# The Daily Guardian

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### Review









**ENGLAND CHASE DOWN 104 RUNS TO BEAT BLACK CAPS IN 1ST TEST** 

# **FADNAVIS SET TO BE** NAMED MAHA CM TODAY

BJP legislature party meeting likely on December 2 or 3

TDG NETWORK/AGENCIES

mid the suspense over the chief ministerial face in Maharashtra continues, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde, who is also the caretaker chief minister, said the BJP will decide on the state's new CM and asserted there were no difference between Mahayuti partners on government formation.

Meanwhile, reports quoting a senior BJP leader said the name of Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new chief minister of Maharashtra who will be elected as the legislature party leader in a meeting to be held either on December  $2 \operatorname{or} 3$ .

Earlier in the day, outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said he would support the BJP's decision to pick the new chief minister.

"The name of Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new chief minister of Maharashtra. The meeting to elect the new BJP legislature party meeting will be held on either December 2 or 3," a news agency quoted a BJP leader as saying.



Maharashtra caretaker CM Eknath Shinde addresses a press conference, in Satara on Sunday. ANI

### Delay in govt formation 'insult' to Maha: Aaditya

MUMBAI: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Sunday claimed the Mahayuti's inability to decide on a chief minister and form government more than a week after the announcement of assembly poll results was an "insult" to Maharashtra. In a post on

X, Thackeray also asked why President's rule has not yet been enforced in the state.

Judicial commission visits

Amid speculation that his son Shrikant Shinde might get the deputy CM's post and Shiv Sena is keen on the Home portfolio, Eknath Shinde said the Mahavuti allies- BJP, NCP, and Shiv Sena- will decide the government formation through consensus after sitting together.

Talking to reporters at his native Dare village in Satara district, where he was recuperating from a sore throat, Shinde said talks were underway on government formation and all decisions will be taken through a consensus by the three Mahayuti allies - Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP.

Addressing mediapersons in his native village, Shinde said the Mahavuti alliance's chief minister candidate will be decided tomorrow (Monday) and reiterated that he has already given his "unconditional support" to the decision taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda.

The Shiv Sena leader, who headed to his native village

### **CURRENCY WAR** Kejriwal rules out alliance for **Delhi polls** AGENCIES TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Delhi assembly elections scheduled to be held in the early months of 2025, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday said that there will be no alliance in the national capital. "There will be no alliance in Delhi (for assembly elections)," Kejriwal said while addressing a press confer-

ence. Kejriwal, former Delhi Chief Minister, further attacked Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the recent attack on him during his 'padyatra'. He said that a liquid was thrown at him which could have been harmful. "I had the expectation that

Amit Shah would take some action after I raised the issue (of law and order). However, I was being attacked during my padyatra. Liquid was thrown at me, it was harmless, but it could have been **P3** 

### President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday threatened the BRICS nations, including India, with 100 per cent tariffs and called for a clear commitment from these countries to refrain from creating a new currency or supporting any other currency to re-

place the US dollar. Taking to the social media platform Truth Social, Trump stated that the idea of BRICS nations trying to move away from the dollar while the US stood by and watched was "over."

He further warned that any country attempting to replace the USD would also lose access to the US market, adding that such countries would need to find "another sucker" if they pursued such actions. "The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar

### Trump warns 100% tariffs on BRICS FOREWARNING WASHINGTON DC

Idea of BRICS countries that they will trying to move away from dollar while the US stood by and watched was "over"

We require a commitment from these

neither create a new BRICS currency, nor back any other currency to replace the mighty US dollar or, they will face

100 per cent tariffs. - DONALD TRUMP

### Kash Patel named next FBI director

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday (local time) nominated the name of Kashyap "Kash" Patel to serve as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In a post on the social me-



dia platform Truth Social, Trump announced Patel's nomination, highlighting his distinguished career in various government roles.

DETAILS P12

### 7 Maoists gunned down in T'gana

### **AGENCIES** MULUGU (TELANGANA)

Seven Maoists were killed, and weapons were recovered following an exchange of fire with police in Telangana's Mulugu district, said Commercial a senior police official on Sunday.



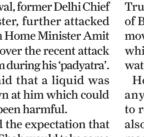
ly opened fire on our personnel. Despite repeated appeals for their surrender, they continued firing. In self-defence, our team returned fire for about half an hour. After a search, we found seven bodies and recovered several weapons," SP Shabarish stated

In September, six Maoists

were killed in an encounter

with police in Telangana's

Bhadradri Kothagudem



### Sambhal mosque

#### AGENCIES SAMBHAL (UP)

Amid tight security, members of a judicial commission on Sunday visited the Shahi Jama Masjid here and other areas that witnessed violence over a court-ordered survey of the Mughal-era mosque.

Panel head retired Allahabad High Court judge Devendra Kumar Arora and retired IPS officer Arvind Kumar Jain were the two members of the three-member commission who visited the areas that witnessed violence on November 24.

The panel's third mem-

Devendra Kumar Arora and retired IPS officer Arvind Kumar Jain -the two panel members -also visited violence-hit areas

ber, ex-IAS officer Amit

The commission mem-

Allahabad HC judge mar

Mohan Prasad, was not present during Sunday's visit.

bers did not respond to any media queries during the visit in the morning. They were accompanied by Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Aunjaneya

Kumar Singh, Deputy **Inspector General (DIG)** Muniraj G, Sambhal District Magistrate Rajendra Pensiya and Superintendent of Police Krishan Ku-

Later, speaking to reporters, Moradabad Divisional Commissioner

Singh said, "Today the chairperson of the inquiry commission and one other member visited the site. Their primary purpose was to inspect the

location. They visited the areas where the disturbance occurred, examined the site and the structure. and spoke to some of the

N P3

### LPG cylinder

price hiked TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Oil marketing companies have raised the prices of commercial LPG gas cylinders with immediate effect. The rate of 19 KG commercial LPG gas cylinders has been increased by Rs 16.50 with effect from today.

In Delhi, the retail sale price of a 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder is Rs 1,818.50 from today. Prices of 5 KG Free Trade LPG cylinders have also increased by Rs 4. Prices of 14.2 KG domestic cylinders remain unchanged.

Last month too, the rates of 19 kg commercial LPG cylinder were increased, by Rs 62.

These price adjustments are expected to impact commercial establishments and small businesses that rely heavily on LPG for P3

The incident occurred around 6:15 am when 10-12 individuals in olive green uniforms opened fire on a police team, said Mulugu SP Shabarish. The encounter took place

in the Eturnagaram forest area, according to the SP. Despite repeated appeals for surrender, the Maoists ignored the warnings, prompting the police to

### Tech in focus on meet of DGs with PM Modi

#### AGENCIES NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday expressed concern over the potential threats generated on account of digital frauds, cybercrimes and AI technology, particularly the potential of deepfake to disrupt so-

cial and familial relations. Addressing the concluding session of the 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/Inspector Gen-

Arms and ammunition recovered from Maoists during an encounter in Bhadradri Kothagudem on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

return fire in self-defence, covered several weapons at SP Shabarish said. The exthe site change lasted for approxi-

which the police discovered seven bodies and re-

"Early this morning, in light of recent offences, Mulugu police were conducting patrols. At 6:15 am, our team spotted 10-12 individuals in olive green uniforms who immediateexchange.

district. Weapons recovered in the current operation include two AK-47 rifles, one SLR, one .303 rifle, one pistol, magazines, live rounds, kit bags, and other materials from the scene of the

### Cyclone leaves a trail of destruction in TN

CHENNAI: After making landfall near Puducherry on November 30, Cyclone Fengal weakened on Sunday, but torrential downpour under its influence UT for the last three deparalysed the union terri- cades. tory, with the Army step-

ping in to evacuate stranded persons in inundated streets. Old-timers recalled such a fury of nature was not witnessed in this tinv

DETAILS P6





Home minister Amit Shah posted this pictures on his X handle to greet the Border Security Force (BSF) on its 60th Raising Day, on Sunday

erals of Police, the prime

### Farm fires: MP and UP are the new culprits, says study

Punjab records 70% fall at 10,909 incidents

#### NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

Even as Punjab and Haryana, which had invited strong criticism for stubbleburning incidents, have made significant progress in curbing farm fires this

kharif harvestii Madhya Pradesh Pradesh have en new hotspots for says data from t Agricultural Re stitute's (IARI) C on Research Agro Monitoring and from Space (CRE According to stubble fires in F

P3

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	INCIDENTS OF FARM FIRES AS PER IARI-CREAMS				
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	Haryana	1406	2303	3661	
	Madhya Pradesh	16360	12500	11737	
	Uttar Pradesh	6142	3996	3017	
	Rajasthan	1756	1775	1268	



minister also called for the use of technology to reduce the workload of the police constabulary and suggested that the police station be made the focal point for resource allocation

DETAIL S P4

mately half an hour. Following the gunfire, a thorough search operation was conducted, during



# BANKING AMENDMENT BILL IN LS TODAY Jaishankar to make statement on developments in India-China ties, Vaishnaw, Sonowal , among other ministers also to move Bills to amend different laws

#### TDG NETWORK NFW DFI HI

nion Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to move the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Lower House of Parliament on Monday. As per the schedule issued by the secretariat, Sitharaman is expected to move the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking **Companies** (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980, be taken into consideration and passing tomorrow in Lok Sabha. Union Railways Minister Ashqini Vaishnaw is also expected to move a bill further to amend the Railways Act, 1989, for consideration and passing, the schedule read. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal is expected to introduce the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, in Lok Sabha on Monday. The Bill will seek to amend the law relating to regulation of coastal shipping, promote coasting trade and encourage domestic participation therein, to ensure that India is equipped with a coastal fleet, owned and operated by the citizens of India for its national security and commercial needs, and for matters connected there-



- Both Houses faced brief sessions in the past week following ruckus amid opposition's demand to discuss Adani indictment
- As per the schedule issued by the secretariat, Sitharaman is expected to move the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980

with or incidental thereto. statements on key matters. Union Ministers S Jaishan-Jaishankar is likely to make kar, Jayant Chaudhary and a statement regarding "Re-Pankaj Chaudhary will make cent Developments in India"s

Jaishankar is likely to make a statement regarding "Recent Developments in India's Relations with China" while Javanat Chaudhary is expected to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 56th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development on Implementation of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

> Relations with China" while Jayanat Chaudhary is expected to make a statement regarding the status of im

mendations contained in the 56th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, Textiles and Skill Development on Implementation of Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Minister Pankaj Chaudhary is expected to make a statement correcting the reply given on November 25, 2024, to unstarred question No. 101 asked by MP Selvaganapathi TM regarding "Increase in Counterfeit Currency".





maintenance, possession, use, operation, sale, export plementation of the recomand import of aircraft and for matter connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha. Union Ministers Shripad Yesso Naik, Shobha Karandlaje, Suresh Gopi, Satish Chandra Dubey, Sanjay Seth, Tokhan Sahu and George Kurian will lay papers on the table in Rajya Sabha tomorrow. The winter session of Parliament commenced on November 25 and will conclude on December 20. Both houses faced brief sessions in the past week following ruckus amid opposition's demand to discuss Adani indictment.

**TDG NETWORK** NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ra-Malhotra will lay papers on the table in Lok Sabha. mesh on Sunday blamed the government after the first In Rajya Sabha, Union Ministers Hardeep Singh Puri week of the Winter session and Kinjarapu Rammohan of Parliament was washed Raidu are likely to move bills out and alleged that the for the respective ministries. "government is cooperating" Union Minister for Pein getting the Parliament proceedings adjourned. troleum and Natural Gas "The session gets washed out because the governlation and Development) ment does not want the Amendment Bill, 2024, for Parliament to function... consideration and passing. The opposition wants the Civil Aviation Minister Kinja-Adani issue, the Manipur rapu Rammohan Naidu is exsituation, Sambhal incident to be discussed in the pected to move the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024, for parliament...The govt is cooperating in getting the consideration and passing. The Bill seeks to provide Parliament proceedings adjourned...For the first time for regulation and control of the design, manufacture, I am seeing whenever we raise an issue, the parliament gets adjourned...The government does not want a discussion on the Adani issue, Manipur, Sambhal incident, Ajmer. Why is the government running away from discussion?...BJP MPs come to get the Parliament session adjourned while we go to raise issues," Jairam Ramesh told the media. On November 29, amid continuous sloganeering by opposition MPs in both Houses for the fourth straight day, Parliament was adjourned till December 2 (Monday), failing to conduct substantial business. Parliament proceedings have been stalled since the



beginning of the Winter Session amid protests by opposition parties over the Adani issue and violence in Manipur and Sambhal. Rajya Sabha Chairman and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said that the actions are not "public-centric." "This cannot be appreciated. We have become a laughing stock, and parliament disruptions are in public distaste. We are creating a very bad precedent. Our actions are not public-centric. We are getting into irrelevance. Rule 267 is being weaponised as a tool of disruption," the Rajya Sabha Chairman said. The Chairman expressed his deep anguish and profound regret at the disruption in the normal business of the House. Opposition members have been continuously pushing to have a discussion on the floor on the Adani issue, Sambhal violence and the Manipur situation, raising slogans in the Parliament.

# Arsenic, fluoride beyond permissible limits in groundwater in most states, LS informed

of 230 districts in 25 States

#### NEERAJ MOHAN CHANDIGARH

nated as the studies by the Central Ground Water Board indicate the occurrence of Arsenic and Fluoride in ground water beyond permissible limits for human consumption in isolated pockets in various States and Union Territories of the country. The revelation was made in a written reply by the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Raj Bhushan Choudhary in the Lok Sabha. As per the reply arsenic has been reported in parts

and in parts of 469 districts in 27 states fluoride con-The groundwater in most tamination is found. The Geological Survey of India of the parts of the country contamination, mostly geo- in 2022. This agreement has been found contami- genic in nature, originates focuses on analyzing confrom soil and rock matrices, reads the statement. However, the union minister clearly mentioned that the water is a state subject. thus managing groundwater quality and addressing contamination comes under the purview of state governments. But, he assured support from the centre to deal with the issue, stating that the union government has been actively supporting states through various initiatives to tackle this issue.

To study groundwater contamination, CGWB signed an MoU with the tamination by uranium, lead, arsenic, fluoride, and mercury in states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam. Also the CGWB has also developed innovative solutions, such as cement sealing technology to construct arsenic-free wells and in-situ fluoride mitigation techniques. More than 2000 water quality testing laboratories have been set up in the country.



Lok Sabha proceedings underway during the Winter Session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Friday.

### Every second in Parliament must be utilised for people's welfare: Dhankhar

#### AGENCIES NEW DELH

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said Parliament is meant for the cause of public welfare and stressed that every second of its working should be utilised for the welfare of the people.

The remarks of the vice president, who is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, came after protests over various issues like the controversy involving the Adani Group and violence in Sambhal and Manipur rocked both houses of Parliament the past week disrupting routine work.

"We have entered the fourth quarter of the century of adoption of the Indian Constitution. Therefore, we must resolve that every second in the temple of democracy is utilised for the welfare of the people at large," Dhankhar said here.

Dhankhar also called on IIT Kanpur students to work on smart, solutionoriented, scalable, and sustainable innovations for development and to



"We have entered the fourth quarter of the century of adoption of the Indian Constitution. *Therefore, we must resolve* that every second in the temple of democracy is utilised for the welfare of the people at large,".

find resolution for stubble burning. The vice president was addressing the students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur on the topic 'role of innovation in the development of India', with Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, and the institute's Director Professor Manindra Agrawal also in attendance.

Dhankhar said various government schemes like the Atal Innovation Mission, Startup India, and Make in India have brought positive changes and are now bearing fruits.

He said a small example of it was in the mobile phone sector, where the number of manufactures went from a handful to so many that India is now making phones not only for the country, but for the world.

Looking ahead, innovation must embody 4S and these principles are fundamental - smart, solution-oriented, scalable, and sustainable. And these words mean a lot. Sustainable I say for a simple reason.

### AGENCIES NEW DELHI

The parliamentary committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has sought details from various state governments about the veracity and updated details of Waqf properties which, according to the Sachar committee, they had occupied in an unauthorised manner, sources said.

The parliamentary committee, whose tenure has been extended by Lok Sabha till the last day of the next Budget Session, has also sought from the states details of the properties claimed by Waqf boards exercising Section 40 of the Waqf Act.

Section 40, an amendment effected during the Congress-led UPA government's tenure in 2013, is one of the most hotly contested features of the existing law



Parl panel seeks details of Waqf properties

in 'unauthorised' occupation of state govts

as it has given Waqf boards the power to decide if any property belongs to the Waqf or not.

The proposed law, which has faced flack from opposition parties and various Muslim groups for its alleged attempts to interfere in religious matters, has sought to curb this power while making a slew of other changes in the existing Act.

The sources said the parliamentary panel has decided to get an update on the points made by the Sachar committee on the Waqf properties that are allegedly in unaucommittee in 2005-06. While 53 of them were in Madhya Pradesh, 60 were in Uttar Pradesh and 53 in Odisha. The committee has sought updates from all these six states, the sources said, adding that the panel has got information from several other states.

in the Sachar Committee

Report... and update this

Committee in detail,» a

thorised occupation of state "The chief ministers of the above states may kindly governments or their official investigate in detail into the agencies veracity of this information

The Sachar committee was informed by various state Waqf boards during 2005-O6 about the alleged unauthorised occupation.

The parliamentary panel has been collecting information from states through the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. Sources said the panel headed by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal has noted that there were 316 such properties in Delhi, 60 in Rajasthan and 42 in Karnataka reported to the Sachar source said, citing the communication. State governments have also been urged to share details of the cases where their agencies are involved in a legal dispute with Waqf boards over ownership or possession of any property, with the panel noting that the Sachar Committee had stated its list was not exhaustive.

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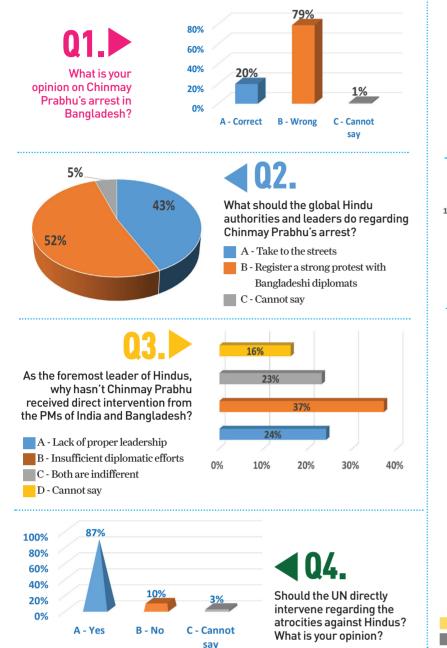
# STATISTICALLY SPEAKING



### DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON CHINMAY PRABHU ARREST

### 79% of people believe that Chinmay Prabhu's arrest in Bangladesh was wrong

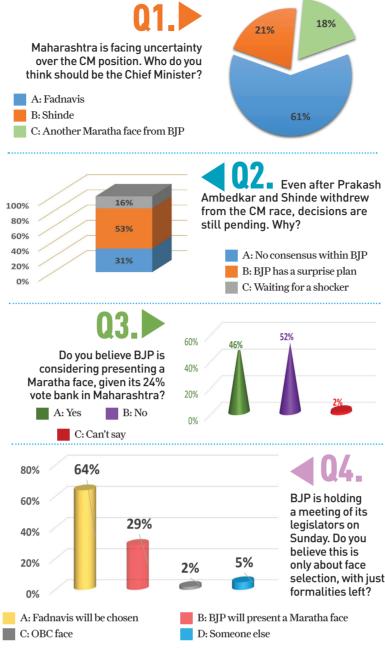
A petition has been filed in Bangladesh's high court seeking a ban on ISKCON and emergency measures amid escalating violence against Hindus. Protests erupted after Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das's arrest on sedition charges. ISKCON urged global intervention, while India expressed concern over minority safety, prompting Bangladesh to call it an "internal matter."



### DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON MAHARASHTRA CM FACE

46% believe that the BJP is considering presenting a Maratha face, given its 24% vote bank

The grand swearing-in ceremony of the new Maha Yuti-NDA government in Maharashtra is expected on 5 December even as backroom negotiations between BJP and its allies Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar-led NCP continued over the weekend on the power-sharing formula and distribution of portfolios.

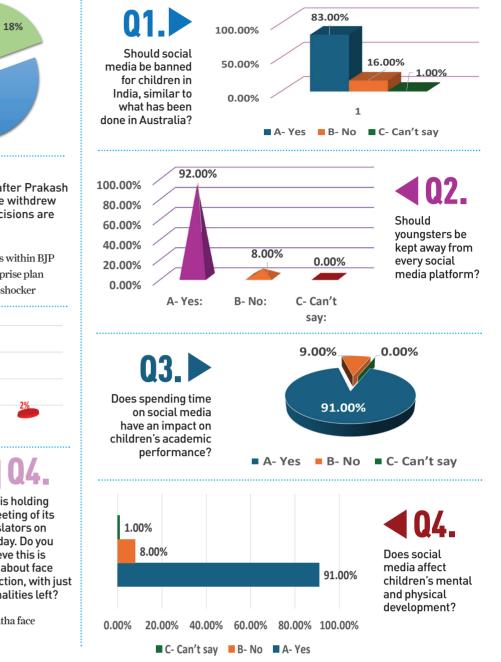


while we stand

### DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY ON SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR KIDS

### 83% people believe that social media should be banned in India

Australia has passed the world's strictest laws, banning children under 16 from using social media. The law, effective in 12 months, could impose fines of up to A\$50m on tech companies for non-compliance. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese supports the move to protect youth from social media harms, but critics raise concerns about its implementation, privacy, and social connection.



### Trump warns 100% tariffs on BRICS 60 Indians stranded at Kuwait airport

#### AGENCIES NEW DELH

Around 60 Indian passengers were left stranded at Kuwait International Airport for over 13 hours on Sunday after their Gulf Air flight was diverted there due to a technical snag.

from Mumbai to Manchester, complained of facing dis-

comfort as the airline failed to provide food, accommodation, or basic assistance during their extended wait. The situation escalated as passengers voiced their grievances on social media, which eventually prompted

Arzoo Singh, one of the stranded passengers travelling from Mumbai to Manchester, shared her frustration with ANI, explaining the dire situation. "After we raised the issue on social media, senior officials from the reached out to the Indian

### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

by and watch is OVER. We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100 per cent Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to Indian Embassy in Kuwait selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy. They can go find another "sucker!" Trump said. "There is no chance that the BRICS will replace the U.S. Dollar in International Trade, and any Country that tries should wave goodbye to America," he added. Trump's statement came after Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed creating a new investment platform for BRICS countries during the BRICS summit in Kazan in October, as reported by Reuters. This development could signal a move toward reduced dependence on the US dollar.

### Judicial commission visits Sambhal mosque

#### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

nounced, he said.

incident. They said they people present there." would take statements The team will visit again later." and a complete schedule for its visit will be an-

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party MLA from Sambhal Iqbal Mehmood met the families of the victims of the violence. His son Sohail Iqbal is one of the suspects in the case, according to police, who have also booked SP's Sambhal MP Zia ur Rehman and more than 2,750 others, most of them unidentified. "I came here to share their grief. May Allah grant these children a place in paradise. They have become martyrs and the entire Muslim community is always ready to sacrifice for the sake of the mosque. What has happened here is deeply unfortunate," Mehmood told reporters.

The passengers, travelling a response from the Indian on Gulf Air flight GF 005 Embassy in Kuwait.

passengers stuck at the airport," she said.

### Fadnavis set to be named Maha CM

### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

on Friday amid speculation that he was not happy with the way the new government was shaping up, had taken ill and will return to Mumbai on Sunday evening, an aide said earlier in the day.

The Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP retained power with a landslide victory in the assembly elections, the results of which were announced on November 23. The oath-taking ceremony of the new Mahayuti

government will take place on December 5 evening at the Azad Maidan in south Mumbai and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend it, state Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule said on Saturday. While there was no announcement yet on who would be the chief minister, BJP sources said Devendra Fadnavis, who has been chief minister twice and was deputy CM in the last Eknath Shinde-led governfor the post.

To a query on his health. the Shiv Sena leader said he was fine now and had come to his native village to rest. "We will provide a government that people want. Our responsibility has now grown because of the massive mandate given by people as reciprocation of our work in the last twoand-a-half years," he said . On speculation that his son and Lok Sabha member Shrikant Shinde will be the deputy deputy CM, Shinde ment, was the frontrunner said talks were on.

"We propose to set up a new investment platform of BRICS," Putin said, addressing the plenary session of the BRICS Summit

"We need to jointly promote the lowemission model of the economy. New BRICS global investment platform to provide financial resources for all countries of the Global South," the Russian President added, as quoted by Reuters.

As of now, BRICS has two financial platforms: the New Development Bank, headquartered in Shanghai, and the Contin-

gent Reserve Arrangement.

The New Development Bank mobilises resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries to supplement existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.

The Contingency Reserve Arrangement is a short-term liquidity support for the BRICS members through currency swaps to help mitigate the balance of payment crisis in case such a situation arises and thus further strengthens financial stability

The BRICS group consists of five core members--Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa--and in 2024 welcomed Egypt, Iran, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Ethiopia as full members.

Kejriwal rules out alliance for Delhi

### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

harmful," Arvind Kejriwal said in a pres conference. Speaking on the arrest of his MLA Naresh Balyan, the former Delhi CM further defended Balyan saying that he was arrested because he was the victim of gangsters who were demanding ransom from him.

"Yesterday, one of our MLAs was arrested. That MLA was also a victim of gangsters. He had made a written complaint to Delhi Police that he was getting calls from Kapil Sangwan. He had complained to Dhaliwal Sahib. The complaint said that on 23 May 2023, a call came from Nandu Gang after which he and his family were threatened," AAP National Convenor Kejriwal said. "For the last several days, I

have been raising the issue of deteriorating law and order. The law and order situation has worsened in the last two to three years. I have been the CM of Delhi. Today people are in an atmosphere of terror. For many days I did not say anything, I thought the situation would improve. But today it seems that Delhi has been taken over by gangsters," Kejriwal added. Earlier, Kejriwal criticised

Union Home Minister Amit Shah after being attacked by a bus marshal during his 'padvatra'. Keiriwal accused Shah of failing to address crime in Delhi, instead allegedly targeting him. In a post on X, Kejriwal

wrote, "Amit Shah Ji, what will happen by stopping me? Stop crime in Delhi.

Will crime in Delhi decrease by stopping me? Will open shootouts in Delhi stop? Will the women of Delhi become safe? Will the traders of Delhibe secure?'

According to police, the AAP Chief was shaking hands with the public when a bus marshal, identified as Ashok Jha, attempted to throw "water" at him. The police immediately apprehended the individual at the scene.

The Delhi Police have detained the accused and are questioning him to determine the motive behind the act. AAP leader Satyendra Jain alleged that the incident was orchestrated by the BJP.

### Commercial LPG cylinder price hiked

### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

their operations.

The revision comes as part of a broader trend in fuel price adjustments in response to changing global market conditions,

seen in recent days due to volatile international order.

This price revision will directly impact restau-

cylinders for daily operations. Despite the increase in commercial LPG prices, there has been no change in domestic LPG cylinder rates, offering some relief to households.

"The situation here gradually returning to normal and it is being closely monitored. Conditions are stabilising rapidly. As of now, the district magistrate's orders remain in effect until December 10 and after that, there will be no restrictions on anyone. We are in the process of collecting evidence and have so far identified 400 individuals involved (in the violence)," he said. Singh was referring to an order that prohibits the entry of outsiders, including politicians, social organisations or public

representatives, in the

violence-hit Sambhal till

December 10 without per-

mission from the compe-

tent authority in order to

"The team stayed for

about 15 minutes and in-

spected the mosque," said

Shahi Jama Masjid Imam

Mosque secretary

Masood Farooqui said,

"The team did not ask us

anything. They mentioned

that they were only here

to see the Jama Masiid

and visited the site of the

Aftab Hussain Warsi.

maintain law and order.

Asked if he met the families of all the deceased persons, he said he visited them to offer his condolences and listened to them.

"A delegation (of the SP) was supposed to come yesterday, but the district magistrate has imposed restrictions here until December 10. The delegation will visit after December 10 and it will go to the homes of all martyrs to express condolences.<sup>3</sup> Mehmood said.

rants, hotels, and other commercial establishments that utilise these

### Farm fires: MP and UP are the new culprits, says study

### **CONTINUED FROM P1**

Haryana have hit historic lows. The figures revealed that the Punjab has recorded nearly 70 per cent decline in the incidents of farm fires as the number has come down to 10,909 incidents at the end of the season this year against 36,663 incidents of the last year.

Similarly, Haryana has witnessed nearly 40% decline in comparison

#### of the last year as the incidents have come down to 1406 incidents this year against 2303 incidents of the last vear.

On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh has reported nearly 30 per cent increase with the total incidents reaching to 16,360 of farm fires between September 15 and November 30, against 12,500 cases during this period last year. Thus Madhya Pradesh alone contributes to 43% of the total 37,602 incidents of farm fires reported in the country, have been reported from Madhya Pradesh alone.

Also, another leading paddy producing state of Uttar Pradesh has also witnessed a significant 53 per cent rise in the incidents of farm fires this year with the total incidents reaching to 6,142 against 3,996 incidents

reported last harvesting season.

The data revealed that a total 37,602 burning events were detected in the six states between September 15 and November 30

On being contacted chairman of the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Dr Adarsh Pal Vig, "A reduction of more than 70% (70.24%) was achieved in the incidents of farm fires.



On Saturday, Bangla-

"After August 5, rela-

tions with India have been

changed and this is the

reality," said Md Touhid

Hossain, Foreign Affairs

Advisor (Minister) to the

Bangladesh interim government in a seminar at

## **PM MODI TO LAUNCH BIMA SAKHI YOJANA IN HARYANA**

BJP leadership is planning a huge gathering at the event.

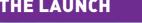
#### **TDG NETWORK** CHANDIGARH

he BJP led Haryana government planning to organize a mega event in Panipat on December 9 to mark first visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after the assembly elections.

During the visit the prime minister to launch national Bima Sakhi Yojana and he will also "virtually" lay the foundation stone of the Maharana Pratap Horticulture University Karnal, main campus, to be constructed over 65 acres with an estimated cost of 400 crore.

Party insiders said that the BJP leadership in the state is planning to mobilize a huge gathering at the event.

In this regard the BJP state president Mohanlal Badoli held a meeting on Saturday in the presence of chief minister Nayab Singh Saini, Union power minister and Karnal MP Manohar Lal Khattar, party's state in-charge Satish Punia, co-incharge Surender Nagar, state cabinet ministers Krishan Lal Panwar and Shyam Singh Rana to discuss the arrangements and assign duties. Panipat is also known as the launch pad of the prestigious Beti-Bachao-Beti-Padhao scheme launched by the Prime Minister Modi in January 2015. As per the information the Bima Sakhi Yojana is a scheme launched by Life Insurance Corporation of **THE LAUNCH** 





- **BJP Mobilization:** Party plans to gather a large crowd for the event, with state leadership coordinating arrangements.
- Bima Sakhi Yojana: Scheme to empower women by appointing them as LIC agents to promote insurance in their communities.

PM Modi with thousands attending. India aimed at empowering program would be grand and women. Under this scheme, historic and he will be given a women will be known as warm welcome by thousands of "Bima Sakhis" of the Life Inpeople who will reach Panipat surance Corporation of India

2015

to attend this event. "Today, we had discussions with all the workers regarding our BJP membership campaign. We should achieve our target in 1-2 days and after that, PM Modi is coming

ber to launch the Pradhan Mantri Bima Sakhi Yojana and all the workers have been assigned the duty to take women from here in large numbers to Panipat. Our government will continuously full the promises we made in the state and take Haryana forward," Haryana CM said.

to Haryana on 9th Decem-

was the launch site for PM's Beti-

Bachao-Beti-Padhao scheme in

Historic Welcome: CM Nayab Singh

Saini promises a grand reception for

Maha polls: NCP-SCP leader accuses ECI of 'wiping' out EVM's data

#### TDG NETWORK MUMBA

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP-SCP) leader Jitendra Awhad has raised serious allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of erasing crucial data from the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in the recent Maharashtra Assembly elections. The NCP-SCP leader

questioned the handling of election data by the ECI, claiming that 46 lakh votes suddenly appeared in Maharashtra within 4-5 months following the Lok Sabha elections.

"We wanted to have a recounting of the machines that were there on the table along with the data. Now, they are saying that the data has been wiped out and they will show new data, and recount and show it. Then, no mistake will be seen in it, is it a joke? The data on which we have doubts has been wiped out, so are we blind? All this is done by ECI...After losing the Lok Sabha elections, votes were increased. 46 lakh votes in 4-5 months, only

in Maharashtra," Awhad said on Saturday. Meanwhile, NCP chief Sharad Pawar also expressed concerns over discrepancies in the EVM votes in the Maharashtra Assembly elections but acknowledged that he had no concrete proof to back his claims.

### Hospital stops treating Bangladeshi patients as mark of protest there. nation comes first, crisis in Bangladesh come

### TDG NETWORK GANDEY

The JN Ray Hospital in Kolkata has decided to stop treating patients from Bangladesh indefinitely due to the recent unrest in Bangladesh, particularly the anti-Hindu violence and disrespect towards the Indian national flag. According to Swarup De Ray, Senior Manager of JN Ray Hospital, the hospital is monitioring the situation in Bangladesh, where many patients come from. Despite providing medical treatment as a service to humanity, the hospital feels compelled to take a stand against the disre-

spect shown to India. He also emphasized that India has supported Bangladesh for the last 50 years, and it's disheartening to see such behavior from Bangladeshis.

Swarup De Ray the Senior manager of Ray, in conversation with ANI. said that for the doctors

and business doesn't. Bein the way. However, afcause the hospital is locatter seeing videos of Baned near Bangladesh, sevgladeshi students trameral patients from across pling the tricolour, they the border come there for decided to discontinue medical services to Banseveral types of treatment. Ray said, "For the past gladeshi patients. He also week we have been closely expressed disappointmonitoring the situation ment at the Bangladeshi government for not taking in Bangladesh. A lot of patients from Bangladesh appropriate action against come to the hospital for the issue. treatment... The Indian Flag is being disrespected desh Foreign Affairs Advisor Mohammed Touhid in Bangladesh. Even the Hossain said that the students and intellectuals disrespect the Indian flag country's relation with and even the government India has changed since of Bangladesh is not talk-Former Prime Minister ing about it. India helped Sheikh Hasina was forced Bangladesh get indepenout of power on August 5 of this year. dence and they are thinking so low (disrespecting

the Indian flag). For us business does not come first, nation comes first... Until the situation improves in Bangladesh, we will not treat any patient from Bangladesh ... "

He said that for a long North South University, time, they served humana private university in ity by not letting political Dhaka.



### PM Modi attends 59th All India Conference of DG-IG of Police

#### TDG NETWORK BHUBANESHWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 59th All India Conference of Director Generals/ Inspector Generals of Police at Bhubaneswar on November 30 and December 1 As per a release from the Prime Minister's Office, in the valedictory session, PM Modi distributed President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service to officers of the Intelligence Bureau. In his concluding address, PM Modi noted that wideranging discussions had been held during the conference, on national and international dimensions

of security challenges and expressed satisfaction on the counter strategies which had emerged from the dis-

(LIC) as the women will be

appointed as LIC agents and

they will help people in their

Briefing about the prepara-

tions, the chief minister said

that the Prime Minister's

vicinity to get insured.

cussions. During his address, the PM expressed concern about the potential threats generated on account of digital frauds, cyber-



Discussing the success of hackathons in solving some key problems, the Prime Minister suggested deliberating on holding a National Police Hackathon in-depth discussions were held on existing and emergas well. Prime Minister also highlighted the need for exing challenges to national panding the focus on port security, including countersecurity and preparing a terrorism, left-wing extremfuture plan of action for it. ism, cyber-crime, economic Recalling the unparalleled security, immigration, contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the PM exhorted the entire security establishment from MHA to the Police Station level. to pay homage on his 150th birth anniversary next year, by resolving to set and achieve a goal on any aspect which would improve Police image, professionalism

and capabilities. He urged nal laws, initiatives and best the Police to modernize and practices in policing as well realign itself with the vision as the security situation in of 'Viksit Bharat'. During the Conference,

the neighbourhood. PM offered valuable insights during the proceedings and laid a roadmap for the future.

The Conference was also attended by the Union

crimes and AI technology, particularly the potential of deep fakes to disrupt social and familial relations. As a countermeasure, he called upon the police leadership to convert the challenge into an opportunity by harnessing India's double AI power of Artificial Intelligence and 'Aspirational India'. He expanded the mantra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the first day at the DGP/IGP Conference, discussed various subjects on policing and security, in Bhubaneswar on November 30. (ANI Photo)

that each of the initiatives become strategic, meticube collated and implementlous, adaptable, reliable and transparent. Appreciating ed entirely in 100 cities of the initiatives taken in urthe country. He called for the use of technology to ban policing, he suggested

reduce the workload of the constabulary and suggested that the Police Station be made the focal point for resource allocation.

Home Minister, Principal Secretary to the PM, National Security Advisor, Ministers of State for Home and Union Home Secretary. The conference, which was held in a hybrid format, was also attended by DGsP/ IGsP of all States/UTs and heads of the CAPF/CPOs physically and by over 750 officers of various ranks virtually from all States/UTs, the release added.

### Fadnavis' name approved as Maha CM, says BJP leader

of SMART policing and

called upon the police to

### TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

A senior BJP leader spilled the beans on the on Sunday night about the new chief minister face of the western state of Maharashtra. The name of Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new chief minister. Fadnavis will be elected as the legislature party leader in a meeting to be held either on December 2 or 3

Early in the day, outgoing Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said he would support the BJP's decision to pick the new chief minister.

"The name of Devendra Fadnavis has been finalised as the new chief minister of Maharashtra. The meeting to elect the new BJP legislature party meeting will be held on either December 2 or 3," a senior BJP leader told a news agency. The swearingin ceremony of the new Mahayuti government is scheduled to be held on December



5 at Azad Maidan in south Mumbai, Prime Minister Nathe ceremony.

has been finalised as the new chief minister of Maharashtra. The meeting to elect the new BJP legislature party meeting will be held on either Dec 2.or 3." drance in the formation of

"The name of

Sena and NCP may get 12 and

government. As per reports, the BJP is expected to get 21 berths in the cabinet, the Shiv

rendra Modi. Home Minister Amit Shah and other senior leaders are expected to attend

10 respectively. Recently, the Mahayuti alli-Deputy CM Ajit Pawar ance leaders Eknath Shinde said on Saturday that the next chief minister would be and Ajit Pawar met senior leaders of the BJP, includfrom the BJP. He added there ing Amit Shah in Delhi, to would be two deputy chief finalise berths in the cabiministers, one each from net. Reportedly, the existing the NCP and the Shiv Sena. arrangement of two deputy "The state will have one chief chief minister posts for allies minister from BJP and two will continue. Chief Minister deputies from the other two parties of the Mahayuti," he Eknath Shinde said recently that he wouldn't be a hinsaid

### Internet ban extended till Dec 3 in nine Manipur districts

#### TDG NETWORK IMPHAL

The Manipur government has extended the suspension of mobile internet services in nine districts for two more days till December 3. The suspension was extend-

ed in Imphal West, Imphal East, Kakching, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Pherzawl and Jiribam after the government reviewed the security situation in these districts

"The state government after reviewing the prevailing law and order situation and its correlation with the general operation of internet services has decided to continue sus-



### pension of mobile internet and

#### mobile data services including VSATs and VPN services NOIDA in the territorial jurisdiction

of Imphal West, Imphal East, Kakching, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Churachandpur and

"We are ready for our march towards Delhi. Tomorrow, on December 2. we will start our march towards Delhi from under the Maha Maya flyover (In Noida). At noon, all of us relief camp in Jiribam district. will reach there and demand our compensation and benefits as per the new

coastal security and narcotrafficking. Deliberations were also held on emerging security concerns along the border with Bangladesh and Myanmar, trends in urban policing and strategies for countering malicious narratives. Further, a review was undertaken of the implementation of newly enacted major crimi-

### Bhartiya Kisan Parishad to start its farmers' march to Delhi today

### TDG NETWORK

the media.

The Bhartiya Kisan Parishad (BKP) leader Sukhbir Khalifa on Sunday announced that the members of the farmer organisation will commence their march towards Delhi today to demand compensation and benefits under the new agricultural laws.



Delhi on foot starting from

December 6.

Earlier, Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee (KMSC) General Secretary Sarwan Singh Pandhair informed that the farmers protesting at the Shambhu border (Puniab-Harvana border) will also march towards Delhi on December 6 to press their demands, including a guaranteed laws," Sukhbir Khalifa told Minimum Support Price (MSP)

In addition, other farmer On October 26, farmers organisations, including gathered in large numbers from Badhrukha in the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and the Samyukt Sangrur district to protest Kisan Morcha (SKM, nonagainst the government political), have planned and press on their multiple their marches towards demands including timely

paddy procurement. These protests resulted in the blocking of national highways in the Phagwara, Sangrur, Moga, and Batala areas of Punjab.

Meanwhile, Haryana Agriculture Minister Shyan Singh Rana criticised the upcoming farmer's march to Delhi, arguing that they lack legitimate issues.

"They have no issues. The previous farmers' agitation had an issue- the three farm laws. Those three laws were later repealed by PM Narendra Modi and he even apologised to them. The farmers' agitation has caused losses to Punjab,' Shyan Singh Rana told reporters in Karnal.

"Rice miller industries from Punjab moved to Bihar and Madhya Pradesh... We will not let anyone play with the law and order situation in Haryana... They should talk to their Chief Minister and sort out their problems," he added.

Kangpokpi, Pherzawl and Jiribam of Manipur till 5.15

by the Home department on Sunday The state government suspended internet services on November 16 after a fresh wave of protests erupted in these districts following the recov-

ery of the dead bodies of three women and three children who had gone missing from a

pm of December 3, in public interest," said an order issued

# CITY

# **BJP FLAGS OFF AUTO CAMPAIGN AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS**

The auto campaign is part of BJP's broader electoral strategy, including forming committees, tours, campaigning.

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

n preparation for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections in 2025, The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has initiated an auto campaign to consolidate its position and garner support from the people of the national capital.

The auto campaign is part of BJP's broader electoral strategy, including forming committees, conducting tours and campaigning.

According to sources, representatives from over 58 auto unions and organisations in Delhi will visit the BJP state office daily as part of the initiative. Each campaign will be flagged off by BJP State President Virendra Sachdeva or a senior leader.

The source further mentioned that the next phase of Delhi Assembly Elections the public meeting with auto drivers were present



the campaign will be held on December 5, with auto drivers pledging their support to the BJP. Thousands of auto drivers are supporting BJP under the leadership of Delhi State President Virendra Sachdeva in view of the

scheduled for next year. BJP MP Harsh Malhotra said that there are thousands of auto drivers in Delhi. "Today more than a thousand auto drivers were present at the Delhi BJP office and addressed

them. While addressing the public meeting, the auto drivers shared Arvind Kejriwal's false promises and their plights with the BJP," he said. Speaking further, Harsh Malhotra said that on Sunday more than a thousand

at the Delhi BIP office and launched the auto campaign.

want change. Auto drivers have written slogans like "Badlenge Delhi ka halat Milkar BJP ke sath" on the back of their autos. In the last election, auto drivers had given their support to Arvind Kejriwal with many demands which Arvind Kejriwal's party has not fulfilled. Troubled by that, thousands of auto drivers are giving their support to BJP. Given the assembly elections in 2025, the BJP is going to put many demands from auto drivers in its manifesto. Auto drivers will also be given benefits in the BIP's manifesto. This time many benefits will also be given to auto drivers in the BJP's manifesto.

"This time auto drivers

# the people.

three people were murdered and an attempt was made to murder one person."

> people be safe?" Meanwhile, the Delhi Police have registered a case against the alleged accused for splashing liquid on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal during his rally in South Delhi's Greater Kailash area on Saturday, according to the police.

The alleged accused, identified as Ashok Kumar Jha,



According to the police, a

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TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

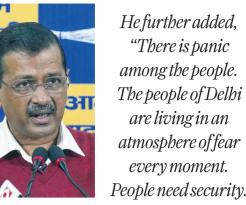
Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal claimed that three people were killed in the National capital on Sunday, adding that such incidents are creating panic among

In a post on X (formerly Twitter) in Hindi, the former Delhi Chief Minister said, "Crime in Delhi is not decreasing. Even today,

He further added, "There a bus marshal, was detained is panic among the people. by the Delhi police shortly The people of Delhi are livafter the incident. ing in an atmosphere of fear every moment. People need glass and bottle of 500 ML, filled with one-third water, security. When will our were seized from Ashok

Kumar Iha. Proceedings under section 126/169 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) have been initiated against Jha to prevent the recurrence of such offences in the future. Furthermore, the police said that the investigation is

ongoing, and further details are expected to emerge.



Former Delhi chief minister When will our and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal addresses people be safe?" a press conference, in New Delhi.

> According to the police report, it was stated that the AAP Chief was shaking hands with the public when a person namely Ashok Iha attempted to throw "water" on Arvind Kejriwal. However, the act was foiled as the police staff, stationed nearby, apprehended Jha immediately.

"The said attempt was foiled and the person was detained. The alleged person is serving as a Bus Marshal at Khanpur Depot. Further examination of the person is in progress to find out the reasons behind this act," the police said.

### AAP MLA Naresh Balyan sent to 2-day police custody in extortion case

### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Sunday remanded Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Naresh Balyan to two days of police custody in connection with an extortion case. Balyan was arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Saturday.

"Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested Naresh Balyan, MLA of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, in connection with an extortion case. The arrest followed the examination of an audio clip featuring a conversation between the MLA and notorious gang-

ster Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu," the Delhi Police posted on X on Saturday. This development follows the release of an audio clip by the Bharatiya Janata Par-



AAP MLA Naresh Balyan being produced before Rouse Avenue Court in connection with an extortion case, in New Delhi. ANI

ty (BJP), purportedly featur- by the Delhi Police against ing the AAP legislator from gangsters operating from Uttam Nagar instructing abroad also aims to identify their local associates. The gangster Kapil Sangwan, also known as Nandu. primary objective of organ-"In this case, there is an ised crime conducted from audio recording of a con- abroad is financial gain,'

NARESH BALYAN GOT ARRESTED IN FAKE CASE: AAP

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar on Sunday said the arrest of party leader Naresh Balyan was the result of a fake case.

Speaking to ANI, Kakkar said, "He (Naresh Balyan) has sent written complaints 5 times. He has said he was getting calls for extortion... No action was taken on that, but he got arrested in a fake case.

She also accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of planning an attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and getting MLA Naresh

"Arvind Kejriwal has constantly been asking questions to Union Home Minister Amit Shah about Delhi's collapsing law and order situation but instead of taking action on this, Amit Shah planned an attack on Arvind Kejriwal yesterday and then got our MLA arrested today," she said.

Aam Aadmi Party MLA Naresh Balyan's lawyer, NC Sharma, stated today that there are no grounds for the AAP leader's arrest Sharma further expressed confidence in the legal system, saying "We have faith in the law" and announced



versation between Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu and AAP MLA Naresh Balyan available in the public domain. The ongoing action

in the future

added.

the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) said. On Saturday, BJP leader Gauray Bhatia alleged that Naresh Balyan was involved

in extortion with the assistance of a gangster, claiming ans to file for ba

Addressing a press conference in the national capital, Bhatia stated, "AAP has become a party of goons.

### Case filed against accused for splashing liquid on Kejriwal

#### **TDG NETWORK** NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police have registered a case against the alleged accused for splashing liquid on Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal during his rally in South Delhi's Greater Kailash area on Saturday, according to the police.

The alleged accused, identified as Ashok Kumar Jha, a bus marshal, was detained by the Delhi police shortly after the incident.

According to the police, a glass and bottle of 500 ML, filled with one-third water, were seized from Ashok Ku-



mar Jha. Proceedings under ongoing, and further details

section 126/169 of Bharativa are expected to emerge. Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita As per the police report, (BNSS) have been initiated it was stated that the AAP against Jha to prevent the Chief was shaking hands recurrence of such offences with the public when a person namely Ashok Jha Furthermore, the police attempted to throw "wasaid that the investigation is ter" on Arvind Kejriwal.

However, the act was foiled as the police staff. stationed nearby, apprehended Jha immediately.

that "gangsters are the big-

gest supporters of AAP."

"The said attempt was foiled and the person was detained. The alleged person is serving as a Bus Marshal at Khanpur Depot. Further examination of the person is in progress to find out the reasons behind this act," the police said.

In a response to the incident, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi claimed that the accused was a BJP worker. "Today in broad daylight, a BJP worker attacked Arvind Kejriwal ji. The BJP is feeling very nervous about

losing the Delhi elections for the third time. Delhi people will take revenge for such cheap acts. Last time they got eight seats, this time Delhi people will give zero seats to BJP," she said. Punjab Chief Minister

Bhagwant Mann condemned the incident, calling it "shameful." "The attack on Arvind Ke-

jriwal in Delhi's Greater Kailash is very shameful. Ever since Kejriwal ji has started asking BJP questions about Delhi's law and order and people's safety, BJP has been completely baffled. This attack is the result of that frenzy.

ing gangster Kapil Sang-

### BJP plans 1200 Sisodia challenges ED Purvanchal meetings

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Ahead of Delhi assembly polls due early next year, **BJP** Purvanchal Morcha President Santosh Ojha said that more than 1200 meetings will be held in Delhi under Purvanchal Samman Sammelan. "More than 1200 meetings will be held in Delhi under Purvanchal Samman Sammelan. A conference of two and a half to three thousand people will be held in each assembly. Mandal-level workers will participate in these conferences and will focus especially on their booths. Out of 70 assembly seats in Delhi, 40 are such that the number of Purvanchal voters is high," Oiha said.

He further said that apart from the leadership of the state BJP, Union Ministers will also attend more than 1500 meetings in the constituency. During Sunday's meeting, national minister and Delhi state co-in-charge Alka Gurjar while addressing the workers said that Delhi is very unhappy with the Aam Aadmi Party government and the people of Delhi want freedom from this government

### chargesheet in HC

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has approached the Delhi High Court, challenging the trial court's decision to take cognizance of the Enforcement Directorate's chargesheet in the Excise Policy case Sisodia's plea stated that

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal with Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and others pose for a selfie during his padyatra, at Kalkaji, in New Delhi. ANI

> the chargesheet was filed without the necessary sanction approval from the competent authorities.

The plea filed stated that the allegations against the petitioner, Manish Sisodia, relate to official acts carried out by him in the course of his duties as a public servant.

It further stated that the Enforcement Directorate. in this case, has filed the impugned supplementary prosecution complaint (chargesheet) without obtaining prior sanction from the competent authority. The plea contends that

the Special Court's decision to take cognizance of the chargesheet, without this necessary sanction, contradicts established legal precedents. As such, the prosecution of the petitioner without the required sanction is unlawful.

As a result, the plea seeks an order for the quashing and setting aside of all consequential proceedings, both preceding and subsequent to the order passed in the case, as stated by the petitioner, Manish Sisodia.

The hearing in the matter is scheduled to be held on Monday by Delhi High Court bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri.

In August, the Supreme Court granted bail to former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in two cases related to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam.

The court was hearing pleas filed by Sisodia seeking bail in both cases lodged by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the **Enforcement Directorate** (ED), involving allegations of money laundering and corruption.

### Many things will unfold: BJP on AAP MLA arrest

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President Virendra Sachdeva stated on Sunday that the arrest of AAP MLA Naresh Balyan would expose more individuals as the investigation unfolds.

He remarked that the ongoing probe into the alleged extortion case is likely to reveal further developments.

"...The accused MLA has been sent to two days of police remand, and I believe that as the investigation

He remarked that the ongoing probe into the alleged extortion case is likely to reveal further developments.

progresses, many facts will Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Sunday remanded emerge, and more people will be exposed," the BJP Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader told. MLA Naresh Balyan to two

"They [AAP leaders] have days of police custody in been looting the public of connection with the extor-Delhi. The truth must come tion case. Balyan was arto light at the earliest," he rested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Saturday.

"Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested Naresh Balyan, an MLA of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, in connection with an extortion case. The arrest followed the examination of an audio clip featuring a conversation between the MLA and notorious gangster Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu," the Delhi Police posted on X on Saturday. This development comes after the release of an audio

wan, also known as Nandu. "In this case, there is an audio recording of a conversation between Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu and AAP MLA Naresh Balyan in the public domain. The ongoing actions by the Delhi Police against gangsters operating from abroad aim to identify their local associates. The primary motive of organised crime conducted from abroad is clip by the BJP, purportedly financial gain," the Deputy featuring the AAP legislator Commissioner of Police from Uttam Nagar instruct-(DCP) stated.

# NATION

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW MONDAY | 02 DECEMBER 2024 NEW DELHI

### FIGHT FOR SPIRIT OF INDIA: PRIYANKA Society at risk if TFR below 2.1, says Bhagwat

Newly-elected MP alleges that BJP politicised the Wayanad tragedy and withheld relief funds

#### TDG NETWORK WAYANAD

ongress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday launched a scathing attack against the BJP-led Centre, saying that today the fight is against the force that is weakening the rights of the people and handing over them to a few "businessmen friends." Addressing a meeting in Mananthavady here, she said, "We are fighting against a force that is doing everything in its power to destroy the institutions upon which our country was built." "Today we are fighting for the spirit of our nation, for the soul of India." The Congress general secretary further said the fight was for the power and resources of this country to belong rightfully to its people.

Recalling the massive landslide that hit the hill district on July 30, Priyanka said she has seen many

### **PRIYANKA'S CHARGE**

- Priyanka criticizes the BJP government for weakening people's rights and prioritizing businessmen.
- She recalls the devastation of the Wayanad landslide and praises the community's unity in helping victims.
- Priyanka promises to fight for a better future and frequently visit the region to address local issues.

### tragedies.

"And because of our professions, we go across India when there are tragedies, we meet people." "But seldom, do I see the kind of pain and suffering that I saw when I came here. Nature's fury is concentrated in a small area. All the houses in that area were washed away, all the families were washed away,

washed away. And yet in the middle of this devastation, and the middle of the pain and suffering I saw with own my eyes the humanity of all of you" You did not ask religion, vou did not ask caste, you just did whatever

you could do to help those who are suffering," she said. "The symbol of true values that India stands for and all the livelihoods were lies here in Wayanad," she

Further, Manohar asserted



Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra greets the supporters during a roadshow at Mananthavady in Wayanad on Sunday. ANI

### added.

"I want each one of you to know that you are my responsibility. That I take your love with complete seriousness and it is my duty to fight for you to give you a better future in the next five years and ahead," she said adding that she came two days here to thank them all for the love and affection they have given to her.

### TDG NETWORK

Expressing concern over declining population growth, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR), the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime, should be at least 3, well above the present one of 2.1.

Speaking at the 'Kathale Kul (clan) Sammelan' in Nagpur, Mr Bhagwat also highlighted the vital role of families, and warned that according to population science, if a society's total fertility rate dips below 2.1, it could face extinction.

"A declining population is a serious concern. Demographic studies suggest that when a society's total fertility rate falls below 2.1, it risks facing extinction. This decline does not necessarily require external threats; a society can gradually fade away on its own," Mr Bhagwat said. "Many languages and



cultures have already disappeared due to this issue. Thus, it is essential to maintain a fertility rate above 2.1," Mr Bhagwat said, and emphasized that "kutumb" (family) is an integral part of society and every family serves as a vital building bloc.

"Our country's population policy, formulated either in 1998 or 2002, clearly says that the total fertility rate should not be below 2.1. Now when we say 2.1, it is not feasible to have children in fraction. So when we say 2.1, this means it should be more, at least three. The

### 3 girls die mysteriously in Surat

#### TDG NETWORK SURAT

Three girls died under mysterious circumstances in the Sachin Pali village area of Surat, officials said.

According to the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Surat Civil Hospital, Ketan Nayak, the incident occurred on Saturday, and the exact cause of the children's deaths has not been determined yet. The deceased have been identified as Durga Kumari (12), Amita Mahant (14) and

Anita Kumari Mahant (8). Nayak stated that two of the children were admitted to a private hospital where they died, while one girl was brought to the Civil Hospital in a very serious condition, but despite efforts, she could not be saved.

"The relatives of the deceased children are stating different incidents which led to their death. Some are saying that it is due to the ice cream that they ate while others are mentioning a fire that broke there and the children inhaled the smoke.

"A (court) judgment was giv-

en, which has opened a Pan-

dora's box in the country. Now,

### Rs 48k-cr rice illegal exports via 'BJP not heeding to Bhagwat's mandir-masjid advice' Kakinada port: AP minister TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

#### TDG NETWORK RANCHI

Andhra Pradesh Minister N Manohar on Sunday alleged that illegal rice exports worth Rs 48,537 crore, amounting to over 1.3 crore MT, were routed through Kakinada Port under the erstwhile YSRCP regime.

Addressing a press conference, the Minister for Civil Supplies, Food and Consumer Affairs, accused the YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led government of bringing infamy to the port, located in Kakinada district, and turning it into a "smuggling den".

"In the past three fiscal years, Rs 48.537 crore worth of rice was exported from Kakinada



Port alone, indicating the scale Manohar also claimed that of the rice mafia. People need rice was illegally exported to to understand this," Manohar African countries, with no said other port exporting as much

According to the minister, a rice as Kakinada Port. network was formed stretching that the NDA government is from Chittoor to Srikakulam to working to "dismantle the profit from illegal rice exports, which allegedly involved creatrice mafia" and promised not ing green channels to move the to spare any powerful figures cereal to the port. behind it.



Congress president Mallikar-BJP leadership on Sunday of by holding surveys at every mosque in the country and said by doing so, the saffron party is disregarding the advice of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Addressing a big rally organised by a federation of Dalits, minorities, tribals and OBCs at the Ramlila Maidan here. Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of not letting people remain united or safe by allowing such surveys. He also asked whether Bharativa Janata Party (BJP) leaders will demolish struc-

Addressing a big rally organised by a federation of Dalits, minorities, tribals and OBCs at the Ramlila Maidan here, Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of not letting people remain united or safe by allowing such surveys.

tures, such as the Red fort, Taj Mahal, Outub Minar or Char Minar, which were construct-

and Elliot's Beach. Due to

strong winds, the beach

sand came to the Patti-

napakkam beach road due

to high tide. The Greater

Chennai Corporation staff

cleared the sand from the

Pattinapakkam beach road

with the help of JCB.

Kharge's remarks came in the wake of violence in Uttar

Pradesh's Sambhal, where a survey is being conducted at a mosque to ascertain whether a temple existed there years ago. The Congress president also gave a call to Dalits, minorities and Other Backward Classes (OBC) to remain united as only then will they be able to achieve their goals of protecting the Constitution, democracy and their rights.

India's TFR has declined

A total fertility rate of 2.1

factor in population growth.

It ensures the replacement

of a woman and her partner

upon death with no over-

all increase or decrease in

Latching on to Mr Bhag-

wat's remarks, AIMIM

chief and Hyderabad MP

Asaduddin Owaisi said,

"PM Modi had earlier said

that Muslim women pro-

duce more children." He

also referred to PM Modi's

remarks that if the Con-

gress comes to power, it will

redistribute gold, including

'mangalsutras', from moth-

ers and daughters among

numbers.

Muslims.

"We have to remain united at all costs. Modiji is not leaving any stone unturned to harm this unity and trying to divide the society and even castes," he alleged.

Calling for unity among the downtrodden, Kharge alleged that Modi is against common people as he hates them, adding that "our fight is against that hatred and that is why political power is important".

Bhagwat had said 'our aim was to construct a Ram temple and we should not find a Shivalay under every masjid'," the Congress chief said. He said a law was enacted in 1991 to maintain the character of religious places, and asked why is the BJP trying to violate

that. "We are all one and that is what you want. Narendra Modi savs 'ek hai to safe hain'. but they are not letting anyone remain safe. The truth is that you are the one who are dividing us," Kharge said.

#### surveys are being conducted jun Kharge accused the top everywhere, finding temples underneath mosques. Voices trying to divide the society are growing in this regard. But in 2023, RSS leader Mohan

ed by Muslims.

Cyclone Fengal batters TN, leaves a trail of destruction



A drone visual of the flood-affected area of Rainbow Nagar amid heavy rainfall triggered by cyclone Fengal, in Puducherry. ANI

#### TDG NETWORK CHENNAI

After making landfall near Puducherry on November 30, Cyclone Fengal weakened on Sunday, but torrential downpour under its influence paralysed the union territory, with the Army stepping in to evacuate stranded persons in inundated streets. Old-timers recalled such a fury of nature was not witnessed in this tiny UT for the last three decades.

Villupuram in neighbouring Tamil Nadu also suffered following heavy rains and inundation, with Chief Minister M K Stalin terming the rainfall in the district as 'unprecedented."

Operations at the Chennai airport, which had been suspended on Saturday, re-

sumed past midnight but many flights saw cancellations and delays initially, officials said. However, later in the day, operations were

> normal According to the latest update from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Cyclone Fengal has weakened into a deep depression.

"The Cyclonic Storm FENGAL (pronounced as FEINJAL) over north coastal Tamil Nadu & Puducherry remained practically stationary during past 12 hours, weakened into a deep depression and lay centered at 11.30 hours IST of today, the 1st December 2024 over the same region near latitude 12.0°N and longitude 79.8°E, close to Puducherry, about 30 km north of Cuddalore, 40 km east of Villupuram and

120 km south-southwest of Chennai," the weather office said in a post on 'X.'

It is likely to move westwards very slowly and weaken gradually into a depression over north Tamil Nadu during the next 12 hours, it added.

Normal life was crippled in Puducherry, as the union territory received 46 cm rainfall, bettering the previous best of 21 cm recorded on October 31, 2004.

Cyclone Fengal triggered heavy rainfall, leading to inundation of all residential areas on the outskirts Of boulevard limits. Trees were uprooted at various places under the impact of the cyclonic storm. Power outage was reported in most of the localities since 11 pm on Saturday.

### High tides at Chennai beaches

#### TDG NETWORK CHENNAI

Cyclone Fengal which crossed north Tamil Nadu coasts and made landfall in Puducherry on November 30 late night, the beaches in Chennai witnessed high tides and rough sea conditions. The weather forecast issued by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) predicted "isolated heavy to very heavy" rainfall in Chennai for Sunday.

Rough sea conditions were seen on the beaches of Chennai including Marina, Pattinapakkam

PUDUCHERRY

### Army's heroic efforts



day across several areas in the city. The rescue operations were conducted in Amid the flooding in many districts of Tamil Nadu and flood-hit areas in the Union Puducherry caused due to Territory, including Krishna Cyclone Fengal, the Indian Nagar, Kuber Nagar, and Army conducted multiple Jiva Nagar.

### Scary visuals of flight aborting landing

# to issue a clarification and

TDG NETWORK CHENNA

> After a video of an IndiGo flight aborting its landing at the Chennai International Airport amid the turbulent weather ahead of Cyclone Fengal's landfall has gone viral, promoting the airline

TN gets year's rainfall in just 36 hours

TDG NETWORK VISHAKAPATNAN

Cyclone Fengal has delivered the equivalent of a year's rainfall in just 36 hours in some parts of Tamil Nadu, with certain areas receiving around 56 centimetres of rain, according to Rajesh Lakhani, Tamil Nadu's Additional Chief Secretary of Revenue and Disaster Management.

Lakhani stated that as the cyclone has now crossed the region, the government is focusing on restoration efforts to address the result-



on November 30.

stating that the crew exe-

cuted a go-around following

established safety protocols

The statement issued by the

IndiGo Airline stated that the

cockpit crew of flight 6E 683,



ing damage. The Additional Chief Secretary noted that 49 relief camps have been set up in the Viluppuram district alone."Now that the cyclone has crossed, our focus has shifted to restoring the damage caused.

### **DAMS OVERFLOW IN KANCHIPURAM**

KANCHIPURAM: Continuous heavy rainfall caused by Cyclone Fengal has led to overflowing dams in Kanchipuram, prompting the IMD To issue an orange alert for the district on Sunday.In the past 30 hours, 163 millimetres of rainfall has been recorded in the Kanchipuram district.

**PUDUCHERRY: HIGHEST RAINFALL IN 30 YEARS** 

CHENNAI : Puducherry CM on Sunday said that Puducherry received 50 centimetres of rainfall overnight that has led to flooding in the city.Rescue teams are working to evacuate stranded people, he said.

### **CM STALIN INSPECTS RELIEF** WORK

CHENNAI : Amid flooding and heavy downpours caused by Cyclonic Storm Fengal, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday visited the State Emergency Operation Centre to inspect ongoing relief efforts.He urged the govt to dispatch a central team to assess the situation.

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THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW MONDAY | 02 DECEMBER 2024 NEW DELHI

# **MARKETS AWAIT RBI POLICY AMID GDP SLOWDOWN**

The upcoming week brings the RBI MPC's monetary policy review, where policymakers' interpretation of the GDP data and their stance on the rate trajectory will be crucial.

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

omestic stock indices are now awaiting RBI monetary policy decisions, for fresh market cues, during the week that starts Monday.

India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) witnessed a setback, hitting 5.4 per cent which is the slowest growth in two years

Post weakness in recent weeks, the domestic stock markets staged some comeback during the past week with most of the indices posting weekly gains. The Sensex 30 and the Nifty 50 indices gained 1 per cent during the week cumulatively, marking the second

"The upcoming week brings key data releases and events. Participants will first react to the GDP data released post-market on Friday. The primary focus will be on the RBI MPC's monetary policy review, where policymakers' interpretation of the GDP data and their stance on

consecutive week of ad-

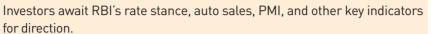
vances amid mixed cues.

the rate trajectory will be crucial," said Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd "Additionally, high-fre-

quency indicators such as auto and cement sales, along with HSBC Manufacturing and Services PMI data, are expected to provide further market direc-

### **KEY POINTS**

- Markets eye RBI policy: Sensex, and Nifty gained 1% last week, focus shifts to RBI's December 4–6 policy meet for cues.
- GDP hits 2-year low: Q2 growth slows to 5.4%, missing RBI's 7% forecast, raising economic concerns.
- Data-driven market focus:



Volatility persists: Fund outflows, inflation, and weak Q2 earnings keep markets unstable.

tion. Foreign inflows will also remain in focus as a major driver of sentiment," added Mishra

Foreign portfolio investors turned net sellers in India for the second straight month in November, but the

With India logging disap-

second half of November. "With results season behind us, the focus has now

pace of sell-off slowed in the

With the rise in inflation in recent months, the rate cut cycle is expected to start only next year," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research, at Kotak Securities.

completely shifted on the domestic and global macro factors. The RBI MPC will be holding its meeting in the first week of December 2024. With the rise in inflation in recent months, the rate cut cycle is expected to

Crisil anticipates India's GDP growth to slow to 6.8% in 2024-25

start only next year," said Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research, at Kotak Securities. The next RBI monetary

NATION

policy review meeting is scheduled for December 4-6. Indian stocks have been quite volatile for the past few weeks. Recent bearish trends have been attributed to fund outflows, lower-than-expected Q2 earnings by India Inc., and persistently high inflation. Sensex closed at 79,746.24 points, up 702.50 points, while Nifty closed at 24,131.05 points, up 216.90 points on Friday, ahead of the GDP data which later showed India to have grown by 5.4 per cent as against RBI's forecast of 7.0

The Sensex remains nearly 6,000 points below its all-time high of 85,978 points.

per cent.

"Stability in the market will depend on the steadiness of the incoming economic data next week. While the market is likely to witness some repercussions from the fall in Q2 FY25 GDP to 5.4 per cent. On the other hand, investors will be more inclined to act on the upcoming RBI monetary policy. Though the consensus shows status quo, the probability of a rate cut in February is high due to the subdued growth in Q2," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

"Easing inflation, along

tive and wedding season, is

likely to buoy consumption

growth in the second half of

Meanwhile, India's retail

inflation was at 6.21 per

cent in October, breaching

the Reserve Bank of India's

6 per cent upper tolerance

level. High food inflation in

October was mainly due to

an increase in the inflation

of vegetables, fruits, oils and

this fiscal."

### Foreign exchange reserves decline for eighth consecutive week

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

India's foreign exchange

(forex) reserves slumped for an eighth consecutive week to hit a multi-month low of \$656.582 billion in the week that ended on November 22, data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) showed.

The forex reserves dropped by about \$1.310 billion in the reporting week. The reserves have been falling ever since they touched an all-time high of \$704.89 billion in September.

The reserves have been declining likely due to RBI intervention aimed at preventing a sharp depreciation of the Rupee. A substantial foreign exchange reserve buffer helps shield domestic

In 2023, India

added around \$58 billion to its foreign exchange reserves, contrasting with a cumulative decline of \$71 billion in 2022.

economic activity from global shocks. The latest RBI data showed that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the

largest component of forex reserves, stood at \$566.791 billion. Gold reserves currently amount to \$67.573 billion, according to RBI data. Estimates suggest that India's foreign exchange

pointing growth in the July-September quarter, Crisil now expects GDP growth to slow to 6.8 per cent this financial year 2024-25. Last year, India grew at 8.2 per reserves are now sufficient cent. to cover approximately one According to the rating year of projected imports.

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

agency Crisil, the growth In 2023, India added is weighed down by high around \$58 billion to its forinterest rates and low fiscal eign exchange reserves, conimpulse.

trasting with a cumulative "Risks are tilted toward decline of \$1 billion in 2022. the downside given the lacklustre second quarter or FX reserves, are assets growth number," said the Crisil report.

held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority, However, certain highprimarily in reserve currenfrequency indicators from cies such as the US Dollar, October such as automobile with smaller portions in sales and export growth are the Euro, Japanese Yen, and showing encouraging signs of a revival in the third quar-



The best part is that agricultural growth has risen and is likely to increase further due to expectations of a healthy kharif harvest.

ter, indicating the slowdown in the second quarter could be transitory. The Indian economy grew

by 5.4 per cent in real terms in the July-September quarter of the current financial vear 2024-25, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's official data showed on Friday. The quarterly growth was quite lower than RBI's forecast of 7 per cent.

Last year same quarter, India grew 8.1 per cent. Indian economy grew 6.7 per cent in the April-June of both rural and urban

quarter, similarly lower households. with the onset of the fes-

than RBI's 7.1 per cent forecast.

The best part is that agricultural growth has risen and is likely to increase further due to expectations of a healthy kharif harvest on account of the monsoon being 8 per cent above the Long Period Average at the season's end. Higher reservoir levels also bode well for rabi output.

"All this should provide a fillip to agricultural incomes and rural consumption," Crisil noted.

Additionally, increased kharif crop arrivals into the market are likely to ease the pressure on food inflation, which has been elevated for several months, eroding the purchasing power

fats. Food prices continue to remain a pain point for the policymakers in India, who wish to bring retail inflation to 4 per cent on a sustainable basis. The RBI has kept the reporate elevated at 6.5 per cent to keep inflation contained.

### Foreign portfolio investors turn net sellers in Nov but pace slows month.

Pound Sterling.

Foreign exchange reserves,

TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have turned net sellers in Indian stock markets are likely to turn out confor the second straight month in November. They were net buyers in the past four months on a trot through September. Data made available by National Securities Depository Limited showed that FPIs had sold stocks worth Rs 21,612 crore in November. In October, they sold Rs 94.017 crore.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "It appears that they sistent buyers only when the market corrects further and valuations become attractive.'



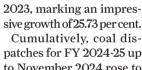
VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "It appears that they are likely to turn out consistent buyers only when the market corrects further and valuations become attractive." in the post-GDP data re-Interestingly, at a time lease presser said FPI has when overseas investors turned net buyers again were net sellers in Indian equities, domestic institusince November 21. "FPI became net sellers tional investors stayed net in Oct and Nov amid ongobuyers, largely making up for the outflows by foreign investors. They accumulated stocks worth thousands

### Overall coal production hits 90.62 million tonnes in November 2024: Coal Ministry

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

India's overall coal production reached 90.62 million 628.03 MT, compared to patches for FY 2024-25 up tonnes (MT) (Provisional) in November this year, compared to 84.52 MT in the same month last year, marking a 7.20 per cent growth, the Ministry of Coal said in a release on Sunday. The ministry said that the coal production from captive and other entities has shown significant progress, reaching 17.13 MT in November 2024, up from 12.44 MT in November 2023, marking an impressive growth of 37.69 per cent.

Cumulatively, coal production for FY 2024-25 up to November 2024 reached 591.32 MT during the same to November 2024 rose to



Important to mention is that the total stocks they sold in India in October were the highest ever in a

In June, July, August, and September, they bought stocks worth Rs 26,565 crore, Rs 32,365 crore, Rs 7,320 crore, and Rs 57,724 crore, respectively.

FPIs had fuelled the bull run in the stock market, barring the latest slump. As per definition, Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) involves an investor buying

Investment Strategist, Geojit **Financial Services** 

foreign financial assets. The benchmark Sensex remains nearly 6,000 points below its all-time high of 85,978 points.

breaking progress.

unique edge.

The pace of FPI sell-offs in the past few sessions has however slowed down. Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran

ing geopolitical tensions and support measures by China," Nageswaran said in his presentation on Friday evening.

period in FY 2023-24, reflecting a growth of 6.21 per cent.

Additionally, Coal dispatches in November 2024 showed steady improvement, reaching 85.22 MT, up from 82.07 MT in November 2023, reflecting a growth of 3.85 per cent. Dispatches from captive and other entities experienced a sharp increase, rising to 16.58 MT in November 2024 from 13.19 MT in November

Collaboration with 19

banks, India Post Pay-

other key departments fa-

cilitated nationwide cover-

Over 1845 camps were set

1.8 lakh postmen were de-

ployed to assist pensioners

As per the ministry re-

lease, the campaign's suc-

cess can be attributed to

the extensive support from

various stakeholders, in-

cluding pensioner welfare

associations, pension dis-

bursing banks, the Min-

istry of Railways, UIDAI,

and other government

on the ground.

657.75 MT, compared to 623.78 MT during the same period in the previous fiscal year, recording a growth of 5.45 per cent.

These figures are provisional, as the the release.

On November 12, the ministry stated that the Coal imports for blending purposes decreased to 9.79 MT compared to last year which was 10.70 MT indicating a decline of 8.5 per cent during the same period.

### MoS Dr Jitendra Singh calls for startup-industry synergy

#### TDG NETWORK GUWAHAT

Addressing the Round Table of Institutional leaders from across the country on the sidelines of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh called for strong StartUp-Industry linkage as the key to India's sustainable economic growth.

The Round Table was attended by heads of all the important R&D institutes and vice Chancellors of Universities and later joined by Industry leaders as well.





In an inspiring address at the Round Table, the Minister emphasised the complete synergy of Research, Academia, StartUps and Industry to achieve the optimum goals. He underlined the pivotal role of science and innovation in driving

India's journey towards be-



an exclusive Indian cocktail that sets us apart on the Dr Jitendra Singh called global stage," he said. for a strategic, collaborative approach involving The Minister praised

academia, research instituthe National Research tions, and industry to tap Foundation as a major into India's potential and step forward, noting its push forward with groundpotential to foster deeper cooperation between pub-Dr Jitendra Singh emphalic and private sectors, sized the need to harness both domestically and internationally. Drawing on India's exclusive assets, including its rich tradiexamples from the biotech tional knowledge coupled and space sectors, he called with cutting-edge technolfor increased global partogy, which together offer a nerships that would bring in international expertise "When you combine our and industry leaders to traditional knowledge with amplify India's scientific modern science, you create endeavours.

### DoPPW's Digital Life Certificate Campaign 3.0 generates 1.30 cr certificates

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

showed.

The Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW) has concluded its Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 3.0, which was aimed at simplifying life certificate submissions for pensioners, particularly super senior citizens, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions said in a release on Sunday.

of crores more than, data

The campaign saw about 1.30 crore DLCs generated, making it the largest-ever initiative aimed at improving the welfare of pensioners in India, the ministry added.

A key highlight of the campaign was the innovative use of Face Authentication Technology, which accounted for over 39 lakh DLCs (more than 30 per cent of the total), marking a 200-fold increase from



age

the previous DLC 2.0 campaign.

The ministry further said that the face authentication technology proved particularly beneficial for elderly pensioners with faded fingerprints, differently-abled individuals, and those residing in remote areas.

Additionally, more than 8 lakh DLCs were submitted by pensioners aged 80 and above, showcasing the campaign's focus on elderly citizens.

The DLC Campaign 3.0 prioritised inclusion, with a special focus on underserved populations, ensuring no pensioner was left behind.

bodies.

The campaign's geographical reach was vast, with Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal emerging as key contributors, processing over 20 lakh, 13 lakh, 11 lakh, and 10 lakh DLCs, respectively.

Notably, the Defense ments Bank (IPPB), and Ministry processed 25 lakh DLCs, serving retired armed forces personnel, while the Central Civil Ministry and Railways also up across more than 800 made significant contribucities and districts, and tions.

> The campaign saw active media outreach through DD News, AIR, SANSAD TV, PIB, and PTI, reaching over 122 million people nationwide. Extensive publicity, including TV discussions, radio broadcasts, and social media campaigns, played a vital role in raising awareness and ensuring broad participation from pensioners, it added.

Hindus in Bangladesh have

faced relentless persecu-

tion, with attacks on their

homes. businesses, and

places of worship. These

incidents have gone largely

unreported by internation-

al media, and prominent

rights organizations like

Amnesty International and

Human Rights Watch have

remained silent, allegedly

due to Yunus's influence

and connections with the

The international

community's apathy has

emboldened extremist

forces, leaving religious

minorities in Bangladesh

vulnerable to unchecked

violence. The arrest of

Hindu leaders, combined

with the rise of Islamist

groups, underscores a

deeper crisis of governance

and religious tolerance in

The escalating violence

and systematic persecu-

tion of Hindus and other

minorities in Bangladesh

demand immediate and

decisive international in-

tervention. This crisis is

not merely a regional is-

sue but a global challenge

to the principles of human

rights and religious free-

dom. If the world continues

to remain silent, the forces

of extremism will grow

bolder, plunging the region

into deeper instability. It is

imperative for the interna-

tional community, includ-

ing governments, rights

organizations, and global

leaders, to act swiftly and

resolutely to protect the

lives and dignity of vulner-

able communities. Failure

to address this crisis now

will leave a legacy of injus-

tice and suffering that fu-

ture generations will hold

us accountable for. The

text of globalisation, the

law has been called upon

to fulfil specific obligations

to society, and solicitors are

expected to be the change

agents and engineers of so-

ciety. When the law is used

for social engineering, it is a

The Bar Council of India,

State Bar Councils, the

University Grants Com-

mission, and the Union and

State governments are all

accountable for raising the

bar for legal education in

India. These organisations

must work together and

consider offering all avail-

able resources, both hu-

man and financial, to guar-

antee that everyone has

access to legal education.

A society's cultural, social,

political, and economic

characteristics are reflected

have access to it.

tool for social design.

**OPINION** 

the country.

Biden administration.

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# COMMENT & ANALYSIS **HUNDREDS OF LOOTED WEAPONS IN** THE HANDS OF JIHADISTS IN B'DESH



SALAH UDDIN SHOAIB CHOUDHURY

n March 25, 1971, Pakistani occupation forces launched 'Operation Searchlight', unleashing unprecedented cruelty on independence-seeking Bengalis in what was then East Pakistan. Thousands of Hindus were brutally murdered, Hindu women and girls were subjected to rape, and Hindu homes were set ablaze. For the Pakistani military, this massacre of unarmed civilians - primarily Hindus - was a grim celebration, as policymakers in Rawalpindi labeled the Bengali liberation movement a "Hindu uprising". Throughout the nine-month-long war for Bangladesh's independence, Arab nations, including Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, framed the conflict as a "war between Muslims and Hindus".

Fifty-three years after gaining independence, Bangladesh finds itself under siege by Islamists, jihadists, and anti-Hindu forces. These groups are evidently supported by international actors, including notorious figures such as Joe Biden, Barack Obama, Bill and Hillary Clinton, George Soros, and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). This resurgence is bolstered by the influence of Nobel laureate and Trump-hater Muhammad Yunus and his allies, Nationalist Party (BNP), comes from Afro-Arab Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Hefazat-e-Islam (HeI), Hizb ut-Tahrir (HuT), and Ansar Al Islam, a local affiliate of Al Oaeda and several thuggish gangs comprising Islamists and leftists. Since but also in countries like

the removal of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and seize of power by Muhammad Yunus and his cronies, the country has seen an alarming rise in Islamist extremism, with jihadist flags being openly waved and radical slogans inciting violence against Hindus, members of ISKCON, and

### **A REIGN OF TERROR AGAINST HINDUS**

so-called "Indian agents".

Since late July 2024, Hindus in Bangladesh have endured horrific atrocities, including mass killings, rapes of women and girls (including minors), and widespread looting. Hindu homes, businesses, and temples have been systematically targeted in arson attacks which have been perpetrated by Islamist, jihadists and Hindu-haters. This unfolding genocide appears to mirror Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution", as the revolutionary Islamist regime under Muhammad Yunus pursues the dangerous agenda of transforming Bangladesh into a Hindufree, Taliban-style state. Such a transformation would not only make Bangladesh a hotbed of radical Islamic terrorism but also pose a severe security threat to neighboring India and the broader region.

### **MADRASSAS: BREED-ING GROUNDS FOR** JIHADISTS

In Bangladesh, madrassas have become notorious for nurturing jihadists. The Hathazari Madrassa in Chittagong is a stronghold of Hefazat-e-Islam, a pro-Caliphate group that produces thousands of jihadists annually. Despite the lack of transparency around its funding, it is widely believed that much

the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom. Under the guise of religious duties, they perpetuate jihadist indoctrination, contributing to the alarming rise of radical Islam globally.

> Another significant jihadist hub is the 'Jamia Rashidia Quranic Madrasa' in Feni district in Bangladesh. Founded in 1994 by Mufti Shahidullah, a

disciple of the late Rashid Ahmad Ludhianvi, this madrassa has close ties to global terror networks like al-Qaeda and ISIS. Rashid Ahmad Ludhianvi, a radical Pakistani cleric, was a staunch Taliban supporter and reportedly had direct communication with Osama bin Laden.

It is further learnt Rashid Ahmad Ludhianvi was also a prominent supporter of the Afghan Taliban, and after he returned with "extremely positive impressions" from Afghanistan and wrote a book as advice for the Talibans, titled 'Obedience to the Amir' and composed in 1998 or 1999, Mullah Omar was so impressed that he distributed Pashto and Dari versions of it to the visitors, saying it perfectly represented the Talibans' ideology, while Barnett Rubin states that this "manual on how to run a militant

### organization" helped the Taliban "devise an organizational model that suppressed tribalism and

patronage network more effectively than any other organization in Afghanistan". The Feni madrassa houses over 7.000 students and more than 300 teachers, many of whom are allegedly linked to extremist activities. Despite its massive operational costs—exincluding the Bangladesh of its financial support ceeding US\$200,000 per and bulletproof jackets month - there is no visible now in the possession of source of income, raising concerns about illicit funding channels. In addition to regular students, this madrassa also has "special arrangements" for "Kulliat Sha-

rayyai" meaning, those who follow the strict rule of Sharia in the lives and consider Rashid Ahmad Ludhianvi as their philosopher. There are over two dozen of "Khadim" employed only to take care of the "outside students". It is alleged that a large number of students of this madrassa are sent to Afghanistan and Pakistan under the guise of the members of Tablighi Iamaat.

Apart from regular students, there are special arrangements for 'Kulliat Sharayyai' and religious education of the local common people for those educated in general education. The institution has 140 teachers and 21 Khadim and employees.

Journalists, right activists and even members of the diplomatic missions are not allowed within the compound of this jihad factory.

### **ESCALATING VIO-**LENCE AND WEAPON STOCKPILES

The situation in Bangladesh worsened following a violent jailbreak in Narsingdi District on July 19, 2024. Armed assailants attacked the prison, freeing 909 inmates, including jihadists from groups like Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Ansar Al Islam. They also looted 85 firearms, including automatic rifles and over 8,150 rounds of ammunition. Similar incidents occurred in prisons across the country, with hundreds of prisoners escaping and large quantities of weapons falling into the hands

of militant groups. Additionally, more than 400 police stations were looted, yielding thousands of firearms, ammunition,

are believed to be intended Hasina's government, for use against Hindus and other minority groups.

#### **CRACKDOWN ON ISKCON AND HINDU** LEADERS

The revolutionary Islamist regime in Bangladesh has intensified its crackdown on Hindu leaders and organizations. In November 2024, leader of the 'Sammilito Sanatan Jagran Jote', Chinmoy Krishna Maharaj and several Hindu activists were arrested on dubious charges of sedition. They were accused of "disrespecting" Bangladesh's national flag by waving a saffron flag over it, despite evidence showing that the flag in question bore Islamic symbols, not the national emblem.

The arrest of Chinmoy Maharaj has sparked widespread protests among Hindus, with thousands chanting "Jai Shri Ram" and attempting to block the prison van transporting him. In response, Islamist groups attacked the demonstrators, resulting in the brutal murder of Assistant Public Prosecutor Saiful Islam. This has further escalated tensions, with extremist factions labeling ISKCON a "terrorist organization" and calling for the arrest of Hindu protesters.

Extremists have taken to social media, urging fellow Muslims to "sharpen knives" for slaughtering ISKCON members.

Hindus in Chittagong city, in particular, are enduring an unbearable ordeal, reminiscent of the atrocities perpetrated by Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators on the night of March 25, 1971. Unless these acts of violence are halted by the state.

hundreds of thousands of Salah Uddin Shoaib Choud-Hindus risk being slaughbury is an internationally acclaimed multi-award-winning journalist, writer. researchscholar, and Editor, Blitz. He regularly writes for local and international newspapers. Follow him on X @Salah\_ Shoaib

time to act is now.

### PERSPECTIVE

### **KHARGE NEEDS THE KAMARAJ PLAN'S NEW VERSION**

The Congress Working Committee on Friday may have had a four and a half hour long meeting, but issues which have been holding the party back, continue to remain. Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge was harsh on State leaders and wanted to know till when would they remain dependent on the national leadership. There were many other points that were raised by him. However, the entire exercise and the speeches on the occasion were nothing more than performa action, since nothing can change in the party, unless the High Command becomes conscious of the ground realities, and goes in for a complete overhaul. What Kharge needs to understand is that a ``Kamaraj type plan" was needed for the resuscitation of the party and the entire office bearers of the AICC including those of the CWC and other bodies need to resign immediately, allowing the High Command to re-structure the organization. The weak link in the party is its organization and in order to take on the BJP, head on, greater emphasis needs to be laid on revamping the party. Kharge has been functioning under many limitations, but he should have been aware that there were almost 90 functionaries who attended the crucial CWC meeting to go into the defeat of the party in both Haryana and Maharashtra, but the State presidents and CLP leaders of the two provinces, who could have provided some insights were not amongst the invitees. Therefore, one needs to ask as to what kind of exercise was being carried out when leaders who should have been held accountable were amongst the attendees and those who worked on the ground were absent.

The problem with the Congress is not so much with its State leadership, which still has mass leaders, but with the High Command, which needs to prove itself at some time on the national level and in a Parliamentary election. If the Congress has been outsmarted by the BJP in the last three Lok Sabha polls, it is largely because the mass connect of its central leadership is inadequate. In Karnataka, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh where it won the Assembly elections, it was because of the regional leadership represented by Siddaramaiah, Revanth Reddy and Sukwinder Singh Suku respectively. In the entire North India, the only mass leader, the party has at present is Bhupinder Singh Hooda, who unfortunately ended up on the losing side, despite the fact that in Haryana alone, the Congress has managed to increase its voting percentage manifolds since 2019, a feat not accomplished anywhere else.

The reason for the BJP doing so well is because it is in places where the Saffron Brigade is pitted directly against the Congress, it has a very high scoring rate nationally. Even in Maharashtra, the BJP's impressive tally is because the Congress collapsed, either because of wrong selection of nominees, or on account of flawed surveys or due to the lack of organizational structure. Kharge has referred to State leaders dependance on National leadership but forgot to mention why no restraint was used on those who were openly giving interviews to hostile channels when the Haryana poll was on and virtually acting as BJP's sleeper cells despite holding positions in the AICC. This practice of encouraging some state leaders to unnecessarily create obstacles before those with potential, has to stop. These obstructionists have the patronage of key party functionaries and that is the reason why they indulge in negative activity. The High Command is also slow in taking decisions and this has to change. Why has there been no announcement regarding the CLP leader in Haryana when the results were declared almost two months ago. Who is to blame for this? The policy of functioning through factions may have worked during Indira Gandhi's tenure because she was a very tall leader with huge mass connect and could afford this kind of politics. Times have changed and so has the party. The AICC has so many office bearers, many of whom, it is often stated in a lighter vein, do not even recognize each other. Where is the need to have such a top heavy party structure with non-performing or under-performing office-bearers. The same goes for the CWC and the Election Committee which continue to be run because of patronage and not due to the ability of members. The Congress needs younger and more effective people to be entrusted with responsibility while ensuring that those amongst the seniors who matter, continue to be accorded respect and status. Kharge has been functioning as the party Chief for quite some time now, but needs to also answer why he has not been able to appoint a political secretary who can give him a better overview of politics, particularly of North India. Why is it that overriding powers are enjoyed by some like KC Venugopal and a handful of left oriented advisers, who are unable to understand the ideology and history of the Congress. Why are not those who have fought elections and won and have ample experience entrusted with the task of handling the communication department. And why is the party reluctant to constitute the Parliamentary Board, which would then be the supreme body to take the final decisions. There has to be room for changing the way the Congress has been functioning and the old models of working need to have a re-look since the time has changed and also the personalities. The Congress has to review its strategies and involve those who understand ground politics, and not foist leaders, as general secretaries in-charge, who do not understand the dynamics of those places. The Kamaraj type plan is the only alternative at present.

sources, particularly Qatar. Graduates from Hathazari Madrassa often find employment as imams, muezzins, and religious teachers, not only in Bangladesh jihadist outfits. Reports also indicate that a significant cache of weapons, including AK-47 rifles, has entered Bangladesh via the Myanmar border since August 2024. These weapons

tered, and Hindu women face the threat of physical assault and rape.

> **A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IGNORED** Since the fall of Sheikh

> > **PANKAJ VOHRA**

### Soaring costs of legal education

drawn criticism for fos-

tering privilege and being

inaccessible to the masses.

The Ministry of Statistics

and Program Implementa-

tion projected India's per

capita income in 2024 to be

Rs 1,84,000. For NLUs, the

average annual tuition fee

is more than Rs 2,00,000;

the highest is Rs 3,75,500

for NLSIU, Bangalore. This

cost does not include the

costs of housing, food, se-

curity deposits or miscel-

laneous feed that students

More than half of the first-

year students at the top five

National Law Institutes

(NLUs) came from wealthy

families making at least

must pay.

**OPINION AYUSHI RAGHUVANSHI** 

Around the world, law schools serve as the gatekeepers for the legal profession. One of the things contributing to the problem in legal education is the skyrocketing cost of tuition at law schools in several nations, including India. As a fundamental component of the social structure, a country's legal system reflects the political, cultural, social, and economic aspects of its society. "Law is what the lawyers are, and the law and lawyers are what the law schools make them," is a concise way to describe how legal education contributes to the development of the legal system.

Do a select few who can afford it have the luxury of receiving legal education from nationally renowned institutions? As much as feasible, the study of law should be encouraged without unjustified interference. Unfortunately, not everyone has access to high-quality legal education in India's law schools. Law schools worldwide have surmised that reform is necessary in the field of legal education due to the crises caused by the skyrocketing cost of legal education and the deteriorating employment prospects.

#### NATIONAL LAW SCHOOLS AND FINAN-**CIAL RESTRAINT**

Through the National Law School of India University Act, the state of Karnataka created the first NLU,

NLSIU. Given the NLU Rs 10 lakh, according to a model's success, numerous poll done by IDIA among additional NLUs have been first-year students at nine NLUs. Most of the students founded, bringing the total number of NLUs in India (almost 31%) came from to 26. The goal of the NLU homes where someone was model is to provide a legal employed by the governeducation framework that ment, with 12 percent in the is thought to be adequate civil service and 19 percent for developing professionin other government jobs. als who can adapt to the Business (22%), health/enchanging needs of the legal gineering (20%), and eduindustry both domestically cation (12%) were the other and abroad. The NLUs have top categories.

> Students from low-income families are unable to pay for their legal education, unless they take out student loans. Low-income students are under-represented in the legal education field. Every prospective law student aspires to attend one of the top legal education institutions. The most discouraging issue that prevents worthy students from being accepted into an NLU is the financial load they would have to bear. Legal education at NLUs is only available to those who can pay it. This begs the important question of whether the present financial strain on students will likely con-

tinue to sustain the social segregation based on financial position.

### SOCIETAL RESPONSIBILITY

Plato's statement, "We need to educate and retrain the best lawyers to get the nation to the zenith of greatest administration of justice," has greater resonance in modern-day India. It is the social duty of the legal profession to enlighten society by their actions and conduct. The "Rule of law," which is the cornerstone of modern democracy, is measured by the standards of legal education.

The "broader social role" of the NLUs is called into doubt by the exorbitant price structure. Students are taught how to live in social order through educational institutions. Legal education is regarded as "a means of social regulation" and "a tool for social transformation." There has been discussion on how globalisation affects underprivileged groups and whether it is inclusive. In the con-

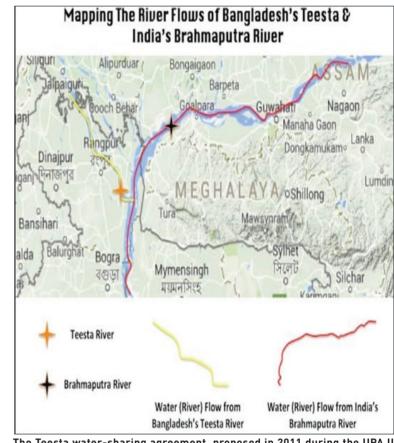
in its legal system, which together make up its social structure. Since legal education would reflect the socioeconomic structure of the country, it is essential that all facets of society

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# INDIA-B'DESH PERSISTENT SHARED STRUGGLES

Sharing rivers has been a long-standing issue. While the Ganges treaty succeeded, Teesta remains unresolved. Border cooperation continues improving.



The Teesta water-sharing agreement, proposed in 2011 during the UPA II government, remains stalled due to West Bengal's objections. File photo



Indian troops hailed as liberators as they enter Dhaka, East Pakistan, during India and Pakistan's third major conflict. File photo

angladesh's journey to independence is a compelling narrative of cultural identity, political struggle, and resilience. The nation's path to sovereignty was shaped by a series of pivotal events, culminating in its emergence as an independent country in 1971.

### **PARTITION OF BRITISH INDIA (1947)**

In 1947, the British Indian Empire was divided into two jibur Rahman, became the principal political force advocating for East Pakistani rights. In 1970, the Awami League won a landslide victory in Pakistan's general elections, securing the majority of seats. However, the central government hesitated to transfer power, leading to widespread protests and civil disobedience in East Pakistan.

**THE LIBERATION** 





The Pakistani Instrument of Surrender. File photo



ficial commencement of the in India-Bangladesh rela-Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. tions. Bangladesh stands The Indian Armed Forces as India's largest trading partner in South Asia, with launched coordinated operations on both the Eastbilateral trade reaching apern and Western fronts. In proximately \$10 billion in the Eastern theatre, Indian recent years. India's exports forces, alongside the Mukti to Bangladesh include es-Bahini, executed a rapid and sential commodities such as effective campaign, leading cotton, machinery, and food to the surrender of Pakistani products, while Bangladesh forces in Dhaka on Decemexports garments, textiles, ber 16, 1971. This victory and seafood to India. Both culminated in the creation nations have also signed of Bangladesh as an inde- agreements to enhance

India and Bangladesh. Initiatives such as the celebration of 'Maitree Diwas' (Friendship Day) and the facilitation of cross-border cultural exchanges have strengthened people-topeople ties. Visa liberalization measures and the introduction of bus and train services, such as the Kolkata-Dhaka Maitree Express, have enhanced connectivity and interpersonal relationships. In recent years, both countries have focused on enhancing connectivity and infrastructure development. Projects like the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline aim to boost energy cooperation. Additionally, Bangladesh's support for India in regional and international forums reflects a deepening strategic partnership. However, issues such as the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in India have caused concerns in Bangladesh, necessitating diplomatic engagement to address apprehensions.

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

independent dominions: India and Pakistan. Pakistan was uniquely bifurcated into West Pakistan (present-day Pakistan) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), separated by approximately 1,600 kilometres of Indian territory. This division was primarily based on religious demographics, with Pakistan envisioned as a homeland for Muslims. However, significant cultural, linguistic, and economic disparities existed between the two wings of Pakistan.

The people of East Pakistan were predominantly Bengali-speaking, with a rich cultural heritage distinct from the Urdu-speaking West Pakistanis. Tensions escalated when the central government, dominated by West Pakistan, attempted to impose Urdu as the sole national language. This move marginalized the Bengali language and ignited the Language Movement in the early 1950s, marked by protests and civil unrest in East Pakistan.

East Pakistanis felt politically underrepresented and economically exploited. Despite contributing a significant portion of Pakistan's export revenues, East Pakistan received a disproportionately small share of government investments and development projects. This economic disparity fueled resentment and a growing demand for autonomy.

### **THE RISE OF BENGALI** NATIONALISM

In the 1960s, the Awami League, led by Sheikh Mu-

### WAR (1971)

On March 26, 1971, following a brutal military crackdown by Pakistani forces in East Pakistan, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence. This proclamation ignited the Bangladesh Liberation War, a nine-month-long conflict characterized by significant human suffering and displacement. The Mukti Bahini (Liberation Army), comprising Bengali military personnel and civilians, waged guerrilla warfare against Pakistani forces. India's intervention in December 1971, in support of the Bengali liberation movement, was a decisive factor leading to the surrender of Pakistani forces on December 16, 1971, marking

### **POST-INDEPENDENCE** CHALLENGES

the birth of Bangladesh as an

independent nation.

The nascent state faced immense challenges, including rebuilding a war-torn economy, resettling millions of refugees, and establishing political stability. Under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's leadership, Bangladesh adopted a secular and socialist-oriented constitution in 1972. However, the country experienced political turbulence, including coups and periods of military rule, before returning to democratic governance.

India played a pivotal role in the formation of Bangladesh in 1971, providing critical support that encompassed diplomatic efforts, humanitarian assistance, The two Prime Ministers: Indira Gandhi of India and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh. File photo

and direct military intervention. This multifaceted involvement was instrumental in the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent nation.

As the crisis in East Pakistan escalated, India, under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's leadership, undertook extensive diplomatic initiatives to garner international support for the Bengali cause. Gandhi engaged with global leaders and addressed international forums to highlight the humanitarian crisis and the need for intervention. active role in the conflict. These efforts aimed to build **MILITARY SUPPORT** a global consensus against **AND TRAINING** the oppressive actions of the

### Pakistani military in East Pakistan.



India extended substantial

support to the Mukti Bahini,

Remembering the Bangladesh Liberation War: The struggle for Independence and the atrocities of 1971. https://historyandmysteri.blogspot.com/

Ziaur Rahman. File photo

The conflict led to a masthe Bengali liberation forces, sive influx of refugees into by providing training, arms, India, with estimates of and strategic guidance. The Indian military established around 10 million people seeking shelter in the bortraining camps and facilidering states, particularly tated the organization of West Bengal, Tripura, Asguerrilla warfare tactics, sam, and Meghalaya. India enhancing the operational effectiveness of the Mukti provided extensive humani-Bahini against Pakistani tarian aid, establishing refugee camps and mobilizing forces. This collaboration intensified the insurgency resources to support the displaced populations. This efforts within East Pakistan, refugee crisis placed a sigdestabilizing Pakistani milinificant economic and social tary operations. strain on India, influencing The situation reached its decision to take a more

a critical juncture when the Pakistani Air Force launched preemptive strikes on Indian airbases on December 3, 1971. In response, India declared a state of war, marking the of-

pendent nation.

### **POST-WAR** ASSISTANCE

Following the war, India played a significant role in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Bangladesh. Efforts included repatriation of refugees, rebuilding infrastructure, and providing economic assistance to stabilize the newly formed nation. India's support during this transitional period was crucial in helping Bangladesh establish its sovereignty and governance

structures. Since Bangladesh's independence in 1971, India and Bangladesh have cultivated a multifaceted relationship characterized by cooperation, occasional tensions, and evolving dynamics. This partnership encompasses political, economic, cultural, and security dimensions, reflecting the shared history and geographical proximity

of the two nations. In the immediate aftermath of Bangladesh's liberation, India and Bangladesh enjoyed a period of strong bilateral ties, underscored by cooperation and support. However, the subsequent decades witnessed fluctuations influenced by domestic political changes and regional dynamics. The return to power of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2009 marked a significant upturn in relations, with both countries engaging in high-level visits and dialogues to ad-

dress bilateral issues. Trade and economic cooperation have been pivotal

connectivity and trade facilitation, including the use of Chattogram and Mongla ports for the movement of goods to and from India.

### SECURITY COOPERATION

Security collaboration has been a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship, particularly in combating terrorism and insurgency. Bangladesh has taken significant measures against insurgent groups operating along the India-Bangladesh border, contributing to regional stability. Joint military exercises, intelligence sharing, and coordinated border management have further strengthened security ties.

### WATER SHARING **AND BORDER** MANAGEMENT

The sharing of transboundary rivers has been a longstanding issue between the two countries. The Ganges Water Treaty of 1996 exemplifies successful cooperation in this area. However, the Teesta River water-sharing agreement remains unresolved, posing challenges to bilateral relations. Border management has also been a focal point, with both nations working towards resolving disputes and enhancing cooperation through mechanisms like the Joint Boundary Working Groups.

#### **CULTURAL AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE** TIES

Cultural connections have played a vital role in fostering goodwill between

### **CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD**

Despite significant progress, challenges persist in India-Bangladesh relations. Unresolved watersharing disputes, border management issues, and trade imbalances require continuous dialogue and cooperation. Both nations must work towards equitable solutions, leveraging their shared history and cultural ties to build a resilient and forward-looking partnership.

In conclusion, India and Bangladesh have traversed a complex yet collaborative path since 1971. Their relationship, marked by shared achievements and challenges, continues to evolve, with both nations recognising the importance of cooperation for regional peace and prosperity.

Compiled by Ruchira Talapatra

# **10** LEGALLY SPEAKING

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW MONDAY | 02 DECEMBER 2024 NEW DELHI

### **SUPREME COURT ISSUES NOTICE IN PLEA SEEKING GUIDELINES AGAINST MANUFACTURING AND SELLING OF FAKE PHARMA DRUGS**

#### **TDG NETWORK** NEW DELH

he Supreme Court in the case Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Versus Union Of India observed and has agreed to consider the issue of lack of procedural guidelines in initiating criminal proceedings against the offence of manufacturing, storing and selling of counterfeited drugs.

The bench comprising of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice R Mahadevan was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case issued notice in the plea.

In the present case, the pe-

tition has been filed by the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, IPA wherein it seeks directions to the Union to frame procedural guidelines to initiate criminal proceedings against persons

selling or manufacturing fake drugs and medicines. It has been stated by Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance, IPA that the serious life threat such dubious drugs could cause to the patients, and the rampant manufacturing and selling in the market affected the pharmaceutical industry, violating Article 21 and Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India



The Indian Pharmaceutiand Police in arresting percal Alliance, IPA has filed sons allegedly involved in the petition in light of nonthe manufacturing, storing action by the Central drugs and selling of counterfeit Standard Control Organgoods. isation, CDSCO, Food and

The petition filed states Drug Administration, FDA that on September 8, 2024

where the custom department raided certain premises in Kolkata and apprehended two individuals for using the premises to package, store and supply fake or spurious branded and generic drugs.

The list of such branded drugs included Montek LC Batch no. 2094A. Pantocid SID2041A, Ursocol 300 GTE1350A and SomprazD40, batch no. SIE2116A (One box), of M/s Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited and Telma AM, Telma 40, Clavam, Shelcal, Augmentin.

However, while the FDA, CDSCO, and Kolkata Police

(on insistence of the IPA and Customs Department) carried out joint inspection of the premises and locked the area, no criminal proceedings were taken against the accused persons.

#### THE PETITIONER IN **THE PLEA SOUGHT** RELIEFS

1.To issue writ of mandamus or any other appropriate writ wherein directing the Respondent No. 3, CDSCO and its officers to conduct proper Investigation either by themselves or with the assistance of the local 2023 or Indian Penal Code, 1860 and the Trade Marks police into complaints of Manufacturing, Selling Act. 1999: and

and Supplying Counterfeit or Spurious Drugs: and 2. To Direct the Respondent No1, Respondent No2 and Respondent No 3, UOI, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and CDSCO in order to formulate guidelines towards registration of FIR and procedure for arrest of accused persons for commission of offences of selling and manufacturing of counterfeit or spurious drugs punishable under chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,

3. To Direct the Respon dent No 2 and Respondent No 3 to provide necessary equipment and infrastructure and training to the Drug Inspector to effect arrest of the accused persons for commission of offences of selling and manufacturing of counterfeit/spurious drugs punishable under chapter IV of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940; and/or

4. To grant such other and further writs, orders or directions which this Hon'ble court may be pleased to grant in the interest of justice and the circumstances of the case.

### Supreme Court disapproves NGT's approach: No nexus between Panthers Party leader Harsh Dev Singh approaches Jammu and Kashmir High company's revenue and amount of penalty for environmental damages Court challenging BJP's Chenani win,

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Benzo Chem Industrial Private Limited Versus Arvind Manohar Mahajan And Ors observed and has expressed disapproval of an order passed by the National Green Tribunal, NGT wherein the tribunal imposed penalty for environmental damages on a company based on its revenue.

The court in the case observed that there being no nexus between the revenue generation of the company and the ascertainment of penalty for

violation of environmental laws

In the present case, the court was hearing an appeal filed by a company against the order of National Green Tribunal. NGT wherein the tribunal imposed a penalty for an amount of Rs 25 crores on it.

The National Green Tribunal, NGT passed the said order on the reasoning that the revenue of the company ranged from 100 Crores to 500 Crores. The bench comprising

of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan was hearing the present penalty.

The court in the case flagged three main shortalty was being imposed comings in the National without notice to the com-Green Tribunal's appany proach Firstly, there being a vast the generation of revenue

difference between an would have no nexus with amount of Rs. 100 crores the amount of penalty to be ascertained for enviand Rs. 500 crores. Secondly, it has been statronmental damages...With

ed by the National Green Tribunal, NGT that it took this information from the public domain and even then, there was no exact figure found out.

matter.

Thirdly, the court stated that the revenue of the company was not a relevant consideration to fix

it came across on that day which was passed without Furthermore, the penfollowing the principles of natural justice and due consideration.

> The court also found that there were no violations on the part of the appellant.

The counsel, Senior Advocate A.N.S. Nadkarni appeared for the appellant. The counsel, Advocate

Feroze Ahmad represented the Respondent No.1 to Respondent No 13.

The counsel, Adv Mukeobserved that it was the sh Verma for the Mahathird order of the National rashtra Pollution Control Green Tribunal, NGT that Board.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court in the case Harsh Dev Singh Vs UT Of J&K observed wherein the Jammu and Kashmir, former Education Minister and Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party, JKNPP Harsh Dev Singh has filed a petition challenging the election of BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia from the Chenani constituency.

TDG NETWORK

NEW DELHI

In the present case,, the petition is filed before the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, alleging that alleges large-scale corrupt practices, undue influence, and the misuse of religious sentiments to sway voters. In the present case, the petition is filed on November 28, wherein it seeks to annul Mankotia's election and declare Singh the duly elected candidate.

### Jammu and Kashmir High Court:

influence voters.

In the present case, the petition is filed

on November 28, wherein it seeks to

Singh the duly elected candidate.

annul Mankotia's election and declare

the case observed and has issued notice to Mankotia. the Election Commission of India. ECI. the Chief Electoral Officer, and the Jammu and Kashmir government, among others. Allegations Made of Cor-

alleges corrupt electoral practices

rupt Practices: It has been contended by Singh, who by a margin of 15,611 votes that Mankotia and his supporters engaged in bribery on an unprecedented scale, distributing cash, liquor, and various goods including sarees, suits, and household items. The counsel, Advocate Aseem Sawhnev appearing for him alleged that misleading propaganda and religious sentihim before the court that several voters have reportedly given interviews corroborating these claims, wherein it is stated that they have offered money

It has been submitted by

and goods to secure their votes. Further, it has been argued that such practices have tarnished the integrity of the electoral process, calling for immediate judicial intervention. The bench headed by Jus-

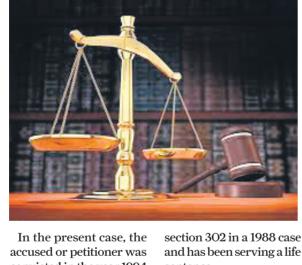
tice Oswal directed that all necessary steps be taken to notify the respondents within a week.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on March 11, 2025

Supreme Court allows interim release of 103-year-old convict serving life sentence in 1988 murder case

### **TDG NETWORK** NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Rasik Chandra Mondal Versus State Of West Bengal observed and has granted interim release to a 103-year-old convict who is serving life sentence for the offence of murder.



conviction.

In 2020, the accused filed a writ petition in the court wherein seeking remature release on the grounds of ageing and ailments.

The court observed that

deep anguish we have to

say that the methodology

adopted by the learned

NGT for imposing penalty

is totally unknown to the

The court in the case also

principles of law.

The counsel, Advocate Astha Sharma appearing for the state of West Bengal informed the bench that the petitioner would

'This court direct that the petitioner, Rasik Chandra Mondal, will be released on interim bail or parole1 during the pendency of the present writ petition, on terms and conditions to be fixed by the trial Court.' Earlier, the bench comprising of Justice Abdul Nazeer and Justice Khan-

na in the case issued notice

The bench headed by Justice Rajnesh Oswal in ments were employed to

The bench comprising of Chief Justice Of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar was hearing the present matter.

The court in the case was hearing the petition filed by a convict wherein it seeks interim release.

convicted in the year 1994 by the trial court for the offence of murder under

sentence. In 2018, the Calcutta High Court affirmed the

such an old age, granted him an interim release. The court in its order reads

2025.

be turning 104 in April in the plea and has asked the superintendent of the The court while considcorrectional home (where ering the medical comthe petitioner was shifted plexities that come with to) for filing the status report with regards to the present physical condition and health of the petitioner.

### Kashmiri Pandit woman continues to retain migrant status despite marriage to non-migrant

under the PM Package for

Kashmiri Migrants, pursu-

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court in the case UT Of J&K Vs SeemaKoul&Anr observed and has ruled that a Kashmiri Pandit woman does not lose her "migrant status" upon marrying a non-

The bench comprising of Justice Atul Sreedharan and **Justice Mohammad Yousuf** Wani was hearing the pres-

The bench in the case stated that to hold that the woman would lose her status as a migrant only because she, out of the natural urge of forming a family, had to marry a nonmigrant on account of existing circumstances, would be grossly discriminatory and militates against the very concept of justice. The said discrimination becomes even more brazen where a male migrant continues to remain a migrant notwithstanding the fact that he has married a non-migrant. In the present case, the petition is filed challenging an order issued by the Central

ant to an advertisement. Therefore, the final selection of them was contested on the ground that they had lost their migrant status by

marrying non-migrants. However, the decision of the Tribunal to direct the government to issue appointment orders was appealed by the UT of J&K, wherein asserting that the respondents' marriages to non-migrants disqualified them from claiming migrant status under SRO 412 of 2009.

It has been argued by the appellants before the court that the respondents were ineligible due to their marriage to non-migrants, asserting that SRO 412 disqualifies such women from migrant benefits.

On the other hand, the respondent contended that their migrant status is irrevocable, emphasizing that denying them employment would violate Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India, which guarantee equality and non-discrimination in public employment.

### **OBSERVATIONS MADE BY COURT**

The court while considering the submission made by both the parties upheld that the Tribunal's ruling, stating that SRO 412 defines "migrant" status but does not

provide for its revocation upon marriage.

The court in the case stated that it being reasonable to presume that because of the exodus, not every migrant woman would be in a position to find a match who himself was a migrant and in such kind of situation, to hold that the woman would lose her status as a migrant only because she, out of the natural urge of forming a family, had to marry a nonmigrant on account of existing circumstances, would be grossly discriminatory and militates against the very concept of justice.

Adding to it, the court stated that the discrimination becomes even more brazen where a male migrant continues to remain a migrant notwithstanding the fact that he has married a non-migrant and such kind of situation has arisen only on account of patriarchy that prevails in the human race. However, in matters relating to employment under the State/UT, such discrimination cannot be countenanced. The court in the case re-

jected the arguments of appellant of non-disclosure of marital status.

Accordingly, the court ordered the issuance of appointment letters to Seema Koul and Vishalni Koul within the period of four weeks.

### Supreme Court: For discharge application, only documents forming part of chargesheet can be considered

#### TDG NETWORK NEW DELH

The Supreme Court in the case Rajnish Kumar Biswakarma Versus State Of NCT Of Delhi And Anr observed that the documents needs to be considered which forms part of the charge sheet, and not the ones which were never part of the charge sheet.

The bench comprising of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice AG Masih was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case stated that in the case of State of Orissa vs Debendra Nath Padhi, the court reiterated the well-settled law that while considering the praver for discharge.

The bench also stated that the Trial Court in the case cannot consider any document which is not part of the charge-sheet.

The bench in the case was hearing an appeal filed by the accused against who a First Information Report, FIR was registered by his wife for the offences punishable under Section 498A, Sec-



The bench in the case was hearing an appeal filed by the accused against who a First Information Report, FIR was registered by his wife for the offences punishable under Section 498A, Section 406 read with Section 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, IPC which being pursuant to initiation of proceedings for annulment of marriage by the appellant.

tion 406 read with Secment of marriage by the tion 34 of the Indian Penal appellant. The Appellant filed the Code, 1860, IPC which bepetition for quashing the ing pursuant to initiation of proceedings for annul-First Information Report, FIR.

The High Court, instead of quashing the FIR, the court directed the Trial Court to consider the decree of nullity and related appeal documents, which were not part of the charge sheet.

The court in the case held that the only documents which are included in the charge sheet can be considered at the stage of discharge and since the decree of nullity and related appeal documents were distant from the charge sheet, thus, the High Court's direction to consider the extraneous documents during charge framing was deemed legally erroneous.

The court in the case observed that the High Court has committed a gross error by directing the Trial Court to consider the decree of nullity and appeal preferred by the second respondent at the time of framing of charge...which being contrary to law laid down by this Court in the case Debendra Nath Padhi's, wherein the High

Court directed the Trial Court to consider the documents which are not part of the charge-sheet at the time of framing of charge. Therefore, the directions given by the High Court are completely illegal.

partly allowed the appeal and has listed the matter for further consideration on December 17, 2024.

The counsel, Mr. Vivek Sharma, Adv. Mr. Vikas Sharma, Adv. Mr. Prashant Chaudhary, Adv. Mr. Ram Kumar, Adv. Mr. Rajeev Kumar Jha, Adv. Mr. Devendra Singh, AOR appeared for the Appellant(s).

The counsel, Mr. Satya Darshi Sanjay, A.S.G. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR Mrs. Meera Patel, Adv. Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, Adv. Mr. Bhuvan Kapoor, Adv. Mr. B K Satija, Adv. Mr. Lal Singh Thakur, Adv. Mr. Syed Mehdi Imam, AOR Mr. Tabrez Ahmad, Adv. Mr. Sudhir Teotiya, Adv. Mr. Himanshu Vats, Adv represented the Respondent(s).

migrant.

ent matter.

Administrative Tribunal, CAT, Jammu Bench, in favor of Seema Koul and Vishalni

Koul. The respondents, both Kashmiri Pandits, were provisionally selected for the post of Legal Assistant

Accordingly, the court

# WORLD

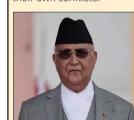


### **8 TERRORISTS KILLED IN NORTHWEST** PAKISTAN

PESHAWAR: Eight terrorists and two security personnel, including an officer, have been killed in two separate operations in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a statement from the military's media wing said on Sunday. Five terrorists were killed and nine injured when security personnel engaged with militants during an intelligence-based operation in the Baka Khel area of the Bannu district on Friday, the statement said.

### **SYRIA LAUNCHES COUNTERATTACKS TO** HALT INSURGENTS

BEIRUT: The Syrian mili tary rushed in reinforcements and struck Idlib city Sunday in an attempt to push back insurgents from advancing farther after seizing Aleppo and surrounding strategic locations in an adjacent province in a surprise offensive. The insurgents lea by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham took over most of Aleppo on Saturday and claimed to have entered the city of Hama. There was no independent confirmation of their claim. The swift and surprise offensive is a huge embarrassment for Syrian President Bashar Assad and raises questions about his troops preparedness. It also comes at a time when Assad's allies - Iran and groups it backs and Russia - are preoccupied with their own conflicts.



### TOP OF THE DAY UN HALTS AID SHIPMENTS **THROUGH GAZA'S MAIN CROSSING**

The decision could worsen humanitarian crisis in Gaza as thousands of Palestinians are forced to live in tents in the harsh winters.

#### AGENCIES DEIR AL-BALAH

he UN agency for Palestinian refugees said Sunday it is halting aid deliveries through the main cargo crossing into the war-ravaged Gaza Strip because of the threat of armed gangs who have looted recent convoys.

It blamed the breakdown of law and order in large part on Israeli policies.

The decision could worsen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as the cold, rainy winter sets in, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in squalid tent camps and reliant on international food aid. Experts were already warning of famine in the territory's north, which Israeli forces have almost completely isolated since early October. Philippe Lazzarini, the head of UNRWA, the main aid provider in Gaza, said the route leading to the Kerem Shalom crossing is too dangerous on

crossing with Egypt was shut down in May. Last month, nearly two-thirds of all aid entering Gaza came through the Gaza side. Armed men Kerem Shalom, and in prelooted nearly 100 trucks vious months it accounted for an even larger amount, travelling on the route in mid-November, and he said gangs according to Israeli figures.

### **HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

- Gaza Humanitarian Crisis: The decision worsens Gaza's humanitarian crisis, with the region facing cold, rainy winter and a looming famine. Looting Incidents:
- Armed gangs looted nearly 100 aid trucks in mid-November and stole smaller shipments in late November.
- Aid Route Danger: The route to Kerem Shalom is deemed too dangerous by UNRWA, which has relied on it for cargo deliveries since the Rafah crossing was closed.

In a post on X, Lazzarini stole a smaller shipment on largely blamed Israel for the breakdown of humanitarian Kerem Shalom is the only operations in Gaza, citing crossing between Israel and Gaza that is designed for "political decisions to restrict cargo shipments and has the amounts of aid," lack of safety on aid routes and Isbeen the main artery for aid deliveries since the Rafah rael's targeting of the Hamasrun police force, which had previously provided public security.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the decision. Israel says it allows enough aid into Gaza and blames UNRWA and other

agencies for failing to deliver it. It accuses UNRWA of having allowed Hamas to infiltrate its ranks - allegations denied by the UN agency - and passed legislation to sever ties with it last month.

cal officials said Sunday.

Israeli strikes kill at least six people, including children. Israeli strikes in Gaza, meanwhile, killed at least six people overnight, including two young children, ages 6 and 8, in the tent where their family was sheltering, medi-

### **ISKCON** members stopped from crossing to India

AGENCIES DHAKA

Amid tensions in Bangladesh, dozens of ISKCON members trying to cross into India were turned back on Sunday by immigration police from the Benapole border crossing. Reportedly, the members were not allowed to cross despite having valid travel documents.

"We consulted the special branch of police and received instructions from the higher authorities not to permit them," said Imtiaz Ahsanul Quader Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge (OC) of the Benapole Immigration Police.

The Daily Star newspaper reported that the ISKCON members had valid passports and visas but "lacked specific government permission" for their travel.

"They cannot proceed without such approval," said Bhuiyan.

Around 54 members, including devotees, turned up at the check post on Saturday night and Sunday.

"We came to participate in a religious ceremony taking place in India but immigration officials stopped us, citing the absence of government permission," said Sau-



Widespread clashes erupted in Bangladesh after the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in a sedition case.

rabh Tapandar Cheli, one of the ISKCON members.

Widespread clashes erupted in Bangladesh after the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in a sedition case.

A lawyer was killed in the clashes that broke out between protesters and security personnel after bail was denied to Krishna Das. There were demands to ban ISKCON in Bangladesh af-

ter the lawyer's death. The Bangladesh authorities have ordered the freezing of the bank accounts of 17 ISKCON members, including Krishna Das for 30 days.

After Krishna Das's arrest, ISKCON members have claimed the arrest of two

more of its priests. Reportedly, the priests had gone to visit Krishna Das in jail when they were arrested. **ISKCON HOLDS PRAYER MEETINGS** 

### ISKCON on Sunday held prayer meetings for the safety and security of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh.

International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) spokesperson Radharamn Das said that disciples and followers held prayer meetings in 150 countries across the world. Bangladesh's minority Hindus have faced over 200 attacks in 50-odd districts since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5.

### Nepal sees 62% voter turnout in byelections

Saturday.

#### AGENCIES KATHMANDU

Nepal recorded a total of 62 per cent voter turnout in the local-level by-polls held on Sunday, as announced by the Election Commission.

The bye-elections were conducted to fill 41 vacant local-level positions across various regions of the country.

In a release issued as voting closed at 5 pm (Local Time), the Election Commission said that a voter turnout of 62 per cent was recorded on the day of the election "The election has been conducted in a peaceful manner. As per the preliminary reports, 62 per cent of the 2 lakh 26 thousand 799 eligible voters exercised their franchise," the Election Commission stated in its announcement, reassuring that the election process went smoothly. In Kathmandu's Ward No. 16, however, voter turnout was recorded at 50 per cent, a figure also confirmed by the Election Commission. The bye-elections covered



In a release issued as voting closed at 5 pm (Local Time), the Election Commission said that a voter turnout of 62 per cent was recorded on the day of the election.

### Imran found guilty; bail revoked in 8 cases

#### AGENCIES LAHORE

A Lahore Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) found Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), guilty in connection with the violent events of May 9, 2023, and revoked his bail in eight related cases, The Express Tribune reported on Saturday.

The written judgement, delivered by ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gill, highlighted strong evidence from the prosecution, including audio and video recordings that implicated Khan in inciting violence.



The written judgement, delivered by ATC Judge Manzar Ali Gill, highlighted strong evidence

### **COURT APPROVES REMAND OF 156** WORKERS OF IMRAN'S PARTY

ISLAMABAD : An Anti-Terrorism Court in Islamabad has granted the physical remand of 156 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers who were arrested during the protest in Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported.

ATC Judge Tahir Abbas Supra led the hearing in the cases registered against the PTI activists. PTI lawyers, including Ansar Kiyani, Mirza Asim Baig and Sohaib Ilyas appeared in court for the party activists.

During the hearing, the investigating officer request the judge to approve the physical remand of the suspects, citing the recovery of anti-riot kits and sticks from the PTI workers. Judge Supra said, "What else is to be recovered? There aren't as many anti-riot kits in Islamabad as have already been seized.

supporters, leading to vio- ing Khan's involvement. lence, including assaults As a result, the ATC conon military sites, govern- victed Khan and revoked ment buildings, and police officers, The Express Tribune reported.

### **NEPAL PM OLI TO EMBARK ON FOUR-DAY CHINA VISIT**

**BEIJING: Nepal Prime** Minister K P Sharma Oli will travel to China on Monday on a four-day visit during which the two sides were expected to discuss a new plan to revive the BRI projects, which failed to materialise even after seven years they were signed with much fanfare. Oli will pay an official visit to China from December 2-5, during which Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet him. Premier Li Qiang and other officials will hold talks with him, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mao Ning said here on Friday.

### **PAK SECTARIAN VIOLENCE: DEATH TOLL RISES TO 130**

PESHAWAR: The death toll from sectarian violence in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province surged to 130, with at least six people killed and eight injured on Sunday, as clashes in the volatile Kurram district continued for the eleventh consecutive day. The clashes between Alizai and Bagan tribes in the district started on November 22, after an attack on a convoy of passenger vans near Parachinar in which 47 people were killed a day earlier

several important local positions, including one mayor, one deputy mayor, two rural municipality chairs, four deputy chairs, and 33 ward chairperson positions across various regions of the country.

> A total of 376 candidates, representing a diverse range of 20 political parties and independents, contest-

ed these elections. In the daytime, serpentine lines were seen outside polling station in Kathmandu before the polling

opened at 7am (local Time) on Sunday.

Turn by turn, people waited patiently to exercise their democratic rights as the Himalayan nation held the bypolls to elect 41 local representatives.

As per the electoral body of Nepal, three representatives already have been elected unopposed while the polling is taking place to elect remaining 41 representatives for various posts. At least 376 people are in the frav for the remaining posts.

The court cited witness testimonies regarding a conspiracy at Zaman Park, where Khan allegedly directed his supporters to take action. According to the prosecution, Khan had

planned to disrupt state operations in anticipation of his arrest, The Express Tribune reported.

Khan's defence argued that he was in custody at the time of the incident. but the court rejected this argument, stating that the conspiracy had been de-

from the prosecution that implicated Khan in inciting violence.

vised before his detention. The court also underscored that the charges against Khan went beyond simple incitement, noting that he had directed attacks on military and government properties. It also added that Khan's instructions were followed by his

Also, according to the Pakistani daily's report, the court noted that on May 11, violent incidents occurred, including attacks on police officers, which were linked to Khan's directives. Evidence presented by the prosecution included recordings of undercover police officers overhearing discussions about the conspiracy, further confirm-

as the three China-US joint

communiques, the Chinese

Foreign Ministry has vowed

Chinese Foreign Minis-

approved arm sales worth

USD 385 million worth to

Terming the US arms sales

to Taiwan "severe breach of

the international law," the

Chinese Foreign Ministry in

a statement said, "US arms

sales to China's Taiwan re-

gion seriously violate the

one-China principle and the

Taiwan.

AGENCIES

BEIJING

US arms sale to Taiwan:

China vows strong measures

his bail in the cases related to the May 9 events.

The Lahore High Court had also considered Khan's role in the conspiracy when addressing the bail of PTI leader Ejaz Chaudhry.

The defence had contested the lack of specific details regarding the date, time, and place of the alleged conspiracy, but the prosecution maintained that the plot was planned between May 7 and May 9 at Zaman Park.

### Syria: Rebels capture BNP's Rahman acquitted majority of Aleppo in grenade attacks case

#### AGENCIES ALEPPO

Rebels haved capture majority of Aleppo in major blow to President Assad's forces. The surprise offensive, launched by a rebel alliance earlier this week, saw fighters push eastward through

surrounding villages, reigniting a conflict that had largely been stagnant in recent years, CNN reported. This marks the first time rebel forces have entered Aleppo since government troops regained control of the city in 2016 during the civil war.

By Saturday morning (local time), footage geolocated by CNN showed that rebels had taken control of significant parts of Aleppo, with videos showing fighters at key locations, including one where armed men waved an opposition flag and chanted "God is great" in Arabic at



a central square, CNN reported

According to CNN, the only area still under government and Iranian militia control appears to be the northeastern part of the city, where some neighbourhoods remain intact under Assad's forces.

In response to the city's changing dynamics, the rebels imposed a 24-hour curfew starting at 5 pm local time on Saturday, citing "the safety of the residents of the city and to secure private and public property from tampering or harm."

Syria's defence ministry acknowledged the rebel offensive and reported the deaths of dozens of soldiers.



acquitted all the accused including the Acting Chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Tareq Rahman in the August 21 grenade attacks case on former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, lawyers said on Sunday. The court also scrapped the lower court verdict, in which a total of 49 persons were convicted. Among them, the lower court sentenced 19 people including former State Minister Lutfuzzaman Babar to death and acquitted all the accused. The High Court observed that the trial court verdict in the cases is illegal as it was delivered in an illegal manner. The Dhaka grenade attack took place at an antiterrorism rally organised by Awami League on Bang-

Bangladesh High Court has



The Dhaka grenade attack took place at an anti-terrorism rally organised by Awami League on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, this year.

abandhu Avenue on August 21, this year.

The attack left 24 dead and more than 500 injured. The attack was carried out at 5:22 pm after Sheikh Hasina, the then-leader of opposition had finished addressing a crowd of 20,000 people from the back of a truck. Hasina also to take strong and resolute countermeasures to defend its national sovereignty, security and the terroritorial measures. try's statement comes after the US Department of Defence announced that the Department of State has

sustained some injuries in

the attack. Meanwhile, on November 30, ISKCON Kolkata claimed that Bangladesh authorities have arrested two of its monks, Adipurush Shyam Das and Ranganath Das Brahmachari, and its secretary of Chinmoy Krishna Das.

### Terming the US arms sale to Taiwan seriously violate the one-China principle as well

three China-US joint communiques, especially the August 17 Communique of 1982 and China's sovereignty and security interests."

"The sales are a severe breach of the international law, send a gravely wrong signal to 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces, and are detrimental to China-US relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

The decision to sell arms to Taiwan is simply inconsistent with US leaders' commitment of not supporting "Taiwan independence.' China deplores and firmly opposes it and has lodged serious protests to the US," it said.



### **CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR**

WORLD



A Spider-Man balloon during the Bolo parade celebrating the Christmas season in Mexico City, Mexico. Source: Quetzall



### Patel named next **FBI director**

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW MONDAY | 02 DECEMBER 2024

NEW DELHI

AGENCIES VASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday (local time) nominated the name of Kashyap "Kash" Patel to serve as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

In a post on the social media platform Truth Social, Trump announced Patel's nomination, highlighting his distinguished career in various government roles. These include serving as Chief of Staff at the Department of Defense, Deputy Director of National Intelligence, and Senior Director for Counterterrorism at the

National Security Council during Trump's first term as President.

Trump praised Patel for his work in investigating the so-called "Russia, Russia, Russia Hoax," calling him an "America First" fighter who has spent his career exposing corruption, defending justice, and protecting the American people.

"I am proud to announce that Kashyap 'Kash' Patel will serve as the next Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Kash is a brilliant lawyer, investigator, and 'America First' fighter who has spent his career exposing corruption.

### Georgia: Over 40 people hospitalized during protests

#### AGENCIES TBILISI

A third night of protests in the Georgian capital against legislature. Georgia's Interior the government's decision to Ministry said Sunday that 27

party, Bidzina Ivanishvili a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia — was burned in front of the

# **PUTIN OKAYS RECORD DEFENCE SPENDING**

Lawmakers in the parliament approved the plans 10 days ago.

**MILITARY BUDGET** 

sia pushing Ukrainian forces back in eastern areas.

budget aid.

jams 45 others.

"From day one of the war.

the EU has stood by the side

of Ukraine," Costa posted on

X, together with a photo of

himself, Kallas and EU en-

largement chief Marta Kos.

"From day one of our man-

date, we are reaffirming our

unwavering support to the

Speaking at a news con-

ference with Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zel-

enskyy, Costa reiterated

the EU's recent commit-

ment to help Ukraine

continue through the war,

including €4.2 billion

Ukrainian people."

Trump.

**EU Support for Ukraine:** EU leaders Costa and Kallas

■ US Political Impact: Concerns grow over potential US

■ Zelenskyy's NATO Appeal: Ukraine demands EU and

NATO involvement in any ceasefire talks, insists on NATO

**Russian Drone Strikes:** 3 killed in Kherson by Russian

■ Drone Losses: Ukraine destroys 32 Russian drones,

policy shift under a Trump administration.

drone; 24 wounded in Dnipro missile strike.

membership for future security.

visit Kyiv, reaffirming support, including €4.2 billion in

### AGENCIES

ussian President Vladimir Putin approved budget plans, raising 2025 military spending to record levels as Moscow seeks to prevail in the war in Ukraine.

rubles (over \$145 billion), up from a reported 28.3% this year.

of the Russian parliament, the State Duma and Federation Council, had already approved the plans in the past 10 days.

2022 is Europe's biggest Western allies, but Russia's

ministration led by Donald

### Iceland votes for new Parliament

Ukraine's budget and €1.5

billion (\$1.6 billion) of as-

sistance every month from

the proceeds of frozen Rus-

sian assets. Asked wheth-

er the EU would step up

funding if Trump with-

drew support, Costa said

the block would "stand

for Ukraine as long as

Zelenskyy said that any

future ceasefire negotiations

with Russia would need to

include representatives

from the EU and NATO,

because Ukraine seem its

future security in both alli-

ances. However, he said he

necessarv".

AGENCIES REYK JAVIK

Icelanders voted to elect a new parliament Saturday after disagreements over immigration, energy policy and the economy forced

Prime Minister Bjarni Bene-

and call an early election.



He urged the outgoing Biden administration to use the remaining two months in office to exert influence "over those few European sceptics about our future. I see nothing, I personally see no risks, and most NATO countries see no risks from the recommendation regarding the positive future of Ukraine's membership in NATO".

Zelenskyy said Friday that an offer of NATO membership to territory under Kyiv's control would end "the hot stage of the war".

On the ground in Ukraine, three people died in the southern city of Kherson when a Russian drone struck a minibus on Sunday morning, regional Governor Oleksandr Prokudin said. Seven others were wounded in the attack. Meanwhile, the number of wounded in Saturday's missile strike in Dnipro in central Ukraine rose to 24, with seven in serious condition, Dnipropetrovsk Gov Serhiy Lysak said. Four people were killed in the attack.

Moscow sent 78 drones into Ukraine overnight into Sunday, Ukrainian officials said. According to Ukraine's air force, 32 drones were destroyed and a further 45 drones were lost, likely having been electronically (\$4.4 billion) to support failed to see what any such jammed.

### Trudeau returns home with no Trump assurance on tariffs

AGENCIES WEST PALM BEACH

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau returned home Saturday after his



### Around 32.5% of the budget posted on a government website Sunday has been allocated for national defense, amounting to 13.5 trillion ■ Ukraine Conflict: War has drained resources, with Rus-

Lawmakers in both houses

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine since February conflict since World War II and has drained the resources of both sides. Kyiv has been getting billions of dollars in help from its forces are bigger and bet-

ter equipped, and in recent months the Russian army has gradually been pushing Ukrainian troops backward in eastern areas New European Council

President Antonio Costa and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas arrived in Kyiv on Sunday, marking their first day in office with a strong message of support for Ukraine. Their visit comes as doubts are deepening over what Kyiv can expect from a new US ad-

meeting with Donald Trump without assurances the president-elect will back away from threatened tariffs on all products from the major American trading partner.

Trump called the talks "productive" but signalled no retreat from a pledge that Canada says unfairly lumps it in with Mexico over the flow of drugs and migrants into the United States.

After the leaders' hastily arranged dinner Friday night at Trump's Mara-Lago club in Florida, Trudeau spoke of "an excellent conversation." Trump said in a Truth Social post later Saturday that they discussed "many important topics that will require both Countries to work together

For issues in need of such cooperation, Trump cited fentanyl and the "Drug Crisis that has decimated so many lives as a result of Illegal Immigration," fair trade deals "that do not jeopardize American Workers" and the US trade deficit with its ally to the north. Trump asserted that the prime minister had made "a commitment to work with us to end this terrible devastation" of American families from fentanyl from

to address.'

bours. The US. he said, "will no longer sit idly by as our Citizens become victims to the scourge of this Drug Epidemic." The Republican president-elect has threatened to impose a 25 per cent tax on all products entering the US from Canada and Mexico as one of his first executive orders when he takes office in January.

US customs agents seized 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border last fiscal year, compared with China reaching the United 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border.

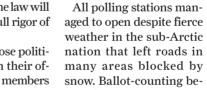
suspend negotiations to join the European Union left 44 people hospitalized after police deployed water cannons and tear gas, officials said Sunday.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators gathered outside the parliament Saturday night, throwing stones and setting off fireworks. An effigy of the founder of the governing Georgian Dream



protesters, 16 police and one media worker were hospitalized. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze warned that "any violation of the law will be met with the full rigor of the law.'

"Neither will those politicians who hide in their offices and sacrifice members of their violent groups to severe punishment escape responsibility," he said.



nation that left roads in many areas blocked by snow. Ballot-counting began after polls closed at 10 pm local time (2200GMT), with results expected early Sunday.

This is Iceland's sixth general election since the 2008 financial crisis devastated the economy of the North Atlantic island nation and ushered in a new era of political instability.

Opinion polls suggested the country could be in for another upheaval, with support for the three governing care of things. I hope we

diktsson to pull the plug on his coalition government

> parties plunging. Benediktsson, who was named prime minister in April following the resignation of his predecessor, struggled to hold together the unlikely coalition of his conservative Independence Party with the centrist Progressive Party and the Left-Green Movement.

"My expectation is like, something new (is) going to happen, hopefully," said Hörður Guðjónsson, voting in the capital, Reykjavik. "We always have had these old parties taking

see the light now to come in with a younger people, new ideas.<sup>3</sup>

Iceland, a nation of about 400,000 people, is proud of its democratic traditions, describing itself as arguably the world's oldest parliamentary democracy. The island's parliament, the Althingi, was founded in 930 by the Norsemen who settled the country.

Voters are choosing 63 members of the Althingi in an election that will allocate seats both by regional constituencies and proportional representation.

### Khalistani gathering near temple banned

States through its neigh-

or interfering with access

to within a 100-meter ra-

dius of the Lakshmi Na-

rayan Temple in Scarbor-

ough from 8am to 6pm on

Saturday, November 30th,

2024. This order aims to

ensure the safety and sanc-

tity of the temple premises

#### AGENCIES TORONTO

The Lakshmi Narayan Mandir in Toronto area got an injunction order from a Canadian superior court to prevent Khalistani protesters from gathering within 100 meters of the premises, as per a statement by the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Hindu Cultural Society in Scarborough.

The society also thanked Toronto police for their support in facilitating the Indian Consular Camp held at the temple.

In a statement, the society said, "The Superior Court of Justice in Toronto, Ontario has issued an interlocutory injunction prohibiting all



and individuals during the protest activities, includspecified hours. ing physically preventing,

In a statement, the society said, "The Hindu Cultural Society Shree Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Scarborough extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Toronto Police Service and 42 Division for their outstanding support in facilitating the Indian

temple. Your commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our community during this important event was exemplary and greatly appreciated. By providing a secure and welcoming environment, you enabled countless community members to access vital consular services with peace of mind. We are truly thankful for your dedication and partnership, which contribute to fostering harmony and trust within our diverse community.

Consular Camp held at our

Ravi Andamuri, a part of the Hindu Forum in Canada, said that earlier, the police was not cooperating with them, but after the court order, it is okay.

### UK MP slams religious persecution in Pak

### AGENCIES LONDON

UK's Member of Parliament for Strangford and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International Freedom of Religion or Belief, Jim Shannon, has expressed grave concerns over the "widespread forced conversions and human rights abuses of minority religious groups" in Pakistan. Shannon also deplored the "lack of action by the Pakistani government". He lamented that "legislative and societal frameworks in Pakistan have created an environment where intolerance thrives.'

He made these remarks

dire, with Christians, Hindus, Ahmadis, and Shia Muslims regularly facing discrimination, violence, and persecution.

He said, "I visited Pakistan on two occasions in 2018 and 2023. I would love to say that things have changed in Pakistan in those intervening five years, but they have not. Indeed, they have got worse, and I will go into more detail on that as we move forward."

He said that in Pakistan "Textbooks continue to perpetrate stereotypes, fostering intolerance among the next generation."

"Minority students are forced to study Islamic content, isolating them further

in a society already fraught with prejudice. Economic discrimination compounds those challenges. Non-Muslims are often relegated to low-status jobs with limited opportunity for social or professional mobility. That systematic marginalisation keeps them in a cycle of poverty and vulnerability," he elaborated. Shannon attributed the widespread intolerance to Pakistan's legal and societal frameworks, particularly the blasphemy laws introduced during General Zia ul-Haq's regime.

These laws, he stated, are among the harshest in the world and are frequently weaponized against religious minorities.

during a recent session of the UK Parliament, where the freedom of religion in

Pakistan was discussed. Shannon, who has visited Pakistan twice, in 2018 and 2023, emphasised that conditions for religious minorities have worsened

over the past five years. He described the situation as

# MOVIES & OTT 13

### RASHMIKA MANDANNA, TRIPTII DIMRI MARK ONE YEAR OF 'ANIMAL'



Recently, in an interview

with ANI, Bobby shared his

thoughts on how this second

innings in his career feels and

mentioned that for an actor,

it's always a journey "full of

struggles," but they just have

"I just feel very blessed. I

feel I'm living a dream. Ev-

erv actor, there are so many

actors out there who, you

know, are struggling, and for

an actor, it's always going to

shared.

about luck."

and my whole family. And

I am, you know, what do I

say? I am so grateful for their

blessings and for their belief

in me. So I guess they were

all waiting for me to come

back with more sincer-

ity and more self-belief. So

that's what I'm doing right

now. And that's how things

change in life, I think," he

said."I think hard work

to keep working hard.

#### TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Nostalgia alert! Actors Rashmika Mandanna and Triptii Dimri on Sunday celebrated the first anniversary of their blockbuster film 'Animal'.

Taking to Instagram, Rashmika shared a video of her scenes from the film and wrote, "December has indeed been very very special to me Sograteful. Swami swami swami.Thank you Thank you Thank you."

Rashmika, as Geetanjali in Animal, garnered praises for her role in the film. Widely recognized as the national crush, she perfectly got the acclaim of 'Bhabhi No 1' with her performance in the movie, which also stars Ranbir Kapoor, Bobby Deol and Anil Kapoor.

Triptii also took to Instagram and shared BTS images from the sets of 'Animal'.

"Seems like yesterday #1yeartoanimal," she captioned the post.

A while ago, Bobby Deol also penned a note celebrating one year of Animal.

In the movie, Bobby wowed everyone with his role as antagonist Abrar. His dance to the song 'Jamal Kudu' with a glass on his head became extremely popular."Celebrating one year of #animal! Abrar's journey brought me closer to all of you and gave me more than I could've ever imagined--love, blessings, and opportunities. Thank you for making this one so special for me," he captioned the post.

### **ALIA ALL SET TO CELEBRATE**

turns into luck.

### **PICTURE PERFECT**

Actors Allu Arjun and **Rashmika Mandanna** during the promotion of their upcoming movie 'Pushpa: The Rule' at a press conference, in Mumbai on Friday. (ANI)



# **BRAIN PICKING**

Just because I am an opinionated and strong girl doesn't mean that I don't believe in vanity.



-BHUMI PEDNEKAR (Indian Actress)

### **DUA LIPA BIDS GOODBYE TO INDIA** AFTER ELECTRIFYING CONCERT





table night in India, Dua

took to Instagram and expressed her gratitude to Mumbaikars.

"Thank you Mumbai!!!!! off to our next and FI-NAL stop of the Asia run... SEOUL!!!!!," she wrote, adding a few pictures that she captured in the city.

The first picture shows Dua Lipa lying down in the midst of a huge floral rangoli. She also shared some BTS images from the concert. Dua Lipa also took a boat ride from the Gateway Of India in Mumbai, and she is seen posing with her sister. Dua's performance on the mashup of Levitating x Wo Ladki Jo definitely turned out to be the highlight of her concert.

#### the music is composed by Oscar winner musician AR tracks but also surprised the crowd when she lit the stage Rahman. ONE ON BOARD Meanwhile, Divyenndu with her performance on the DIVYENNDU will be next seen in the film fan-made mashup of her song 'Agni'. It is written and di-Levitating and Bollywood surected by Rahul Dholakia. perstar Shah Rukh Khan's famous track Wo Ladki Jo from

### 'Good vibez only': Varun Dhawan shares fun dance video of 'Nain Matakka'

TDG NETWORK MUMBA

shared another fun video of himself dancing to the catchy track 'Nain Matakka' from his upcoming film 'Baby John'. The actor posted the video on Instagram on Saturday,

### **DIVYENNDU JOINS RAM CHARAN'S 'RC16' CAST, SEE FIRST LOOK POSTER HERE** will light up the big screens

VRIDDHI

MYTHRIS 3

TDG NETWORK HYDERABAD

be a journey full of struggles. You have to keep working akers of Ram hard, never lose your self-Charan's upcombelief, be persistent, and aling film, tentaways manifest positivity in tively titled 'RC16' have your life because you might welcomed 'Mirzapur' fame not get everything, but you star, Divyenndu to the cast. will reach somewhere in life It will mark the debut of the that will give you a certain actor in the South film inlevel of satisfaction," Bobby dustry.

On November 30, Vriddhi Bobby also talked about Cinemas, producers of the how his fans have always film, shared Divyenndu's supported him through first-look poster and anthick and thin and shared nounced his addition to the how one shouldn't just "cry 'RC16' cast.

In the poster, the 'Mirza-"So I think that's the way pur' actor donned an ani-I look at life nowadays. And mal-print shirt and black as I said, I've had fans all my jeans. His long beard and life. My fans have always intense look exuded villainstood by me and supported ous vibes of his character in my father, my brother, me, the film.

Taking to Instagram, Vriddhi Cinemas wrote, "Our

# favourite 'Munna Bhayya'

Actor Varun Dhawan has

Kabir Shah in lead roles.

Outside the Taj Mumbai. Good vibez only. #babyjohn

The track is a perfect dance number with sizzling chemistry between Varun and Keerthy Suresh

his film Baadshah. Social media is flooded with clips from Dua's gig, which also witnessed the presence of renowned celebrities such as Radhika Merchant, Ranvir Shorey and Namrata Shirodkar, among others.

Dua not only sang her hit

**THROWBACK SUNDAY: VICKY KAUSHAL RECALLS SHOOTING** 

ki Christmas.'

talented and the compelling performer @divyenndu on 'RC16' is directed by Buchi Babu Sana and stars Ianhvi Kapoor, Kannada superstar Shiva Raj Kumar and Jagapathi Babu in prominent

roles. Shooting of the film is set to start soon. 'RC16' is bankrolled by the director Sukumar's home banner electrifying performance in Sukumar Writings while Mumbai on Saturday night.

in a spectacular role tailor made for him. Team #RC16

welcomes the incredibly

board.

It stars Pratik Gandhi, Jitendra Joshi, Saiyami Kher and

After having an unforget-TDG NETWORK MUMBAI International artist Dua Lipa made the Indian audience go gaga with her

### **CHRISTMAS WITH DAUGHTER**

#### TDG NETWORK MUMBA

As Christmas is approaching soon, actor Alia Bhatt can't wait to celebrate the festival with her daughter Raha.

On Sunday, she took to Instagram and shared a glimpse of her Christmas tree.

Alia added a personal touch to the decor of the tree as it has ornaments featuring her, Ranbir, and Raha's names.

Have a look

Meanwhile, Alia, Ranbir and Raha on Saturday evening left netizens in awe with their appearance at the Indian Super League match in Mumbai.

Bollywood couple Ranbir and Alia on Saturday brought their daughter Raha to the match.

Several images and videos from the match surfaced online in which Ranbir and Alia can be seen cheering for their team, Mumbai City FC, with their biggest cheerleader, Raha.

Ranbir and Raha twinned in blue-toned jerseys. Alia, on the other hand, looked uber cool in a white tank top paired with a black jacket and blue denims.

For the unversed, Ranbir Kapoor co-owns Mumbai City FC. His team defeated Hyderabad FC by 1-0 at the Mumbai Football Arena in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season on Saturday.

giving fans a treat with his

In the clip, Varun can be seen performing the song's hook steps while standing on a boat. The serene sea, the majestic Taj Hotel in Mumbai, and the night sky create a perfect visual combination. Along with the video, the

'Bhediya' actor also added a caption that read, "Kya app ne kabhi iconic jagah pe dance kiya hain [Have you

to winning ways at home courtesy of a solitary goal from Mehtab Singh as Petr Kratky's men put the preceding defeat against Punjab FC behind by securing their third win of the ongoing season. With his assist, Chhangte became Mumbai City FC's outright

highest goal contributor in ISL (36 - 21 goals and 15 assists), leaving behind Bipin Singh. Mumbai City will travel

to Bhubaneswar to face Odisha FC on December 5, whereas Hyderabad FC will host the in-form FC Goa on December 4. Ranbir is set to appear in

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's upcoming film 'Love and War,' which also stars Vicky Kaushal and Alia Bhatt. 'Love and War' will be the first collaboration between Ranbir Kapoor and Sanjay Leela Bhansali since the actor's 2007 debut, Saawariya.

energetic moves set against a stunning backdrop.

The Islanders returned ever danced at an iconic location?] #nainmattaka.

MUMBAI

On the acting front,



### and magnetic voices of Diljit and Dheekshitha Venkadeshan, aka Dhee

Recently, the teaser of 'Baby John' was unveiled. It paints 'Baby John' as a mass action drama enriched with emotional undertones.

Dhawan plays a police officer and single father, portraying a character who is not afraid to confront adversaries head-on. In a powerful scene, he declares, "Mere jaise bohat aaye hoge, main pehali baar aaya hu" ("Many like me might have come before, but I have come here for the first time"), setting the tone for his heroic jour-

### Dharmendra shares throwback pic with 'Guddi' co-star Jaya Bachchan

TDG NETWORK

Veteran actor Dharmendra left his fans in awe with a touching throwback post featuring his "Guddi" costar Jaya Bachchan.

Taking to Instagram, the 'Sholay' actor shared a picture that appears to be from the sets of 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani', where the two recently worked together.

Along with the picture, the actor added an adorable caption that read, calling Jaya Bachchan his "loving Prem Kahani)," he wrote. doll" and praising her talent. "Guddi, will always be my loving doll. She is a worldclass artist, and she always talks high about me. (From Guddi to Rocky Aur Rani Ki

Check out the post

portrayed himself in a special role. Directed by Hrishikesh Mukherjee, 'Guddi' Dharmendra and Jaya's bond dates back to the 1971 was a turning point in Jaya's film 'Guddi', where Jaya career and is remembered played a schoolgirl with a as a tale of youthful dreams crush on Dharmendra, who and reality.

In 2023, the two reunited on screen in Karan Johar's 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani', a family drama that saw Dharmendra and Jaya portraying pivotal roles.

### FOR 'SAM BAHADUR



TDG NETWORK MUMBAI

Actor Vicky Kaushal took a stroll down memory lane and recalled essaying the role of Field Marshal Sam Hormusji Framji Jamshedji Manekshaw

in the film 'Sam Bahadur'. Taking to Instagram on Sunday, Vicky wrote, "One of the biggest honours for me as an actor has been the opportunity to play FM Sam Manekshaw. Thank you @ meghnagulzar @ronnie. screwvala #1yearofSam-Bahadur."

He also shared a still from the film, which is directed by Meghna Gulzar. Manekshaw was born on April 3, 1914, in Amritsar and he died of pneumonia at the Military Hospital in Wellington, Tamil Nadu, on June 27, 2008, at the age of 94.Vicky played Manekshaw in his biopic 'Sam

Manekshaw. His career in the army spanned over four decades. He was the first Indian Army officer to be promoted to the rank of

Bahadur' based on the

life of Field Marshal Sam

Field Marshal. Manekshaw, fondly called 'Sam Bahadur,' led the Indian Army to victory in the 1971 war with Pakistan, which resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.'Sam Bahadur' marked Vicky's second collaboration with Meghna Gulzar after 'Raazi'.The film also stars Sanya Malhotra and Fatima Sana Shaikh in the lead roles.

Vicky received a lot of appreciation for his performance in the film.

In the coming months, Vicky will be seen in magnum opus, 'Mahavatar'. In the film, he will essay the legendary warrior sage Chiranjeevi Parashurama.

### SOCIETY & LIVING 14

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### **UNIQUE WEDDING INVITATION IDEAS: MAKE YOUR BIG** DAY MEMORABLE WITH CREATIVE CARDS STATIONERY



**AKANKSHA NEG** 

edding invitations have evolved from simple cards to stunning, personal statements. Today, they're an integral part of setting the stage for a memorable celebration, showcasing vour style and making guests feel special from the moment they open the envelope. If you're looking to make an unforgettable impression, here are some creative wedding invitation ideas that turn your stationery into treasured keepsakes. From luxurious to eco-friendly options, these ideas will help vou choose a design that reflects your unique story.

### 1. Newspaper-Style Invitations

A newspaper-style invitation adds a fun twist to your wedding announcement. With front-page headlines, a dedicated section for your love story, and even a crossword puzzle, these invitations are interactive and unique. Consider adding a "weather forecast" that predicts "100% chance of love and laughter." This keepsake will keep your guests talking.

### 2. Pop-Up Storybook Invitations

Perfect for fairytale weddings, pop-up storybook invitations bring a touch of magic. Each page unfolds

a scene from your journey, like the proposal or the wedding venue. Enchanting and memorable, these storybooks capture your romance beautifully and set a whimsical tone for the big day.

### 3. Fan-Style Ritual Statio-

nerv Ideal for outdoor or destination weddings, fan-style invitations serve as both a guide to wedding rituals and a way to keep guests cool. Each leaf of the fan can explain different customs, which is especially great for multicultural weddings. This creative idea engages guests, inviting them to learn and celebrate along with you.

### 4. Message in a Bottle Invitations

A "message in a bottle" invitation is a charming choice for beach or tropical weddings. Each bottle can hold a rolled-up itinerary or a heartfelt welcome note, enhanced with tiny seashells or sand. This seaside-themed keepsake will leave guests excited for your wedding adventure.

### 5. Scroll Invitations with Wax Seals

Bring a royal touch to your wedding with scroll invitations, tied with silk ribbons and sealed with wax stamps of your monogram. Tassels in your wedding colors complete the look. Scroll invitations add a regal feel and work beautifully for traditional or luxurious weddings.

### 6. Personalized Comic **Book Programs**

Comic book-style invitations are a playful choice for couples with a sense of humor. Illustrate your journey in a series of comic panels, highlighting moments like





your "origin story" or "adventure" to the altar. These programs bring lightheartedness to the celebration and are a fun keepsake for guests.

### 7. Floral and Eco-Friendly Invitations

Floral and eco-friendly invitations combine beauty with sustainability. Consider using recycled paper, plantable seed paper or sustainably sourced wood for your stationery. Floral designs add a delicate touch while ecofriendly options show your commitment to a mindful celebration.

#### 8. Destination Wedding Cards with Travel-Themed Elements

If you're having a destination wedding, travel-themed invitations build excitement. Think boarding pass or passport-style invitations, complete with maps and





travel tips. These personal touches create a sense of adventure and prepare guests for a memorable journey.

### 9. Minimalist and Elegant Wedding Invitations

Minimalist invitations showcase sophistication with clean designs, neutral tones and high-quality materials. With simple typography and understated details, like embossed patterns or metallic foil, these invitations are perfect for couples who value elegance and timelessness.

#### 10. DIY Printable Invitations

DIY printable templates offer a creative, budgetfriendly option for couples wanting a personal touch. Choose from customizable templates that match your wedding theme. With added elements like handwritten notes or custom illustrations,

these invitations become uniquely yours.

#### Make Your Wedding Invitations Memorable

Modern wedding invitations go beyond formality. They're a way to connect with guests, sharing a glimpse of the celebration to come. Whether you choose a luxurious design, an ecofriendly option, or a playful theme, each idea adds a special touch to your wedding day. Select an invitation style that speaks to you, making your wedding stationery a cherished keepsake for years to come.

Your invitation reflects your love story and sets the tone for your celebration, ensuring that both you and your guests carry the memories of your big day forward.

The author is the founder of Akanksha Negi Design.

### Seasonal refresh: Small updates for a big impact in luxury spaces

### **TDG NETWORK**

Luxury spaces are often defined by their timeless elegance, meticulous detailing, and a lingering sense of opulence. However, even the most exquisite interiors can benefit from seasonal updates to stay fresh, relevant, and inspiring. Through this article, Anurag and Pallavi Pashine, Principal Architects of Nagpur-based design firm 'Salankar Pashine & Associates' unfold a few strategic tweaks that can bring transformative results to any luxury space without compromising its core identity.

### The Power of Small Updates

As the seasons change, so do our moods, preferences, and the atmosphere around

ury. For instance, juxtaposing raw silk with polished wood or marble creates an interplay of contrasts that speaks

### Statement Accessories

of luxury and comfort.

Never underestimate the charm of a curated accessory. Seasonal decor pieces such as artisanal vases, sculptural objects, or even fresh floral

while the space feels fresh, it retains its luxurious essence.

### Sustainable Luxury

Incorporating sustainability is a cornerstone of modern luxury. For your seasonal updates, choose responsibly sourced materials, upcycle decor items, or opt for energy-efficient lighting solutions. This not only en-



arrangements can anchor a

space in the present. Candles

with fragrances aligned to the

season-citrus for summer

or cinnamon for winter-en-

gage the senses holistically.

Lighting plays a pivotal role

in setting the tone. Swapping

lampshades, using dimmers,

or introducing statement

fixtures tailored to seasonal

aesthetics can make an in-

credible difference. Imagine

a chandelier dripping with

crystal-catching winter's low

sunlight, or warm Edison bulbs glowing during a crisp

autumn evening.

A Holistic Ap-

Lighting

Adjustments

us. Embracing these transitions within your home or workspace aligns your interiors with the time of year and breathes new life into familiar surroundings. Small updates-like switching out decor accents, layering textures, or incorporating seasonal colors-can make a big impact without necessitating a complete overhaul.

### Colours That Speak of the Season

Seasonal colors are an easy yet effective way to refresh interiors. For summer, think of light pastels, earthy greens, and sandy tones that evoke

hances the ethical appeal of your space but also makes it future-ready.

### A Vision for Change

In summation, opting for small, thoughtful updates can elevate luxury interiors into living works of art. With each season comes an opportunity to reinvent your space, reflecting not only the time of year but also your personal evolution. A seasonal refresh is about embracing change while celebrating luxury's enduring allure.

So get ready to transform your space—one season at a time!

Sustainable luxury: Eco-friendly design solutions for high-end homes





heritage.



HARKARAN SINGH BOPARAI

Sustainable luxury redefines high-end living by combining elegant design with environmental responsibility. It focuses on creating beautiful, refined spaces that are mindful of their impact on the planet. Sustainable luxury goes beyond aesthetics, considering every aspect of a home, from energy-efficient systems to designs that maximise natural light and airflow, all while enhancing the quality of life for residents and the health of the environment. The focus is on crafting spaces that are both efficient and elegant, using construction methods that reduce energy consumption and minimise waste. This approach proves that indulgence and sustainability can coexist, setting a new standard for living in harmony with the planet. How can high

end homes integrate ecopromising on luxury or aesthetics?

Eco-friendly materials today are as beautiful and versatile as traditional materials. Bamboo and engineered wood, for example, can add a warm and elegant touch while being far more sustainable. There are also innovative materials, like terrazzo made with recycled pieces or bio-resins, that look as stunning as marble.

The secret is to embrace these materials as part of the design. For instance, using textured lime plaster for walls or reclaimed wood for floors can add character and a unique story to the home. With thoughtful colour choices, custom finishes, and attention to detail, eco-friendly materials can make homes luxurious, meaningful, and stylish all at once.

How does the use of locally sourced and reclaimed materials contribute to the concept of sustainable luxury?

Using local materials gives a home a sense of connection to its surroundings. Stones from nearby quarries or handmade tiles by local craftspeople not only reduce transport emissions but

celebrate also the ar-

ea's



waste reduction?

Reclaimed materials, like Technology has the ability old timber or antique doors, to make sustainability seaminfuse a home with character less, efficient and much more and a unique narrative that accessible. Smart home sysnew materials can't easily tems, for instance, can monireplicate. These pieces bring tor and adjust energy use aua sense of history that is hard tomatically, like automated to replicate. Additionally, usblinds to keep out the sun ing local and reclaimed maor adjusting the heating and terials lowers the project's cooling based on who's home. environmental impact while Waste can also be managed creating homes that feel better with technology, such as greywater recycling sysunique and thoughtful. Sustainable luxury goes beyond tems that reuse water for garjust aesthetics — it's about dening or composting units creating designs that rethat deal with organic waste quietly and cleanly. Even respect the environment while enhancing newable energy solutions, the quality of life like hidden solar panels or for its inhabitants. discreet geothermal systems, In what ways can fit seamlessly into luxury can technology homes.

> enhance sustain-How can architects balance ability in luxury luxury and sustainability in a homes, from enway that feels authentic rather ergy efficiency to than superficial or 'greenwashed'?

In my opinion, it's all about being honest and thoughtful in the approach. Instead of adding token features like solar panels or a green roof just to tick a box, it's better to think about the home's overall design. How can the building make the best use of natural light? What materials will work best in the local climate? Luxury is also about creat-

ing spaces that feel personal and special. Using materials made or sourced locally adds meaning, while features like courtyards or large windows that bring in nature make a home

feel alive. The best designs show that sustainability isn't an add-on; it's part of the home's DNA.

The author is the Founder and Principal Architect at Harkaran Boparai Studio (HBS).

warmth and openness. As autumn arrives, deeper hues like burnt orange, emerald green, and gold accents create a cozy and inviting atmosphere. Winter luxury often leans on metallics, rich jewel tones, and plush textures, while spring blossoms with soft florals, fresh whites, and bright yellows. By introducing accent cushions, throws, or even a feature wall in seasonal shades, you can effortlessly shift the mood of a room.

#### **Textures and Fabrics**

The tactile experience of hara space is as significant as mony its visual appeal. Changing fabrics with the seasons is a tried-and-true approach to rejuvenation. Replace heavy drapes with sheer curtains in summer to invite more natural light. Add velvet cushions or wool throws during colder months for warmth and lux-

proach What makes a seasonal refresh truly impactful is balance. At Salankar Pashine & Associates, we focus

on

be

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tions. This

ensures that

per

cre-

ating



Ar. Anurag Pashine & Ar. Pallavi Pashine



# ART & CULTURE 15

## **CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA 'MARYADA PURUSHOTTAM SHRI RAM' BRINGS RAMAYANA TO LIFE**

### **TDG NETWORK**

he Urvashi Dance Music Art & Cultural Society, in collaboration with the Tapasaya Foundation, presented the much-anticipated dance drama 'Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram' at Kamani Auditorium, a performance met with resounding applause and admiration. Directed by the eminent Kathak maestro, Dr. Rekha Mehra, this soulful production was a powerful tribute to Lord Ram's virtues and moral strength, portrayed through an artistic blend of Kathak, Chhau, and Manipuri dance forms.

The evening commenced with a full house of distinguished guests, all gathered to celebrate the grand retelling of Lord Ram's journey. Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the performance highlighted India's rich cultural heritage and the profound values embodied by 'Maryada Purushottam,' or the Ideal Man.

Dr Rekha Mehra, reflecting on the success of the production, shared, "Bringing Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram to life on stage has been a labor of



The evening commenced with a full house of distinguished guests, all gathered to celebrate the grand retelling of Lord Ram's journey. Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the performance highlighted India's rich cultural heritage and the profound values embodied by 'Maryada Purushottam,' or the Ideal Man.

love and reverence for the ideals that Lord Ram embodies. Through this performance, we aimed to celebrate his virtues of courage, compassion, and integrity-qualities that transcend time and resonate deeply in our modern world. We hope that audiences got inspired not only by the art-

istry but also by the message of harmony and righteousness that Shri Ram stands for." The production, choreographed by the acclaimed

Guru Ajay Bhatt and Aamrapali Bhandari, mesmerized the audience with a vibrant portrayal of Shri Ram's life. Key features included intri-

cate costumes crafted specifically for each scene, from the celebratory vellows worn at Ram and Sita's wedding to the elaborate daasi attire in Ravan's darbar, capturing the ambiance of every pivotal moment. New props, including an eight-foot-long dhanush (bow), handmade jewelry,

and unique mukuts, further enhanced the visual spectacle. The use of white peacock feathers, golden deer headgear, and diya lighting created an immersive ambiance across the auditorium, adding a spiritual depth to the performance. For the first time, a hydraulic stage and advanced projectors added grandeur to the show, making it a visual masterpiece that condensed the epic Ramayana into an engaging 1.5-hour journey. The performance also highlighted the inclusive mission of the Urvashi Dance Music Art & Cultural Society, featuring a talented ensemble of professional artists alongside underprivileged children trained by the Society, making the event a celebration of empowerment and social

inclusion. 'Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram' brought audiences on an inspiring journey, rekindling timeless values and fostering a sense of collective pride and unity. This soul-stirring portrayal of one of India's greatest epics promises to remain a beacon of inspiration for audiences of all ages, reminding them of the enduring power of bravery, morality, and devotion in today's world.



### 'ETERNAL RHYTHMS': A SOLO **EXHIBITION BY PANKAJ KUMAR SINGH**

#### **TDG NETWORK**

Dhoomimal Art Centre is delighted to present Eternal Rhythms, a solo exhibition by emerging artist Pankaj Kumar Singh, from December 2 to December 11, 2024, at Shridharani Art Gallery, New Delhi which will continue till 25 December at Dhoomimal Art Centre, Block A, & II, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Delhi. This exhibition invites viewers to embark on a captivating journey through the cycles of nature, delving into themes of creation, transformation, and renewal. Through bold grids, rhythmic geometric patterns, and textured layers of charcoal dust, rice paper, and cloth fragments, Pankaj's work offers a meditative exploration of nature's eternal dance-an interplay of energy, form, and motion that bridges the physical and metaphysical. Evoking the Vedic concept of Brahmand-the universe in its primal state-his canvases reflect the ceaseless flux of the natural world. "Nature is always in motion," Pankaj shares. "Even though it repeats itself, no two moments are ever truly the same. That continuous change is what I try to bring to my work. Painting allows me to connect with that energy and express it—it's how I understand the world's constant evolution." Born in rural India,



### Delhi Comic Con 2024: A three-day popculture spectacle returns to enthrall fans

TDG NETWORK

Delhi Comic Con is back for its 12th edition, promising an exhilarating weekend of geekery, comics, gaming, cosplay, and entertainment from December 6-8, 2024, at NSIC Grounds, Okhla. Celebrating India's rich pop-culture fandom, this year's event, powered by Maruti Suzuki Arena and Crunchyroll, is set to be the biggest yet.

#### **EXCITING LINEUP**



Pankaj's early encounters with the cycles of nature deeply shaped his artistic vision. After earning a degree in Fine Arts from Banaras Hindu University, he has exhibited widely across India. His art resonates with anyone who appreciates the subtle yet powerful transformations of nature. Pankaj's style masterfully

fuses abstraction and philosophy, drawing viewers into the timeless rhythms of nature with each stroke

of his brush. His vivid color palette and jagged contours transcend decorative elements, offering a profound meditation on creation and transformation.Each canvas invites viewers to pause and reflect on the beauty of renewal, reminding us that, much like nature, we too are constantly evolving. Mohit Jain, owner of Dhoo-

mimal Art Centre, reflects on his association with Pankaj: "My first meeting with Pankaj was very short as I had outrightly rejected his

work. They seemed heavily influenced by another artist

However, two years later, in 2009, he returned with a completely different body of work-unique, powerful, and a true expression of his vision. Some even said that his works are museum quality. Curating his first solo exhibition took time, as Pankaj is a slow and meticulous painter, but the show was a sell-out, held in 2014. It's exciting to now curate his second solo exhibition.

#### **AND GIVEAWAYS**

Visitors can look forward to exclusive perks like a No. 1 issue of TIONS Radiant Black by Image Comics, a Solo Levelling poster by Yen Press, and a commemorative Comic Con India Bag. Superfans can grab a limited-edition box set packed with collectibles, including a Marvel Dr. Doom bust and themed

### SPOTLIGHT ON COM-**ICS AND CREATORS**

goodies.

The event will showcase Indian publishing houses like Indusverse and Holy Cow Entertainment, along with international stars Ryan North, a New York Times bestselling author, and Eisner Award-winning artist Jason Loo. The massive comic lineup ensures fans an unparalleled

**A PLATFORM FOR FAN**literary experience.

Seven.

**IMMERSIVE EXPERI-ENCES AND ATTRAC-**Gaming enthusiasts can dive into the NODWIN Gaming Arena, featuring VR and racing simulations, gaming tournaments, and consoles from Sony Play-Station, Android, and Lenovo Legion. Fans can also explore engaging brand activations from Yamaha Racing, Warner Bros. India, and Penguin Random House India.

### DOM AND SHOPPING

Fans can revel in geeky shopping from brands like Nerd Arena and Red Wolf, offering exclusive toys, apparel, and accessories. With topnotch cosplay showcases and countless entertainment acts,

Comic Con creates a vibrant hub for fandom celebrations. Tickets for the event are available on Insider.in and the Comic Con India website. Don't miss the chance to experience the ultimate celebration of comics, gaming, and fandom!

### Brahmar Geet by Aayam Institute: Sindhu Mishra's Artistic Tribute to Love and Devotion

### TDG NETWORK

Brahmar Geet – An Ode to Lovelorn Gopikas, a stunning Bharatanatyam production by Swati Mittal, captivated audiences at the LTG Auditorium, Mandi House, New Delhi, on November 30, 2024. Presented by the Aayam Institute of Performing Arts, the performance masterfully brought to life Surdas's poetic masterpiece celebrating love, devotion, and the spiritual connection between

the Gopikas and Krishna through the timeless charm of Bharatanatyam.

### THE PERFORMANCE **BEGAN WITH ALARIP-**PU SET TO CHATUSRA JATI IN RAAGAM NAT-TAI

The centerpiece of the evening was the Varnam, based on Surdas's poetry, narrating Udhav's attempts to guide the Gopikas toward Nirgun Bhakti. Through captivating storytelling, Swati Mittal skillfully con-



veyed the Gopikas' unwavering devotion and their poignant expressions of love and longing. The Varanam featured a captivating segment, "Sundar Shyam Mora" beautifully sung and composed by Hindustani vocalist Shri Nitin Sharma, bringing a moving and sentimental essence to the piece. The program also featured deeply emotive Abhinaya piece, a Padam -"Udho Mann Na Bhaye Das Bees" , blending Hindustani and Carnatic music traditions.

The event also promises a

nostalgic experience with

performances by the be-

loved M.A.D. artist Rob

and fan-favorites like The

Internet Said So, Ravi

Gupta, and Ashish Solanki.

Music lovers can groove to

beats by Panther and Fotty

The evening concluded with a vibrant Thillana in Ragam Madhuvanti, a rhythmic and celebratory Carnatic piece. Under the direction and choreography of Guru Smt. Sindhu Mishra, the performance was complemented by the soulful compositions of Shri Nitin Sharma, with exceptional live music by Shri G. Elangovan, Dr. Ramamurthy Kesavan, Shri G. Raghuraman, and Shri Sachin Sharma. Guru Smt. Sindhu Mishra reflected on the production:

"Brahmar Geet is more than a performance-it's a journey into the depths of love and devotion. Swati Mittal has beautifully portrayed the Gopikas' emotions, bringing Surdas's timeless poetry to life. We are grateful to connect audiences with this exquisite blend of classical dance and music.' The event was a tribute to the richness of Indian classical arts, leaving the audience spellbound and deeply moved by its spiritual and emotionaldepth.

# **16** SPORTS

THE DAILY GUARDIAN REVIEW MONDAY | 02 DECEMBER 2024 NEW DELHI

## **ENGLAND CHASE DOWN 104 RUNS TO BEAT BLACK CAPS IN 1ST TEST**

The run rate of 8.21 is the highest ever by a team in a successful run-chase of 100 runs.

#### AGENCIES CHRISTCHURCH

ngland shattered record books with another 'Bazball' runchase of 104 runs during the first Test against New Zealand at Christchurch's Hagley Oval on Sunday, taking the least amount of overs to complete a 100plus run chase in history of Test cricket.

Set a target of 104 runs, England did lose Zak Crawley for just one run, but knocks from Ben Duckett (27 in 18 balls, with four boundaries and a six), Jacob Bethell, the Test debutant (50\* in 37 balls, with eight fours and a six) and Joe Root (23\* in 15 balls, with three boundaries and a six) helped them complete the chase in just 12.4 overs, the fastest-ever in Test history. Previously, the record was held by the losing

side, NZ, who had chased down 109 against Bangladesh in 18.4 overs back in 2017 at the same venue.

Also, the run rate of 8.21 is the highest ever by a team in a successful runchase of 100 runs or more. Previously, this record was held by the West Indies, who had a run rate of 6.82 while successfully chasing 172 against India in Kingston back in 1983.

England have now won the first Test of five consecutive series (two home



England defeated New Zealand by eight wickets in the first Test. AP

Carse (6/42) completed a memorable tenwicket haul while Chris Woakes got three scalps.

and three overseas). Their last defeat in a Test series opener was in the Ashes 2023 (at Edgbaston).

Coming to the match, England won the toss and opted to field first. The fifties from Kane Williamson (93 in 197 balls, with 10 fours) and Glenn Phillips (58 in 87 balls, with six fours and a six) were crucial in NZ reaching 348/10. Brydon Carse (4/64) and Shoaib Bashir (4/69) were top bowlers for England. In the next innings.

despite fifties from Kane **BRIEF SCORES** (61 in 86 balls, with seven Set a target of 104 runs, fours) and Daryl Mitchell England did lose Zak (84 in 167 balls, with 12 Crawley for just one fours and a six), the Kiwis run, but knocks from were bundled out for 254 Ben Duckett (27 in 18 runs, giving themselves balls), Jacob Bethell, the only 103 runs lead. Carse Test debutant (50\* in 37 (6/42) completed a memballs) and Joe Root (23\* orable ten-wicket haul in 15 balls) helped them while Chris Woakes got complete the chase in three scalps.

just 12.4 overs, the fast-England chased down est-ever in Test history. the total with eight wickets in hand, Bethell unbeaten thanks to a fine century with Joe Root (23\* in 15 from a red-hot Harry balls, with three fours and Brook (171 in 197 balls, a six). with 15 fours and three

Carse secured a 'Player of the Match' for his 10 wicket haul and a knock of 33\* in 24 balls in the first innings.

England is 1-0 up in the three-match series, with second Test in Wellington from December 6 onwards.

### Bethell registers second fastest 50 on Test debut

#### AGENCIES CHRISTCHURCH

Young England all-rounder Jacob Bethell had a memorable outing against New Zealand at Hagley Oval on Sunday, hitting a match-winning fifty and registering the second-fastest half-century

on Test debut by any batter in the format. Bethell achieved this record during the first Test, scoring an explosive unbeaten 50 off

just 37 balls, featuring eight fours and a six, at an impressive strike rate of 135.13. This strike rate is the second-highest for a half-century on Test debut, trailing only

ball debut in September 2024 against the West Indies, he has played seven T2OIs, scor-New Zealand's Tim Southee, ing 173 runs in six innings at who scored an unbeaten 77 off 40 balls at a strike rate an average of 57.66.

### Root overtakes Sachin

AGENCIES CHRISTCHURCH

> Star England batter Joe Root on Sunday overtook Sachin Tendulkar to achieve an elusive record in Test cricket. Root played an unbeaten 23-run knock from 15 balls in the fourth inning of the Christchurch Test against New Zealand and helped the

Three Lions clinch an eightwicket win over the hosts. The 33-year-old became the leading run scorer in the 4th innings of Test cricket, with 1630 runs. Earlier, legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar held the record of leading run scorer in the

4th innings of Test cricket with 1625 runs. Former England batter 150 long format matches Alastair Cook stands in and scored 12777 runs at a third place on the chart with strike rate of 57.23 and an 1611 runs. Former South Af-

### India beat PM's XI; Gill shines

AGENCIES

pacer Harshit Rana and a returning Shubman Gill Nitish Kumar Reddy and Yashasvi Jaiswal helped India secure a five-wicket win over Australia's Prime Ministers' XI in their pinkball warm-up match at Canberra's Manuka Oval on Sunday.



#### AGENCIES CHRISTCHURCH

After winning against New Zealand in the first Test of a three-match series at Hagley Oval on Sunday, England rose to sixth position in the latest ICC World Test Championship 2025 table on Sunday ahead of the final of the competition.

The first Test of each of the four ongoing Test series is complete and has altered the face of the World Test Championship 2023-25 Standings.

While India and South Africa's emphatic wins have boosted their chances of making it to Lord's next vear, defeats for Sri Lanka and Australia mean the two sides need to lift their game to improve their point percentage in the World Test

Championship. On the other hand, New Zealand's recent loss to England means that they cannot cross the 60% mark on the WTC table, and is a severe hit to their chances. With a victory over Bangladesh at home, West Indies have lifted themselves from the bottom of the WTC standings. After an unprecedented 3-0 series whitewash at home in October against New Zealand which pushed them down a spot in the WTC table, India have bounced back in the race for Lord's with a comprehensive win in Australia

### Bowlers were relentless throughout, says Stokes

AGENCIES CHRISTCHURCH

Following the win over New Zealand in the Christchurch Test, England skipper Ben Stokes showered praise on his bowling attack and said that his bowlers were "relentless" throughout the game. Brydon Carse was

named the 'Player of the Match' following his magnificent performance with the ball, he bagged 10 wickets in the first Test match of the series.

Speaking after the end of the match, Stokes hailed Harry Brook and said that he's an incredible talent. The skipper also lauded Carse's performance with

throughout the week. We were 45 for 3 so to go on and get a pretty likable lead was very nice, and our bowlers were relentless throughout. [Brook?] He needed a little bit of luck along the way, but you've got to make it count when the opposition are dropping catches left, right and centre... he's an incredible talent, constantly looking to put pressure onto the opposition. [Carse?] Amazing. Look, I've been fortunate enough to grow up with Brydon and always known of his poten-

the ball and called him

a "workhorse" who will

"Very happy with

the way we performed

keep charging in all day.

### He found his rhythm in second innings: Ponting on Kohli

#### AGENCIES MELBOURNE

Ahead of the second Test of the five-match Border



Shah takes charge as new ICC chief

### TDG NETWORK

Cricket in India (BCCI) sec-

### average of 50.90. tial and his talent.

A four-wicket haul from Former Board of Control for authoritative knocks from



Reddy formed yet another partnership, playing some really authoritative shots. India reached the 100-run mark in 23 overs. Nitish started from where he had left in Perth, smashing

Llyod Pope's spin for three



Shivnarine Chanderpaul is

currently the fifth-highest

run-scorer in the 4th in-

nings of Test cricket, with

Root made his Test debut

in 2012 against England, fol-

lowing that, he has played

1580 runs.

of 192.50 against England in

Napier in 2008. Previously,

the second-fastest half-cen-

tury on Test debut was by

New Zealand's Luke Ronchi,

who scored 88 off 70 balls at

a strike rate of 125.71 against

England at Headingley in

2015. Bethell continues to

rise as an all-format player

for England. Since his white-

rica captain Graeme Smith holds the fourth with 1611 runs. Former West Indies

Gavaskar Trophy in Adelaide, ICC Hall of Famer **Ricky Ponting highlighted** Virat Kohli's game-changing knock in the second innings in Perth as an example of batting with intent. Kohli ended a prolonged century drought with an unbeaten 100, his first Test century since July 2023 and his third in five years.

The second Test, scheduled to take place from December 6 to 10 at the Adelaide Oval, will feature the day-night format under lights.

"In the first innings, he was too focused on countering the opposition bowlers and deviated from his natural style. In the second innings, he rediscovered his he added. rhythm and scored a hun-

dred," Ponting said on the latest ICC Review episode. With four Tests remaining

in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and a potential spot in the World Test Championship final at stake, Ponting had a clear message for the Australian batters. "Now

it's over to Marnus Labuschagne, Steven Smith, and others to find their own way again and score some runs."

India's comprehensive victory in the first Test has set the tone for the series, with Kohli's innings playing a crucial role in the

sixes) and half-centuries

from Ollie Pope (77 in 98

balls, with eight fours) and

skipper Ben Stokes (80 in

146 balls, with nine fours),

England took a lead of 151

runs, before getting all out

In their next innings,

for 499 runs.

team's success. His ability to perform under pressure and lead by example was once again evident in this remarkable feat.

The win in Perth not only gave India a vital lead in the series but also boosted the team's morale

retary Jay Shah on Sunday started his tenure as the new International Cricket Council (ICC) chief. "The International Cricket

Council (ICC) today - 1 December - marked the beginning of Jay Shah's tenure as ICC Chair," an ICC statement read. As ICC Chair, Shah outlined his priorities for his term, including leveraging the sport's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games as a pivotal opportunity as well as further accelerating the growth of

the women's game. "I am honoured to take on the role of ICC Chair and grateful for the support and trust of the ICC Directors and Member Boards

The match was initially supposed to be a two-day affair, but due to rain on Saturday and Sunday, it was reduced to a 46-oversper-side match.

In the run-chase of 241 runs, the Indian team opened with Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul, the pair which started the first Test at Perth. The duo played some fine cricketing shots, with a much-attacking intent. They brought the

the 2-day Warm-up Match against Prime Ministers XI's, at Manuka Oval in Canberra. ANI

crease.

just 13.1 overs.

The U19 World Cup-winning pacers Charlie Anderson and Mahli Beardman were smashed for three fours each by Jaiswal and KL in the 13th and 14th over. The partnership ended at 75 runs, with Jaiswal caught by Jack Clayton for 45 in 59 balls, with nine fours. Charlie got his first wicket. India was 75/1.

KL also soon retired hurt

brilliant fours. India reached the 150-run mark in 29.4 overs. Gill retired hurt after mak-

ing a half-century, scoring 50\* in 62 balls, with seven fours.

Nitish was cleaned up by Pope for a 32-ball 42, with five fours and a six. India was 182/3 in 33.1 overs. This inning proved to be another confidence booster for Nitish, who impressed with scores of 41 and 38\* in the Perth Test and continues looking comfortable.

Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja, two spinbowling all-rounders, took India to the 200-run mark in 36.3 overs.

### Hockey India announces 20-member squad for Junior Asia Cup

#### AGENCIES NEW DELH

Hockey India (HI) announced a strong 20-member squad for the upcoming Women's Junior Asia Cup, set to take place in Muscat, Oman, from 7th to 15th December 2024. As the defending champions, India enters the tournament with high hopes after securing their maiden title last year, defeating South Korea 2-1 in the final. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2025

The competition will

feature 10 teams divided

into two pools: India is placed in Pool A alongside China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh, while Pool B consists of South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, and Sri Lanka. en's Team will be led by

Mamata Oram.

The Indian Junior Wom-

Sakshi Rana serving as Vice-Captain. Goalkeepers Nidhi and Aditi Maheshwari will provide a strong presence in goal, while the defence will be marshalled by Manisha,

Captain Ivoti Singh, with

Jyoti Singh, Lalthantluangi, Pooja Sahoo, and

### Syed Modi International: Sindhu, Lakshya win singles titles

Sindhu's victory marks

AGENCIES UCKNOW

Top seeds P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen produced commanding performances to claim the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Sunday. Sindhu ended her long her return to the top of title drought by outplaying the podium after over China's world number 119 two years, with her last Wu Luo Yu 21-14, 21-16 to lift title win being at the Sinthe trophy for the third time. gapore Open in July 2022. In the men's singles final, The world number 18 Lakshya, was at his domialso reached the finals of nant best as he demolished the Malavsia Masters Su-Singapore's Jia Heng Jason per 500 earlier this year. Teh 21-6, 21-7 in the title Lakshya's win comes as a balm after a disappointing clash, displaying complete command over the match. loss in the bronze medal

playoff at the Paris Olympics. The victory will undoubtedly boost his confidence ahead of the new season.

Indian badminton had more to celebrate on the day as the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand clinched their maiden Super 300 title with a convincing 21-18, 21-11 win over China's Bao Li Jing and Li Qian. The result made Treesa and Gayatri the first Indian women's doubles team to win the title at this tournament. The Commonwealth Games bronze medallists, who had finished runnersup in 2022, went one step further this year with their solid performance.

### IPL's rags-to-riches stories: A lesson for other sports

for an 11-ball three.

India was 90/2.

boundaries, bringing the

pair of skipper Rohit Shar-

ma, batting at number four

and Shubman Gill at the

However, Rohit's return

to cricket after the birth of

his second child did not last

long, as he gave Anderson

his second wicket after be-

ing caught by Oliver Davies

Gill and Nitish Kumar

#### RUPINDER SINGH NEW DELH

The Indian premier league each year brings to fore a few rags to riches story. First of all a big shout out to the tournament for its continuity. You look around many other sports started leagues but hardly lasted a few seasons. Prime example of these are the Indian hockey league premier badminton league and the Pro Wrestling League. Cricket and its growth in India has many lessons to teach other sports but no other sports it seems wants to learn. The one major factor that draws everyone to cricket is the results of the auction each year. This year's stories were dominated by Rishabh pant going for 27 crores and a young 13 year old vaibhav suryavanshi earning above one crore. What does all this point towards? It does not require rocket science to understand. If there are reasonable incentives the sports will progress and the sportspersons will be celebrated.



The other aspect that cricket brilliantly does is to portray the sport and cricketers all over tv in a well planned manner throughout the year clearly showing Jo dikhta hai woh bhokta hai. This is why Sachin Tendulkar is a god but Dhyan Chand an am sportsperson. So what is stopping federations from following this example and let their sports flourish.

I am not ready to believe Pant or Tendulkar are greater sportspersons than Ajitpal Singh or Harmanpreet Singh. Are you all willing to do that. Time for federations to wake up and stand up for their athletes.

