

Established 1865 SUNDAY DELHI SUNDAY JANUARY 12 2025: PAGES 844 75

magazine

www.dailypioneer.com

made

zonal

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

BJP SLAMS AAP FOR ₹2,026 CR LIQUOR SCAM

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Supply of liquor in Delhi, some retailers surrendered leaked report of the their licenses before the Comptroller policy expired, and the Auditor General government did not re-tender (CAG) on the now-scrapped them which led to the loss of excise policy of the Delhi Rs 890 crores. It said that the government government flagged several "lapses" in the policy and claimed Rs 2,002.68 crore loss for exemptions licensees, which caused a loss to the exchequer. This figure of Rs 941 crores. For the was put out for the first time purpose of retail vends, Delhi to show the impact of the was divided into 32 zones alleged liquor scam. The (containing 849 vends) whose document licenses were granted to 22 entities through tendering. Whereas during the old government's auditor that has exposed the liquor scam is named, "Report of the CAG policy, 377 retail vends were run by four Government on Performance Audit on Regulation and Supply of Liquor in Delhi." The report Corporations and 262 retail vends were run by the private has not been tabled in the individuals The report revealed a loss of revenue to Delhi Assembly so far. After the tune of Rs 144 crore the leak, the Bharatiya Janata owing to irregular grant of waiver on account of COVID-Party (BJP) launched a

राजकोषीय घाटा 2026 BJP leader Anurag Thakur addresses a press conference at the party headquarters

in New Delhi

Citing the leaked CAG report, BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Saturday claimed the Delhi Excise Policy scam is worth Rs 2,026 crore and accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of misleading Delhi residents. Thakur told a press

conference the CAG report has arrived at 10 major findings about the policy, which was scrapped by the AAP government amid a row, asserting that former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal will have to answer the questions it has raised. "He will have to say who pocketed rhe money,"

Kejriwal is the kingpin of the

BJP president J P Nadda claimed the CAG report has exposed intentional lapses, leading to a loss of Rs 2,026 crore to the exchequer.Nadda said on X, "Intoxicated by power, high 'AAP'DA misgovernance. model of loot in full display and that too on something like liquor." He said it is just a matter of a few weeks before the AAP government is voted out and punished for its misdeeds." The CAG Report 'Liquorgate' @ArvindKejriwal @AamAadmiParty Intentional 'Lapses' in Policy Implementation. Rs 2026 Cr

about the BJP Asked allegations, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Saniav Singh said Sanjay Singh said, "Where is the report? The BJP itself keeps saying no CAG report has been tabled." AAP

Loss to Exchequer money," he

Thakur said, alleging that leader Priyanka Kakkar on Saturday accused the BJP of fabricating false allegations against the Delhi government and dismissed the party's claims about a CAG report as "manufactured and baseless." Kakkar alleged during a press conference here that the report presented by the BJP was not authentic and had neither been seen by key stakeholders, including the chief minister and the LĞ, nor listed on the CAG's official

website. The report they are showing is fake and manufactured in their office. It holds no credibility. This is the same strategy the BJP uses repeatedly to mislead people with false allegations," Kakkar said.Referring to previous allegations levelled by the BJP, including those in the liquor policy case, Kakkar claimed even the Supreme Court had dismissed their claims as

Continued on page 2



Ram Temple event **BISWAJEET BANERJEE/** KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■

On the first anniversary of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the grand Ram temple, Uttar Pradesh Minister Chief Adityanath issued a stark warning about the dangers of societal divisions.

"If we remain divided by caste or other ideologies, our religious places will bear the consequences, and our sisters and daughters will suffer," he said, urging unity to preserve the sanctity of India's spiritual heritage.

The historic event saw thousands of devotees gathering in Ayodhya, which has been transformed into a vibrant spiritual epicenter for the three-day celebrations. "Pratishtha Dwadashi calls us

to unify as a nation," CM Yogi said, recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message: "If there is Ram, there is a nation; if there is a nation, there is Ram." He urged citizens to uphold this principle, linking

faith with national identity The anniversary commenced with CM Yogi performing an 'abhishek' of the idol, followed by the chanting of Vedic hymns. He emphasized the need to strengthen Sanatan values as the foundation for unity and national integrity.

Ramjanmabhoom

movement reflects the unwavering resolve of our ancestors, whose sacrifices have brought us to this historic moment," CM Yogi said, highlighting the 500-year struggle to reclaim Lord Ram's birthplace. "Today, Ayodhya feels like Treta Yuga, and in the coming years, the Ram Janmabhoomi complex will emerge as one of the world's most magnificent spiritual centers." Devotees from across the country echoed the Chief Minister's sentiments. Priva Sharma, a visitor from Delhi, said, "Being here feels like stepping into history. The energy and devotion in Ayodhya are unparalleled. It's an emotional experience to see

Ram Lalla in his full glory." Continued on page 2

Building collapses at Kannauj railway station, 23 injured

scathing attack on the Aam

Party

According to a leaked report

of the CAG on Performance

Audit on Regulation and

Aadmi

government.



under-construction building collapsed at the Kannauj railway station

PNS LUCKNOW, KANNAUJ

under-construction Abuilding at the Kannauj railway station collapsed on Saturday afternoon, trapping around two dozen workers under the rubble. At least 23 people have been injured in the incident. Six of them were pulled out of the debris and rushed to hospital. The North Eastern Railway (NER) said it has constituted a threemember committee to probe

"According to preliminary information, the incident occurred when the underconstruction shuttering of the roof collapsed," said District Magistrate (DM) Shubhrant Kumar Shukl.

Taking cognisance of the incident, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to ensure safe recovery of those trapped inside and their proper medical treatment. State Relief Commissioner Bhanu

Chandra Goswami is in touch with the Kannauj district administration for all possible help in relief work, state government officials said.

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been deployed at the site where frantic efforts are underway to the workers. Ambulances have been kept on standby to provide first aid and take the injured to hospital.

Continued on page 2

Strategic Z-morh tunnel in Valley tomorrow

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

19 to zonal licenses. It also

revealed that incorrect

collection of security deposit

from zonal licenses leading to

loss of revenue of around Rs

With the opening up of the 6.4 km long Z-Morh tunnel, scheduled to be Prime inaugurated by Minister Narendra Modi on January 13, India is inching closer to fulfilling its dream of constructing the strategic corridor between Srinagar-Leh to provide all-weather connectivity and maintain defence and civil supply lines adverse

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

of the corridor to the Nation on Monday the focus will be shifted to the timely completion of the 13.15 km long Zojila Tunnel. The Z-Morh tunnel will link

Kangan with Sonamarg, a famous tourist destination on the Srinagar-Leh highway. The Zojila tunnel will provide vear-round connectivity

between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh, which will be extremely important for the development of Ladakh, the conditions. promotion of tourism, the free movement of local goods,

MVA rift grows as Shiv Sena (UBT)

announces independent poll strategy



armed forces in case of emergency.

Currently the average travel time to cross the Zojila Pass is

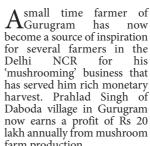
and the movement of Indian three hours. After the completion of this tunnel, the travel time will come down to 20 minutes, resulting in fuel The total Project cost of the Zojila tunnel is Rs. 6,809.69 crore. The tentative deadline for the completion of the project at an altitude of over 11,000 feet is September-December 2026. To welcome the dignitaries

visiting the venue of the Z-Morh tunnel project the Union Territory administration is making elaborate arrangements. The security personnel have been deployed in large numbers to

secure the venue. Continued on page 2

Mushrooms bring ₹20 Lakh profit, inspiration for Gurugram farmers

SANJAY KUMAR MEHRA



farm production. Prahlad Singh told that earlier he was producing millet and wheat as traditional farming in which the income was becoming negligible and the profit was also decreasing day by day due to increased expenditure and less production. In such a situation, inspiration was taken from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ideas of doubling the income and emphasizing on commercial farming using modern technology.

"If the farmer becomes modern and moves towards commercial farming, then along with doubling the income of the farmer, the face of agriculture and horticulture in the area will also change," Prahlad said. Gurugram ADC Hitesh Kumar Meena visited mushroom village



Singh on Saturday. After collecting information from District Horticulture Officer Neha Yadav, a plan was chalked out to set up a mushroom production unit by taking advantage of the

schemes of the department. A complete setup prepared in about 8 kanal area costing about Rs 40 lakh was

Horticulture Department he also took a loan from bank for the remaining amount. The farmer told that he has set up a compost unit and four production units government help.

A production cycle of 90 days runs in each production unit. Prahlad informed that about 38 to 40 quintals of mushroom is being produced from one unit. The wholesale price of mushroom in the market is around Rs 140 to 150 per kg.

earning Rs 20 to 22 lakh as net profit after deducting all the expenses in the whole year. Prahlad Singh said that most of the wholesalers in the area

are coming to the farms and taking mushrooms. Due to this they do not even need to go to the market. He told that he is currently trying to get direct deals with other big food establishments in Gurugram and NCR.

The horticulture department is ready to provide them all possible help. Under the departmental scheme, the maximum unit cost of mushroom compost and a mushroom production unit has been fixed at Rs 20 lakh by the Horticulture Department, Harvana in the district. In which 40 percent amount will be given in the form of grant in General category and 85 percent amount in Scheduled Caste category," said district government official.

⊥of its decision to support Aam Aadmi Party Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Sena on Saturday announced that it would

In a development that came close on the heels (AAP) in the Delhi Assembly polls and which reflected the widened rift within the Maharashtra, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv ming local body in independently.

A day after he questioned the very relevance of the Opposition INDIA bloc at the national level, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP and spokesperson Sanjay Raut dropped a bombshell by saying that his party would go it alone in the local body

Talking to media persons, Raut said: "As already indicated by our party president Uddhav Thackeray, from Nagpur to Mumbai we will contest all the municipal corporation polls independently. Let's see what happens. We will get to know our party's strength across the

"If we are to contest the polls as an alliance, when will our party workers get an opportunity to contest the polls? If our workers don't get a chance to fight polls, it will affect the party's growth. If we are to contest the municipal corporation, Zilla Parishad and Nagar Panchayat polls, our party will be strengthened," Raut said.

However, the Congress and NCP (Sharad Pawar) have not yet come out with a formal statement on the decision of their alliance partner -- the Shiv Sena (UBT) -to contest the forthcoming local body polls independently. NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, reacting to the Sena (UBT)'s decision to support the AAP in the Delhi Assembly polls, had expressed serious concerns that the Uddahv Thackeray-led party's



prospects of the prospects of all three MVA partners in the polls.

Raut's statement appeared to be in line with the stand taken by the Shiv Sena (UBT) on Friday, when he had indirectly slammed the Congress for its failure to keep the INDIA bloc together, and also questioned the very relevance of the all Opposition front at the national level.

'We fought the Lok Sabha elections together, we got good results. After that it was the responsibility of all of us, especially Congress, to keep the INDIA alliance alive, sit together and guide the way forward. But till now not a single such meeting has taken place after the Lok Sabha elections. This is not right," Raut had

"Leaders like Omar Abdullah, Mamta Banerjee Akhilesh Yaday and Arvind Keiriwal have said that the INDIA bloc is no longer in existence. If people have begun to nurse such doubts, l would say the biggest party in the alliance Congress — is responsible for this. There is no coordination, there is no discussion. This means that there are serious doubts in the minds of the people whether everything is fine in the INDIA alliance or not... If this alliance breaks once, then the INDIA alliance will not be formed again," Raut had said.

Continued on page 2



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The crime branch of Police have apprehended ¬he crime branch of Delhi four people for possessing and dealing with horns of rare white rhinoceros usually found in African countries. valued at Rs three crore in the international market. As per the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, greater one-horned rhino is listed under Schedule I which prohibits the capturing, killing, poisoning, or trapping of wild animals. Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjay Kumar Sain, said, the police received a tip off about some persons dealing in illegal trade of rhinoceros horns and to unearth the whole nexus, a policeman was send as a decoy customer. The police have registered an FIR under relevant sections of BNS at the Crime branch police Continued on page 2

completed. While the farmer got 40 percent subsidy by the District

Principal orders 80 schoolgirls to remove shirts as punishment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RANCHI/DHANBAD

 $\begin{array}{cccc} T^{he} \ principal \ of \ a \ private \\ school \ in \ Jharkhand's \\ Dhanbad \ district \ was \ accused \end{array}$ of ordering 80 girls of class 10 to remove their shirts for writing messages on them, prompting the administration to initiate an inquiry, an official said on Saturday. The girls were allegedly forced to return home in their blazers without shirts beneath.

The incident took place in a prestigious school Digwadih under Jorapokhar police station area on Friday, Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner (DC) Madhvi Mishra said. The parents complained to the DC that



completing their examination, were celebrating 'pen day' by writing messages on each others' shirts. The principal objected to the

celebration and asked the students to remove their shirts, even though they sought an apology. All students were sent back home in their blazers without the shirts, the parents

told the DC. "Several guardians lodged complaints against the principal. We also talked to some of the victim girls. The administration has taken the matter seriously. A committee has been set up to investigate the matter," Mishra said. The committee consists of the

sub-divisional magistrate, district education officer, district social welfare officer and the sub-divisional police officer. Action would be taken on the basis of the probe panel's report, the DC said. İharia MLA Ragini Singh also

accompanied the parents to the DC's office on Saturday when they lodged complaints against principal. Singh described the incident as "shameful and incident as unfortunate".

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Light to moderate rain lashed out in parts of Delhi and the national Capital region on Saturday evening leading to traffic jams and cold wave conditions. The instant rain triggered traffic congestion at key routes in Delhi at the peak hours, frustrating commuters. ISBT Kashmiri ITO, Mehrauli Badarpur road, Anand Vihar road, Chirag Dilli, Dhaula Kuan, Sainik Farm, Azad Market road, Karol Bagh, Peeragarhi Road, New Rohtak Road are among those stretches that witnessed traffic jams during the peak hours in the evening. The weather department forecasts that weather is expected to

remain the same on Sunday.



was recorded a low of 7.7 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile,

dense fog moderate to continued to blanket parts of Delhi and its adjoining areas on Saturday, prompting the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) to issue multiple The minimum temperature

advisories overnight, asking passengers to contact airline concerned to be updated about flight status. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), dense to very dense fog conditions likely to continue over North,

IMD warns of dense fog, rain, traffic disruptions in Delhi WEATHER



7.7°C(+0.3)

East and Northeast India during next 2- 5 days.

According to the weather Safdarjung department, observed minimum visibility of 50 metre from 12.30 am to 1.30 am which improved thereafter becoming 200 metre and continues to remain so 7.30 am. The humidity was 100 per cent during the day.

In comparison to recent days, early morning temperatures have dipped between 8 and 11 degrees Celsius, highlighting the ongoing cold conditions. The maximum temperature settled as 17 degrees Celsius,

season's average, the IMD said. Parts of the national capital, including the Central Delhi area, received light rain. Forty-five trains were delayed as a thick layer of fog engulfed the city in the morning, reducing visibility which impacted train operations, officials said. In its advisory, the IMD has cautioned that dense fog may

affect some airports, highways

and railway routes in the areas of met- sub-division. It has

advised travellers to be careful

three notches below the

while driving or outing through any transport. 'Unless taken precautionary measures, it may lead to some road traffic collisions," it said. The weather department also stated there are chances of tripping of power lines in the

very dense fog routes. Continued on page 2

AAP MLA dies from accidental gunshot in Ludhiana

PNS CHANDIGARH

AAP leader and Ludhiana West MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi has died of a gunshot injury, with his family members and state party chief saying he was fatally hit by a bullet that got fired accidently from his pistol when he was cleaning it.

Punjab AAP president Aman Arora, who visited the grieving family in Ludhiana, said Gogi would clean his licensed pistol everyday. While he was doing so Friday night, it got fired accidentally and claimed his life, Arora

Joint Commissioner of Police Jaskaran Singh Teja said the bullet pierced Gogi's temple and he was rushed to the local Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead The incident occurred around 11:30 pm on Friday at Gogi's house. Teja said, "According to his family members, it was an accidental fire.

Legal notice against politicians for levelling allegations against BPSC

Court

irregularities

The police

BPSC exam.

Patna-based

Sources in the

over

December 13," he added.

examination conducted on

registered a fresh FIR against

a Patna-based coaching

institute, linked to Khan Sir,

for allegedly spreading

misinformation related to the

confirmed that notices have

been sent to several other

individuals and owners of

Meanwhile, Independent MP from Purnea, Rajesh Ranjan

alias Pappu Yadav, has called

for a Bihar bandh on January

12 in support of the students

Varun Choudhary, national

wing

(NSUI), along with his

visited Gardani Bagh, where the protesting BPSC aspirants

seeking cancellation BPSC's December 13 exam.

president of

supporters, on

student

Students'

institutes in this regard.

have also

BPSC

coaching

Congress's

Union of India

National

Saturday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) on Saturday said it has issued legal notices to "a number of including individuals, politicians" who have levelled baseless" allegations against the body on the row over the Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) held on December 13 across the state. Speaking to PTI, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Examination Controller, BSPC, said, "The commission has sent notices to a number of individuals, including politicians, certain people associated with coaching centres... Those who made baseless allegations against the BPSC... Some more notices will be

sent shortly." Although the examination controller did not disclose the names of those to whom notices have been sent, Jan Suraaj Party's vice president Y V Giri confirmed that one of the recipients was party founder Prashant Kishor, who is currently in a hospital due to deterioration in health

following his fast-unto-death. Giri told reporters that the notice appeared to be "misconceived and deserved" to be ignored".

The BPSC notice asked Kishor to provide "full details of irrefutable and verifiable proofs and evidence" within seven days to support his allegations regarding malpractices in the Integrated 70th CCE. The notice accused Kishor of making defamatory

According to the notice, Kishor recently alleged in interviews that "jobs of children were sold for Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore" and the claimed scandal amounted to "more than Rs 1.000 crore".

and baseless statements.

Another recipient of the notice was Patna-based tutor and YouTuber, Khan Sir, who voiced anguish over the BPSC

"Yes, I have received a legal notice from the BPSC for my speeches in support of the protesting BPSC aspirants. I will soon send my reply after consulting my lawyers. But, one thing I must say that I will keep fighting for the cause of students," he told PTI. have been staging a dharna for the last three weeks seeking cancellation of the "We are also preparing to approach the Patna High the December 13 exam. pertaining to the alleged

He also observed 'maun-vrat' in support of students for some time at the protest site. Meanwhile, the protesting students organised a press students organised a press conference, thanking everyone from Tejashwi Yadav, Pappu Yadav and Prashant Kishor for extending support to their struggle.

"Despite their mutual disagreement, they supported our struggle. We are, however, still awaiting a response from

still awaiting a response from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who must break his silence. If he says that cancellation of the exam is out of question, then we will have to chalk out a strategy accordingly," the students said.

The CCE conducted by the BPSC on December 13 has been in the eye of a storm over allegations of question paper leak. Even as the government dismissed the allegation, a fresh test was ordered for more than 12,000 candidates who had appeared in the exam at a centre in

J and K faces driest year in 50 years

PNS SRINAGAR

Tammu and Kashmir experienced its driest year in five decades in 2024 as the below-normal precipitation continued for the fifth consecutive year, with a sharp 29 per cent deficit in rainfall compared to the annual average of 1232.3 mm, weather experts said on Saturday. This marks the fifth consecutive year of below-normal precipitation in

the Union Territory. With the 2024 figures nearing the record low of 802.5 mm in 1974, the region's precipitation levels continue to dwindle. The prolonged deficit has left rivers, reservoirs, and groundwater sources under stress, while farmers and residents face increasing challenges due to reduced water availability, leading to concerns over water scarcity and its impact on agriculture, hydropower, and daily life.

The monthly data for the year 2024 reveals the severity of the deficit, with the year starting off with a staggering 91 per cent shortfall in the month of January, the weather expert

IIT Kanpur develops robotic hand for stroke recovery

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT), Kanpur has developed a first-of-its-kind Brain-Computer Interface (BCI)based Robotic Hand Exoskeleton to transform stroke rehabilitation and redefine post-stroke therapy by accelerating recovery and enhancing outcomes.

The BCI-based robotic hand exoskeleton developed by Prof. Ashish Dutta from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Kanpur, has been supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST)
India Education (DST), UK Research Initiative and Indian Medical (UKIERI), Council

Research (ICMR). It employs a unique closed-loop control system that actively engages the patient's brain during therapy. It integrates three essential components: a Brain-Computer Interface that

captures EEG signals from the brain's motor cortex to assess the patient's intent to move, a robotic hand exoskeleton that performs therapeutic hand movements, and software

that synchronizes brain signals with the exoskeleton for real-time assist-asrequired force feedback.

TaÎking about innovation, Prof. Dutta said, Stroke recovery is a long and often uncertain process. Our device bridges the gap between physical therapy, brain engagement, and visual feedback creating a closed-loop control system activates brain plasticity, which is the brain's ability to change its structure and function in response to stimuli.

significant for patients whose recovery has plateaued, as it offers renewed hope for further improvement and regaining mobility. With promising results in both India and the UK, we are optimistic that this device will make a significant impact in the field of neurorehabilitation." Stroke-induced impairments often result from damage to the motor cortex, and traditional physiotherapy methods have limitations due to insufficient

involvement. clinical conducted in collaboration with Regency Hospital (India) and the University of Ulster (UK), have yielded exceptional showcasing transformative potential of

Brain-Computer (BCI)-based Interface Robotic Hand Exoskeleton. Remarkably, patients—four in India and four in the UK-who had one or two years post-stroke

plateaued in their recovery achieved complete recovery through this innovative therapy.
The device significantly

enhances the effectiveness of rehabilitation by actively engaging the brain during therapy, leading to faster and more comprehensive recovery compared to conventional physiotherapy. Stroke recovery is most effective within the first six to twelve months, but this device has demonstrated the ability to facilitate recovery even beyond that critical time said a statement from the Institute.

ED seizes 66 Kg marijuana in Tripura, money laundering case PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday said it has seized about 66 kg of "high quality" marijuana following sees. following searches in Tripura as part of a narcotics trafficking-linked money laundering case. The raids were undertaken

on January 10 in the state against inter-state drug cartels involved in the trafficking of narcotic substances, including ganja (marijuana) and phensedyl, a codeine-based cough syrup abused as an intoxicant. The money laundering case of the federal agency stems

multiple registered by the Tripura Police against some individuals named Kamini Debbarma, Bishu Tripura, Aup Ranjan Das and others charges of drug ficking. "The accused trafficking. network facilitating drug trafficking across various

states including Tripura, Assam, Bihar and other parts of India," the ED said in a statement.

It claimed that the "proceeds of crime" generated through drug trafficking, received via hawala and deposited in benami accounts, were invested in purchasing various movable assets like fixed deposits and bank balances and immovable properties in the names of members and benamidars (in whose name benami property is standing).

The agency said it seized about 66 kgs of "high quality" ganja, along with financial records, details of benami properties and electronic devices, suggesting the generation of a "significant" amount of proceeds of crime. This operation, according to the agency, is part of the ongoing efforts by the ED to combat the illegal drug trade proceeds of crime generated from illegal drug trafficking.

BJP releases second list of 29 candidates for Delhi polls



SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

The BJP on Saturday released the second list of 29 candidates for the upcoming high-octane Delhi elections featuring notable names like such as Harish Khurana, Delhi BJP Vice-President Kapil Mishra and former MLA Neeraj Basoya. With Khurana in the fray with the party fielding him from Moti Nagar assembly constituency against AAP's Charan Goel and Congress' Rajender Namdhari, there are a total of three sons of former Delhi Chief Ministers in the fray including Sheila Dikshit's son Sandeep Dikshit and Saheb Singh Verma's son turncoats like Kapil Mishra

who had been an MLA of Karawal Nagar from AAP's ticket before joining the BJP in 2019. He has been fielded against AAP's Manoj Tyagi. Congress turncoat Neeraj Basoya has been given the ticket from Kasturba Nagar against Congress' Abhishek Dutt and AAP's Ramesh Pehalwan. With the second list, the

party has so far named candidates for 58 seats for the elections to the 70-member Delhi Assembly. This comes after the Central Eletion Committee's (CEC) meeting on Friday where senior party leadership including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BJP President JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were present. The list features the name of

including Deepti Indora from Matia Mahal, Urmila Kailash Gangwal from the reserved Schedule Caste seat of Madipur, Shweta Saini from Tilak Nagar, Neelam Pahalwan Najafgarh, and Priyanka features Schedule seat of Kondli.

five women candidates

Noida teen injured in hit-and-run by reckless luxury car

STAFF REPORTER ■ NOIDA

A 14-year-old boy sustained serious injuries after being hit by a car while jogging on a service road in Noida Extension, with the police arresting the driver of the luxury vehicle. The boy is being treated at a private hospital and his condition is critical, on official said.

The incident took place around 6 am on January 9 near Stellar Jeevan Society in the Bisrakh police station area when the Jaguar car allegedly struck the boy from behind, as per a complaint lodged by the victim's father, Murari Singh. "My son Neeraj was running on the service road when the Jaguar, driven recklessly, hit him from behind. He sustained serious injuries to his head and chest and is undergoing treatment at a private hospital, Singh has said in his complaint. A police spokesperson said that following the complaint, an FIR police station. "The boy is being treated for his injuries at a dead and over 750 injured.

condition remains critical. The vehicle involved and its driver are in police custody, and investigation further underway," the official added. According to the police, the erring Jaguar XE is registered in Gautam Buddh Nagar district and its 22-year-old driver has been arrested. The FIR was lodged under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 281 (rash driving) and 125b (causing grievous hurt with rash or negligently done act that endangers human life), the

private hospital, where his

spokesperson added.
Recently, taking note of the high number of accidents and casualties caused by them in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed officials to launch large-scale road safety awareness campaigns, especially in schools and colleges.

According to official figures on road accidents available from January to September 2024, the crashes that left around 330

MVA rift grows as Shiv Sena (UBT) announces independent poll strategy

From page 1

decision to go it alone in the local body polls should be seen in the context of the fact in total disarray after its miserable performance in the recent Maĥarashtra Assembly polls, when the Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP won 20, 16, and 10 seats, respectively, as against the 230 seats out of the total 288 seats

ruling MahaYuti partners -comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP

The Shiv Sena (UBT)'s

collectively bagged by the

(Aiit Pawar). Informed sources in the

Congress said that the central out to Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray in the coming days, while NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar - who incidentally is the architect of the MVA - might initiate talks with Thackeray in his effort to salvage the situation that threatens to go out of hand.

Strategic Z-morh...

Ramesh Tiwari, a retired teacher from Varanasi, added, 'This temple is not just a place of worship but a symbol of unity and resilience for Hindus everywhere." The celebrations witnessed an

average daily footfall of over 1.5 lakh devotees, with numbers expected to surge further. Head priest Satvendra Das described the scene as a testament to the deep connection between Lord Ram and his devotees. "The overwhelming turnout shows the joy and devotion of people from all walks of life," he remarked.

A highlight of the anniversary ceremonial 'Panchamrit Abhishek,' where the idol was anointed with milk, curd, ghee, honey, and sugar, followed by a ritual bath with Ganga water. Lord

garments woven with gold threads, and a diamondstudded crown graced his head. CM Yogi participated in the prayers, offering his reverence and emphasizing the event's spiritual and national significance.

The celebrations culminated in a collective prayer for harmony and prosperity, with devotees reaffirming their commitment to the values embodied by Lord Ram. "The temple and its festivities bring a sense of pride and connection with our roots," said Meena Gupta, a homemaker from Kanpur, who attended the event with Ayodhya's family. transformation into a hub of devotion and spirituality

continues to inspire millions,

making the Ram temple a

beacon of faith and unity for

generations to come.

PM Modi to Inaugurate IMD warns of dense **Z-Morh Tunnel**

A team of SPG, looking after the security details of the Prime Minister, are already camping in the area and conducting mock drills to secure the venue. Jammu and Kashmir Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday visited Sonmarg to review preparations for the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. In a post on XOmar said, "The inauguration of the Z-Morh tunnel will open up the region to Winter tourism. I believe Sonmarg will be developed as one of the best Ski resorts in the region. The tunnel will also reduce travel time between

Srinagar/ Kargil-Leh". According to official sources, a sum of Rs 2700 crores has

spent construction of the Z-Morh tunnel.

The 6.4 km long tunnel got its name from the Z-shaped road stretch near the construction

In October 2024, a group of heavily armed terrorists targeted construction workers near Gagangir, the Z-Morh tunnel project site, killing a total number of seven employees including a local

Later, the Union Territory administration ordered an immediate security audit of the major infrastructure projects in the region and also beefed up the security to prevent selective targeting of the construction workers to stall the projects and delay their construction.

fog, rain, traffic...

From page 1

"A fresh western disturbance is likely to affect northwest India from the night of 14th January, 2025. Under its influence, Isolated rainfall/snowfall activity likely over Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh-Gilgit-Baltistan-Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh during15th -17th and Isolated rainfall activity

over East Rajasthan on 14th & 15th January," it added. Meanwhile, the Centre for Development Holistic (CHD), an NGO working for the welfare of homeless, on Saturday claimed that at least 474 homeless people in Delhi have died due to exposure to the cold between November 15, 2024, and January 10,

There is no official data on the same.

In a letter addressed to Delhi Chief Secretary Dharmendra and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) Chief Executive Officer Ravi Dhawan, CHD cited police statistics, indicating that an alarming 80 per cent of "unidentified dead bodies" in the city are believed of

homeless individuals. Between November 15 2024 to January 10, 2025, 474 homeless people died in Delhi due to the 'winter exposure' and unavailability of essential protective measures such as warm clothing, blankets, adequate shelter," the NGO

Building collapses at Kannauj railway station, 23 injured

From page 1

Roof shuttering is temporary structure that supports concrete while it sets. Minister of State (Independent Charge), Social Welfare, Asim Arun also reached the spot.

Construction was going on for the new terminal of the Kannauj railway station under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Arun said. "Once the rescue operation is completed, a thorough probe will be launched into the incident," he said.

The NER division of the Indian Railways said in a statement that it has formed a high-level three-member committee to investigate the incident at the Kannaui railway station.

'The investigation team will include the chief engineer, planning and design; the additional divisional railway manager, Izzatnagar; and the chief security commissioner of the Railway Protection Force," the statement quoted Chief Public Relations Officer of NER Pankaj Kumar Singh

Four arrested for rhino horn trade in Delhi

The arrested individuals are Deepak Sharma (57), a resident of Lajpat Nagar; Suresh Kumar (57), Sant Ram (57), and Anil Kumar Sethi (60), all residents of Uttam Nagar, police said.

The four of them were found to be involved in the illegal trade of horns from a white police rhinoceros, added.White rhinoceros is a species native to African countries and is considered

highly endangered. On January 9, the decoy customer finalized the deal for Rs one crore and the team raided a flat in Lajpat Nagar where four persons were found with two horns of

rhinoceros. All were asked whether they have any documents pertaining to legal possession of the horns but they could not provide any such documents, Sain said. "As part of the operation, constable Naveen was

deployed as a decoy customer. After negotiations, the deal for the sale of the horns was finalised for Rs 1 crore, with the perpetrators planning to deliver the horns to the buyer. The team raided a flat in Lajpat Nagar, where they apprehended the four accused and recovered the two horns," Additional Commissioner of Police

(Crime Branch) Sanjay Kumar Sain. The officer further stated that

accused failed to provide any documentation to prove the legal possession of the horns. Wildlife experts horns examined the confirmed they were from a white rhinoceros. The horns, which have significant value in the international market due to their rarity and demand, police said.

questioning,

During the investigation, it transpired that a suspect Deepak Sharma had two horns from the last 90 years from the time of his grandfather and had grandfather and preserved them as being rare and antique article belonging to African white Rhinoceros. Since Covid-19 pandemic, he loss and owns Rs 35-40 lakh of debt. He knew that the horns are rare and having a price more than Rs 3 crores and hence, due to his poor financial conditions, he decided to sell these antique horns to earn handsome Knowing the high value of the

horns, Sharma reached out to Suresh Kumar, a Mahant in Uttam Nagar, seeking to sell the horns for Rs 1 crore, police said. Kumar, in turn, contacted

Sant Ram, a government employee, who connected with Anil Kumar Sethi, a private worker, to finalize the deal, they added.

"The group was motivated by has been trapped in a business financial distress, with each

individual facing debt or financial obligations. Suresh Kumar needed money for construction work at an ashram, while Sant Ram and Anil Kumar were also in debt and saw the sale of the horns as a way to earn quick money, Sain said.

Police said a case under various sections of the Wildlife Protection Act has been registered, including charges related to the illegal possession and sale of wildlife products. The investigation is ongoing and further action will be taken to identify and apprehend any individuals involved in this wildlife international trafficking network, Sain

From page 1

Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, over the AAP government's controversial liquor policy come as a big setback to the ruling AAP ahead of the February 5 Assembly elections, giving fresh ammunition to the Opposition BJP and the Congress who have dubbed the scam "Liquorgate". The explosive findings reveal serious violations, including lack of transparency in

pricing, improper issuance and renewal of licences,

failure to penalize violators,

to seek approval from the Lieutenant Governor (LG), The damning findings of the cabinet, or the assembly. It also mentions that the policy by then ex-CM Arvind Kejriwal failed to achieve its intended goals and alleged that AAP leaders benefitted from kickbacks.

BJP Slams AAP for ₹2,026 Cr Liquor scam

The report noted, "There was lack of scrutiny of the business entities with regards to their financial wherewithal and management expertise. Instances of related business entities holding licences across the liquor supply chain were noticed.

"Liquor supply data indicates exclusivity arrangements between zonal licencees and wholesalers and Brand and the government's failure Pushing. Surrender of zonal

substantial revenue loss. Other important measures which were planned in the policy, like setting up of laboratories and batch testing for quality assurance, setting up of super premium vends etc., were not implemented," it said. "Responsibility accountability should be fixed

licences during the extended

policy period further led to

for the lapses observed and the enforcement mechanism should be strengthened," said Murmu in his final recommendation in the report for the year ended March 31, 2022. The report was also signed by Principal Accountant General (Audit), Delhi, Aman Deep Chatha.

Kejriwal's 10-year rule in Delhi proved to be 'AapDa': Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched another attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and its leader Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday, calling their 10-year rule in Delhi has proved to be an "AapDa" ("disaster.") Addressing the 'Jhuggi Basti Pradhan Sammelan at the Jawaharlal Nehru stadium, Shah alleged that the toilet in Kejriwal's so-called "Sheesh Mahal" (glass palace) was more expensive than the slums in the city. Shah charged that the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has proved to be an "Aapda" (disaster) in its 10 years of rule in Delhi. He slammed AAP supremo and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal for allegedly betraying the slum dwellers and forcing them to live in pathetic conditions in slums. Reiterating that no ongoing welfare schemes for poor will be stopped if the BJP comes to power in Delhi, the Union Minister said "Slum dwellers will become "liberators" of Delhi by uprooting the "Aapda" (AAP) government in the upcoming Assembly

polls and promised that every slum dweller will be provided a house if the BJP wins the

a house if the BJP wins the polls. "The BJP will ensure pucca houses for every slum dweller," he said. Shah said, "People living in slums of Delhi are getting dirty water. What did Arvind Kejriwal do in Delhi in the last 10 years? If you are not able to do anything. Arvind able to do anything, Arvind Kejriwal, then you should leave the government. The BJP will give all the benefits. Arvind Kejriwal is the only CM who did not resign even after going to jail."
The Union Minister accused

AAP of betraying slum dwellers and forcing them to live in deplorable conditions. "The slum dwellers will become the liberators of Delhi and do the work of uprooting AAP-da (disaster) government," Shah asserted. Promising housing and improved living conditions, he emphasised that the BJP's manifesto is a "guarantee of Prime Minister Narendra Modi." He stated, "Every person living in a slum will be given a permanent house. The BJP manifesto is not like the manifesto of AAP-da. We do



what we say. In a sharp critique of Kejriwal's governance, Shah added, "Open a tap, and dirty water comes out; open a window, and there's a foul smell; step outside, and you're greeted by broken roads. Even during Chhath Puja, people

couldn't bathe properly because of the polluted

Yamuna. Garbage heaps on the streets and filth everywhere—this AAP-da has turned Delhi into a living

The elections for 70-member Delhi Assembly polls will be held on February 5 and the votes will be counted on February 8. Shah greeted the gathering on the first consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla's idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya with a loud chant of "Jai Shri Ram".

When our manifesto comes, it will address every pain you face. The BJP's manifesto is not like that of the AAP, where they take votes and return after five years with

new false promises. The BJP's manifesto is Modi's guarantee, and it will be fulfilled on the and it will be rullilled on the ground. When we talked of Ram Temple, Kejriwal said toilets need to be constructed, when Article 370 was scraped, he said people need houses. Modi ji gave toilets as well as houses to the poor people not houses to the poor people, not Kejriwal," Shah said. He said the BJP's Delhi election manifesto will provide "relief from all your problems".
The senior BJP leader lashed

out at Keiriwal over his claim, earlier in the day, that the BJP had finalised its leader Ramesh Bidhuri as the chief ministerial face of the party for the Delhi polls. "Can Kejriwal decide the BJP's chief ministerial face?" he said, adding that the AAP supremo's "manipulations" were understood by Delhi people. "Lies, betrayal and going back on promises," are the qualities of Kejriwal, Shah said, accusing the AAP leader of building a "Sheesh Mahal" instead of toilets in Delhi's slum clusters. Referring to Kejriwal's political journey, Shah said, Those who once led an anti-corruption committed such corruption that broken all records. Kejriwal himself has become a disaster

"Congress and 'AAP-da' cannot benefit the people of Delhi. Only the BJP can benefit them... They are making promises every day just for the sake of the vote bank. Can Arvind Kejriwal declare the CM face of BJP?... After the formation of the BJP government in Delhi, not a single welfare scheme for the poor will be stopped," he said I want to reiterate what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said earlier that no welfare schemes for the poor will be stopped," he said, accusing Kejriwal of accusing Kejriwal of spreading "lies" that the BJP will demolish the city's slums of it came to power. While the

gas, Kejriwal did nothing for them in Delhi, he said. Around 1000 slum cluster leaders attended the event, which was welcomed by Delhi BJP's Election Incharge, MP Baijayant Panda; Co-Incharge, National Secretary

prime minister gave the poor

houses, ration, cheap medicines, loans, and cooking

State Virendra Sachdeva, along with MPs Manoj Tiwari, Ramveer Singh Bidhuri, Yogendra Chandla, Kamaljeet Sahrawat, Khandelwal, and Bansuri Swaraj, Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta, National Media Co-Incharge Sanjay Mayukh, and Organizing Secretary Vishnu

Dr. Alka Gurjar, MP Atul

Hoping to make a comeback in the national capital where it where it was out of power for over 25 years, Delhi BJP launched the "Jhuggi Sampark Abhiyan" (slum outreach campaign) in the city on June 21 last year. "vistaraks" workers) including 53 women, were deployed for approximately 1,000 booths in Delhi's slum clusters. Each outreach worker was assigned the responsibility of two to three booths. The party tasked with maintaining daily contact with the people at the booths strengthening the BJP's connection with them.

Kejriwal lambasts BJP for running operation to create fake voters in his constituency

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

AAP National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday lambasted BJP for running an operation to create fake votes in his constituency, New Delhi. He revealed that applications for creating 20-30, and even 40 new voter IDs have been filed from the homes of several BJP ministers and MPs during December and January

"How is it that so many people suddenly started living in BJP MPs' houses? There are cases where a single-room slum has applications for 30 new voter IDs, or a small shop has applications for 40 new voter IDs. Who are these people?," Kejriwal sought to know.

Arvind Kejriwal said that clearly, the BJP has already accepted defeat. "Gradually, the public is realizing that BJP does not fight elections fairly. They rely solely on dishonesty during elections. Our workers have been vigilant and caught each of their misdeeds," he said.<The former Delhi CM Commission to complaint regarding BJP MPs in New Delhi Assembly transferring votes from across India to their

residences on a large scale.

"I write to you with grave concern regarding the repeated attempts by members of the BJP to manipulate the voter lists in the New Delhi Assembly constituency in a systematic effort to subvert the integrity of the upcoming elections. What is happening in Delhi today is a stark reminder of the days when India used to witness rampant booth capturing at gunpoint. Had BJP's attempt to fraudulently delete 5,500 genuine votes (5.5 percent of total voters) and add 13,000 fake votes (13 percent of total voters) succeeded, the New Delhi constituency would have been permanently altered by a



staggering 18 percent votes." This is nothing less serious or shocking than an attempt at large-scale booth capturing that India has seen in the past. In many ways, it is even worse than the booth-capturing practices of the past, which were at least done in broad daylight, and everyone could see the criminals' faces. Here, the BJP is engaging in backdoor tactics to hoodwink the people of Delhi and manipulate electoral rolls secretly," the letter read.

"After the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) caught these attempts to manipulate voter lists, BJP has now resorted to a new way to manipulate electoral rolls across the country to the New Delhi assembly using the addresses of its own Members of Parliament (MPs) and Ministers who live in the New constituency. Shockingly, 33 new votes have been submitted for being

transferred to BJP's candidate Parvesh Verma's official residence. Are we expected to believe that overnight, 33 people from across India have shifted their residence to that of Mr. Verma?," he wrote. "It appears that several BJP

Union Ministers and Members of the Union Cabinet are involved in this malpractice. I urge the Election Commission to immediately register a criminal FIR against those responsible and take strict action to prevent such blatant attempts at subverting the highlighted Kejriwal.

Kejriwal challenges BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri for public debate

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal reiterated reiterated the claim that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is set to announce former MP and candidate from Kalkaji constituency, assembly constituency, Ramesh Bidhuri as its chief ministerial candidate for Delhi assembly elections and challenged him to a public debate. Kejriwal further congratulated the BJP leader and asked him for his vision for the national capital. He also invited him to have an debate on the development issues once the BJP officially announces the

In response to Kejriwal's claim, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said AAP

chief has accepted loosing Delhi election to BJP and so trying to create confusion. He challenged Kejriwal who is promoting himself as CM candidate to take legal opinion from a advocate and understand that he can't ever be sworn in as CM in view of Supreme Court bindings. We are getting information

that Ramesh Bidhuri's name will be officially announced as the BJP CM face in the coming days. I congratulate him on this decision. Bidhuri should tell Delhiites what he has done for the city's development as an MP and share his vision for the national capital," Kejriwal, addressing a press conference. He said that the party will wait for Bidhuri's official announcement, likely in a day or two, and then it will see what happens next.



"Ultimately, the people will decide who is right and who is wrong," he concluded.

Kejriwal said that AAP had projected him as the chief ministerial candidate long before the elections. The elections During approaching.

elections, everyone wants to

Ministerial candidate from each party is. From the Aam Aadmi Party's side, this has clear from the beginning. The entire party had decided unanimously that I, Arvind Kejriwal, would be the Chief Ministerial candidate," the AAP leader said.

who the Chief He also said that the people

would decide which chief ministerial candidate would be right for them in the February 8 elections.

Kejriwal said that as for the BJP it wasn't clear who their candidate would be.
"Yesterday, their Central
Election Committee held a meeting. According to sources, it has been learned that the BJP may have decided in that meeting to nominate Bidhuri as their Chief Ministerial candidate. It is being said, as per sources, that an official announcement about Ramesh Bidhuri's name will be made within a day or

Earlier, AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi also weighed in on the matter, claiming that Bidhuri's selection as the BJP's CM candidate is a reward for his alleged abusive remarks. She referred to the BJP as the "Gaali Galauch (abusive) Party" and accused Bidhuri of being its "most abusive leader."

On January 4, Bidhuri sparked controversy by promising to develop roads in Kalkaji like Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's "cheeks". This triggered a response from the Congress leader, who called Bidhuri's remarks "ridiculous" and "irrelevant". Following the row, Bidhuri expressed regret about his comments. On the same day, he stoked another row while referring to Delhi Chief Minister Atishi's decision to stop using her surname 'Marlena'. "Marlena has become Singh. She has changed her father. She was Marlena earlier, but has become Singh now," Bidhuri

BJP launches song, poster on 'Sheesh Mahal'

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a fresh attack on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) the issue of corruption, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday launched a song and poster on 'Sheesh Mahal', ahead of the Assembly polls. The song "Sheesh Mahal Aapda Failane Walon Ka Adda" and a poster titled "Aapda.e-Azam" were released. "Aapda-e-Azam" were released at a press conference of Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva. "Sheesh Mahal" is a political moniker used by the BJP for 6, Flagstaff Road bungalow occupied earlier by Kejriwal as Delhi chief minister to accuse him of "corruption".Sharing it on X, Delhi BJP wrote, "Delhi ki Janta ne thaana hai, Sheesh Mahal wale AAPda-e-Azam ko hatana hai (Delhi's public has vowed to remove Sheesh Mahal's AAPda-e-Azam)." The person who came to power for a change and to take care of Delhi modified his own Delhi chief minister to accuse

character and behaviour. Delhi people are looking development while Kejriwal is abusing them for asking questions," Sachdeva said. He said that the released song narrates the story of Kejriwal's "corruption" and the "Sheesh Mahal readied with taxpayers money.

"Sheesh Mahal" is a political moniker used by the BJP for 6, Flagstaff Road bungalow occupied earlier by Kejriwal as

expenditure on the residence expenditure on the residence and plane used by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ahead of the Assembly polls, Modi attacked Kejriwal recently in the "Parivartan Rally" at Rohini, over "Sheesh Mahal" and dubbed AAP as "Aanda" (disaster) for Delhi "Aapda" (disaster) for Delhi, giving a call to replace it with BJP in power. The "Aapda-e-

him of "corruption". The AAP has hit back at the BJP citing

Azam" showed Kejriwal's photoshopped image in an imperial Mughal attire. "People used to go to have a look at the their rule. The Sheesh Mahal built by Delhi's Aapda-e-Azam (Kejriwal) is a blot on the city," Sachdeva charged.

This move came in response to an AAP poster targeting the BJP, which featured Ramesh Bidhuri, the BJP candidate from Kalkaji, and dubbed the BJP as "Gaali Galoch Party." AAP captioned it on X with, "Gaalibaaz party ka gaalibaaz CM chehra (Abusive CM face of an abusive party)."The BJP and AAP are locked in an intense battle for Delhi, with BIP's Parvesh Verma contesting against Kejriwal in the New Delhi Assembly seat, while Ramesh Bidhuri takes on Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Congress candidate Alka Lamba in Kalkaji. Congress candidate Sandeep Dikshit is also vying for the New Delhi seat, adding another layer to

BJP rolls out new election campaign song

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Pelhi RIP on Saturday Drolled out its election campaign song 'Bahane Nahi Badlav Chahien, Delhi Mein BJP Sarkar Chahiye' (need change not excuses, Delhi requires BJP government) for the eagerly awaited Delhi assembly elections. The song has been sung by BJP's threetime Northeast Delhi MP and popular singer and actor Manoj Tiwari, who gave the credit for the title to Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva. Tiwari claimed that the song has become a hit in Delhi's election rallies but its biggest success is that it has been viewed over 1.1 crore (11 million) times on social media, an unprecedented record for any political song. While the song was launched officially during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Parivartan Rally' last week in Rohini, it has been rolled out



extensively for campaign. Addressing a press conference, Sachdeva said that the song reflects the mood of the people of Delhi who are fed up with Kejriwal's party looting them, affirming that they want to bring BJP into power.

The Lok Sabha MP also sang the song while explaining that the election song is the manifesto of the party, which is yet to be released by the BJP. He also shared detailed insights about the song, noting that it is being enthusiastically

Smaller parties in city's election ring, not for victory but to make their points

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The three biggies, BJP, Congress and AAP, might be occupying ad space and mind space as campaigning for Delhi's Lok Sabha elections gathers pace but a host of smaller parties have also put their hats in the poll ring -- not to win maybe but just to make people aware that alternatives can exist. These parties are aware they might not give the bigger political outfits any competition but their representatives said their mission is to ignite a spark and inform people there are other alternatives too.

The BSP is planning to contest all 70 seats while the AIMIM is fielding candidates on about a dozen of Muslimdominated seats. The two parties have planned rallies by their chiefs Mayawati (BSP) and Asaduddin Owaisi

in the national capital are gearing up to mount a strong challenge in the upcoming polls -- promising to address issues "neglected" in the Muslim-majority localities, combating corruption and pledging good governance, among others. One of them is the Bharatiya

Liberal Party (BLP), founded recently by US-based doctor Munish Kumar Raizada and others associated with the Hazare-led anticorruption movement. Raizada, who returned to

India 15 months ago, will contest against the AAP chief the New Delhi constituency. Former BJP MP Parvesh Verma is also contesting from the seat, while the Control of while the Congress has fielded Sandeep Dikshit.

The Bahujan Samaj Party, which is focusing on strengthening its base among

The smaller political players Dalit and marginalised communities, has decided to contest all the 70 seats and feels it can make life difficult for its rivals. In the coming day, the party plans to hold rallies featuring its supremo Mayawati.

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), led by Hyderabad Lok Sabha MP Asaduddin Owaisi, will contest 10-12 seats. The party has so far announced two candidates --Hussain Mustafabad and Shafa ur Rehman from Okhla -- both of whom are accused in the 2020 Delhi riot cases.Delhi will vote in single phase on February 5 and the results will be declared on February 8. The ruling AAP and BJP are locked in an intense electoral battle, while the Congress,

which governed the city for 15 years under Sheila Dikshit's

leadership, is making a strong

comeback.The Aam Aadmi Party has been in office for the past 10 years, while the BJP, which has been out of power since 1998, is making a

concerted effort to dethrone

the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP. AIMIM Delhi President



candidates who prominent faces of the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). Jamai emphasised that the Shoaib Jamai said the party

Muslim-majority constituencies.

"On all the seats we are contesting, we are directly challenging the BJP. The Aam Aadmi Party and Congress should recognise that their presence is not needed on these seats. We will confront the BJP head-on," he said. AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi is likely to hold a few

rallies in the constituencies where the party has fielded candidates

Jamai said if the AIMIM manages to secure some seats and needs to form an alliance, the party may align with others to stop the BJP. The party has also pledged to address issue in Muslimmajority areas such as lack of infrastructure, housing and traffic woes, which have been "neglected".

He assured voters that under party's primary focus is a Owaisi's leadership, direct fight with the BJP on development would be leadership,

smaller players in Delhi like the BSP and BLP will compete on all 70 seats.

The Bharat Liberal Party's agenda is centered around three pillars of good governance, anti-corruption and social justice. BLP chief Raizada said, "We

are here for long-term development in Delhi. If the BLP comes to power in Delhi, the first step we will take is to create an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC)."Through this, we will bring accountability and responsibility in the system. We will strengthen the framework of responsibility, accountability, and culpability ensure

governance." Raizada said the AAP government has failed on all fronts, including civic issues and community welfare.

carried out the way it has Delhi needs a been in Hyderabad. Other governance model as governance model as people suffered have misgovernance of the past 10 years, he said."We are contesting all 70 seats and have already announced candidates for eight seats till now. I am contesting from the New Delhi constituency against Arvind Kejriwal, whom consider a thoroughly corrupt and unprincipled politician who betrayed the anti-corruption movement. The Bahujan Samaj Party is

also in the fray, aiming to strengthen its base among Dalit and marginalised communities.While the party has kept its strategies relatively under wraps, it plans to contest all 70 seats.

Nitin Singh, the Central Coordinator of the BSP, said the party's focus remains on providing opportunities.

PM Modi to spend entire day with 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' participants

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will spend the entire day on Sunday with the participants in the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue', being held as part of his efforts to bring one lakh youths having no political link in politics.

The programme is being held on National Youth Day, which marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. An official statement said Modi will engage with 3,000 "dynamic young" from across India. leaders

Modi said on social media that he will spend the entire day with "my young friends" and over conversations and lunch, they will discuss various subjects aimed at building a 'Viksit Bharat'. The youths who he will be meeting have shown great for science, innovation, technology, culture and more, he added. The statement said the event



aims to break the 25-year-old leaders, it said. "Innovative tradition of holding the National Youth Festival in a conventional manner. It representing the 10 thematic with Modi's areas pivotal to India's aligns with Modi's areas pivotal to India's development before the prime minister. These presentations reflect the innovative ideas and solutions proposed by with a national platform to make their ideas for Viksit areas pivotal to India's development before the prime minister. These presentations reflect the innovative ideas and solutions proposed by young leaders to address some of India's most pressing Bharat a reality.

Modi will participate in multiple activities designed to motivate, and empower the nation's future ten themes. These themes

as technology, sustainability, empowerment, manufacturing, agriculture.

During the dialogue, which starts on Sunday, the young leaders will engage in competitions, activities, and cultural and thematic presentations. It will also include deliberations on the themes led by mentors and domain experts. It will also witness cultural performances showcasing India's artistic heritage while symbolizing its modern advancements.

been selected to participate in the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue through the Viksit Bharat Challenge, a meticulously crafted, merit-based multi-level selection process to identify and showcase the most motivated and dynamic young voices from across the nation, the statement said. It saw the participation of 30 lakh around young

A total of 3,000 youths have

Rijiju embarks on five-day visit to Saudi Arabia, to sign agreement for Hajj pilgrimage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday embarked on a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia to sign a bilateral agreement for the Hajj pilgrimage of 2025, where India is seeking an additional quota for 10.000 additional quota for 10,000 pilgrims.

Rijiju is scheduled to meet Saudi Arabian Minister Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah on Monday when the two leaders are expected to sign the bilateral agreement.

"I look forward to visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sign the bilateral agreement on Hajj 2025 and strengthen the people-to-people ties between our two great nations," Rijiju said in a post

Rijiju will also meet Saleh Al Jasser, the Saudi Minister of Transport and Logistic Services and discuss Hajj flight operations and the pilgrimage-related bus and train services with him.

Rijiju will also visit the Jeddah Haj Terminal, used by Indian

government has dedicated an office space for facilitation. Some Indian pilgrims use the Jeddah Airport Terminal One, which also has a highspeed rail service, for transit. India's Hajj quota for 2025 is fixed by Saudi Arabia at 1,75,025 pilgrims and the government is seeking an additional 10,000 quota for

this year's pilgrimage. Rijiju will also visit Madina. where he will visit the mosques at Quba and Qublatain.

During his visit, Rijiju will also meet Prince Khalid Al Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Advisor to King Salman, the governor of Makkah Region and the chairman of the Central Hajj Committee and Prince Salman bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz al Saud, the Governor of Madina.

Out of the total Hajj pilgrims quota allocated to India, 70 per cent would be handled by the Hajj Committee of India while the remaining 30 per cent will be allocated to private Hajj group organisers,

In 2024, the Hajj Committee of India (HCoI) was allotted 80 per cent while the private Hajj group organisers got 20 per cent of the quota.

While the order of priority was 70 plus applicants, ladies travelling without mehrams and the general category in 2024, the new Hajj policy has prioritised 65 plus applicants followed by women without mehrams and then the general category.

Dark web, cryptocurrency and drones continue to be challenge for country: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that dark web, cryptocurrency, online marketplace and drones continue to be a challenge for the country and these have to be checked by strict measures.

regional Chairing 'Drug on Trafficking and National here, Shah also asserted that the country will not allow even a single kg of drugs to be smuggled in or out of the country. He said the government has not only been successful in eliminating many networks of drugs, but the terrorism linked with them too was also destroyed. He said many cases of narcoterrorism were busted in Iammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh these were major

achievements. "The use of dark web, online cryptocurrency, marketplace, drones continue to be a challenge for us even today," he said. Shah said a technical solution to these problems have to be found through joint efforts by the and the central government and technocrats for the country's security and

development. He said the fight against drugs has gained a new strength under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. "In the last 10 years, there has been a seven-fold increase in the seizure of drugs which is a major achievement. The Modi government has given a strong message of destroying

through strict action," he said The home minister said that in 2024, by seizing drugs worth Rs 16,914 crore, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and police across the country took the biggest action against drugs, which is a significant step in making a drug-free society.

young leaders will make 10 PowerPoint presentations

challenges," it added. He will also release a

compilation of the best essays

written by participants on the

"No country can move forward on the path of development with a young generation suffering from drug addiction. It is our responsibility that we all fight this challenge together and make all efforts to win this battle," he said.

Shah said that during 2004-14, a total of 3.63 kg of drugs were seized while during 2014-24, altogether 24 lakh kg of drugs were seized - a sevenfold increase as compared to



the previous decade He said drugs worth Rs 8,150 crore were disposed off in 2004-14 but in 2014-24, drugs worth Rs 54,851 crore were destroyed -? eight times more

than the previous decade. The conference, organised by the NCB, aims to address the growing concern of drug trafficking and its impact on

and Union Territories of northern India.Shah also launched the drug disposal fortnight starting from Saturday to January 25. He said that during this period, said that during this period, one lakh kg of narcotics worth Rs 8,600 crore will be destroyed. The home minister also inaugurated the new office complex of the NCB's Bhopal zonal unit and extension of the MANAS-2 helpline to all 36 states and UTs

The main focus of the conference is on the sharing of real-time information from the National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS' portal with the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of states and UTs, evaluating the progress of states in combating drug national security, with a trafficking, and assessing the

effectiveness of the Narcotics Coordination Mechanism (NCORD).Other issues to be discussed at the conference include strengthening and enhancing the functionality of State Forensic Science Laboratories (SFSLs), utilising the NIDAAN database to bolster efforts against drug trafficking, implementing provisions of the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, setablishing special NDPS establishing special NDPS courts for the speedy trial of drug-related cases, and Whole-offostering Government approach to ensure comprehensive collaboration among all agencies to combat drug trafficking and effectively.

Government of India has adopted a zero tolerance policy against trafficking, an official release said. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) implementing a threepronged strategy to achieve a drug-free India by 2047. This includes strengthening institutional frameworks, enhancing coordination among narcotics agencies, and launching a public awareness campaign. The conference is being

Minister Narendra Modi, the

attended by governors, lieutenant governors, chief ministers and senior officers from the eight participating states and UTs. Senior officers from various ministries, departments, and law enforcement agencies also

IMD looking to access data Delhi HC denies bail to ISIS associate in terror case from CubeSats, IoT devices for better forecasts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is looking to access data from CubeSats, crowdsourcing, and Internet of Things devices besides conventional weather satellites to improve it forecast accuracy, a former official said.

The IMD has also sent a dedicated meteorological satellite in orbit and installed a new high power computing system (HPCS) last year that would allow it to issue more accurate forecasts. "IMD will soon move to an ensemble prediction system with a horizontal resolution of 6 km, which is an improvement over the current resolution of 12 km," Madhavan Rajeevan, Ministry of Earth Sciences' former secretary, said in article penned on the occasion of the 150th Foundation Day of IMD.

improvement networks observation incorporating state-of-the-art technologies such as crowdsourcing, CubeSats, IoT devices and unmanned platforms will significantly improve data quality and forecast efficiency," he said. Rajeevan said the IMD was

also setting up separate research testbeds in Bhopal and Mumbai to deepen the understanding of monsoon dynamics and cloud physics. "As user expectations continue to grow, the IMD must continuously innovate and proactively address these demands," he said. The IMD has access to

weather observations from 6,000 surface observatories in addition to data from weather balloons, satellites, a network of radars which feed information to prediction models.

By embracing cutting-edge technologies and continually improving forecasting systems, IMD can sustain its legacy as a global leader in weather and climate services and helping India navigate the



challenges of cl Change," Rajeevan said. In a separate article, leading meteorologist U C Mohanty said under the aegis of Ministry of Earth Sciences, significant scientific and technological advancements technological advancements have been achieved across various domains of Earth sciences. encompassing the atmosphere, hydrosphere,

lithosphere, cryosphere, biosphere, and their intricate interactions. advances The

computational resources allowed the use of advanced deterministic chemical transport models, leading to more accurate air quality forecast, replacing the previous empirical and statistical approach which has some limitations and misses

to adequately represent the physical and chemical processes of pollutants.
The scientists at IMD and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Ministry of Earth Science iointly developed the jointly developed the advanced Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS), Rajesh Verma, Chairman of the Commission for Air the Commission for Air Quality Management said. In the Power sector, timely weather forecasts helps in management of

electricity grids. "There is trading in power sector in every 15 minutes. Thus, the 15-minute forecasts and hourly forecasts of basic weather parameters upto a few hours help in ensuring better management of power generation and distribution," a power ministry official said. | exercise are being made by



The Delhi High Court has refused to grant bail to an The court rejected alleged member of ISIS in a contention, radicalisation of youths using

A bench of Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma dismissed the bail plea by Md Heydaitullah, who allegedly used Telegram groups to propagate the ideology of the terrorist group in India and recruit other persons.

The accused challenged a trial court order declining any relief on the ground that mere association or support to a

terrorist organisation would not constitute an offence under the Unlawful Activities

MBA graduate working at an IT company in Gurugram, was not a "passive" supporter as material showed that he advocated "Jihad in order to establish Khilafat" even through violent means.

"The Appellant admittedly in 2018 had taken an oath (Bayath) in the name of Abu Bakr al Baghdadi and Abu al-Hasan al-Hashimi al-Qurashi. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi is admittedly a well-known



leader of ISIS and as per the chargesheet had declared formation of 'caliphate' in June 2014," said the court in a judgement passed on January

Under the leadership of Prime

a terrorist organisation and judicial notice can be taken of the fact that the world at large knows about the activities of ISIS.. Appellant is an educated person and was well aware of the nature of activities of ISIS," it added.

Dismissing the plea, the court said the bar on grant of bail under the UAPA was clearly applicable in the case.
Following an FIR registered in 2021, the National

Investigation Agency arrested the accused on October 22,

The prosecution alleged that he disseminated the ISIS ideology through the cyber against the Government of India by promoting enmity against Hindus on social It was further alleged that he

had transferred funds for the cause of ISIS from his bank account and various materials, including the oath of allegiance, methods for preparation of explosive material, etc were recovered from him during the investigation

CITU slams L&T chairman for urging employees to work 90 hours per week

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) on Saturday condemned the statement of the Chairman of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) urging for to extending the working hour to 90 hours per week. "Similar satanic statement was earlier made by the Infosys Head N.R. Narayan Murthy, urging for increasing working hour of 70 hours per week through statutory measure. It seems that there is a rogue competition among the corporate messiahs to rinse the blood and sweat of Indian workers and they are in active connivance and collaboration with the corporate-communal regime in governance by Modi-led NDA," said Tapan Sen, general secretary of CITU in a statement.

"Indian workers, even the permanent ones in the formal sector, are deployed in much hours of work more compared to more productive countries like China, Europe and even the U.S. The stretching of working hours is very disastrously impacting upon the health and social life of the Indian workers. Despite that, these sort of satanic



the corporate class only to further minimize employment as well as labour cost with brutal working conditions to facilitate more intense exploitation on the workers for profit, cost cutting, in the guise of efficiency and productivity, which have led to 11486 suicides in 2022 as per records of Crime Bureau. The extent of severity of inhuman extraction from labour can be seen from the share of wages in net value addition going down sharply to 15.94% in 2022-23 from 27.64% in 1990-91 while share of net profit jumping from 19.06% to 51.92% during the same period as per Annual Survey of Industries report, besides aggravating joblessness," pointed out CITU.

leading corporate houses one after another to increase working hours is in conspiratorial connivance their obedient Government at the centre. CITU accused the Central Government for changing the Labour Codes which envisages working time to 12 hours. "Although the Labour Codes could not yet be notified owing to resistance notified owing to resistance by trade union movement, we seen attempts/moves by the BJP ruled state govts and some non-BJP state govts too making exercises to increase working hours to 12 hours a day, which are also being resisted by united trade union movement in many states," said CITU demanding 7 The major Left trade union said that such desperate and hours work a day and 5 days work a week.

and Bengal have reported one numerous health

Total number of HMPV cases reach 15 in country, states raise vigilance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The total number of cases of coronavirus-like human metapneumovirus (HMPV) in the country has reached 15. On Saturday, the first case was reported in Assam when a 10-month-old child was detected positive for the pathogen while in Gujarat, a fourth case was reported after a 9-month-old baby was found to be affected with the respiratory illness. Gujarat has the highest number of 4 cases of HMPV in the country. Maharashtra has 3 cases, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have 2 cases each, and UP, Rajasthan, Assam

case each. The 10-month-old child is undergoing treatment at Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) in Dibrugarh. His condition is stable, said the State Health officials, adding that the child was admitted to the government hospital four days ago due to symptoms of

cold and cough.
Even as the Centre and many experts maintained that there is no need to worry as the virus has been doing the rounds in the country for the past several through direct contact with an infected individual. As per a recent study by



years, States are not leaving anything to chance given the rise in cases in neighbouring China. As a part of its vigilance measures, Punjab has issued an advisory urging the elderly people and children to wear masks. Meanwhile, isolation wards are being built in hospitals in Gujarat which have reported the highest number of cases, raising further concerns about the virus' spread. In Haryana too, the health department has been ordered to keep an eye on HMPV

HMPV spreads through respiratory droplets released when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It can also be transmitted by touching contaminated surfaces or

additional sub-clusters like A2a, A2b, and A2c. For the first time, JIPMER researchers have identified two new HMPV sub-clusters — A2.2.1 and A2.2.2 within the A genotype in India. These newly identified

researchers from JIPMER-

national institute and tertiary

care hospital, HMPV, which is

known to cause respiratory issues in children, has not

only been circulating in India

for years but has also evolved.

The virus is classified into two

main genotypes, A and B,

with subgroups such as A1, A2, B1, and B2, along with

Puducherry,

strains show similarities to isolates detected in the United States in 2010 and Japan in 2018.

The study is published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases (IJID).

VP Jagdeep Dhankhar stresses merit-based appointments, slams extensions and favouritism

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Saturday that extensions in service, in any form for a particular post is a setback to those who are in line. Dhankhar was delivering the inaugural address at the 25th National Conference of Chairpersons of State Public Service Commission being held in Bengaluru. Vice President also said that extension of service indicates that some individuals are indispensable.

"Indispensability is a myth. Talent abounds in this country. No one indispensable. And therefore, it lies in the domain of Public Service Commissions (PSC) at the state and the central level that when they have a role in such kinds of situations, they must be firm," added the VP. He also said PSC's appointments cannot be driven by patronage, or by favouritism.

"We cannot have a public



commission service Chairman or a member, wedded to a particular ideology or an individual. That will be undoing the essence and spirit of the the constitution," said Dhankhar. Vice-President also frowned upon postretirement recruitment and

said it is antithetical to what was visualised by framers of the Constitution. "In some states, it has been

structured. Employees never retire, particularly those in the premium services. They get a number of ad-hoc nomenclatures. This is not

leakage has become an industry, a form of commerce. This is a menace that must be he added. He commended the initiative the good. Everyone in the country must have due and Government has taken in this

Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024.

The Vice President is also of the view that although it is "India's century", without a "calm political atmosphere" India will not really gain.
A vitiated political climate is

far more dangerous than the climate change we are facing, he pointed out. "Our polity at the moment is

too divisive, too polarised. Interaction is not taking place at the premium level in political organisations." The solution, according to

him, is harmony in polity. "Harmony is imperative. If there is no harmony in

polity, if the polity is polarized, deeply divisive, with no communication channels functioning, imagine you are in an earthquake, you are lost and you have no connection with the outside world, things will be terrible for you," he added. He also said for India to stand strong, we need strong

Tamil Nadu Governor's actions 'childish' says CM MK Stalin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi was unable to "digest" that the State was developing and his decision not to address the Assembly was "childish", Chief Minister MK Stalin said on Saturday. The state Legislative Assembly has been witnessing strange scenes for the last few years after Ravi took over as Governor, he said. "The Governor comes to the Assembly but returns without addressing the House. That's why I had said that his actions were childish," Stalin told the Assembly.

As per Article 176 of the Constitution, the Governor has to deliver his address to the Legislative Assembly at the commencement of the session. "But he appears to be keen on violating the rules in a planned manner," the CM said winding up the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor for his address.

In 2022, this Governor delivered his address without altering the speech.

But in the following three years, he avoided delivering his customary address citing 'absurd' reasons, the Chief Minister said. Singing the Tamil anthem (Tamil Thai Valthu) before the session starts and playing the national anthem after the address has been the tradition for long. "I think, the Governor is unable to digest the fact that Tamil Nadu is developing. I may be an ordinary person but this Legislative Assembly came into existence due to the

This House cannot bear to see the Governor doing something with political motives that drags the

Stalin said.

feelings of crore of people,"

position and responsibility he held by not respecting the dignity of this Assembly, not respecting the people's feelings, and 'daring' to insult the Tamil anthem. We should not see such things again," the Chief Minister added.

On January 6, Ravi left the Assembly without delivering the customary address. The Raj Bhavan later said that he left 'in deep anguish' as the national anthem wasn't played. "Disrespecting the Constitution does not augur well for democracy," the Governor had then said. Reacting, Stalin had said, "it was childish of the Governor choosing not to read the government address.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi seeks SIT probe into Assam mining tragedy

PIONEER NEWS SERVUICE

ongress MP Gaurav Gogoi Con Saturday said he has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a SIT probe into the mining tragedy in Assam, which left several labourers in a coal quarry

He also alleged that "illegal mining continues unchecked" due to "weak law enforcement and local complicity in northeastern state.

Nine workers were trapped inside a coal mine in Umrangsu in Dima Hasao district on Monday after a sudden gush of water



the bodies of four labourers have so far been recovered. of today, rescue operations have entered their sixth day, but the fate of coal

flooded the quarry. Of them, miners trapped in the illegal coal mine at Dima Hasao remains uncertain. Illegal mining continues unchecked in Assam, fuelled by weak law enforcement and local complicity," said the Congress' deputy leader in the Lok Sabha. "I have written to the prime

that due is defined by law,"

The VP also said fairness of

selection has no meaning if

paper leakages occur. "Paper

said the VP.

minister urging an urgent SIT probe to investigate this tragedy," he said.

Gogoi urged the prime minister that the proposed secial investigation team (SIT) should not only look into the "illegal" operation of the mine and identify those responsible for this tragedy but also address the broader issues at play

This includes the failure to enforce the NGT's (National Green Tribunal) ban on rathole mining, the complicity of local authorities-including the district administration

and district police - who have enabled these illegal activities to persist, despite repeated accidents and warnings," the Congress leader alleged.

The SIT should also examine safety standards and working conditions in these mines, which are "consistently ignored", leading to deadly incidents, he claimed.

The investigation should expand its scope to identify and map out other illegal mining sites across Karbi Anglong, Dima Hasao, and Upper Assam, areas where these activities continue unabated," he alleged in the

Additionally,

investigation must address the environmental impact of such "illegal mining operations and recommend necessary actions to curb the long-term damage to both human lives and the environment," Gogoi said.

The people of Assam, and indeed all of India, deserve to know the truth and justice done. This must be a turning point in our collective efforts to end illegal mining and protect vulnerable workers from exploitation and harm', he said.

The families of the victims deserve justice, and "we must ensure that such incidents are prevented in

the future", he added.

Allu Arjun in stampede case PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **HYDERABAD**

Court relaxes bail conditions for

n a major relief to actor Allu Arjun, a court here has relaxed the conditions of his bail in the 'Pushpa 2' stampede case, exempting him from appearing before the investigating officer every Sunday. The court also permitted him to travel abroad to specified countries, with the condition that he must undertake to appear before the SHO of the Chikkadpally police station as and when required.

He has been directed to inform the SHO of his travel schedule for each trip and provide details of his place of stay in the destination country until the charge sheet is filed. The remaining bail conditions remain unchanged, the court noted in its order dated January

court's decision followed a petition filed by the actor seeking relaxation of the bail conditions.

Previously, while granting regular bail to Allu Ărjun on muary 3 instructed him to appear before the investigating officer every Sunday between 10 am and 1 pm for two months or until the filing of the charge sheet, whichever is earlier. He was also barred from leaving the country without prior court permission.

Additionally, the court had directed the actor to cooperate with the inquiry and refrain from interfering investigation or influencing witnesses in any manner. Allu Arjun was arrested on December 13 in connection with the stampede case and released from jail on December 14 after the

January 10. The actor named Accused No. 11 in the case, subsequently filed a regular

Telangana High Court

granted him interim bail for

four weeks, which ended on

bail petition. A 35-year-old woman died, and her eight-year-old son was injured in a stampede on December 4 at the Theatre Sandhya Hyderabad, as fans jostled to get a glimpse of the actor during the premiere of 'Pushpa 2'.

to help resolve ethnic conflict



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday requested the church, community and other leaders of the Naga community to take a greater role in resolving the ongoing ethnic conflict in the

Clashes between Kuki and Meitei communities have left over 250 people dead and thousands homeless since May 2023. The Nagas were not involved in this conflict. Addressing a programme at Maram in Naga majority Senapati district, Singh said "I want to appeal to the Naga communities that a third party is required to resolve the

issues and restoration of peace. For this, church and community leaders needs to take responsibilities and initiatives." All grievances and problems can be resolved under the Constitution and the laws of the Manipur government, he said. "Whatever happened has happened. As I said during my New Year's message, it's time to forget and forgive. We need to jointly walk on the path of peace and bring back the former Manipur. We need to jointly work together to resolve this crisis. "I seek the support of all those gathered today including elected members, former elected members, and church leaders to overcome this crisis," Singh said.

CM N Biren urges Naga leaders | Juna Akhara expels Mahant over minor girl's induction as Sadhvi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

In a shocking development just days before the Maha Kumbh 2025 begins, the Juna Akhara has expelled Mahant Kaushal Giri for seven years after allegations surfaced that he n 13-vear-old girl from Agra as "daan" (donation) and initiated her as a Sadhvi (female

The decision was taken on Friday during a meeting of the Akhara's top officials, held in the presence of the Ramta Panch. The girl, who had been seen in ascetic attire, was immediately sent back to her



family.

The Maha Kumbh, starting on January 13 with the first holy dip on Paush Purnima, has already started drawing saints and devotees from across the

country. While the Akharas that, as per tradition, the girl have settled into their camps, creating grand and regal this disturbing incident has widespread attention.

According to reports, Mahant Gauri," would completely Kaushal Giri claimed that the renounce worldly life and minor girl, Rakhi, was given dedicate herself to asceticism. "donation." He initiated her as a Sadhvi and introduced her in the Akhara's camp in religious attire.

He had planned to formally initiate her into ascetic life during the Maha Kumbh by performing rituals to dedicate her to the religious flag. Furthermore, he announced

would perform her own funeral rites (Pind Daan) while still alive. Kaushal Giri had stated that

the girl, now named "Sadhvi The incident has raised serious questions about the ethical practices of some religious traditions and the protection of minors in such settings. The leadership of the Juna Akhara acted swiftly to address the matter, expelling Kaushal Giri and ensuring the girl was returned to her

BSF foils smuggling attempt by Bangladeshi nationals in West Bengal's Malda district

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday said that its jawans thwarted a smuggling attempt by a group of Bangladeshis in West Bengal's Malda district. The incident occurred around 2.10 am at Border Outpost Nawada, under the 119th Battalion of the BSF's South Bengal Frontier. BSF personnel observed a

movement of 15-20 armed Bangladeshis approaching the



border. Several others were also the fence, officials said.

spotted on the Indian side of Despite being challenged by the

BSF, the smugglers advanced towards the fence. They used high-beam flashlights to blind

The BSF initially fired two rounds in the air to disperse the smugglers, but the move proved to be ineffective.

the jawans.

The smugglers then attacked the jawans with sharp weapons and sticks. In response, the BSF personnel fired two rounds at intervals in self-defence to halt the smuggling attempt," a BSF statement said.

Reinforcements soon arrived,

causing the smugglers to flee. A subsequent search of the area resulted in the recovery of 572 bottles of a particular brand of cough syrup, a sharp weapon, and a high-beam flashlight. The BSF has not ruled out the

possibility of smugglers injured in the firing. In separate incidents in Murshidabad and Malda

districts, the BSF foiled more smuggling and infiltration attempts at border outposts Nandanpur, Farjipara, Harinathpur,

by the state government's 'Niyad Nellanar' (your good village) scheme, which aims at

works in remote villages and

stated that senior cadres were

on backfoot with the

increasing pressure

development

Churiyantpur.BSF said it used stun grenades, pump action guns (PAG), and other guns (PAG), weapons in self-defence to repel cattle smugglers and illegal intruders, leading to the seizure of illicit drugs, five cattle, and other contraband. The incidents and seizures were reported to the local police stations, and the confiscated items handed over to the appropriate authorities. A BSF South Bengal Frontier spokesperson said such attacks are a recurring challenge.

Lecture on 'One Nation One Election' to be held on January 18 at Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

series of thought-provoking Alectures on contemporary issues, along with discussions on religion, spirituality, and culture, are being organized at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj.

The Divva Prem Seva Mission from Haridwar will conduct a special lecture on 'One Nation One Election - In the Context of Economic Political Reform and Developed India' on January 18, with former President Ram Nath Kovind invited as the chief guest.

The lecture series at the Mission's camp will include seven topics. The first lecture



on January 12 will be on Dharma ki Vaishvik Drishti. Swami Vivekananda Sanatan The second, scheduled for

"Bharat ki Gaurav Gatha Atmaheenata ki Bhavana" (India's Glorious Legacy vs. the Spirit of Inferiority). The third, on January 18, will cover "One Nation One Election - Arthik Rajnitik Sudhar evam Viksit Bharat ke Sandarbh Mein" (One Nation, One Election: Economic and Political Reforms in the Context of a Developed India). The fourth lecture, on January 20, will discuss "Vaishvik Aatankvad Samadhan - Bharatiya Sanskriti ke Pariprekshya Samadhan Mein" (Global Terrorism Solutions - Indian Cultural Perspectives). The fifth, on

January 25, will focus on "Bharat ki Akhandta -Bhogolik aur Chunautiyan' Geographical and Political Challenges to Integrity). The sixth, on January 31, will explore "Laingik Samaanata evam Mahila Sashaktikaran -Bharativa Sanskriti Pariprekshya Mein" (Gender Equality and Women Empowerment: An Indian Cultural Perspective). The seventh and final lecture, on February 6, will delve into "Social Media par Nijtata aur Suraksha -Yuvaon ke Pariprekshya Mein" (Privacy and Security on Social Media: Perspectives of the Youth).

surrender in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Naxalites were also impressed a woman Naxalite carried a

facilitating

Nine Naxalites, with ₹43 lakh bounty,

Nine hardcore Naxalites, allegedly involved in attacks on security forces and carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 43 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Saturday, police said.

He said the surrendered

security forces and setting up The cadres, including two women, turned themselves in of police camps in interior areas. before senior officials from The official said Ransai alias the police and Central Oyam Buska (34), the Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commander of platoon no 24 of Maoists, and Pradip alias here, citing disappointment with "hollow" and "inhuman" Ravva Rakesh (20), a member ideology Maoist under a company wing of PLGA battalion no. 1, were within infighting outlawed outfit, Sukma Superintendent of Police carrying a reward of Rs 8 lakh each. Kiran Chavan said.

He said four other cadres carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh, reward of Rs 3 lakh, and two others, including a woman, carried a bounty of Rs 2 lakh each.

Chavan said Ransai was allegedly involved in attacks, including the Jhara Ghati ambush in Narayanpur district in 2007, wherein seven policemen were killed; the 2007 Ranibodli (Bijapur district) attack, in which 55 security personnel died; the 2017 ambush in Burkapal (Sukma), where 25 CRPF personnel were killed and the 2020 Minpa ambush (Sukma) that killed 17 security personnel. The other surrendered cadres were also involved in multiple attacks on security forces, he said.

Chinese FM makes surprise visit to Maldives, holds talks with Muizzu

ınday pioneer

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a surprise visit to the Maldives, during which he held talks with President Mohamed Muizzu and discussed the state of bilateral relations, amid Male's recent warming up to India.

Wang, who is also a member of the powerful Political Bureau of the Communist Party, met Muizzu during his stopover in Male on Friday while on his way back from a tour, official media report-

This was the first major visit by a Chinese official to Maldives after Muizzu visited China in January last year, months after his During Muizzu's visit, the two countries elevated the bilateral ties

to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and signed some key agreements.

In his meeting with Wang, Muizzu stressed the importance of fast-tracking key infrastructure projects outlined in the agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the two countries, Maldives media reported.

He emphasised the need to prioritise social housing and road development projects, which are among the most urgent requirements for the Maldivian people, and referred to China's commitments in this regard.

Additionally, Muizzu highlighted his administration's focus on economic diversification, particularly in agriculture and fisheries, and requested China's support in advancing these crucial sec-

NOTICE INVITING EOI

No. SSA-45035/1/2024-MIS-SEC-SSA/507157

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-Tendering process from NSDC approved Training Partners or Govt. Institution recognized as awarding body by NCVET for implementation of Skill Education in Govt./Prov. Secondary, Hr.Secondary Schools and KGBVs under National Skill Qualification Framework across

To participate in the EOI process through e-procurement, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The EOI schedule containing the EOI details, terms and conditions etc. may be downloaded from the web-portal and shall submit their EOI online on the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in. Sd/-Mission Director,



before

PD(1240)C

PD(1241)C

PD(1242)C

anasanyog/CF/3246/24/12-Jan-25

CHANGE OF NAME

I. Batheri Devi, Mother of-

No.2897858L Hav Ram Kishan

Yadav, R/o- Vill & Post-

Chhardra, Teh- Kotputli, Dist-

Jaipur, Rajasthan- 303105, have

changed my name from Batheri

Devi to Bhateri, vide affidavit

I, Mithlesh Devi, Mother of- JC-

473307F Nb Sub Vikash Kumar, R/o- Vill- Chitlang, PO- Dewas,

Distt- Mahendragarh, Haryana-123034, have changed my name from Mithlesh Devi to Mitlesh

Devi, vide affidavit dated

11/01/2025 before Notary

I. Smt Babita Devi W/o- IC-

473307F Nb Sub Vikash Kumar,

R/o- Vill- Chitlang, PO- Dewas,

Distt- Mahendragarh, Haryana-

123034, have changed my name

from Smt Babita Devi to Babita,

vide affidavit dated 11/01/2025

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सभी आम व खास को इस सार्वजनिक सूचना

द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरी मुवकिलान

राकेश कुमार, रमेश कुमार पुत्रान श्री नेकी,

प्रवीण, सचिन पुत्रान श्री दिनेश कुमार, बिमला

पत्नी दिनेश कुमार पुत्र नेकी, सभी

निवासीयान मकान नम्बर 50 वार्ड नम्बर 2.

12 बिस्वा, गुरुग्राम, हरियाणा के रहने वाले है

और निम्नलिखित सार्वजनिक सूचना

प्रकाशित करवाते है कि:- :1. यह है कि मेरे

मुव्विकलान ने अपनी जमीन जो कि खसरा

नम्बर 3046 (1-2-19.5), 3047 (0-13-0),

3048 (1-4-0) कुल रकबा 2 बिघा 19 बिस्वा

वाका मौजा गडगांव गांव में स्थित है, का

कोलाबोरेशन एग्रीमेंट दिनांक 10.03.2007 व

दोबारा से दिनांक 19.05.2014 को मैंजर्स

रहेजा डेवेलर्स, नई दिल्ली के साथ कुछ शर्तो पर

रजिस्टर्ड किया था. जिसमें रहेजा डेवेलर्स लि०

ने यहस्वीकार किया था कि अगर 16.04.2018

से 6 महीने के अन्दर वह एल.ओ.आई. प्राप्त

नहीं करते हैं तो मेरे मुद्धिकलान को हर महीने

मु० ५०.०००/- रूपये का मुआवजा देगें तथा

उपरोक्त जमीन को अधिग्रहण की प्रकिया से

मुक्त करायेगें, परंतु रहेजा डेवेलर्स ने ना तो अब

तक मेरे मुव्यकिलान को मु०५०,०००/- रुपये

प्रतिमाह का मुआवजा दिया है तथा ना ही

जमीन को अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया से मुक्त कराने के

बाबत कोई कार्यवाही करी है तथा रहेजा

डेवेलर्स दिवालिया हो चुकी है तथा उसके

खिलाफ एल.सी.एल.टी. में दिवालिया घोषित

2. यह है कि मेरे उपरोक्त मुव्वकिलान ने पहले

भी तथा अंत में दिनांक २१. ११.२०२४ को रहेजा

डेवेलप्स को कालोबोरेशन एग्रीमेंट कैंसिल

कराने के लिए कानूनी नोटिस भेज दिया था

तथा अब मेरे मुद्यकिलान ने कालोबोरेशन

एग्रीमेंट केंसिल कर दिया है और वह अपनी

जमीन को लेकर कोई भी कार्यवाही करने के

लिए स्वतंत्र है तथा रहेजा डेवेलर्स की तरफ से

अगर मेरे मव्वकिलान के खिलाफ उपरोक्त

जायदाद को लेकर कोई वाद दायर किया जाता

विशाल सिंह चौहान,

है तो वह शून्य समझा जावेगा।

करने की कार्यवाही चल रही है।

before Notary Public Delhi.

dated 11/01/2025

Notary Public Delhi.

Public Delhi.

CORRIGENDUN NO. - 1 FOR TENDER NO .: N_10_HQ_IDS_2024-25, DTD.: 09-01-2025

Samagra Shiksha Axom

Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Tender Notice No.: N_10_HQ_2024-25 Name of work: Provision of Elephan elephant movements with tracking and Leve crossing alerts to increase Safety and apacity enhancement over N.F Railway i Katihar and Alipurduar Division. E-Tende will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 24-01-2025 For details of the corrigendum please visi

General Manager (S&T), Maligao MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE Dr. Kissen Kanungo R/o- 241-A, Ddrome Area, AT-Palaspali, Post Aerodrome Area, AT-Palaspali, Post Aerodrome Area, Bhubaneswar, Khorda, Ddisha-751020. I am the allottee/legal owner of Flat No.27-B, FF, SFS Cat-II, with Scooter Barage, in PKt-A, Sukhdev Vihar, Delhi, FILE NO 1-78(346)82/SFS/SV/II which is allotted by the DDA. I have lost the Original ALLOTMENI ETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER KND ELECTRIC CONNECTION, SITE POSSESSION LISTER, NOC FOR WATER SID, INVENTORY of the above Flat. FIR/NCR to bis effect has lodged in P. S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 24842/74/2025 Dated-11-01-0255 Any person(s) claiming any right interest! 025.Any person(s) claiming any right,interes OZS_Any person(s) claiming any right_interests naving any objection or found in possession of riginal documents, may write/contact with bove named person at above address/phone Io. 9937162130 with in 15 days from the date if publication of this notice. Any person laiming any right, interest,or having any bjections with respect to this property can lso personally inform/contact me.

PUBLIC NOTICE Republik, Dundahera, Ghaziabad, U.P. It is sereby declared that the owner is now selling the said Flat and the respective Purchaser/s are availing loan facility against the mortgage of he aforementioned Property with State Bank of India, RACPC Karkardooma, Delhi by mortgaging all Original documents. In the entire shain of occuments, the Original Allotment Letter thain of occuments, the Original Allotment Letter atted 25.02.2012 and Original Possession Letter ooth issued by Exotica Developers are missing ence not traceable. Therefore, any person naving any type of claim right/bittle/interest over he said property or Flat may inform in writing or contact at the address mentioned below about his/her objections within 15 days from today alling which it shall be presumed that the said iling which it shall be presumed that the said operty is free from all type of Encumbrances operior ia rice idiri an yeo of Educinistances, en etc. or any claim. Navneet Tripathi, Advocate SC-53, Jalpuriya Sunrise Plaza, dirapuram,Ghaziabad,Mob No. 9689066717

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that **Smt. Alka Suri** is the Owner of Built-Up Shop no. 1 on Ground Floor without roof right area measuring 6.5 X 5.5., i.e. 3.320 without roof right area measuring 6.5 x.5.5., i.e. 3.320 Sq. Mtrs, Bullt-Up property Bearing no. W2-537, out of Khasra no. 1575, situated at 0id tal Dora of 1908-09, village Tinar, New Delhi - 110018. She is in possession brough Regd. Sale Deed dated 30.12.2019 as doc. no. 26505 executed by Smt. Kiran in favour of Mrs. Alka Suri in respect of the said property. Smt. Alka Suri intends to transfer the ownership of aforementioned Property by way of Sale Deed to Mrs. Mumtaz and Mr. Juber. Subsequently, Mrs. Mumtaz and Mr. Juber process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd.)

o properly with swife find a former inflance Co. Ltd.).

y objections or concerns regarding this transaction ould be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be con-sidered binding with respect to the said property or the If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so

n aryone wisnes to raise an objection, please 00 so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Verrias: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline (s):+910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts⊚lvnorth.in

(s):+910120-3101b83, e-mail: accounts@lvmorth.in

Public Notice
It is notified to the general public that Ajnara Homes had allotted the Unit No.J-1105 in Tower-J in the residential project titled 'Ajnara Homes' situated at Plot no GH-03, Sector-16 B, Greater Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, (UP) by Mis APV Realty Ltd (hereinafter Company). Vide allotment letter dated 23.10.2010 to, (1) Mrs Sushma Gulati Wlo Vijay Kumar Gulati (2) Gaurav Gulati Slo Vijay Kumar Gulati. (hereinafter 'Allottee') R/o A-824 (Karnla Nagar Agra, Uttar Pradesh-282004. Gaurav Gulati (Son) has informed the below mentioned company that Mrs Sushma Gulati (Mother) had expired on 17.01.2018. Vijay Kumar Gulati (father), Mrs. Nidhi Kasturia (Daughter) & Gaurav Gulati (Son), are the legal heirs of the deceased allottee and there are the legal heirs of the deceased allottee and there is no other heir except them & they have no objection to transfer the flat/Unit in the name of Gaurav Gulati In this regard, Gaurav Gulati has requested through affidavit that the allotment letter/sale deed of the above affdavit that the allotment letter/sale deed of the above unit be executed and registered in the name of Gaurav Gulati. Therefore, it is notified to the general public that if any person has any objection in this regard, then he should personally appear at the mentioned below address on any working day between 11:00 am to 5:00pm within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this public notice and register his objection in writing on the basis of certificates and evidence, otherwise it will be understood that no person has any objection and the allotment letter/sale deed of the above unit will be registered in the name of Gaurav Gulati. will be registered in the name of Gaurav Gulati.

By APV Realty Ltd. 801,802, 8th Floor Iconic enthum Sector-62, Noida-201301

'I would have beaten Trump,' says Biden

utgoing US President Joe Biden on Friday said that he would have defeated Donald Trump in the November general elections, but he decided to withdraw from the race mid-way for the sake of the unity of the Democratic Party.

"Mr President, do you regret your decision to not run for re-election? Do you think that that made it easier for your predecessor to now become your successor?" Biden was asked durng a news conference at the White House here.

'I don't think so. I think I would have beaten Trump, could have beaten Trump and I think that Kamala (Harris) could have beaten Trump, would have beaten Trump," Biden said in response.

'It wasn't about — I thought it was important to unify the party and when the party was worried about whether or not I was going to be able to move even though I thought I could win again, I thought it was better to unify the party," he said.

"It was the greatest honour of my life to be president of the United States but I didn't want to be the one who caused a party that wasn't unified to lose an election. And that's why I stepped aside. But I was confident she could win," Biden said.

Biden, 82, decided to withdraw from

the US Presidential race against Trump after his disastrous performance at the presidential debate in Atlanta in June

Following a lot of criticism from his own party leaders, Biden decided to withdraw from the race mid-way and endorsed his running mate Vice President Kamala Harris to be the Democratic Party's presidential can-

Harris lost the election to Trump. The general elections resulted in a clean sweep for the Republican Party, which not only recaptured the White House, maintained its majority in the House of Representatives but also got a majority in the Senate.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE OUT OF SIGHT OUT OF MIND: Ten days before passing on the keys of the White House to Donald Trump, outgoing US President Joe Biden on Friday ruled out leaving from public life for now. Tm not going to be out of sight — out

of mind," Biden told reporters at the White House. Biden, 82, was responding to

reporters' questions if he has decided what kind of role will he will have post-presidency.

Do you plan to speak out after you leave Washington, or are you going to follow kind of more of the Bush model where you're kind of out of sight and

out of mind?" he was asked. On January 20, Donald Trump, 78, would be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States.

Traditionally, US presidents after leaving office stay away from public limelight. Biden, does not plan to do so. However, he did not reveal his plans post January 20th.

His predecessor Trump decided to run for office. Biden's former boss Barack Obama who was the 45th President of the United States has stayed away from public life, except for some appearances, after leaving office on January

'I HAVE NO CONTEMPLATION OF PARDONING MYSELF': Outgoing US President Joe Biden on Friday said that he has no plans to pardon himself asserting that he has done nothing wrong.

At the same time, he might be pardoning several others before he demits the office on January 20, he indicated. "No, I have no contemplation of pardoning myself for anything. I didn't do anything wrong," Biden told reporters at the White House here when asked if he had plans to pardon himself or

any other member of his family. The outgoing president has pardoned his son Hunter Biden. He might issue more pardons, he indicated. But it depends on several factors.

"One is that it depends on some of the language and expectations that Trump broadcasts in the last couple of days here as to what he's going to do," he

"The idea that he (Donald Trump) would punish people for not adhering to what he thinks should be policy as related to his well-being is outrageous, but there is still consideration of some folks but no decision," Biden

said in response to the question. KAMALA HARRIS IS COMPE TENT TO RUN AGAIN IN FOUR YEARS: Vice President Kamala Harris is competent to run for presidency again in four years, outgoing US President Joe Biden said Friday, noting that the decision on this would

finally be on her. "I think that's a decision she might think she's competent to run again in four years. That'll be a decision for her to make," Biden told reporters at a news conference here.

Biden made history in 2020 by appointing Harris as the first ever Indian American, African American and woman as the Vice President of the country.

In the summer of 2024, after a disastrous presidential debate with Donald Trump in Atlanta, Biden withdrew from the race and went ahead to endorse Harris for presidency. Harris soon became the Democratic Party's presidential nominee.

However, Harris lost to Trump in the November 5th presidential election. Harris has not announced her future

Ukraine says it captured 2 North Korean soldiers

Kyiv (PTI): Ukraine's forces have captured two in August that resulted in the first occupation North Korean soldiers fighting alongside Russian troops in Russia's Kursk border region, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Saturday. He made the comments days after Ukraine began pressing new attacks in Kursk to retain ground captured in a lightning incursion

of Russian territory since World War II.

Moscow's counterattack has left Ukrainian forces outstretched and demoralised, killing and wounding thousands and retaking more than 40 per cent of the 984 square kilometres of Kursk Ukraine had seized.

AXIS BANK LTD.

THE BORROWERS. IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HERE BUY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGE IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY AVAILED. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT. THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 22.01.2025 AT 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO

RECOURSE BASIS". DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT

CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.)	DATE OF	GROSS WEIGHT	NET WEIGHT
	BRANCH :- ASHOK V				
PARMOD CHOUDHARY	XXXXXXXXXXXX3146	Rs. 5,27,700		134.300	129.200
VINOD KAUSHAL	XXXXXXXXXXX4279		7-SEP-24	70.300	47.400
		HADURGARH [HI			
RINKI DEVI	XXXXXXXXXXX7216		28-AUG-24	9.200	8.500
DA HKUMAD	BRANCH :- DAR			00.000	54.000
RAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX9868	Rs. 2,01,232 ARKA, DELHI [D		60.600	54.900
SUBHOJIT SAH	XXXXXXXXXXXX5690		26-JUL-24	22.700	21.500
SUBHOJII SAH		ARIDABAD [HR]	20-JUL-24	22.700	21.500
PRATIMA RAI	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX8122		9-NOV-23	14.300	13.100
110111111111111	BRANCH :- GEETA CO			1 11000	10.100
ASHISH KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXX7960		5-AUG-24	10.200	9.800
	BRANCH :- GRI	EATER NOIDA [U	P]		
SANJEEV KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXX9890	Rs. 31,431	7-SEP-24	8.200	7.900
	BRANCH :- JYC	TI NAGAR DEL [)L		
MANISH	XXXXXXXXXXX5283	Rs. 1,66,712	7-SEP-24	39.400	37.900
KANTA DEVI	XXXXXXXXXXX7202	Rs. 97,690	7-SEP-24	23.300	22.400
	BRANCH :- KALK	AJI, NEW DELHI	[DL]		
CHANDAN KUMAR MAL	XXXXXXXXXXX7436		4-NOV-24	43.000	40.400
SHAMSHER AHAMAD	XXXXXXXXXXXX6490	, ,		51.900	49.200
		HANGANJ OD D			
VINOD RATHOR	XXXXXXXXXXX5694			123.800	103.100
	BRANCH :- LAJPAT N				
WASIM ALVI	XXXXXXXXXXX3830			221.000	215.900
ABHINAY KUMAR SHARMA				67.100	64.200
RANI TOMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX4104	. ,. , .		46.500	43.700
RANI TOMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX3732		27-SEP-24	44.400	32.100
	BRANCH :- MAYUR \				
SANDEEP KUMAR OJHA	XXXXXXXXXXXX7851		7-SEP-24	19.600	19.250
0111011171111117	BRANCH :- NAZAFO			70 700	
SANGAM THAKUR	XXXXXXXXXXXX3079			76.700	72.700
00////00////	BRANCH :- NEHR			20.000	20.400
GOVIND KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX5686			39.900	38.400
MITESH VERMA	RANCH :- NEW RAILW XXXXXXXXXXXX7186			71.600	59.000
WITESH VERWA		Rs. 2,07,276 - NOIDA [UP]	5-AUG-24	71.000	1 59.000
SHILENDRA KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX7757		20-JUL-24	24.300	23.100
NIRBHAY SHARAN	XXXXXXXXXXXXX4932	Rs. 30,191	2-APR-24	10.600	10.100
MINDIAI OHAMA	BRANCH :- NOIDA			10.000	10.100
PREMLATA	XXXXXXXXXXXX9594			64.300	61.500
TALMENTA	BRANCH :- PARAI			04.000	01.000
VINOD YADAV	XXXXXXXXXXXX6853		4-AUG-24	10.600	10.200
7.11.00 17.127.11	BRANCH :- RAJ NA			101000	10.200
VIKAS KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXX5922		7-SEP-24	15.850	14.450
SITAB SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX6140		22-MAR-24	13.600	12.800
	BRANCH :- RO	DHINI, DELHI [DL			
SATYENDRA KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXX9944	Rs. 1,08,796	26-JUL-24	29.600	27.900
SUSHIL KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXX7660	Rs. 1,02,155	7-SEP-24	23.400	22.300
	BRANCH :- SECTO				
KAVITA KUMARI	XXXXXXXXXXX9254	Rs. 2,20,098	4-AUG-24	60.400	58.400
RUPESH KUMAR PANDEY	XXXXXXXXXXXX1037	Rs. 1,13,167	7-JUN-24	31.400	30.500
	BRANCH :- SECTO	R 14, GURGAON	[HR]		
AMIT KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX3803	Rs. 1,50,901	4-AUG-24	35.400	34.600
AMIT KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX6846	Rs. 1,43,982	4-AUG-24	33.800	33.000
AMIT KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX8450	Rs. 65,994	20-JUL-24	16.500	16.100
	BRANCH :- SECTO				
RITU	XXXXXXXXXXX8890	Rs. 2,11,862	27-SEP-24	51.300	49.600
DEEPAK	XXXXXXXXXXXX3557	Rs. 98,956	7-SEP-24	20.500	19.890
PANKAJ.	XXXXXXXXXXXXX3170	Rs. 84,732	15-FEB-24	22.600	21.700
SONU .	XXXXXXXXXXXX8219	Rs. 68,506	20-JUL-24	20.000	19.200
VIKRANT KUMAR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXX8938	Rs. 29,300	5-AUG-24	10.600	10.000
VIKRANT KUMAR SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX5136	Rs. 27,850	5-AUG-24	9.600	8.800
200	BRANCH :- SHA			17.000	10 ===
POOJA.	XXXXXXXXXXXX1022	Rs. 75,128	7-SEP-24	17.200	16.700
OURLIE COM	BRANCH :- SOUT			400.000	100.000
SUDHIR SYAL	XXXXXXXXXXXX1438	Rs. 8,93,703	27-NOV-24	192.300	188.300
RAHUL .	XXXXXXXXXXX4199	Rs. 26,086	9-NOV-23	33.980	30.350
DUBOSOLIVITA	BRANCH :- TILAK			40.000	45.005
DURGESH KUMAR DUBEY	1 x x x x x x x x x X X X X X X 1 1 2 4	I Rs. /1.456	7-SEP-24	16.600	15.900

DURGESH KUMAR DUBEY XXXXXXXXXXX4024 Rs. 71,456 7-SEP-24 16.600 15.900

BRANCH: VAISHALI, GHAZIABAD [UP]

AXIS BANK LTD. HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REMOVE ACCOUNT/CHANGE THE AUCTION DATE WITHOUT

ANY PRIOR NOTICE. AUCTION WILL BE HELD ONLINE HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN BETWEEN 12.30 PM

FOR DETAILED TERMS AND CONDITIONS, PLEASE LOG INTO GIVEN WEBSITE HTTPS://GOLD.SAMIL.IN

XXXXXXXXXXX4251 Rs. 77,867

XXXXXXXXXXX1419 Rs. 4,12,249 21-SEP-24

7-JUN-24 20.300

Venezuela's Maduro takes new oath amid protests, international rebuke

PTI CARACAS

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was sworn in Friday for a new term, extending his increasingly repressive rule in the face of renewed protests and rebukes from the United States and others who believe he stole last year's vote. Venezuela's legislative palace, where he was sworn in and delivered a fiery speech, was heavily guarded by security forces who have become Maduro's main hold on power since last summer's disputed election. Crowds of people, many sporting pro-Maduro Tshirts, gathered in adjacent streets and a nearby plaza. Maduro, likening himself to a biblical David fighting Goliath, accused his opponents and their supporters in the US of trying to turn his inauguration

enemies' failure to block his

inauguration to a third six-year

term was "a great victory" for

Venezuela's peace and nation-

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Imran
Ahmed who is the owner of the Plot No.
12A & 12B, measuring 70 sq.yds., Khasra
No.1359/Imin, New Hindon/Vihar, Arthala, Loni,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh owner vide Gift Deed
dated 19.11.2024 (Document No.14458)
Messia Regumand Assampto Na

Inianced a morgaget by Febbank rinancial Services Limited. That, Mr. Zamid Ahmed was the owner through Sale Deed dated 20.11.2004. Further, Mr. Jamil Ahmad expired on 19-11-2012 leaving behind his legal heirs namely Mrs. Hassena Begum (wife), Mr. Imran Ahmed (son), Mr. Rizwan Saifi (son), Ms. Salma daughter) but Mr. Rizwan Saifi and Ms. Salma were not present at the time of execution/registration of Giff Deed dated 19.11.2024. To comply the requirements of BANK/MBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interset/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections within 7 days, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienet C. Lucem Legal LLP. B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. S8I Bank Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client smt. Saroj Devi W/o late Sh. Surender Kumar, residing at House No. A-699, New Ashok Nagar, Vasundara Enclave, s.o. East Delhi, Delhi-

10096, do hereby formally disown and debai

ner son namely Virender Kumar and his wife

Bhawna along with their children, Piyush and Vidhi from all my movable and immovable

properties. My client severed all relations with

them. Any person/entity dealing with them, will do at their own risk, cost, and responsibility. My client shall not be held liable for any

acts/dealings involving them as they are doin-

[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER - I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DELHI (DRT 1)

Street, New Delhi-11000

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993

AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

IDBI BANK Versus NEHA JAIN

A - 3/74. IST FLOOR, SEG 3, ROHINI, DELHI 110085
This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DELHI (DRT 1) in TA/732/2023 an amount of Rs 1040227.10 (Rupees Ten Lakhs Forly Thousands Two Hundred Twenty Seven And Paise Ten Only) along with penderhelitle and future interest (§) 3.15 % Compound Interest Monthly w.ef. 24/05/2019 till realization and costs of Rs 13000 (Rupees Thirteen Thousands Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally/ Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum with-

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum with

in 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which

espect of the service of this notice and warrants

and other processes and all other proceedings taker

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this date: **08/01/2025**

for recovering the amount due

RC/180/2024

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliar

Tushar Malhotra (Advocate)

inlawful acts and not obeying my client

al sovereignty. "I have not been made president by the government of the United States, nor by the pro-imperialist governments of Latin America," he said, after being draped with a sash in the red, yellow and blue of Venezuela's flag. "I come from the people, I am of the into a "world war." He said his

The backslapping among gov-

trasted sharply with the hundreds of Venezuelans who took to the streets Thursday to protest Maduro's power grab. The protest took place in relative calm but after it ended, aides to the popular former lawmaker María Corina Machado

— the driving force behind what's left of Venezuela's beleaguered opposition — said she was briefly detained by security forces. Machado, whom the government has barred from running for office, emerged from months of hiding Thursday to join rally against Maduro. On Friday, she posted a video online in which she described the confusing incident. She said national guardsmen fired shots on her convoy then dragged her off a motorcycle from behind and said

ernment insiders in downtown

people, and my power emanates from history and from the people. And to the people, I owe my whole life, body and soul." they were taking her to prison. She said her motorcycle driver was shot in the leg. Panama Canal administrator

rejects Trump's assertions of Chinese meddling

PTI PANAMA CITY

The administrator of the Panama Canal said Friday that the vital waterway will remain in Panamanian hands and open to commerce from all countries, rejecting claims by President-elect Donald Trump that the United States should take it over. In an interview with The

Associated Press, Ricaurte Vásquez denied Trump's claims that China was controlling the canal's operations, and said making exceptions to current rules concerning its operation would lead to "chaos." He said Chinese companies operating in the ports on either

end of the canal were part of a Hong Kong consortium that won a bidding process in 1997 He added that US and Taiwanese companies are operating other ports along the canal as well. Trump has gone so far as to

suggest the US should take back control of the canal and he would not rule out using military might to do so. "It might be that you'll have to

do something," Trump said Tuesday. "The Panama Canal is vital to our country." Trump has characterised the fees for transiting the canal that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans as "ridiculous." Panama President José Raúl Mulino has said unequivocal ly that the canal will remain in

Vasquez stressed that the

this is to maintain the established rules." Requests for exceptions are

routinely rejected, because the process is clear and there mustn't be arbitrary variations, he said. The only exception in the neutrality treaty is for American warships, which receive expedited passage. Some 70% of the sea traffic

that crosses the Panama Canal leaves or goes to US ports. The United States built the canal in the early 1900s as it looked for ways to facilitate the transit of commercial and military vessels between its coasts. Washington relinquished control of the waterway to Panama on Dec 31, 1999, under a treaty signed in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. Last month, Trump told supporters "We're being ripped off at the Panama Canal." He claimed that the US "foolishly gave it

Regarding the fees for using the canal, Vasquez said a planned series of increases had concluded with one this month. Any additional increases would be considered in the first half of the year to give clients certainty in their planning and would go through a public comment

away.

the fees," he said. "The price rules are uniform for absolutely all those who transit the canal and clearly defined."

was heavily affected by drought during the past two vears that forced it to substantially reduce the number of daily slots for crossing ships. With fewer ships using the canal each day, administrators charged all shippers for reserving a slot. The canal bisects Panama, running 51 miles trip around Cape Horn at the

process, he said. There's no discrimination in The canal depends on reservoirs to operate its locks and

increased the fees that are end to end. It allows ships to avoid the longer and costlier

the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financia Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under. Panamanian hands. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. Responding to the suggestion that the U.S. could try to retake control of the canal, . You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 14/01/2025 at 10:30 a.m. for Vásquez said there was "no foundation for that sort of In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be In addition to the same such as label to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings. hope. That is the only thing I can say."

Panama Canal was open to the commerce of all countries. The canal can't give special $treatment \ to \ US-f\overline{l}agged \ ships$

because of a neutrality treaty, Vasquez added. "The most sensible and efficient way to do tip of South America.

Gambhir, BCCI officials to meet to review Australia tour

PTI MUMBAI

The future of leading batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be discussed threadbare in a meeting that head coach Gautam Gambhir and chief selector Ajit Agarkar is scheduled to hold with BCCI officials to review the recent tour to Australia here on Saturday.

The back-to-back series defeats against New Zealand (home) and Australia (away) and the diminishing returns with the bat have put Kohli and Rohit under scanner.

The PTI has learned that the powers that be will discuss in detail the future plan whether to activate the transition switch from next month's Champions Trophy or wait for the cycle to end with the ICC marquee event. Though it's likely that the senior batters will get another chance to redeem themselves at the ODI Champions Trophy, a format in which they have always excelled.

They may also take into consideration the fact that both Kohli and Rohit have played just three ODIs in 2024 after the 2023 World Cup at home, and that could be too light a sample size to make a final call on their 50-over career. Both Kohli and Rohit endured different fortunes too in the series against Sri Lanka. While Kohli amassed 24, 14

and 20 in Colombo, Rohit walked away with scores of 58, 64 and 35 against the Lankans.

But overall, Kohli has been a champion performer in 50-overs, his staple format and a good outing in the Champions Trophy could bring him, and Rohit too, back into a good frame of

However, their Test future is different. The next assignment is an away fivematch series against England, and the mandarins will certainly assess the drying runs from Kohli and Rohit in the traditional format.



In the most recent outing against Australia, Kohli, against Austrana, Roini, despite a hundred at Perth, could garner only 190 runs at an average of 23.75 while Rohit, who skipped the first Test and opted out of the fifth match, made 31 runs at 6.2.

Those performances will

certainly be mooted thoroughly while seeking Gambhir's views on their desire to continue playing the longest version of the sport. Similarly, it is possible that the performance of the Gambhirled coaching staff too could be assayed, and asked about their vision to handle the transition period without any more hiccups.

Champions Trophy team selection

Apart from the review meeting, the selectors, led by Agarkar, will also convene on Saturday evening to pick the Indian squad for the Champions Trophy.
India will play all its matches

in the UAE and will open the campaign with a match against Bangladesh on

However, it is unlikely that the team will be announced on this day itself, as the selectors have time till January 12 to release the

They will assess the fitness level of star pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who is recuperating from back spasms, and veteran fast bowler Mohammed Shami.

Shami, who has not played since the ODI World Cup 2023 because of an ankle surgery, is likely to get a green signal from BCCI's Centre of Excellence physics.

Shami has played in the Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and Vijay Hazare Trophy matches recently for Bengal to underline his increasing fitness levels and match readiness. The other interesting point will be to see whether Yashasvi Jaiswal will get the nod after doing well in 19 Tests and 23 T20I since making his debut in mid

Team for England T20Is,

The selectors are also expected to discuss and pick the India squad for the five T20Is and three ODIs against England for the home series,

beginning from January 22. There could not be many surprises as the team that did duty in South Africa late last year could be picked up again for the T20Is.

Shami could be included in the ODIs depending on the fitness certificate from CoE, which is understood to be positive though it will be assessed deeply before taking a final decision.

Bumrah and fellow pacer Akash Deep, who will also be in CoE in Bengaluru for recovery from a back niggle, will miss the white ball series against England. Jaiswal will certainly feature

at least one of the squads though, along Washington Sundar and Nitish Kumar Reddy, who impressed everyone with some gutsy outings Down Under.

Satwik-Chirag lose Malaysia Open semifinals

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy impressive run at the Malaysia Super badminton tournament came to an end following a straightgame loss to Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals, here on Seeded seventh, Satwik and

Chirag, who reached the finals last season, lost 10-21 40-minute semifinal clash.

"They played really well, and we could have followed our game plan a bit better. Instead, we played some random strokes, but kudos to them for playing a solid game," Satwik told reporters. "Today, the pace of the game

was very slow compared to the last three days. It's part of the game. It was a valuable learning experience for us. It is disappointing, but we have a long way to go. Today's match showed that we can



still make it a good fight."

The Asian Games champions struggled to get the right start and trailed 6-11 at the break in the opening game. Despite their efforts, the Indians could not make a comeback as Kim and Seo wrapped up the first game in just 19

After the break, Satwik and Chirag showed better control and intent, making it 11-8 at

the interval. However, they couldn't maintain momentum, allowing the

the contest comfortably. Kim and Seo have reunited for the 2025 season after finding success with other

Koreans to recover and seal

Seo previously partnered Kang Min Hyuk to the world title in 2023 and reached world No. 7 with Choi Sol

Gyu before that. Kim, on the other hand, claimed the mixed doubles silver medal alongside Jeong Na-eun at the Paris Olympics.

"They both are playing like a mixed doubles pair now, which is making it tougher," laughed Satwik. "They are not giving away any easy points, and that's their best quality. We have to work

hard for every point, and that's exactly what happened

Satwik, who hasn't competed much after the Paris Games due to injuries, said a little more attitude and mind games could have helped against their opponents.

We were working really hard, but they were taking easy points whenever they wanted, which kept the pressure off them. In the first game, and even in the second, despite us leading, maintained confidence.

"They could take any point at any time. I think maybe

some mind games could have worked here and there. We started a bit calmer, thought the game would come to us, but we could have shown a little more attitude on the court and played with a little more

fire," he said. Chirag added: "I think we started to be a little calmer in the second game. But credit to them, I think we gave away a few easy points from 11-8, but they were also serving quite

Satwik and Chirag haven't played much badminton since the Olympics.

They will next lead the home challenge at the India Open Super 750, starting January 14. The Indian pair will face Malaysia's Wei Chong Man and Kai Wun Tee in the opening round.

"Really excited. It's our home tournament and we would really want to go, play well there, and go as deep into the tournament as possible," Chirag signed off.

Rani Rampal hopes Women's Hockey India League will inspire future Olympic stars

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{ ext{Rampal}}^{ ext{ormer}}$ captain believes Rani Women's Hockey India League (HIL) can have a similar impact on the sport as the Indian Premier League (IPL) has had on cricket, providing a platform for young girls to earn national team spots for the 2032 Olympics.

inaugural WHIL. scheduled from January 12 to 26 in Ranchi, will feature four teams: Delhi SG Pipers, Odisha Warriors, Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, and Soorma Hockey Club. There may be four teams

only this time but starting the league has been a long time coming. Hockey India needs to be complimented for this," Rampal, who will serve as a mentor and coach for the Soorma HC, told SAI Media. The men's hockey team won back-to-back bronze medals in the Olympics in Tokyo and Paris because the foundation



was laid by the men's Hockey India League years back," said the former India hockey captain.

"Now thanks to the introduction of the women's HIL, we will get to see a lot of talented young women showcase their mettle in the 2032 and 2036 Olympics. This platform will turn out immensely fruitful."

The 30-year-old from Haryana, who has played over 250 international matches, is embarking on her first stint as a support staff member.

The Hockey India League (HIL) began in 2013 with six men's teams, running for five

years before it was discontinued primarily due to commercial challenges. It was revived after seven years with the addition of a women's league.Reflecting on the rise of women's cricket, Rampal drew parallels with the success of the Women's Premier League, which gave the sport a lot more prominence.

Nobody knew much about women's cricket, but now you see, how the sport has become so popular in the nation. Through the women's IPL (WPL), people came to know about it and have started following the sport manifold." Rampal extended her wishes to former goalkeeper PR Sreejesh in his new role as coach of the Indian junior hockey team.

"Sreejesh has almost 20 years of international experience. The junior team will do very well because they will get to know how to perform in a high-level pressure situation,"

David Moyes returns as Everton manager during 'pivotal time' for club

 $E^{\rm verton\ hired\ David\ Moyes}_{\rm for\ a\ second\ stint\ as}$ manager at the Premier

League club on Saturday. Moyes replaces Sean Dyche, who was fired Thursday with the team just one point above the relegation zone.

The 61-year-old Moyes managed Everton from 2002-13, during which he led the Merseyside club to the 2009 FA Cup final and four European campaigns.
"It's great to be back," Moyes said. "I enjoyed 11 wonderful

and successful years at Everton and didn't hesitate when I was offered the opportunity to rejoin this great club." The storied club — a nine-

time English champion which has been without a major trophy since 1995 — was bought last month by the



Texas-based Friedkin Group in a deal reportedly worth in excess of 400 million pounds (\$495 million).

Everton's next game is Wednesday at home against Aston Villa in the Premier League. "We are pleased that David is joining us at this pivotal time in Everton's history," club executive chairman Marc Watts said in the team's statement. "With

over a decade of experience at the club, he is the right leader to propel us through our final season at Goodison Park and into our new stadium. We look forward to working with David to build the foundation of a new era for Everton."

Dyche was fired hours before Everton hosted and beat third-division Peterborough 2-0 in an FA Cup third-round

Mumbai eye return to winning ways, Jamshedpur FC target top-two spot

Title holders Mumbai City FC will look to regain they face Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League here on Sunday.

The Islanders are determined to recover from a disappointing home defeat and will aim to avoid back-toback losses at the Mumbai Football Arena for the first time since early 2023.

Mumbai City FC have lost two of their last five matches at the Mumbai Football Arena, including a 0-3 defeat to NorthEast United FC on December 30, 2024.

The last time they suffered consecutive home losses was in early 2023.

The Islanders enter the match with concerns over their defensive structure. After maintaining an impressive run of four

consecutive clean sheets,

Mumbai City FC have now

conceded multiple goals in back-to-back matches -- a worrying trend that head coach Petr Kratky will be eager to address. With their last two home

matches yielding a defeat and a draw, the Islanders need a solid defensive display to secure three points. Despite their defensive



attack remains potent.

Leading the charge is Lallianzuala Chhangte, a consistent performer with three goals and two assists against Jamshedpur FC in ISL history.

Chhangte's ability to unlock defences could be crucial in breaking down the Red Miners' resilient backline. "Regardless of who we play,

me. We need to win and that's our No. 1 priority. We pood to play good football, as it gives us more chances to succeed," Mumbai City FC coach Petr Kratky said.

Jamshedpur FC, with a poor away record this season, on the other hand will seek to break their streak of four consecutive road defeats and keep their momentum alive as

they push for a top-two spot.

Jamshedpur FC thrive without dominating possession. The Red Miners have the lowest average possession in the league (41.1%) but are masters of the counter-attack.

By absorbing pressure and striking swiftly on the break, they've managed to keep pace with the league's top teams. The key to their strategy is

Muhammed Uvais, who has been instrumental in play from transitioning

defence to attack. His dual role makes him a

Adding further strength to

their cause is Stephen Eze, whose aerial dominance and defensive prowess make him a standout performer. "It's an away game. So, it's very important. We must take

full responsibility and work hard to get a positive result," the Red Miners coach Khalid Jameel said.

The Islanders are sixth in the table, with 23 points from 14 games, courtesy of six victories and five draws.

Jamshedpur FC are positioned fourth, winning 24 points from 13 matches, taking all three points in four out their previous five clashes.

They are just three points short of the second-placed Bengaluru FC (27), and have game in hand (13) compared to the Blues (14).

Australian Open 2025: Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner have a real rivalry atop men's tennis

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

When Carlos Alcaraz is on court for a training session, perhaps working on his newly revamped service motion, he's doing so to buttress a game already good enough to claim four Grand Slam titles.

He's also got his young rival, Jannik Sinner, in mind.

"The good thing for me is, when I'm seeing him winning titles, when I'm seeing him in the top of the ranking, it forces me to practice even harder every day. In practice, I'm just thinking (about) the things that I have to improve to play against him," Alcaraz said Saturday, a day before the start of the Australian Open. "That, I think, is great for me: Having him (and) such a great rivalry, so far, just to (force me to) give (my best),

every day." Alcaraz, 21, and Sinner, 23, head into the 2025 tennis season at the top of the men's

game, coming off a year that portended greatness for both. With Rafael Nadal now joining Roger Federer in joining Roger Federer in retirement, leaving 24-time major champion Novak Djokovic as the lone remaining member of the Big Three on tour, it appears as though Alcaraz and Sinner have separated themselves from the rest of the next generation, each taking two of the four Slam singles trophies Forever, it seemed, the sport's

most important laurels were dominated by Federer, Nadal and Djokovic, and anyone harboring hopes of claiming then needed to defeat at least one, and often two, of that

The names have changed, but the dynamic is similar. "I feel like now, with Jannik and with Carlos, it kind of

moved toward the same way, just with new guys. You have tournaments. It's as simple as and No. 3 Alcaraz. "They



that," said Alexander Zverev, a two-time major finalist who is seeded No. 2 at Melbourne to go through them to win big Park, between No. 1 Sinner

both won two Grand Slams (last) year. And they're the two best players in the world, for sure. And you have to beat them to win the tournament."

Sinner is the defending champion in Australia, and went on to also win the U.S. Open in September, part of a season in which he went 73-6

with eight titles — but also dealt with a doping case in which he tested positive twice for trace amounts of an anabolic steroid, blamed it on accidentally being exposed to a banned substance via a massage from his trainer and

was exonerated. (The World Anti-Doping Agency appealed that ruling; a closed-door hearing will be held at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland on April Sport in Switzerland on April 16-17.)Alcaraz exited from the Australian Open in the quarterfinals against Zverev last January, but then triumphed at the French Open, getting past Zverev in the final, and Wimbledon, where he won against Djokovic in the final for the

On Sunday, Zverev faces wildcard entry Lucas Pouille at defending after champion Aryna Sabalenka takes on 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens. Other top names scheduled

second year in a row.

for Day 1 action include 2024 Australian runner-up and Paris Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen and threetime major finalist Casper

Alcaraz, Sinner and Djokovic, along with five-time major champ Iga Swiatek and 2023 U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff, all will get started Monday.

If Alcaraz, whose first major title came at the 2022 U.S. Open at age 19 and propelled him to a debut at No. 1, wins this Australian Open, he would be the youngest man in tennis history to complete a career Grand Slam, with at least one championship from each of the sport's four most prestigious events.

It's truly remarkable," former player Feliciano Lopez said, what he has achieved in the

Nadal, or Djokovic vs. Nadal. "You have more eyes on us," Sinner said, "because this is a match most people want to Overall, Alcaraz leads 6-4.

the potential to become as

memorable as Federer vs

In 2024 alone, he went 3-0 against Sinner, who was 73-3 against everyone else, with setbacks only against Daniil Medvedev, Andrey Rublev and Stefanos Tsitsipas. "When I'm playing against him, I have a different

mindset, a little bit. I mean, when you're facing the .. Best player in the world, you have to do something different different preparation or different mindset or whatever," said Alcaraz, who was 54-13 with four titles last season. "When I'm facing him, I just know that I have to play my best if I want to win. That's it. Probably if I have a bad day

last three years." Alcaraz and Sinner already are establishing quite a headto-head rivalry, one that against Jannik, it's 99% that already has shown glimpses of you're going to lose.

he Heritage Transport Museum (HTM) marked its 11th anniversary with two captivating exhibitions blending futuristic imagination and historical heritage. Running until 31 March 2025, the exhibitions, Light Years Ahead and Prints of the Divine, offer visitors a journey through artistic innovation and cultural history.

through artistic innovation and cultural history.

A Legacy of Art and Vision
The event featured Rama Varma Thampuran,
Prince of Kilimanoor Palace and a descendant of
the iconic artist Raja Ravi Varma, and Rajiv
Lochan, former Director of the National Gallery
of Modern Art (NGMA). Rama Varma
Thampuran, a renowned musician and cultural
advocate, celebrates the legacy of Raja Ravi
Varma while Rajiv Lochan's commitment to art

Varma, while Rajiv Lochan's commitment to art underscores the exhibitions' significance in India's cultural landscape.

Curated by artist Vishal K. Dar, Light Years
Ahead transforms the museum's experience
room into a futuristic realm. Featuring

luminous sculptural totems and tri-coloured coded messages, this installation invites visitors to ponder alternate realities and embrace

Prints of the Divine celebrates India's artistic legacy through oleographs, lithographic plates, and postcards by Raja Ravi Varma and M.V. Dhurandhar. Curated by Prem Kandwal, this collection features rare works that highlight the evolution of early Indian print art, blending mythological themes with artistic innovation.

A Legacy of Art and Vision

A Vision of the Future

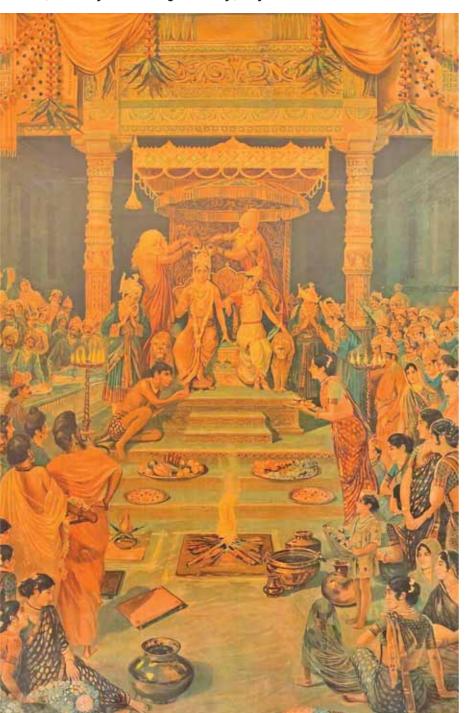
boundless imagination.

A Glimpse into India's Art History

ınday pioneer

COLOURS vivacity 08

Celebrating 11 years, the museum hosts exhibitions blending art, history and imaginationy, says GYANESHWAR DAYAL





Reflecting on the exhibitions, Rama Varma Thampuran remarked: "Art and music have the power to heal and inspire. Sharing this passion with the world in truly or honory."

with the world is truly an honour.

Rajiv Lochan echoed these sentiments: "Art is a universal language that bridges cultures and Creativity has the potential fosters compassion. Creativity has the potential to unite us all."

Honouring Raja Ravi Varma's Legacy
Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906), a pioneer of lithographic printing in India, is celebrated for combining Indian aesthetics with European techniques. His iconic mythological depictions brought art to the masses and continue to inspire generations.

HTM: A Journey Through Time
Reflecting on HTM's milestone, Founder and Managing Trustee Tarun Thakral said:
"We are delighted to present these exhibitions to commemorate our 11th anniversary. They offer visitors a unique journey through time, one into the future, the other into the past."
Since its inception in 2013, HTM has become India's first comprehensive transport museum, showcasing over 3,500 curated objects. Located in Taoru-Gurgaon, an hour from New Delhi, the museum combines historical exhibits with contemporary themes, offering visitors a contemporary themes, offering visitors a unique blend of education and cultural

engagement. Through Light Years Ahead and Prints of the Divine, HTM not only celebrates its anniversary but also reinforces its mission to merge history with innovation, creating a space where past, present and future converge

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



(Michael Hitchcock) in *Mathew's* house overnight. The next

morning, *Mathew* is found dead, shot in the chest. The storm has cut

off communication lines, making escape or calling for help impossible. As suspicions arise, it

becomes clear that everyone had a

motive tied to their high school

grievances. The setup holds

combining

promise,



SUGGESTED BINGES



SUBTERAN OTT: Netflix Director: Octav Gheorghe, Daniel Sandu, Anca Miruna Lazarescu Cast: Cezar Grumazescu, Ana Ularu, Florin Piersic Jr.

THE SABARMATI REPORT OTT: Zee5 Director: Dheeraj Sarna Cast: Vikrant Massey Ridhi Dogra, Raashi





GOOSEBUMPS: THE VANISHING OTT: Disney+ Hotstar Cast: Ana Ortiz, Elijah M. Cooper, Galilea La Salvia, Francesca Noel

BLACK WARRANT OTT: Netflix Director -Vikramaditya Motwane, Satyanshu Singh Cast - Zahan Kapoor, Rahul Bhat, Paramvir Cheema, Anurag Thakur





AGRA AFFAIR OTT: MX Player Cast: Harshita Gaur, Prateek Pachauri, Aakash Dahiya

retflix's Reunion promises a murder mystery set against the backdrop of a high school reunion, but the execution leaves much to be desired. The movie has a decent cast, including Chace Crawford, Jillian Bell and Nina Dobrev. However, what could have been a gripping whodunit is weighed down by a mix of inconsistent writing, underwhelming performances, and a tone that fails to balance

suspense and humour.
THE PLOT: Potential Turned

Mediocrity The story begins with a high school reunion, where old classmates come together, bringing with them unresolved tensions, romantic entanglements, and deep-seated grudges. The film introduces Mathew Danbury (Chace Crawford), a charming yet flawed character, whose behaviour hints at trouble ahead. He flirts with the women at the party, dances as the high school football mascot, and generally becomes the centre of attention. Meanwhile, Vivian Chase (Jillian Bell) accuses Mathew of tormenting her in high school, adding a layer of confrontation to

the gathering. A severe snowstorm traps the main characters *Evan* (Billy Magnussen), Ray (Lil Rel Howery), Jasmine (Jamie Chung), Amanda (Nina Dobrev), Vivian and Mr. Buckley

PERFORMANCES: Mixed Bag

Chace Crawford's portrayal of Mathew is engaging, but his character's untimely demise early in the film undermines any attachment the audience might have had. Jamie Chung and Billy Magnussen bring some charm as the budding romantic duo, but their chemistry feels

underdeveloped.

Jillian Bell as Vivian delivers an classic mystery tropes with personal drama. Unfortunately, the film earnest performance, but her character lacks depth, and her squanders this potential with a rushed and unsatisfying resolution. emotional confrontation with

South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central: Khajuraho. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

Mathew feels forced rather than cathartic. Lil Rel Howery's comedic timing feels out of place in a story that should rely more on suspense than humour, making his character, *Ray*, come off as an unnecessary distraction.

THE KILLER REVEAL: A Letdown

The film's climax is its most glaring weakness. The killer's identity is revealed through a tedious 15minute monologue by one character, who conveniently "figures everything out" without prior indication any



investigative situation. This lack of build-up or evidence makes the twist feel random and unearned, leaving the audience scratching their heads rather than gasping in surprise. A good mystery thrives on subtle clues and revelations, but Reunion opts for a nonsensical, last-minute info dump instead.

DIRECTION AND WRITING: Where

It Fails

The pacing is uneven, with long stretches of inconsequential dialogue that fail to build tension. The screenplay tries to blend humour and drama but ends up diluting the impact of both. The lack of meaningful character development makes it difficult to care about the characters' fates, while the attempts at dark humour often fall flat.

VERDICT: A Missed Opportunity

Reunion is a film that had the ingredients for success with a strong cast, an amazing premise, and a confined setting perfect for suspense. Unfortunately, poor writing, lack of lustre direction, and a clumsy resolution turn it into a forgettable experience. If you're looking for a well-crafted murder mystery, this isn't it. While the film might appeal to those seeking light, mindless entertainment, it's unlikely to satisfy fans of the genre.

Rating: 2/5

New Delhi, January 12, 2025

a Contract the pioneer of the pionee

"He was the king amongst the industrialists of India"

NARAYANA MURTHY



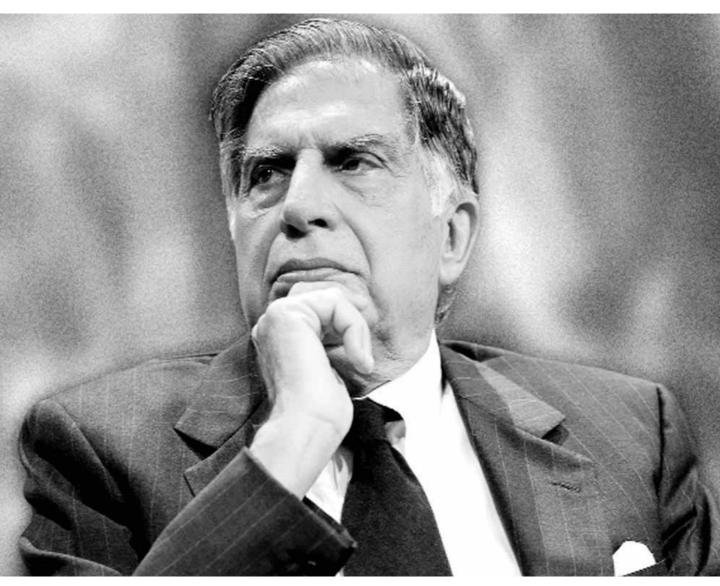
"What I would like to do is to leave behind a sustainable entity of a set of companies that operate in an exemplary manner in terms of ethics, values and continue what our ancestors left behind."

— RATAN NAVAL TATA

ericles, the monumental Greek politician and statesman during the Golden Age of Athens in his historic Funeral Oration delivered in 431 BC (that is said to have influenced President Abraham Lincoln's famous Gettysburg Address on 19th November, 1863!), said, "To famous men all the earth is a sepulchre: and their virtues shall be testified not only by inscription on stone at home but in all lands wheresoever in the unwritten record of the mind, which far beyond any monument will remain with all men everlastingly. On 9th October, 2024, at exactly 11.30 pm IST, the towering 5 feet 10 inches tall Surat born Parsee industrialist-philanthropist Padma Vibhushan Ratan (meaning "precious jewel") Naval Tata, the Chairman Emeritus and the patriarch of the House of Tata, the largest business conglomerate in India (having a staggering annual revenue of over 165 billion US Dollars and encompassing a grand well knit family of over 1 million happy, well cared for and dedicated members worldwide!), breathed his last at the iconic Beach Candy Hospital nestled atop the Arabian Sea facing Cumballa Hill at the age of 86. He had been hospitalised on 7th October, 2024 owing to a critical combination of senescence and hypotension. Ratan held a meger 0.83 % cent stake in Tata Sons and had a net worth of Rs 7,900 crores, according to the Hurun India Rich List 2024. A large part of his wealth-nearly 75 per cent-was tied to his shares in Tata Sons. For Ratan, accolades poured in a torrential stream from across the country and from all corners of the world. In an impassioned eulogy that reflected the melancholy mood of a shattered nation, our Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi tweeted on X - "Shri Ratan Tata was a visionary business leader, a compassionate soul, and an extraordinary human being." On 13th October, 2024, the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu in a post on X addressed to his friend Modi, condoled Ratan's death and highlighted his stellar contributions in fostering Israel-India ties, "I and many in Israel mourn the loss of Ratan Naval Tata, a proud son of India and a champion of the friendship between our two countries." In a post on LinkedIn on 14th October, 2024, Padma Bhushan Natarajan Chandrasekaran, (popularly known as "Chandra"), the most worthy successor of Ratan (he effortlessly stepped into Ratan's distinguished shoes and proudly donned his enviable mantle on 12th January, 2017!) and my personal friend for over 15 years since my heady days as a long term Advisor to Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. ("TCS"), the flagship of the prodigious Tata fleet, paid an effusive heartfelt homage to his former boss and mentor, "Anybody who met Mr. Tata came away with a story about his humanity, warmth, and dreams for India. There really was no one like him." Joseph Bitner Wirthlin, the renowned American businessman and religious leader rightly observed, "Some memories are unforgettable, remaining ever vivid and heartwarming!" In a moment of helpless nostalgia, my mind goes back irresistibly to the rather sultry summer day in the year 1986 when I fortuitously met Ratan (he was then the Chairman of Tata Industries and had in that capacity drafted the Tata Strategic Plan) for the very first time within the majestic confines of the Taj Palace Hotel, the only "palace" hotel in the national capital since 1983. Thereafter, I often used to stay at the Tai Mahal Hotel (the second hotel built by the Indian Hotel Company Ltd. ("IHCL") belonging to the Tata group after the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel ("Taj Mahal Palace") in Colaba, Mumbai, in 1903 and popularly known as the Taj Mansingh Hotel because of its strategic location at 1, Mansingh Road), the 5 star-deluxe hotel of 1978 vintage, characterised as the

"Epicentre of Delhi". I used to meet Ratan sporadically in the hotel lobby mostly in the company of its various General Managers and close personal friends belonging to the golden days of the hotel viz. Ravi Dubey, Ronnie Lobo (both Ravi and Ronnie are sadly no more in this world!), and Patu Keshwani or even otherwise. Ratan used to be invariably accompanied by his old faithful, close confidante, trouble shooter and quintessential out and out Taj-Man Devendra Kumar Beri ("DK" to his friends!). Ratan used to mostly stay at a spartan guest house in the Tata Apartments at 23, Prithviraj Road, New Delhi. In those heady days, Uncle PV, who used to live at 9, Motilal Nehru Marg, often dropped by at the famed coffee shop Machan to drink endless cups of freshly brewed sugar free piping hot filter coffee over steamed idlis and vadas soaked in mild sambar. Ratan never missed the opportunity to wish him if he happened to be around in the hotel. He was an indefatigable admirer of Uncle PV! After Uncle PV became the Prime Minister on 21st June, 1991 consequent upon Rajiv Bhai's tragic assassination on 21st May, 1991, and before he moved into Prime Minister House at 7, Race Course Road (renamed Lok Kalyan Marg), a special Suite was booked in the hotel for his family members through the good offices of Ratan, which was guarded round the clock by the Special

THE SHAH OF THE CHARLES AND CONTROL OF THE
Ratan Naval Tata redefined corporate leadership with vision, ethics, innovation and unparalleled philanthropy, writes **ANOOP BOSE**



Protection Group ("SPG"). Ratan personally saw to it that members of Uncle PV's family were well cared for in the hotel. I had the glorious good fortune of staying with Uncle PV at his residence even prior to his becoming the President of the Indian National Congress and was, naturally, a regular visitor to Suite where I used to meet and interact with Uncle PV's two sons Rajeshwar and Prabhakar under the watchful eyes of the SPG personnel. One of my close friends **Prashant Tewari**, who used to work very closely with Uncle PV and Hansraj Bhardwaj, (the versatile lawyer and later rose to become Índia's most famous law minister), both were closely known to Uncle PV's family, used to co-ordinate crucial governance and political issues during the period of most dramatic transformation of the country. Again, I used to have the opportunity to meet Ratan in the hotel! Ratan used to take a very special interest in the JRD Tata Memorial Lectures. On 19th September, 2008, Somnath Chatterjee, eminent Barrister and the then Speaker of the Lok Sabha and a close personal friend, delivered the 11th JRD Memorial Lecture on "Economic Development and Political Consensus Building" at the Mansingh Hall in the Taj Mansingh. I was a special invitee to the event. After Somnath's lecture, I met Ratan and Somnath at the adjacent Aftab Mahtab, the regal wood and marble panelled venue, over dinner. My old friend Dr. Jamshed Jiji Irani (popularly known as "Doc I"), the honorific Managing Director of Tata Steel, was also there at Ratan's table. The tall and handsome Sanjay "Pole" Singh, Principal Resident Executive and Adviser, Tata Sons, came over to the table unobtrusively and recounted how I had saved Doc I's life by forewarning the Tata Management that some evil people had plotted to attack Doc I with crude bombs in the heart of Jamshedpur with a sinister motive. My last Taj Mansingh encounter with Ratan was just before the outbreak of the Covid epidemic in 2020. I was standing outside one of the hotel lifts when suddenly as if by magic

Ratan emerged from the lift along with his old

Harvard educated friend Prince Shah Karim al-

Husseini, Aga Khan IV (known by his religious



"TO FAMOUS MEN ALL THE
EARTH IS A SEPULCHRE: AND
THEIR VIRTUES SHALL BE
TESTIFIED NOT ONLY BY
INSCRIPTION ON STONE AT
HOME BUT IN ALL LANDS
WHERESOEVER IN THE
UNWRITTEN RECORD OF THE
MIND, WHICH FAR BEYOND ANY
MONUMENT WILL REMAIN WITH
ALL MEN EVERLASTINGLY"



title "Maulana Hazar Imam"), the founder and chairman of the Aga Khan Development
Network, and DK of course. I wished him and walked with him to his waiting car. He bid me goodbye with a wave of his hand before getting into his car!

As a Special advisor to the Marathon group of companies, I used to travel every year to Bengaluru to participate in Aero India, the biennial air show and aviation exhibition held by the Ministry of Defence at the Yelahanka Air Force Station, Bengaluru, along with my illustrious Israeli friend Hezi Bezalel, the Chairman of the group, and other top Israeli officials. The 2007 Aero India was a very special event for me as Ratan, who was 69 years old at that time, valiantly reached out for the skies in a

spellbinding saga of high adventure on 8th February, 2007. Clad in a G-Suit, he co-piloted a Lockheed Martin F-16 Falcon multi-role fighter jet in a historic 35 minute sortie. Ratan held licences to fly both jets and helicopters! Upon landing after what Ratan described as an "exhilarating" flight, I heartily congratulated Ratan shortly after he was greeted by my old friend William "Bill" Sebastian Cohen, former US Defense Secretary, Royce Keplinger and other senior Lockheed Martin officials. On 9th February, 2007, a G-Suited Ratan once again took to the skies co-piloting a Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jet. I met Ratan shortly after his second flight in the Boeing Pavilion to felicitate him with a small bouquet of pink roses in the august presence of my close friends Thomas "Tom" Reeve Pickering, the former US Ambassador to India and the former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs in the Clinton Administration, Dinesh Keskar, the senior Vice President, Sales in Asia-Pacific and India, Anil Srikhande, India President, and other top officials of Boeing Company. During that visit, I also had the golden opportunity of watching a scintillating aerobatic display by the Hindustan Aeronautical Industries Ltd. manufactured fly-by-wire Light Combat Multi-Role Tejas Aircraft in the distinguished company of Ratan, Arackaparambil Kurien Antony, Union Defence Minister, Indru and Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa, Chief Minister, Karnataka, amongst other important dignitaries. Ratan noticed to his enormous delight that I was smartly attired in a royal blue English blazer, grey English flannel trousers, a hand crafted boater hat from the reputed hatters K.R.Snoxell & Sons, Luton, and dazzling gold rimmed Zeiss sun glasses!

On 26th November, 2008, "a date which will live in infamy", Mumbai, the financial capital of India, witnessed a brutal, dastardly terrorist attack orchestrated by the Pakistani sponsored group Lashkar-e-Taiba, when the Indian Home Secretary Madukar Gupta, by an ominous coincidence, was enjoying Pakistan's hospitality in Murree, a mountain resort city close to Islamabad. Ten highy trained and heavily armed

terrorists infiltrated the city, having stealthily landed in inflatable speed boats at Macchimar Nagar, in Mumbai's Cuffe Parade neighbourhood, and heinously targeted several meticulously planned locations, including the Taj Mahal Palace. The Indian Government's response to the attack was "pusillanimous", as aptly observed by the Hindustan Times on 26th November, 2023! The attack claimed 166 lives, including 33 at the Taj Mahal Palace, and did not spare even the General Manager of the hotel Karambir Singh Kang's wife Niti and his two young teenage sons Uday and Samar. Gautam Shantilal Adani, the Indian billionaire businessman (who has recently been in the eye of a storm!), by a superb stroke of luck managed to save himself by hiding in the kitchen of the hotel! Defying all odds, it was Ratan who in a truly Churchillian manner valiantly rose to the occasion and provided the much needed leadership to an embattled nation facing an "ordeal of the most grievous kind"! In the face of the attack watched by a shell-shocked nation, Ratan, who was then 70, displayed superhuman courage, resolve and determination. He strode like a colossus and stood like a Rock of Gibraltar at the Colaba end of the Taj Mahal Palace for 3 days, as security forces fiercely battled the terrorists in the Taj Mahal Palace. Everyone became just those inches taller, every back just that much broader, as Ratan's own was. This was undoubtedly Ratan's finest hour when he embodied the will, spirit and grit of our people..indomitable, undaunted, relentless! Ratan was imbued with the extraordinary, nay God given, ability and gift to pick out and support the ideal leader both for the House of Tata as well as the nation...he was the Kingmaker extraordinaire! Ratan backed Modi to the hilt before the General Elections in 2014 and on 19th May, 2014 tweeted on X, "Mr. Modi's landslide victory echoes the people's mandate for strong leadership and clear policies for growth and prosperity for India." On 19th December, 2020 at the ASSOCHAM Foundation Week, Ratan ecstatically heaped praise on Modi for his leadership during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, "I think if we all stand together and follow what you have said, what you have done and what you have shown, we will have a situation where the world will look at us and say this Prime Minister said it could happen and he made it happen." In January, 2017, Chandra's "mentor, guide and

friend" Ratan cherry-picked Chandra to lead Tata Sons as its Chairman, the first non-Tata family member to hold the coveted post! On his appointment as the Chairman of Tata Sons, Chandra said, "I am humbled and honoured to be chosen to lead a truly great institution that occupies a unique position in hearts of the people in India and the world. I am proud to have been part of the Tata family for over 30 years and assuming this position is a great privilege.

I want to thank the Tata Sons board and Mr Ratan N Tata for their confidence in me to lead this trusted institution that has a rich heritage." Addressing the annual gala annual event at the National Centre of Performing Arts on the birth anniversary of JRD Tata on 30th July, 2018, Ratan expressed gratification with regard to the direction in which group companies were headed under the leadership of Chandra and said that he was confident that "Tata Group is in safe hands." Yes, only a true leader can identify other true leaders! Both Modi and Chandra have proved to be phenomenal leaders of the 21st Century and have earned international acclaim, respect, adoration and admiration. I have a myriad of friends who knew Ratan

intimately and worked with him closely. I am highly emboldened to single out only 5 names viz. Pole, Tanmoy, Raian, Suprakash and Zubin Mehta, the Managing Director of Uniforms Unlimited, Mumbai, who holds a Masters Certification from the internationally reputed Savile Row Academy, London. All of them are unquestionably ad idem about Ratan: "He was a genuinely good, dedicated and large hearted soul filled with the milk of human kindness and our age is hardly fit to understand him." We should remember the stellar quality of Ratan's character as well as the remarkable range of his achievements. In his love of adventure and his imaginative powers, he was far removed from the modern industrialist-philanthropist. Yet everyone who came in contact with him paid tribute to the unimaginable power of his mind. He had an aptitude for business which raised him far above the ordinary levels of our generation.

He had a firmness of spirit which was not often elated by success, seldom downcast by failure and never swayed by panic. He loved life and was perfectly at peace with himself and the world around him. He could be helplessly uproarious. He wanted everyone to be happy. He wanted to taste and try everything that life could offer. Power never corrupted him, nor did success make him conceited, arrogant or pompous. Beyond his reputation as a business magnate and animal lover, Ratan's tenure as Chairman of the Tata Trusts has left an inerasable mark on India's cultural kaleidoscope. The trusts have spearheaded numerous initiatives across healthcare, education, environment and disaster relief and their manifold contributions to art and culture stand out as particularly noteworthy. With no thought of the length of time he might be permitted on Planet Earth, Ratan was concerned solely with the quality of the service he could render to his

nation and to humanity.

— The author is an internationally reputed senior lawyer practising in the Supreme Court of India and various High Courts and Tribunals in India





the pioneer

agenda

THE SPIRIT OF MAHARIMBH

The *Maha Kumbh Mela 2025* in Prayagraj is a unique gathering where spirituality, culture and commerce come together, attracting millions from all walks of life to witness this incredible event, writes **BISWAJEET BANERJEE**



cultural and spiritual essence. The Sangam, where the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati converge, is at the heart of this grand spectacle. Pilgrims believe that a dip in these holy waters during the auspicious period cleanses them of sins and paves the way to salvation. "The Maha Kumbh Mela is not just a religious gathering but a transformative experience," said Acharya Ramkishore Tiwari, a spiritual leader. "It is where faith meets divinity."

At the heart of this grand celebration lies the belief in spiritual purification. According to Hindu tradition, a dip in the holy confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati during this auspicious period is believed to absolve sins and pave the path to salvation. The origins of the *Kumbh* are steeped in the Puranic tale of the Samudra Manthan, where drops of divine nectar (amrita) spilled at four locations, Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain, sanctifying these sites forever.





A CITY REBORN

he banks of the Ganga and Yamuna have transformed into a temporary city, sprawling across the Sangam area. Colourful tents of all sizes and hues have sprung up, creating an awe-inspiring sight. These tents house spiritual discourses, yoga sessions, cultural programmes, and temporary dwellings for millions of devotees. The air is filled with the aroma of traditional Indian delicacies, as numerous eateries and food stalls cater to the surging crowds. Stalls selling Rudraksha beads, saffron garments, holy books, and souvenirs stretch along the pathways, adding vibrancy to the bustling atmosphere. The iconic Naga Sadhus, covered in ash and wearing Rudraksha beads, take centre stage, drawing devotees and curious onlookers alike. Aghories, known for their intense spiritual practices, are seen meditating near the riverbanks, adding a mystical charm to the gathering.

"We are not just preparing for an event; we are crafting an experience that celebrates India's cultural heritage," said Divya Prakash Singh, a senior official overseeing the arrangements. "From smart surveillance through 10,000 CCTV cameras to a dedicated mobile app for route and ritual updates, technology is playing a crucial role in ensuring safety and convenience." "The energy here is contagious," said Abhilash Narain, a resident of Prayagraj. "You do not have to be Hindu to feel the magic of this gathering."

Among the pilgrims is Rajni Devi, a 62-year-old widow from Rajasthan making her third trip to the Kumbh. "The Kumbh is my escape," she said. "It's where I find peace and the courage to face life's challenges." Similarly, Sunil Mishra, a young IT professional from Bengaluru, sees the







Kumbh as a chance to reconnect with his roots. "In the hustle of corporate life, you lose touch with who you are. The Kumbh gives me clarity and a sense of purpose," he shared.

ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS

eyond its spiritual significance, the Maha Kumbh Mela is a colossal economic engine. The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated a staggering ₹5,600 crore to infrastructure and event management, with the total budget projected at ₹6,382 crore. The local economy thrives on this influx, benefiting small vendors, hoteliers, and service providers alike. "During the Kumbh, my daily earnings triple," said Shyam Lal, a shopkeeper selling puja items near the ghats. Hotels across Prayagraj are reporting record bookings, with many fully reserved months in advance. "The demand is unprecedented," said Priya Mehta, the manager of a mid-range hotel in the city. The ripple effect extends beyond Prayagraj. Nearby religious hubs like Varanasi, Ayodhya, and Mathura also see a surge in tourism,





creating thousands of new jobs. "The Maha Kumbh 2025 could generate economic activity worth over ₹3 lakh crore," estimated Awanish Awasthi, advisor to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

CHALLENGES AND INNOVATIONS

osting an event of this magnitude comes with its share of challenges. Ensuring the availability of clean drinking water, medical aid, and sanitation facilities for millions of pilgrims requires meticulous planning.

"The key is vigilance," said Ramesh Chandra, a

"The key is vigilance," said Ramesh Chandra, a senior police officer stationed at the Mela. "We're deploying over 50,000 security personnel and using AI-enabled systems to manage crowds and prevent untoward incidents."

"The Maha Kumbh is a test of our organisational capabilities," said Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. "We aim to set a global benchmark in event management while preserving the spiritual essence of the gathering."

A GLOBAL CELEBRATION

he *Maha Kumbh Mela* is not just a religious event; it is a global celebration of India's living traditions. Documentary filmmaker Lisa Reynolds, covering the event for an international audience, described it as "a story of humanity in its purest form." For first-time visitors, the scale of the event is overwhelming. "I've never seen anything like this," said Hiroshi Tanaka, a journalist from Japan. "The blend of chaos and harmony is fascinating. It's a reflection of India itself." As the countdown begins, the anticipation surrounding Maha Kumbh 2025 is palpable. For millions, it is a journey of faith and a reaffirmation of humanity's enduring spirit. For Prayagraj, it is an opportunity to shine as a beacon of tradition, resilience, and progress. Acharya Ramkishore Tiwari sums it up: "Kumbh is about coming together as one family, transcending divisions and reaffirming our shared humanity."

VIVANTA

MEGHALAYA (SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA) New Delhi, January 12, 2025



Located amidst the lush greenery of *Guwahati*, *Mayfair Spring Valley* offers a luxurious escape from the city's hustle and bustle. This premium resort is designed to provide guests with ultimate comfort and relaxation, featuring elegantly appointed rooms, a rejuvenating spa, a dedicated kids' play area and top-notch dining experiences. Surrounded by picturesque landscapes, the resort offers serene views of rolling hills and verdant gardens, making it an ideal retreat for nature enthusiasts and luxury seekers alike. Guests can also explore nearby attractions, such as the famous *Kamakhya Temple* and *Brahmaputra Riverfront*, ensuring a blend of tranquillity and adventure during their stay. adventure during their stay.



By TEAM AGENDA

MAYFAIR **SPRING**

VALLEY

GUWAHATI,

ASSAM)

lessed with nature's bounty, Northeast India is a safe haven for many travellers who wish to escape the overcrowded and overpolluted city life from time to time. With the winter season worsening the pollution's threat to healthy living, Northeast India is the best place to take refuge in to revitalise your health and take a step back to recentre within. Here are a few of the many scenic vacation spots that can do just that.

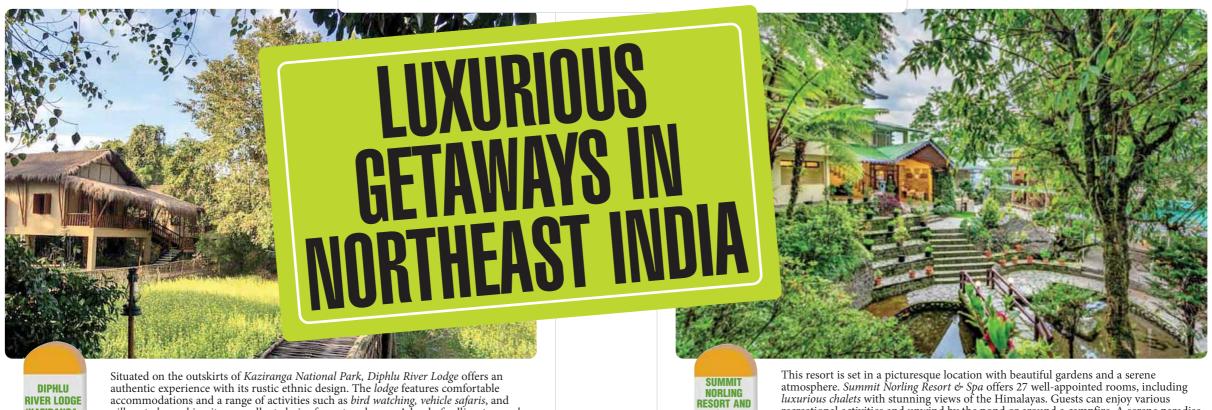


A part of the Radisson Individuals group, Hotel Classic Grande provides cosy accommodations in *Imphal*. With 171 rooms and suites featuring modern amenities, this hotel offers warm hospitality infused with local culture. Guests can enjoy exquisite dining options while taking in views of the *Baruni Hill* range. *Manipur*, known as the 'Jewel of India', boasts of the world's only floating lake, 'Loktak Lake' and the serene Keibul Lamjao National Park, home to the endangered Sangai deer. It is also celebrated for its classical dance and handwoven textiles making it a true

TAKEAWAY

rom the serene hills of *Shillong* and **◄** *Gangtok* to the wildlife-rich *Kaziranga* and Tawang, these destinations offer both luxury and tranquility. The aforementioned resorts offer that entire one can dream of in a staycation that rejuvenates the mind and soul. Whether you're seeking a luxurious resort or a more rustic retreat,

Northeast India provides the perfect haven for anyone looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life and reconnect with nature.



RIVER LODGE (KAZIRANGA, ASSAM)

accommodations and a range of activities such as bird watching, vehicle safaris, and village treks, making it an excellent choice for nature lovers. A land of rolling tea gardens, the mighty Brahmaputra, and rich wildlife, Assam is brimming with its natural beauty and vibrant cultural heritage.

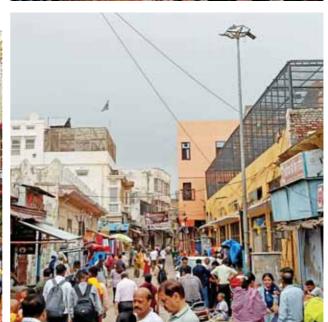
SPA

(GANGTOK

SIKKIM)

Mathura's sacred temples, peaceful ghats and lively streets provided the perfect getaway from the stress of admission results, writes





lights. The intricate architecture and devotional atmosphere made it a highlight of the trip. Dinner was at the newly opened Bikanerwala Restaurant on Chhatikara Road. The delicious food was the perfect end to the

recreational activities and unwind by the pond or around a campfire. A serene paradise,

Sikkim is adorned with snow-capped peaks, alpine meadows, and vibrant monasteries,

offering breathtaking views and spiritual tranquility.

That night, I received the news I had been eagerly waiting for, I had been admitted to my dream institute, IIMC Dhenkanal! The happiness and relief were indescribable. I couldn't help but thank the positive energy of this spiritual trip for making this moment even more special.

The next morning, we visited the Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple, the birthplace of Lord Krishna. The early morning peace at the temple was soothing. We also stopped by the Dwarkadhish Temple, which is known for its vibrant morning rituals. The temples of Mathura left a deep impression on us with their history and devotion. After breakfast near Yamuna

Ghat, we boarded a bus from Mathura Bus Stand to Tundla. We had a hearty lunch at Tundla before catching the *Gomti Express*, which took us back to Lucknow.

This trip was much more than just a getaway. It gave me the clarity and positivity I needed, along with the joy of achieving my dream. The spiritual vibe of Mathura and Vrindavan, combined with their timeless Vrindavan, charm, made it a journey I will never forget.

the pressure of waiting for my admission results was becoming unbearable. My friend, Vishesh Shukla, suggested a short trip to Mathura and Vrindavan, known for their spiritual aura and rich heritage. Without much planning, we packed our bags and boarded the Lucknow-Agra Intercity Express in the evening.

The train reached Agra late at night, and from there, we caught another train to Mathura. By the time we arrived in Mathura, it was around 1 a.m. A short auto ride costing ₹50 took us to Vrindavan, where we stayed at the Tourist Facilitation Centre. After a long journey, we finally got some rest, excited about the day ahead.

In the morning, we checked into a modest hotel that charged ₹1,300 for 24 hours. After freshening up, our first stop was the famous Banke Bihari Temple. The temple's energy and devotion left us amazed. We continued our exploration with visits to the ISKCON Temple, Radha Raman Temple and Nidhivan, each offering a unique spiritual experience. Walking through the streets of Vrindavan, surrounded by the sound of bhajans and the sight of devotees, was truly

calming. After a simple lunch at a local eatery, we returned to the hotel for a quick nap. The evening was reserved for the magnificent Prem Mandir, which looked breathtaking under the evening











sunday, magazine the pioneer de la contraction d



















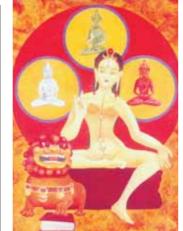




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week brings multiple reasons for joy, with financial gains flowing from various channels. Your earnings are likely to be satisfying, though a busy schedule may cause some mental strain. Work-related travel is also on the horizon. Midweek may bring sudden, unforeseen shifts, urging you to release any unhealthy emotional ties to make space for meaningful growth and deeper fulfillment. As the week progresses, you may experience a strong urge for material possessions, which could cloud your judgment. This period isn't favorable for starting new ventures, as impulsive decisions could lead to setbacks. Maintaining a positive mindset may feel challenging, but staying grounded and focused will help you avoid falling into a cycle of negativity and keep you aligned with your true

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Saturday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

You will feel a deep sense of blessings and divine favor surrounding you. This is a period of joy, renewal, and healing, where you take center stage in your personal and professional life. Inner harmony and well-being will align, enhancing your confidence and reputation. Newfound inspiration and courage will lead you to embrace positive changes, marking the conclusion of old chapters. There may be shifts in your perspectives or lifestyle choices, ushering in fresh beginnings Whether it's a career opportunity, personal goal, or significant purchase, exciting developments await. The latter part of the week promises familial joy and celebrations. Partnerships, whether romantic, professional, or contractual, may also flourish. A wave of positivity will bring emotional and spiritual fulfillment, leaving you content and energized for the future

Lucky number 8 | Lucky colour Golden Lucky day Tuesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

This week emphasizes inner resilience and emotional balance. It's about harnessing your inner power with grace and staying composed amidst challenges. Strength comes from self-control and the courage to see through illusions, enabling you to navigate situations with clarity. Guidance may come from a wise and insightful individual, likely someone you admire for their wisdom and intuition. Their perspective may inspire you to make significant life decisions. This period serves as a reminder to awaken spiritually—practice mindfulness, meditate, and reconnect with your higher purpose. Focus on grounding yourself through meaningful rituals. It's essential to move beyond fantasies and wishful thinking, as they can distract you from your true path. Embrace the present with focus and determination to make lasting progress

Lucky number 22 | Lucky colour Green Lucky day Wednesday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week presents an excellent opportunity to channel your innate creativity into financial growth. You possess a remarkable ability to transform your aspirations into reality through focused efforts. Decisions made during this time are likely to bring favorable outcomes. Your communication skills are at their peak, allowing you to express your thoughts with clarity and make a lasting impression on others. Midweek may bring some delays and restrictions, but your resilience and unwavering determination will keep you moving toward success. A significant message or opportunity from afar may arrive, bringing new prospects. By the end of the week, you are likely to experience a sense of financial stability and emotional fulfillment. Trust in your ability to overcome challenges and embrace the positive outcomes headed your

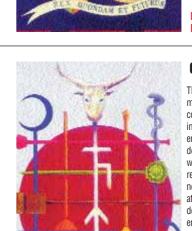
Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Black Lucky day Wednesday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

The week begins with firm decisions concerning both home and work matters. You exhibit resilience and face life's challenges with unwavering strength. Potential disagreements or ego clashes may arise, requiring patience and wisdom for resolution. It's a time to reconsider outdated perspectives and embrace necessary changes, especially regarding career, family, or relationships. You may experience emotional stress or health concerns. emphasizing the need for mental balance and spiritual reflection. A sense of well-being and financial improvements uplift your mood. You'll feel inspired to indulge in life's comforts and display generosity toward those in need. This period encourages finding harmony between ambition and compassion, fostering both personal success and inner fulfillment

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour White Lucky day Sunday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

The week ahead brings a whirlwind of activity across multiple aspects of life, requiring your focus and commitment. Domestic matters may take center stage initially, with important decisions shaping your personal environment. Romantic prospects may lead to significant developments for singles. Travel could feature mid-week, while professional ambitions drive you to work tirelessly, refining your expertise to meet your aspirations. Family news related to a new addition may arise, adding joy to the atmosphere. As the week concludes, the rewards of your dedication become evident, with promising financial gains enhancing your sense of stability. Job seekers may receive a lucrative offer that aligns with their goals. Overall, this period invites you to celebrate progress and embrace contentment as efforts hear fruit

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Pine Lucky day Friday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week promises plenty of reasons for joy and fulfillment. A wave of optimism surrounds you, bringing a sense of ease and progress in your pursuits. Your natural charm and positive outlook uplift those around you, making you a source of inspiration. Midweek may present some emotional challenges, causing momentary unrest. However, this phase is fleeting, and soon you will feel the divine blessings restoring your inner peace and balance. Your hard work will yield visible results, and you'll be pleasantly surprised at how far you've come. The goals you've been working toward will show signs of accomplishment, bringing recognition and rewarding opportunities your way. There is also a potential for significant progress in expanding your horizons, possibly with meaningful connections that elevate your professional

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Beige



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

The week unfolds with a surge of motivation and creativity. You feel inspired and energized, ready to embrace new beginnings and meaningful pursuits. A fresh spark propels you toward personal and professional growth, allowing you to manage your commitments with ease and confidence. Midweek brings moments of joy and togetherness, as celebrations and achievements within the family create a harmonious atmosphere. Milestones such as career advancements, personal projects, or family accomplishments bring pride and excitement. The positive energy around you uplifts your spirit, making each moment more enjoyable. As the week concludes, your resilience and dedication stand out. serving as a source of inspiration for others. Your efforts pave the way for well-deserved success, reinforcing your belief in your ability to overcome challenges and achieve your goals.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Jade Lucky day Monday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week will keep you occupied with various aspects of life, requiring your full focus and dedication. Domestic matters may take priority at the start, and significant life events could unfold for some, bringing important commitments. Travel plans may emerge midweek. Professionally, your determination to excel will drive you to work tirelessly toward your ambitions. There is also a possibility of a joyful addition to the family. By the week's end, your efforts will bear fruitful results, with financial gains bringing relief and security. Those seeking career opportunities may receive an offer that aligns with their expectations, presenting a promising future. Overall, the week concludes with a sense of achievement and contentment, offering moments of joy and celebration

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Pink Lucky day Tuesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

Progress may seem gradual, but your perseverance will lead to significant accomplishments. By channeling your inner strength, you'll complete your tasks efficiently and gain recognition for your dedication. Your versatility will shine, so leverage your skills to the fullest. Your determination will inspire those around you, and your ability to communicate effectively will earn admiration and support from both peers and mentors. As the week concludes, a surge of creativity will illuminate your ideas boosting your productivity. Your passion for life will be contagious, enhancing both your personal and professional experiences. Embrace this period as an opportunity to live fully, enjoy your journey, and create moments of bliss that uplift your spirit and those around

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Lilac **Lucky day** Thursday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You have been putting in immense effort in various areas, striving for progress, but the outcomes may feel delayed. Your dedication and determination are undeniable, though financial gains might appear slow this week. However, do not lose hope are on the horizon as the days advance, bringing the potential for significant achievements. Guidance and encouragement from elders or mentors will prove invaluable as they genuinely wish to see you excel. Trust that your hard work will pay off at the right time. The key this week is to embrace patience and trust in your journey. Remember, a solid foundation leads to lasting success. You're closer to your breakthrough than you think, and perseverance will turn your aspirations into long-term accomplishments

ucky number 19 | Lucky colour Opal Lucky day Friday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

This week promises financial growth and material comfort, bringing a sense of stability to your life. Alongside these gains, you may feel drawn towards spiritual practices such as meditation and mindful breathing, finding solace in noments of inner peace. You might also feel inclined to host or participate in religious ceremonies at home, seeking harmony and positivity. However, midweek could bring some emotional turbulence, particularly in your personal relationships. Misunderstandings with your partner could lead to feelings of disconnection. It's important to reflect on your desires and clarify your priorities to regain control. Guard against a pessimistic mindset, as negative thinking may cloud your perspective. Instead of dwelling on what's lacking, focus on what you've achieved and confront challenges with resilience and courage

ucky number 9 | Lucky colour Aqua Lucky day Thursday

Madhu Kotiya is a tarot card reader, spiritual healer, and Founder, MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination. Contact details: madhu@indiatarot.com, www.indiatarot.com, M: 987328333



ELIFEGUID

Marwaha

Meditation enables healing, resilience, and clarity through consistent self-care, promoting emotional balance and overall mental well-being over time

re are perpetually in pursuit of the next thrill of happiness. Perhaps it's a luxurious Bentley, an exclusive beach getaway, or that coveted Birkin bag. These indulgences certainly light up our lives for a moment. But then, like clockwork, the novelty wears off. The

stresses of life take over, and we find ourselves once again in the relentless pursuit of the next object of happiness. In the 1970s, Richard Easterlin observed that an increase in income over time did not lead to a long-term increase in happi ness. This paradox is often referred to as the Easterlin Paradox—remains a cornerstone in discussions about material wealth and its limited capacity to deliver sustained joy. While material comforts undoubtedly bring fleeting satisfaction, they fall short of providing the enduring happiness we so desperately seek.

Moreover, your happiness level is genetically influenced. If your mother isn't a happy person, chances are you aren't either. A study by Lucas, Clark, et al. in 2003 found that major life events such as marriage, divorce, or widowhood brought temporary changes in happiness, but most people returned to their baseline levels within a few years. This gave rise to the Set Point Theory, which explains that individuals' happiness levels are remarkably stable over time.

Within our brains, there's a division of duties: the 'Stress Brain,' tackling worries and tensions, and the 'Happy Brain,'

spreading joy and fostering connections. Genetically happier individuals show higher activity in the 'Happy Brain' and lower activity in the 'Stress Brain,' shaping their positive outlook on life.

So, are those not genetically predisposed to higher happiness levels doomed to a negative state of mind? Not at all! Our brains have an amazing ability to reorganize themselves by forming new neural connections throughout our lives—a process called neuroplasticity. This dynamic ability of the brain means that our mental state is not set in stone, offering hope to those who wish to elevate their happiness levels. One proven way to increase activity in the happy brain and reduce activity in the stress brain, thus raising the happiness baseline, is consistent meditation (Fredrickson et al., 2008). Beyond altering neural activity, meditation helps to cultivate a deeper sense of awareness, allowing us to separate fleeting desires from what genuinely brings contentment. Our minds carry deep-seated traumas from childhood, parental influences, past relationships, and more. These emotional scars often go unnoticed or unaddressed,

yet they dictate much of our behaviour.

Rather than addressing these issues, we

often suppress them and seek distraction

in new pursuits. However, as Bessel van

der Kolk explains in The Body Keeps the

Score, buried trauma doesn't disappear; it

health challenges, addictions, relationship

can lead to physical ailments, mental



difficulties, and self-esteem issues. Meditation acts as a tool for healing and unwinding old negative patterns and traumas. It provides a safe space to clear emotions of sadness, fear and stress held in the body for weeks, years or even since childhood. In doing so, it allows the mind to focus and work through these issues. Consider this: meditating for just 20 minutes every day for a year accumulates 7.3k minutes of dedicated self-care and introspection. Over the years, this consistent practice allows significant time for the mind to process and resolve deep-seated issues. This builds a more resilient, confident, and calm version of ourselves, better equipped to navigate life's inevitable challenges

Supporting this, research by Davidson et

The Science of Mindfulness al. (2003) found that an 8-week mindfulness meditation program significantly improved emotional regulation and immune function, demonstrating meditation's profound impact on both mental and physical health. The ripple effects of this practice can extend far beyond the individual, improving relationships, decision-making, and even workplace produc-

> Meditation doesn't make you happy. Rather, it alleviates what blocks you from finding and appreciating happiness. This distinction is crucial. Happiness isn't something you attain—it's something you uncover once you remove the mental and emotional clutter. The key, however, lies in consistency. Just as you cannot achieve a sculpted physique by working out strenuously for four hours once a month, you cannot see significant results by meditating for two hours sporadically. A few minutes of daily practice, however, can profoundly impact your well-being.

The benefits of mindfulness and meditation go beyond personal happiness. Communities practicing mindfulness often report lower crime rates and greater social cohesion. Families that meditate together strengthen their bonds, developing empathy and understanding for each other's perspectives. Imagine the collective impact if more people embraced mindfulness as a daily practice—it could transform societies, one individual at a time. Furthermore, meditation enhances our

ability to live in the present moment. In a world constantly pulling us in a hundred different directions—emails, deadlines, social obligations, and endless to-do lists it is easy to lose sight of what truly matters. Mindfulness brings us back to the now, allowing us to savour the small joys we often overlook: the warmth of a morning sunbeam, the taste of a perfectly brewed cup of tea, or the laughter of a loved one. Another compelling aspect of meditation is its accessibility. Unlike other tools for self-improvement, meditation requires no special equipment, expensive memberships, or even a lot of time. It is universally available, adaptable to any lifestyle, and backed by centuries of practice across cultures. Whether through guided meditations, breathing exercises, or silent selfreflection, there is a form of meditation suitable for everyone. In conclusion, as Lao Tzu, an ancient Chinese philosopher, said, "To a mind that is still, the whole universe surrenders." Meditation may not provide the instant gratification of a material purchase or the thrill of a vacation, but it offers something far more valuable: a pathway to inner peace, resilience, and enduring happiness. By embracing mindfulness and making it a consistent part of our lives, we can transform not only our personal well-being but also contribute to a more compassionate

and harmonious world – She is a Life Coach and Founder of Soulful Wellness