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World applauds India's transformative rise under PM Modi's leadership in 2024

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Dehi, Dec 31: India's rise as an economic superpower attracted the world; global leaders, economists, and business tycoons have all praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. In 2024, the country's ascension on the global stage was highlighted by the eminent personalities of India's remarkable progress, with the world increasingly recognising the country as a growth engine, a technological innovator, and a leader in sustainability. For instance, in 2021, Mark Widmar, the CEO of First Solar, said that every country should do what India was doing with climate change. In 2017, JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon said that PM Modi is always very receptive; he is open and very smart. In 2023, Hassan Allam, CEO of Hassan Allam Holdings, lauded PM Modi's leadership and said that under PM Modi's leadership, India's private sector grew tremendously, especially in the world of infrastructure, engineering, and manufacturing. Toshihiro Suzuki, President of Suzuki Motors, praises PM Modi's strong leadership and says, "In the past 10 years, under the strong leadership also a new industry, a new manufacturing their healthcare and other development and constant support of PM Modi, for manufacturing industries, the Indian automo-

bile market has been expanding steadily. As a result, India has become the third-largest automobile market in the world." Thomas Dohmke, CEO of GitHub, "When I compare India back then and today, there's incredible energy; things are moving and evolving. There was no Metro then, and now we have multiple lines. The airport is phenomenal, modern, and clean. I think that is also a reflection of what's happening in the software industry. There are a huge number of software developers already in India." India's growing stature as a tech hub is also evident in the words of Nvidia CEO Jensen

Huang, who lauded India's expertise in artificial intelligence and computer science. He said, "India is home to some of the world's greatest computer scientists. So, this is a great opportunity. Artificial Intelligence is public infrastructure model to help achieve

industry that is very important, and so I'm goals." Highlighting the progress of India's

plishment in India that I think can be a good model for the

world to follow is digital public infrastructure that has helped achieve a lot of progress in financial services, health, etc." Bill Gates said that he is bullish on the future of India. Lauding PM Modi's leadership in digital public infrastructure and transforming the rural economy, he said, "This idea of digital connections that starts with Aadhaar and the bank accounts that you manage digitally, that's flourishing. And so we see in agriculture now that they are

registering the farmers and giving them advance notice. And so Indian leadership is something other countries should benefit from." Paul Romer, Nobel Laureate in Economics, praised India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).



a very deep way to make that possible."

Christopher J. Elias, Foundation President,

the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation,

lauding India's growth story, said, "Other

countries can use India's successful digital

ISRO's SpaDeX satellites first to be built by industry on its own

New Delhi, Dec 31: The launch of two satellites for the space docking experiment (SpaDeX) also marked a first for the industry, which built the two spacecraft on their own under guidance from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) engineers. The two satellites - SDX01 (chaser) and SDX02 (target) - each weighing 220 kg were integrated and tested by Ananth Technologies Limited (ATL), which has been associated with a number of ISRO projects for the past several years. Hyderabad police asks Allu Arjun to appear! For more details & latest news, read on here "So far, large satellites have not been realised in the industry by themselves. This is the first time that the two satellites have been integrated and tested in the indus-

ST Correspondent

May God bless you with a

safe, healthy, and joyous

New Year.

Editor: SIMMI KAUR BABBAR



try," said U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) Director M Shankaran after the two satellites were placed in a 476 km circular orbit by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C60) on Monday night. Shankaran described the launch of the two satellites a "trailblazer" for the industry. The Assembly, Integration and Testing (AIT) of the satellites were conducted at ATL's new state-of-the-art facility in the KIADB Aerospace Park, Bengaluru. This 10,000 square meter facility is equipped to manufacture electronic subsystems and integrate up to four large satellites simultaneously. The SPADEX mission exemplifies India's capability to achieve on-orbit docking, a critical technology for future manned and deep-space missions. It marks a significant milestone in India's space exploration ambitions, with applications including human spaceflight, space exploration and supporting repair, refueling and upgrades for operational satellites. The mission's objectives include demonstrating autonomous rendezvous and docking, controlling one spacecraft using the Attitude Control System of the other in a docked configuration, formation flying and operating a remote robotic arm. "Being a part of this mile stone mission highlights ATL's commitment to India's human space program and our evolving contributions from subsystem manufacturing to full satellite and launch vehicle integration," said ATL Chairman and Managing Director Dr Subba Rao Pavuluri.

Poor, deprived suffering brunt of 'Manuvaad' under BJP: Kharge

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Dec. 31: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday accused the BJP governments at the Centre and the states of having a mindset against the deprived sections of society who are suffering because of the brunt of 'Manuvaad'. In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah insults Babasaheb Dr BR Ambedkar in Parliament and the same mindset against the deprived is being repeated in the BJP ruled states. He claimed that in the last two days - a Dalit youth is murdered in police custody in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas and the tribal women are tied to trees and beaten in Balasore, Odisha, "In Bhiwani, Harvana, a Dalit girl student is forced to commit suicide after being unable to pay her BA exam fees. In Palghar, Maharashtra, a tribal pregnant woman has to travel 100 kilometers in search of ICU and dies." "In

Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, three Manuvaad," the Congress chief alleged. Dalit families are forced to migrate He said a crime is committed every hour because of caste-based attacks on them



and the police remains silent," he claimed. "It is well known that atrocities are being committed against Dalits, tribals, backward and minority communities under the 'anti-constitutional rule' of the Modi government. Those who are poor and deprived are suffering the brunt of

against Dalit-tribal women and children,

and according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), this figure has doubled since 2014. "The Congress Party will not allow the constitutional rights of 140 crore Indians to be violated and will continue to oppose the anti-constitutional thinking of the BJP-RSS, Kharge said. A 35-year-old Dalit man Mukesh Longre died on Saturday after being called to Satwas Police Station in Madhya Pradesh for questioning in a complaint submitted against him by a woman on December 26.

This triggered protests from his kin, who alleged murder. Separately, Union Minister Ramdas Athawale on Monday alleged that Dalit man Somnath Suryavanshi was assaulted in a police lock-up in Parbhani, Maharashtra, lead-

SC defers hearing on shifting Dallewal to hospital, Punjab says negotiations on

New Delhi, Dec. 31: The Supreme Court on Tuesday deferred its hearing till January 2 on compliance of its order by the Punjab government on shifting of farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been fasting for past 35 days over various demands, to hospital. A vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and Sudhanshu Dhulia listed the matter for further hearing on January 2 after Advocate General Gurminder Singh, appearing for the Punjab government, said that an application has been moved seeking three days more time for compliance of the court's December 20 order. Singh said that a team of negotiators are holdings talks with the protesting farmers at the protest site and efforts are being made to shift Dallewal to the nearby makeshift hospital on Punjab side of Khanauri border. The bench said it does not want to comment on the discussions with the protesting farmers and it only wants compliance of its earlier orders. It recorded the submissions of Singh and adjourned the hearing on the matter. Earlier on December 28, the top court came down heavily on the Punjab government for not shifting Dallewal to a hospital even as it doubted the intention of the agitating farmers for resisting availability of medical aid to their septuagenarian leader.

BJP will put Mamata in jail if it comes to power: Suvendu Adhikari

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

KOLKATA, Dec. 31: : The Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) will set up a commission to probe atrocities committed in Sandeshkhali and send Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee to jail if the party comes to power in West Bengal, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari said on Tuesday. Leader of Opposition in West Bengal assembly and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari addresses a gathering at a membership drive in Sandeshkhali of North 24 Parganas district on Tuesday (ANI) Leader of Opposition in West Bengal assembly and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari addresses a gathering at a membership drive in Sandeshkhali of North 24 Parganas district on Tuesday "You (Banerjee) have asked the people to forget whatever has happened. The people of Sandeshkhali will not forget. Even I will not forget. If BJP comes to power in West Bengal, a commission would be set up to probe into the Sandeshkhali events. You had framed women of Sandeshkhali and sent them to jail. BJP will send you to jail too for lodging false cases against women," said Adhikari, leader of the opposition in the Bengal assembly. Hyderabad police asks



est news, read on here "We will take revenge with interest according to the law and stay within the limits of the Constitution," said Adhikari, who travelled to Sandeshkhali a day after the chief minister visited the area in North 24 Parganas district. Adhikari, who was addressing a BIP outreach programme in Sandeshkhali, accused Banerjee of conspiring to slap false cases against women in the area ahead of the 2024 elections to punish people for

protesting against local TMC strongmen such as Shahjahan Sheikh. The BJP leader's offensive against Banerjee comes a day after she asked people in the area to "let bygones be bygones". It was her first visit to the riverine island since violent protests broke out in February 2024 over allegations of sexual assault and land grabbing by a section of TMC leaders. "I know that a big game was behind the stir and money was in play. People later realised that the entire

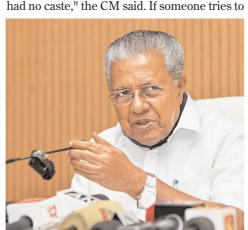
matter was a lie. The truth eventually comes out. Let bygones be bygones. I do not want to keep these things in mind," Banerjee said on Monday. The BJP tried to make the Sandeshkhali a key poll plank against the TMC, especially in the Basirhat constituency, in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections this summer. The TMC, in turn, had alleged that Adhikari hatched the "conspiracv" and "paid women" to frame local TMC leaders on sexual assault charges to defame Bengal ahead of the Lok Sabha polls. The TMC won the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat, of which Sandeshkhali is an assembly segment. Adhikari later told media persons on the sidelines of the rally that people were tortured by Banerjee's goons and the state police. "We will make Banerjee the former chief minister and send her to jail," he said. "The BJP will not come to power in the next 100 years in West Bengal... One need not pay tax on saying anything and that's why he is saying all rubbish. These statements have no political meaning. We have been hearing for the past three to four years that the BJP would come to power in West Bengal. In reality, their seats are going down," Jay Prakash Majumdar, TMC state vice president and spokesperson told

Kerala CM cautions against attempts to portray Narayana Guru as proponent of Sanatana Dharma

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Dec. 31: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday cautioned against "organised efforts" to portray sagesocial reformer Sree Narayana Guru, who advocated "one caste, one religion and one God for people", as a proponent of Sanatana Dharma. He claimed that the Guru had neither been a spokesperson nor a practitioner of the Sanatana Dharma, but a saint who had reconstructed it and proclaimed a Dharma befitting to the new age. Sanatana Dharma is nothing but 'varnasrama dharma' (caste-based social order), which Guru had challenged and overcome, he said, adding that the new age "humanistic dharma" advocated by him stands with time. Trying to fix the Guru in the framework of Sanatana Dharma is a great insult to the saint, Vijayan said, while inaugurating a pilgrimage conference held in Sivagiri, the headquarters of Sree Narayana Dharma Sangam here. Varnasrama Dharma is synonymous with or an integral part of Sanatana Dharma, he said, adding that Guru's ascetic life was the one which questioned and defied the entire chaturvarnya system.

"Attempts to downplay social reformer Sree Narayana Guru as a mere religious leader or as a religious saint must be realised. It should be understood that Guru had no religion and



place Guru himself within the boundaries of caste or religion, there can be no insult to the sage beyond that, he added. Warning that there would be attempts to present the Guru as an advocate of whatever he had fought against, Vijayan urged people to be vigilant against such attempts. "Don't let that happen. Be able to firmly state that such misinterpretations will not be tolerated," he said. Meanwhile, the chief minister's remarks drew sharp reactions from the BJP, which alleged that Vijayan had insulted Sanatana Dharma in the holy land of Sivagiri. The CM also insulted the followers of Sree Narayana Guru through his remarks, it said. "The crux of Vijayan's speech at the Sivagiri conference was that Sanatana Dharma should be hated. His remarks were a continuation of Udayanidhi Stalin's statement that Sanatana Dharma should be eradicated," senior BJP leader V Muraleedharan told reporters here. The former union minister sought to know whether the Left veteran would have the courage to say such things about the Holy Quran. Alleging that the Hindu community in Kerala faced the greatest challenge during Vijayan's rule, he said the Left veteran tried to challenge the faith at Sabarimala and during Thrissur Pooram. Muraleedharan also said that the people of Kerala would reject the Communist propaganda portraying Guru as an enemy of Sanatana Dharma.

4 villages in Assam's Cachar district 'child marriage-free': CM Sarma

Asam, Dec 31: Himanta Biswa Sarma said that schemes like Nijut Moina and the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages helped in eradicating this social evil. Four villages in Assam's Cachar district have been

declared child marriage-free, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. He maintained that initiatives focusing on the welfare of the girl child has helped in achieving this feat. Hyderabad police asks Allu Arjun to appear! For more details & latest news, read on here "Assam has taken a firm stance against child marriage. We are putting the last nail in the coffin of this social evil across the state," Sarma said in a post on X on Monday. "Leading by example, 4 villages in Cachar have been declared child marriage-free recently ensuring a bright future for our girls," he added. Rukni Part IV under

Palonghat development block, Bhairabpur Part I under Kalain development block, and Rosekandy Grant I and Rosekandy Grant II under Tapang development block, have been declared child marriage-free under 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative. Sarma maintained that initiatives such as Nijut Moina scheme and The Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024, have helped in pushing for the eradication of this social evil. In an intensified crackdown on child marriages since last year, 5,348 cases have been registered and 5,842 people arrested in three special drives and regular instances of child marriages, a top police official had said. In the latest drive earlier this month, 431 persons were arrested and 345 cases registered across the state. In the first special drive against the social evil undertaken in February 2023, 3,425 arrests were made and 4,387 cases registered.

NTR district targets 15 per cent growth under Swarnandhra @ 2047

VIJAYAWADA. NTR District Collector Dr G Lakshmisha has urged collective participation to drive the district's growth in the coming year. Speaking to mediapersons on Monday at the Collector Camp Office, he outlined initiatives to enhance development. He highlighted successful collaborative relief efforts during the Budameru floods in 2024, including financial aid for victims.Lakshmisha said the district will set new development goals for 2025, aligning with the State's Swarnandhra @ 2047 plans under the Chief Minister's guidance, targeting an average growth of 15%. Efforts are focused on boosting the MSME sector to create jobs and drive industrial growth. Tourism development, including new packages and



guides, is also a priority.Regarding Vijayawada's development as Amaravati's gateway, the city will be made clean, green, and prosperous through consultations with NGOs, welfare associations, and senior citizens.The State government prioritises welfare schemes to reduce poverty and improve living standards. Renewable energy promotion through the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is being enhanced.

Eminent speakers to attend Kerala Assembly Book Festival

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The Kerala Legislative Assembly is set to host the third edition of its prestigious book festival from January 7 to 13. The event will feature eminent personalities from political, cultural, and social spheres, fostering meaningful discussions on contemporary issues. The festival will commence with thought-provoking sessions by noted personalities Devdutt Pattanaik and Brinda Karat on the inaugural day. In the following days, prominent figures such as MP Shashi Tharoor, Industries Minister P Rajeeve, Bobby Jose Kattikkad, S M Vijayanand, Krishnakumar, Joseph Annamkutty Jose, and AM Shinas will participate in engaging discussions. Key sessions include Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan speaking on the anxieties of a democrat, Dr K Sreenivas Rao addressing India's literary heritage, and Dr Satheesh Balasubramaniam shedding light on advancements in healthcare technology. Additionally, Radha Kumar will discuss India's Evolving Democracy: Lessons Learned, while Prof C Mrinalini will delve into the topic 'Single Mothers in Itihasas'. Dr Divya S Iyer will focus on the intersection of reading and mental health, and Sunil P Elavidom will explore the theme 'Books and Humans'. The festival, themed 'Reading as a Passion', will feature over 350 book releases and more than 60 book

A tech-driven year for NTR police

VIJAYAWADA. In 2024, the police department underwent a complete overhaul by adopting technology, said NTR District Commissioner of Police (CP) SV Rajashekhar Babu on Monday.Speaking to mediapersons at the Operation Command Control Centre while presenting crime statistics, Rajasekhar Babu explained that the NTR district police launched first of its kind initiatives such as technology-driven policing and traffic management using drones and artificial intelligence. He noted that these initiatives have not only played a vital role in improving day-to-day policing, but also inspired many other districts and



neighbouring States to adopt the same. The CP stressed that efforts of city police in reaching out to the public through various

outreach programmes resulted in a lesser crime rate. He revealed that the overall crime rate in the district had decreased by 11% in 2024 with 5,780 cases being reported as against 6,477 cases in 2023.

He pointed out that thefts, murders, bodily offences, and crimes against women came down in the district this year compared to the previous year. Acknowledging the rise in cyber crimes, he emphasised that effective measures are being taken to tackle online fraud. Elaborating on the department's new initiatives, he explained, "Unlike in the past, we are giving more importance to technology and AI platforms in policing as it would reduce burden and ensure accuracy. It will also help analyse the patterns of crime.

How 2024 was emblematic of India's space ambitions

The launch of C58 symbolised the dynamism and collaborative spirit of India's space programme.

Bengaluru. In January 1, 2024, as ISRO's PSLV C58 surged into the skies, leaving a feathery plume of exhaust trailing behind it, a new chapter in India's space exploration was charted.Carrying the XPoSat mission along with 10 payloads on the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 into the orbits, ISRO was sending a message to the world: India is rising as a global Space powerhouse, and that right now is the moment to contribute with bold, shared ambitions to solutions enabled by

The launch of C58 symbolised the dynamism and collaborative spirit of India's space programme. At its core was a nearly 470kilogram satellite dedicated to studying supernovae, neutron stars and blackholes an ambitious leap in scientific research. Equally noteworthy was the growing wave of Indian startups and research institutes poised to space-qualify their own technologies, underscoring the nation's



increasingly vital role in the global space ecosystem.

Among these payloads was Dhruva Space's P-30 nanosatellite, a radiation-shielding payload from TakeMe2Space, and three experiments from academic institutes. Building on the momentum following the C58 launch, the world observed two PSLV launches, a GSLV launch and an SSLV launch - as well as the deployment of GSAT-20 aboard SpaceX's highlighting the growing international collaboration that is fast becoming a hallmark of India's space goals. Human spaceflight was one of the defining buzzwords of 2024, and for many of us - myself included - it feels like a dream that is finally within reach. The upcoming Gaganyaan mission, set for 2028, as well as the conceptualisation of the Bharatiya

Antariksha Station of India are monumental steps forward, and many private companies are gearing up to contribute critical technologies to these endeavours.Inspirational missions such as those of ISRO and the private sector - now comprising more than 1000 registered startups - will help drive innovation in the new space economy.

For the early groundswell of space startups,

such as Dhruva Space, Skyroot, Pixxel, Manastu Space, Agnikul Cosmos and more, it has become imperative to commercialise their space-qualified products and many have started securing and fulfilling orders for clients across government, academia and enterprise verticals. To meet growing demands for access to space as well as spaceenabled applications, the private sector is developing infrastructure accordingly; in January, Pixxel opened the doors of its 30.000 square-foot manufacturing facility in Bengaluru, Skyroot Aerospace inaugurated a 60,000 square-foot facility in October and in the same month, Dhruva Space kicked off construction of its 280,000 square-foot spacecraft manufacturing facility - the latter two in Hyderabad.

India's space ecosystem remains a global model of cost-efficiency, with strong investment momentum. The Rs 1,000 Crore venture capital fund proposed by IN-SPACe offers a significant opportunity for space startups at both early and growth stages alongside other remarkable initiatives of IN-SPACe.

GCC to set up digital name boards in 15 zones in Chennai

CHENNAI. The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) adopted a resolution during its council meeting on Monday to replace the existing old street name boards with digital boards. The Rs 15.49 crore project will cover both bus routes and interior roads across all 15 zones in the city. As per the resolution, around 8,340 outdated street name boards will be replaced by digital boards, enhancing visibility and accessibility to residents. The new digital boards will be installed with Rs 15 crore allocated for interior roads and Rs 44.87 lakh for the bus routes.

Contract for the project has been awarded to Hariway Line, the lowest bidder, following tendering process that opened in October, the resolution said. The new digital boards will feature both single and double arrow formats. Neither GCC officials nor the contract firm were available when TNIE tried to reach them for a rundown on the features and how it could benefit the public. The GCC has also announced road improvement projects across the city on an estimated cost of Rs 290 crore. The works will cover both interior and



bus route roads across all 15 zones. Since 2022, the corporation has been working on development of 13,401 roads in the city under the NSMT, SFC and TURIP schemes. In 2025-26, the GCC will focus on further road upgrades on 1,669 interior roads and 31 bus route roads. The road improvement works will be funded through a combination of Rs 90 crore in capital funds from the GCC and Rs 200 crore in loans or grants. The civic body is also set to install concrete planters along various roads across zones 1 to 15 at an estimated cost of Rs 13.38 crore to make the streets greener.

2024: A horrific year for women in Odisha, marred by custodial torture, sex crimes, and murders

BHUBANESWAR. Shocking custodial torture, disturbing sex crimes and gruesome murders dotted the news landscape in 2024 marking it mostly the second half - as a horrible year for women of Odisha. The state police found itself at the wrong end of justice system when a woman and her Army officer fiancé were allegedly subjected to custodial abuse. The couple walked into Bharatpur police station in Bhubaneswar on September 15 night to report a crime but instead ended being booked. The woman was even allegedly molested and assaulted by the police personnel. A nationwide outrage followed. Five police personnel including the inspector-in-charge were suspended. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident.In Rourkela, an adolescent girl was



allegedly gangraped twice by five miscreants at two separate places on September 22 night. She had been at a bar where she was served alcohol Unsuccessful in his attempt, he kidnapped and despite being underage. Once she stepped out, she was sexually assaulted twice within hours of each other. On the previous evening, two girls aged 14 and 15 years were gangraped in the

murdered his victim in cold blood. The 30year-old accused, Kunu Kisan then dismembered her body, set them on fire and dumped the parts in Brahmani river near Rourkela in one of the most vicious crimes of recent times. Kisan had allegedly raped and impregnated the woman over a year back. Charged and arrested, he tried to influence the victim to change her stand in the court which he thought was his only chance at avoiding conviction.

city.On the intervening night of December 7

and 8, a rape accused who had jumped bail

killed the woman, the intervening night of December 7 and 8, a rape accused who had jumped bail murdered his victim in cold blood. The 30-year-old accused, Kunu Kisan.

Haphazard parking of autorickshaws troubles MGMGH visitors in Tamil Nadu

TIRUCHY. Unregulated parking of autos has become a menace at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government General Hospital (MGMGH), disrupting the smooth functioning of one of Tiruchy's busiest public healthcare facilities. Patients, staff, and visitors alike are grappling with the inconvenience caused by the haphazard parking within the hospital premises. At least 20 autorickshaws are frequently parked at random locations, including areas such as the patient shelter zone and near the ongoing construction site. The unregulated parking blocks critical pathways, causes pollution, hampering the hospital's operations, rue staff and visitors alike. "The autos block access pathways, narrowing the space and making it difficult to navigate, especially during peak hours," a staffer said."The administration must take steps to restore order. A hospital should be a place of



care, not chaos," said V Akilandeshwari, a visitor. Activists have pointed to poor implementation of security measures as a key factor. Despite having security guards, there is minimal enforcement of parking rules, they alleged. Ibrahim, a CPI functionary, said, "With MGMGH catering to thousands daily, it is crucial to address the issue. Stricter security protocols, clear signage, and additional personnel can help regulate parking, just as the hospital has managed.

A reformative year for forest and wildlife

BHUBANESWAR . Multiple challenges including large-scale elephant deaths notwithstanding, the year 2024 proved to be transformative for Odisha's forest and wildlife sector with introduction of several new initiatives and significant reforms. While the state witnessed over 50 elephant deaths in just seven months between April and October, the slew of new measures and initiatives introduced in the last one year are expected to go a long way in safeguarding forests and wildlife.

Among the novel initiatives include introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve wildlife protection, designation of judicial magistrates as the special courts for handling wildliferelated offences and big cat supplementation in Similipal to bring genetic diversity to the tiger reserve.

With the then PCCF Wildlife and chief wildlife warden Susanta Nanda at the helm of affairs, the Forest department introduced AI cameras for better forest and wildlife monitoring in Similipal Tiger Reserve. The AI surveillance helped in detection of over 20 trespassers into the protected area of Similipal and was subsequently replicated in Rourkela forest division helping forest officials in preventing deaths of at least three elephants in train collision.Odisha this year also became



the first state in the country to designate judicial magistrates as special courts for handling wildlife-related offences. The government, acting on the direction of the Orissa High Court, designated all districts and the court of additional CJM, Rourkela, as special courts to adjudicate wildlife-related cases in the state. This year, the state wildlife wing also successfully implemented the tiger supplementation programme for Similipal in which two tigresses -Jamuna and Zeenat - were relocated to the protected area from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Maharashtra to bring genetic diversity to the big cat population in the tiger reserve. Around 20 rapid response teams were formed to effectively tackle conflicts within the shortest possible time. Provision and training in modern weapons like INSAS and 9mm pistol helped the forest field

staff and officials to curtail the growing menace of armed poachers while engagement of ex-military personnel to patrol the wildlife habitats with forest personnel and deployment of Odisha Industrial Security Force at Nandankanan Zoological Park proved game-changing in maintenance of law and order.

Special recovery programmes for the locally extinct sambars, gaurs and blackbucks were implemented in Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary and Konark-Balukhand sanctuary, while radio-collaring of elephants to monitor their movement was also taken up successfully for the first time this year.

Animal census for keystone species such as tiger, elephant and leopard were carried out during the year and announced to be made an annual event for their successful management.

Karnataka RTCs have sought 15 per cent fare hike: Ramalinga

BENGALURU. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday said that the four state bus corporations have sought a fare hike of 15 per cent. Reddy told TNIE that the corporations sent a proposal in this regard to the state government almost six months ago. The government will hold a discussion on the proposal and take a decision. Meanwhile, officials from Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC), and North-West Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) stressed the need for a fare revision at the earliest to balance losses incurred by the corporations. Members of RTC unions had threatened to go on an indefinite strike from December 31 seeking the release of their pending salaries. "Fund crunch in the four



corporations is one of the reasons for the accumulation of salary arrears," officials said. "BMTC fares were revised in 2014. The fares of KSRTC, KKRTC, and NWKRTC were revised for 2020. The government has

not increased the fares since then," said a top official from one of the bus corporations. He said that prices of fuel, spare parts and tyres have increased and most of the revenue generated went towards employees' salaries.

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News box

378 peddlers held in narcotics crackdowns in Gurgaon this year

Gurgaon. In 2024, police booked 270 cases under NDPS Act and arrested 378 peddlers from the city, as opposed to 267 cases and 338 arrests in 2023

As much as 1,838kg of ganja, 52kg of hashish, 613 grams of heroin, 505 grams of smack, 35 grams of cocaine, 102 grams of MDMA, 1.6 kilos of opium, and 13.5 kilos of poppy, were seized, along with around 250 kilos of other prohibited narcotics. Last year, 1,097kg of ganja, 3kg of hashish, 943 grams of heroin, 6kg of poppy, and 1.2kg of other narcotic substances were seized. Police also booked 218 Arms Act cases and arrested 336 offenders, seizing 204 pistols, 10 revolvers, 299 live rounds and six knives from their possession. In 2023, police had arrested 466 offenders in 352 Arms Act cases and seized 348 pistols, 11 revolvers, 511 live rounds, seven magazines, and six knives. As part of crackdown against gambling, 615 persons were arrested in 397 cases under the Gambling Act in the city. In 2023, 502 offenders were arrested in 282 Gaming Act cases, and Rs 20.9 lakh was seized.

In 2024, 1,736 cases were registered under the Excise Act and 2,093 accused were arrested. Police seized Rs 12.4 lakh from gambling dens. In 2023, 1,573 Excise Act cases were registered and the number of accused arrested under this was 1,927. Moreover, city police registered eight cases under the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act and arrested 24 accused for exploiting women in brothels this year. In 2023, seven cases were registered under the act, and 40 accused were arrested.

According to the data provided by the state police, in Haryana, from Jan to Nov 2024, 3,051 NDPS Act cases were registered, including 411 cases related to drug smuggling in commercial quantities, and 4,652 drug traffickers were arrested. As much as 28.14 kilos of heroin, 266 kilos of charas, 8,552 kilos of ganja, 400 kilos of opium, 382 kilos of opium plants, 48,436 bottles of narcotic drugs, 3,11,776 narcotic capsules, 6,91,681 narcotic tablets, and 12,778 narcotic injections were seized from the state.

AQI improves to 'satisfactory' in Noida as wind gains speed

Noida. The region's air quality improved on Monday, with both Noida and Ghaziabad recording 'satisfactory' AQI. Noida recorded an AQI of 100, down from 162 (moderate) a day ago, while Ghaziabad's AQI was 83, against Sunday's 124. Greater Noida's AQI also improved on Monday but remained in the 'moderate' category at 102 - down from 141 the day before. Air monitoring stations across the two districts recorded AQI ranging from 'satisfactory' to 'moderate' on Monday.

In Noida, Sector 1 and Sector 125 stations recorded 'satisafcatory' AQI at 90 and 98, respectively, while Sector 62 and Sector Sector 116 recorded 'moderate' AQI at 125 and 127. Meanwhile, Greater Noida's Knowledge Park 3 station recorded 'satisafctory' AQI at 8-, while Knowledge Park 5 recorded AQi of 142 in the 'moderate' category.

In Ghaziabad, only Indirapuram station recorded 'moderate' AQI at 113, while Loni (92), Vasundhara (86) and Sanjay Naga (61) all recorded 'satisfactory' air quality on Monday. According to a bulletin issued by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), the predominant surface wind came from the northwest direction with a wind speed of less than 14 kmph until evening on Monday. Delhi-NCR's visibility was 800m at 8am.

Branded bottles, cheap liquor: Bar loses licence



Noida. The liquor licence of a bar at Gardens Galleria Mall was suspended after authorities carried out a raid last week and found that bottles of premium whiskey were tampered with before drinks were served to customers. Excised epartment officials told TOI that they seized 23 bottles and sent them to a laboratory to test for adulteration. The department's action came on an anonymous tip-off that My Bar Headquarters, which opened in the Sector 38A mall in 2021, mixes cheaper brands of liquor with high-end ones and stocks it in bottles of premium brands."The bottles were seized during a raid conducted on Dec 27 in the storeroom of the venue called My Bar Headquarters. During the operation, two liquor bottles sourced from outside the state and 23 other suspicious bottles were recovered. The suspicious bottles were of premium brand whiskey, but their seals were broken, and their QR codes were tampered with as well," said Subodh Kumar, district excise officer (DEO).

Kumar said the bar was sealed on Friday, and further action will be taken against the owner once the laboratory reports confirm adulteration.

The excise department also filed a police complaint, and six people, including the bar's staffers, were named in the FIR. "Of the six people named in the FIR, four were arrested from the bar but two others managed to escape and are absconding. They were booked under section 318 (cheating) of BNS, and relevant sections of the Excise Act," the DEO said.

A senior police officer said Sandeep Kumar of Bulandshahr (UP), Satish Bhardwaj of Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh), Ajay Kumar of Ghazipur (UP) and Rajesh Prajapati of Kanpur (UP) were arrested.

'The storeroom of the bar was located in the lower basement of the mall where the illegal bottles were seized from. Ajay and Rajesh worked as store in-charge, while Sandeep and Satish worked as managers. The absconding accused Sahil and Tanveer worked as bartenders," the officer said.

How a Gurgaon village got Jimmy Carter's name

Gurgaon. A brief stopover at the unlikeliest of places - that's how a connection between former US President Jimmy Carter, who died on Monday at the age of 100 at his house in the US state of Georgia, and Daulatpur Nasirabad, a village in Gurgaon's north, was established.

Those few hours on Jan 3, 1978 spent with him would go on to become the village's identity, with Daulatpur Nasirabad renamed as 'Carterpuri', the name two generations in the village have been born with.It was barely a year after Carter had taken oath, and on the final day of a threeday trip to India during which he addressed Parliament - which he described as "the seat of one of the world's great legislatures" – that he made his way to Daulatpur Nasirabad from Delhi.

Carter had included the village in his itinerary so that he could emotionally retrace the footsteps of his mother, nee Bessie Lillian Gordy, who at age 68 had come to India - spending time outside Pagdi for the president Bombay and very briefly in south Haryana – as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1966, a decade before her son was sworn in as the 39th president of the United States. Visiting the year after Emergency had been lifted, Carter won hearts with his rich praise for Indian democracy. "Not long ago, both of our people's governments passed through grave crises. In different ways, the values for which so

many have lived and died were threatened. In different ways, and on opposite sides of the world, those values have been triumphant," he said in his address to Parliament."India has given her affirmative answer in a thunderous voice, voice heard around the world. Something momentous happened here last March, not because any particular party won or lost but rather, I think, because the largest electorate on earth freely and wisely chose its leaders at the polls. In this sense, democracy itself was the victor," he went on to add.

And referring to India's diversity of languages, religions and political opinion, Carter said, "Yet India has forged her vast mosaic of humanity into a single nation that has weathered many challenges to survival both as a nation and as a democracy. This is surely one of the greatest political achievements of this or any century.'

At Daulatpur Nasirabad, Carter's programme, which began around 10am, was expected to last 30 minutes but stretched on for well over an hour. Everyone in the village knew that the American president was due to pay them a visit, and in case they were still in the dark, the appearance of the police 24 hours prior - to ensure that everything was in

order, and the smallest security detail was in place – would have intimated them of what was on the cards. Accompanying Mr and Mrs Carter in the party that converged on the village was PM Morarji Desai and his cabinet, Haryana chief minister Devi Lal and his cabinet, the American



ambassador, and a cordon made up of local and US security. There had been no bigger day in the lives of the residents here and there has been none since – as the president made his sedate way towards and past a haveli that abutted the chaupal. This haveli was once the pride of Daulatpur Nasirabad but, just like the television set Carter donated to the villagers, it is now long gone.

While there was a schedule, Carter didn't necessarily stick to it. Much to the surprise of the occupants of one house, he entered the kitchen and saw 'bajre ki roti' being prepared alongside 'chana saag'. He asked

what was being made, and lingered for five minutes," recalls Attar Singh, a former member of the panchayat who was then a 25-year-old making his way in the world. "There were people on the roofs of houses watching all this unfold!"

As the winter sun shone down, a Haryanvi pagdi was placed on Carter's head, while first lady Rosalynn was decked with a ghunghat and chunri, and on her head was balanced a matka. That led to a few playful moments between the two, the president lifting the veil only for the first lady, in the style of a shy Bollywood heroine, to cover her face again. This teasing to-and-fro brought much mirth to the onlookers. Carter was also gifted a pair of shoes made by a cobbler from the village, which, like an excited boy, he was happy to try on.

"Back then, it was a matter of pride for us to have an American president fly to India. For us in Haryana, and especially so for the residents of Daulatpur Nasirabad, it was an even prouder moment to have Jimmy Carter visit the village," recollects Union minister and Gurgaon MP Rao Inderjit Singh, who was a first-time MLA in the Haryana assembly at the time. "I remember the enthusiasm and excitement the crowds felt at not just having him in their midst, but also seeing him engage with them, and clearly enjoy the

Lapses in landfill management': NGT wants agencies fined in Haryanas

Gurgaon. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed HSPCB to impose environmental compensation (EC) for fire incidents at landfill sites. These fires, often resulting from lapses in effective landfill management, cause significant environmental damage. The member secretary of HSPCB was tasked with thoroughly investigating this matter and reaching a conclusion within three months. This direction came when the tribunal was reviewing affidavits from CPCB, HSPCB and MCG on fires broke out at Bandhwari landfill site."The HSPCB member secretary will duly examine this issue and reach an appropriate conclusion within three months and will submit the report before the registrar general of the tribunal immediately after three months. If found necessary, the

matter will be listed for consideration

based on a TOI report revealing a massive fire incident at Bandhwari landfill. TOI had highlighted that it was the fourth fire incident reported at Bandhwari landfill in April and that a thick haze engulfed the villages around Bandhwari due to the fire incident. Such fire incidents at landfill sites are a threat to biodiversity and pose a danger to the health of citizens.

During its Dec 16 hearing, the tribunal found that CPCB, in its affidavit, said the Bandhwari landfill site i has been a focal point of environmental concern. Operational for the past 13 years, initially, it had a waste volume of 44 lakh metric tonnes (MT) with a height of 41 meters, spread over about 30 acres. Currently, the height has reduced to 19 meters, with a total waste volume of 14 lakh MT. The site To address these issues, several receives solid waste from both Gurgaon and Faridabad, contributing

composition at the site includes 50% inert materials, 25% organic compostable matter, 15% RDF (primarily plastics), and 5% each of C&D debris and other miscellaneous materials," the CPCB said. The situation is further complicated by frequent fire incidents.

Between April and Oct 2024, nine fire incidents were reported at the Bandhwari landfill. According to HSPCB, these fires are primarily caused by "hot spots" created during bioremediation, where increased oxygen and bacterial activity raise temperatures, leading to fires when they come into contact with methane pockets. Sunlight reflecting off metal and glass in the waste also contributes to these fires.

measures have been proposed and implemented. The commission for air

Max temp falls to 12.2°C, Gurgaon narrowly misses 'severe cold' mark

Gurgaon. The city experienced an almost 'severe cold' day on Monday as the daytime temperature, recorded at 12.2 degrees Celsius, went 8.5 degrees below normal. A 'severe cold' day is declared when the maximum temperature falls below normal by 6.5 degrees Celsius or more, and the minimum temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius in the plains. The minimum temperature in the city was 10.1 degrees Celsius, 3.7 degrees below normal. Due to a 0.1-degree difference, the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) criteria for a 'severe cold day' and 'cold day' were unmet.IMD predicted that the minimum temperature is likely to drop by 3 to 5 degrees over the next two days. "Coldday-like conditions are likely at isolated places in Haryana. Winds from the northwest, from the snow-clad mountains, are expected to further reduce the temperature," an IMD scientist

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Arun Pundir S/o Mr. Bhagwan Singh is the owner of Freehold Residential RHS Portion of Plot no. 03 area measuring 100 Sq. yds., i.e., 83.61 Sq. Meter, Out of Khasra No. 36, Situated in the Lal Bagh in Block-A at Village Ahmadnagar Nawada, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. By Virtue of Regd. GPA Dated 18.04.2024 Duly registered in SR.

18.04.2024 Duly registered in SR Loni-II Ghaziabad, as doc no.66, vo

no.173, book no.4, page no. 01-20, dated. 18.04.2024, in the chain doc-

ments below mentioned docu ments not available i.e. Probate

Order of Will Dated 12.09.1997 nov our client is declaring that that any

other Person does not have ar

right over the said property, and same property sold too be Mr

Mayank and same has bee

finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Lon

Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. If an

erson(s) have any objection(s) o laim(s) with respect to the right

title or interest in the Said Proper

then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notic

and or the same to the undersigne

found by anyone. Thereafter aim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

F-211.sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziaba

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN THAT MY CLIENT SH. BABU KHAN AND HIS WIFE SMT. SHAMEENA BEGUM, R/C

H.NO. A-547, SANGAM VIHAR NEAR TIGRI EXT., NEW DELHI-110080, HEREBY SEVERED ALL

RELATIONS FROM THEIR ELDER SON ABRAR AHMED, AGE 45

YEARS DUE HIS ILL-BEHAVIOUR YEARS DUE HIS ILL-BEHAVIOUR AND BAD HABITS. MY ABOVE SAID CLIENTS ALSO DIS-OWNED/DEBARRED THEIR SON ABRAR AHMAD FROM HIS ALL

MOVEABLE AND IMMOVEABLE PROPERTIES WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. MY CLIENTS HAS NO

CONTROL OVER HIM, ANYBODY DEALING WITH HIM IN ANY MAN-

NER WILL DO SO AT THEIR OWN

NER WILL DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND CONSEQUENCES AND MY CLIENTS OR THEIR FAMILY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT/DEED DONE BY HIM

MANOJ BHATI ADVOCATE

CHAMBER NO.710 SAKET COURT COMPLEX

NAME CHANGE

SUMITRA BEN MANORSINI Nother of No-16021209F Rank-L/HAN

Name-PARMAR SHAILESH KUMAR MANORSINH Presently residing at H NO-327, PARMAR FALIYU, VPO-

ANCHMAHALS, GUJARAT-38912

ave changed my name from SUMI RA BEN MANORSINH to PARMAR

SUMITRABEN MANORSINH for a uture purposes vide Affidavit date

1/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi

/AGH.IIPUR

NEW DELHI-110017

SHEHER/

Advocat

Haryana aims cleaner air with expanded e-bus fleet, Rs 1,100cr allocated

Gurgaon. To improve bus services in the NCR area, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) chairman P Raghavendra Rao held a review meeting with the officials of the World Bank, GMDA, FMDA, GMCBL, MCG, and DIMTS on Thursday.The state govt approved the detailed project report for the Harvana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development and is being funded by the World Bank, which aims to combat pollution and promote sustainable

NAME CHANGE Surender Pal S/o Om Prakash R/o House No-279 Block-F Dharn

Colony, Palam Vihar EXTN., Gurgaon Haryana-122017 Have Changed My Minor Son Name Ishan To Ishan Siroh NAME CHANGE

MOHAMMAD MOBEEN S/O SAEED AHMAD residing at HOUSE NO-483, KOTLA, MER-RUT . UTTAR PRADESH-250002 have changed my name to MOBII AHMAD for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE I, VENKATA LAXMI is legally spouse o No. 15495610P Rank- HAV Name BATCHIGARI VENKATESWARLU

R/o 12/24 A, SANGA STREET CUM BUM, PO-CUMBUM, DIST PRAKASAM (ANDHRA PRADESH) 52333 have changed my name from VENKATA LAXMI to LAKSHM BATCHIGARI for all future purposes Vide affidavit dated 28/12/2024 Before

NAME CHANGE KARUPPAYEE is Mother of No 15724187P Rank-L/NK PALANIMUTHU, Unit- DBA SC R/c VILL-KAND KOSRI, PO- DHARER TEH-BAIJNATH, DIST-KANGRA (HP)-176125 have changed my name from M KARUPPAYEE to KARUPPAYI MUNIYASAMY for all future purpose Vide affidavit dated 28/12/2024 Befor Notary New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I ANUJ AHLAWAT S/o OMPARKASH Residing at Seria (9) PO. Seria, Dist Jhajjar, Haryana-124102, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as ANUJ in my Educational Certificate, Voter Crad No. UQI0476065, and Driving Licence No.HR77 20200001234. The actual name of mine is ANUJ AHLAWAT which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

Nikhat Parveen wife of Mohd. Ar resident of L 212, 213, Sunder Nagri Delhi-93 declare that in my passpor no L9611132 my name has been erroneously written as Nikhat Praveen, whereas my correct name is Nikhat Parveen, in future I should be known by the name of Nikhat Parveen only.

growth across the state. Rao said robust bus services could reduce pollution levels in the two cities, as there is "immense scope for both cities to augment bus transport networks further and contribute towards combatıng air pollution in the state."The project will be implemented over six years, with Rs 3,600 crore allocated for its first phase. Of this, nearly Rs 1,100 crore was allocated to the transport sector to strengthen public

NAME CHANGE

hitherto known as Rehman S/O S M ALI R/O A-136, NEAR RWA DILSHAD COLONY ,Jhilmil ,East Delhi, Delhi-110095, have changed ny name and shall hereafter be

NAME CHANGE

, Ritika Sharma D/o Shri Ramesh Behal, Address:- V-24 Ground Floor, Green Park (Main), New Delhi -110016 have changed my name to Ritika Behal for all future purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SANIYA PARVEEN D/O MOHD TALIB R/O F-217, SHAHEEN BAGH ABUL FAZAL PART-2, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, SO DIST SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110025 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as TALIB ALI in my 10th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is MOHD TALIB which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

No. 14834846L, Rank-SEP/M7 ame-ZALA SANJAYKUMAR ISH VARBHAI Father of VISHVAJEET
Presently residing at VILLAGEPATHAVAT BARMUDA, POST-JAR-AVAT, TEHSIL-MAHEMDVAD DISTT-KHEDA, GUJARAT-387130 have changed my minor son's name from VISHVAJEET to ZALA VISHVJI SANJAYKUMAR for all future purpos s vide Affidavit dated 31/12/2024 efore Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, JC-303741F Rank-SUB Name-ANEES AHMAD S/o MUMTAZ AHMAD residing at VILL-SAMUND PUR, PO-SAGARI, PS-JEAN PUR, DIST AZAMCABU DIST-AZAMGARH. PRADESH-276138 have changed my daughter's name from BUSHRA KHATTON to BUSHRA KHATOON for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/12/2024 before Notary Public, Delh

NAME CHANGE

NOOR SHABA BANO Wife of 03741F Rank-SUB Name-ANEES AHMAD residing at VILL-SAMUNE PUR, PO-SAGARI, PS-JEAN PUR DIST-AZAMGARH. UTTAF PRADESH-276138, have changed my name from NOOR SHABA BANO to NOOR SABA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 31/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

transportation and curb emissions across state.During the meeting, A Sreenivas, CEO of GMDA and FMDA highlighted the **NAME CHANGE** plans that would be adopted

NAME CHANGE

by the authorities to augment

Mohammad Saquib Ahmad S/O sayeed Bin Ahmed R/O House No B 567, 2nd floor, Block B. Jahangirour North West Delhi - 110033 Have Changed my name to Shakeb Ahmer or all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

, PARVEEN KUMAR HANS S/O DAULAT RAM HANS R/O 371 COHAT ENCLAVE PITAMPLIRA NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI 110034 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PARVEEN HANS FOR ALL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Mr. Vijende Numar who is the owner of Property Bearing No.3197-A/234, Portion of Old Plot Bearing No.22, area measu ing 74 sq.yards, Situated at Chande Nagar (Ram Nagar), Tri Nagar, Delhi 110035 by the virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 28.11.2024 registered as Doc No 2024/15/O/17659 and also taking inancial assistance from Godre Finance Limited. If any person(s /Institution has/have any objection(s or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may ase contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held respons ble in any manner whatsoever.

Khaitan & Khaita

A-38 Kailash Colony New Delhi-110048 Contact #011-49774548

PUBLIC NOTICE Information is given to general pub-lic at large that our client Mr. Sushi Kumar Yadav S/o Mr. Hoshyar Singh is the owner of Freehold Residential House No. B-4, on Third No. 21/2Min, Situated in the area of Village Palla, Tehsil & Distric Faridabad, Haryana 121003. By Virtue of Will dated 03.07.2023 as Doc No. 263, on Dated 03.07.2023 SR- Faridabad in the chain docu ments below mentioned document not available i.e. Probate Order of Will dated 03.07.2023 now ou client is declaring that that any othe Person does not have any right ove the said property, and built on 4th

Floor, with roof rights sold too be Mr. Neeraj Garg S/o Mr. Rajendra Prasad Garg and same has been finance by AAVAS FINANCIERS LIMITED. Branch: Rajinder Place New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with espect to the right, title or interest to the Said Property then contact us vithin 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim sha

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocati F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziaba Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0995887143

both infrastructure and manpower capacities to strengthen the public transport struc-

MD ASIM S/O MUBARAK ALI R/O 326 MAIN MARKET OKHLA JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA JAMIA NAGAR OKHLA SOUTH EAST DELH

110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME CHANGE

hitherto known as Saroj Bajaj alias Kiran Batra W/O Bhim Sain R/O 337, bagh kare khan kishan ganj Azad park VTC: Kishan ganj, PO Malka Ganj, bistrict: North Delhi, State: Delhi- 110007, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kiran Batra. Near Shivaji Public School Near Shivaji Public Scriodi, Parvatia Colony, Faridabad Sector-22, Haryana-121005 Have Changed my name to Chandan Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

NAME CHANGE

Yatin S/o Baldev Raj Sachdeva R/o 151: Street No-6, Arjun Nagar, Gurgaon, Haryana 122001, Have Changed My Name To Yatir Sachdeva For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE

, TRIDEV BAISHANAB S/o NITA CH BAISHANAB, R/o PLOT NO-28 BRD FLOOR FRONT SIDE LHS OM VIHAR EXTN, PHASE-5 JTTAM NAGAR, PO: D.K MOHAN GARDEN, DIST: WEST DELHI 110059 have changed my nam from TRIDEV ROY to TRIDEV BAIS HANAB for all future purpose. The RIDEV ROY and TRIDEV BAIS HANAB are the names of the on nd same person i.e. myself.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Tender Notice Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

N.I.T. No. 20-A, B, C, D, E /2024-25/WE

A. Construction of a boundary wall to prevent encroachment in a high dense area in the S/o SSE/W/DKZ-I under ADEN/E-II. B.Improvement to damaged sunshade and repairs to roofs of Block No 158-170 at DKZ-II Railway Colony in the section of SSF/W/DKZ

> C.Provision of new pipe lines and improvement of water supply arrangement/PVC tanks in lieu of worn out pipe lines at Sewa Nagar colony, Chanakyapuri officer's Enclave, Lajpat Nagar Colony, Sarojini Nagar railway colonies & Repair to camp office at MR and MSOR in the section of under ADEN/E-III. D. Repair to side plaster and exterior white wash from outside in SF

Marg BRSQ in the section of SSE/W/SP Marg under ADEN/E-III. E. Construction of SSE/Works Office campus at Chanakya Rai Enclave Chanakyapuri in the S/O SSE/W/HNZM under ADEN/E-III. **A.** ₹93,94,612.73 **B.** ₹74,99,980.00 **C.** ₹3,28,71,742.05

D. ₹1,44,99,943.52 **E.** ₹54,99,999.20 A. ₹1.87.900/-B. ₹1.50.000/-D. ₹2,22,500/-E. ₹1,10,000/-

Completion period of work A. 04 Months B. 06 Months C. 06 Months D. 06 Months E. 06 Months Closing date of tender on 21.01.2025 at 15:00 hrs. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. No.: 128-W/269/OET/24-25/WE/NIT/20 A, B, C, D, E

No-534-ACS-R-QTRS-BWSN-CSB Dated-31.12.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Deputy Chief Engineer /Const./Northern Railway Shivaji Bridge, New Delhi, fo and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Two-Packet system for the following work: Construction of Multi Storied Residential Type-II Quarters (112 Units), Type-III Quarters (24 Units) & Type-IV Quarters (8 Units), Fire Fighting Arrangement for 112 nos. Type-II Quarters, 24 nos. Type-III Quarters,

and 08 nos. Type-IV Quarters, circulating area, landscaping horticultur works, etc. and other miscellaneous allied work in c/w Dev Northern Railway' 2 Completion period of the work: 12 (Twelve) months 3 Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 4667.07 Lakhs

4 Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 24,83,500/-Tender documents will be available on IREPS web tender document site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 07.01.2025 to on Rly. Website 21.01.2025 upto 11.30 hrs. 21.01.2025 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 07.01.2025 to 21.01.2025. 6 Last date/Time of Date and time of 21.01.2025 at 11.30 hours

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that Ranjeet Kumar S/O, Madan Lal, R/C Kh. No-18/8, Gali No-15a, Chandar Vihar, Near Nehru Market, West Sar Nagar, BURARI, PO:Burari DIST:North Delhi, Delhi, 11008 eclare that name of mine has bee rongly written as Ranjeet kuma Sarser in my caste certificate no SC/02/31/3297/18/1/2007/18860.The actual name of mine is Ranjeet kuma which may be amended accordingly.

Jimmy Carter's State Funeral To Be Held On January 9 in Washington DC

Washington, United States. Former US President Jimmy Carter's official state funeral will be held on January 9 in Washington DC, the same day as a national day of mourning announced by President Joe Biden on Sunday. Biden is expected to deliver a eulogy for the former President, and on Monday he ordered federal offices closed on January 9 "as a mark of respect" for Mr Carter.The Supreme Court followed suit on Monday noon, announcing it would also be closed on January 9 in recognition of the day of mourning.

Mr Carter passed away on Sunday (local time) at the age of 100.Services honouring Mr Carter will begin on January 4 and include a brief pause at his boyhood home and the family farm in Plains, Georgia, where he grew up, and a stop at the Georgia State Capitol for a moment of silence.

Mr Carter will lie in repose at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta until January 7 for mourners to pay their respects, before departing for Washington, DC, where his remains will be carried to the US Navy Memorial and then to the US Capitol in a funeral procession. Upon arrival at the Capitol, members of Congress will pay their respects to the late President during an afternoon service on January 7. He will lie in state until January 9. The state funeral will be held at the National Cathedral at 10 a.m. that day.

In a letter on Monday, Congressional leaders from both parties notified Mr Carter's son James Carter III and the Carter Center of their intent for the late President to lie in state at the Capitol from January 7-9.

"In recognition of President Carter's long and distinguished service to the nation, it is our intention to ask the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to permit his remains lie in state in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol," the lawmakers said in a joint statement. With your approval, we will move forward with these arrangements so that the American people have the opportunity to pay their respects to President Carter before he is laid to rest," they added.

In a statement on Truth Social on Sunday, US Presidentelect Donald Trump also paid tribute to Mr Carter, writing that "the challenges Jimmy faced as President came at a pivotal time for our country and he did everything in his power to improve the lives of all

Swiss Cabin Crew Member Dies After Smoke Forced **Emergency Landing In Graz**

Zurich. A Swiss Internaional Air Lines cabin crew member on an aeroplane forced to make an emergency landing due to smoke inside the aircraft has died, the flag carrier said on Monday. The Airbus A220-300 jet, with 74 passengers and five crew on board, was flying from Bucharest to Zurich on December 23 when it had to land in Graz, Austria after engine problems occurred and smoke filled the cockpit and cabin. The plane landed safely."We must report, with the deepest of sorrow and regret, that our young colleague died in the hospital in Graz on Monday," Swiss said in a statement. Swiss chief executive Jens Fehlinger said the loss had left the airline, a subsidiary of Germany's Lufthansa, in shock and grief. We are devastated at our dear colleague's death," he said. "Our thoughts are with his family, whose pain we cannot imagine. I offer them my heartfelt condolences on behalf of all of us at Swiss."Swiss said in a statement that "out of respect for the loved ones, we will not provide detailed information about our employee or the cause of death." After the plane made an emergency landing, one cabin crew member was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Graz and taken into intensive care. Another cabin crew member was also taken to hospital.

All passengers were evacuated and 12 received medical attention. Swiss on Tuesday said that all passengers who were admitted to hospital had since been able to leave. Chief operating officer Oliver Buchhofer thanked the local emergency services in Graz who had helped passengers and crew. This is the saddest of days for us all," he said."Losing our colleague and fellow member of our Swiss team leaves me distraught and dismayed."He said Swiss would work "with the relevant authorities, to determine the causes involved."Swiss said the focus of its investigation was on the mechanical parts of the aircraft, such as the engine, but also on the use of protective breathing equipment for the cabin crew.

Kim Jong Un Vows To **Further Solidify Russia Ties** In Letter To Putin

Seoul. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged to solidify the country's comprehensive strategic partnership with Russia in his letter to President Vladimir Putin on Monday, state media KCNA reported on Tuesday. In the message, Kim sent New Year greetings to Putin and all Russians, including their troops and expressed his willingness to further step up bilateral ties, which he said the two leaders have elevated to a new height this year, through new projects, KCNA said.

Kim "wished that the New Year 2025 would be recorded as the first year of victory in the 21st century when the Russian army and people would defeat neo-Nazism and achieve a great victory," KCNA said.Kim and Putin signed a mutual defence treaty at a summit in June, which calls for each side to come to the other's aid in case of an armed attack.

North Korea has since dispatched tens of thousands of troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine, and Seoul and Washington said that more than a thousand of them have been killed or wounded.

South Korean court issues arrest warrant for impeached president Yoon

SEOUL. A South Korean court has issued an arrest warrant for impeached, suspended President Yoon Suk Yeol, investigators said Tuesday, over his short-lived bid to impose martial law on the country. Yoon briefly suspended civilian rule this month, plunging South Korea into its worst political crisis in decades. He was stripped of his presidential duties by parliament over the action, but a constitutional court ruling is pending on whether to confirm the impeachment."The arrest warrant and search warrant for President Yoon Suk Yeol, requested by the Joint Investigation Headquarters, were issued this morning," the Joint Investigation Headquarters said in a statement. The conservative leader faces criminal charges of insurrection, which could result in life imprisonment or even the death penalty.Investigators probing Yoon over his declaration of martial law requested the warrant Monday after the suspended president failed to report for questioning a third time."The reason for the warrant is that there is a concern that the individual may refuse to comply with

summons without justifiable reasons, and there is sufficient probable cause to suspect the commission of a crime," a Corruption Investigation Office (CIO) official told reporters at a briefing on Tuesday."The warrant is valid until January 6," the official said, adding that Yoon could be held to make a table and the Seed held at a police station or the Seoul detention center. Yoon's lawyer called the arrest warrant for the impeached president "illegal and invalid", saying investigators lacked the authority to probe the president."The arrest warrant and search and seizure warrant issued at the request of an agency without investigative authority are illegal and invalid," a statement sent to AFP by lawyer Yoon Kab-keun said.Even

though the warrant has been issued, it is unclear whether investigators and police will be able to execute it. The Presidential Security Service has previously refused to comply with three search warrants.It said



Tuesday that "security measures regarding the execution of the warrant will be carried out in accordance with lawful procedures,' in a statement to local media. But lawyer Yun Bok-nam, president of Lawyers for a Democratic Society, told AFP that while there was a legal basis for rejecting a search

warrant "there's no such provision for arrest warrants"."I expect the (arrest) process will proceed smoothly," he said, adding that warrants were typically valid seven days and had to be executed within that time frame.Police were deployed early Tuesday outside Yoon's residence in central Seoul, in a likely bid to head off scuffles. Yoon's supporters and protesters calling for his removal have both staked out his residence, with local media running images of altercations between the two camps overnight.Up to 3,000 people will move to protest

against the unfair and unvalid arrest warrant," said an official from the largest protest group supporting Yoon.Local media reported than an imminent arrest or search of the presidential residence was unlikely, as investigators would seek to coordinate with the presidential security service.

Venezuela's top court

issues a \$10 million fine for

TikTok over allegedly

deadly video challenges

CARACAS. Venezuela's Supreme Court on Monday

issued a \$10 million fine against TikTok for "not implementing measures" to prevent viral video

challenges that have allegedly led to the deaths of three

Judge Tania D'Amelio said TikTok had acted in a

Six people injured in New York City convenience store firing

Police said that one of the intended targets, used a woman as a shied. The woman ended up shot in the stomach while the person who grabbed her went unscathed.

NEW YORK. Six people were shot at a New York City convenience store Monday, including a 12-year-old girl and her mother, as one of the intended targets used the woman as a shield, police said. The mother ended up shot in the stomach while the person who grabbed her went unscathed, police



interim Chief of Department John Chell said. There was no immediate information on the condition of those wounded in what Chell called "a brazen and heartless attack on innocent New Yorkers and cowardly intended victims."Police believe the two shooters were aiming for people in a group standing outside the store on White Plains Road, a commercial thoroughfare in the Bronx.

Chell said police have video showing the attackers opened fire around 5 p.m. as they ran across the road to the store, then kept shooting as their targets ran into the store. After bumping into the woman and girl at the counter, one of the people who ran inside took hold of her and spun her into the line of fire, Chell said. Chell said

all of those shot, except the 40-year-old mother, were wounded in their arms or legs. The Fire Department said it took five of the wounded to hospitals, and the sixth apparently got a ride to a hospital from someone else. In addition to the mother and daughter, those wounded included four men, aged 18 to

Venezuelan children recently.



There Are No Trans Kids": JK Rowling's Controversial Remark Sparks Debate

JK Rowling has once again stirred controversy with her remarks on transgender issues

World. JK Rowling has once again stirred controversy with her remarks on transgender issues. The Harry Potter author, in her latest post on X, claimed that transgender children "do not exist" and dismissed the concept of Her remarks met with immediate being "born in the wrong body."

The controversy began on Sunday when an X user criticised Rowling for allegedly not using her influence for positive change. The user wrote, "I wish you would use your immense power for good. Your hateful focus on trans kids is hurtful and unnecessary."

In response, JK Rowling wrote, "There are no trans kids. No child is 'born in the wrong body'. There are only adults like you, prepared to sacrifice the health of minors to bolster your belief in an ideology that ends up wrecking more



harm than lobotomies and false memory syndrome combined.

backlash, with critics accusing her of perpetuating harmful rhetoric against transgender individuals.A user commented, "Isn't that the same logic homophobic people used in the previous century against gays and lesbians?"Another said, "You're also a medical expert. Didn't know that. This thing that everyone famous for anything feels the urge to act as an expert of something else... makes me crazy! I surely need to be visited by a novelist..." to which Rowling replied, "But being trans isn't a medical

condition, or so we're told."Whatever you believe doesn't matter. If a person feels and identifies as a different gender, who are you to judge? Let people be who they want to be. It doesn't affect your life in any way shape of form. They're not forcing their beliefs on your lifestyle. Stay in your own lane," read a comment.Rowling's remarks also found support from some quarters. One user

wrote, "You don't need to be a medical expert to know right from wrong or child exploitation when you see it."This is not the first time JK Rowling has come under fire for her opinions on transgender issues. Back in August, she criticised Algerian boxer Imane Khelif's participation in the Paris Olympics 2024, suggesting that Khelif, who defeated Italian boxer Angela Carini in a 46-second match, was a man competing against women. Rowling accused organisers of enabling "men's power over women," and criticised the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for allowing Khelif to compete.

while also ordering the video service company to open an office in Venezuela that would supervise content so that it complies with local laws. The judge did not explain how Venezuela would force TikTok, whose parent company is based in China, to pay the fine. Venezuela has blocked dozens of websites in previous years for not complying with regulations set by its telecommunications commission. Tik Tok did not immediately respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press.In November, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro blamed TikTok for the death of a 12-year-old girl who allegedly died after participating in a TikTok challenge that involved taking tranquilizer pills and not falling asleep. Venezuela's Education Minister Hector Rodriguez also said last month that a 14-year-old died after taking part in a TikTok challenge that involved sniffing substances. And on Nov. 21, Venezuela's attorney general blamed video challenges on TikTok for the death of a third child. Dozens of radio stations and television channels have been taken off the air in Venezuela under Maduro over their news coverage. More than 60 websites belonging to human rights groups and news companies were blocked at different times this year, according to VE Sin Filtro, a group that tracks media freedoms in the South American country.In August, Venezuela banned the social media platform X as thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets to protest the re-election of Maduro. The Venezuelan government initially banned X for 10 days, after Maduro accused its owner Elon Musk of using the social media platform to "orchestrate attacks against Venezuela."Musk had accused Maduro of rigging the July 28 election, which the United Nations and the Carter Center, an organization that monitors elections around the world, said.

New Taiwan Board Game Invites Players To Battle 'Chinese Invasion'

Taipei. A new board game set against the backdrop of armed conflict around Taiwan is set to be released in January 2025, amid renewed threats from Beijing, inviting players to participate in an imaginary Chinese invasion 20 years from now.

China has ramped up military activity close to democratically governed Taiwan in recent years, including massing naval forces around the island this month.

The new game, titled "2045", tasks gamers with navigating the troubles of war by using colourful action cards, and roleplaying characters involved in operations 10 days before a fictional Chinese invasion of Taiwan. That includes members of Taiwan's armed forces, Chinese sleeper agents and pro-China politicians working to sabotage the island's defence, as well as citizens picking up guns to defend their homeland.

China claims Taiwan as its own and has never renounced the use of force to bring the island under its control. Taiwan's president and his government strongly object to



China's sovereignty claims and say only the island's people can decide their future. Taiwanese board game maker Mizo Games started crowdfunding the game in August. Within two-and-a-half-months, the company had received more than T\$4 million (\$121,966) to fund the project. 'It is not quite peaceful around Taiwan island

and the Western Pacific as we speak,"

Chang Shao Lian, the founder of Mizo Games told Reuters at his Taipei office. Chang said he wanted "players to feel they want to win and think about what they will do to win". The game, which is also set to go on sale in the U.S. and Europe later in the year, has been developed at a time when Taiwan officials have intensified

preparations for scenarios including a

presidential office held its first "tabletop" exercise involving government agencies beyond the armed forces, simulating a military escalation with China.he exercise involved scenarios, including the island being "on the verge of conflict", to test the readiness of government offices and civil society.Players who participated in a test run of "2045" said they learnt about what might happen in the event of a Chinese invasion and that they hoped the game could help people understand the implications of a war."I'm not very knowledgeable on military matters, therefore through this game I learnt about where the army may land and launch an attack," said Kalin Lai, a 23-year-old who tried out the game.

Mizo has previously created two other Taiwan war-themed board games - one about surviving an air raid in Taipei and the other about a bombing in Kaohsiung during Japan's colonisation of the island between 1895 and 1945.

China conflict.ast week, Taiwan's

NIA court sentences Bangladeshi national to seven-year imprisonment in terror case

BENGALURU. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) Special Court in Bengaluru on Monday sentenced Bangladeshi national Jahidul Islam, alias Kausar, to seven years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a series of cases related to the promotion of the activities of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh India (JMB - India).Jahidul was also fined ?57,000 in cases connected with offences of dacoity, conspiracy, raising funds, and the procurement of ammunition.

With this, a total of 11 accused have been convicted in these cases. The initial case was registered by the Bengaluru City Police in June 2019, based on information generated by the NIA during the investigation of the Burdwan blast case by the agency's Kolkata Branch Office.

The NIA subsequently registered the case and initiated a probe into the matter, along with connected dacoity

According to NIA investigations, Jahidul, the JMB Amir of India, along with the absconding JMB head Salauddin Salehin, had illegally crossed into India in 2014 after escaping from the custody of Bangladesh police in connection with the 2005 serial blasts in Bangladesh. While in hiding, he and his associates were involved in the October 2014 Burdwan blast case.

After the blast, Jahidul and his aides fled to Bengaluru, where he radicalized and recruited gullible Muslim youth from West Bengal and Assam to further the anti-India activities of JMB. The accused and his associates were also responsible for the blast in Bodhgaya in January 2018.

APCID questions TDP leader Rakesh over 2021 attack on Naidu's residence

VIJAYAWADA. APCID sleuths questioned TDP Telugu Vanijya Vibhagam State president Rakesh Parepalli, also known as Doondi Rakesh, on Monday in connection with the alleged attack on Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's residence in 2021.

It may be recalled that the cases related to the attack on the TDP office and Naidu's residence, allegedly orchestrated by YSRCP cadres, were transferred to APCID by DGP Ch Dwaraka Tirumala Rao this October. Sources revealed that Rakesh was



present at the scene during the incident and sustained injuries when alleged YSRCP activists pelted stones and attempted to breach Naidu's residence. Based on evidence and CCTV footage, CID officers identified Rakesh and served notices requiring his cooperation in the investigation.Rakesh reportedly provided information about the timeline of events, along with documents and video clippings, to assist CID officials in identifying the attackers. "The evidence submitted will play a crucial role in identifying the accused involved in the attack," said a senior CID official.

Karnataka HC stays proceedings against IIMB dean, director, faculty over caste discrimination

BENGALURU. The Karnataka High Court stayed the proceedings initiated by the Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) against the dean, director and faculty members of Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIMB), based on a complaint filed by Dr Gopal Das, associate professor of marketing, IIMB, alleging caste-based discrimination and humiliation of him. "Section 7 (a) of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes (Reservation of Appointment etc) Rules, 1992, stipulates that the DCRE can prosecute a person who has obtained a caste certificate fraudulently and has no authority to enquire into the allegations of harassment of a person belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe community. Therefore, the impugned notice issued by the DCRE prima-facie lacks authority," said Justice Hemant Chandangoudar in the interim order of stay passed recently.

The order was passed on a petition filed by Prof Rishikesha T Krishnan, Director, Prof Dinesh Kumar, Dean-Faculty, and other faculty members such as prof Sreelata Jonnalagedda, Prof Rahul De, Prof Ashis Mishra and Prof Chetan Subramanian. The stay order for another petitioner, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIMB, was passed on July 18.

All the petitioners questioned the entire proceedings initiated by the DCRE based on the complaint filed by Gopal Das. Further hearing was adjourned to the second week of January 2025.

Safety lapses blamed for MLA's accident at Kochi Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

KOCHI. Serious safety lapses led to the accident that caused grievous injuries to Thrikkakara MLA Uma Thomas while attending a mega dance event at Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi, said police.The Palarivattom police on Monday registered a case against the event organisers and contractor who built the dais at the stadium gallery. After interrogation, the police recorded the arrest of Krishnakumar, manager of event management firm Oscar Events. He was later released on bail. The Thrissurbased firm had organised the event for Mridanga Vision on Sunday.Uma suffered serious injuries after she fell from a height of 15ft at the stadium.

Kochi City Police Commissioner Putta Vimaladitya said the preliminary probe indicated lapses on the part of organisers."The probe revealed that certain terms and conditions stated in the agreement made between Mridangavision and the GCDA for hiring the stadium were not followed. We are in touch with other departments to check whether the organisers had taken their permission. We are conducting a detailed probe by coordinating with other government departments. The



forensic team and structural engineers of PWD checked the stadium. All aspects of the safety lapses will be checked," Vimaladitya told reporters on Monday.

Krishnakumar was the signatory on the agreement between Mridangavision and GCDA. Mridanga Vision managing director is Nighosh Kumar.The police interrogated Krishnakumar, Mridanga Vision CEO Shameer Abdul Rasheem and Mulanthuruthy native Benny, who built the stage."We have registered a case against the organisers and the contractor

who built the stage. Currently, bailable offences are charged against the accused persons. Once more evidence emerges during the course of probe, we will decide on slapping more charges against them," Vimaladitya said.Police sources said the organisers had not taken permission from GCDA to install a dais on the gallery. Even after the accident, the event continued without enough security measures, they said."Usually when such an event attended by a large crowd is organised, the PWD examines the structural changes made by organisers. However, PWD or engineers of GCDA were not informed about setting up the stage. The dais erected at a height of 15ft hardly

had enough space to seat eight persons. The dais was to be occupied by more than 10 persons. The stage was not barricaded to prevent the accident that happened to Uma Thomas," an officer conducting the investigation said. The case was registered under Section 125 of the BNS Act (acts done rashly or negligently that endanger human life or personal safety), Section 125(B) (same offence with imprisonment up to three months), Section 3(5) (several persons involved in an offence).

Fort Kochi's New Year festivities to prioritise safety

KOCHI. To ensure smooth New Year celebrations, police have made special security arrangements at Fort Kochi on Tuesday. As many as 1,000 police personnel will be deployed at Veli ground where the effigy of Pappanji will be torched as part of the New Year celebration. Kochi City Police Commissioner Putta Vimaladithya said that the 1,000 police officers deployed in Fort Kochi include 12 DySPs, 26 circle inspectors, 198 sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors."We have made an elaborate arrangement at Fort Kochi area as part of the New Year celebration.

There are also traffic regulations at Fort Kochi. We have identified 18 grounds where people arriving for the celebration can park their vehicles in Fort Kochi," Vimaladithya said."Once these grounds are fully occupied, the vehicles will be allowed to park at grounds



identified under Thopumpady and Palluruthy police station limits. Once all these grounds are filled, we would not divert vehicles from Thopumpady BOT bridge and would not allow entry of vehicles," Vimaladithya added. At Veli ground, CCTV cameras have been installed to monitor the crowd. The ground will be barricaded to prevent any untoward incident. Also, the place where Pappanji will be torched is barricaded. Special lights are installed as part of the security arrangement. KSEB officials, Fire Force units and medical teams will be present at the Veli ground. Coastal Police and Marine Ambulance will be present at the beachside. When it comes to other parts of the city, the Commissioner said that the entire police force will be mobilised for security activities. "There will be checks on roads to prevent drunk

driving. DANSAF units will be monitoring drug peddlers. Also to ensure the safety of women, we have deployed women police officers. There are also policemen in plain clothes as part of surveillance activities," he

Pawan Kalyan's year of political mastery, cultural advocacy

Andhra Pradesh. 2024 has been a transformative year for Pawan Kalyan, the actor-turned-politician and Jana Sena Party president. His leadership and strategic acumen were pivotal in the Jana Sena-TDP-BJP alliance's success in the general elections, limiting the YSRCP to just 11 seats. This victory was a testament to Pawan's ability to unite opposition forces and outmaneuver rivals.A key moment in Andhra Pradesh politics came when Pawan formed an alliance with TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu, following the latter's arrest. This collaboration, supported by the BJP, was crucial in ensuring the NDA's success at both the State and national levels. Pawan's rise from losing the 2019 elections to becoming Deputy Chief Minister in 2024 was remarkable. As Deputy CM, he was praised for his hands-on governance, spearheading infrastructure projects, addressing local issues like red sanders smuggling, and championing rural development in his constituency, Pithapuram.Beyond Andhra Pradesh, Pawan's influence spread to Maharashtra, where his efforts helped the Mahayuti alliance win 11 out of 12 contested seats. His appeal was further bolstered by his advocacy for Hindu values, earning him titles like "Sanatana Dharma Parirakshak" and "Hindu Yodha.

Globally, Pawan became one of the most-searched personalities in 2024, ranking as the second mostsearched actor worldwide. His advocacy for Sanatana Dharma, including symbolic acts like walking barefoot to Tirumala and speaking out on the laddu controversy strengthened his cultural standing.Prime Minister Narendra Modi aptly described Pawan when he said, "Ye Pawan nahi, aandhi hai. (He is not breeze, but a storm)", capturing his rising influence.Jana Sena General Secretary Bolisetty Satyanarayana summed it up: "Pawan Kalyan's vision inspires youth, challenges norms, and drives rural progress, reflecting his Gandhian belief in national growth through rural development." As 2024 concludes, Pawan Kalyan's journey from political underdog.

Free rides for tipplers in Hyderabad on New Year's Eve to ensure safe travel

HYDERABAD. A free ride will be made available to tipplers to help them return home safely after New Year celebrations on December 31.The Telangana Four-Wheeler Drivers Association (TGFWDA) and Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) announced on Monday that they would provide free transportation from 10 p.m. on December 31 to 1 a.m. on January 1, 2025. Speaking to TNIE, TGPWU president Shaik Salauddin said that as drunken driving poses a grave threat to public safety, they have initiated the #HumAapkeSaathHai campaign to eliminate the risks associated with drunken driving after the New Year's celebrations.Salauddin said, "We will provide free



transportation across Hyderabad, Cyberabad, and Rachakonda commissionerate limits with 500 fourwheeler cabs and 250 bikes. We have been providing this service for the last eight years. Our main intention is to help people reach their homes safely. Anyone who wants a ride can call 9177624678.""Those who are drunk and are not in a position to go home on their own can avail of the free ride," added Salauddin.

Centre accepts Odisha's plea, extends crop loss claims time till January 1

BHUBANESWAR. The central government has approved the state's proposal for an extension of the deadline for farmers to report their loss to insurance companies till January 1.

The last date for insured farmers to report their losses was December 29, but the state government requested the Centre to extend the deadline. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment had allowed one day's extension till Monday which was announced by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Chhatrapur in Ganjam district after conducting both aerial and ground survey of crop loss in three districts of Nayagarh, Gajapati and Ganjam."However, considering the interests of farmers, the central government has extended the deadline by three more days. Therefore, farmers can now report their crop loss to the insurance companies until January 1, 2025," said the office of the chief minister. Farmers who have insured their crops are required to report their losses to the companies within the stipulated date. The government has also instructed insurance companies to pay



compensation to farmers as soon as possible. The CM and deputy CM KV Singh Deo expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan for the central government's sympathetic attitude towards the farmers of the state.Revenue minister Suresh Pujari, who accompanied the CM in the three-district tour on Sunday, told reporters that the district collectors have been instructed to ensure no

affected farmer is left out from getting compensation. Pujari said the unseasonal rains have also damaged vegetable, cotton, groundnut and other kharif crops along with paddy. The state government will explore all possibilities to compensate farmers who are not covered under crop insurance scheme, he said. All farmers, both insured and uninsured, who have suffered crop loss due to unseasonal rains will also receive assistance, Pujari added.

For Guru, Sivagiri pilgrimage was an experiment with truth: M B Rajesh

"Sivagiri witnessed a huge rush of devotees on the day. The formal welcome to the foot marches as part of the pilgrimage was held in the evening.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.Sree Narayana Guru envisaged Sivagiri pilgrimage as an experiment with truth to make life better, Local Self-Government Minister M B Rajesh said on Monday."The Guru exhorted us to conduct the pilgrimage as a model, without luxury. The pilgrimage

is based on eight sectors, including education, agriculture, and technology, that are linked with human life," he said in his address at the meeting as part of 92nd Sivagiri pilgrimage at Sivagiri.Sree Narayana Dharma Sanghom Trust president Swami Sathchidananda presided over the meeting. General secretary Swami Shubhangananda delivered a benedictory address. The programme was attended by Adoor Prakash, MP, V Joy, MLA, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala and BJP leader V Muraleedharan.Sivagiri witnessed a huge rush of devotees on the day. The formal welcome to the foot marches as part of the pilgrimage was held in the evening.Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the public meeting as part of the pilgrimage on Tuesday at 10 am. Swami Sathchidananda will preside over. Leader of



Opposition V D Satheesan, Cooperation Minister V N Vasavan, SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan, and businessman M A Yusuff Ali will

attend.Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhavat will inaugurate the meeting on agriculture, industry and tourism at 2 pm. Industries Minister P Rajeeve will preside over. Health Minister Veena George will inaugurate the allreligion meeting at 5 pm. The Gurudeva idol installation festival will be held on January A procession carrying 108 kalasams will be taken out from the Sarada Mutt to Mahasamadhi Mandiram at 7:30 am. K Sudhakaran, MP, will open the meeting at 10am.Tourism Minister Mohamed Riyas will preside over. Kalpetta Narayanan will inaugurate the literary meeting at 2 pm. The valedictory meeting will be inaugurated by Union Minister George Kurian at 5pm. N K Premachandran, MP, will preside over. BJP state vice-president Sobha Surendran will deliver the keynote address.

Black swans that have shaken West Asia

BLACK swans, says Nassim Nicholas Taleb in his classic 2007 book, are highly improbable events that have a high impact and where we cover our shock by concocting post-facto explanations. Applied to his native West Asia, the last 15 months have seen the appearance of more than one black swan and the high impact of each is still working its way through the region's fault lines.

The massive terror attack launched by Hamas on October 7, 2023, was a black swan event that initially cracked the legend of Israel's invincibility. The heavy loss of life and abduction of over 250 citizens inflicted a collective sense of trauma on the Jewish state, accompanied by a reckoning that retribution alone could restore its sense of security. That retribution has led to over 45,000 dead Palestinians in Gaza, some 70 per cent of them women and children.

And yet, the bloodlust continues. Every day, day after day. Social media posts by Israeli soldiers, politicians and news anchors gloating over the orgy of death and destruction point to a stunning loss of humanity in people whose own sense of history should have made them more sensitive to the sheer injustice of collective punishment.

On the Arab street, October 7 was seen as a possible game-changer, an end to a debilitating status quo and a hope that the Iran-led Axis of Resistance would seize the opportunity and that Hezbollah and Hamas would inflict enough damage on Israel to bring it to the negotiating table. They clearly hadn't anticipated Israel's willingness to use overwhelming and completely disproportionate force in the densely populated civilian areas of Gaza, nor its assassination of Hamas, Hezbollah leaders and even of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, nor the impotence of the international community to enforce a ceasefire. The killing of Ismail Haniyeh in an Iranian safe-house in Tehran, of Hassan Nasrallah in a basement in Beirut and the simultaneous detonation of thousands of pagers used by Hezbollah cadres were mini black swans in their own right. The fear of Israel's defence and intelligence capabilities was restored and the lack of a damaging response from Iran dashed any wishful thinking that October 7 might lead to a Palestinian state. Israel's pursuit of retribution has been accompanied by a cavalier disregard of international humanitarian law. Judges at the International Criminal Court have issued arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes, including starvation, murder, targeting of civilians and persecution. The International Court of Justice has also held Israel's continued occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and east Jerusalem to be completely illegal.

Israeli's strident defiance of these rulings has been matched by the Biden administration's staunch defence of its principal ally in West Asia even as Trump 2.0 threatens sanctions against these international organisations for their temerity in citing the rule of law. For many in the Global South, the West's contrasting reactions to Ukraine and Gaza mark a fitting requiem to the rules-based international orderThe improbable evisceration of Hezbollah and diminution of Iran's bluster has also had a high impact in Israel's immediate neighbourhood. To Israel's north, Hezbollah often acted as a state within a state and the fading of its dark shadow opens the possibility of Lebanon becoming a more normal state, something that its beleaguered citizens have yearned for decades.

And, in Syria, the sudden weakening of Hezbollah and Iran created an equally improbable opportunity for Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). The S moved out of its stronghold in Idlib took the Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Damascus cities in barely a week and toppled the hated Assad dynasty that had ruled Syria with an iron fist for over five decades. The euphoria over the unexpected flight of Bashar al-Assad to Moscow among ordinary Syrians, however, is tempered by the unsavoury antecedents of Ahmed al-Sharaa. The HTS leader was closely affiliated with al-Qaeda and there are legitimate questions about the extent to which his jihadi tendencies were merely a youthful indiscretion.

Syrian crisis gives Islamic State a window of opportunity

The al-Sharaa government must ensure that the ISIS does not make a comeback.

REGIME change in any country, achieved not through parliamentary elections, introduces considerable instability in the region. This is worrisome to its neighbours, like what happened in Bangladesh. It is more so in Syria, a classic example of "ungoverned territory" or "failed state", as defined by American think tank RAND in 2007. The characteristics of a "failed state" are low-level administrative penetration into its territory, a lack of monopoly on the use of force by permitting illegal armed groups, the absence of effective controls on its land and sea borders, thus allowing influence by undesirable foreign elements. Syria has been welcoming foreign terrorists for years, much before the start of the Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011.

From the 1960s, Syria allowed terrorists like Abu Nidal, Nazar Mansur Hindawi and George Habash to freely operate from its land. On December 18, 1985, Abu Nidal claimed to a French paper, 'Jeune Afrique', that he was helping French covert group Action Directe, Basque separatist group ETA, Irish Republican Army and Baader-Meinhof gang. Abu Nidal was expelled from Syria only in 1987, under US pressure. Consequently, the Syrian government could not help other states, even if they wanted, in hostage rescue from their territory. The Washington Post (July 18, 1986) reported Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam admitting to American and French leaders, with whom he had good relations, that he could not help rescue American and French hostages kidnapped by local extremists as "they were being held in a region outside Syrian control". In 2005, Khaddam exiled himself to Paris due to differences with Bashar al-Assad.

Even with this inconstancy, Syria tried to take care of Western sensitivities while offering sanctuary to terrorists, as in the case of notorious mercenary Carlos the Jackal (Ilich Ramírez Sánchez) by forcing him to be inactive when Hungary expelled him in 1985. However, it expelled him in 1991 when he showed signs of joining Iraq's covert operations against America as Syria had opposed Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait.

Syria's alignment with American security policy continued during the post-9/11 period, although in that process it received considerable flak from human rights organisations. Diplomatically, Syria openly opposed Saddam. To quote noted Middle East scholar Shibley Telhami of Brookings, Syria "surprised many by supporting UN Resolution 1441 demanding immediate Iraqi compliance with previous UN resolutions".

Covertly, Syria helped the CIA deal with terrorists suspected to be involved in the 9/11 attacks. The Canadian Justice Dennis O'Connor Commission report (2004-05) on the "extraordinary rendition" of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen of Syrian origin, to Syria on the CIA's initiative and his harsh interrogation and incarceration by Syrian agencies for one year is an example of covert intelligence cooperation between the two countries.

All these factors should be kept in mind while assessing the long-term stability of the new



government under Ahmed al-Sharaa alias Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). He was once the chief of 'al-Nusra', an al-Qaeda front. True, American officials are expressing a new comfort level, as is evident from the statements of US diplomats Barbara A Leaf and Roger D Carstens on December 20, which has led to the scrapping of a \$10-million reward for al-Sharaa's arrest. Apart from the possibility of future clashes with Turkey over the Kurds, who are supported by America, the new al-Sharaa government must ensure that the Islamic State (ISIS) does not make a comeback, not just in Syria but also the entire region. There is a view that some hardliners within the HTS are not yet reconciled in supporting the leadership's "more moderate and

pragmatic approach". This is because some of the Chechen, Balkan and Central Asian jihadists are still among the HTS's rank and file. It is quite possible that ISIS "could seek to poach these militants and bring them into their fold". The Soufan Centre, which has been mostly correct in the past in its assessments about the ISIS in that region, has flagged some scenarios in its brief dated December 18, 2024. It says: "The current environment in Syria is tailor-made for the Islamic State to exploit in an effort to help facilitate its comeback and resurgence, not just in the country but across the region".

Firstly, it says that ISIS attacks in Syria alone had "tripled from last year" to about 700 for 2024. The ISIS has also improved "in sophistication, increased

> in lethality and become more dispersed geographically". Secondly, it would take advantage of the intra-coalition (anti-Assad) fights between Turkey-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a Kurdish militia backed by America.

> Soufan says the Kurds came under attack in Kobani and Manbij, aided by Turkish drones and other military assets. It adds that in northern Svria, a tenuous ceasefire between the SNA and the Kurds is holding on. There are fears that the Kurds might lose Kobani, a "geographically and symbolically important" area. The SDF is also facing major challenges in Deir ez-Zor, with Sunni Arabs protesting against its rule in Raqqa and Al-Hasakah.

If Kurdish troops (SDF) are removed from guarding the prisons and detention centres, there is a strong possibility of the ISIS trying to strike, as it did between January 20 and 30, 2022, at Al-Hasakah prison. This was a spectacular attack by the ISIS after it lost territories in Syria in 2019. During this attack, 200 to 300 ISIS fighters broke into the security ring of 9,000 SDF soldiers, supported by the US and UK's air forces, and freed 400 prisoners using suicide bombers and weapons. This fight had given a great propaganda edge to the ISIS.

Soufan predicts that it will be to the advantage of the ISIS if the US decides to withdraw its forces, as announced by President-elect Donald Trump. In that case, the responsibility of propping up the al-Sharaa government will rest with Ankara. This view is endorsed by BBC's Orla Guerin.

Migration slowing

States should fine-tune policies accordingly



live and work in states where they might face hostility and

ground reality, which has serious implications such as labour shortage and higher production

Every state needs horses for courses to spur economic growth, and migrants come in handy when locals are reluctant to do unskilled work in particular. However, initiatives such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana have changed the demographic dynamics. It was MGNREGS that helped millions of workers stay afloat after they trudged back to their villages during the Covid-induced lockdown in 2020. And this reverse migration has not turned out to be a mere aberration. Various states must take this shift into consideration while framing or reviewing policies. The priority should be to maximise economic gains while ensuring

social harmony.



I first met Manmohan Singh in 1981. As a reporter for Business Standard in Delhi, I had accompanied my

bureau chief to meet the member-secretary of the Planning Commission. They were old friends, and as we sat on the sofa in the expansive office, my boss noticed that the leather upper of Dr Singh's wellpolished shoe had a tear at the crease. Why don't you get new shoes, my bureau chief asked in friendly banter. Dr Singh's response was that with the savings from his last UN assignment, he had built a house for himself. Now he needed to save for getting his daughters married. Shortly afterwards, I visited another member of the Commission at his home. The distinguished scientist apologised for not being able to offer me a cup of tea. Sugar has become so expensive, he explained. Such were the times, when people even at the apex of the government lived modest lives on modest salaries in an economy known globally for poverty and domestically for shortages and controls of every kind. And such was the economy that Dr Singh released from controls in 1991. Producers now chase consumers, as they should. In truth, Dr Singh got more than his fair share of credit for what was done in 1991. As he himself once said in an interview, it was a team effort, and everyone — from the mostly unsung PV Narasimha Rao to his principal secretary AN Verma and others in the industry and commerce ministries — played their roles, including Yashwant Sinha, who as Finance Minister under Chandra Shekhar did the fire-fighting to stave off bankruptcy until the Rao government was sworn in. But there can be little doubt that the critical event signalling a new era for India was Dr Singh's 1991 Budget in which he quoted Victor Hugo to say

that no power on earth could stop an idea whose time

has come, and ended with the ringing words, "Let the

whole world hear it loud and clear. India is now

He was a shrewd player of other people's vanities, disarming them with effusive praise awake. We shall prevail. We shall overcome.'

Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh also figure

among the top five. It is apparent that states such as

Punjab and Haryana — which have high stakes in

the agricultural and industrial sectors — are not so

attractive to migrants. This is partly due to tensions

As though to balance things out, Dr Singh got more criticism than he perhaps deserved for some of the things that happened under his prime ministership. He had been dealt a very difficult hand: A rickety coalition government in which every partner did what it wanted, a government hamstrung by the need for support from obstructive Communists, a Cabinet in which many ministers owed their loyalty to Sonia Gandhi, not to the PM, and Mrs Gandhi herself who kept some of the reins in her hand and

created a dyarchy. Dr Singh was in office, but not really in power or in full control.

In the end, what remains with you are his personal qualities. The transparent integrity and sense of public purpose, the decency and courtesy that marked every meeting, the depth of understanding and wisdom that he displayed in every encounter, the occasional chuckle that showed his ability to laugh even in trying times. What remains also is the obvious regard in which he was held by leaders of stature such as former Singapore PM Lee Kuan Yew. And he could say a lot with a few words. Back in 1996, when I mentioned that the Rao government would not be highlighting economic reforms in its

election manifesto, he paused for a moment before asking: "What else is there to talk about?"

Commentators have referred to Dr Singh's humility. Yes, he had a humble manner that came naturally, but I have long suspected that in his own estimation he stood taller than those around him — with good reason. If it was so, he had the good sense to keep this self-assessment well hidden. In fact, he was a shrewd player of other people's vanities, disarming them with effusive praise — as I saw more than once. This came out wrong in the over-the-top statement that he made to George W Bush at a lunch in Delhi's Taj Palace hotel, when he told the visiting US President

that all of India loved him, or words to that effect. He did the same with Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director who had sanctioned the lifesaving loan in 1991. Later, at a dinner in Delhi when Camdessus had come visiting, Dr Singh was typically effusive in praise, referring to his guest (if memory serves me right) as Sir. Perhaps this was just



an Indian mannerism. But, sitting there, I felt that no finance minister of India should be addressing an IMF executive in that manner.

When faced with criticism, he was all grace, never referring to it in personal meetings or during interviews. When releasing the first book published by the newspaper's short-lived books division, he said that he understood the criticism for what his government failed to do, but added that the paper should at least give credit to the government for what

it did achieve. It was a fair point. The criticism worth recalling was by Ashok V Desai, a contemporary and friend of Dr Singh's at Cambridge. As a sharp and acerbic columnist at Business Standard, Desai wrote in 1995 or thereabouts that Dr Singh was personally honest but tolerated corrupt people around him. Dr Singh called me to protest, asking how he could defend himself against such criticism. I told him that the author was his friend and I would get Desai to speak to him. Many years passed before Desai told

me that Dr Singh had finally forgiven him. But the fact is that Desai had put his finger on the

Still, the free air that we breathed found reflection in how people spoke at an event in Vigvan Bhavan for releasing a festschrift in Dr Singh's honour, co-edited by Isher Judge Ahluwalia and Dr Singh's tutor at Oxford, Ian Little. Ahluwalia had asked me to be one of the speakers at the event, and while I said what I wanted to say, I lightened my critical comments with humour. Not so Raghuram Rajan, then adviser to the PM while still teaching at Chicago, who delivered some pretty heavy-duty criticism. I can think of no other government under which an event to honour the PM would see speakers criticising his government to his face and then joining him

at dinner! Such was the freedom of the times. It has been my good fortune as a journalist to have been able to interact with Dr Singh as often as I did over 35 years, enjoying his warmth and courtesy, leaving every meeting with fresh awareness of his wisdom and, for all the criticism that I directed at him and his government, always having the greatest respect for a truly great son of India. His passing has been for me a more saddening event than that of any other public



You want to have a baby but you're not sure whether your husband is on the same page. Instead of asking him directly, check for these signs that will tell you whether he too wants to start a

family

1. He is financially stable

What about his career? Is he settled in a good job? Is he ready to take the responsibility? Once he is in a good job and has it all going smooth, that's the time he starts thinking about kids. For a baby, it is very important for you to be financially stable as a couple. Bringing up babies is an expensive affair and before you plan one you have to make sure you are capable of paying those bills. Once you are sure of financial stability, check for the signs given

2. He mentions 'when we have kids...' often

Do his day-to-day conversations include 'when we have kids ... "? If he uses this phrase often, he is ready to have a family. Moreover, he may also talk about baby names he likes or what it would be like to have a baby at home. This means that he's already thought of having a kid. A guy who doesn't want to have a family will never mention anything about babies or kids.

3. He has a plan in mind Having babies requires a lot of planning. If

your husband or partner frequently says that he is planning to buy a bigger house or invest in a



good car before having a baby, he is clearly interested in having a family. It is great that he is planning it well.

4. He talks to his parents about being grandparents

Notice what he says when he is around his parents of your parents. It is not normal for a guy who is not ready for a family to constantly talk about babies or about parents being grandparents when with parents. If he does discuss parenting and grand parenting, you two are definitely on the same page

He often offers to babysit his nieces or nephews

Has he started practicing the skill to handle babies already? When he frequently asks to babysit, he may want to know what it is like spending a lot of time with babies. He may want to make sure whether this is something he really wants. This is a clear sign that he is thinking about his family.



It began a day after he stopped eating. He would walk near the bowl, sniff the contents and go away. I saw him and, despite warnings that he should not be pampered since he was putting on an act, got terribly perturbed.

dinner, he sat near my feet, looked at my face lovingly. me with emotional eyes, and I fed him for the first time close to seven happening to him? Why was he staving away from food?

Such questions tossed and turned inside my mind, making me

That night, I kept some puppy snacks in his bowl. This was well after he had ignored his dinner, choosing to sit in stubborn silence instead. Obviously hungry, he walked

the bowl filled with snacks, took a bit in his mouth, and continued to nibble on it for close to an hour. Frustrated and disappointed, I took a decision. I mixed some food in his bowl,

At night, when I was having my the food was over and he started licking

maintained that martyred posture till I months ago, and he hasn't eaten on his finished my food. What was own even once since then. Not that I haven't tried. But my pup,

my little pup, prefers to hide under the dining table every time his food is served. I need to persuade him to come out, and place him on my lap before feeding him slowly, daily. He spills food on my tee while he does, but polishes off everything in the bowl before leaving

my lap for a drink of refrigerated water. Yes, only refrigerated water. 'Regular' water is way below his class, I

I am the butt of everybody's criticism today. That I have spoiled my baby cocker thoroughly is what they say.

think.

Sneaking away at lunch breaks: having innumerable cups of tea at the canteen; leaving secret raunchy messages at their work station; watching movies after work - sure the office romance was fun. Tragically, it came to an end. Unlike previous breakups, where you could walk away and grieve in peace, dealing with this is a whole new ballgame.

Working together means you see each other on a daily basis. It's difficult, awkward and downright painful. Our experts, clinical psychologist Priyanka Doshi and Varkha Chulani help you navigate the corridors after a

romance goes bad. Just got dumped

Your seemingly perfect affair has just come to an abrupt end. How does one mask the war wounds? Being dumped is bad

enough, but interacting with the person who did the damage daily, can be emotionally exhausting. Don't fume, scowl or accidentally spill coffee on their project report. You'll end up attracting attention to your relationship. Start by mentally preparing yourself to see your ex at work. "When you accept this fact, emotional energy rises within you to help you cope better," says Chulani. You are expecting things to be difficult and are ready to deal with it. During an encounter, control your feelings. Focus on your work and stay composed. Seeing him/her in the office might even work in your favour as shock therapy and help you heal faster.

Usually, the uncertainty of an ex's whereabouts can be quite nerve wrecking since one doesn't have the liberty to call and check. In an office, seeing them every

Office romance gone sour



Be professional

project but your ex is making things difficult and awkward. How do you keep your work from getting affected?

Sapna Dave, a media professional, had to holler at her co-worker cum ex four times to make him listen. "After the break up, he ignored me completely," she says. But things got ugly when he chose not to mark her on an important mail, making her miss an important meeting with the boss. She explained the situation to her boss, who in turn made sure the two

Realise that work comes first impulsive reaction can cause

You're working together on a severe damage to years of hard work and a good reputation.

Deal with emotions outside the work space. Impulsively quitting a well-paying, welladjusted job, usually doesn't bode well in the long run. If it's too much for you to handle, ask for a change in department. Change jobs only when you see a

suitable opportunity. Chinese whispers

Colleagues are gossiping about your relationship. How to play it

Eventually, everyone will know about the break up. You can show better judgement by being didn't work in the same team discreet. Avoid posting status updates on social networking websites, going into the details and learn to be professional in of who dumped whom or how your attitude towards it. An your ex was not good in bed. If asked, remain calm and politely

change the subject. It will put an end to additional rumours and indicate that you are not interested in discussing the

Jumpingjack

Your ex has started seeing someone else. Hold on to

It's always heartbreaking to know that your ex has found a rebound. Take it as a strong signal that they have moved on and so should you. Resist the urge to snoop around or ask colleagues about sordid details. It's a waste of precious emotional energy. Flirting with the intern just to get some attention won't help you feel any better. Take a break and cash in those pending leaves. Indulge vourself and enjoy things that make you feel good.



'Doesn't seem suicide': Mother uses ChatGPT to re-examine Suchir Balaji's death

► Suchir Balaji Death: OpenAl whistleblower Suchir Balaji's mother, in an interview with, has alleged foul play in her son's death. Balaji, 26, was found dead in his San Francisco apartment last month.

NEW DELHI.OpenAI whistleblower Suchir Balaji's mother has alleged foul play in her son's death, claiming that a private investigator's probe contradicted the police's version. In an exclusive interview

with India Today, Balaji's mother, Poornima Ramarao, said she used ChatGPT to determine that the blood stains found in her son's apartment don't seem like a case of suicide.Balaji, 26, was found dead in his San Francisco apartment last month, with the medical examiner ruling it a suicide. Balaji, who left OpenAI in August, recently spoke out against OpenAI's data-gathering practices and alleged copyright violations in the development of ChatGPT.

Seeking an FBI investigation, Poornima said she found her son's apartment ransacked and there were signs of struggle in the bathroom.

"There were signs of a fight in the bathroom and when we fed the picture to ChatGPT, we found that the splatter of blood is not like what it is supposed to be as per the cause of death. We also found separate blood spots in the bathroom that indicate he



may have been hit. There was also no suicide note left," a grieving Poornima said. However, the police are not listening to us," That's when she decided to hire a private investigator to probe the death of her son. The private investigator has concluded that it doesn't seem like a case of suicide, she said."When death by suicide is determined, so many factors are taken into account. The major factor is whether the person is depressed. They didn't even ask us," Balaji's mother said.

Elon Musk, in an X post, has also backed Poornima's claims about foul play. She further said that the attorney told them that no one had entered the apartment on November 26 and all CCTV cameras were thoroughly checked."The attorney said we checked all the CCTV, no one came in, no one went out. After that, the decision to declare it to be a case of suicide was made. We mentioned that there are 3 entrances. Two of them, one through the garage and one through the backdoor, don't have

she said. Appealing to the Ministry of External Affairs for intervention, Poornima alleged that the tech industry lobby in San Francisco was very powerful. "There is a lot of corruption. My son wanted to make a difference to mankind. He was working on a project called 'Futura Doctor Visit'. Our dreams have been snatched away from us,"

Over 15k cops deployed for New Year celebrations

Elaborate security measures have been planned, particularly in high-traffic areas like Connaught Place, Khan Market, India Gate and popular hotels, restaurants and party hubs, said officials.

NEW DELHI. Delhi Police has announced robust security arrangements for New Year's eve, deploying nearly 15,000 police and paramilitary personnel to ensure public safety and prevent hooliganism, traffic violations, and overcrowding in the national capital, officials said on Monday.

Police have also increased deployments in the border areas of the city, they said. Delhi, bordered by Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, attracts a significant influx of visitors for New Year celebrations. Elaborate security measures have been planned, particularly in high-traffic areas like Connaught Place, Khan Market, India Gate, and popular hotels, restaurants and party hubs, said officials.Deputy Commissioner of Police (New Delhi) Devesh Kumar Mahla said, "We have prepared a comprehensive arrangement to ensure the safety and security of all residents and visitors during the upcoming new year's eve celebrations.3

The New Delhi district has been divided into two zones: Zone A, supervised by additional DCP-I, will cover areas like Parliament Street and Connaught Place while Zone B, supervised by additional DCP-II, covers areas like Chanakyapuri and Tughlak Road.

The deployment in New Delhi district also includes, four ACPs, 23 inspectors, and 648 police staff. 100 home guards and 11 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), including a dedicated women's unit. Specialized teams for bomb disposal, SWAT, and Prakram vehicles. The DCP said that to manage crowds and traffic, buses heading towards Connaught Place will be diverted from 7pm on December 31.

Exit gates at Rajiv Chowk Metro Station will close post 9pm to prevent overcrowding. 47 pickets have been erected for vehicle diversion around Connaught Place. "Strict checks will be conducted for alcohol consumption, public disturbances, and narcotics use. Only individuals with valid hotel or restaurant invitations will be allowed entry into restricted areas," said the DCP. The officer said that live monitoring through CCTV cameras will ensure rapid intervention. In the southwest district, DCP Surendra Choudhary said that there will be 27 checkpoints with breath analyzers to deter drunk driving. "Security at 35 key venues, including malls, cinemas, and party hubs like Hauz Khas Village.14 Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) and 16 PCR vans for immediate response," said the DCP. Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic), DK Gupta, emphasised strict traffic regulations at hotspots like Saket Mall, Ambience Mall, and Hauz Khas. "We urge everyone to celebrate responsibly and follow traffic rules to ensure a safe and joyous

"VIP Lounge, Free Transport": Cops 'Invite' Drunk Drivers On New Year's Eve

New Delhi. Ahead of New Year's Eve and a night of parties, Delhi Police have put out a humorous social media post to warn drunk drivers and troublemakers. The post says the capital's cops will hold a "Cell Block Party" for hooligans.

The post says this party's "opening performer" is breathalyser that would identify drunk drivers. Police, the post said, would provide "free transportation" to jail and a "VIP lounge" in the form of jail cells. Speed



cameras are in place for the "cinematography" of this party. "If you spot someone who needs to party just dial 112 and let the good times roll," the post said, adding that the venue is the "nearest police station"

The caption read, "Who needs a countdown

when you can count down the days until your release." In neighbouring Noida too, cops are patrolling to review preparations. Owners of restaurants and pubs have been asked not to take bookings more than their capacity. In cases of drunk driving, the car would be seized besides a

In Maximum City Mumbai, a large posse of police personnel will be on the street to manage traffic and identify troublemakers. The cops will set up multiple checkpoints to identify drunk drivers and step up patrolling in crowded areas. Drunk drivers, troublemakers and those harassing women would face strict action. Joint Commissioner of Police Satyanarayan Choudhary said, "We are also looking at entry of illegal weapons into the city. Historysheeters are being monitored and preventive action is being taken if

Over 50 Cars Punctured **Due To Iron Board On** Mumbai-Nagpur Highway

New Delhi. Panic ensued along the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Highway after over 50 vehicles were punctured passed over an iron board that had fallen on the road.

The incident occurred around 10 pm on December 29 between the Malegaon and Vanoja toll plaza in Washim district, impacting four-wheelers and cargo trucks. This resulted in a long traffic jam on the



highway. Further, commuters were stranded on the highway overnight as no assistance arrived for a long time. It is being investigated if the board fell accidentally or was thrown intentionally. This comes at a time the safety on the high-speed corridor is under question. In June, at least six people were killed and four injured in a collision between two cars on the Samruddhi Mahamarg near the Kadwanchi village on Samruddhi Highway in Jalna district.

The Samruddhi Mahamarg is a partially functional sixlane and 701-km-long access-controlled expressway in Maharashtra. It is one of the country's longest greenfield road projects connecting Mumbai and the state's third-largest city Nagpur. It was built at a cost of Rs 55,000 crore.

No medical units, fewer AED devices in metro stations for passengers, reveals RTI

NEW DELHI. Despite operating an expansive 393kilometre metro network with 288 stations, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) lacks dedicated medical units to handle passenger emergencies. Moreover, only six stations on the Airport Express Line-the least frequented route-are equipped with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), vital for reviving cardiac arrest

victims. The information was revealed in an RTI query filed by Dr Aman Kaushik, accessed by this newspaper. The RTI sought a list of metro stations where medical teams, doctors, and AED devices are available. The DMRC's response was stark: no medical units or doctors are deployed only at six stations on the Airport Line-New Delhi, Shivaji Stadium, Dhaula Kuan, Delhi Aerocity, Airport (T-3), and Dwarka Sector-21.Dr Kaushik recounted the incident that



pushed him to file the RTI. "Last year, I witnessed a passenger collapse inside the metro. There was no trained staff to administer CPR, and the crowd panicked. I stepped in and performed CPR, reviving the patient. The individual was dropped off at Azadpur Metro Station, but there was no AED machine there," he said.

at any station, and AEDs are present Kaushik highlighted the absence of AEDs at busy interchange stations like Rajiv Chowk and Kashmere Gate, Kaushik emphasised the urgent need for trained personnel and adequate equipment to handle cardiac

Sudden cardiac deaths can be reduced only with proper CPR training and the availability of AEDs at all stations," he said. A DMRC official responded to the RTI stating that operations personnel and station staff have been trained in first aid and CPR. "First aid kits are available with train operators and at all stations. In case of emergencies, station staff provide assistance, including wheelchairs,

stretchers, and first aid. Passengers are escorted to the nearest hospital via ambulances, PCRs, or private vehicles to ensure timely medical care during the golden hour. Each station's control room has details of nearby hospitals, and injured passengers can also be shifted to empanelled hospitals if needed," the official said. Dr Kaushik, however, argued that while tie-ups with CAT ambulances and hospitals are helpful, they are not

sufficient to address sudden cardiac

Cost of LCA Mark 2 jet project may rise due to likely engine price hike: Sources

to buy around 200 LCA Mark 1A fighter jets along with the same number of LCA Mark 2 and Advanced Medium **Combat Aircraft** each in the next <u>15 years.</u>

New Delhi. As the government India has plans tackles the delay in the LCA Mark 1A fighter jet project, the price of the deal for the LCA Mark-2 engine is likely to go up, increasing the overall cost of the project, defence ministry sources said on Monday. The deal is being negotiated by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the American GE to supply GE-414 engines for the LCA Mark-2 aircraft as the price of the deal is now going to rise due to cost escalation, sources told.All indigenous fighter programmes are facing

delays, mainly due to engine issues. India has plans to buy around 200 LCA Mark 1A along with the same number of LCA Mark 2 and Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

each in the next 15 years. The Tejas Mark-1 and Mark-1A variants are GE Aerospace, manufacturer of the F404 jet



powered by the off-the-shelf GE-F404 engines purchased from the US.

The Air Force, in the recent past, has repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction with the current pace of the LCA Mark-1A programme. The first aircraft from the existing order was scheduled for delivery by March 31, 2024.

engines, earlier this year, cited supply chain issues as the main reason for delay in supplying the engines to

The F404 series engines are required to produce the 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets ordered by the government under a contract worth Rs 48,000 crore signed in February 2021. HAL has reportedly assured the Air Force that it will deliver 16 LCA Mark-1A jets during the financial year 2024-25 and complete the delivery of all 83 jets by

The fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft is expected to enter production in 2035, the sources added. The LCA Mark 2 will be an improved version of the existing LCA Tejas fighter jet. The Tejas Mark 2 is expected to be a heavier, more advanced aircraft with enhanced indigenous combat capabilities.

Dallewal will take medical aid if Centre speaks to farmers: Punjab to Supreme Court

Jagjit Singh Dallewal has been on an indefinite hunger strike at the Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana since November 26, urging the Centre to address farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price on crops.

NEW DELHI. The Punjab government on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court of a proposal that farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite fast since November 26, would accept medical aid if the Centre spoke to the protesting farmers.A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Sudhanshu Dhulia was hearing a contempt plea against the

Punjab Chief Secretary and DGP for not complying with the Supreme Court's order of giving medical aid to Dallewal.During the hearing, the Punjab government sought three more days time for compliance with the order.

Punjab Advocate General Gurwinder Singh informed the court that intervenors and

negotiators had gone to the protest site at the Khanauri border between Punjab and Haryana and efforts for compliance were made. Seeking more time in the wake of the Punjab Bandh on Monday, Gurwinder Singh said: "There were traffic blockades and hindrances and said the protesters had proposed that Dallewal would take medical aid if the Centre was ready to talk



"As per the negotiators, there is a proposal given by the farmers to the Central government that if they get an invitation for a talk, then Dallewal is ready to get medical aid as desired."At this, the bench said, "We are not concerned with that, we are only concerned with compliance. Whatever is going on, we cannot comment on that."

While deferring the hearing to January 2, the court said, "An application has been moved on behalf of the officers of the state of Punjab seeking an additional three days' time. Taking into consideration the totality of circumstances and keeping the interest of justice in view, we are inclined to accept the request to afford some more time for compliance."

Tuesday's hearing came three days after a Punjab government team attempted to persuade Dallewal to take medical aid. He, however, declined it, fearing the use of force to oust him from the protest site.

On December 28, the Supreme Court came down heavily against the Punjab government for its failure to shift the fasting farmer leader to a hospital as his health had deteriorated.Farmers, under the banner of SKM (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13.





MANAGING WORK-LIFE BALANCE

I always remind myself that I am much more than my job and ensure I have my priorities right.Organising and planning my time are and work equal attention; these eventually let me stay calm and focussed. To get away from my daily work routine, I make it a point to visit the Siddha Samadhi Yoga ashram in Katarkhadak, Pune, during the weekends to spend time with family and experience bliss in nature. Instead of two days, I take a three-day weekend break. For me, meditation is the best way to destress and feel relaxed and rejuvenated.I believe I owe myself at least 15 minutes of peace every day. My entire family believes the same as well. Besides my work, relationships do matter a lot as the reward is much sweeter than one can think of. I enjoy cycling in the mountains. During the monsoon, I go swimming in the river in the presence of

BEING A FIT WOMAN

Fitness matters a lot to me. I make sure to stay fit mentally and physically as well. Mental fitness is more important to me. I also

go to the gym and eat healthy.

ENERGY HIGH AND HAPPINESS

I always love to stay in high spirits. I believe my job, yoga, meditation, staying fit and eating ways through which I am able to give my life right automatically make me feel fresh and



happy. Doing well, and just loving what I do let me be on top of the world. I strongly believe that happiness lies within.

RISK-TAKER OR A MICRO-PLANNER?

I am a bit of both! I believe that both these go

hand in hand. There are times in life where I need to take risks in order to understand the wonder of life. I am an avid planner, and so, micro-plan ning is a part and parcel of my life.

SPIRITUAL DIET

Always show gratitude. I also like to do pranayama and yoga to cleanse my body internally and for peace of mind.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Life is not a bed of roses; we are bound to face tough situations. Proper planning and effective thinking prepare me for such circumstances. I make sure to stay calm and relaxed, understand the whole scenario and take whatever necessary action needs to be taken.

MANTRA FOR BALANCE

Failure is the stepping stone to success. Enjoy what you do, and do what you enjoy. Work hard, and reap its benefits.

HANDLING FAILURE/SUCCESS

For me, success is never a destination; it is a journey where I am constantly trying to achieve more. Failure is not a bad thing, it teaches one to get ahead in life and achieve success. Every bad situation allows me to get something positive out

Could taking a bad mood to Work be a good thing?

It all depends on the task at hand, says David R accurate choices." Caruso. The co-founder of the EI Skills Group The role that energy plays is significant because it and coauthor of the Mayer, Salovey Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test (MSCEIT), says different emotions help us attend to different tasks at hand, which is why just because you've swiped in your card at the office door, doesn't mean you need to be as emotionless as a rock.

Caruso, who was in Mumbai yesterday to deliver a talk on emotional intelligence at Vikhroli's Godrej Culture Lab, says emotional intelligence can be defined as simply reading emotions. "When we ask, 'how are you?' we want the real answer since how you feel influences how you think," says Caruso.

impacts your creativity and ability to think analytically. "People with high energy and pleasant feelings often act creatively, understanding connections between concepts," he thinks However, feeling low at work may not always be a bad thing. "It doesn't always pay to be happy at work. People who rate 2 on the energy and feeling grid, are more likely to find errors in production, mistakes in proofing. Research has found that if you are feeling happy, you may miss errors. The unhappy could have sharpened analytical skills meant for spot ting errors. The key to leadership is to match the mood to the task," he

> For instance, when readying for a brain storming session, it's important you feel happy because your creativity will be on

"But say, a manager calls a meeting to get to the root cause of a problem, he may need to down energy levels of the team under control to focus and analyse the hurdle."

IMPROVING YOUR EI Caruso trains

corporates in reading emotions because emotions contain data, and data is a successful manager's best tool.

emotions. Caruso says it's unethical to encourage people to be open to their emotions if they don't have the skill to manage them. It exposes them to anxiety. For that, there are preventive strategies. A preventive strategy is the ability of a person to prevent an unwanted emotion." For instance, if you have been asked to work in a committee with members you don't like, decrease your stressors by requesting seniors for a group shuffle, he suggests.

breathing, standing up and walking around, shaking your head, pausing and self talk -to employ when faced with a problem.

Research has found that the single most important responsive strategy is seeking social support. Having a network - not too large; one workplace friend is enough -helps thrash issues out or vent. "Let's just have a cup of tea together' is the best way to unwind," advises Caruso.

Increased school admission

Age limit for kids?

out with a circular on the same, but many different age groups in preschool. schools have stalled their admission procedures that usually begin by January .Parents who think it is a matter of pride that their kids pass out at a younger age are not too pleased with this proposal. However, some are happy that this revision in age means their kids will start schooling at an age that supports the right understanding.

WHY PEOPLE ARE IN FAVOUR...

There are many parents who would like the revision in age limit to take place for the following reasons: With the right age comes the right understanding With age, the emotional and physical development of a child starts taking shape. And early schooling curbs the scope of natural development. At a particular age, before they get into regular schooling, children are expected to be able to share, interact and cooperate with other kids. They also should be able to sit still for a certain duration and follow rules."Moreover, emotionally, they need to be ready to be away from their parents and deal with some level of stress due to their new environment, which can only come with age," says child counsellor Meeta Raghuvanshi.

The child gets enough time to play before getting into the grind Firstly, school means a certain restriction in movement and expression, which is not the case at home. The child can be himself and develop his skills naturally in a casual and playful environment at home, unlike in schools where chil dren are constantly subject to comparison. Early child development counsellor Pradnya M Gondharkar says, "Most of a kid's learning is related to readiness and opportunity, which only come with age. Giving more time to play and develop in a homely environment will help kids exploit their potential before they face the more challenging environment

outside." It will ensure uniformity The increase in admission age will fix the discrepancy between government and private

The government might not yet have come schools, which accept children of

Helps children be mentally and physically healthy When kids start schooling at the right age, their development is timely, which ensures good mental and physical health. "It is observed that development of stress hormones is seen if younger kids are left in a preschool for a longer time," reveals Myrah Serrao, who runs a playgroup and works with toddlers on skill development.

WHY ARE PEOPLE NOT IN FAVOUR...

Children take on responsibility soon Children who are admitted into playschool at an early age learn to be responsible for themselves. They not just learn to be self-dependent, but also enhance their life skills like adjustment and social behaviour. "I started sending my daughter to a playschool as soon as she turned two, and then, enrolled her in pre-school as soon she turned two and a half. She got so used to the setting at that early age that she doesn't get cranky even if we leave her a little longer than usual when we have to work," says Priya

Nehra, a chartered accountant. Starting early ensures faster development Parents feel that children who start at an early age have an edge over those who start later, as they are well trained

The primary education directorate has put forth a proposal before the school education minister to set a common age limit for admissions in primary and preprimary sections.

in important skills such as reading and numeracy by the time they start regular schooling. Playschools and pre-schools assess the progress they make with communication skills as well.

Younger minds get moulded the right way Before starting regular school, kids are expected to have some basic knowledge of things like shapes, colours, letters and numbers. These can be taught well when they start early . "In fact, they can recognise and sing nursery rhymes, take in new vocabulary, enjoy listening to stories and looking at picture books plus start to dress and undress themselves at an early age, which is very good," feels Radhika Puri, a mother of two. Though counsellor Meeta Raghuvanshi advocates starting school at the right age, she adds,

"Starting at an early age benefits children as they have the chance to develop their social and communication skills before they start preschool. They will become confident and independent when they move into regular school."

Parents are at an advantage, too Many parents feel that they can sort out their life in a better way and that too, within a few years of childbirth, if the kid starts schooling early.



MATCHING MOOD TO TASK

He has on hand what he calls the Mood Meter. It's a graph that charts how you are feeling on the X But not everyone has the ability to manage axis and energy levels on the Y axis, on a scale of 010 (0 indicating low energy levels with unpleasant feelings and 10 representing a burst of energy and happiness). Caruso suggests you map your emotions on a similar graph before making an important work call.

Being high on the emotional intelligence scale means you are in tune with your own emotions, too. These are the questions you should be asking yourself: How be asking yourself: How do I feel? (perception); how do these feelings Responsive strategies refer to simple tricks -deep influence my thinking? (making use of this perception); why do I feel this way? (understanding how they may be clouding your judgment about a certain issue); how can I manage these feelings? (being able to manage your emotions). Caruso explains, "You need to know how emotions influence decisions you make. And honest answers to the above questions help give you a true picture, leading to

Indian Share Market Opens Lower, Prepares To Move Into New Year With Caution

Mumbai. The domestic benchmark indices opened lower on Tuesday as selling was seen in IT, realty, auto, financial service, FMCG, media and private bank sectors on Nifty. At around 9:25 am, Sensex was trading at 77,813.49 after declining 434.64 points or 0.56 per cent, while the Nifty was trading at 23,536 after declining 108.90 points or 0.46 per cent.

The market trend remained mixed. On the National Stock Exchange (NSE), 1,096 stocks were trading in green, while 1,040 stocks were in red. According to market experts, "December has been weak for equity market experts, December has been weak for equity markets globally. S&P 500 is down by 2.34 per cent and Nifty is down by 2.6 per cent.""Markets are preparing to move into the New Year with caution since uncertainty is high and valuations are stretched," they noted. Nifty Bank was down 191.50 points or 0.38 per cent at 50,761.25. Nifty Midcap 100 index was trading at 56,944.80 after dropping 244.95 points or 0.43 per cent. Nifty Smallcap 100 index was at 18,618.95 after dropping 21 points or



0.11 per cent. On the sectoral front, buying was seen in the PSU Bank, Pharma, Metal, Energy, Commodities, PSE and Healthcare sector. In the Sensex pack, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, TCS, Infosys, Zomato and NTPC were the top losers. Whereas, Tata Motors, ITC, Tata Steel, SBI, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Nestle India were the top gainers.

Income Tax department denies report on using DigiYatra data to go after evaders

NEW DELHI. The Income Tax Department has denied a TNIE report that said the tax department will be tapping Digi Yatra data to go after evaders. Responding to the report, the department said in a social media post that as on date, there is no such move by the income tax department."It is seen that news articles have appeared stating that Digiyatra data will be used to crack down on tax evaders. In this connection, it is clarified that as on date there is no such move by the Income Tax department," said the department on social media

TNIE had reported citing unnamed sources that Income tax department has collected the entire passenger data on Digiyatra app, and the same is being reconciled with income tax filings. The report further stated that the tax department might be issuing notices in 2025 based on analysing the Digiyatra data. Earlier, responding to the report Digi Yatra has also termed it as 'false' and said that Digi Yatra prioritizes data security and privacy

"The app follows the Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI) model, where Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and travel credentials are stored exclusively on the user's device, not on any central repository. If the app is uninstalled, the data is deleted entirely. Additionally, airport systems purge data within 24 hours of flight departure," it said in an email response. It further said: "As part of our commitment to privacy, safety, and security, we do not store any personal data. While this limits our ability to provide customized or personalized services like other brands, it ensures maximum user privacy. Our d-KYC (Don't Know Your Customer) campaign underscores this commitment, clearly communicating that we don't collect or retain user information. There is no mechanism for data sharing with third parties, and no MoU exists between Digi Yatra Foundation and the Income Tax Department."

Focus on next-gen therapeutics, AstraZeneca to restructure biopharma unit

Bengaluru UK-based pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca has announced plans to restructure its biopharma unit to concentrate on next-generation therapeutics. "In the Biopharmaceutical Business Unit, we are now furthering these efforts to deliver the next generation of therapeutics in our pipeline, focusing on specialists, science, and innovation, while improving access to our existing portfolio in specialist disease areas we are present in. This has led to a strategic restructuring of our biopharmaceutical team impacting certain roles," a company spokesperson told Business Standard in an email query. This decision follows reports of layoffs affecting over 125 employees within the unit. Reports suggest that about 20 senior managers and nearly 110 executives have been sacked from various levels in the sales department. "Our aspiration to be pioneers in science has increased our focus on specialist disease areas where we can make the most meaningful difference in helping people with cancer, other chronic and rare diseases," the company spokesperson said. AstraZeneca stated that it is committed to transforming patient outcomes in the country. Its global portfolio includes over 20 novel therapies spanning various disease areas, including lung cancer, breast cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, heart failure, diabetes, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1). "We are creating the next generation of therapeutics.spokesperson said.

DMRC, NCRTC get record ridership, give driving training to women in 2024

NEW DELHI. The year 2024 saw both the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation make remarkable strides in advancing urban transportation infrastructure

While the DMRC achieved key breakthroughs, including the first twin tunnels under Phase-IV construction and the completion of an 865-metre underground tunnel between Chhatarpur and Chhatarpur Mandir Station, the NCRTC opened two major sections, signed crucial agreements, and was lauded by the German Ambassador who took a ride on its Namo Bharat train.

Despite these advancements, the year was also marked by a tragic incident for the DMRC.On February 8, a portion of the Gokulpuri Metro Station on the Pink Line, located in northeast Delhi, collapsed, resulting in the death of a 53year-old man and injuries to four others. In response, the DMRC carried out a thorough inspection and took corrective measures that included the removal of concrete structures and installation of stainless-steel railings at five elevated stations along the Pink Line to enhance safety. The year began on a high note for the DMRC with President Droupadi Murmu taking a ride on a metro on February 7. On March 4, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved two new corridors of Delhi Metro's Phase-IV project -- Inderlok - Indraprastha (12.377 km) and Lajpat Nagar - Saket G Block (8.385 km).

In an interview with PTI in July, DMRC Managing Director Vikas Kumar said they are planning to employ the use of artificial intelligence in its Phase-4 project for crowd management and maintenance of trains in order to increase efficiency. The Delhi Metro, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, and the Centre For Railway Information Systems joined hands on July 10 to revolutionise the seamless travel experience of the main line railway and metro passengers in the Delhi-NCR area. The idea was to promote the 'One India One Ticket' initiative of the



government by launching the Beta Version of Delhi Metro Rail QR Codebased ticket.

The urban transporter also announced the introduction of international flight checkin facilities at the New Delhi and Shivaji Stadium metro stations on the Airport Express Line on July 17.The metro achieved a major construction milestone in Phase 4 with the completion of an 865metre underground tunnel between Chhatarpur and Chhatarpur Mandir Station on the Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor on August 21.On September 18,

the metro successfully completed the first twin tunnel breakthrough under P h a s e - 4 construction. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on August 21 between the DMRC and the NCRTC for an integrated QR-ticketing system, allowing passengers to book QR code tickets for both Namo Bharat and Delhi Metro on a single platform.Further improving commuter convenience, the DMRC launched the multiple-journey

QR ticket system on September 12, which simplified travel with a single QR code.

On October 5, an underground tunnel between Chhatarpur and Chhatarpur Mandir Station on the Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor was completed.

The longest underground tunnel of 2.65 km between the Tughlakabad Airforce Launching shaft and Maa Anandmayee Marg on the Tughlakabad-Aerocity corridor of Phase-IV was completed on

ITR filing deadline extended for belated/revised return. Check all details

NEW DELHI. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has extended the deadline for resident individuals to file their belated or revised Income Tax Returns (ITR) for the Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25. The original deadline of December 31, 2024, has now been pushed to January 15, 2025. This extension gives taxpayers an additional two weeks to complete or revise their filings.

The CBDT shared this update via an announcement on X, and said, "CBDT extends the last date for furnishing Belated/ Revised return of income for AY 2024-25 in the case of Resident Individuals from December 31, 2024 to January 15, 2025." The change has been made using the board's powers under section 119 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. This extension applies to two specific cases. Firstly, it benefits individuals who missed the initial deadline of July 31, 2024, to file their ITR and had until December 31 to file a belated return. Secondly, it allows



an extended window to submit their revised filings. Under current rules, taxpayers filing belated returns must pay a late fee. If the taxable income is below Rs 5 lakh, the fee is Rs 1,000. For those with taxable income above Rs 5 lakh, the late fee increases to Rs 5,000.

Taxpayers often make errors or omissions when filing their ITR, such as missing income details or claiming incorrect deductions. A revised return allows individuals to rectify these mistakes.

Filing a corrected ITR ensures compliance with tax regulations and can help avoid penalties or additional scrutiny.Despite repeated efforts to encourage tax compliance, a small portion of India's population files income tax returns. Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary recently revealed in Parliament that only 6.68% of India's population

filed ITRs in the fiscal year 2023-24."In FY 2023-24, the percentage of population that filed Income Tax Return is 6.68%. The total number of persons filing income tax returns is 8,09,03,315," he informed the Rajya Sabha on December 17.The new deadline aims to provide relief to taxpayers who may have faced difficulties meeting the December 31 deadline. It also ensures that those needing to correct or update their returns have sufficient time to do so without unnecessary haste.

Indian Household Debt Rising But Relatively Low Compared To Other Emerging Markets: **RBI** Report

NEW DELHI. New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has highlighted that while household debt in India has been on the rise over the past three years, it remains relatively low compared to other emerging market economies (EMEs).

t said, "At 42.9 per cent of GDP (at current market prices) in June 2024, India's household debt is relatively low compared to other EMEs, however, it has increased over the past three years". According to the report, household debt stood at 42.9 per cent of GDP at current market prices in June 2024

construction activity during this period. The report underlined that the rise in household debt is primarily driven by an increase in the number of borrowers, rather than a rise in the average indebtedness per individual. Borrowing by individuals in the household sector accounted for 91 per cent of the total household financial liabilities as of March 2024. The data revealed that



Discount broking is the future: HDFC Sec MD

NEW DELHI. The year 2024 was full of surprises, and events that defined the business and economic landscape of India. While some of them turned out to be positive for the country, many others put the country's economic resilience to test. We list out some of the defining events of the year:

Giant leap for semicon industry

The government approved India's first semiconductor fabrication unit (fab) in Dholera, Gujarat. The project is a joint venture between Tata Electronics and Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp of TaiwanIt has approved two assembly, testing, marking, and packaging (ATMP) units
— one in Assam and the other in Dholera.

An assembly and test (OSAT) facility is being set up by CG Power and Industrial Solutions. This JV with Japan's Renesas Electronics Corporation and Thailand's Stars Microelectronics is another major step

forward for the sector. This includes the approval of Micron Technology's packaging unit and Kaynes Semicon's chip unit in Gujarat."The Nifty shows only modest upside potential, as it is now trading at 23xFY25 and 20.5x FY26 consensus EPS, indicating modest upside potential in the next 12 months. This implies that investors may face a period of lower-than-expected returns, as the broader market may have already priced in some of the expected growth," he said, adding the Nifty may touch 26580 points sometime next year. Since the advent of the low/discount broking spearheaded by Zerodha—the most profitable brokerage for the past many years—full-service players have been losing market share and today discount broker Groww is the largest with over

1 million active customers followed by Zerodha at 8.1 million, Angel One at 7. New capital gain taxThe government raised capital gains taxes — short-term

capital gain (LTCG) — on capital assets. The LTCG is now uniformly taxed at 12.5% for all classes of assets. Budget 2024 raised the STCG tax rate on sale of listed equity shares and equity-oriented mutual funds from 15% to 20%. The Budget 2024 rationalised holding periods of STCG and LTCG. Unlisted financial and non-financial assets now require a 24-month holding period to be considered long-term.Listed assets must be held for 12 months to qualify as LTCG. The indexation benefit that investors used to get was removed in Budget. Earlier, some assets enjoyed LTCG tax of 20% with indexation and 10% without indexation. The LTCG tax without indexation was effective July 23, 2024. Facing backlash, the Centre moved an amendment to the Finance Bill, 2024, to let taxpayers select either 12.5% LTCG tax without indexation or 20% rate with indexation for assets purchased before July 23.

individuals primarily borrow for three main purposes, consumption which includes personal loans, credit card debt, and loans for consumer durables. The other is Asset Creation, which includes Mortgage loans, vehicle loans, and twowheeler loans and the productive activities like Loans for agriculture, business, and education.Interestingly, the report noted that nearly two-thirds of the loan portfolio belongs to borrowers with prime or higher credit quality.

The borrowing behavior varied across risk categories. Subprime borrowers largely took loans for consumption purposes, while superprime borrowers predominantly used debt for asset creation, especially for housing. The rise in per capita debt was particularly notable among super-prime borrowers, indicating their growing preference for using credit to invest in assets.

In contrast, per capita debt levels among other risk categories have remained stable. From a financial stability perspective, the RBI found the trend encouraging. The increase in debt among highly

India to focus on quality, maintenance of national highways in 2025 after record construction

In 2025, the NHAI is aiming to set new benchmarks in quality construction and management of National Highways and provide a safer, smoother, and seamless travel experience to National Highway users.

NEW DELHI. After constructing a record 56,700 km of National Highways (NHs) in the country in the last 10 years, the Road Transport and Highways Ministry will shift focus on the quality of construction and maintenance of NHs in 2025.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) is primarily responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of NHs. Since 2013-14, the length of NHs has increased from 0.91 lakh km to 1.46 lakh km.

New Highways Secretary V Umashankar has held several meetings to step up the quality of national highway construction and its maintenance. Faced with criticism over the poor quality of certain highways,

such as Delhi-Jaipur (NH-48) and Amritsar-Jamnagar Economic corridor on social media, the ministry is set to take steps to improve the quality. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has repeatedly expressed frustration over poor quality of construction of some highways.

To enhance accountability and assess the quality of construction and maintenance of National Highways, the state-owned National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) earlier this month introduced a comprehensive rating system for performance assessment of the concessionaires engaged in such works.

A detailed methodology for rating the concessioners has been formulated by NHAI under which concessioners will be evaluated every six months and ratings will be uploaded on the NHAI website and its social media handles. In 2025, the NHAI is aiming to set new benchmarks in quality construction and management of National Highways and provide a safer, smoother, and seamless travel experience to National Highway users.Construction of the much delayed Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, and Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway is also likely to be completed



in 2025. The ministry is also likely to push a corridor-based highway infrastructure development approach focusing on ensuring consistent standards, user convenience and logistics efficiency, as compared to the earlier project-based development approach, focused on addressing stretches of local congestion.

This corridor approach has already led to the identification of a network of 50,000 km of high-speed highway corridors through a scientific transport study based on GSTN and toll data to support India's transformation into a USD 30-plus trillion economy by 2047. By the end of the ongoing fiscal year, the ministry is aiming to increase the length of operational high speed corridors (HSC) to 4,827 km.

Till December 2024, the ministry has been successful in operationalising 4,693 km of

The ministry is also likely to issue bids in a transparent manner for multi-party interoperable system for barrier-free toll collection system based on satellite navigation technology.Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal told PTI that 2024 has been significant so far as the shipping industry is concerned. "Of Rs 80 trillion investment projected in the maritime sector in the next 25 years in Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Rs 54 trillion is estimated in enhancing India's ship ownership, ship-building and ship registration ecosystem," Sonowal said.

He further said steps required to be taken to boost the Indian shipping industry include granting infrastructure status to ships under DEA's harmonised master list, and bringing vessels within the ambit of the SARFAESI Act, allowing creditors to leverage the Act's mechanisms for efficient recovery of dues.

According to the minister, domestic shipyards such as Cochin Shipyard Ltd, L&T Shipyard, Swan Energy (Pipavav Shipyard), Chowgule Shipyard, and Shoft Shipyard are in talks with global players to participate in ship-building and shiprepair clusters.

Emma Raducanu pulls out of Australian Open warmup with back niggle

New Delhi. Grand Slam champion Emma Raducanu has withdrawn from the Auckland Open due to a back injury, dealing a blow to her preparations for the Australian Open. The 22-year-old British tennis player was scheduled to face Robin Montgomery of the United States in the first round of the ASB Classic on Tuesday. However, Raducanu has decided to travel to Melbourne to continue her preparations for the Australian Open, which begins on January 12. Raducanu, a Grand Slam champion and sixth seed at the Auckland warm-up event, expressed her disappointment in a statement: I've tried my best to be ready. I love Auckland and the fans here, but unfortunately, I've picked up a back niggle and won't be ready in time."Since her remarkable US Open victory in 2021, Raducanu has faced persistent injury setbacks. This year, she skipped five tournaments in the WTA's Asia swing after spraining ligaments in her foot. Additionally, she spent much of the previous season recovering from ankle and wrist surgeries. The 22-year-old managed to play only three



all of which she won while representing Great Britain at the Billie Jean King Cup Finals. Despite this success, she heads into the Australian Open without any recent match practice.Last season, Raducanu encountered fewer injury issues but played only 10 matches after Wimbledon and missed the Miami Open in March due to another back problem. To address her fitness. another back problem. To address her fitness challenges, Raducanu has enlisted the help of renowned trainer Yutaka Nakamura, who has been working with her in Auckland.

"I just needed a more tailored approach and someone dedicated solely to me as an individual," Raducanu said earlier this month. "It's already bringing a positive change. The integration between my fitness work and on-court training with [coach] Nick [Cavaday] is making a noticeable difference."Currently ranked 56th in the world, Raducanu will not be seeded at the Australian Open.

Travis Head's celebration insulted not just Pant but 1.5 billion Indians: Navjot Sidhu

New Delhi. Former Indian cricketer Navjot Singh Sidhu slammed Travis Head's celebration after dismissing Rishabh Pant, calling it an insult to 1.5 billion Indians and demanding "stringent punishment" to prevent similar acts on the cricket field in the future.

The incident took place during the final session of Day 5 of the Boxing Day Test when Head dismissed Pant, who had scored a brisk 30. Head's peculiar celebration—pointing one finger into a circularly shaped hand—left fans and commentators puzzled. Although Channel 7's James Brayshaw and Pat Cummins later clarified that the gesture symbolised "putting his finger on ice"."Travis head's obnoxious behaviour during the course of the Melbourne test doesn't auger well for the gentleman's game..... sets the worst possible example when there are kids, women, young & old



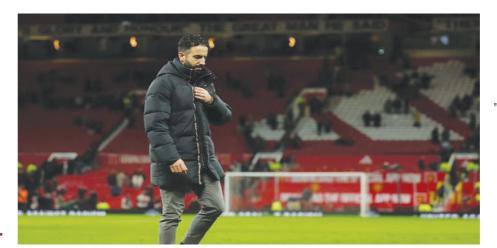
watching the game...... this caustic conduct did not insult an individual but a nation of 1.5 billion Indians.....stringent punishment that would serve a deterrent for the future generations needs to be slapped on him so that no one dares follow suit !!!" Sidhu wrote on X.Channel 7's James Brayshaw offered some clarity. "Now, great people in the back have said after he took 4-10 within 17 balls in Sri Lanka in 2022 he was quoted as saying, 'I had to put the digit on ice'," Brayshaw said. "So that was the celebration. He said 'I just got him, and I'm putting it back on ice'."Australia captain Pat Cummins provided an explanation for Head's celebration. "I can explain that. His finger is so hot, that he is going to put it in a cup of ice. Yes, that's what it is. That's normally the running joke. Was it at the Gabba or somewhere.

Manchester United face clear threat of relegation, admits Amorim after another loss

Ruben Amorim admitted that it is "really clear" Manchester United are being drawn into a relegation battle following their 2-0 defeat to Newcastle at Old Trafford.

New Delhi. Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim admitted that the Premier League club must acknowledge they are in a relegation battle, despite the embarrassment of being in such a situation. The Red Devils suffered a 2-0 defeat to Newcastle at Old Trafford on Monday night, marking their fifth loss in six Premier League matches.

This latest disappointing result leaves United 14th in the table, just seven points above the relegation zone. Liverpool legend Jamie Carragher described their recent form as



"relegation form," a sentiment Amorim

The coach made this candid admission after watching his side outplayed at home by Newcastle. Amorim has become the first United manager since Louis van Gaal in 2015 to oversee three consecutive Premier League defeats. Although United have remained in the top flight since their promotion to the old First Division in 1975, they now sit precariously just seven points above the relegation zone halfway through

the season. Speaking after the game, Ruben Amorim admitted it is "really clear" that Manchester United are in a relegation battle. He described the situation as "a bit embarrassing" during his post-match press conference but took responsibility for the team's struggles. When asked whether his team is in a relegation fight, Amorim told Sky Sports: "That is really clear, and we have to fight. This is a really difficult moment-one of the most difficult in the history of Manchester United-and we need to address it

with honesty"It is also my fault," Amorim added. "The team is not improving. It is a little lost at the moment, and it is embarrassing to be Manchester United's coach and lose so many games. I think people are tired of excuses at this club. This club needs a shock. When you're in situations like this, especially

at big clubs, it's very hard to turn things around, particularly when there's little time to train on the basics and manage difficult moments. We have to acknowledge our position. In this league, anyone can beat anyone."Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville shared his post-match thoughts, expressing little optimism but acknowledging that Amorim is at least gaining insight into the players he has inherited."United have gone backwards, but hopefully that's backwards to go forwards," Neville said. "There are very slim pickings in terms of positives from these first few weeks. Maybe the most positive thing is that Amorim is seeing these players for what they really are. We're not getting a 'bounce' that might have made him think they are better than they actually are.

"He knew this was a big job, but it's turning out to be a massive one. He's realizing that now while he's still in a position of power and

Mitchell Starc to miss Sydney Test Australia head coach gives injury update

Melbourne. Australia head coach Andrew McDonald remained optimistic that Mitchell Starc would be available for the final Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Sydney. However, McDonald acknowledged that Starc was managing a niggle and that a decision would be made closer to the New Year's Test, which begins on 3 January. AUS vs IND, 4TH TEST: **FULL SCORECARD**

Mitchell Starc dealt with an upper-body concern throughout the five-day Melbourne Test match. The issue first became apparent on Day 3 when Starc was seen clutching his back during spells and left the field at the close of play. Despite the discomfort, Starc pushed through the niggle, bowling at full pace on the final day to help Australia defend a target of 330 and secure victory in the Boxing Day Test.Starc consistently bowled at speeds of around 140 km/h and claimed the crucial wicket of Virat Kohli before lunch on Day 5. He managed to bowl 16 overs in the final innings of a closely contested Test that swung back and forth until India lost seven wickets in the last



session, conceding the series lead to the hosts."Clearly, Starc is carrying something of some description. We'll assess that. But other than that, it looks as though we got through pretty well unscathed. However, it's a short turnaround, and recovery is

important. We'll assess what the team looks like in Sydney based on the surface, as we always do," McDonald said on 31

'Any time you get through the game, it's always a good indicator that you're a chance for the next one. It didn't stop him,"

There was clearly a bit of discomfort early in his spells, but once he warmed up, he seemed relatively free. His ball speeds were good."I think the morning session, when good."I think the morning session, when we bowled over 20 overs, was probably as good as we've delivered."Australia added Sean Abbott and Jhye Richardson to their Test squad as back-ups before the fourth match in Sydney. Both are expected to be available for the final Test despite their Big Bash League commitments Australia will Bash League commitments. Australia will aim to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time since 2014. They need nothing less than a win in Sydney to reclaim the trophy. If the series ends in a draw, India will retain the trophy and head home as

Captain fantastic: Pat Cummins steps up to haunt India again

New Delhi. Pat Cummins has come back to haunt India, yet again. With a smile on his face, faith in his heart and immaculate trust in his approach, Cummins has again shown why he is currently regarded as one of the best captains in international cricket. Cummins very well knows how to lead from the front and is skilled enough to bring forth his Agame when the chips are down.

Last year, under Cummins, Australia defeated India in two world finals: the World Test Championship, followed by the ODI World Cup in front of a packed house at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. On Monday, Cummins gave India another major jolt, pushing Rohit Sharma's men on the brink of not qualifying for the WTC final to be held next year.Cummins stood tall as Australia beat India by 184 runs in the Boxing Day Test. Sam Konstas, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jasprit Bumrah hogged the headlines, but it was Cummins won the Player of the Match award. Cummins went about his business as elegantly as he always had.



Cummins put his hands up in crisis and inspired Australia to a crucial 2-1 lead after initially going 0-1 down.

Pat Cummins sets the tone

With the series hanging in the balance after the drawn Gabba Test, the onus was on Cummins to put Australia back on top, and he did not let his team down. In the first innings at the MCG after the Aussies lost six wickets, Cummins joined hands with the stylish Steve Smith to build a priceless 112-run stand, also taking his team past the 400-run mark. Cummins made 49 off 63 and was unlucky to not reach his fifty, but gave Australia the much-needed kick in their first innings. With the ball, Cummins gave the hosts the first breakthrough after dismissing Rohit Sharma, who might be terribly out of form, but is more than capable of taking quality bowling attacks to the cleaners.ummins also cleaned up KL Rahul, after which he got rid of Bumrah to finish with figures of 29-6-89-3.

Barcelona lose another appeal to register Dani Olmo before deadline

Barcelona have lost another appeal for the registration of Dani Olmo for the rest of the season on Monday, one day before the deadline to register the Spanish international.

New Delhi Barcelona have lost another appeal to register Spanish forward Dani Olmo for the remainder of the season-just one day before the deadline. The club signed Olmo in August for approximately €55 million (\$57.22 million). However, due to their inability to meet La Liga's wage cap, the attacking midfielder was registered only for the first half of the season.Barcelona managed to register Olmo initially by reallocating wages from long-term injured players, which allowed them to fit the 26-year-old, along with forward Pau V-ctor, into their budget. However, the four-month allowance for this arrangement is set to expire at the end of the month.On Friday, Barcelona's request to provisionally register Olmo was denied by the Commercial Court Number 10. The ruling was upheld on Monday by the Court of First Instance Number 47.ccording to La



Liga, the precautionary registration of Olmo was rejected because none of the necessary conditions for such a measure were met. La Liga also emphasized that its Delegate Commission has full authority to approve budgeting rules, which no club, including Barcelona, has previously contested.

The league further clarified that the decision not to register Olmo was made initially by its Budget Validation Body and later confirmed by its Financial Fair Play Committee, Social

Appeals Committee, and UEFA's Second Instance Licensing Committee of the Spanish Football Federation. Olmo, who played for Barcelona's youth academy before leaving for Dinamo Zagreb at 16, has scored six goals in 15 appearances for the club this season. He was instrumental in helping Spain win the European Championship during the

Barcelona now faces a race against time to find an alternative solution to

register Olmo before January 1, or he risks becoming a free agent. Reports suggest Premier League clubs are already expressing interest.

summer.

Spanish media has reported that the club plans to sell VIP boxes at its Camp Nou stadium, potentially generating over €100 million, though this move would require La Liga's approval. Hansi Flick's Barcelona currently sits third in La Liga, three points behind leaders Atlético Madrid.

Australia coach defends Mitchell Marsh amid widespread calls to drop all-rounder

Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Australian coach Andrew McDonald has defended the role of out-of-form allrounder Mitchell Marsh in the team ahead of the fifth and final Test against India.

New Delhi Australian coach Andrew McDonald has defended all-rounder Mitchell Marsh despite mounting criticism and widespread calls to drop him from the playing XI for the fifth and final Test in Sydney. Marsh has endured a dismal run in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar series, averaging just 10.42 with the bat and managing only one double-digit score across seven innings. This marks the second-lowest Test series (minimum seven innings), behind

only Kim Hughes' 10.12 during the 1984-85 season. Marsh's contribution with the ball has also been minimal, apart from a couple of early wickets in Perth. Speculation about Marsh's fitness has circulated, but McDonald dismissed concerns of an injury, attributing Marsh's limited bowling involvement to tactical decisions. We haven't required him with the ball as often as what we would have thought. He bowled again today. His speeds are up in the high 120s. There are no injury concerns there," McDonald said during a media interaction on Monday."I think to sort of head that down that angle is a little bit unfair. We just haven't required him at certain times for whatever reason, so that's more a tactical implementation, as opposed to a body. "I think the amount of overs that we've been bowling across the

series is probably going to be a benefit to us." batting average by an Australian in a home Marsh's inclusion in the Test team came as a replacement for Cameron Green, who



missed the series due to back issues. However, with Green unavailable, Marsh's poor form has led to growing arguments for his exclusion, especially as Australia seeks to maintain their 2-1 series lead.

Complicating the selection dilemma is the potential unavailability of paceman Mitchell Starc, who may miss the Sydney Test due to injury. This could deter selectors from making multiple changes to a team fresh off a victory in Melbourne. McDonald acknowledged Marsh's struggles but noted his positive attitude within the camp. "Would he like better performances? Of course," McDonald said. "But he's in a good headspace after the win in Melbourne.

Should Marsh be dropped, allrounder Beau Webster is on standby for a potential Test debut. Captain Pat Cummins is expected to confirm the final XI either on Thursday or at the toss on



nother year has gone by at the speed of Flash. Whoosh! And it was gone. A wise man once said, days are too long and years are too short! Nothing else rings truer now. It is the story at the end of each year. It feels like the year was the fastest to end and so here we come to the end of 2024. And what is it that a New Year calls for? A New Year party! As we are heading into 2025, we must celebrate the ending year and welcome what's coming forth. So, we decided to give you eight awesome New Year party ideas that will make the party this year a red-letter event of your life.

Try out BYOA - Bring Your Own Appetizer

This eases off the burden on your shoulders while the guests also get to have a say in deciding the menu, sort of. Call up all the people you have invited and tell them it's a BYOA party. You know what's the benefit of this? It will sound so fancy and hence, will add the excitement angle to the party. Plus,

appetizers sorted! Wow.

Plan weirdest noisemaker contest

Well, we all know that New Year is all about hoo-hoo and haa-haa. So, making weird noises will not attract the attention of your neighbours on this one fine day of the entire year. So, to make the event super fun, you can plan a contest in which all the attendees have to make weirdest noises possible. And do remember to shoot! This will be the show's topper activity, we bet.

Get a photographer

Though you may think that it is an extra cost and you may rather not do it, photographers can make your party memorable. The photographs will give you memories for your entire lifetime!

Or, delegate someone the responsibility to click photographers against a treat

This is the best way to cut on some expenses while also not having to

deal with nosy and demanding photographers. Sure, there are certain people you would know who have photography as their passion. If you thought better than to invite them, think again. Call them to your party and tell them that the responsibility of good photographs is on their shoulders. Just wait and see how passionate they get about it then!

Try potluck if you start in evening

A potluck is usually about too much food that we end up wasting half of or storing in the refrigerators for the next three days if you don't mind stale food. So, potluck should be your bet if you are planning to start your party in the evening. Usually, New Year parties start at nine or 10 PM, so that the entire duration is not more than three to four hours. But, many start it in the evening already. In that case, if your guests are getting food, nothing like it as the chances of it getting wasted are reduced because the party's going to go on a long

Try this if you are a chain New-Year-Party-host

Do you throw a New Year party each year?

Then this idea is for you! Ask all your guests to write some predictions about the forthcoming year on a piece of paper. Collect their slips and store it inside a locker which you only open at the end of the next year. Whosesoever's predictions turn out right, they get presents. A long-term idea, but sure worth the fun.

Try BYOB - Bring your Own

Another fancy concept but it is even better than BYOA because it further cuts down the cost for you. Finding it hard to sponsor alcohol for everyone? Then this concept is for you. Plus, this way, all your guests will get what they like best - beer, wine or champagne. You just have to call them up and tell them that you know you have this fancy idea because you want it to be fun. Whoosh. Half the money

Try candles

We all want that the setup should be really good and should add to the feeling of the party. But, sticking things to your walls or blowing up balloons is very hard and toilsome. What can you do instead? Just get in some candles. Candles are easy, convenient, can be placed and removed in a jiffy. And you know what's the best part about candles? They look really fancy and perfect for a New Year's Eve.



Write it down

One of the best ways to stick to your New Year resolution is by jotting all the points down. It is much easier and will also remind you time and again about what you have promised yourself for the year. This will keep you working harder to achieve your goals.

Post these around

After you have written down your resolutions, put them around you. For instance, paste them on your fridge or your cupboard or at work. The more you get to see what you've

written, the more focused you will be to achieving your goals. It will act like a constant visual to keep you concentrating on the goals you've set for yourself.

Tell others

When you share your resolutions with others, it keeps you

motivated and also keeps you away from cheating. It will keep you determined and also you can tell these people about the progress that you have made on your resolutions every time you see them.

Pair up with a friend

Pairing up with a buddy will keep your resolutions going for a long time. Your friend will act as a built-in accountability partner and you won't feel like letting him or her down. For example, if your resolution is to lose weight, keep your friend informed so that time and

The restaurant - which offers a wide variety of barbecue, tandoori and grilled fare - has a host of attractions and entertainment options lined up for its end-of-theyear festivities as part of the carnivalthemed Friendzy. The event will see various artists and illusionists entertain guests at the restaurant till

The restaurant is known for its open-brick wall surfaces that exude warmth, which complement the dishes that are served. Diners can enjoy a smorgasbord of dishes from American, again he or she can ask you how much you've lost and whether you've been exercising or not.

Keep yourself motivated

Relying on others is not the only way to stay inspired. Remind yourself each time that you cheat that you've made a promise to yourself. For example, if your resolution is to drink less this year, then stay away from going out every now and then to a party where you know that you may end up drinking more and this can affect your

Have a heartwarming feast this

New Year

Food fanatics in the city who want to end the year by feasting on grilled delicacies can make their way to Barbeque Nation.

Mediterranean, Oriental and Indian cuisines. The venue also has a live grill embedded in each table so that diners can have a minibarbecue party right there. The grill is used to finish off pre-cooked nonvegetarian and vegetarian starters with a choice of marinades and sauces. There is also a wide assortment of soups, salads, main dishes and desserts as a part of its fullcourse buffet.