WORLD 5

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MONEY 6

REVIEWS PERFORMANCE | NETS. JADEJA GOES FULL TILT

VIJAYWADA

NEW DELHI, SUNDAY DECEMBER 31, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹4



*Late City Vol. 33 Issue 361

*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RNI No. 53466/91, REGD. No. DL (C)-05/1219/2021-23 Posted at DRMS Delhi 6

Light a diya in every home to welcome Ram: Modi

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new look Ayodhya

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA AYODHYA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Saturday, urged "Ram Bhakts" to light a diya in every home, much like the Diwali festivities across the country on January 22, when the consecration of Ram Lalla will take place at the newly built Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya. Emphasising the strength of vikas (development) and virasat (heritage) that will propel the country for-ward, the PM appealed to people to light special diyas — Shri Ram Jyoti — in their homes to celebrate the day as Deepawali. Modi mentioned that the entire world is eagerly anticipating the historic Ram temple consecration ceremony.

However, he appealed to people not to come to the city for the event, as the occasion will be marked by a mega event, and the holy city may not be able to accommodate their needs.

harbours the "Everyone dream of witnessing Ram Lalla. However, I earnestly request, with folded hands, that you refrain from coming on the Pran Pratistha day. Devotees are encouraged to plan their visit to Ayodhya from the following day, as the Ram Temple is now a permanent and magnificent structure. God will transition



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the crowd during a roadshow in Ayodhya on Saturday

from his 550 years of tent accommodation to a lasting, building," Modi conveyed to a massive crowd Ayodhya, where he launched several projects, including new airport, railway trains, improvements to road and civic infrastructure.

'There was a time when Lord Ram was 'living under a tent,' but now he will have a concrete house, much like the four crore poor individuals who have received pucca houses," he stated.

Emphasising that the influx of people from across the country and the world to Ayodhya has begun and will continue indefinitely, the Prime Minister also appealed for a collective commitment to make the town the cleanest in the country.

Designating January 22 as a special day, the Prime Minister urged people to initiate cleanliness drives at pilgrimage sites and temples across the country from

Makar Sankranti on January 14 until the day of the temple consecration.

The year-end visit by the Prime Minister precedes the "pran pratishtha" or consecration ceremony of the Ram temple by a few weeks. The temple is currently under construction, and ceremony is scheduled for January 22, with the Prime Minister in attendance.

During the day, the Prime Minister inaugurated the

Pradesh.

people gathered along its route. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath received the Prime Minister at the airport. Modi exchanged greetings with people from his car and, at one point, opened the vehicle's door to wave back at them. People showered flower petals, waved BJP flags, and chanted slogans in his praise. The Prime Minister also enjoyed performances by cultural troupes along the route. Modi also visited Lata Mangeshkar Chowk, where a giant-sized Veena has been

areas, as well as those valued at about Rs 4,600 crore for

other initiatives in Uttar

Upon arriving in the temple town earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi conducted a

roadshow from the airport to

the railway station, warmly

greeted by a large number of

played during his visit. Despite the biting cold, vibrant performances ranging from the 'Dedhiva' dance of Uttar Pradesh to a colourful presentation of 'Choliva' from Uttarakhand adorned the streets Ayodhya, showcasing the folk colors of India to welcome the Prime

installed. A devotional song

sung by Lata Mangeshkar

Continued on Page 2

INDIGO PILOT CHANTS 'JAI SHRI RAM' AS FIRST FLIGHT TO AYODHYA TAKES OFF

IndiGo pilot Ashutosh Shekhar chanted "Jai Shri Ram" on the aircraft's public announcement

system as the first flight to the temple town of Ayodhya took off from Delhi on Saturday. Addressing the

passengers, 43-year-old Shekhar said he felt fortunate that his company entrusted him with the responsibility to fly the first flight to Ayodhya.

FOLK COLOURS OF INDIA GREET PM MODI



From the vibrant 'Dedhiya' dance of Uttar Pradesh to a colourful performance of 'Choliya' of Uttarakhand, folk colours of India were laid on the streets of Ayodhya to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the temple town on Saturday.

RAM IDOL SIGN OF INDIA'S RISE: SHAH

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that the consecration of Lord Ram's idol

on January 22 and the beginning of India's 'Amrit Kaal' are not a mere coincidence but a sign that the country will rise to prominence on the world stage in the next 25 years.

BABRI LITIGANT ANSARI SHOWERS ROSE PETALS DURING MODI'S ROADSHOW

As residents of Ayodhya lined the streets to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a chilly Saturday morning, among them was Iqbal Ansari,

litigant in Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land suit. "He (Modi) has come to our place. He is our guest and our Prime Minister," said Igbal after he showered rose petals on Modi's cavalcade as it passed the Paanii Tola area during his roadshow in the temple town.

Calendar chronicles development journey

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I}^{n} an endeavour to foster transparency and hold itself accountable to its citizens, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur unveiled the official annual calendar for 2024 with the theme of "Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat."

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Pooram, the festival of festivals.

"Thrissur Pooram is an iconic event, and it should not be disturbed. There

will not be any hasty decision to increase the rent of the venue," the

CM, who prefers to be addressed as Kerala's 'Karana Bhoothan,' told the

office bearers of the Thiruvampadi

and Paramekkavu Devaswams, the

temple administrators entrusted with

The CM had a late evening online meeting with the office bearers of the

Devaswams on Friday. The decision to

hike the rentals had caused

widespread resentment across the State, and Hindu organisations

accused the CPM-led government was

Continued on Page 2

selectively targeting their festivals.

the holding of Pooram.

Kerala CM bows

down on Pooram

centres across the country. including Ayodhya, where the idol of Lord Ram will be consecrated on January 22. Thakur said the calendar showcases the achievements of the Narendra Modi Government thematically in various fields over the past nearly 10 years, aiming to make India a developed



Thakur said, "2023 is coming to an end, and 2024 is presenting us with new possibilities. The world sees a ray of hope in India and India's leadership. This is attributed to the leadership provided by PM Narendra Modi and the accomplishments of his government over the last

Continued on Page 2

development of pilgrimage Highlighting government's

rent hike protest The number of deaths due to Covid-19 is on the rise, with seven fatalities Meanwhile, new infections, totaling 743, were slightly lower Taken aback by the massive public protest by the Hindus in Kerala compared to yesterday's 797, marking the highest count over the move to disrupt the Thrissur Pooram festival scheduled for April 2024, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan since May 19 when the fig-ure was 865. Five deaths retracted the government's decision to were reported on Friday, hike the rental of the venue from ₹40 predominantly in cases lakh ₹Rs 2.2 crore for holding the

> one each in Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh. Cases of the JN.1 sub-variant are also increasing, with 178 cases reported from nine states as of Friday. Goa reported the highest count at 47, followed by 41 in Kerala

has mandated home isolation for Covidpositive patients. Presently, the State has 34 cases of the JN.1 variant. Maharashtra Health Minister Tanaii Sawant has urged

> of Covid-19 in the country. 'People should strictly adhere to the rules to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. While people are excited to welcome the new year, large gatherings increase the risk of its transmission," he emphasised.

The recent surge in COVID-19 points provided therein and to remain alert

the Odisha Government. According to government data, the active Covid-19 tally also witnessed a decrease, with 3,997 cases reported so far, down from 4,091 the previous day. The updated data at 8 am indicated that the total number of

Continued on Page 2

COVID cases 7 months high

ARCHNA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

reported in the last 24 hours with co-morbidities. According to ministry data, three deaths were reported in Kerala, two in Karnataka, and

Other states where JN.1 cases have been detected include 36 in Gujarat, 34 in Karnataka, nine in Maharashtra, and four each in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Additionally, two cases were reported from Telangana, and one from Delhi.

As the new year celebrations approach and the winter season heightens concerns of a potential surge in Covid cases, State Governments are cautiously anticipating the situation. The Karnataka health department

people and institutions in the state to

stay vigilant for the next 10 to 15 days in light of the resurgence

cases across India necessitates immediate and proactive measures to com bat any potential escalation in the state. In continuation of the earlier communication you are requested to implement the action to address any exigency," stated Public Health Director Niranjan Mishra in a letter to all medical colleges and CDMOs in

cases stood at 4.50 crore (4,50,12,484).

temperature settling at 20.3 19 and 11 degrees Celsius, Satyawati College. The IMD

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{\text{season's}}^{\text{atellite images showed the}} \ _{\text{largest}}^{\text{atellite images showed the}} \ _{\text{fog,}}$ Season's largest fog, stretching from Pakistan to Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir to Madhya Pradesh on Saturday morning, kept the sun away for all, leaving people shivering in what was coldest daytime temperature recorded this winter. Delhi will continue to shiver as the mercury drops further over the eve of the New Year, with the maximum

degrees Celsius on Saturday, even though the nighttime temperature, or minimum, settled five notches above normal for this time of the year at 11.8°C.

the India According to Meteorological Department (IMD), a layer of moderate to dense fog is likely to blanket the city on Sunday as well. The sky will remain partly cloudy, and the maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to settle around

respectively. It said intense fog and slow movement of wind led to a deterioration in the air quality index (AQI) in the national capital, which the very poor touched category. The 24-hour average AQI of Delhi was at 400 at 4 pm, compared to 358 on Friday. AQI stood at 516 at Anand Vihar, 475 at ITI Shahdara, 461 at Sonia Vihar, 418 at Pusa, 398 at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, 388 at the US Embassy, and 362 at

issued a red alert, saying that 'very dense' fog is likely to continue over many parts of the plains of Northwest and adjoining Central India and is likely to further extend to East India during the next two days. The IMD predicted the daytime chill to persist since a layer of fog in the higher altitudes that has been blocking the sun is not predicted to lift for another couple of days.

Continued on Page 2



Maharshi Valmiki airport and

the redeveloped Ayodhya

railway station. He also

flagged off two Amrit Bharat

and six Vande Bharat trains,

Modi further inaugurated and

dedicated to the nation, as

well as laid the foundation

development projects worth

more than Rs 15,700 crore.

These include projects worth

crore for the development of

the city and its surrounding

multiple

Rs 11,100

for

some virtually.

approximately

stone

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Both Asthma and Arthritis rise rapidly in winter. Patanjali & Divya's research and evidence-based medicines are a complete solution to it.

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The usage of the medicine mentioned above is suggestive in nature and it is the choice of the treatment in the management of above-mentioned diseases.

Avoid self-medication and always take the medicines under medical supervision.

PM Modi pays surprise visit to Ujjwala | Light a diya in scheme beneficiary house, drinks tea



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits a house of an Ujjwala Yojana beneficiary in Ayodhya on Saturday

The tea is good but it is a little too sweet," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Meera who was elated to host the surprise guest at her house near the Lata Mangeshkar Chowk here on Saturday.

Modi, who was in the temple town to unveil a 'new look old' city with an airport, a revamped train station and multiple projects, made a sudden stopover at the woman's house who holds the distinction of being the 10th-crore beneficiary of the Ujjwala

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police RR

Swain Saturday claimed a total

number of 55 foreign terrorists

were eliminated in different

anti-terrorist operations out

of a total number of 76 terror-

ists in the year 2023, while an

all-time low number of only 31

local terrorists were active, 4 in the Jammu region and 27 in the

Kashmir valley. Swain added

that no civilian death was

reported while handling law

Referring to the prevailing sit-

uation in the frontier districts

of Rajouri and Poonch in the

wake of an attack on two army

vehicles in the Dera Ki Gali

area of Surankote, DGP said,

डी. क्र.

क्रमांक. 4273-74/निविदा/नि.सू.क्र. 21/2023-24

कार्य का नाम

मार्ग लं. 1.00 कि.मी., 2. नावली से माता का पुरा भुआपुरा

रोड से जालौनी मार्ग लं. 3.20 कि.मी., 3. पी.एम.जी.एस.

वाय. रोड से स्यारू नहर मार्ग लं. 1.00 कि.मी., 4. गांगोलीहार

से सकतपुर मार्ग लं. 3.00 कि.मी., 5. पी.एम.जी.एस.वाय. रोड

से खेरिया हनुमान मंदिर मार्ग लं. 1.00 कि.मी. कुल लम्बाई

2023_PWDRB निर्माण कार्य 1. पी.एम.जी.एस.वाय. रोड से हरिप्रसाद का पुरा

9.20 कि.मी. (द्वितीय आमंत्रण)

का पुरा मार्ग लम्बाई 2.50 कि.मी.

निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/विक्रय प्रारंभ दिनांक

निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/विक्रय अंतिम दिनांक

ऑनलाईन बिड सबमिशन का प्रारंभ दिनांक

ऑनलाईन बिड सबमिशन का अंतिम दिनांक

d. संबंधित मद में आवटंन उपलब्ध होने पर ही भुगतान हो सकेगा।

f. शासन द्वारा समय-समय पर जारी समस्त नियम एवं संशोधन प्रभावशील होंगे।

सकेंगे। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेब-साइट में देखी जा सकती है।

योग-02 कार्य

1. ऑनलाईन टेण्डर पब्लिश दिनांक

बिड ओपनिंग दिनांक

2023_PWDRB निर्माण कार्य प्रधानमंत्री सडक गोपालपुर से खेरिया-उपरेती

and order duties this year.

The scheme was started in May 2016 to provide LPG connection to women belonging to below poverty line (BPL) families. As the prime minister's cavalcade stopped suddenly at the colony near the Lata Mangeshkar Chowk, the surprised locals began shouting "Modi-Modi". He entered Meera's house and drank tea made by her.

accommodation

Modi at her house.

Earlier, I had a kutcha house,

but now it has become pucca,"

she said and expressed her

happiness for being able to host

Later, while addressing a rally

in the temple town, Modi said,

"Today I got the opportunity to have tea at the house of the

10th-crore beneficiary of

Ujjwala gas connection.

Recalling the scheme's launch

from Ballia, the prime minis-

ter said that even though it was

ridiculed at that time, Ujjwala

Yojana has changed the lives of

He said Jammu and Kashmir is

passing through a very historic

phase. To break the cycle of vio-

lence we have to stop local

recruitment. Earlier a terror

incident was reported every

third day but now it is report-

ed after every 9th or 10th day

Addressing an annual year-

ender press conference here at

police headquarters DGP RR

Swain said, 291 terrorist asso-

ciates were also arrested and

201 overground workers booked under the Public Safety

Act in Jammu and Kashmir this

year while two separatist orga-

nizations have been banned

under UAPA this year which

include Democratic Freedom

Party led by Shabir Shah, and

Muslim League led by Masarat

मुरैना दिनांक 26.12.2023

निविदा

प्रपत्र का

15000.00

+ Portal

Charges

12500.00

Charges

(हरिओम अग्रवाल)

कार्यपालन यंत्री

लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग मुरैना

फोन नं. 07532-226361

रूपयों में) मुल्य (रू.)

करने की

12 माह

सहित)

(वर्षाकाल

अवधि

in Jammu and Kashmir.

He enquired about the wellbeing of the entire family as well as that of the colony.

Meera told the prime minister that she has got free gas and crores of women.

killed in 2023: JK DGP

ter and we will effectively deal

Swain admitted foreign terror-

ists are operating in the region

claiming their number is not

very high. He, however, admit-

ted that some amount of sup-

port is coming from some

select persons within our ter-

ritory. Their numbers are very

very limited; the real chal-

lenge is to identify people who

are with them and provide

Swain said the recruitment of

local terrorists this year also

witnessed a decline of almost

80 per cent. Last year a total

number of 130 local terrorists

had joined the ranks of differ-

ent terrorist outfits while this

vear only 22 local youth joined

their ranks marking a decline

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग मुरैना

सूबात रोड, मुरैना (म.प्र.)

निविदा विज्ञप्ति

निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु सड़क एवं पुल कार्यो की दर अनुसूची प्रभावशील दिनांक 25.03.2022 पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचन

जारी होने के दिनांक तक समस्त संशोधनों सहित ई-टेण्डरिंग पद्धिति द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदाऐं अपेन्डिक्स 2.10 में निहित

शर्तों के अनरूप आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसकी विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं कार्यों का विवरण वेब-साईट <u>https://mpten</u>

अनुमानित लागत अर्नेस्ट मनी

(रूपयों में)

48472000.00

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(एक करोड

सेंतालीस लाख

अठत्तर हजार)

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(छ: करोड बत्तीस

लाख पचास हजार

अनुबंध के पूर्व एवं अनुबंध अवधि में लेवर पंजीयन करना अनिवार्य होगा, निविदा की वैधता अवधि 120 दिवस होगी।

उपरोक्त वेब-साईट ऑनलाईन भुगतान करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेब-साइट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो

b. निविदा संबंधी संशोधन उसी टेण्डर में ऑनलाईन देखे जा सकेंगे, अतिरिक्त प्रेस नोट नहीं निकाला जावेगा।

e. निविदाऐं ऑन-लाईन ही प्रस्तुत की जावें, भौतिक रूप से कोई भी दस्तावेज स्वीकार नहीं किया जावेगा।

सक्षम अधिकारी को निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा।

डिपोजिट

484720/

147780/

- 27.12.2023 समय 10:30 बजे

- 27.12.2023 समय 10:30 बजे से

- 10.01.2024 समय 17:30 बजे तक

- 27.12.2023 समय 10:30 बजे तक

- 10.01.2024 समय 17:30 बजे तक

- 11.01.2024 समय 17:30 बजे

ders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है। वेब-साईट पर होने वाली तकनीकी समस्याओं हेत विभाग जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा।

मध्यप्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत ठेकेदारों से मध्यप्रदेश के राज्यपाल की ओर से

logistic support.

55 foreign terrorists

flowers, particularly at the Lata Mangeshkar Chowk Recently (Bengaluru) Amrit Bharat roundabout. installed sun-themed orna-Express. mental columns, known as Surya Stambhs, on Dharm

which was part of Modi's car-

cade route, was adorned with

Path, added to the festive atmosphere. Huge posters featuring images of Modi and Ayodhya's Ram temple, whose consecration ceremony is scheduled for January 22, were displayed at

regular intervals along the

From Page 1

carcade route. The Prime Minister also made a stop at the home of Ujjwala beneficiary Meera Majhi. He visited the family in their humble home and was seen enjoying a cup of tea.

The inauguration of the airport and railway station was scheduled after the roadshow. Accompanying him were Adityanath, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and oth-

Vaishnaw briefed Modi about the station, whose facade is inspired by traditional temple architecture.

Phase-I of the redeveloped station, named Ayodhya Dham Junction Railway Station, has been completed at a cost of over Rs 240 crore, according to officials.

The three-storey railway station building is equipped with features such as lifts, escalators, food plazas, shops for puja needs, cloakrooms, and waiting halls.

The Prime Minister flagged

every home... off two new Amrit Bharat The stretch of Ram Path, trains-the Darbhanga-Avodhya-Anand Vihar Terminal Amrit Bharat Express and the Malda Town-Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminus

> He also inaugurated six new Vande Bharat Trains, including the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express, Amritsar-Delhi Vande Bharat Express, Coimbatore-Bangalore Cantt Vande Bharat Express, Mangalore-Madgaon Vande Bharat Express, Jalna-Mumbai Vande Bharat Express, and Ayodhya-Anand Vihar Terminal Vande Bharat. During the airport inauguration, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen (Retired) VK Singh, Chief Minister Adityanath, and other leaders accompanied Modi.

The terminal building's facade depicts the architecture of the upcoming Ram temple, while its interiors are adorned with paintings and murals illustrating the life of Lord Ram. Phase-1 of the airport has been developed at a cost exceeding Rs 1,450 crore, according to officials. The airport's terminal building will cover an area of 6,500 sqm, serving approximately 10 lakh passengers annually. The airport is expected to improve connectivity in the region, fostering increased tourism, business activities, and employment opportuni-

The death toll has risen to 5,33,358, with seven fatalities reported, resulting in a case fatality rate of 1.18 percent, as stated by the health ministry.

In the last 24 hours, 830 individuals recovered from Covid-19, bringing the total number of recovered cases to 4.44 crore (4,44,75,076). The national recovery rate

stands at 98.81 percent, according to the ministry. On Thursday, the country recorded 702 fresh cases of the infection and six fatalities, according to the ministry.

The resurgence of cases is being closely monitored, particularly due to concerns about the coronavirus JN.1 variant, classified as a 'variant of interest' by the World Health Organisation (WHO). JN.1 is a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant and has been identified as the most prevalent strain in the US, accounting for over 44 percent of cases there.

Experts caution that while JN.1 is highly transmissible, it primarily causes mild symptoms similar to a common cold, affecting the upper respiratory tract, and that the overall risk is low. They emphasise not to panic and stress that viral respiratory illnesses typically see a spike during the winter months.

As the New Year approaches, experts advise people with comorbidities and the elderly to avoid crowded places and wear face masks, while asserting that there is no need to implement pub-

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice Bid Identification No 17 of 2023-24

1. Name of the Work: -

i) Laying of pipe lines, const. of RCC ESR, Installation of solar dual pump unit with providing 100% FHTC & other ancillary works including 5 (five) years operation and maintenance in connection with piped water supply to Kotagarh and Gadapur Multi villages under Kandhamal District.

(Refer DTCN available in the website: - tendersorissa.gov.in)

2. Total No of work :- 2 Nos

3. Estimated Cost

: -

5. Period of Completion: -11 (Eleven) months (Refer DTCN available in the 6. Other Details

Availability of Tender online for Date and time Procurement Officer Identificatio for opening of No. Technical Bid Executive Dt. 08.01.2024 Dt. 29.01.2024 At. 10.00 Hrs **RWSS Division** of 2023-24 Up to. 17.00 Hrs at 11 00 A.M

Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only. RWS&S Division, Phulbar

4. Eligible Bidder 'B' & 'A' class Contractor

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

MATCO

Rs. 178.28 Lakhs to 322.26 Lakhs

Public Notice General Public is hereby informed that I Vipin Kumar Vij am / are filing application in L&DO for substitution/mutation of property no. 5/194 Subhash Nagar, Delhi -27 in the name of Vipin Kumar Vij on the grounds of Relinquishment Dee If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shell be communicated to L&DO with supporting ocuments through registered post or by isiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi

or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 day of the publication of this notice. Vipin Kumar Vij 5/194 Subhash Naga

WATCO

Provision for Laying of 600 mm dia DI (K-9) Clear water feeder main Pipe line from KIIT square to Nalco square through Damana Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar.

3. Provision for Laying of 600 mm dia DI (K-9) Clear water feeder main Pipe line from Sikharchandi ESR to Ekamrakanana Road via foot hill pump house & Hatiasuni Pump house & Sikharchandi ESR to WTP Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar...

(1)- Rs.467.87 Lakh (2) Rs.1040.31 Lakh (3) Rs.1288.49 Lakh Estimated cost Period of completion: - 06 (Six) Months, 08(Eight) Months ,08(Eight) Months respectively

Date & time of availability of bid document :- From 11.00 AM of Dt.01.01.2024 to

Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 5.00 PM of 16.01.2024 Date & time of opening of technical bids :-12.30 PM of 17.01.2024

Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid

:- CEO, WATCO
Telefax:- 0674-2391444.
E-Mail: mail@watcoodisha.in
md@watcoodisha.in

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. her details can be seen from the web site <u>www.tendersodisha.gov.in</u> OIPR-13194/11/0073/2324

Kerala CM bows down on Pooram rent hike...

The Kerala government is already in the dock for the poor mismanagement of crowd control at the Sabarimala shrine during the November-December festival, as pilgrims had to wait 20 hours in the queue for their turn to worship at the temple. It is reported that eight persons died while waiting in the queue, and the medical arrangements were of poor The blessing of Sakthan Thampuran was

saved by the blessings of God's Gift," said Nandakishor, an ace humorist, in a post on his social media page. Thrissur Pooram owes its existence to Sakthan Thampuran (1751-1805), who ruled the princely State of Kochi. It has been chronicled that Sakthan Thampuran ordered holding the Pooram in Thrissur when the team of temple artists from his state were denied participation in Aarattupuzha Pooram. Later on, Thrissur Pooram stole a march over the Aarattupuzha Pooram. Nandakishor's

reference to God's Gift is seen as an innuendo to Kerala Minister for Cooperation V N Vasavan, who, in an act of sycophancy, described Pinarayi Vijayan as God's Gift to

The Pioneer had carried a report on the growing concern among the Hindus of the State over the CPI-M government to wrest control of Pooram.

Though the Pooram festival is for just one day, the preparation for the festival is a round the year process as hundreds of units across Central Kerala are engaged in manufacturing dazzling parasols, colorful umbrellas, aalavattam and venchamarams which are to be displayed from atop the elephants numbering around 100.

"All is well that ends well. But we are keeping our fingers crossed because it is almost certain that there are forces at work to disrupt the Pooram," said Raju Raphel, documentary film maker and writer.

Viksit Bharat Calendar chronicles...

From Page 1

Thakur elaborated on the government's development initiatives in the fields of infrastructure, health, women's empowerment, the economy, sports, education, technology, and other sectors.

Thakur said the calendar depicts India's tremendous strides towards self-reliance. showcasing initiatives across sectors such manufacturing, healthcare, tourism, diplomacy, and benefits rolled out by the

government for the youth, poor, women, and farmers. Dates and months have changed, years have gone by, but one thing that hasn't changed is our commitment to work, a corruption-free government, and the pledge for a developed India (Viksit Bharat). That is why the country today says in chorus 'Bharosa Barkarar, Modi

Sarkar," he stated. emphasized transparency and accountability government have propelled India from being one of the 'Fragile Five' economies to the fifth-largest economy in the world. The Minister highlighted that the number of airports has increased from 74 to 150 under the Narendra Modi government. He also mentioned that the metro has expanded to 22 cities, and the number of AIIMS has risen from 7 to 23 in the country over the last ten years. He asserted that government has prioritized women-led citing example of 33 percent reservation for women in the Sabha and State Assemblies. January: The theme for this

is 'Unleashing Potential, Making India Selfreliant,' marking beginning of the year. India has achieved unparalleled success through initiatives like "Make in India" and "Make for the World." The theme of January serves as a poignant reminder of our collective efforts toward a

empowered future. February: This month's theme is "Youth Power for month's National Development."

fostering From entrepreneurship embracing technology, February calls for amplifying the contributions of the youth, propelling the nation toward a brighter and more inclusive future.

March: The theme for March, 'Priority to the Deprived, serves as a reminder that true progress lies in providing support to those who need it the most, ensuring our actions and policies reflect dedication to inclusivity and justice.

April: Women play integral part in society; without their progress, overall societal comes to a halt. The theme of April encourages a focus on empowering women across all sectors, fostering a future where their leadership and contributions are integral to decision-making and sustainable development.

May: This month highlights the incredible work of our dedicated farmers. emphasizes the importance laid by the government on policies for agricultural advancements, supporting sustainable practices, and ensuring the well-being of those who feed the nation. June: In the past ten years,

government initiatives such as PM SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma, and MUDRA Yojana have significantly job opportunitie and chances employment. This month, 'Growth themed Employment and Self-employment Opportunities, invites a focus on fostering creation entrepreneurship, driving economic empowerment. July: July is dedicated to celebrating the backbone of our society, the middle class. Their hard work defines the spirit of New India, and they

are at the forefront of driving

government works towards greater 'Ease Of Living' for the benefit of the middle class.

August: The month of August represents the increasing stature of India on the world economic stage. With major initiatives like Digital India, Make in India, and Vocal for Local, India has paved its way to becoming the third-largest economy in the world. September: From significant

investments in modern infrastructure with cuttingedge facilities to expansive transportation networks, September is a testament to the transformative strides the country has made in the last ten years in building a resilient foundation for

October: October invites us to celebrate the vision of a India healthier emphasizing the strides made healthcare accessibility affordability with Ayushman cards, Jan Aushadhi kendras, and new AIIMS and district hospitals strengthening the

health infrastructure of the country. November: From taking pride in our inherent vibrant culture to promoting various art forms and preserving cultural heritage sites to strengthen the cultural lineage, November's theme is all about cherishing our values and culture to ensure

growth.
December: With the motto Vasudhaiva one family, one future-and initiatives like Mission Life, India has carved a place for itself as Vishwa-Mitra, a friend of the world.

holistic and sustainable

The calendar is designed to serve as a daily reminder of our dedication to the development and progress of our nation. It inspires all to work with determination, unity, and a shared vision, nudging all Indians to embark on a journey towards a thriving and developed growth and innovation. Our

No let up in

However, both these numbers

were vet to meet thresholds for a cold wave or "cold day" temperatures. Low daytime temperatures can exacerbate people's exposure to the cold and generally make the winter feel more intense since this is when people are usually outside the comfort of their

A cold day is when the maximum temperature is 4.5°C or more below normal, and the minimum is below 10°C. While the maximum criteria were met at some stations, the minimum was not. But the shrinking difference between maximum and minimum signals the start of peak winter conditions, which takes place towards the end of December and lasts until mid-January. As December comes to an end with temperatures higher than usual in Delhi, with no 'cold wave' days or 'cold days', the average maximum and minimum temperatures for

December so far this year are higher than they were for the month in recent years. The average maximum temperature of 24.36 degrees Celsius is the highest for the

average

temperature of 8.36 degrees Celsius is the highest from

2018 onwards. Intense to moderate fog was witnessed in parts of Delhi, with the lowest visibility

recorded at 200 meters at Safdarjung, the capital's main weather station. Visibility at Palam and Ridge remained above 500 meters as compared to previous days. However, the intensity of the fog decreased a bit at several places in Delhi, and visibility improved from 500 m to 600 m. Multiple flights and trains have been delayed in the national capital as dense fog disrupted travel once again on Saturday.

More than 80 flights were delayed due to fog and low visibility in the national capital. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) reported no cancellations or diversions on Saturday. The attributed to poor visibility and foggy weather, affected the schedules of several passengers, leading to frustration inconvenience. Not only air travel but ground

transportation experienced setbacks as some city from 2017 onwards, while trains in Delhi faced delays due to fog and low visibility. minimum

G-22393/23

Security intensified for New Year Police also increase deployments in border areas of national Capital

The Delhi Police has inten-1 sified security arrangements and increased deployments in the border areas for New Year's celebrations in the national capital. More than 10,000 police personnel are expected to be on the ground to rein in hooliganism and traffic violations, they said. "We want everyone to welcome the new year with great zeal but no one will be allowed to breach the law. Additional pickets, barricades and personnel -including paramilitary deployment -- will be made at the borders to tackle nuisance

by people from adjoining states," a senior police officer Delhi shares borders with Haryana and Uttar Padesh and lies close to Rajasthan. A large number of people from these three states arrive in the national capital for New Year's

celebrations. "The traffic police has already chalked out a plan to combat motorcycle stunts and drink driving. Additional forces from different police stations will be deployed to help the traffic police," said the officer.

The police will work in two shifts and SHOs have been ordered to be on the road to maintain law and order on New Year's Eve."We have prepared two shifts for deployment. The first will start from 5 pm and run till midnight.



The second one will be from have already been deployed to midnight to 6 am," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northeast) Joy Tirkey has said. Tirkey said he and his staff will not allow any motorcycle stunt or triple carry.

"Our teams will impound the motorcycles immediately if anyone is found indulging in such activities and strict action will be ensured," he has said. Another senior officer has said more than 10,000 police personnel from traffic and other units of the Delhi Police will maintain vigil on Sunday. The Delhi Traffic Police will deploy around 2,500 personnel to ensure smooth movement of vehicles and 250 teams will keep an eye on drink driving, officials have said.

Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) SS Yadav has said traffic moving towards Connaught Place will be regulated after 8 pm on New Year's Eve. Additional forces

year's eve: DMRC

maintain law and order.

will be deployed in areas where

expected."Around 450 motor-

cycles will also be positioned at

different locations," Yadav has

To ensure the safety of the

common public and prevent

hooliganism or traffic viola-

tions on New Year's Eve, we

have already identified more

than 500 vulnerable points.

Special teams will be deployed

at 287 major intersections and

233 vulnerable points to detect

and prosecute traffic viola-

In Gurugram, the police issued

a traffic advisory for com-

muters visiting markets and

malls on New Year's Eve. The police have designated 10

parking areas to avoid jams on

the roads. Police teams will be

deployed at various points to

check drink driving

tors," the officer has said.

footfall

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

No exit from Rajiv

Chowk station after

9 pm on New

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Saturday said commuters will not be allowed to exit Rajiv Chowk metro station after 9 pm on New Year's Eve to ease overcrowding.

However, entry of passengers into the station will be allowed. In a statement, DMRC Principal Executive Director Anuj Dayal said that as advised by the police authorities, exit from Rajiv Chowk metro station will not be allowed from 9 pm onwards on New Year's Eve to ease overcrowding. Entry of passengers will be allowed till the departure of the last train from the station on

December 31. The commuters

are requested to plan their

journey accordingly, he said.

Prohibitory measures under CrPC Section 144 imposed in Noida till Monday

The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police Saturday Saturday announced imposing prohibitory measures under CrPC section 144 on December 31 and January 1, preventing unlawful assembly of five or more people in Noida and Greater Noida. Unauthorised processions,

holding religious prayers and consumption of alcohol in public places have also been banned for Sunday and

As per the instructions, the use of private drones in a radius of one kilometre of government establishments is completely banned during the period. For the use of drones in other areas, police permission would be required, according to the order issued by the police commissionerate.

"The festivities would begin on New Year's Eve which will continue till January 1. Along with these festivities, various programmes like demonstrations etc. Are proposed to be



organized by various organizations from time to time, the order noted.

"In view of the above, the possibility of disturbing the peace by anti-social elements cannot be ruled out... For which appropriate arrangements are also made to complete it safely and remedial measures need to be taken," the police said.

To maintain peace and harmony in the Gautam Buddh Nagar Commissionerate, any mischievous elements must be prevented from carrying out such activities which may create a possibility of creating an adverse environment, i added.

Police said violation of these prohibitory measures will be a punishable offence.

IndiGo flyer finds worm in food onboard

An IndiGo passenger found a worm in a sandwich served onboard a flight from the national capital to Mumbai, and a video was shared on social media, following which the airline apologised and said the matter is under thorough examination. The incident happened onboard flight 6E 6107 from Delhi to Mumbai on Friday. Kushboo Gupta, a dietician and Instagram user, shared a video of her experience while flying with IndiGo. In her post, she said that she found a live worm crawling in a sandwich she ordered while aboard a flight.

Gupta shared a descriptive caption along with the video. "I will lodge an official complaint via email soon. But as a public health professional, I want to know that despite knowing the quality of the sandwich was not good and informing the flight attendant prior, she still continued to serve sandwiches to other passengers. There were kids, elderly and other passengers. What if someone catches an infection?"

Gupta questioned the quality of food being served by the airline and said that despite informing the cabin crew about finding the worm, they



continued to distribute the sandwiches to other passen-

Ğupta also wondered about the kind of training given to the airline staff and who would be responsible in case someone contracts an infec-

When contacted for comments on the video, an airline spokesperson said the airline is aware of the concern raised by one of its customers regarding the experience on flight 6E 6107 from Delhi to Mumbai. "Upon investigation, our crew had immediately ceased the service of the specific sandwich in question. The matter is currently under thorough examination, and we are working closely with our caterer to ensure appropriate corrective measures are taken. We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience caused to the passenger," the spokesperson said in a statement on

Kejriwal returns after 10 days meditation session in Punjab

STAFF REPORTER NEW

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said he has returned to the city after completing his 10-day Vipassana meditation session in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district and will now start serving people again. AAP convener faces a summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate to appear for questioning on January 3 in an excise policy-linked money laundering case. Kejriwal arrived at the

Dhamma Dhaja Vipassana Anandgarh, around 11 kilometres from Hoshiarpur, on December 20.

"Returned today after 10 days of Vipassana meditation. This sadhana gives immense peace. From today onwards, we will again start serving the public with new energy. Good luck to all," he said in a post in Hindi on 'X'.

Before he departed from the meditation centre, Kejriwal was honoured by Gautam Lal, trustee of the DDVC, who also presented him with a set of



books. It was for the first time that the AAP national convener practised Vipassana in Punjab. In the past, he visited Jaipur, Nagpur, Dharamkot and Bengaluru for this.

Vipassana is an ancient Indian meditation method for selfobservation, focusing on the profound interconnection between the mind and body. During the meditation retreat, Kejriwal had to adhere to the centre's regulations, which include abstaining from the use of mobile phones, internet, television and newspapers. The stringent daily routine began at 4 am and concluded at 9:30 pm. The meals consist of simple food, with no meal permitted after midday, a spokesperson of the DDVC

Sunehri Bagh mosque Imam moves | LG holds Samvaad@ Raj HC against proposed demolition

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Imam of the Sunehri Bagh mosque on Saturday moved the Delhi High Court against the proposed demolition of the structure due to alleged traffic congestion in the area. Petitioner Abdul Aziz challenged a December 24 public notice issued by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) seeking objections and suggestions from the general public by January 1 regarding the demolition of the

A vacation bench of Justice Manoj Jain listed the petition for hearing on January 8 following an assurance from the NDMC's counsel that nothing would happen in the meantime to be taken by the Heritage Conservation Committee (HCC). "Your lordship may simply adjourn this. Nothing is going to happen. The decision has to be taken by the HCC, not by us. We just have to call for suggestions," the NDMC's counsel said."I can't even touch a brick without HCC permission," he said.

The counsel for the petitioner said he was not pressing for an interim order at this stage and argued that the law does not give power to the NDMC to



remove a heritage structure. "The court may list the petition before the roster bench. Let them take instructions. I am not asking for any stay order," he said.

The court questioned the locus of the Imam to file the petition instead of the Delhi Waqf Board. The Imam's counsel said his congregation as the Sunehri Bagh mosque is a functioning

In his plea, the petitioner said the mosque is more than 150 years old and a heritage building that is a symbol of cultural legacy. "Various government buildings including Vayu Bhawan, Udyog Bhawan and Udyog Bhawan Metro Station blended harmoniously with the Sunehri Bagh Masjid and thus due to these offices, the movement of vehicles started in the area which... Clearly shows

that these government offices have contributed to the traffic, if any, in that area and not because of Sunehri Bagh Masjid as theorized by NDMC/Traffic Police," the petition said.

The petitioner being the Imam of Sunehri Bagh Masjid is witnessing the condition of traffic mits that the traffic in the area is regulated and when required, barricades are put and there is no complaint of any resistance of such regulation and barricades from the petitioner or the worshippers," it added.

On December 18, the High Court had closed the proceedings in a separate petition by the Delhi Waqf Board anticipating demolition of the mosque at the Sunehri Bagh Road roundabout while recording that the parties would act

Niwas with mosque Imams

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday held a meeting 'Samvaad @Raj Niwas' with Imams, Aalims and Muazzins of the capital's mosques. This was his first meeting ever since he took over in May

"As 2023 draws to an end, we formally Samvaad@RajNiwas- an interactive dialogue series with Imams & Aalims from Mosques across the City. It has been my endeavour to open the hitherto enigmatic Raj Niwas to the people of Delhi. It was an enriching experience meeting more than 50,000 people at Raj months. I hope that the interactive dialogue with people of Delhi- the City's main stakeholders, will get more structured & result oriented, with this new branding. I appeal to all residents of the Capital to engage Samvaad@RajNiwas," Saxena

wrote on X. According to Raj Niwas official, in the 18 months, since Saxena took over as LG, he has met more than 50,000 people belonging to varied sections in formal/informal



gatherings at the Raj Niwas, averaging about 3,000 per

"Saxena, who has mostly been on the streets of Delhi trying to address various issues pertaining to the City, had announced upon taking over he would strive to serve as a 'Local Guardian' of the City and open the doors of hitherto opaque and colonial Raj Niwas to the people where anyone and everyone could walk in with their issues," offi-

ing to address issues. Similarly, over hundreds of meetings with delegations that included those of, teachers, students, professors, lawyers, traders, doctors, street vendors, RWAs, residents of unauthorized dents/farmers rural/urbanized villages of Delhi, the Lt. Governor has been interacting with the people along with officials of concerned departments and trying to solve their problems concurrently," they added. In the same series, Saxena will be meeting residents/farmers from villages of Delhi and

"As a result of this over the past year and a half on various formal occasions like the 'At Home' functions, celebration of Statehood Days and get together of various professional group, Saxena has been freely mixing with people, the New Year.

have an interactive dialogue on DDA's 'Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyaan' on 02.01.2024, in

LG okays revival of 29 school principal posts lying vacant

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has approved the revival of 29 posts of Principal/Deputy Education Officer for the Department of Education, which were lying vacant during the period 2019 to 2021 in Delhi-government run schools. Further, the LG also accepted

the recommendation for abolition of 06 such posts as they were considered to be falling under the 'immediately abolishing' category for lying vacant for more than 05 years pertaining to the peri-od of vacancy during 2013 to

This step was taken following the recommendation by the Finance Department and Administrative Reforms (AR) Department after they conducted necessary assessment and work study

In the year 2019 two posts of Principal/Deputy Education Officer were vacant; another two posts became vacant in the year 2020. According to the records, 23 such posts were vacant in 2020 and two



the year 2021 till April. Among the 06 abolished posts three were lying vacant since 2013-14, two from the year 2014-15 and one since 2016-17. Earlier, in the month of April the Education Department after the examination by the AR Department had obtained approval of the Delhi LG for revival of 126 posts and creation of 244 posts of Principal/ Deputy Education Officer in Directorate of Education against total 370 posts which were lying vacant to be filled

through promotion for

the vacancy year 2013-14 to

2019. However, while the

aforesaid proposal was under consideration in the AR, Finance and Planning Departments, more posts fell in the 'deemed abolished' category and some posts were also noticed to be considered a fresh for revival/abolition. While submitting the pro-

posal to LG, the Education Department mentioned that the purpose for which these posts were created still exists and is essential for the smooth functioning Department. At present, the work is managed by Vice-Principals and this a temporary arrangement which has certain limitations and cannot

be continued for long.

BJP holds protests wearing oxygen masks to highlight city air pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Wearing oxygen masks to highlight air pollution, Delhi BJP leaders and workers held protests at four places in the national capital on Saturday morning against the AAP government failing to check air pollution. The party's leaders said the protests were held at the ITO crossing, near the India Gate, the roundabout near the Le Meridian Hotel and the 11 Murti roundabout.

Member of Parliament Manoj Tiwari and Delhi BJP general secretary Kamaljeet Sehrawat joined the protest at the 11 Murti Chowk. Delhi BJP general secretaries Harsh Malhotra and Yogendra Chandolia joined the protests at the ITO crossing and the Le Meridian roundabout respectively. Senior Delhi BJP leader Rajiv Babbar joined the demonstration at India Gate, they added. Delhi BJP president Virendra

Sachdeva said Delhi

plan on pollution has totally

failed as it has no plan to con-

trol ever rising dust pollution

in the city. As the people of

Delhi are facing air pollution,

Kejriwal and his environment minister Gopal Rai are missing from the past one week. Kejriwal is on vacation and Rai has not spoken a word," he said. Sachdeva said that Delhi Government's winter action plan on pollution has totally failed as it has no plan to control ever rising dust pollution in the city. Delhi BJP leader Rajiv Babbar who coordinated today's protest campaign and himself stood with party work-Government's winter action ers at India Gate Kartavya Path intersection said that its regrettable that due to failure of Kejriwal Government to curb pollution the senior citizens &

children are worst sufferers



dren are worst sufferers. Harsh Malhotra stood at I.T.O. Chowk with party workers and said that its shocking to see the AQI towering above 200 in

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari and party BJP General Secretary Kamaljeet Sehrawat joined party workers wearing Oxygen Mask at 11 Murti Chowk and said that with ever rising pollution pregnant women & chil-Delhi BJP General Secretary

December end when normally the air used to be clean with only fog troubling till last year but due to criminal negligence deserved exemplary punishof the Kejriwal Government today we are fighting both smog and fog.

HC judge who awarded death penalty to accused in Nirbhaya case retires

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi High Court judge Justice Yogesh Khanna, who awarded death penalty to the four convicts in the judicial officer in 2013, Saturday demitted office after a tenure of seven years. Justice Khanna became a

permanent judge of the high court on November 8, 2016. As an additional sessions judge, Justice Khanna had, on September 13, 2013, handed capital punishment to the four convicts in the brutal gang-rape and murder case, saying it fell in the rarest of rare category as the crime was committed against a 23-year-old woman in a "beastly" and "hair-raising"

manner. He had said the inhuman and ghastly acts of the convicts shocked the collective conscience of the nation and

The death penalty was finally executed on March 20,

On the night of December 16, 2012, the paramedical student was gang-raped on a moving bus in south Delhi and brutalised so grievously that she succumbed to her injuries on

Singapore hospital. During his term in the high court, Justice Khanna passed several significant orders and judgements.

December 29, 2012 in a

In 2018, as part of a division bench headed by then high court judge Justice S Ravindra Bhat, Justice Khanna had dismissed US-based agro industries major Monsanto Technology's plea to enforce the patent for its BT cotton seeds in India.
Born on December 31, 1961,

Justice Khanna completed his LL.B. From Campus Law Centre, Delhi in 1986. In 2000, he joined Delhi

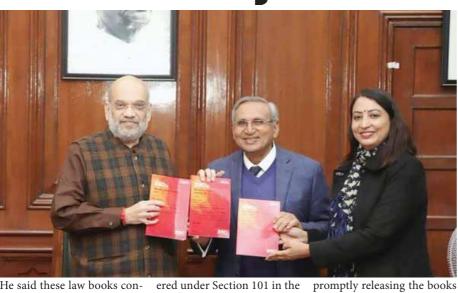
Higher Judicial Services and eventually became the District Judge of North-West District, Rohini Courts, Delhi, before being elevated to the high

Shah releases reference books India, Russia review ties on new criminal justice laws

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday released 12 reference books related to the recently enacted criminal justice laws and said the books have lucidly brought out changes made in the laws in a concise and simple manner. Hailing the publishers for the reference books on the three laws, Shah said the books also give case law commentaries for easy understanding.

The three new laws -- the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Act -- got Parliament's approval last week and the president gave her assent on December 25. The laws will replace the colonial era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872 respectively.

"I congratulate Mohan Law House for publishing the reference books related to the newly promulgated revolutionary criminal justice laws in a record short time," Shah wrote on 'X'.



tain user-friendly comparative references for easy understanding of various provisions and also highlight changes brought in the new laws.

The home minister said heinous crimes against women such as rape was covered under Section 375 of the IPC but is now in Section 63 of the new law. A grave crime like murder was under Section 300 of the IPC but is now covered under Section 101 in the

I thank Dr Vinay Ahuja, the Managing Director of the publishing house. Glad to launch the books today for the benefit of our law enthusiasts and luminaries," he said.

In another post, Shah congratulated Udit Mathur, the Managing Director and Shri Mahender Chaturvedi, the Sales Director of the publishing company Lexis Nexis for thanks to Eastern Book Company Director Surendra Malik and Senior Associate Editor Bhumika Indulia for swiftly coming up with the

"Introducing the reference books on the three recently enacted transformative criminal justice laws. The three books published by Eastern Book Company have given useful section-wise comparisons of new laws with the old ones," he said.

He said the books highlight the vision of the government for a fair and speedy justice delivery system.

In yet another post, Shah congratulated Piyush Kumar, the CEO of the Taxmann Publication for publishing the reference books related to the newly made three "visionary criminal justice system laws in a record time".

These three books have lucidly brought out changes made in the laws in a concise and simple manner. The books also give case law commentaries for easy understanding. Delighted to release the books today," he said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

India and Russia reviewed the entire gamut of their robust bilateral ties during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit there this week from December 25-29. The visit provided an opportunity to review ongoing bilateral cooperation and examine ways to further bolster the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership, according to a Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) statement here on Saturday.

Giving details, it said in Moscow, External Affairs Minister called on President Vladimir Putin and held discussions with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov, as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov. Jaishankar had comprehensive exchange of views on bilateral cooperation in trade and economic, energy, defence, connectivity, cultural and people to people exchanges, and cooperation between regions of the two countries. He also shared perspectives on global and regional developments including multilateral cooperation. Three documents relating to the Kudan Kulam Nuclear Power Plants, an MoU on cooperation in pharmaceuticals

and healthcare and a Protocol Foreign Consultations were signed during the visit.

He interacted with Russian think-tanks and academics and exchanged views on Indian foreign policy perspectives as well as Russia-India relations. The rich contribution of cultural ties and people-to-people exchanges in enhancing the goodwill and friendship between India and Russia was reflected in Jaishankar's interaction with the Indian diaspora in Moscow.

In Saint Petersburg, he met Governor Alexander Beglov and discussed possibilities of cooperation in the economic and cultural field. He had a dissection of Indologists at the Saint Petersburg University. Views were exchanged on how to enhance a better direct understanding and appreciation of developments in the two

He also interacted with teachers and students at School No. 653 named after Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a premier Russian government school which teaches Hindi as part of its regular curriculum. Îndia-Russia relations have remained strong and steady building upon strategic convergences, geopolitical interests, and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two coun-

Government releases draft guidelines to make railway user friendly for PwDs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

ven as central flagship Esugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) launched in 2015 is yet to achieve its all targets in many sectors including railways, the Government has now released draft guidelines on accessibility of railway stations, facilities there and in trains for people with disabilities, highlighting the need for integrating technologyenabled features such as textto-speech and user-friendly pictograms.

The Department of the People with Disabilities (PwDs) has invited comments, objections and suggestions from the stakeholders and public by January 29 next year on the proposed guidelines to create a more user-friendly environment.

The proposed guidelines also highlight the need for dedicated website features catering to ible and accessible interface



These features will follow universal design principles and World Wide Web Consortium guidelines, integrating technology-enabled accessibility features such as text-to-speech and user-friendly pictograms, the draft guidelines state.

The draft includes the development of a dedicated mobile app and a one-click template for people with disabilities displaying all the information and facilities available for them at stations as well as in

facilities for PwDs will be integrated into public announcement systems at train stations and platforms. This includes sign language, captioning, and digital displays, the draft guidelines

suggested. Standardised illuminated signage across all stations, coupled with Braille signage, has also been proposed. Frontline staff will be trained in sign language to ensure effective communication, these stated. For inclusivity, credible sible entry and exit points, Designated accessible parking areas with clear signage are recommended for the convenience of differently-abled individuals.

and said the newly published

books will enhance the effec-

tive understanding of the laws.

"Pleased to launch the refer-

ence books on the recently

passed three groundbreaking

criminal justice laws. These

three law books have high-

lighted all changes made in the

new laws in a very simple

manner for the benefit of all

In another post, the home

the stakeholders," he said.

Low-height ticket counters with accessibility signage and accessible help booths manned by "Divyangjan Sahayaks" are proposed to enhance the overall accessibility experience, the draft guide-

The guidelines placed emphasis on creating unobstructed zones on platforms, incorporating tactile guiding blocks, and providing accessible toilets, drinking water booths, and foot-over bridges.

Accessible lifts at platforms and well-coordinated lighting systems are outlined in the guidelines.

Integration of accessible features in new train coaches prominent signage, Braille coach numbers, and contrasting colours for exteriors are recommended and inclusive coach interiors with accessible ments are also part of the pro-

Faridabad hospital first ESIC centre in north India to perform kidney transplant

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad in Haryana has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the north India's first ESIC (Employees State Insurance Corporation) hospital to perform the kidney transplant, giving a ray of hope to many renal patients enrolled with the ESIC.

The transplant was done on December 27 by a team of doctors and hospital staff under the guidance and support of Dr Asim Das (Dean) and Dr A K Pandey (Medical Superintendent), said Dr Vimal Bhandari, surgeon and head of the Kidney Transplant Unit at the hospital.

The kidney was received by Vipin Kumar(28), who was on dialysis, from his mother. Both are hale and hearty, Dr Bhandari said, adding that this achievement provides our hospital with competen-Labour



social media post X, saying that the Hospital at Faridabad "has achieved a huge milestone by performing the firstever live kidney transplant on 28-year-old Vipin Kumar, an insured person, who got the kidney from his mother."

"It assures patients that we have the expertise and infrastructure to effectively conduct such complicated but life-saving surgeries," added Dr Bhandari, the former head of the National Organ Tissue and cy. Recognising the efforts of T r a n s p l a n t the Union Health Ministry. According to Dr A K Pandey,

kidney transplant improves life expectancy and reduces the morbidity of patients who have end stage renal disease (ESRD). There is a waiting list of over three lakh patients. But because of the absence of facilities at many government hospitals as well as organs, they have to either shell out hefty money or succumb to the ailment.

Dr. Jitendra Kumar, senior nephrologist at the hospital said that 16 percent of the people in the district are suffering from some form of due to diabetes and high blood pressure. "Lack of Hospital for treatment

also one of the reasons for the increase in the disease. Due to this, people do not get the disease treated on time and by the time they reach the hospital, the disease progresses significantly." The kidney transplant facility at the ESIC Faridabad hos-

awareness among people is

pital, however, gives a ray of hope to many such patients. The others in the team included Dr Saurabh Joshi, senior kidney transplant surgeon, Dr Varun, Senior Nephro consultant, Dr Nishant, Urologist, Dr Gaurav also Urologist who is said to have played a main role in transplant procedure, Dr Amit, a senior Anaesthetists, Dr Megha and Dr Mamta besides senior technicians, nursing officials.

The district has about 6.50 lakh ESIC cardholders. Apart from Faridabad, patients from districts like Gurugram, Palwal, Hodal, Hathin, Panipat,

NCC Republic Day Camp 2024 begins in Delhi



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

¬he National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2024 commenced here on Saturday at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantonment. This year, a total of 2,274 cadets from all 28 states and eight Union Territories will participate in the month-long camp. With 907 girls, this year's camp will see the largest participation of girl cadets.

Giving details here, officials also said this diverse participation includes 122 cadets from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, apart from 171 from the North-Eastern Region, effectively portraying a microcosm of 'Mini India'.

As part of the Youth Exchange Programme, the camp will also witness the participation of cadets and officers from 25 friendly countries - Argentina, Botswana, Bhutan, Brazil, Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Kenya,

Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Tajikistan, UK, Venezuela, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Nigeria, Mauritius and Mozambique. In his address, Director General NCC Lt General Gurbirpal Singh called upon the cadets to participate wholeheartedly and derive maximum benefits from each activity in the camp. He advised them to display the highest qualities of character, integrity, selfless service, comradeship and teamwork cutting across the barriers of religion, language, caste in the spirit of

nation first. The Republic Day Camp holds the fundamental aim of instilling a sense of patriotism, discipline, and leadership qualities among the cadets. This annual event serves as a platform to offer cadets valuable opportunities for training, engaging in cultural activities, and participating in social service initiatives, thereby nurturing unity

Rahul takes swipe at selfie booths at railway stations with PM cutouts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday took a swipe at the government over setting up of selfie booths at railway stations with life-size cutouts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking whether people want easy rail travel or a picture with the "shahenshah's statue"

In a post in Hindi on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "Fares for every class of 'Garibo Ki Sawaari', Indian Railways have been increased. Even the fare concession given to the elderly was withdrawn. Platform ticket prices were increased and the door for privatisation was opened.

He said, "Was this money, which is being squeezed out of the public's hard-earned money, for making a selfie stand? What do the people of India want? Cheap gas cylinders and easy rail travel? Or Picture with 'shahenshah's statue'?'

Rahul Gandhi's attack on the government came days after Congress president Mallikariun Kharge said setting up selfie booths at railway stations with photographs of Modi is a "brazen waste" of taxpayers' money while opposition states await MGNREGA funds.

Kharge had also shared a copy of a reply obtained under the Right to Information (RTI) Act that listed the stations under the Central Railway where temporary and permanent selfie booths have been

Covid has raised risk of heart failure pandemic: Japanese researchers PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Amid rise in Covid cases across the world, a team of Japanese researchers has predicted the risk of a "heart failure pandemic" as a result of the infection, stressing the need for developing countermeasures. Covid infections have raised the risk of heart failure from persistent viral infection in their hearts, even without developing heart disease, said the team, including researchers from Riken, Japan's largest scientific institute, The Mainichi said. The study is published in the American science journal iScience.

Post Covid pandemic, there has been a significant surge in heart attacks, even among the otherwise healthy population. Although some have linked it to Covid vaccinations, global health authorities like the WHO, US CDC, as well the ICMR have denied the association between the

Their studies have shown that people without Covid vaccinations have been more at risk of heart problems due to Covid, and that the jabs have been safe.

Coronavirus infection occurs when a protruding spike protein on the surface of the virus latches onto ACE2 receptors on the surface of human cells. The team explained that the ACE2 receptor is more common in the heart than other

organs. Some Covid patients have reportedly had reduced cardiac function, but the mechanism's details are not yet known, the report said. The research team created heart tissue using induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells. When a large amount of the virus was made to infect the tissue, cardiac function declined and did not recover. When 10 per cent of the previous amount infected the tissue, a certain level of cardiac function remained, but the infection persisted for four weeks.

Researchers said it's possible that some patients won't develop heart failure even if the infection persists.

Furthermore, when cardiac tissue was placed under hypoxic conditions to reduce cardiac function, uninfected cells recovered after a certain time, but cells that remained infected with a small amount of virus did not recover. It appears that their recovery ability was weakened by persistent infection, the report

"Some people infected with the coronavirus may have persistent viral infections in their hearts. A testing system and treatment methods must be established in preparation for a 'heart failure pandemic,' in which we will see a rapid increase in the number of heart failure patients," Hidetoshi Masumoto, Riken Research Leader was quoted

Coastal communities at risk of isolation due to rising sea levels

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $R^{\text{ising sea levels due to climate change-induced}}$ global warming could leave the coastal communities at the risk of isolation by disrupting transportation networks and roads, meaning that those affected lose access to essential locations such as critical emergency services and schools, a study has said. It further exposed that renters and older adults face a greater risk of isolation, highlighting the growing connection between historical drivers of existing social inequality and the groups that incur the most risk of climate change. According to Kelsea Best, lead author of the study and an assistant professor of civil, environmental and geodetic engineering at The Ohio State University, the first step in better characterizing these threats is changing how researchers assess community risk, as most studies measure this by exclusively determining impacts via direct flooding. But concentrating on this sole measurement neglects more complex aftereffects of sea level rise, such as isolation, and reinforces inequality in coastal areas, Best said.

'We need to re-conceptualize how we measure who is burdened by sea level rise because there are so many ways that people might be burdened before their home is flooded," she said.

Best and her colleagues argue that an inability to reach essential places like grocery



stores, public schools, hospitals and fire stations impacts individuals just as negatively as if they were living in inundated homes themselves, and should be documented as

Most importantly, their results expose one of the main reasons for these vast differences in risk: A group's risk of isolation is intimately entwined with specific road networks and where vital services are located in relation to where affected individuals reside.

"If we take a one-size-fits-all approach, or a seemingly 'neutral' approach to understanding who gets access to safe, affordable housing and community in a world with climate change, then we're really just exacerbating these inequities and it's not good enough," said Best. "We have to deliberately seek to provide

access to adaptation resources

to groups of people who have historically been left out and therefore have fewer resources to respond in the first place." Alarmingly, the study found strong evidence that these isolation effects would set in by 2120 in the intermediate scenario and as early as 2090 in the high scenario. "This timeline matters from a planning and adaptation perspective," said Best. "Part of why we included the temporal piece is to say this issue would not be as much of a problem if we had urgent, aggressive mitigation. The effects of climate change

are going to be further reaching and more cascading than might be directly obvious, and those effects are not going to be felt equitably," said Best. "So we need to be thinking about those populations most at risk from the beginning and develop policies to

sunday pioneer

Nine top PLA generals dismissed from China's Parliament

In a major purge of the Chinese military, nine senior generals of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), including senior officials of the country's Rocket Force, have been dismissed from Parliament, official media reported here on Saturday.

Those dismissed from the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's Parliament, include five past or current top commanders of the PLA Rocket Force, which handles the missiles division and a key component of the country's nuclear arsenal, besides a former Air Force commander, state-run Xinhua news agency said.

The report carried the announcement of the Standing

Committee of the NPC but did according to the NPC not attribute any reason for their disqualification.

These generals are part of a substantial number of members of the Chinese military who formed part of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and are appointed to the

Their dismissals come days after the NPC appointed former naval commander General Dong Jun as the new Defence Minister, two months after the summary dismissal of General Li Shangfu without any expla-

Those whose membership was terminated from the NPC included Zhang Zhenzhong, Zhang Yulin, Rao Wenmin, Ju Xinchun, Ding Laihang, Lu Hong, Li Yuchao, Li Chuanguang and Zhou Yaning,

announcement.

A new anti-corruption drive in China has led to the downfall of several past and present senior commanders in the Rocket Force, Hong Kong based South China Morning Post quoted official sources as

The military's anti-corruption body has been investigating the force's current commander Li Yuchao, as well as Zhang Zhenzhong and Liu Guangbin, his past and present deputies. Li, who was the most senior general to be caught up in the latest investigation, is only the third commander of the rocket force, which was created during a major overhaul of the military in 2015.

Li had disappeared from the public eye in late August and no reason was given for his removal either.

"Almost all the senior generals [in the rocket force] had good reputations before their promotion. They became immoral after moving to Beijing headquarters, allowing them to have more chances to engage with defence-related enterprises," the Post quoted an official source as saying.

Those who were terminated from the Rocket Force were reportedly closely linked to the dismissed Defence Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, whose whereabouts are not known. Their membership was terminated under the relevant provisions of the law of the People's Republic of China concerning the representatives to the NPC, said the official announcement

This is not the first-time top generals of the PLA were dismissed for corruption as a number of them were summarily removed for graft and abuse of power after Xi came to power in 2012.

Over a million officials are said to have been punished in Xi's anti-corruption campaign according to the official media accounts. The intensity of the campaign also attracted criticism that Xi made effective use of it to silence his critics and

rivals within the party. Representatives of the PLA from all the military wings hold a chunk of the 2,996strong member NPC. While the NPC holds its annual session with full members, a 175-member Standing Committee of the NPC periodically meets to conduct that legislative business.

YTDO's multiple winter tours set to commence



ike last year, this year too, YTDO is going to start winter tours, ✓ involving trips to Goa, Mumbai and Shirdi and a 16-day South India tour. Besides, there is an eight-day trip to Thailand. Cochin, Kovalam, Kanyakumari, Rameshwaram Dham, Madurai, Mysore, Tirupati, Madras and Mahabalipuram have been included in the 16day South India tour and the Thailand trip will be held between January 20 and January 27 with Bangkok and Pattaya being included. YTDO office bearers say that preparations for all these yatras are now going on in full swing and add that West India Yatra will commence on January 26. They further state that YTDO has remained engaged in the realm of tours- conducting domestic and international tours- for

the last four decades. Having carved a niche for itself in the field of tourism, this travel agency has been holding an unassailable number one position in Uttarakhand, asserts the director YTDO Vijay Mohan Singh Khati. He further says that it has been his passion to tour himself and organise religious, historical, adventure and international tours along with discovering new tourism destinations. He avers that this momentum would continue in future also, 'After the winter tours, the summer tours will be announced by January-end," Khati adds.





YTDO Tour & Travels आगामी भारत-दर्शन यात्रार









President



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Shelling kills 10 Russians in border city limited its cruise missile strikes

SHOT DOWN KYIV DRONE, CLAIMS RUSSIA

AP KYIV

Shelling in the centre of the Russian border city of Belgorod killed 10 people and injured 45 more on Saturday, emergency services said.

Russian officials accused Kyiv of carrying out the attack, which took place the day after an 18hour aerial Russian barrage across Ukraine killed at least 39

Images of Belgorod on social media showed cars set alight and plumes of black smoke rising among damaged buildings as air raid sirens sounded. One strike hit close to a public ice rink in the very heart of the city. Earlier on Saturday, Moscow officials had reported shooting down 32 Ukrainian drones over the country's Moscow, Bryansk, Oryol, and Kursk

They also reported that crossborder shelling had killed two other people in Russia. A man died and four other people were injured when a missile



Firefighters extinguishing burning cars after shelling in Belgorod in Russia

struck a private home in the Belgorod region late Friday evening and a 9-year-old was killed in a separate incident in the Bryansk region.

Cities across western Russia have come under regular attack from drones since May, with Russian officials blaming Kyiv. Ukrainian officials never acknowledge responsibility for attacks on Russian territory or the Crimean peninsula. However, larger aerial strikes

against Russia have previously followed heavy assaults on Ukrainian cities.

Russian drone strikes against Ukraine continued Saturday, with the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reporting that 10 Iranian-made Shahed drones had been shot down across the Kherson, Khmelnytskyi, and Mykolaiv regions.

On Friday, Moscow's forces launched 122 missiles and

Ukraine, an onslaught described by one air force official as the biggest aerial barrage of the war.

160 people were wounded and an unknown number were buried under rubble in the assault, which damaged a maternity hospital, apartment blocks, and schools. Western officials and analysts

dozens of drones across

As well as the 39 deaths, at least

recently warned that Russia

Fighting along the front line is largely bogged down by winter

weather after Ukraine's summer counteroffensive failed to make a significant breakthrough along the roughly 1,000-kilo-meter (620-mile) line of con-Russia's ongoing aerial attacks

for months in an apparent effort to build up stockpiles for massive strikes during the win-

ter, hoping to break the Ukrainians' spirit.

have also sparked concern for Ukraine's neighbors.

Poland's defense forces said Friday that an unknown object had entered the country's airspace before vanishing off radars, and that all indications pointed to it being a Russian

Speaking to Russian state media outlet RIA Novosti Saturday, Russia's Charge d'Affaires in Poland, Andrei Ordash, said that Moscow would not comment on the event until Warsaw had given the Kremlin evidence of an airspace violation. "We will not give any explanations until we are presented with concrete evidence because these accusations are unsubstantiated," he said.

Israel strikes camps in central Gaza amidst approval of new weapons sales by US

AP DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli warplanes struck two urban refugee camps in central Gaza on Saturday, as the Biden administration approved a new emergency weapons sale to Israel despite persistent international cease-fire calls over mounting civilian deaths, hunger and mass displacement in the enclave.

Israel says it is determined to pursue its unprecedented air and ground offensive until it has dismantled Hamas, a goal viewed by some as unattainable because of the militant group's deep roots in Palestinian society. The United States has shielded Israel diplomatically and has continued to supply weapons.
Israel argues that ending the

war now would mean victory for Hamas, a stance shared by the Biden administration which at the same time urged Israel to do more to avoid harm to Palestinian civilians.

The war, triggered by the deadly Oct. 7 Hamas attack on southern Israel, has displaced some 85% of the Gaza Strip's 2.3 million residents, sending swells of people seeking shelter in Israeli-designated safe areas that the military has nevertheless also bombed. That has left Palestinians with a harrowing sense that nowhere is safe in the tiny enclave.

Residents in the urban refugee camps of Nuseirat and Bureij, two recent hot spots of combat, reported Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday. Nuseirat resident Mustafa Abu Wawee said a strike hit the home of one of his relatives, killing two people.
"The (Israeli) occupation is

doing everything to force people to leave," he said over the phone while searching along with others for four people missing under the rubble. "They want to break our spirit and will but they will fail. We are here to stay.

A second strike late Friday in Nuseirat targeted the home of a journalist for Al-Quds TV, a



channel linked to the group Islamic Jihad whose militants also participated in the Oct. 7 attack. The channel said the journalist, Jaber Abu Hadros and six members of his family were killed.

Bureij resident Rami Abu Mosab said sounds of gunfire echoed across the camp overnight, followed by heavy airstrikes Saturday.

With Israeli forces pushing deeper into Khan Younis and the camps of central Gaza, tens of thousands of Palestinians streamed into the already crowded city of Rafah at the southernmost end of Gaza in recent days.

Drone footage showed a vast camp of thousands of tents and makeshift shacks set up on what had been empty land on Rafah's western outskirts next to UN warehouses. People arrived in Rafah in trucks, in carts and on foot. Those who did not find space in the already overwhelmed shelters put up tents on roadsides slick with mud from winter rains.

Meanwhile, the US State Department said on Friday that Secretary of State Antony Blinken told Congress he approved a \$147.5 million sale for equipment, including fuses, charges and primers, that is needed for 155 mm shells Israel bought previously.

It marked the second time this month that the Biden administration is bypassing Congress

to approve an emergency weapons sale to Israel.

The department cited the "urgency of Israel's defensive needs" as a reason for the approval, and argued that "it is vital to U.S. national interests to ensure Israel is able to defend itself against the threats it

The emergency determination means the purchase will bypass the congressional review requirement for foreign military sales. Such determinations are rare, but not unprecedented, when administrations see an urgent need for weapons to be delivered without waiting for lawmakers' approval.

Blinken made a similar decision on December 9 to approve the sale to Israel of nearly 14,000 rounds of tank ammunition worth more than USD 106 million.

Both moves have come as President Joe Biden's request for a nearly USD 106 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other national security needs remains stalled in Congress, caught up in a debate over U.S. immigration policy and border security. Some Democratic lawmakers have spoken of making the proposed USD 14.3 billion in American assistance to its Mideast ally contingent on concrete steps by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to reduce civilian casualties in Gaza during the war with Hamas

5.9 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE SHAKES INDONESIA

Banda Aceh: A strong and shallow undersea earthquake shook part of Indonesia's Aceh province Saturday, but there were no immediate reports of serious damage or casualties. The US Geological .9 earthquake was kilometers (225 miles) east of Sinabang, a coastal town in Aceh province at a depth of 10 kilometers (6.2 miles). Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency said there was no danger of a tsunami but warned of possible aftershocks. The agency put a preliminary magnitude at 6.3. Variations in early measurements of quakes are common. Indonesia, a vast archipelago of more than 270 million people, is frequently hit by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions because of its location on the Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin. A magnitude 5.6 earthquake on Nov. 21 killed at least 331 people and injured nearly 600 in West Java's Cianjur city. It was the deadliest in Indonesia since a 2018 quake and tsunami in Sulawesi killed about 4,340 people. In 2004, an extremely powerful Indian Ocean quake set off a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia's

FLASH FLOODS KILL 21 IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg: Flash floods killed over a dozen people in the small town of Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal province, South African officials said on Saturday. "As of Friday, 29 December 2023, a total of 21 bodies have been recovered," said police spokesperson Colonel Robert Netshiunda. The floods hit the town on Christmas Day, destroying about 1400 homes, with the death toll expected to rise as an unconfirmed number of people are still missing, he said. Search and rescue teams have been scouring rivers to recover bodies, Netshiunda added. The operation is expected to continue throughout the weekend. Tragedy hit one family in Ladysmith set to bury seven of its members who were killed when floods swept their vehicle into the river. Rescue teams recovered the bodies of Vincent Msimango, his wife, two children, brother and niece, and nephew earlier this week, local news outlet Eyewitness News reported on Saturday. KwaZulu-Nata province has witnessed devastating floods lately. In June, heavy rainfall triggered deluges that killed seven people, and another seven went missing, in and around the

FIVE TERRORISTS KILLED IN PAK'S WAZIRISTAN

Peshawar: At least five terrorists were killed in an intense exchange of fire during an operation by security forces in North Waziristan district of the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to a media report on Saturday. Weapons and ammunition were also recovered during the operation on Friday," Dawn.com said quoting a statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media affairs wing. The security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Mir Ali area on the reported presence of terrorists. "An intense exchange of fire took place during the operation and five terrorists, including their commander, Rahzaib Khuray, were killed," it said. The statement claimed that the slain terrorists had been actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against security forces as well as extortion and targeted killings of civilians.

INDIAN-ORIGIN COUPLE, DAUGHTER FOUND DEAD IN US

New York: A wealthy Indian-origin couple and their teenage daughter were found dead in their USD 5 million mansion in the US state of Massachusetts in an apparent domestic violence incident, according to media reports. The bodies of Rakesh Kamal, 57, his wife, Teena, 54, and their 18-year-old daughter, Ariana, were found in their Dover mansion at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Norfolk District Attorney (DA) Michael Morrissey said. Dover is about 32 kilometres southwest of downtown Boston, the capital of Massachusetts.

Govt to launch 2nd version of National Career Service portal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government will launch the second version of the National Career Service (NCS) portal as well as persuade states to roll out labour reforms as part of efforts to further improve the ease of doing business and provide social security for the unorganised labour, particularly gig and platform workers, in 2024. Union Labour and Employmen Minister Bhupender Yadav told PTI that his ministry will soon launch the "advanced version, namely NCS 2.0, to facilitate better job matching and search facility for jobseekers along with a recommendation engine for skilling by the use of latest technologies and leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Machine

Learning".
The NCS project was launched in July 2015 to provide various employment-related services, including career counselling, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, apprenticeship and internships, through a digital platform.

As of November 30 this year, the NCS platform had more than 3.64 crore registered jobseekers, 19.15 lakh employers and a listing of more than 1.92 crore vacancies. The portal registered more than 13.49 lakh active vacancies in November.

The portal is integrated with facilities of 28 state/Union Territories to develop a compre-

Form No. INC - 26

[Pursuant Section 13(4) and rule 30 of the

Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Before The Regional Director,

"Northern Region"

In the matter of the Companies Act,

2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act.

2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the

Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

And

In the matter of AGRANTE

DEVELOPERS PRIVATE LIMITED

(CIN - U70109DL2006PTC152698)

having its registered office at DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF

Towers- B, Jasola, Central Delhi,

New Delhi - 110025, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public

that the company proposes to make

application to the Central Governmen

under section 13 of the Companies Act

2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of

the Memorandum of Association of the

Company in terms of the special resolution

passed at the Extra ordinary genera

meeting held on 9th September, 2022 to

enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to

Any person whose interest is likely to be

affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may

deliver or cause to be delivered or send by

registered post of his/her objections

supported by an affidavit stating the nature

to the registered address DTJ - 704. 7th

Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola, Central

Delhi, New Delhi - 110025 within fourteer

days from the date of publication of this

notice with a copy of the applicant compa

Agrante Developers Private Limited

For and behalf of the Applican

At the address mentioned below

Add: DTJ- 704, 7th Floor DLF

"State of Haryana"

at its registered office.

New Delhi - 110025

Skip to Main Content 120 &- Q 🖵 🖨 💟 National Career Service Ministry of Labour & Employment **NCS Empowering Job** Seekers to find the right job 43600+ career option as well as 53 industry sectors on NCS platform Kaal has a healthier and socialtion of the four codes, rules are

ly secure workforce that con-

tributes to the country's growth

and at the same time gains from

it: and also so that we contin-

ue to firm up ease of business

To roll out labour reforms in the

country, the Centre has formu-

lated four Labour Codes -- the

Code on Wages, 2019; the

Industrial Relations Code, 2020;

the Code on Social Security,

2020; and the Occupational

Safety, Health and Working

Among other objectives, these

codes seek to strengthen the

protection available to workers,

including unorganised workers,

mum wage, social security and

As a step towards implementa-

in terms of statutory mini-

Conditions Code, 2020.

healthcare.

in the country," he noted.

hensive pan-India network. It has also been integrated with various private portals monster.Com, Freshersworld and HireMee to have a listing of vacancies.

It is also linked with the government's Skill India portal Udyam Portal (MSME), e-Shram, EPFO. ESIC and DigiLocker, among

Regarding labour reforms, the minister said that in 2024, "as India continues to march towards being a developed economy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, I am hopeful states will begin rolling out the labour reform introduced by the Centre".

So that the India of Amrit

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

(CIN-U70101DL2013PLC248731) having its registered office at DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF

that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government nder section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general eeting held on 9th September, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections upported by an affidavit stating the nature the registered address DTJ-704, 7th Floor DIf Towers- B, Jasola, Central Delhi, New Delhi - 110025 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its

Agrante Realty Limited Add: DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers-B, Jasola, Central Delhi, New Delhi - 110025

Date: 31/12/2023

Date: 31/12/2023 Place: New Delh

Form No. INC - 26 [Pursuant Section 13(4) and rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Before The Regional Director, And

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 201

In the matter of AGRANTE LEISURE PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN - U55101DL2013PTC248080) aving its registered office at DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola, Central Delhi,

New Delhi - 110025, Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general neeting held on 9th September, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" t

"State of Harvana" Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to the registered address DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B. Jasola, Central Delhi, from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its

registered office. At the address mentioned below: Agrante Leisure Private Limited Add: DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola, Central Delhi

Place: New Delhi

New Delhi - 110025 For and behalf of the Applican Directo

DIN: 00112063 Date: 31/12/2023

Form No. INC - 26 [Pursuant Section 13(4) and rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Before The Regional Director, "Norther Region'

In the matter of AGRANTE REALTY LIMITED New Delhi - 110025. Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public State of Haryana"

registered office: At the address mentioned below

> For and behalf of the Applicant **Gurmeet Singh Kalsi** Director DIN: 01137469

Form No. INC - 26 [Pursuant Section 13(4) and rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 Before The Regional Director, "Northern Region"

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the npanies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 And

In the matter of AGRANTE INFRA LIMITED (CIN - U45400DL2013PLC249147) having its registered office at DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola, Central Delhi

New Delhi - 110025, Petitioner.

lotice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of he Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution assed at the Extra ordinary genera eeting held on 9th September, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Delhi" to State of Haryana"

any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver r cause to be delivered or send by upported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest or grounds of opposition to he registered address DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers - B, Jasola, Central Delhi, New Delhi - 110025 within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its

reaistered office. At the address mentioned below Agrante Infra Limited Add: DTJ - 704, 7th Floor DLF Towers-B, Jasola, Central Delhi, New Delhi - 110025

For and behalf of the Applicant Directo DIN: 00112063

Date: 31/12/2023

Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar has said that for a large, connected nation like India, deepfakes and misinformation represent a "very problematic issue" for conducting safe, free and fair elections. With respect to tackling deepfakes and misinformation, he said social media platforms are under watch on remedial actions they take in next 7-10 days on 'advisories' issued by the government.

The minister also promised that inaction on their part may prompt amendment to the IT Rules that will be more "prescriptive".

In an interview with PTI. Chandrasekhar, who is Minister of State for IT and Electronics, counted the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) legislation, setting up of grievances appellate panels and tighter accountability enforced on digital platforms for user safety as being among the big achievements for 2023.

Chandrasekhar, however, said that the Digital India Act (that will supersede the 22-year-old Information Technology Act) despite undergoing extensive pre-consultations "ran out of time" and termed it "an unfinished agenda"

"...The Digital India Act which we put a lot of effort into...Spent almost a year on pre-consultations...We ran out of time...These things happen, but certainly, it's an unfinished, incomplete agenda. But the principles of the DIA, the fact that we have advocated this new framework, and the fact that people are all beginning to understand some of the principles that we laid out during these



Deepfake an issue in holding fair polls: MoS IT

consultations, is certainly gratifving," the minister said, adding that this is something the government will take up.

India is headed for general elections early next year, and the DIA is expected to be legislated only after the 2024 polls and the formation of the government. On the issue of deepfakes, the minister said that for a large, connected nation like India, which is the world's largest democracy, deepfake represents 'certainly a very, very problematic issue to the conducting of safe and free and fair elections". Moreover, it challenges the right to personal liberty and lives of individuals who can be targeted with deepfakes that mischaracterised them, their statements or behaviour.

The government has been flagging its worries to social media and other digital platforms about misinformation and deepfakes, and has alerted them about the problems it could create in a democracy like India. Unfortunately, the platforms did not heed the warnings or take necessary action in terms of prosecuting or barring those users who were violating the laws, thus triggering the need for advisories, he said.

"They should have done a number of things in terms of prosecuting and barring people who are violating these laws. They didn't do any of this. It is becoming increasingly more and more visible that deepfakes are trying to influence election outcomes, Chandrasekhar said.

The prime minister has signalled it as a real problem to be dealt with, and the IT ministry has held two rounds of consultation with intermediaries, following it up with advisories to platforms detailing the immediate action-

"We will keep an eye on the intermediaries for the 7-15 days after they come back from vacations...And if they still have not made a move, then we will basically amend the IT rules and notify amended IT rules to be as prescriptive as the advisories are," the minister said.

The comment assumes significance as it underlines the toughening of the government's position on the issue, amid growing concerns around deepfakes powered by AI. Earlier this week, the government directed all platforms to comply with the IT rules, and mandated companies to inform users in clear and precise terms about prohibited

The government had deliberately stayed away from being prescriptive so far, as it believed that laying out the guardrails and the principles would prompt intermediaries to comply. "But as it turns out...Some have, and some have not...So those who have not, will have to read the advisorv and follow what has been advised and if they do not, we will take a look and notify new IT rules, if necessary," he said. Advisories are aimed at helping platforms to better comply with the IT rules, and if the companies do not respond to it, then the government will encode them in law.

Asked if the homegrown social media platforms had taken a lead on abiding by the government's directions on deepfake, the minister said, "I think it is clear that some of the platforms that are much more Indiacentric have a much more deeper respect for Indian law than somebody sitting in outside jurisdiction who is still living this twilight zone' about which law they should follow.'

The government talked tough with social media platforms after several 'deepfake' videos targeting leading actors, including Rashmika Mandanna, sparking public outrage and raising concerns over the weaponisation of technology for creating doctored content and harmful narratives.

The Centre has asked platforms to act decisively on deepfakes and align their terms of use and community guidelines as per the IT Rules and current laws. The government made it clear that any compliance failure would be dealt with strictly and evoke legal consequences.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e. Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited that Mrs. Meenu Verma intends to purchase & mortgage the Ground Floor of Property No. G-20-A, admeasuring 56.5 Sq. Yds., Khasra No. 16/29, at Jagat Puri Extension Khureji Khas, Shahdara, Delhi with our client, against the financial assistance Whereas Mr. Amit Kapoor & Mrs Pooaja Kapoor had acquired the Said Floor by way of Regd. GPA Dt. 23-11-2011 Doc. No. 10779 and Gift Deed Di 09.10.2015. The said GPA was already lost and, in this regard, online NCR/FIR No. 1292311/2023 has been lodged on 30-12-2023. Now they intend to sell the

same to Mrs. Meenu Verma. Public is hereby warned not to deal with the above-mentioned documents & the property. If anyone do the same, then he will be responsible for all consequences. f any person(s) having objection with regard to mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing t undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE

A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-40587824

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Shri Jatin Bhagat S/o Madhu Bhagat R/o C-902 Platinum Towers, MG Road, Gurgaon, Haryana-122002 has Disowned/ Severed/Closed all personal, business and social tie-ups with his nani- Raj Kumari Bhagat, mama Hemant Bhagat, mami - Vandana Bhagat, brother - Hrithik Gopal Bhagat, masi - Rekha Kohli, masad Saniav Kohli, brother-karan kohli, Sister- Divya Goenka and brotherin-law-Rounak Goenka due to their persistent misconduct, cruelty. exploitation, manhandling, beating, abusing, illegal demands from me and my wife and I have also debarred all of them from claiming any rights, share, concern of whatsoever nature in my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with the aforesaid people shall do at his own peril and risk and my client shall not be responsible in either manner

Shankar Wig Advocate Enrl. No. P/1061/2/2011 Ch. No. 510, 2nd Floor, Deep Plaza Complex, Opp. District Court Gurugram (HR) Mob.: 7290051164

IN THE HON'BLE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS I.P.No.6 OF 2016

Dilip Kumar Praveen Kumai Both residing at No.15/7, Posteous

Road, 1st Flat, Ayanavaram, Chennai 600023. Religare Finvest Ltd,

No.D3,P3B, District Centre,Saket New Delhi-110 017 2. GE Money, No.401-402,4th Floor, Aggarwal Millennium Tower, E-1,2,3,Netaji

Subash Palace, Pitampura, Delhi 110 034 The above insolvency Petition filed by the Petitioners/Debtor to adjudicate the Debtor as insolvent on the ground

petitioner/Debtor have committed acts of insolvency withir the meaning Section 9(1)(F),10,11,14 & 15 of the Presidency-Towns nsolvency Act, III of 1909, is posted before the Hon'ble High Court of Jurisdiction) Chennai-104, or

you fail to appear before court on hat day at 10.30 am. or when the matter is called for, please note, the above insolvency Petition will be ordered ex-parte as prayed for.

VIKRAM U. JAIN

Advocate for Petitioner/Debtor

वित्त मंत्री द्वारा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों की समीक्षा बैठव **Finance Minister's Review Meeting** with Public Sector Banks



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs a meeting to review performance of Public Sector Banks, in New Delhi. Union Minister of State for

FM meets heads of PSBs. reviews performance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharman on Saturday held sector banks and reviewed their financial performance.

required to be framed by the

central government as well as

The central government and several states/Union Territories

(UTs) have pre-published the

draft rules under the four codes

The Centre wants to enforce

rules under the four codes

simultaneously with states for

uniform applicability of these

laws as labour is in the concur-

rent list of the Constitution of

Meanwhile, this year saw a significant development with

respect to higher pensions on

higher contributions for sub-

scribers of the Employees

Pension Scheme 1995 run by

the retirement fund body

for stakeholder comments.

by the state governments.

During the meeting, concerns related to cyber security and the risks on the financial sector were discussed, sources said. Issues related to fraud and wilful defaulters and progress on the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) also came up for discussion, they said.

This is the probably last full review meeting before the presentation of Budget 2024-25 and general elections later next year. On the performance front, PSU banks have earned a net profit of about Rs 68,500 crore during the first six months of the current financial year.

During 2022-23, it said banks balance sheets grew at a healthy pace, with both deposits and credit growth accelerating.

The Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) fell to a decade low of 3.9 per cent at the end of March 2023 and further to 3.2 per cent

Bengaluru saw a 15-fold jump in net office leasing during the quarter due to many

large leasing transaction from corporates as

well as low base effect, according to

Real estate consultant Cushman &

Wakefield said on Saturday that the net leas-

ing of office space stood at 18.63 million sq

ft during the October-December period

across major eight cities as against 9.06 mil-

The Bengaluru office market achieved the

highest volume and also maximum surge

in percentage term during the current quar-

The net office leasing or absorption in

Bengaluru jumped to 80,50,266 sq ft dur-

ing October-December from 5,18,622 sq ft

"Many large deals that were under negoti-

ation in the previous quarters, but occupiers

were adopting a cautious approach and

delaying, have sailed through in Q4. As a

result, fresh leasing of space jumped," the

consultant said, explaining the sharp jump

Besides, it said the "last quarter of 2022 was

a low base owing to higher caution exercised

in office demand in Bengaluru.

lion sq ft in the year-ago period.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Cushman & Wakefield.

ter of this calendar year.

in the year-ago period.

As per the report, the improvement in asset quality of banks that began in 2018-19 continratio stood at 3.2 per cent in the April-September period of the current fiscal.

NARCL, a government entity, was incorporated in 2021 with a majority stake held by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and the balance by private banks. Canara Bank was the sponsor

It is registered with the Reserve Bank of India as an asset reconstruction company under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Earlier this month, the finance ministry held a review meeting with heads of PSBs and asked them to monitor all cases, especially the top 20 Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code cases as part of the management of their bad

During a meeting with managing directors and CEOs of PSBs, Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi asked them to review the top 20 cases monthly for their resolution.

NHAI undertakes road safety measures

State-owned NHAI has undertaken road safety measures to counter reduced visibility due to foggy conditions, an official statement said on Saturday. Mitigation measures have been classified under two heads — engineering measures and safety awareness measures — to enhance road safety during foggy conditions, it added.

The guidelines also encourage NHAI officials to create awareness among highway users to use blinkers and follow traffic rules.

In addition, the statement said that NHAI field offices have been directed to undertake nighttime highway inspection on a weekly basis by a team consisting of NHAI officials, independent engineers, and concessionaire/contractor to assess visibility on the highway and identify locations for installing additional provisions as required.

Also, highway patrol vehicles will be stationed near dense foggy stretches. According to the statement, carry a red/green blinking baton for guiding traffic in case of an accident and establish seamless collaboration with local law enforcement, ambulance services, and municipal authorities.

NHAI team will also conduct joint drills and exer-



cises to ensure efficient coordination during fogrelated emergencies, it said.

The engineering measures include reinstalling missing/ damaged road signs, rectifying faded or inadequate pavement markings, enhancing the visibility of safety devices by providing reflective markers, median markers, providing transverse bar markings in habitations and accident-prone locations, and ensuring functional blinkers at median openings at under construction zones, underline incorporating steps to alert highway users of the reduced visibility conditions.

These measures include the use of variable message signs (VMS) or electronic signages to display 'foggy weather alerts' and speed limit messages.

Snapdeal's FY23 loss narrows to ₹282 cr

Snapdeal's has seen its consolidated loss after tax narrow to Rs 282.2 crore for FY23, from Rs 510 crore in previous year. according to a statutory filing. As per the company's RoC filing, the total income fell to Rs 388.1 crore in FY23, from Rs 563.5 crore in the previous fiscal (FY22).

The focus on profitability and long-term sustainability of the business vielded results with adjusted EBITDA loss reducing to Rs 144 crore in FY2022-23, 22," the filing said.

The loss reduction measures also led to revenue decreasing to Rs 388 crore in FY2022-23 from Rs 564 crore in FY2021-22, it added.

"In the past fiscal year, the company continued its well defined focus on the value segment, coupled with a steadfast commitment to staying on the path towards reaching profitability.' the filing said.

The company said it has implemented several enhancements to its operations.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Registration of properties in Mumbai municipal area is likely to rise by 33 pc annually to around 12,500 units during this month on better demand, according to Knight Frank. As many as 9,367 properties were registered in Mumbai city

33 pc in Dec: Report

(area under BMC jurisdiction) during the same month last year. Real estate consultant Knight Frank India has compiled the data of registration of properties from Department of

Registrations and Stamps, Maharashtra government. As per the latest data of December, 12,134 units were

registered till 12 noon and the number is set to reach around 12.500 units by late evening.

dence in the property market, buoved by stable demand and an enhanced positive sentiment. This optimism has resulted in a

Of the overall registered properties, residential units constitute 80 per cent.

Bengaluru sees 15-fold jump in net leasing of office space more than 3 times to 26,18,424 sq ft from 7,88,624 sq ft. In Kolkata, the demand grew nearly 2 per



and rising inflation were high and impacted market sentiment negatively in Q4-22". As per the data, the leasing in Mumbai declined 9 per cent to 22,46,920 sq ft from 24,72,259 sq ft. The demand in Delhi-NCR, too, fell 37 per

cent to 16,25,514 sq ft from 25,61,752 sq ft. In Chennai, the leasing was up 37 per cent to 14,48,595 sq ft from 10,59,307 sq ft. Pune saw a 58 per cent growth in leasing to 1,898,143 sq ft from 11,97,733 sq ft. Net leasing of office space in Ahmedabad more than doubled to 4,92,795 sq ft during the fourth quarter this year from 2,10,010 sq ft in the year-ago period. Anshul Jain, Managing Director, India & South East Asia, at Cushman & Wakefield,

cent to 257,700 sq ft from 253,737 sq ft.

said. "We have always maintained that the fundamentals of India's office market are strong." "While we anticipated a healthy performance this year despite global headwinds and economic uncertainties, Q4 and the entire 2023 have exceeded even our most optimistic projections and turned out to be the best one ever," Jain said.

A turnaround in the economic growth outlook for India in Q4, coupled with resilience seen in the global economy, could be a factor for fence-sitting occupiers to move ahead Leasing activities in Hyderabad jumped swiftly, Jain said.

'Homebuvers in Mumbai continue to demonstrate confisignificant surge in property registrations in Mumbai," the consultant said in a statement on Saturday.

AUSTRALIA WOMEN POST 258 DESPITE DEEPTI FIFER

ff-spinner Deepti Sharma stymied Australia's surge with a stellar five-wicket haul but seven dropped catches by India allowed them to post a challenging 258 for eight in the second Women's ODI here on Saturday.

Deepti exploited a dry and turning surface to a fine degree to return with figures off five for 38, but her hard work was undone by the hosts' horrendous fielding.

She accounted for Ellyse Perry (50), Beth Mooney (10), Tahlia McGrath (24), Georgia Wareham (22) and Annabel Sutherland (23) for her career's second five-for.

Alana King, who was dropped once each by Deepti and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, hammered three sixes to make an unbeaten 28 (17 balls) in a late surge to take Australia past the 250-run mark, which at one stage looked beyond the visitors.

Australia looked in complete command until the 22nd over, powering to 117 for one through a 77-run stand

for the second wicket between Perry and Phoebe Litchfield (63, 98 balls,

But fortune swung in India's favour when Deepti was introduced, and the senior spinner made an immediate

Perry (50, 47 balls, 4x4s, 1x6s) raced to her second fifty in a row and posed India a serious threat during a strong partnership with Litchfield, but Deepti got rid of the former to start her demolition job.

In an attempt to pull a short delivery from Deepti over midwicket, Perry could not clear debutant Shreyanka Patil who completed the catch on her second attempt.

Deepti troubled Mooney consis-

tently, using the roughness of the pitch to full effect by generating sharp away turn.

To counter the turn, Mooney swept from outside the line of the ball but was beaten by a straight one, getting trapped leg-before.

Deepti later cleaned up the dangerous McGrath in the 40th over for her third wicket, and then added



over. She took a return catch off to get rid of Sutherland to complete the five-wicket haul.

In between, Sneh Rana, who had to leave the field following a nasty col-lision with Pooja Vastrakar, had Ashleigh Gardner (2) caught at long

on for her only wicket. But Deepti's exploits notwithstanding, India were simply poor in the field. Litchfield was dropped when she was yet to open her account by Amanjot Kaur in the second over and then on 10 by Yastika Bhatia at first

Rana dropped Perry in the 17th over when she was on 30 on her own

bowling.
Smriti Mandhana spilled a regulation chance in the 44th over when Sutherland was on one off Deepti. India also made an error of judgment when they did not take a DRS call against Alyssa Healy who was pinned in front of the wickets by Vastrakar. Vastrakar eventually sent back Healy when she cleaned up the Australian captain for 13 in the 10th over.

Rohit focuses on Mukesh in nets, Jadeja goes full tilt



PTI ■ CENTURION

t was an optional session at the It was an opuonal scool.
Supersport Park but for India skipper Rohit Sharma, skipping the nets wasn't an option. Outfoxed by South African pace spearhead Kagiso Rabada in both innings of the opening Test, Rohit was present as skipper and batter in equal measure during a two-hour session.

The Indian captain was focussed on facing Mukesh Kumar, who bowled only to Rohit for at least

While the fit-again Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin also bowled in the same nets, the Indian skipper's complete attention was on the one Test old Bengal seamer. Occasionally, Davanand Garani, the throwdown specialist kept his deliveries fast and full on off stump channel.

He actually wanted Mukesh to bowl one that comes in with the angle from length.

"Hawa mein andaar aa raha hai. Par koshish kar angle se andar laane ka," the skipper told his younger colleague.

Rohit specifically wanted Mukesh to pitch in between 4-6 metre length and the seamer seemed to have impressed the skipper. There were times when he beat Rohit's bat and earned appreciation from the senior

when batting coach Vikram Rathour asked him, "Tu is net pe aayega" (would you like to use this one), pointing at the nets exclusively kept for throwdowns, the skipper replied: "Nahi yehin

pe aur 10 minute bat karoonga" No I will bat here for another

The skipper devoted extra time for Mukesh and it seemed he was giving tips on wrist position and the length that he needs to

hit on a regular basis. Mukesh has been consistently playing domestic cricket and is one of the biggest reasons for Bengal featuring in two Ranji

Trophy finals in three years. On the day, he did ask a few probing questions of the Indian case for himself for the

Newlands game. MHAMBŘEY WORKS ON PRASIDH'S LENGTH: It will be a huge surprise if Prasidh Krishna, after his forgettable debut, gets a chance to play in the next Test.

Far from being Test match ready, it was time for him to get back to the drawing board.

Prasidh didn't bowl to any batters at the nets as the lanky man from Bengaluru sought to figure out what's the right length to hit in South African conditions. Bowling coach Paras Mhambrey paid singular attention to

Prasidh during the 75 odd minutes that he bowled at the nets. Mhambrey kept three lengths for the pacer. First, two horizontal blue strips

on 10 metre length (short), then two red chip type on 6-8 metre length (back of length) and two parallel yellow strips on good length (around 4 metre). Prasidh was asked to hit each of those lengths on a regular basis. He wasn't always successful and

it was evident that he is not ready for the big test yet.

ADEJA LOOKED FULLY 10 minutes). FIT: Ravindra Jadeja looked completely fit as he bowled and hatted comfortably for a consid erable amount of time, allaying fears about whether he can take part in the must-win second

Jadeja bowled for close to 45 minutes alongside Ashwin. He seemed to be bowling quick as he made Rohit defend a few deliveries hurriedly.

and upright while playing some

punchy drives. SHARDUL INJURY SCARE. IAISWAL SCRATCHY: Shardul Thakur while batting got a nasty hit on the left shoulder while facing throwdowns from

fielding coach T Dilip. While he completed the session, he was seen wearing an ice pack sling to lessen the bruise.

He might not need scans as it was learnt that it's not very serious but it will be interesting to see how long the pain takes to subside.

Meanwhile, Yashasvi Jaiswal looked a bit scratchy and at times seemed annoyed, loudly admonishing himself after being beaten once.

At another time, he couldn't deal with Raghu's searing pace while facing throwdowns as the bat came down late and the stumps went for a toss.

His closest competitor Abhimanyu Easwaran looked better in the nets but he is unlikely to pip Jaiswal to the opening slot.



Shardul gets hit on shoulder at net practice

PTI ■ CENTURION

¬he Indian team on Saturday I received an injury scare after seam bowling all-rounder Shardul Thakur suffered a blow on his shoulder at nets while bat-

There is the possibility of him missing the second Test in Cape Town beginning on January 3 but the extent of the hit could be ascertained through scanning if required.

At this moment, it couldn't be confirmed if his injury warrants

But Thakur was in considerable discomfort and couldn't bowl during the net session. Thakur, who was the first play-

er to enter the throwdown nets, facing throwdowns from fielding coach T. Dilip.

It happened around 15 minutes into the net session when Rathour delivered a throwdown that kicked up from length. It had Thakur in a tangle like it happened in the second innings of the first Test when pacer

Kagiso Rabada generated an edge for David Bedingham to complete a catch. Here too, Thakur couldn't fend

the short ball that hit his leading shoulder (left) and he immediately shrieked in pain. But the Mumbai all-rounder

continued batting in the nets. Once he finished batting, the physio put an ice pack sling around his shoulder and he didn't take any further part in the nets.

This might be a simple bruise but it will be interesting to see how quickly the injury subsides. Thakur was a big disappointment in the first Test having given away over 100 runs in just 19 overs and was below par with the bat as well.

Warner is not selector, we will consider Green for opening slot: Aussies coach

David Warner might have endorsed Marcus Harris as his successor for opening slot in Tests, but Australia head coach Andrew McDonald said they are considering a lot more options and Cameron Green is also in contention Warner will retire from Test

cricket after the third match against Pakistan at Sydney beginning on January 3. There have been a lot of debates as to who should replace Warner

at pole position with the names of Harris, Green, Matt Renshaw and Cameron Bancroft doing the rounds. "Davey's not a selector. I remember back to when Davey endorsed Matt Renshaw so I think the next one will probably be Cam Bancroft and then Cameron Green and he'll have all bases covered.

"But it's great when a fellow player endorses someone else inter-nally. It means that they've prob-ably excluded other players as well, but he was asked his opinion and we're happy with him expressing that," McDonald was



quoted

ESPNCricinfo. Australia's next Test assignment is against West Indies and McDonald said a decision on Warner's successor will be taken well in time for that series.

'All options will be considered. We're not going to make the decision until the deadline. which will be the West Indies

game. "Cameron Green, as a discussion

around who are the best six batters, has definitely been in the conversation," McDonald said. McDonald also confirmed that Warner will miss the ODIs and T20Is against the Windies in early February in order to play for the Dubai Capitals in the ILT20 in the UAE

He said Cricket Australia has been looking into the NOC (No-Objection Certificate) request of Warner.

Pacer Coetzee ruled out of 2nd Test Vs India

PTI CENTURION

South African pacer Gerald Coetzee has been ruled out of the second Test against India starting January 3 in Cape Town after suffering from pelvic

inflammation. The 23-year-old developed the inflammation during the opening Test here and the discomfort only worsened as he gradually bowled further in the match which ended within three days. Fast bowler Gerald Coetzee will miss the second Betway Test against India after developing pelvic inflammation during the first Test at SuperSport Park," Cricket South Africa wrote on

Coetzee could bowl only five giving away 28 runs before his side dismantled India by an innings and 32 runs. He finished with figures of one for 74 during the first innings.

The pacer had gone for scans on Friday, which showed the extent of the injury.

Although no replacement has been announced yet by Cricket South Africa, head coach Shukri Conrad has deemed Coetzee's rest "as a precautionary measure".

Coetzee is the second South African cricketer to be ruled out of the series after skipper Temba Bayuma suffered the same fate, picking up a hamstring injury

Dean Elgar, who is playing his Mulder.

ing Test allows it to lead the World Test Championship 2023-

PCB to take up Rizwan dismissal during Melbourne Test with ICC

PTI KARACHI

fter the controversial dismissal of Mohammed After the controversial dismissal of Mohammed Rizwan in the second Test against Australia, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to take up issues pertaining to umpiring and use of technology with the International Cricket Council

On Friday, the on-field umpire refused to give Rizwan out after Australian captain and pacer Pat Cummins appealed for a caught behind, but the home side managed to overturn the decision through the DRS. However, the Pakistan camp was less than happy

about the reversal of the decision after the 'Snickometer' showed a spike on it when the ball was just above the wrist of Rizwan. A reliable source within the PCB said its head Zaka

Ashraf had a conversation with team director Mohammed Hafeez, who conveyed some points to him about the umpiring and the use of technology during the Melbourne Test which they lost by 79 runs. Now, the PCB is all set to raise those points with the global governing body. All rules and regulations governing cricket and

the use of technology on the field is approved by the ICC Executive Board after being vetted by the MCC Cricket Committee and ICC Cricket Committee.

Hafeez was visibly upset during the post-match press conference at the MCG on Friday, while stressing on the need to highlight inconsistent umpiring and the challenges of technology which



had influenced the outcome of the Test.

'If you look at the entire game, there were very inconsistent decisions by the umpires. We play this beautiful game of cricket with natural instinct, and we all know the basics of the game.

However, at times, it feels like the focus is more on technology than on the actual cricket being played. I believe this is an area that needs to be addressed," he Hafeez had said.

The former also reiterated the need for clarity and certainty in the sport. "I am not against technology in the game. But if it brings doubt and confusion, it is not acceptable. Some decisions were not understandable. The ball hitting the stumps is always out. I will never understand why there is an umpire's call," he detailed.

final international series, will be leading the side in Cape Town. As for Coetzee's replacement, South Africa can go to fellow pacers Lungi Ngidi and Wiaan South Africa's win in the open-

25 table with a 100% record.

No climate for cricket: How global warming putting heat on NZ summer game

THE CONVERSATION - AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND)

The recently concluded men's Cricket World Cup in India reached record audiences. But there was one thing the organisers did not want those viewers to see (other than India's defeat by Australia in the final): cricket's own climate crisis. Along with battling heat and humidity, players were forced to contend with unhealthy air created by pollutants from vehicles, factories and construction, and aggravated by increased temperatures in 20 of the

As Indian captain Rohit Sharma remarked, "It is not ideal and everyone knows that.'

47 matches.

The United Nations describes the threat more forcefully. Secretary-General António Guterres has warned the world is on a "catastrophic path" to a "hellish future". It is a future that threatens the very viabil-

ity of cricket.

CRICKET AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS: As an outdoor summer game in which the natural environment plays a unique role, cricket is perhaps the pitch sport most at risk from a changing climate.

Increased temperatures and heat waves threaten the safety of players and spectators, as well as the preparation and maintenance of playing Equally, cricket is vulnerable to

higher risks of drought and flooding. Air pollution, especially in the Indian subcontinent, continues to cloud the game. The threat is compounded by the

precarious regions in which cricket played. Bangladesh and Pakistan · where New Zealand's Black Caps played their past two overseas Test series — are ranked seventh and eighth respectively for vulnerability

on the Climate Risk Index. At the same time, cricket is not mere-

ly a potential victim of the climate crisis, it is a contributor to it.

While it lags behind other sports in calculating its environmental impact, cricket is a resource-heavy game. Preparation of a cricket field requires around 60,000 litres of water a day. An expanding international touring schedule means regular long-haul flights. One of the few existing studies esti-

mated an Indian Premier League match produced about 10,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Overall, cricket's carbon footprint is substantial. SPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY:

For a game facing a potential existential crisis, cricket's sustainability efforts have been slow by comparison with other sports. In line with the Paris Agreement, the International Olympic Committee

Olympics will be "climate positive". Both FIFA and World Rugby have sustainability plans, as do Formula One and most American sports leagues, including the NBA. Sail GP has committed to a 50 per cent reduction in direct and indirect even has an "Impact League" that carbon emissions by 2030, and promised the 2032 Brisbane measures environmental mitigation

While some scepticism might be warranted — FIFA held a World Cup in oil-rich Qatar, and the 2030 men's tournament will be held across two continents — at least the intent is clear.

By contrast, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has not published a

sustainability strategy. Of its full members, only the England and Wales Cricket Board has such a plan. Of the more than 200 sporting organisations to sign up to the UN's Sports for Climate Action Framework - which requires participants to halve emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by 2040 - only six are cricketing entities, and most are in England.

INACTION IN NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand Cricket (NZC) is as silent on climate as many of its global counterparts. Environmental sustainability does not appear in NZC strategy documents.

At the same time, its 2022-23 annual report laments that less than half of all scheduled recreational fixtures could be played in some areas due to rain and flooding. It also notes the "cyclones, floods and related civil emergencies" that caused these can-

cellations were "well beyond its

son could be the hottest yet. Following the devastating floods in Auckland in early 2023, a drought is possible this summer. Heat waves are becoming more persistent and more dangerous Cricket is not made for such extremes. At a time when game is

New Zealand's 2023-24 cricket sea-

struggling to attract participants, climate change is making it harder for recreational cricketers to play. New Zealand Cricket's mission state ment states: "We think ahead and

pay it forward. It's about doing the right things for the best reasons. Leading the way, and following our own path. We never give up, give in, or say die." It may be time to apply those

admirable sentiments to its response to the climate crisis. The first step would be to sign up to the UN Sport for Climate Action Framework - and get some sustainability runs on the

New Year 20



Vikram Vintage I Nainital SERVICES & FACILITES:

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- Wi-fi
- Laundry
- Doctor on Call Courtesy City
- Transportation
- Private Parking Billiards Table Tennis
- Indoor Games
- Horse Riding
- Boating/Yatching/Trekking

VINTAGE INN:

Mallital, Nainital-263001 (Uttarakhand) India Tele Fax: 05942-236177, 236179 E-mail: reservation@vintage.in.com, Website: www.vikramvintage.in.com Afzal Hussain Fauji Nainital

The celestial beauty of Nainital reaches its zenith during the wintertime when columns of puffy, white puffy,

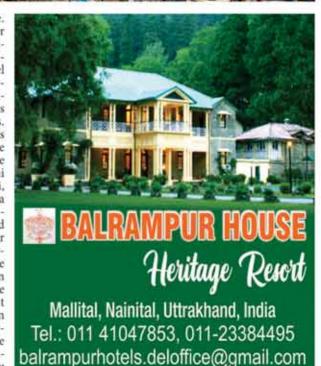
clouds, found floating in the sapphire-blue sky, seem eager to kiss and embrace the lush green valleys stretched along horizon. Nainital with its bewitching charm beckons tourists all the year round, but the chill in the

air felt in the winter days makes the picturesque Nainital even more invit-

ing. If it showers a little the yearning of the people. Winter tourism has other air is freshened up, adding to the alluring beauty of the advantages too for the visitors as they can enjoy con-siderable rebate in hotel charges and tax rates, par-ticularly during the Christlake town. One may get lost in the transcendental beauty lying in the snow-capped landscapes. Snow View and Tiffin Top seem mas and New Year's Eve, as to take on different hues compared to other times. Further, the place is not as crowded as it is during the during the wintertime. There are a host of sites worth seeing for tourists like the Raj Bhavan, Cave summer days. Among the hotels in Nainital, Shervani Garden, Himalaya Dar-Hilltop, Manu Maharani, Vikram Vintage, Alka Hotel, Naini Retreat, Primshan, Hanumangarhi and Lovers' Point. Boating in the Naini Lake during the rose, Welcome Park and day and sauntering on the Channi Raja offer their Mall Road in the evening own specialties. Considerare quite popular with the ing all these aspects, those tourists. The major shrines, looking for a good time in

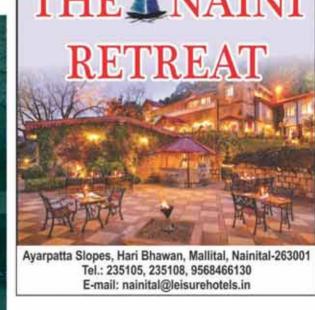
a good place should visit Nainital this wintertime. State governalong ment with the hospitality fraternity has taken possible measures to ensure a perfect environment for the

visitors to celebrate the New Year's advent amidst the Himalayan screnity.



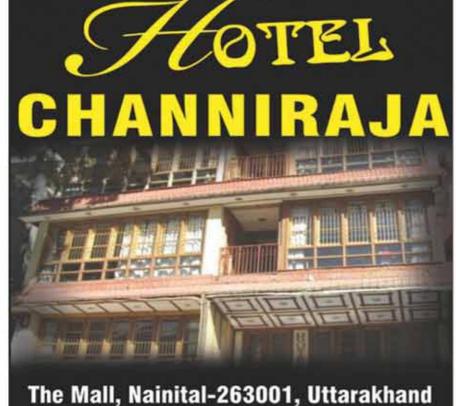


THE ANAINI

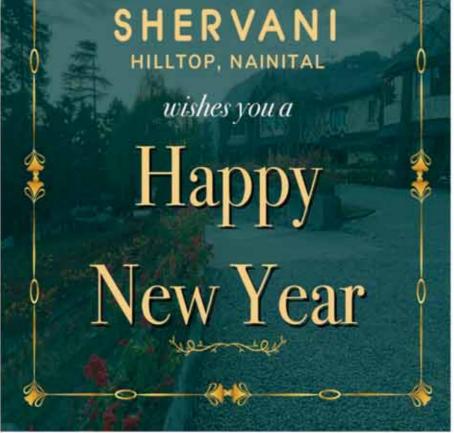


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including Naina Devi tem-

ple and Hanumangarhi,

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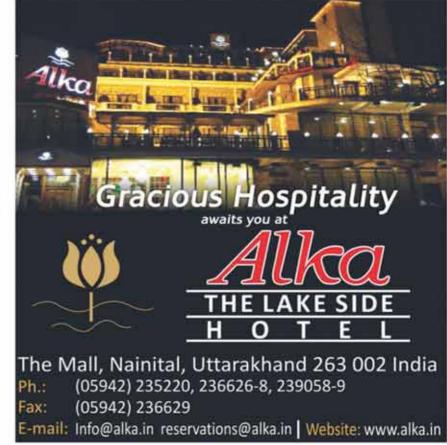
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"You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but





Make your body divine's abode and there will be peace and bliss

GURUSP



SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR Spiritual Guru



hat is home? Home is a place where you are at rest. Where you can be yourself and feel comfortable. For me, the entire world is my home. Wherever I go, I feel the same belongingness with the people. The whole world is my family, my home.

I want every home to be like an ashram. Ashram means where there is no shram (effort); where all the efforts, all the strains of the mind, heart and body drop. All the fears, insecurities, stress, everything drops and you experience deep rest. Every home should be like an ashram.

People dream of beautiful homes. They spend so much time, money and energy decorating and re-designing their houses; or they keep changing homes. Yet they are not at rest. You can be at rest only when you are comfortable first within yourself.

The first step is to relax and the last step is to relax as well! The most relaxing or comfortable place is right within you. Repose in that peaceful, cool, calm, serene depth of your being - this is immensely valuable and precious. Book yourself in this most beautiful, most comfortable home in the whole universe. Bring the mind which is all over the place, back to its source. Welcome home! It is only when you come home to yourself that every place looks beautiful and you feel that every place is your own home. Then wherever you go, you add beauty and bring comfort to others.

When you are unhappy or tired, even sweet things are nauseating, music is disturbing, and the moon is irritating. When you are calm and centred, clouds are magical, rain is liquid sunshine and even noise is music. So it is important to take proper rest. But when can you rest? Rest is possible only when you have stopped all other activities. When you stop moving around, when you stop working, thinking, talking, seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, when all these voluntary activities stop, then you get rest. In sleep, you are left with only involuntary activities like breathing, the heartbeat, digestion and blood circulation. But this is not total rest. When the mind settles down, it has come back home. That is when one gets deep rest and this happens in meditation. Right now you are on the doorstep. You are

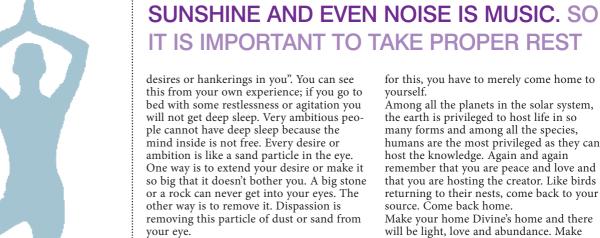
locked out of your own house. Bang on your inner door. Do not delay a moment. All wealth is within you. When your inner door opens, there is love, joy, peace and comfort. As long as desires linger in your mind, you cannot be at total rest. You cannot be at

Sri Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, "You cannot get into Yoga unless you drop the



WHEN YOU ARE CALM AND CENTRED,

CLOUDS ARE MAGICAL, RAIN IS LIQUID



Just let go of everything. The best way to do this is to feel that "the world is disappearing or dissolving...and feel that you are dead!" Unless you feel that, you cannot meditate or feel complete rest. For many, the mind doesn't settle even after death. Wise are those who can settle their minds while alive! And

for this, you have to merely come home to yourself.

Among all the planets in the solar system, the earth is privileged to host life in so many forms and among all the species, humans are the most privileged as they can host the knowledge. Again and again remember that you are peace and love and that you are hosting the creator. Like birds returning to their nests, come back to your source. Come back home.

Make your home Divine's home and there will be light, love and abundance. Make your body Divine's abode and there will be peace and bliss. Feel your mind as a toy of the Divine and you'll watch and enjoy all its games. See this world as play and as a display of Divine Himself and you will repose in the non-dual self, which is your home!

TRACKING POLIO VIRUS IN PID CHILD

India will roll out the world's first nationwide screening from January 1, 2024, to ascertain whether the vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) is present in any child with primary immune deficiency (PID), a rare class of hereditary diseases, that can pose a threat to the polio eradication programme, reports ARCHANA JYOTI

A VDPV is a rare variant that mutates from the strain contained in the oral polio vaccine (OPV). India reported its last polio case from Howard district in case from Howrah district in WestBengal on January 13, 2011. A year later the World HealthOrganization removed India from the list of 'endemic countries withactive poliovirus transmission'

Presently, the primary means for detecting poliovirus is • through acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance, which is supplemented by environmental surveillance of sewage sam-

However, there are threats of spillover of VDPV from immunodeficiency (iVDPV) children into the community. Hence, the need to screen all the patients with combined immunodeficiency has been felt to detect poliovirus excretion and intermittent follow-up of their immune parameters if found positive.

"The aim is to check the risk of iVDPV excretion in the polio eradication endgame strategy. There have been various individual studies where PID kids have been found to be carrier of the VDP," scientists said. The screening will go a long way in ensuring the prevention of paralytic poliomyelitis in such kids besides better management of identified. In collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-National Institute of Virology,(NIV), Mumbai and WHO, from January 1, 2024, the Sentinel site-based iVDPVs surveillance will be initiated at 21 premier health research institutes (see Box) in the 15 States. Stool tests of all PID children admitted/new cases will be investigated.

A study on "Long-term poliovirus excreters in India", led by a team of researchers led by senior scientist Madhu Chanda Mohanty from ICMR lab NIV and WHO, has paved the way for this decision, officials in the Union HealthMinistry said. "To mitigate the individual and community risks posed by iVDPVs during the polio endgame and the post-eradication era, it is important to identify those PID patients excreting polioviruses and provide the strategies and treatments available to rid both the individual and the community of the risk posed by iVDPVs," Dr Pawan Kumar, Additional Commissioner (Imm) from the Union Health Ministry said in a recent letter to the officials at the identified sites. Other countries on the high risk for poliovirus transmission radar are also gearing up to launch similar screening their genetic diseases once program. Scientists explain that



individuals with PID can excrete polioviruses(iVDPVs) for pro-longed periods, which could act as a source of transmission of pathogens for months and go undetected by acute flaccid paralysis surveillance which is detected by symptoms like paralysis. The official from the Union Health Ministry highlight that this risk increases when people/kids with PIDs receive the OPV.

"People with PIDs cannotmount an adequate immune response to clear the weakened poliovirus from their gut. This means they shed the virus for long time because of a prolonged period of intestinal replication and increase the risk of mutation into a VDPV that can cause polio in unvaccinated people and others susceptible to the virus." In this connection, under nationwide surveillance, PID children will be screened for the pathogen. Taking the lead, the Noida-based Post Graduate Institute of Child Health (PGICH), Noida in UttarPradesh, one of the WHOidentified 21 centers in India for PID screening recently conducted a high-level sensitization workshop on how to diagnose such cases and send samples for polio surveillance. The institute has registered more than 100 cases of PID and is providing treatment ranging from IVIG to Bone marrow transplantation. The meeting was conducted by Dr Arun Kumar, National Professional Officers(NPO), WHO country office, Dr Rajesh Kumar, SRTL, WHO, Dr Tanveer, SurveillanceMedical Officers (SMO), National Polio Surveillance Program alongwith the Department of Pediatric Haematology

Oncology, Noida.

Dr Nita Radhakrishnan from the Department of Pediatric Haematology Oncology, PGICH) explained the participation of th pants including pediatricians how to suspect and diagnose PID kids, many of whom are often picked up latebecause of late referral from primary care centers. The surveyors will counsel guardians of these patients to give stool samples to ascertain their virological status.Prof Dr AK Singh congratulated the WHO team on this effort and extended all support for this rollout from the institute. "Integration of IVDP related surveillance with acute flaccid paralysis surveillance of the existing poliovirus network will enhance continuous screening of patients with PID in the future," said the officials. The proposed integration follows the lessons learnt from a fouryear-longWHO-ICMR collaborative research project on iVDPV in India. In fact, a study was conducted at seven sites at different medical institutes in India from January2020 to December 2021, enrolling patients with identified PID. Based on the lessons learnt, a set of protocol has been preparedto ensure uniformity in its implementation across sites. The immunological parameters such as cytokine responses and anti-polio antibody titers responsible for enterovirus replication and virus clearance will also be investigated.

However, some of the challenges that the program is likely to face are cases where parents residing in remote areas finding inconvenient to travel to hospital sites to deposit stool samples. Another challenge will be the poor financial status of families which deters them from followup hospital visits for expensive treatment such as BMT after diagnosis of PID in their child, said the experts.

- Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow. Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for
- Children, Mumbai. Indian Council of Medical Research National Institute of
- Immunohaematology, Mumbai. Calicut Medical College, Kozhikode.
- Aster CMI, Bangalore. Kasturba Medical College,
- Mangalore.

 Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences,
- Hyderabad. Post Graduate Institute of Medical
- Education & Research, Chandigarh. Dr Rajendra Prasad Government
- Medical College, Kangra. Sawai Maan Singh Medical College,
 - AIIMS, Rishikesh. Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute
- of Medical Sciences, Lucknow.
- King George's Medical University,
 Lucknow.
- Super Speciality Hospital, Noida. AIIMS, Bhopal, Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar. AIIMS-Bhubaneswar.
- Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati.
- Apollo Hospitals, Chennai. Institute of Child Health, Chennai.
- Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research, Puducherry. Christian Medical College, Vellore.

DON'T IGNORE SAD

Seasonal changes deeply impact human life and can directly affect a person's physical and mental

In Ayurveda, there is a detailed description of different foods and lifestyles for six different seasons so that we can remain healthy in every season.

But knowingly or unknowingly, we violate the Ayurvedic principles of diet and lifestyle

according to the season resulting in various types of mental and physical problems. One of these is seasonal affective disorder (SAD) or seasonal depression. It is a type of depression, which is usumental health disorder, a person feels

The main causes of SAD include changes in weather, lack of enjoying sunlight regularly for long periods, lack of physical activity due to shivering weather, and changes in hormones like melatonin and serotonin in the human body. These changes can affect a person's mood, performance, and sleep. Symptoms of this disease may include sadness, lack of energy, trouble sleeping, irregular eating habits, and disin-

terest in social activities. This problem starts from the beginning of autumn and continues till the arrival



this, under which the person is made to sit in sunlight or a chamber with high-intensity light in the absence of sunlight.

of spring. A holistic approach should be

Additionally, practicing yoga and meditation, exercising regularly, eating healthy foods, and improving daily routines prove to be quite helpful. A person suffering from this prob-

Herbs like Ashwagandha, Shatavar, Mandukaparni, Brahmi etc. are used for its treatment. Ayurvedic medicines like

Shirodhara therapy under Panchakarma treatment is highly beneficial. However,

Holistic steps to end woes of SCI patients Effective communication between patients and healthcare providers can help in improved treatment

adherence and overall health outcomes, researchers from Amity University find after conducting a study on the challenges of community inclusion of persons with spinal cord injury (SCI) in the Indian population

The study "Barriers to the community inclusion of individuals with Spinal Cord Injury' by Dr Meenakshi Mohan and Prof Roumi Deb, Department of Anthropology, Amity University, Noida also provides significant insights into the concepts, interrelationships among various factors, and challenges faced by SCI individuals during community

The findings hold importance as these shed light on how individcare systems within their respective socio-cultural, economic, and demographic contexts.

The authors noted that most of the participants who sustained spinal cord injuries were in the age range of 18-40 years, i.e., the period of 'prime of life'. "This age group is significant as its members are highly productive and often act as breadwinners for their families," said Dr Mohan.

The Consultation of Relational Empathy scale (CARE) was employed to understand the patient-provider relationship from



DR MEENAKSHI MOHAN Amity University, Noida

the patient's perspective. To ensure participant ease, the scale was translated and validated in

The findings revealed that challenges such as limited accessibility to local transportation, uneven and narrow paths, inadequate public toilets, inappropriate wheelchairs, unemployment, financial constraints, negative attitudes, commiseration, and inferiority complex were commonly reported by individuals

On the other hand, Dr Deb point-



PROF ROUMI DEB Department of Anthropology, Amity University, Noida

ed out that coping strategies and facilitators like spirituality, religiosity, and support from family and friends played a vital role in reintegrating SCI individuals into the community.

Barriers and facilitators play contrasting roles in the lives of SCI

Barriers represent weaknesses, while facilitators represent strengths, the authors said.

The active involvement of individuals with SCI and their families in the rehabilitation team is crucial for gaining a comprehen-

sive understanding of the injury's impact and alleviating the psychological burden associated with it. The study also highlights the paramount importance of patient

satisfaction and its role in sustain-

ing the patient-provider relation-According to the authors, empathy and holistic care emerged as

significant factors in the patientprovider relationship and communication within a clinical context. indicating a significant relationholistic care, and the quality of life in SCI patients. A positive association was found

between the quality of life and the patient-provider relationship. This suggests that SCI individuals who reported positive and satisfactory consultations with healthcare professionals also reported a better quality of life, and vice versa. However, these findings indicate room for improvement in various aspects of healthcare delivery, including consultation content, quality, and the overall patientprovider relationship for indi-

Additionally, the study underscored the substantial impact of socio-economic status on the patientprovider relationship. The findings demonstrated that individuals with a stable socioeconomic status exhibited more appropriate health-seeking behavior and reported higher satisfaction with their healthcare professionals.

Therefore, the study suggested a pervasive need to enhance patient-centered care, incorporatthy. "This not only enhances selfawareness and self-confidence but also instills optimism in individuals facing chronic disabilities such as SCI.'

Furthermore, it enables healthcare professionals to gain profound insights into how an illness affects a person's overall life and their unique requirements. By promoting a balanced integration of the mind, body, emotions, and spirit within a dynamic setting, patient-centered care nurtures comprehensive well-being, said

healthy lifestyle. sad, lonely, tired, and less energetic.

Chief Medical Officer (Ayurveda)

Municipal Corporation of Delhi

Brahm Rasayan, Ashwagandhadi Avaleh, Shatavaryadi Churna, Saraswat Churna, Brahmi Ghrit, Jatamansyadi Kwath etc. are especially beneficial in the treatment of this disease.

it is necessary that after identifying the symptoms of this disease, help and treatment of the patient should be started immediately so that the disease does not progress further.

BOOK REVIEW

A collection of utterly-butterly delicious stories

economic influences of the Malayalam short stories that shaped literature in Kerala

Writer AJ THOMAS gives the reader an overarching perspective of the socio-cultural, political and

By Kumar Chellappan

Short story is the world's most popular literary medium and it evolved alonFg with human civilization. But the first-ever recorded short story is "The Two Drovers" authored by Walter Scott and published in a magazine by name Chronicles of the Canongate in the year 1827. This is what Scottish novelist-cum-short story writer William Boyd claims in the literary magazine Prospect. Even if the argument by Boyd has to

be debated and discussed, the fact remains that the medium of short story in its published form is a comparatively new form of literature. People's passion for listening to or reading real life experiences knows no bounds. What started as recounting the unique experiences encountered by people in their daily pursuit for food and clothing after each day's hard job evolved into a popular culture and it took the name of a short story. Though described as a short story, it need not be short at all. In the published form, it could be dozens of

Îndia's contribution to the genre of short stories could have its origin in Panchathanthra or Hitopadesha stories. The initiation into the world of short stories begins in India with our own 'Panchathanthra' or 'One Thousand And One Nights' (Arabian Nights), folk tales from West Asia. Later in the short stories evolved

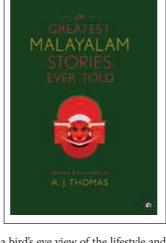
along with periodicals and publications as this form of literature turned out to be an unavoidable ingredient in these publications. Renowned magazines including Readers' Digest promoted the short stories in a big way. It is not an exaggeration to say that the short story speaks a lot about the culture, customs and traditions of

the country of its origin. In India, a country of 28 States and eight union territories with 22 official languages, there are multitudes of traditions and art forms. It is quite natural that each region has their own stories to tell. Publication of Malavalam short stories dates back to the early half of the 18th century and from the word go, the pioneers in this literature genre have not disappointed the readers. While the earlier stories centered on humor and real human interest incidents, a marked change in style and substance stands

out in stories published in later

years. Oduvil Kunhikrishna Menon, Vengayil Kunhiraman Nayanar, Moorkothu Kumaran and the likes wrote stories to entertain the readers. The next generation storytellers like Keshava Dev, PC Kuttykrishnan (Uroob), Thakazhi Shivasankara Pillai , SK Pottekkad , M T Vasudevan Nair (the last three were honored with Jnanapeetha Awards) Madhavi Kutty (Kamala Das), VKN, Vaikom Muhammed Basheer, M Sukumaran, Ponkunnam Varkey, and OV Vijayan presented the readers with new experiences and stories that smell of the blood and sweat of the people constituting the society in which they Though the new generation writers categorize the above-mentioned

authors as representing the outdated ones and pat themselves on their shoulders as the spokespersons of post-modern/ultra-modern literature, it has to be said that stories written by Keshava Dev, Thakazhi etc remain engraved in the mind while the ultra-modern authors have disappointed the readers. Short stories each language and region offer us



a bird's eye view of the lifestyle and character of the people constituting the region.

"Greatest Malayalam Stories Ever Told" is a collection of short stories by the crème de la crème of writers in Malayalam, selected and translated by A J Thomas, poet, editor and translator, all rolled into one. The col-

lection has stories by Karoor Neelakanta Pillai, the doyen among Malayalam story telling who initiated a revolution by writing about the lives and times of the proletarian section, P Keshava Dev, the writer who elevated the readers to new heights of the possibilities of literature through his novels and short stories. The stories by Karoor had artisans and lower primary teachers as its protagonists while Dev wrote about the members of the proletarian society. Dev's characters were daily wage earners, porters, rickshaw pullers and vegetable vendors. He was the first writer in Malayalam to focus on the trials and tribulations of this class. Ponkunnam Varkey was a born rebel and had staged a running battle with the Church, clergy and the evil side of capitalism. What made these writers and others

like VKN, MT Vasudevan Nair, Kovilan, is the power with which their works got engraved on our hearts. To put it more clearly, the stories and novels authored by them remind us of the slogan "utterly butterly delicious", coined by Sylvester da Cunha

to sell Amul butter to the world. The campaign launched in 1966 remains as fresh and lively even after 57 years. This is how we can describe the stories by these veteran writers. They had the advantage of having first-hand experience about life with which they crafted short stories and novels. But the later generation failed to deliver the kind of works which were done by their predecessors. The ultra-modern stories are written

to sell and manage to win literary awards in contrast to the works of the older generation. They wrote about pain and agony and disappointments and dejections which could be comprehended by those who could read and write. The same is not the case with the new generation authors who figure in this collection. They are not writing stories, but performing some kind of jugglery with words and sentences. The Malayalam literary world is undergoing a phase of stag-

Coming back to some of the stories that Thomas has translated as greatest Malayalam stories, yes, they will remain so long as the

Malayalam language flourishes. The 'World Renowned Nose' by Basheer is a classic example of simplicity and intellectual honesty. Written in 1954, the TWRN and Mr Mookken retain the charm and remains eternally fresh. Stories by Dev, Thakazhi, Varkey, Kovilan, VKN, T Padmanabhan, M P Narayana Pillai etc too would make it to any selection of the best Malayalam stories ever written. The draw back with VKN's works is that though they are of global standards, it is a tough job to translate the same to English unless and until one is that fluent in English. This has been proved beyond doubt in the story 'Lunch' in which the protagonist Payyan says to himself "Ya don't have to laugh, madame, Ya don't have to ... ' Those who are well-versed in Malayalam as well as the unique VKN touch may be able to make out what the author intends but to convey the idea through translation is a tough task. For those who have not read these authors, the work by Thomas is an

opportunity to feel and experience the Malayalam short stories as the translator has done a reasonably good job by not tampering with the originals. Let more and more translations from other languages enrich



Stateless and homeless in Kurdistan

the geography, polity, and economy of West Asia, especially the sovereign countries of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. The Kurdish people are largely scattered across these four countries in the region. For centuries, people belonging to numerous ethnicities have migrated, settled, and many have naturally inhabited West Asia, such as Persians, Arabs, Turks, Armenians, Azeris, Chechens, etc. Unfortunately, the Kurds are the only ones who have remained stateless to

The Kurds are sometimes regarded as the largest nation without its own independent country. About 25-35 million of them live in the mountainous regions that straddle the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Armenia. The Kurds are probably the fourth largest ethnic group in the West Asian region without a state. They are one of the most widely known indigenous peoples belonging to the ancient Mesopotamian Plains and Highlands. Today, they are mainly scattered over Southeastern Northeastern Syria, Northern Iraq, Northwestern Iran, and Southwestern Armenia. As a result, they lay claim to all these territories currently under the

nations. The history of Kurdistan traces back to the historic Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, under which West Asia was divided into separate zones of British and French influence. After the First World War, the Treaty of Sèvres was signed in 1920, proposing the creation of an autonomous Kurdish state as part of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. However, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the new leader of Turkey, outrightly rejected the Treaty of

Sèvres and the demand for an

occupation of five sovereign

The history of Kurdistan is independent Kurdistan. This deeply intertwined with treaty was replaced by the treaty was replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne, negotiated with the Turkish Government, which made no mention of the Kurdistan state. Since then, Kurds across the five nationstates of Turkey, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Armenia have raised the banner of revolt for an independent homeland.

By January 22, 1946, Kurds in Iran established the Republic of Mahabad during the Second World War when it was under the control of the USSR.

After the withdrawal of Soviet troops, Iran took control of Mahabad in December 1946. Mustafa Barzani, considered the "Father of Kurdish nationalism", established the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq on August 16, 1946, while in exile in Mahabad. Later, it was renamed the Kurdistan Democratic Party, becoming the most dominant political party among Kurds until the 1970s in Iraq.

By 1961, under Barzani's leadership, Iraqi Kurds began their rebellion against the Baathist regime of Baghdad for not fulfilling the demand for autonomy. In 1962, Syria stripped 120,000 Kurds of their citizenship. Hafez al-Assad's regime established an Arab Belt along the border of Turkey in 1973 by displacing thousands of Kurds. In 1974, the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was established under the leadership of Abdullah Ocalan. It is a Marxist organisation aiming to establish an independent Kurdistan in the southeastern part of Turkey. Since 1984, the PKK has been using violent tactics to

fight the Turkish state. Thereafter, the Kurds found themselves in a disadvantageous position with the signing of the Algiers Accord between Iraq and Iran in 1975. As US funding came to an end and Kurdish territory in Northern Iraq was occupied, the Kurdish the killing of more than



rebellion suffered a significant setback. Following the collapse of the rebellion, Kurdish fighters were divided into two groups: the original group under Barzani remained, but branding him as a reactionary, Jalal Talabani formed the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Sorani-speaking areas of Central Iraq.

From 1970 to 1990, the Kurds fought in both Iraq and Iran, but they could hardly force the respective regimes to yield to their demands. The worst came in Iraq when Saddam Hussein launched the "Kurdish Genocide" in 1988, resulting in

1,80,000 Kurds. On March 16 of the same year, he unleashed a mustard and sarin gas attack on the Kurds in the town of Halabja, killing about 5,000 of them. Even after the Iranian Revolution of 1979, under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Kurds were tortured and completely sidelined in Iran.

With the US-led Operation Provide Comfort and later Operation Northern Watch against Saddam's regime in Iraq, nearly a million fleeing Kurds came back home from Turkey and Iran. They elected their first Kurdistan Regional Government and National Assembly in 1992. Since then, until the rise of the Islamic State in 2014, Kurdish parties and groups underwent massive changes and faced upheavals in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey but failed to achieve their independent homeland.

Interestingly, the US fully supported the Kurds in its war against the Islamic State in West Asia, particularly in Syria and Iraq. However, once the war came to an end and President Assad regained control over the major war zones of Syria with support from Iran and Russia, the Kurds found themselves still fighting an endless war with the hope

that someday, they will have an independent land.

The recent attack by Kurdish rebels and the killing of nearly 12 Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq have again highlighted the continued threat from the outlawed PKK. In response to the killings, the Turkish Army launched massive airstrikes and neutralised around 26 PKK fighters. Subsequently, dozens of pro-Kurdistan opposition activists were affected. The PKK has been designated as a terrorist group by Turkey, the US, and the European Union (EU). Almost anyone visiting and meeting the Kurds will hear

them quip that they are "no man's land" today. They are the largest group of inhabitants, numbering almost 40 million to date, without having a permanent state. Shockingly, the four major states where the Kurds particularly live — Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria all of them have either failed or not genuinely shown interest in conducting an apolitical census of the Kurd population. It is a matter of critical politi-

cal contestation in all these states, and the successive regimes in Ankara, Baghdad, Tehran, and Damascus have simply ignored the persistent attempts of the Kurds to establish themselves as a single political community for decades now.

Who is responsible for making the Kurds stateless? Can there be a permanent solution? Frankly, the Kurdish dream of an independent state needs support and compromise from Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. It is a very intricate issue because all these countries don't have a consensus on the demands of the Kurdish people and their leaders over the decades. The Kurds have remained homeless simply because of the initial division of West Asia by the European colonial powers and subsequent neglect by the regional rulers of their demands.

Furthermore, the Kurds have enough factions in all these countries, and they do not have a coherent strategy to fight the respective regimes. Today, they are seen as a threat to the territorial integrity of Turkey, Iraq, and Syria, though they have been living there for decades. So, the road ahead is long and arduous for the Kurds to attain their homeland in the days to come.

(The writer is currently the president of the Global Research

The history of **Kurdistan** is intricately woven into the fabric of West Asia, encompassing Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Home to the Kurds, the region's largest stateless ethnic group, they number around 35 million, dispersed across the aforementioned nations. Despite their significant presence, Kurds remain without a sovereign state, facing a complex history marked by geopolitical agreements, uprisings, and the enduring quest for autonomy.



MAKHAN SAIKIA

PERSPECTIVE —

Rising tide of climate refugees

In the wake of escalating climate change, a looming crisis unfolds as millions face displacement, transforming them into 'climate refugees'. From the perilous US-Mexico border crossings to the sinking Small Island Developing States, the impact reverberates globally, WRITE CHITRANGADA AND YASUDHARA

Climate change is real, and humanity is facing a potential threat. It has the power to reshape the planet Earth in the days to come, and we, as humans, are solely responsible for these unnatural changes. In April 2021, when the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released data, it highlighted that the number of people displaced by climate change-related disasters since 2010 has increased to 21.5 million. Furthermore, the Ecosystem Threat Register (ETR) released in September 2018 by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), an Australian think tank, stated that by 2050, around 1.2 billion people will be displaced by these climate-related threats. In 2018, when the UN adopted the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, it clearly stated that one of the factors causing largescale migration of people is the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation. Again, in March 2018, the UN Human Rights Council adopted an outcome document that strongly focused on cross-border movement of people brought about by climate crises from the angle of human rights protection.

The term "climate refugees" refers to climate-related migration. However, it is not adequately defined by global governance agencies like the UN or migration-related forums in the true sense of the term. The term was first coined to describe the growing largescale migration and cross-border mass movement of people affected by natural disasters. Climate refugees are now the world's forgotten victims, so to

speak. They are not receiving what they urgently deserve. One of the real dangers emerging from environmental chaos is the problem of "climate refugees" in many parts of the globe. It is affecting people from Mongolia to Mexico and from Iceland to South Africa. No one is left untouched. It has become a pandemic by now. The impact of climate change on migration is evolving each year. One such region experiencing significant changes is the US-Mexico border, where thousands of migrants arrive after traversing the "Darien Gap", risking their lives in the journey from Central America to the US. This route is considered one of the world's most perilous migration paths, where many migrants, including the weak, elderly, children, and women, lose their lives due to treacherous pathways and various natural hazards. Consequently, many of these migrants find it challenging to realise their coveted "American Dream" in reality.

Media reports and migration experts have been issuing warnings about the substantial increase in migrants to the US from poor, impoverished, and rapidly climate-changing Central American nations. The trend since 2010 is particularly alarming. In 2022, almost 2,50,000 people made the crossing, driven by economic and humanitarian disasters nearly double the figures from the previous year and 20 times the annual average from 2010 to 2020. Early data for 2023 indicates a six fold increase, with 87,390 people making the trek from January to March compared to 13,791 the previ-

ous year (Walsh et al., 2023).



This underscores the serious consideration of the Darien Gap by migrants seeking a brighter future in their home-

Another group of nations especially vulnerable to climate change is Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Fiji, etc. These countries face a daunting task in adjusting to the dynamics of climate change, particularly during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic slowdown in SIDS is compelling more people to migrate or abandon their native places, exacerbated by changing environmental conditions. Therefore, the 38

member states and 22 associate states designated as SIDS by the UN constitute a unique crisis, termed a "sink or swim" paradox, unlike other poor developing nations.

Environmental scientists and climate experts note that these states collectively contribute to less than one per cent of global carbon emissions. Despite their minimal contribution, the catastrophic effects of abnormal environmental changes render them virtually uninhabitable.

Therefore, SIDS are seeking avenues to raise awareness of their plight and gain global support, particularly financial assistance to urgently combat

the climate crisis. Indeed, the recent call for a "loss and damage" fund established at the COP-27 summit in 2022 could be one way to address climate disasters in developing nations, including SIDS. The issue of loss and damage is crucial for many developing nations, as they bear the brunt of environmental damages caused by advanced or developed nations. Loss refers to irretrievable losses such as human lives or the loss of species, while damages indicate things that are harmed but can be repaired or restored, such as roads and sea walls. This fund is expected to have a significant impact on climate refugees and their rehabilitation in the future.

What kind of policies could alleviate this issue? The realistic solution is to ensure that we no longer pollute and produce goods and services. However, this is not entirely feasible. What we can collectively do is reduce the level of consumption and, ultimately, our greed in all aspects of life.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been working with a longterm vision to address the issue of refugees, especially climate-displaced people. Currently, the UNHCR is engaged in 130 country operations, with regional wings spread across the world and its headquarters in Geneva. It is also focusing on 22 countries of

high concern until 2026.

To tackle the climate refugee issue, the UNHCR is working towards a vision for the year 2030. This vision is firmly rooted in the UNHCR's Strategic Directions of 2022-26 and aligned with the United

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The vision states: "By 2030, an increasing number of forcibly displaced and stateless people, fleeing from climate-fueled crises and/or living in climatevulnerable countries, find solutions, are protected and resilient to the impacts of climate change, and have the means to live self-sufficient lives." This vision is based on the Strategic Action for Climate Action launched in 2020 by the UNHCR itself. However, the new Strategic Plan for Action 2024-30 provides a clear roadmap to address the issue of climate refugees. These objec-

tives are: A. People who are compelled to flee across borders due to persecution, violence, and human rights violations arising from the adverse effects of climate change disasters are protected and safe. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aligns with governments, civil society organisations, academia, regional bodies, etc, to safeguard individuals who are victims of climate

B. Forcibly displaced and stateless people, along with their hosts, should have access to services promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and a clean, healthy environment. The primary objective here is to encourage governments and other entities to invest in environmentally sustainable public services for these displaced individuals.

C. People forced to flee, stateless individuals, and their hosts should be able to prepare for, withstand, recover from, and be protected against the impacts of climate change. This underscores that the UNHCR collaborates with host nations to ensure the protection and wellbeing of climate refugees, enabling them to lead safe

D. The UNHCR aims to minimise its own negative impacts on the environment. To reduce carbon footprints, the UNHCR utilises solar panels at its offices and endeavours to make its fleet entirely green. Its use of renewable energy resources aligns with the UN's broader commitment to "Greening the

Thus, the UNHCR is taking numerous steps to mitigate the impact of climate change on environmentally displaced people worldwide. However, joint action is crucial, as the UNHCR alone cannot achieve this. Migration is a global phenomenon, with climate-related dis-

placement being the most tragic. People leave their native lands and indigenous resources to go to either completely unknown distant lands or, again, to some inhabitable lands. It is certain their future is not secure. They are more vulnerable than before. It is time to shift our focus from reaction to action. Climate change is making our lives vulnerable.

(The writers are Research



























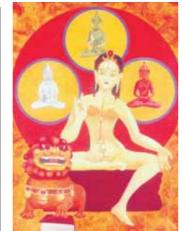




ARIES March 21-April 19

This week marks a significant phase for your financial and professional growth. Your leadership skills and astute decision-making are set to bring remarkable benefits, particularly in areas involving property and investments. Those in trading, real estate, and business ventures can expect a prosperous period, a testament to your dedication and hard work. Unexpected opportunities are on the horizon, potentially bringing lucrative proposals that may surprise you. Your approach to communication is modern and efficient, relying heavily on digital means due to your packed schedule, which leaves little room for in-person interactions. Towards the week's end, your focus will shift towards more introspective and altruistic activities. Engaging in acts of kindness, such as charitable endeavors and supporting those in need, will hold special significance for you.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Lavender Lucky day Tuesday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week starts with a burst of energy and enthusiasm for you. The efforts you've put into your projects recently are beginning to bear fruit, showing promising progress. Your dedication and active participation in these endeavors are evident. The support and encouragement from your close ones, especially family, play a significant role in boosting your morale. If you're involved in a joint venture or collaborative efforts, expect to see some fruitful outcomes. However, as the week progresses, stay vigilant about potential challenges or opposition. Plans made with family might need adjustment due to unforeseen circumstances demanding your attention. Prioritize your health; a routine check-up could be beneficial. Financially, it's a time to be mindful. Avoid overspending and manage your finances with care to prevent future financial strain.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Amber Lucky day Monday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Your nature is inherently giving and compassionate, often focusing your resources on personal growth and helping others. You might find yourself allocating funds for the advanced education of your loved ones, alongside addressing various family matters that require your attention. This period in your life highlights the importance of finding equilibrium. Adopting a structured approach and maintaining discipline are key to managing your duties effectively. In terms of legal matters, you can anticipate a resolution that is likely to be favorable to you. As the week progresses, expect moments of joy and the arrival of positive news you've been eagerly awaiting. Your dedication and hard work are recognized and appreciated in your social and professional circles, enhancing your reputation as a diligent individual.

Lucky number 13 | Lucky colour Mint Lucky day Friday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, your professional progress may seem slower than expected. Remember, patience is vital, much like a gardener nurturing seeds into fruition. Your efforts will eventually pay off. Midweek brings unexpected shifts, likely enhancing your financial situation. New income sources may emerge, or you might receive a financial boost. Opportunities for work-related travel or a desirable job location could arise. If you've lent money, anticipate its return during this period. As the week ends, you might find yourself immersed in a world of dreams and desires, seeking comfort and pleasure. While enjoying life's pleasures is important, staying focused on your long-term objectives is crucial. Your family and close ones will play a key role in keeping you grounded, helping you balance between imagination and reality.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Saffron Lucky day Thursday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, your sharp intellect is key in navigating a crucial life-changing situation, possibly linked to your career or personal life. Expect an opportunity that could significantly impact your professional path. However, midweek, your health demands attention. A brief period of medical care or healing is necessary, leading to improved well-being. Be cautious towards the week's end; your energy may dip again, and emotional challenges could arise, particularly in family interactions. Your analytical nature might unintentionally intensify these issues. It's essential to step back from potential conflicts and prioritize rest. Focusing on self-care is crucial during this time. Remember, maintaining vour mental and physical health is vital, as a balanced and healthy mindset is the foundation of overall well-being

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Maroon Lucky day Wednesday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

This week kicks off with joyful celebrations, marking significant achievements in your personal or professional life, bringing you closer to loved ones. As the week unfolds, you'll be brimming with dynamic energy, pushing you to ambitiously pursue your goals. You'll face challenges, but your wisdom will guide you through them. A midweek spiritual journey promises to clear your mind and soothe your soul, helping you find clarity amidst life's confusions. Towards the week's end. financial mindfulness becomes crucial. Recent spending habits may lead to a tight budget, necessitating a reassessment of your finances and possibly seeking support from those close to you. It's a time for careful budgeting and prioritizing financial stability

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Fuchsia **Lucky day** Thursday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

This week promises a dynamic blend of highs and lows, bringing both challenges and opportunities. It begins on a iovful note, with family, particularly your children, bringing much joy and contentment. Your health appears robust, fueling a surge in creativity. Expect new avenues for career advancement, including fresh projects and potential income sources. There's a likelihood of receiving positive news from overseas, and a significant, joyous family event might occur. As the week progresses, you'll find yourself contemplating significant alterations in your daily routine, diet, or overall lifestyle. These reflections are crucial, as they lay the groundwork for a more fulfilling future. Pay attention to your financial and physical well-being towards the week's end. Address any pending financial obligations, like taxes or debts. and don't overlook your health needs

Lucky number 7 | Lucky colour Turquoise



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

Currently, you're navigating a period marked by caution and the need for honesty, as hidden adversities loom. Be wary of deceptive situations or entanglements that could lead to trouble. It's essential to shield yourself from these negative influences. Midweek brings a pivotal shift in your thoughts and beliefs, ushering in a phase of greater discipline and organization. This change enhances your nurturing abilities, especially towards younger family members and friends. As the week ends, you may find yourself drawn towards a profound personal transformation. This spiritual or introspective journey will equip you with resilience and determination, fortifying you against life's challenges. Embrace this period of growth, as it promises to bring clarity and renewed purpose to your path

Lucky number 2 | Lucky colour Indigo Lucky day Sunday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

This week, you'll face initial challenges in your projects, sparking frustration. However, an unexpected surge of determination will empower you to overcome these obstacles. Your persistence will lead to a rewarding sense of accomplishment, particularly noticeable by mid-week. This triumph will positively impact various life aspects, including financial improvements and family joy, highlighted by the achievements of younger family members in their careers or education. Your creativity will soar, infusing your days with enthusiasm and innovative ideas. As the week progresses, you'll find yourself drawn towards introspective and communal activities. Participating in group gatherings or spiritual practices will bring a sense of fulfillment and inner peace, perfectly balancing your week between personal success and spiritual growth

Lucky number 3 | Lucky colour Beige Lucky day Sunday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week begins with a harmonious phase in personal relationships, fostering deeper connections and understanding. You'll find yourself embracing a journey of inner growth and peace. Midweek, be mindful of challenging thoughts or unexpected desires that may surface, potentially causing some inner conflict. However, guidance will come through introspective moments, helping you stay centered. As the week concludes, a surge of creativity and productivity emerges, enhancing your professional or business endeavors. This period brings both material and emotional gains. Additionally, joyful personal developments, possibly including significant family events or growth, are likely to enrich your life, marking a fulfilling end to the week. Embrace this time as an opportunity for both personal and professional advancement, nurturing the seeds of future success.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour Magenta **Lucky day** Saturday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week, you may find yourself deeply absorbed in understanding others' intentions, potentially missing out on new opportunities. Despite a tendency towards introspection and preferring your own company, you'll keep in touch with the world through digital means like online chats and phone calls. Midweek brings a surge in creativity and a significant encounter with someone who could positively influence your financial situation. This period promises financial stability and a heightened desire to enjoy various aspects of life. As the week concludes, consider engaging in real estate dealings. It's also a crucial time for strengthening family bonds, especially with extended family and children. If you're away from your place of origin, a brief return trip might be in the cards. Expect fruitful discussions around home and family matters, leading to beneficial outcomes.

ucky number 9 | Lucky colour Peach



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

In the early part of the week, you may find yourself grappling with concerns due to a significant commitment, leading to restless nights. However, as the week unfolds, a positive shift is likely, particularly in financial aspects, where you may experience notable improvements. Your altruistic nature will shine brightly during this period. The week seems especially advantageous for professional women, who will exhibit exceptional strength in managing various responsibilities, showcasing both emotional and financial robustness. This time also underscores the importance of nfluential women in your life, such as a mother or sister. Their guidance could be pivotal for your progress. As the week draws to a close, the prospect of a journey appears, offering a refreshing break and a sense of contentment. This trip could provide a pleasant change from daily routines.

ucky number 11 | Lucky colour Lilac

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: 9873283331



oday at midnight we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome the dawn of L 2024. Following western calendar system, the event would be happening at the dead of night. A large majority of people turn that event into fun moment. Also, wish each other a happy new year. Many make promises to undo one's shortcomings and conduct well in the emerging time. But would just such word play suffice? Or the fun play could sustain itself by its own momentum? It needs reflection

In the Indian calendar system, however, the day begins with sunrise, which spreads light, as nighttime is marked for recuperating oneself for a fresh start the next day. Sunrise doesn't simply mean availability of physical light facilitating viewing the outer world. It also implies inner light to understand how one's mind is inherently framed, and then accordingly make necessary amends. You may then see things in perspective and consciously make right choices.

Evidently, in the New Year, we all wish to make a fresh start in all strength for a better tomorrow. Here, it needs to be appreciated that time runs in succession. The happenings today are culmination of what was initiated in the past. And how we negotiate the callings of today sets the ground on which future will unfold. It is not just our wishful thinking that can bring desired result. We need to be well geared up to consciously lay the ground for a better tomorrow here and now. For, nothing moves in life without meeting challenges in the way. Also, you need to be fully alert to grab opportunities coming your way and put in your whole into it. And the whole exercise must begin in your mind. For, perception drives a being, which is subject to how your mind is inherently framed, coming as it may with Karmic carryover from the

Shed negatives, life may then take positive turn



past. That calls for self-reflecting upon what legacy you are carrying forward, particularly limiting habit tendencies. Identify and acknowledge them and then make amends through fresh educative

inputs. But for which, your indwelling potential will get compromised, no matter how formidable it is. The irony, however, is that we seldom remain conscious about self-actualising ourselves. Also, it is easier said than done as habits die hard. Our cluttered mind doesn't allow the space necessary for a dispassionate look into the making of our mind. Ordinarily, caught up in the usual flow of life, we get carried away by inherent tendencies. What further complicates the problem is our ego. Having identified itself with inherent tendencies, it passionately pursues it as if that would be the end game. In the process, it doesn't let you make an unbiased assessment of the self, and the least of all acknowledging own weakness es. Here, astrology comes handy, which reflects one's personality trends with a fair amount of precision. For, it is premised on reading of energy mapping of a being. And energy knows no bias.

The other day someone came asking: "Nobody understands me, not even my parents. It became so difficult that I had to leave the parental house. Life has become stressful. Tell me, what is in store of my destiny." Before blaming others, better look within to figure out own shortcomings. Fact remains that you are a victim of your own thought process. "You don't know what I have gone through.?" The man countered. Well, a look into your horoscope reveals that the Sun identified with your personality is conjunct the planet of its nemesis Saturn. It implies that deep within you lies an inherent sense of fear and insecurity. You have a nagging tendency and are habitually cynic, always trying to find fault with others rather than trying to know your own fault lines. You suffer from identity crisis and will go to any extent to prove yourself. Mind signifying Moon is placed adverse

to mischievous Neptune. That makes you stuck to illusionary beliefs and perceptions, distanced from ground realities. You are not open to look beyond for a reality check. It also makes you an escapist, which made you run away from parental home. Venus is conjunct the Sun and Saturn. That makes you emotionally fragile, who would overreact even on trivial issues. Mars is conjunct Neptune, which makes you selfcentric, least bothered about other's sensibilities and concerns. If that would not be enough, Mercury placed adverse to Rahu holds the key to your insensible reasoning and judgment. The result is there to see. Address the negatives. The New Year may then take off on a happy

The writer is an astrologer, vastu consultant and spiritual counsellor. Connect with him at Tel: 91-11-9818037273/9871037272 Email: bharatbhushanpadmadeo@gmail.com

Now you can write to us at agendapioneer@gmail.com

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