc). Clearly there was a little bit of discomfort early on in spells, but once he got warm it seemed as though he was pretty free. the series for a record-"We'll see how everyone extending recovers. Bowling last, it time. Should Starc be unavailable was a pretty attritional game, something that we're for the series decider at his not used to in the last few home ground, McDonald expressed confidence in

years. "Clearly Starcy's carrying of something some description. We'll assess that.

"But other than that, it Richardson's here for a looks as though we got reason. So if we weren't through pretty unscathed, a) but (with short turnaround recovery is important, and we'll assess what the team looks like in Sydney based upon the surface, as we always do."

SCG is his home ground, so for the first time since he will be serviceable if 2014-15 if they win or draw called upon as well. It'll be the Sydney Test. However, if India win the about assessing frontline quicks and then New Year's Test, they will making decisions from retain the trophy, winning there?

Starc's fitness issues, compounded by his heavy fifth-straight workload alongside skipper Pat Cummins, have also drawn attention to the limited role of Mitch Marsh as a fifth bowler. Tests, Jhye Richardson or Sean Across four

Australia's fifth bowling option Marsh has bowled only 33 overs, a statistic his that underscores underutilization.

Marsh's contributions with confident, he wouldn't be here. He's had a heavy week the bat have been similarly with us in the nets. All indications are he'd be underwhelming, with just 73 runs at an average of capable of bowling 40-plus 10.42 across four Tests (6, overs if he was called upon. 47, 9, 5, 2, 4, 0). These "Sean Abbott's there as lackluster returns have Australia will regain the well. We feel like, [the] sparked criticism and calls

for his exclusion.

McDonald However, defended the all-rounder. "He's in a good [head] space. Would you like our performances? better There's no doubt about that. Over four Test matches, he

hasn't been able to deliver at the level he would like and we would like? "He's up and about though.

We just won a Test match. No, there's no concern. And I think people have probably been reading too much into that.

"We haven't required him with the ball as often as what we would have thought. He bowled again today. There are no injury concerns there. McDonald insisted that

Marsh bowling just 33 overs is simply because the team didn't require him to roll his arm.

board later clarified that or separate coaches for the Aaqib would remain a white and red ball formats by

calling upon foreign coaches again are slim

Solution Rail Passengers IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of all concerned that Northern Railway's new Time-Table will be effective from 01.01.2025. Some of the important Salient Features/details of new Time-Table 2025 are as under :-

- 1. Change in Departure and Arrival time of trains at terminals. (104 trains) (Including Preponement/Postponement of time)
- 2. Revise timings of Arrival of trains (140 trains)
- 3. Speeding up of trains (144 trains)
- 4. Terminal change (03 trains)
- 5. Change in train number (Mail/Exp. trains) (34 trains)
- 6. Change in station name (03 stations)
- 7. Change in train name (06 trains)
- 8. Change in days of run (01 train)
- 9. Change in nomenclature of trains:- Super Fast to Mail (14 trains) and Mail/Express to Super Fast (08 trains)
- 10. Route diversion of trains (04 trains)
- 11. Raising of maximum permissible speed (03 trains)
- 12. Introduction of new trains (28 trains)
- 13. Extension of trains (21 trains)
- 14. Increase in frequency (04 trains)
- 15. Experimental stoppages (69 trains)

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